



Sea Rocket



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

SEPTEMBER 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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Wednesday, September 26, 2012, 7:00 pm

The Indian River Lagoon – An Estuary of National Significance

**Presented by Troy Rice, Director
Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program**

Sea Rocket's monthly meetings resume on Wednesday, September 26th with the program "The Indian River Lagoon—An Estuary of National Significance". Troy Rice, who heads the IRL Estuary Program, will provide an overview of the Indian River Lagoon system, including the management activities which currently protect the lagoon and its adjacent areas. Several water quality and habitat restoration projects will also be discussed.

The presentation will conclude with a discussion of the 2011 "super bloom" and its' lasting impacts to the estuary, including the connection to what's currently being called a "brown tide"; this algal bloom is impacting the northern end of the Indian River Lagoon and Mosquito Lagoon.

Troy has served as the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program Director since the program began in 1991. He directs the St. Johns River Water Management District's (SJRWMD) Indian River Lagoon (IRL) Project from Palm Bay, managing over \$13.2 million in direct federal funds and over \$5 million in IRL specialty license plate revenue from the sale of "Snook" tags.



Troy received his BS from the University of Colorado and his MS from Troy University (European Division) while serving in the U.S. Air Force. He is a graduate of Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute and past recipient of the Marine Resources Council's Paul Kroegal Award for Outstanding Service to the Indian River Lagoon by a government employee. Troy also serves the City of Rockledge on the Planning and Zoning Board.

Join the Sea Rocket Chapter for this interesting program; socializing begins at 6:30pm and is followed by the meeting at 7:00. The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary is located at 444 Columbia Blvd. in Titusville; please call 321-264-5185 for driving directions. *This program is free and open to the public!*

SEPTEMBER

~ UPCOMING EVENTS & THINGS TO DO ~

- Every Saturday** **Guided Nature Hike, 10:00am**, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary
321-264-5185; groups of 5 or more, please RSVP
- Friday, 9/7** **Up From the Ashes, 3pm-4pm** Why is prescribed fire needed? What equipment is used? Get the answers from Steve McGuffey, EEL Program Fire Manager
- Monday, 9/10** **FNPS Conradina Chapter Meeting, 6pm**
Melbourne Fee Avenue Library, 6pm
- Tuesday, 9/18** **Lunch with Nature, 12 noon**, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary,
Bring your lunch and enjoy during the talk.
- Saturday, 9/22** **History Garden Tour and Garden Workday, 10am-12noon**,
Sams House at Pine Island, call 321-449-4720
- Wednesday, 9/26** **Make Oyster Mats, 12 noon**, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary,
Call 321-264-5185 for more information
- Wednesday, 9/26** **FNPS Sea Rocket Meeting, 6:30pm**, Enchanted Forest
Sanctuary, *"The Indian River Lagoon—An Estuary of National Significance"* with Troy Rice of St. John's River Water Management District, call 321-264-5185 for information
- Friday, 9/28 and
Saturday, 9/29** **Florida Wildflower Symposium**—Hickory Point Park in Lake
County, contact Florida Wildflower Foundation at
info@FlaWildflowers.org (See page 6 for more details)
- Friday, 9/28** **Historical Monument Tour, 9am-1:00 pm**, includes historic
churches, cemeteries, homes, and the Cape Canaveral Light-
house, reservations required, Call 321-449-4720
- Saturday, 9/29** **National Public Lands Day**, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary &
Sams House at Pine Island, call 321-264-5185 for information
- Save the Date!**
**Saturday, 10/27 &
Sunday, 10/28** **Brevard County Orchid Society's 52nd Annual Fall Orchid
Fair, 9am-5pm**, Melbourne Auditorium, www.thebcos.org

Please send announcements for future calendars to
lindakrupp@cfl.rr.com



FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Membership Meeting Minutes ~ May 23, 2012

Submitted by Barbara Peterson, acting secretary for Theresa Clark

The meeting was called to order by Past President Suzanne Meyer at 7:00 PM at the Enchanted Forest. Suzanne asked for a volunteer to take the minutes for this meeting. Barbara Peterson accepted the request. Suzanne thanked Barbara and then welcomed the guests and new members.

Vice President Bill Klein made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 25th meeting as published in the May newsletter. The motion was seconded by Martha Pessaro and passed.

The refreshments were kindly provided by Shari Blissett Clark along with Bill and Suzanne Meyer.

Sign-up sheets were passed around for refreshments and help with the Plant Sale on June 2. The Plant Sale will be held in conjunction with the Ace Hardware Pond Tour. Thursday, May 31st will be a regular workday starting at 9 AM at the Enchanted Forest. Activities will include potting plants and clearing the area for the new nursery.

There was no winner for the May Mystery Plant, Spice Bush, *Lindera benzoin*. Suzanne brought a pail of bare root wild coffee plants for those who would like to give them a new home.

The July picnic will be held July 14th from 11:00-2:00 at Sam's House, Pine Island Conservation Area, 6195 N. Tropical Trail, Merritt Island.

The Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference was well attended. Paul Schmalzer announced that the 2013 Conference will be held in Jacksonville at the University of North Florida convention Center. The Convention Hotel will be a Sheraton Hotel.

Martha Pessaro, Treasurer, stated that there was no April Statement available in time for the meeting. In March, there was a balance of \$4,637.54 in the bank.

Martha added that the Sea Rocket Chapter has been working on the Serenity Pond at the Enchanted Forest in preparation for the Ace Pond Tour on June 2nd. In the evening after the plant sale and pond tour, The Friends of The Enchanted Forest will sponsor Music in the Forest from 5-8PM. The Space Coast Orchestra will provide folk, jazz and Florida "cracker" music, and light refreshments will be available for purchase.

Bill Klein introduced the speaker and program: Florida Friendly Landscaping & Techniques" by Kathleen Burson.

Kathleen Burson is a Florida native and holds a Bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from California State Polytechnic University. Her continuing education includes ISA arborist training, soil sciences, low impact site and storm water design. She is the owner of Eiche Design-Site Planning and Landscape Architecture and also more recently, Indian River Garden Company which designs and organically maintains Florida Friendly landscapes.

Kathleen's presentation covered organic landscape practices, including the care of soil, pruning practices, and techniques for correcting inappropriate practices. The advantages of proper pruning techniques for a wide variety of plant types was discussed. The proper pruning of trees requires identification of co-dominant trunks and other branching structures. Kathleen reminded everyone that how you work with a particular plant will determine its health and longevity.

Site preparation and protecting the soil structure is a primary step in landscaping. Proper planting of trees requires the trunk flare be exposed. Most plants need to be drenched for two weeks after planting. One exception is Florida privet. Once plants are established, water deeply only when leaves begin to wilt.

Weeds and pests were reviewed. Cedar Oil (<http://cedaroils.com>) was recommended as a lawn pesticide and an organic control for pests such as aphids, fleas and some interior pests.

Sustainable landscape design includes diversifying lawn and using native plantings. Native plant selection requires study of the site in regards to rainfall, soil, flora and fauna, and takes into consideration both the historical and current condition. Use of non-native is only recommended in contained areas and domestic areas away from native habitats, and only as long as they are not noxious invasive species.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm

FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Membership Meeting Minutes ~ June 27, 2012

Submitted by Theresa Clark

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with Shari Blissett-Clark presiding. Shari thanked the Friends of the Enchanted Forest, Lydia Friedland and a guest, Mike, for supplying the refreshments. She also provided updates on the Sea Rocket Chapter and the Florida Native Plant Society.

The Sea Rocket Chapter is currently selling the laminated Florida wildflower and butterfly field guides for \$6 dollars apiece and two for \$10. No programs or membership meetings are scheduled for the months of July and August, however, the annual Sea Rocket Chapter picnic is on the calendar for July 14, 2012, at Sam's House on Merritt Island.

The FNPS launched a new website in early June, which is more interactive and easier to navigate. The web address remains the same: www.fnps.org

Approval of the May membership meeting minutes was postponed to the September meeting.

No one stepped up to identify the June mystery plant. Shari revealed that the name of the plant usually pops up simply by placing the computer's cursor on the photo of the plant in the newsletter. She did not supply the name of the mystery plant, but suggested that members read the newsletter and try the cursor trick.

The Sea Rocket Chapter budget was presented for approval. Martha Pessaro explained that some of the items on the old budget were adjusted due to the planned move of the nursery to the Enchanted Forest. Linda Krupp moved for approval. Tom McLeod seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Shari introduced the speaker, Dr. Randy Parkinson. Dr. Parkinson is a geologist who taught at FIT for 5 years, then started a consulting business for the protection of Florida's coastal resources. He is currently serving as chairman of the Selection and Management Committee of the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) program.

Dr. Parkinson also directs the Task Force of the Space Coast Climate Change Initiative, a drive to encourage coastal communities to look at their vulnerability to sea level rise and to educate the citizens of Brevard on the expected impact of climate change. He focused his presentation on adapting coastal communities to sea level rise.

Dr. Parkinson explained that climate trends can actually be measured in the atmosphere; for example, carbon dioxide is measured in parts per million from isotopes. The uptick in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere began around the time of the Industrial Revolution and is attributable to the combustion of fossil fuels. The temperature of the atmosphere has increased by two degrees since the start of the Industrial Revolution. The increasing levels of carbon dioxide are creating a greenhouse effect in which less heat is re-admitted back to space and more heat is absorbed by the earth.

Dr. Parkinson emphasized that melting sea ice is a prime example of global warming. Sea ice is a valuable resource that reflects heat back into space. It is melting at an alarming rate. In 1980, sea ice occupied four million square kilometers and in 2012, only two million square kilometers. Additionally, the thawing of permafrost is releasing methane, another contributor to the greenhouse effect. Dr. Parkinson described the combination of melting ice and methane release as one of the climate feedback loops promoting global warming.

The melting of glaciers and resulting sea level rise are the results of climate feedback loops. Until 1990, the sea level had been stable for 2000 years because the climate was stable. It is now rising 3.3 mm a year and is forecast to rise between 2 and 6 feet by the end of this century.

Dr. Parkinson warned that in the absence of comprehensive planning to address these rapid changes, we can expect the collapse of coral reefs, fisheries and tourism as coastlines continue to erode. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has already determined that 50 % of Brevard County's shoreline is "critically eroding". This erosion is also due to urbanization and category 4 and 5 hurricanes. The frequency of such hurricanes is also expected to accelerate as a result of climate change.

Dr. Parkinson presented the options that are still available to coastal communities: 1) Protect and Defend with beach re-nourishment, levees and sea walls, 2) Accommodate by building on high pads or stilts, 3) Plan for Strategic Withdrawal from the coastline, or 4) Do Nothing.

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Satellite Beach, on the Indian River Lagoon, had a tentative interest in addressing the impact of sea level rise. Dr. Parkinson worked on a study of the city's vulnerability. The city has yet to adopt any of the proposals due to angry citizens offering resistance because of concern for their property investments in the area. Dr. Parkinson is concerned that this pushback is obscuring science and suggested that local governments consider offering economic incentives to landowners and investors for their cooperation with a comprehensive plan addressing sea rise. He stressed the need for outreach to residents of coastal communities resistant to change to inform them of scientific facts, the available planning options and the economic costs associated with indecision. Educated with facts, residents can organize and push for comprehensive plans and associated development decisions.

Meanwhile, several counties in Florida have been more responsive. Broward, Miami and Monroe Counties have studied the impending impact of sea level rise and developed a mutual compact for adaptation.

Dr Parkinson remarked that the tipping point for implementing sound federal climate change legislation and local adaptive management plans with optimal effect will be reached within the next 10 years. He stressed that the time to act is now.

The Space Coast Climate Change Initiative can be found at www.spacecoastclimatechange.com and on Facebook. Dr. Parkinson can be reached by Email at rwparkinson@clf.rr.com.

Plant Spotlight: Dotted Horsemint

Dotted horsemint, *Monarda punctata*, is native to eastern North America from Canada to Mexico. It is a herbaceous, semi woody plant and is considered a short-lived perennial, or even an annual in some areas. It happily reseeds once it is established, so give it plenty of room in the garden. It forms a loose clump that attracts native bees and butterflies, as well as European honey bees. While this plant has showy flowers of pale blue, lavender, and cream on tall stems, it tends to be a bit unkempt and may not be suitable for more formal plantings. But If you have a sunny spot at the back of a bed or border, it will settle in and be right at home.

Spotted Bee-balm likes well-drained, sandy soil and is even tolerant of salt spray. Native Americans brewed a tea from its leaves for treating colds and flu. The essential oils from horsemint are high in thymol, which is a fungicide and bactericide and was also used to expel hookworms. *Monarda punctata* (*punctata* means 'spotted') can be propagated by dividing the root ball or by seed. It reseeds so easily that most gardeners choose that method.

Plant Specifics:

Bloom color: Pink, Pale Yellow, Violet/Lavender

Bloom time of year: Mid Summer, Late Summer/Early Fall

Sun requirements: Full Sun, Sun to Partial Shade

Height: 24-36 inches, occasionally taller

Spacing: 15-18 inches





Register today for the Florida Wildflower Symposium

You're invited to join the Florida Wildflower Foundation at Hickory Point Park in Lake County for two days of education and fun! This year's [Florida Wildflower Symposium](#), held in close partnership with the inaugural [Wings & Wildflowers Festival](#), features a range of presentations and workshops on such topics as nature photography, landscaping with wildflowers, propagation for home gardeners and more.

You can go on a wildflower walk with the ever-popular Drs. Walter K. Taylor or Jeff Norcini, shop for plants and seeds, place your bid at the silent auction, and chow down at the Saturday-evening Wildflower Wingding barbecue.



Some sessions are free of charge; others require a small registration fee. In either case, space is limited - [Register as soon as possible to ensure your workshop choice.](#)

You'll notice that members of the Florida Wildflower Foundation receive discounts on workshops and field trips. If you aren't a member yet, consider taking a minute to join by [clicking here](#). For a small annual fee, you'll be doing your part to support Florida's native wildflowers, and you'll receive benefits such as these discounts. (Already a member but don't know if your membership is current? Email Info@FlaWildflowers.org to find out.)

We look forward to seeing you there. Be sure to spread the word!
(To volunteer to lend a hand at the Symposium, please email Lisa Roberts at LRoberts@FlaWildflowers.org. Questions? Call the Foundation at 407-353-6164.)

MYSTERY PLANT



**Can you ID
this Florida Native Plant?**

Send your "Best Guess" to
LindaKrupp@cfl.rr.com

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

*(Must be present at the September
meeting to claim your prize!)*

The June Mystery Plant was
Polygala lewtonii, Lewton's polygala



Wildflower, butterfly, &
bird app premieres

<http://flawildflowers.org/news.php>

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Sharon & Brent Dolan

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M-Sat 8-5

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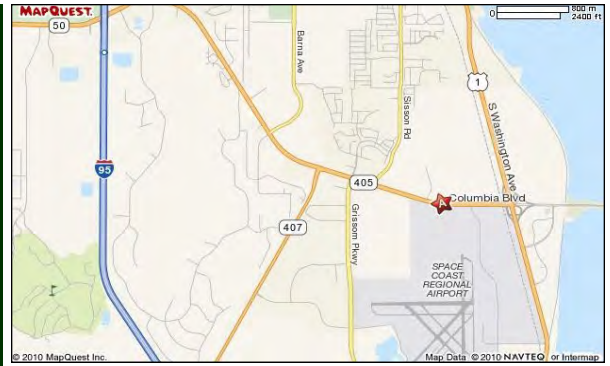


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

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, September 26, 2012

FNPS Sea Rocket Meeting

**“The Indian River Lagoon – An Estuary of National Significance” with Troy Rice, Director
Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program**

The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary ~ 6:30pm

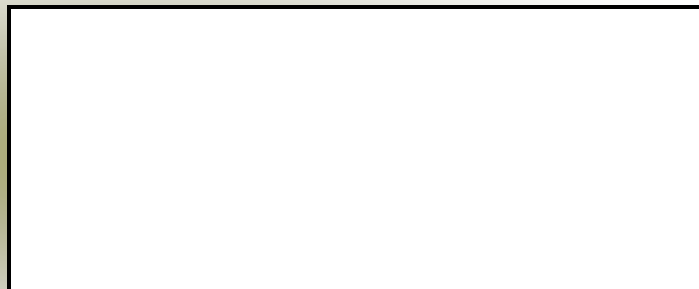
Call 321-264-5185 for information



Sea Rocket Chapter

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