



# Sea Rocket



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

December 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](mailto:jclark109@cfl.rr.com)

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### **Secretary**

Lois Harris

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### **Chapter Representative**

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### **Committees**

#### **Membership**

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

#### **Education/Outreach**

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#### **Nursery**

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#### **Hike Leader**

Paul Schmalzer, PhD

[paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov](mailto:paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov)

#### **Newsletter**

David Humphrey

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

#### **Hospitality**

Karen Sue Gaddy

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





# December Places To Go, Things To Do!

(Note: All future planning can change presently. If in doubt, verify the date and times are accurate.)

**Every Saturday: GUIDED NATURE HIKES - 10:00am** - For information call 321-264-5185.

**Every Wednesday: FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Nursery Workday—9am-12noon**, Call Shari at 321-454-6849 for more information.

**December 3 Hike with FTA at Salt Lake.** Meet at West entrance of Lowe's parking lot at I-95 and Hwy 50 in Titusville at 8:30 AM.

**December 6 Sea Rocket Butterfly Garden Work Day** at the Enchanted Forest—10AM. Bring a hat, gloves, water, and nippers.

**December 6 Nocturnal Nature Hike. Enchanted Forest Sanctuary at 5:00 PM.** See Page 6 for all the details.

**December 8 FNPS Conradina Monthly Meeting at the Melbourne Library, 540 E Fee Ave 6:00 PM.** This months presentation is Holiday Wreath Making - We supply wreaths and native plant cutting for you to decorate.

**December 9 The Friends of the Enchanted Forest Pot Luck Christmas Party & White Elephant Gift Exchange: Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 5:30PM** The Friends of the Enchanted Forest have invited Sea Rocket members to join them at their annual holiday party. Call 321-264-5185 for information.

**December 10 Hike with FTA at Econ River Loop Trail.** Meet at Lone Cabbage Fish Camp on Hwy 520 and the St. Johns River at 8:30 AM. There is a \$2 Entrance fee.

**December 10 FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Holiday Party and Gift Exchange.** At Jack Baker's Lobster Shanty on Cocoa Beach. Good friends, Good fun, Good food, all add up to a fine Christmas get together. Contact Shari at 321-890-6154

**December 11 Brevard Botanical Garden Workday**, UF Extension Office, Lake Drive, Cocoa; 9am to 12noon—contact Shari for more information: 321-890-6154

**December 17 Hike with FTA at Prairie Lakes Trail.** Meet at Sams Discount Club at 4255 West New Haven in Melbourne at 8:30 AM. There is a \$6 per car entrance fee.

## Looking Ahead

**February 1 FNPS: Call for Research Track Papers** and Posters for 2015 Annual Conference are due. (See page 4 for more information.)

**February 21 Orlando Wetlands Festival** at Fort Christmas from 9 AM to 3 PM

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".

***Relax and Enjoy your Florida Christmas!  
From your friends at Sea Rocket***

**FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter**  
**November General Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**Submitted by Lois Harris, Secretary**

**Welcome and Call to Order:** Shari Blissett-Clark, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

**BUSINESS:**

**Approval of General Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made by Cynthia Schell to approve the October meeting minutes, second by Terry Schell and passed unanimously.

**Financial Report:** Treasurer's report given by Shari: \$4,811.17 checking and \$1,402.36 savings.

**Treasurer:** Karin Biega has agreed to be our treasurer. Thank you Karin.

**Refreshments** this evening were provided by Shari and David. Thank you for providing these snacks for our enjoyment.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Thank you to members who volunteered for not one, but two plant sales and public outreach events this month:

**Native Rhythms Festival** – Thank you David Humphrey, Karin and David Biega, Karen Sue and Duane Gaddy, Suzanne and Bill Meyer, Cynthia and Terry Schell, Myra Brubaker and Lois Harris.

**Forest Festival at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary** - Thank you David Humphrey, Karin and David Biega, Karen Sue and Duane Gaddy, Suzanne and Bill Meyer, Cynthia and Terry Schell, Myra Brubaker, Lois Harris, Armand DeFilippo and Annette Myers..

**Christmas Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange** on December 10<sup>th</sup> at Jack Baker's Lobster Shanty in Cocoa Beach. Make your reservation to join in the fun by selecting your entrée and forwarding you monies to Shari. Deadline for reservations is December 1, 2014.

**Sea Rocket Newsletter:** Don't forget to send newsletter snippits, articles, photos, questions, and ideas to David Humphrey – deadline for submissions is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**Wednesday morning hikes:** Remember the FTA (Florida Trail Association) hosts a hike every week which is open to Sea Rocket members – contact Sea Rocket member Jim Escoffier for hike details at 321-453-1586.

**BOD meeting:** This meeting will focus on the formulation of Sea Rocket's 2015 budget. If you have budget input please let a member of the BOD know. Meeting is scheduled 12-12-14, 12:00 noon at Lois Harris' home.

**NO SEA ROCKET MEETING IN DECEMBER**

**January Meeting is the 28<sup>th</sup>** – program to be announced.

**CHAPTER ELECTIONS IN FEBRUARY** – how could you help improve our Sea Rocket Chapter with your talents?

**Meeting adjourned:** Shari Blissett-Clark at 7:20 pm.

**PROGRAM:**

Shari introduced Dr. Don Spence who presented his program on **Tree Diseases**. Dr. Don Spence, an expert on plant diseases and plant pathology, has written many articles related to invasive species, tree selection, and the importance of using native plants in urban landscapes. The interactive program was very informative and interesting.

## **FNPS: Call for Research Track Papers and Posters for 2015 Annual Conference**

Dear FNPS Chapters,

The Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference will be held in Tallahassee, Florida, May 28-31, 2015. The Research Track of the Conference will include presented papers and a poster session on Friday May 29 and Saturday May 30.

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts on research related to native plants and plant communities of Florida including preservation, conservation, and restoration. Presentations are planned to be 20 minutes in total length (15 min. presentation, 5 min. questions).

Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted as a MS Word file by email to Paul A. Schmalzer [paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov](mailto:paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov) by **February 1, 2015**. Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster

Chris Waltz  
FNPS Administrative Services

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PO Box 278  
Melbourne FL 32902-0278

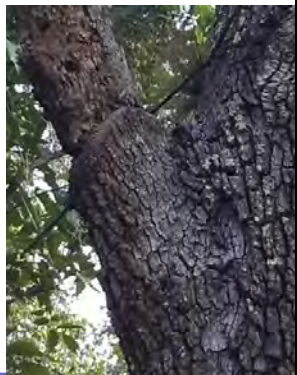
**Q. How should I prune a tree limb?**

**A. From the North Carolina State University  
M. A. "Kim" Powell(2)**

At the base of every branch is a collar that contains a chemical zone which inhibits the spread of decay in the trunk. When decay develops in a branch, it moves down the branch until it reached the protective chemical zone. Once there, it stops and a callus forms after the branch falls off.

If the collar of the branch is removed during pruning, the chances of the trunk becoming infected by decay and canker-causing microorganisms are greatly increased. When pruning you should not make cuts flush with the trunk, but make them just outside the branch collar. The branch collar is the swollen area at the base of the branch that sometimes has a bark ridge.

(2) M. A. "KIM" POWELL  
Extension Horticultural Specialist  
Department of Horticultural Science  
North Carolina Cooperative Extension  
Service North Carolina State University



**Q. Is pruning Paint still recommended for pruning large limbs?**

**A. From the University of Florida IFAS  
Extension. James J Ferguson(1)**

Painting wounds with tree wound dressing has become a controversial practice. The standard recommendation was to paint wounds with a quality tree wound dressing to protect the surface from wood rotting organisms and from cracking upon drying. **However, research has shown** that wound dressings do not prevent decay. When exposed to the sun, the protective coating often cracks, allowing moisture to enter and accumulate in pockets between the wood and wound covering. This situation may be more inviting to wood rotting organisms than one with no wound covering. In situations where aesthetics are important, the practice may be justified.

(1) James J. Ferguson, professor, Horticultural Sciences Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville.



JACK BAKER'S

**Lobster  
Shanty**

# DECEMBER 10

At

## 6:30 PM



### **FNPS SEA ROCKET CHAPTER Holiday Party & Gift Exchange**

Wednesday, December 10, 2015

Jack Baker's Lobster Shanty

2200 S. Orlando Avenue (A1A) • Cocoa Beach, FL 32931 • 321-783-1350

Canapés at 6:30 pm ~ Dinner at 7:00pm

#### **SOCIAL PLATTERS**

Vegetable Board & Shrimp Cocktail Platter

#### **DINNER BANQUET**

**Appetizer:** Fresh fruit cocktail

**Includes:** Bread basket, Caesar salad, Herb garlic potatoes, Vegetable

**Qty. ENTREES:** *Members - Please select one entree per person attending (taxes & gratuity included)*

___ Chicken Florentine	\$ 21.25
___ Pork Tenderloin	\$ 22.50
___ Herb Crusted Salmon	\$ 26.25

#### **DESSERT**

Ice Cream Sundae Bar

#### **BEVERAGES\*** *Select at banquet*

Coffee, Tea, Soda, Milk

\*No alcoholic beverages are included ~ you will be responsible for your own bar tab.



Questions? Contact Shari Blissett-Clark: 321-890-6154, or email: [jclark109@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jclark109@cfl.rr.com)

#### **White Elephant Gift Exchange:**

Please bring a garden-oriented wrapped gift ~ valued at \$10 or less ~  
to the banquet for the gift exchange.

This should be a lot of fun for everyone!

We're looking forward to seeing you and your guests at this Holiday Dinner!

~ The Sea Rocket Board of Directors ~







# Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Management & Education Center



Presents

## Nocturnal Nature Hike



December 6, 2014

5:00pm



Whooooo... is ready for a nocturnal adventure at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary? Join Naturalists on a **FREE** night of discovery and exploration into the world of nocturnal critters!

Limited to 20 people.  
Please Register by calling  
(321) 264-5185.



444 Columbia Blvd, Titusville, FL, 32980  
[www.eelbrevard.com](http://www.eelbrevard.com)



Find us on  
**Facebook**



# FANTASTIC FEAT FOR THE FREE-TAILED BAT

**SAN ANTONIO (Oct. 31, 2014)** – Today the City of San Antonio, The Nature Conservancy and Bat Conservation International (BCI) have secured 1,521 acres adjacent to BCI's Bracken Bat Cave, home to the largest colony of Mexican free-tailed bats in the world. The property, known as Crescent Hills, was purchased for \$20.5 million and was previously slated to become a 3,500-home subdivision.

## Conservation Deal Saves the World's Largest Bat Colony on Halloween!



[www.SaveTheCave.US](http://www.SaveTheCave.US)

It is official! Bat Conservation International with the help of the City of San Antonio and The Nature Conservancy have finalized the purchase of a \$20.5 million property in the Texas Hill Country to safeguard bats, water supply and endangered songbirds.

A \$5 million funding gap remains; the partners, however, were able to close the transaction on Halloween due to a bridge loan secured by The Nature Conservancy. Fundraising efforts are ongoing.

"After years of work, this highly complex conservation deal came together with decisive action and investment from a broad spectrum of trusted partners," said Laura Huffman, Texas state director of The Nature Conservancy. "Our collective efforts have resulted in a trifecta of conservation success for the entire region: safeguarding Bracken Bat Cave, preserving important habitat for warblers and safeguarding Texas' most valuable resource: clean, fresh water."

The conservation effort also ensures a valuable ecosystem service: pest control. At the height of summer, the Bracken bat colony eats 140 tons of insects each night, as more than 15 million bats are foraging in the surrounding countryside. Nationwide bats save farmers \$23 billion annually in reduced crop damage and pesticide use.

"The emergence of these millions of bats, as they spiral out of the cave at dusk for their nightly insect hunt is an unforgettable sight," said Andrew Walker, executive director of Bat Conservation International. "The protection of Crescent Hills helps ensure this centuries-old wildlife habitat will continue to provide a safe home for one of the region's most unique and important inhabitants."

Bat Conservation International and The Nature Conservancy now own Crescent Hills in fee title and the City of San Antonio will hold a conservation easement on the property. The public will be invited to hike, bird watch, view evening bat flights and engage in other low-impact recreational uses during hosted events. In addition, the many high schools, colleges and universities that use Bracken Cave Preserve and the Conservancy's Cibolo Bluffs Preserve—which is adjacent to Crescent Hills—for education and research will have an opportunity to expand their work to this newly-protected area. ~~



## Help save Monarchs

by planting native milkweed

Florida's native milkweed plants, such as Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), right, are vital to the survival of the Monarch butterfly. But well-meaning consumers who want to attract and host the butterflies in their landscapes often purchase widely available non-native Tropical Milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*), by far the most common commercially available species

Unfortunately, those red-and-yellow flowering plants can mean trouble for Monarchs, says Dr. Jaret Daniels, Assistant Curator and Director of the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville. Because Tropical Milkweed grows throughout the year (weather permitting) in most of Florida, it can enable Monarchs to continue breeding well into the fall and winter, potentially disrupting their normal migratory cycle. Prolonged breeding also can cause higher than normal infection rates by a lethal protozoan parasite, *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha*, or OE for short.

**What can you do to help save Monarchs**, which are on the brink of vanishing altogether? The simple answer is to go native, Daniels says. Incorporate native milkweeds into your landscape whenever possible. Though Florida boasts numerous native milkweeds that are very showy, adaptable to garden settings, and provide high quality host resources for Monarchs, the challenge often is finding a reliable supply of nursery plants or seeds. To overcome that obstacle, use [www.PlantRealFlorida.org/plants](http://www.PlantRealFlorida.org/plants) to search for native nurseries in your area that offer milkweed (search for individual species by typing the word *Asclepias* into the search window).

Meanwhile, Daniels advises that if you have Tropical Milkweed in your landscape, an ecologically sound alternative would be to cut it to within several inches of the ground in late fall (read: now) so that it is unavailable to migrating monarchs.

Photo by Stacey Matrazzo



# The Dicerandra Scrub Field Trip

The rare Titusville Balm (*Dicerandra thinicola*) was in full bloom, and Dr. Schmalzer was an excellent guide who knew just where to look for this showy, aromatic plant that is endemic (found nowhere else) to North Brevard. We identified lots of very interesting scrub plants, many of them in bloom this time of year. One of the most attractive was the Goldenaster (*Chrysopsis scrabrella*), but another was the Silkgrass (actually an aster, *Pityopsis graminifolia*).

Ron Chicone



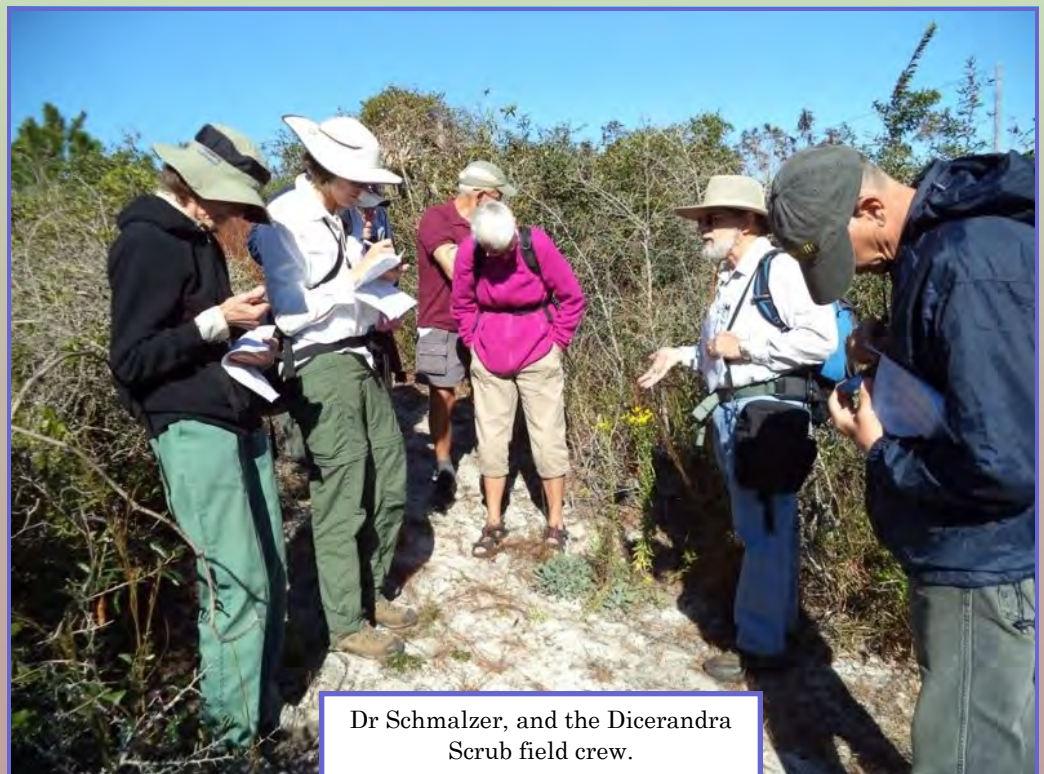
Dr. Schmalzer being the quintessential Botanist that he is.



This plant, (*Dicerandra thinicola*, pinkish), gives Titusville its botanical bragging rights. Also in this picture is silk grass with its silvery coloring.



Goldenaster  
(*Chrysopsis scrabrella*)



Dr Schmalzer, and the Dicerandra Scrub field crew.



# Enchanted Forest Festival

## and FNPS Sea Rocket Plant Sale

*“Many hands make light work.”*

**Back to Back Major Festival Events,  
and our volunteers made both a success.**

To the many Volunteers that helped set-up and operate the Sea Rocket Plant Sale:

**Friday Set-up:** Karen Sue, Dave, Bill and Merlys, Shari, and Terry and Cynthia. Thank you!

**Saturday Sales:** Karen Sue & Duane, Lois, Terry and Cynthia, David and Karin, Armand, Suzanne, Myra and Dave..

The Festival went without a hitch, thanks to these volunteers and their dedication to introducing people to the wonderful world of native plants. It was a pleasure to work with y'all. What a team.~~Dave



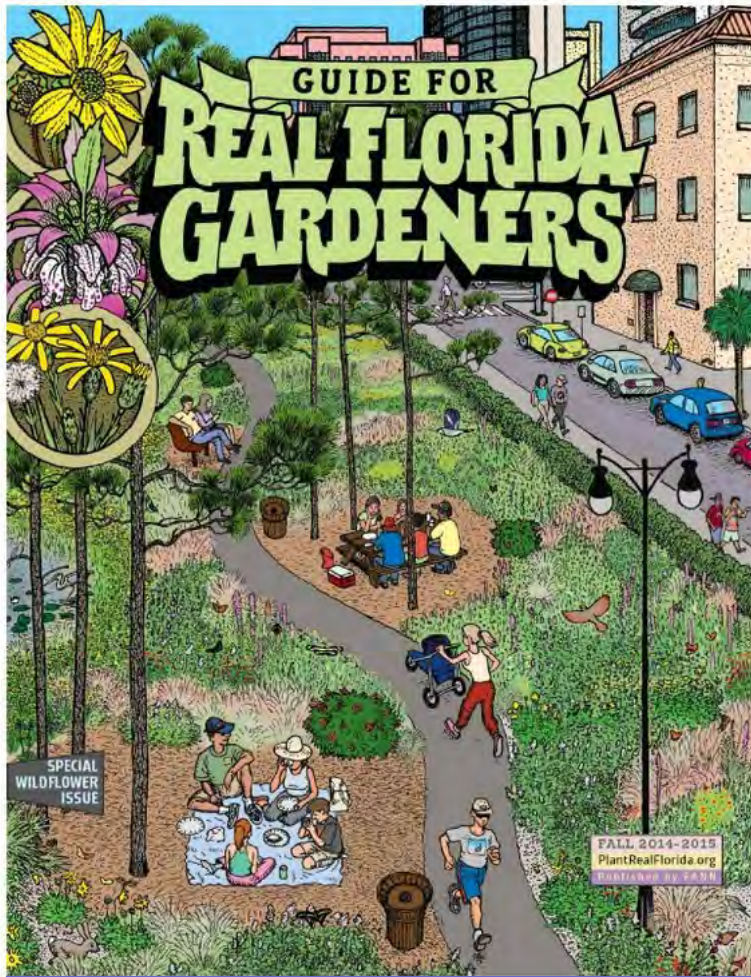
OK, OK, I'm muggin' here, but I couldn't help it. This is “Gimble the Gopher Tortoise”, but I call him “Tank the Tort” for short. —Dave

77 new plants added to our ecosystem. Way to go gals.



It was a very busy day of selling, and talking native plants, and how they can enhance any landscape plan. Remember SB2080 over rides HOAs and city ordinances in favor of natives.





<http://www.magazinevolume.com/15811CD/#/1/>

## **FROM DEATH to LIFE**

(A true story)

**Matt Hayden and Lora Losi** are both board members of the **Space Coast Audubon Society** and have acted as a liaison between the **FNPS** and **Audubon** on assorted **past collaborations**. They purchased a piece of land three years ago that was a wasteland of invasive and undesirable plants. They knew something had to be done, and they did it. They have attended **Sea Rocket** meetings on several occasions. They also contacted **Sharon Dolan** of **Maple Street Natives** and member of **Conradina Chapter**, who provided a design plan and many of the plants in the "Dune of Death". They also have purchased many plants from the **Sea Rocket Nursery**. So yes, we are proud of **Matt and Lora** for their diligence in converting the "Dune of Death" into the "Habitable Hill" for many species of birds, reptiles, and mammals. Their story is on pages 16 and 17 of the **Guide for Real Florida**

**Gardeners**. **Maple Street Natives**, in **Melbourne**, and **Sea Rocket** in **Titusville** are proud to have been involved in the restoration of native habitat. It took planning, commitment, and vision to see past the hodgepodge of invasive plants to what it is today.



The **Ojibwa** (Chippewa) believe that night is full of both good and bad dreams. When a dream catcher is hung above the place where you sleep it moves freely in the night air and catches the dreams as they drift by. The good dreams, knowing their way, pass through the opening in the center of the webbing while the bad dreams, not knowing the way, are caught in the webbing and destroyed at the first light of the morning sun.

There are many variants to the dream catcher legend, some which say both the good and bad dreams are captured and some which say the good dreams slide down the feather to those sleeping below. Although the **Ojibwa** are credited as the first people to use Dream Catchers many other Tribes and Native peoples have adopted Dream Catchers into their culture. Even though the designs and legends of Dream Catchers differ slightly, the underlying meaning and symbolism is universal and is carried across cultures and language barriers.



# Community Corner

## News for and about your Chapter

A Big Sea Rocket  
Thank you to our volunteers for the three day Native Rhythms Festival at Wickham Park. A special thanks to Karen Sue Gaddy for the superior effort made in organizing and prepping for this event.



### Our Volunteers

**Thursday Setup—** Karen Sue, Lois, Dave H, Karin and David Biega

**Friday—** Karen Sue, Cynthia and Terry Schell, Dave H, Karin and David Biega

**Saturday—** Karen Sue and Duane Gaddy, Dave H., Myra, Suzanne and Bill Meyer.

**Sunday—** Karen Sue, David and Karin Biega

Although the weather was both cold and rainy Karen Sue reported that the festival continued and was a great success. All the plants sold, many brochures were distributed, and several memberships forms were taken. In Summary—a very good festival, and it seemed that out volunteers enjoyed it as much as the visitors. ~~ Dave H.



A beautiful, and inviting table set up.  
“Everything on the table is free”.



### *From the Sea Rocket Board Room*

#### Thank you for your plant donations!

David Biega for the *Pluchea Odorata*, and just in time for the plant sale.

Lois Harris for the many fresh *Gaillardia*

**“Forests are the lungs of our land.”**  
Franklin Delano Roosevelt



Not being what we would call a major sale Karen Sue brought some of the best sellers to display, and sell.



Another shot of the Sea Rocket “Booth”, With Karen Sue Gaddy, organizer and driver for Sea Rocket at this event. Also “Super Saleswoman” Cynthia Schell. This is the finest set up yet at any Sea Rocket event. Thank you Karen Sue.





**What kind of tree has bark like this? Actually, I don't have any idea .** This is a National Geographic photo of Monarch Butterflies in their Southern roost in Michoacan, Mexico . Though they seem to be legion, they are not. Scientist have been tracking numbers for several years. Clearly counting is not possible so they estimate based of acreage. Using the same formula as always, the total population has dropped to 10% of what it was when tracking started. Monarchs travel vast distances in their migration. Possibly four generations from Manitoba Canada to Mexico. How is this possible? Scientist have isolated a gene in the Monarchs DNA that is absent from non migrating butterflies that regulates the collagen in their muscles. Monarchs do not have bigger muscles, they have more efficient muscles that take them further, and longer then a non migrating butterfly. Every muscle needs energy, from man to monarchs. To get that energy monarchs need food. A favorite food for them is the milkweed. The milkweed also provides a certain toxicity that protects the butterflies from attack. For the full story see the Nation Geographic story at <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/10/141001-monarch-migration-genome-science/>

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](mailto:DavidNRich@gmail.com)

**www.AboutTitusville.com**

**Tulinda's Garden**

Garden & Landscape Design  
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Linda Gombert

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

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321-729-6857

**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

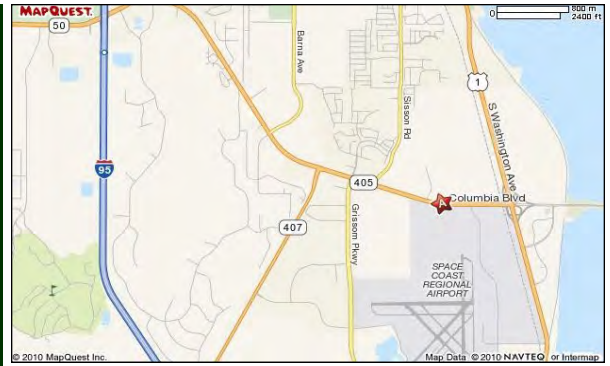


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

**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



**January PROGRAM TBA**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

**[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!**