



# Sea Rocket



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

May 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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### **Newsletter**

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### **Hospitality**

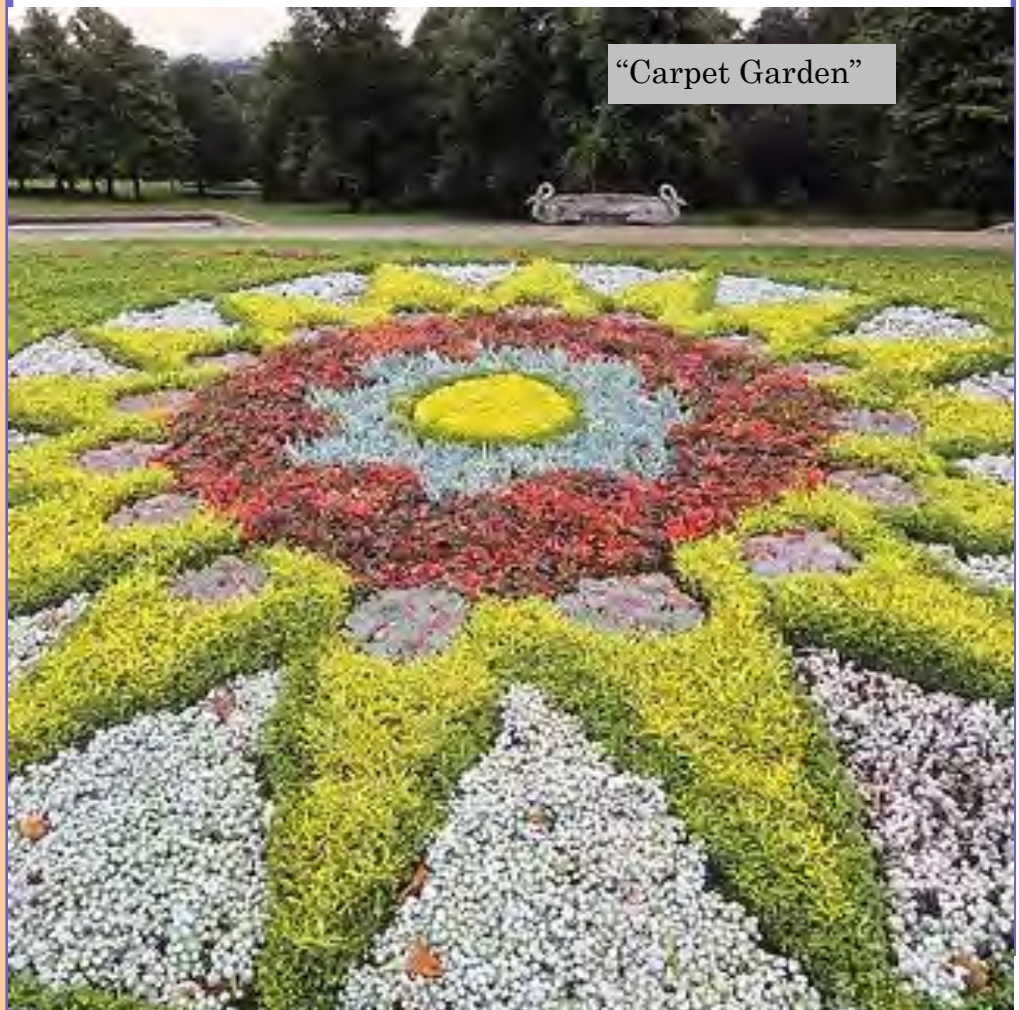
Vacant at this time

## **This Month's Guest Speaker—Diana Sageser**

I lived in Kansas for most of my life and was a Master Gardener (MG) there for over 20 years, receiving both the Golden Trowel award and Emeritus status. When I moved to Florida, I enrolled in the MG class of 2013.

While in Kansas I worked as a living history interpreter at Old Cowtown Museum in Wichita. In addition to interacting with guests, I worked with the museum to create period-correct gardens. This included a "carpet garden" for the upper class Victorian home, a truck garden for the log cabin, and a large production garden for the farm homestead.

I have been a board member of the BBG since 2014 and am a featured writer for Florida Gardening Magazine.



"Carpet Garden"

# May Places To Go, Things To Do!

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

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

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

**May 1—May 17 Epcot International Flower and Garden Festival.** See Page 8 for more information.

**May 1 Music in the Park.** Enchanted Forest Sanctuary from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. See page 4 for more information.

**May 9 Butterfly Garden workday and Pre-KBB Secret Garden Tour prep day.** We will be putting the final touches to the butterfly gardens to help make them more attractive to both butterflies and to people. Bring gloves, hat water, and energy. The day starts at 9 AM until—

**May 9 South Lake Conservation Area Field Trip 0900-1200.** Hosted by Dr. Schmalzer. For the full announcement see page 5

**May 11 Conradina Chapter Melbourne Library on Fee Ave at 5:30pm** has a wonderful speaker at our next meeting on **Roger Hammer**, is an award-winning professional naturalist, author, botanist and photographer. Roger will be highlighting his just released 2nd edition of *Everglades Wildflowers* book. . He is always an in formational and humorous speaker. Not one to miss! Please join us.

**May 16 KBB Secret Garden Tour**, Saturday May 16, 2015 hours are 9 to 5. This event will be an "open (garden) house" format allowing ticket holders to follow a tour guide pamphlet on their own, selecting the gardens they would like to see on their schedule. In addition to a tour of Enchanted Forests beautiful Butterfly Gardens, Sea Rocket will be having a native butterfly plant sale

**May 17 Forest FunDay at Enchanted Forest. from 2PM to 4PM. "BUTTERFLIES"** - Nature program for children and their families. Come enjoy a Sanctuary Search and make a GIANT Butterfly. This program is free and fun for all.

**May 23 Butterfly Garden Work Day from 9 AM till 12PM.** Bring gloves, hat water, and energy. We will be done before the scientist begin their counting. See next entry.

**May 23–24 Bioblitz** at the Enchanted Forest from 1PM to 1PM. 24 hours to celebrate International Biological Diversity Day. See Page 6 for more information.

**May 27 Sea Rocket Monthly meeting at the Enchanted Forest from 6:30 PM** with Diana Sageser with be speaking on the Brevard Botanical Gardens. Diana is an experienced Master Gardener and has been involved in many exciting projects in her career. As always everyone is invited to attend this free and educational meeting.

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".

Sea Rocket Chapter  
General Meeting Minutes **April 22<sup>nd</sup>** 2015

**Welcome and Call to Order:** 7:07 pm

**BUSINESS:**

**Approval of General Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the March meeting minutes, second and passed unanimously.

**Financial Report:** Karin Biega read the Treasurer report: \$4672.19 checking; \$627.36 saving, totaling \$5299.55; there were no questions; it was filed by the Secretary.

**New well for the nursery** – is complete and latest test result was 255 ppm.

**Go Native Brevard 500 Project** – an Eagle Scout project, (Christopher Comoletti) with 500 native butterfly 4" potted plants that will be given away in exchange for one contest entry (and only one entry per student) are being purchased from Naturewise and Maple Street Natives (\$1.50 each). The project still needs \$248.75 to cover the cost of the 500 plants. Utilizing our speaker funds, we will transfer \$100.00 to publicity and support this project.

**Refreshments** this evening were provided by Martha Pessaro and Armand De Felippo.

**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 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**Events:**

Sat 4/25 Sea Rocket garden workday at Enchanted Forest starting at 9am

Sat 5/9 Sea Rocket garden workday at Enchanted Forest starting at 9am

Sat 5/9 Field Trip to South Lake conservation Area – 9am 12pm with Dr. Paul Schmalzer

Sat 5/16 KBB Garden Tour & plant sale at EFS 10 am to 3 pm NEED VOLUNTEERS

5/14 BOD meeting at Kay's BBQ, Cocoa on 520 West of US1 starts at 5:30pm, members are welcome to attend.

**Other announcements:**

**Conradina - May 11th:** Roger Hammer "Everglades Wildflowers" 6:00 @ Melbourne Library, 540 E. Fee Ave., 32901

**Program: Earth Day – "How it has changed the world"** by Ross Hinkle.

FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.



# Music in the Forest

Friday, May 1, 2015

7:00pm - 9:00pm

Enjoy a **FREE**  
evening at the  
**Enchanted Forest  
Sanctuary**



PAINTED  RAVEN

Experience the music of **"Painted Raven"** a  
contemporary Native American and  
World Music trio.



444 Columbia Blvd., Titusville, FL 32780 • 321.264.5185 • [www.eelbrevard.com](http://www.eelbrevard.com)

## South Lake Conservation Area Field Trip Announcement

Saturday May 9, 2015 0900-1200

Hosted by Dr Paul Schmalzer

South Lake Conservation Area. This site was a mitigation donation to the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program. There has been extensive restoration by cutting and burning, timber thinning, and exotic plant treatment. Vegetation is primarily oak scrub, scrubby flatwoods, and mesic flatwoods. An experimental translocation of Florida Scrub-Jays to the property began in 2009.

### Directions:

1) I-95 to exit 220 Garden Street (St. Rt. 406). West 0.6 miles on Garden Street to North Carpenter Road. North 1.5 miles on N. Carpenter to Dairy Road. West 1.1 mile on Dairy Road. Turn North (right) on Lancaster Lane (not paved) and park by gate.

-OR-

2) US 1 to Dairy Road. West on Dairy Road. Cross North Carpenter Road. West 1.1 mile on Dairy Road. Turn North (right) on Lancaster Lane (not paved) and park by gate.

**Bring a hat, sunscreen, water,  
and insect repellent.**

## Goldenrod vs. Allergies

The facts are in—

### Goldenrod is NOT an allergen!

The nature of a flowering plant is to attract pollinators. The Goldenrod (*solidago* spp.) has been accused of causing allergies. Yes, even I thought that goldenrod was an undesirable plant. Was I ever wrong! The goldenrod is in fact a beautiful hypoallergenic, fall flower. It's pollen, so maligned in the past, is large, heavy, and sticky. This is so it will cling to pollinators and be transferred between plants. It is not airborne. Goldenrod's crime? **Guilt by Association.** It has large, easy to spot, yellow blooms, growing in the same environment, and blooming at the same time, as the inconspicuous ragweed, (*Ambrosia* spp.) growing all around it. The facts are that goldenrod, as most other colorful blooms are, is colorful to attract pollinators which is their primary method of cross pollination.

Conversely the oaks, pines, maples, and ragweed have inconspicuous blooms with vast amounts of light, dry, pollen, made to be spread by the wind. Pollinators are uninterested in these blooms. As a reliable rule of thumb, if the flower is obvious, as the goldenrod bloom is, nature intended for the pollen to be spread by pollinators, not by the wind.

For further study of the scientific, authenticated, and understandable verification of this myth buster go to:

<http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu/Horticulture/documents/Ragweedvs.Goldenrod.pdf> to get the whole story straight from the University of Florida IFAS Extension ~~ Dave

I found this tree, a laurel oak, at my Church. It concerned me in that it is in close proximity to the parsonage. I knew something was wrong here, I thought it was a beetle bug. Sally Scalera, the Urban Horticulture Agent at the Extension Service, she identified it as a type of heart rot, which is accurate enough for me. I wrote to Don Spence, a certified Arborist for more informa-



tion on the Disease. It isn't a virus as I thought, but a bacteria, as evidenced by the drainage. In fact, it will rot out the heart wood, but the process is fairly slow, and in this tree, may not present an immediate threat to the house it shades. Thanks to Sally and Don for their expertise on this. I've learned something new today ~~





# Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Management & Education Center

# BIoblitz 2015

**I Came. I Saw. I Counted.**

**May 23rd, 1pm - May 24th, 1pm**



Celebrate *International Biological Diversity Day* at the *Enchanted Forest Sanctuary*! Scientists will be conducting a 24-hour biodiversity survey on the sanctuary. Guests can visit *Bioblitz Central* to see scientists at work, enjoy kids programs, register to participate in surveys and more!



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# Smithsonian probes clams and oysters as lagoon saviors

Jim Waymer, FLORIDA TODAY 10:42 p.m. EDT  
April 9, 2015

COCOA – Smithsonian researchers are probing the particle preferences of clams and oysters to weigh their roles as potential lagoon saviors.

Biologists from the Smithsonian Marine Station at Fort Pierce hope to find out which shellfish — or other filter feeder — cleanses best, and where.

They pumped Indian River Lagoon water through a series of clams and oysters at Cocoa's Riverfront Park this week, to see what size particles the bivalves remove from the water.

"We're finding that oysters are pickier," Jessica Lunt, a Smithsonian marine biologist, said as water gurgled through an array of "compartmentalized" clams and oysters.

"We can know the efficiency in which the whole process is made," Eva Galimany, a Smithsonian researcher, explained over the hum of a pump and trickle of flowing water. "This efficiency gives us an idea of how 'happy' they are in a type of water or how 'unhappy' they are."

The Smithsonian researchers are also looking at sites in Mosquito Lagoon, Banana River Lagoon and Indian River Lagoon to see which filter feeders are most efficient at cleaning the water.

"The water here is the one that has the most of everything," Galimany said of the water quality at the Cocoa test site.

Clams, oysters — as well as some tiny crustaceans — graze on phytoplankton. So they are crucial for seagrass because they help improve water clarity, cropping back algae blooms.

But phytoplankton reproduce much faster than can be consumed by existing filter feeders, especially when excess nitrogen and other nutrients are available.

The Smithsonian researchers serve on the district's so-called "orange team" of scientists studying the makeup of the lagoon's phytoplankton species, zooplankton grazers, invertebrates, and especially filter-feeders and fish.

"We could potentially reintroduce some," Christopher Freeman, one of the Smithsonian researchers, said of the "grazers" they're studying.

This month, Brevard County began installing pilot reefs made up of oyster shells and oysters grown at 850 volunteers waterfront homes.

Each oyster on the new reefs will filter 25 to 50 gallons of lagoon water each day. So 1 million mature oysters could filter up to 50 million gallons of lagoon water daily, enough to fill 40 to 80 Olympic-sized pools.

The Smithsonian researchers plan to study the cleansing power of sponges, barnacles, mussels and other filter feeders as well.

"Pretty much anything removing particulates from the water, we're going to try it," Freeman said.



## Florida TODAY news about One of Our Own, Shari Blissett-Clark.



[Chris Bonanno](#), FLORIDA TODAY 11:23 p.m. EDT March 28, 2015

### Melbourne Beach is no longer blind to the facts about bats.

Shari Blissett-Clark from the Florida Bat Conservancy and Bat Belfrys, Inc. spoke to a group at the Melbourne



Shari with her Brazilian free-tail bat

Beach Town Hall on Saturday outlining the roles bats play in ecosystems while also debunking myths about the creatures as part of the Melbourne Beach Advisory Board's Popcorn Science Seminar Series.

"Many people don't know that they not only eat a whole lot of

insects, but also some bat species in the world are pollinators and many of the foods that we eat on a daily basis are actually pollinated solely by bats," said Blissett-Clark.

"Things like bananas, cashews and even the blue agave cactus, which for adults is the single source for tequila," added Blissett-Clark. "So it's an important animal for a lot of us so if you like a margarita, we owe that tequila to the bats that pollinate that cactus."

And that was just one of the surprising facts that Blissett-Clark shared with the group, with others, such as the fact that only five percent of caves in the world have bats also proving to be illuminating.

"I thought it was real interesting, real informative. I learned a lot that I didn't know about bats. They're not quite as scary as we thought," said Jeff Foss, a member of the Board.

Following her presentation, Blissett-Clark also showed off a number of Brazilian free-tailed bats to those in attendance and she noted that if bat houses are built properly in Brevard, they will attract the animals.

## It's not too late to enjoy the Epcot International Flower and Garden Festival



**Discover dazzling gardens, seasonal cooking, and high-energy entertainment at this spectacular springtime event** held

annually at the Epcot Walt Disney World Resort. Whether you're looking for inspiration and advice from a presentation, or have a question for our UF Extension specialists, you can find all this and so much more at the Festival Center--**open every weekend through May 17!** Each weekend a different topic is featured such as **Multiplying Your Plant Collection** and **Great Container Gardens**.

**The EnergyWhiz Olympics**

The EnergyWhiz Olympics is all about clean energy and creativity!

**FLORIDA SOLAR ENERGY CENTER**  
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[www.fsec.ucf.edu](http://www.fsec.ucf.edu)

Where is the next big Energy breakthrough coming from? Most likely from these young scientists.

The **EnergyWhiz** is all about clean energy and creative kids. Each year, on the first Saturday in May, hundreds of students converge at the Florida Solar Energy Center in Cocoa, Florida to participate in renewable energy themed events.



By Jane J. Lee, National Geographic

PUBLISHED MARCH 31, 2015

**Imagine a journey that requires you to first pack on the pounds, then get rid of your intestines, and finally to forgo eating and sleeping for three days.**



PHOTOGRAPH BY VERMONT CENTER FOR ECOSTUDIES

For the blackpoll warbler, such a feat is called their fall migration.

Barely half an ounce (12 grams), these tiny birds fly from northeastern Canada to South America every fall. But no one knew what path they took. It turns out the warblers fly nonstop over the Atlantic Ocean, researchers report March 31 in the journal *Biology Letters*. (Learn about the world's longest migration.)

Ecologists affixed lightweight tracking devices to five blackpoll warblers during the fall 2013 migration to discover the animals' overwater route.

The warblers fuel up on fat for the journey, going from 0.4 ounces (12 grams) to 0.6 ounces (16 grams), says lead study author Bill Deluca, an ecologist at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Some overachievers double in weight. "Basically, they're these little meatballs with wings," he says.

Then they absorb internal organs they won't need for the trip, like their intestines, to reduce excess weight, Deluca says. Reduced to fat, feathers, and muscle, the birds depart, taking advantage of trade winds for their journey south.

The warblers can't catch these winds on their way back, so they take an overland route in the spring, Deluca explains.

### **The Big Picture**

Researchers aren't sure why the warblers fly south over the ocean but return over land. It could be a remnant of ancient migratory pathways, Deluca says, or it could actually be safer.

Flying over land, birds have to contend with predators and collisions with buildings or cars.

Migrators from birds to butterflies face a gauntlet of danger. Larger birds that can carry more fuel travel farther—such as the Arctic tern, which hopscoches from Greenland to Antarctica and back with stops in Africa, South America, and the Arctic.

Knowing exactly where birds like the blackpoll warbler go is crucial to their conservation, Deluca adds. "This species is probably one of the most common warblers in North America," he explains, but "it's also one of the fastest declining species."



# Community Corner

## News for and about your Chapter



9:30am—Charlie Chandler is driving the well casing in. This is a pile driver rig and not an auger setup.



11:00am—Charlie is clearing out the casing from the detritus of driving it through coquina and sand.

**March—April—May Capital improvements to the nursery are extensive.** About 120 square feet have been added to the nursery footprint by adding several yards of dirt. A support railing has been added to help keep the trees upright during winds, which also added to the useful footage for plants. Reorganization of the nursery, allowing more space for plants to grow more naturally, and a new well (see pictures) with FRESH WATER to slake the thirst of our little nursery plants. Not to forget that David B. dug out a big old stump that consumed space we now use for plants, as well as a nasty root that was a constant trip hazard. The nursery is truly looking and performing more like a nursery than a temporary storage area.



11:30am—The first water drawn from our new well. Yes, It is yellow with iron, **BUT**, **LOW** salt (300 ppm instead of 3300 ppm) this time.

### **2015 Earth day Plant Sale Volunteers**

**Lois, David B., Karin B., Myra, Armand, Terry S., Cynthia S., and Nancy E.**

**Chip Orr—County Vol.**

**Sandy Mickey—County Vol.**



12:00am—The irrigation system is back in service. Great pressure, great flow rate, around 30 gallons a minute, and this after several weeks of no rain.



### *From the Sea Rocket Board Room*

**Thank you for your plant donations!**

**Nancy** has brought in several elderberry plants ready for sale.

**Lois** brought in maybe 20 pots of blue eye grass



# When does a plant become a "Native" plant.

By David Humphrey

This is a question that will stir vigorous debate. Is there a time limit? Will a naturalized plant ever be considered a native plant? Mary Glazer wrote an article in the "**FLORIDA GARDENING**" magazine March/April 2015 pp 27 where she says that "**A plant is classified a native if it has grown here since the time of Columbus, a solid 500 years.**" I'm thinking that is before the Europeans brought plants and animals over. Searching for ideas of when a plant can be called a native I have found several other ideas. One thought is if the plant has formed a stable community. How long is required for a "Stable Community"? 1 year, 50 years? Unfortunately this is a tough measure as plants tend to cross pollinate and create sub-species. \ and move with the wind.

**The U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration** (Web address below)([http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/ecosystems/vegmgmt\\_rdsduse5.asp](http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/ecosystems/vegmgmt_rdsduse5.asp))

says, "*There are many definitions for native plants that differ in minor ways. We here adopt and discuss the definition recently developed for the Native Plant Conservation Initiative: A native plant species is one "that occurs naturally in a particular region, state, ecosystem, and habitat without direct or indirect human actions"* (Federal Native Plant Conservation Committee, 1994). All of the explanations I have found have as a key element no history of being introduced by human intervention. If an animal has a biden alba seed (Spanish Needle) stuck to its coat and it drops in a new area previously unpopulated by a biden alba that would be considered a natural spread, just as wind blown seed would be naturally occurring. If a human brings in a plant or seed on purpose, or by accident, and it can be shown, historically, it can never be considered a native plant. ~~

Hosting the Sea Rocket Newsletter since 2001;

**www.NBBD.com**

North Brevard Business & Community Directory

David N. Rich

**Peak Performance Co.**

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**321-267-7367**

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

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**Maple Street Natives**

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*green images*

*Florida Native Landscape Plants*

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

**407-568-1333**

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

### The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Education Center

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

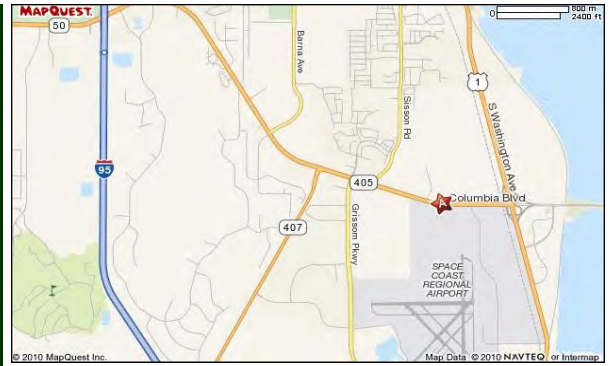


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

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

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

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

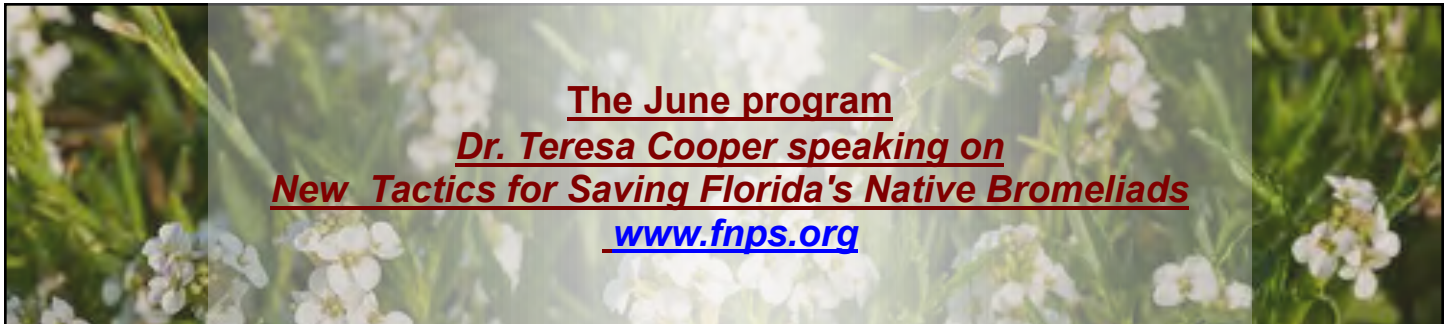


### Florida Native Plant Society

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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: 444 Columbia Blvd, Titusville, FL 32780



### The June program

*Dr. Teresa Cooper speaking on*

*New Tactics for Saving Florida's Native Bromeliads*

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