



Sea Rocket



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

MARCH 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,
sioned@digital.net

Secretary

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

Chapter Representative

Paul Schmalzer, PhD
321-268-5473

~ Committees ~

Membership/Outreach

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

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

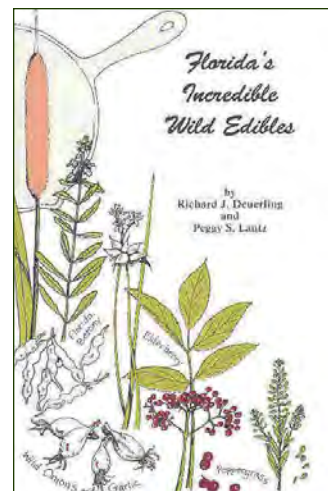
Wednesday, March 24, 2010 ~ 7:00 PM

Florida's Incredible Wild Edibles *with Peggy Lantz*

Sea Rocket's featured speaker for March is author Peggy Lantz. Peggy is a charter member of the Florida Native Plant Society and was the first editor of *The Palmetto*, serving in that capacity for 15 years. She also edited several FNPS book publications, including *Florida's Incredible Wild Edibles*, much of which appeared first as articles in *The Palmetto*. Peggy also edited The Florida Audubon Society's magazine *The Florida Naturalist* for more than six years.

Peggy is the author of *The Young Naturalist's Guide to Florida* and *The Florida Water Story*, both published by Pineapple Press of Sarasota. She also authored *The Butler Chain of Lakes* which was published by the Butler Chain Conservation Association.

Peggy is a Florida native, and she lives on the same lake in Orange County, west of Orlando, where her grandparents settled in 1914. She and her husband have four children and five grandchildren.



Join Sea Rocket for this interesting program. An assortment of wild edibles will be available for tasting!

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

For more information, please call
Deb Springer at 321-745-2192.

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UPCOMING EVENTS & THINGS TO DO

Every Thursday	Sea Rocket Nursery Workday, 9:30 am, Suzanne Meyer, 321-264-4922
Wednesday, March 3	Florida Trails Hike, Tosohatchee Trail, 9:00 am Call 321-268-5473 for information
Thursday, March 4	KBB Garden Workday at Chain of Lakes, 9:30 am, Shari Blissett Clark, 321-454-6849
Saturday, March 6	Music in the Forest, The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 5:00 pm Joanie Faulls, 321-264-5185
Tuesday, March 9	Plant Survey, Indian Mound Sanctuary, Brevard County EEL Program, Xavier de Seguin des Hons, 321-264-5185
Wednesday, March 10	Florida Trails Hike, De Leon Springs Trail, 9:00 am Call 321-268-5473 for information
Tuesday, March 16	Lunch with Nature: Florida Native Plants, Suzanne Meyer, 12:00 pm The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, Joanie Faulls, 321-264-5185
Wednesday, March 17	Florida Trails Hike, Prairie Lakes, 9:00 am Call 321-268-5473 for information
Saturday, March 20	Sea Rocket Field Trip with Dr. Paul Schmalzer, Coconut Point, 9:00 am, Call 321-268-5473
Saturday, March 20	Brevard Zoo Eco-Festival, Brevard Zoo, Melbourne, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Saturday, March 20	Space Coast Audubon Society Plant & Bird Hike, Jim Stahl, The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 9:00 am, 321-264-5185
Tuesday, March 23	Plant Survey, Indian Mound Sanctuary, Brevard County EEL Program, Xavier de Seguin des Hons, 321-264-5185
Wednesday, March 24	Sea Rocket Meeting, Florida's Incredible Wild Edibles, Peggy Lantz, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 7:00 PM, 321-745-2192 for information
Wednesday, March 24	Florida Trails Hike, Econ River Trail, 9:00 am Call 321-268-5473 for information
Wednesday, March 31	Florida Trails Hike, Seminole Ranch/Orlando Wetlands, 9:00 am Call 321-268-5473 for information
Thursday, April 1	Bringing Nature Home with Douglas Tallamy, BCC Cocoa Campus, Building 14, Room 104, 7:00 PM, call 321-745-2192 for information

**FNPS Sea Rocket and Conradina Chapters &
The Friends of the Enchanted Forest are pleased to present**

“Bringing Nature Home”

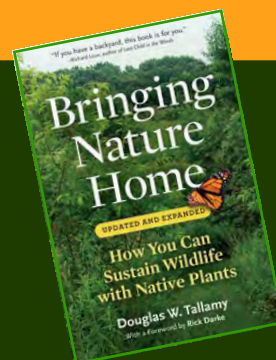
with Douglas W. Tallamy

Thursday, April 1, 2010

Brevard Community College ~ Cocoa Campus
Building 14 ~ Room 104

Call 321-745-2192 for more information

**FREE
Open to the
Public**



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

March Field Trip with Dr. Paul Schmalzer
Coconut Point
Saturday, March 20, 2010 ~ 9:00 am

Coconut Point Sanctuary is a joint acquisition of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program and the State of Florida. The property was acquired in 1994. Vegetation is coastal strand, coastal scrub, some hammocks, and wetlands along the Indian River Lagoon. The first prescribed burn was conducted in 1999, and much of the site burned in a wildfire in March 2006. A second prescribed burn was conducted in April 2007. Vegetative recovery has been rapid and quite impressive.

Directions:

I-95 to SR 192. East on SR 192 to A1A. South on A1A about 5.8 miles. Park at Ponce de Leon County Park on the east side of A1A, cross A1A and walk a short distance north to the kiosk at the north end of the loop trail.

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



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
7619 Henry Ave.
West Melbourne, FL 32904
ph: 321-729-6857
e: info@maplestreetnatives.com
www.maplestreetnatives.com

RETAIL
M-Sat 8-5

FLORIDA NATIVE TREES, SHRUBS, WILDFLOWERS, GRASSES



Naturewise is taking pre-orders for FloriMulch, the environmentally friendly

mulch made from the invasive Melaleuca tree.
Long lasting and pest resistant!
Minimum order is 25 bags.

Orders are due March 5th!

Brown and gold colored mulch also available
(min. 75 bags). See our website for more
information and the order form:

<http://www.naturewiseplants.com/specials.html>

February Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Ginny Blaetz

President Suzanne Meyer called the meeting to order and requested a motion for approval of the November 2009 general meeting minutes. Vicky Hamilton made a motion for approval and Deb Springer seconded the motion. This motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Betty Page reported that on October 28, 2009 Sea Rocket assets were \$4,797.77. Receipts since then totaled \$728.50, and expenditures have been \$880.22, leaving a current balance of \$4,646.05. A summary of treasury activity for 2009 followed:

Nursery income: \$2,041.00
Nursery expenditures: \$629.80
Other income: \$522.00
Other expenditures: \$1,087.61
Net profit in 2009: \$1,242.00

The proposed revision to the by-laws was discussed. Sea Rocket members that were present voted unanimously to approve the change as proposed.

The election of officers for 2010-2011 followed. No nominations were made from the floor. The proposed slate of officers was: President, Suzanne Meyer, Vice President, Deb Springer, Treasurer, Betty Page, Secretary, Ginny Blaetz. Sea Rocket members voted unanimously in favor of this slate for 2010-2011.

Joanie Faulls of the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program gave an overview of the EEL Program and the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary.

The program for the evening was presented by Dr. Sally Scallera who discussed appropriate and timely pruning techniques. She urged not rushing into pruning but advised waiting until new buds or growth is visible. A lively question and answer session followed Sally's program.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

President's Message

By Suzanne Meyer

The arrival of March means spring is right around the corner! The Sea Rocket nursery has had a few losses from the cold weather but the Nursery committee has worked hard to protect the plants, and their efforts are paying off. Our natives are looking good and will be ready for the Keep Brevard Beautiful Grant garden beginning this month at Chain of Lakes Park in north Titusville. In addition, Sea Rocket will donate plants to South Lake Elementary Schools' Grant garden, and we'll be installing a Memorial Garden at Rockledge Country Club. And don't forget our upcoming plant sale at The Enchanted Forest in April! So you can see why it's been important to save every plant in the nursery.

Volunteers have been working hard on our Outreach Initiative. Sea Rocket representatives spoke to the Titusville Men's Garden Club on February 8th and presented a program to the Titusville Environmental Commission on February 10th.

Also, Sea Rocket was honored with a "Partners in the Business of Education" award by the Titusville Chamber of Commerce on February 10th. Our Chapter was nominated for the award by South Lake Elementary School for helping them create their Butterfly Garden in April 2009. This award is bestowed upon organizations that make positive contributions to area schools, and I was proud to accept the award on behalf of the Sea Rocket Chapter.

Saturday, February 20th, Sea Rocket volunteers attended the Sykes Creek EcoFestival and spent the day talking "natives" with visitors. As you can see, your Chapter has been busily working in the background, spreading the "fertilizer" that helps the seeds of knowledge sprout in our community!

If you're interested in volunteering for one of our many upcoming events or workdays, please contact myself or Shari Blissett Clark. We welcome your help and think you'll have fun, too!

Mark the upcoming events and programs on your calendar, and I hope to see you at every one of them! In the meantime, Think Spring!



Suzanne Meyer accepts the "Partners in the Business of Education" award from Dr. Binggeli, Superintendent of Brevard Public Schools.

Sea Rocket Display in Titusville City Hall



The educational display pictured here shows native plants which can be used to replace cold-damaged exotics.

The display is located in the lobby of Titusville's City Hall.



FLORIDA MASTER NATURALIST TRAINING

Do you enjoy being outdoors?

Do you want to learn more about Florida's ecosystems?

Then join us for the next Florida Master Naturalist Coastal Module Course at Riverwalk Park!

Course dates are April 10th, 17th, & 24th and May 1st, 8th, & 22nd

The class takes a look at the coastal regions of Florida with hands-on activities and field trips.

Become a certified Master Naturalist!

For more information and to register, visit www.masternaturalist.org



Brevard County Parks & Recreation

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MYSTERY PLANT WINNERS!

Summer Pardo & Annette Myers

The plant is *Asclepias pedicellata*, Savannah Milkweed. Watch for more Mystery Plants in future issues of Sea Rocket!

February 6, 2010

Florida Native Plant Society Board of Director's Meeting

Submitted by Paul A. Schmalzer, Ph.D.

1. A new FNPS Chapter has formed in Seminole County and will be known as the Cuplet Fern Chapter. Note: Cuplet ferns are the genus *Dennstaedtia*. *Dennstaedtia bipinnata* is a rare plant found in Seminole, Duval, and Palm Beach Counties.
2. Jackie Rolle has been appointed as the Vice President for Administration after the resignation of Fritz Wettstein.
3. The FNPS Conference Call number is available to Chapters. Contact Karina for details.
4. FNPS will help to sponsor a Sea Level Rise Symposium held by the Florida Institute for Conservation Science at Archbold Biological Station. The sponsorship was made possible by special donations to FNPS. Details of the symposium can be found at www.flconservationscience.org.
5. Several Native Plant Society Chapters for the southeastern U.S. will be joining FNPS for a Summit at the Tallahassee Conference. A second summit is planned for July 2011 at the Cullowhee Conference at Western Carolina University.
6. Nominations are being sought for FNPS officers to be elected in May 2010 including President, Vice-President for Finance, Secretary, and 3 Director's at large. Currently, President, VP Finance, and VP Administration are limited to a single 2-year term. There was discussion of changing the bylaws to allow both VPs to serve a second term.
7. Earthshare, GoodSearch, and GoodShop continue to generate some revenue for FNPS. In 2009, the International Trip did not fill. Florida or Southeast US trips may be considered instead.
8. The schedule is finalized for the 2010 Annual Conference in Tallahassee. See the FNPS web site for details. It should be an excellent meeting.
9. Revenue was down in 2009 and expenses were up. Membership has declined from a high of about 3000, although the drop has not been extreme. After extensive discussion, the BOD approved the 2010 budget. Cuts were made in many categories. There is still an expected deficit for 2010 which will have to be made up from FNPS reserves.
10. Increasing FNPS membership is key to financial stability for the organization; membership is the biggest source of income. Attracting and retaining members is critical.

Paul Schmalzer is the Chapter Representative for Sea Rocket. He attends State Board of Director's Meetings, serves as Chair of the Science Committee, is Sea Rocket's Hike Leader, and provides many volunteer hours on behalf of the Sea Rocket Chapter. Questions regarding these meeting minutes should be directed to Dr. Schmalzer at 321-268-5473.

What We're Up To...



↑ Nursery volunteers staying warm! Left to right: Betty Page, Ginny Blaetz, Suzanne Meyer, Deb Springer

2 year old Longleaf Pines in the nursery
↓



↑ Deb Springer staffs the Sea Rocket Display at Sykes Creek Eco-Festival

The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Education Center

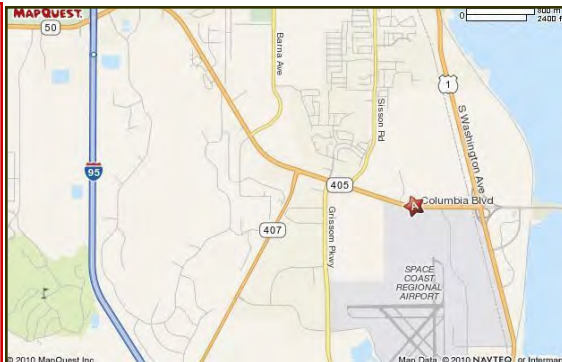
444 Columbia Blvd, Titusville, FL 32780 321-264-5185

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 MARCH MEETING!

FLORIDA'S INCREDIBLE WILD EDIBLES

With author **PEGGY LANTZ**

Wednesday, March 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!