



SEA ROCKET



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

September 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

Vacant at this time

Vice President

Shari Blissett-Clark
jclark109@cfl.rr.com

Treasurer

Vacant at this time

Secretary

Lois Harris
lois6459@att.net

Chapter Representative

Greg Hendricks
gatorgregh@gmail.com

Committees

Membership

Shari Blissett-Clark
jclark109@cfl.rr.com

Education/Outreach

Shari Blissett-Clark
jclark109@cfl.rr.com

Nursery

Suzanne Meyer
meyermenagerie@cfl.rr.com

Hike Leader

Paul Schmalzer, PhD
paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov

Newsletter

David Humphrey
brevcracker@gmail.com

Hospitality

Karen Sue Gaddy
kargad3@aol.com

Celebrate National Public Lands Day September 27, 2014!

**Join Sea Rocket volunteers
for a Butterfly Garden workday
9:00am - 12:00pm**

**Then buy some plants for
YOUR garden at our
Native Plant Sale!
10:00am - 3:00pm**

Want more information? Call 321-264-5185

**Join us on Wednesday, September 24th at 6:30pm
when our own Lois Harris presents
“Landscaping with Native Plants”
Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, Titusville**

SEPTEMBER 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—10am-12pm, Call Shari at 321-454-6849 for more information.

- September 6** **Butterfly Survey, MINWR, Volunteers Needed Saturday at 9 am.** View a photo presentation to learn how to identify butterflies. Then, participate in a butterfly survey to collect data for the Florida Butterfly Monitoring Network. Bring water, snacks, insect repellent and wear closed shoes and long pants. Call 321-861-5601 for reservations and information.
- September 8** **Conradina Monthly Chapter Meeting** Melbourne Library. 540 E Fee Ave., Melbourne, FL 32901. The presentation is "The Role of Fire in Maintaining Floristic Diversity in Upland and Wetland Vegetation of Florida" Dr. Paul Schmalzer, a plant ecologist with the InoMedic Health Applications at Kennedy Space Center will be the speaker.
- September 13** **Trail Hike at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary at (or about) 9:00 AM.** Jay Barnhart is hosting a hike in the woods to discover "What That Fungus is Among Us". Dr Barnhart is well known in the Sea Rocket Chapter for his fungus talks and knowledge of the many fungus varieties in the Enchanted Forest. Great hike leader, speaker and all around fun guy.
- September 13** **Sea Rocket at Enchanted forest—9am Work Day.** We will be identifying plants we want to preserve. Also there will be activity around to pond and along the walkway to clean it up. We want it to show that we care.
- Sept. 19 and 20** **Florida Wildflower Symposium,** at Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales. For complete information go to:
<http://www.flawildflowers.org/events/2014-wildflower-symposium.html>
- September 20** **International Coastal Clean-Up from 8 am to 12 pm.** Merritt Island NWR and sponsor, Keep Brevard Beautiful, are hosting a clean-up at Haulover Canal. Participants will pick up trash and collect important data on the types of debris. Bags, latex gloves and bottled water will be provided. Long pants, closed shoes, sunscreen and insect spray are recommended. Call 321-861-5601 for reservations. Please meet at the entrance to Bairs Cove Boat Ramp at Haulover Canal located on SR 3. After the clean-up, the participating volunteers are invited to hot dog lunch sponsored by Merritt Island Wildlife Association.
- September 24** **Sea Rocket Monthly Meeting** at Enchanted Forest from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. Lois Harris will be presenting "Landscaping with Native Plants" Lois works as a Garden designer and is experienced in garden design. ***P.S. Bring in your saved newspapers (We'll store them).***
- September 27** **National Public Lands Day.** "Share your hands for public lands". **Work Day** Sea Rocket will be covering cleared ground with newspaper and finally with pine straw in an effort to thwart weed growth. Sea Rocket will be **having a Native plant sale** in conjunction with other Enchanted Forest activities. Volunteers for the plant sale and mulching project are needed!

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".



A Word From Our President

Martha Pessaro is resigning as Treasurer of Sea Rocket due to her position as an Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) program employee. Since we have contractual agreements with the EEL program, there is a direct conflict of interest. Although an imposition to the chapter, we are very happy that the EEL program has someone like Martha, and that Sea Rocket has such a mutually beneficial working relationship with the EEL program and the Enchanted Forest. We want to thank Martha for the years of outstanding effort and professionalism that she has constantly demonstrated while serving as treasurer. She has been one of the driving forces behind the success of this chapter, and a leader that we could always count on to make things happen. She not only did the job of Treasurer but also ran many of our general meetings, leading plant sales, organizing En-

chanted Forest garden and pond workdays, and being involved in nursery operations. As a Sea Rocket leader she has been a great resource due to her deep connections to other environmental organizations and support of conservation efforts. Fortunately, she has promised to continue as a Sea Rocket member.

Also, I have accepted a position with the EEL Program, therefore, I too must tender my resignation. It has truly been an honor to be a part of the Sea Rocket Chapter leadership. I know that the chapter is in great hands with Shari Blissett-Clark as Vice President. But she will need lots of help from our membership. With Martha and I gone we have lost half of our Executive Committee (comprised of our four elected officers). We can function without a President until the elections in February, but it is critical that we find someone who can take on the Treasurer position. Please contact Shari if you want more information about how you can help.

Thanks,
Ron

Many hands make light work

The area between the paths is going to be cleared of the current vegetation and replanted with plants more suited to attracting, and feeding butterflies, and other pollinators. The scheduled is as follows;

Sept 13 workday, 9 AM to 1 PM. Mark the larger plants that we do not want removed and dig up the smaller plants that we want to save. The Enchanted Forest personnel will clear the land removing and disposing of the unwanted plants. Bring shovels, gloves, water, hats, sunscreen, etc as required.

On Sept 27th, 9 AM to 1 PM. National Public Lands Day, Sea Rocket, with hopefully the help of many volunteers, we will cover the exposed ground with newspaper and / or cardboard to block new weeds seeds from germinating. **We need a LOT OF Newspaper and a lot of people to cover this bare ground.** (*I would suggest that our monthly meeting on Sept 24th would be a good time to bring in your newspapers. we can store them for you.*) After that we will cover the ground with pine straw.

WARNING: the bales of pine straw are full of pollen and dust. Bring a mask if this is a concern to you. While all this work is going on, Sea Rocket volunteers will be selling plants and will need volunteers for that effort also.



A chapter that works together stays together!

Thoughts from Serenity Pond

By Martha Pessaro

A letter from Martha:

Dear Executive Board members of the FNPS Sea Rocket :

With a heavy heart I must tender resignation as the Chapter Treasurer, or any Board elected/appointed position, with reasonable time to find an appropriate replacement and transfer all duties and assignments for all Federal/State/Local reporting.

The position is in direct conflict with my employment by the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program, and the agreement that we are about to enter into with the EEL Program and FNPS. The need for my resignation letter has been brought to my attention by the Management of the EEL Program and the County Attorney.

I shall comply with the requirements of the agreement and shall assist in all ways possible to make a smooth transition to my successor. Thank you for the pleasure of having served with your fine leadership. I remain a member with no authorized powers for the organization.

tigerlily1953@aol.com

Martha S. Pessaro

From the Board:

We will all miss Martha's upbeat spirit and can-do attitude as Treasurer. Her dedication, leadership, and energy have contributed immensely to the success of the Sea Rocket Chapter, and we can't thank her enough for her efforts!

During her time as treasurer Martha created our budget in Excel. If you enjoy the thrills of accounting we have a position open for you! For more information please contact Shari at jclark109@cfl.rr.com, or Martha at her email address above.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

**Conradina Chapter is sponsoring
their annual native plant yard tour
on October 11, 2014!**

**For complete information contact
Maple Street Natives
at (321) 729-6857 or on the web at:**

www.maplestreetnatives.com/

**Maple Street Natives
7619 Henry Ave
Melbourne, FL 32904**

Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour



**Saturday, October 11, 2014
10 AM - 4 PM**

**Conradina Chapter - South Brevard
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**



Celebrate National Public Lands Day!

September 27th, 2014

9:00am - 3:00pm



EFS Trash Bash (9:00am - 11:00am)

Explore parts of the Forest that are not usually open to guests while assisting staff in cleaning the Sanctuary!



Garden Workday (9:00am - 12:00pm)

Help the FNPS continue to beautify our butterfly gardens.



Guided Hike (10:00am - 11:00am)

Enjoy a short guided hike exploring the biodiversity of the Enchanted Forest.

Native Plant Sale (10:00am - 3:00pm)

FNPS will be offering a variety of Florida native plants for purchase.

Live Music on the Porch (11:00am - 1:00pm)

Enjoy live music highlighting Florida's Flora and Fauna.

Snack & Social (11:00am - 12:00pm)

Refreshments for volunteers provided by the Friends of the Enchanted Forest.

Please wear closed-toed shoes, a hat, and sunscreen.



National Public Lands Day



Find us on
Facebook & Twitter!



444 Columbia Blvd., Titusville, FL 32780 ❖ 321.264.5185 ❖ www.eelbrevard.com

News

Indian River Lagoon

St. Johns River Water Management District

Indian River Lagoon

Aug. 13, 2014

Algal blooms present in northern, central Indian River Lagoon and Banana River Lagoon

St. Johns River Water Management District scientists reported on Aug. 12 that three algal blooms were present in the northern Indian River Lagoon. Two blooms were located near State Road 50 in Titusville and one bloom was located south of the NASA Causeway.

In the central lagoon (Cocoa through Grant), an algal bloom first observed in early July was still present during routine water sampling on Aug. 6. Blooms were also observed between the Pineda and Eau Gallie causeways.

Blooms are occurring in the Banana River Lagoon at Kelly Park and Newfound Harbor on Merritt Island.

<http://floridaswater.com/itsyourlagoon/currentnews.html>

Florida Fish and Wildlife

Conservation Commission

Red Tide Summary (August 15, 2014)

A large offshore bloom of *Karenia brevis*, the Florida red tide organism, has been detected this month in the northeast Gulf of Mexico. Last week, satellite images from the [Optical Oceanography Laboratory](#) at the University of South Florida showed a patchy bloom up to 60 miles wide and 90 miles long, at least 20 miles offshore between Dixie and northern Pinellas counties in northwest and southwest Florida. Recent satellite images have been unreliable due to cloud cover. [FWC's Fish Kill Hotline](#) has received numerous reports of a widespread fish kill.

<http://myfwc.com/research/redtide/statewide/>

Native Niche Garden

By Lois Harris



Rain Lily – Zephyranthes is a genus of lily in the Amaryllis family. Atamoasco lily is native to the southern U.S. Its onion-like bulb produces pointy green leaves and white, lily-like blossoms that turn pink as they age. It grows naturally in wet roadside ditches, river floodplains, low pastures and woods. Atamoasco grows in sun or light shade and prefers well-drained, humus-rich, sandy soil.

I had always wanted some of these lovely little plants. They are like little miracles, they know exactly when it rains which is the reason some call them "Rain Lilies". Well water won't even trick them into blooming. I have it planted in my back yard along my deck and west fence line where I have a down spout that provides them with plenty of rain water. They only grow about a foot tall so they are right up front. Since I planted them as bulbs instead of seeds I have benefited with blossoms my first year. They are considered short-lived perennials, however, they produce bulbs and seeds to continue propagation. Bulbs are easily divided and seeds take a little longer for the blossoms to appear. Rain lily bulbs require little care from us and can be left in the ground through our mild winters. The blooms do attract pollinators. Birds and small animals also will eat the seedpods. ~~

**Nationally Known Author
Doug Tallamy
to be Florida Wildflower
Symposium's Keynote Speaker**

Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, will be the keynote speaker at the Florida Wildflower Symposium, set for **Sept. 19 and 20 at Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales**. A nationally renowned speaker, Tallamy chairs the University of Delaware's Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology in Newark, Del. He has written more than 65 research articles and has taught insect taxonomy, behavioral ecology, and other subjects. Tallamy's appearance at the symposium dinner on Friday, Sept. 19, is just one of the event's highlights. On Saturday, Sept. 20, there will be presentations by regional experts on wildflowers, native plants, wildlife and butterflies, and a workshop during which participants can design their own native wildflower landscape. Friday field trips include a stroll along the Wildflower Wayside Shrine Trail at South Florida



State College, Avon Park. Also planned are a wildflower propagation workshop, a tour of Bok's endangered plant nursery, and a guided walk of the gardens' sandhill restoration

area. Cost to attend the symposium dinner is \$35 for Florida Wildflower Foundation members and \$45 for non-members.

Saturday admission is \$35 for FWF and Bok Tower Garden members and \$45 for non-members, which includes a \$5 donation to Nationally known author **Doug Tallamy** to be Florida Wildflower Symposium keynote speaker.

Bok Tower Gardens. Field trips are \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. To receive symposium details and the link to registration when it opens, be sure to subscribe to the FWF e-news list at

http://www.flawildflowers.org/resources/pdfs/2014/FWF_7.3.pdf

Sea Rocket has a Facebook page.

There are several ways to find it, the easiest is to click on this link;

http://www.facebook.com/searocketchapter?ref=hl&ref_type=bookmark (or else cut & paste)

You can post photos of an unknown plant or of your prize native plants. You can tell us what you've done to promote Natives or of upcoming ecological events. See what others have done, show us what you have done. **"Like Us"** and help increase our reach. The page is there for you as another way to make our native knowledgeable available to answer your questions.

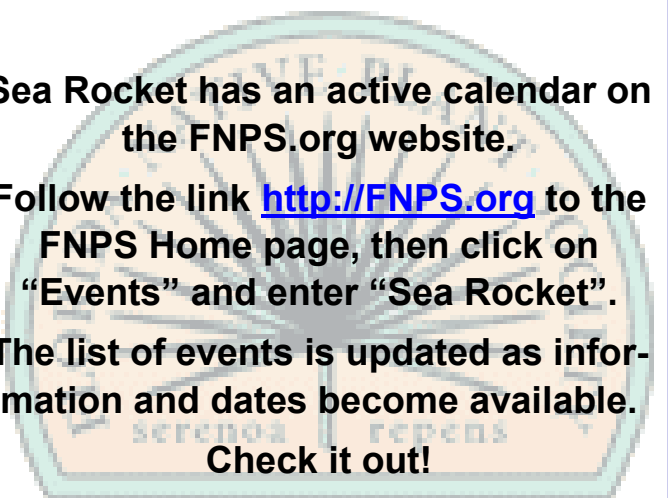
Lest I forget,

Sea Rocket has an active calendar on the FNPS.org website.

Follow the link <http://FNPS.org> to the FNPS Home page, then click on "Events" and enter "Sea Rocket".

The list of events is updated as information and dates become available.

Check it out!





Fatal Palm Disease Heading Our Way

“**Texas Phoenix Palm Decline (TPPD)** is a new disease in Florida. This disease is caused by an unculturable bacterium that has no cell wall, a phytoplasma. Texas Phoenix palm decline is a fatal, systemic disease that kills palms relatively quickly.

In early 2008, this second phytoplasma disease was confirmed as the cause of declining Sabal palmetto (Cabbage Palm) in Hillsborough and Manatee counties. The disease is known as Texas Phoenix palm decline because it was originally described in the southern coastal region of Texas on Phoenix canariensis (Canary Island Date Palm).

In Florida, the presence of TPPD phytoplasma has been confirmed in Canary Island Date Palm, *P. dactylifera* (Edible Date Palm), *P. sylvestris* (Wild Date Palm) in landscape and field nursery sites in the following counties: Highlands, Lake, Sarasota, Manatee, Pinellas, and Hillsborough, Charlotte, Duval, Lee, Palm Beach, Orange, Indian River, as well as in western portions of Polk County.

Symptoms

The first obvious TPPD symptom on mature palms is premature fruit drop of all or most of the fruit in a short period. The next symptom is discoloration of the foliage, beginning with the oldest leaves. The leaves do not turn yellow (or do

so briefly), but quickly turn varying shades of reddish-brown to dark brown or gray. The discoloration begins at leaf tips. In cabbage palms, approximately two-thirds of the oldest leaves will have discolored before the spear leaf dies. Once the apical meristem (spear leaf) has died, no new leaves will develop, and the remaining green fronds will continue to discolor from the oldest to the youngest leaves.

In some instances, by the time the spear leaf dies, mature roots of the palm at or near the soil surface are soft in texture and easily broken. The palm can be easily rocked back and forth in the ground because the root system is decaying.

What to Do

Do NOT accept susceptible palm species from nurseries in the counties with confirmed TPPD cases. To determine if a palm is infected, instructions are available on the website for the UF/IFAS Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center:

<http://flrec.ifas.ufl.edu/pdfs/LY-TPPD-Trunk-Sampling.pdf>

Sampling is accomplished by boring into the trunk. The sampling process requires a drill with a long, large-diameter drill bit. Do not obtain samples without first reviewing the complete set of instructions. The quality of the sample is critical for an accurate diagnosis.

If TPPD symptoms are present, but the spear leaf has not died, therapeutic treatment of the disease may be achieved by application of the antibiotic oxytetracycline HCl (often referred to as OTC), administered to palms by liquid injection into the trunk. Treatments would continue for the life of the palm on a three to four month treatment schedule.

The primary source for oxytetracycline HCl is TreeSaver®. Please read and follow label directions. The website for the company provides helpful hints for successful use of this product. <http://www.palmtreesaver.com>

Reference: "Texas Phoenix Palm Decline"
Nigel A. Harrison and Monica L. Elliott, Plant Pathology
Department, UF/IFAS Extension. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PP163>

Community Corner

News for and about your Chapter

Have you checked out the Sea Rocket Facebook page? It can be found at:
https://www.facebook.com/searocketchapter?ref_type=bookmark

Is this Torpedo Grass root in the Guinness Book of Records? I doubt it, but as far as I know it could be, and it is broken to boot. It was over 6 inches deep, probably deeper at points.



I've been over 9 inches deep to get a main line root, spawning and feeding many scions as it noses through the hardest soils. The tip of the root is as hard as a piece of oak. How to kill it? Go deep and pull it out of the ground. Chemicals will work, but they kill everything, not just this invader from the pit. Is it any good for anything? Might be, but I'll be durned if I know what it would be good for.—Dave

PLEASE NOTE

If a LINK does not work, please cut and paste the link into the address bar of your browser, (Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, etc). I seem to be having trouble making links work.

- Editor Dave

NOTICE

Save your old newsprint and bring it to Enchanted Forest no later than 9-27, as we prepare for our own recycling program. We are using **A LOT** of newsprint to cover a newly cleared area behind the walkway. **We need a lot of paper** to cover it effectively, in an effort to stop new weeds from coming up.

We also need a lot of volunteers to cover the plant sale **and** volunteers to lay out the newspaper and pine straw, all on the 27th.
—Shari

We have our monthly meeting on the 24th, bring in your saved newspaper then and then enjoy the presentation by Lois Harris on Landscaping with Native Plants



From the Sea Rocket Board

Thank you for your donation

Nancy—for the corky stem passion vines, Fire bush, Purple passion vine, Senna, Coco –plum, Jamaican capers, and Elderberry.

David Biega—for the Buttonwood, pickerelweed, and Duck potato

Dave H.—Sunshine mimosa

Shari—Pygmy pawpaw, Velvetleaf milkweed, Butterfly milkweed seeds

Spiked blazing-star

Liatris spicata

lye-AY-triss spy-KAY-tuh
Asteraceae (Compositae)

By David Humphrey

Photo by Troy Springer



Liatris is a showy fall (Aug—Sept) bloomer that enjoys full sun. In its environment it can grow nearly 4 feet tall. When not blooming the Liatris can be mistaken for a mound of grass, but there's no mis-

taking this beautiful native when in bloom! The blooms are purple or white and oddly, bloom from the top down. This is relatively uncommon in the plant world and makes it easy to identify these plants in the field.

To get the best growth keep the Liatris evenly moist in a sandy, loam soil type. Unfortunately for our beachside gardeners and barrier island friends Liatris does not like salt at all.

Liatris can be found in meadows and prairies close to water. The species *spicata* seems to have several common names, among them Gayfeather, Blazing Star, and Button Snakeroot. Whatever you call it, the Liatris is a beautiful bloomer that is very attractive to bees and butterflies.

To propagate Liatris collect the seed after the flower spikes turn brown. It will also propagate freely on its own. Its natural range is from upper Canada to Florida, East of the Mississippi River. Due to its tall, large flower stalk it is susceptible to wind and may fall over or even break. Fortunately the flower stalk makes a fine cut flower to adorn your home.

The Sea Rocket nursery has two species of Liatris in its inventory and will offer them in the upcoming Native Plant Sale on September 27th. Come celebrate National Public Lands Day with us at the Enchanted Forest and add Liatris to your garden!

Hosting the Sea Rocket Newsletter since 2001;

www.NBBD.com

North Brevard Business & Community Directory

David N. Rich

Peak Performance Co.

4030 Winter Terrace, Titusville, FL 32780

321-267-7367

DavidNRich@gmail.com

www.AboutTitusville.com

Tulinda's Garden

Garden & Landscape Design
Horticultural Consultation

Linda Gombert

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Mobile 321-446-9338

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321-729-6857

Maple Street Natives

info@maplestreetnatives.com

www.maplestreetnatives.com

www.facebook.com/maplestreetnatives

green images

Florida Native Landscape Plants

**1333 Taylor Creek Road
Christmas, Florida 32709**

407-568-1333

greenimage@aol.com

The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Education Center

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

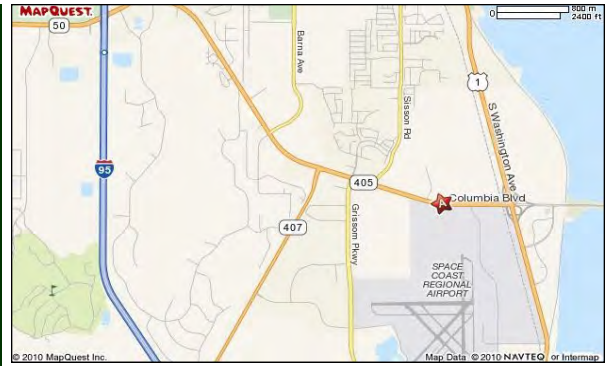


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

From I-95 Northbound: take SR-407 Exit 212 east 2.7 miles to SR-405 intersection. Turn right onto SR-405 and go east 1.9 miles (the Sanctuary entrance is on the left 0.4 miles past Sisson Road)

From I-95 Southbound: take SR-50 Exit 215 east. Turn left onto SR 50 and turn right onto SR-405 (2nd light) Travel 3.6 miles (the Sanctuary entrance is on the left 0.4 miles past Sisson Road)

From U.S. HWY 1: go west 0.5 miles on SR-405 in south Titusville. Sanctuary entrance is on the right.



Florida Native Plant Society

For membership information, address change: P. O. Box 278, Melbourne, FL 32902-0278

Phone: 321-271-6702; Fax: 321-951-1941; Email: Info@fnps.org/www.fnps.org

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



Wednesday, September 24, 2014 6:30pm

Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

“Landscaping with Florida Native Plants”

presented by Lois Harris



Sea Rocket Chapter

PO Box 236341

Cocoa, FL 32923-6341

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