



# Sea Rocket

REMEMBRANCE



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

**MAY 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, MAY 25, 2011 ~ 7:00PM**

## **BONSAI AND FLORIDA NATIVE PLANTS**

**WITH BILLY RHODES**

Please join the Sea Rocket Chapter in welcoming Bill Rhodes. Bill is a retired educator and a native Floridian who has lived in Titusville since 1962. Although no longer active, Bill was one of the founders of The Titusville Men's Garden Club.



Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)

Bill is a member of Bonsai Clubs International, The Bonsai Societies of Florida, and the Bonsai Society of Brevard. He spent two weeks in China in the fall of 2010 visiting Bonsai Gardens.

Bill has an extensive collection of plants on 2 ½ acres north of Titusville. He will be discussing Bonsai techniques used on a variety of Florida's native trees and shrubs and will bring a large Simpson's Stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans*) Bonsai and a Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) Bonsai.

This meeting will be held at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary located at 444 Columbia Blvd. in Titusville. Please call 321-264-5185 for driving directions to the Sanctuary.

There will be a short business meeting at 7:00 pm, followed by Bill's program at 7:30 pm. Call Suzanne Meyer at 321-264-4922 additional program information.



Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)



## 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...**

**Making Connections**

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**

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)

**~ COMING IN JUNE ~**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2011**

### **THE STATUS OF CONSERVATION IN FLORIDA**

Karina Veaudry, FNPS Executive Director,  
will give an overview of the status of  
conservation in Florida and present  
native plant landscape design using  
spectacular imagery.

***Don't miss this important meeting!***

***Sea Rocket  
Needs Your Help!***

Vice President  
Education Committee  
Membership Committee  
Nursery Committee

***Contact a Board Member  
for Information***

# 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
- Thursday, May 5** ¡Cinco de Mayo!
- Friday, May 6** Earth Day Celebration at South Lake Elementary School, 9:00am, Contact Margaret at [pambello.margaret@brevardschools.org](mailto:pambello.margaret@brevardschools.org)
- Sunday, May 8** Mother's Day!
- Monday, May 9** FNPS Conradina Chapter Meeting, "Florida Bats" :00pm, Cindy and George Marks, Melbourne Fee Avenue Library, for more information Contact Vince Lamb, [vince@vincelamb.com](mailto:vince@vincelamb.com)
- Wednesday, May 11** Sea Rocket Board Meeting, Time and Location TBA, contact Suzanne Meyer at 321-264-4922
- Wednesday, May 11** "Work & Learn" Volunteer Workday at Viera Volunteer Garden, See article on page 5 for details
- Tuesday, May 17** Lunch with Nature, "Ancient Animals of the Enchanted Forest" 12 noon, contact Joanie at 321-264-5185
- Friday, May 20** Friends of the Enchanted Forest Meeting, 6:00pm, the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, "Land Management Update", call 321-264-5185
- Saturday, May 21** Keep Brevard Beautiful Secret Garden Tour, North Brevard, see ad on page 6
- May 19 ~ 22** FNPS 31st Annual Conference, see ad on page 2
- Wednesday, May 25** FNPS Sea Rocket Meeting, "Bonsai with Florida Native Plants" 7:00pm, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, call 321-264-4922
- Thursday, May 26** Make Oyster Mats, 12 noon, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, call 321-264-5185
- Monday, May 30** Memorial Day ~ visit <http://www.usmemorialday.org>

Contact Shari at [jclark109@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jclark109@cfl.rr.com) if you'd like to have an event listed in this calendar


Florida Native Plant Society ~ Sea Rocket Chapter


## NATIVE PLANT SALE

at the ENCHANTED FOREST SANCTUARY  
SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2011  
10 am to 4 pm

Many species to choose from, including:

☒ Cardinal Flower	☒ Florida Canna	☒ Firebush
☒ Scarlet Hibiscus	☒ Dune Sunflower	☒ Swamp Milkweed
☒ Horsetail	☒ Coral Honeysuckle	☒ Beautyberry
☒ Florida Blue Violets	☒ Blanket Flower	☒ Dotted Horsemint
☒ Virginia Willow	☒ Coreopsis	☒ Sunshine Mimosa
☒ Lizard's Tail	☒ Passionvine	☒ & Much More!
	☒ Beargrass	








For information about this sale call Suzanne at 321-264-4922  
To learn more about Florida's native plants visit [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)

## 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



Florida Native Plants,  
Edible Plants, Fresh  
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The Green Marketplace  
at Adamson Rd.  
2295 Adamson Road, Cocoa

Visit our website,  
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321-536-1410

## Tulinda's Garden

Garden & Landscape Design  
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Linda Gombert Phone 321-639-4017  
[www.TulindasGarden.com](http://www.TulindasGarden.com) Mobile 321-446-9338

## 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)

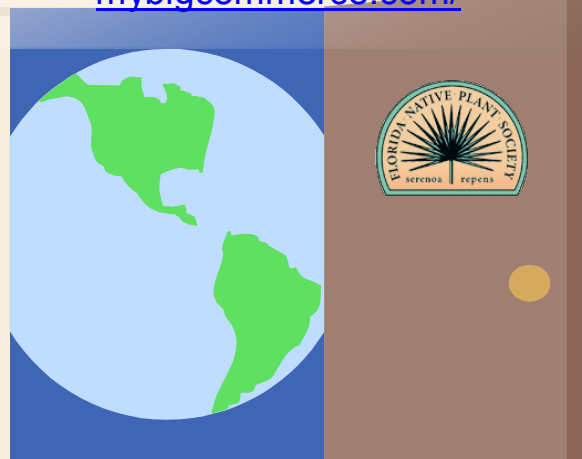
**Winners will receive a nursery-grown  
Florida native plant for their yard!**  
(Must be present at the May meeting to claim prize!)

The April Mystery Plant was  
Sea Rocket (*Cakile lanceolata*)

Have you visited the FNPS Blog lately?  
<http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/>

## FNPS online Store is OPEN Come on in!

Visit the FNPS online store at  
<http://floridanativeplantsociety.mybigcommerce.com/>



To sell your nature-based items contact Greg Krolczyk:  
[gkro@earthlink.net](mailto:gkro@earthlink.net) 321-243-8287

## **Membership Meeting Minutes ~ April 27, 2011**

*Submitted by Ginny Blaetz*

President Suzanne Meyer called the meeting to order and requested a motion to approve the March membership meeting minutes as published in the April newsletter. Motion was made by Shari Blissett Clark & seconded by RoseMarie Peurrung; motion was approved.

Suzanne then made a few Chapter announcements regarding upcoming events, including the FNPS Annual Conference in May. Suzanne then announced that Sea Rocket had its most successful plant sale ever during the Earth Day Festival at the Enchanted Forest on April 16th. She thanked the volunteers that worked so hard to make the sale successful; Bob and Susan Rang, Madeline Klinko, Bill Meyer, Ginny Blaetz, Betty Page, Shari Blissett Clark.

Suzanne introduced Terri Pietroburgo of Pietro's Paw-paws, located in Leesburg, Florida. Terri gave an entertaining and detailed account of how she became involved in growing paw-paws. She included good specifics about Florida's 8 native paw-paws. One of the natives is endangered and not in cultivation except by special permit to Bok Tower's Rare Plant program.

Terri showed several photographs illustrating the incredible root system of these tough plants. The dwarf paw-paws which she brought to the program were potted in 14 inch long, narrow pots. Terri showed how each plant had a 2 or 3 inch tall twig with three leaves above the soil, but that the pot housed the 12-14 inch root system, proof of a well-developed plant. Terri emphasized the importance of the paw-paws taproot and noted that the top growth of a paw-paw could be cut, broken, burned, or otherwise damaged without killing the plant—so long as the root system was kept fairly intact.

Terri told of her adventures digging paw-paws in the wild where a complicated and lengthy excavation is needed. She recommended bringing a lot of water and lunch for the undertaking.

Terri provided a planting instruction sheet with detailed specifics about how to plant paw-paws. Most important in this process is to not disturb the root system. While the plants need infrequent but regular watering, and even shade, during their first year while developing that important root system, they become hearty plants that thrive in Florida's heat and survive drought and freezes.

Terri outlined the general characteristics of paw-paw fruit, including shapes, sizes, and uses. In the Florida native paw-paws fruits are much smaller than those grown in the north, which are a different species. Florida's paw-paws are also the host plant for the Zebra swallowtail butterfly, an important reason to include paw-paws in home landscapes.

The program was followed by questions and answers and then attendees had an opportunity to purchase paw-paws. Terri graciously donated a paw-paw to the butterfly garden that Sea Rocket installed at South Lake Elementary School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

## **Volunteer Workday Scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, 2011 ~ 4:30pm** **The FNPS Conradina Chapter is sponsoring a "Work & Learn" Volunteer Workday at the Volunteer Appreciation and Learning Garden**

Volunteers will plant, weed, and prune native plants in the garden, making this a great opportunity for "hands-on" experience in plant ID and care. Wear old clothes, closed toe shoes, and bring a hat, gloves, loppers, water, a camera, and some baggies if you'd like to collect seeds.

The garden is situated in the middle of Viera Regional Park, located at the corner of Lake Andrew Drive and Judge Fran Jamieson Way, just north of The Avenue Mall in Viera.

**Contact Kari Ruder at [kari@naturewiseplants.com](mailto:kari@naturewiseplants.com) or (321) 536-1410**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY SUZANNE MEYER

Our first plant sale for the year was on April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Enchanted Forest for Earth Day. This was our best sale ever! We took 495 plants and sold 367 of them! When we returned the unsold plants to the nursery that evening we discovered a broken sprinkler system which required immediate repair. My thanks to my husband Bill and Shari for staying and making the necessary repairs. It turned into a very long day, but it was worth the effort!

I also want to thank Bob and Susan Rang, and Madeline Klinko for their help during the sale; you guys went above and beyond for Sea Rocket! And the sale wouldn't have been possible at all without the dedication of our Nursery committee, Betty Page, Ginny Blaetz, and Shari Blissett Clark.



Also, remember that our Chapter is in need of a Vice President. I'd like to encourage anyone who may be interested to give me a call at 264-4922. You'd be joining a hard-working, dedicated Board that would welcome your help!

Keep in mind that our Annual Picnic is just around the corner in July, so if you have suggestions or ideas just give a member of the Board a shout. And finally, I hope to see many of you at the Annual Conference in May; if you haven't registered yet, there's still time! Visit [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org) - and happy gardening!

## Keep Brevard Beautiful Secret Garden Tour 2011

Saturday, May 21, 2011 ~ 9 am - 5 pm

Join Keep Brevard Beautiful for this year's Secret Garden Tour of six north Brevard gardens. Next year's gardens will be located in central Brevard.

Programs are \$10.00 each and are available at the following locations:

- **Keep Brevard Beautiful, Cocoa**  
(321) 631-0501 ext. 201
- **Meehan's downtown Melbourne**
- **Ace Hardware Merritt Island**
- **Ace Hardware Cocoa Beach**
- **PIP Printing Merritt Island**
- **Growing Crazy Titusville**
- **Rockledge Gardens**

For more information call Keep Brevard Beautiful at:  
321-631-0501  
ext. 206

## Looking for a Hike?



There is no hike scheduled in May.

Why not join one of the many field trips scheduled for the Annual Conference?

## Conference Highlight ~ Keynote Speaker Rick Darke *Livable Florida: Native by Design*

The Florida Native Plant Society's Annual Conference will feature Rick Darke, a widely published author, lecturer and consultant focused on native regional landscape design, planning and conservation.

Blending art, ecology, and cultural geography, Darke is dedicated to the design and stewardship of "the livable landscape". He has studied North American plants in their habitats for over 30 years and this work is reflected in his articles and books. He is an internationally recognized authority on the use of grasses in designed and managed landscapes and his book, [The Encyclopedia of Grasses for Livable Landscapes](#) is the world's most complete individual reference on this topic. His latest book, [The Wild Garden: Expanded Edition](#) places William Robinson's classic concept of wild gardening in modern ecological context and illustrates its relevance for today's gardeners and landscape stewards.



# What You've Been Missing



*Clockwise from top left:*

Susan Rang, Suzanne Meyer, Betty Page, & Ginny Blaetz take a breather at the Earth Day Plant Sale  
Shoppers at plant sale  
Terri Pietroburgo talks with Jim Fletcher about Paw-paws.

Terri presents...Paw-paws!

Blooming Pickerelweed at The Enchanted Forest



Photos by Shari Blissett Clark ~  
will someone please take that camera away from her!



### The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Education Center

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

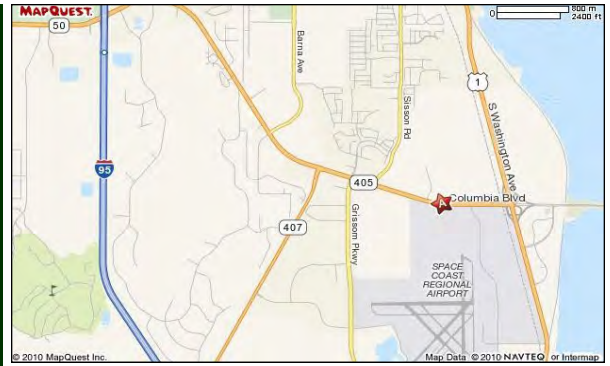


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

**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



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TO THE PUBLIC**

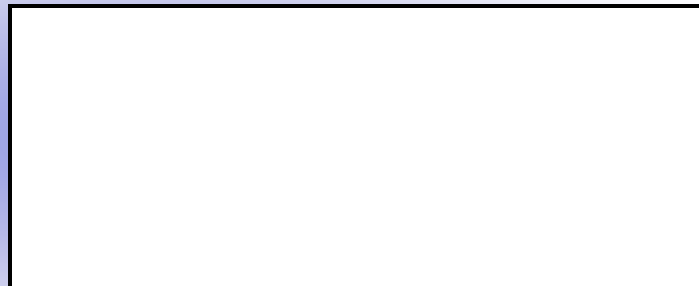
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2011 ~ 7:00PM**  
**BONSAI AND FLORIDA**  
**NATIVE PLANTS**  
**WITH BILLY RHODES**



### SEA ROCKET CHAPTER

PO Box 236341

Cocoa, FL 32923-6341



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