



Sea Rocket



Florida Native Plant Society ~ Sea Rocket Chapter ~ Serving Central & North Brevard County

SEPTEMBER 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.

~Sea Rocket~ Board of Directors

President

Suzanne Meyer,
321-264-4922,
meyermenagerie@att.net

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

Volunteer Needed!

Education

Stephanie Phillips,
321-264-2492

Nursery

Pat Bayer,
321-638-4660,
Suzanne Meyer,
321-264-4922

Hospitality

Volunteer Needed!

Hike Leader

Paul Schmalzer, PhD,
321-268-5473

Newsletter

Shari Blissett Clark,
321-454-6849

September 23, 2009

WHAT'S THAT PLANT?

Have you ever wondered whether to pull out or keep a plant in your yard? Want to know what's growing out there near your mailbox? Or have you ever noticed an interesting plant along a roadside, ditch, or field edge? Now's your chance to have that plant identified by the Native Plant Society!

The Sea Rocket Chapter will host a Plant Identification / Open House on Wednesday,

September 23 at 7:00 PM at the Merritt Island Public Library on Courtenay Parkway.



Submitted plants need to include roots, flowers, fruits or seeds, and should be recently collected specimens wrapped in several layers of damp newspaper or paper towel to help preserve color and structure. If the specimen is too large to collect in its entirety, as with trees and shrubs, a full branch with leaves and flowers or fruits will be sufficient.

Please do not bring known exotics for identification, but if you're not sure about a plant's origins by all means collect it and bring it to the meeting.

Dr. Paul Schmalzer will head up the plant ID panel. Please contact Deb Springer at 321-745-2192 if you have any questions regarding the meeting or collection of specimens.

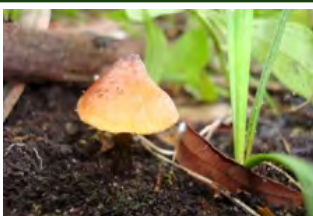


Photo by Robert Springer

Photogenic Fungi!

Dr. Jay Barnhart will be our guest speaker for October and he is seeking photos of fungi to include in his presentation. Just take a digital photo of your mystery fungi and email it to Jay at: ruthnjay@cfl.rr.com



Photo by Vince Lamb

UPCOMING EVENTS & THINGS TO DO

Wednesday, 9/16	Friends of the Enchanted Forest Meeting—"BEES" The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 6:30 pm
Wednesday, 9/16	Guide Training, Soil Sleuths, 10:00—12:00 pm, The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary
Monday, 9/21	East Central Florida Rail Trail Workshop, 5:30— 7:30 pm, Titusville City Council Chambers—presentation at 6 pm.
Wednesday, 9/23	Sea Rocket Meeting—Plant Identification & Open House Merritt Island Public Library, 7:00 pm
Monday, 9/28	Brevard Water Supply Board Meeting, 10:00 am 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Bldg. C, Viera
September Tuesday's	Sea Rocket Nursery Workday, 9:30 am
Saturday, 10/3	Volunteer Fair—Central Library in Cocoa, 10:00 am -2:00 pm
Tuesday, 10/6	KBB Xeriscape Grant Workshop, 4:00 pm Ag Center on Lake Drive in Cocoa
Wednesday, 10/14	Guide Training, Butterflies for Beginners, 10:00—12:00 pm The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary
Wednesday, 10/14	Sea Rocket Board Meeting, Location TBA
Saturday, 10/17	Native Plant Sale—Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, 10:00 am
Saturday, 10/17	Sea Rocket Guided Hike with Dr. Paul Schmalzer, 9:00—12:00 pm South Lake Conservation Area
Wednesday, 10/28	Sea Rocket Meeting—Mushrooms & Fungi with Jay Barnhart Location TBA, 7:00 pm

Please contact Shari at jclark109@cfl.rr.com to have your event included in this section

ST. JOHN'S RIVER-TO-SEA BIKE LOOP

Reprint from the June Newsletter:

Native plant experts are collecting data from individuals and request assistance within your region of Florida:

"Gil Nelson and I are working on a survey of native wildflower sites and potential native wildflower sites along the St. John's river-to-sea bike loop. The 260 mile loop is in parts of St. Johns, Flagler, Brevard, Volusia, and Putnam Counties. The loop includes Palatka, St. Augustine, St. Augustine Beach, Daytona Beach, New Smyrna, Titusville, Deltona, Deland, and Crescent City. Major roads along or immediately adjacent to the loop include A1A, SR 207, SR 3 (Merritt Island Refuge), US 1, Maytown

Road, and US 17 (and old US 17). For more information about the loop, including a map, view http://www.bikeflorida.org/fall_event.html

The loop will be completed in time for Florida's quincennial in 2013. We would like your input regarding sites where you have seen showy native wildflowers growing along the loop. If you have seen such sites, please email the information listed below to OecoHort@comcast.net. Also, please feel free to forward this email to others who might know about wildflower sites along the loop. We will be contacting FDOT Maintenance.

1. Location (including road name or route number; landmarks; which

side of road [east, north, etc.]])

2. Showy native wildflower species (Latin name please), and when you saw it flowering. If the site is a planted population, any details you're aware of would be appreciated (for example, month/year planted; city, county, or state agency responsible for planting.)

3. Approximate dimensions (length and width) of population (or approx. acreage.)

Thanks,

Jeff Norcini & Gil Nelson
OecoHort, LLC

OecoHort@comcast.net
(850) 491-0910

Membership Meeting Minutes

May 2009

Submitted by Ginny Blaetz

President Suzanne Meyer opened the meeting by asking for a motion to approve the minutes of the April meeting as published in the newsletter. Shari Blissett-Clark made a motion to approve the minutes & Martha Pessaro seconded it. The Minutes were approved as published.

Treasurer, Betty Page, reported that the opening balance of the Chapter's account was \$4110.10, receipts \$277.70, expenditures \$672.92 (\$533.20 of which is to be reimbursed by TEC) leaving a current balance of \$3714.88. A motion was made by Ginny Blaetz to approve the Treasurer's report and seconded by Shari Blissett-Clark.

The next plant sale is to be held on June 6 from 9-4 at the Enchanted Forest in conjunction with the Ace Hardware Pond Tour.

The June Board of Directors' Meeting will be held on June 10 at 6 pm at the Chaparral Restaurant. Members are welcome.

Sea Rocket Chapter recently sent a letter opposing the private Marina proposed for the area south of the Pine Island Sanctuary in Merritt Island in Class II waters to the County Commissioners. The proposed Marina was subsequently ruled out by the Commissioners.

An antique monograph by a scrub ecologist from 1942 was presented to Dr. Paul Schmalzer by Woody Dierberg in appreciation of his scientific contributions to the Chapter & his teaching on the hikes. Paul had bid on the item in the Silent Auction at the recent FNPS Conference.

Dr. Schmalzer also received the Silver Palmetto Award at the State Conference for his unstinting contributions as Scientific Chair for the state organization.

Speaker for the evening, Dean VanderBleek, Fire Manager for the EEL Program, presented an interesting talk regarding the use of prescribed burns in Brevard County. Dean, who has over 10 years experience, writes fire prescriptions and manages the burns, as well as responding to wild fires. Prescribed burns continue to be a major tool in accomplishing the EEL mission.

Dean showed us dramatic evidence of how the use of controlled burns in a prescribed manner reduces both the severity & scope of wildfires. His presentation also included discussion of fire related weather, smoke management, safety, and the many benefits to the habitat. Fire is also cost-effective as compared to mechanical methods of habitat restoration, which is time consuming and expensive.

Dean also pointed out the many benefits of fire. Suppression of invasive plants, both native and exotic, nutrient recycling, and re-establishment of native plant populations are just a few of them. Many native plant species benefit directly from fire, including *Dicerandra*, Lupine, Green eyes, Lopsided Indian grass, and milkweed.

Fire frequency was also discussed, with some habitats requiring burns every 3 to 5 years, while others such as oak hammocks are rarely subjected to fire.

Dean's knowledgeable discussion of the many factors used in the application of prescribed burns left us with a feeling of confidence that, at least on EEL lands, fire is being used in a safe and beneficial manner. Sea Rocket thanks Dean and the fire crews for the risks they take on everyone's behalf.

The meeting ended at 8:45 pm.



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

Dicerandra thimicola, or Titusville mint, is one of Brevard's endemic plants, and it can be seen during Sea Rocket's November hike to *Dicerandra* Scrub Sanctuary.

Look for hike details in the October Newsletter!

Membership Meeting Minutes

June 2009

Submitted by Ginny Blaetz

President Suzanne Meyer opened the meeting by stating that since the May meeting minutes were omitted from the June newsletter, approval would be pending their publication in September.

Treasurer, Betty Page, reported that for the period of May - June the opening balance was \$3714.88, with receipts of \$894.00 from the Pond Tour plant sale. Expenses were \$113.08, with a resulting balance of \$4495.80. The chapter is awaiting reimbursement of expenses from the South Lake Elementary garden from the Titusville Environmental Commission.

The Chapter Picnic is scheduled for July 11th at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary from 12:30 to 4 pm. Members are asked to bring a dish to share, and there will be live music, games, and a hike.

The Chapter will be taking a summer meeting hiatus until September.

Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor, noted plant authority, will be speaking at the Paw-Paw Chapter meeting in Deland on Aug. 4th at 7 pm.

The Chapter is seeking a volunteer to fill the Membership Chair.

The speaker for the evening was Brian Saunders from CAPS, the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey. He explained that his group works in tandem with the USDA on State and National programs for the surveillance and detection of invasive plant and pest species. Early detection of potential pests at all US ports of entry is vital to the safety and health of the environment, food supplies, and economy.

Mr. Saunders explained that Florida's moderate climate is an ideal incubation chamber for species entering the US. Many new pathogens, plants, and arthropods have been detected in Florida in the last 25 years and a significant number of these were new to the U.S. Produce, live plants, cut flowers & other perishables, as well as people's suitcases, transport these species. 68.5% of perishable imports in the United States enter through Miami; among these are 85% of all cut flowers and 59.1% of all fruits and vegetables.

Brian explained the multi-level system in place for safe guarding the nation from these potentially damaging pests. Traps, inspections, and sampling are just a few of the defensive measures used by the USDA and CAPS.

Brian concluded by stressing the threats to native species, food crops, and animal life, and urged everyone to educate themselves on the risks presented by exotic organisms.

The Chapter would like to thank Brian for his informative program.

The meeting ended at 8:55 pm.

DON'T FORGET!
The September
Meeting is at
Merritt Island
Library!

SEA ROCKET & CONRADINA HOST DR. WALTER KINGSLEY TAYLOR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2010

Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor will be the guest speaker at a joint monthly meeting of the Conradina and Sea Rocket Chapters on Thursday, January 14, 2010. The meeting will be held at the Brevard Zoo in the auditorium and will begin at 7:00 pm sharp. Dr. Taylor will discuss his book, *A Guide to Florida Grasses*.

Dr. Taylor has led numerous wildflower identification field trips and spoken about Florida's natural history before a wide variety of organizations.

Additional details regarding Dr. Taylor's presentation will be featured in upcoming newsletters.

In the meantime, mark your calendar and plan to attend this exciting and informative program!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Suzanne Meyer

Welcome back to Sea Rocket! I hope everyone had a great summer to relax, work in gardens, travel or do whatever you enjoy. Now it is time to get back into the swing of things with the Chapter.

If you didn't make it to the picnic this past July, you missed a beautiful day and a lot of good company. We enjoyed many wonderful dishes to share, great chicken wings from Candy Murphy and lots of tasty desserts. We also made oyster mats with The Nature Conservancy and enjoyed live music from Sharon Osuna. Dr. Paul Schmalzer led a hike through the Enchanted Forest and we ended our day by planting a lovely *Magnolia grandiflora* in memory of Diane Bender. Her husband of 50+ years and some of Diane's friends attended. It was a lovely way to honor Diane's memory and end a beautiful day! If you missed it start planning now to join us next year.

In Chapter business, we need some volunteers to staff our board. Candy Murphy recently resigned as Hospitality chair and I want to thank Candy for her service; we'll miss her warm smile. So we need a Hospitality chair as well as a Membership chair. These are important positions and we would welcome and appreciate your help; please contact a member of the board if you're interested.

We are planning for 2 upcoming plant sales with the first on 10/17 at the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, and the second on 11/07 at the Enchanted Forest. We also have a garden project being planned in Rockledge, and will be applying for another Keep Brevard Beautiful Xeriscape grant. Please come out and give us a hand, no experience needed—just bring your smile!

Thanks for your continuing support for Sea Rocket!

Please note that Suzanne's email address has changed to meyermenagerie@att.net

October Hike: South Lake Conservation Area

Saturday, October 17, 9:00—12:00

SLCA was a mitigation donation to the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program. Restoration efforts over the past year have included timbering, prescribed burning, and exotics removal. Vegetation is primarily oak scrub, scrubby flatwoods, and mesic flatwoods. An experimental translocation of Florida Scrub Jays to this sanctuary was conducted this year.

Directions:

I-95 to exit 220 Garden Street (St. Rt. 406). West 0.6 miles on Garden Street to North Carpenter Road. North 1.5 miles on N. Carpenter to Dairy Road. West 1.1 mile on Dairy Road. Turn North (right) on Lancaster Lane (not paved) and park by gate; **OR**

US 1 to Dairy Road. West on Dairy Road. Cross North Carpenter Road. West 1.1 mile on Dairy Road. Turn North (right) on Lancaster Lane (not paved) and park by gate.

Bring hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent.



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 Plants, Fresh Produce,
 Farm Products,
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 Classes, and More!

**The Green Marketplace
 at Adamson Rd.**

2295 Adamson Road, Cocoa

Visit our website,
www.naturewiseplants.com
 for our newsletter, hours and loca-
 tion, plant lists, upcoming events
 and more!

kari@naturewiseplants.com
 (321)536-1410

Florida Native Plant Society Board of Directors Meeting Synopsis August 15, 2009

Submitted by Dr. Paul Schmalzer

Gene Kelly announced that FNPS will be inviting Native Plant societies from the Southeast United States to the 2010 FNPS 30th Anniversary Conference and a summit meeting will occur to discuss national issues.

The conference is May 20-23, 2010 at the Leon County Civic Center in Tallahassee. Go to the conference section of the FNPS website over the next couple of months for schedule information and updates.

FNPS will pursue proposing to the Florida legislature that they pass a resolution making the month of May officially known as 'Native Plant Appreciation month'.

FNPS is a member of EarthShare, which is part of the United Way giving network, and a volunteer is needed to publicize this affiliation, as well as campaign for support from Chapter members and government employees. The Florida Native Plant Society may be chosen as the recipient when donations are made through EarthShare/United Way.

Additional funding can be raised by individuals if they use the internet search engine "Good Search." By selecting "FNPS, Melbourne" from the pull down menu and then completing the internet search, a penny is donated to FNPS. This could be a resourceful way to raise funds if everyone used this search engine!

Also, when purchasing office supplies, gifts, or household goods, members can use "Good Shop." By going to this website and selecting FNPS before shopping, a percentage of the purchase price will be donated to FNPS. All brand name stores participate in the "Good Shop" network.

Cindy Liberton is updating the FNPS Handbook so that it is more of a resource for chapters. The current handbook is on the website. If chapters have any suggestions for information that should be added the handbook, they can contact Cindy at: Liberton@nextstepscollective.com

Volunteers needed: Social marketing director, Public Relations Director, Land Management Subcommittee members. If anyone is interested, contact Karina Veaudry, her email is on the website.

FNPS Education Committee Chair, Kari Ruder, is looking for native landscape photos. Please send your photos to kari@naturewiseplants.com

Membership Committee Chair, Shirley Denton, needs a list of people from each chapter who are responsible for Membership. Contact Shirley at ecotypes@myrapidsys.com

The Florida Native Plant Society has joined the Florida Native Plant Partnership as a founding member. The "Native Plant Partnership" is a collaboration between the Executive Directors of the Florida Native Plant Society, the Florida Wildflower Foundation, the Association of Florida Native Nurseries and the Florida Wildflower Seed and Plant Growers. These individuals will work together on objectives and projects pertaining to the similarities and overlap of the organizations' missions for the

Nursery News

Despite the torrid heat of summer, nursery volunteers Suzanne Meyer, Betty Page, Ginny Blaetz, Debbie Springer, Vivian Soriero, and Shari Blissett-Clark have weeded, potted, and nurtured hundreds of native plants at the Sea Rocket nursery. **Their efforts will pay off in a big way when Sea Rocket hosts two upcoming native plant sales!**

The first sale will be held at **Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, October 17, at the Visitor's Center from 10:00—3:00pm**, in recognition of National Wildlife Refuge Week. Our plants look great and are ready for your autumn gardens!

A second opportunity to support your Chapter and purchase native plants will be **on Saturday, November 7, at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary**. There will be more details on this sale in upcoming newsletters.

Please plan to visit one of these events and support Sea Rocket with the purchase of a native beauty or two!

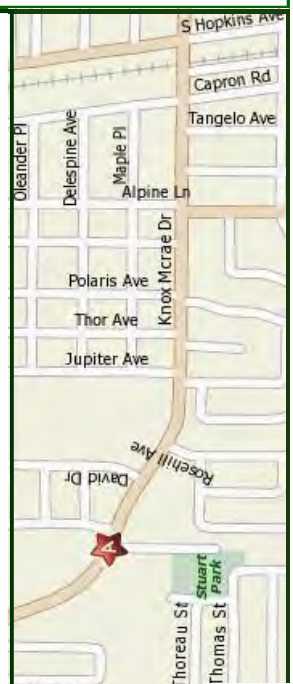
Thanks to the volunteers who keep the nursery in tip-top condition!

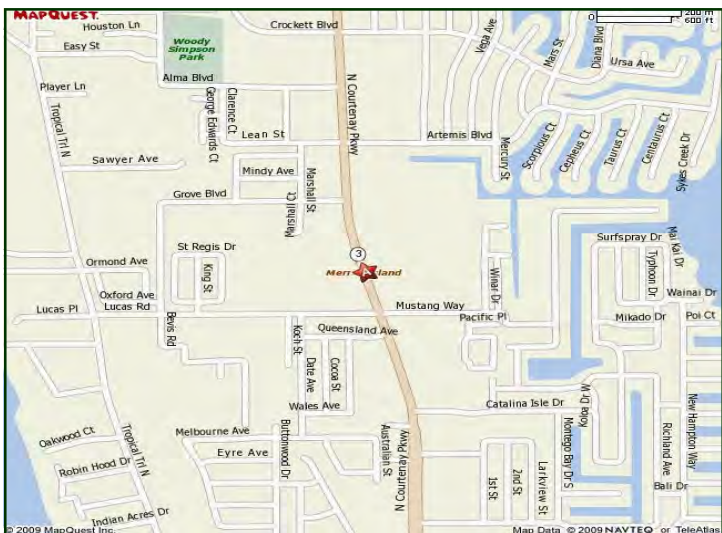
Directions to Sea Rocket Nursery

Help your Chapter by volunteering at the nursery!

You'll learn a lot and have fun, too!
For information call Suzanne Meyer at 264-4922.

The nursery is located at the Titusville Wastewater Treatment Plant. The entrance is on the south side of Knox McRae, two blocks west of Coquina Elementary school. The address is 1125 Knox McRae Drive





Merritt Island Public Library **1195 N Courtenay Pkwy, Merritt Island, FL**

- From the south, take SR-520 east onto Merritt Island and turn left on Courtenay Pkwy (SR-3). Drive north on Courtenay Pkwy, past Mustang Way. The library is just ahead on Courtenay, directly across from Merritt Island High School, on the left side of the street.
- From the north, take SR-528 to Merritt Island and exit onto Courtenay Pkwy (SR-3) Turn right onto Courtenay Pkwy and drive south. The library is just south of Grove Blvd., across the street from Merritt Island High School and on the right side of Courtenay Pkwy.

Florida Native Plant Society

For additional information on membership benefits or for changes of address,
call, write, or e-mail FNPS at:

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

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

info@fnps.org/www.fnps.org

Sea Rocket Chapter mailing address: P. O. Box 236341, Cocoa, FL 32923-6341



SEA ROCKET CHAPTER

C/O SHARI BLISSETT CLARK

PO Box 236341

Cocoa, FL 32923-6341



GO GREEN! RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL AND SAVE SOME GREEN GO GREEN!