



SEA ROCKET



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

April 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

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Wednesday, April 23, 2014

The Keys to using a Botanical Key Part II: The Dicots with Dr. Paul Schmalzer

Did you know that there are more than 4200 taxa of vascular plants in Florida? And the best picture book guide to Florida wild-flowers illustrates only about 750 species, approximately 18% of the total.

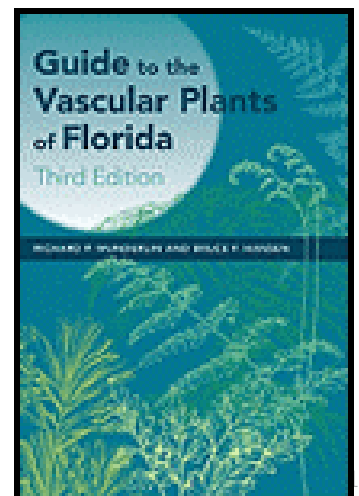
Understanding and identifying the full diversity of Florida's plants requires the use of botanical keys and Florida is fortunate in having a recent "Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida, 3rd edition" authored by R.P. Wunderlin and Bruce F. Hansen.

But for those not familiar with plant classification, using botanical keys can be quite a challenge!

Dr. Paul Schmalzer will guide us as we learn the basics of plant identification and the use of a botanical key in this second program. The focus of Dr. Schmalzer's talk will be on identification of dicots.

You'll have an opportunity to practice using the botanical key and begin developing the skills necessary to classify and identify Florida's native plants. Don't miss this chance to work with one of the Florida Native Plant Society's premiere botanists! - and it's free!

This program is free and open to the public and will take place at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 444 Columbia Blvd. in Titusville, 321-264-5185. Light refreshments at 6:30pm will be followed by the program at 7:00pm.



APRIL 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**, 321-454-6849
- April 2** **Florida Trail Association Hike:** Seminole Ranch/Orlando Wetlands, 8:30am, Contact jescoffier@aol.com for more information
- April 3—13** **Brevard Wildlife Corridor Expedition: see page 6 for schedule**
- April 5** **FNPS Field Trip: Maritime Hammock**, 9:00am, see announcement on Page 4
- April 5** **Riverfest at Riverfront Park**, 5 pm, contact Pat Brown at 321-631-0501
- April 5** **A Home For Pollinators, Barrier Islands Center**, 10am, call 321-723-3556 to enroll
- April 5** **Garden Workday, Enchanted Forest**, 10:00am, call 321-454-6849 for info
- April 9** **Florida Trail Association Hike:** Ulumay Sanctuary, 8:30am, contact jescoffier@aol.com for more information
- April 10, 11** **FANN (Florida Association of Native Nurseries) Native Plant Show—9am**
For more information visit www.NativePlantShow.com
- April 11, 12** **CENTRAL FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SALE**, 4-7pm Friday & 8am-2pm Saturday, visit www.nativeplantshow.com
- April 12** **Garden Workday, Enchanted Forest**, 10:00am, call 321-454-6849 for info
- April 16** **Florida Trail Association Hike:** Micco Scrub, 8:30am, contact jescoffier@aol.com for more information
- April 17** **Friends of the Enchanted Forest meeting, 7:00pm, Enchanted Forest**, “Prehistoric Native Americans of Florida’s East Coast” with Elaine Williams, call 321-264-5185 for information
- April 23** **FNPS Sea Rocket Meeting, 7:00pm, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary**,
See page 1 for program details
- April 23** **Florida Trail Association Hike:** Enchanted Forest,, 8:30am, contact jescoffier@aol.com for more information
- April 26** **Earth Day Celebration at the Enchanted Forest, 10 AM to 3 PM**, see page 5 for full announcement
- April 26** **KBB’s Great American Cleanup**, 94 locations throughout Brevard, contact Denise at 321-631-0501 ext 203
- April 30** **Florida Trail Association Hike:** South Beaches, 8:30am, 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.org; events, “searocket”.

Big Win for Florida's Conservation Lands

Public outcry causes DEP to shelve controversial land surplus program.

Limpkin with dinner.



Audubon Florida Advocate, Land Surplus Hearings

The **Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)** has ended its controversial program to sell tracts of conservation land. Instead, DEP will now focus on selling surplus state lands developed for state offices and other constructed facilities.

One example is the A.G. Holley Hospital tract in West Palm Beach, where the agency has a **\$15+ million** offer on the table. The Governor's budget proposes that these non-conservation land sales will help add funds to the **Florida Forever Program** for new conservation land purchases.

The cancellation of DEP's Conservation Land Surplus program is a big win for Audubon Advocates.

Your **incredible outpouring** of written and public comments convinced the Governor and DEP to drop the program. Almost every organization concerned about the "*special places*" of Florida went to work to organize its members to comment on surplus land proposals to DEP. Florida's major newspapers published many editorials which opposed the surplus land program and urged the Governor and DEP to abandon it.

Many Florida political figures were outspoken in defense of Florida's conservation lands. The list includes current **Senator Jack Latvala** (R-Clearwater) and former **Senator Paula Dockery**, as well as the **Florida Conservation Coalition (FCC)**, led by former Department of Environmental Regulation **Secretary Victoria Tschinkel** and former **Governor Bob Graham**.

The original, computer-generated proposals list of 167 properties included significant areas of wetland, open water, and quality upland habitat. Included were sites noted for protecting species such as the **Florida Scrub-Jay**. As comments poured in from all over the state, properties were gradually dropped from the list. Yet, after months of public hearings, over 2,000 acres of the **Hilochee Wildlife Management Area** in the **Green Swamp** still remained.

There was a universal plea to drop the Green Swamp properties. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, *who manages the site*, and the Polk County Commission **both opposed** the Area's inclusion on the surplus list. However, removing the property would have dropped the list to only about 1,000 acres. Selling this remaining land would not even generate \$5 million, *let alone the \$50 million in revenues projected*. **DEP's decision to drop the list in its entirety was the best thing to do.**

In the end, the Governor's office and DEP **listened to the people** and responded by doing the right thing. In today's political atmosphere, stepping back from a mistake is a seldom seen quality and it's **very good** to see it happen here.

The *new* surplus land list, consisting of non-conservation properties, mostly built and developed or purchased for non-conservation purposes can be seen at:

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/default.htm>



WELCOME TO MARITIME HAMMOCK

Dr. Paul Schmalzer will lead a walk through several of the habitats offered by the Maritime Hammock Sanctuary. **The hike begins at 9:00 AM.** This is free to all, offered by the Sea Rocket Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS).

The Maritime Hammock Sanctuary is in the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge west of A1A on the barrier island. This 150-acre sanctuary features a hiking trail with 2 bridges, boardwalk over wetland areas, and an observation deck over a marsh pond. Visitors experience a variety of protected barrier island habitats: coastal strand, maritime hammock, and mangrove forests.

Directions:

I-95 to US-192 (Melbourne Cswy). East on US 192 to A1A. South 10.3 miles on A1A. There are two trailheads on the west side of A1A. One trailhead is north of the Mark's Landing development, and the other is a few hundred yards to the south. Park at the north trailhead.

Bring hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent and hiking shoes.

Earth Day Festival 2014

FREE!

Saturday, April 26th, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

at the
**Enchanted Forest
Sanctuary**



Environmental Exhibitors
Guided Hikes • Native Plant Sale
Education Activities • Live Music
Kids' Crafts • Face Painting

Live-Animal Exhibitors

Florida Native Wildlife • Avian Reconditioning
Animal Love • Bat Belfrys • Florida Reptiles

Featured Musicians: Sheryl Paige • Sharon Osuna
Crystal Women • Chris Kahl • Janine & Friends



444 Columbia Blvd, Titusville, FL, 32780
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BREVARD WILDLIFE CORRIDOR EXPEDITION

Promoting outdoor activities on Florida's Space Coast

April 3-13, 2014



Wildlife Corridor Expedition Brevard Activities:

April 3, 9:00-10:30am: Swamp Walk of high fitness level at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

April 6, 1:00-2:00pm & 3:30-4:30pm: Fox Lake Sanctuary trailer bench Rides

April 6, 6:30-8:30pm: Night ride at Fox Lake Sanctuary

April 8, 8:30-10:00am: Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary guided hike with Dr. Jay Barnhart, Jr.

April 11, 4:00-5:00pm: Gopher Tortoise Program at the Enchanted Forest with Joe Swingle, naturalist

April 11, 7:30-9:00pm: Nocturnal Nature Hike at the Enchanted Forest led by Joe Swingle, naturalist

Registration is required for each event; register at

www.ExpeditionBrevard.com

Florida Native Plant Society—Sea Rocket Chapter
General Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2014

Submitted by Lois Harris, Secretary

Shari Blissett-Clark, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Shari introduced the 2014 officers: Ron Chicone, President; Shari Blissett-Clark, Vice President; Martha Pessaro, Treasurer; Lois Harris, Secretary

Shari asked for a motion to approve the February meeting minutes as printed in the March newsletter; Ron Chicone so moved, second by Bill Klein, motion passed unanimously.

Shari reminded the membership that the Chapter Representative's post is vacant; anyone wishing to learn more about the responsibilities of the position should contact Ron Chicone or Shari.

Shari thanked those members who provided refreshments: Martha Pessaro, Joanie Faulls, and Karen Gaddy. If anyone would like to volunteer to provide light refreshments for upcoming Sea Rocket meetings they should contact Hospitality Chair Karen-Sue Gaddy.

Upcoming events were announced:

March 29th – Art in the Forest – Enchanted Forest Sanctuary.

March 28th & 29th – Florida Master Naturalist Conference, Radisson Resort in Port Canaveral.

April 5th – Field Trip Hike – Maritime Hammock in Melbourne Beach, 9:00 am with Dr. Schmalzer.

April 5th & April 12th – Volunteer workdays at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 10:00 am, VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

April 8th – FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter BOD meeting 5:30 at New / New York restaurant. Members are welcome to attend.

April 23rd – FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting, 6:30 pm – Speaker is Dr. Paul Schmalzer and his program is the second half of "Keys to the Key" presentation.

April 26th – Earth Day Plant Sale – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – watch newsletter for details.

May 15 – May 18th FNPS Annual Conference will be held at Florida Gulf Coast University in Ft. Myers. Online registration is OPEN at www.fnps.org

David Humphrey, Newsletter Chair, is accepting articles, photos, questions or other member ideas for our newsletter. Deadline for submittal is the 25th of each month.

No FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting will be held in the months of July and August.

Shari then introduced Dr. Jay Barnhart and his program, "What is that fungus among us?" Dr. Jay Barnhart, retired forensic pathologist and avid amateur mycologist, presented a slide show and explained how to ID Space Coast mushrooms. Many species of mycelia can be seen growing in the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary.

Door prizes were given away at the end of the program.

FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm

Community Corner

News for and about your Chapter

ERROR REPORT

In the March Issue I had mistakenly assigned the article "**Why do property owners pay landscapers high fees to damage and possibly destroy their palm trees?**" to Jim Waymer of the Florida Today Newspaper. The article was actually written by Sea Rocket Member, **Bill Klein**, and sent to Jim Waymer at the paper. The links in the article are for further information on palm tree trimming. My apologies to Bill Klein for mistakenly assigning his article to another.

Greetings!

Submissions for inclusion in the Sea Rocket newsletter should be sent to brevcracker@gmail.com

Submissions may include program and meeting announcements, articles, questions, or photos related to native plants and wildlands, etc.

Thank you for your continuing to support your FNPS Chapter!

LOCAL NEWS.

Milkweed by the Millions

As a follow up on the Monarch Butterflies and the loss of milkweed for their migration, Shari found a site that is an answer to finding the milkweed plants. The Xerces Society has been collecting information on those organization collecting milkweed seed, all kinds of milkweed. Go to www.xerces.org for the "Milkweed Seed



Greenhouse in December before upgrades...



Greenhouse in March after upgrades



From the Sea Rocket Board Room

Thank you for your plant donations!

Dave for the Dune Sunflowers, and Frogfruit

Susan for the coral honeysuckle

Linda for the Mimosa

Nancy for the Elderberry plants Cassia, and Coco Plum

Karen for the Rayless sunflowers



Here's **Karen** teaching grandson **Vance** about native plants; never too young (or old!) to learn.

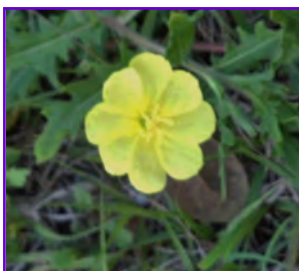
Cut-leaf Evening Primrose

***Oenothera laciniata* Family: Onagraceae**

on-uh-GRAY-see-ee la-sin-ee-AY-tuh

By David Humphrey

I've seen this plant alongside the roads in Rockledge and admired it's bright yellow blooms at 40 mph for years, but never questioned what it was. The Cut-leaf Evening Primrose has self seeded in my wildflower garden right along the concrete curb. It is blooming in late Spring from morning into the afternoon. The bloom only lasts a day, but there are many.



A little study of the FNPS Plant Database revealed that the Primrose likes well drained sandy soil in or near lime rock.

The young primrose, which is listed as a biennial meaning it is a two year plant and blooms in the second year, has a flat rosette growth pattern very much like the gaillardia pulchella. Both the primrose and gaillardia grow in disturbed, unimproved ground, and quite often along concrete.



Cut-leaf Primrose.
Note the runners which are tell-tale identifiers.



Blanketflower.
Very similar leaf shape and rosette, but no runners.

As shown in these photos the primrose has distinctive runners that spread out several feet from the central rosette. The Blanketflower also has a rosette in young plants with deeply lobed leaves, but it does not have the characteristic runners of the primrose. As the Blanketflower grows it will grow upward whereas the primrose will grow out. Primrose will self seed readily, where the seeds can live for several years before germinating. This is a tough, low water, no maintenance, self propagating, and cheerful native plant. It grows mostly under the lawn mower blade. It can take regular cuttings and still offer cheery yellow blooms. From what I have seen, this is not a dense ground cover and allows other plants an opportunity to see light.

Get your native plants here!

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Linda Gombert
www.TulindasGarden.com

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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

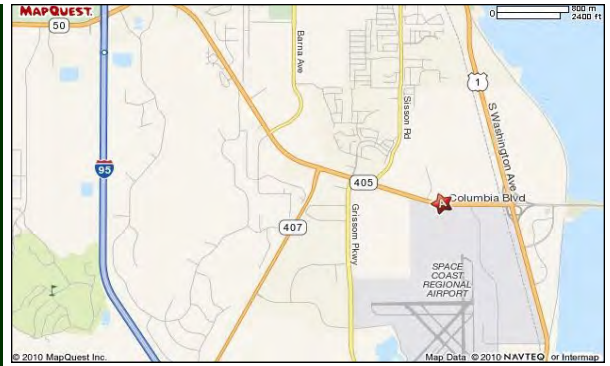


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

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



~ Coming in May ~

Plant Identification Workshop!

Hone your plant ID skills with this fun workshop

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!