



Sea Rocket



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

July 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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Lois Harris

lois6459@att.net

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Chapter Representative

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gatorgregh@gmail.com

Committees

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jclark109@cfl.rr.com

Nursery

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lois6459@att.net

Hike Leader

Paul Schmalzer, PhD

paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov

Newsletter

David Humphrey

brevcracker@gmail.com

Hospitality

Vacant at this time



Sea Rocket's July Picnic

Sams House at Pine Island 6195

N. Tropical Trail

Merritt Island, FL 32953

July 25, 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM



July 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.

July 11 Creepy Crawley Day at the Enchanted Forest from 10:00 AM till 2:00 PM. Spiders and snakes and worms! Oh my! Slither, creep, and crawl on over to the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary for our 4th Annual Creepy Crawley Day! Spend the day discovering the world of creepy crawlies through, hands-on activities, guided walks, education presentations, and even enjoy a buggy snack!

July 18 Enchanted Forest Butterfly Garden Workday. Start at 9 AM

July 18 Butterfly Survey Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (MINWR) at 9 am. Participate in a butterfly survey with volunteers and staff. No experience necessary. Bring water, snacks, insect repellent and wear closed shoes and long pants. Call 321-861-5601 to make reservations.

July 25 Ancient Ais Technologies 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Sams House at Pine Island Conservation Area. Join Kevin Gidusko, Public Archaeologist for the Florida Public Archaeology Network as he guides us as we learn about the past peoples of Florida through a variety of fun, engaging activities. You will have the opportunity to learn how and why archaeologists study past peoples and what is learned from the investigations. Everyone will have the chance to try their hand at prehistoric technology and archaeological interpretation.

July 25 Sea Rockets annual picnic and Pot Luck cook out. 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Sams House at Pine Island Conservation Area. See announcement on page 8.

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 General Meeting Agenda 6-24-15

Board Members present: **Lois Harris, Armand De Filippo, Karin Biega, David Biega, Greg Hendricks, Paul Schmalzer, David Humphrey**

BUSINESS:

- May General Meeting Minutes Approved:
- Treasurer Karin Biega Reported: \$ 4870.36 checking; \$ 628.61 saving, \$ 5498.97 total
- Ace Hardware Pond Tour Plant Sale: Sold 78 plants \$380
- Thanks to our volunteers: **Lois Harris, David Humphrey, Greg Hendricks, David and Karin Biega and Armand De Filippo.**
- Refreshments this evening were provided by **Lois and Armand.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

New Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Steward: **Sarah Kraum**

No general meeting in July or August:

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 6-27 Sea Rocket garden workday at Enchanted Forest starting at 9:30am

Sat 7-18 Sea Rocket garden workday at Enchanted Forest starting at 9:30am

SEA ROCKET ANNUAL PICNIC July 25th at Sams House 2:00 pm, bring a side dish to share

Plant Sales and Outreach opportunities still to come; Labor Day (9/5); Forest Festival (Nov 7); Native Rhythms Festival (Nov 12-13-14-15)

7/14 BOD meeting at Kay's BBQ, Cocoa, starts at 5:30pm, members are welcome to attend.

Other announcements:

See Bok Tower Gardens: Notestein's Nursery Exclusive Offer on line; contact Lois if you donate and arrange to pick up orchids.

FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm

June 24th Program: *Tillandsia utriculata* weevil by Teresa Cooper PhD.

Teresa Cooper PhD has been working to save Florida's native bromeliads from an invasive Mexican bromeliad weevil, since 2001. While working for her Master's degree, Teresa monitored weevil infestations on wild bromeliad populations in order to understand weevil and bromeliad demographics and to quantify the damage that the weevil could cause to bromeliad populations. In 2007, when Teresa was just beginning her doctoral studies, she was introduced to the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary (EFS), which at the time had a hugely abundant and healthy *Tillandsia utriculata* (Giant Wild Pine) population. 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, still with the University of Florida, 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; the pilot project for conserving these plants is being developed and implemented at EFS. In her talk, Teresa will talk about the history of this project, as well as these new tactics that are being put into play.

~ David Biega

FREE Orchid For Your Support



Help support Bok Tower Gardens' creation of two new rare plant populations this summer and receive a FREE Michaux's Orchid

Please consider helping to cover the cost of supplies and travel as we work to introduce two new rare plant populations onto protected lands this summer: Nuttall's Rayless Goldenrod (*Bigelowia nuttallii*) in Pinellas County, and Savannas Mint (*Dicerandra immaculata* var. *savannarum*) in St. Lucie County. Rare Plant Conservation Program (RPCP) efforts like these are primarily funded by donations and grants, and your support is extremely valuable.

To help support our conservation efforts, [Notestein's Nursery](#) in Gainesville has offered to donate a specimen of the [Michaux's orchid](#) (*Habenaria quinqueseta*) to each person who makes a cash donation to the Rare Plant Conservation Program at Bok Tower Gardens NOW through September 30th!

[DONATE NOW](#)

Donations to RPCP are greatly appreciated. You will be sent an email confirmation with each donation, which you can bring to Notestein's Nursery to pick up your orchid. Limit is one orchid per donation. **Orchids must be picked up at Notestein's Nursery before September 30th. Please call ahead of time at 352-372-2107.**

Orchid supplies are limited, so this offer is valid until supplies run out. Twenty dollars (\$20) of your donation is non-deductible for tax purposes. Please contact [Notestein's Nursery](#) for directions and to learn more about the Michaux's orchid and other species available for purchase.

Population introductions require the purchase of propagation, irrigation and field supplies, and the funds to transport the plants into their new homes. Each donation will help provide the necessary supplies and transplantation costs, and gifts \$300 or greater will help provide for ongoing care of these new populations. ~~

The Florida Scrub, an environment barely suited for Man nor Beast.

The scrub environment is unlike any other in Florida, or beyond. The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary has a scrub ecosystem. It is typically dominated by low bushes and thorny, ill tasting, woody plants that discourage being eaten. It would be best described as an "oak, saw palmetto scrub". The scrub flora must be able to survive needed fires, scorching Florida heat, and drought conditions in white, sterile sands. The scrub is a harsh, unforgiving environment which brooks no weaknesses. The plants that live in the scrub are uniquely adapted to this environment. Many plants that live in the scrub can be found no where else in the world. Many have thorns, or produce volatile oils that taste bad or are even toxic. The sand pine, one of the very few large trees native to a scrub area, must wait for fire to open up the pine cones to spread seeds. Other plants are killed by fire but their seeds, already in the soil, germinate and grow anew. Others sprout from roots, or rhizomes that are unaffected by fire. Contrary to what I was thinking, the scrub plants do not have a deep tap root. The water is too far below to reach, so the plants put in a lot of roots close to the top to catch the morning dew dripping off the leaves, and any moisture hitting the ground. The leaves are tough, and many are curled to help reduce evaporation.

- Gopher Tortoise — *Gopherus polyphemus*
- Florida Scrub Lizard — *Sceloporus woodi*
- Eastern Indigo Snake — *Drymarchon corais couperi*
- Florida Scrub Jay — *Aphelocoma coerulescens*
- Florida Mouse — *Podomys floridanus*

All of these are on threatened or endangered animals lists, and each call the scrub their home. Enchanted Forest has many gopher tortoise on site. The gopher in turn provides "housing" for snakes, rats, and other small critters.

Florida scrub vegetation includes several distinctive but related vegetation types. These include sand pine scrub, rosemary scrub, oak-saw palmetto scrub, coastal scrub, and scrubby flatwoods. All these ecosystems are unique and important in the total ecology of Florida.

~ Dave

"As the twig is bent, so is the tree inclined"

School wildflower garden grants awarded

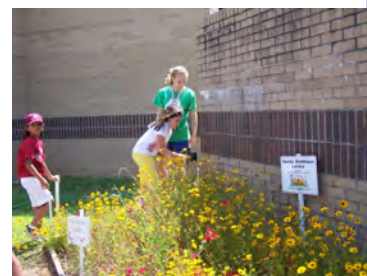


Schools in 11 Florida counties will receive wildflower seed grants in the fall through the Florida Wildflower Foundation's Seeds for Schools program. Grants were awarded to 28 schools, from pre-schools to high schools. The schools are in

Alachua, Brevard, Broward, Franklin, Lee, Miami-Dade, Osceola, Palm Beach, Polk and Volusia counties.

The grants make it possible for students to learn about Florida's native plant life through wildflowers that have evolved over thousands of years. [See the list of schools](#) that will soon be using wildflower gardens as outdoor classrooms.

~





Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

Management & Education Center
Presents

4th Annual Creepy Crawly Day

July 11, 2015
10:00am - 2:00pm

Edible Insects,
Live Animals, Kid's Crafts,
Buggy Games,
Guided Hikes, & More...



Suggested donation \$1

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



Good News for Bats

Bats Successfully Treated for White-Nose Syndrome Released Back into the Wild.

For the first time, scientists have treated and cured bats infected with White-Nose Syndrome.

Hannibal, MO | May 20, 2015 www.nature.org/



Scientists and conservationists gathered Tuesday evening outside the historic Mark Twain Cave Complex in Hannibal, MO to release back into the wild some of the first bats successfully treated for deadly White-Nose Syndrome (WNS).

The 150 bats released Tuesday were part of the first field trials of a novel way to protect bats from WNS, which is caused by a cold-loving fungus, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (Pd). Pd was introduced into the United States about ten years ago and has killed more than 5.7 million American bats in the eastern half of the U. S. and Canada.

In 2012, Dr. Christopher Cornelison and several colleagues at Georgia State University found that a common North America bacterium, *Rhodococcus rhodochrous*, had the ability to inhibit the growth of some fungi. They found in the lab that *R. rhodochrous*, without directly touching the Pd, could nonetheless strongly inhibit its growth.

Bats are critical to the health of natural ecosystems and globally play an essential role in pollination, tropical reforestation and pest management. They are believed to save US farmers an average of \$23 billion annually in reduced crop damage and lower pesticide use. More than 1,331 species of bats have been discovered worldwide, ~

A Few Words About Trellises

Lois Harris, Sea Rocket's president, and nursery manager has been talking about putting up a trellis in the butterfly garden at Enchanted Forest. She has designed and built several trellises for the various groups that she works with. So in line with that train of thought, this month's "Florida Gardening Magazine", online edition, has an article on trellises by Michelle Reynolds.

http://statebystategardening.com/state.php/florida/newsletter-stories/trellises_michelle_reynolds/

Michelle shows several different trellises for various purposes. There's the informal trellis which would be like a string trellis, or as simple as a stack of sticks, in a Tee Pee shape. At a basic level, a trellis is anything that will support a climbing, weak or leaning plant. They can be simple, or they can be complex. The design is totally up



to you and the functionality that you're looking for. The pictured trellis (above) was designed to support plants that will provide food for birds and butterflies. I've used lengths of grapevine to give my morning glory's space to run. A trellis should enhance the beauty of your garden, and not be at odds with it. In my vegetable garden, I'm not as interested in a Zen atmosphere as I am in my butterfly garden, although my wife keeps telling me the vegetable



garden can be beautiful to, and I agree. I'd like to let my watermelon vine grown up a trellis, due to limited ground space, but I don't believe watermelon would do well on a trellis. I have noticed that unpainted pressure treated, is not well received by clinging vines. I had a philodendron that refused to grow on the P.T. trellis, I wrapped it, and tied it, but it never took, instead grew on my house, which I didn't like. ~ Dave H.



TURTLE MOUND TRIP

sponsored by Lake Beautyberry Chapter

By: Davis Biega

Four Sea Rocket members made the trip to Turtle Mound on June 10 to join several members of the Lake Beautyberry Chapter for a guided tour of the site. The area is botanically significant as it is the northernmost edge of subtropical range. Our guides were volunteers at **Canaveral National Sea-shore**, Dr. Wayne Sherman and Paw-Paw Chapter member Sonya Guidry.

Tough Bumelia *Bumelia tenax*; Snowberry – “Common snowberry, *Chiococca alba*, is native from the Keys to Brevard County along the coast.”

Swallow wort – “The Swallow-wort is a native climbing milkweed. Clusters of small pale peachy colored flowers are along a twining vine with sparse slender leaves. More easily noticed because of the typical seed pods, and also as host plant for the Queen butterfly. It prefers the brackish salty areas along the Florida coastal counties.”

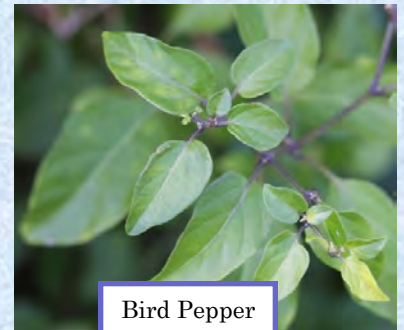
Here are a few more of the plants we saw, with additional information as I looked them up.

Bird Pepper (*Capsicum annuum* var. *glabriusculum*)

Buckthorn and small buckthorn - “Wooly buckthorn (*Sideroxylon lanuginosa*) and tough buckthorn (*Sideroxylon tenax*) have brown, hairy twigs and leaves with scruffy, rusty-brown hairs on lower surfaces. Tough buckthorn plants on shell middens in GA and SC have silvery twigs and leaves and closely resemble (and may be intermediate forms of) silver buckthorn.”



Plumbago



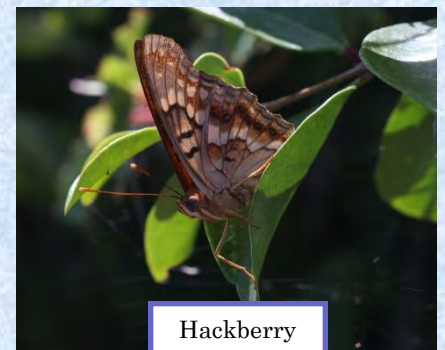
Bird Pepper

Florida's only native plumbago, (*Plumbago scandens*), is a sprawling sub-shrub native to coastal hammocks from south-central to South Florida. With cyranus blue butterfly.

Marine vine- *Cissus trifoliata*

Our guide Sonya opined the hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) is filling the niche left by the red bay. With Tawny Emperor butterfly.

Bay bean *Canavalia maritima* Beach Bean – we saw one with a nice bloom but alas, no picture here. Sleepy Morning *Waltheria indica* And lastly this one; Florida Roseling, *Callisia cordifolia*



Hackberry

And under the subheading of: “Learn Something New Every Day”,

I am thinking I now am closer to the answer asked in so many naturalist classrooms: What is the reason some sabal palmettos have bracts all along the trunk and some don't? One of our guides, Dr. Wayne Sherman is a famous plant geneticist, retired from UF, and asked us to consider the possibility of dominant and recessive genes in the plant, producing those partially, with full trunk of bracts, or without bracts on trunk. ~

Community Corner

News for and about *your* Chapter

LOCAL NEWS.

The Ace Pond Tour Plant Sale was very well attended. Things were popping well before the area was set up for sales. We added 78 plants to the local environment. With many thanks to the volunteers— **Greg Hendricks, Lois Harris, David Biega, Karen Biega, Armand DeFilippo, David Humphrey.** The weather cooperated with partly sunny skies which helped keep the heat down. We sold several pond plants, which shouldn't be surprising at a pond tour, but is unusual. Could be they are looking good, and healthy.

A BIG THANK YOU

I don't want to forget a special Thank You to **Jenny Welch** and **Sandy Webb** from the Pine Lily chapter in Osceola County., for the 200 pots for our nursery.



Are you tired of seeing my garden? Email a picture of your garden . Tell us about it. Be proud of it. You've done a good thing for yourself and Florida.

Annual Sea Rocket Picnic & Cookout

Sea Rocket will provide:
Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Buns, & Beverages

YOU provide:
A covered dish to share, your plate & silverware / cup
(to lessen the waste stream)

Saturday, July 25, 2015

Sam's House Park ~ 2pm to 5pm

Save the Date ~ July 25, 2015

Planned Activities and Amenities:

Sam's House has trails to hike and a covered and screened in eating area.
Outdoor picnic area, a fire ring, and clean restrooms.

More Details

Consider bringing

- A Hat,
- bug juice,
- Close toe shoes

For more information email Dave Humphrey at: brevcracker@gmail.com

A coming schedule change is fast approaching. The November meeting will be on the THIRD THURSDAY of November, we will be meeting with the Friends of Enchanted Forest. Moving the November meeting is a yearly event, due to the proximity to Thanksgiving. Mark your calendars for November 19th, 2015.

Scottsmoor Field Trip
By Armand DeFlippo
Photo Credit—David Biega

On the morning of Saturday, April 11th, 13 guests met at Northern Brevard's Parrish Park and joined Dr. Paul Schmalzer, Sea Rocket Hike Leader, who conducted a field trip through Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary, a 2008 1,500 acre acquisition by the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program with assistance from The Nature Conservancy. Vegetation is primarily scrubby and mesic flatwoods, cypress strand, hammocks, and marshes.

The group hiked one of the Sanctuary's four trails, approximately 1.6 miles in length; and Dr. Schmalzer assisted in pointing out and identifying a host of native plants. These included: large trees such as **pond pine** (*Pinus serotina*) down to small carnivores -- *Drosera*, commonly known as the **sundews**. We distinguished several of the *Smilax* species, noted the differences of the **shiny blueberry** and **dwarf huckleberry** (*Vaccinium myrsinites*, *Gaylussacia dumosa*), spotted the ground orchid called **ladies' tresses** (*Spiranthes spp.*), and identified several dozen other Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary residents.



Pictured is a climbing version of a mimosa which looks similar to the ground cover sunshine mimosa, and a picture of our host, Dr. Schmalzer.

The weather proved ideal throughout. The field trip lasted approximately 3 hours, and all in the group agreed on the enrichment of their knowledge of native plants through the expertise of Dr. Schmalzer.

Hosting the Sea Rocket Newsletter since 2001;

www.NBBD.com

North **B**revard **B**usiness & Community **D**irectory

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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

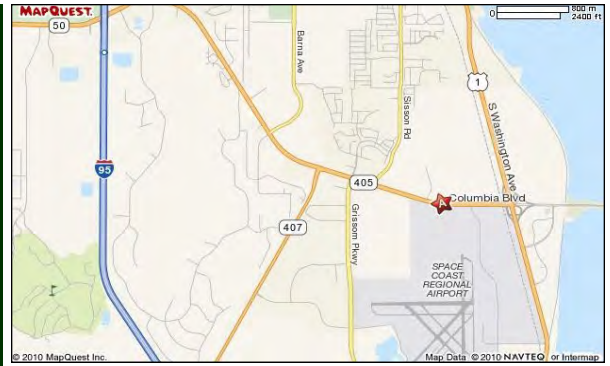


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

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



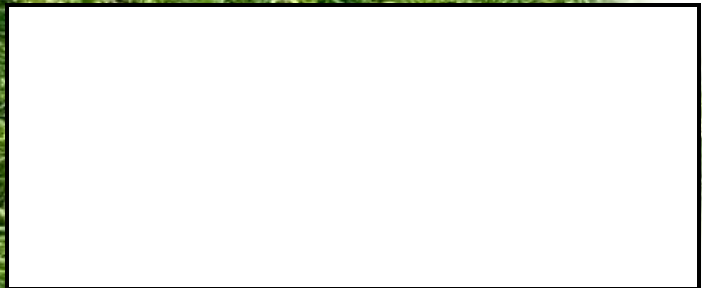
No Meeting scheduled for August

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!