



Sea Rocket



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

June 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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Education/Outreach

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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

Vacant at this time

Sea Rocket Monthly meeting

6-24-15 at 6:30 pm - the Enchanted Forest

Teresa Cooper PhD has been working to save Florida's native bromeliads from an invasive bromeliad-eating weevil, the Mexican bromeliad weevil, since 2001. For her doctoral degree, Teresa monitored the destruction of the *T. utriculata* population, caused by the weevil at EFS, as well as studied, reared, and released a potential biological control agent, in EFS as well as in other natural areas, to control the weevil. Now, as a Post-doctoral Associate Teresa is studying new tactics on how to save the bromeliads, including making *T. utriculata* more resistant to the weevil, and developing a method for actively conserving Florida's bromeliads, particularly *T. utriculata*, in Florida's natural areas.



June Places To Go, Things To Do!

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

Every Saturday: GUIDED NATURE 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.

June 6 Native Plant sale and Pond Tour, sponsored by Sea Rocket and Pond Tour sponsored by Ace Hardware for the 19th year. The sale will be held at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. The nursery is in top shape and overflowing with healthy, happy native plants.

June 10 Hike through Turtle Mound at Canaveral National Seashore in New Smyrna Beach. Beautyberry Chapter has scheduled a hike **to begin at the trail head at 10 am**. Beautyberry chapter, has a guide from CANA and a Beautyberry member, Barbara Grigg, a retired botanist. **Sea Rocket is invited to join them** on this hike. Bring a hat, water, closed toe shoes, and bug repellent. See page 7 for the whole story.

June 13 Enchanted Forest Butterfly Garden Workday. Start at 9 AM

June 15 - 21 National Pollinators Week. Have you hugged a pollinator today?

June 17 Butterflies and Pollinators This is the first of a six part presentation of the Jr Ranger Program, presented by the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. This is for children 6 to 10 accompanied by an adult. Call 321-861-5601 for more information and make reservations.

June 21, Forest Funday at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary – between 2:00 and 4:00pm. “Reptiles of the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary” is the topic for this nature program for children and families. Come enjoy Fathers Day with a Sanctuary Search and a craft. This program is free and fun for all.

June 24 Sea Rocket Monthly Meeting at 6:30 pm. This month Sea Rocket is proud to present Dr. Teresa Cooper. Dr Cooper is currently doing research on preserving the native tillandsia from the Mexican bromeliad weevil at the Enchanted Forest as well as other sites. The Sea Rocket meetings are always free and open to the public.

June 24 Freshwater Pond Discovery, part 2 of a six part Jr. Ranger Program. presented by the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. This is for children 6 to 10 accompanied by an adult. Call 321-861-5601 for more information and make reservations.

Planning Ahead

TBD the Sea Rocket Annual Picnic. This is a good time for catching up with friends over grilled hot dog, or hamburger with all the fixin's. The date has not been set, but we are hoping to have our picnic at Sams House on Pine Island. If you have ideas or would like to be in on the planning email Lois at lois6459@att.net

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”.

Sea Rocket Chapter
Minutes of General Meeting May 27, 2015

Board Members present: Lois Harris, Armand De Filippo, Karin Biega, David Biega
15 Chapter members and Guests

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

BUSINESS:

April General Meeting Minutes were approved.

Financial Report: Karin Biega read the Treasurer report;

		MAY 2015
Beginning Balance:	Checking	\$4,382.19
	Transfers	\$0.00
	Income	\$555.00
	Expense	-\$15.51
	Less check not cleared:	\$0.00
	Ending Balance:	\$4,921.68
Beginning Balance:	Savings	\$628.61
	Transfers/Interest	\$0.00
	Ending Balance:	\$628.61
	TOTAL:	\$5,550.29

Keep Brevard Beautiful Garden Tour Plant Sale: Sold 117 plants for \$555.
Total plant sales at this point is \$1,482. Almost ½ way to budget goal

Sales still to come: Ace pond tour (6/6) **SIGN-UP SHEET**:

Labor Day (9/5); Forest Festival (10/7); Native Rhythms Festival (10/13-14-15)

Refreshments this evening were provided by Lois Harris, Dr. Barnhart, Paul, and Armand De Filippo. Thank you 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 6-10 Field Trip to Turtle Mound at Canaveral National Sea Shore** with Lake Beautyberry Chapter – 10am 12pm
- **Sat 6-13 Sea Rocket garden workday at Enchanted Forest** starting at 9:30am
- **Sat 6-27 Sea Rocket garden workday at Enchanted Forest** starting at 9:30am
- **June 9 BOD meeting** at New York, New York in Titusville, starts at 5:30pm, members are welcome to attend.
- **June 24 Program** by Dr. Teresa Cooper of UF will present information on *Tillandsia utriculata* (Wild Pine) and *Metamasius callizona*, (Mexican bromeliad weevil) research project at EFS for UF. The Mexican bromeliad weevil is an invasive bromeliad-eating weevil in Florida that has been destroying native bromeliad populations. Twelve of Florida's 16 native species are susceptible to attack by the weevil.

Plants were distributed to guests by drawing and the Meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm

Program: Brevard Botanical Garden's Progress by Diana Sageser.

Alas. The numbers don't lie; you probably haven't been to a monthly program, plant sale, or outreach event in quite a while. Maybe not ever! Sea Rocket has nearly 80 members, but sadly most of us don't participate in Chapter activities. Nevertheless, your Chapter's leadership is taking care of business in a big way, and you, Mr. and Ms. Member, need to know about it, and I'm here to sing the praises of the hard-working, dedicated people that are leading the Sea Rocket Chapter.



Monthly meeting fun

Your newly elected officers and Board members are setting you a fine example; they continue to organize outreach events, research solutions to both old and new challenges, and devise strategies for infiltrating the world of lawns and fertilizer with beneficial native plants. Your Board has worked as a team even during times when it was difficult to do so, always keeping the FNPS mission in mind and pulling toward those goals. It's been "personality's aside, full speed ahead" for Sea Rocket!



Plant rescue booty

Yup, there's a lot happening in the Sea Rocket Chapter; we enjoy the hospitality of the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary every month where we present terrific programs aimed at continuing to educate and entertain our membership. And Sea Rocket's leaders are undaunted by the low membership turnout at outreach events, plant sales, and monthly programs.



New supports for our trees

The nursery has never looked better and it's been a long road; relocating the nursery nearly three years ago took a huge effort and that effort continues to produce quality

plants for Brevard's yards and landscapes. In addition to propagating, weeding, labeling, selling and organizing all those plants, the nursery volunteers lace up their work boots and salvage important native plants from the mineral soil fire lines of the EEL Program's North Region.



Sea Rocket's outreach booth

It's hot out there folks, dragging large pots and buckets filled with water, shovels and PHD's (Post Hole Digger); and after carefully salvaging those plants from the blades



Our Nursery lovingly tended

of the plow, these dedicated leaders haul everything back to the nursery where the plants are carefully potted in the appropriate soil. These plants remain in the nursery and provide seeds and cuttings for future plant sales, money which your Chapter leadership generates to support the FNPS mission.



On the fire line

And support it we do; did you know that your Chapter gifts \$1000.00 each year to

the Science Committee and the Conservation Committee to support FNPS grants, and we're one of only a few Chapters that do? And are you even aware



Saturday volunteers

that the FNPS Science Chair for the state Society is a long-time Sea Rocket member? That he invests many, many hours researching, developing, and administering the Science & Research Grants that FNPS bestows on worthy projects?



Dr. Schmalzer

Continued page 5

And in his spare time (!) he leads Sea Rocket's native plant hikes on conservation lands all over Brevard County?



Finished offloading fill dirt

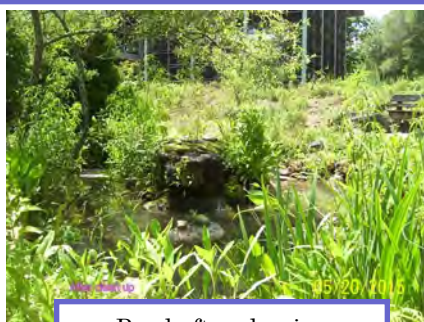
Then there's this great monthly newsletter – are you reading each issue? Are you noting events and programs that the newsletter editor takes the time to vet and include in the calendar? Are you staying involved in our community and promptly responding when an Action Alert goes out? Stay informed and read your



Pond before clearing

Chapter's newsletter – and other Chapter's newsletters, too!

So when was the last time you attended a program? Volunteered at a



Pond after clearing



"Island" being planted



"Island" 1 year old

plant sale? Participated in a field trip, hike, party, or picnic? If you can't remember then I suggest it's time to reconnect with FNPS and the Sea Rocket Chapter. Don't let us



New well, fresh water

leave you behind as we confidently move Brevard County toward a sustainable future. **Make it your future too and get involved!**

National Pollinators Week

June 15—21, 2015



Dear FNPS members and supporters:

Did you know that 51 percent of plants purchased at large home improvement and garden centers contain pesticides at levels that could harm or even kill pollinators? These toxins are so bad that Lowe's recently made a commitment to phase them out of all its home improvement stores! But pollinators are still dying in record numbers around the world -- and other big retailers like True Value and Ace Hardware continue to make profits from the poisons that are killing them.

Take action to protect pollinators! Sign the petition to urge True Value and Ace Hardware to stop selling pollinator-killing pesticides:

https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/Advocacy?page=UserAction&id=15681&autologin=true&src=915DSRSP04_NSRSP&sp_ref=120820701.5.13581.e.54644.2&subsrc=email

Nature Pavilion at Pine Island Conservation Area

Thank you for voting and showing your support for community parks - the places that make our lives and communities better. The Nature Pavilion at Pine Island will receive \$20,000 from the National Recreation and Park Association, (NRPA), to Build a new screened pavilion at Pine Island Conservation Area, where school groups and the public will enjoy wildlife viewing, arts and crafts, and a place to enjoy the outdoors.

Coming to Enchanted Forest June 6, from 10 am to 3 pm



Florida Native Plant Society
Sea Rocket Chapter



NATIVE PLANT SALE

at the ENCHANTED FOREST SANCTUARY
SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2015
10 am to 3 pm

Many species to choose from!

☒ Scarlet Hibiscus	☒ Blanket Flower	☒ Ironweed
☒ Horsetail	☒ Coreopsis	☒ Salt marsh mallow
☒ Lizard's Tail	☒ Passionvine	☒ Blue porterweed
☒ Florida Canna	☒ Beautyberry	☒ Black-eyed Susans
☒ Dune Sunflower	☒ Dotted Horsemint	☒ Rosy camphorweed
☒ Coral Honeysuckle	☒ Sunshine Mimosa	☒ & <i>Much More!</i>



The Enchanted Forest is located at 444 Columbia Blvd, Titusville, FL.
For more information about this plant sale call Lois at 321-277-5741
To learn more about Florida's native plants visit www.fnps.org



Turtle Mound Trail
CANAVERAL NATIONAL SEASHORE
NEW SMYRNA BEACH

[28.930909,-80.82569] 0.5 MILES

Lake Beautyberry Chapter is hosting a hike through the Turtle Mound Trail, on June 10, meet at the trail head, by 10 am. Lake Beautyberry chapter, has a guide from Cape Canaveral National Seashore (CCNS), and a Lake Beautyberry member, Barbara Grigg, a retired botanist. Sea Rocket is invited to join them on this hike. Bring a hat, water, closed toe shoes, and bug repellent.

To summit this peak, take a hike up the Turtle Mound Trail. This interpretive boardwalk trail is not wheelchair accessible beyond where it overlooks the Mosquito Lagoon, as it ascends at a very steep pitch while entering the fragrant shade of a coastal hammock that has formed around and atop the 1.5 million bushels of oyster shells that the Timucua dropped on this spot. Turn right at the top to walk out on a deck overlooking both the Mosquito Lagoon and the bright blue of the Atlantic Ocean, all the way north past Bethune Beach. Mounds of morning glory cover the sand atop the promontory. Off to the left is another viewing deck with different views of the lagoon and the ocean. Return via the steeply sloped boardwalk, and use the handrails if it is slippery. Add another 0.2 mile walk on an exploration of the lower side of Turtle Mound by following a delineated path from the interpretive sign nearest the water to a promontory below the mound.

Bring hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent.

Directions

From Interstate 95 exit 249A for SR 44, follow SR 44 east into New Smyrna Beach for 5.2 miles to cross the causeway to the barrier island. The road will arc to the right, becoming A1A. Drive another 7 miles south to the Canaveral National Seashore park entrance. Continue down the park road about a half mile and park on the right.

Overview

Location: New Smyrna Beach

Length: 0.5 mile

Lat-Long: 28.930909,-80.82569

Type: round-trip

Fees / Permits: national park entrance fee \$5.00/car

Difficulty: easy

Bug factor: moderate to annoying

Restroom: at the visitor center, a little farther down the road

[Canaveral National Seashore website](#)



Community Corner

News for and about your Chapter



This is a view of the new reorganized and expanded nursery, with Myra doing what she does best and keeping the plants trimmed and tied. The plants are looking healthy and happy.



This is the greenhouse, cleaned and dried out, waiting for new seedlings.



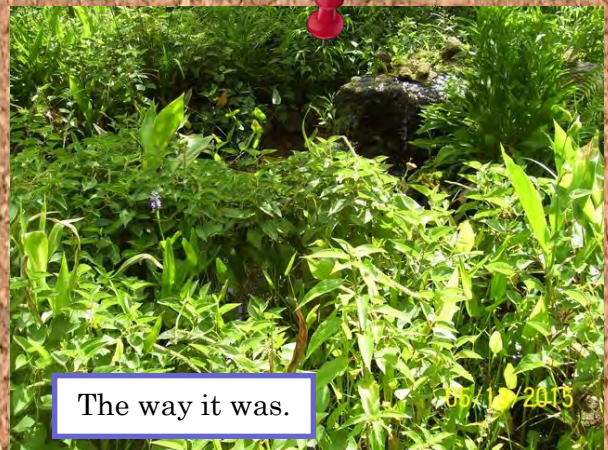
From the Sea Rocket Board Room

Thank you for your plant donations!

Phyllis Lackey donated two bags of fertilizer for our nursery plants and potting soil.

Ellen Dozier—Buttonwood and Gumbo Limbo

Matt Heyden—donated some nursery pots.



The way it was.

The KBB Secret Garden Tour and Plant Sale

It was a wonderful day. The KBB Secret Garden Tour and Sea Rocket Plant Sale was a great success. Lois, David B., and Karin B. showed up early and started the setup process. Before we even had half of the plants set out, people were ready to buy. Myra came in around 9:30 or so to help Karin with the sales receipts. The traffic was strong and stayed strong as I was leaving at noon. Armand showed up at noon. The final count for sales was 117 plants added to the local environment. A very good day was had by all.



The way it is.

“BEFORE” and “AFTER” clearing the pond of excess Lizard’s Tail (*Saururus cernuus*) and pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*). Three FULL wheelbarrows loads, and then some.



Sea Rocket is fortunate to have Ron Chicone working the fire lines on EEL properties. Ron is very knowledgeable in the identification of native plants and the needs of our plant propagation goals. On Friday Shari, Lois, Suzanne, and Dave H. went on a rescue mission to Holder park up in North Titusville. Ron was plowing the fire lines and identified:

- Velvet Milkweed (*Asclepias tomentosa*),
- Paw Paw (*Asimina triloba*),
- Dwarf Paw Paw (*Asimina pygma*)
- Beautyberry, (*Callicarpa americana*)
- Blue eyed grass, (*Sisyrinchium* spp.)
- Florida Golden Aster(*Chrysopsis floridana*).
- Sky Blue Lupine (*Lupinus diffusus*)

An excellent assortment that would have been plowed under if this rescue had not been attempted.



Overall a successful day of rescue work. Thanks to Ron for the heads up and Lois, Shari, Suzanne, Dave H. for the energy and effort made to save these plants.

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

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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

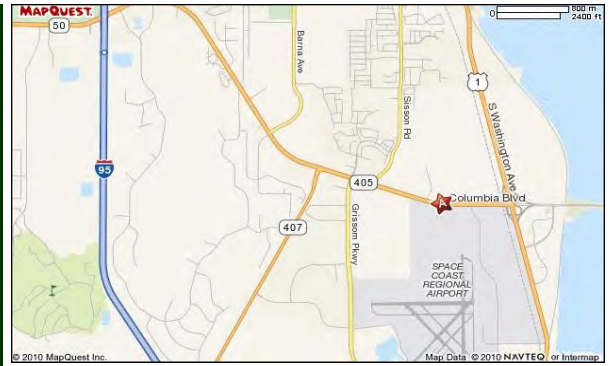


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

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



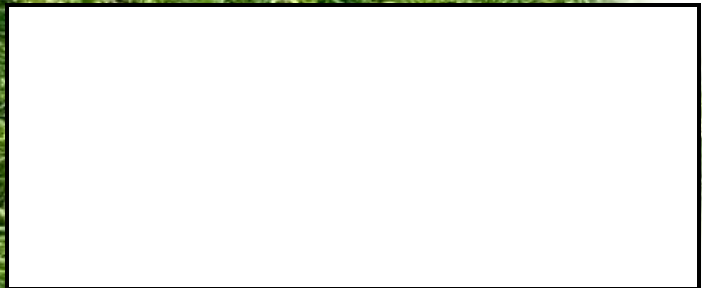
No Meeting scheduled for July or August

www.fnps.org



Sea Rocket Chapter

444 Columbia Blvd,
Titusville, FL 32780



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