



# Sea Rocket



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

**OCTOBER 2009**



*The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.*

## ~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

### Chapter Representative

Paul Schmalzer, PhD,  
321-268-5473

## ~ 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

October 28, 2009

## ***What is That Fungus Among Us?***

**Presented by Jay S. Barnhart, Jr., M.D.**

Dr. Barnhart first became interested in wild mushrooms more than 35 years ago while he was making house calls as a general practitioner in rural Maryland. He is a member of the North American Mycological Association, whose members are referred to as "Mycophiles", aka "Fungus Lovers." Jay personally prefers the appellation of "Avid Mushroom Hobbyist" rather than "Fungus Expert." **Jay's presentation, entitled "What is That Fungus Among Us?" will be held at the Brevard County Ag Center on Wednesday, October 28, at 7:00pm.**



Photo by Robert Springer

Dr. Barnhart is retired from his second career as Dade County Medical Examiner (Miami CSI.) Jay's favorite activities include fishing, playing the piano, and giving presentations about Florida's local natural treasures. Jay has received certification in two of the Florida Master Naturalist Programs, and is a frequent guide at the Enchanted Forest, Sebastian Inlet State Park, and the Barrier Island Preserve.

Don't miss this interesting and fun presentation on Wednesday, October 28th at 7:00 pm! For more information, contact Deb Springer at 321-745-2192.



Photo by Vince Lamb

November 18, 2009

## **Photographing Nature in Brevard County**

Vince Lamb will be the guest speaker at Sea Rocket's November meeting. Vince's presentation will feature native plants and their habitats, and will also include some wildlife photography. Vince is an avid nature photographer, a Florida Master Naturalist and a Certified Interpretive Guide. He currently serves as FNPS-Conradina Chapter's Representative, and as Treasurer, Webmaster and Newsletter editor for the Friends of Ulumay. Vince is also an active member of the Sierra Club—Turtle Coast Group's Executive Committee.

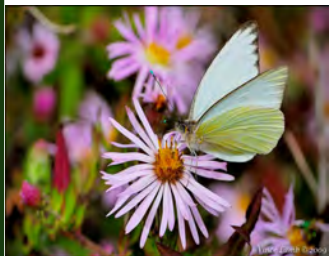


Photo by Vince Lamb

Please contact Deb Springer at 321-745-2192 for more information about this upcoming program.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & THINGS TO DO



Every Thursday	Sea Rocket Nursery Workday—9:30-12:30 pm Contact: Suzanne Meyer, 321-264-4922
Saturday, 10/3	Volunteer Recruitment Fair—Central Library in Cocoa, 10:00 am -2:00 pm Contact: Shari Blissett Clark, 321-454-6849
Tuesday, 10/6	KBB Xeriscape Grant Workshop—Brevard County Ag Center, Lake Drive, Cocoa, 4:00 pm - Contact: bvenutokbb@yahoo.com
Wednesday, 10/7, & Wednesday, 10/21	Plant Survey— Indian Mound Station, EEL Program, 9:30 am Contact: Xavier de Seguin des Hons, 321-264-5185
Saturday, 10/10, & Saturday, 10/24	Volunteer Workday at EEL Program's Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary, 9:00 to 12:00 pm, Contact: Xavier de Seguin des Hons, 321-264-5185
Monday, 10/12	Conradina Meeting—Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park with Tim Kozusko, Melbourne Library, 6:00 pm, Contact: 321-729-6857
Wednesday, 10/14	Guide Training— Butterflies for Beginners, The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 10:00—12:00 pm, Contact: 321-264-5185
Wednesday, 10/14	Sea Rocket Board Meeting, Location TBA
Thursday, 10/15	Friends of the Enchanted Forest Meeting— Prescribed Fire, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 6:00 pm, Contact: 321-264-5185
Friday, 10/16, & Saturday, 10/17	Titusville Men's Garden Club Plant Sale—Titusville Playhouse parking lot, Titusville, Contact: Tony Koromilas, 321-269-1931
Saturday, 10/17	Sea Rocket Native Plant Sale—Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, 10:00-2:30 pm, Contact: Suzanne Meyer, 321-264-4922
Saturday, 10/17	Sea Rocket Guided Hike at South Lake Conservation Area, 9:00—12:00 pm, Contact: paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov
Saturday, 10/17	Ethnobotanical Day, Heathcote Botanical Gardens, Ft. Pierce Contact: AnnMarie Loveridge, 772-323-7982
Sunday, 10/18	Forest Funday— <b>BATS!</b> Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 2:00 pm Contact: Joanie Faulls, 321-264-5185
Wednesday, 10/28	Sea Rocket Meeting—What is That Fungus Among Us? Dr. Jay Barnhart, Brevard County Agricultural Center, 7:00 pm Contact: Deb Springer, 321-745-2192

### SEA ROCKET & CONRADINA HOST DR. WALTER KINGSLEY TAYLOR

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2010**

Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor will be the guest speaker at a joint 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 latest 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.

Details on this program will be featured in upcoming newsletters.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend a fun and informative evening with Dr. Taylor!

### October Hike to 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 a hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent.**



## Volunteers Needed!

### Research Participants Needed

Florida native plant enthusiasts sometimes face challenges that are difficult to solve because solutions often require input from several entities.

For example, the control of non-native invasive species is a challenge that encompasses community education, economic impacts, legislation, and ecological concerns.

As part of a UCF research project, a website has been created to assist in the exchange of information necessary in resolving problems impacting Florida's native plants. The goal is to distill the information gathered by this forum into real solutions for real issues.

If you are interested in participating in this research, which will require using the website, please contact UCF graduate student Lars Linden at [llinden@bus.ucf.edu](mailto:llinden@bus.ucf.edu) for information and instructions.



### Membership Meeting Minutes September 23, 2009

#### **Submitted by Ginny Blaetz**

President Suzanne Meyer called for approval of the meeting minutes for May 2009 as published in the September newsletter. Deb Springer made a motion to approve and Shari Blissett-Clark seconded the motion. The May minutes were unanimously approved without correction.

President Meyer called for approval of the June 2009 minutes as published in the September newsletter. Deb Springer made a motion to approve and Betty Page seconded the motion. The June minutes were unanimously approved without correction.

Committee reports and announcements were omitted from the meeting because of the informal nature of the evening.

A plant ID contest featuring twenty-two native plants was the highlight of the meeting. Our natives looked lush and attractive, drawing one casual library visitor into the meeting from the lobby. Prizes were awarded to the valiant members who took a crack at naming the plants.

Three people, one visitor and two members, brought mystery plants for our plant expert, Dr. Paul Schmalzer, to identify.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*By Suzanne Meyer*

**Happy Autumn!** Your Board is trying hard to attract you to meetings by providing quality programs, fine refreshments, and positive attitudes...but member interest has been extremely disappointing for the past several months, and we need your feedback so we can turn this downward trend around. Your Board invests many hours into planning and executing our monthly meetings and, frankly, it's just not worth the effort if no one attends!

We planned an educational and fun program for the September meeting, with a great plant ID contest, eager board members available to help, and lovely refreshments. Everything was in place - except the membership! Understandably, the Board is frustrated with the lack of attendance at our monthly meetings, and we need your suggestions, comments, criticism, and ideas! Members are welcome at board meetings to discuss issues and contribute ideas, but if face to face is not your style Board members are always available via email or telephone. I encourage each of you to communicate!

At this point the Board is reluctant to schedule additional programs because the lack of interest shown by our members is embarrassing, not only to us, but often to the guest presenter. Imagine spending hours preparing your presentation, gathering all your props, driving to the meeting, setting everything up, and having no audience!

In addition, we are having some difficulty finding meeting locations. The County is cutting budgets again and evening meeting places are increasingly difficult to find, so if you have any ideas please let us know!

Looking ahead, don't forget our upcoming plant sales at the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge in October, and the Enchanted Forest in November. Check the calendar on page 2 for details.

And finally, I'd like to thank the Board for hanging in there during this difficult time - your dedication and hard work are testament to your loyalty to the Florida Native Plant Society, and we simply couldn't exist without you!

## November Field Trip: Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary

Saturday, November 14, 2009, 9:00-12:00

Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary is a joint project of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and the State of Florida. Vegetation is primarily oak scrub and scrubby flatwoods with a depression marsh down slope. A prescribed burn was conducted here in the summer of 2008. The endemic *Dicerandra thincicola* occurs here, and it should be in flower.

### NOTE:

Parking is limited at the site. We will meet at the Indian River Plaza Shopping Center. Park at the western (K-Mart) corner of the shopping center and we will carpool to the site.

### Driving Directions:

- 1) US 1 to St. Rt. 50 (Cheney Highway). West on St. Rt. 50 to Indian River Plaza Shopping Center...OR
- 2) I-95 to Titusville, St. Rt. 50 exit. East on St. Rt. 50 (Cheney Highway) to Indian River Plaza Shopping Center.

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



*Dicerandra thincicola*

## 2010 is the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FNPS

FNPS Executive Director Karina Veaudry is gathering historical data for a PowerPoint presentation which will debut at the 2010 Annual Conference. Each Chapter will also receive a copy of the program.

If you have any historical information about Sea Rocket, or any other Chapter, please send it to Karina as soon as possible. She's looking for the following:

1. Date your chapter became a chapter
2. The names of the Founding members
3. Pictures from the history of your chapter – past and current
4. A list of significant projects with dates
5. Any other historical info you think is pertinent
6. Contributions by chapters regarding FNPS history

Deadline for submissions is January 15, 2010.

Send information to Karina at [executivedirector@fnps.org](mailto:executivedirector@fnps.org)  
Or contact her by phone or mail:

Karina Veaudry, Executive Director  
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
311 S. Glenwood Avenue  
Orlando, FL 32803-6259  
Tel (321) 388-4781



## Maple Street Natives



Sharon & Brent Dolan

RETAIL  
M-Sat 8-5

7619 Henry Ave.

West Melbourne, FL 32904

ph: 321-729-6857

e: [info@maplestreetnatives.com](mailto:info@maplestreetnatives.com)

[www.maplestreetnatives.com](http://www.maplestreetnatives.com)

FLORIDA NATIVE TREES, SHRUBS, WILDFLOWERS, GRASSES

## Volunteers Needed for FNPS Land Management Partners

The Land Management Partners (LMP) subcommittee is seeking a volunteer from each Chapter to act as liaison between the committee and the members.

Examples of LMP volunteer duties:

- Participate in FL DEP Land Management reviews for public lands.
- Assist with plant surveys on public lands.
- Assist with monitoring and reporting of land management activities on public lands.

In addition, the LMP liaison will update their chapter regarding LMP progress, identify members interested in participating in LMP activities, and distribute information.

Interested parties should contact the LMP subcommittee chair Anne Cox at [ecologinc@bellsouth.net](mailto:ecologinc@bellsouth.net) or the vice chair, Daphne Lambright at [dlambrig@biotechnical-services.com](mailto:dlambrig@biotechnical-services.com)



Florida Native Plants, Edible Plants,  
Fresh Produce, Farm Products,  
Rain Barrels, Organic Gardening  
Products, Classes, and More!

The Green Marketplace  
at Adamson Rd.

2295 Adamson Road, Cocoa

Visit our website,

[www.naturewiseplants.com](http://www.naturewiseplants.com)

for our newsletter, hours and location, plant lists, upcoming events and more!

[kari@naturewiseplants.com](mailto:kari@naturewiseplants.com)

(321)536-1410

## FOUR WAYS TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

- If you or someone you know is a state employee, the **Florida State Employees Charitable Campaign (FSECC)** will be contacting you to sign up. There is an option to designate the Florida Native Plant Society as the recipient of your donations. Forward this information to anyone you know who is a state employee!
- Public agency employees who have employers that offer **EarthShare** can also select FNPS as their Charitable Organization. Also, FNPS is seeking an EarthShare Coordinator — please contact Vice President of Finance, Steve Woodmansee at [smwood@bellsouth.net](mailto:smwood@bellsouth.net)
- Individuals that shop online can do so through **GoodSearch** and raise funds for FNPS. FNPS is a member of GoodSearch, and if you visit [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com), you can choose "FNPS, Melbourne" from the pull-down menu, complete your internet searches from that site, and GoodSearch will donate \$1 to FNPS, regardless of whether you spend any money or not!
- From the same website listed for GoodSearch, you can also buy items online in **GoodShop**. Many large and small stores are represented and include retailers for household items, clothing, hiking/camping equipment, office supplies, and much more. Simply select "FNPS, Melbourne" as the recipient, and up to 15% of your purchase will be donated to the Florida Native Plant Society!

## ETHNOBOTANICAL DAY

Saturday, October 17, 2009, 9am-4pm  
Heathcote Botanical Gardens

210 Savannah Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34982

**Sponsored by Heathcote Botanical Gardens & Florida Native Plant Society, Lakela's Mint St. Lucie Chapter**

**\$6 donation requested for general admission**

**Children under 12 free**

**FREE for Heathcote and Florida Native Plant Society Members**

**Children's Activities – make eco-art or earn a Junior Ranger Badge!**

- Butterfly and wildlife presentations
- Hourly raffles of plants and great prizes
- Native plants for sale – hard to find species available!
- Horticultural experts to answer all your gardening questions!
- Good Eats Booth – sample native culinary delights and feast on Good Foods!
- Demonstrations of historical uses of native plants presented by St. Lucie Regional History Center
- Eco-friendly products and merchandise including organic fertilizers, mulch, eco-art, books, T-shirts & more!

**Join this coalition of Botanists, Land Managers, Scientists, Educators, Natural Landscapers & Home Gardeners in a variety of free lectures designed to demonstrate**

**HOW TO PUT LIFE IN YOUR LANDSCAPE!**

**For more information contact  
AnnMarie Loveridge at (772) 323-7982**

visit [www.reclamationproject.net](http://www.reclamationproject.net), or [www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org](http://www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org)

## NURSERY NEWS

Autumn has arrived! One need only casually glance around to see the many native plant species that bloom in autumn, and aren't they beautiful! Sea Rocket is celebrating this colorful time of year by participating in two community events with native plant sales.

On Saturday, October 17, Sea Rocket volunteers will be selling native plants at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge at the Visitor's Center to help celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week. The plant sale will take place from 10am— 2:30pm, and will feature loads of healthy native plants! Take advantage of this early season sale to liven up your autumn gardens.

A second opportunity to purchase native plants will be at The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary on Saturday, November 7, from 10:00-4:00pm. This event marks the 8th anniversary of the opening of The Enchanted Forest's Management & Education Center, and again, Sea Rocket volunteers will be selling a bountiful collection of native plants for all kinds of growing conditions.

Plant to attend one or both of these sales and help support your Chapter! And extra help is always appreciated, so contact **Suzanne Meyer at 321-264-4922 if you'd like to volunteer!**

## Directions to Sea Rocket Nursery

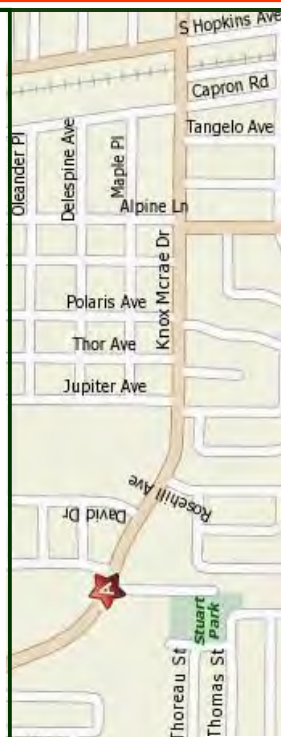
**Help your Chapter by volunteering at the nursery!**

**You'll have fun and learn a lot, too!**

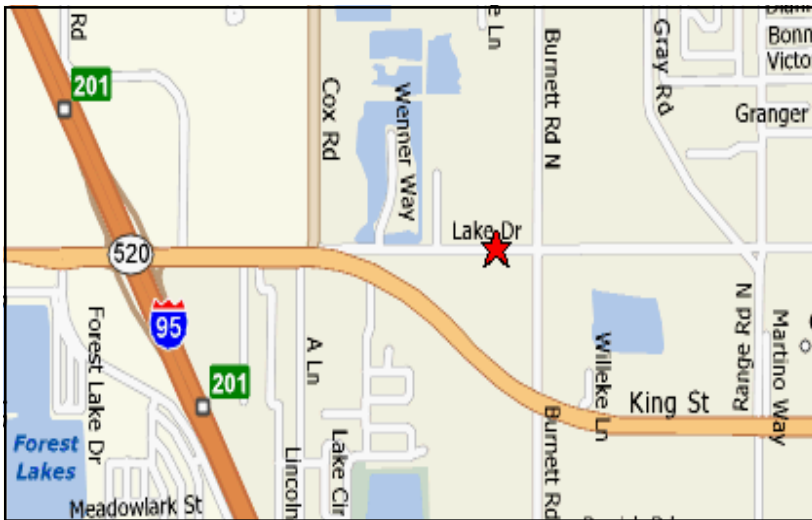
**For information call  
Suzanne Meyer at  
321-264-4922.**

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







## 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 drive 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 Burnett Road. Turn right onto Burnett Road and drive 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 Agriculture Center***

## Florida Native Plant Society

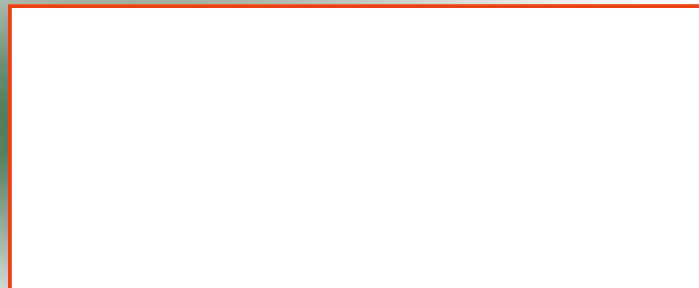
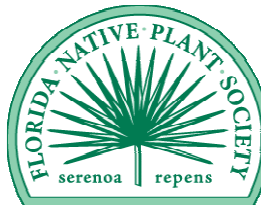
For additional information on membership benefits,  
or for changes of address, call, write, or e-mail FNPS at:

P. O. Box 278, Melbourne, FL 32902-0278  
Phone: 321-271-6702; Fax: 321-951-1941  
[Info@fnps.org](mailto:Info@fnps.org)/[www.fnps.org](http://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!**