



Sea Rocket



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

April 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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To contact us by email:
searocketfnps@gmail.com



Celebrate Earth Day 2018

Sea Rocket Plant Sale

Come Celebrate Earth Day at Brevard's Enchanted Forest and pick up a plant for your home or office!

We will be having a plant sale. This is a fundraiser for our chapter. Come out and support your Chapter!

April 21st 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

The Enchanted Forest will have lots of activities that day including hikes through this hidden Brevard gem, easy hike for any and all ages.



Sea Rocket Chapter at the
Kennedy Space Center Earth Day celebration.

April 18 8:45 am to 3 pm.

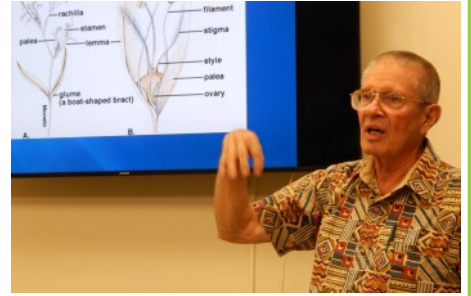
A couple of volunteers are still needed. If you can help please email us. You need to get a badge by April 4 so do not delay.

Contact us today!

Sea Rocket March Monthly Meeting Dr. David Hall on Native Grasses

By David Humphrey

There are hundreds of varieties of grasses in America and thousands throughout the world. The Steppes in Central Asia to the plains in America to the Veldt in Africa all are dominated by "Grass." These "grasses" can be broken down further to Rushes (Juncaceae), Sedges (Cyperaceae), and true Grasses (Poaceae). I'll not attempt to go down the ID line as Dr. Hall did. Interesting and informative as it was even Dr. Hall admits that classifying "grasses" can be a career busting task. Molly, our chapter secretary, learned in college that "Rushes are Round, and Sedges have edges." I can remember that. Unfortunately, Dr. Hall showed exceptions to the rule. But fear not, more often than not rushes are round, and sedges do have edges. Statistically speaking one-quarter of our food products come from grasses. Sugar, Wheat, Rice, and Corn are all grasses. Sandspurs (Cenchrus) are a grass type, and the seeds within the calyx (pokey part) are edible. In fact, Dr. Hall said that as a rule grasses are edible. Grasses will grow in arid, rocky soil to growing underwater. They will thrive in full sun and there are varieties that need shade. They grow from the arctic to the equator. They are called beautiful, hateful, edible, invasive, weeds, and oh so many other things, but they hold the soil, retain moisture, provide for an active food web in the soil, and offer habitat for an untold number of invertebrates, birds, and predators up the line.



About the Speaker

David W. Hall, Ph.D., currently owns and operates an environmental and forensic consulting firm in Gainesville. He was previously employed at the University of Florida as the Director of the Plant Identification and Information Services. Dr. Hall holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Georgia Southern University and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in botany from the University of Florida. He is a recognized expert in forensics and plant identification and has published 13 books and over 150 articles.

Fox Lake Sanctuary Field Trip

Saturday April 14, 2018 0900-1200

Come explore this sanctuary that was acquired in 2007 by the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program. With some additions in 2009 the Fox Lake sanctuary incorporates about 2568 acres.

Hike through diverse habitats including oak scrub, scrubby flatwoods, mesic flatwoods, extensive freshwater marshes, hardwood swamps, and parts of several lakes.

The hike will be lead by Plant Ecologist, Dr. Paul Schmalzer .

Directions:

The entrance to Fox Lake Sanctuary is within Fox Lake Park and the street address is 4400 Fox Lake Road. Take I-95 to St. Rt. 50 (Titusville). Exit and go east a short distance to intersection with St. Rt. 405. Turn left (north) on SR 405. Note SR 405 has sections that run North-South and East-West. Continue on SR 405 to Fox Lake Road. Turn left on Fox Lake Road and go to the end. Park entrance is at the end of the road. Take the park road to its farthest point by Fox Lake. Sanctuary entrance is near the boat ramp and the large pavilion.

Bring hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent.





Is your fertilizer OK for spring and fall? Is your yard product summer-safe? [Click here](#) for a list of products that comply with fertilizer laws in St. Lucie, Martin, Indian River, Brevard and Volusia Counties and nearly every city therein.

Fertilizers in Compliance With Local Fertilizer Ordinances

Included is a non-exclusive list of locally sold fertilizer brands and types that comply with the fertilizer ordinances. There may be other manufacturers and brands that comply with the ordinance and this list is provided simply to offer a *sampling* of what is offered by area merchants in their efforts to protect the Indian River Lagoon.

To be in compliance, the fertilizer must contain no phosphorous and be at least 50% slow release nitrogen (SRN). The fertilizer content is listed on each label as three numbers, #-#-#. This corresponds to the percentage of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potash: respectively N-P-K.

Fertilizers in compliance sold locally	Content	% Slow Release N
Bayer Advanced Weed & Feed	35-0-3	50
TurfGro Pro Turf Fertilizer	16-0-8	50
TurfGro Pro Weed & Feed	16-0-8	50
TurfGro Pro Turf Fertilizer with Insect Control	15-0-15	50
TurfGro Pro Turf Fertilizer	24-0-11	50
TurfGro Pro Tree, Shrub, and Ornamental	8-0-10	50
Sta-Green Southern Weed & Feed	20-0-5	50
Sunniland Bahia Weed & Feed	20-0-6	50
Sunniland St. Augustine Weed & Feed	20-0-6	50
Sunniland Super Iron Plus	Fe,Mn,Mg	N/A
Scotts Turf Builder Bonus S FL W&F	28-0-14	50
Scotts Turf Builder Southern Lawn Food	32-0-10	50
Scotts Turf Builder FL Lawn Food	28-0-14	50
Scotts Green Max	33-0-2	51
Scotts Lawn Response (Nutrient supplement)	0-0-4	N/A
Ironite mineral supplement	1-0-1	50
Scotts Bonus S FL W&F	28-0-14	50
Scotts Liquid Turf Builder	29-0-3	60
Vigoro Florida Weed & Feed	29-0-2	50
Vigoro Florida Lawn Fertilizer	29-0-4	50
Vigoro W&F for Bahia & Mixed Lawns	28-0-3	50
Dr. Earth Super Natural Lawn Fert. (liquid)	8-0-2	100

Bag Check

How do you determine the percent of slow release nitrogen? On the back of the bag, there

will almost always be a "Guaranteed Analysis" box where it will say what percentage of nitrogen used is slow release. Take this percentage and divide by the entire N content percentage and multiply by 100.

For example:

Here I have a bag of TurfGro Professional Turf Fertilizer. The label clearly states that the N-P-K content is 16-0-8. This means it has 16% nitrogen, 0% phosphorous, and 8% potash.

Now look at the back of the bag and locate the Guaranteed Analysis section. At the bottom it says "Contains 8.00 units of slow release nitrogen."

Therefore we calculate:
 $8/16 \times 100 = 50\%$ SRN

This fertilizer has 50% SRN and 0% phosphorous. This fertilizer is in compliance.

For more information: <http://befloridiannow.org/florida-friendly-products/>

DON'T LET GREEN FLOW DOWNSTREAM
 Protect Our Lagoon, Follow Fertilizer Laws

SKIP THE PHOSPHORUS
 Make sure the middle number, Phosphorus (P), on your bag is zero! Only apply Phosphorus if a soil test confirms it is needed.

JUST SAY NO TO N IN THE SUMMER
 It is against the law to apply any N (nitrogen) to the lawn during the rainy season from June 1 to September 30.

GO SLOW ON N IN THE SPRING
 You must use fertilizer with at least 50% slow release nitrogen. The best time to apply N is in the spring.

STAY AWAY FROM THE WATERWAY
 Keep fertilizer away from any body of water. Set-backs range from 10-25 feet, check your local ordinance to be sure of your set-backs at www.BeFloridianNow.org.

BLOW GRASS BACK
 Fertilize your lawn naturally! Keep all grass clippings and vegetative material away from streets, storm drains, and water bodies. Blowing them back on the lawn provides natural fertilizer!

What are the Three Numbers I See on Fertilizer Bags?
FERTILIZER
N P K
14-0-26
 Nitrogen (N)
 Phosphate (P₂O₅)
 Potassium (K₂O) or Potash

For more information, visit www.BeFloridianNow.org

Brevard Wildflowers are in good hands.

About 50 people turned out for a March 9 meeting to learn how they can help protect Brevard's roadside wildflowers. The meeting - the first step in forming an East Coast Wildflower Alliance - was held at FDOT's beautiful new Cocoa maintenance facility. The group reviewed what FDOT-Brevard Operations is doing on roadsides and heard from FDOT contractor Jeff Norcini about what to look for when selecting candidates for roadside wildflower areas.

Work is now underway to document places where blooms occur in order to nominate them for special management that benefits wildflowers.

Participants represented such organizations as Florida Native Plant Society chapters, Master Gardeners, Florida Master Naturalists, Brevard Backyard Beekeepers, University of Florida/IFAS, the Cocoa Sustainability Advisory Board, the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge butterfly survey group, the Brevard Zoo and Brevard County Tourist Development.

To join the Brevard effort, email Info@Flawildflowers.org with your name and contact info, which will be added to the email list for future notifications of meetings and developments.



Coastal Flooding Project is looking for your stories....

Dr. Sonia Stephens is working on a sea level rise communication project with a colleague from Virginia. They are looking for Space Coast residents who would agree to be interviewed about their experiences with coastal flooding, or about their concerns about what sea level rise might mean for coastal flooding in the future.

“Our goal is to personalize the scientific issues of coastal flooding and sea level rise by sharing personal stories of coastal residents. We plan to video-record residents’ stories and concerns, then put the recordings onto an interactive map of the Space Coast that shows projected flooding risks in the region. We've been in touch with a few people, but I was hoping that based on your work with the FNPS, you might know of folks who might be interested in the project and who could meet with our team by the end of April.”

For more information contact:

Dr. Sonia Stephens

Assistant Professor

Department of English & Texts and Technology Program

University of Central Florida

Email: sonia.stephens@ucf.edu

Sea Rocket Chapter is considering Participating in the “Adopt a Highway Program”

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What do we get?

In return for our participation in this nationwide program, the Department of Transportation will post a large sign on the shoulder giving credit to our organization! In support of the program, the Department will provide the safety vests, collection bags, and pick-up sticks needed.

What do we do?

The contract asks the voluntary organization to come out four times for two years, eight events total, to a two-mile section of state highway decided by the organization (we are thinking somewhere close to the entrance to the Enchanted Forest), and the Department will collect the trash for disposal.

Why should we do it?

Adopt a Highway will provide us with excellent public relations as well as a needed beautification project. The Board of Directors asks the membership to consider this as a visible outreach into the community. We feel with the growth of our society we can offer our service at this time.

PLEASE NOTE:

We cannot do this without participation from our members. Please email any questions you may have about this program prior to our next monthly meeting. We will try to answer all questions at that meeting and take a vote on whether we will participate in this program.



Neutralizing a Fire Ant Mound or “Life sucks, and then you die.”

By David Humphrey



Some may have experienced this, you are happily pulling weeds. You notice a pinch. You look down at your hands or feet, and you see one or more of your extremities are covered in ants. You run for the ant poison and pour on a ½ cup or more on the mound. But another mound appeared not very far from the first. If you question the worth of ant killers that say their bait will kill the queen yet never seems to work, it may not be the bait. It may be the application of the bait that is at fault. Sorry, it could very well be “Operator Error.” Instead of dumping the bait on the mound itself or disturbing the mound, try this, spread a tablespoon or two around the mound. Ants forage at night and in cooler times of the day. The object of using a baiting method is to get the ants to take the bait into the nest and to the queen. A spreader is recommended for larger areas. The fire ant can forage as much as 100 feet from the mound. That would be equivalent to 5 miles for a human. By damaging the ant mound, the ants think that they are being attacked and move the colony to another location.



There are two species of imported fire ants, the red fire ant, (*Solenopsis invicta* Buren), and the black fire ant, (*Solenopsis richteri* Forel). Biological control organisms kill fire ants in their native South America but have only recently been brought to the U.S. The effectiveness of these biological control organisms is currently being tested in Florida. My favorite is the decapitating fly of the genus *Pseudacteon*. Female flies lay an egg in an ant. The maggot eats its way into the fire ant head, causing the head to fall off. Adult flies mature and emerge from the

severed head and attack other fire ants. (Take that Alien monster). Another method is a virus which is not nearly as dramatic as the decapitating fly.

Believe it or not, fire ants do have a beneficial purpose in the environment by controlling other pests. It turns out fire ants prey on flea larvae, chinch bugs, cockroach eggs, ticks and more. The problem is that the ants can be a more significant problem than the other pests. Their bites are painful and can lead to other medical issues.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh059> - for rates of application and more detail.

<http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn-and-garden/fire-ants/> ~

Fun Facts about Fire Ants

- Fire Ants were accidentally brought into this country on a cargo boat from South America. Since arriving in Alabama, fire ants have spread aggressively, though they remain primarily in the South and Southeast because northern soil temperatures make it tough to survive the winters.
- Fire ants live in colonies, which can contain over 200,000 ants.
- Fire ant colonies are typically comprised of female worker ants and one queen, who is responsible for laying the eggs.
- Workers create underground tunnels that can extend up to 25 feet away from the mound.
- The fire ant lifecycle has four stages. Fire ants begin as eggs, which become larvae when hatched. Next, they transition to pupae and finally grow into adult ants.
- Fire ants feed on a wide range of foods including insects, honeydew, plant nectar, seeds, fruits, and dead animals. They are highly attracted to foods high in fat.

It can take several months for a colony to grow a mound that is large enough to be visible.





April—Time to Get Active!

(Note: All future planning can change presently. If in doubt, verify the date and times are accurate.)

Get into Gardening every Tuesday by helping at the FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Nursery Workdays 9am-12noon. Kid-friendly.

Email us for further info and schedule.



Hike Schedule

April 4, 2018 - Ulumay Sanctuary, meet at Sam's Club in Cocoa at I-95 and Hwy 520 at 8:30 am. For more info, goto http://www.brevardparks.com/historic/hist_ulumay.php

April 11, 2018 - Tosohatchee North 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.

April 18, 2018 - Enchanted Forest. Meet at West Entrance of Lowe's parking lot at I-95 and Hwy 50 in Titusville at 8:30 am.

April 25, 2018 - South Beaches. Meet at Sams Discount Club at 4255 West New Haven in Melbourne at 8:30 am.

For more information on the hikes or the upcoming schedule email jescoffier@aol.com

If you would like your event listed here for our members to see please email us at searocketfnps@gmail.com



For a comprehensive view of Sea Rocket activities go to <https://www.facebook.com/searocketchapter/>

A Primer on Florida Palms

I have always wondered about Florida palm trees. You see so many being planted each year and such a large variety in our area. What is the scoop are they native to Florida? I found the following information on a blog from Florida Native Plant Society blog page from their blog February 28, 2011. I found it very helpful, I hope you do too.



Florida's Palms

What would the Florida landscape be without our palm trees? Those gracefully curved trunks and topknots of fronds are mainstays of any tropical setting. While many palms serve as trees in the landscape, they are not true trees, botanically speaking, because they don't have a cambium layer under a coating of bark and cannot develop annual layers of wood like actual trees. Palms are monocots and are more like grasses. A cross-section of a palm shows a curly or random fibrous grain rather than annual rings. This arrangement of woody tissue is usually quite flexible, making palms an excellent choice for wind tolerant landscaping.



A palm cross section shows that there are no annual rings and no true wood—just a fibrous mass

After a palm seed sprouts, the plant goes into the establishment phase for several years when it looks and behaves like a shrubby palmetto. This time is necessary for the development of its growing tip and for the establishment of the tree trunk's diameter prior to its vertical growth. Once its trunk is established, then the palm starts growing vertically. The trunk doesn't increase much in girth thereafter. Almost all of the cabbage palms used for landscape plantings are transplants from the wild, because they take so long to get started.

Palm vs. Palmetto

The cabbage palm ([*Sabal palmetto*](#)), our state tree, is closely related to the blue palmetto ([*S. minor*](#)), but not the saw palmetto ([*Serenoa repens*](#)), which belongs to a different genus. The scientific name of the cabbage palm, which includes the term "palmetto," confuses the issue of palm vs. palmetto. Generally, a palmetto is a shrubby plant. The trunk of a mature palmetto isn't usually vertical for more than few feet. The fibrous palmetto trunk grows either underground or it lies on top of the soil while palms eventually develop vertical trunks. While a palm tree will look much like a palmetto while it develops a trunk, you can identify whether it's a palmetto or a palm by the shape of the fronds.

The cabbage palm ([*Sabal palmetto*](#)), our state tree, is closely related to the blue palmetto ([*S. minor*](#)), but not the saw palmetto ([*Serenoa repens*](#)), which belongs to



Saw Palmetto

To read more go to: <http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/2011/02/floridas-palms.html>



Community Corner

Happenings About Town



Friday, April 20, 6 to 8 pm. Earth Day Sip-n-Stroll with the Marine Resources Center

Celebrate Earth Day at Rockledge Gardens! Enjoy music, complimentary cocktails, food trucks, and special discounts—plus, get to know the folks helping to save our lagoon with the Marine Resources Council!

In an effort to make this event as earth-friendly as possible, we ask that you bring your own reusable cup. If you don't bring one, mason jars will be available for \$2 each; all proceeds from mason jars and raffle ticket sales go to the Marine Resources Council! Free admission. RSVP at [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).

Brown Bag Lunch: Composting with Worms

Please join us at Marine Resource Center's Ted Moorhead Lagoon House

Tuesday, April 3, 2018 @ 12 pm, for an educational lunchtime learning seminar on low-impact development and green infrastructure.

The presenter will be Lila Gilberts, Florida Master Gardener.

When Tue Apr 3, 2018 12pm – 1pm Eastern Time

The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Education Center
444 Columbia Blvd, Titusville, FL 32780 321-264-5185

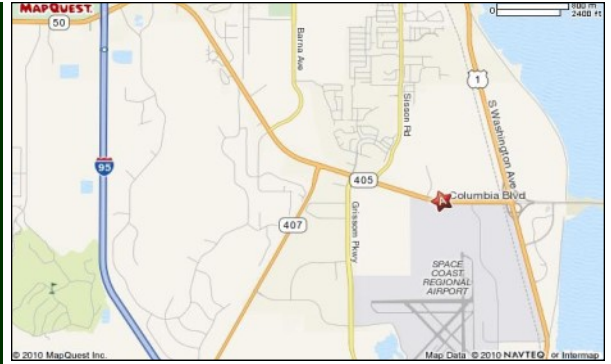


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

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 Meeting
On April 25 at 6:30 pm
Kaylyn Palmer
Keep Brevard Beautiful "Lagoon Friendly Lawns",
www.fnps.org



Renewal!

Resurrection Fern (*Pleopeltis michauxiana*) by and in memory of Dr. Marjorie Brown

May 17—20, 2018
Miccosukee Resort in Miami
<http://fnps.org/conference/registration>

The Florida Native Plant Society's 38th Annual Conference

"Renewal"

Sea Rocket Chapter April Board meeting will be held on April 10 at 5:30 pm. The meeting will be held at New York New York. All members are welcome to attend.

FNPS ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

To Register or for more information on the FNPS Annual Conference go to: <http://fnps.org/conference/2018>