



Sea Rocket



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

November 2018

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

Don't miss the monthly General Meeting: "Bats in my Florida backyard"

Florida's bats are fighting to survive and despite their protected status, many people still unjustly persecute them because of myth and misconceptions.

Join us for our monthly program on November 28th which focuses on Florida's backyard bats and dispels the myths that have long been associated with these important mammals. Discussion will include the important environmental services that bats provide to habitats and humans alike, conservation strategies, and simple steps that anyone can take to help these beneficial mammals. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet live Florida bats after the program. We meet at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. Social time at 6:30 pm. Meeting begins at 7 pm.

Shari is a passionate conservationist and a long-time member of Bat Conservation International, the Florida Bat Conservancy, the Florida Native Plant Society, and Xerces Society. Currently Shari is the president of the Florida Bat Conservancy, and in 2009 she formed Bat Belfrys, a privately funded conservation organization.



Have you seen this sign?

What does it mean?

See inside for details.....



Find us on Facebook

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

October General Meeting Information

Step-by-Step to a Florida Native Landscape.

Presenter: Ginny Stibolt

Author and Botanist, Ginny Stibolt moved to North Florida in 2004 where she taught herself a whole new way to garden. She began writing a column called "Adventures of a Transplanted Gardener" to share her experiences. As a member of FNPS she soon changed her thinking on what could grow to what belongs here.

Her presentation was well received at the October meeting. In case you missed it you can access it on the FNPS website at:
<https://fnps.org/assets/pdf/pubs/whynativelandscapesfnps2018.pdf>



November Meeting: "Florida bats in my back yard"

Call for Research Track Papers and Poster Presentations



Florida Native Plant Society 2019 Conference

**Abstract Deadline: February
1, 2019**

The Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference will be held at the Plantation on Crystal River, Crystal River, Florida, May 16-19, 2019.

The Research Track of the Conference will include presented papers and a poster session on Friday May 17 and Saturday May 18.

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, 2019. Include title, affiliation, and address.

Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.



RED TIDE UPDATE

From Keep Brevard Beautiful (KBB)

Due to the ongoing Red Tide issues, fish are washing ashore on the South Beaches. Keep Brevard Beautiful is looking for volunteers to help clean up dead fish.

Contact KBB at 321-631-0501 for more information or check out their website at: <http://keepbrevardbeautiful.org/blog/red-tide-update>



November Outings

Sea Rocket Chapter General Meetings are the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. Social time begins at 6:30 pm. Meeting begins at 7 pm.

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 - Fox Lake November 14th

For this hike, we will meet at Lowe's in Titusville on Highway 50 just off I-95 at 8:30 AM or if you want to meet at the trailhead, it's only a couple miles drive and we should be there a bit before nine. From Lowe's Parking lot at Hwy 50 and I-95, Depart from the south entrance onto Hwy 50, make a U-turn and head east on Hwy. 50 a short way to South Street, (Hwy 405), take South Street north, (turn left), two miles to Fox Lake Road. Turn left on Fox Lake Road and drive over I-95 to the end in the park. Park just west of the boat ramp. The trail starts just past the ramp, look for the kiosk, and it's a 4.25 mile loop through a variety of systems.

Don't forget to wear long pants, and bring sunscreen and bug spray, in case you need it. The majority of the hike will be in shaded areas, but there will be long stretches out under the full sky when we are on open roads and scrub brush areas.

For more info, goto <http://www.outintheboonies.com>

GPS for meeting place is N28 33.294' W80 50.958', for the trailhead is N28 35.317' W80 52.491'



Community Corner

Happenings About Town



[Playalinda Brewing Company](#) and [Keep Brevard Beautiful, Inc.](#) are teaming up to do a cleanup at Playalinda Beach with sign up at Lot #3 on November 7 from 2:30 – 4:00 PM!

The Playalinda Brewing Company are celebrating [Big Swells Brewed Here: 4th Anniversary Party](#) on the following Saturday Nov 10th, so after the cleanup on the 7th any volunteers are invited to attend the after party at the Hardware Store and join in on a complimentary nacho bar!



Native Rhythms Festival

November 9 - 11, 2018 at Wickham Park Melbourne, Florida

Native American, World Cultural Music and Arts & Crafts

Day & Evening Concerts, Food, Jewelry,

Drums, Workshops

FREE Admission - Family Friendly Event

Please visit the event website for details:

www.NativeRhythmsFestival.com



Scan QR code For Website



Scan QR code For Facebook



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

My Fall Meadow

By David Humphrey

Unlike most if not all my neighbors my Right of Way (ROW) is in native plants.



The Whitehead broom or Southern larraflower is not native to Florida but is to South America. There is a reason I keep several of these plants in my native landscape. The whitehead broom (*Spermacoce verticillata*) and partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*) are pollen sources for the Larra bicolor wasp. Drilling in deeper the Larra Bicolor wasp also called the mole cricket hunter is predatory on the mole cricket, which can cause significant economic loss.

Not shown are:

Rayless sunflowers (*Helianthus radula*);

Starry Rosinweed (*Silphium asteriscus*);

Narrowleaf sunflower (*Vernonia angustifolia*), and the Lopsided Indian grass (*Sorghastrum secundum*).

And this is my ROW.

The Larra Bicolor Wasp

Larra bicolor is not native to Florida but came here from South America, where it is widespread.

The population that now exists in the Ft. Lauderdale area originated from Belém, Brazil (by way of Puerto Rico).

The population that exists in many counties of northern and central Florida originated from Bolivia. Its hosts are the pest *Neoscapteriscus* mole crickets whose origin, likewise, is South America.

Three species of *Neoscapteriscus* - *Neoscapteriscus abbreviatus* Scudder, *Neoscapteriscus borellii* Gigliot-Tos, and *Neoscapteriscus vicinus* Scudder occur in Florida, and all are attacked by *Larra bicolor*.



Harvest Festival and Sea Rocket Plant Sale

Don't Miss our Plant Sale
November 3rd
At the Harvest Festival



- Blue Curl
- Large Flowering Mint
- Skullcap
- Blue Eyed Grass
- Cutleaf Coneflower
- Seaside Goldenrod
- Rosinflower
- Tropical Sage
- Black Eyed Susan
- Coreopsis leavenworthii
- Stokes Aster
- Blue Porterweed
- Beach Verbena
- Coral Honeysuckle
- Privet Senna

Some of the plant varieties Available.

Please let us know if you can volunteer and help with the sale. Thank you!

And they celebrated Native Plant Month!



Several chapters and organizations congregate every year to celebrate Native Plant Month in October.

SeaRocket President Lois, Janina and Kate enjoyed the festivities and programs.



A bittersweet story of life, death, life Or Nature Recycles

By David Humphrey



As reported by the [Business Insider](#) in August 2018 a herd of over 300 reindeer were killed by lightning in Norway. Scientists studied the scene leaving the carcasses where they were. Soon enough the scavengers arrived to do what scavengers do, clean-up the mess. It was the mess the scavengers left behind where this story begins.

After the lightning, after the scientist took what they wanted, the ravens and crows, primary scavengers at this latitude all have a part to play. Poop. This story is full of poop from all the animals up and down the food chain that participated in the cleanup operations. Now Botanists are finding new plant species growing in what is called a decomposition island. The chemistry of decomposition has changed the characteristics of the soil, discouraging resident plants from growing and encouraging new plants to grow. Researchers have found crowberry seeds on site. The crowberry* (*Empetrum nigrum*) is a Keystone species of the tundra. Keystone species are described "as having a disproportionately large effect on its environment relative to its abundance." The decomposition island is supporting new plant life, increasing the plant diversity in this area. Predators and scavengers will return to pick around and eat the new supply of crowberries. These animals will continue to leave new seeds behind theoretically changing the "decomposition island" forever.

***Crowberry**, (genus [Empetrum](#)), a genus of three species of low evergreen shrubs of the heath family (Ericaceae). The plants thrive in subarctic, alpine, and boreal regions and produce juicy edible fruits that are somewhat acidic in taste.



Join the "Highway Squad"

The Sea Rocket Chapter has adopted a section of Columbia Blvd.

Have you seen the signs?

We had our first outing to pick up litter. Thank you to the volunteers that came out and helped with this community project. Check out Janina's article on [fnps.org](#).

We need volunteers to help out in keeping this section of the highway litter free. Our next pickup is in February. We hope to see you then.

Contact Janina Shoemaker (janina13@cfl.rr.com) to **volunteer** and get involved in this great community event which will bring awareness to the SeaRocket chapter.

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 Sea Rocket Chapter



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 September Board meeting will be held on
November 13 at 5:30 pm.

The meeting will be held at New York New York

All members are welcome to attend.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend.



We are partnering with our bank through an affinity membership.



If you bank at the TD bank or wish to open an account at the TD bank our chapter will receive a donation from the bank.

For more information email your Board at:

searocketfnps@gmail.com

Be sure to check out the bi-monthly newsletter of the
Florida Native Plant Society

Located online at : <http://fnps.org/resources/sabalminor>

