



# SEA ROCKET



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

DECEMBER 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**

Susan Egglar  
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[tigerlily1953@aol.com](mailto:tigerlily1953@aol.com)

### **Co-Secretaries**

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### **Chapter Representative**

Paul Schmalzer, PhD  
[paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov](mailto:paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov)

## **Committees**

### **Membership**

### **Education/Outreach**

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### **Nursery**

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### **Hike Leader**

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[paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov](mailto:paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov)

### **Newsletter**

David Humphrey  
[brevcracker@gmail.com](mailto:brevcracker@gmail.com)

### **Hospitality**

Karen Sue Gaddy  
[kargad3@aol.com](mailto:kargad3@aol.com)

*Seasons Greetings from  
FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter!*

*Don't forget to RSVP for the  
Annual Holiday Dinner at  
Café Margaux in Cocoa Village*

*See page 4 for details!  
RSVP by Monday, December 2nd  
[kargad3@aol.com](mailto:kargad3@aol.com)*



*There will be no Sea Rocket meeting  
in December ~ Happy Holidays!*

# DECEMBER PLACES TO GO, THINGS TO DO!

(Note: All future plans can change; if in doubt, verify!)

- Every Saturday:** **GUIDED NATURE HIKES - 10:00am** - the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. Bring hat, water and walking shoes. Groups of 5 or more, please RSVP. For more information, please call 321-264-5185.
- December 2** **RSVP Deadline for Sea Rocket Christmas Dinner**—email Karen Gaddy at [kargad3@aol.com](mailto:kargad3@aol.com) to reserve your attendance. Guests welcome!
- December 4** **FTA Hike: Econ River Loop Trail.** Meet at the Lone Cabbage fish camp at 8:30am Bring hat, water and walking shoes. [jescoffier@aol.com](mailto:jescoffier@aol.com)
- December 6** **EEL Program Guide Training - 10:00am**, The Enchanted Forest is sponsoring volunteer guide training. Call 321-264-5185 for details.
- December 7** **Volunteer Hike, EFS, 11:00am**—Join Dr. Paul Schmalzer on a guided hike and explore the trails of the Enchanted Forest. Call 321-264-5185 for information.
- December 9** **FNPS Conradina Chapter Monthly Meeting - 6:00pm**, A special holiday project is planned, "*Making Holiday Wreaths with Native Plants*". Melbourne Fee Ave. Library, [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)
- December 11** **FTA Hike: Prairie Lakes Trail.** Meet at Sam's Club, 4255 W. New Haven, Melbourne, 8:30am. Bring hat, water and walking shoes. [jescoffier@aol.com](mailto:jescoffier@aol.com)
- December 14** **Keep Brevard Beautiful Pelican Beach Cleanup - 8-10am.** 1525 Florida A1A, Satellite Beach. [www.keepbrevardbeautiful.wordpress.com/](http://www.keepbrevardbeautiful.wordpress.com/)
- December 14** **Sams House at Pine Island** - Children's book reading, "*Well Earth, Well Me*" by author Kendra Swartz Pepper. Books will be available for cash purchase, 321-449-4720
- December 18** **FTA Hike: Seminole Ranch.** Meet at the west entrance to Lowes parking lot in Titusville at 8:30am. Bring hat, water and walking shoes. [jescoffier@aol.com](mailto:jescoffier@aol.com)
- December 12** **Sea Rocket Annual Holiday Dinner at Café Margaux.** See page 4 for details. RSVP to [kargad3@aol.com](mailto:kargad3@aol.com)
- December 20** **Nocturnal Hike at Enchanted Forest—6:00pm**, Please bring bug spray and a flashlight. Registration required: call 321-264-5185. Limited to 20 participants.
- December 25** **Christmas Day! Happy Holidays from Sea Rocket Chapter!**
- December 28** **How to Build an Eagle's Nest, Sams House at Pine Island—11:00am**  
Help in a "nest" building project, learn about Eagles, and listen to Eagle legends. Call (321) 449-4720

## Hold these Dates!

- January 13** FNPS Conradina Chapter hosts **Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor**, Brevard Zoo
- February 1** Deadline for research papers: FNPS 2014 Conference (see page 3)
- March 7** Deadline for the 2014 Awards (see page 3)

Please send calendar items to David Humphrey at [brevcracker@gmail.com](mailto:brevcracker@gmail.com)  
For a comprehensive view of Sea Rocket activities go to [www.FNPS.com](http://www.FNPS.com); events, "searocket"



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.

# *You're Invited!*

## *FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Annual Holiday Dinner*

*Café Margaux in Cocoa Village*

*Wednesday, December 11, 2013*

*6:00pm ~ \$29 per person*

*Please RSVP by Monday, December 2nd, 2013*

*[kargad3@aol.com](mailto:kargad3@aol.com)*

### *Menu:*

*All dinners include mixed greens salad, Chef's potato & vegetable.*

*Tenderloin of Beef Brochette with Onions, Peppers,  
& Wild Mushrooms, Cabernet Herb Demiglace Sauce*

*~or~*

*Crisp Peppered Grouper, Sherry Lobster Cream Sauce*

*~or~*

*Herb Roasted Chicken over Lemon Linguine Pasta,  
Tri colored Peppers, Greek Basil, Olive Oil & Garlic*

### *Dessert*

*Chocolate Truffle Cake with Godiva Mousse*

*Amaretto Almond Cake with White Chocolate Mousse*



# The Chain of Lakes Native Plant Garden is Back!

By Ron Chicone, Jr., December, 2013



If you're wondering why I use the word "back," then you may not know that the garden fell upon hard times in early 2012. Planted in January 2010 by Sea Rocket members and funded with a grant from Keep Brevard Beautiful, this exciting and well planned outreach project had great potential for promoting native landscaping to unac-



quainted spectators. However, with the budget cuts and reductions in staff at Chain of Lakes Park there was no one to maintain the garden, and we all know what happens when a garden is not maintained. Eventually park staff had to mow the whole thing down with the exception of the pop ash, weeping yaupon and the acacia tree, which was protecting its understory of seaside goldenrod with vicious thorns. Regular mowing soon resulted in the reestablishment of St. Augustine, Bermuda, and Bahia grass from the surrounding lawn.

But all has not been lost. A plan to revive this foothold of natural beauty in a sea of athletic field turf was hatched. First, we obtained permission from the park manager **Mike Haddon** who was happy to accommodate us but wanted to make sure we kept the adjacent canal banks clear of vegetation as it tended to encourage water moccasins sunning on the bridge. Next, we needed something to define the garden and add some structural elements. **Xavier de Seguin des Hons** Land Manager with the Environmentally Endangered Lands program was happy to donate several large coquina rocks that were obstructing a fireline at Indian Mound Station Sanctuary. With the boulders in place, it was time to focus on resurrecting the native plants. But re-vegetating the entire garden area was too great a task to undertake all at once. And, in order to keep the mowers and line trimmers at bay in this manicured environment, the garden would have to look neat and purposeful at all times. This has so far been accomplished by focusing on the creation of small, well delineated, mulched flower beds anchored by the existing woody specimens and the new coquina rocks. Fortunately, the originally planted natives were still hiding in the lawn and soil, and they gladly reasserted themselves when given a chance. And, there are more just waiting for their chance. Two methods have been used to promote this re-establishment process. One is to designate a small area and simply remove by hand the competing turf grass and lawn weeds. But where the grass is too thick for the natives to compete, the turf was just dug up and the native plants were separated out, replanted and mulched. The focus has been on regular maintenance, weeding, line trimming and pruning, and only expanding the beds in small steps. Also, this process has not required any new funds to accomplish. Now park visitors can see some really cool native plants including firebush, seaside goldenrod, Elliott's aster, wild petunia, sunshine mimosa, blue porterweed, dune sunflower, climbing aster, water hemlock, frogfruit, Florida canna, frostweed and others. The habitat is returning, the butterflies and other pollinators are coming back, and Chain of Lakes Park is a more interesting place with the return of this little garden. (More photos on page 6)

If you would like to participate in making this garden a success, we could use some help to keep enlarging these beds, adding new plants and returning this garden to it's originally intended purpose of demonstrating the benefits and beauty of native Florida landscaping to the public. For more information contact Ron Chicone at [rchicone@yahoo.com](mailto:rchicone@yahoo.com) or 803-603-8912.

# Community Corner

## News for and about your Chapter



Looking southwest at the entrance to the Chain Of Lakes (COL) garden. Rocks were placed adjacent to the path to demarcate the entrance and provide a point from which to start reestablishing beds. The turf was carefully dug up and natives were separated and replanted.— Ron



*From the Sea Rocket Board Room*  
**Thanks for the plant donations!**  
**Nancy brought in a Coco-Plum**  
**Dave donated Gaillardia**

The firebush and dune sunflower are coming back strong on the west side of the COL garden. — Ron



Looking southeast from the path, the acacia tree and the seaside golden rod were thriving from the original COL garden but had been overgrown with weeds. The focus here was to sculpt, prune and delineate.— Ron

### Here's a round up of what our (World Class) Members did this month.

**EFS Forest Festival and plant sale:** Forest Festival at EFS was a big success! There were live skunks (polecats for the 'ol timers), snakes, gators, and bats. There was folk music and music for children, all very well done. Sea Rocket was well represented by both healthy plants (50 varieties) and 11 great looking volunteers to manage the plant sale. Many thanks to the volunteers; **Cheryl, Dave, EFS Crew, Jill, Karen, Louanne, Myra, Nancy, Ron, Shari, Suzanne, Woody, and volunteers from college.** Thanks to all for the time and effort given!

**Hands Across the Lagoon and more—**Bill and Marlys participated in and volunteered for the Hands Across the Lagoon event at the Max Brewer Bridge in Titusville. Bill distributed flyers and volunteered at the committee table the day of the event. Bill volunteered with the Brevard Zoo project installing oyster mats at Mosquito Lagoon. (See page 8 for photos) We attended, and Bill spoke during the citizen comments portion at the Palm Beach County Commissioner's Lagoon Workshop at the Marine Resources Council. - Marlys Breckle

**The Native Rhythms Festival (NRF) -** planned by our own Martha Pessaro (*Great job Martha!*) Preliminary count indicates over 15,000 attendees to this years NRF. Sea Rocket was represented all three days; thanks to those who volunteered!

Friday: **Karen and Louanne** survived the wind and kept the shelter in place. Awesome job.

Saturday: **Duane, Karen and Tyler Gaddy, Suzanne and Bill Meyer.**

Sunday: **Duane, Karen and Dylan Gaddy**

**Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (MINWR) 50th Anniversary Festival and native plant sale;** thanks to **Louanne, Annette, Nancy and Jim, Dave, and Tom.** Great turnout with lots of native plant questions!

**Eco-Living Jubilee;** Food trucks, organic growers, "green" living vendors. Sea Rocket Information booth with membership info, native plant info, etc **Karen and Duane Gaddy and Dave.** Well attended event with a wide range of vendors in attendance. It quit raining right before the event and started again as we were doing the final packing up.

***Interested in helping with Sea Rocket outreach events?***  
***Contact a member of the Board for more information!***

## Christmas berry

### *Lycium carolinianum*

LY-see-um kair-oh-lin-ee-AN-um

Solanaceae

By David Humphrey

Carolina Desert-thorn, Carolina Wolfberry,



The christmasberry blooms with lavender to whitish flowers which, in the December time frame, then develop into bright red berries, about 1/2" across. The berries are edible, but are better left for the birds, rather than for humans. Like other members of the nightshade

family, (tomato, potato, eggplant, petunia) christmasberry has a vine-like, cascading growth habit. Although a show off as a specimen plant it does well in group planting, as long as it has nearly full sun access. Christmasberry carries other names as well, such as the **Carolina Desert-thorn**. Descriptive in that there are thorns at the short branch tips and should be used in a lower traffic area. Propagating the christmasberry by seed is reported to be reasonably easy, or it can spread from the roots as well. It is not noted to be an invasive plant. Normal growth is a multi branching shrub 4 to 6 feet tall. It can be trimmed into a single branch, tree form, as well. Soil types are not highly critical, but a well drained soil with some organics would be best. It can take drought, but will lose its leaves in a life saving move. New leaves will grow when watered. Full sun is needed for the most successful growth. Even though it carries the moniker of "christmasberry" it is not very cold hardy. It has an extensive root system which makes it stable in the winds and able to stabilize loose soil. It is very salt tolerant and can be grown successfully on the barrier islands.

**GET YOUR NATIVE  
PLANTS HERE!**

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*green images*

*Florida Native Landscape Plants*

**1333 Taylor Creek Road  
Christmas, Florida 32709**

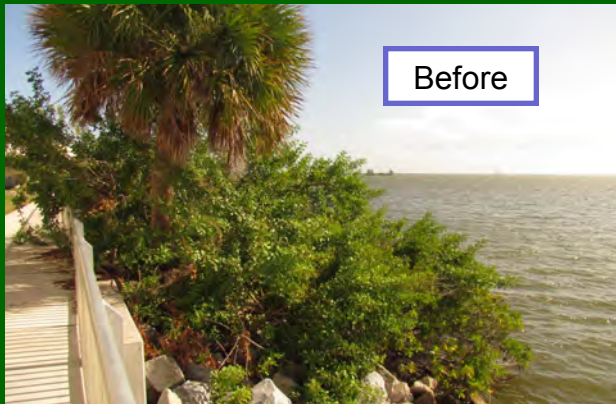
**407-568-1333**

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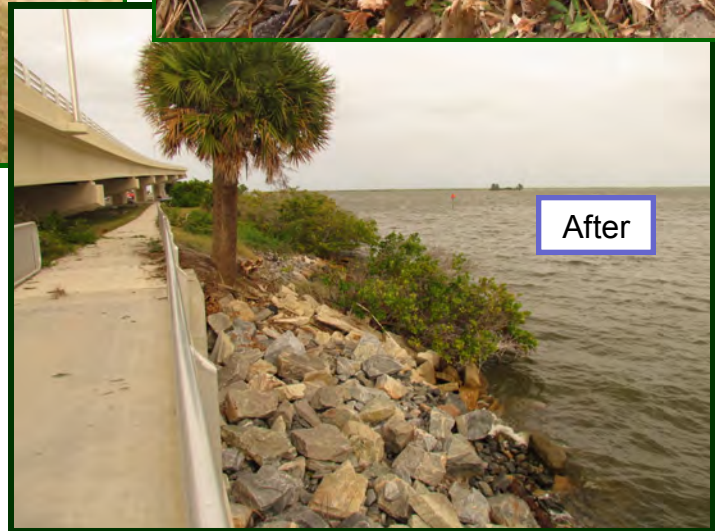
# Volunteerism: at the Heart of FNPS & Sea Rocket!

## This month's volunteer: Bill Klein

This is Sea Rocket's Vice President, Bill Klein, hard at work!  
Bill is armed and extremely dangerous...  
to the pepper tree invaders at Sand Point Park!



Before



After



Bill Klein

Though I don't see Bill in the picture, he was involved with installing these oyster mats in the Mosquito Lagoon; event sponsored by Brevard Zoo.



**THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING  
VOLUNTEERS!  
OYSTER DEPLOYMENT  
JULY 14, 2013**

## Sea Rocket General Meeting Minutes: November 20, 2013

*Submitted by Ron Chicone*

Refreshments and name tags were set up and available by 6:30. The meeting business and the featured presentation introduction were conducted by Chapter Co-President Susan Egger. Board and committee members present were: Martha Pessaro, Paul Schmalzer, Bill Klein, David Humphrey, Karen Sue Gaddy, and Ron Chicone.

The Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Ms. Egger.

### **Financial Report:**

Ms. Pessaro gave a brief financial report. Our checking balance is \$3,864, our savings account is \$1,412, for a total of \$5,266. We paid for the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife festival table and made a donation to the Land and Water Legacy and purchased plants for several of the plant sales. We have brought in \$320 on plant sales, \$12 on T-shirts, \$52 on miscellaneous and donations.

### **Announcements:**

Ms. Joan Faulls of Enchanted Forest Sanctuary (EFS) announced that Dr. Schmalzer will be leading a hike through the Sanctuary on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM as part of a volunteer orientation program. EFS will be closed on Thanksgiving day and Friday November 29<sup>th</sup>. A volunteer orientation will also be held on December 6<sup>th</sup> and on December 10<sup>th</sup>. The Friends of the Enchanted Forest will have their Holiday Party at EFS and Sea Rocket members are welcome to attend. Ms. Faulls recognized Ms. Pessaro and Ms. Blissett-Clark for their work representing Friends of the EFS and Sea Rocket Chapter respectively in a television documentary called Brevard Notes taped yesterday. It will air on Bright House Cable channel 49 next week on Monday at 6:00 PM, Wednesday at 6:30 PM and Friday at 7:00 PM. Ms. Faulls will try to send out an email reminder with these dates. Orlando Wetlands Festival is coming up at Fort Christmas and if Sea Rocket would like to have a booth there Ms. Faulls can arrange that.

Ms. Egger thanked all the volunteers who represented Sea Rocket and participated in the many recent events including plant sales and outreach booths. Volunteers recognized were: David Humphrey, Karen Sue Gaddy, Duane Gaddy, Tyler Gaddy, Louanne Marletta, Suzanne Meyer, Bill Meyer, Myra Brubaker, Nancy Escoffier, Jim Escoffier, Ron Chicone, Tom McLeod, Annette Myers, Woody Dierberg, Cheryl Barnes, Jill Whitson, Bill Klein, and Marlys Breckle.

Ms. Egger reminded members of the great volunteer opportunity coming up in January with the Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival where Sea Rocket will have an exhibit booth for the five day festival. Volunteers will be needed to staff the exhibit, meet visitors, and distribute FNPS information. Contact Shari Blissett-Clark if interested in volunteering.

**There will be no December meeting.** Sea Rocket will hold it's annual Holiday Dinner at Café Margaux on the December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Canapés will be provided by the Chapter and there is a fixed price of \$29.00 per person on dinner. The menu was displayed in the November newsletter. Please RSVP to Karen Gaddy by Monday December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Ms. Egger introduced Dr. Paul Schmalzer, the speaker for the evening, and his presentation on identifying Florida plants using a botanical key.

The meeting was adjourned by Ms. Egger at 8:07 PM.

### The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Education Center

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

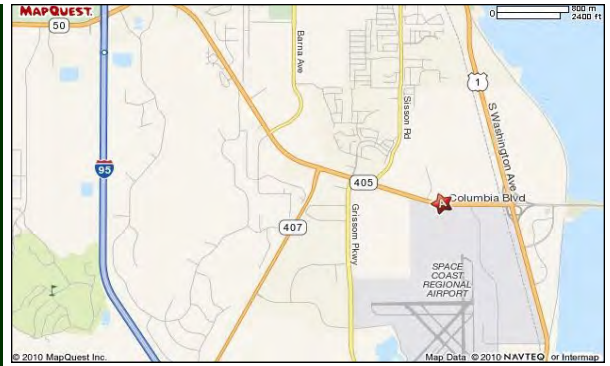


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

**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



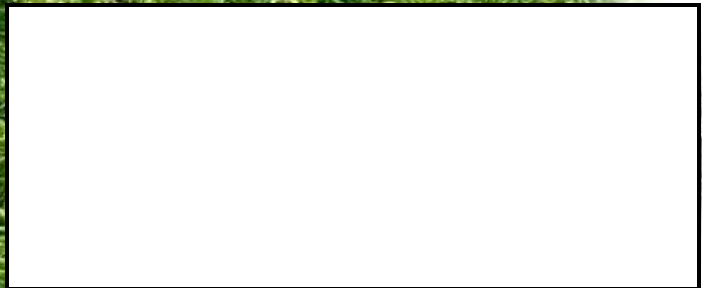
***There will be no December meeting!***  
***NEXT PROGRAM: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at 6:30 PM***  
***FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!***  
**SPACE COAST BIRDING & WILDLIFE FESTIVAL**  
[www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)



### Sea Rocket Chapter

PO Box 236341

Cocoa, FL 32923-6341



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