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.

### Board of Directors

**President**  
Lois Harris  
lois6459@att.net

**Vice President**  
Jim Robey  
321-636-5383

**Treasurer**  
Madeline Klinko  
madeline@digiphase.com

**Secretary**  
David Humphrey  
brevcracker@gmail.com

**Chapter Representative**  
Vacant

### Committees

**Membership**  
Karen Butrim  
kbutrim@cfl.rr.com

**Education/Outreach**  
Janina Shoemaker  
janina13@cfl.rr.com

**Special Media / Marketing**  
Arlene Perez-Garrido  
miamicouponqueen@yahoo.com

**Nursery**  
Lois Harris  
lois6459@att.net

**Hike Leader**  
Paul Schmalzer, PhD  
paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov

**Newsletter**  
David Humphrey  
brevcracker@gmail.com

**Hospitality**  
Armand De Filippo  
armanddf@rcn.com

There will be no General Meeting in December. Instead, we will be meeting at Dixie Crossroads on December 10th for some fine food and fellowship. The Sea Rocket Dinner Party starts at 6:00 pm. Get all the details on pg 11.
December 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 Tuesday: FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Nursery Workday—9am-12noon, email Lois at lois6459@att.net for further info and schedule.

December 2  Butterfly Garden Workday - from 9 AM till 12 PM. Volunteers are working in the various butterfly gardens around the kiosk at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. Weeding, trimming, planting, and whatever else needs to be done to enhance the natural beauty and functionality of these native gardens will be in work. It is a great time to learn from experts about native plants. Bring water, hat, gloves, and stable shoes.

December 6  FTA—Prairie Lakes Trail - meet at Sams Discount Club at 4255 West New Haven in Melbourne at 8:30 am. $6.00 per car entry fee applies.

December 7  Pearl Harbor Day. 'A Date Which Will Live in Infamy' (FDR) Dec 7, 1941

December 9  FNPS—Field Trip to Scottsmoor Flatwoods Hosted by Dr. Schmalzer. (See page 12 for all the details).

December 9  Tosohatchee Wildlife Management Area 75th Anniversary Event. From 9 am to 3 pm. 3365 Taylor Creek Rd ·(407) 568-5893

December 10  Sponsoed by Sams House on Merritt Island from 10am to 12 pm. Join volunteer and Florida Master Naturalist Mark Prynoski, for a guided hike through Helen and Allen Cruickshank Sanctuary. Call 321-449-4720 for details.

December 10  Sea Rocket Christmas Celebration at Dixie Crossroads starting at 6:pm. (See page 11 for all the details)

December 13  FTA—Seminole Ranch. Meet at west entrance of Lowe’s parking lot at I-95 and Hwy 50 in Titusville at 8:30 am.

December 20  FTA—Cruickshank Loop Trail - meet at west entrance of Lowe’s parking lot at I-95 and Hwy 50 in Titusville at 8:30 am. $5.00 per car or $15.00 yr entry fee.

December 23  Winter Soltice

December 25  Merry Christmas to all from Sea Rocket

December 31  Leap Second Time Adjustment Day

LOOKING AHEAD into 2018

February 24  KBB 2nd Annual Golf Tournament. To register go to the KBB web site.

May 6-11  Rain Forests and Waterfalls tour re-scheduled. Three days before we were set to depart, it became inevitable that Hurricane Irma was determined to make landfall in Florida...Somewhere! Safety was our primary concern. The tour was cancelled and everyone received a full refund. We are beginning anew and now taking applications. See FNPS Web site for more.

May 18-19  FNPS call for Research and Track papers and posters for the 2018 Conference. See FNPS Web site for more.

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”.

December 2017
Sea Rocket Chapter
General Meeting Minutes 11-15-17

Board Members present: Lois, Jim, Madeline, Dave, Paul, Janina, Armand
Guests: 22 environmentalists total of Sea Rocket, “Friends,” and Guests
Welcome, and Call to Order: 7:01

BUSINESS:

Approval of October General Meeting Minutes as printed in November newsletter: Approved
Treasurer Report: Madeline Klinko, $4861.98 checking; $2752.42 saving, $7614.40 total

Still Vacant Committee Chairs: Chapter Representative, Membership
    Need a new Newsletter Editor & Secretary for new year coming HELP!!!!!!!
We need your help – This is your Chapter – Get Involved!!!!!!!!!!!
Refreshments – Armand De Filippo, Barbara, Jim, Bill and Marlys
    – Thank you for providing these snacks for our enjoyment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Hike November –Dr. Paul Schmalzer – Hosting a hike on December the 9th to Scottsmoor Flatwoods
December Newsletter: David Humphrey, Newsletter Chair, is accepting articles, photos, questions or other member ideas to be published in our newsletter. Deadline for submittal is the 25th of each month.

EVENTS:
Most every Tuesday we are in the nursery – weeding, pruning, fertilizing, watering
11/18 Saturday … prep areas of the gardens for planting & planting some other areas
ASAP – The Board would like the members to form a nominating committee to help fill open spots

Christmas Banquet – Sunday, December 10th – at Dixie Crossroads. Starts at 6:00 pm. All are welcome. RSVP Armand (armanddf@rcn.com) to help us with numbers and planning.

BOD meeting – 12/12 @ New York, New York in Titusville starting at 5:30
Business Meeting adjourned; 7:10 pm Business meeting took .66 hours or 40 min

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Guest Speaker – Tim Kozusko on “Why Prescribed Fire.”
    Tim Kozusko is a Brevard County native and a resident of Melbourne Beach. He has a Masters in Biology from UCF and an EDS in Science Education from F.I.T. He is a staff scientist with NASA’s Ecological Program at Kennedy Space Center, specializing in prescribed fire.
    Tim gave a very informative talk on why we should do control burns. He answered many of the concerns citizens have about using fire. He noted that a wildfire tends to kill all the vegetation in its path, whereas a controlled burn is slower, cooler, and will not kill roots or tall trees as a wildfire will. Having seen massive clouds over the St Johns basin, I would have put the out-of-control control burns at 20%. Tim said that less than 1% of the control burns break out. What citizens see is that massive cloud that may go as high as 10,000 feet. The cloud is called a Pyrocumulus cloud, and is not all smoke but is water vapor from the fire itself. Tim stated that this type of cloud had produced rain on occasion.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:22 pm Time in meeting 1.35 hours
## Proposed Operating Budget for 2018

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**Beginning Balance:** Checking
formula assumes RECEIVING funds from savings account

**Transfer:** Income
**Expense:** Ending Balance

**Beginning Balance:** Savings
**Interest:** Transfers
formula assumes TAKING funds from here for operating account

**Ending Balance:** Total of BOTH Accounts
Board of Director Officers

President..........Lois Harris
Vice President ...Jim Robey
Treasurer..........Madeline Klinko
Secretary.........
Chapter
Representative.....

Committee Chairs

Membership........
Education /
Outreach............Janina Shoemaker
Special Media /
Marketing............Arlene Perez-Garrido
Nursery.............Lois Harris
Hike Leader........Dr Paul Schmalzer
Newsletter.........
Hospitality.........Armand De Filippo

From Sea Rocket Chapter By-Laws:
ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS

Section 3. Duties of the Secretary
A. Record, maintain and report minutes of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and
meetings of the general
membership at the appropriate meeting monthly. Provide the newsletter editor a copy of the min-
utes of every meeting of the
general membership for inclusion in the monthly newsletter.
B. Be custodian of all Chapter records except financial.
C. Prepare all Chapter correspondence.
D. Record and maintain an inventory of Chapter property, as the Chapter property manager.

Continued next page
ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Chapter shall have the following standing committees:
A. Nursery - purpose: to maintain nursery stock for plant sales and contributions.
B. Education - purpose: to provide the means for educating our members, governmental agencies, and the general public on matters under the general goals of the Chapter.
C. Publicity - purpose: to provide the media with announcements of Chapter activities.
D. Membership - purpose: to promote membership and renewal of membership in the FNPS and maintain an active roster.
E. Book sales – purpose: to review and provide books supporting FNPS goals for sale to members and visitors at regular meetings and public events.
F. Newsletter - purpose: to publish a monthly Chapter newsletter to inform members of on-going activities.
G. Activities - purpose: to plan and execute Chapter outdoor activities.
H. Telephone Tree - purpose: to maintain contact with all members to inform them of changing Chapter activities and to remind them of monthly meetings.
I. Hospitality - purpose: to provide refreshments for Chapter regular meetings.
J. Program - purpose: to locate and schedule guest speakers for Chapter regular meetings.

Section 2. The Chapter may have special committees with short-term specific goals such as:
A. Nominating committee - purpose: to seek out and identify members as nominees for Chapter officer positions for the following year.
B. Budget committee - purpose: to assist the President in establishing yearly Chapter budget.
C. By-laws committee - purpose: to review the by-laws yearly for applicability.

Section 3. Duties of Committee Chairmen
A. The chairman of each committee shall organize, schedule, and direct the function of the committee.

From FNPS FAQ – Chapter Representatives:

If you are interested in this opportunity to represent Sea Rocket please request a complete FAQ for review from Lois Harris – lois6459@att.net

What Does a Chapter Representative Do Anyway?
The handbook reports that Chapter Representatives serve on the Society’s Board of Directors, attend the Board Meetings, and represent their Chapters to the Society—and the Society to the Chapters. This is all well and good, but fairly abstract. The first time anyone attends an FNPS Board meeting a lot is going on and it can be fairly disorienting. Everyone else seems to know what's going on, but what are you supposed to be doing?

With a little preparation, however, you can make the most of your membership on the Board of Directors, and use this opportunity to not only represent your Chapter, but get involved in things you are interested in and make connections with like-minded people from across Florida. Even if you're only standing in for your Chapter Representative, the same advice applies.
Good Afternoon Everyone!

I know you all have heard about the Lagoon Friendly Lawn (LFL) tours that are going on right now, and you may have also seen the first video of Leslie's yard on our Facebook page and website. I just wanted to announce to you that these video tours will now not only be year-round, but will also be recorded by a video crew (hopefully). We are in the process of finding a video crew to film these tours, not only to boost the quality of the videos but also to make it more fun for you guys! I hope you're excited.

So, in order to get this awesome crew up and running, we have to push back any video tours until January 2018! I know you are all so excited to showcase your lawn, so if you already have a date in mind for your tour next year, please feel free to email me or give me a call.

For those of you who were already scheduled this year for your tour, I am so sorry to have to push it back, but I promise it will be worth it!

If you have any questions or need to work out any details with me then please feel free to call or email me!

Thank you all for your patience!
Kaylyn Palmer
Program Coordinator
kaylynpalmerkbb@gmail.com
321-631-0501 x212 Office
321-631-2840 Fax
321-458-4576 Cell

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Sea Rocket Needs You

Sea Rocket will be losing our secretary in February to the Master Gardener program. Sea Rocket is currently looking for someone to step up to this challenge. The Secretary is a board position and is required based on the chapter bylaws. As are all the Board and chair positions it is not terribly difficult. I have been getting plenty of help in putting together the minutes for both the General meeting and the BOD meetings. This is an important position and needs someone to accept this challenge. Elections are in February. Thank you.

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Facebook and Twitter Links have Changed for FNPS

Please change your link for Facebook to:
http://facebook.com/FLnativeplants
Go There

And change your Twitter link to:
http://twitter.com/fl_native_plant
Go There
Community Corner

News for and about your Chapter

Dicerandra Scrub Hike

Dr Paul and the Dicerandra Hike Oct 28. Janina Shoemaker wrote: “I joined 12 other hikers for Dr Paul's walk through the FP&L service drive, and took photos.

It was a warm day, but not hot, and there were 13 of us, learning about Dicerandra and other samples of the sandy soil. Dr Paul is an excellent guide, giving comprehensive descriptions and hints for the native, and exotic, plants (and trees) along the trail. Looking forward to other opportunities to travel along.”

Janina Shoemaker
There were 41 participants in the State FNPS board and Chapter Representatives meeting held at Enchanted Forest Sanctuary on Nov 4th. The group was split up, and half went on a 45-minute hike lead by Greg Hendricks, accompanied by Dr. Schmalzer, through the Enchanted Forest while the other half toured the gardens around the sanctuary and the nursery area with Lois Harris. The groups were then switched, and the hike and tour continued so everyone got a chance to explore the sanctuary.

There were plenty of questions in the gardens and nursery, and I am sure on the hike as well. Just like with Sea Rocket board of director members and chapter members not everyone is an expert on native plant material, we are all at different knowledge levels, yet we all share the pas-

With the best of all possible weather, an energized group of Florida Native Plant lovers gathered for the annual Society meeting at Titusville’s renowned Enchanted Forest for a day of decision making and program planning.

Coffee and donuts initiated the touring segment of the day, and Greg and Lois along with Dr Paul gave the best of all tours, through the gardens and along the hiking trails. Ooh’s and ahh’s complimented the flora as the Enchanted Forest volunteers had done their best to spiffy up the areas that only a few weeks earlier had been blown and drowned by Irma and Maria.—Janina Shoemaker
Soil verses Dirt

In the early days of Florida, before industrialized farming, settlers would parcel out their land. Many would put cattle out to graze to add natural fertilizers to the ground. It was a slow process, but life was slower then. After a couple of years, the farmer would move cattle into the now abandoned gardening area. Every couple of years new pieces of land went from forage to vegetables. This process allowed the soil, not dirt, to rebuild and refresh. Our soil is often overlooked as a resource. Soil is a major factor in plants growing cycle. Soil, not dirt, as the soil is too often thought of, is the primary source of plant nutrition. Healthy soil is fundamental to plant life.

How to build your soil is a science of its own. Simply put feed the bacteria. Compost of around 50% brown material like leaves or even newsprint, and 50% green material. Lawn cuttings are available and work well. After the compost has cooled, add some worms to speed up the process. The worms, like the cattle of old leave behind enriched soil.

Dirt, on the other hand, is dead, usually with concrete or asphalt on top of it. The soil is a living thing that can be exhausted or worse killed.

Go native and avoid a multiplicity of problems. Native plants do not require the same level of maintenance that the exotics will need. As always the most important consideration is to plant the right plant in the right location. Things to consider are soil type and pH levels, water requirements, sunlight needs, salt tolerance, and even resistance to foot traffic.

Dictionary definitions

1. DIRT - A filthy or soiling substance, such as mud or dust.
2. SOIL - The top layer of the earth's surface in which plants can grow, consisting of rock and mineral particles mixed with decayed organic matter and having the capability of retaining water.

- Editor Dave
Sea Rocket Annual Christmas/Holiday Dinner
Sunday, December 10, 2017
6:00 pm
Dixie Crossroads Restaurant
1475 Garden St.
Titusville, FL 32796
(321) 268-5000

All current and potential members of Sea Rocket chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and family are invited as well as members of the Friends of the Enchanted Forest and family.

Complementary appetizers will be available for all in attendance. Attendees will choose the rest of their meals from an extensive menu of seafood and more, payment to be made by them at the end of dinner.

Deadline for notification of attendance: Wednesday, December 6, 2017.

To reserve attendance, contact:
Armand De Filippo
Sea Rocket Hospitality Chairman
armanddf@rcn.com
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

Sea Rocket General Meeting
Sea Rocket is proud to have Becky Bolt speaking
On the Landlord of the scrub, the Gopher Tortoise
On January 24th at 6:30 pm
www.fnps.org

Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary Field Trip

Saturday, December 9th, 2017. From 0900 am to 1200 noon
Dr. Paul Schmalzer will be hosting

Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary. This is a 2008 acquisition by the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program with assistance from The Nature Conservancy. Vegetation is primarily scrubby flatwoods, mesic flatwoods, cypress strand, hammocks, and marshes. Prescribed burning has been conducted since acquisition.

Directions:
Meeting site is Parrish Park (Brevard County) which is about in the center of the eastern section of the Sanctuary.

Take I-95 North to Exit 231 (County Road 5A/Stuckway Road). Go right (East) on CR-5A about 1 mile to US 1. Go right (South) on US 1 about 1.1 mile to Magoon Road. Go right (West) on Magoon Road to the end (about 0.2 mile). Parking is available at the county park.

Bring hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellant.