



# Sea Rocket



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

May 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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## **Chapter Representative**

Vacant

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### **Membership**

### **Education/Outreach**

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### **Newsletter**

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

### **Hospitality**

Karen Sue Gaddy

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



Wednesday, May 28, 2014

## **PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP**

**Join the Sea Rocket Chapter  
for a native plant identification workshop  
at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary.**

Come explore the trails of EFS in search of unknown plants—learn to use a hand lens and the Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida.

Hone your ID skills and add to your knowledge of Florida's native plants under the guidance of experienced botanists and enthusiasts.

Have a "mystery plant" in your yard?  
Bring in a cutting and challenge our experts!

Light refreshments begin at 6:30pm and we'll hit the trails at 7:00.  
As always, Sea Rocket programs are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. For more information, call 321-264-5185.

# May 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-12 noon**, Call Shari 321-890-6154 for more information.

**May 10**                **Broken Glass and Bottles of Distinction** 9:30am-11:00am, Sams House at Pine Island. Historian **Robert Cutts** will discuss the importance of glass in history. Bottle dump cleanup on site after the talk. Bring gloves and insect repellent, wear work clothes. For more information: (321) 449-4720

**May 10**                **FNPS Sea Rocket Hike: Scottsmeer Flatwoods Sanctuary—9:00am-12:00**, Join Dr. Paul Schmalzer on this plant hike. See full announcement on page 5.

**May 10**                **Butterfly Garden Workday from 10AM till 2PM.** Volunteers are working in the butterfly gardens around the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. Call 321-264-5185 if you'd like to help.

**May 12**                **FNPS Conradina Chapter Meeting: 6:00pm, Fee Ave. Library in Melbourne, Roger Hammer**, Naturalist, author, botanist, photographer. Call 321-729-6857

**May 17**                **Dune to Lagoon Hike, Coconut Point Sanctuary, 10:00am**, Jay Barnhart. Call 321-723-3556 to enroll.

**May 17**                **Attract Pollinators! Barrier Islands Center, 2:00pm** -Trade native/food plant starts or seeds, learn to make a home for native bees, and identify native butterflies and their host plants. Please call 321-723-3556 to enroll.

**May 21**                **Make Oyster Mats, Barrier Islands Center, 10:00am**, Help the Brevard Zoo create mats to restore oyster reefs to the Indian River Lagoon. 321-723-3556

**May 24**                **Florida East Coast Diamondback Terrapin: A Species of Conservation Concern, Sams House at Pine Island, 3:00pm**, Wildlife Ecologist Dave Breining will introduce the biology of this special terrapin and discuss its lifestyle and habits. Call (321) 449-4720.

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.org](http://www.FNPS.org); events, "searocket".



# Brevard Visitor's Center Comments

By William Klein

*Submitted to Florida Today Editorials*

Earth Day is a time to reflect on protecting our planet and environment. Brevard County has proposed a \$2.93 million Visitor's Center. Brevard County also promotes Ecotourism and the beauty of Florida's wildlife. I would like to propose that we design the new Visitor's Center to promote the natural beauty of Brevard County and to be a model of excellent environmental sustainability practices and energy conservation. It is time to demonstrate that economic development for a tourist economy can environmental protective and sustainable concepts to protect our environment and wildlife.

Please look at the website and view the video about the California Academy of Sciences Living Roof. This website the design of their new building utilizing native plants and ecology of their area.

Brevard should use these ideas and request input from Brevard County Stormwater Department, University of Florida IFAS, Florida Native Plant Society, and Florida Wildflower Foundation to design and landscape the Visitor's Center. We need to demonstrate and provide guidance on how to protect our environment, cleanup our waterways, and save our precious endangered species. Environmentally designed retention ponds, rain gardens, butterfly gardens, rain barrels, and solar energy devices can all be displayed.

Here are some of the design features of the Living Roof Building. The Living Roof's 1.7 million native plants were specially chosen to flourish in Golden Gate Park's climate. After experimenting with thirty native species, the finalists were all able to self-propagate. These nine species, located inside and outside of the special exhibit, will thrive with little water, resist the salt spray from ocean air, and tolerate wind. They used 50,000 porous, biodegradable trays made from tree sap and coconut husks as containers for the vegetation. These trays line the rooftop like tile, yet enable the roots to grow and interlock, binding the trays together like patchwork. The Academy's green rooftop keeps the building's interior an average of 10 degrees cooler than a standard roof would. The plants also transform carbon dioxide into oxygen, capture rainwater, and reduce energy needs for heating and cooling.

Surrounding the Living Roof is a large glass canopy with a decorative band of 60,000 photovoltaic cells. These solar panels will generate approximately 213,000 kilowatt-hours of energy per year and provide up to 10% of the Academy's electricity need. The use of solar power will prevent the release of 405,000 pounds of greenhouse gas emission into the air. The expansive, floor-to-ceiling walls of glass will enable 90% of the building's interior offices to use lighting from natural sources. The glass used in these perimeter walls surrounding the public floor were specially constructed with low-iron content. This feature removes a common green tint, providing exceptional clarity. From almost any point inside the museum, visitors will be able to see the park outside in all its seasonal colors. The building will also feature operable office windows that employees can open and close as needed. On the main guest floor, an automated ventilation system takes advantage of the natural air currents of Golden Gate Park to regulate the temperature of the building. Throughout the day and night, louvers will open and close, providing fresh air and cooling the building thereby reducing the dependence on traditional HVAC systems and chemical coolants. Skylights, providing natural light to the rainforest and aquarium, are designed to open and close automatically. As hot air rises throughout the day, the skylights will open to allow hot air out from the top of the Academy while louvers below draw in cool air to the lower floors without the need for huge fans or chemical coolants.



Insulation also keeps buildings warm. The Academy, rather than using typical fiberglass or foam-based insulation, chose to use a type of thick cotton batting made from recycled blue jeans. This material provides an organic alternative to formaldehyde-laden insulation materials. Recycled denim insulation holds more heat and absorbs sound better than spun fiberglass insulation. It is also safer to handle. Even when denim insulation is treated with fire retardants and fungicides to prevent mildew, it is still easier to work with and doesn't require installers to wear protective clothing or respirators.

Recommended viewing: [http://www.calacademy.org/academy/building/the\\_living\\_roof/](http://www.calacademy.org/academy/building/the_living_roof/)  
[http://www.calacademy.org/academy/building/sustainable\\_design/](http://www.calacademy.org/academy/building/sustainable_design/)



**FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter**  
**General Meeting Minutes 4-23-2014**  
***Submitted by Lois Harris, Secretary***

Shari Blissett-Clark, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. The attending Board members were introduced: Shari Blissett-Clark, Vice President; Martha Pessaro, Treasurer; Lois Harris, Secretary

A motion was made to approve the March meeting minutes as corrected by Lois Harris, second by Martha Pessaro. Motion passed and meeting minutes were adopted..

Financial Report: Martha Pessaro, Treasurer, reported the bank balances: \$3,797.84 checking; \$1,402.36 savings; \$1,000.00 was sent to FNPS to help fund the Conservation and Research grants.

Chapter Representative Position VACANT – This position will likely consist of two physical meetings per year and a few conference calls; Sea Rocket is willing to reimburse the expenses of whoever takes on this important position. Since the Chapter Representative will serve on the newly formed Council of Chapters, the actual number of meetings is still unknown. However, the person serving in this position will represent the Sea Rocket Chapter and act as an information conduit between the Council and our Chapter. Anyone with an interest in serving in this post should contact Ron Chicone, President, or Shari Blissett-Clark, Vice President.

Refreshments this evening were provided by Lois Harris and Shari Blissett-Clark. May refreshments will be provided by Duane Gaddy. Contact Karen Sue Gaddy, Hospitality Chair if you can help Duane for May or volunteer for June refreshments. Thank you all for providing these snacks for our enjoyment.

**Upcoming Events:**

April 26<sup>th</sup> – Earth Day Plant Sale – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – We are expecting 800 to 1200 attendees. Set-up at the Enchanted Forest starts Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. Saturday volunteers will be needed for the following times: 9am to 12 noon, 10m to 1 pm, 11am to 2pm, 1pm to 4pm (this will include clean-up after the sale ends at 3pm).

May 13<sup>th</sup> – Next BOD meeting at Kings Duck Inn, starts at 5:30pm, members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

May 15<sup>th</sup> – May 18<sup>th</sup> FNPS Annual Conference will be held at Florida Gulf Coast University in Ft. Myers. Online registration is OPEN at [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)

June 7<sup>th</sup> – Ace Hardware Pond Tour and Sea Rocket plant sale at Enchanted Forest. Maps will be available from Ace Hardware at the end of April. We'll need help with this sale also, so please let Shari Blissett-Clark know if you can volunteer.

David Humphrey, Newsletter Chair, is accepting articles, photos, questions or other member ideas to be published in our newsletter. Deadline for submittal is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Ad hoc committee has been formed to refurbish and update the Sea Rocket exhibit – contact Shari Blissett-Clark to assist with this project or if you have ideas you would like to share.

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

**Program: “The Keys to using a Botanical Key, Part II, The Dicots”**

Dr. Paul Schmalzer presented the basics of using a botanical key to identify dicots; this program was the sequel to the November 2013 program “The Key of using a Botanical Key.” Dr. Schmalzer used informative charts and graphics to explain the principles of using the dichotomous key and attendees were given plant samples and taught to inspect flower parts through a hand lens. Discussions included terminology, the use of the glossary, and practice techniques.

The May meeting will be a hands-on workshop where we'll apply the principles of plant ID using the botanical key. We'll likely include a short hike through the Enchanted Forest as we practice our plant identification skills. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about plant ID and challenge your knowledge of Florida native plants. If you have plant material at home that you would like help identifying please feel free to bring it to the meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm

**FNPS Sea Rocket Hike**  
**Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary**  
*With Dr Paul Schmalzer*  
**Saturday May 10, 2014 0900-1200**

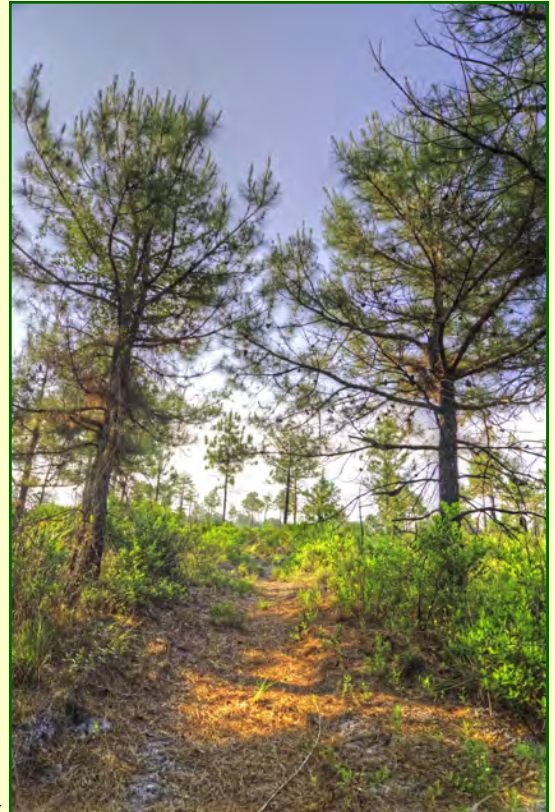
Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary is a recent (2008) acquisition by the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program with assistance from The Nature Conservancy. Vegetation is primarily scrubby flatwoods, mesic flatwoods, cypress strand, hammocks, and marshes. Prescribed burning has been conducted since acquisition.

**Directions:**

Meeting site is Parrish Park (Brevard County) which is about in the center of the eastern section of the Sanctuary.

Take I-95 North to Exit 231 (County Road 5A/Stuckway Road). Go right (East) on CR-5A about 1 mile to US1. Go right (South) on US1 about 1.1 miles to Magoon Road. Go right (West) on Magoon Road to the end (about 0.2 mile). Parking is available at the County Park.

Bring hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent. For more info: [paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov](mailto:paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov)



*Photo by Melody Hendrix*

## A Note of Thanks...

...to our Sea Rocket members for their dedication and hard work in our Chapter's native plant nursery.

Without the ongoing support of these members we wouldn't be able to fund important community initiatives!

Suzanne Meyer

Dave Humphrey

Karen Gaddy

Mrs. DeFillipo

Annette Myers

Louanne Marletta

Karin Biega

Bill Meyer

Martha Pessaro

Duane Gaddy

Susan Eggler

Bill Klein

Nancy Escoffier

David Biega

Ron Chicone

Myra Brubaker

Armand DeFillipo

Tom McLeod

Marlys Breckle

Shari Blissett-Clark

Lois Harris



# CONTROL MOSQUITOES AND PROTECT WILDLIFE!

On April 7, the World Health Organization (WHO) of the United Nations celebrated World Health Day. This year's theme was vector-borne diseases, i.e., diseases that are transmitted by mosquitoes, black flies, ticks, and other biting invertebrates. The diseases transmitted by mosquitoes, such as malaria, yellow fever, West Nile virus, and dengue fever, continue to cause great suffering in many parts of the world, and efforts should always be made to reduce the incidence of insect-borne disease. However, fear of disease can lead to inflated concern over the presence of mosquitoes. Many mosquito species don't feed on humans -- preferring birds or other animals instead -- and those that do are often "nuisance biters" and do not transmit disease. In addition, the presence of a vector species in an area does not automatically equate with disease risk; the pathogens must be present and able to be picked up by a female mosquito and transmitted to a new host.

**Unfortunately, unfounded fear of disease, often fueled by media hype,** can result in extensive spraying campaigns that are not only ineffective at controlling mosquitoes but harmful to water quality and wildlife. The insecticides most commonly used against adult mosquitoes are organophosphates and pyrethroids, which severely impact various invertebrates, fish, amphibians, birds, and bats.

When a mosquito outbreak occurs, blame is often placed on local ponds and wetlands, and spraying plans are set in motion. But the source is often much closer to home, in the stagnant water in old tires, blocked gutters, and neglected wading pools and pet dishes. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the WHO recommend a variety of techniques for successful and cost-effective mosquito management, including removing standing water around the home and yard; wearing protective clothing and insect repellent; and repairing window screens to ex-

clude mosquitoes from the home.

Insecticides are often the default method of control in many cities and counties, but there are many natural controls that are often overlooked by mosquito control agencies. The benefits of sustaining wildlife that prey on mosquitoes have been well-demonstrated. **Natural enemies of mosquitoes include dragonflies, aquatic bugs, aquatic beetles, crustaceans, as well as amphibians, fish, bats, and birds.** All of these animals feed on a variety of prey, but their feeding activities can have a significant impact on mosquito populations, such that many wetlands may consistently produce few to no mosquitoes. In some cases, treating a wetland with pesticides may make the mosquito problem worse, as natural enemies are also killed.

## WHO Recommends:

Take these steps to successfully and safely manage Mosquitoes:

- remove standing water around the home & yard;
- wear protective clothing and insect repellent;
- repair window screens to exclude mosquitoes from your home.

Protecting and sustaining diverse communities of wetland wildlife can provide effective natural control of mosquitoes or greatly limit the need for treatment. Some natural enemies, such as the tiny but voracious crustaceans called copepods, have been used successfully in the targeted control of container-breeding mosquitoes.

Many of these predators are just as mobile as the mosquitoes they hunt, and colonize both natural and artificial habitats where mosquitoes are found. For example, the predatory backswimmer bug is quick to find livestock water troughs where mosquitoes are breeding, providing effective control.

Likewise, well designed bat houses, properly placed, can entice colonizing bats to live in urbanized areas where mosquitoes are often most bothersome.

Be safe this year and use these simple, effective tactics to help control mosquito populations.





# Community Corner

News for and about your Chapter



## From the Sea Rocket Board Room: Thanks for the plants!

**Dave**—Sunshine Mimosa,  
Dune Sunflowers, Elliott's Lovegrass,  
and Lyre-leaf sage



April 15, 2014

A Great Big “Thank You” to all the volunteers  
that helped make the 2014 Earth Day Celebration  
the best yet!

To our FNPS Sea Rocket Members: Dave, Shari,  
Martha, Karen, Duane, Suzanne, Bill, Armand  
and Mrs. DeFilippo, Myra, Ron, David, Karin,  
Lois, and all the others that came by to help and  
shop!

To the EEL Program Volunteers:  
Thank you!

And to the EEL Program staff: Michael, Joe, &  
Deb, thanks for your help!

And finally, to Joanie Faulls & Mary Beth Vincent  
who organized all of us, worked out the fine points,  
and pulled together  
another wonderful Earth Day  
Celebration—Thanks!

The smiles, the kids, the critters, the stories, and the  
music made the day fun—the weather was per-  
fect—the wood-fired pizza was perfect—and if you  
missed it, there's always Earth Day 2015!

One of my gardening goals has been realized. My *Mimosa strigillosa* (Sunshine Mimosa) has covered my backyard. There are well over 100 blooms. It has rooted into my garden area by the fence (which I allowed) and will eventually grow into the city right-of-way. Bwaahaha  
—Dave



This isn't the  
Mystery Plant of  
the Month, but it is  
a mystery plant to  
me. It has self  
seeded from some-  
place. I have no  
plants like this. It  
has a nearly 1"  
(lavender / pink /  
purple) bloom. My  
first thought was Hollyhock, but I'm  
not so sure. Does anybody know what  
this plant is? If so email me at  
[brevcracker@gmail.com](mailto:brevcracker@gmail.com), and I'll put  
the answer in the next newsletter!



## Blue-eyed Grass

*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*

siss-ur-INK-ee-um an-guss-tih-FOE-lee-um

family: IRIDACEAE

By David Humphrey

Blue-eyed Grass is a beautiful, delicate, border "grass". Although "grass" is a bit of a misnomer as



it is actually in the Iris family. It can be identified by its basal growth, which unlike a grass, grows laterally from the central stalk. The bloom is simple with a clean yellow center surrounded by six delicate

blue, purple, or white petals. Blue-eyed grass likes full sun and healthy, moist, well drained soil. It is not well suited for coastal areas where salt is likely to be encountered.

Blue-eyed grass can grow up to 6" tall with bloom stalks a few inches taller. In its natural environment it grows in moist, open, sunny spots. In April I was traveling in Lake City and the Blue-eyed grass was growing along the roadside with a vengeance. The blooms stood upright and when *en masse* announced their presence. By later afternoon (around 4:00pm) the blooms close up and the plant looks like a clump of grass.

I have some "Blue-eyed" with "White eyes" in my yard, but unfortunately these are exotic and reproduce readily.



Reproduction is from divisions or by seed. Blue-eyed grass has a medium growth rate and is a great selection for moist meadows as it grows into clumps of flowers that show off all Spring.

Blue-eyed grass will go dormant in the winter which in our area means no blooms until Spring. Winter is also a good time to split the clumps.

This lovely "grass" will attract butterflies and song birds who find the seeds delicious. As a border plant recommended spacing is 6" apart. Dividing the plants will encourage further growth.

Get your native plants here!

Tulinda's Garden

Garden & Landscape Design  
Horticultural Consultation

Linda Gombert

[www.TulindasGarden.com](http://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](mailto:greenimage@aol.com)



### The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Education Center

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

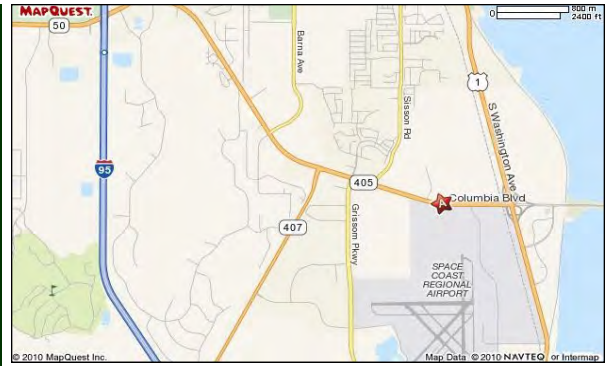


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

**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



## June Program: Prehistoric Peoples of Florida's East Coast

*With Elaine Williams*

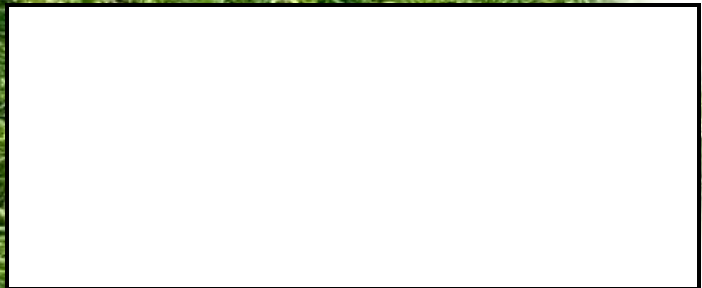
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### Sea Rocket Chapter

PO Box 236341

Cocoa, FL 32923-6341



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