



Sea Rocket



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

FEBRUARY 2010

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,
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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

Suzanne Meyer
321-264-4922

Hospitality

Volunteer Needed!

Hike Leader

Paul Schmalzer, PhD
321-268-5473

Newsletter

Shari Blissett Clark
321-454-6849
jclark109@cfl.rr.com

February 24, 2010



PRUNING 101: AFTER THE FREEZE

When & How to Prune Your Natives with Sally Scalera

Are you re-living the pain of recent frosty weather every time you stroll thru your garden? Are the bare branches and crumpled, parchment-dry leaves just too much to bear? Well fear not, for hope (and spring) is at hand!

Brevard County Horticultural Agent Sally Scalera will guide us through the basics of pruning. She will demonstrate techniques on specimen plants and discuss the age-old questions, "To prune or not to prune? And when?"

Sally graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture and immediately began a three month internship with the Iowa State Cooperative Extension Service in Mason City, Iowa. Sally moved to Florida to work in the Horticulture Department at EPCOT Center for two years and the Land Pavilion for one year. Sally left Disney to work as the Horticulturalist for the City of Winter Park, and after two years she returned to Disney to work at the Tree Farm and Nursery. Sally left Disney in 1992 to begin working on her Masters degree and in January of 1993 she began working for the Brevard County Extension Service as Horticulture Agent.

Plan to attend this timely workshop with Sally Scalera ~ knowing the basics of pruning can save your plants!

Contact Deb Springer at 321-745-2192

for more information about this timely program.



FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

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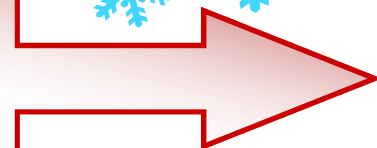
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UPCOMING EVENTS & THINGS TO DO

Every Thursday	Sea Rocket Nursery Workday, 9:30 am, Suzanne Meyer, 321-264-4922
Wednesday, Feb. 3	Florida Trails Association Hike, Bull Creek Cemetery Call 321-453-1586 for information
Saturday, Feb. 6	Turtle Coast Sierra Club Hike, Tosohatchee Wildlife Management Area, 9:00 am, Leslie Maloney 321-676-6946
Tuesday, Feb. 9	Sea Rocket Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, Location to be announced, Suzanne Meyer, 321-264-4922
Tuesday, Feb. 9	Plant Survey, Indian Mound Station, 9:30 am Xavier de Seguin des Hons, 321-264-5185
Wednesday, Feb. 10	Florida Trails Association Hike, Blue Springs Trail An entry fee applies. Call 321-453-1586 for information
Wednesday, Feb. 10	Titusville Environmental Commission Meeting, Titusville City Hall, 7:00 pm, <i>Using Florida Natives for Sustainable Landscaping</i> , Afi Fancon, 321-269-6379
Saturday, Feb 13	Rain Barrel Workshop, The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 10:00 am Joanie Faulls, 321-264-5185
Tuesday, Feb. 16	Keep Brevard Beautiful Xeriscape Grant commences, Suzanne Meyer, 321-264-4922
Wednesday, Feb. 17	Florida Trails Association Hike, Orlando Wetlands Park Call 321-453-1586 for information
Thursday, Feb. 18	Fighting Fire with Fire, Dean Vanderbleek, 6:30 pm, Mims-Scottsmoor Library, Information 321-264-5080
Thursday, Feb. 18	Friends of the Enchanted Forest Meeting, The Enchanted Forest, 6:30 pm Joanie Faulls, 321-264-5185
Saturday, Feb. 20	Sykes Creek Adventures Eco-Festival, Kiwanis Park, Merritt Island 11:00 am—4:00 pm, Entry Fee, Susan Boorse, 321-455-1385
Sunday, Feb. 21	Forest Funday at the Enchanted Forest, "Birds & Their Babies", 2:00 pm Joanie Faulls, 321-264-5185
Tuesday, Feb. 23	Plant Survey, Indian Mound Station, 9:30 am, Xavier de Seguin des Hons, 321-264-5185
Wednesday, Feb. 24	Florida Trails Association Hike, Shiloh Marsh Trail Call 321-453-1586 for information
Wednesday, Feb. 24	Sea Rocket Monthly Meeting, Pruning Florida's Native Plants, Sally Scalera, The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary @ 7:00 pm Debbie Springer, 321-745-2192



Gopher Tortoise at the Enchanted Forest

ENCHANTED FOREST, HERE WE COME!

DON'T FORGET ~ SEA ROCKET'S NEW MEETING
LOCATION IS

THE ENCHANTED FOREST SANCTUARY
444 COLUMBIA BOULEVARD (AKA SR 405)
TITUSVILLE, FL 32780 321-264-5185

Meetings will continue to be held on the fourth Wednesday evening of each month.
Please contact Suzanne Meyer for more information: 321-264-4922



The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary is a Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program Sanctuary. All plants and animals are protected ~ No smoking in the Sanctuary. See the last page of this newsletter for a map & driving directions.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

February's Field Trip with Dr. Paul Schmalzer
Helen and Allan Cruickshank Sanctuary
Saturday, February 20, 2010 ~ 900 am

This sanctuary is a joint acquisition of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program and the State of Florida. The sanctuary was acquired in 1995 with an addition in 2008. The plant communities include pine flatwoods, oak scrub, and freshwater depression marshes. The sanctuary has undergone prescribed burning, mechanical reduction of fuels, and thinning of pine trees to help restore habitat conditions. The resident Florida Scrub-jay population has responded positively to the land management efforts. In addition to Scrub-jays, several rare plant species occur in this sanctuary.

Directions: Central Rockledge west of US Highway 1 ~ Address: 360 Barnes Blvd.

From I-95: Take Fiske Blvd. Exit #195. At the intersection just north of I-95, go east on Barnes Blvd 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.

Don't forget to bring water, a hat, and insect repellent!



Sea Rocket Awarded KBB Xeriscape Grant

The Sea Rocket Chapter has been awarded a Keep Brevard Beautiful (KBB) Xeriscape Grant. The chapter will be installing a pollinator garden at Titusville's Chain of Lakes Recreation Park. The Nursery Committee has been hard at work propagating plants for this garden and protecting other nursery stock from freezing temperatures. Workdays are being planned and a schedule will be distributed soon.

Questions regarding the Grant should be directed to Shari Blissett Clark at jclark109@cfl.rr.com. Please come and help your Chapter with this fun & educational project!



KBB Garden site at Chain of Lakes

January Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Ginny Blaetz

Sea Rocket & Conradina Chapters held a joint meeting on January 14th at the Brevard Zoo and hosted Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor. His presentation was attended by over 80 members of FNPS, the Titusville Men's Garden Club, the EEL Program, and other interested parties. As usual, Dr. Taylor's informative & authoritative presentation on Florida's grasses was enjoyed by all. Dr. Taylor answered questions after his presentation and closed by stating that he hoped everyone would "Get the (grass) Fever" and become familiar with Florida's native grasses.



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

kari@naturewiseplants.com

(321)536-1410

Florida Wildflower Foundation Forms Florida Native Plant Partnership

Reprinted from Wildflower Gazette, Winter 2010

The Florida Wildflower Foundation (FWF) has formed an



alliance with the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS), Florida Association of Native Nurseries (AFNN), and the Florida Wildflower Seed and Plant Growers Association. This coalition, called Florida Native

Plant Partnership, or "FNP2", is jointly pursuing grants and education and marketing opportunities that will expand and support the use of and demand for Florida native plants.

"We're excited to be involved with these three fine organizations, with which the Foundation has many overlapping goals," said Lisa Roberts, FWF executive director.

"This coalition represents more than 20,000 Floridians who are actively supporting Florida's native wildflowers and plants and promoting their advantages. With their continued help, FNP2 will work hard to build new awareness and support for our natives."

green images Florida Native Landscape Plants

1333 Taylor Creek Road
Christmas, Florida 32709
407-568-1333
greenimage@aol.com

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

www.maplestreetnatives.com

FLORIDA NATIVE TREES, SHRUBS, WILDFLOWERS, GRASSES

AN EVENING WITH DR. WALTER KINGSLEY TAYLOR

Scenes from our
January program
with Dr. Taylor...

Suzanne, Nancy, & Barb
discuss the program (left)
Dr. Taylor & Dr. Schmalzer
collaborating (below)



Sea Rocket & Conradina members
catch up before the program (left)

Sea Rocket's Outreach Display (below)



All photos by Shari Blissett Clark



Mystery Plant of the Month

Do you recognize this
Florida native plant?

Email your guess to jclark109@cfl.rr.com

If your identification is correct you will
receive a prize at Sea Rocket's February meeting!

You must be present at the February meeting to receive your prize!

There's still time!
Submit Your Guess
Today!

10 Easy Ways You Can Help Protect Endangered Species

- 1) Learn about endangered species in your area.** Teach your friends and family about the wildlife, birds, fish and plants that live near you. The first step to protecting endangered species is learning how interesting and important they are. Our natural world provides many indispensable services including clean air and water, food and medicine, commercial, aesthetic and recreational benefits. For more information about endangered species, visit endangered.fws.gov
- 2) Visit a National Wildlife Refuge, Sanctuary, or park.** These protected lands provide habitat to many native wildlife, including birds, fish and plants. The best way to protect endangered species is to protect the places where they live. Get involved by volunteering at your local nature center or wildlife refuge. Wildlife related recreation creates millions of jobs and supports local businesses. To find a wildlife refuge near you, visit www.fws.gov/refuges
- 3) Make your home wildlife-friendly.** Secure garbage in cans with locking lids, feed pets indoors and lock pet doors at night to avoid attracting wild animals to your home. Reduce the use of water in your home and garden. Disinfect bird baths often to avoid disease transmission. Millions of birds die every year because of collisions with windows. You can help reduce the number of collisions simply by placing decals on the windows in your home and office. For more information on what you can do, check the tips at www.fws.gov
- 4) Provide habitat for wildlife by planting native vegetation in your yard.** Native plants provide food and shelter for native wildlife. Attracting native insects like bees and butterflies can help pollinate your plants. The spread of non-native species has greatly impacted native populations around the world. Invasive species compete with native species for resources and habitat. They can even prey on native species directly, forcing native species towards extinction. For more information about native plants, visit www.fnps.org
- 5) Minimize the use of herbicides and pesticides.** Herbicides and pesticides are hazardous pollutants that affect wildlife at many levels. Many herbicides and pesticides take a long time to degrade and build up in the soil and food chain. Predators such as hawks, owls and coyotes can be harmed if they eat poisoned animals. Some groups of animals such as amphibians are particularly vulnerable to these chemical pollutants and suffer greatly as a result of the high levels of herbicides and pesticides in their habitat. For alternatives to pesticides, visit www.beyondpesticides.org
- 6) Slow down when driving.** Many animals live in developed areas and this means they must navigate a landscape full of human hazards. One of the biggest obstacles to wildlife living in developed areas is roadways. Roads divide habitat and present a constant hazard to any animal attempting to cross from one side to the other. So when you're out and about, slow down and keep a sharp eye out for wildlife!
- 7) Recycle and buy sustainable products.** Buy recycled paper, sustainable products like bamboo and Forest Stewardship Council wood products to protect forest species. Never buy furniture made from rainforest wood species. Recycle electronics, read labels, and make yourself aware of the origins of the products you buy.
- 8) Never purchase products made from threatened or endangered species.** Overseas trips can be exciting and fun, and everyone wants a souvenir. But sometimes the souvenirs are made from species nearing extinction. Avoid supporting the illegal wildlife trade, including tortoise-shell, ivory, and coral. Also, steer clear of products made with fur, which can be made from tigers, polar bears, sea otters and other endangered wildlife. It is illegal to bring many live exotic animals into the U.S. For a complete list of illegal items visit www.uscustoms.gov
- 9) Report any harassment or shooting of threatened and endangered species.** Harassing wildlife is illegal. Shooting, trapping, or forcing a threatened or endangered animal into captivity is illegal and can lead to their extinction. Don't participate in this activity, and report it as soon as you see it to your state or federal wildlife enforcement office. You can find a list of state wildlife departments at www.fws.gov
- 10) Protect wildlife habitat.** Perhaps the greatest threat that faces species is the widespread destruction of habitat. Scientists agree that the best way to protect endangered species is to protect the places where they live. Wildlife need food, shelter, and safe places to raise their young. By protecting habitat, entire communities of animals and plants are protected together. Support the protection of wildlife habitat and open space in your community. To get involved, contact www.endangeredspeciescoalition.org

The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Education Center

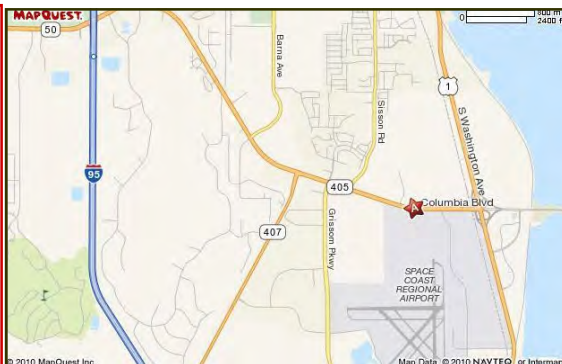
444 Columbia Blvd, Titusville, FL 32780 321-264-5185

Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

From I-95 Northbound: take SR-407 Exit 212 east 2.7 miles to SR-405 intersection. Turn right onto SR-405 and go east 1.9 miles (the Sanctuary entrance is on the left 0.4 miles past Sisson Road)

From I-95 Southbound: take SR-50 Exit 215 east. Turn left onto SR 50 and turn right onto SR-405 (2nd light) Travel 3.6 miles (the Sanctuary entrance is on the left 0.4 miles past Sisson Road)

From U.S. HWY 1: go west 0.5 miles on SR-405 in south Titusville. Sanctuary entrance is on the right.



Florida Native Plant Society

For membership information, address change: P. O. Box 278, Melbourne, FL 32902-0278

Phone: 321-271-6702; Fax: 321-951-1941; Email: Info@fnps.org/www.fnps.org

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



DON'T MISS THE FEBRUARY MEETING!

PRUNING 101 & FLORIDA'S NATIVE PLANTS

with **SALLY SCALERA**

Brevard County's Urban Horticulture Agent

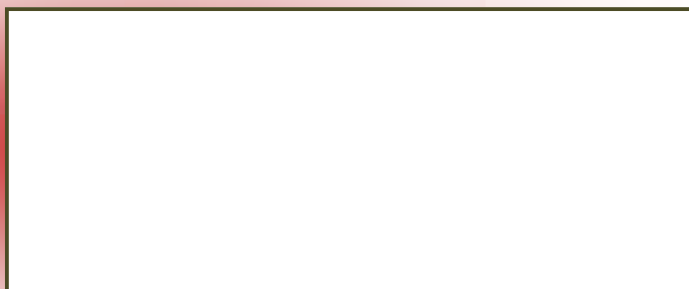
Wednesday, February 24th, 7:00 pm



SEA ROCKET CHAPTER

PO Box 236341

Cocoa, FL 32923-6341



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