



Sea Rocket



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

MARCH 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

Vice President

Vacant

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

Shari Blissett Clark

321-454-6849

Education / Outreach

Shari Blissett Clark

321-454-6849

Nursery

Suzanne Meyer

321-264-4922

Hike Leader

Paul Schmalzer, PhD

321-268-5473

Newsletter

Shari Blissett Clark

321-454-6849

Wednesday, March 23, 2011 ~ 7:00pm

**Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife
with Dr. Craig Huegel**

Sea Rocket is pleased to present Dr. Craig Huegel at the March meeting. Dr. Huegel will discuss his recent book, *Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife*. The book will be available for purchase and Dr. Huegel will sign your copy!

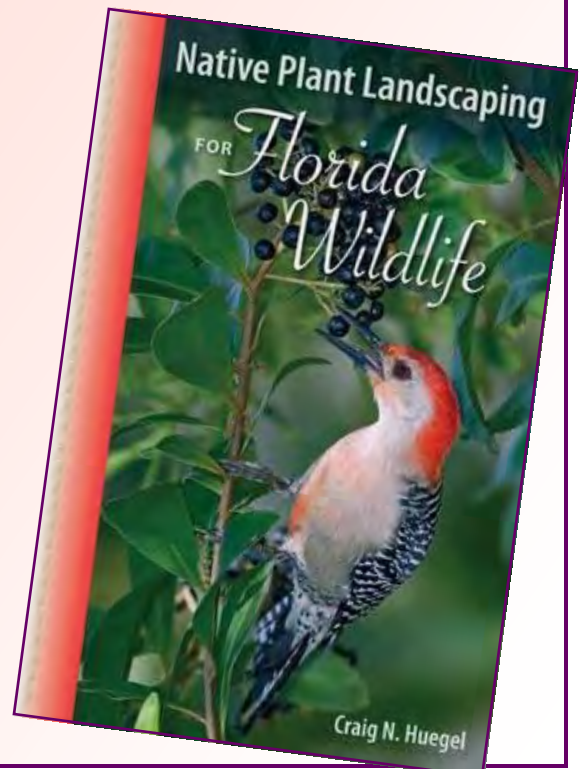
Floridians share their state with a wide and unique array of wildlife. Unfortunately, commercially developed subdivisions and landscapes often do not provide welcoming habitats for the majority of the native fauna. Whether you want to invite birds, deer, rabbits, frogs, turtles, or foxes, transforming your yard into a sustainable, wildlife-friendly environment doesn't require difficult or dramatic changes.

Dr. Huegel will outline how easy it is to redevelop any landscape into an attractive habitat for wildlife. His book provides specific information on the wildlife value of approximately 150 native trees and shrubs and gives clear and precise direction on incorporating each into your garden.

Dr. Huegel helped establish the Cooperative Urban Wildlife Program at the University of Florida in 1987 and has been deeply involved in educating the public about Florida's wildlife and native plants. He is a wildlife biologist, ecological consultant, and lifelong gardener with a special interest in the relationship between plants and animals.

Don't miss this interesting and timely program and get a head start on converting your landscape to natives!

For more information, please contact Suzanne Meyer at 321-264-4922.



UPCOMING EVENTS & THINGS TO DO

Every Thursday	Sea Rocket Nursery Workday, 9:30am, Contact Suzanne Meyer at 321-264-4922 for information
Every Monday	Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary Plant Survey, 10:00am, Parrish Park, Scottsmoor, call 321-264-5185 for information
Wednesday, March 2	Florida Trail Association Hike, Harmony Trail, 9:00am, Call Jim at 321-453-1586 for information
Saturday, March 5	Music in the Forest, The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 5:00pm, call Joanie at 321-264-5185 for information
Wednesday, March 9	Florida Trail Association Hike, De Leon Springs Trail, 9:00am, Call Jim at 321-453-1586 for information
Saturday, March 12	Sea Rocket Nursery Workday, 10:00am, Contact Suzanne Meyer at 321-264-4922 for information
Monday, March 14	FNPS Conradina Chapter Meeting, 6:00pm, Roger Hammer, Fee Avenue Library, Melbourne, Contact Vince at vince@vincelamb.com
Tuesday, March 15	Lunch with Nature, The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 12 noon, Dr. George Maul of FIT will speak about Climate Change, Call 321-264-5185 for information
Wednesday, March 16	Florida Trail Association Hike, Prairie Lakes Trail, 9:00am, Call Jim at 321-453-1586 for information
Thursday, March 17	Friends of the Enchanted Forest Meeting, The Enchanted Forest, 6:00pm Call 321-264-5185 for information
Saturday, March 19	FNPS Sea Rocket Field Trip, Malabar Scrub Sanctuary, 9:00am, Call 321-454-6849 for information
Saturday, March 19	Pelican Island Wildlife Festival, Riverfront Park, Sebastian, 10:00am, www.pelicanislandfriends.org for more information
Saturday, March 19	Brevard Zoo Eco-Friendly Fair Day, 10:00am, www.brevardzoo.org
Saturday, March 19	Great Outdoors Fun Fair, contact Sandy Juba at sjubatgo@gmail.com
Saturday, March 19	Keep Brevard Beautiful Clean Up, 8:00am, St. Johns River, contact Barb Venuto at 321-631-0501, or bvenutokbb@yahoo.com
Monday, March 21	Friends of Ulumay Meeting, Kiwanis Park, Merritt Island, 7:00pm, Liz Melvin, Brevard Wetlands, contact Vince at vince@vincelamb.com
Wednesday, March 23	Florida Trail Association Hike, Black Hammock Trail, 9:00am, Call Jim at 321-453-1586 for information
Wednesday, March 23	FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting, 7:00pm, Dr. Craig Huegel, Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife, call 321-264-5185 for information
Thursday, March 24	Making Oyster Mats, The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 12 noon, call 321-264-5185 for information
Saturday, March 26	Take a Hike Day, The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, call 321-264-5185
Saturday, March 26	5th Annual Florida Wildflower & Garden Festival, visit www.flawildflowers.org for information
Wednesday, March 30	Florida Trail Association Hike, Seminole Ranch,/Orlando Wetlands, 9:00am, Call Jim at 321-453-1586 for information

Contact Shari at jclark109@cfl.rr.com if you'd like to have an event listed in this calendar.

A LETTER OF THANKS

Dear FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter:

Thank you so much for your generous donation to the Florida Native Plant Society's Conservation Grants Fund in the amount of \$400.00 and to the Science Research Grants Fund in the amount of \$400.00 on February 17, 2011.

For over 30 years, donors like you have helped the Florida Native Plant Society preserve, protect, and restore the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. Your gift directly supports these efforts.

Thank you!

Cathi Rodgers
FNPS Administrative Services

MYSTERY PLANT



Can you ID this Florida native plant?

Send your identification to Shari at
jclark109@cfl.rr.com

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

(Must be present at the March meeting to claim prize!)

CONGRATULATIONS TO FEBRUARY WINNERS:

Lydia Friedland, Cristina Canales, Wayne Matchett



Saturday Workday!

**Help Sea Rocket
prepare plants for the up-
coming Earth Day Sale!**

**Saturday, March 12,
10:00am**

**Please call Suzanne Meyer
for more information &
driving directions:
321-264-4922**

An Evening with Butterflies

Submitted by Martha Pessaro

Staff and volunteers at Brevard Zoo hosted a wonderful program titled "Insect Species Conservation: Efforts to Save our Charismatic Microfauna" presented by Dr. Jaret Daniels on February 2nd. Dr. Daniels is Assistant Director at the Florida Museum of Natural History.

We learned that Insect diversity contains over 160,000 known species providing functional roles in nature that include food, pollination, decomposition, soil structure, aeration, and nutrient recycling. The importance of insects is typically overlooked, creating challenges for insect conservation based on perceptions and an understanding of effective ecological indicators. Only 13 states include insects as protected species. The keys to understanding conservation needs lie in education, research, recovery, and fire dependency.

The research that has been done with the Miami Blue butterfly was highlighted as between 1992 and 1999 none of the species were observed and a small colony was discovered at Bahia Hondo in the Keys. Dr. Daniels worked with the team that started a captive breeding program to study the Miami Blue and gain insight into the taxonomy of the species. Conservation efforts continue with public education and outreach, research, captive breeding, and developing new conservation partnerships. Butterfly monitoring programs are underway at several locations within Brevard County.

The program was well attended and a new Florida license plate is available to help fund insect conservation research.

Brevard Zoo will continue to offer citizen scientist programs of interest to residents. The future program schedule may be viewed at the Zoo's website, www.brevardzoo.org. Plan to attend one or two...you won't be disappointed!

March Field Trip ~ Saturday, March 19, 2011 ~ 9:00am Malabar Scrub Sanctuary

Submitted by Dr. Paul Schmalzer

Malabar Scrub Sanctuary is a joint acquisition of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program and the State of Florida. Vegetation is primarily scrub, flatwoods, and marshes. Prescribed burning and scrub restoration have

been conducted since its acquisition.

The field trip will last about 3 hours. Malabar has established and well marked trails; bring water, a hat, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

The hike will be mainly through scrub and flatwoods.

Directions: I-95 south to Malabar Road (SR 514). This is the second Palm Bay exit. Go east about 3 miles on Malabar Road. Sanctuary is on the north side (left) of road, just past the Malabar Fire Station. Turn left into sanctuary entrance and drive north to gate. Parking is in gravel lot to left.



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RETAIL
M-Sat 8-5

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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,



Preserves

**and
Public
Spaces...**

**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/
For questions or to receive conference information by mail,
contact FNPS at 321-271-6702 or send an email to info@fnps.org

Meeting Minutes ~ February 23, 2011

Submitted by Ginny Blaetz

President Suzanne Meyer called the meeting to order & called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting as published in the newsletter. Deb Springer made a motion to approve the minutes with Annette Myers seconded the motion. Motion carried and minutes were approved.

Treasurer Betty Page presented the treasurer's report for the period 1/26/11- 2/23/11. Opening balance was \$6,034.25 with receipts of \$243 and expenditures of \$1,292.26 (includes an \$800 donation to FNPS grants approved by the membership at the January meeting). Ending balance is \$4,994.99 which includes \$797.54 earmarked for capitol improvements. Shari Blissett Clark made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report & Ginny Blaetz seconded; the report was approved.

The January mystery plant was Small Venus Looking-glass, *Triodanis biflora*. There were three correct entries, Cristina Canales, Wayne Matchett, and Lydia Freidland.

Sea Rocket's first plant sale of the year will be on Saturday, April 16th at the Enchanted Forest's Earth Day Festival.

Attendees were reminded that Butterfly and Wildflower Field Guides are now available for sale at meetings.

A proposed slate of officers for 2011 was announced: President, Suzanne Meyer; Vice President, Vacant; Secretary, Ginny Blaetz; Treasurer, Betty Page. There were no nominations from the floor; therefore, the secretary was instructed to cast a single ballot for the slate as offered and the nominations were approved.

The evening's speaker, Lisa Roberts, Executive Director for the Florida Wildflower Foundation (FWF) was introduced. Lisa gave a brief overview of the history of the Foundation beginning in 1963 with the FLDOT's accidental planting of crimson clover which citizen's liked. The Florida license plate with the artistic rendering of the state wildflower, *Coreopsis leavenworthii*, yielded about \$265,000 in revenue for FWF last year. It is the 34th most popular specialty tag among the State's 117.

Lisa spoke about the research projects supported by FWF, including how to propagate wiregrass, cross-pollination and hybridization, and a recently completed state-wide wildflower survey.

Lisa outlined FWF's plans for Florida's 500th anniversary which will highlight the contributions Florida's wildflowers make to the economic, cultural, and environmental health of the State. She acknowledged the Brevard County BOCC for adopting the Wildflower Resolution last fall.

The Wildflower Festival is planned for March 26th in Deland. FWF's "Seed for Schools" has funded 80 gardens and a planting manual is forthcoming. All the FWF's efforts are directed at increasing the visibility and knowledge of native plants and wildflowers. Questions and answers followed Lisa's presentation.

Door prizes were awarded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Have you visited the
FNPS Blog lately?

Here's the link:

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

Volunteer Opportunities!

- Education Committee
- Membership Committee
- Nursery Committee

Contact any Board Member for information!



The FNPS Merchandizing Store

is operational ~ but we need more
products to sell!

Please contact Greg Krolczyk:

gkro@earthlink.net

321-243-8287

Visit the store at

[http://floridanativeplantsociety.
mybigcommerce.com/](http://floridanativeplantsociety.mybigcommerce.com/)

Check out the unique items available every
time you shop online or need a special gift!

February 12, 2011
FNPS Board of Directors Meeting

Submitted by Paul A. Schmalzer, Ph.D

1. Registration is now open for the 2011 Annual Conference being held in Maitland, Florida, May 19-22. The program is available at www.fnps.org
2. The FNPS web merchandizing site is now open for business. It can be reached from the FNPS web site home page.
3. The annual fund drive was very successful with about \$20,000 in contributions by the end of December 2010. This total includes donations to the general fund and targeted donations to specific awards. Several chapters have made donations to fund Research or Conservation awards. Donations from the Sea Rocket, Tarflower, and Dade Chapters were announced at the Board meeting.
4. FNPS completed 2010 without a deficit. A deficit is still expected in the 2011 budget, although of smaller magnitude than projected previously.
5. A draft annual report for 2010 has been prepared. The intention is to finalize this report before the Conference. It is expected that the annual report will be useful in soliciting donations from foundations and other large donors. The BOD voted to authorize the Executive Committee to approve the final version of the annual report with the caveat that the Board has two weeks to review and comment on the final draft.
6. FNPS is working with a travel agency that plans to offer a travel trip to Nicaragua specifically for FNPS members in the fall of 2011. Details of the trip should be available shortly. FNPS will receive a donation from the travel agency if the trip fills.
7. The FNPS Handbook is now available online at the FNPS web site.
8. FNPS joined the Everglades Coalition in a resolution supporting a strong and cohesive system of growth management in Florida.
9. FNPS joined a group of native plant societies, university departments, professional organizations, and others in a letter to the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) supporting closing loopholes in current regulations that allow importation of wood products from Canada without inspection due to the risk of introduced plant pests and pathogens.
10. The Land Management Committee is actively scheduling members to participate in land management reviews with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. They are increasing involvement with the land reviews by the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the St. Johns River Water Management District.
11. Rick Joyce, former FNPS President, is chairing an ad hoc committee to review the governance structure of FNPS. The current structure of the Board of Directors includes 58 members: 37 chapter representatives, 6 elected officers, 6 directors-at-large and 9 chairs of standing committees. While the grass roots nature of the organization is a plus, the size of the Board has become unwieldy and the meetings very long. Studies of non-profit organizations suggest that a board size of 15-22 members is much more efficient. There was discussion of a number of options including transferring more operational authority to the Executive Committee (already a smaller group), having fewer meetings of the full board, or coming up with a system of regional representation. Any change to the current status requires revising the FNPS Bylaws, which requires a vote of the members at the Annual Conference. It is uncertain whether proposed changes will be ready for consideration by May of this year.
12. There was an exchange of information on successes and issues of chapters. Chapters vary substantially in size; some are static, some growing, and some declining. Most chapters have monthly meetings with speakers, offer periodic field trips, and conduct one or more plant sales per year. Other educational and fundraising activities differ between chapters. Common issues are the need for younger members and the relative lack of ethnic diversity.

Keep Brevard Beautiful
St. John's River Clean-Up
Saturday, March 19, 2011



Keep Brevard Beautiful is seeking citizens to help with St. John's River clean up days. Meeting locations include Hatbill Park, Midway Fish Camp, LeRoy Wright Park, and 1000 Tucker Road. Pedestrians, kayaks, canoes, and airboats will be used.

**Please contact Barb Venuto at
321-631-0501 x 203, or
bvenutokbb@yahoo.com**



**5th Annual Florida Wildflower
& Garden Festival**
March 26, 2011 ~ Deland, Florida

The Festival features wildflower and native plant information, vendors selling wildflower plants and seeds, garden utensils, books, etc. Workshop topics will include butterfly gardening, gardener challenges, wildflowers by season, and much more!

For more information, visit
www.flawildflowers.org

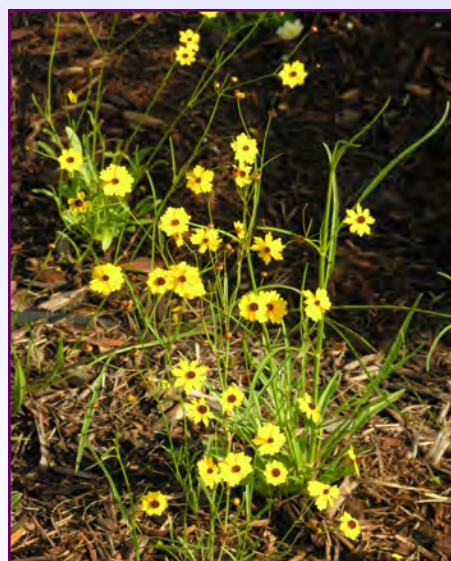


Sea Rocket at the Scrub Jay Festival

Photo by Jim Escoffier



What's blooming? What's blooming?



The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Education Center

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

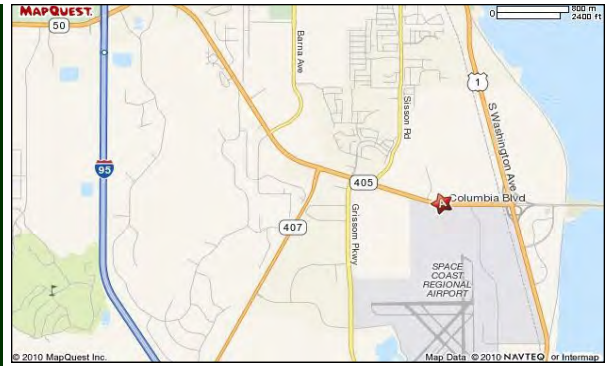


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

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



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TO THE PUBLIC**

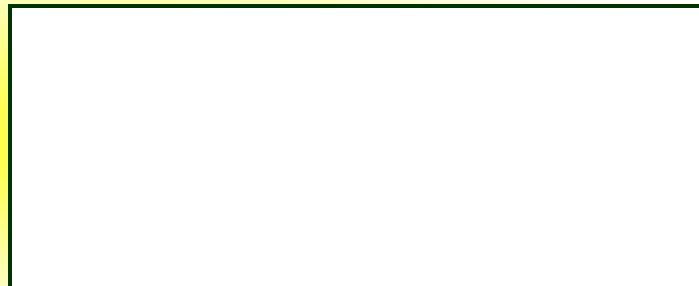
Wednesday, March 23, 2011 ~ 7:00pm
**Native Plant Landscaping
for Florida Wildlife**
with Dr. Craig Huegel



SEA ROCKET CHAPTER

PO Box 236341

Cocoa, FL 32923-6341



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