



SEA ROCKET



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

FEBRUARY 2014

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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sfemc@cfl.rr.com

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Newsletter

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Hospitality

Karen Sue Gaddy

kargad3@aol.com

FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Annual Business Meeting

**Wednesday, February 26, 2014
7:00pm**

**There is no program planned
for the February meeting.**



Florahome, Florida

FEBRUARY PLACES TO GO, THINGS TO DO!

(Note: All future planning can change presently. If in doubt, verify the date and times are accurate.)

- Every Saturday:** **GUIDED NATURE HIKES - 10:00am** - For information call 321-264-5185.
- Every Wednesday:** **FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Nursery Workday—9am-12noon**, Call Shari at 321-454-6849 for more information.
- February 1** **Volunteer Orientation:** 2:00 PM, The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, We are looking for dynamic individuals with a passion for the environment! Come learn about the various volunteer opportunities available!
For further in formation contact - Joanie Faulls at (321) 264-5185
- February 1** **Research Track Papers submittal Deadline.** Abstracts of not more then 200 words should be submitted to Paul A. Schmalzer (paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov) by this date. See page 6 for all the details.
- February 5** **Florida Trail Association Hike:** Bulow Creek Trail, 8:30 AM, Meet at the West entrance of Lowes parking lot. Bring a hat, water, and walking shoes. Contact jescoffier@aol.com for more information.
- February 8** **Sams House at Pine Island:** Pioneer Day: 10 AM to 4 PM—Yee-Haww! This is a whole lot of fun for the whole family. There are soldiers from the Civil War, and pioneers into the untamed Florida wilds. There will be music, games, and well check it out on page 3 for all the details.
www.facebook.com/pioneerdaymerrittisland
- February 12** **Volunteer Orientation:** 2:00 PM, The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, We are looking for dynamic individuals with a passion for the environment! Come learn about the various volunteer opportunities available!
For further in formation contact - Joanie Faulls at (321) 264-5185
- February 12** **Florida Trail Association Hike:** Bull Creek Cemetery, 8:30 AM, Meet at Sams Discount Club at 4255 West New Haven in Melbourne. Bring a hat, water, and walking shoes. Contact jescoffier@aol.com for more information.
- February 13** **Guide Training: 10:00 AM, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary,** Guide Training for volunteers with Naturalists, Joe Swingle and Sarah Kraum.
For further in formation contact - Joanie Faulls at (321) 264-5185
- February 15** **14th Annual Orlando Wetlands Festival,** 9AM to 3PM, Fort Christmas Historical Park, Christmas, Florida. It's FREE to all. Come in and enjoy learning for the entire family. See page 4 for more information.
- February 19** **Florida Trail Association Hike:** Fox Lake Trail, 8:30 AM Meet at West entrance of Lowe's parking lot in Titusville. Bring a hat, water, and walking shoes. Contact jescoffier@aol.com for more information.
- February 19** **Sea Rocket Monthly Meeting:** Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 6:30 PM There is no presentation planned. This is a Sea Rocket officer election and business meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.
- February 22** **Mammals of the Enchanted Forest,** 2:00 PM, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, Join Naturalist, Sarah Kraum, to discover common mammals found in the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary.
For further in formation contact - Joanie Faulls at (321) 264-5185
- February 26** **Florida Trail Association Hike:** Orlando Wetlands Park, 8:30 AM, Meet at West entrance of Lowe's parking lot in Titusville. Bring a hat, water, and walking shoes. Contact jescoffier@aol.com for more information.

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

For a comprehensive view of Sea Rocket activities go to www.FNPS.com; events, "searocket".

Pioneer Day
Saturday, February 8, 2014
10 am to 4 pm

**Art and Craft Vendors - Music by
Chris Kahl and the Celery String Band
Food - Kids Games - Educational
Booths - Historical Tours**



Sams House at Pine Island
6195 N. Tropical Trail
Merritt Island, FL 32953
321.449.4720



www.facebook.com/pioneerdaymerrittisland

free event!

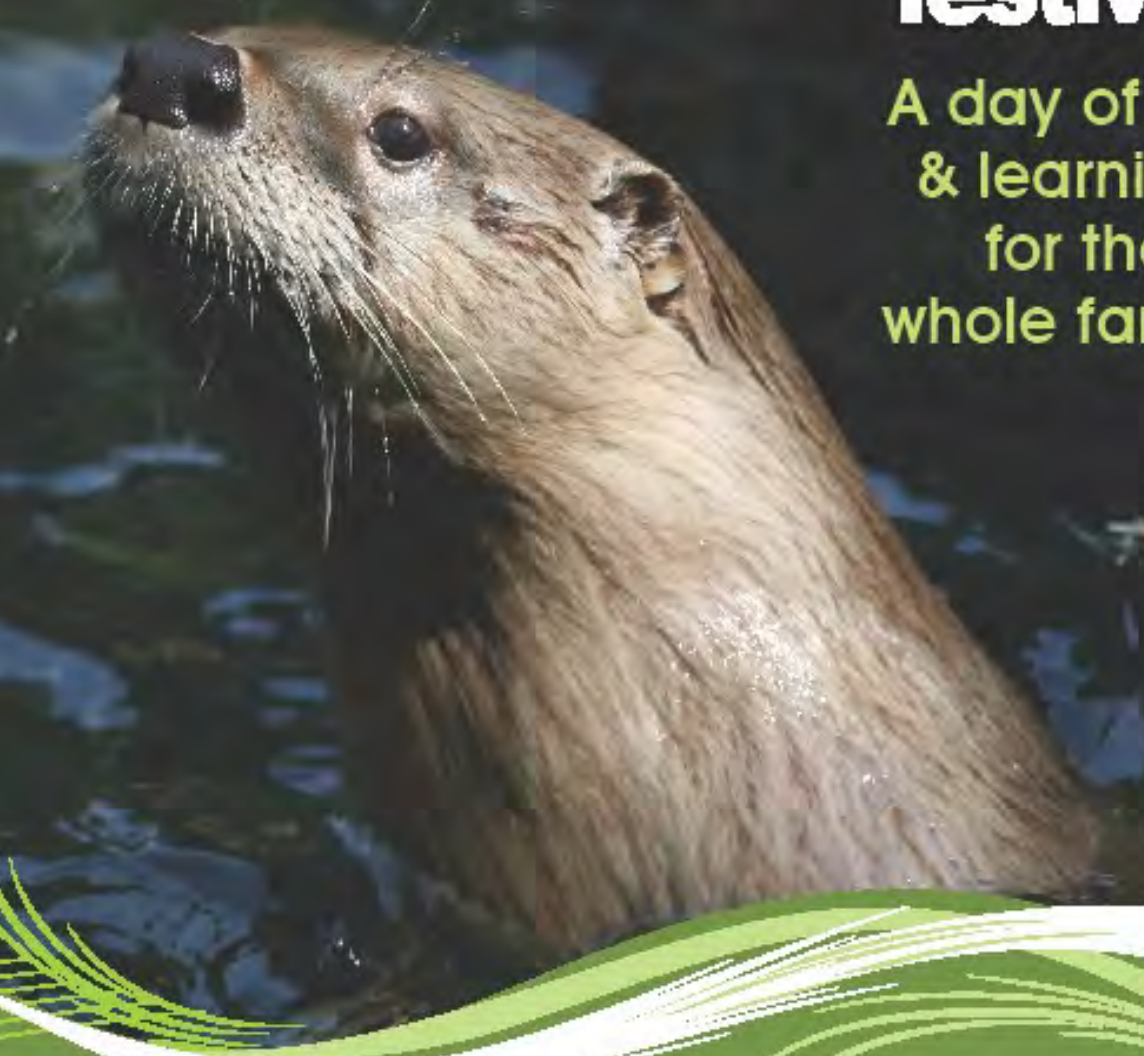


14th Annual

ORLANDO wetlands festival



A day of fun
& learning
for the
whole family!



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2014 • 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

At Fort Christmas Historical Park
1300 North Fort Christmas Rd, Christmas, FL, 32709

Information: 407.568.1706
orlandowetlandspark@cityoforlando.net
CityofOrlando.net/wetlands



ATKINS





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), click on 'Participate/Grants and Awards'. Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to 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 by February 1, 2014. Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.

Environmental Land-buying Amendment Headed to the Ballot

By [Lloyd Dunkelberger](#), Herald-Tribune
Thursday, January 16, 2014

Environmental groups announced today that they have obtained enough validated voter signatures to place a land-buying constitutional amendment on the November general election ballot.

If approved by 60 percent of the voters, the amendment would require the state to dedicate one-third of real estate transaction taxes collected each year to environmental land-buying programs, like Florida Forever, and other initiatives such as the restoration of the Everglades and the protection of springs and drinking water sources. It would amount to about \$10 billion over 20 years.

Here is the release from the group:

Florida's Water and Land Legacy announced today that the Water and Land Conservation constitutional amendment has surpassed the statewide signature requirement to be placed on the November 2014 ballot. To date, 685,971 signatures from Florida voters supporting the amendment have been validated by Supervisors of Elections throughout the state. In addition, the constitutional amendment has been qualified in 15 of Florida's 27 congressional districts, clearing its final hurdles to placement on the November ballot.

"Thanks to our dedicated supporters and hardworking volunteers, we exceeded the signature requirement and had the amendment qualified in more than enough congressional districts to place this important measure on the ballot. The unifying support this campaign has received is proof that Floridians care deeply about our state's water and wildlife and want to safeguard it for future generations," said Will Abberger, the campaign's chair and director of conservation finance for The Trust for Public Land. "This means that next November, Florida voters will have the opportunity to dedicate state funding to ensure we have clean water and protect our precious natural resources."

The Water and Land Conservation amendment would dedicate funding for conservation, management, and restoration of Florida's water and land resources for 20 years. The amendment, which if approved by the voters would take effect July 1, 2015, sets aside one-third of the existing documentary stamp tax (paid when real estate is sold) to restore the Everglades, protect drinking water sources, and revive the state's historic commitment to protecting natural lands and wildlife habitat through the Florida Forever program.

The amendment will provide more than \$10 billion for water and land conservation in Florida without any tax increase.

"Nearly one million petitions signed and delivered to local supervisors of elections sends a message loud and clear that Floridians want to see our water sources and natural areas protected. When given the chance to vote on the amendment in November, we are confident that the answer will be a resounding "Yes!" said Pegeen Hanrahan, the Legacy coalition's campaign's manager.

WE DID IT!!!

Currently valid: **685,971**

Required: **683,149**

Qualified congressional districts: **15**

Required: **14**

Updated: January 16, 2014



**Generations of Floridians will thank you for
your hard work and enduring support!**

**The Water and Land Conservation Amendment
will be on the November 2014 ballot thanks to you!**



Rare Florida Plant Gets 11,000 Acres of Protected Habitat

Submitted by Patricia Bayer

Thursday, January 09, 2014

A rare plant that only grows in parts of South Florida is getting some of its most important habitat protected -- but that doesn't mean it's out of danger's path. On Tuesday the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service protected nearly 11,000 acres of critical habitat for the Cape Sable thoroughwort as part of the Center's historic 2011 agreement to speed protections for 757 species around the country.

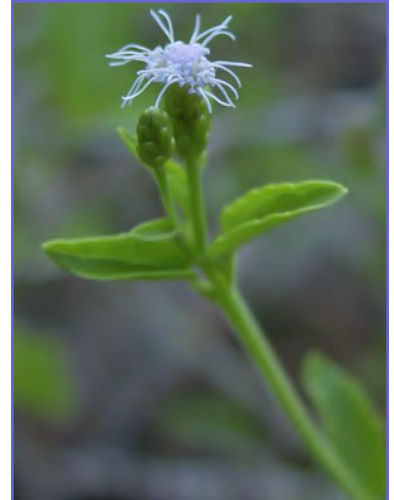
But this plant is threatened by rising sea levels. If worst-case projections become reality, much of its home will be inundated in the coming decades. To the Fish and Wildlife Service's credit, the agency did protect the plant's upland habitat -- currently unoccupied -- to give it a fighting chance against rising seas. But ultimately the thoroughwort will likely only survive if we dramatically cut greenhouse emissions and avoid those worst-case sea-level-rise scenarios.

Read our Cape Sable thoroughwort press release -

http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2014/cape-sable-thoroughwort-01-07-2014.html

- and then learn about how 233 endangered species are threatened by sea-level rise through our new report and video.

http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/sea-level_rise/index.html



Titusville Passes Fertilizer Ordinance

(This Article has been edited for space)

The Titusville City Council Meeting was a model of efficiency and thoroughness.

Remarks from the public included details about how their livelihood and enjoyment depends on the health and water quality of the Indian River Lagoon (IRL). They told about the bounty and diversity of the IRL many years ago. People remembered when the water was so clear they could see the sea grasses and marine life at the bottom of the IRL even at depths of 12 feet. Fishing, crabbing, shrimping, oystering, and clamming were all profitable then. Now the population around the IRL has grown over 50%. Speakers cited articles demonstrating how fertilizer restriction had contributed to water quality improvement in other communities. Excess use of fertilizers, leaking septic tanks, pet wastes, blowing yard waste into storm drains, roadway contamination, and poorly maintained retention ponds pass the pollutants into the runoff and ground water flow which provide 75% of the Total Nitrogen and 94% of the Total Phosphorus of the Non-point Sources in the North IRL.

Then the Lobbyist for the fertilizer industry and several representatives of lawn care companies discussed their objections to the proposed Titusville fertilizer ordinance. A lawn care representative stated that his company fertilizes 7 times during the year and that the Summer Ban would force them to use Nitrogen and Phosphorus free fertilizer during the Ban.

The Titusville City Council were clearly engaged with improving the quality of the lagoon. They asked relevant questions of the speakers and the City staff. They stated that the present activities around the IRL are creating too much pollution for the IRL to recover and that we need to change the way we live and maintain our properties.

William R. Klein

Community Corner

News for and about your Chapter

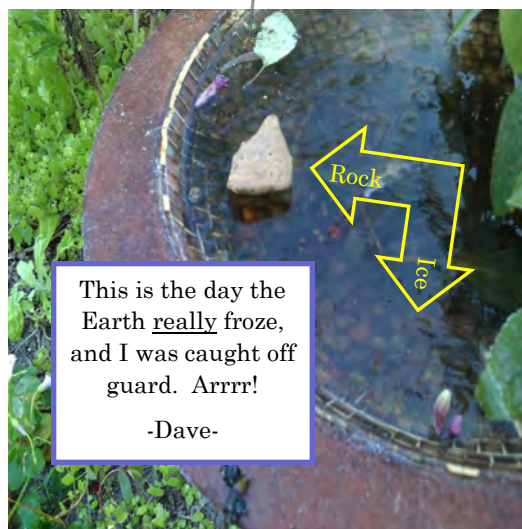
The Day the Earth Froze

Well, at least almost. It was threatening to freeze that evening anyway. The point is the nursery was in danger. On Monday, when Enchanted Forest is normally closed to the public, Sea Rocket was allowed in to move or cover our tender plants. Thankfully **Karen, Suzanne, Shari, Martha, and Dave** all worked together and got the job done. Thanks to **Xavier** and the EFS staff for letting us in, and to the volunteers who helped to keep any damage done to a minimum.

- Dave

To our members and readership

Before you dig-up, poison, or otherwise destroy unwanted native plants, think about donating them to the Sea Rocket Nursery! We might be able to use them and you'll be keeping extra waste out of our landfills!



This is the day the Earth really froze, and I was caught off guard. Arrrrr!

-Dave-

Rockledge, FL (1-19-14)

From the Editor.

I'd like to get YOUR gardening ideas, maybe opinions, on growing native plants, YOUR discoveries, YOUR experiences, etc., an opportunity to spread YOUR knowledge, to ALL the readers of the newsletter. Understandably, some editing of the articles may be required. Long political rants are off limits. Again what I am looking for is input from YOU about YOUR experiences, or even questions, dealing with Native Plants in Florida in 50 words or less.

Send your observations to brevcracker@gmail.com in a text or word format. I look forward to hearing from you. — David Humphrey



From the Sea Rocket Board Room

Thank you for your plant donations!

Dave for the Corky Stem Passion vines Mimosa, Frog fruit and Elliot's Love Grass seedlings.

Corky-stemmed Passion Flower

Passiflora suberosa

pass-ee-FLOR-ah sube-er-ROSE-ah

By David Humphrey



Yep, that's the flower. It may not be a show stopper, but this is a regular buffet vine for the Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*); Julia Heliconian; (*Dryas iulia*); and Zebra Heliconian (*Heliconius charitonius*) larva, not to mention it attracts pollinators. The corky stem Passion flower likes the sun, some water and is moderately tolerant of salt. I had two



growing very well in my parking space, in a crack in a paver stone. It is probably the most unfavorable place a plant can pick to grow. It's natural habitat is piney flatwoods to even a mucky ground. It blooms all year. It propagates from seed, although slowly, or root divisions. It will

grow up and around as a vine, as well as a ground cover. There are reports that in other countries or habitats that the corky stem can become invasive, but not here in Florida. It is very polite and won't cause a headache later. In a landscaping plan the corky stem can be used as a background plant growing up trees or other support structures. This a very valuable and a



Agraulis vanillae,
Gulf Fritillary larva

"must have" host plant for a sustainable butterfly garden. From the "Natives for your Neighborhood" site, How to propagate the *Passiflora Suberosa* from seed. Their answer— "... *Smash mature fruit on paper towel or place in blender with water and grind just enough to break up the berries; strain and place on paper towel. When dry, scrape seed onto surface of soil. Do not cover. Place container in light shade.*"

<http://www.regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/plantdetail.asp?tx=Passsube>

Get your native
plants here!

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Linda Gombert

www.TulindasGarden.com

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Maple Street Natives

info@maplestreetnatives.com

www.maplestreetnatives.com

www.facebook.com/maplestreetnatives

green images

Florida Native Landscape Plants

1333 Taylor Creek Road
Christmas, Florida 32709

407-568-1333

greenimage@aol.com

The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Education Center

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

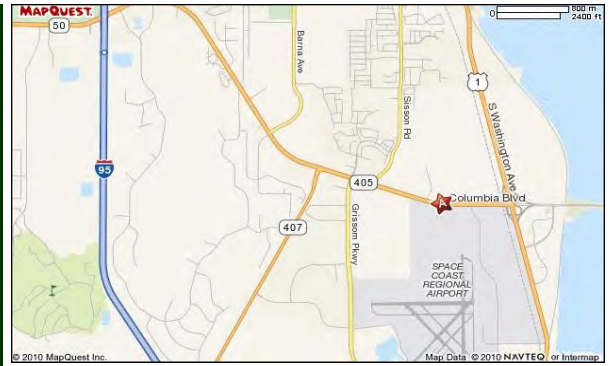


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

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/www.fnps.org

Sea Rocket Chapter mailing address: P. O. Box 236341, Cocoa, FL 32923-6341



There is no FEBRUARY PROGRAM !

March 19 at 6:30 PM will be by Dr Jay Barnhart
At the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

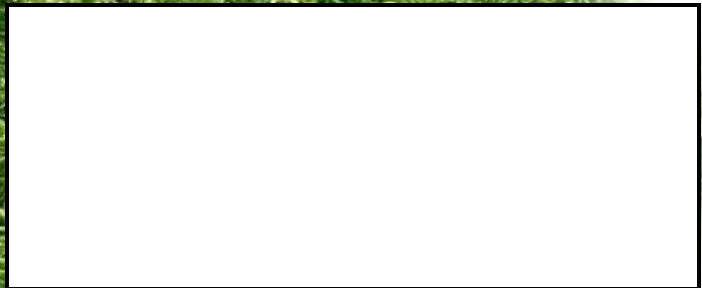
www.fnps.org



Sea Rocket Chapter

PO Box 236341

Cocoa, FL 32923-6341



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