



Sea Rocket



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

August 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 ~
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paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov

Newsletter

David Humphrey
brevcracker@gmail.com

Hospitality

Vacant at this time

There will be **No Monthly Sea Rocket Meeting in August**. The next meeting will be in September with Dr. Jay Barnhart. He will present: **"What is this Fungus among us? The 10 Easy ID's"**. Dr. Barnhart, is always entertaining and yet offers a very educational experience. He uses beautiful photographs of many fungus varieties in the Enchanted Forest to illustrate his presentation.

All are welcome, and as always it's free.



Willie Daniels—Highwayman

August 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 further info and schedule.

SHARK MONTH at the Barrier Island Center— 8385 S. Highway A1A, Melbourne Beach, FL 32951 (321) 723-3556 www.barrierislandcenter.com

August 1 MINWR—Butterfly Survey and Pollinator Presentation at 9 am. View a pollinator photo presentation and then 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.

August 15 Enchanted Forest Butterfly Garden Workday. Start at 9 AM

August 29 Surviving Florida: Human Adaptation To The Sunshine State” at 11:00 AM
Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. “Join Kevin Gidusko, Florida Public Archaeology Network, for a special presentation on how humans of the past survived the Florida climate and environment.

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”.



The Florida Milkweed Project



Concern for the imperiled Monarch Butterfly and pollinators in general is driving increased demand for Milkweed plants (*Asclepias* species). Due to limited supply of native Milkweed, the horticulture industry and gardeners are currently relying mostly on non-native sources, including *A. curassavica* – which causes some concerns regarding Monarch health. FANN and our native plant partners want to expand the availability of native ecotype Milkweed and help gardeners and landscapers use more appropriate species in our urban landscapes. The Florida Milkweed Project intends to:

- 1) Collect and distribute native ecotype seed for use by industry professionals and gardeners.
- 2) Provide gardeners and industry professionals with information on seed collection, storage and propagation.
- 3) Provide best practices information related to growing healthy, safe and sustainable crops of native milkweed in a production nursery environment.
- 4) Educate gardeners and landscape professionals on the selection, use, cultivation and maintenance of native ecotype milkweed plants.

FANN is launching Phase 1 of the Florida Milkweed Project with funding support from the Florida Wildflower Foundation and the Florida Wildflower license plate. Phase 1 focuses on the collection and distribution of native ecotype seed from the most immediately useful species for garden and landscape: Butterfly Milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*, White Milkweed, *A. perennis*, and Pink Milkweed, *A. tuberosa*. Volunteer seed collectors will follow ethical seed collection practices developed in consultation with the Florida Native Plant Society, including proper permitting and documentation of the source plants. Seed will be made available to the native plant industry and the general public through our partner, the Florida Wildflower Seed & Plant Growers Association.

TIMEFRAME: July 2015 – MARCH 2016 for Phase 1

PROJECT COORDINATOR: CHRIS WALTZ at FANN – FANNisonline@gmail.com & 407-738-6372

For more information, please contact Chris or visit our website: FloridaNativeNurseries.org

FANN – leading the industry with native plant availability since 1986 • www.FloridaNativeNurseries.org

Sea Rocket Chapter Participates on a State Lands Review

By: Greg Hendricks, Florida Master Naturalist,
Merritt Island, FL

Every five years, the Office of Environmental Services, Division of State Lands conducts land management reviews to determine how well state lands are being managed by state agencies. On July 13th and 14th Sea Rocket Chapter was invited to participate on a land management review team as a representative conservation organization. Others participating on the review included the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Florida Park Service, Brevard County EEL management staff, and FWC staff.



The state land under review was The Salt Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) located in Mims, FL. This 7,805 acre tract is managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) and is adjacent to Brevard county's Fox Lake Sanctuary to the south and SJWMD Seminole Ranch to the west. FWC's land management goals include restoration and maintenance of native plant communities, protection and enhancement of native flora and fauna, and to provide public access to recreational activities such as hiking, horseback riding, nature study, enjoyment of nature and organized hunting during designated seasons.

Our first stop was to take the review team to Salt Lake itself. Salt Lake is part of the St. Johns

River flood plain and is a unique ecological system that has a high saline content due to ancient sea water deep within the geology. As result of fractures within the limestone deep below ground, ancient sea water is able to percolate to the surfaces during drier seasons of the year creating a plant community that more closely resembles a salt marsh along the coast. Species such as glasswort (*Salicornia bigelovii*), seapurslane (*Sesuvium* spp.), seashore dropseed (*Sporobolus virginicus*), and seashore paspalum (*Paspalum vaginatum*) are common occurrences.

The remainder of the day was looking at the various native ecological communities that make-up the WMA. These communities included hydric and mesic hammocks, freshwater marshes and swamps, hydric, mesic and scrubby flatwoods, and coastal shrub. Scrub jays and gopher tortoises on the scrub, sandhill cranes nesting in depressional marshes, bald eagle nesting and a host of wading birds and shorebirds are just a few of the non-game species FWC supports by effective land management at the Salt Lake WMA.

FWC's effective use of prescribed burning and their constant vigil and control of non-native invasive plant species has created one of the best examples of native land management in the state of Florida. FWC should be commended on their restoration and stewardship at the Salt Lake WMA. After it cools off a little, I recommend you walk a trail and enjoy the sights and sounds at a very special public land area right in our own "backyard."



Kudos to Enchanted Forest personnel and the Volunteers that made **CREEPY CRAWLY DAY** a huge success.

Story edited from www.floridatoday.com



Several hundred guests flocked to the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary on Saturday (7-11) for its fourth annual Creepy Crawly Day.

The event, according to **Sarah Kraum, organizer and sanctuary steward**, is

to help "educate them on these creepy critters that people are anxious about so that people will understand their importance in the Florida ecosystem."

Among them were live bats, snakes, tarantulas, scorpions and other animals available for guests to learn about, and there was a host of different means by which to learn. "A lot of the snakes and the bats, they are native here to Florida, so guests are getting the opportunity to learn about the animals that might not necessarily be the friendliest, you know that people are sometimes anxious to learn about," added Kraum.

"We also have games and hands-on experiments. Guests are going to get the opportunity to try edible bugs. We have live presentations discussing all of the different creepy crawlies as well as safaris into the sanctuary to meet some of the creepy crawlies here."

A number of presentations were given on the animals, and guests were able to touch animals including snakes and tarantulas.

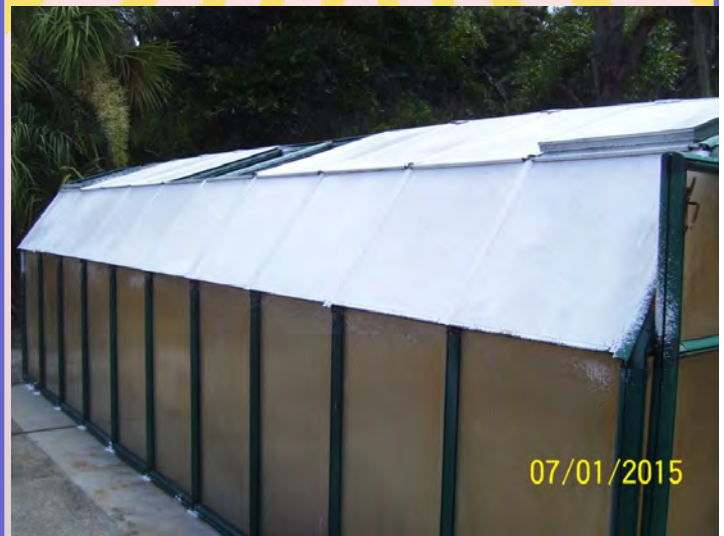
One of the highlights of the day came when insects such as crickets, ants and worms, embedded or dipped in chocolate and vanilla or bacon and cheese, barbecue and Mexican spice sauce. "I only tried the crickets so far. It was good," said Heather Brady of Winter Park, with her sons, 2-year-old Dean and 5-year-old Grant. "There was a lot of extra ingredients in there so I didn't notice the bugs."

"Delicioso," said 92-year-old Marion Natishyn, the boys' great-grandmother, who had a cricket. Beyond the novelty of the taste, there was the thought that the exercise helped educate, tying back to the theme of the day.

The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary and her botanical, zoological and geological residents are incredibly important ambassadors to us, the human population.

<http://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/local/environment/2015/07/11/guests-educated-creepy-crawly-day/30036235/>

The temperatures can get pretty high in the greenhouse, which is not good for the young and tender sprouts and rehabilitating plants the greenhouse is expected to house. We had shade cloth for over a year, but it too succumbed to the brutal Florida sun. Lois decided to try translucent paint. It will need to be re applied yearly—but it takes about 15 minutes to cover the roof. We had a gallon and still have a half gallon remaining. The next coat will not be nearly as intense as this one was. Things are looking good for a banner year in the nursery.



Volunteers are needed all the time to keep the nursery and gardens in top shape. If you think you'd like to be involved, but are new to native plants, no problem! I volunteered with zero knowledge of native plants and have been taught by the best about native plants and how to grow them. If you are interested there are opportunities to learn and be a part helping Florida regain many of it's vanishing plants.

Volunteer opportunities exist for plant sales, or working the nursery, or helping to maintain the various butterfly gardens around the building.. Volunteering is a great chance to learn from the best, and meet and work with master gardeners, and experts in botany, and native plants, .

~ Dave

The attendance was light, but the skies were heavy. Or was it a dark and stormy day!



Joanie, Nancy, Michael, Greg,
Paul, Laura, Howard, Mary, Dave



Gail, Greg, Paul , and Laura



Howard fly fishes. Here
is Mary looking over
new "flies" Howard tied.

I suppose either one would describe the day the party was held. Not unlike the July picnic we had at Fox Lake in 2014 this July picnic was again a wet one. Thankfully we were



Greg,-cooking, Dave and Howard "helpin' "

safe and dry in the screen room at Sams House. There were 13 people there, Lois, and two of Lois' kin, Her grandson, Michael, and daughter Debi, Greg and Gail Hendricks, Armand De-Filippo, Paul and Laura Schmalzer, Joanie Faulls came in, it was great seeing her again. There was David and



Greg and Gail



Armand and Howard



Greg, the "Grillin' Guru",
and Editor Dave

Mary Humphrey, Nancy Escoffier (Jim was on a archeology project in Titusville), and Howard Far-ris. Howard is a friend of Armand's and was a pleasure to have with us. Martha, being the Sanctuary Steward came through, but couldn't enjoy the wonderful cooking Greg provided, but made sure we were well provided for. The weather held just long enough for Greg, our "Grillin' Guru", to finish up with the grilling mere seconds before the skies opened up.



Greg

As the organizer, the party would not have been a party if folks had not brought in the sides. Armand brought in his special, Macaroni and spinach salad. Mary brought in BBQ beans fixed up Southern style. Lois brought in the "fixin's" for the hamburgers, and wa-termelon. Paul and Laura brought in some Red potato salad.

Although the lighting flashed, the thunder roared and the rain came down in buckets, the food was delicious, the company warm and friendly, and we all stayed dry through it all. ~ Dave

'Twas the night before Frances - 2004

For those who have forgotten, or were not here for the 2004 hurricane season

'Twas the night before Frances
When all through the state
Not a gas pump was pumping
Not a store open late

All the plywood was hung
On the windows with care
Knowing that a hurricane
Soon would be there

The children were ready
With flashlights in hand
While bands from the hurricane
Covered over the land

And mamma with her Mag-Lite
And I in my cap
Had just filled the bath tub
For flushing our crap

When out on the lawn
There arose such a clatter
I sprang from the closet
To see what was the matter

The trees on the fence
And the neighbor's roof torn
Gave the fear of us dying
In this terrible storm

With a little wind gust
So lively and quick
I remembered quite clearly
Our walls weren't brick

More rapid than eagles
Her courses they came
And she whistled, and wafted
And surged all the same

Off shingles! Off sidings!
Off rooftops! Off power!
Down trees! Down fences!
Down trailers! Down towers!

In the center of Florida
She continued to maul
Screaming Blow Away!
Blow Away! Blow Away All!

As wind ripped and tossed
The debris through the sky
I peeked out the shutters
At cars floating by

So go to the safe-room
My family did do
With a portable radio
And batteries too

And then, in a twinkling
I heard on the set
The end was not coming
For a few hours yet!

As I calmed down the kids
And was turning around
Through the window it came
With a huge crashing sound

A tree branch it was
All covered in soot
The wind blew it smack-dab
On top of my foot

A bundle of twigs
Now lay in a stack
And my living room looks
Like it was under attack

The wind - how it howled!
The storm - very scary!
Myself and the family
Were all too unwary

The dangers of hurricanes
Are serious, you know
They are taken for granted
As Frances did show

With the winds dying down
And the danger beneath
I noticed my tool shed
Was missing its sheath

So I grabbed my last tarp
And nailed it on down
Then I got in my car
And I headed to town

The traffic was awful
And stores had no ice
My five gallon cooler
Would have to suffice

Generators were scarce
Not one left in town
There were trees on the roads
And power lines down

FEMA was ready
With people to work
Electrical companies
Came in from New York

And in the midst of
This peculiar routine
Another storm emerged
Named Hurricane Jeanne

I sprang to the car
And gave my family a whistle
Then away we all went
Like a Tomahawk missile

You could hear us exclaim
As we drove out of sight
"Fare well to this place,
Vermont seems just right!"

-Author Unknown 🙄

Community Corner

News for and about your Chapter

Remember to mark your calendars

The sea Rocket Monthly Meeting will move from November 25th (The day before Thanksgiving Day) back to November 19th (a week before Thanksgiving Day). Thank you

Next Month (September) we start back on our regularly scheduled monthly meetings. Sea Rocket has introduced "Bring a Plant, Take a Plant". This feature has been a great success, and is a grand opportunity to expand your native collection.

Soo...bring a potted native to the meeting and take home a different potted native plant.

~ Editor Dave



One more reason to grow native. These two bees are sleeping peacefully, safe from marauding predators in my gold-enrod condo. ~ Dave

This space is left open for YOU!

Do you have a garden? Tell us about it.

Do you have a question or comment? Ask it.. We have several very knowledgeable people that can answer your question.

Do you have an observation? Share it. See those bees next door? That's an observation. It may not be Earth shattering, but I finally noticed this and put it together.

What is blooming in your garden? Show us.

Just thought I'd mention this space is for YOU.

The zebra longwing, *Heliconius charitnia* (L), was designated the state butterfly of Florida in 1996.



The Zebra Longwing is abundant in our area. The butterfly gardens at the Enchanted Forest have several large fire bushes that at times are alive with zebra longwing butterflies. They are a sight that will bring smiles and wonder to young and old alike, as they nip nectar from the fire bush. The fire bush is an important environmental element for the zebra longwing, but is only half the story. The other half involves the corky-stem passion vine (*Passiflora suberosa*) and the purple passion vine (*Passiflora incarnata*), both Florida natives. For this butterfly to flourish it needs a food source for it's young. That begins the story for the passion vines.



The Corky stem passion vine has an inconspicuous green flower, unlike its relative the Purple Passion Flower, which truly is a traffic stopper, with its psychedelic shapes and colors, it is a beauty to behold. The Zebra longwing lays it's eggs on these plants. The caterpillars will devour the leaves of a large plant. (No plants are permanently damaged by this feeding frenzy.)



After eating their fill, which is a lot, the caterpillars will create their chrysalis and via a process far too complicated for me to understand or hope to explain, disassemble themselves and then

reassemble into a beautiful zebra longwing butterfly that will delight people of all generations. ~ Dave

While in the Enchanted Forest Remember, "Take nothing but memories, leave nothing but footprints!"

— **Chief Seattle**



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

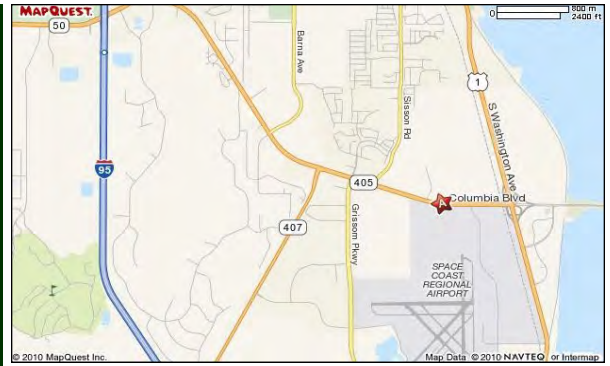


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

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



The September Program

Dr. Jay Barnhart

Presenting "What is this fungus among us?"

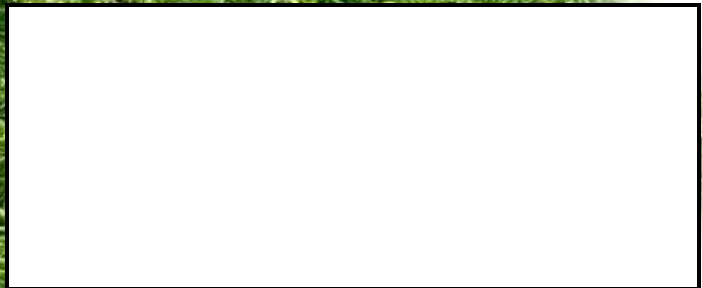
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Sea Rocket Chapter

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