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.

~ Sea Rocket ~
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To contact us by email: searocketfnps@gmail.com

Linaria canadensis - Canada Toad Flax

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 Workdays 9am-12noon. Kid-friendly. Email us for further info and schedule.

January 5  Merriett 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

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.

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
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 repellant.

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.
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.

Saururus cernuus
   Lizard's-Tail

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
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](#)

The December General Meeting was absolutely the best ever. All the elements of a great gathering came together on December 9th 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.

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.

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.
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 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