



# Sea Rocket



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

DECEMBER 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

**Volunteer Needed!**

### 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

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2010 7:00PM

The Sea Rocket and Conradina Chapters are pleased to host an evening with Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor. Dr. Taylor will be speaking in the auditorium at the Brevard Zoo on Thursday evening, January 14th. The program will begin at 7:00pm sharp. Dr. Taylor will be speaking about his recently published book on grasses entitled ***A Guide to Florida Grasses***.

Dr. Taylor, professor emeritus of biology at the University of Central Florida, is the author of several books, including ***Florida Wildflowers In Their Natural Communities*** and ***The Guide to Florida Wildflowers***. In ***Florida Grasses***, Dr. Taylor offers an introduction to this vital and frequently neglected plant family. The book includes over 500 color images with complete details pertaining to the identification, structure, distribution and uses of more than 200 of the most common grasses found in Florida.

Environmentalists, hikers, and nature lovers of all ages can take this book into the field with them or enjoy it at home. It provides an invaluable resource for the professional as well as the casual plant enthusiast.

Dr. Taylor has lived in Florida for over 30 years and has led numerous wildflower identification field trips. He has presented innumerable programs about Florida's natural history to a wide variety of organizations. Dr. Taylor's easy manner, sharp wit, and knowledge about Florida and its native plants makes his presentations memorable. Please join FNPS Chapters Sea Rocket and Conradina in a delightful evening with Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor.

**This program is free and open to the public.**

**Contact Deb Springer at 321-745-2192 for more information.**



**THERE IS NO MEETING IN DECEMBER**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS !**



## UPCOMING EVENTS & THINGS TO DO

Tuesday, December 1	Brevard County Commission Meeting, Government Center, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Bldg. C, 1st Floor, Viera, 321-633-2010
Tuesday, December 1	Plant Survey, Indian Mound Station Sanctuary, 9:30am Xavier de Seguin des Hons, 321-264-5185
Wednesday, December 2	Florida Trail Association Hike, Soldier Creek Lake, 8:30am, Jim Escoffier, 321-453-1586
Saturday, December 5	Music in the Forest, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 5:00pm Joan Faulls, 321-264-5185
Wednesday, December 9	Florida Trail Association Hike, Prairie Lakes, 8:30am, Jim Escoffier, 321-453-1586
Wednesday, December 9	Sea Rocket Holiday Dinner, 7:00pm, Rockledge Country Club Deb Springer, 321-745-2192
Friday, December 11	Chanukah Begins at Sundown
Tuesday, December 15	Plant Survey, Indian Mound Station Sanctuary, 9:30am Xavier de Seguin des Hons, 321-264-5185
Wednesday, December 16	Florida Trail Association Hike, Seminole Ranch, 8:30am Jim Escoffier, 321-453-1586
Saturday, December 19	Photography Club, Friends of the Enchanted Forest, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 9:00am, Joan Faulls, 321-264-5185
Monday, December 21	Winter Solstice
Friday, December 25	Christmas Day
Saturday, December 26	Kwanzaa Begins
Sunday, December 27	Pine Island Paddle, 1:00pm, RESERVATIONS REQUIRED, Contact 321-723-3556 for information
Tuesday, December 29	Plant Survey, Indian Mound Station Sanctuary, 9:30am Xavier de Seguin des Hons, 321-264-5185
Thursday, December 31	New Year's Eve

*Send event notices to [jclark109@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jclark109@cfl.rr.com)*

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**January Field Trip**

**Pine Island Conservation Area  
Saturday ~ January 9, 2010 ~ 9:00am**

Pine Island Conservation Area (PICA) is a joint project of the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program. The vegetation is primarily flatwoods and marshes, and it is the site of a major wetlands restoration project.

Dr. Scott Taylor, Central Region Land Manager for the EEL Program, will be joining us on this hike and providing an update on the wetlands restoration project. We will also have the opportunity to visit a recently burned flatwoods habitat.

Directions:

- (1) SR 528 East to Merritt Island, exit on SR3 and go North for about 5 miles, turn left on Pine Island Road and proceed West about 2.5 miles to entrance gate at end of road, OR
- (2) SR 405 East to Merritt Island/Kennedy Space Center, turn right on Space Commerce Way (new road) to SR 3, turn South (right) on SR 3 to Pine Island Road, then right on Pine Island Road and proceed West to entrance gate.

**Don't forget—bring a hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent.**







## 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 to resolve the problems impacting Florida's native plants and their conservation. 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 important research project which will require using the website, contact UCF graduate student Lars Linden at

[llinden@bus.ucf.edu](mailto:llinden@bus.ucf.edu)

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*By Suzanne Meyer*

Can you believe it is December already? It seems time really gets ahead of us! Here's wishing all our members a Very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. May you all receive whatever your hearts desire.

Sea Rocket has had a very productive year and your Board is working hard to make 2010 even better! There are many projects ahead of us, and with your continued support we will succeed in meeting all challenges.

Our latest native plant sale, which was on November 7th at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary during Forest Festival, was a huge success. The weather was great and we had lots of visitors admire and buy our plants. We made \$527 for our chapter, thanks to our dedicated nursery committee. But we can always use more nursery help, so consider yourselves invited to get involved!

The Chapter is still seeking members to volunteer for the education, membership, and hospitality committees. Please contact a member of the Board for more information.

And finally, a huge thanks to our Board members for all your hard work. May you all have a Holiday Season filled with Peace and Joy!

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 2009

*Submitted by Ginny Blaetz*

President Suzanne Meyer convened the meeting at 7pm. She requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the Oct. Meeting as published in the Nov. newsletter. Shari Blissett-Clark made a motion to approve the Minutes as published & Paul Schmalzer seconded the motion; minutes approved as printed.

Treasurer Betty Page was not present so there was not a treasury report.

A motion was made to approve the proposed 2010 budget as published in the October newsletter by Paul Schmalzer; motion was seconded by Deb Springer. The budget was approved unanimously.

Suzanne made Chapter announcements, including an explanation of the difficulties in finding suitable meeting locations because of County budget cuts. In an effort to secure a consistent, appropriate meeting place, the Board has negotiated an agreement with the EEL Program. This agreement will allow Sea Rocket to meet at the Enchanted Forest in Titusville every month and the meetings will be included in the Enchanted Forest's educational outreach programming. The first meeting at EFS will be in February 2010.

Lars Linden, UCF Graduate student, gave a presentation regarding his research project. He is seeking volunteers to use his website in the discussion of native plant conservation issues. Lars explained that he will interview participants and compile data which will be fed back into the website. Interested parties should contact Lars at his website (see ad on this page.)

Vince Lamb, noted local wildlife photographer and guest speaker of the evening, presented an informational program about taking effective nature photos. Vince expressed a slight preference for plants as photographic subjects because one need not arrive before dawn and chase them since plants don't fly or run away. He encouraged the use of "point & shoot" cameras and outlined several techniques for using them effectively. Everyone enjoyed Vince's presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

## Sea Rocket Nursery

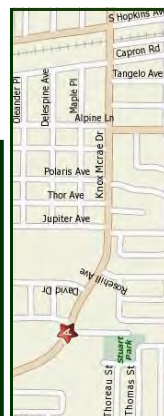
The weather is great and the time is right to get involved with Sea Rocket's native plant nursery! Volunteer!

### Directions to Sea Rocket Nursery

**Help your Chapter & Volunteer!**  
**You'll have fun and learn a lot, too!**

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

The nursery is located at the Titusville Wastewater Treatment Plant. The entrance is on the south side of Knox McRae at 1125 Knox McRae Drive



## Call to Action!

### Proposed Changes to Brevard County Landscape Ordinance

**BREVARD FNPS MEMBERS ARE URGED TO TELEPHONE, WRITE, OR EMAIL THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS and ATTEND THE COMMISSION MEETING ON DECEMBER 1, 2009**

Proposed changes to the current Landscape Ordinance are as follows:

- Exempt commercial/industrial/institutional three acres or smaller in parcel size from preservation criteria.
  - Adjust preservation threshold to 10% for all uses.
  - Continue with no replacement of protected trees required if the 10% preservation threshold is met.
- In instances where preservation threshold is not met, reduce replacement criteria for protected and specimen trees from 150% to 25%, and 200% to 33%.

Watering down the current Landscape Ordinance will negatively impact Brevard's future green spaces.

Please contact the Board of County Commissioners  
and express your concern about these proposed changes!

**District 1:** Robin Fisher, 321-264-6750,  
[D1.commissioner@brevardcounty.us](mailto:D1.commissioner@brevardcounty.us)

**District 2:** Chuck Nelson, 321-454-6601,  
[chuck.nelson@brevardcounty.us](mailto:chuck.nelson@brevardcounty.us)

**District 3:** Trudie Infantini, 321-952-6300,  
[D3.commissioner@brevardcounty.us](mailto:D3.commissioner@brevardcounty.us)

**District 4:** Mary Bolin, 321-633-2044,  
[D4.commissioner@brevardcounty.us](mailto:D4.commissioner@brevardcounty.us)

**District 5:** Andy Anderson, 321-253-6611,  
[D5.commissioner@brevardcounty.us](mailto:D5.commissioner@brevardcounty.us)

### Maple Street Natives



Sharon & Brent Dolan  
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)

RETAIL  
M-Sat 8-5

FLORIDA NATIVE TREES, SHRUBS, WILDFLOWERS, GRASSES

### green images

#### Florida Native Landscape Plants

1333 Taylor Creek Road  
Christmas, Florida 32709  
407-568-1333

[greenimage@aol.com](mailto:greenimage@aol.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

### FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT EDUCATION RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Submitted by Kari Ruder,  
Education & Outreach Committee Chair

The FNPS Education and Outreach Committee is pleased to announce that there are two new tools for members now available on our website. We hope these tools will help you learn more as well as teach your friends and neighbors about Florida native plants.

- **Florida Native Plant Education Resources Available.** You can now download a list of existing resources related to learning and teaching about Florida native plants that has been compiled by the Education and Outreach Committee. This list is intended to provide educators, homeowners, landowners, planners, government officials and more an extensive list of resources in one location. Lists include native landscaping resources, curriculum, and much more. The Resources page can be found at <http://www.fnps.org/pages/general/ShowPage.php?PgID=9>
- **List of Public Gardens Featuring Native Plants Now Available.** The Education and Outreach Committee has compiled a [list of gardens](#) throughout the state of Florida that are open to the public, and at least in part feature native plants. The goal is to provide a list of places people can go to see native plants and how they can be used in the landscape. If you know of a garden that is currently not on this list, please contact Kari Ruder ([kari@naturewiseplants.com](mailto:kari@naturewiseplants.com)) with the name, address, contact information and website of that garden.



## SEA ROCKET NEEDS A PHOTOGRAPHER!

The Chapter is seeking a volunteer with a digital camera who is willing to photograph Sea Rocket activities and members.

As our chapter continues to expand its educational outreach activities in the community, photographs chronicling our efforts will be invaluable!

If you are interested, or have a family member or friend that loves photography, contact any member of the Sea Rocket Board for details!



## Florida Wildflower Foundation Wildflower Trail Update

*Submitted by Pat Bayer*

This year the Florida Wildflower Foundation completed spring, summer and fall surveys of naturally occurring wildflowers along the five-county St. Johns to the Sea Loop trail (Putnam, Volusia, Brevard, Flagler and St. Johns counties) which will soon become the state's first Wildflower Trail.

In 2010, the Foundation plans to survey other wildflower-profuse areas in the Panhandle and in North, Central and South Florida. The surveys will identify showy areas of native wildflowers in order to document species and suggest management practices. This research also will help us promote Florida's native wildflowers as economic and intrinsic community assets.

First, however, your help is needed to find wildflower sites throughout the state. Send the following information to the Foundation at [wildflower.research@gmail.com](mailto:wildflower.research@gmail.com)

- Approximate locations of any showy roadside or trailside (paved bike or foot path) native wildflowers seen in Florida during spring, summer and/or fall. Include the following information:
  - Scientific or common name of the plant species. If the name is unknown, describe the flowering plants' characteristics (i.e., color, height, growth habit, etc.).
  - The name of roads and/or nearby intersections or landmarks that will help us locate the site.
  - The geographic region (defined below) and the city and/or county in which the site occurs.
  - The approximate date of the sighting. If the date is unknown, please include the season.
  - A description of the habitat (i.e., wet ditch, sand dune, pine forest, etc.).
  - Digital photos, if possible.
- The names and locations of public lands (national, state, county or city parks, water management district holdings, etc.) that have great native wildflower displays, along with species names and approximate bloom dates.
- Garden or civic clubs that have planted roadside or trailside native wildflowers can help by sending the planting's location and a species list.

### Geographic regions are defined as follows:

**Panhandle:** Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Jackson, Washington, Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Gadsden, Liberty, Franklin, Wakulla, Leon, Jefferson.

**North Florida:** Madison, Hamilton, Columbia, Baker, Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Flagler, Putnam, Clay, Marion, Alachua, Levy, Bradford, Union, Gilchrist, Dixie, Lafayette, Suwannee, Taylor.

**Central Florida:** Citrus, Sumter, Lake, Volusia, Seminole, Brevard, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Hernando, Sumter, Citrus, Manatee, Hardee, Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Indian River, De Soto, Sarasota.

**South Florida:** Charlotte, Glades, Martin, Lee, Hendry, Palm Beach, Collier, Broward, Dade, Monroe.





## 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/www.fnps.org



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

**DON'T MISS THE JANUARY PROGRAM!**

**DR. WALTER KINGSLEY TAYLOR**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2010**

**BREVARD ZOO ~ 7:00 PM**

**~ FREE ~ OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



**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!**