



Sea Rocket



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

January 2017

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

President

Lois Harris

lois6459@att.net

Vice President

Armand De Filippo

armanddf@rcn.com

Treasurer

Madeline Klinko

madeline@digiphase.com

Secretary

David Humphrey

brevcracker@gmail.com

Chapter Representative

Greg Hendricks

gatorgregh@gmail.com

Committees

Membership

Education/Outreach

Position Open

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

Tom Shupe of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

will be our guest speaker on:

**January 25th, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the Sea Rocket
General meeting.**

Tom Began work in Florida in 1988 as Wildlife Biologist. He is with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission working as District Biologist for east central Florida. Black bears and coyotes issues are Tom's major fields.



January 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.
- January 4** **FTA Hike - 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 yearly entry fee
- January 7** **Special EFS Garden Work Day from 9:30 till...**This workday is intended for spreading pine straw throughout the garden areas. Volunteers needed.
- January 11,** **FTA Hike - Tosohatchee Loop Trail** - meet at Lone Cabbage Fish Camp on Hwy 520 and the St. Johns River at 8:30 am. \$3.00 per car entry fee applies.
- January 18,** **FTA Hike - Doris Leeper Trail.** Meet at West entrance of Lowe’s parking lot at I-95 and Hwy 50 in Titusville at 8:30 am.
- January 18** **EF’s “Lunch with Nature series”, Backyard Beekeeping**, from 12:00 to 1:00 pm. Bring your lunch and enjoy an Informative talk about backyard beekeeping techniques with Clifton Best, President of the Backyard Beekeepers Association! No registration required.
- January 20** **In celebration of Florida Arbor Day** Titusville will be celebrating the 125th Titusville Anniversary Tree. Ceremonies begin at 3:30pm. See page 7 for more.
- January 21** **Helen and Allan Cruickshank Sanctuary Field Trip** 0900 to 1200 with Dr. Schmalzer. See page 7 for complete information.
- January 25,** **FTA Hike - Tosohatchee South.** Meet at Lone Cabbage Fish Camp on Hwy 520 and the St. Johns River at 8:30 am.
- January 25** **Sea Rocket General meeting with Tom Shupe**, of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) on Coyotes Spoke at our May 25 2016 meeting on Bears. This time he will be speaking on coyotes.
- January 25 thru 30** **Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival** at the Eastern Florida State College, in Titusville (North Campus). Sea Rocket will be here on Saturday the 28th for an outreach opportunity. Not a plant sale.
- January 28** **Sea Rocket will set up a booth at the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival.** This is a one day only outreach, and not a native plant sale.
- February 21 thru 26 —Mexico Migration of the Monarch Butterflies.** This trip takes you on a guided tour into the middle of one of nature’s most amazing phenomena, the migration of the monarchs. Trip planning by Banner Tours & Travel, LLC. For full information and travel package contact Bannertoursandtravel@gmail.com or call (603) 785-2088
- May 18** **The Florida Native Plant Society 2017 Conference, “CONNECTIONS” , 2017 Save the Date and Reserve Lodging Now!**

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 12-11-16**

Board Members present: Lois, Armand, Madeline, Dave
Guests and Members: Neal, and Valorie, Steven, Nancy and Jim, Mary, Richard
Welcome and Call to Order: 6.00pm

BUSINESS:

This Meeting was not actually a meeting, but a Christmas Party!

Treasurer Report: There was none. The Board of Directors would like to thank Madeline for her diligent and professional handling of Sea Rocket Financial business. We also want to congratulate Madeline on her tenacity to get the IRS to recognize Sea Rocket Chapter as a 501(C)(3) organization. This is big deal indeed. **Thank you Madeline.**

Refreshments – Provided by Dixie Crossroads Seafood Restaurant, in Titusville.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: A big **THANK YOU** to Armand for setting the Christmas party up.

EVENTS:

January 25 thru the 30th is the Space Coast wildlife and Birding Festival. Sea Rocket will have an outreach on the 28th only. This is not a plant sale.

BOD meeting – Jan 10th @ New York, New York in Titusville starting at 5:30

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS: Elections coming up February 2017. There are several positions that need to be filled.

Open position on the Board will be;

- Vice President,
- Membership,
- Education / Outreach, and
- Chapter Representative

All other positions accepting nominations

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On this side of the table we have (F to B)

Mary and Dave (Dave is behind the camera)
Jim and Nancy
Valorie and Neal

And on this side we have (F to B)

Armand
Richard and Lois
Madeline and Steven

In February we choose new Officers for leadership roles in Sea Rocket.

David Humphrey

We have openings for every position from President to secretary. We do not have term limits, and some board members have served several years in one position or another. Taking ownership of Sea Rocket activities is a great boost to ones energy levels, but over the years can get old. Having served on the board for several years I can assure you that no officer is dumped with a load of responsibility as the board will pitch in and help accomplish any goals that are set, as a team. The Board meetings are not grievous, but are actually fun. We disseminate information take on action items in concert with one abilities, or penchants for performance. As editor of the Sea Rocket Newsletter, I started on the board as cold as a Arctic winter. As a team, the board brought me along.

Give thought to being on the board as an officer. The front matter shows all the board and director positions available. If you want to be involved in leading the Chapter forward talk to any officer, or director and get more details on that position. We encourage you to get involved. ~

PLANT BEHAVIOUR

Previously it had been thought the ability to learn was exclusive to animals. But researchers from the University of Western Australia set out to prove that plants too were capable of associative learning.

The study, published in the online journal **Scientific Reports**, was inspired by Pavlov's experiments with dogs, one of the most revealing studies in the history of behavioral research, which demonstrated that behavior could be changed using conditioning.

Professor Gagliano, who led the study, experimented with pea seedlings, placing them in a Y-shaped maze to see how they responded after initially being exposed to light from a particular direction.

Using a fan and a light the team were able to

CALL FOR RESEARCH TRACK PAPERS & POSTER PRESENTATIONS.

FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY 2017 CONFERENCE.

The Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference will be held in Westgate River Ranch Resort, River Ranch, Florida, **May 17-21, 2017**. The Research Track of the Conference will include presented papers and a poster session on Friday May 19 and Saturday May 20.

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts on research related to native plants and plant communities of Florida including preservation, conservation, and restoration. Presentations are planned to be 20 minutes in total length (15 min. presentation, 5 min. questions).

Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted as a MS Word file by email to Paul A. Schmalzer **paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov** by **February 1, 2017**. Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.

'teach' the seedlings where the best light would be by getting them to associate light being in a certain place in relation to the fan.

With a Y-shaped tube and a seedling at the bottom, the researchers showed that if they placed a light at one end of the Y, the seedling would again try and head to that end of the Y shape because it associated it with the light, even if the light had been removed.

The results showed the seedlings were able to learn and choose the best growth direction for survival by correctly predicting the occurrence of light once it was removed.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-4005956/Do-plants-learn-like-humans-Smart-seedlings-taught-adapt-world-them.html>

~

Sea Rocket, A Year in Review

Jan – Shari Blissett-Clark spoke on “Enhancing Home Landscapes with Native Plants”.

Feb – Ann Cox, President of FNPS spoke on “How FNPS Works”

Feb – Field Trip, South Lake Conservation Area with Dr Schmalzer

Feb – Workshop with Sally Scalera, “Proper Pruning of Native Plants”

Feb – KBB Grant offered to replenish the berm.

Mar – **Plant sale** at the Great Outdoors

Mar – Field Trip, Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary with Dr. Schmalzer

Mar – Lisa Roberts, Executive Director of Florida Wildflower Foundation, spoke on “Saving Florida’s Roadside Wildflowers”

Apr – **Plant Sale** at the EF Earth Day Festival

Apr – Outreach at KSC Visitors Information Center on Earthday

Apr – Dr. David Hall, a Forensic Botanist spoke on “Native Shrubs for Central Florida”

May—Member support for Dr. Cooper and her efforts to save the native Giant Airplant

May – Plant Propagation Workshop with Linda Gombert

May—Tom Shupe of the FWCC spoke on the Florida Brown Bear

Jun – **Plant Sale**, Ace Pond Tour

Jun – Laurilee Thompson speaking in behalf of the IRL

Jun – Sea Rocket involved in assisting the Titusville Environmental Commission

Jun – Sea Rocket volunteers help refresh the berm

Jul – Annual Picnic at Sams House

Aug – KBB inspected and awarded Sea Rocket the matching grant money for work performed on the berm.

Aug—Sea Rocket received a determination letter from the IRS of 501(c)(3) tax exempt status.

Sep – **Plant Sale**, Public Lands Day

Sep - Sea Rocket had Clifton Best speak on bee keeping

Oct – Outreach – Celebrating MINWR week

Oct – **Plant Sale** at EF First Annual Harvest Festival

Oct – Capt. Ron Thorstad spoke on the history of the Canaveral Lighthouse

Oct – Field Trip, Dicerandra Scrub with Dr. Schmalzer

Oct – Native Gardens at EF were recognized to be “Lagoon Friendly” by KBB

Oct – The “First Impression” Garden in Parking Area Cleaned up, Refreshed, and Mulched.

Nov – Combined meeting with the Friends of the Enchanted Forest”

Nov – Wet Tables for the nursery installed

Dec – Christmas Party at the Dixie Crossroads

Dec – Field Trip, Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary with Dr. Schmalzer.

ALL YEAR—Final brag: 1,282 hours in volunteerism by Sea Rocket at Enchanted Forest.

What Sea Rocket has been up to these long dark days of Autumn.

By David Humphrey

Well, I can assure you Sea Rocket has not been sitting on our collective hands! Sea Rocket

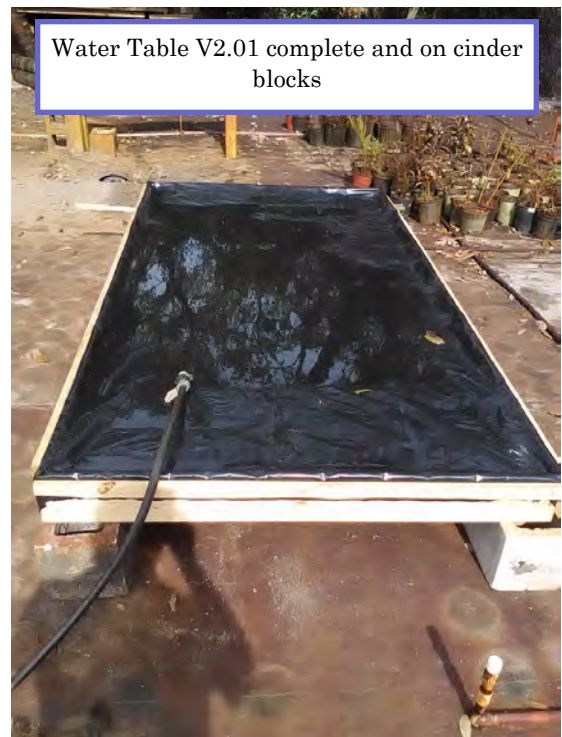


Our prototype table. Water Table Version 1.0

has taken a proactive approach to some serious water problems the nursery has experienced. A couple years ago our nursery plants were suffering from high salt levels in the groundwater we were using. The Board voted to have a new well put in. This well was delightfully salt-free. Our problems shifted from high salt to high iron content. Now we had plants that are covered in iron stain and floundering between life and death. It appeared that the Sea Rocket nursery was hopelessly stuck between a rock and a hard place. Your board considered several options. Some of these options had more negatives than positives. City water was too expensive. Gray water was astronomically too expensive to consider. Routing gray water from the main to



Water Table Version 2.01. in it's skeletal form



Water Table V2.01 complete and on cinder blocks

a location we could use was many, ("many" meaning well over several) thousands of dollars. Micro drip systems clogged up from the iron residue in the water. Our options were running short when we hit upon the idea of watering from below. Kind of like a giant saucer to put the plants in. Our first table is 3 feet off the ground with a storage shelf. The table is a marvel of functionality, but a beast to get into place and sink into the ground. It is delightful to use, as the plants are waist high, but it is expensive and massive. The second design can be placed on the ground. The design gives about one inch of water when full. The tables eliminate the overhead sprinkler system that has been coating out nursery stock with iron. There are work and studies yet to be done, but it appears Sea Rocket is once again on track to having a healthy, and happy Nursery. ~

Community Corner

News for and about *your* Chapter



Correction—In editing the field report from the Dicerandra Scrub field trip, I misspelled Jim Sloan as the author and photographer of the article.

Sorry Jim.

Editor Dave ~

Sea Rocket will be here on the 28th for an outreach opportunity. **This will not a Native Plant Sale.**

Helen and Allan Cruickshank Sanctuary Field Trip Announcement

Saturday January 21, 2017 0900-1200

This sanctuary is a joint acquisition of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and the State of Florida, acquired in 1995 with later additions. Vegetation is pine flatwoods, oak scrub, and freshwater depression marshes. Prescribed burning, mechanical treatment of fuels, and thinning of pines have been done to restore habitat conditions. There has been a positive response of the Florida Scrub-Jay population to habitat restoration. Several rare plants occur in the sanctuary.

Directions: Central Rockledge just west of US Highway 1, 360 Barnes Boulevard. From I-95: Take Fiske Blvd. Exit 195. At the intersection just north of I-95, go east on Barnes Boulevard 2.4 miles to the Sanctuary entrance and small parking area.

From US-1: Turn west onto Barnes Blvd and travel 0.5 miles. The Sanctuary entrance is on the north side of the road.

Bring hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent.

Join us at the
Historic Pritchard House

In celebration of
Florida Arbor Day
Friday, January 20, 2017 at 3:30
Dedication of the
150th Titusville Anniversary Tree

Children are encouraged to attend to have their picture taken in front of the tree.

Photos will be placed in the time capsule to be opened on the 200th Titusville Anniversary



Pritchard House

424 S. Washington Avenue Titusville, FL
www.pritchardhouse.com 321-607-0203
thepritchardhouse@yahoo.com

**Capsicum annuum
var. glabriusculum**

Solanaceae (The potato Family)

Aliases

**Chile Pequin, Chile Tepin, Bird Pepper,
Turkey Pepper**

This particular pepper loves Full sun, and Dry sandy soil. It is considered an annual, and is propagated by seed, and spread by our avian friends. It is considered a smoking hot pepper. "In the 1990s, scientists began to wonder why birds in the Southwest ate the fiery fruits of the "bird pepper." Rodents had not been seen to dine on the pepper's fiery fruits. Scientists fed bird seed to two species of birds, and then fed the same food coated with capsaicin, the active "hot" chemical in peppers, and "they did not lose weight and were fine," says Anna Pidgeon, an assistant professor of forest and wildlife ecology at UW-Madison. Birds may be able to eat peppers because they have so few taste buds: Chickens have just 24 taste buds, and pigeons have 37, Pidgeon says. Humans have close to 10,000 taste buds, "We can't be sure why birds don't sense the hot taste, but they seem un-affected by it."

(editors note) I question how they fly with cast iron stomachs.



So how hot is 50,000 to 100,000 Scoville Units?

- The Habanera is between 100,000 and 450,000. (That makes my nose burn just typing it.)
- The Bird Pepper is between 50,000 and 100,000 (Hint: wear gloves when harvesting)
- The cayenne is 40,000 to 60,000,
- the Jalapeño is only 2,500 to 8,000 Scoville Units

<http://news.wisc.edu/curiosities-why-can-birds-eat-hot-peppers/>

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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Maple Street Natives

info@maplestreetnatives.com

www.maplestreetnatives.com

www.facebook.com/maplestreetnatives

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

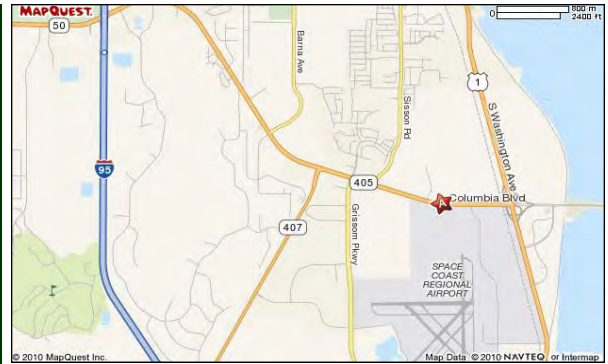


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

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)

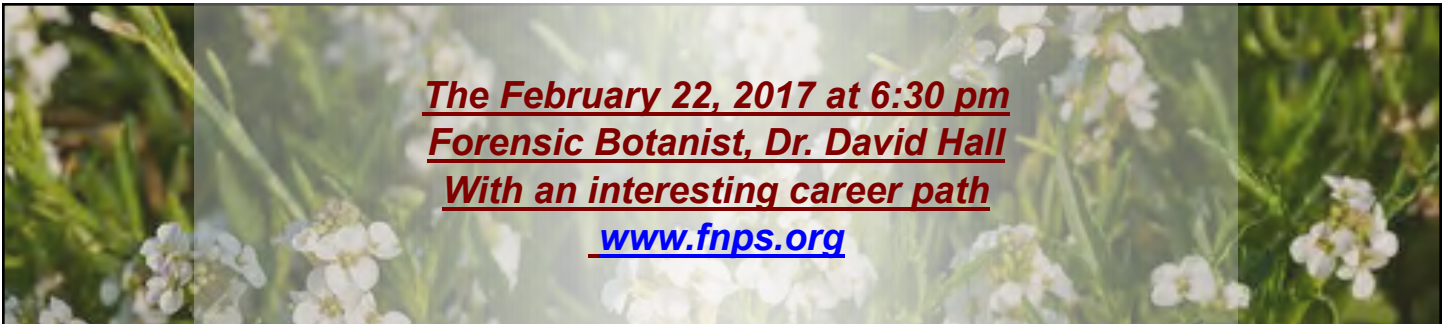
From I-95 Southbound: take SR-50 Exit 215 east. Turn left onto SR 50 and turn right onto SR-405 (2nd light) Travel 3.6 miles (the Sanctuary entrance is on the left 0.4 miles past Sisson Road)

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



Sea Rocket Chapter

444 Columbia Blvd,
Titusville, FL 32780

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