



Sea Rocket



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

August 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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Virginia Saltmarsh Mallow *Kosteletzkya pentacarpos*



Now blooming
in a marshland
near you.

Is it Plant Or Animal?



A hundred feet below the ice, a feather star waves its frondlike arms, groping for food particles. It's an animal, not a plant—a cousin of sea stars—and it can swim. Photographer Laurent Ballesta dove as deep as 230 feet to get these shots. *Pro-machocrinus Kerguelensis*.

[Click Here](#) For the rest of the photo display

Greenery (or Even Photos of Trees) Can Make Us Happier

By Gretchen Reynolds

A growing body of research shows that people who spend time outside in sunny, green and natural spaces tend to be happier and healthier than those who don't. [A study from Stanford last year](#), for example, found that young adults who walked for an hour through campus parkland were less anxious afterward and performed better on a test of working memory than if they had strolled along a busy street.

[For more...](#)

The Long and Winding Road to Long-Term Funding

By David Humphrey

Mike Knight, the program Director for the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL), program, has been conducting meetings with interested parties in an effort to provide a status report on the future of funding for the EEL Program.

Mr. Knight talked about the history of EEL funding efforts over the last 17 years. Current funding sources dry up in 2024 completely. In his presentation, Mr. Knight spoke of the EEL program stated **priorities** which were;

1. Protection of the rich biological diversity of Brevard County.
2. Maintenance of Ecosystem function.

Additional goals are:

1. Protection of educational values of natural lands.
2. Protection of research or scientific values of natural lands.
3. Protection of cultural, passive recreational and aesthetic values of natural lands.

As an editorial note; I wrote to Mr. Knight and argued that education should be a primary goal. The reason is that the next generation, especially those in government, will be making decisions as to the importance of EEL goals. They need to have the knowledge to make decisions based on preserving, protecting and maintaining ecosystem function. The funding hurdles to incorporate educational monies are wearying at best.

Mr. Knight pointed out that the efforts to maintain the protection of biodiversity require all the time and monies available to just maintain the properties EEL is responsible for currently. Those efforts include, but not limited to;

- Use of control burns of which there are over 65 miles of fire lines that need to be maintained twice yearly
- Elimination or removal of invasive animals and plants.
- Habitat restoration which involves many facets of horticultural expertise
- Trail maintenance in support of passive recreational activities.

All of these activities require people and time to accomplish.

The use of EEL properties is well documented. There were 120,000 trail visits recorded in one year. There were 8,000 public and homeschoolers that came out to the three EEL Educational Centers;

- Barrier Island Center in Melbourne Beach
- Sam's House in Merritt Island
- Enchanted Forest in Titusville

Mr. Knight remarked that the Cruickshank Sanctuary (an EEL property) in Rockledge is a Restoration victory. Through the use of fire and management efforts the scrub jay, which was gone, has returned and is a favorite spot now to see this endangered bird.~



Saving Little Estero Island

Let me tell you more about this special place. The dynamic coast has formed beach and dunes next to a tidal lagoon, all while supporting a wealth of rare and declining wildlife. Wilson's Plovers nest in the dunes here, teaching their leggy chicks to hunt crabs and insects as soon as they hatch.

Dramatic Reddish Egrets hunt in the shallows, chasing fish with wings spread wide in their characteristic, erratic dance. Least Terns pluck silvery fish from the waves offshore, and shorebirds resting from their long migrations find meals to fuel their journeys. Little Estero Island is magical, and there are precious few places like it left. This would all drastically change if this boardwalk is built.

Julie Wraithmell, Deputy Executive Director, Audubon Florida



Plant Stress and Drought.

By Jim Robey

The dog days of summer are with us. After 30 years of living in Florida, This is not my favorite time of the year. Water is precious, especially in Florida. It always seems like we're in a drought. During this time of the year plant stress comes to mind. Stressed plants are less able to defend themselves. Pests are most likely to benefit during this time period, such as aphids, white flies mealy bugs and scales. Remember the old saying, "the right plant for the right place." Although too little water is bad, too much can be just as bad. Not only can disease, come into play but insects and diseases may also encroach. Scientists predict that periods of drought will become more frequent and severe in coming decades. If drought conditions persist, consider the stress levels of your ornamental plants, and keep an eye out for the insects that may respond to that stress. Good day. ~

Donated Plants for the Nursery

The Sea Rocket nursery is always willing to accept native plants from our members. We will nurture them to full and happy growth for sale in our nursery sales. These donated plants are a big help and support for the chapter. We do ask you to inspect the plant for obvious infections from pests or diseases. As all nurseries will request, **DO NOT** bring infected plants into the nursery. A parasite, fungus or virus infection can spread quickly throughout the nursery and destroy the entire population of plants. It has already happened once, and it is both expensive and labor intense to get rid of the infection.

Thank you

Lois Harris - Nursery Director

David Humphrey - Nursery assistant

ENDOWMENT RESEARCH GRANT AWARDS

by Paul Schmalzer

Three endowment research awards were announced at the FNPS annual conference. These awards of \$1,500 each are funded by earnings from the FNPS endowment and contributions from chapters and individuals. This year, we received a contribution of \$1,500 from the Tarflower Chapter in honor of Sam Hopkins, and a contribution of \$500 from the Sea Rocket Chapter.

The 2017 awards are going to:

- *Iwan E. Molgo, Department of Biology, University of Florida, "Determining the origin of two recently discovered Florida endemics: Tetraploid and hexaploid Callisia ornata (Commelinaceae)." This award is supported by the Tarflower Chapter contribution in honor of Sam Hopkins.*

- *Andre Naranjo, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, "Understanding the evolution of narrow endemics for conservation."*

- *Lydia M. Cuni, Department of Earth and Environment, Florida International University, "Drivers of species composition and diversity in pine rockland-hardwood hammock ecosystem transitional gradients: Implications for restoration efforts of fragmented communities." ~*

Community Corner

News for and about your Chapter

APPALACHIAN TOUR, SEPT. 10–15, 2017

Promoted by FNPS

Don't let September slip away. It will be here sooner than you think. Our native plant society is embarking on an adventure to the Appalachians this summer to botanize, socialize and explore the mountains on a refreshing trip to the temperate rain forests. Come with us while we discover the amazing world of the spruce-fir forests of the southeast with local expert guides. Invite your favorite traveling companion or come alone and make new friends. Seating is limited, but you can reserve your spot for only \$50. For more information on pricing and itinerary, visit

www.indigotravelcompany.com.

Sea Rocket has begun a search for the next Newsletter Editor.

I'll be stepping down as editor and as Secretary this next election cycle. The last issue I will be responsible for will be the March 2018 edition. Why? Well, I've been at it since mid-2013. I am hoping that someone else will feel the need to write and take this position as an outlet. I've enjoyed it tremendously over the years. I will still be a contributor to the newsletter and will help as much as possible. I'm not leaving Sea Rocket or FNPS but am slowing down and want to smell the flowers more than just writing about them. Think about it, if you have a penchant for prose give the newsletter a try and see how it fits.

Editor Dave

Plan to join us **September 22-23** at the **Orange County UF/IFAS Extension in Orlando** for two days of field trips, hands-on workshops, educational presentations and more. Botanist Elisabeth Schussler will deliver the keynote address, "Helping People See Plants in a Plant Blind World."

Details are coming soon. Meanwhile, click [here](#) for sponsorship and volunteer opportunities, lodging discounts and event updates.



2017
Florida
Wildflower
Symposium

ORANGE COUNTY UF/IFAS EXTENSION, ORLANDO, FL

WILDFLOWERS MAKE THE WORLD GO 'ROUND

FLORIDA WILDFLOWER FOUNDATION

SEPT. 22-23

The poster features a large yellow daisy with a globe as its center, a small bee, and the Florida Wildflower Foundation logo.

Everything was in proper place for the Annual FNPS picnic

By Janina Shoemaker



Life in the fast lane with good friends.



Good Eats...
Good Friends...
Good Time!

We held our picnic in the Frog Pavilion at Fox Lake Park, Saturday, July 14. The weather was warm, even under the pavilion. We were next to the playground so early arrivals had a chance to try out the climbing blocks and slides before sitting down to the traditional pot luck with bowls and boxes spread across two tables.

Salads: potato, three-bean, chef, slaw, all chilled and delicious; the Crispy Crunchy Chicken lived up to the promise, and both biscuits and corn muffins complimented the main dish. We were well hydrated with tea, and desserts included key lime and coconut cream party cakes, sticky frosted cookies and pastries, and bowls of melon chunks.

The tables were arranged for modest views of the croquet game, the resident squirrels, and each other, as we were a vocal group, welcoming our fellows and spouses. Conversations floated from table to table, greetings and introductions to our new members. Of course, someone had a camera to record for posterity this convivial crowd. We had a goodly group of young blue jays observing our repast, eagerly awaiting a chance to dart across the sand to snap up crumbs.

For a breezy two-hours, we enjoyed each others company, and our lunch. Before the afternoon was spent, one brave couple did take a short hike, returning in twenty



Laura being a wild and crazy gal.

minutes to agree that it was too hot to go far, and besides the mosquitoes had flushed them out. I should mention, we did catch a glimpse of a red-bellied woodpecker in a near-by tree, paying us no mind as he crept along.

We de-camped quickly, calling our good-byes as we left no trace, unless we consider the green trash barrel, and a few corn muffins.~

Janina Shoemaker



Croquet game under the old oak trees.

“What’s the buzz?

Tell me what’s happening.”

By **Liz Langley** writing for Nation Geographic

Of the estimated 20,000 species of bees worldwide, only a few hundred species make honey, and only honey bees make a surfeit of the sweet stuff says Juliana Rangel, the entomologist at Texas A&M University.

There are seven species of honeybees, which include Asian, African, and European honeybees, the latter of which we mostly see in the U.S Honeybees make extra because "they live in places where there are seasons," Rangel says, storing and living on honey in winter when there’s no nectar to eat.

Pollen easily gets stuck to bees' fuzzy bodies and carried from flower to flower, Ellsworth says, but bumblebees and some other wild bees do something honeybees don't do: **buzz pollination**. Bumblebees "can unhinge their wings from their wing muscles and vibrate their bodies," Ellsworth says, making that buzzing sound you hear when they're on a flower in the tone of middle C.

A BUMBLEBEE'S BUZZ IS BASICALLY A SUPERPOWER

"It's the 'hey' in 'Hey Jude,' and it causes the flower to release pollen explosively."

To pollinate some plants, such as blueberries and cranberries, bees "wrap their legs around the flower" and buzz that note, causing the release of pollen "like salt from a shaker," Ellsworth says.

But bees aren't just persuasive. They're

energy efficient.

"Bees have a positive electrostatic charge to their bodies," says Ellsworth, "like when you scrape your feet across a carpet."

Flowers have a negative charge, so before a bee lands on one, it uses its body hairs to feel the strength of a flower's charge. A flower that has just been visited by another pollinator "loses a little bit of that negative charge," allowing the would-be pollinator to save time and move on.

“A BUMBLEBEE'S BUZZ IS BASICALLY A SUPERPOWER.”

A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS

All this work provides a whopping portion of what we eat: Honeybees, along with

native pollinators like butterflies, pollinate a third of the food consumed worldwide, says Rangel.

An estimate puts Pollinators' global value at \$200 billion per year; in the U.S., it's about \$15 billion annually.

For all the delicious fruits and crops they give us, honeybees themselves have few genes for taste. But the insects do seek out nutrients such as salt, according to a recent study in the journal Ecological Entomology.

In autumn, when there are fewer plants available, bees visit puddles, bird baths, and compost piles to satisfy their nutrient needs, lead author Rachael Bonoan, a Tufts doctoral candidate, says by email. Little is known about minerals content in pollen and nectar, except that they contain "trace amounts," says Bonoan.

Therefore it's important that bees have a variety of flowers, "so they have the best chance of finding what they need."~

(Sea Rocket Native Plant sale 9-30)

Titusville's Resolution to provide "NO-MOW" zones for wildflowers.

RESOLUTION NUMBER, NINE – 2012.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TITUSVILLE, FLORIDA SUPPORTING FLORIDA WILDFLOWER IN TITUSVILLE BY PARDONING WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND ADJOINING PROPERTY OWNERS TO PLAN AND IMPLEMENT ROADSIDE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES THAT WILL INCREASE THE VISIBILITY AND ENJOYMENT OF FLORIDA NATIVE WILDFLOWERS, AND TO INCREASE THE VISIBILITY AND KNOWLEDGE OF FLORIDA'S NATIVE WILDFLOWER SPECIES: AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the natural beauty of native wildflowers in City of Titusville can be enjoyed by everyone; and attract guests, and benefit commerce, environmental health, and public well-being; and

WHEREAS, enjoyment of the native wildflowers is an occasion for all city community leaders to unite for the benefit of everyone; and

WHEREAS, many naturally beautiful species of native wildflowers, including coreopsis, the state wildflower, as depicted upon the state wildflower license tag, are already prominently displayed along city, state and county roadways; and

WHEREAS, increasing the visibility of native wildflowers in the City Titusville is consistent with the vision of the Comprehensive Plan and goals of many individuals, businesses, and community – based organizations, and

WHEREAS, the presence of native wildflowers is essential to the fitness of native pollinators PCs necessary for the production of profitable farms and forests; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 1513, Juan Ponce de Leon named this beautiful place La Florida, land of flowers, because the wealth of native wildflowers; and

WHEREAS, in the year 2013 native wild wildflowers will be a prominent icon of Florida's and City's quincentennial celebration of Spain in Florida; and

WHEREAS; it is desirable and attainable to experience the beauty of many more native wildflowers by reducing the frequency and extent of roadside mowing; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY TITUSVILLE, FLORIDA, do hereby commit and encourage others to commit to the conservation of roadside native wildflowers on state, county and city roadways, and do hereby instruct city staff to partner with Florida Department of Transportation and adjoining property owners to plan and implement roadside management practices that will increase the visibility and enjoyment of Florida native wildflower.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of April, 2012.

The show may be over, but the wildflowers can still show off—**IF** allowed to bloom, and go to seed. For the city, it saves money. For pollinators, it is life.~Ed.



The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Education Center

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

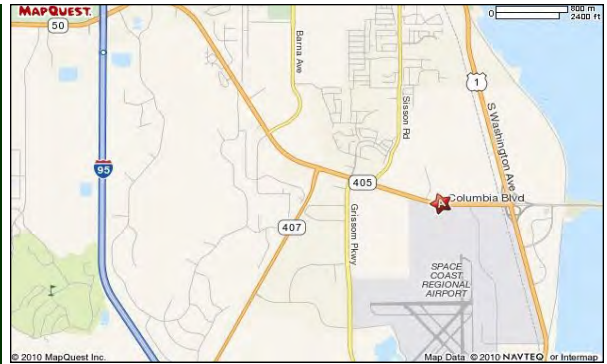


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

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

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September 27, 2017
With Glen Bupp, UF/IFAS Extension Service
Brevard County Commercial Horticulture Agent
Growing Native Plants in Containers
www.fnps.org



JULY PICNIC at FOX LAKE PARK

Pictures courtesy of
Mary Roe
and
Lois Harris

Bill and Mary Roe