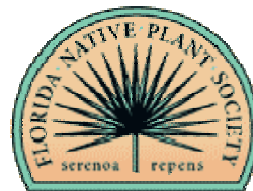




# Sea Rocket



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

March 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.*



## Designing Gardens for Butterflies

**Shari Blissett Clark**  
**Wednesday - March 25, 7pm**

What is a "host" plant? Who eats it and how much should you plant? And where do those little worms come from, and where do they go after they destroy your plants? These and other questions will be answered by Shari Blissett Clark at the March Sea Rocket meeting. Shari has over 15 years of garden design experience and has executed many butterfly gardens throughout central Florida. Come and discover how easy butterfly gardening is using Florida's native plants!

## Helen and Allan Cruickshank Sanctuary Field Trip

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

*This sanctuary is a joint acquisition of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program & the State of Florida, acquired in 1995 with an addition in 2008. Vegetation is pine flatwoods, oak scrub, and freshwater depression marshes. Prescribed burning, mechanical treatment of fuels, and thinning of pines have been done to restore habitat conditions.*

*Our Hike Leader Paul Schmalzer, PhD is on our County's Environmentally Endangered Lands program's Selection & Management Committee and is an expert in natural communities & native plant identification. This is a real & rare opportunity to get to know Florida and our precious native plants better.*

**Directions: Central Rockledge just west of US Highway 1, 360 Barnes Boulevard.**

*From I-95: Take Fiske Blvd Exit 195. At the intersection just north of I-95, go east on Barnes Boulevard 2.4 miles to the Sanctuary entrance and small parking area.*

*From US-1: Turn west onto Barnes Blvd and travel 0.5 miles. The Sanctuary entrance is on the north side of the road..*

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



## Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting Minutes . . . submitted by Ginny Blaetz

### January 27, 2009 - Ag Center

President Barb Venuto began the meeting by announcing that the proposed state budget cuts for the Florida Forever Program had, today, been vetoed by Gov Crist. All funds were restored to the budget. The Minutes of the November General Membership Meeting were approved as published in the Dec. 2008 newsletter. Treasurer, Betty Page reports that from Nov. 19th to Jan 27th receipts have totaled \$133.59 & expenditures \$131.17 leaving a current balance of \$3971.15. Announcements: A hike is scheduled for Coconut Point on Sat., Feb 21st, 9 am to 12 pm. The next nursery plant sale will be held on Sat., April 4th at the Enchanted Forest.

A short program of wildlife photos, many humorous & entertaining, was presented by Jim Angy.

Many thanks to Ray Wheeler who donated a large group of native plants which were raffled off to the attendees.

### February 25, 2009 - Ag Center

President Barbara Venuto began the meeting with the announcement that this is the 10th Annual Invasive Weed Awareness Week. She spoke of the need to curtail invasives & allow native plants to flourish. There were no Minutes of the Jan. meeting to vote on because the newsletter did not receive them last month. It is hoped that they will be in the next newsletter. Treasurer's report: From Jan. 27th to Feb. 25th: Opening balance \$3971.15, receipts zero, expenditures \$73.32, current balance \$3897.83. Hike: Paul Schmalzer reported that only 3 folks attended the Coconut Point walk but that a good time was had by the attendees. Nursery: Recent freezes have effected one-half of the plants. Spring will get most to re-leaf or get new seeds growing. Our next sale is April 4th at Enchanted Forest. Vice Pres.: Deb Springer reported that Jay Barnhart will be speaking next fall about Mushrooms. Jay requests that members look for & take photos of mushrooms from now until then. He has some questions for you also & a method of making a spore print. Please see Deb next time you find something! Elections: Proposed slate of candidates: President Suzanne Meyer, Vice Pres. Deb Springer, Treasurer Betty Page, Secretary Ginny Blaetz. There were no nominations from the floor. The slate was voted on & passed unanimously. These elected officers will serve the Chapter for the next year.

Speaker: Kerry Stoms, Recreation Director for the City of Satellite Beach spoke of the evolution of Sampsons Island into a semi-wild recreation space. She related the efforts of volunteers over time in removing Brazilian peppers (now gone) the shrinking of the Australian pine plot, establishing trails & planting natives. Kerry emphasized that "Management of any natural area is forever" & says she expects to be removing Australian pines when she is 94. Members were encouraged to take a Sunday trip out to the island. Arrive at the Satellite Beach firehouse before 1 pm & get a ride on the pontoon boat if you are among the first 11 people there. March 21st will be an all day Open House. The nursery presented Kerry with plants to add to the collection already on the island: Florida privet, yellow top, rough-leaved sunflower, sea oats, Hercules club, a long-leaf pine & climbing asters. Barb brought 2 slash pines.



Xeriscaping with native plants would be a welcomed alternative to the Aquifer Storage & Recovery (ASR) well in Rockledge. If 15 % of Rockledge reclaimed water users xeriscaped their yards, there would be no need to annually inject 180 million gallons of partially treated sewage into the Floridan aquifer 145-500 feet below. The City believes this ASR well will allow them to have enough reclaimed water to keep up with demand during the 60 day dry season. There is no under ground storage tank at the bottom of the well. Ground water flows east and south in Brevard, and the injectate will surface in private wells and the Indian River Lagoon, less than 2,000 feet from the ASR well. The plume will flow toward Merritt Island, the Beaches and eventually to the Atlantic.

Are year round green lawns more important than a clean, viable Floridan aquifer system? A 1-mile radius potable well ban from the injection site has been put in place in order for the City to secure a cycle testing permit with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and begin pumping Rockledge's waste water into the Floridan. Save Our Aquifer is actively working to protect the Floridan aquifer system. Please visit: [www.SaveOurAquifer.org](http://www.SaveOurAquifer.org) to print out the petition and Take Action by sending an email to the governing officials and permitting agencies involved. If you live in Rockledge and would like a yard sign to promote awareness about the well, please email: [info@saveouraquifer.org](mailto:info@saveouraquifer.org) Thank you for your support to keep our Floridan Aquifer sewage free.

*Opinions expressed are those of the author and not the Sea Rocket Chapter.*



# Upcoming Events



<i>Tues, March 17</i>	<i>St. Patrick's Day</i>
<i>Sat, March 21</i>	<i>Sea Rocket Hike, Cruikshank Sanctuary, 9-noon (see front page)</i>
	<i>Baseball Spring Training Nationals vs Cardinals, 1pm</i>
	<i>FL Surveyors Festival, 10-4pm F. Burton Smith Park</i>
<i>Sun, March 22</i>	<i>Jewish Festival, Melbourne Auditorium, 10am</i>
<i>Wed, March 25</i>	<i>Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting - Butterfly Gardening, 7pm</i>
<i>Thurs, March 26</i>	<i>Beginning Bird Watching, Merritt Island NWR, 9am - 321/861-5601</i>
<i>Sat, March 28</i>	<i>Vote for EARTH, Turn Your Lights OFF, 8:30 - 9:30pm</i>
<i>March 26-29</i>	<i>Moore Heritage Festival of the Arts &amp; Humanities, Mims - 720-8933</i>
<i>Thurs, April 2</i>	<i>Gimme Green, Henegar Center, Melbourne, 6:30pm</i>
<i>Sat, April 4</i>	<i>EARTH DAY Family Fun Fest, Enchanted Forest, 10am</i>
	<i>Sea Rocket Plant Sale, Enchanted Forest, 10am</i>
<i>Sun, April 5</i>	<i>Baseball Spring Training Nationals vs Orioles, 1pm</i>
<i>Mon, April 13</i>	<i>Conradina FNPS Meeting, Intro to Butterfly Gardening, Melbourne Library, 7pm</i>
<i>Sat, April 18</i>	<i>Kayaking Adventures at Samson Island, 9am (259-9453 for reservations)</i>
<i>Sat, April 25</i>	<i>Sea Rocket Hike - Malabar Scrub Sanctuary, 9am</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

## Malabar Scrub Sanctuary - Field Trip

**Saturday, April 25, 2009 - 9am** **Paul Schmalzer, PhD - Hike Leader**



## 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***



### 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

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

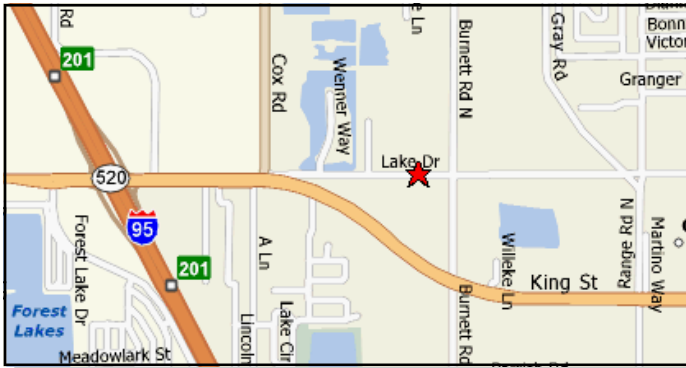
1333 Taylor Creek Road

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:** Suzanne Meyer: [meyermenagerie@cfl.rr.com](mailto:meyermenagerie@cfl.rr.com)

**Vice President:** Debra Springer: [rspringer29@earthlink.net](mailto:rspringer29@earthlink.net)

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

**Nursery Chair:** Pat Bayer: [bayeriii@juno.com](mailto:bayeriii@juno.com)      **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)

**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*