



Sea Rocket



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

APRIL 2012

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

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Newsletter
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Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Ancient Medicine in Florida: Examining the Evidence for Medicine at the 7,000-year-old site of Windover with Dr. Rachel Wentz

For thousands of years, humans have been using the resources in their natural environment for the purpose of treating the sick. This presentation will examine the evidence for medicine at the Windover site, an archaic burial pond discovered in Titusville in 1982 that produced the well-preserved remains of 168 individuals. Dr. Wentz will reveal the objects that accompanied these ancient people to their grave, and explore the skeletons themselves for evidence that this population was treating illnesses and injuries in an effort to prolong life.

Dr. Wentz graduated from Florida State University with a PhD in Anthropology and specializes in the analysis of human remains with foci on ancient disease and population health. Her master's thesis was an analysis of fracture frequencies among the Windover skeletal population. Her doctoral dissertation was a bioarchaeological assessment of the same population. Dr. Wentz has also analyzed remains from Little Salt Spring and Calico Hill, both prehistoric sites in Florida. She has done skeletal work in St. Croix, England, and Ukraine and obtained experience in forensics at the C.A. Pound Human Identification Laboratory at the University of Florida, Gainesville. Dr. Wentz has taught courses in physical anthropology, human osteology and forensic anthropology at Florida State University and serves on the Brevard County Historical Commission.



Plan to join the FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter for this exciting program on Wednesday, April 25, 2012. Socializing begins at 6:30pm and is followed by the program at 7:00pm at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 444 Columbia Boulevard in Titusville. As always, this program is free and open to the public; call 321-264-5185 for more information and directions to the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary.

UPCOMING EVENTS & THINGS TO DO

- Every Thursday** **Sea Rocket Nursery Workday**, 10:00am; Contact Suzanne Meyer at 321-264-4922 for information
- Every Monday** **North Buck Lake Scrub Sanctuary Plant Survey**, 10:00am; call 321-264-5185 for information
- Every Saturday** **GUIDED NATURE HIKES** 10:00am, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 321-264-5185; groups of 5 or more, please RSVP.
- Every Wednesday** **Florida Trail Association HIKES, 321-453-1586;** check future scheduled hikes at: <http://jehikesced.blogspot.com/>
- Friday, April 6** **“Bat Chat” at The Green Marketplace**, 7:30pm, Registration required, 321-890-6154
- Monday, April 9** **FNPS Conradina Chapter Meeting**, 6:00pm, Brevard Zoo, Walter Kingsley Taylor, Call 321-258-5168 for information
- Saturday, April 14** **Brevard Botanical Garden Spring Plant & Craft Sale**, Cocoa Ag Center, 3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa, 9am to 1pm; 321-633-1702
- Tuesday, April 17** **LUNCH with NATURE, The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary** 12:00 – 1:00pm; “Florida Geology” presentation by Joe Zayas. You may bring a picnic lunch to enjoy during the talk.
- Saturday, April 21** **FNPS Sea Rocket Native Plant Sale**, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 10am-3pm; 321-264-4922 (see flyer on page 4)
- Saturday, April 21** **EARTH DAY FESTIVAL, The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary** 10:00am to 3:00pm. Live Florida Wildlife presentations, guided interpretive hikes, live music throughout the day, exhibitors, Florida Native plants for sale and gardening tips, face painting, children's activities and crafts. FREE. Call 321-264-5185 for information
- Sunday, April 22** **Keep Brevard Beautiful Secret Garden Tour**; 631-0501, ext. 203
- Wednesday, April 25** **FNPS Sea Rocket Meeting, 6:30pm**, The Enchanted Forest, “Ancient Medicine in Florida” with Dr. Rachel Wentz; Dr. Wentz will reveal the objects that accompanied these ancient people to their grave, and explore the skeletons themselves for evidence that this population was treating illnesses and injuries in an effort to prolong life. Call 321-264-5185 for more Information.

Don't Forget to
Register for the FNPS
Annual Conference!

www.fnps.org

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

Membership Meeting Minutes ~ March 28, 2012

Submitted by Theresa Clark

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice President Bill Klein.

VP Klein introduced the other new board members approved at the February, 2012, meeting: Theresa Clark, secretary, and Martha Pessaro, treasurer.

Shari Blissett-Clark made a motion for approval of the February meeting minutes as published in the chapter's March newsletter. The motion was seconded and approved.

VP Klein thanked the members who provided refreshments for the evening and reminded members that volunteers are needed at the chapter's nursery on April 19, to ready the plants for the plant sale on Earth Day. Earth Day is being celebrated on April 21, 2012, at the Enchanted Forest. Volunteers are also needed to help transport plants from the nursery to the Enchanted Forest on April 20, and to help at the plant sale the following day.

Joanie Faulls, the Enchanted Forest steward, correctly identified the March mystery plant depicted in the March newsletter. Bill Klein announced that the mystery plant was *Melothria pendula*, commonly known as "wild cucumber".

Bill read a letter of thanks from the Florida Native Plant Society to the Sea Rocket Chapter for \$1100 in donations, received by FNPS on 2/27/12. This sum includes \$500 for research, \$500 for conservation and \$100 for new software.

Bill reminded members of the FNPS Annual Conference in Plant City beginning May 17 and continuing through May 20. He also encouraged members to visit the Enchanted Forest on Earth Day, April 21, where there will be numerous exhibits and activities, including guided hikes by Dr. Paul Schmalzer.

Bill introduced the evening's guest speaker, Forest Beeman. Mr. Beeman spoke about "Beemats", a company that he co-owns with his father, Steve Beeman. Beemats is a patented water cleansing system designed for waterways, most notably retention ponds. The Beemat is composed of a thin layer of closed cell foam designed with cut-outs to float aerated pots of plants. The Beemats are filled with aquatic plants and are typically anchored into the pond. They appear to be small islands in the waterway. The plants grow completely hydroponically. Their roots grow as long as 24 inches and develop large areas of biofilm, a medium for fixating phosphorus, nitrates and other nutrients. The Beemat plants work in conjunction with the natural and beneficial algae in the waterway to absorb accumulations of runoff nutrients from the water.

Beeman provided a background explanation of the history and ecology of retention ponds. Stormwater retention ponds were originally designed to collect the stormwater runoff from roadways, homes and other buildings on the theory that excess nutrients from the runoff would settle to the bottom permanently. The ecology of stormwater retention ponds has since proven to be far more complex than originally understood. It is now known that a weather event as simple as wind stirs nutrients up from the bottom. Beeman described the three major natural cleansers of retention ponds: 1) macrophytes (big plants that are natural to ponds and which host epiphyton, a desirable nutrient eating algae), 2) benthic algae (a desirable pond floor algae that eats runoff nutrients from the bottom of the pond) and phytoplankton (nutrient eating algae that is good until the nutrient load becomes excessive). These algae can work in harmony to cleanse retention pond water when the nutrient load is low, however, eventually the nutrient load from stormwater runoff becomes so great that the phytoplankton naturally takes over and "shades" the pond with a green layer. This shading weakens and eventually destroys the macrophytes and the epiphyton they host as well as the benthic algae on the floor of the pond. Plankton is also destroyed by the ever-thickening shading layer
(continued on Page 4)

Meeting Minutes,
continued from Page 3:

of phytoplankton and eventually a fish kill ensues. The result is a turbid or dead retention pond, covered with a green blanket of phytoplankton and filled with nutrient rich water and no aquatic life.

Beemats, floating plant islands, maintain the balance of retention pond ecology by adding to the nutrient absorption already taking place, thereby preventing excessive nutrient loading that leads to phytoplankton takeover. Beemats replaces the plants periodically to prevent leaking of the nutrients they have absorbed.

The nutrient saturated plants are removed and composted. New aerated pots of plants are installed. Beeman compares the replacement process to changing a filter.

Beeman pointed out that just because a pond may look clean, it can be dead due to the intentional application of copper sulfate, a chemical that is sprayed on the pond to achieve a clean look. Copper sulfate kills everything in order to achieve the clean look. After the chemical application, there is nothing living in the water to absorb runoff nutrients. Eventually, phytoplankton manages to come back to the chemically sprayed pond, however, the good algae do not return. The phytoplankton then multiplies and quickly re-creates turbidity from the inevitable excessive nutrient load.

Forest Beeman, a horticulturist, and his father, Steve Beeman, a marine biologist, have been installing their patented Beemats for over three years throughout the State of Florida. There is even a Beemat in a retention pond on Patrick Air Force Base. One of their most successful installations is in a salt water pond in New Smyrna Beach, where shell fish have attached to the bottom of the mats and a variety of birds, including cranes, spoonbills and egrets, are using it for fishing. Beemats are known to attract butterflies and small nesting birds. The Beeman's have installed Beemats as far north as Canada. They operate out of New Smyrna Beach, Florida. For more about Beemats, the web address is www.beemats.com.

VP Klein closed the meeting with the announcement that Dr. Rachel Wentz has agreed to be the guest speaker for the April membership meeting. She will talk about medicinal uses of plants and her findings of plant use by ancient Floridians from the Windover Archaeological Dig.



Florida Native Plant Society



EARTH DAY NATIVE PLANT SALE

**Saturday, April 21, 2012
10am to 3pm**

Over 40 Native Plant Species!

**Butterfly Plants
Ground Covers
Flowers
Shrubs
Vines**

The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary is located at
444 Columbia Blvd. in Titusville, FL ~ 321-264-5185



Sea Rocket & Plant Surveys

Submitted by Shari Blissett-Clark

For several years now the FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter has been participating in floristic surveys of conservation lands located in north Brevard County. Site visits are conducted weekly for 12 consecutive months in order to collect, identify, and document plants which grow on the site. The end result is a comprehensive list which serves as one component of a land management plan.

Sea Rocket members have been instrumental in surveying North Buck Lake Scrub Sanctuary, Indian Mound Sanctuary, Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary, Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary, and South Lake Conservation Area. Several species of threatened or endangered native plants have been found growing on these lands, including Curtiss' milkweed (*Asclepias curtessii*), Pigeonwings (*Clitoria fragrans*), Snowy orchid (*Plantanthera nivea*), Pine lily (*Lilium catesbaei*), Titusville Balm (*Dicerandra thimicola*), Giant orchid (*Eulophia escristata*), Garberia (*Garberia heterophylla*), Britton's beargrass (*Nolina brittoniana*), Hand fern (*Ophioglossum palmatum*), and several others.

"Seeing these native plants in field guides is one way to experience them, but seeing them growing in their habitats where they're surrounded by companion species – that's really special!" says Suzanne Meyer, Sea Rocket member and avid survey participant. She urges anyone who's interested in learning about Florida's native plants to join one of the surveys. "Every week it's a treasure hunt – I can hardly wait to see what we'll find next!" Well said, Suzanne! To find out more about plant surveys and how you can participate, call Joanie at the Enchanted Forest, 321-264-5185.

MYSTERY PLANT



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

**Send your identification to
Linda Jean at
Lindakrupp@cfl.rr.com**

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

*(Must be present at the April
meeting to claim prize)*

**The March Mystery plant was
Melothria pendula, Wild Cucumber**



Brevard Botanical Garden

Spring Plant and Craft Sale

**Saturday, April 14
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Free classes including The Frugal
Gardener, Bullet-Proof Color, and
Attracting Butterflies to the
Garden

Plants of all kinds including
butterfly garden plants,
native plants, herbs, shrubs,
trees, and more!

Handmade garden crafts and
art created by local crafters.

Musical entertainment by:
Sharon Osuna & Sheryl Paige

Plant sale at the BBG Greenhouse. Follow the
signs from the Cocoa Ag Center at 3695 Lake
Drive, Cocoa.

Classes and crafts will be at the the
Cocoa Ag Center.

For more information
call 321.633.1702



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FLORIDA
IFAS Extension



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Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference Registration

Conference registration is now open and available [online](#).

Visit our [conference web page](#) to find out about programs, field trips and social events, then click on the orange [REGISTER button](#) to sign up.

Field trips fill quickly, so don't delay if you have your heart set on a particular trip!

THIS CONFERENCE IS BUDGET FRIENDLY

The Conference Committee has secured
a hotel price of \$77.28 at the Red Rose Inn in Plant City.

In addition, there has been no increase in conference fees.

Questions? Contact info@fnps.org or 321-271-6702.



**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

Visit our website,
www.naturewiseplants.com

321-536-1410

Walter Kingsley Taylor, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus, Biology
University of Central Florida
and noted author
will present



"Our Favorite Places to Visit" (for Florida wildflowers and nature)

in the Nyami Nyami River Lodge at the
Brevard Zoo

on Monday, April 9th at 6:30 P.M.

Public welcome - no charge

For more information, contact

Vince Lamb at 321-258-5168

CONRADINA CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



FNPS Mission: 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.

Vince Lamb 5/2012



News from the FIELD



Start Planning Your Project - the Florida Wildflower Foundation's La Florida, Land of Flowers, Community Grant Program Opens for Applications April 2nd!

The program provides planting grants for agencies or organizations within counties that have adopted an acceptable [Wildflower Resolution](#). Any county whose commission officially adopts a resolution prior to the May 11 grant application deadline is eligible. Up to 16 grants of \$500 will be awarded for wildflower seeds or plants (but not both). [Download](#) an application worksheet. [Seeds for Schools](#) grants are available to schoolteachers statewide. Applications will be accepted beginning April 2. The grants are available to schoolteachers statewide. Grants provide \$50 worth of native wildflower seed. [Download](#) the program planning document. [Read more](#) about the Foundation's grants and [sign up](#) for e-alerts announcing the opening of application periods.

EARTH DAY FESTIVAL 2012

at the
**ENCHANTED
FOREST
SANCTUARY**

SATURDAY, APRIL 21st
10:00 a.m. TO 3:00 p.m.

FREE!



Face Painting
Guided Hikes
Native Plant Sale
Live Music
Silent Auction
Education Programs

Live-Animal Exhibitors

Avian Reconditioning
AWARE Wildlife
Rehabilitators
Animal Love
Florida Reptiles



444 Columbia Blvd. (SR 405), Titusville FL - For more information, call (321) 264-5185

Tulinda's Garden

Garden & Landscape Design
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Linda Gombert
www.TulindasGarden.com

Phone 321-639-4017
Mobile 321-446-9338

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

The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Education Center

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

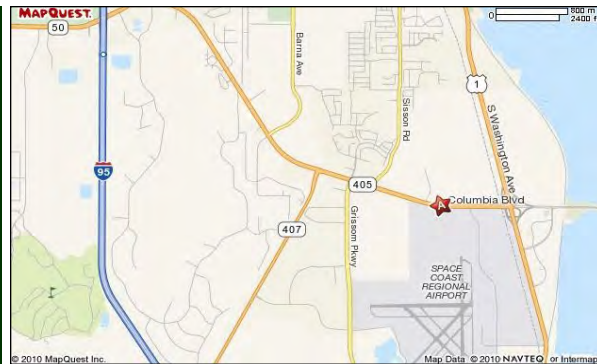


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

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



**FREE & OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC**

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

FNPS Sea Rocket Meeting

The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary ~ 6:30pm

"Ancient Medicine in Florida: Examining the Evidence for Medicine

at the 7,000-year-old site of Windover"

with Dr. Rachel Wentz

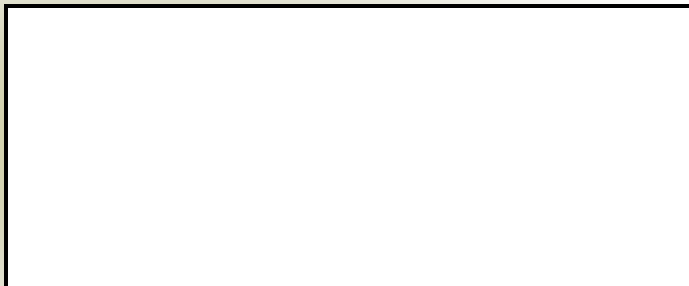
Call 321-264-5185 for information.



Sea Rocket Chapter

PO Box 236341

Cocoa, FL 32923-6341



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