



# Sea Rocket



Newsletter of the North / Central Brevard County Sea Rocket Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

November 2008

*The Florida Native Plant Society was organized in 1980 to promote the preservation, conservation & restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida, primarily through education.*

## Using Natives in Our Coastal Backyards

Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

Note: this Chapter Meeting is 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, not 4<sup>th</sup>! Our coast is a diverse zone of habitats extending from the sandy, salty dune to the quazi-fertile maritime hammock and down to our lagoon waters. Some areas are original topography and some areas are altered from dredge and fill. Coastal gardening is a challenge - picking the right natives and placing them in just the right spot - and often eliminating unwanted or invasive species that have crept in.



A panel of local residents will present a slideshow of their coastal gardens, sharing successes and welcoming audience discussion.

*"Our ideals, laws and customs should be based on the proposition that each generation, in turn, becomes the custodian rather than the absolute owner of our resources and each generation has the obligation to pass this inheritance on to the future."*

- Charles A. Lindbergh, *New York Times Magazine*, 23 May 1971

## Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary

Saturday November 8, 2008 9AM - Noon

This hike will be led by Paul Schmalzer PhD, an expert in scrub habitat and its native and rare plants. Vegetation is primarily oak scrub and scrubby flatwoods with a depression marsh down slope. A prescribed burn was conducted here this last summer so it is a great time to witness conservation land management in action!



**The endemic *Dicerandra thinicola* occurs here and should be in flower !**

Directions: Bring hat, sunscreen, water & insect repellent. Parking is limited at site. We will meet at the Indian River Plaza Shopping Center. Park at the western (K-Mart) corner of the shopping center & car pool to the site.

- 1) US 1 to St. Rt. 50 (Cheney Highway). West on St. Rt. 50 to Indian River Plaza Shopping Center, OR
- 2) I-95 to Titusville, St. Rt. 50 exit. East on St. Rt. 50 (Cheney Highway) to Indian River Plaza Shopping Center.

# Pine Island Conservation Area

Saturday December 6, 2008 9AM - Noon

A joint project between St. Johns River Water Management District & Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program. Vegetation is primarily flatwoods & marshes. It is the site of a major wetlands restoration.



Scott Taylor, PhD, Central Region Land Manager for Brevard County EELs Program, will join us for an update on the wetlands restoration program and a look at recently burned flatwoods. This site is also an archaeological wonder. Many digs were performed here and among the finds: the toe bone of a 5-foot long armadillo, shells of giant land tortoise, leg and teeth bones of mammoth, mastodon, horses, tapirs, peccaries and deer and — of all things — fossilized camel bones!

Directions: Bring hat, sunscreen, water & insect repellent.

- (1) SR 528 East to Merritt Island, exit on SR3 and go North for about 5 miles, turn left on Pine Island Road & proceed West ~ 2.5 miles to entrance gate at end of road, OR
- (2) SR 405 East to Merritt Island/Kennedy Space Center, turn right on Space Commerce Way (new road) to SR 3, turn South (right) on SR 3 to Pine Island Road, then right on Pine Island Road and proceed West to entrance gate.



Beach Sunflower  
*Helianthus debilis*



## Get to Know a Native !

This hardy per perennial loves dry conditions - performing poorly in moist soils or when watered regularly. It grows directly on the dune, forming a thick groundcover and will cascade down planters. Beach sunflower can be easily managed with occasional pruning. This beauty attracts many varieties of butterflies and propagates through reseeding and cuttings. Makes a good border plant that adds year round color to a garden. Beach or dune sunflower can be found in most Florida native nurseries.



## Recognize Our Invasives !

This invasive species is so globally destructive that it is listed in "100 of the World's Worst Invasive Alien Species" - a publication produced by a consortium of wildlife organizations. This plant is native to the tropics of Central America but extremely invasive outside its native range. In China, creeping oxeye is not only invading native habitats but damaging rice paddies. This plant was introduced to Hawaii for erosion control and quickly became a "worst offender". Wedelia or creeping oxeye is a FL EPPC Category 1 Invasive. No longer sold in retail nurseries, it is a common sighting in both private and public conservation lands. Eradication can be accomplished with vigilant weeding and/or careful herbicide treatment - with regular monitoring.

## Wedelia

*Sphagneticola trilobata*



## Upcoming Events

<i>Sat, Nov 1, 10-4pm</i>	<i>Forest Festival - Enchanted Forest, Titusville</i> <i>Sea Rocket Chapter Native Plant Sale, Enchanted Forest</i>
<i>Tues, Nov 4</i>	<i>Election Day - VOTE !!!</i>
<i>Sat, Nov 8, 9am</i>	<i>Sea Rocket Chapter Hike, Dicerandra Scrub (details below)</i>
<i>Sun, Nov 9</i>	<i>KSC Air &amp; Space Show with Blue Angels</i>
<i>Wed, Nov 19, 7pm</i>	<i>Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting &amp; Using Natives in Our Coastal Backyards</i>
<i>Thurs, Nov 20</i>	<i>Rain Barrel Workshop, Mims/Scottsmor Library</i>
<i>Thurs, Nov 27</i>	<i>Thanksgiving - ENJOY !!!</i>
<i>Sat/Sun, Nov 29 &amp; 30</i>	<i>Space Coast Art Festival, Cocoa Beach</i>
<i>Sun, Dec 7, 1-5pm</i>	<i>Sea Rocket Holiday Dinner, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary - Be There or Be <input type="checkbox"/></i>
<i>Every Saturday</i>	<i>City of Cocoa Farmers Market, 11:30am - 3pm, Cocoa Village Gazebo</i>
<i>Every Friday</i>	<i>Brown Bag Jazz Lunch, Cocoa Village Gazebo</i>

If you would like to have an item included in this section, please contact Joanie Regan at [joanie.regan@hotmail.com](mailto:joanie.regan@hotmail.com) / 482-3323

## Enchanted Holiday

Please join us for our Holiday Christmas Party at the Enchanted Forest on Sunday December 7th from 1 till 5pm.

There will be great eats, a fun gift exchange game and an enchanted hike through the forest conducted by Paul Schmalzer PhD.

The club will be providing a turkey and we are asking for side dishes to go with it. Please contact Candy Murphy for more details at 636-4074 or e-mail [budyboo@yahoo.com](mailto:budyboo@yahoo.com)



### Not sure where to get native beauties for your yard?

#### Naturewise

#### Green Marketplace

2295 Adamson Road  
Cocoa, FL 536-1410

[kari@naturewiseplants.com](mailto:kari@naturewiseplants.com)

[www.naturewiseplants.com](http://www.naturewiseplants.com)

Tues 2-6pm, Fri 10-6pm

#### Maple Street Natives

7619 Henry Ave  
West Melbourne, FL  
729-6857

[info@maplestreetnatives.com](mailto:info@maplestreetnatives.com)

[www.maplestreetnatives.com](http://www.maplestreetnatives.com)

Mon thru Sat 8-5pm

#### Green Images

1333 Taylor Creek Road  
Christmas, FL  
407 568-1333

[greenimage@aol.com](mailto:greenimage@aol.com)

Wed & Sat 10 - 2pm

## Florida Native Plant Society Board of Directors Meeting

October 25, 2008

Submitted by FNPS Chapter Representative Paul A. Schmalzer, Ph.D.

*The October Board of Directors Meeting of the Florida Native Plant Society was held at the All Native Garden Center and Nursery, Fort Myers, FL. This was the annual meeting with AFNN (Association of Florida Native Nurseries). Following is a brief summary of the major issues and actions of the FNPS BOD meeting.*

1. President Gene Kelly represented FNPS recently at the Century Commission Water Congress.
2. Executive Director Karina Veaudry will be representing FNPS at the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council.
3. Work on the Urban and Community Forestry Grant of \$10,000 has been completed. This grant resulted in two PowerPoint presentations, one on urban forestry and one on land acquisition for conservation. These will be used by FNPS and others in outreach to local governments that do not currently have such programs. The BOD approved reimbursement of \$6343.75 to Native Florida Consulting, Inc. (K. Veaudry) for work on this grant that exceeded standard scope of services with FNPS. FNPS received \$3656.25 from the grant. FNPS also received \$3000 from the Florida Urban Forestry Council to support this work.
4. FNPS and partners did not receive the U.S. Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) Research Planning Project Grant. It is likely that a revised proposal will be submitted next year.
5. FNPS VP for Administration Ann Redmond, VP for Finance Steve Woodmansee, and Treasurer Sue Thompson have worked to correctly allocate the Executive Director's time so that FNPS will qualify for the Earth Share program. The BOD approved the revised allocation as follows: Society Events Coordination 35%, Administrative Oversight 5%, Society Project Support/Management 30% [Education 10%, Government Policy 5%, Research and Conservation 10%, Landscape Awards 5%], Society Liaison 15%, Development/Grant Management 10%, Resource Development/Management 5%.
6. FNPS now participates in the Good Search/Good Shop program. This is an internet search engine (like Google) that will contribute to FNPS to the extent used by FNPS members.
7. The trip to Belize advertised to FNPS members filled and resulted in a \$3600 donation to FNPS.
8. A trip to Nicaragua is planned for July 2009 with an April 2009 deadline for registration. Information will be posted on the FNPS web site in the near future.
9. The 2009 budget is in preparation and will be posted within the next couple of weeks. It will be voted on at the January BOD meeting.
10. The Program for the 2009 Annual Conference in West Palm Beach is in place. Fundraising including soliciting sponsorships is underway. The 2010 Conference will be in Tallahassee; a venue has been selected. The 2011 Conference will be in the Orlando area hosted by the Tarflower Chapter.
11. The Annual BOD retreat meeting will be January 10-11, 2009 at Camp Kulaqua. The Strategic Plan for FNPS will be the focus. The BOD approved a deposit to hold the site of the planned 2011 retreat.
12. In the 2009 session of the Florida State Legislature, Sue Mullins, who serves as a lobbyist for FNPS and other environmental groups, will be watching for several topics of particular interest to FNPS including: biofuels including *Jatropha*, funding for native plant conservation research, fertilizer usage, and efforts to fix some of the language in last year's Florida Forever and Energy bills.
13. Future legislative initiatives being considered are: greater protection for rare and endangered plants, reintroduction of a seagrass protection bill, and a screening process for non-native plants.

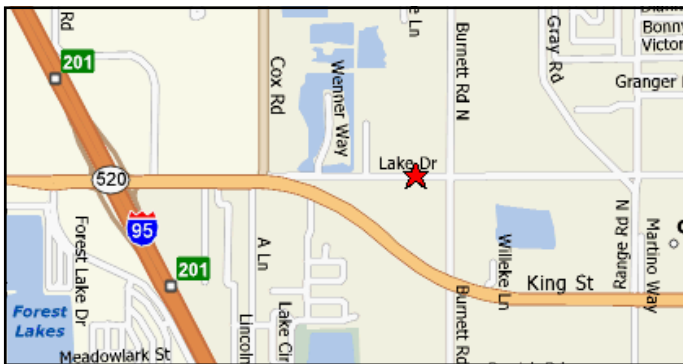


Sea Rocket Chapter FNPS  
2009 Proposed Budget

EXPENSE				
Function	Item	Unit Cost	Quantity	Budget
Chapter rep	travel	\$105.00	4	\$420.00
President	PO box	\$40.00	1	\$40.00
	AFNN dues	\$100.00	1	\$100.00
Vice-president	Speaker gifts	\$30.00	8	\$240.00
	Paid speaker	\$50.00	2	\$100.00
Treasurer	Stamps	\$0.42	20	\$8.40
	Corporation filing fee	\$61.25	1	\$61.25
Secretary	Stamps	\$0.42	25	\$10.50
Membership	none	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Education	Coloring books			\$50.00
	Photo printing			\$100.00
	Brochures			\$50.00
Nursery	Soil	\$40	4	\$160
	Delivery	\$25	2	\$50
	Pots	unknown		
	Plants			\$200
	Seeds	\$1.60	50 pkts	\$80
	Facility repairs	\$250	0.08%	\$25
	Misc			\$50
	Sales tax	0.06%		\$120
	Enchanted Forest		15% donation	\$300
	License inspection	\$35.00	1	\$35.00
Library	Books	\$15.00	4	\$60.00
Hospitality	Meeting refreshments			\$250.00
	Picnic			
	Christmas party			
Newsletter	Tabloid paper/printing	\$50.00	3	\$150.00
	Stamps	\$0.42	300	\$123.00
TOTAL				\$2,783.15

REVENUE				
Function	Item	Unit Cost	Quantity	Initial
Chapter rep	none			\$0.00
President	none			\$0.00
Vice-president	none			\$0.00
Treasurer	none			\$0.00
Secretary	none			\$0.00
Membership	Dues percentage			\$700.00
Education	Speaker fees/donations			\$100.00
	Workshops			\$100.00
Nursery		\$666.66	3	\$2,000.00
Library	none			\$0.00
Hospitality	none			\$0.00
Newsletter	none			\$0.00
TOTAL				\$2,900.00

2009 Reserves      \$116.85



## CHAPTER MEETING LOCATION

Brevard County Ag Center, 3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa, Florida

- From I-95, go east on SR520 to 1<sup>st</sup> traffic light (Burnett Rd.). Turn left at light and drive one block north to Lake Drive. Turn left & Ag Center is on your left.
- From US 1, go west on SR520 to traffic light immediately after Bob Steele Chevrolet. Turn right onto Burnett Road & go 1 block to stop sign. Turn right onto Lake Drive & Ag Center is on your left.

*Please do not call the Ag Center*

*For questions, contact a member of the FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter board.*

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## Sea Rocket Board of Directors

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**President:** Barbara Venuto: [cvenuto@cfl.rr.com](mailto:cvenuto@cfl.rr.com) / 452-3609

**Vice President:** Paula Berntson: [jepasm.3@juno.com](mailto:jepasm.3@juno.com) / 459-3606

**Secretary:** Ginny Blaetz: [vblaetz@hotmail.com](mailto:vblaetz@hotmail.com)    **Treasurer:** Betty Page: [sioned@digital.net](mailto:sioned@digital.net) / 269-0555

**Nursery Co-chairs:** Pat Bayer: [bayeriii@juno.com](mailto:bayeriii@juno.com) & Suzanne Meyer: 264-4922

**Library Chair:** Woody Dierberg, PhD [aquachem1@aol.com](mailto:aquachem1@aol.com)    **Chapter Rep & Hike:** Paul Schmalzer, PhD: 268-5473

**Newsletter:** Joanie Regan: [joanie.regan@hotmail.com](mailto:joanie.regan@hotmail.com) /482-3323    **Membership:** Gail Hill: 453-4865

**Education:** Stephanie Phillips: [k4mvo@titustek.com](mailto:k4mvo@titustek.com)    **Hospitality:** Candy Murphy: [budyboo@yahoo.com](mailto:budyboo@yahoo.com) / 636-4074



## Florida Native Plant Society

For additional information on membership benefits or changes of address call, write or e-mail FNPS, or visit our website:

<http://nbbd.com/npr/SeaRocket/index.html>

P. O. Box 278, Melbourne, FL 32902-0278



## Sea Rocket

c/o Joanie Regan  
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***please contact us if you would like to receive future Sea Rocket newsletters via e-mail***