



SEA ROCKET



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

SEPTEMBER 2013

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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Karen Sue Gaddy

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Coming to Sea Rocket on September 25, 2013

Florida on Fire

Presented by Dr. Rachel Wentz

“Humans have utilized fire for over 500,000 years; since its capture and domestication, fire has transformed human civilization, affecting diet, material culture, even our anatomy, and its control is frequently cited as one of the demarcations separating ‘human’ from ‘nonhuman.’”

Prehistoric Floridians relied heavily on fire, and we see its application in numerous aspects of our culture. Fire has played a fundamental role with our state’s prehistory and history from habitat maintenance to major urban conflagrations. Florida has had a close affinity with fire and this presentation will explore the numerous ways fire has transformed our state.”

Sea Rocket programs are always free and open to the public. Program will begin at 6:30pm at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary in Titusville.

Call 321-264-5185 for more information.

SEPTEMBER

PLACES To Go, THINGS To Do!

Sept 3—After the Holiday (Labor Day) Cleanup—8 - 10 AM, at the Alan Shepard Park, east end of Cocoa Beach Causeway (State Road 520), 4100 Ridgewood Ave., Cape Canaveral. Contact Denise Song, 631-0501 X203 for more info Cocoa Beach Pier, 401 Meade Ave., Cocoa Beach.

Sept 4, 11, 18, 25—Wednesday nursery work days— We need volunteers to clean up (pull weeds) from various garden areas at the EFS.

Sept 9—Everglades Headwater Refuge—FNPS Conradina monthly meeting; Charlie Pelizza will present, meeting begins at 6PM at Melbourne Fee Avenue Library

Sept 12—Monthly Board Meeting—This months meeting will be held at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary to begin at 5:30 PM.

Sept 20—Sam's House on Pine Island— from 1 PM to 2 PM—Nancy Corona will share the wildlife and recreational adventures that can be found at the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (MINWR), which celebrates it's 50th anniversary this fall.

Sept 25— Dr Rachel Wentz presenting "Florida on Fire", FNPS Sea Rocket monthly meeting. The meeting starts at 6:30 PM with a time of refreshments at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. 444 Columbia Blvd, Titusville, FL 32780 call 321-264-5185

Sept 27— Florida Wildflower Symposium—Field trips to Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary, Sams House at Pine Island Conservation Area and to the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge cost per trip is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. See page 3 for more details.

Sept 28—Native Plant Sale—FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter will host a native plant sale at the Wildflower Symposium. Many species of Florida wildflowers at reasonable prices! Sale will begin At 9AM; email Shari at jclark109@cfl.rr.com for more information.

Sept 28—Florida Wildflower Symposium— Many activities on wildflowers, native plants, and landscaping information with presentations, guided walks and exhibitors. Cost is \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members. You may register at: flawildflowers.org. Held at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 444 Columbia Blvd, Titusville, FL 32780 call 321-264-5185 for more information. See page 3 for more details.

Sept 28— Florida Trail Association—Pre-registration for the **2013 FNST Symposium** is now open. See page 9 for more information. FNST is the Florida National Scenic Trail.

Sept 28—National Public Lands Day—Workday at Pine Island Conservation Area, 9AM-12PM, wear long pants and closed-toe shoes. Call Damien at 321-449-4720.

Please send calendar items to David Humphrey at brevcracker@gmail.com

Sponsored by



FWF Sea Rocket Chapter



Martha Jane Long, Titusville

Preserve Brevard



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lisa Roberts, Florida Wildflower Foundation, 407-622-1606;
LRoberts@FlaWildflowers.org

Register now for the Florida Wildflower Symposium Sept. 27 & 28 in Titusville

What do wildflowers, bats, butterflies, archaeology, herbs, fire and fungus have in common? All will be featured topics at the Florida Wildflower Foundation's (FWF) 2013 Florida Wildflower Symposium and Annual Meeting at the Enchanted Forest Preserve, Titusville, in late September.

The symposium, presented in close partnership with Brevard County's Environmentally Endangered Lands Program, features two days of fun and learning about Florida's native ecosystems and their plants, animals and organisms. It kicks off Friday, Sept. 27, with field trips to three of Brevard County's natural jewels - Sams House at Pine Island Sanctuary, Merritt Island; Dicerandra Scrub Preserve, Titusville; and Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Titusville. FWF's annual meeting and dinner that evening at Dixie Crossroads will feature keynote speaker Xavier Cortada, Florida International University's artist in residence, who will give a presentation on his FLOR 500 project, which is boosting awareness of the beauty of Florida's wildflowers throughout the state.

Workshops, presentations and walks at the Enchanted Forest Preserve in Titusville are planned for Saturday, Sept. 28. Experts will cover Florida's wildflowers, bats, butterflyscaping, use of native herbs, fire ecology, and more. Guided walks will introduce participants to the forest's wildflowers, ecosystems and archaeology. with experts or sign up for nature journaling and wildflower propagation workshops.

Friday fieldtrips are \$10 for FWF members and \$15 for non-members. Saturday's activities are \$25 for members and \$35 for nonmembers.

Space is limited; visit <http://www.flawildflowers.org/events/2013WildflowerSymp.html> to register. Each Saturday registration includes a \$5 donation to the Friends of the Enchanted Forest. For more information, contact the Florida Wildflower Foundation at 407-622-1606 or <mailto:Info@FlaWildflowers.org>.





Florida Gardening Calendar

Comments or suggestions?

Dr. Sydney Park Brown
spbrown@ufl.edu

September

Central Florida Edition

What to Plant

Bedding Plants: If summer beds need refreshing, try ageratum, coleus, celosia, zinnia, and wax begonia for color into fall. **See:** [Gardening with Annuals in Florida](#)

Bulbs: Add color, texture and pattern to the garden with the many varieties of Elephant's Ear (*Alocasia*) now available. **See:** [Alocasia spp.](#)

Herbs: Plant herbs that tolerate the warm temperatures of early fall, such as Mexican tarragon, mint, rosemary, and basil. **See:** [Herbs in the Florida Garden](#)

Vegetables: Start the fall planting season now. Plant cool season vegetable crops such as celery, cabbage, lettuce, and collards. **See:** [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)

What to Do

Lawn problems: Continue to monitor the lawn for signs of insect damage. Fall armyworms, chinch bugs, mole crickets, and sod webworms are still active this month. **See:** [Insect Management in Your Florida Lawn](#)

Divide perennials and bulbs: Divide and replant perennials and bulbs that have grown too large or need rejuvenation. Add organic matter to new planting areas and monitor water needs during establishment. **See:** [Propagation of Landscape Plants](#)

Fertilize lawns: Fertilize Bermudagrass with controlled-release nitrogen this month. **See:** [Bermudagrass for Florida Lawns](#)

Check irrigation system: Before summer rains taper off, check that irrigation systems are providing good coverage and operating properly. **See:** [How to Calibrate your Sprinkler System](#)

Citrus: Fertilize citrus with a balanced fertilizer either this month or in October. If the weather has been rainy, do not use soluble nitrogen as rains will leach it from the soil too quickly. **See:** [Citrus Culture in the Home Landscape](#)

Vegetable gardens: If not done in August, prepare the fall vegetable garden. Using transplants from your local garden center will get the garden off to a fast start, but seeds provide a wider variety from which to choose. **See:** [Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide](#)

What to Do Every Month

- Adjust irrigation based on rainfall.
- Deadhead flowers to encourage new blooms.
- Monitor the garden for insects and disease.
- Plant trees, shrubs, and perennials and water until established.
- [Mow lawns](#) at recommended heights:
 - St. Augustine & Bahia: 3-4"
 - Centipede: 1.5-2.0"
 - Dwarf St. Augustine: 2.5"
 - [Zoysiagrass](#)

UF Resources For Gardeners

- UF/IFAS Publications (EDIS)
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>
- Florida-Friendly Landscaping
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/>
- Solutions For Your Life
<http://solutionsforyourlife.com>
- *Gardening in a Minute* Radio Program
<http://gardeninginaminute.com>
- Florida Master Gardener Program
<http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/>
- Living Green
<http://livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Hands Across The Lagoon

September 28, 2013

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

A. Max Brewer Causeway (SR 406)

Parking is available on the east side of the causeway on the corner of Indian River Drive and A. Max Brewer Causeway; and on the west side of the causeway at Parrish Park.

Hands Across the Lagoon events are occurring in all five lagoon counties to call attention to the declining condition of our Indian River Lagoon and to ask our leaders to make the health of the lagoon a top priority.

Devastating algae blooms in 2011 and 2012 destroyed 60% of the lagoon's seagrasses. Since the fall of 2012, and continuing this year, the lagoon's wildlife is under threat, with the unexplained deaths of many brown pelicans, manatees and dolphins.

Join your friends and neighbors in standing up for lagoon protection and restoration. At 9:45 a.m. participants will join hands for 15 minutes to show that we care about the lagoon and want to see it restored to a healthy condition.

Stand Up For Our Lagoon!

Sponsored by:

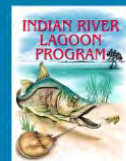


For additional information, contact:

**Indian River Lagoon
National Estuary Program**

321-722-5363

khill@sjrwmd.com



Visit our Facebook page for more details about all local events:

Indian River Lagoon News and Events





Community Corner

News for and about your Chapter



Sea Rocket is proud of our members

By Ron Chicone

Two of our Sea Rocket members, Bill Klein and I, represented our chapter at a small workday for Greater Titusville Renaissance on Saturday the 3rd of August. This volunteer effort focused on removing 20-year old Brazilian pepper along the riverfront just south of Paul's Smokehouse. It was organized by Titusville City Councilperson (and Sea Rocket member) Kathleen Burson. Due to the intense August heat, work began early and ended before lunch. Two volunteers with chainsaws cut the large pepper trees while others chopped and hauled. By the end, several huge piles of woody debris lined the road and parking lot of Paul's awaiting pick up by the City. The overgrowth of pepper was (and still is) so thick in this area that almost nothing grew beneath it, however, we did find a few good natives in the thicket and flagged them for volunteers not to remove. We met some great Titusville residents, talked about the beauty of our riverfront and enjoyed Kathleen's home-made treats. Thank you to Kathleen for organizing this wonderful work and to Sea Rocket for supporting it.

We're BONIFIDE! Yes it is true.

Up to now Sea Rocket has been operating without having our signature plant, the Coastal Searocket, in the FNPS plant database.

It was Dave who discovered this oversight. He said that "I nearly blew an artery when I went to research the Searocket, and it wasn't there! Well it's in there now."

Thank you Dave for correcting this oversight.

Also keep your eyes on the FNPS calendar of events. Sea Rocket is well represented. (www.FNPS.org)

SR Board

HELP!

Sea Rocket Chapter is growing. We have received a grant from the Florida Wildflower Foundation to restore the damaged pollinator garden at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary.

We are involved in several new plant sales opportunities that are actually stretching our nursery capabilities. We are getting our name into the market place by sponsoring various environmental initiatives such as "Hand Across the Lagoon".

All these new activities and opportunities require volunteers to help make it happen. Your chapter needs you to be involved. Ask your chapter leadership how you can help; we can all do our part to help keep our chapter in excellence.

SR Board





Stokes Aster

Stokesia Laevis (Compositae)

sto-KEES-ee-uh LEE-viss

By David Humphrey

The Stokes Aster is defiantly the garden show off. It has blooms up to 4 inches across from April to June. The large bloom provides a perfect landing pad for butterflies and bees, even hummingbirds have been seen enjoying the sweet nectar. The Stokes aster's color range goes from purple to light lavender. It is a native of North Florida, but grows very well in the central region. It does not like salt but is quite heat tolerant and drought tolerant. Its natural habitat is pine flat woods enjoying the slightly acid well drained, sandy soil. It grows well under partial sun to full sun conditions. The Stokes Aster is not a tall plant growing only about a foot and some tall. The base can be about two feet in diameter. These are perennials or some consider them as short lived perennials, and reproduce by division or seed. This is an easy care plant in that once established it takes little or no effort to maintain. This is an excellent choice for perennial beds or as a border plant for larger areas. Dead heading the old blooms does help extend the bloom period.



Mystery Plant



Do you know this plant?

Send your guess to Dave at

brevcracker@gmail.com

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

The July Mystery Plant was
Indian Plantain
Arnoglossum floridanum

* Must be present at the Sept 2013
meeting to claim prize.

THANK YOU

Sea-Rocket wants to give a big THANK YOU to;

- Suzanne for the Rouge and Coffee plants she brought in.
- Susan for the Frog Fruit, Gaillardia, Mimosa, and Beautyberries. Not to forget the Coral Honey-suckle that she had brought in.
- Nancy for the Elderberries donated.
- David for the Frog Fruit.

Every donated NATIVE plant counts toward a possible plant sale which is profit to our chapter. Again, Thank You for the donations!

One other item of note in the nursery; Shari organized the plants and cleaned up the rows. The nursery is very clean, very organized, very professional, Thank you Shari!

SR Board



Intrepid Nursery Team (L to R)

Dave Humphrey, Karen and Dwayne Gaddy.

Photo credit to Susan Egler

GET YOUR NATIVE
PLANTS HERE!

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www.facebook.com/maplestreetnatives

green images

Florida Native Landscape Plants

1333 Taylor Creek Road
Christmas, Florida 32709

Keep Brevard Beautiful

is sponsoring several

After Labor Day Beach Clean Ups

SEPTEMBER 3rd

Meet on site at one of the following parks

Alan Shepard Park

Cocoa Beach Pier

Lori Wilson Park

4th St N., Cocoa Beach



Pre-registration for the **2013 FNST** (Florida National Scenic Trail) **Symposium** is now open. Simply go to www.florc.org and click on the FNST Registration icon and get yourself signed up for this special event (the first 100 registrants get a special FNST commemorative hat).

More than just reflecting on the past 30 years of dedicated work on making this FNST dream a reality, this year the symposium will highlight the future plans that will make the FNST an even greater outdoor experience in the next 30 years. An active program of speakers will take you into the future of the FNST. This year's special guest is Steve Elkinton, Program Leader, National Trails System, NPS.

WHAT: Florida National Trail Symposium-"Blazing the Next 30 Years"

WHEN: September 28, 2013, 8:30 am - 12:00 noon

WHERE: Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Sanford, Florida

WHO: Volunteers, Land Managers, Outdoor Media, Outdoor Enthusiasts

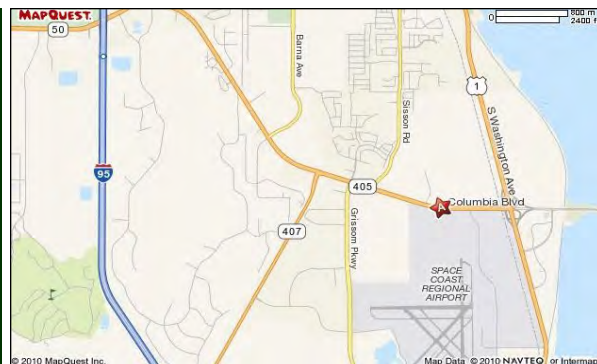
HOW: Pre-registration through www.FLORC.org

COST: Free and a continental breakfast and lunch provided.

For additional information go to www.fs.usda.gov/fnst , or www.floridatrail.org or contact Jim Schmid, FNST Administrator, at 850.523.8528 or jimschmid@fs.fed.us.

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



Florida Native Plant Society



For membership information, address change: P. O. Box 278, Melbourne, FL 32902-0278

NEXT PROGRAM: FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Wednesday, September 25, 2013 at 7:00PM

FLORIDA ON FIRE

with Dr. Rachel Wentz

www.fnps.org



Sea Rocket Chapter

PO Box 236341

Cocoa, FL 32923-6341

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