



Sea Rocket



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

February 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

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Committees

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Education/Outreach

Position Open

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Newsletter

David Humphrey

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Hospitality

Armand De Filippo

armanddf@rcn.com



“Florida Snow” brought to you by



Richardia grandiflora

(See page 7 for more)

February 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.

- February 1** **FTA Hike - Blue Springs Trail,** meet at West entrance of Lowe's parking lot at I-95 and Hwy 50 in Titusville at 8:30 am.
- February 4** **Enchanted Forest Work Day in the garden,** starts at 9:30. Volunteers needed to help keep the butterfly gardens attractive to butterflies and people.
- February 4** **Malibar Scrub Field Trip** Starts at 9:00 am. Hosted by Dr. Schmalzer. See page 6 for all the details.
- February 8** **FTA Hike - Bull Creek Cemetery.** Meet at Sams Discount Club at 4255 West New Haven in Melbourne at 8:30 am.
- February 11** **Pioneer Day Celebration at Sams House on Merritt Island.** Sea Rocket will be there as an outreach opportunity. If you would like to spend a day in the 1800s and enjoy a day of music and displays. Come on out and spend an for an hour or more I'm sure you will enjoy it and Sea Rocket would br proud to have you involved.
- February 11** **Barrier Island Center Ocean Treasures & Symposium** from 10 am to 4 pm. We're talking Sea Glass here, with Talks, Walks, book signing with Richard LaMotte and Blair and Dawn Witherington. For more go to: <http://www.barrierislandcenter.com/>
- February 15** **FTA Hike - Fox Lake Trail.** Meet at West entrance of Lowe's parking lot at I-95 and Hwy 50 in Titusville at 8:30 am.
- February 15** **Lunch with Nature at the Enchanted Forest. At 12 pm.** "Endangered Tillandsia and the Mexican Bromeliad Weevil" with Dr Teresa Cooper from The Save Florida's Bromeliads Conservation Program.
- February 18** **Enchanted Forest Work Day in the garden,** starts at 9:30. Volunteers needed to help keep the butterfly gardens attractive to butterflies and people
- February 18** **Star Party at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary from 5 to 10 pm.** Hosted by the Brevard Astronomical Society. For more information Contact Enchanted Forest at 321-264-5185.
- February 19** **Audubon Wind beneath our wings Event** 4:30 to 7:30. venue on the Lake/Maitland Civil Center 641 S. Maitland Ave. Maitland, FL . Get your tickets by visiting www.windbeneathourwings.org by February 10, 2017. For questions or to RSVP by phone, call Vicky Johnston at [305-371-6396](tel:305-371-6396).
- February 22** **FTA Hike - Orlando Wetlands Park.** Meet at West entrance of Lowe's parking lot at I-95 and Hwy 50 in Titusville at 8:30 am.
- February 22** **Sea Rocket General Meeting at 6:30pm.** We will have Dr David Hall, one of the very few forensic botanist remaining in the U.S. Dr. Hall has a fascinating backlog of stories on how a thorough understanding of plants has helped solve crimes. You don't want to miss the opportunity to hear Dr Hall speak.
- February 24** **KBB 2nd Annual Golf Tournament** starts at 12:30 pm at the Cocoa Beach Country Club. All funds generated from this event will be used locally in support of KBB's mission of beautification, recycling and educational programs in Brevard County. For more info contact Pat Brown 321-631-0501 ext 201. <http://keepbrevardbeautiful.org/event/kbb-annual-golf-tournament>

Sea Rocket Chapter
General Meeting 1-25-17

Board Members present: Lois, Armand, Madeline, Dave, Paul
Guests: We had six guests and two new members

Welcome and Call to Order: at 7:00 pm

BUSINESS:

- Approval of October General Meeting Minutes as printed in November newsletter: Approved, no comment
- Approval of November General Meeting Minutes as printed in December newsletter: Approved, no comment
- Approval of December General Meeting Minutes as printed in January newsletter: Approved, no comment

Treasurer Report: Madeline Klinko,
\$ 2533.68 in checking; \$2501.35 in saving, \$5035.03 total

By-Laws Vote Approved by the members present, no objection

Budget Vote Approved by the members present, no objections

Refreshments – Armand De Filippo, Mary, and Bill Roe, Debbie Richard and Dave Humphrey –
Thank you for providing these snacks for our enjoyment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

January 21st, Hike – Cruickshank Report– Dr. Paul Schmalzer Had 11 people and an excellent trip. One member even had a scrub jay land on his head. Great photo op.

February Hike is on the 4th to the Malabar Scrub. The details are in the Sea Rocket February Newsletter page 6

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.

FANN “Guide for Real Florida Gardeners” are available copies on table

Native Landscaping – Southeast brochures received

EVENTS: February – ELECTIONS – We Need You

2/4 & 2/18 Sat. (50 bales of pine straw on 2/4) EFS garden days

2/25 Workshop “Propagation – seed starting procedures) 10-12 @ EFS

2/22 February Guest Speaker – Dr. David Hall “Forensic Botany.”

BOD meeting – 2/15 Wednesday (changed due to Valentine’s Day) @ New York, New York in Titusville starting at 5:30

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS: Epcot Flower and Garden Festival – March 1st / April 29th

FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm

Guest Speaker – Tom Shupe – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Tom spoke on coyotes. Coyotes were not prevalent in Florida in the early days because the red wolf liked coyote’s, as a meal. As the wolf died out due to human activity, and the woods were cleared, and large areas were made into grasslands, the coyote began to fill the gap in rodent control left by the red wolf. The coyote and dog do not interact in a way to produce hybrid young. The interaction between dogs and coyotes are more coyotes eating the dogs. Coyotes will eat just about anything and will adapt as required to survive when the food supply changes. Excellent speaker, excellent presentation, excellent crowd, with many excellent questions asked. ~

DISCLAIMER – These answers are gleaned from the internet and derived from other parties experimentation. There are always two sides to every coin. To validate an idea I suggest doing your own research.—Editor Dave

Can Plants Communicate?

Yes - Two studies published in 1983 demonstrated that willow trees, poplars, and sugar maples can warn each other about insect attacks: Intact, undamaged trees near ones that are infested with hungry bugs begin pumping out bug-repelling chemicals to ward off an attack. They somehow know what their neighbors are experiencing, and react to it. The mind-bending implication was that brainless trees could send, receive and interpret messages.

www.wired.com/2013/12/secret-language-of-plants/

Can Plants feel Pain?

BUSTED - In the 1960s, Cleve Backster, founder of the FBI's polygraph unit, took a detour from crime fighting to develop his pet theory of primary perception. Using polygraph (lie detector) tests, Backster concluded that everything — and we mean *everything* in the universe is interconnected and capable of producing emotional responses. Although the eggs faced a fate worse than Humpty Dumpty's, the plant showed no regard whatsoever. The EEG results revealed no spikes in dracaena electrical activity, leaving the myth — and a whole lot of eggs — totally BUSTED.

<http://www.discovery.com/tv-shows/mythbusters/mythbusters-database/plants-have-feelings/>

Do Plants have a sense of smell?

YES - An example of a plant using smell is how a parasitic plant called dodder finds its food. Dodder can't do photosynthesis, and so has to live off of other plants. The way it finds its host plant is by smelling. A dodder can detect minute amounts of chemicals released in the air by neighboring plants, and will actually pick the one that it finds tastiest! In one classic experiment scientists showed that dodder prefers tomato to wheat because it prefers the smell. (See: *Vampire Weed; Oct '16 Sea Rocket NL*)

www.scientificamerican.com/article/do-plants-think-daniel-chamovitz/

How about Hearing

MAYBE, BUT NOT MUSIC NECESSARILY - This is a bit trickier because while loads of research support the idea that plants see, smell, taste, and feel,

support for plant auditory prowess is indirectly proportional to the amount of anecdotal information we have about the ways in which music may influence how a plant grows. Many of us have heard stories about plants flourishing in rooms with classical music. Typically, though, much of the research on music and plants was, to put it mildly, not carried out by investigators grounded in the scientific method. Not surprisingly, in most of these studies, the plants thrived in music that the experimenter also preferred.

www.scientificamerican.com/article/do-plants-think-daniel-chamovitz/

Do plants have a memory?

YES - Plants definitely have several different forms of memory, just like people do. They have short term memory, immune memory and even transgenerational memory!

For example a Venus Fly Trap needs to have two of the hairs on its leaves touched by a bug in order to shut, so it remembers that the first one has been touched. But this only lasts about 20 seconds, and then it forgets. Wheat seedlings remember that they've gone through winter before they start to flower and make seeds. And some stressed plants give rise to progeny that are more resistant to the same stress, a type of transgenerational memory that's also been recently shown also in animals.

www.scientificamerican.com/article/do-plants-think-daniel-chamovitz/

Do Plants Think?

NO - Plants exhibit elements of anoetic consciousness which doesn't include, in my understanding, the ability to think. Just as a plant can't suffer subjective pain in the absence of a brain, I also don't think that it thinks.

www.scientificamerican.com/article/do-plants-think-daniel-chamovitz/



An Unexpected Orchid

By Ron Chicone

A well-known American Botanist is said to have expressed to his students a memorable phrase of somewhat vague meaning. "Plants ARE where you find them, and they DO get around." One thing it reminds me to do is always expect



to see something unexpected when it comes to plants. This was the case recently in a floodplain savanna east of the St. John's River and west of Titusville. A small almost grass-like terrestrial orchid with small attractive flowers resembling those of our native butterfly orchid was growing in a very remote, wild habitat. I had never seen it before which generally means it's a pretty rare native or it's

something that shouldn't be there.

A few pictures and an email to the USF Herbarium unfortunately indicated that it was probably the later. A Chinese Crown Orchid (*Eulopia graminea*, EPPC Category II invasive), is the most likely suspect. If so, this is the furthest north that the species has been documented and is a departure from its usual occurrence in much around cultivated landscapes. Only one specimen in the USF Herbarium has been documented from Brevard County and that is from a parking area in Cocoa.

According to UF Center for Exotic and Invasive Plants, it is "native to Asia that was first discovered in 2007 growing in a mulched landscape in south Miami...It forms a dense monoculture and has rapidly spread to thirteen counties in Florida. Although believed to have originally been spread by mulch, [it] is now found in rockland hammock...maritime hammock, pine flatwood, and cypress strand..." Looks like this is one to keep an eye out for, and if you see it, take a few photos for confirmation, especially if you're in a natural area. ~

Wolf-Dog Saved From Death Row Shows Us Why Having a Wolf as a Pet Isn't a Good Idea

<http://www.onegreenplanet.org/>

In recent years, the alarming exotic pet trade in the U.S. has come to include wolves and wolf-dog hybrids. Although many wolf species are currently endangered, misinformed people who are attracted to the beauty of wolves and wish to keep one as a pet can still purchase them. Online breeders inform their potential customers that the wild animal cubs were "raised indoors," "well-socialized," or "bottle-fed." This language is designed to make people think that these animals are inherently tame and docile, easily raised in a house just like a dog.

Despite the physical and genetic similarities between dogs and wolves, the two are very different in terms of their personalities and behaviors. Ten thousand years of selective breeding, adaptation, and experience of living alongside humans has given dogs a temperament that is suited toward being a family pet. Wolves, however, have spent those thousands of years living apart from humans and fending for themselves. Hand-rearing wolves from the time they are cubs will not be enough to erase their natural instincts.

Luckily, Karma has now been given a reprieve! A judge ruled that instead of being euthanized, she should be sent to a sanctuary. The decision has been praised by animal rights attorney Christine Garcia, who said, "There is no evidence that Karma actually killed the black cat. We do have one person that says (they) saw Karma with the black cat after the cat was already dead. I'm grateful that the dog is not being killed."

How wonderful to hear that Karma will be sent to a specialized sanctuary where her needs can be adequately be catered for! Let's hope that her case serves as a deterrent to anyone who still thinks that getting a wolf or wolf-dog as a pet is a cool idea...

Editor's Note: FWC representative Tom Shupe spoke on coyotes, (1-25). He said the same thing about trying to raise a coyote, (or any wild animal). They are not domestic, but are quite wild and dangerous. ~

Community Corner

News for and about your Chapter



2nd Annual Golf Tournament

February 24, 2017 12:30 p.m.
Cocoa Beach Country Club

If anyone get tired of reading what I have done, or pictures of MY yard, and MY weeds, natives, plants, etc. than may I suggest YOU send me pictures of you are doing, in YOUR yard, or community. Send YOUR information in. YOU can potentially answer a long standing question, or stir up new ideas in others. I personally do not believe information on what was done right, or what was done wrong, is ever wasted.
Thank you, Editor Dave ~

Malabar Scrub Sanctuary Field Trip Announcement

Hosted by Dr. Paul Schmalzer

Saturday February 4, 2017

from 0900-1200

Saturday February 4, from 0900-1200 at the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary. This is a joint acquisition of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and the State of Florida. Vegetation is scrub, flatwoods, and marshes. Prescribed burning and scrub restoration have been conducted since its acquisition, which began in 1993.

Directions: I-95 south to Malabar Road (SR 514). This is the second Palm Bay exit. Go east about 3 miles on Malabar Road. Sanctuary is on north side of road, just past the Malabar Fire Station. Turn left into sanctuary entrance, go north to gate. Parking is in gravel lot to left.

The field trip will last about 3 hours. Malabar has established and well marked trails. Bring water, hat, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Hike will be mainly in scrub and flatwoods.

Largeflower Mexican Clover (*Richardia grandiflora*)



Richardia Grandiflora

Even though the *R. Grandiflora* is not a native plant, (it is a class II invasive in Florida), it is a huge bee attractor, and is very well adapted to the Florida climate. There are some love hate attitudes towards *R. grandiflora*. In manicured St. Augustine yards it is a curse. In what might be considered a “normal” Florida yard of mixed grasses and ground covers, the *R. grandiflora* is tolerated sometimes gleefully due to its showy bloom.

A native *Richardia* or pusley is the *Scabra*. The blooms are miniscule and the leaves are tight and provide a solid ground cover that stays mostly under the lawn mower blade.



R. Scabra

One other common pusley is the *R. brasiliensis*. The flowers are somewhat larger than the *R. Scabra* but the real give away is the root. It is large, fat and knotted up. Looks like nematode damage to me, but is normal to the plant. There are many *Richardia* varieties.



Tropical Mexican clover *R. brasiliensis*.



To see more go to the link provided below.

<http://www.theplantlist.org/browse/A/Rubiaceae/Richardia/> ~

Oh NO, Not another meadow story

By David Humphrey

Yes, it's true, but this time it's different.

This time I have observed something I may have done wrong. Let me explain. I enjoy the Sea Rocket plant sales because I get to meet a lot of people. When I sell Frog Fruit (*Phyla nodiflora*), I always recall one of its greatest strengths. *P. Nodaflora* is an **OUTSTANDING** ground cover. My remembrance is from many years ago, long before I was a Native Plant enthusiast. I had a section of yard that was covered in *P. nodiflora*. I found I could roll the mass of vegetation up, like a carpet, which I did, and disposed of it. There were no weeds, grass, or other plant life to be found under this mat of frog fruit. None, zip, zero, nada.

My meadow is also my observatory for native plants. This time I observed that *P. Nodaflora* is not to be left on its own behavior. The frog fruit is three years old, and has been left to grow unhindered. Well, it has once again grown very thick and seems to be preventing the germination of native grasses and flowers. The dune sunflower (*Helianthus debilis*) is tall enough to grow above the smothering mass. I am not getting germinating plants coming through, such as gaillardia, tropical sage, coreopsis, muhly grass, Elliot's love grass, etc.

Frog fruit is a welcome native in my meadow, but it appears that it must be managed. The butterflies love it, as do the honey bees. *P. nodiflora* is an important plant in our ecosystem. My solution to this problem, take hands full of frog fruit and pull it out. It is good therapy. It breaks the long stems, and allows the dormant buds to sprout out and make a stronger more vibrant plant. Alternatively take a machete or samurai sword and cut the plant randomly. I expect to see die off, but the overall health of the plant will benefit.~

MEMBERS NEEDED

At this months general meeting (February 22nd @ 6:30 PM), members are asked to attend. Sea Rocket will be having their annual Officer elections. We need members to "Have their say" and vote for the leadership of Sea Rocket Chapter throughout 2017. Look through the positions we have, all are possible (Front page side panel). We have several openings:

- Vice President
- Chapter Representative
- Committee Membership Chair
- Newsletter Editor

If you would like to help guide this chapter into the future, Sea Rocket would love to have you to be involved.

Any member from a CEO of a Fortune 500 Corporation to a green twig who wants to learn and be involved are welcome to get involved. ~

THE ARMY TURNING GREEN?

<http://www.foxnews.com/tech/2017/01/10/us-army-asks-for-biodegradable-ammo.html>

The U.S. Army goes through a lot of ammunition thanks to the amount of training it carries out. But that ammunition doesn't come without waste which slowly degrades over hundreds of years polluting whatever ground (and nearby water sources) it happens to fall upon.

So the Department of Defense (DoD) decided to do something about it, and is requesting environmentally friendly ammunition for use during training exercises.

The request was made via the [Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\) program](#). Specifically, the DoD wants "biodegradable training ammunition loaded with specialized seeds to grow environmentally beneficial plants that eliminate ammunition debris and contaminants."

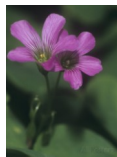
Sourcing the seeds for use in this new ammunition won't be a problem as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) already bioengineered them so as not to germinate for several months, allowing time for the materials containing them to sufficiently biodegrade. The seeds can then take up any remaining contaminants as they grow, further reducing harm to the environment.

See the November 2015 Issue **Mutant Plants Suck Toxic TNT Out of Soil** ~

FREE PLANTS

In my yard, All you can pull up for FREE. A seemingly unlimited and reproducible supply. I went through the "Weeds of Florida Lawns" by Dr. David Hall. Below is a list of what I have found in a small yard.

1. Globe Sedge
2. Mimosa Strigiliosa
3. Green Kyllinga
4. Crowsfoot Grass
5. India Crabgrass
6. Torpedo Grass
7. Penscola Bahia
8. Annual Blue eyed grass
9. Carpetweed
10. Heatleaf Drymary
11. Cupids shaving brush
12. Southern fleabane
13. Yellowtop
14. Gaillardia
15. Coat buttons
16. Roundleaf spurge
17. Pennywort (Dollarweed)
18. Garden spurge
19. Hyssop spurge
20. Spotted spurge
21. Longstalked Phyllanthus
22. Carolina Geranium
23. Creeping beggerweed
24. Red spiderling
25. Cutleaf evening primrose
26. Cuban Purple wood sorrel
27. Yellow woodsorrel
28. Broadleaf pink purslane
29. Common purslane
30. Largeflower Mexican Clover Florida Pusley
31. Oldfield toadflax
32. White head broom
33. Florida Pellitory
34. Mat Lippia (Frogfruit)
35. Tropical Sage



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

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greenimage@aol.com

The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Education Center

444 Columbia Blvd, Titusville, FL 32780 321-264-5185

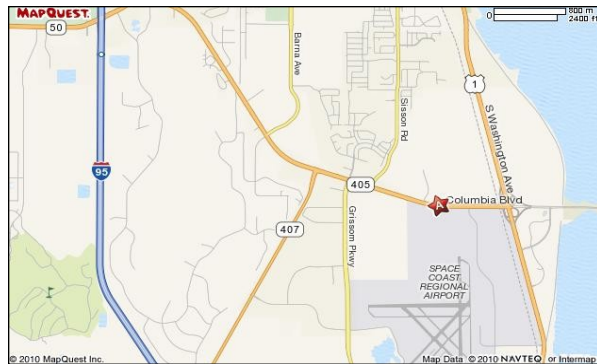


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

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)

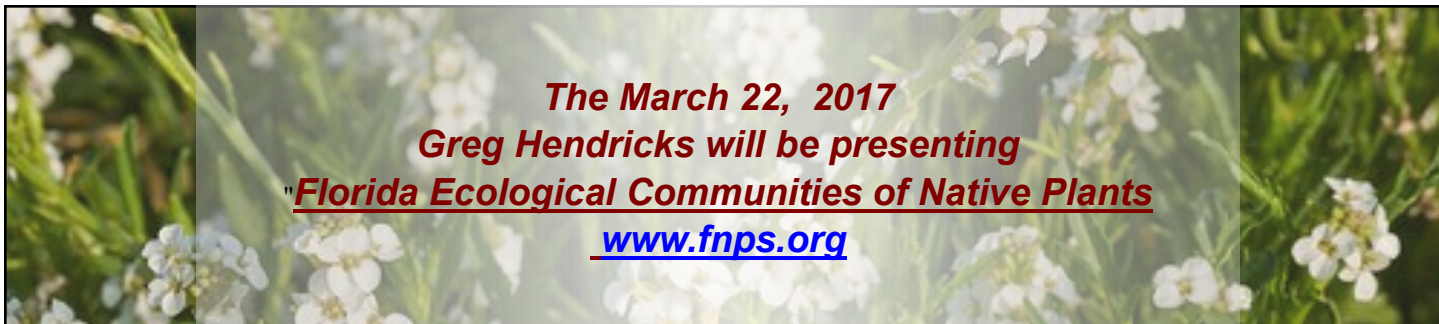
From I-95 Southbound: take SR-50 Exit 215 east. Turn left onto SR 50 and turn right onto SR-405 (2nd light) Travel 3.6 miles (the Sanctuary entrance is on the left 0.4 miles past Sisson Road)

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

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