



# Sea Rocket



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

January 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.

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#### Hike Leader

Paul Schmalzer, PhD

#### Newsletter

David Humphrey  
(interim)

#### Hospitality

Armand De Filippi

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

## Linaria canadensis - Canada Toad Flax



© Shirley Denton

See page 3 for more on this delicate, yet inconspicuous spring beauty.

**We are happy to have Clifton Best as our January 23rd speaker.** "Wanting to help save the bees from exterminators, I attended the U of F Bee College and received my license for Bee removal services. I have a Bee keepers (apiarist) management Service for new Bee Keepers or for those wanting bees in their backyard. I also sell Honey Bees, honey, and Bees wax." <https://www.facebook.com/CLBestHoneyBees>

# January 2019 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 Work-days 9am-12noon. Kid-friendly. Email us for further info and schedule.

**January 5** **Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (MINWR)** will be hosting the FIRST annual Christmas bird count for kids from 9 am till noon. Call the visitor center for more information at 321-861-0669.

**January 9** **FTA Cruickshank Loop Trail at 8:30.** Meet at Lowe's in Titusville Hwy 50 and I-95

**January 12** **Helen and Allan Cruickshank Sanctuary at 9:00 am.** Field Trip hosted by Dr Paul Schmalzer. (See page 4 for all the details)

**January 23** **FTA Tosohatchee North Trail at 8:30 .** Meet at Lone Cabbage on 520 and St Johns River

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## 2019 Green Resolution Suggestions

-  Plant more native plants to enhance your yards natural beauty
-  Plant more native plants to entice The birds and bees and butterflies and bats
-  Use less fertilizers
-  Use less irrigation water
-  Avoid using hazardous chemicals when natural controls are available
-  Keep your roads and gutters free of cut grass for the lagoon's sake

**It may be “*Only One Yard.*” But it is one less yard contributing to our lagoons trouble.**



All of the Wednesday hikes are between four and seven miles in length and will meet at one of three places at 8:30 am.

The hike locations are tentative because accessibility can change (bridges out, wildfires, etc) but we will always meet At the scheduled place at the scheduled time, for updates call 321-453-1586 or E-mail [jescoffier@aol.com](mailto:jescoffier@aol.com). A Copy of this schedule is online at: <http://jehikesced.blogspot.com>.

Directions to the trails from the meeting places are online at: <Http://jehike.blogspot.com>.

### Meeting place addresses:

- Lowe's Titusville Hwy 50 and I-95
- Sam's Melbourne Hwy 192 near I-95
- Lone Cabbage Hwy 520 and St John's River

Florida trail information online at <http://www.floridatrail.org>



## From the FNPS Web Page

www.FNPS.org

### Annual Fund Campaign projects

As a member or one questioning “why become a member of the Florida Native Plant Society”, management thought you might be interested in the new milestones FNPS have achieved in our mission work, influence and organizational development.

As you know, or may not know, natural Florida features a subtle beauty that is best appreciated by understanding our flora and native habitats. Scientists are only now fully documenting the tremendous biodiversity of Florida’s native ecosystems, underscored by the highest rates of native plant diversity and endemism in North America!

- **In 2018, FNPS protected eight parcels from development** that are some of the last remaining lands with the federally-endangered Claspimg Warea (*Warea amplexifolia*), a Florida endemic. With your help FNPS will preserve many more.
- **FNPS partnered with public land management agencies to survey, monitor, and advise on the management of two endemic and endangered mint species:** *Dicerandra modesta* (Blushing scrub balm) and *Dicerandra cornutissima* (Longspur balm). Preservation and management of public lands is critical for the survival of these species.
- FNPS has **achieved nearly 100% representation of expert Society volunteers on Land Management Review teams**. These formal reviews are a great way to build experience interacting with land managers. FNPS.ORG is the ONLY volunteer organization at the table advocating for management of native plants and habitats on public lands!

### *Linaria canadensis* - Canada Toad Flax a native charmer

By David Humphrey

Although the Toad Flax is a smallish plant, en masse they are quite impressive. Prior to their bloom in Late winter or early Spring this plant is an unobtrusive addition. In late winter they will germinate and begin to enjoy the warming weather. The North lands have their crocus, breaking through the snow to herald the coming of spring, Florida has the Toad Flax. The delicate lavender blooms are carried skyward on stalks maybe 12 inches long. There are several blooms per stalk. They can tolerate shade yet thrive in full sun. *Linaria canadensis* prefer a drier site to grow in. Their bloom, will attract the Buckeye butterfly as a larval host plant as well as bees and butterflies which all enjoy the nectar produced. After the bloom, seed is produced, and is dispersed by the wind. Soon the plant will disappear until next winter or spring. Research shows that seeds can be purchased, but if you wait a while it is likely *Linaria canadensis* will grace your garden with winter color.





## Helen and Allan Cruickshank Sanctuary Field Trip Announcement

**Hosted by Dr. Paul Schmalzer**  
**Saturday January 12, 2019 from 0900-1200**

This sanctuary is a joint acquisition of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and the State of Florida, acquired in 1995 with later additions. Vegetation is pine flatwoods, oak scrub, and freshwater depression marshes. Prescribed burning, mechanical treatment of fuels, and thinning of pines have been done to restore habitat conditions. There has been a positive response of the Florida Scrub-Jay population to habitat restoration. Several rare plants occur in the sanctuary.

**Directions:** Central Rockledge just west of US Highway 1, 360 Barnes Boulevard.  
**From I-95:** Take Fiske Blvd Exit 195. At the intersection just north of I-95, go east on Barnes Boulevard 2.4 miles to the Sanctuary entrance and small parking area.  
**From US-1:** Turn west onto Barnes Blvd and travel 0.5 miles. The Sanctuary entrance is on the north side of the road.

**Bring hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent.**



### Ulumay Sanctuary

Part of the EEL program



This 600-acre conservation area is a very popular birding destination located on Merritt Island off of Sykes Creek Parkway. Activities include hiking, kayaking, and non-motorized mountain biking. An elevated observation deck along the hiking trail provides wonderful views of the conservation area, and surrounding Merritt Island.

Activities include Wildlife viewing, Mountain Biking, Geocaching, and hiking

**Why "Ulumay"?** *A province and town just south of Cape Canaveral. There is reason to think that it belonged to the province of Ais rather than to the Timucua country.*

# Community Corner

## Happenings About Town



*Saururus cernuus*  
Lizard's-Tail

Email from FNPS to Sea Rocket for our \$250.00 donation to the Annual Fund Campaign

**From:** Florida Native Plant Society  
**Sent:** Friday, December 21, 2018 8:30 AM  
**Subject:** FNPS: about the chapters

Annual Fund Contribution.

*Dear Sea Rocket Chapter Leaders,*

***THANK YOU so very much for your generous contribution to our Annual Fund Campaign. And thank you for all you do, all year, for our plants.***

***Best wishes for the holiday season and new year,***

Cammie Donaldson  
FNPS Administrative Services

Your Board of Directors would also like to thank our members and supporters that made this donation possible.

<https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>

Enter your 5-digit zip code to use Audubon's native plants database and explore the best plants for birds in your area, as well as local resources and links to more information. By entering your email address, you'll receive an emailed list of the native plants you've selected, get additional tips on creating your bird-friendly habitat, and help us keep track of your contributions to our efforts to get 1 million native plants for birds in the ground. [Privacy Policy](#)

Audubon's native plants database draws its plant data from the North American Plant Atlas of the [Biota of North America Program \(BONAP\)](#)

### NOTICE

For those who are willing to show their yards off for the First Annual Fund Raiser Sea Rocket Garden Tour (SRGT), I will be calling to confirm your commitment and set up a time to visit and take pictures of your garden / yard. We're planning for April, the date TBD.

Tour Chair—Dave Humphrey

If you would like your event listed here for our members to see please email us at [searocketfnps@gmail.com](mailto:searocketfnps@gmail.com)



Ultra Violet Light

Last month (Dec 2018) was a full page opinion piece about what we see verses what a pollinator will see in our yards and gardens. It was pretty stark. This month Lois Harris showed me this picture of a Dotted Horsemint (*Manarda punctata*) inflorescence. This photo was taken under a process using strong ultra-violet light. This is more than an opinion, this is what a pollinator will actually see. —Dave  
For more photos click [here](#)



Visible light



# December General Meeting



The December General Meeting was absolutely the best ever. All the elements of a great gathering came together on December 9<sup>th</sup> at Lois Harris' home on Merritt Island. There were 20+ people there to enjoy the "walk about" through Lois' yard. She has a rich and diverse botanical garden, a veritable "Garden of Eden" in her back yard. After working up an appetite by exploring she brought us in for the grand feast of Christmas dinner. Delicious ham, tender turkey, piles of potatoes, Cranberry salad, sweet potatoes, a regular cornucopia of deliciousness. There are truly some fantastic cooks on the Sea Rocket roster. The atmosphere was electric with laughter and conversation. It is truth to say the Christmas Sprit was present at this meeting. Lois and Richard did a fantastic job in preparing for the crowd in decorating the house and yard. With many thanks to our host and hostess for the many hours spent preparing, cleaning, cooking, doing all the multitudinous things that need to be done to host a meeting this grand. Thank you Lois.

- David Humphrey



# Weed of the Month

## *Boerhavia diffusa* or Red spiderling

By David Humphrey

I'm just grazing the surface of my weed selections from my vast assortment of possible weeds found right in my own yard. For this month I've selected the *Boerhavia diffusa* (red spiderling, spreading hogweed, or tarvine). The *Boerhavia diffusa* is in the same family as the four o'clock (*Mirabilis jalapa*).

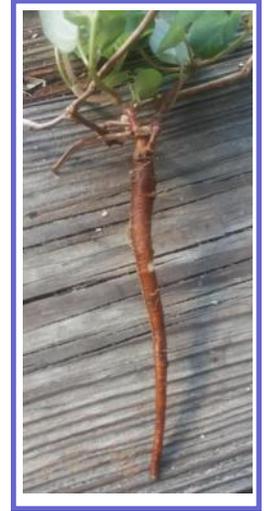


*Boerhavia diffusa* is widely dispersed, occurring in the southern United States as well as around the temperate world. *B. diffusa*

is listed as a Florida native by the Atlas of Florida Plants. The worldwide range is explained by its small fruits, which are very sticky and grows mere inches off the ground, ideally placed to latch on to small migratory birds as they walk by, or dogs, or cats, or even wheelbarrows. My first encounter with this weed was seeds sticking to my wheelbarrow wheel, thus



moving the plant several miles from its origin. I've seen this weed growing in the sparsely covered ground in my yard. Where there is a thick ground cover I have not seen this plant growing. Research indicates that "spreading hogweed" prefers disturbed or cultivated ground. Mowing does no good to limit its spread. Even glyphosate, under normal applications rates, will not kill the root. Speaking of the taproot, which looks like a young carrot, if when pulling this plant up if you break the root tip off, it is known to regrow from that remnant. If uncontrolled it can out-compete some native plants and will consume copious amounts of nutrients. It can live for years and is considered fast growing. Due to its small sticky seeds, it will spread quickly and if left to its own devices will become a monoculture.



The medicinal values of *B. diffusa* are available with a WEB search. Throughout the world, there are many traditional uses. Made up into poultices, tea and even as a green in salads. There are no human studies on the herb, but rats seem to be positively affected.



Photo: Florida Today

**This time last year** a mother Right Whale and her calf were sighted off the Brevard coast line. January is the normal time for the Right whale to be passing Florida heading

South into the Caribbean. The **Northern Right Whale is listed as endangered**

**by the Feds.** Keep your Boats, Boards and Bodies and now drones at a safe distance from this endangered animal. The same rules apply to Manatees as well.



## did you know?™

**Watermelons used to taste awful. The fruits, which are technically berries, originated in Africa, where they were only harvested for their water content. At that time, they had a nasty, bitter flavor, but centuries of selective breeding made them extra tasty.**



PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA CC

DIDYOUKNOWFACTS.COM

### 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  
January 8th at 5:30 pm.

The meeting will be held at New York New York  
All members are welcome 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. Schmalzer [paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov](mailto:paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov) by February 1, 2019. Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.

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

Florida Native Plant Society

Located online at :



<http://fnps.org/resources/sabalminor>