



Sea Rocket



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

DECEMBER 2021

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.

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ELECTIONS ARE COMING

As the 2021 year comes to an end, we can rejoice knowing that our plant sales and general membership meetings have returned. While we still distance ourselves and carry a mask with us, the future is looking bright for Sea Rocket!

With the new year, comes change. Elections for Chapter Officers will be taking place on February 23, 2022 at the General Membership Meeting and results will be announced at that time.

The Board of Directors consists of the Chapter Officers, (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary), the FNPS Chapter Representative, and the Chairperson of each Committee. All Board members serve a one-year term. The Board meets each month on the first Tuesday at 6:00 pm at the Enchanted Forest.

Our Committees have openings for volunteers. The committees currently include Membership, Education & Outreach, Nursery, Hike Leader, Newsletter, Digital Archivist, Social Media, and Hospitality. Committee Chairpersons are Board members, but volunteers can be on a committee without being the Chairperson. All volunteers must be current Sea Rocket members.

If you are interested in ways to further assist the Sea Rocket Chapter, please email our Secretary, Laura Covell, at the following email: srsecretary@fnps.org.



NEWSLETTER DISCLAIMER

The articles written for the Sea Rocket Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society by their members are the views, opinions and shared experiences of the authors. They do not reflect the opinions and beliefs of the Florida Native Plant Society organization.

Freedom 7 “International Day Celebration”

By David Humphrey



Of the many outreach events I have attended, this event was the most impactful.

Why?

Children. From six to fourteen were en masse at the school. I couldn't count the children but there had to have been 150 or more. The celebration was an “International Day” celebration where maybe



40 of the children dressed up according to nationality and marched around the open area. It truly was an international gathering. Lois had given me a bunch of seeds for *Gallardia pulchella* (Blanket flower), *Solidago sempervirens* (Golden Rod), and *Silphium asteriscus* (Starry rosin weed). Patti and I talked with the kids, letting them plant seeds, and explaining what to expect. The kids were like sponges soaking up information that was given to them. I had 50 cups for planting seeds to begin with and maybe 15 remaining. The kids loved planting the seeds. It was a sought after activity. Other organizations were there also representing ecological thought. There were representatives from the Brevard Zoo having the kids color oyster shells which will be bagged and put in the river. KBB was there with trash pickers which the kids could use to keep the place clean, which they did. There were reps from Audubon and Sea Turtle rescues. The playground swing set was full, and all the playground activities teemed with children. There was even a climbing wall there that was well attended. Yes, this outreach was a great success and reached the most important



group of people, the children. It was a lot of work and prep, but the results were more than worth it. I want to thank both Lois for the ideas and seeds, and Patti for filling in for Lois on such a short notice. A big shout out to the Freedom 7 elementary school personnel that provided the tent, tables, and chairs for Sea Rocket. The management of the school program were very appreciative and thanked us several times for participating in this event.



Sea Rocket Newsletter is being emailed to members only beginning January 1st. Please go to <https://searocket.fnpschapters.org/com> and click on the JOIN button to become a member. Newsletters will continue to be posted on our website <https://searocket.fnpschapters.org/>

Field Trip November 13th

Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary Field Trip

Saturday, November 13, 2021 900 am-1200 noon

Eight people attended the field trip to the Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary (Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program) on November 13, 2021.



pondpine

Scottsmoor Flatwoods is one of the larger sanctuaries in the EEL Program network. The eastern section of the sanctuary, with an area of about 1000 acres, supports mesic flatwoods, scrubby flatwoods, and freshwater marshes. In some of the mesic flatwoods (photo), the canopy species is pond pine (*Pinus serotina*). Pond pine is adapted to intense fires. It is the only pine in Florida that sprouts epicormically (from the bark). If a fire burns all the needles off a pond pine, buds protected by the thick bark will sprout (see photo). In addition, at least some of the cones on pond pine remain closed (serotinous) until heated by a fire, so that pine seeds are dispersed post fire.



butterwort



SFS flatwoods

We saw a variety of native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants including two species of insectivorous plants. Pink sundew (*Drosera capillaris*) was present vegetatively and in flower (photo). Sticky, glandular hairs on the sundew may trap small insects, which the plant digests obtaining nitrogen in the process.



sundew

Small butterwort (*Pinguicula pumila*) was present but not in flower

(photo). Minute, sticky hairs on the leaf surface trap small insects. Open conditions maintained by frequent burning are required by these carnivorous plants as is the case for much of the flatwoods' flora.



Mark Your Calendar—Next Field Trip: December 11th

Saturday December 11, 2021 0900-1200

Indian Mound Station Sanctuary. This sanctuary consists of about 148 acres north and south of Parrish Road in Mims, Florida. It was acquired by of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program in 2006 (south, 85 ac) and 2011 (north, 63 ac). Vegetation of the northern section is primarily oak scrub and scrubby flatwoods; the southern section includes oak scrub, scrubby flatwoods, hydric flatwoods, floodplain swamp, and floodplain marsh. The site had been unburned for > 40 years. Timbering, mechanical treatment of scrub vegetation, and prescribed burns have been conducted on the site since acquisition.

Directions:

Access to the sanctuary and parking is at Holder Park directly north of the sanctuary.

I-95 to Mims, St. Rt. 46 exit # 223. East on St. Rt. 46 (0.1 mile) to Holder Road (traffic light). South on Holder Road (0.5 mile) to Holder Park Drive. East on Holder Park Drive which turns right and becomes Glendale Blvd., continue 0.2 mile to Holder Park (2650 Glendale Blvd.). Take sand road on west side of first ball field short distance to trail head. Parking is by trailhead.

Bring hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent.

Volunteer with Aquatic Preserves!

Indian River Lagoon Aquatic Preserves has a newly established coastal native plant wildlife garden at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Titusville Field Station. The public garden was planted mid-September with volunteers from the US Air Force, Merritt Island High School, and others from the local community. Twenty-one species of native plant were used to create habitat for pollinators as well as small birds, mammals, and reptiles! The goal of the garden is to promote lagoon-friendly landscaping and emphasize the connection between upland and lagoon health. The garden is along a public road where people can admire, and easily participate in the project .

The Aquatic Preserve is looking for volunteers to help with maintenance and engage in citizen science monitoring of garden wildlife. If interested please email Emily Surmont at Emily.Surmont@FloridaDEP.gov

SEA ROCKET SPROUTS TROOP

KID - CENTRIC OUTDOOR LEARNING

WHEN AND WHERE?



Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary
access from the County's Parrish Park
Scottsmoor on Magoon Road off of US
Highway 1 in Scottsmoor.
WEDNESDAY DEC. 21st
to celebrate winter solstice!
Meeting at 5:30

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

Sea Rocket Sprouts (ages 4ish-11ish) and their adults will meet with a Sea Rocket guide to learn what do plants do in the winter, what gifts they have for wildlife during this time and experience our beautiful outdoor "classroom" after dark!

WHAT TO BRING

Life savers: drinking water, snacks...
A FLASHLIGHT!!! The more the merrier!
Some will be provided, ideally everyone should have a safe light source.

GROUND RULES

All sprouts must be accompanied by their **ADULTS AT ALL TIMES!** Adults are active participants of the program!
WE WILL ALWAYS STAY ON THE TRAIL, but it's still a trail:) so wear sensible shoes!
This is an after dark event, so sprouts will need close and constant supervision!

HOW TO REGISTER

email thebeeinghuman108@gmail.com
subject "SPROUTS" : how many sprouts you are bringing /ages and anything special we need to know about them to make it a safe, fun, inclusive experience

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 15

CAPACITY LIMITED TO 12 SPROUTS



Word Search

B	X	S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E	M	I	M	O	S	A	B	O
F	L	O	R	D	I	A	W	I	L	D	F	L	O	W	E	R	S
F	G	I	C	W	M	E	I	S	Q	B	E	A	O	I	N	A	A
F	I	R	E	B	U	S	H	W	I	L	D	C	O	E	P	H	T
B	E	I	R	R	C	Y	U	C	O	R	E	O	P	S	I	S	E
L	B	E	R	E	O	R	I	O	T	Y	J	F	B	D	T	U	G
U	R	C	F	B	O	E	U	N	B	S	A	F	E	E	C	N	E
E	Y	O	W	C	N	E	R	S	S	R	T	E	E	T	H	F	A
C	B	E	A	U	T	Y	B	E	R	R	Y	E	B	O	E	L	I
U	R	F	J	R	I	E	R	R	F	A	T	V	A	E	R	O	M
R	E	A	J	G	E	A	Y	V	E	R	O	J	L	F	P	W	E
L	R	B	E	N	T	E	U	A	D	W	O	Z	M	Q	L	E	X
V	B	F	N	F	X	V	H	T	E	A	D	G	W	C	A	R	T
O	G	A	L	L	A	R	D	I	A	N	W	T	F	S	N	R	S
V	D	G	W	H	U	M	W	O	V	W	Y	F	J	R	T	S	T
Q	O	P	A	S	S	I	O	N	F	L	O	W	E	R	U	E	E
M	A	T	E	R	W	J	F	E	E	N	W	G	S	W	G	I	Y
S	E	A	R	O	C	K	E	T	S	T	O	B	A	E	G	U	T

Thank you, Laura Covell for creating this fun word search for our members.

We will post the answers next month.

If you have some fun things to share with our members, please send it to jwhitson1@cfl.rr.com. You too could be published in our newsletter.

SUNSHINE MIMOSA
 FLORIDA WILDFLOWERS
 COREOPSIS
 PASSIONFLOWER
 BEAUTYBERRY
 SUNFLOWER
 COONTIE
 SEA ROCKET
 PITCHER PLANT
 GALLARDIA
 WILD COFFEE
 FIRE BUSH
 FROG FRUIT
 BLUE CURL
 BEEBALM

bonus word: CONSERVATION

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER



DECEMBER

- ◆ December 7 - Board Meeting
- ◆ December 11 - Indian Mound Station Sanctuary Field Trip, Mims

JANUARY 2022

- ◆ January 1 - Deadline for Newsletter submissions
- ◆ January 4 - Board Meeting
- ◆ January 13 - Adopt a Highway
- ◆ January 26 - General Meeting

FEBRUARY 2022

- ◆ February 1 - Board Meeting
- ◆ February 23 - General Membership Annual Meeting * Elections

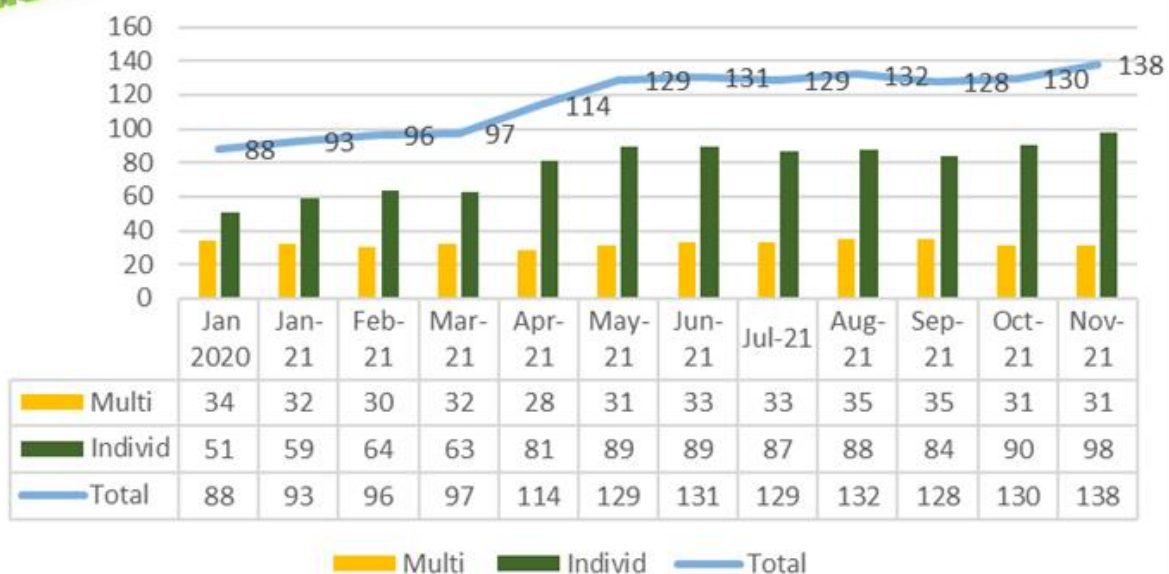


The Adopt-a-Highway outreach is scheduled for January 13th 2022 (Thursday) @ 8:00 am in front of the Enchanted Forest. Bring a hat, water, and gloves, as well as closed toe shoes (waterproof shoes or boots are best.) I have high visibility vests available, or wear high visibility clothes. The Adopt-a-Highway event will last about an hour. **As always this is outdoors and subject to the whims of nature.**

MEMBERSHIP



Members



The State Tree: *Sabal palmetto*

By Tenzin Yeshi

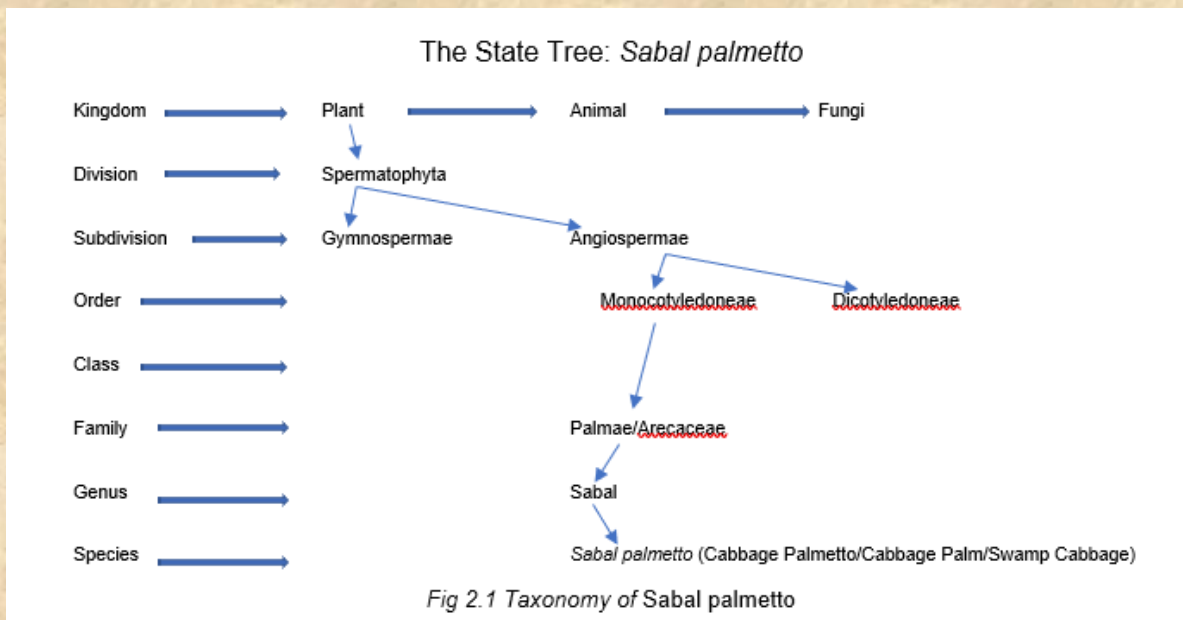
Where I live in Cocoa Beach - between 4th and 3rd street on Woodland Ave -, there are 33 trees in plain view from the street. 13 different species (three invasive) beautify this block. Of the 13, two species are the most abundant: seven *Quercus virginiana* (Live Oaks) and seven of Florida's State tree, *Sabal palmetto*, more widely known by its common name Cabbage Palmetto.

For December's tree of the month, I have chosen the *Sabal palmetto*, because native palms are one of the reasons Florida stands out from the rest of the continental United States. Cabbage Palmettos do grow naturally beyond Florida - up to North Carolina and East toward coastal Georgia - but it is most prominent in the Sunshine State. Its name comes from the Spanish *palmito*, which means "small palm" and is small (30 - 50 ft) only compared to other trees like the Royal Palms which can grow from 50 to 80 feet tall. *Note: Some sources note height of Sabal palmetto to be 30-80 feet.*

The *Sabal palmetto*'s most distinguishing characteristic is its bark. When young, the tree trunk is latticed with old, brown leaves or fronds, called boots. In a few years, these boots fall off to leave scars on the trunk, resembling rings. The "heart of palm" is a delicacy (taste of cabbage), but the tree must be "killed in order to eat the large leaf buds." (Little 314) The shiny black, berry-fruits of this tree are also edible. However, between the skin and the large seed, there's not much flesh (dry). It is known to be one of the hardiest palms, "the most wind-resistant tree in southern Florida," "[tolerant of] salt spray and brackish water," and "relatively resistant to damaging insects and other pathogens" (Deelen). Deelen states that these attributes make the species potentially useful for disturbed site rehabilitation."

Fig 2.1 shows that the Palm family is of Monocot Order. Flowering plants are categorized based on the number of their cotyledons, which are "seed leaves that the embryonic seedling has within its seed." (Grabowski 314) There are multiple ways to differentiate between a Dicot and a Monocot, based on: 1) seedlings during germination, 2) vein arrangements on leaves, 3) number of petals on flower, 4) root system, and 5) cambium layer. The easiest for a novice like me is observing its leaves; Monocots have parallel veins on their leaves. The other easy way to tell the two apart is by checking for growth rings on their stem. Tree trunks are made up of the bark and the inner wood called cambium. Between the bark and the cambium, cells actively grow and thicken the girth of the tree as it matures. This growth develops into visible rings. Monocots lack this ring structure.

Sabal palmettos grow in most natural habitats of Florida: in pinelands, hammocks, swamps, and are also used for urban landscaping. The tree's fruit is enjoyed by many animal species including, "black bears, bobwhites, bats, blue jays, cardinals, wild turkeys, gulls, scrub jays, and white-tailed deer" (Deelen), and many more.



Works Cited

Deelen, Timothy Van. *Sabal palmetto*. USFS, 1991, <https://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/tree/sabpal/all.html#MANAGEMENT%20CONSIDERATIONS>. Accessed 19 Nov. 2021.

Grabowski, Janet. *Dicot or Monocot? How to Tell the Difference*. USDA, 2015, https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/flpmctn12686.pdf. Accessed 19 Nov. 2021.

Little, Elbert L. *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Trees Eastern Region*. Knopf, 1993.

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

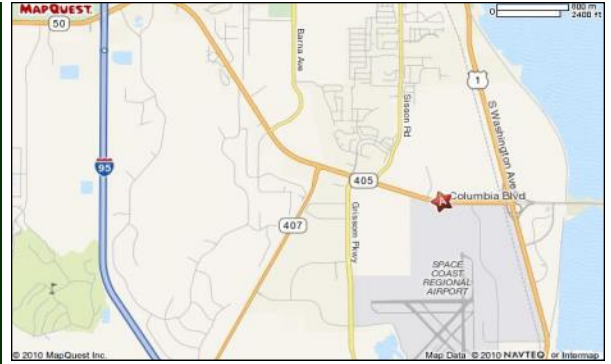


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

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



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

☆ **MEETING DATE** ☆
WEDNESDAY, 26 January 2022,
6:30pm social time * 7pm meeting
UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County
3695 Lake Dr, Cocoa 32926

It's going to be great to see everyone!
Masks are highly encouraged.

Be sure to check out the bi-monthly newsletter of the Florida Native Plant Society
Located online at : <http://fnps.org/resources/sabalminor>

