



# Sea Rocket



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

**FEBRUARY 2011**

*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](mailto:meyermenagerie@cfl.rr.com)

### Vice President

**Debbie Springer**

321-745-2192,

[rspringer29@earthlink.net](mailto:rspringer29@earthlink.net)

### Treasurer

**Betty Page**

321-269-0555

[sioned@digital.net](mailto:sioned@digital.net)

### Secretary

**Ginny Blaetz**

321-412-5649

[vblaetz@hotmail.com](mailto:vblaetz@hotmail.com)

### Chapter Representative

**Paul Schmalzer, PhD**

321-268-5473

## ~ Committees ~

### Membership

*Volunteer Needed!*

### Education / Outreach

*Volunteer Needed!*

### Nursery

**Suzanne Meyer**

321-264-4922

### Hike Leader

**Paul Schmalzer, PhD**

321-268-5473

### Newsletter

**Shari Blissett Clark**

321-454-6849

## Wednesday, February 23, 2011 ~ 7:00pm Preserving Native Wildflowers with Lisa Roberts *Florida Wildflower Foundation*

Plan to attend the February meeting featuring Lisa Roberts of the Florida Wildflower Foundation. Lisa will discuss the Foundation's work to preserve native wildflowers through research, education and planting projects. In addition, Lisa will share details of a new planting grant program for Florida counties, like Brevard, that have adopted a wildflower resolution.

Lisa formerly worked for the Orlando Sentinel as an editor and writer where she spent three decades writing about Florida's great outdoors and environmental concerns. Lisa left the Sentinel in 2007 to form a public relations and marketing firm, and joined the Florida Wildflower Foundation in 2008 as its Executive Director.

Lisa is a certified Florida Master Naturalist and holds certificates of Nonprofit Management and Proposal Writing from Rollins College. She has earned writing and design awards from national and state journalism organizations. Lisa is a lifelong Central Florida resident and a member of the Florida Native Plant Society's Tarflower Chapter and several art associations. She enjoys oil painting, kayaking, hiking, and gardening with Florida native plants.

The meeting will be held at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary and will begin at 7:00pm. For more information about this meeting please contact Suzanne Meyer at 321-264-4922.



Narrowleaf Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*)



Dixie Iris (*Iris hexagona*)



Skyblue Lupine (*Lupinus diffusus*)

## UPCOMING EVENTS & THINGS TO DO

Every Thursday	Sea Rocket Nursery Workday, 9:30am, Contact Suzanne Meyer at 321-264-4922 for information
Wednesday, 02/02	Florida Trail Association Hike, Bull Creek Cemetery, 9:00am Contact Jim Escoffier at 321-453-1586 for more information
Wednesday, 02/09	Florida Trail Association Hike, De Leon Springs Trail, 9:00am Contact Jim Escoffier at 321-453-1586 for more information
Thursday, 02/10	The Importance of Butterflies, Brevard Zoo, 6:00pm, for more information visit <a href="http://www.brevardzoo.org/calendar/overview">www.brevardzoo.org/calendar/overview</a>
Saturday, 02/12	Florida Scrub-jay Festival, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, 9:30 to 3:30, Call 321-861-5601
Tuesday, 02/15	Lunch with Nature, The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, Artificial Reefs, 12 noon, call 321-264-5185
Wednesday, 02/16	Scottsmoor Flatwoods Plant Survey, Parrish Park ~ Scottsmoor, 10:00am, Call 321-264-5185
Wednesday, 02/16	Florida Trail Association Hike, Orlando Wetlands Park, 9:00am Contact Jim Escoffier at 321-453-1586 for more information
Thursday, 02/17	Friends of the Enchanted Forest Meeting, The Enchanted Forest, 6:00pm Joe Swingle, EFS Naturalist, Call 321-264-5185
Friday, 02/18	Space Coast Audubon Society General Meeting, Florida Bat Conservancy, Contact Vicky Hamilton, 321-638-4680
Saturday, 02/19	FNPS Sea Rocket Hike, South Lake Conservation Area, 9:00am, See announcement on page 3 of this publication
Saturday, 02/19	Sykes Creek Eco-Adventures Day, Kiwanis Park on Merritt Island, 9:00am, Call Susan Boorse at 321-455-1385
Saturday, 02/19	EEL Program Volunteer Workday at Indian Mound Station, 9:00am, Call 321-264-5185
Wednesday, 02/23	Florida Trail Association Hike, Shiloh Marsh Trail, 9:00am Contact Jim Escoffier at 321-453-1586 for more information
Wednesday, 02/23	FNPS Sea Rocket Meeting, The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 7:00pm Preserving Native Wildflowers, call Suzanne for information 321-264-4922
Thursday, 02/24	Make Oyster Mats, The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 12 noon, Call 321-264-5185
Saturday, 02/26	Keep Brevard Beautiful Clean-Up, St. John's River, 8:00am, Call Barb Venuto at 321-631-0501 x 203

~ COMING MARCH 23, 2011 ~  
**NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPING FOR  
 FLORIDA WILDLIFE**  
*with Dr. Craig Huegel*







**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

- Order FloriMulch now!
- Hands-on vegetable garden-  
ing class on February 12th
- Heirloom vegetable plant sale  
begins Friday, February 25th

Visit our website,  
[www.naturewiseplants.com](http://www.naturewiseplants.com)  
for our newsletter, hours and  
location, plant lists, upcoming  
events and more!

**321-536-1410**

## 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)

## MYSTERY PLANT



**Can you ID this Florida native plant?**

Send your identification to Shari at  
[jclark109@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jclark109@cfl.rr.com)

**Winners will receive a nursery-grown  
Florida native plant for their yard!**

*Must be present at the February meeting to claim prize!*

## February Field Trip South Lake Conservation Area Saturday February 19, 2011 ~ 900-1200

This site was a mitigation donation to the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program. There has been extensive restoration by cutting and burning, timber thinning, and exotic plant treatment. Vegetation is primarily oak scrub scrubby flatwoods and mesic flatwoods. An experimental translocation of Florida Scrub-Jays to the property began in 2009.

Directions:

- 1) I-95 to Exit 220 - Garden Street (St. Rt. 406). Drive west 0.6 miles on Garden Street to North Carpenter Road. Drive north 1.5 miles on N. Carpenter to Dairy Road. Turn west onto Dairy Road and drive 1.1 miles. Turn right onto Lancaster Lane (not paved) and park by gate.
- 2) US-1 to Dairy Road. West on Dairy Road. Cross North Carpenter Road. West 1.1 miles on Dairy Road. Turn North (right) on Lancaster Lane (not paved) and park by gate.

Bring hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent.





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY SUZANNE MEYER

February is here and hopefully it won't be as cold as last year! The nursery committee is busy planning for spring when the "resting" plants in our nursery will begin growing anew. Anyone interested in volunteering at the nursery is welcome to contact me for details. It's a great way to learn more about our native plants.

Your Board recently decided to purchase and resell a couple of really beautiful field guides: Wildflowers of Central Florida by Roger L. Hammer, and Butterflies of Central Florida by Marc & Maria Minno. These pocket-sized, laminated full color field guides are a great value at \$8.00 each and they'll be for sale at our meetings.

I would like to thank the volunteers that helped so tirelessly with the Sea Rocket exhibit over the five days of the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival. Many thanks to Deb Springer, Susan Rang, Sonja Hackenberg, Annette Myers, Barbara Peterson and Martha Pessaro. And of course, Shari Blissett Clark and I were there too. We had a lot of fun meeting and greeting attendees, both locals and out-of-towners. We collected nearly 100 names of local residents who are interested in learning more about FNPS and native plants.

Remember that Chapter elections will be held at our February meeting so plan to attend and cast your vote! The Board encourages anyone who's interested in running for an office or volunteering for a committee to speak up; we need your ideas and help! See you all soon!

### February 10, 2011 ~ 6:00pm The Importance of Butterflies With Dr. Jaret Daniels

Brevard Zoo is pleased to host Dr. Jaret Daniels, Assistant Professor at McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity at The Florida Museum of Natural History. Dr. Daniels will discuss "Insect Species Conservation: Helping Ensure the Future of our Charismatic Microfauna"

Dr. Daniels' research focuses on insect ecology and conservation; he's logged over 18 years of experience working with imperiled butterflies in the U.S. and Caribbean.

He has authored more than 50 scientific papers, popular articles, and books dealing with butterflies, conservation, integrated pest management, and wildlife landscaping.

This program is free and open to the public. For more information:

<http://brevardzoo.org/calendar/overview>



### FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY 31ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE MAY 19-22, 2011

SHERATON ORLANDO NORTH HOTEL, MAITLAND, FL

SAVE THE DATE!  
REGISTRATION OPENS  
JANUARY 1, 2011

Patios,

and  
Public  
Spaces...

Preserves

Renowned speakers  
RUTHERFORD PLATT  
and RICK DARKE

- Workshops
- Guided field trips
- Research
- Landscape designs
- CEUs
- Exhibitors
- Authors' book signings
- Social events
- Native plant sales
- Youth program

FLORIDA EXOTIC  
PEST PLANT COUNCIL  
SYMPOSIUM  
MAY 17 - 20, 2011  
SAME LOCATION

### Making Connections

Information available online at [www.fnps.org/pages/conference/](http://www.fnps.org/pages/conference/)  
For questions or to receive conference information by mail,  
contact FNPS at 321-271-6702 or send an email to [info@fnps.org](mailto:info@fnps.org)



## Meeting Minutes ~ January 26, 2011

*Submitted by Ginny Blaetz*

President Suzanne Meyer called the meeting to order and announced that the Chapter has received new laminated field guides for wildflowers & butterflies. The guides may be purchased for \$8.00 each.

The February speaker will be Lisa Roberts of the Florida Wildflower Foundation. Elections for officers will also be conducted in February. Chapter members who would like to serve in any of the elected positions were urged to contact a Board member.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as submitted.

Betty Page gave the Treasurer's Report for the period covering 11/17/10 to 1/26/11. Opening balance was \$6,273.73, with receipts of \$150.53, expenditures of \$472.28, and an ending balance of \$5,954.95.

A motion was made to donate \$800.00 to the FNPS 2011 Chapter Challenge to fund Endowment Grants & Research Awards. A quorum of the membership approved this donation.

Will Hobson from the St. John's River Water Management District spoke to the group. Will is the education contractor for the District. He gave a brief background of the District and its mission. Will announced a new computer website which replaces the previous "Waterwise Plants" booklet. The site is easy to use and demonstrates a variety of waterwise plants, and although not all of the recommended plants are Florida natives, the site does identify those that are. The site is intended to serve as a comprehensive source of information about plants which homeowners might be considering for their yards. The site invites public comment and homeowner photos and can be viewed at [www.sjrwm.org](http://www.sjrwm.org)

Will's program was followed by questions from the group. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.



Great Southern White Butterfly on Elliot's Aster  
*Photo by Vince Lamb*

## Volunteer Opportunities!

- **Chapter Vice President**
- **Education Committee**
- **Membership Committee**
- **Nursery Committee**

*Contact any Board Member for information!*

Have you visited the  
FNPS Blog lately?

Here's the link:

<http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/>

Sue Dingwell, FNPS Communications  
Committee Chair, is collecting articles,  
pictures and ideas to blog about

[sue@dingwell.net](mailto:sue@dingwell.net)

## **Executive Committee Teleconference Meeting January 15, 2011**

**Submitted by Paul A. Schmalzer, Ph.D.**

1. The annual fund drive was successful with \$18,000. raised by December 31, 2010. This total includes both donations for general operating funds and donations for Society awards (Research, Conservation, Landscape).
2. Several chapters have made donations to help fund Society awards.
3. The website for merchandizing has been built and should be functional by late January.
4. FNPS did not receive the grant they applied for from the Dunn Foundation to update the FNPS web page. A second application may be submitted in the spring. There was discussion about what updates may be possible with no additional funds.
5. The deadline for Chapter contributions to the FNPS Annual Report is the end of January.
6. The next BOD meeting is the annual retreat February 12-13 at Camp Week in Live Oak.
7. There was discussion of some revisions and clarifications to the contract for the Executive Director (Kariena) with increasing emphasis on fund raising. Some other activities will have to be reduced.

## **2011 FNPS Landscape Awards**

**Submittal Deadline March 18, 2011**

Applications for the Florida Native Plant Society Landscape Awards are currently being accepted.

Applications are available on the FNPS website under Awards & Grants. For questions, contact Landscape Awards Committee Chair, Jim Couillard, at [jrc-rla@cox.net](mailto:jrc-rla@cox.net)

## **Keep Brevard Beautiful St. John's River Clean-Up Saturday, February 26, 2011**



**Keep Brevard Beautiful is seeking citizens to help with St. John's River Clean-Ups. Several clean-up days are planned and pedestrians, kayaks, canoes, and airboats will be used during this effort.**

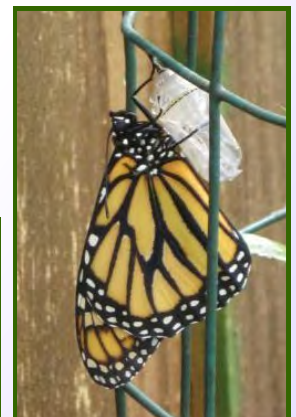
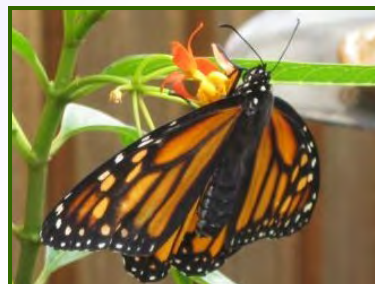
**If you are interested in participating, please contact Barb Venuto at 321-631-0501 x 203, or [bvenutokbb@yahoo.com](mailto:bvenutokbb@yahoo.com)**

## **A Monarch's Journey**

*Submitted by Carol Michaels*

Just before the weather turned really cold recently, Carol Michaels found two Monarch caterpillars on a milkweed in her yard. She moved the young Monarchs into her home to keep them warm. After the frost, Carol took the caterpillars back outside and documented their journey to winged beauties with her camera.

Here are Carol's photos:



*Editor's Note: While the milkweed in Carol's photo is not a native species, it is widely used as a host plant because of its availability.*



# Sea Rocket at the Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival

The Sea Rocket exhibit at the 14th Annual Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival was very popular with visitors. In addition to collecting nearly 100 names of local residents who are interested in learning more about Florida's native plants, Sea Rocket volunteers distributed hundreds of brochures to folks who are tired of the expensive spring trips to the big box stores to purchase replacement exotics for those that died in their yards. Native plants to the rescue!

Sea Rocket also distributed over 400 packets of free wildflower seeds, 150 AFNN Real Gardener Magazines, 200 native plant coloring pages, and hundreds of pieces of candy! Volunteers sold approximately 36 Wildflower and Butterfly field guides and talked with literally hundreds of people about the virtues of Florida's native plants!



Sea Rocket's exhibit was beautifully enhanced by the photographic art of Kevin Shufelt who graciously allowed us to display his macro-photos of many native plant species. We looked **GREAT!**

Take a look for yourself!

### The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Education Center

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

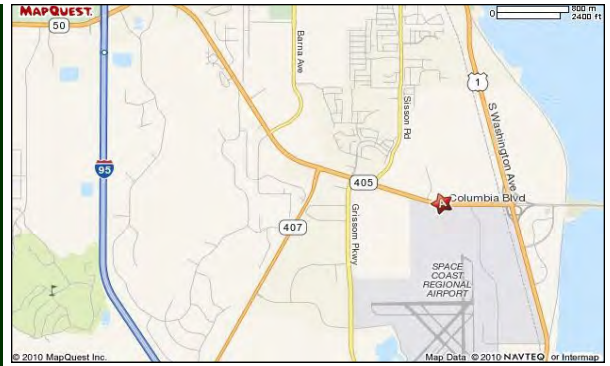


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

**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](mailto:Info@fnps.org)/[www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)

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



**FREE & OPEN  
TO THE PUBLIC**

**Wednesday, February 23, 2011 ~ 7:00pm**

## Preserving Native Wildflowers

**with Lisa Roberts**

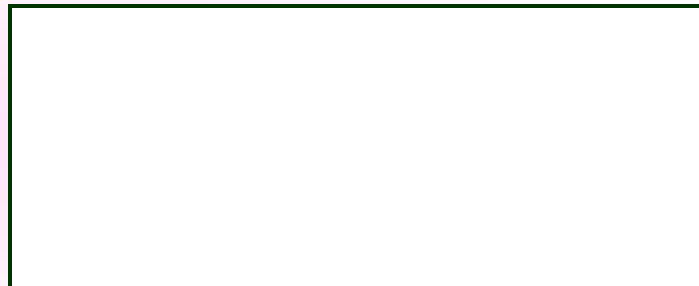
***Florida Wildflower Foundation***



### ***SEA ROCKET CHAPTER***

**PO Box 236341**

**Cocoa, FL 32923-6341**



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