



Sea Rocket



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

December 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

President

Lois Harris

Vice President

Jim Robey

Treasurer

Karen Lyle

Secretary

Molly Traugott

Chapter Representative

Vacant

Committees

Membership

Kate Chiodini

Education/Outreach

Janina Shoemaker

Special Media / Marketing

Kate Chiodini

Nursery

Lois Harris

Hike Leader

Paul Schmalzer, PhD

Newsletter

Cheryl Tyson

Hospitality

Armand De Filippo



Merry Christmas and Season's Greetings from
all of us at the SeaRocket Chapter



Callicarpa americana
Beautyberry

To contact us by email:
searocketfnps@gmail.com



Find us on Facebook

For a comprehensive view of Sea Rocket activities

December Doings



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.



December 5, 2018 - DAY HIKE ON THE ECON RIVER TRAIL

Join us for a hike on the Econ River Barr Street to Lockwood Blvd. Trail, Let's meet at Lone cabbage at 8:30 AM for the 30 mile drive to the trailhead on Barr St. in Oviedo. If you want to meet at the trailhead, we should be there a bit before 9:30, click map link below for directions. Be aware that there is a two dollar per person fee to enter the trail. The trail will be a bit over five miles almost all shaded. There are a lot of exposed roots and a couple of damaged bridges. We usually have lunch along the river on the way back so bring lunch, snacks and something to drink.

For more info, call 321-453-1586 or Send e-mail to jescoffier at aol.com

log onto <http://jjehiketwm.blogspot.com/> for a trail map.

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

A complete Wednesday Hike schedule is at <http://jjehikesced.blogspot.com/>

Some thoughts from the trail, click on: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/Zm4ZXh7AeSdn1bFU9>

The trail directions site is: <http://jjehike.blogspot.com/>

The next hike will be December 12 on the Black Bear Wilderness Trail.

Upcoming activities:

Upcoming hikes are listed on the Space Coast Meetup Group web page:

<http://www.meetup.com/SpaceCoastHiking/>

Every Saturday, 45 minute guided hike at Enchanted Forest Sanctuary at 10:00AM.

DIRECTIONS TO ECON RIVER TRAIL BARR STREET TRAILHEAD

From Lowe's on Hwy 50 and I-95, take 50 West all the way through Bithlo to Hwy 419. Turn right on 419 through Chuluota across the Econ River. At the traffic light turn right on Lockwood Road. Continue to the end of Lockwood Road and turn right on hwy 426 about 0.75 miles to Barr Street. Park in the Parking area on the right side of the road. The trail is a bit over four miles total along the river and back. There is a two dollar per person fee to enter the trail.



Gary Wasserman and Janine Homery are planning to lead a hike on the Black Bear Wilderness north of Sanford on Wednesday, December 12.

For this hike, we will be at Lowes Lowe's in Titusville on hwy 50 just off I-95 at 8:30 AM. The drive is about 45 miles so we should be at the trailhead at about 9:30.

With the long drive and a seven mile hike it will probably be afternoon when we complete the trail but I'm told that there is a first class pizza joint in the area so it will be optional to bring a lunch or raid the pizza joint. In any case, bring snacks and something to drink.

Hike Rating: Moderate to difficult

DIRECTIONS TO THE BLACK BEAR WILDERNESS AREA

From Lowe's Parking lot at hwy 50 and I-95, take I-95 North to the Hwy. 46 exit North of Titusville. Take Hwy 46 West about 35 to Sanford, follow hwy 46 as it wiggles through Sanford and continues west past Sanford. Shortly after passing I-4 find hwy. 431 (Orange Blvd.) Turn right on 431 and drive about 1.3 miles to New York St. Turn left on New York St. and the trailhead will be at the intersection with Michigan St. For more info, goto

<http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/core/fileparse.php/34/urlt/2015-BBWA-Trail-Guide.pdf>

GPS for meetingplace is N28 33.294' W80 50.958', for the trailhead is N28 49.963' W81 21.233'

Details: 7.1-mile Black Bear Wilderness Loop Trail

From the parking area follow the blue blazes on an approximate 7.1 mile loop trail along the St. Johns River. It follows a series of levees out to the St. Johns River and back around to the original route. The trail is mostly in the shade and perched atop the levees, often high above the marshes, canals, and forests, but sometimes right down at their level. Several boardwalks provide passage over wet areas and if you're quiet you may be fortunate enough to observe species such as River Otter, American Alligator and maybe even a Black Bear. This is a remote trail over rough, uneven terrain, where emergency access is very limited. You will encounter slopes, tree roots and holes (animal burrows) so we recommend you wear appropriate hiking shoes, bring water, a hat and bug spray. A hiking stick is must. This route requires a commitment to complete the entire loop. There are no shortcuts, although there is a primitive campsite halfway along the loop. This is certainly one of the region's most beautiful hikes

Did You Know's from the November 28th General Meeting

The December General Meeting will be held at Lois Harris' home on Merritt Island.

Our January 23rd speaker will be Clifton Best owner of CL Best Bees, LLC. Clifton will be speaking on bees, the honey bee being only one of the over 300 species of bees in Florida.

Sea Rocket was proud to have Shari Blissett-Clark as our guest speaker. Shari has been a strong advocate for bats for many years and is encyclopedic in her knowledge of bats both in Florida and beyond.

Did you Know...

- There are more than 1400 species of bats throughout the world
- Bats are not rodents, not even remotely. Bats are more closely related to primates than anything else.
- Bats account for 6% of the mammals on Earth.
- We have invasive reptiles, plants, and mammals, but there are no invasive bat species in Florida.
- There remain fossil evidence that bats have remained basically unchanged for the last 60 million years.
- Bats are fast! Some have been clocked at 90 mph. Wait for it...bats are not blind!

Community Corner

Happenings About Town

You're Invited!

*FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter
Annual Holiday Dinner*

Lois & Richard Harris' - Home

Sunday, December 9, 2018

Garden tour 3:00pm

Canapes at 4:00pm ~ Dinner at 5:00pm

*Please RSVP, receive address information and
tell us what side dish you are bringing -
by Tuesday, December 4th*

To: lois6459@att.net / 321-277-5741

Pot Luck

Sea Rocket - Turkey & Ham

BYOB, Ice Tea provided

*Please join us
To Celebrate the Holidays*

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



Scottsmore Flatwoods Sanctuary Field Trip

Saturday, December 8th, 2018. From 0900 am to 1200 noon

Dr. Paul Schmalzer will be hosting

Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary. This is a 2008 acquisition by the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program with assistance from The Nature Conservancy. Vegetation is primarily scrubby flatwoods, mesic flatwoods, cypress strand, hammocks, and marshes. Prescribed burning has been conducted since acquisition.

Directions:

Meeting site is Parrish Park (Brevard County) which is about in the center of the eastern section of the Sanctuary.

Take I-95 North to Exit 231 (County Road 5A/Stuckway Road). Go right (East) on CR-5A about 1 mile to US 1. Go right (South) on US 1 about 1.1 mile to Magoon Road. Go right (West) on Magoon Road to the end (about 0.2 mile). Parking is available at the county park.

Bring hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent.



Smilax – a Thorny subject

By David Humphrey

In [Greek mythology](#), *Smilax* was a wood nymph that was transformed into a bramble after the love of a mortal man named Crocus (Greek for Saffron) was unfulfilled and tragic. Her final form in this fable was a reflection of her character (Thorny? Clingy? Mmmm!)



Smilax tamnoides or
Bushy Green brier

Smilax spp. May not be on your most admired plant list but then we still must deal with it. In [Florida](#) there are 12 species of *Smilax* generally called Greenbrier, but with many other common names. Worldwide there are some 350 varieties of *Smilax*. In the tale of Brer Rabbit and Brer Fox, (as told by [Uncle Remus](#)) the Brer Rabbit was pleading for his life. He said, “*Please brother fox, please, please, please don’t throw me in that briar patch.*” True to fact *Smilax* could have been that briar patch. Brer Rabbit, having been raised in a briar patch, knew that greenbrier does indeed provide impenetrable cover for small mammals, and birds. *Smilax* has a lighter side as well. Its blooms attract pollinators and fall berries that

feed birds. *Smilax* provides human foragers another [food source](#) to consider as well.

As to survival, *Smilax* is a professional. The rhizome stores energy to renew any above ground structures destroyed by fire or chemicals or mechanical means. The rhizome can grow to be quite large, in terms of several pounds. They can survive drought as well as flooding. The seeds are eaten by birds and then are dropped elsewhere to germinate. *Smilax* likes moist, acidic woodland soils in partial sun to full Florida heat.

If *Smilax* grows in a flat area with no supporting trees or bushes, it will form a mat or better a briar patch that will defy a person passage through (like in *Sleeping Beauty*). The vine is as tough as a wire rope. It will also climb up and cover the tallest trees if available, in some cases smothering the supporting tree.

Control involves digging the rhizomes out of the ground, all of it. Chemicals applied have little effect and rarely affect the rhizome. One site suggested regularly cutting the vine to the ground. This will limit the food supplied to the rhizome and **in time** will dry the rhizome up. Another suggestion by a frustrated landowner is to get a goat. For more information on Florida specific varieties go to this [UF/IFAS](#) (Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences) site for more on this Florida native.

Save the Warea Area - Donate for Land Acquisition

FNPS ACTION ITEM—November 04, 2018

Please help us preserve an important corridor of intact Longleaf Pine Sandhill (The Warea Area) that connects publically-protected lands and is home to 1 of only 2 large populations of *Warea amplexifolia* (Clasping Warea). Peruse our photo collection of the area [here](#).

Your donation will be used to purchase properties in the Warea Area corridor. To date, your donations have helped us and our partner Putnam Land Conservancy to acquire 6 properties within the corridor. Our goal for 2019 is 50 acres! [Donate Here!](#)

Restoring Dignity to an abandoned Veterans Cemetery

Photo and Story by Janina Shoemaker



Earlier this year, FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter, Titusville, accepted an invitation to help restore dignity and beauty to an abandoned veterans cemetery. In 2017, several retired vets challenged a group of American Legion and VFW veterans to clean up debris and restore the grounds where 127 graves had been all but forgotten, and the group reached a point when they needed landscape design.

Sea Rocket Outreach chair Janina Shoemaker recruited President Lois Harris to counsel the [501(c)] organization,

and two proposed designs were quickly offered. Native plants were encouraged, as well as Florida Friendly, and the Friends of the Cemetery followed through with planting parties.

Previously, excavation had been done, and volunteers from service organizations, including two Boy Scouts doing Eagle projects, moved sand, soil, and pebbles, dug out and built sidewalks, garden plots, and laid plastic between plaques where cremains had been buried.

More donations: trees, shrubs, and flowers, a surround chain link fence, an irrigation system. And the volunteers came in shifts to lay sod, install benches, a sound system.

In May, 2018, on Memorial Day itself, the Veterans Cemetery welcomed the public to a sunny flag waving ceremony complete with an honor guard presenting the colors, a 21-gun salute, and a bugler playing Taps. In November, on Veterans Day, another beautiful weather day, the invited audience doubled in size. And on December 15, Wreaths Across America will again invite the public to honor the men and women buried here as we place Christmas wreaths on every marker.

On Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 11:30am the event will start with the delivery of the wreaths to the Veterans Cemetery at 1143 Day Street. Wreaths will be placed on every marker and a brief ceremony will follow. Bring chairs and remember there are no facilities. Open to the public.

Sea Rocket is proud to be a part of this living memorial as we remember and honor all who serve.

Did you know that insects see differently than humans?

Opinion by David Humphrey

What we see in a pampered monoculture yard This landscape will need abundant water, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, a lot of money, and sweat equity.



What a pollinator sees

in a pampered monoculture yard. Needing abundant water, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, a lot of money, and sweat equity.

But we, as native plant enthusiasts can actually help! We can help the pollinators who work tirelessly to provide us food. We can help save the waterways by naturally filtering the runoff and by limiting chemical runoff into the lagoon. We can help the billions or trillions of microbes, fungus colonies, and arthropods by providing them a large variety of plant material or biodiversity. If the soil, which is living, dies the plants that feed on it will die. If the plants die the pollinators and so many other beneficial insect leave, leaving humans open to nature's ill will. Everything in nature is connected. Break the weakest link and the time tested and proven system starts to fail.

What we see in a bio-diverse native landscape. This landscape needs to be seen and appreciated and mostly left on it own to grow and flower.



What a pollinator sees
In a native bio-diverse
Landscape.

The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Education Center

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

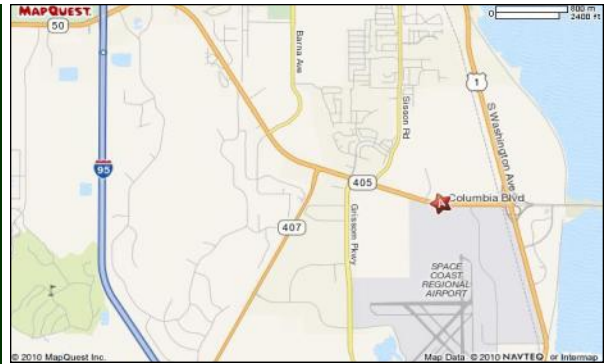


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

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

The Sea Rocket Chapter Board meeting will be held on
December 11 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.

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. Schmal-

Be sure to check out the bi-monthly newsletter of the

Florida Native Plant Society

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

