



# Sea Rocket



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

January 2009

*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.*



## Jim Angy - Wildlife Photography Tuesday - January 27, 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 for over 40 years, growing up in Satellite Beach & now living in Indialantic. His images have 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.



**2009 New Year's Resolution:** *I resolve to explore and learn more about our Florida Natural Communities and the flora & fauna that live there within.*



## Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival

*Brevard Community College, Titusville Campus*

**January 21 - 26, 2009**

***A celebration of birds and wildlife.***

*Enthusiasts come from around the world to celebrate and learn more about our Space Coast's wealth of ecosystems from pelagic birding to scrub and lagoon encounters. Those enthusiasts come from our local world too and so should you!*

### Chapter Meeting Location

Sea Rocket has had difficulty over the last year securing a meeting place. With County budget cuts - our regular meetings may change. As you may have noticed lately, we have had to squeeze into a smaller room at the Ag Canter and have had to change our normal "4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday" this month. A future possibility is the Merritt Island Library; we have tentatively reserved a large room on our regular 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday. We will keep you posted - look for news in February's newsletter.



## 2009 Sea Rocket Officer Elections

At our February general membership meeting, Sea Rocket holds elections for the officers of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Terms of office are for one year.

No officer can serve more than two consecutive terms of the same office. The majority

vote at a meeting that has at least 10% of the general membership is our method of elections.

Nominees for officers are:

Suzanne Meyer for President

Ginny Blaetz for Secretary

Debbie Springer for Vice-President

Betty Page for Treasurer

There are many committee chairs that are vacant, such as publicity, activities and membership. If you would like to be considered as a nominee or serve on a committee, please contact Barb Venuto, 452-3609.

### Coconut Point Sanctuary - Field Trip

**Saturday, February 21 - 9am until noon**

*A joint acquisition of Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and the State of Florida, acquired in 1994. Vegetation is coastal strand, coastal scrub, some hammocks, and wetlands along the Indian River Lagoon. The first prescribed was conducted in 1999. Much of the site burned in a wildfire in March 2006 and in a prescribed burn in April 2007. Recovery has been rapid and quite impressive.*

*Directions:*

*I-95 to St. Rt. 192 . East on SR 192 to A1A. South on A1A about 5.8 miles. Park at Ponce de Leon County Park on the east side of A1A, cross A1A and walk a short distance north to the kiosk at the north end of the loop trail.*

*Bring hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent.*



## 2009 Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference

**West Palm Beach Marriott Hotel**

**May 21-24, 2009**

### ***Wake Up and Plant the Natives: Planting Today to Preserve Florida's Tomorrow***

**\* Doug Tallamy, Ph.D., from the University of Delaware will provide the keynote speech on biodiversity**

**\* Daniel Austin, Ph.D., from Fairchild Gardens and the University of Arizona will speak on "Plants and People – From Swamps and Deserts".**

**\* A variety of interesting breakout sessions and field trips will be offered during the conference.**

**More information is available at [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org). Click on the "Conference" listing on the home page.**



*Henry O. "Hank" Whittier, UCF Biology Professor and Founding Member of FNPS, passed away on December 20th.*

*Karina Veaudry, FNPS Executive Director, is collecting stories of how he inspired individuals as he influenced many biologists and ecologists now practicing around the state. There will be a tribute at the annual conference in May. Please send stories and thoughts to: [executivedirector@fnps.org](mailto:executivedirector@fnps.org)*



# ECO Action Alerts

## Florida Forever Action Alert– Please Act Now

The State legislature announced that they would withdraw funding for land purchase and management in Florida immediately. The legislation will then go to Gov Crist for his signature. Please **e-mail Gov Crist TODAY** to make the following requests. Make sure to copy the house and senate leadership and your local legislators on your correspondence. Numbers are critical to influence current and future decision-making.

TO: [Charlie.Crist@MyFlorida.com](mailto:Charlie.Crist@MyFlorida.com) ; [haridopolos.mike.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:haridopolos.mike.web@flsenate.gov) ; [steve.crisafulli@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:steve.crisafulli@myfloridahouse.gov) ;  
[ralph.poppell@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:ralph.poppell@myfloridahouse.gov) ; [Ritch.workman@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Ritch.workman@myfloridahouse.gov)  
CC: [atwater.jeff.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:atwater.jeff.web@flsenate.gov) ; [fasano.mike.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:fasano.mike.web@flsenate.gov) ; [portilla.alex.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:portilla.alex.web@flsenate.gov)  
[lawson.alfred.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:lawson.alfred.web@flsenate.gov) ; [ray.sansom@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:ray.sansom@myfloridahouse.gov) ; [larry.cretul@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:larry.cretul@myfloridahouse.gov)  
SUBJECT: Protect Florida Forever Program Funding

Florida Forever has protected critical, essential Florida ecosystems throughout the State. Development pressure still strains our State's economy and it is critical that this program be preserved to further protect our fragile ecosystems and to manage our current public conservation lands. Protect this program through the following requests:

1. **Commit to appropriation of adequate funding for Florida Forever**, consistent with legislative intent reflected in passage of its extension during the 2008 session.
2. **Provide funds for Florida Forever land purchases that have been negotiated in good faith with land owners and are ready to be executed.** Delay will result in higher costs to taxpayers--land that now can be acquired at a reasonable cost will soon be much more costly or unavailable.
3. **Funding for land management must be continued for all state conservation lands**, including any state lands proposed for temporary closure as a cost cutting measure, such as the 19 properties in the Florida State Park system. Interruption of management practices, including control of non-native nuisance species and prescribed burning, means increased future management costs for minimal current savings. Neglect of such lands can also result in uncontrolled fire events, and open properties to vandalism and citizen injury.

## Ocklawaha River Action Alert

The Ocklawaha River is 110 miles long originating in several lakes near central FL and flows northward along the edge of the Ocala National Forest before it joins the St. Johns River. Since the mid-1960's Floridians have been fighting to save, protect and restore the beautiful subtropical Ocklawaha River and its surrounding floodplain forest. Gov. Crist and DEP Secretary Michael Sole have publicly committed to restoring the Ocklawaha by removing Rodman Dam.

*St. Johns River Water Management District is currently reviewing a permit application to build a 400 slip marina in Rodman pool. Ocklawaha River restoration involves removal of Rodman Dam, which will substantially reduce water levels at the proposed site, making marina operation untenable. The Florida Division of Historical Resources (DHR) states that the project site is close to identified archeological resources and other potentially significant historic sites. The project site is located within the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) designated primary range for the Florida black bear. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recommended denial of the permit after determining that the proposed project does not comply with guidelines within the Clean Water Act for dredge and fill operations.*

**Act Now - Please email US Army Corps of Engineers & St. Johns River WMD and cc: key parties listed below:**

To: [Norma.B.Fouraker@usace.army.mil](mailto:Norma.B.Fouraker@usace.army.mil) ; [mdinardo@sjrwmd.com](mailto:mdinardo@sjrwmd.com) ; [bhabrams@sjrwmd.com](mailto:bhabrams@sjrwmd.com)  
cc: [hughes.eric@epa.gov](mailto:hughes.eric@epa.gov) ; [karen@pcecweb.org](mailto:karen@pcecweb.org)  
Subject: Ocklawaha River Protection

- \* State the Project Name/Permit Numbers:  
**Rebel Investment Corp.; USACE Permit Application #SAJ-2008-2172**  
**Lake Ocklawaha RV Park (Docks); ERP Application #40-083-26668-6**
- \* State that you are: formally filing an objection to the issuance of a permit for this project based on adverse ecological and historical resource impacts.
- \* State that this project is not compatible with state and federal positions to restore the Ocklawaha River.





## FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY NEWS

### January Board of Directors Meeting

*January 10, 2009 - submitted by Paul A. Schmalzer, Ph.D.  
Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, Florida*

*A brief summary of the major issues and actions of the FNPS BOD meeting:*

1. At the May 2009 FNPS Annual Conference election of new FNPS officers will be held. Those offices open in 2009 will be Vice President for Administration, Treasurer, and three director-at-large positions. A nominating committee consisting of Shirley Denton, Kim Zarillo, Bob Egolf and one additional member was approved.
2. FNPS insurance policies are being updated and renewed.
3. Revision of the scope of work of the Executive Director's contract was approved. This was largely a matter of reclassifying how the Executive Director's time is charged in order to meet requirements of the Earthshare program.
4. Renewal of the Executive Director's contract for a two-year term was approved.
5. Renewal of the letter of agreement with the FNPS Accountant was approved.
6. An addendum to the scope of work of FNPS's administration contract to overhaul and update the membership database was approved; this is needed to allow online membership renewal. Labor costs are estimated to be \$850-\$1000.
7. FNPS published and holds copyright on several books. Several years ago, FNPS sold its remaining inventory of these books to Great Outdoors Publishing (GOP). FNPS received a royalty payment whenever GOP sold one of these books, but this income has been minimal. GOP is going out of business due to retirement and has sold its assets to Finney Company, Inc. Finney may increase sales and is interested in developing new titles. The BOD approved assignment of rights to Finney Company, Inc. This will allow FNPS to continue to receive royalty payments from sales of FNPS titles.
8. FNPS and several collaborators applied for a U.S. Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) Research Planning Project Grant. The planning project, if funded, would bring together researchers, native plant growers, landscapers, government agencies, and others to look at strategies for improving the native plant industry and plan a larger, multi-year grant application. This grant was not funded but the response was encouraging. The BOD approved having the Executive Director work with the University of Florida to determine if a new submittal in 2009 is a good idea and to negotiate terms with UF; it is probable that UF would handle grant administration.
9. The BOD approved a new policy statement on bioenergy. The statement is posted on the FNPS Web site.
10. Planning is proceeding for the 2009 Annual Conference, which will be held May 21-24 in West Palm Beach. Online registration will be available. Submissions for Landscape Awards are due March 6, 2009. Submissions for Conservation Grant Awards and Endowment Research Awards are due March 6, 2009.
11. Abstracts for papers and posters for the Science Track sessions at the Annual Conference are due February 15, 2009.
12. The State of Florida has proposed closing 19 State Parks to save money in the current economic situation. It is not clear whether basic park resource management (e.g., prescribed burning, exotic removal) would continue or not.
13. The Land Management Partners (LMP) subcommittee is requesting a liaison/contact person from each FNPS chapter to assist in identifying FNPS volunteers interested in assisting with local LMP support activities.
14. The mission of the Land Management Partners (LMP), a subcommittee of the FNPS Conservation Committee, is to provide government agencies (i.e., state, water management districts, county, local), non-government organizations, and the general public with support in managing public and private lands "to promote the preservation, conservation and restoration of native plants and native plant communities of Florida". Examples of LMP support activities include providing FNPS volunteers to:
  15. Participate in Florida Department of Environmental Protection land management reviews of public lands;
  16. Assist with plant surveys on public lands;
  17. Assist with monitoring and reporting the results of land management activities on public lands.
18. The LMP chapter liaison/contact person would let his/her chapter members know about the LMP, identify chapter members interested in participating in LMP activities, and distribute information about upcoming LMP support activities to the chapter membership.
19. Funding for the Florida Forever program is at risk from budget cuts proposed by the Florida Legislature. President Gene Kelly has addressed a letter to Governor Crist opposing these cuts. The letter is posted on the FNPS Website.

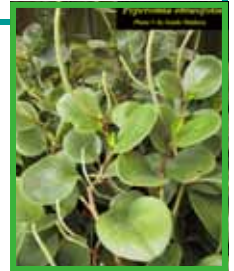
# Upcoming Events

Sun, Jan 18	Turkey Creek Field Trip led by Vince Lamb, Conradina FNPS, 10am
Mon, Jan 19	Dr. Martin Luther King Day & National Day of Service Beach Cleanup - Lori Wilson Park, 10am - noon go to <a href="http://usaservice.org/page/event/detail/4v7w4">http://usaservice.org/page/event/detail/4v7w4</a> for more info
Tues, Jan 20	INAUGURATION DAY - Welcome President Obama
Jan 21 - 26	Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival, BCC Titusville
Sat, Jan 24	Vegetable Gardening Basics Class, Green Marketplace - 1pm
Tues, Jan 27	Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting & Jim Angy - Nature Photography, 7pm
Mon, Feb 9	Climate Change Forum - BCC Melbourne, 7pm - Conradina partially sponsored For more info: <a href="http://www.spacecoastprogressivealliance.org/phpEventCalendar/">http://www.spacecoastprogressivealliance.org/phpEventCalendar/</a>
Fri, Feb 21	St. Katherine's Greek Festival, Melbourne - all weekend
Wed, Feb 25	Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting - Kerry Strom reveals Samson Island, 7pm
Thurs, Feb 26	Baseball Spring Training Nationals Opening Game, Space Coast Stadium, 1pm
Every Saturday	City of Cocoa Farmers Market, 11:30am - 3pm, Cocoa Village Gazebo
Every Friday	Brown Bag Jazz Lunch, Cocoa Village Gazebo

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 Forest - November 2008 Plant Sale

Thanks to all the help and support of the nursery volunteers, Sea Rocket has another \$530.25 to boost our bank account. It was the day after Halloween and buyers did not start showing up until noon. The weather was magnificent and the butterflies were very entertaining. We had 8 new kinds of plants to offer for sale including Florida Peperomia, *Peperomia obtusifolia*, which is an endangered species. It can be used as a house plant or as groundcover up to Brevard County. We should have brought more Loblolly Bay since we sold the 6 that we brought to the sale. And the Wild Plumbago we rescued from Gail Hill's yard had lots of blooms and is a butterfly host so we sold a few of those for the first time too. Growing for fun to fund the chapter.

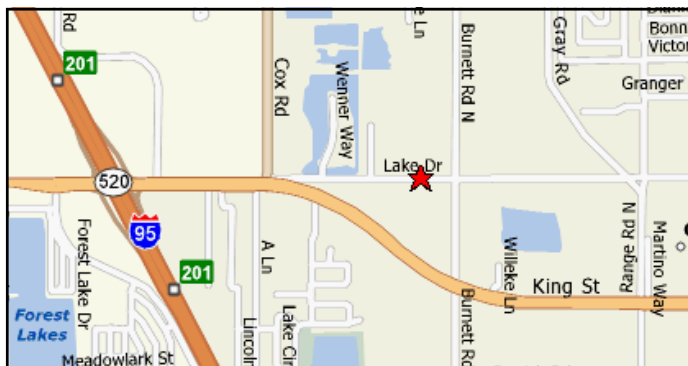


## Not sure where to get native beauties for your yard?

Naturewise  
Green Marketplace  
2295 Adamson Road  
Cocoa, FL 536-1410  
[kari@naturewisepplants.com](mailto:kari@naturewisepplants.com)  
[www.naturewisepplants.com](http://www.naturewisepplants.com)  
Tues 2-6pm, Fri 10-6pm  
and Sat 9-1pm

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

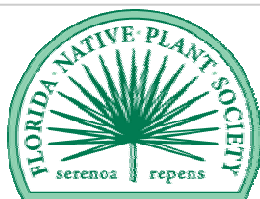
**Secretary:** Ginny Blaetz: [yblaetz@hotmail.com](mailto:yblaetz@hotmail.com)     **Treasurer:** Betty Page: [sioned@digital.net](mailto:sioned@digital.net) / 269-0555

**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

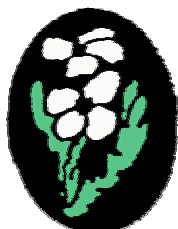


## Florida Native Plant Society

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***