



Sea Rocket



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

April 2015

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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Nursery

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Hike Leader

Paul Schmalzer, PhD

paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov

Newsletter

David Humphrey

brevcracker@gmail.com

Hospitality

Open at this time

Forty-five years and counting – Earth Day continues to encourage environmental stewardship.

Sea Rocket will be hosting Dr Ross Hinkle on April 22, at 6:30 PM at the Enchanted Forest. Dr Hinkle will lead us in a discussion of how Earth Day is shaping environmental stewardship and inspiring citizens to understand environmental change, and to make a difference in preserving the environment for future generations. Join us for an exploration of how Earth Day has changed the way we think of our little Island in space.



April Places To Go, Things To Do!

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

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

Every Wednesday: FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Nursery Workday—9am-12noon, email Lois at lois6459@att.net for more information.

- April 1** **Hike with FTA to Econ River Trail.** Meet at Lone Cabbage Fish Camp, on Hwy 520 and the St. Johns River, at 8:30 AM.
- April 8** **Hike with FTA to Seminole Ranch/Orlando Wetlands.** Meet at West entrance of Lowe's parking lot at I-95 and Hwy 50, in Titusville, at 8:30 AM.
- April 9** **The Friends of the Enchanted Forest, Inc.** are honored and glad to sponsor the outstanding works of Charlie Corbeil. We are invited to attend the 2015 Charlie Corbeil Conservation Awards Banquet and celebrate the nature works of youth! For more information see page 6.
- April 11** **Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary with Dr Paul Schmalzer.** 0900-1200 This is a 2008 acquisition by the Brevard County EEL Program, with assistance from The Nature Conservancy. Vegetation is primarily scrubby flat woods, mesic flatwoods, cypress strand, hammocks, and marshes. **Meeting site is Parrish Park** (Brevard County) which is about in the center of the eastern section of the Sanctuary.
- April 11** **The Brevard Botanical Gardens** is having their Spring Plant Sale from 9 to 2 at the Extension Office 3695 Lake Dr. in Cocoa. BBG has a lot of native plants also.
- April 13** **Conradina Chapter Monthly Meeting** at the Melbourne Library 540 E Fee Ave. Melbourne FL, 32901. **Laurilee Thompson**, founder of the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival. Laurilee is a big supporter of the Indian River Lagoon and is owners of Dixie Crossroads, a restaurant in Titusville known for the fresh caught local seafood they serve. Laurilee will share fascinating stories of growing up near the lagoon. These personal encounters will help influence us to help the Indian River Lagoon.
- April 15** **Hike with FTA to Ulumay Sanctuary.** Meet at New Sams Club in Cocoa at I95 and HWY 520 at 8:30 AM.
- April 18** **Earth day Celebration and Plant Sale.** Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. The Earth Day Celebration begins at 9:00 am and the Plant Sale at 10:00 AM. This is traditionally the highlight of the year with music, vendors, educational displays, fun for yje kids, and adults, and food. Sea Rocket will be there with large variety of native plants for sale.
- April 22** **Sea Rocket Monthly Meeting with Dr. Ross Hinkle—**Forty-five years and counting – Earth Day continues to encourage environmental stewardship. A discussion of Earth Day in shaping environmental stewardship and inspiring citizens to understand environmental change and to make a difference in preserving the environment for future generations.
- April 22** **Hike with FTA to Enchanted Forest.** Meet at West entrance of Lowe's parking lot at I-95 and Hwy 50, in Titusville, at 8:30 AM.
- April 25** **Spring Prairie Wildflower Walk with Roger Hammer and Craig Huegel** see page 7 for more details
- April 29** **Hike with FTA to South Beaches.** Meet at Sams Discount Club, at 4255 West New Haven in Melbourne, at 8:30 AM.

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".

Dr. C. Ross Hinkle is the Vice Provost and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

Dr. Hinkle received his BA in Biology from Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC, 1970, and his MS and Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 1975 and 1978. Dr. Hinkle served as Chair of the Biology Department at UCF from 2007 through 2012. Prior to moving to UCF, he served over 24 years in various research and management roles at Kennedy Space Center (KSC). He left KSC in 2007 as Vice President and Chief Scientist for Dynamac Corporation that held the Life Science Services Contract with NASA. He was awarded the NASA, Public Service Medal (the highest honor for non-civil servant working on NASA contracts) for his efforts in establishing ecological research at Kennedy Space Center. Dr. Hinkle's primary research interests are in plant ecology, landscape ecology, and applied conservation biology. From 1994 through 2007 he served as Co-Principal Investigator of a multidiscipline team of scientists who experimentally evaluated ecosystem responses to double ambient atmospheric CO₂ including ecosystem carbon dynamics, above and below ground biomass production, ecosystem water dynamics, ecosystem response to fire, nutrient cycling, and ecosystem structural components. He continues that research at UCF where he directs the Ecosystem Processes and Services Laboratory that is investigating carbon, energy, and water dynamics in native and urban ecosystems in Central Florida. Other research interest areas include fire ecology and landscape management, invasive species management, restoration ecology of degraded habitat, and the establishment of long term ecological monitoring and research of conservation areas. He represents UCF on a national team of scientists who are designing and implementing the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) with the National Science Foundation to address national priorities for ecological research. He works with The Nature Conservancy to help coordinate a NEON site at Disney Wilderness Preserve. He has been an active member of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee since 1990 a program that has selected and purchased over 20,000 acres of native Florida habitat for management as conservation sanctuaries. Dr. Hinkle has authored or co-authored over 90+ scientific papers.

My name is David Humphrey. I am editor of the Sea Rocket Newsletter,



which I enjoy tremendously. I am very happily married to Mary for the last 35 years. I have two children and two granddaughters that bring endless joy to my heart. The picture I used is of my alter ego of a Florida pioneer or "cracker". Though I moved here in 1965 from Ohio, I really do love

Florida, the weather, the water, and the pace. I have been re-enacting for the Royal Ranger program at my church for several years. When I'm not living in the mid 1800's I can be found at the Sea Rocket nursery puttering around with the plants. I've been a member for over a year now and have learned a lot about native Florida Plants. I now can walk about and name and admire plants that not so long ago I tried to eliminate from my landscape. A long time ago, in a town far, far away, I worked at the Florida Pest Control Nursery in Lake City while attending college, and enjoyed working with the plants there also. I graduated from Lake City Community College with an AS in Forestry. I worked with the Florida Forest Service, Cocoa Work Station for a year and moved on. I was at the Kennedy Space Center for 33 years working on the Space Shuttle Program. I'm now retired (and very happy about it) so I can work in my yard. I enjoy native plants and am currently learning more about them and how and where to use them. I am working to convert the "no man's land" between the sidewalk and the road into a native meadow. It is now in its third year and is establishing itself very well. I will eventually succeed in getting the meadow Native Certified. I don't live in a Home Owner Assn, but a certification would go a long way in validating this kind of activity using a city owned, home owner maintained right of way.

Sea Rocket Chapter General Meeting Minutes 3-25-15

Welcome and Call to Order: 7:10 pm

BUSINESS:

Approval of General Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Cynthia Schell, seconded by David Humphrey to approve the February meeting minutes, passed unanimously.

Financial Report: Karin Biega read the Treasurer report: \$3903.19 checking; \$1602.36 saving, totaling \$5505.55 and the President accepted.

New well for the nursery: Permit has been submitted and paid for; should be installed prior to next general meeting.

Plant rescue: Lois and David Biega will collaborate on a list of options for near-future dates/locations and contact those several members who expressed interest in weekday workday.

Refreshments this evening were provided by Shari, Armand De Felippo and David Humphrey. Thank you all for providing these snacks for our enjoyment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

Events:

Sat 3/28 Sea Rocket garden workday at Enchanted Forest starting at 9am

Sat 4/11 to Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary – 9am 12pm with Dr. Paul Schmalzer

Sat 4/18 Earth Day celebration & plant sale at EFS 10 am to 3 pm NEED VOLUNTEERS to help; setup begins 9 am.

Tue 4/14 BOD meeting at New York New York, Titusville, starts at 5:30pm; members are welcome to attend.

Other announcements:

* **Amendment 1:** see FNPS Action Alert (*the alert is missing from the website Thurs am*) The Secretary was directed to draft a letter for SR Chapter to legislators re support additional Florida natural area land purchases.
EPCOT Flower and Garden Festival Mar 5 – May 17: openings to support but must commit all day; contact Lois for contact to schedule.

April 22nd Program: Earth Day – “How it has changed the world” by Ross Hinkle.

FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm

The Secretary was directed to draft a letter for SR Chapter to legislators re support additional Florida natural area land purchases:

Approved

Senate President Andy Gardiner House Speaker Steve Crisafulli

Florida Native Plant Society Sea Rocket Chapter members hereby express our strong support for conserving our land and water resources by appropriate implementation of the Water and Land Conservation Amendment (Amendment 1), which is now law.

The time for debating whether the people of Florida support additional land purchases has passed. As did the 4.2 million voters who supported Amendment 1, we believed the purpose of the funding was to finance the purchase of additional natural areas as a way to help protect our water resources, wildlife, rivers, lagoons, and beaches.

Amendment 1 was called the Water and Land Legacy Amendment for a reason. Amendment 1 requires the dedication of 33% of annual documentary stamp tax revenues to land and water conservation. Those revenues are projected to total well over \$700 million in the first year alone.

Most of us interpreted that to mean a substantial amount of the funding would support the protection of natural areas through the purchase of land. But we see both the Senate and House propose to spend millions to cover existing agency operating costs and fund expensive water supply projects, but nothing for Florida Forever.

Sewage treatment plants and water supply projects are important, but they aren't the legacy for future generations we had in mind when we voted. We wanted –and still want – beaches, lagoons, rivers and springs clean enough for swimming and fishing; parks and forests where people can actively enjoy the natural Florida, and preservation of lands to add to our system of state parks, state forests and wildlife management areas.

Please heed the will of the voters and reconsider your reluctance to support the acquisition of approved Florida Forever projects.

Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Earth Day Festival

FREE!

Saturday, April 18th, 2015
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Live Animal Presentations

Live Music • Exhibitors
Guided Hikes

Face Painting • Kid's Crafts & Activities



Find us on
Facebook & Twitter!



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Join us as we celebrate local leaders who are making strides to help mankind live in harmony with nature



CHARLIE CORBEIL CONSERVATION AWARDS 2015

2nd Annual Charlie Corbeil
Conservation Awards Dinner

6 P.M. April 9, 2015

Heritage Isle Clubhouse in Viera

Reserve your \$35 Dinner Tickets
at TheCharlieAwards.org

PRESENTED BY:

viera voice



Banquet with Special Speaker

Rick Kilby, Vince Lamb, Youth & Adult Presentations

For more information or to register, go to
TheCharlieAwards.org or call 321-242-1235



Children's photography,
art and writing contest
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in cash prizes

The Corbeil Conservation Awards Dinner
invites youth to submit nature works
With a focus on the flora and fauna of the Viera Wetlands

Call is open to ages K-12th
Deadline to apply: 5 p.m. Friday, April 3rd
For details and submission requirements and
to go to TheCharlieAwards.org

Drop off submissions at the Pizza Gallery & Grill,
The Avenue Viera, 2250 Town Center Ave.



Spring Prairie Wildflower Walk

with Roger Hammer & Craig Huegel



Saturday
April 25, 2015

Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park

33104 NW 192nd Ave, Okeechobee, FL 34972



Celebrate Earth Day witnessing the beauty and biodiversity of the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve with two of Florida's most recognized wildflower experts: Roger Hammer and Craig Huegel. Roger and Craig will introduce you to both the obvious and less conspicuous flora of the Prairie, while entertaining you with their renowned wisdom and wit.

Kissimmee Prairie Preserve is alive with color in the spring. You will be transported to locations in the prairie that have been burned at various times to maximize the number and diversity of wildflowers you can see. Scheduled spring burns will offer a very good chance to see the threatened orchid species *Calopogon multiflorus*, commonly called Manyflowered Grasspink.

Choose from a 9:30 am walk or a 1:30 pm walk. Cost is \$24 for Friends of Kissimmee Prairie Preserve members and \$34 for non-members. A \$4 per vehicle entry fee is also required and must be paid at the gate when you enter the park. Each walk is limited to 20 participants. Participants may also sign up for a free 45 minute buggy ride in the Prairie. Visit the [Friends of Kissimmee Prairie Preserve](#) website for more information.



Roger Hammer is a well known author, photographer and botanist, with several excellent guides to Florida wildflowers. Among the statewide native plant organizations, he is a very sought after speaker and workshop leader. He holds an Honorary Doctor of Science from Florida International University and has received numerous awards for his work as a Florida naturalist.

Craig Huegel is an accomplished Ecologist, Environmental Consultant and author. He is an expert in the design of wildlife-attracting landscapes in Florida. Craig is the author of several very popular books on wildflowers and native plant landscaping for wildlife. He has a Ph.D. in Animal Ecology from Iowa State University and has received numerous awards for his environmental work.

Roger and Craig will have copies of their latest plant books for sale at the walk.

Sponsored by the Friends of Kissimmee Prairie Preserve

How to HELP avoid mosquito bites

<http://insects.about.com/od/flies/a/how-to-get-mosquito-bites.htm>.

1. **Stop Breathing.** That's a tough one. It isn't really recommended. Mosquitoes detect carbon dioxide in the air, so the more you breathe, the more likely you are to become a blood meal.
2. **Take a shower.** The more you stink, the easier it is for a blood-seeking mosquito to find you. Drop the deodorant, skip the soap, and get ready to start slapping skeeters. Be aware of number 8 though
3. **Stay relatively still** Mosquitoes first locate potential victims using their sight, and anything moving will be deemed worthy of a second look. Go outside and flag them down. Mow the lawn. Take a jog around the block. Jump up and down and shout "pick me, pick me!" The mosquitoes will pick you, for sure.
4. **Try not to sweat** Perspiration is the perfect combination of mosquito attractants – moisture and odors. Head outdoors on a hot, sticky summer evening, and work up a sweat. The mosquitoes will thank you.
5. **Keep from overheating** Think of mosquitoes as heat-seeking missiles. The warmer you are, the quicker they'll find you. Though mosquitoes can't sense your body heat from a distance, once they get within a few yards, your warmth will lure them in.
6. **Wear light colors** Research shows that mosquitoes respond best to dark colors, especially blue. Put away the khakis and white shirt; instead, don your jeans and a black t-shirt. You'll shine a spotlight on yourself that allows the mosquitoes to come in for a quicker landing.
7. **Steer clear of perfume or cologne.** If you just can't bear the body odor approach, do the opposite – bathe yourself in the strongest perfume money can buy. Floral scents are especially attractive to mosquitoes.
8. **Steer clear of alpha hydroxy products on your skin.** Lactic acid, which our bodies produce naturally, is a big draw for mosquitoes. It just so happens that many skin care products contain lactic acid, too, and so might help boost your chemistry with these blood-seeking bugs. Look for lotions and creams labeled "alpha hydroxy," which provide the most lactic acid.
9. **No wonder I don't like mosquitoes, they like stinky feet.** Yes, this is based on actual scientific research. Mosquitoes love smelly feet. Entomologist Daniel L. Kline experimented with using dirty socks as a mosquito lure, and found his 3-day-old socks were irresistible to them. Specifically, it's the bacteria that grow on human feet that seems to draw a crowd.
10. **Lay off drinking beer and eat limburger cheese.** Studies show people who've had a few beers score the most mosquito bites at the barbecue. Snack on some limburger cheese while enjoying a beer, and you will open yourself up to an all out assault. Limburger cheese is made with the same bacteria that makes your feet stink.

Now that you're covered in mosquito bites, you might want to learn how to [stop the mosquito bite itch](#). Have an itch remedy that works every time? [Share it](#).

From My Meadow

David Humphrey

A word about the Cutleaf Evening primrose, (known more intimately as *Oenothera laciniata*). This is a native that introduced itself into my "meadow", last year. This year, as the photo shows, it has found a home on my range. In fact, I have started to control its spread. It can become quite aggressive. I still want it in the mix, but not at the expense of all



else. To pull it out I have found that I need to get to the root base and pull straight out, otherwise you'll be pulling the top off. The tap root is large and reaches deep into the Florida soil. In the evening, (shown) and morning, the *Oenothera laciniata* is very showy and adds a lot of interest to the meadow.

Along with the cutleaf evening-primrose I had a beautiful display of Canadian toadflax (*linaria Canadensis*). It is another Florida Native "freebie" that introduced itself last year. It is a spindly little plant that is beautiful en masse, and all but invisible from mid spring until its bloom in late winter.



Clearly this guy has never attended the Sea Rocket free, Monthly Meeting. Indeed, everyone is invited to attend. Every fourth Wednesday of the month we have an opportunity to learn from the "Best of the Best" in their fields. Join us for an hour of interesting, and educational talks.

I want to thank Sandra Webb for sending this funny to me. Although, if I knew who drew it I'd certainly thank them also. ~~ Editor.



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Community Corner

News for and about your Chapter

Sea Rocket Saturday Workdays for the Butterfly Gardens at Enchanted Forest and Plant sales.

- Saturday April 11 @ 9:00AM
- **April 18 Earth Day Celebration and Plant Sale @ 10 AM to 3 PM, EFS**
- Saturday April 25 @ 9:00 AM
- Saturday May 9 @ 9:00AM
- Saturday May 23 @ 9:00AM
- **June 6 Pond Tour and Plant Sale @ 10 AM to 3 PM, EFS**
- Saturday June 13 @ 9:00AM
- Saturday June 27 @ 9:00AM
- Saturday July 18 @ 9:00AM
- Saturday August 15 @ 9:00AM
- **September 5 Labor Day Plant Sale @ 10 AM to 3 PM, EFS**
- Saturday September 12 @ 9:00AM
- Saturday September 26 @ 9:00AM
- Saturday October 10 @ 9:00AM
- Saturday October 24 @ 9:00AM
- **November 7 Forest Festival and Plant Sale 10 AM to 3 PM, EFS**
- **November 13 - 15, Native Rhythms Festival, Plant Sale 10 AM to 3 PM Wickham Park**
- Saturday November 14 @ 9:00AM
- Saturday December 12 @ 9:00AM

Questions on this schedule Email Lois at lois5459@att.net or Shari at iclark109@cfl.rr.com

Beautyberry Bug Repellant

Reprinted from the October Edition of the Sea Rocket Newsletter

chopped up plant (leaves and stems)

- boil the leaves and stems in a pot and let it cool.
- then strain the brown liquid into a blender, about 1 1/2 cups.
- In a separate pot I warmed some organic neem oil (1 cup). Neem oil is in itself an insecticide, used in the garden against soft bodied bugs.
- with 1 ounce of melted beeswax

Then you turn the blender on and pour in the oil mixture very slowly and it becomes a cream.

I have tested it personally at the Haulover Canal on a hot drippy day. Before I put it on I was buzzed and bitten several times. I slathered it on and Voilà, no more bug bites. The mosquitoes and no-see-ums were still there but none bit me. I was out there on a cleanup day for several hours. - David Humphrey

The Latest improvements to our nursery. This time literally, in support of our trees. The wind kept blowing the trees over. When laying over they don't get the proper watering needed. The rail was installed to allow us to secure the trees if needed.

For those who have not seen the nursery before this was a major improvement in space utilization and Plant Care. We now have full utilization of the foot print allowed us by the county. Last month Sea Rocket added several yards of dirt to level out the slope from the limited footprint to now using that slope for plant stock. That was a lot of work, but the results were worth it.

The nursery plants are waking up from their winter rest and are happy to feel the warmth. The Coreopsis are blooming beautifully. As are the Rain lilies, and the Lyre



Leaf Sage. As with the native plants beginning to feel the warmth, so too are the native weeds feeling invigorated. Volunteerism was off over the winter, simply because there was little to do either, in the nursery or the butterfly gardens. Yet Sea Rocket is under agreement with the County to provide a certain amount of time to the maintenance of the butterfly Gardens around the kiosk. In exchange for a place to meet and keep our nursery. The formula for figuring our hours is simple; one person for one hour = one hour. Ten people for one hour = 10 hours. Spring Summer, and Fall are big growth months and Sea Rocket needs more volunteers to not only pump up the hours for County record keepers, but more importantly to show off the beauty and excitement of growing native plants. First impression is so very important. We want to maintain that first impression for visitors to the Enchanted Forest.

Hosting the Sea Rocket Newsletter since 2001;

www.NBBD.com

North Brevard Business & Community Directory

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Peak Performance Co.

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DavidNRich@gmail.com

www.AboutTitusville.com

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green images

Florida Native Landscape Plants

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

407-568-1333

greenimage@aol.com

The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Education Center

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

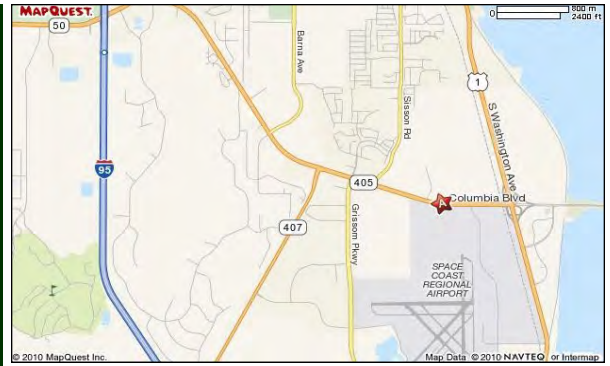


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

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

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

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



Florida Native Plant Society

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

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

Sea Rocket Chapter mailing address: 444 Columbia Blvd, Titusville, FL 32780



May Program!

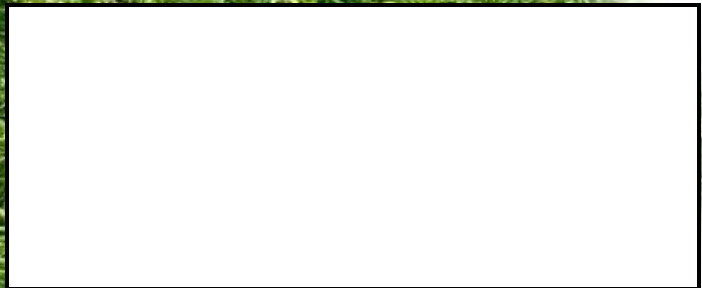
**Diana Sageser with be speaking on the
Brevard Botanical Gardens.**

www.fnps.org



Sea Rocket Chapter

444 Columbia Blvd,
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GO GREEN! RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL AND SAVE SOME GREEN! GO GREEN!