



Sea Rocket



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

MAY 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@cfl.rr.com

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Debbie Springer

321-745-2192,
rspringer29@earthlink.net

Treasurer
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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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2010 ~ 7:00PM

FLORIDA'S NATIVE BROMELIADS & THE MEXICAN BROMELIAD WEEVIL

The Sea Rocket Chapter is pleased to host two local Bromeliad experts for our May program, Teresa Cooper and James Thurrott. They will discuss Florida's native bromeliads, the impact of the Mexican Bromeliad Weevil, and the prognosis for the future of these imperiled epiphytes.



Teresa M. Cooper received her MS in entomology in 2006 and her Ph.D. in entomology in 2009, both from the University of Florida in Gainesville. Teresa is interested in the use of biological controls in the conservation and maintenance of managed ecosystems. She is currently working with a biological control program which targets the exotic invasive Mexican weevil that has attacked Florida's native bromeliads. Teresa enjoys talking to people about Florida's bromeliads, the weevil, and the potential benefits of biological control.

James (Jay) Thurrott is an environmental chemist who has worked in the public service sector for over 30 years and is currently Manager of Treatment Operations for the City of Daytona Beach. Jay grows over 700 varieties of bromeliads at his home in Port Orange. A longtime member of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society (FECBS), Jay is the current FECBS newsletter editor and has served as secretary, vice president and president in his local society. He has been a representative to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies for many years and is the current vice president of Bromeliad Society International (BSI). Jay is also a BSI accredited bromeliad judge.

The Sea Rocket Chapter invites you to join us on Wednesday, May 26, 2010 at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary for this this interesting program. Call Debbie at 321-745-2192 for more information.

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

IN THIS ISSUE...

Event Calendar ~
Mystery Plant ~
Action Alert! ~
President's Corner ~
Meet~A~Member ~
Photo Gallery ~

page 2
page 3
pages 4 & 5
page 6
page 6
page 7



UPCOMING EVENTS & THINGS TO DO

Every Thursday	Sea Rocket Nursery Workday, 9:30am, Suzanne Meyer, 321-264-4922
Every Tuesday	Deadheaders Garden Volunteers, The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 9:00am, call 321-264-5185 for information
Tuesday, May 4	Plant Survey, Indian Mound Station, 10:00am, 321-264-5185
Wednesday, May 5	Brevard County Public Forum: Floodplains ~ 5:30pm Government Center, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Bldg. C, 3rd Floor, 321-633-2016
Friday, May 7	Deadline for Keep Brevard Beautiful Xeriscape Grant
Friday, May 7	Brevard County Public Forum: Surface Water ~ 5:30pm Government Center, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Bldg. C, 3rd Floor, 321-633-2016
Sunday, May 9	Mother's Day
Wednesday, May 12	Sea Rocket Board Meeting, time & location TBA, Suzanne Meyer 321-264-4922
Tuesday, May 18	Plant Survey, Indian Mound Station, 10:00am, 321-264-5185
Tuesday, May 18	Lunch with Nature, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 12 noon, 321-264-5185
Wednesday, May 19	Brevard County Public Forum: Wetlands ~ 5:30pm Government Center, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Bldg. C, 3rd Floor, 321-633-2016
Thursday, May 20	Friends of the Enchanted Forest Meeting, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 6:30pm, 321-264-5185
Friday, May 21	Make Oyster Mats, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 12 noon-2:00pm 321-264-5185
Thursday, May 20 - Sunday, May 23	Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference, Tallahassee, FL Information at www.fnps.org
Saturday, May 22	Butterfly Hike, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 10:00am, 321-264-5185
Wednesday, May 26	Sea Rocket Meeting, Florida's Bromeliads & the Bromeliad Weevil, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 7:00pm, 321-745-2192

Contact Shari at jclark109@cfl.rr.com to have an event listed in this calendar



The Florida Native Plant Society

30th Annual Conference

May 20-23, 2010 ~ Tallahassee, Florida

Hosted by the Magnolia Chapter

Rooted in History, Forever Blooming!

Join us in Tallahassee, a city rich in natural and cultural history, for the 2010 Annual Conference. This conference will honor 30 years of FNPS history and celebrate the plants, people, and places of Florida's Big Bend region! Register on-line at www.fnps.org

MYSTERY PLANT



**DO YOU KNOW THE NAME OF THIS
FLORIDA NATIVE ?**

Email your best guess to:

jclark109@cfl.rr.com

**WINNERS * WILL RECEIVE A FLORIDA
NATIVE PLANT FOR THEIR GARDEN!**

** Must be present at the May meeting to claim prize*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO LAST
MONTH'S WINNER. . .**

JAY BARNHART

Jay correctly identified Michaux's Lettuce,
Lactuca graminifolia

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



Looking to spruce up your yard this spring?

In addition to great ornamental
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Naturewise also offers:

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~ Reprinted from the April Newsletter ~

March Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Shari Blissett Clark for Ginny Blaetz

Vice President Debbie Springer called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and made several announcements. She then called for a motion to approve the February 2010 general meeting minutes. A motion was made for approval and seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Betty Page gave the Treasurer's report:

Receipts	12.80
Expenditures	1179.33
Current Balance	\$ 4079.52

Betty reminded the membership that expenses related to the Keep Brevard Beautiful Xeriscape Grant Garden at Chain of Lakes Recreation Area will be reimbursed. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report and it was seconded. The report was unanimously approved.

Peggy Lantz was the featured speaker and provided a very interesting account of many of Florida's wild edibles, including descriptions of the plants and how they were used by Native Americans and early settlers.

Peggy passed samples of acorn meal pancakes, Smilax, Florida betony, Elderberry jam, and several other edibles which attendees washed down with wild mint tea. All the edibles were met with smiles and nods of appreciation. Two copies of Peggy Lantz's book, *Florida's Incredible Wild Edibles*, were given away as door prizes to Joanie Faulls and Alex Chamberlain.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED!
PROTECT BREVARD'S FLOODPLAIN AND WETLANDS

Submitted by Mary Sphar

An Action Alert was recently sent to Sea Rocket members about the drastic changes Brevard County is considering for its floodplain and wetlands Comprehensive Plan policies. The Commission is considering amending the Comprehensive Plan to **eliminate all of the floodplain density requirements and also remove the restrictions on commercial and industrial development in wetlands.**

Many thanks to those of you who emailed or called the Commissioners! It really helped! On April 20, the Commission decided to wait until May 27 to make a decision on the drastic changes.

In the meantime, there will be a series of public meetings where you will be able to express your opinion. Please do!!

The public meeting on the floodplain policies is first: Wednesday, May 5 from 5:30 to 7:30pm in the Florida Room, Building C of the Government Center in Viera.

The meeting on wetlands is Wednesday, May 19, same time and location.

If you can't get to these meetings, you can send comments to darcie.mcgee@brevardcounty.us and don't forget to copy all the County Commissioners on your comments! A general statement is always appropriate, or you can comment on the details outlined on the next page. The more concerned citizens who comment, the better!

Here is the contact information for Brevard County Commissioners:

District 1: Commissioner Robin Fisher

Vice Chairman
400 South Street, Suite 1-A
Titusville, FL 32780
Phone: 321-264-6750 Fax: 321-264-6751
Email: D1.Commissioner@brevardcounty.us

District 2: Commissioner Chuck Nelson

2575 N. Courtenay Parkway
Merritt Island, FL 32953
Phone: 321-454-6601 Fax: 321-454-6602
Email: chuck.nelson@brevardcounty.us

District 3: Commissioner Trudy Infantini

1311 E. New Haven Ave.
Melbourne, FL 32901
Phone: 321-952-6300 Fax: 321-952-6340
Email: D3.Commissioner@brevardcounty.us

District 4: Commissioner Mary Bolin

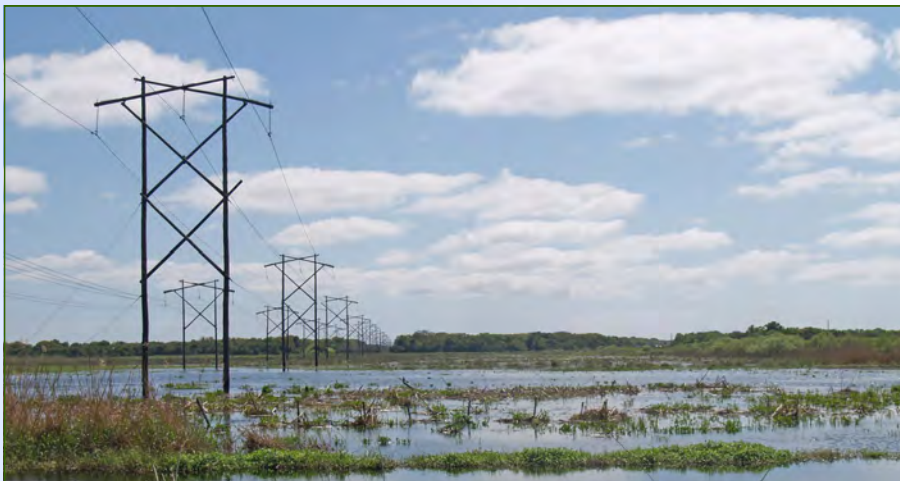
Chairman
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Bldg. C
Viera, FL 32940
Phone: 321-633-2044 Fax: 321-633-2121
Email: D4.Commissioner@brevardcounty.us

District 5: Commissioner Andy Anderson

1515 Sarno Road, Bldg. B
Melbourne, FL 32935
Phone: 321-253-6611 Fax: 321-253-6620
Email: D5.Commissioner@brevardcounty.us

County Manager: Howard Tipton

Phone: 321-633-2001 Fax: 321-633-2115
Email: howard.tipton@brevardcounty.us



High voltage power lines traverse the St. John's River floodplain in western Brevard County.

*Photos courtesy of
Mary Sphar*

DETAILS ON FLOODPLAIN AND WETLANDS PROPOSALS

Submitted by Mary Sphar

Major changes proposed for Brevard County's floodplain and wetlands Comprehensive Plan policies will be discussed at public meetings on May 5 and May 17 and at the County Commission meeting on May 27. Here are the details:

FLOODPLAIN: Development density restrictions now exist for the 10-year, 25-year, and 100-year floodplains of the St. Johns River. For example, there is no commercial or industrial development allowed in the 10-year floodplain, and residential density is limited to one dwelling unit per ten acres. In the proposed language, only the prohibition on development in the annual floodplain is kept, and all of the density restrictions for the 10-year, 25-year, and 100-year floodplains are gone!

County staff point to the one good sentence they added to the floodplain rewrite. It says: "There shall be no net loss of flood storage capacity of the 100-year riverine floodplain." That language applies only to the St. Johns River floodplain. This requirement for compensatory storage is actually being enforced right now, but it's always good to put (and keep) such language in the Comprehensive Plan. Environmentalists have asked the County to consider adding similar language to the sections on the estuarine and isolated floodplains. (The estuarine floodplain is the floodplain of the Indian River Lagoon. The isolated floodplain includes low-lying areas that are not connected to the Lagoon or the St. Johns River.) The practicalities of doing so are being studied. As an example, the City of Titusville has provisions in its Comprehensive Plan requiring compensatory storage for the 100-year floodplain regardless of whether it is riverine, isolated or estuarine.

WETLANDS: The County Commission instructed staff to rewrite the existing, strong commercial/industrial wetlands policies. The proposed commercial/industrial language eliminates the existing restrictions and substitutes a promise that the County will come up with some criteria in the future to deal with infill and commercial strip areas. What is left is a huge, gaping hole in the regulations where anything goes with regard to commercial and industrial development in non-forested wetlands!

Please note that Florida Native Plant Society, Indian River Audubon Society (now Space Coast Audubon) and Sierra Club were involved in a 4 ½ legal battle over the wetlands policies from 1996 – 2000. Now instead of proposing positive changes to the commercial and industrial policies, the County is considering gutting them.



Fresh water floodplains like this one in western Brevard County are essential to the health of Florida's ecosystems and provide millions of gallons of fresh water for human consumption.

MEET~A~MEMBER: Theresa Jackiewicz

SBC: What got you interested in native plants?

TJ: Wow, that was so long ago! I've always been an outside person and been interested in my surroundings, so it was natural for me to want to know what was growing in my yard. When I met Mickey Boutillier she told about FNPS and I've been a member ever since.

SBC: Do you have a favorite species?

TJ: That's difficult...I like plants with purpose! If it's a butterfly host plant or provides food for wildlife, I love it! I think I'm quite partial to native hollies for this reason.

SBC: How have native plants enhanced your life?

TJ: Using them keeps me from endangering the environment and all the living things around me. I don't have to use any poisons and I save a lot of money because I don't water or replace plants very often. It's just sensible.

SBC: Are there any special projects you'd like to see the Chapter get involved with?

TJ: Oh yes! We ought to have our group working with local governments to change the way our roadways and public buildings are landscaped. We should have a liaison between Sea Rocket and the city so our tax dollars aren't spent on "needy" plants that probably won't survive anyway. We need to stop wasting time and money!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Suzanne Meyer

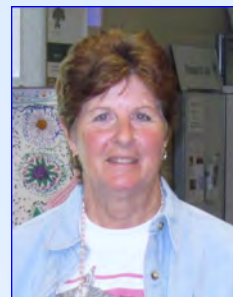
Thank goodness this winter is finally over! I wasn't sure I was going to survive this one! My thanks to a great board in supporting me and all we do. The nursery was a priority these last few months, and everyone came out to help in whatever way they could. It paid off in the results of our plant sale at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary on April 17, 2010. This was our best sale yet! Thank you to Shari Blissett Clark, Betty Page, Ginny Blaetz and Deb Springer for all your hard work and smiling faces.

Sea Rocket has also completed the KBB Xeriscape Grant garden at the Chain of Lakes Recreation Area. We installed a pollinator garden using only native plants and also assisted South Lake Elementary School with their KBB Xeriscape Garden. Both projects had an April 30th deadline, so it was a busy month! Shari Blissett Clark was generous in designing both gardens, but didn't stop there! She also designed a Memorial Garden for Rockledge Country Club. And so the nursery committee donned their gloves once again and helped RCC with the site preparations and planting, bringing Sea Rocket's spring garden count up to 3!

As you can see we've had a very busy winter and spring and still no one has asked for time off yet—we must be doing something right. It's very rewarding to see these new gardens thrive in such a short time. I hope the great things we're doing will encourage you to participate in future projects, or to serve the chapter in any way you can.

Our meetings at the Enchanted Forest have been successful with new faces showing up along side our long time members. If you didn't make it to our special meeting at BCC on April 1, you sure missed a great speaker! Doug Tallamy was wonderful and his message simple and strong. Incorporating just a few native plants makes a big difference. Approximately 90 people attended the program and it was videotaped by the Society, so we expect to have a copy very soon! Thank you to all the members that helped make the program so successful.

I hope the spring weather has you outside planting some new natives, and of course appreciating our natural areas. Don't forget the Annual Conference this month in Tallahassee, and I hope to see every one of you soon!



NURSERY NEWS

By Suzanne Meyer

The Nursery Committee worked very hard all through this long, freezing winter to protect the plants as much as possible from the weather. We had 2 teams working: one team to cover the plants, and the second to uncover the plants. It may not sound like hard work but it is, particularly when that cold north wind pipes up! Our committee also maintained the weekly workday schedule when the weather permitted. This is the most dedicated committee I can remember in my 20 year membership with FNPS. These folks deserve our gratitude and appreciation.

On the happy news side, we had the best plant sale ever at the Earth Day Celebration on April 17th at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary! Attendance peaked at over 1000 people and many were there for our plant sale. Our committee was kept busy from beginning to end. This past severe winter which damaged or killed many exotics has spurred some homeowners to start landscaping with native plants. And that's what education is all about, and boy, did we educate! We had over 50 native species at this sale, from Bahama Cassia all the way to Wild Lime! It was a great selection with something for everyone! At the close of the day, there were very few plants left to return to our nursery.

Now we are looking forward to our next sale in June during the Ace Hardware Pond Tour. Volunteers are always welcome to help at Sea Rocket's nursery and/or plant sales. Thank you Nursery Committee for a job well done!

FNPS HAS A NEW BLOG!

The very first post ~ submitted by Jolly Blogger Sue Dingwell

It's a new dawn! It's a new day! It's a new blog! Yes, we've gone postal. I mean, coastal. Well, what I really mean is that we are happy to be blogging and happy that you chose to spend at least these past three and half seconds with us. We hope you will come back often, because we will be posting a wide range of topics by a great team of writers. We want to write about what interests YOU, so let us know what you think!

The [Florida Native Plant Society](http://fnps.org) has been working for the past 30 years to save native plants, to protect the places they live, and to educate people about why our natives are so important. We will be talking in this blog about native plants and how to use them in your landscape. We'll tell you where the good places are to go out see native plants. We'll let you know about ways we are working with legislators and local governments, and how you can help.

So Bookmark us and RSS us and all that other good stuff. And why don't you go ahead and join the Florida Native Plant Society because it's good for the environment, and good for you, too.

In case you're wondering, many serious and scientific people belong to this society. We pride ourselves on holding a high standard for sharing only science-based information. Some of those serious people will be posting here soon, on serious topics told with a light touch. You will enjoy meeting them and hearing what they have to say. Hope to see you around! Visit the new blog at <http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/>

What's Up?



Betty & Ginny working
at Chain-of-Lakes



Earth Day at
South Lake Elementary ~
Third Grade Rap!



Betty,
Suzanne,
& Ginny
finally
finished!



Finished garden
at South Lake
Elementary



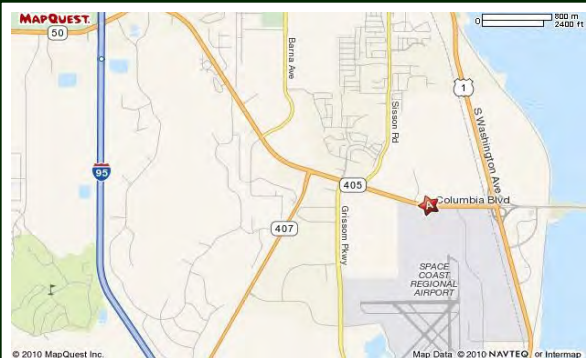
Rockledge
Country Club
garden ready
for plants...

...and getting
plants!



...Your Chapter at Work!

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



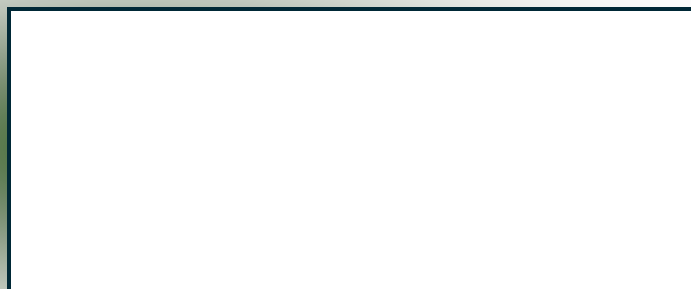
DON'T MISS THE MAY MEETING!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2010 ~ 7:00PM

**FLORIDA'S NATIVE BROMELIADS
& THE MEXICAN BROMELIAD WEEVIL**



SEA ROCKET CHAPTER
PO Box 236341
Cocoa, FL 32923-6341



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