



# Sea Rocket



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

April 2019

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

Kate Chiodini

### Vice President

Lois Harris

### Treasurer

*Needed*

### Secretary

David Humphrey  
(interim)

### Chapter Representative

Vacant

### Committees

#### Membership

Lois Harris

#### Education/Outreach

Janina Shoemaker

#### Special Media / Marketing

Kate Chiodini

#### Nursery

Lois Harris

#### Hike Leader

Paul Schmalzer, PhD

#### Newsletter

David Humphrey  
(interim)

#### Hospitality

Armand De Filippo

To contact us by email:  
[searocketfnps@gmail.com](mailto:searocketfnps@gmail.com)



## Garden Tour APRIL 27

**Volunteers for the Sea Rocket Garden Tour will receive a free T-shirt with the FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter logo stenciled on it.**

**For further information contact Janina Shoemaker by email at [janina13@cfl.rr.com](mailto:janina13@cfl.rr.com)**

Our April 24th speaker will be Kaylyn Palmer of Keep Brevard Beautiful speaking on The KBB initiative for creating a "Lagoon Friendly Lawn".

# April 2019 Doings and Wing-dings

**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.

- April 3**      **FTA—Shiloh Marsh.** Meet at Lowe's Titusville Hwy 50 and I-95 at 8:30 am
- April 6**      **Work day at the Enchanted Forest** in preparation for the first Annual Garden Tour. Help us beautify the Butterfly Gardens to show off native landscaping ideas.
- April 8**      **Florida Native Plant Society Conference Registration Opens** CRYSTAL RIVER, CITRUS COUNTY, FL, March 8th, 2019. Contact for Information: Valerie Anderson, Director of Communications and Programming; **Phone: 386.852.2539**  
**Email: [communications@fnps.org](mailto:communications@fnps.org)**
- April 10**     **Florida Gopher Tortoise Day**
- April 11**     **Outreach event—Earth Day at KSC.** Volunteers needed. KSC has a badging requirement. For further information contact Janina Shoemaker by email at: [janina13@cfl.rr.com](mailto:janina13@cfl.rr.com)
- April 16**     **Do not conduct a bat exclusion during the maternity season.** It is illegal to knowingly conduct a bat exclusion during the maternity season, which in Florida is defined as April 16 through August 14. The maternity season is the period of time that mothers give birth to their young and nurture them to adulthood. [Reference](#)
- April 17**     **FTA—Enchanted Forest Sanctuary.** Meet at Lowe's Titusville Hwy 50 and I-95 at 8:30 am
- April 20**     **Outreach Event—Earth Day at Enchanted Forest, and Sea rocket Native Plant Sale.** For further information contact Janina Shoemaker by email at [janina13@cfl.rr.com](mailto:janina13@cfl.rr.com)
- April 20**     **Outreach Event—Adopt a Highway. Volunteers needed.** For further information contact Janina Shoemaker by email at [janina13@cfl.rr.com](mailto:janina13@cfl.rr.com)
- April 24**     **Outreach Event—Earth Day at Northrup in Melbourne. Volunteers needed.** Northrup has a badging requirement. Located at 2000 W NASA Blvd, Melbourne . For further information contact Janina Shoemaker by email at [janina13@cfl.rr.com](mailto:janina13@cfl.rr.com)
- April 24**     **Sea Rocket General Meeting with Kaylyn Palmer of KBB** speaking on creating and maintaining a “Lagoon Friendly Lawn.”
- April 27**     **Outreach Event—First Annual Sea Rocket Garden Tour.** There are 6 private gardens listed and 2 commercial properties. For further information contact Janina Shoemaker by email at [janina13@cfl.rr.com](mailto:janina13@cfl.rr.com)

Sea Rocket Chapter  
General Meeting Agenda 2-27-19

Board Members present: Kate Chiodini, Lois Harris, Karen Lyle, David Humphrey, Janina Shoemaker, Dr. Paul Schmalzer, Molly Traugott

Guests: 7

**Welcome New Members – Call to Order: 7:00 pm**

**BUSINESS:**

**Approval of January General Meeting Minutes as printed in February newsletter:** There was a motion to approve the January General Meeting Minutes and it was seconded and approved by the membership

**Treasurer Report:** Karen Lyle, \$ 4,960.89 checking; \$ 2,754.03 saving, \$ 7,714.92 total

**Approval of 2019 Budget-** There was a motion to approve the 2019 budget, it was seconded and approved by the membership

**ELECTION BOD:** President – Kate Chiodini, Vice President – Lois Harris, Secretary - NEED, Treasurer - NEED, Newsletter Editor- NEED **This is your Chapter (all Volunteers) – Please Get Involved!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Motion to approve Kate Chiodini for President and Lois Harris for Vice President is seconded and approved by the membership**

**Refreshments** – Armand De Filippo,

– Thank you for providing these snacks for our enjoyment. Thanks to Mary and Bill who brought cheese and grapes, and David who brought snickerdoodles. Lois brought brownies and tea.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Hike March** –Dr. Paul Schmalzer- There will be a hike with Dr. Schmalzer at Fox Lake Sanctuary on March 30 from 9 am to noon. Ron will be leading another Wild Citrus Walk on March 9 at 9 am and there is a sign-up sheet for the walk with Patty at Enchanted Forest Sanctuary if anyone is interested in attending.

**March Newsletter:** David H. **Still need a Newsletter Chair**, is accepting articles, photos, questions or other member ideas to be published in our newsletter. Deadline for submittal is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month, sent to

**FNPS Conference (May 16-19, 2019) Plantation on Crystal River**

**EVENTS:**

**March 9<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> possibly 24<sup>th</sup>...** maintenance &/or prep areas of the gardens for planting

**April 20**, Enchanted Forest Earth Day Celebration

**April 27**, Sea Rocket Garden Tour

**OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Adopt-A-Highway:** The walk to pick up trash has been found to be difficult to accomplish comfortably in one walk. We have decided to split up the hike into two sessions which will mean more trips to pick up trash (8 total for the year), but they will be easier walks. The pickup on 2/23 was a nice haul and we filled two trash bags completely after doing the first half of the area we are responsible for and we saw many wildflowers including some nice native plants. There were also many pollinators present and it made for a fun time with others sharing their knowledge on the nature we were seeing. The team was Janina, David, Elizabeth, Patti, Barbara and Molly

**March speaker: Sally Scalera, Residential Horticulturist with Brevard Co. – “Soil”**

FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting was adjourned at 9 pm

**(Continued next page)**

## Sea Rocket Chapter General Meeting Agenda 2-27-19 (continued page 3)

**Guest Speakers** – Tim Harrison has a Bachelor's in Conservation Ecology from Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah Ga. where he studied the interactions between plant and animal species in the natural ecosystems of coastal Georgia and Florida. Since 2005 he has worked as a Lab Technician for Agriculture research at UGA, Landscape Designer and Horticulturist and Eco-Tour Guide. In 2015 he and his partner Anna created Native Butterfly Flowers, a native plant nursery and pollinator landscaping company.

Anna Hutson has a Bachelor's in Forest Management and Conservation from UF Gainesville. She has worked as an Eco-Tour Guide, an Environmental Educator in Brevard County after school programs and volunteered for Alachua Conservation Trust as an Environmental Educator. Educating the next generation is very important to her and in 2015 with her partner Tim created Native Butterfly Flowers in order to bring environmental awareness to typical landscaping practices.

Tim and Anna grow and sell Florida Native Plants and design landscapes with creating habitat as a major goal. Our mission is to provide Florida Native Plants to the public, to help people convert their yards into healthy useful and eco-friendly landscapes and bring environmental awareness through outreach and education. We strive to provide beautiful plants and landscapes for you, your neighbors and the birds, bees, butterflies and all the other creatures.

We sell our plants at Farmer's Markets and Festivals in Brevard and Indian River Counties. First Friday of the month at Viera Market from 3-7pm, Oceanside Farmer's Market every Saturday from 8 am to 12

During the presentation we learned about many different Florida natives and how important they are for creating habitats for our pollinators and birds.

### First Annual Sea Rocket Garden Tour

Tickets are on sale NOW! Sea Rocket Members are selling tickets as well as certain businesses around Brevard for \$10 each. The businesses to purchase a ticket are:



- Enchanted Forest Gift Shop,
- Rockledge Gardens,
- Greens Grocery in Cocoa,
- Ace hardware in Cocoa Beach,
- Growing Crazy in Titusville,
- Ace Hardware in Titusville,
- Maple Street Natives,
- Audubon Society members

**What to expect:** Each Garden will have a volunteer who will check off your ticket. We have planned the tour as a self-guided tour. Each station will have ice cold water available for a small donation. Tickets will be on sale at each station for \$15.00. Parking will be by standard rules of courtesy. We encourage car pooling to save parking and traffic problems.

# Community Corner

Happenings About Town

## Recycling Mantra...

**“When in doubt, throw it out”**

Your link to all things recycle

<https://www.brevardfl.gov/SolidWaste/RecyclingHome>



**FREE!**

# Earth Day Festival and Native Plant Sale

Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

**Saturday, April 20, 2019**  
10:00am - 3:00pm

**Kids Activities, Environmental Exhibitors,  
Native Plant Sale, Live Animals, Local Food Vendors,  
and More!**

444 Columbia Blvd., Titusville, FL 32780 • 321.264.5185  
[www.eelbrevard.com](http://www.eelbrevard.com)

The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Management & Education Center was created and is managed under Brevard County's Environmentally Endangered Lands Program referendum. The referendum was established by voters in 1990 to protect and preserve the rich biological diversity of Brevard.



### Florida Native Plant Society's 39th Annual Conference "Transitions"

May 16-19, 2019 at the Plantation on Crystal River;  
9301 West Fort Island Trail, Crystal River, FL  
34429

Online registration will be available until May 8, 2019 at the reduced rate of \$85 a day for members and \$120 a day for non-members.

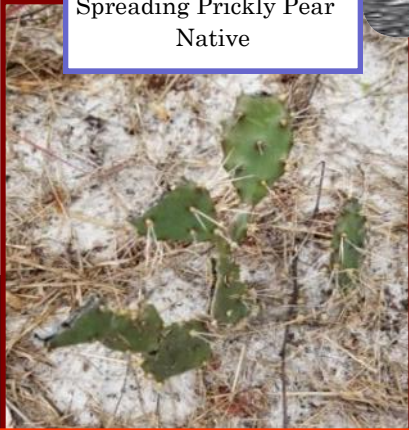
Registration will close from May 9-14, 2019. On-site registration will open Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 4:30 pm and will increase by \$25 per day.

### Wild Citrus Walk (part II)

As was the first Wild Citrus Walk, so also was the second. Ron Chicone was the guide for some 15 people. The hike was about three miles through mostly uncharted territory. I say mostly because parts of the Hernandez Trail and an old citrus road are still existent. Ron took the adventurers back deep into the woods to the location of the old growth oaks and historic heirloom grapefruit trees. Many thanks to Ron Chicone for spearheading this most excellent adventure into Florida's natural past.

# Adopt-a-Highway

Spreading Prickly Pear  
Native



Whitehead Broom  
Non native  
Ecologically important

**Is it a Public Service? Is it a Good Neighbor Activity? Is it a nature hike? It is all of those and more.** Walk along Columbia Blvd (SR405) with naturalists, botanists, and native plant enthusiast for fun, fellowship, education, and exercise, all the while helping to keep Brevard trash free.



Spanish Needle  
Native



**Trash Busters—Bustin' trash**  
One eye sore at a time.



Spiderwort  
Native



Muscadine grape  
Native



Phaon Crescent  
Native



Gopher apple  
Native

# Carnivorous Plants

By David Humphrey



Unlike Audrey II from the movie “Little Shop of Horrors” The Pitcher Plant is quite different in method and appearance. The pitcher plant for this article is based

on the members of the family Sarraceniaceae. There are six native varieties in Florida. Most are threatened or endangered, mostly because of loss of habitat.

The pitcher plant is a perennial growing, almost exclusively in what is referenced as obligate wetlands. Sally Scalera of the Cocoa extension office looked up the definition of ‘Obligate Wetlands’ and gave me this description; “Plants that occur almost always (estimated probability >99%) in wetlands under natural conditions, but which may also occur rarely (estimated probability <1%) in non-wetlands.” Bogs, where the pitcher plant has found its niche in the environment, are notoriously acidic, lacking several important nutrients for ‘normal’ plant life. The pitcher plant has evolved specialized leaves that circumvent the lack of nutrients in the soil. They have developed ‘Pitchers’ or hollow traps that entice insects to the trap and eventually digest the insect by using digestive enzymes. The plant then absorbs the nutrients and lives to eat another day. The traps are marvels of engineering. They secrete nectar that attracts insects. The inside of the trap is slick with a waxy substance that the insects can’t grip. They then fall into the trap. But wait, the trap has hairs inside that grow downwards and inhibit an industrious insect from crawling out of the trap. The insect either drowns in the trap or exhausts itself. Either way the insect ends up in a digestive soup of the plants making. The digested insects provide life giving nitrogen that the plant can not derive from its roots.

Yellow Pitcherplant

Scientific name: *Sarracenia flava*

Other names: Yellow trumpet

Whitetop Pitcherplant

Scientific name: *Sarracenia leucophylla*

Other names: Swamp lily

Hooded Pitcherplant Scientific name: *Sarracenia minor*

Parrot Pitcherplant Scientific name: *Sarracenia psittacina*

Gulf Purple Pitcherplant

Scientific name: *Sarracenia purpurea* syn *S. rosea*

Other names: Decumbent pitcherplant, northern pitcherplant

Gulf Coast Redflower Pitcherplant

Scientific name: *Sarracenia rubra* (ssp. *gulfensis* in the Florida Panhandle)

Other names: Sweet pitcherplant, red pitcherplant

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw378>



Photo by Jim Wright



Gopher tortoises are unique because they are the only land tortoise found east of the Mississippi River. They can live to be more than 60 years old, and have been around for thousands of years. They can be distinguished by their coloring, their feet, and their non protruding beak. Most important, the gopher tortoise is a **keystone species** that over 350 other species may live with or depend on. The **burrows** they dig are home to other animals that would not survive without them, including the endangered Indigo Snake. <http://gophertortoisedayfl.com/fun-facts/>

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

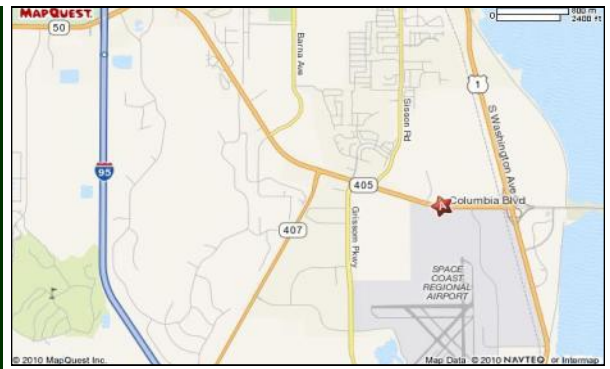


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

**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](mailto:Info@fnps.org)/[www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)

Sea Rocket Chapter mailing address: 444 Columbia Blvd, Titusville, FL 32780

The Sea Rocket Chapter Board meeting will be held on

April 12th at 5:30 pm.

The meeting will be held at Kelsey's Pizza Parlor at Port St. Johns

All members are welcome to attend.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend.



**Blue Eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*)**

Blue eyed grass is another beautiful Florida Native grass. Blue-eyed grass makes a fine border for a garden setting, never growing over one foot tall. It is a natural, and native replacement for Li-rope or mondo grass, both not native to Florida or North America. In the Spring, the Blue-eyed grass comes alive with delicate blue blooms. It likes to be in the full Florida sun, in a moist, not wet, environment. As with other small flowers one bloom does not a flower garden make. Well, blue-eyed

grass does not do moderation. When spring comes blue-eyed grass blooms in a profusion of color from white to purple. They will bring joy to your heart when the Spring bloom occurs.—Dave

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

Florida Native Plant Society

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

