



# SEA ROCKET



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

OCTOBER 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**

### **Co-Presidents**

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#### **Education/Outreach**

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Wednesday, October 23, 2013

## **What Is That Fungus Among Us?**

### **The Ten Easy ID's**

With Dr. Jay Barnhart

Would you like to know what that "thing" is that you find growing on your lawn and other places that you explore?

Dr. Jay Barnhart, retired forensic pathologist and avid amateur mycologist, will present **"WHAT IS THIS FUNGUS AMONG US? THE 10 EASY ID'S"** based on local observations in the Space Coast area. Learn mushroom facts, fables, folklore and fun in this narrated interactive slide show.

Dr. Barnhart first became interested in wild mushrooms more than 40 years ago while he was making house calls as a general practitioner in rural Maryland. He is a member of the North American Mycological Association, whose members are referred to as "mycophiles", aka "fungus-lovers." Jay prefers to be referred to as an "avid mushroom hobbyist" rather than a "fungus expert."

Dr. Barnhart is retired from his second career as Dade County Medical Examiner (Miami CSI.) Jay's favorite activities include fishing, playing the piano, and giving presentations about Florida's local natural treasures. Jay has received 2 certifications in the Florida Master Naturalist Program and is a frequent guide at the Enchanted Forest, Sebastian Inlet State Park, and the Barrier Island Preserve.

Don't miss Dr. Barnhart's updated program on fungi! Socializing begins at 6:30pm and the program will follow at 7:00. Please call 321-264-5185 for more information or for driving directions to the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. Sea Rocket programs are free and open to the public.

# OCTOBER PLACES TO GO, THINGS TO DO!

*(Note: Programs and dates are subject to change; if in doubt, please verify before attending!)*

**October 4-6—Wings and Wildflowers Festival**—Hickory Point Park, Tavares - [www.wingsandwildflowers.com](http://www.wingsandwildflowers.com)

**October 10—Indian River Lagoon Call to Action-6:00 pm**—Dixie Crossroads, email [bhoelscher@cfl.rr.com](mailto:bhoelscher@cfl.rr.com) for more info. (see page 4 for the flyer)

**October 12—Dicerandra Scrub Field Trip—9:00 AM to 12 Noon**—Dr. Paul Schmalzer will be conducting this hiking experience. See announcement in this newsletter for directions. Bring your hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent.

**October 12—Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour—10 AM to 4 PM**—Conradina Chapter presents the fourth annual Landscaping with Natives tour. Maple Street Natives have tickets available. (See page 5 for the flyer)

**October 12—Sams House on Merritt Island—Taste of the Wild—11:00**—Elaine Williams presents the paleo diet of Florida's original peoples.

**October 14—FNPS Conradina Monthly Chapter Meeting— 6:00PM**, Melbourne Library. 540 E Fee Ave., Melbourne, FL 32901. Carol Hebert to present.

**October 18-19—Keep Brevard Beautiful Sea Bean Symposium**—Cocoa Beach Library—FREE—Everything you've ever wanted to know about Sea Beans; [www.seabean.com](http://www.seabean.com)

**October 19— Sams House on Merritt Island—Melon Basket Workshop**—Join Master basket maker Becky Selman for an all day workshop where you will create and complete a natural materials Melon basket. Class limited to 15, please call to reserve your spot to 449-4720. Small \$30 fee covers materials.

**October 25—FNPS Sea Rocket Monthly Chapter Meeting—6:30PM**, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary—Dr. Jay Barnhart presenting "What's That Fungus Among Us", call 321-264-5185 for information.

**November 2—Forest Festival & Native Plant Sale! 10AM-4PM**, Hold the Date, details TBA. Call 321-264-5185 for information.

**Florida Trail Association's Wednesday Hikes to resume in November!**

Please send calendar items to David Humphrey at [brevcracker@gmail.com](mailto:brevcracker@gmail.com)

For a comprehensive view of Sea Rocket activities:

[www.FNPS.com](http://www.FNPS.com), Events, "Sea Rocket"





#### Announcement:

#### FNPS 2014 Endowment Grant Research Awards and Conservation Grant Awards

The Florida Native Plant Society maintains an **Endowment Research Grant** program for the purpose of funding research on native plants. These are small grants (\$1500 or less), awarded for a 1-year period, and intended to support research that forwards the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society which is "to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida."

**FNPS Conservation Grants** support applied native plant conservation projects in Florida. These are small grants (\$1500 or less) awarded for a 1-year period. These projects promote the preservation, conservation, or restoration of rare or imperiled native plant taxa and rare or imperiled native plant communities. To qualify for a Conservation Grant, the proposed project must be sponsored by an FNPS Chapter.

Application guidelines and details are on the FNPS Web site ([www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)), click on 'Participate/Grants and Awards'. Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to [info@fnps.org](mailto:info@fnps.org).

**Application deadline for the 2014 Awards is March 7, 2014.** Awards will be announced at the May 2014 Annual Conference in Fort Myers. Awardees do not have to be present at the Conference to receive award.

#### Call for Research Track Papers and Poster Presentations Florida Native Plant Society 2014 Conference

The Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference will be held at Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, Florida, May 15-18, 2014. The Research Track of the Conference will include presented papers on Friday, May 16 and Saturday, May 17. The poster session will be on Saturday May 17.

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts on research related to native plants and plant communities of Florida including preservation, conservation, and restoration. Presentations are planned to be 20 minutes in total length (15 min. presentation, 5 min. questions).

Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted as a MS Word file by email to Paul A. Schmalzer [paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov](mailto:paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov) by February 1, 2014. Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.



# Indian River Lagoon



The North Brevard Region of Indian River Lagoon Coalition

and  Dixie Crossroads Restaurant

Invite YOU to the

## Indian River Lagoon Call to Action Evening

At Dixie Crossroads, on Thursday, October 10th at 6:00pm

**Dr. Leesa Souto,**

**Executive Director Marine Resources Council**

Will discuss, advise and conduct Questions & Answers:

**The Indian River Lagoon,      Saving the flora & fauna,  
Its history, beauty, health,      How and what we can do!**

For Dixie Crossroads F-A-M-O-U-S appetizers, please RSVP to  
Barbara Hoelscher at 321-268-5888 or [bhoelscher@cfl.mrc.com](mailto:bhoelscher@cfl.mrc.com)

**INDIAN RIVER LAGOON COALITION - A CALL TO ACTION**





# Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour



Saturday, October 12, 2013  
10 A.M. – 4 P.M.

Conradina Chapter South Brevard  
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Conradina Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society Presents the 4th Annual  
Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour Maple Street Natives has tickets available at the  
nursery or online store [www.maplestreetnatives.com](http://www.maplestreetnatives.com) click Online store.

Visit 6 homes at your leisure between 10-4 pm Sat. Oct. 12th Tickets are \$5.00 per person  
Maple Street Natives workshop 9-10 pm FREE "Landscaping with Natives" a brief look at  
some of the homes on the tour and the process to REDUCE LAWN and CREATE HABITAT!  
Sign up at [info@maplestreetnatives.com](mailto:info@maplestreetnatives.com) or phone 321.729-6857

Maple Street Natives 7619 Henry Ave. W. Melbourne, FL. 32904



## ABOUT SABAL PALMS, THE STATE TREE OF FLORIDA

# DO NOT DO THIS!

Except when transplanting\*

**GREEN FRONDS** are the palm's source of nutrients! Cutting green fronds stunts growth, invites disease, and reduces the palm's natural resilience to high winds. Harsh pruning takes away food and shelter from native and migratory songbirds, woodpeckers, butterflies, honey bees, treefrogs, bats, anoles, squirrels, and other wildlife. Over-pruned palms may develop weakened trunks, which will eventually cause them to break off and die. Work boots with climbing spikes incur wounds in the trunk, leaving the palm prone to disease.

**Palm fronds, berries, and boots:** Brown fronds provide unique habitat for tree frogs and bats (chemical-free mosquito control). In nature, there is no waste. Recycle fallen palm fronds as mulch or a brush pile for wildlife. Palm berries are critical sources of highly nutritious food for many birds and other wildlife. Plant palms where berries and sprouts won't be a problem. Palm "boots" (the leafbases) are important habitat for other plants, including many beautiful rare and endangered ferns. Perhaps a better understanding of the palm's use by other creatures will enable us to see black fruits, brown fronds, and boots on the trunks as things of great value, if not beauty.



### JUST SAY NO

to landscapers who want to prune green fronds, spring flowers and berries. Exclude annual harsh-pruning from your landscape contract.

### THIS is a healthy Sabal palm.



Florida  
Association of  
**FANN**  
Native Nurseries



### THIS is NOT!



### THIS TREE

has had its food supply severely restricted. Furthermore, its flowering branches have been removed, eliminating a vital source of nectar for insects + berries for birds.

### ONLY WHEN ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY:

Prune hanging brown and yellow fronds. Not the boots! Pole pruners work best. Prune stems away from the trunk.

Information sources include: University of Florida Extension Service; Betrock's Guide to Landscape Palms, by Alan Meerow; An Illustrated Guide to Pruning, by Delmar Publishers; The Sabal Palm: A Native Monarch, by Barbara Ochilbeck. \*The "hurricane cut" (fronds only, not the boots) is standard practice when preparing mature palms for transplanting.

**HELP  
SPREAD  
THE  
WORD**

**Copy,  
Distribute  
& Post!**

Please see following web pages for details of Broward tree ordinances.

<http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientid=10288&stateid=9&stateName=Florida>

go to Chapter 27 ; Article XIV and read Sec(s) 27-401, 27-404, 27-410 for the complete ordinance.

<http://hurricanecut.com/documents/Broward-PalmTreePRUNING.pdf> or

<http://www.broward.org/Regulation/Engineering/Pages/PalmTreeCare.aspx>.

<http://hurricanecut.com/ordinances.html>





Here we have Shari of Sea Rocket (no, she's not wearing white socks, those are her legs!) and Vince of Conradina Chapters working on the FLOR 500 Demo Garden that will be dedicated at the Wildflower Symposium on 9/28 at EFS.

In this picture we have Malachi (holding a rock). Malachi volunteers for college credits. Christopher looks to be fixing to pick up an even bigger rock. Chris volunteers for college.



This is Tom, our co-secretary. Tom, look up man, and say hello. Oh well, Tom is a busy man. Good job, Tom.



The "Hill" before the clean-up.

The "Hill" After the clean-up.



This is the pond that Martha cleaned up. Looking good Martha, Thank you.





## **FNPS Sea Rocket General Meeting Enchanted Forest Sanctuary ~ September 25, 2013**

*Submitted by Tom McLeod, Secretary*

FNPS Sea Rocket meeting called to order by Co-President Shari Blissett-Clark at 7:04pm.

Shari welcomed everyone back to monthly meetings and introduced the Board members that were present.

Martha Pessaro gave the financial report: total deposits of \$6,559.23.

Shari Blissett-Clark made several announcements.

The nursery "crew" has worked hard through the summer heat. Thanks to those who give so much to our Chapter: Ron Chicone headed the plant sale at MIWA which was very successful, Tom McLeod, Susan Egger, Karen Gaddy, Duane Gaddy, Myra Brubaker, Suzanne Meyer, David Humphrey, Nancy Escoffier, Martha Pessaro, Louanne Marletta,

There will be a plant raffle after the program.

Shari reminded everyone to sign and distribute petitions supporting the "Water and Land Conservation" amendment.

Bill Klein introduced the speaker, Dr. Rachel Wentz. Dr. Wentz has been a firefighter, EMT, and is an Anthropologist. She has done extensive work on the Windover site and written several essays and books.

Brief Summary of "Florida on Fire"

Humans have utilized fire for over 500,000 y and this may separate humans from "non-humans". Fire has changed human culture in almost every aspect including anatomy. Fire has had a fundamental role in Florida ranging from habitat maintenance to destructive urban fires. Prehistoric Floridians used fire to cook, as a hunting aid, for pottery, and tempering stone tools. In current times fire is still necessary for certain habitats. For additional information her blog is [rachelwentz-books.blogspot.com](http://rachelwentz-books.blogspot.com)

The meeting adjourned at 7:55PM

## **Sea Rocket Field Trip: Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary Saturday October 12, 2013 0900-1200**

Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary. This is a joint project of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and the State of Florida. Vegetation is primarily oak scrub and scrubby flatwoods with a depression marsh down slope. Prescribed burns have been conducted on the site since acquisition. The endemic *Dicerandra thiniicola* occurs here and should be in flower.

Directions:

Parking is limited at the site. We will meet at the Indian River Plaza Shopping Center. Park at the western (former K-Mart) corner of the shopping center 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.

Bring hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent.



## Thank you for your contributions

Madeline Klinko donated tropical sage, and dotted horsemint.

Marlys Breckle and Bill Klein donated 25 small Coonties.

Ruth and Jay Barnhart for donating Sea Grapes.

Nancy donated Elderberries, Prickly Pear, and a Laurel Oak.

## News from the Board meeting.

We had a tremendous turnout for the "Grand Planting" of the Florida Wildflower Federation grant in preparation for the Wildflower Symposium of Sept 28th. We had eight volunteers, **Karen, Louanne, Shari, Madeline, Nancy, Dave, Chris** (who volunteers for college), **Malachi** (who volunteers for college credit) ready to work. To each one digging, watering, transporting and planning, a huge thank you. Shari reported that 200 plants were planted. Karen and her crew are watering daily to keep things green. What a team. Y'all are the best!

## The Pond is Clean!

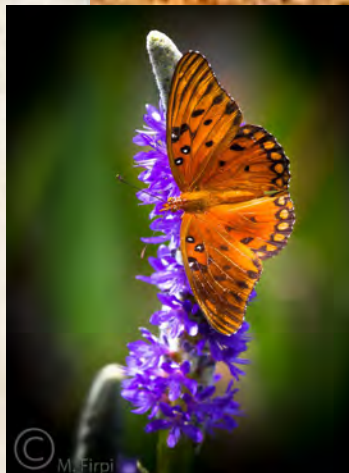
Fall cleanup of the Pond was completed by Martha Pessaro. Martha put in 6 hrs on Sunday, September 15th. The pond is happy.—Thank you Martha.

## A FREE DAY at Green Images.

I say "free day" because it was a day to spend the Florida Wildflower Foundation grant money that we (Sea Rocket) were awarded. Shari was like a kid in a candy shop, standing in the middle of acres of native plants, and having \$500 to spend.

After walking the entire nursery and pulling plants, we loaded two trucks full to the top, and had money to spare.

Our day started at 1:00 and ended after 5:00. It was a long day, but a successful day! ~ Dave Humphrey



## ***This is why we do what we do...***

Just wanted to send kudos to Sea Rocket volunteers. I know you've worked hard to ready the garden for the Wildflower Symposium but I wanted to share this with you. This past Friday 20 or more children were out in the garden looking for butterflies as part of the home school class held at the Enchanted Forest. The firebush in the front and the one at the bottom of the steps were a "beehive" of activity for butterflies. This group are the next generation of botanists! Joe Swingle and Sarah Kraum were the naturalist who taught the children about host plants and nectar plants for the butterflies. Then they took the class into Enchanted Forest garden. Thank you, volunteers, for all your hard work! There was standing room only for the class. There are some new kids on the block that love Mother Nature. Great job! ~ Maureen O'Connell



## Elliott's Lovegrass

*Eragrostis elliottii*

er-uh-GROS-tis el-ee-OT-ee-eye

Poaceae (Gramineae)

By David Humphrey



Elliot's Lovegrass, an interesting name for a grass that is not hard to love. On its own, this grass can be found in flatwoods with its sandy, well drained soils and even to wet prairies. It can do well in low nutrient soils, such as the sand hill type.

This grass is a low grower, maybe up to three feet. It consumes as much ground below as it uses space above. Some consider it a ground cover and it's eye catching when planted *en masse*.

The grass spreads by division or seed...if the birds leave any! It also serves as a larval host for the Zebulon Skipper.

Elliott's lovegrass thrives in full sun, and it can take some salt spray. It will add an interesting textural contrast to a wildflower garden. For larger gardens, it can serve as a border planting, or as an accent plant.

As many grasses will do, Elliott's will go dormant in the winter at which time it can be trimmed to encourage new growth and to keep it neat looking.



**GET YOUR NATIVE  
PLANTS HERE!**

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[www.TulindasGarden.com](http://www.TulindasGarden.com)

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[www.maplestreetnatives.com](http://www.maplestreetnatives.com)

[www.facebook.com/maplestreetnatives](https://www.facebook.com/maplestreetnatives)

*green images*

*Florida Native Landscape Plants*

1333 Taylor Creek Road  
Christmas, Florida 32709

407-568-1333

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



### The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Education Center

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

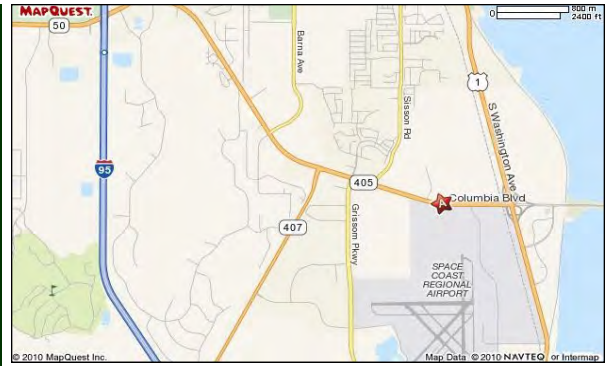


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

**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



### Wednesday, October 23, 2013 at 6:30 PM "The Fungus Among Us"- The 10 Easy ID's"

With Dr. Jay Barnhart

Sea Rocket Programs are always free and open to the public!

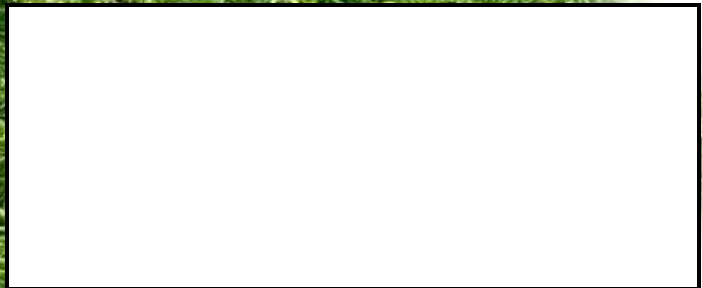
[www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)



### Sea Rocket Chapter

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