



# Sea Rocket



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

**OCTOBER 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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**Chapter Representative**  
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**Membership**  
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**Newsletter**  
**Linda Jean Krupp**  
lindakrupp@cfl.rr.com

Wednesday, October 24, 2012, 7:00 pm

## The 9 Principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping

Presented by Sally Scalera

Horticulture Agent, UF IFAS ~ Brevard County Extension

The concepts that make up Florida-friendly landscaping techniques have been around for a long time. One might even call them "old fashioned" or out-dated; but the truth is that sustainable gardening practices from the days of yore are making a come-back in a big way! They're wrapped in a shiny new label and augmented with decades of scientific research and discovery, but in many ways these principles are governed by the same horse-sense used by our forefathers.

Join the Sea Rocket Chapter as Sally Scalera guides us through the 9 principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping. Learn how to use sustainable practices to help maintain a healthy landscape while protecting the environment.

The nine principles that will be covered include: Right Plant for the Right Spot, Efficient Watering, Appropriate Fertilizing, Mulching, Attracting Wildlife, Managing Pests Responsibly, Recycling, Reducing Stormwater Runoff, and Protecting the Waterfront. In addition, Sally will discuss other services available to citizens through the UF Brevard County Extension office.

Sea Rocket's monthly meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary located at 444 Columbia Boulevard in Titusville. Light refreshments and socializing begin at 6:30pm, followed by the program at 7:00pm. This program is free and open to the public.

Please call 321-264-5185 for directions to the Enchanted Forest, or visit [www.eelbrevard.com](http://www.eelbrevard.com). Learn more about Florida's native plants and how you can help protect them at [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org).





# OCTOBER

## 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

**Saturday, 10/6**

**Ice Age Hike, 10am to noon**, Sams House at Pine Island,  
321-449-4720

**Monday, 10/8**

**FNPS Conradina Meeting, 6:00pm**, Melbourne Fee Avenue  
Library, "Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife" with  
Craig Huegel

**Friday, 10/12, &  
Saturday, 10/13**

**Titusville Men's Garden Club Fall Tree & Plant Sale**,  
10:00am-7:00pm Friday, 8:00am-2:00pm Saturday,  
Searstown Mall, Country Club Dr. & US1

**Friday, 10/12**

**Owl Prowl, 8pm**, Sams House at Pine Island, Reservations  
Required, call 321-432-3231 or email Katrina at  
Katrina.morrell@brevardparks.com

**Saturday, 10/13**

**Wet & Wild Walk, 9:00am**, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary  
Reservations required, call 321-264-5185

**Tuesday, 10/16**

**Lunch with Nature, "The World of Waste", 12noon**,  
The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 321-264-5185

**Thursday, 10/18**

**Friends of the Enchanted Forest Meeting, 6:30pm**,  
"Walking in Brevard: Fun Treks for Every Age & Fitness Level"  
with Dianne Marcum, call 321-264-5185

**Saturday, 10/20**

**FNPS Hike, Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary, 9:00am**,  
(See article on page 5), call 321-264-5185

**Wednesday, 10/24**

**FNPS Sea Rocket Meeting, 6:30pm**, "The 9 Principles of  
Florida-friendly Landscaping" with Sally Scalera,  
321-264-5185

**Friday, 10/26**

**Bat Chat at The Green Marketplace, 6:00pm**,  
Reservations required, call 321-890-6154 for information

**Saturday, 10/27**

**Appalachian Trails & Tales, 3:00pm**, Sams House at  
Pine Island, call 321-449-4720

**Saturday, 10/27**

**"Creepy Creatures" Halloween Party, 1:00pm**,  
Barrier Islands Education Center, call 321-723-3556

**Saturday, 10/27 &  
Sunday, 10/28**

**Brevard County Orchid Society's 52nd Annual Fall Orchid  
Fair, 9am-5pm**, Melbourne Auditorium, [www.thebcos.org](http://www.thebcos.org)

*Please send announcements for future calendars to [lindakrupp@cfl.rr.com](mailto:lindakrupp@cfl.rr.com)*





**FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SEA ROCKET CHAPTER**  
**Membership Meeting Minutes, September 26, 2012**  
*Submitted by Theresa Clark, Secretary*

Shari Blissett Clark opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Shari introduced Past President Suzanne Myer, who presided. Suzanne reminded members that the chapter is still in need of a president and asked them to consider running for the position.

Suzanne requested Treasurer Martha Pessaro to present the budget. Martha provided a copy of the 2012 budget to all members and pointed out that lower checking account balance of \$5936.90 in August (\$5981.87 in July) was due to nursery expenses, including moving, lumber, fencing, hardware, cinderblocks and ground cloth. She also advised that additional nursery expenses are expected for the purchase of potting soil, however, the nursery expenses should be recouped from the upcoming plant sale in November. The August savings account balance is \$1401.49. Martha also informed members that the chapter is up to date in licensure, membership dues, and the payment of sales tax and the Florida Association of Native Nurseries fee. She asked members to share ideas for additional fund raising.

An advertising flyer on the Brevard Wildlife Corridor Expedition was provided to all attendees. Suzanne described the 15 day event as "one of a kind" and encouraged anyone who is interested in contributing to or being a part of the activities to get in touch Vince Lamb, the organizer.

Martha Pessaro moved to accept the May and June membership meeting minutes, which were published in the September newsletter. The motion was seconded by Shari Blissett Clark and passed.

No one identified the Mystery Plant depicted in the September newsletter. The plant is an aster, commonly known as Bear's foot. The botanical name is *Polymnia uvedalia*.

Suzanne announced that Sea Rocket hikes and Florida Trail Association hikes will resume in October. The first Sea Rocket hike, to be led by Dr. Schmalzer, will take place at the Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary on October 20, 2012, at 9 a.m. The full hike schedule will be published in the October newsletter.

The Sea Rocket native plant exhibit was recently taken to an event at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection by member Diane Stees, who handed out native plant information and seed packets. Anyone interested in using the exhibit for such a purpose should contact Shari Blissett Clark.

Suzanne thanked the following Sea Rocket members for their help in making the nursery move from Knox McRae to the Enchanted Forest: Tom McLeod, Susan Egger, Louanne Marletta, Nancy and Jim Escoffier, Theresa Clark, Karen Gaddy, Bill and Suzanne Meyer, Bill Klein, Martha Pessaro and Margit Bunting.

The Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival is scheduled to take place from January 23 through January 27, 2013. Suzanne advised members that they can sign-up to volunteer their help with the Sea Rocket Chapter exhibit. The sign-up sheet will circulate at the November membership meeting.

Shari will prepare the October newsletter while Linda Krupp is on vacation. September 29, 2012, is the deadline for submissions.

Sally Scalera will be the speaker at the Sea Rocket Chapter October Membership Meeting. The topic has not been finalized.

Suzanne announced the availability of string lilies to anyone interested. The plants were donated by member Annette Myers. A Get Well card was circulated at the meeting to send to Annette, who has been ill recently.

Suzanne also announced the sad news of the recent death of Mike Brooks, a friend to the Sea Rocket Chapter, a loyal supporter of native plants and a person who was active in many other conservation efforts.

Suzanne introduced Troy Rice, the speaker for the evening. Troy is the Director of the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program, a position he has held since 1991. Troy directs the St. Johns River Water Management District's Indian River Lagoon Project in Palm Bay. In addition to a bachelor's and master's degree, Troy is a graduate of the Florida Natural Resources Institute and a recipient of the Marine Resources Council's Paul Kroegal Award for Outstanding Service to the Indian River Lagoon by a government employee. He is also a member of the planning and zoning board of the City of Rockledge.

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

The Indian River Lagoon Program is one of 28 national estuary programs, three of which are in Florida. The other two Florida estuary programs are in Sarasota and Tampa Bay.

The Indian River Lagoon runs through five counties, from Ponce Inlet to Jupiter Inlet. It is the most biologically diverse lagoon in the continental United States, hosting over 4,000 species of plants and animals. The lagoon offers recreational and commercial value and provides 15,000 full and part time jobs in the area.

Consisting primarily of sea grass, most of the lagoon's area is less than six feet deep. Troy described it as "more a bathtub" than a river, with seven species of sea grasses. Since the 1980's, the lagoon has suffered extensive sea grass loss due to declining water quality from development and effluent such as stormwater and wastewater. The dark color of stormwater runoff and excess nutrients cause algae blooms that block the sunlight, which is essential to the sea grasses. Fish kills and shellfish mortality are on the increase as well, resulting from the algae's effect of lowering oxygen levels in the water.

The goals of the Program are to protect, restore and educate. The Program is concentrating on stormwater runoff. With federal and state dollars, the Program is working with local governments to devise stormwater master plans and is engaged in environmental education projects as well.

Stormwater management plans include swales, baffle boxes and stormwater parks, such as the 166 acre park in Sebastian, which is a series of ponds for wetland treatment. Other projects include the Upper St. Johns River Basin Project to reduce the discharge of freshwater out of the C-54 canal and the C-1 Canal Re-diversion plan to divert freshwater runoff to its historic drainage basin in the Upper St. Johns River.

Muck removal has been done in Crane Creek and Turkey Creek. The St. Sebastian River has undergone a dredging project and plans are in the works to dredge the Eau Gallie River. Muck is a mixture of silt, clay and decayed organic material that kills the sea grasses.

The Project is working with Florida Fish and Wildlife and Mosquito Control to reconnect wetlands to the lagoon. Wetlands were impounded in the 1940's by building levees and flooding wetlands in an effort to control mosquitoes.

An example of the Project's efforts to protect and restore habitat is the building of barriers to limit wave action that erodes spoil islands such as Bird Island in Martin County in the southern end of the Indian River Lagoon. Also, oyster bed restoration is taking place in Mosquito Lagoon with the help of thousands of volunteers and Mosquito Control by leveling oyster beds and installing oyster mats on top of the beds.

Public education and outreach projects are ongoing in collaboration with the Smithsonian Marine Station and the Brevard County Zoo.

Indian River Lagoon license plate sales generate millions of dollars for the restoration projects. Troy pointed out that the money stays in the counties where the license plates are purchased.

The recovery of the lagoon was good in the late 2000's, however, there was significant sea grass loss from an algae bloom in 2011 in the Banana River and Haulover Canal, which spread to the Northern Indian River Lagoon and Mosquito Lagoon. Salinity increased as nitrogen, phosphorus and chlorophyll levels spiked. It has been determined that cold snaps from 2009 and 2010 contributed to creating the conditions for the algae bloom. It resulted in sea turtle loss and fish kills. The complete findings on the cause of the 2011 algae bloom will be presented later this year.

In 2012, the Brown Tide Bloom descended upon Mosquito Lagoon through Haulover Canal to the Northern Indian River Lagoon. Brown tide thrives in higher salinity, although Tropical Storm Isaac contributed to a salinity decline and the lagoon is beginning to recover.

Other Indian River Lagoon issues include exotic life, such as the Lionfish. The Lionfish, a predator problem throughout the Caribbean and eastern seaboard of the United States, eats juvenile native fish. It is not prone to taking bait off a hook, however, it is vulnerable to spearfishing.

Troy provided several informative pamphlets on the Indian River Lagoon and gave meeting attendees the opportunity to sign up for the Lagoon Newsletter.



# The Rugose Spiraling Whitefly: A New Pest in Brevard County

By Linda Seals, Brevard County Extension Director, UF/IFAS

We have a new pest problem in Brevard County, and as usual it started in south Florida and worked its way north. We call this one the rugose spiraling whitefly, *Aleurodicus rugioperculatus* Martin (Figure 1). The



Figure 1. Close-up of the Rugose Spiraling Whitefly.  
Photo Credit: Dr. Lance Osborne, UF/IFAS  
Professor of Entomology

rugose spiraling whitefly (RSW) was first collected from a site in Miami-Dade County in March 2009. It is believed to have originated from Central America. This July we collected samples in the Indiatlantic area of Brevard County. Since July reports of the insect have escalated, so it's safe to assume that it is finding plenty to eat around here. Coconut palms (*Cocos nucifera*) are one of the major hosts, but they can be found on a broad range of ornamentals and fruit trees. In Brevard County, we have seen them on coconut palms, white bird of paradise (*Strelitzia nicolai*), foxtail palms (*Wodyetia bifurcata*), wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), and *Schefflera*. We expect this list to grow.

Gathering information on a new exotic pest is always one of the greatest challenges to managing the problem, and RSW is no different. Several University of Florida researchers are currently studying the life cycle and host range. We do know that it is closely related to the giant whitefly (*Aleurodicus dugesii*), and shares some similarities.

If you are familiar with whiteflies, you know that most of them are pretty small, but the giant whitefly and RSW are about three times larger than other whiteflies in our area. You will find adult rugose spiraling whiteflies on the undersides of leaves where they feed and reproduce. The female lays her eggs in a spiral pattern—hence the name—on the leaves and deposits a white, waxy material on the eggs for protection (Figure 2). After hatching, the crawlers move around and start to feed using their needle-like mouthparts to extract juices from the plant. The crawlers are very small and begin as flat ovals that eventually become more convex. We don't know if this insect will survive through the winter in Brevard County.

The symptoms of this whitefly include an abundance of a white, waxy material on the leaves and excessive black sooty mold. To date, we have not seen any plants in Brevard County actually die from the RSW infestation, but most whiteflies will cause plant decline, defoliation, and branch dieback.

High populations and excessive damage are the norm when new pests arrive, which is the case with RSW. After several years, populations often decline, so we hope that is the case with the rugose spiraling whitefly. The good news is, we have observed high numbers of beneficial insects along with RSW infestations, most notably lady beetles and lacewing larvae, but there may be others. With that in mind, we strongly discourage the use of broad spectrum, contact insecticides. Minor infestations are best controlled by thoroughly washing the foliage to remove the insects, or by using an insecticidal soap or oil about every 7-10 days until the insects are gone.



Figure 2. Eggs laid in a spiral pattern by the female Rugose Spiraling Whitefly. Photo Credit: Dr. Lance Osborne, UF/IFAS Professor of Entomology

Brevard County Extension will be hosting a free seminar with Dr. Lance Osborne, UF/IFAS Professor of Entomology. The seminar is free, but please register at: <http://rugosewhitefly.eventbrite.com>. The seminar is October 10 at 6 p.m. at the Satellite Beach Library. Call our office for additional suggestions if you have a severe infestation, or if you are a commercial landscaper or grower. We can be reached at 321.633.1702 or email me at [lseals@ufl.edu](mailto:lseals@ufl.edu).

## References:

Mannion, C. "Rugose Spiraling Whitefly (previously Gumbo Limbo Spiraling Whitefly)." <http://trec.ifas.ufl.edu/mannion/pdfs/Rugose%20spiraling%20whitefly.pdf>

Osborne, L. "The Rugose Spiraling Whitefly." Website: <http://mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/iso/whiteflies/rugose/rugose.html>

## Brevard County Orchid Society's 52nd Annual Fall Orchid Fair

Saturday, October 27th & Sunday, October 28th

9:00am to 5:00pm each day



THE MELBOURNE AUDITORIUM, 625 E. Hibiscus Blvd, Melbourne

Admission \$4.00 (Visit [www.thebcos.org](http://www.thebcos.org) to print admission discount coupons—print as many as you need) Free Parking

- Vendors from south & central Florida with orchids orchid supplies and accessories.
- Free interactive seminars on orchids, including culture and care, 11am & 2pm each day.
- Free AOS orchid culture sheets for many orchid types.
- Exhibition Room packed with specimen and prize-winning orchids in full bloom.

## TITUSVILLE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB FALL TREE AND PLANT SALE

Friday, October 12, 10:00am - 7:00pm & Saturday, October 13, 8:00am - 2:00pm

SEARSTOWN MALL (Country Club Drive and U.S. 1)

Offered species include: Abelia, Bald Cypress, Bottlebrush, Boxwood, Camellias, Canna, Crepe Myrtle, Crinum Lilies, Flax, Gardenia, Holly, Jasmine, Juniper, Liriope, Pineapple Guava, Roses, Native Grasses, Oaks, Podocarpus, Pittisporum, Tea Olive, White Society Garlic, Tomato plants

**Prices from 50 cents to 50 dollars!**

Free tree seedlings for each child ~ Support Titusville's "TREE CITY" designation!  
Empty pot/container/tray recycling! ~ Call 480-8807 or email [freddiefla@yahoo.com](mailto:freddiefla@yahoo.com)  
for additional information

## FNPS Sea Rocket Hikes Resume with Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary

*by Paul Schmalzer, Ph.D.*

Have you been missing the Sea Rocket hikes? Well dust off your hiking shoes because beginning Saturday, October 20th, the hiking season resumes!

Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary is a joint project of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and the State of Florida. The vegetation is primarily oak scrub and scrubby flatwoods with a depression marsh down slope. Several previous prescribed burns have greatly aided in reestablishing native plant species and encouraging scrub jay populations. The endemic *Dicerandra thincicola* occurs here and should be flowering at the time of this hike. Don't forget your hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent! Call 321-264-5185 for more information.

Directions:

Parking is limited at the site so we'll meet at the Indian River Plaza Shopping Center. Park at the western corner of the shopping center (former K-Mart location) and we will car pool to the site.

1) US 1 to St. Rt. 50 (Cheney Highway). West on St. Rt. 50 to Indian River Plaza Shopping Center.

OR 2) I-95 to Titusville, St. Rt. 50 exit. East on St. Rt. 50 (Cheney Highway) to Indian River Plaza Shopping Center.



# MYSTERY PLANT



Can you ID this Florida Native Plant?

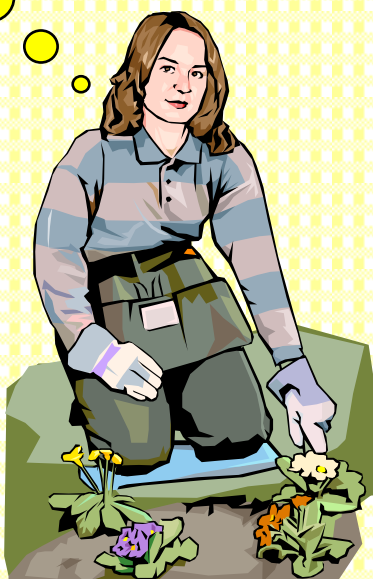
Send your "Best Guess" to  
[LindaKrupp@cfl.rr.com](mailto:LindaKrupp@cfl.rr.com)

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

(Must be present at the October  
meeting to claim your plant!)

The September Mystery Plant  
was Bear's Foot,  
*Polymnia uvedalia*

*I wonder  
where I can get  
a great deal on  
more plants...*



## Tulinda's Garden

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407-568-1333

[greenimage@aol.com](mailto:greenimage@aol.com)

## 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)

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### The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Education Center

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

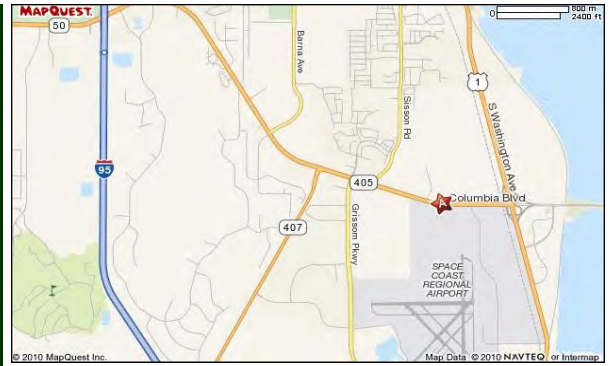


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

**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, October 24, 2012**

**FNPS Sea Rocket Meeting**

**“The 9 Principles of Florida-friendly Landscaping”**

**with Sally Scalera, UF/IFAS Horticultural Agent**

**The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary ~ 6:30pm**

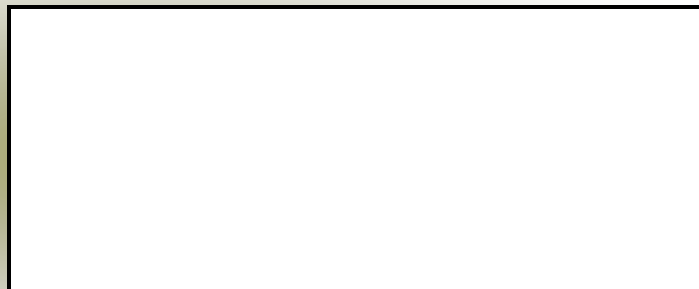
**Call 321-264-5185 for information**



**Sea Rocket Chapter**

PO Box 236341

Cocoa, FL 32923-6341



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