



Sea Rocket



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

May 2009

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



Prescribed Fire in Florida

Dean VanderBleek

Wednesday, May 27, 2009 / Ag Center

Sea Rocket is pleased to host Dean VanderBleek as our featured speaker for May. Dean's presentation will focus on the efforts to reintroduce fire into Florida's native landscapes and the important role that prescribed fire plays in habitat restoration.

Dean is currently the Fire Manager for the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program and is responsible for coordinating multi-agency fire resources to conduct prescribed burns and respond to wildfire on over 10,000 acres of conservation land in Brevard County.

Dean also writes burn "prescriptions" and partners with the land managers in assessing the needs of each conservation area. Many factors are considered when preparing for prescribed fire, including urban interface, fuel loads, fire intensity, smoke management, and weather, and Dean draws on over a decade of fire experience to aid him in these assessments.

Dean has a BS in Environmental Science (FSU 1980) with a minor in Meteorology. He is a Burn Boss, Engine Boss, Ignition Specialist, and a carded Wildland Firefighter on call to fight wildfires throughout the United States. Dean has lived in Brevard County since 1983 and has kept detailed weather records for the National Weather Service as part of a regional temperature/precipitation network. He is an active member of the National Weather Association, Central Florida Prescribed Fire Council, International Association of Fire Ecology, and is a member of the Florida Native Plant Society.

Plan to attend this hot presentation on Wednesday, May 27, at 7:00pm and get fired up about Prescribed Fire!



And speaking in June ... Brian Saunders, CAPS Program

Brian Saunders of the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Program will discuss the nationwide effort combining Federal and State agricultural organizations to conduct surveillance, detection, and monitoring of exotic invasive pests affecting natural resources. The primary goal of the CAPS Program is the early detection of exotic invasive species, including plant diseases, nematodes, insects, mites, mollusks, and plants. The Florida CAPS Program emphasizes interagency cooperation by working with specialists within agencies, institutions and industry groups to more effectively accomplish shared goals. CAPS also operates a public outreach initiative to educate the public on exotic species and their impacts.

Don't miss this important and timely discussion on June 24, 2009.

Chapter Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2009 - Ag Center

Submitted by Ginny Blaetz

President Suzanne Meyer opened the meeting by asking for a motion approving the Minutes of the March 2009 Meeting as published in the newsletter. Debra Springer made a motion for approval & Karen McArthur seconded it. The Minutes were approved as published.

Treasurer Betty Page reported that during the period from March 25th to April 22nd, the beginning balance was \$3872.63, receipts \$490 & expenditures \$252.83 leaving a current balance of \$4110.10. Yet to be received are the receipts for the expenditures of \$500 to \$600 for the South Lake Elem. School Project. These expenses are to be reimbursed by the Titusville Environmental Commission. Gail Hill made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report & Pat Bayer seconded it. The report was accepted.

Suzanne announced that all were invited to the Dedication Ceremony for the Butterfly Garden at South Lake Elem. School, Garden St., Titusville on Fri., Apr. 24th at 10 a.m.

A meeting of the Florida Forever Commission will take place on Fri., April 30th concerning the possible purchase of the Windover Archeological Site in Titusville.

Six new books have been donated to our library by Shari Blissett-Clark.

The next plant sale will be held on Sat., June 6th at The Enchanted Forest in conjunction with the Ace Pond Tour.

The next field trip is at Malabar Scrub this Sat. at 9 a.m.

Our speaker for the evening, Paula Berntson, Environmental Programs Assistant at the Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office was introduced by Vice President, Debra Springer. Paula Berntson spoke to the group about native plants she sees in the course of her work on our beaches.

The Beach Renourishment Project of 2000 led to many beach plant issues. Dune plants, such as sea oats which catch sand came to be encouraged. The sand collects at the plants' bases actually creating "dunettes" & growing the dunes. Many other plants come as volunteers via the birds & wind creating collections with much variety.

Paula showed us numerous pictures of native plants found on the beaches varying from vines to flowering plants such as Sea Rocket in both its forms, cacti such as Prickly Pear. Grasses like Muhly & Sand Cordgrass as well as shrubs such as Fiddlewood, Simpson's Stoppers & Sea Grape are also found in these areas. Silver saw palmetto hold sand very well & the species may be 700 years old.

River margins were also discussed. Natives such as Yellow Top, Sea Oxeye Daisy, Sea Rocket, False Indigo, Amorpha & Salt Bush grow there.

Unfortunately, there are also some plants "pests" in these areas such as Love Vine, which though native can choke out everything else & is usually controlled by fire. Laurel Wilt is also much in evidence at the beaches & can be seen on many of the Red Bay trees.

In 2003, the County planted Sea Oats at the ends of beach streets & they now hold annual sales. 178,000 sea oats seedlings have now been sold. The County also gives away some other native plants for use in holding dunes: saw palmettos, inkberry & 2 others. The palms work very well at the end of the beach streets for blocking light for sea turtles.

Sea Rocket Chapter is having a

NATIVE PLANT SALE

at the
ENCHANTED FOREST SANCTUARY
SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2009
9 am to 4 pm

Cardinal Flower	Dune Sunflower
Scarlet Hibiscus	Blanket Flower
Horsetail	Yellowtop
Florida Iris	Loblolly Bay
Florida Blue Violets	Loblolly Pine
Virginia Willow	Passionvine
Lizard's Tail	Nakedwood

Support Your Chapter ~ Buy Natives!

Maple Street Natives

Compost Workshop

Saturday, May 30th at 10 am

Registration required. Send name and email address or phone number to sharon@maplestreetnatives.com

Rain Barrels Available Now!

Catch rain water, reduce runoff, and water your Florida natives the natural way!

New shipment of 65 gallon
Olive barrels / \$100

Maple Street Natives
321-729-6857

The Green Marketplace

Your Local Place For Native Plants
and Locally-Grown Produce

Visit The Green Marketplace

Located at 2295 Adamson Road in Cocoa,
just west of I-95 and north of SR 524.
www.naturewisepplants.com





Pawpaw Chapter Hosts Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor in August

Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor will be the guest speaker at the Pawpaw Chapter's meeting in Deland on Tuesday, August 11th at 7 pm. He will discuss his new book, *A Guide to Florida Grasses*. The meeting will take place in the auditorium at the Volusia County Agricultural Center located at 3100 E. New York Avenue (I-4 and SR44). Please contact Don Spence at 386-235-0404 for more information.

Dr. Taylor has led numerous wildflower identification field trips and spoken before a variety of organizations on Florida natural history. He has written two widely-used books on Florida wildflowers, *The Field Guide to Florida Wildflowers* (Taylor Publishing Company, Dallas, 1992), and *Wildflowers in Their Natural Communities* (University Press of Florida, Gainesville, 1998). *André Michaux in Florida, An Eighteenth-Century Botanical Journal*, which Dr. Taylor wrote with coauthor Dr. Elaine M. Norman, was published in the spring of 2002 (University Press of Florida, Gainesville.) Dr. Taylor has given several presentations on André Michaux in period dress. His most recent book, *A Guide to Florida Grasses*, was published in 2009 by University Press of Florida.

South Lake Elementary School Butterfly Garden

All Photographs by Pat Bayer



In the beginning...the site on 4-01-09



Vivian tilling the beds 4-10-09



Layout with soaker hoses in place 4-10-09



Garden at end of workday on 4-10-09



Afi, Margaret, & Suzanne 4-17-09



Afi, Shari, Betty, Deb, & Vivian 4-17-09



A planted "wing" 4-24-09



The finished garden 4-24-09



Ready for Butterflies! 4-24-09

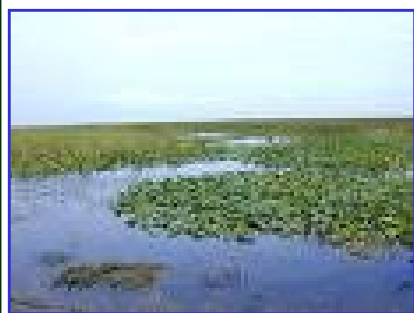
Vegetation of Non-tidal Marshes

Various plant associations occur in non-tidal freshwater marshes depending on the hydro-period, fire frequency and accumulation of organic matter.

Long hydro-period marshes (flooding greater than 9 months of the year) tend to be dominated by submerged and floating leaf herbaceous plants. These marshes seldom dry completely. Representative species include naiad (*Naiad* spp.), bladderwort (*Utricularia* spp.) and similar plants.

Moderate hydro-period marshes (flooded 6-9 months per year) can be dominated by broad-leaved herbaceous plants, including sawgrass and cattail. These marshes often are populated by pickerelweed (*Pontederia* spp.), arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*), spikerush (*Eleocharis* spp.), maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*), and alligator flag (*Thalia geniculata*). Cattail marshes and sawgrass marshes are often species poor and nearly monospecific. Cattail tends to grow on more nutrient rich sites than sawgrass.

Short hydro-period marshes, sometimes called **wet prairie**, (flooded less than 6 months per year) are the most diverse of marsh associations. Maidencane, cordgrass (*Spartina* spp.), beak-rush (*Rhynchospora* spp.) and other marsh species are characteristic. Wet prairies, with their short hydro-period, may also support species often characteristic of uplands such as wiregrass (*Aristida* spp.) and toothache grass (*Ctenium aromaticum*).



Vegetation of Tidal Marshes

Tidal freshwater marshes differ somewhat from inland marshes in species composition and plant groupings. Additionally, species composition differs on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts and along the Atlantic coast with latitude. **Atlantic tidal freshwater marshes** exhibit some zonation related to water depth. Common plants going from deeper water towards shallower include spatterdock (*Nuphar luteum*), arrow arum (*Peltandra virginica*), pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*), wild rice (*Zizania aquatica*), cattail (*Typha* spp.), giant cutgrass (*Zizaniopsis miliacea*), smartweed (*Polygonum* spp.), jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), burmarigold (*Bidens* spp.) rose mallow (*Hibiscus* spp.), and big cordgrass (*Spartina cynosuroides*). Gulf coast arrowhead (*Sagittaria* spp.) replaces arrow arum and pickerelweed in low marshes, and maidencane replaces many of the perennial species. Other dominants in Gulf coast marshes include spikerush (*Eleocharis* spp.) and alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*).

The vegetation of freshwater tidal marshes varies not only spatially within the marsh but also over the course of the seasons. Mudflats are prominent in intertidal areas during winter months; broad-leaf plants emerge in spring but are overtopped by grasses such as wild rice and giant cutgrass by mid summer. The diversity of most marshes reaches its peak by summer's end.



Upcoming Events

- May 21-24 FNPS Annual Conference: Wake Up and Plant the Natives / West Palm Beach Marriott
- May 21 Friends of the Enchanted Forest Meeting—6:30pm at the Enchanted Forest
- May 25 Memorial Day
- May 26 KBB post Memorial Day Cleanups— Several locations—contact KBB for details: bvenutokbb@yahoo.com
- May 27 Sea Rocket Meeting: “Prescribed Fire” with Dean VanderBleek—7pm at the Ag Center
- May 30 Compost Workshop—Maple Street Natives: sharon@maplestreetnatives.com
- June 6 Sea Rocket Plant Sale/Ace Hardware Pond Tour—Enchanted Forest Sanctuary 9am—4pm
- June 8 Conradina Potluck Meeting
- June 10 Sea Rocket Board Meeting—6pm at Chaparral Restaurant in Cocoa
- June 24 Sea Rocket Meeting: “CAPS Program” with Brian Saunders—7pm at Merritt Island Library
- July ?? Date to be determined: Sea Rocket Summer Picnic
- August 11 Pawpaw Meeting—”Florida Grasses” with Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor 7pm at Volusia County Ag Center

There will not be a hike in May because of the FNPS Annual Conference.

Did You Know ?

Sea Rocket Board meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month?

Board meetings are open to all members?

Sea Rocket Board members welcome your ideas and suggestions!

Ask any Board member for location and time of meetings.



The Sea Rocket Board wants to hear your ideas for our annual picnic.

Contact a member of the Board today!

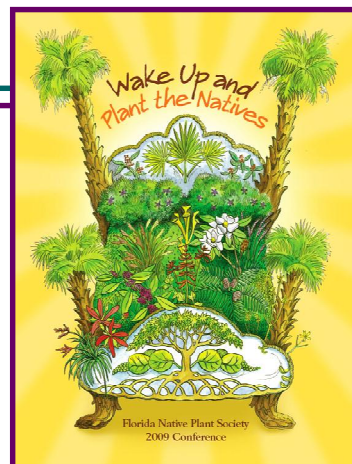
Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference
West Palm Beach Marriott May 21-24, 2009

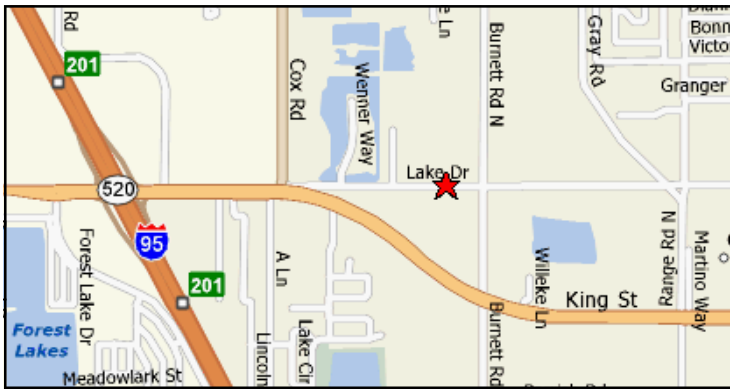
Wake Up and Plant the Natives
Planting Today to Preserve Florida's Tomorrow

REAL FLORIDA Fieldtrips lead by REAL EXPERTS

Presentations on conservation, science, & native landscaping

www.fnps.org Click on the “Conference” listing





Brevard County Agricultural Center

3695 Lake Dr, Cocoa, FL

- From I-95, go east on SR 520 to the first traffic light (Burnett Rd.). Go left at the light and one block north to Lake Drive. Turn left and the Ag. Center will be ahead on your left.
- From US 1, go west on SR 520 to the traffic light immediately after the Bob Steele Chevrolet dealership. Turn right onto Burnett Road and go one block to the stop sign. Turn right onto Lake Drive and the Ag. Center will be ahead on your left

Please do not call the Brevard County Agriculture Center.

Sea Rocket Board of Directors

President: Suzanne Meyer, 321-264-4922, meyermeragerie@cfl.rr.com

Vice President: Debbie Springer, 321-745-2192, rspringer29@earthlink.net

Treasurer: Betty Page, 321-269-0555, sioned@digital.net

Secretary: Ginny Blaetz, 321-412-5649, vblaetz@hotmail.com

Committees: Membership: Gail Hill: 453-4865; **Education:** Stephanie Phillips: 264-2492;

Nursery: Pat Bayer: 638-4660 & Suzanne Meyer: 264-4922; **Library:** Woody Dierberg, PhD; **Hospitality:** Candy Murphy: 636-4074;

Hike Leader: Paul Schmalzer, PhD: 268-5473; **Newsletter:** Shari Blissett Clark: jclark109@cfl.rr.com



Florida Native Plant Society

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

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

Phone: 321-271-6702; Fax: 31-951-1941

info@fnps.org/www.fnps.org

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Sea Rocket

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