



# Sea Rocket



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

March 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**

### **President**

Ron Chicone  
[rchicone@yahoo.com](mailto:rchicone@yahoo.com)

### **Vice President**

Shari Blissett-Clark  
[jclark109@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jclark109@cfl.rr.com)

### **Treasurer**

Martha Pessaro  
[tigerlily1953@aol.com](mailto:tigerlily1953@aol.com)

### **Secretary**

Lois Harris

### **Chapter Representative**

This position is Open

## **Committees**

### **Membership**

### **Education/Outreach**

Shari Blissett-Clark  
[jclark109@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jclark109@cfl.rr.com)

### **Nursery**

Suzanne Meyer  
[meyermenagerie@cfl.rr.com](mailto:meyermenagerie@cfl.rr.com)

### **Hike Leader**

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

### **Newsletter**

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

### **Hospitality**

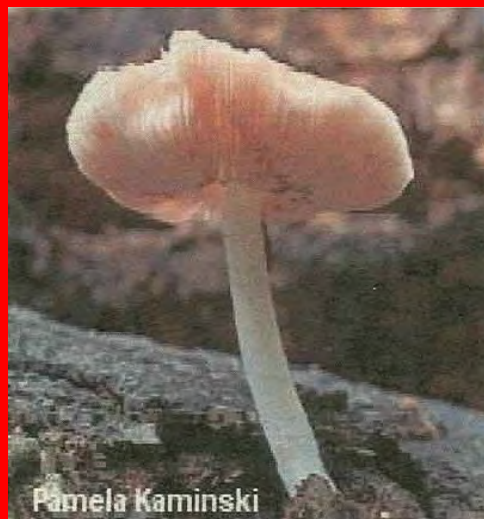
Karen Sue Gaddy  
[kargad3@aol.com](mailto:kargad3@aol.com)

*Do you know how to  
tell the difference  
between these two  
mushrooms?*

*Do you care  
to know?*

It could mean the  
difference between  
*Life Or Death!*

Find out how on  
**March 26th at 7:00 PM**  
Enchanted Forest Sanctuary  
Free to all, and all are  
welcomed.



Pamela Kaminski

"Dr. Barnhart first became interested in wild mushrooms more than 35 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 certification in the Florida Master Naturalist Program and is a frequent guide at the Enchanted Forest, Sebastian Inlet State Park, and the Barrier Island Preserve."

# March 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.
- During the Spring and Summer months** Sea Rocket is working with the Enchanted Forest to schedule a volunteer work day in the various native gardens at the Enchanted Forest. Stay tuned for more on this.
- March 5**                **Florida Trail Association Hike:** 8:00 AM—Shiloh Marsh Trail. Meet at West entrance of Lowe's parking lot in Titusville. Bring a hat, water, and walking shoes. Contact [jescoffier@aol.com](mailto:jescoffier@aol.com) for more information.
- March 7**                **Deadline for Endowment Research Grant.** Awards will be announced at the May 2014 Annual conference in Fort Myer. For further info go to [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org).
- March 8**                **KBB: St John's River Cleanup and TRASH BASH Cleanup** . IT's time once again to show Brevard County and our waterways some environmental love. The St. John's River Cleanup will concentrate on removing litter and debris above, below and surrounding the river on March 8th from 8am until Noon... at 7 locations in Brevard County. For more information for this call [321-432-3620](tel:321-432-3620) or our website [www.keepbrevardbeautiful.org](http://www.keepbrevardbeautiful.org)
- March 10**              **Conradina Chapter Monthly Meeting—6:00 PM** at the Melbourne Library on Fee Ave, in Melbourne. Our speaker is Elaine Williams, president of the Indian River Anthropological Society. Her topic is to "Highlight the rich and varied diet of the Native American people of Brevard County". For more information go to <http://conradina.fnpschapters.org/>
- March 12**              **Florida Trail Association Hike:** Harmony Trail. 8:00 AM—Meet at Sams Discount Club at 4255 West New Haven in Melbourne. Bring a hat, water, and walking shoes. Contact [jescoffier@aol.com](mailto:jescoffier@aol.com) for more information
- March 19**              **Florida Trail Association Hike:** Prairie Lakes. 8:00 AM— Meet at Sams Discount Club at 4255 West New Haven in Melbourne. Bring a hat, water, and walking shoes. Contact [jescoffier@aol.com](mailto:jescoffier@aol.com) for more information
- March 19**              **Oyster Mat Making - 10 a.m.** Got a fever pitch to do something to help the IRL? Then join the Brevard Zoo to create mats to restore oyster reefs. The Brevard Zoo offers this activity each third Wednesday. For Details go to [www.barrierislandcenter.com](http://www.barrierislandcenter.com), or call 321-723-3556. For **Oyster gardening** projects, email Sammy Anderson [sanderson@brevardzoo.org](mailto:sanderson@brevardzoo.org) to register or inquire as to which ones still have space.
- March 26**              **Florida Trail Association Hike:** Econ River Trail. 8:00 AM— Meet at Lone Cabbage Fish Camp. Bring a hat, water, and walking shoes. Contact [jescoffier@aol.com](mailto:jescoffier@aol.com) for more information
- March 26**              **Sea Rocket Chapter Monthly Meeting—6:30 PM** at the Enchanted Forest, A time of camaraderie and snacks. The meeting will commence at 7:00 PM with Dr Jay Barnhart presenting "What's that Fungus is among us". All are welcome to this free and informative meeting.
- March 29 –30**        **Eau Gallie Arts District (EGAD) from 10 AM to 4PM** presents the **EGAD in Bloom Flower and Garden Festival**, on Highland Ave in old Eau Gallie. The event includes plant and garden related vendors, floral or garden related artwork/artists, non-profit environmental groups, bird/butterfly enthusiasts, etc. See page 3 for more information.
- March 29**              **Friends of the Enchanted Forest:** Art in the Forest, a fundraiser for EEL North education programs. We partner with TAL and Art Galleries in Titusville/Mims Areas. For information call 321-264-5185.

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

## Florida Native Plant Society's 34th Annual Conference Registration is NOW OPEN!!

Florida Native Plant Society's 34th Annual Conference Registration is NOW OPEN!! Go to [www.fnps.org/conference](http://www.fnps.org/conference) for more information and to register. Book now to celebrate "Growing Native" at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) on May 15-18th.

Field trips and workshops will fill up fast, so book today. We strongly suggest you take advantage of the on-campus housing at an astonishingly low price of \$40/night, including taxes, Wi-Fi, and hot breakfast in the morning. Plus, you can bike or walk to the conference center. This is a shared two-bedroom suite (with separately locking bedrooms) and a split shared bath. If you don't want to share a bath, you may purchase a room by yourself for \$80, inclusive. Your conference experience will be greatly enhanced by staying on campus. Plus, you can book your room and pay right along with your conference registration. Make sure you watch PBS' What Plants Talk About, too. Dr. J. C. Cahill will be spending time with us.

See you in May at the Growing Native Conference!

### March 29-30

*Eau Gallie Arts District  
Highland Avenue and Eau Gallie  
Civic Center, Melbourne, FL*



**FREE EXHIBIT ALL WEEKEND**  
**Langdon Kihn: "An American Story"**  
Foosaner Art Museum



**EGAD.MainStreet**

**info@eaugalliearts.com**  
**(321) 574-2737**



**FREE Street Festival—10 am-4 pm**  
Vendors—Presentations  
Art—Music—Kids' Activities  
Farmers' Market  
Floral Displays and Speakers



**FREE Street Festival—10 am-4 pm**  
Ticketed Brunch  
Vendors  
Presentation by Master  
Floral Designer Link Johnsten

# Migrating Monarch Butterflies in "Grave Danger," Hit New Low

PHOTOGRAPH BY KATHY BACCARI, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC YOUR SHOT

Christine Dell'Amore—National Geographic

PUBLISHED JANUARY 29, 2014

## Colonies in Mexico occupy the smallest area since records began in 1993.

**Migrating monarch butterflies are in "grave danger," according to a report that shows their colonies in Mexico now occupy the smallest area since records began in 1993.**

The report is based on a survey of Mexico's Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve done in December 2013. The butterflies, which spend the winter hibernating in the reserve's forest, occupied only 1.65 acres (0.6 hectare) in December 2013—a 44 percent drop from 2012, when the insects covered 2.76 acres (1.12 hectares) of land. The survey was conducted by the WWF-Telcel Alliance and Mexico's National Commission for Protected Areas.

The number of migrating monarchs is plummeting for a few reasons: widespread loss of a plant called milkweed, which their young rely on for food; extreme climate fluctuations in North America, including freezing temperatures and heavy rain; and deforestation.

### Monarch Migration

Weighing in at 0.0095 to 0.026 ounces (0.27 to 0.75 grams), the monarch is noteworthy for its migration. Every autumn, millions fly south and west from southern Canada and the United States, stopping at sites along the way to breed and feed—a process that takes thousands of miles and spans five generations.

Most adult butterflies live only about a month, but the fifth generation lives about seven to eight months—the time required to fly from Canada and the U.S. to central Mexico, according to the WWF.

### Missing Milkweed

To complete the migration to Mexico, butterflies need to lay their eggs on a specific plant: milkweed. Once hatched, monarch larvae eat milkweed leaves as their first meal.

Milkweed is not a favorite of farmers, though. Once widespread throughout the U.S., the plant has seen its range fall 58 percent due to herbicide use, especially on corn and soybean fields.

Another threat to butterflies is climate extremes, including the droughts, heat waves, and storms that have hit North America in recent years. For instance, monarch numbers were very low in 2005 and 2006 most likely because of a severe drought in the U.S. (It's not easy, but there are ways to halt the decline by recruiting the help of all three North American countries, Oberhauser noted.

For instance, incorporating milkweed into large-scale plantings wherever possible—including marginal lands like roadsides—is one strategy.

**North American gardeners can also contribute by planting milkweed and making their land more butterfly friendly.**

© Copyright GardenGrapevine.com 2006



The **Conradina Chapter** of the Native Plant Society is holding the monthly meeting on Monday **March 10th at 6pm** at the Melbourne Library on Fee Ave. in Melbourne. Our speaker is Elaine Williams, president of the Indian River Anthropological Society. Her topic is to "Highlight the rich and varied diet of the Native American people of Brevard County". This presentation will introduce you to native hunting and gathering, food preservation, cooking, and storage techniques. Samples of foods used by local Native Americans will be available for tasting. Please come join us and learn more about the value and variety of native plants and animals here in Brevard County. For more information go to <http://conradina.fnpschapters.org/>

# Why do property owners pay landscapers high fees to damage and possibly destroy their palm trees?

By Jim Waymer, the Environmental Reporter at Florida Today

Many Commercial Property Managers do not have Florida landscaping knowledge. They don't have the time to read the numerous landscaping guidelines or government regulations. Therefore they hire Landscaping Companies as their experts. They rely on these landscaping companies to protect their valuable landscape by following Landscaping Best Management Practices and government regulations.

University of Florida, and other state universities and knowledgeable horticulturists state "DON'T REMOVE GREEN FRONDS!". When Palm Tree green fronds are pruned, the nutrients they would have produced are lost to the rest of the Palm Tree. Some nutrients move from older fronds of palms to newer fronds as they die. Removal of older green or yellow (chlorotic) fronds can cause Potassium deficiency (and to lesser extent other nutrient deficiencies). Nutrient deficiencies can also cause narrowing of the palm trees trunks and decline in the size of the fronds. Be sure to keep the lower part of the frond (where it widens) in place. This will become part of the tree's structure; they are important to the canopy's support when high winds occur. Removing the dead frond stems under the crown which form the support for the crown (horticulturists call them "boots") can allow the winds to snap the crown off and kill the palm.

Pruning that leaves an 11 to 1 profile on the clock (Hurricane Cut) can kill the palm or shorten its life! The standard is to leave a 9 to 3 outline. Keep the all green and yellow fronds. They supply the tree with nutrients. If fronds are yellow that may mean there is a mineral deficiency and the proper fertilizer can correct the problem, do not cut the yellow fronds. In addition cut green palm tree frond boots do not heal. This allows fungus and disease to enter the wounds and

**The University of Florida, and other state universities and knowledgeable horticulturists state "DON'T REMOVE GREEN FRONDS!".**

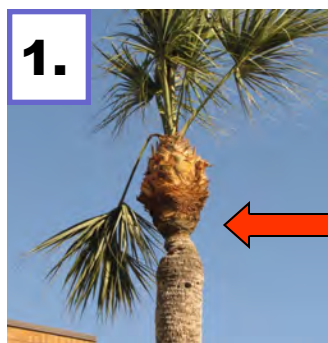
possibly kill the palm.

Landscaping companies have also found that the quicker they can prune and the larger the volume of fronds cut, the greater their profits. This places the palms under great stress without enough fronds for proper nourishment. Then these same landscapers will blame poor soil conditions for inadequate nutrients and sell fertilizers to nourish the palms. If the palms eventually die, they can sell new palms to the property owner. All of this excess trimming allows the landscapers to significantly increase their profits.

(see Jim Waymer's Florida Today article "Experts say over pruning puts Brevard's palms in peril")

<http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20140129/NEWS01/301290020/Experts-say-overpruning-puts-Brevard-s-palms-peril> ).

Thanks to Bill Kline for the photos.  
(These trees aren't in another State they are here!)



**Tree #1 is a hazard to life and property.**

**Tree #2 Just looks wrong, and is probably doomed.**

**Tree #3 is a healthy, happy, and well trimmed tree.**

# Sea Rocket Annual Elections and Business Meeting

## February 26, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Shari Blissett-Clark. Martha Pessaro presented the 2014 Sea Rocket Budget which was approved without comment.

The election of Officers went smoothly, without discussion by the members. The officers for Sea Rocket Fiscal Year (March 1, 2014 to Feb 28, 2015) are:

1. President—**Ron Chicone**
2. Vice President—**Shari Blissett-Clark**
3. Treasurer—**Martha Pessaro**
4. Secretary—**Lois Clark**
5. The position of Chapter Representative is being vacated by **Dr Paul Schmalzer**, who has served several years, This position remains open at this time.

To all those who have stepped forward and offered of their time to forward the cause of the FNPS and Sea Rocket, the board and membership at large want to thank you for your commitment and service. To those stepping down again a big thank you for your time and service to Sea Rocket.

Some of the by-laws have changed for the FNPS, and for the most part are transparent to the general membership. One of the changes made is in voting for initiatives/changes in the society. In the past 60± board members voted on these changes.

Now, when implemented, the membership will have the opportunity to comment, question, vote electronically through the FNPS web site at [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org). the instructions will be provided.

Shari announced, in alignment with, the Sea Rocket / Enchanted Forest agreement that Sea Rocket will be implementing an extra workday specifically for the butterfly gardens surrounding the Kiosk. Each workday will have one or more knowledgeable persons to direct activities. All members are encouraged to get involved and make the

County proud of Sea Rockets efforts. This is an added day, the Nursery work days are still on Wednesday from 10 AM to 2 PM.

**Dr Paul Schmalzer** is hoping to start up the Saturday hikes again in April or May. Stay tuned for more on that.

The FNPS Conference was discussed. See Page 3 for more information on that.

A special thank you to **Karen**, and **Duane Gaddy**, and **Dave Humphrey** for the refreshments provided.

Respectfully submitted:  
David Humphrey

**Sea Rocket 2014 Workdays at Enchanted Forest Sanctuary:**

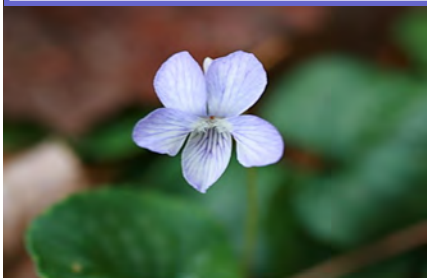
Saturday, March 1 @ 1000am  
 Saturday, March 15 @ 1000am  
 Saturday, April 5 @ 1000am  
 Saturday, April 12 @ 1000am  
**April 26 EARTH DAY PLANT SALE**  
 Saturday, May 10 @ 0900am  
 Saturday, May 24 @ 0900am  
**June 7 POND TOUR PLANT SALE**  
 Saturday, June 21 @ 0900am  
 Saturday, July 19 @ 0900am  
 Saturday, August 23 @ 0900am  
 Saturday, September 13 @ 0900am  
 Saturday, September 27 @ 0900am  
 Saturday, October 11 @ 0900am  
 Saturday, October 25 @ 0900am  
**November FOREST FESTIVAL PLANT SALE - DATE TBA**  
 Saturday, December 6 @ 1000am

GARDEN DAYS

# Community Corner

## News for and about *your* Chapter

**Sea Rocket Member  
Jane Jay Simonsen died  
February 5th.**



Please join us in extending  
deepest sympathy to her  
family.

—SR Board



### *From the Sea Rocket Board Room*

**Thank you for your plant donations!**

**Nancy Escoffier** brought in;  
Coco Plums, Corky Stem Passion  
Vines, Jamaican Capers, and Fire  
Bush.

### **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!



Martha Pessaro (waving)

Marlys Breckle and Bill Kline

The SCBWF was a great success! We got over a dozen sign ups for our newsletter and many comments, questions and informational tidbits. All this from folk as far as Vermont and Maine. It was a very interesting and well handled Festival with many of our fuzzy and feathered friends in attendance. I want to send a big thank you to our many volunteers that did such a great job in representing Sea Rocket and the FNPS organization altogether. They are: **Shari Blissett-Clark, Marlys Breckle, Bill Kline, Jill Whitson, Annette Myers, David Humphrey, Armand De Filippo, Mrs De Filippo, and Barb Peterson.** To all the volunteers Sea Club thank you for your time.

## Asclepias tuberosa

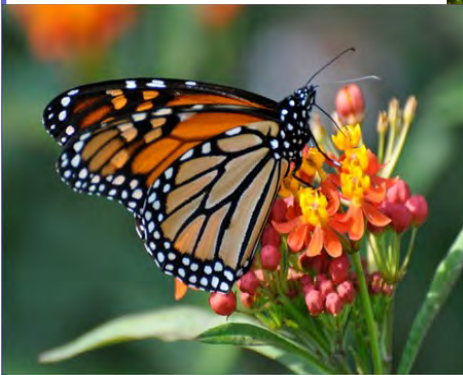
ass-KLEE-pee-us too-bur-O-suh

**butterflyweed, orange milkweed pleurisy root**

**Apocynaceae**

By David Humphrey

**Asclepias tuberosa** - is not only a standout in a garden or wildflower setting, this plant is a major food source for the Monarch butterfly and larva. It is an easy plant to grow and will re-seed itself nicely. The



milkweed does not require intervention from the gardener, to be successful. It is a "plug and play" plant, if you will. All it needs to grow and

prosper is full sun, and well drained sandy loam soil. Unfortunately for our friends along the coast it is not salt tolerant. It prefers a dryer soil and will survive drought. It produces abundant seed in the fall that will travel with the wind. It doesn't grow over two feet tall, and loves the Florida summer heat! It's range extends into New England up to Maine. It can survive a Florida cold snap. The Asclepias tuberosa is a short lived perennial coming up yearly. This milkweed will not crowd out other plants. I've seen new plants in the oddest places due to the wind borne nature of the seed. In a manicured yard it could be a pest, but relative to other Florida weeds I can't believe it would increase a home owners workload significantly. Grown together with the corky stem passion vine (see Feb Newsletter) would make a sumptuous meal for both the butterfly (a pollinator), and its voracious larva. A chewed up milkweed is a beautiful sight in a butterfly garden. Not only butterfly and caterpillars but aphids will feed on milkweed also, but the ladybugs (which are always a welcome guest in any garden) will feed on the aphids. . It propagates through seed or maybe easier is root cuttings. In the fall, cut the taproot into 2-inch sections and plant each section vertically, keeping the area moist. The Sea Rocket Nursery sells this plant also. The Butterfly weed is considered poisonous and ingestion is to be avoided.

**Get your native plants here!**

**Tulinda's Garden**

Garden & Landscape Design  
Horticultural Consultation

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

Phone 321-639-4017  
Mobile 321-446-9338

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**Maple Street Natives**

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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**

### The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Education Center

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

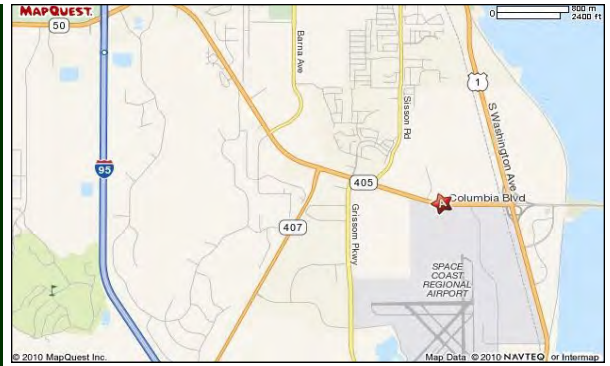


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

**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



### **The APRIL PROGRAM !**

**Part two of "Keys to using the Botanical Key"**

**April 23 at 6:30 PM by Dr Paul Schmalzer**

**At the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary**

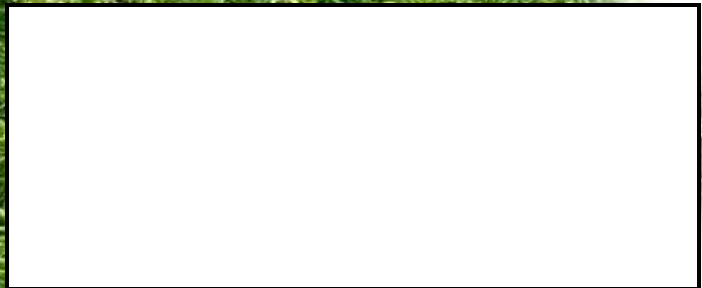
[www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)



### Sea Rocket Chapter

PO Box 236341

Cocoa, FL 32923-6341



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