



# Sea Rocket



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

June 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**

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Vacant

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### **Membership**

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### **Education/Outreach**

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### **Hike Leader**

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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, June 25, 2014**

## **Lost Tribes of Florida**

**With Elaine Williams, IRAS**

Florida's native people were here long before the Spanish set foot on our coast. Have you ever heard of the Timucua, the Ais, the Jaega, or the Tequesta peoples? They were farmers, fishermen, hunters, and traders. Learn how the geography, geology, and ecology of prehistoric Florida affected the way the first Floridians lived and prospered.

Elaine Williams is President of the Indian River Anthropological Society, a chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society, and a member of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC).

Elaine has worked on several sites in Illinois and in Florida. Her Florida work includes excavations and historic archaeology at the Pritchard House and Sams House at Pine Island; prehistoric sites at the Little Midden multi-component special-use site on CCAFS, and the Hunters Camp and Knight's Rise sites on the EEL Program's Fox Lake Sanctuary.

Join Sea Rocket Chapter for this fascinating lecture by an accomplished anthropologist. As always, this program is presented free to the public and will take place at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary on Wednesday, June 25, 2014. Program begins at 7:00pm. For Further information call (321) 264-5185.

# June 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 HIKE, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary**  
10:00am - For information call 321-264-5185.
- Every Wednesday:**    **FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Nursery Workday, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 9am-12noon, Call Shari at 321-890-6154**
- Friday, June 6:**        **Installation of Lagoon Monitors, 10:30am, details on page 8**
- Saturday, June 7:**     **FNPS Sea Rocket Plant Sale, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 10 AM –3 PM. See flyer on page 4/**
- Saturday, June 7:**     **Birds of the Indian River Lagoon, Sams House, 10 AM, Bob Montanaro, Pelican Island Audubon Society, call for information: (321) 449-4720**
- Tuesday, June 10:**    **FNPS Sea Rocket BOD Meeting, New York New York, 5:30pm, call Shari at 321-890-6154**
- Saturday, June 14:**    **Florida Trail Association Tropical Flora Hike, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 8:45 AM, Led by Ron Chicone, Sea Rocket President. See Page 6 for full details.**
- June 13, 14, &15::**    **4th Annual Titusville Sea Turtle Festival, visit website at <http://www.titusvilleseaturtlefest.com/>**
- Saturday, June 14:**    **Bee House Eco-Art: National Pollinator Week, Barrier Island Center, 10am. Please call 321-723-3556 to enroll.**
- Thursday, June 19:**    **Friends of the Enchanted Forest Evening Hike, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 6:45PM, call 321-264-5185 for information**
- Saturday, June 21:**    **Butterfly Garden Workday, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 9:00am to 1:00pm , call 321-264-5185 for more information**
- Wednesday, June 25 :** **FNPS Sea Rocket Meeting, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 6:30pm, Florida's Lost Tribes with Elaine Williams, see page 1 for program details.**
- HOLD THE DATE:**     **FNPS Sea Rocket Annual Cookout—Sunday, July 20th, 2pm, see information on page 9**

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".



# WILDFLOWERS, *naturally!*

## Celebrating Florida's First Flowers

### Landscaping with native wildflowers and plants?

The Foundation's new [Wildflowers, Naturally! landscape program](#) acknowledges those who use Florida natives in their landscapes.

Here's how it works: Establish a native wildflower/plant landscape on your residential or commercial property. It should contain a minimum of 75 percent Florida native wildflowers and plants and cover at least 50 square feet.

When your landscape is complete, fill out the application (cost to apply is \$15). You'll answer questions about plant species and diversity and upload at least three photos. You'll earn points for gardening practices that minimize human impact and increase habitat value for resident and migrating insects, birds and animals.

Those who qualify for recognition will receive a beautiful certificate. They may also purchase a sign or garden flag (above). The first 10 qualified applicants will receive a free [Wild Child t-shirt](#).

For details and resources, including simple landscape plans, visit [www.flawildflowers.org/wildflowers\\_naturally.php](http://www.flawildflowers.org/wildflowers_naturally.php)



Florida Native Plant Society and Sea Rocket

## **EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

Everyone is welcome to become a member of the State wide Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS). What qualifications are required to be a member? You must be breathing, and have an interest in native plants and/or in keeping Florida the "La Florida" that Ponce De Leon saw in 1513. No degrees, or titles and no pedigrees are needed, no time in Florida requirement, no age requirement. All that is needed is a love of growing things, especially growing things native to Florida. The FNPS offers tremendous learning opportunities from members who do have degrees, and titles. When I signed up with FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter, I started with nothing but an interest and time on my hands. As an active member, I learn new things every week about Florida's abundant native plants, and I use that knowledge at my home. Check with a local Chapter Representative, or go to the FNPS web site at [www.fnps.com](http://www.fnps.com) for more information.

-Dave H

## **F.Y.I.**

### **Xeriscaping - *zeer-i-skey-ping***

is landscaping and gardening that reduces or eliminates the need for supplemental water from irrigation. In some areas, terms such as water conserving landscapes, drought tolerant landscaping are used instead. Plants whose natural requirements are appropriate to the local climate are emphasized, and care is taken to avoid losing water to evaporation and run-off. The specific plants used in xeriscaping depend upon the climate. Xeriscaping is different from natural landscaping, because the emphasis in xeriscaping is on selection of plants for water conservation, not necessarily selecting native plants. (from Wikipedia and Dictionary.com)





The Florida Native Plant Society  
~ Sea Rocket Chapter ~



# Native Plant Sale

*In conjunction with the*

**Merritt Island  
Ace Hardware Pond Tour**

**Saturday ~ June 7, 2014  
10:00am ~ 3:00pm**

**Enchanted Forest Sanctuary**

**Over 40 Florida Native Plant Species!**

~ Pond Plants ~ Butterfly Plants ~  
~ Ground Covers ~ Wildflowers ~  
~ Native Grasses ~

**Plants for Every Garden & Every Season!**

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



The Enchanted Forest is located at  
444 Columbia Blvd, Titusville 321-264-5185

# Florida Native Plant Society 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: Growing Native

Florida Gulf Coast University, Ft. Myers, FL May 15-18, 2014

By Martha Pessaro—your on site reporter

## What happens at FNPS Conference Stays at FNPS Conference!

Seriously, this year was a banner year for the Annual FNPS Conference held at the Florida Gulf Coast University campus. The accommodations were outstanding, and the campus has many nature trails and eco friendly amenities. We even had waffles and bacon for breakfast! Everything from the Exhibitors and Vendors displays to the workshops and sessions to the field trips and meetings glistened with enthusiasm and appreciation of our conference slogan: Growing Native.

Arriving mid day on Friday I was able to join in the session on Native Plant Boot Camp presented by Jenny Evans of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation. I then attended "From Sea Oats to Sea Rockets: How Beach Plants Shape our Coastal Landscapes" presented by Tonya Clayton, Science Writer, Editor and Educator. I sat behind Bill Hammond during this session and observed his magnificent artistry as he worked on his nature journal. (Clue: research fine journaling and discover MORE!)

Friday evening was highlighted with a trip to the Naples Botanical Garden where we were wine and dined under a fairytale tent complete with flying banners and white paper lanterns suspended from the ceiling. Casual groups toured the fabulous gardens while dragonflies came to rest for the evening on the many beautiful plant specimens. A new Florida wildflower garden was the focal point of the tour and we were on a marsh edge just at sunset walking amongst the south Florida natives. This garden is well worth a return visit as a new Education Center is being constructed, and there was only time to tour about 1/3 of the gardens.

Saturday's events started out with the General Assembly and Membership meeting where we bid farewell to our outgoing officers and welcomed a slate of new leaders.

I was able to attend the following sessions: *Climate Change* presented by Dr. Don P. Chambers; *What Plants Talk About* presented by Dr. J.C. Cahill, Master Naturalists; *Creating an Army of Informed Citizens* presented by Dr. Marty Main. At lunch I ran into Teresa Clark and met her sister, Elizabeth, and we proceeded to attend *Conservation of Florida's Butterflies and Native Insect Pollinators* presented by Dr. Jaret Daniels, and *Our Two Million Year + Brain – Body Connection to Phytos of the Plant Sphere* presented by Bill Hammond.

The afternoon and evening festivities were splendidly capped with the art show and Land Remembered Dinner outside of the Campus dorms. Our own Nancy and Jim Escoffier were in attendance along with Paul Schmalzer, Diane Stees, Teresa Clark, and myself. Not a bad representation for the Sea Rocket Chapter - considering the distance!



# Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Serenity Pond

Submitted by Martha Pessaro

For the past seventeen years, Ace Hardware of Merritt Island has hosted the Brevard County Pond Tour. This event has been the focus of a different type of gardening, one where overwatering is required and aquatic life rules! The Enchanted Forest joined the tour as the first Nature Sanctuary and public area included on the tour.

For many years, the Friends of the Enchanted Forest had worked to plan a very special area of remembrance for directed donations honoring those who had passed from this world. In late 2002 plans came together to build a pond within the boardwalk area of the Management and Education Center's gardens. A partnership with the Friends organization and the EEL Program staff at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary was formed to plan and implement the pond project.

Through a collaboration with Paul Picard of Sacred Spaces Creations, we were able to take advantage of the skills and knowledge of the top water feature designer on Florida's East Coast. Paul donated many hours to designing and building the pond. Generous donations and bequests allowed the project, which had an estimated value of \$30,000, to be installed for an actual cost of about \$6,000. The completion schedule was expedited by the overwhelming response and talents of a team of volunteers and the EEL Staff.

The pond was completed in early spring of 2003 and dedicated with the name *Serenity Pond*. At the dedication ceremony a plaque was installed and Mike Knight played Amazing Grace on his Native American Flute. Donors and volunteers were in attendance at the dedication.

Planting and maintenance of the pond gardens began in earnest at this time and the ensuing transition to a more natural area commenced with the help of several dedicated water gardeners. Much was learned during those early years about the balance and requirements of aquatic gardening, not the least of which was the control of algae. Our maintenance plan required natural control methods, which meant Barley straw bales and manual removal.

Eventual balance took over as the plant life increased and the natural biota of the pond proceeded. Southern Leopard Frog tadpoles were soon spotted, followed by the maturing and emergent adults who sing to us through the day if we care to listen. With flowering Pickerelweed, Canna lily, Lizard tail, Mallow, and Spider lilies a wide assortment of our pollinator species arrived on the scene. Dragonflies, butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds all come to enjoy the bountiful floral offerings of Serenity Pond.

After dark, when the people have left the Forest, many of our nocturnal friends arrive to sip water, hunt for food, and leave behind their tracks and traces of their evening activities. Raccoon, bobcat, fox, otter, and snakes have all been frequent visitors to the Serenity Pond. In the daylight hours of operation for the Enchanted Forest, visitors of the human variety are spotted gazing into the water, listening to the flow of the water falling over the Coquina rock as it is pumped up through ancient solution holes that serve as recirculating systems for the pond. For humankind, the pond provides a sacred place to rest, restore the soul, and enjoy the pure delight of being outdoors in a natural area. Come visit the pond and celebrate her 10<sup>th</sup> year on the Ace Hardware Pond Tour!!

## **Sea Rocket Chapter General Meeting Minutes ~ May 28, 2014**

*Respectfully submitted by Lois Harris, Secretary.*

Ron Chicone, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

A motion was made to approve the April meeting minutes, second and passed unanimously.

Martha Pessaro, Treasurer; gave a brief financial report.

Karen Magrath and Beth Blackford from the Conradina Chapter introduced a new program that Conradina plans to roll out later this year; the program will offer yard certifications to native plant enthusiasts county-wide. Members were encouraged to share ideas with Karen and Beth; contact Karen McGrath at 321-431-7634.

Ron thanked Duane Gaddy and Lois Harris for providing refreshments at the meeting. Contact Karen Sue Gaddy, Hospitality Chair, if you can help provide refreshments at upcoming meetings. Thank you all for providing these snacks for our enjoyment.

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.

A brief member's survey will be sent to Sea Rocket members. Please take the time to complete it to help build a better Chapter.

June 7<sup>th</sup> – **Ace Hardware Pond Tour & Sea Rocket plant sale at Enchanted Forest** from 10am to 3pm, and **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!** Let Shari Blissett-Clark know if you can help. Tour maps will be available at Ace Hardware on Merritt Island.

June 10<sup>th</sup> – Next **BOD meeting** at New York, New York, starts at 5:30pm, members are welcome to attend.

July 20<sup>th</sup> – **Sea Rocket Summer Cookout from 2pm to 6pm at Fox Lake Park.** There are newly opened trails to explore at this site, and we'll have a "hay ride", plant ID contest, and other traditional summertime games like horseshoes and croquet. We hope to include a local kayak outfitter for those who may want to rent a kayak and get on the water to cool off. The Chapter will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and beverages – members should bring a covered dish to share. More details in the June newsletter.

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

### **Program: Hands-on workshop and hike in The Enchanted Forest:**

The workshop was a great success. Many attendees brought mystery plant material from their yards for identification. 25 members and visitors participated in the hike and plant ID workshop.

The group was divided into two teams with Ron Chicone and Jay Barnhart leading one group, and Dr. Paul Schmalzer leading the second .

It was a very enjoyable hike through the Enchanted Forest as we identified plants along the way. We burned through the daylight—and still wanted more.

FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm

## June 6th Event to Celebrate Installation of Lagoon Monitors

The St. Johns River Water Management District (District), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), local government partners and stakeholder groups will celebrate the installation of new "real-time" water quality monitoring stations in the Indian River Lagoon with an event on June 6 at Titusville Veterans Memorial Fishing Pier.

The event will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will include remarks from DEP Secretary Herschel Vinyard Jr., District Governing Board member Douglas Bournique, District Executive Director Hans Tanzler and Titusville Mayor James Tulley.

The new monitoring system is significant because it marks the first time stakeholders will have a continuous stream of data about nutrients and other factors affecting the lagoon. Prior to installation of the monitoring stations, data was gathered solely by hand. Real-time data from the water monitors will enhance scientific understanding of nutrient concentrations (nitrogen and phosphorus), plankton, salinity, water temperature and other dynamics in the lagoon system. Insights gleaned from the new data will help in managing lagoon resources and identifying projects to improve the health of the lagoon. Titusville Veterans Memorial Fishing Pier is located at 2A—Max Brewer Memorial Causeway.



### LOVEBUGS

#### University of Florida Extension Service

The slow-moving lovebug, often attached to a mate, is a familiar sight to most people in the southern United States during the summer and early fall. These creatures are well known for splattering bug guts all over people's cars and generally creating a buggy mess. Originally an invasive species from

Central America, the lovebug ~ harmless to humans ~ is now found throughout Florida.

- **Origins:** Contrary to popular belief, the University of Florida **did not** introduce the love bug to Florida. During the 20th century lovebugs migrated from Central America, traveling through Texas and Louisiana before arriving in Florida.
- **Attractants:** Lovebugs are attracted to decomposing plant debris but may confuse these odors with chemicals in exhaust fumes. Heat also attracts lovebugs, so both of these factors can lead them to congregate around roadways.

*Editors note: I've heard for years that U of F was responsible for the lovebug plague. Well, it appears that that Urban Legend has been busted! ~ Dave*



# Florida Trail Association Tropical Flora Hike

Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>

Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

8:45 AM in front of the Nature Center



© John Bradford  
**Mariberry**  
(*Ardisia escallonioides*)

Join the Florida Trail Association and Sea Rocket President Ron Chicone for a summertime trek through the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary.

The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary harbors the northern-most occurrences of several tropical South Florida species more commonly found on Indian shell middens or in rockland hammocks. This claim to fame is a product of two unique environmental factors found at the Enchanted Forest.

First, the Atlantic Coastal Ridge is very close to the surface in this sanctuary. This long stretch of limestone along the east coast of Florida is comprised of what's known as the Anastasia Formation, a coquina limestone estimated to have begun forming over 100,000 years ago.

The second factor is the subtropical-temperate climatic isotherm defining the limit of two climatic zones. This isotherm runs from south of Lake Okeechobee northeast to Brevard County where it seems to move across the Indian River Lagoon south of Titusville and continue north along the barrier Islands of Volusia County.

This hike will traverse some of the wildest and most pristine portions of the sanctuary, including the Magnolia Trail. The amazing plant diversity found here can also be attributed to the lack of past disturbance, attested to by the exceptionally large live oaks, pines and magnolias that compose the canopy in many areas.

It will be hot, the mosquitoes will be active, and the ground will be rough so bring water, hat, sun-screen, insect repellant, and wear good walking shoes. Call or email Ron Chicone for further information at 803-603-8912, [rchicone@yahoo.com](mailto:rchicone@yahoo.com)

## Annual Sea Rocket Picnic & Cookout

Sunday, July 20, 2014

Fox Lake Park ~ 2pm to 6pm

Save the Date ~

More Details Coming Soon!

Sea Rocket will  
provide:  
Hamburgers, Hot  
Dogs, Buns,  
& Beverages

YOU provide:  
A covered dish to  
share, your plate  
& silverware / cup

### Planned Activities include:

Guided hike on newly opened trails

"Hay Ride" in Fox Lake Sanctuary

Plant ID Contest

Kayak Rentals (or bring your own!)





# Community Corner

## News for and about your Chapter

Thank you Martha & Diane for the photos of the 34TH Annual FNPS Conference!

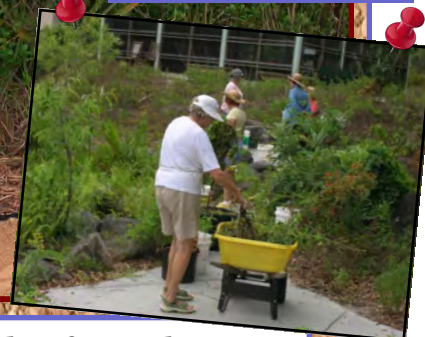
Our reporters on site:  
**Martha Pessaro & Diane Stees**



Martha Pessaro  
dancing with her rake!

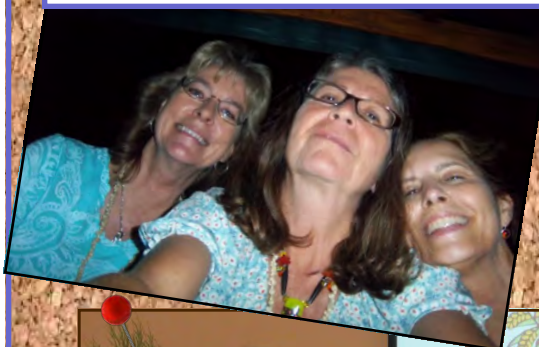


Volunteers work around  
the gardens: Suzanne  
Meyer, Nancy Escoffier,  
Ginny Blaetz, Theresa  
Clark, Betty Page, Pat  
Bayer, & Candy Murphy.



"Land Remembered" luncheon with **Nancy and Jim Escoffier and Dr. Paul Schmalzer**

The Party's Over! Selfie with **Diane Stees, Martha Pessaro, & Kim Zarillo**



A Reminder from the  
**Barrier Island Center**

**Lights Out For Sea Turtles**  
**May 1st through October 31st**

Make Your Guided Sea Turtle Walk Reservations! Visit  
[www.seaturtlewalks.org](http://www.seaturtlewalks.org)

Naples Botanical Garden dinner



The New FNPS Officers!



## Muhly Grass, Hairgrass, Sweet Grass

*Muhlenbergia capillaris*

mew-lun-BURG-ee-uh kap-il-LAIR-iss

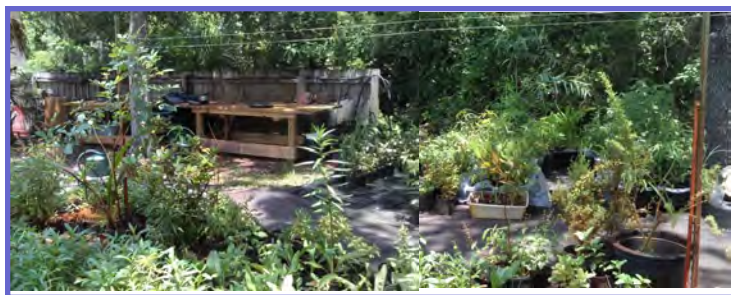
By David Humphrey

When the sun is low in the Fall skies, Muhly grass will bring the lavender color of life into your landscape.



Used in mass plantings or as a border plant, this easy to grow mounding perennial grass will be a sight for color starved eyes. Muhly grass will take up about 3 feet of air space as well as ground space. In exchange for room to grow

it will provide food and shelter for birds and small animals. It will thrive in full sun or part shade. It is moderately salt tolerant, and drought as well as flood tolerant. Propagation is by seed or division. To collect the seed it is recommended to use a comb, but it readily self seeds. It is native to pine flat woods, coastal upland and sand hill communities. Plants can be cut back to the ground in late winter before the spring flush of foliage appears. As the plants age, they can be divided in early spring to create new plants.



### 'Veni, vidi, vici'

Loosely translated "They came, they saw, they conquered." On the May 10th workday, Shari, Ron, Karen, Jennifer, and Dave met and worked with determination to victory. For those who toil so tirelessly in the Nursery the changes are timely and will enhance the working conditions and growing environment for us and the plants. In summary, the benches were moved along the fence to take advantage of the shade, (Volunteer Enhancement), the water plants were moved into the sprinkler zone, (Growing Enhancement), and last but not least, the shade loving plants were moved into the dappled shade of the overhanging oaks, (Growing Enhancement). This is Xeriscaping done right. To those involved, thank you!—*The Plants*

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plants here!

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Horticultural Consultation

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

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Maple Street Natives

[info@maplestreetnatives.com](mailto:info@maplestreetnatives.com)

[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

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

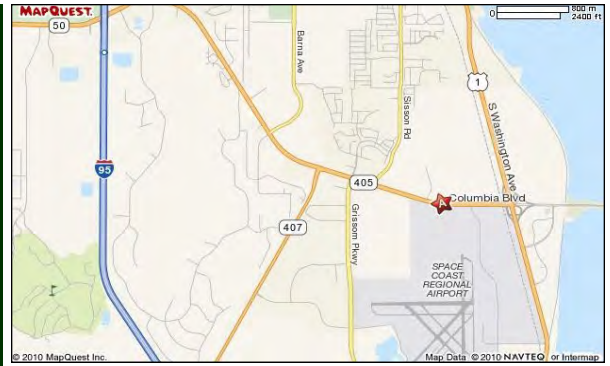


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

**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



**Sea Rocket has no programs in July and August**

**See you in September!**

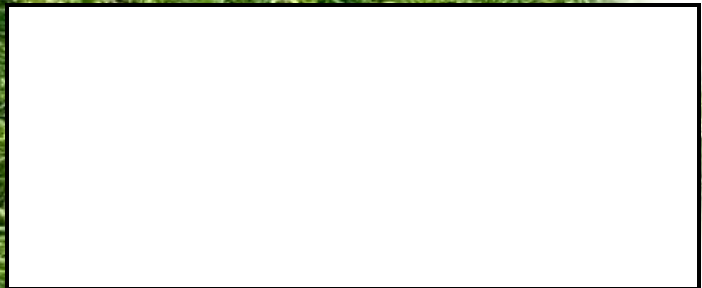
**[www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)**



### Sea Rocket Chapter

PO Box 236341

Cocoa, FL 32923-6341



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