



# Sea Rocket



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

December 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.*

## Enchanted Christmas

Please join us for our Holiday Christmas Party

**Enchanted Forest - Sunday December 7 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)

## 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.





## 2009 Sea Rocket Officer Nominations

With the beginning of a New Year, so also does the cast of officers for Sea Rocket begin. The Sea Rocket Board has accepted several nominations for the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, and will be accepting nominations from the floor at our February

Chapter Meeting. Nominations at this point include returning officers: Secretary - Ginny Blaetz, Treasurer - Betty Page, Vice President - Debbie Springer and Chapter Rep Paul Schmalzer. **The Board of Directors is currently looking for a person to fill our Presidency position.**

Sea Rocket President is a fulfilling role that takes about 20 hours per month. The President presides over the Executive Committee and Board; coordinating duties and providing overall leadership. Duties include conducting the once/month Board of Directors and Chapter Meetings. The President represents our organization at attended events during the year and is the point of contact for our group.

Returning Board Members include Pat Bayer & Suzanne Meyer with Nursery; Stephanie Philips as our Education Chair and Candy Murphy as our Hospitality Chair. Woody Dierberg will remain our Library Committee Chair.

Gail Hill can no longer Chair our Membership Committee. Duties include maintaining membership records and promoting new membership. Membership Chair greets new members at monthly meetings and encourages renewals. This job requires less than 10 hours per month. Other Board positions that are needed include:

Public Affairs Chair - This person manages publicity of occurring events. It requires less than 5 hours per month.

Conservation Chair educates our Chapter on conservation issues occurring in our local and higher levels of government. Conservation Chair represents our Chapter at public meetings and speaks as needed. This is a new position but expected to take approximately 8-18 hours per month.

Please contact Barb if you think you might be interested in any of these opened positions.

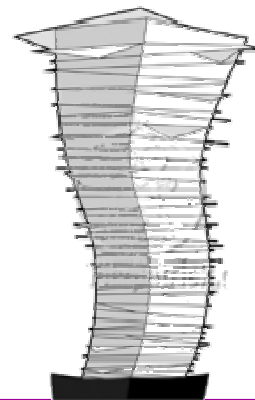
### General Meeting Minutes Sea Rocket Chapter -FNPS November 19, 2008 - Ag Center

*Submitted by Virginia Blaetz*

President Barbara Venuto opened the meeting. There were no past minutes for approval as no business had been conducted during the Sept & Oct meetings. President Venuto noted the proposed budget for 2009 previously printed in the October Sea Rocket newsletter. A motion was made by Joanie Regan and seconded by Michelle Clifton to approve the budget as published. The motion was passed unanimously. The current treasurer's report was read by Ms. Venuto: beginning balance \$3725.51, income (largely from Nursery's Plant Sale \$644.65, expenditures \$399.99, ending balance\$ 3970.17.

Charles Lamb, Chapter Rep from FNPS Conradina Chapter showed a video, which he had made with expert photography of native plants and relaxing music. A PowerPoint presentation by Joanie Regan followed showing seven yards of mostly native plants and shrubs in Cocoa Beach and Merritt Island. Most of the yard owners were present and narrated the showing, commenting on their plants. Supposed versus actual salt tolerance was a common topic.

Michelle Clifton was thanked for bringing refreshments.



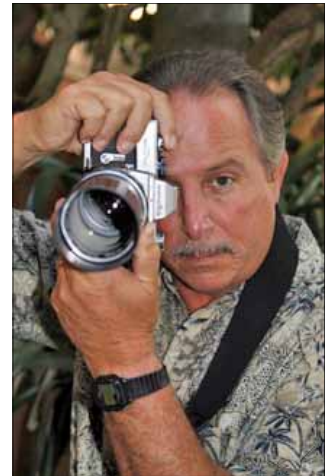
## Upcoming Events

<i>Sat, Dec 6, 9am</i>	<i>Sea Rocket Chapter Hike, Pine Island (details on front page)</i>
<i>Sun, Dec 7, 1-5pm</i>	<i>Sea Rocket Enchanted Christmas Dinner, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary</i>
<i>Sun, Dec 21, 1pm</i>	<i>Scrub Ridge Trail Hike, Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge</i>
<i>Thurs, Dec 25</i>	<i>CHRISTMAS DAY</i>
<i>Thurs, Jan 1</i>	<i>NEW YEAR'S DAY</i>
<i>Tues, Jan 20</i>	<i>INAUGURATION DAY</i>
<i>Jan 21 - 26</i>	<i>Space Coast Birding &amp; Wildlife Festival, BCC Titusville</i>
<i>Wed, Jan 28, 7pm</i>	<i>Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting &amp; Jim Angy—Nature Photography</i>
<i>Wed, Feb 25, 7pm</i>	<i>Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting &amp; Kerry Strom - Samson Island, Satellite Beach</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

### Jim Angy - Wildlife Photography Wednesday - January 28, 7pm

Jim Angy is an award-winning nature photographer who has not only mastered the skill of wildlife photography, but also has an encyclopedic knowledge of his subjects. Jim has Resided in Brevard County for over 40 years, growing up in Satellite Beach and now living in Indialantic. His images has been featured in calendars, postcards, books & magazines including Florida's Famous Birds, Florida's Famous Reptiles & The Nature - a series of books by Cathie Katz. Come, share and ask questions about his photographs and knowledge at our January Chapter Meeting.



### 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)

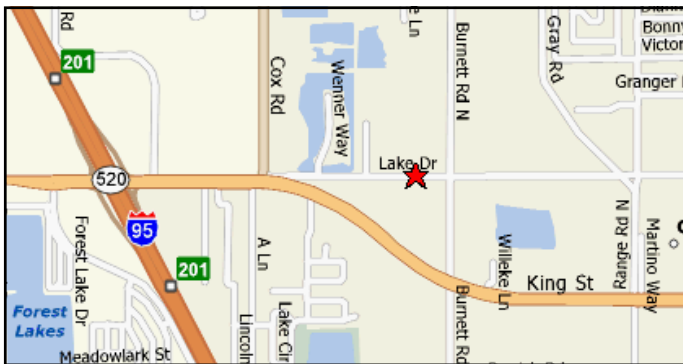
Mon thru Sat 8-5pm

#### Green Images

1333 Taylor Creek Road  
Christmas, FL  
407 568-1333

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

Wed & Sat 10 - 2pm



## 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  
1460 South Atlantic Avenue  
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

***please contact us if you would like to receive future Sea Rocket newsletters via e-mail***