

January 2023

Sea Rocket

Florida Native Plant Society
North & Central Brevard County

The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of native plants and native plant communities of Florida.



January Speaker

Dr. Bonnie Wells

UF/IFAS Brevard County Extension Office

Topic: “Attracting wildlife: Implementing the Florida-Friendly principle on landscapes across Brevard County”

Dr. Bonnie Wells is the Commercial Horticulture Agent for the University of Florida IFAS Extension in Brevard County, where she specializes in turfgrass and ornamental production and sustainable landscape maintenance. Dr. Wells leads programs for the Space Coast Golf and Turf Association. She is a Doctor of Plant Medicine (University of Florida, 2013) with more than 15 years of experience in commercial plant production with expertise in plant pathology, integrated pest management (IPM), pesticide science and sustainability. Dr. Wells is also an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist® and Florida-Friendly Landscaping® Certified Professional.

January 2023

Bee and Butterfly Monitoring

Become a bee and butterfly citizen scientist!



Upcoming trainings:

Saturday, January 14th 9:30am-1:00pm: Butterfly monitoring training

Saturday, February 11th 9:30am-1:00pm: Bee monitoring training

Location: 5332 Riveredge Drive, Titusville FL 32780

Florida Department of Environmental Protection Titusville Field Station

Help native bees and butterflies while learning more about them!

Citizen scientists are needed to conduct monthly bee and butterfly surveys at FDEP's native plant garden in Titusville. After completing one butterfly monitoring training and one bee monitoring training, participants can begin conducting surveys (occurs one day during the second week of each month from 11am-12pm). Great for college student resume building and community service hours (students age 16+)! Curious adults of all ages welcome!

Please contact Emily for more information:

Emily.Surmont@FloridaDEP.gov

904-687-9364 or 772-429-2995



Something New!

Our Chapter is selling Quick Reference Publishing guides. These foldable, laminated guides have a suggested retail price of \$8.95. Our price: \$9.00, including tax.

Our first order included:

Birds

Butterflies

Mushrooms of Florida

Wildflowers of Central Florida

Trees of South Florida

but they have many other titles.

These guides will be available at many of our future Sea Rocket events.



Sea Rocket Holiday Party 2022



Sandy

Report: Annual Holiday Party!

Our 2022 Annual Holiday Party was held on **December 3rd** at **Dixie Crossroads**, in **Titusville**, again this year, where we had a special room all to ourselves.

Sixteen people attended the event. **Joanie Faulls** donated a small acacia tree, which found a new home with **Sandy Lisko**. A special thank you to **Elizabeth Bishop** who coordinated this very fun event!

January 2023

REPORT: Indian Mound
Station Sanctuary Field
Trip on December 10
by Madeline Klinko



Silk Bay



Sweet Everlasting

Eight people joined hike leader Dr. Paul Schmalzer for the 12/10/22 field trip to the 147-acre Indian Mound Station Sanctuary of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program in Mims. We hiked the north section, the vegetation of which is primarily scrub, scrubby flatwoods, and areas of mesic flatwoods. Logging, mechanical treatment, and prescribed burning have been conducted.

We saw Silk Bay (*Persea borbonia* var. *humilis*) which grows smaller than Red Bay (*P. borbonia*) and is better adapted to sand scrub. It is endemic to Florida. It is an evergreen shrub or small tree with soft rusty hairs pressed close to the lower leaf surface.

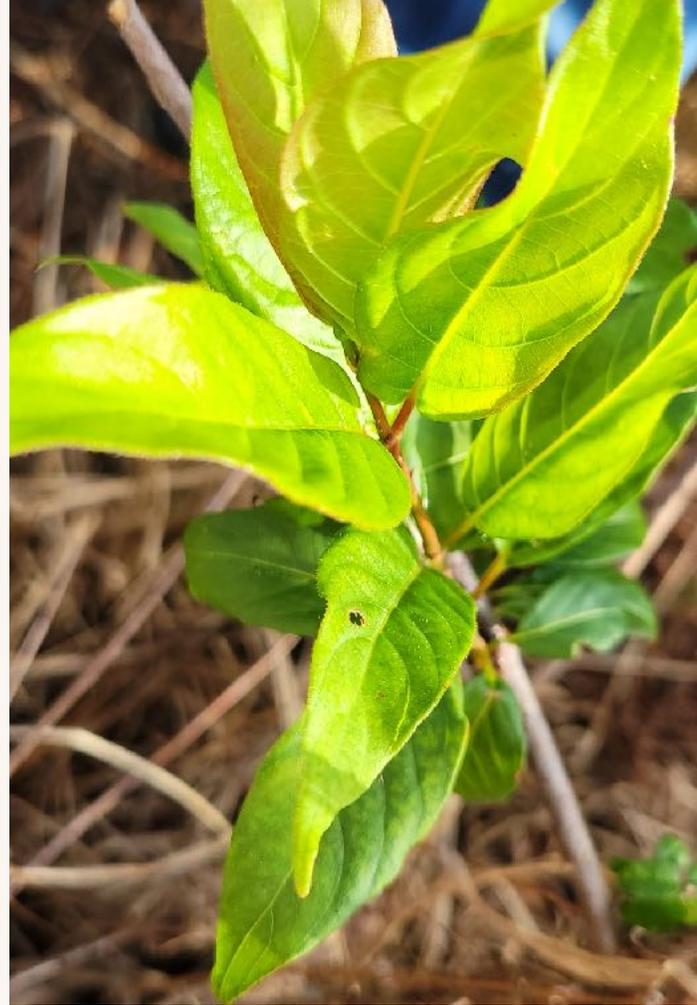
Sweet Everlasting or Rabbit Tobacco (*Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium*) is an annual belonging to the Aster family and grows to 3'. The flower heads are discoid, tiny, and white and are arranged as corymbs at the top of the plant. The stem is hairy and white. The narrow leaves are green on top and strikingly white & hairy below, but after the plant reaches maturity the top leaf surfaces change from green to pale gray. The leaves are aromatic and were used in dried arrangements as air fresheners.

Silverling (*Baccharis glomeruliflora*) grows 8-10' as an erect shrub with narrow crown, has stalkless flower clusters and occurs in wetter areas than Groundsel (*B. halimifolia*). Both have interesting leaf shapes that are sparingly toothed near the apex.

Swamp Dogwood (*Cornus foemina*) is the most widespread *Cornus* species in Florida and grows about 15' tall and as wide. It has 2-4" lance-shaped leaves and grows as a multitrunked shrub or small tree. The small white flowers are borne in showy clusters at the end of the branches in the spring.

Wild Olive (*Osmanthus americanus*) is an evergreen shrub to small tree that is distributed throughout central and north Florida. Leaves are lush, dark green, and opposite. It has aromatic white flowers. There is scant evidence and conflicting reports of whether the fruit is edible.

Dahoon Holly (*Ilex cassine*) prefers moist to wet boggy areas, grows to 35', and is evergreen. It has oblong, leathery, shiny leaves to 5" that are medium green above and paler below. The bright red-orange or red fruit appears in showy clusters on female plants.



Swamp Dogwood



Dahoon Holly



Wild Olive



Sand Holly Leaf

Sand Holly (*Ilex ambigua*) prefers dry sandy soils, grows to 18', and is our only native deciduous holly. Sometimes in late winter, once it loses its leaves, only the translucent red berries remain (female plants). The tiny teeth on the leaves may be serrate, dentate or crenate (there are no spines on the leaf as on American Holly (*I. opaca*)).

We thanked our leader Dr. Paul Schmalzer for identifying plants & teaching us on this second annual field trip to Indian Mound Station. We also thanked Suzanne Kennedy for sharing her knowledge of plants in the area.



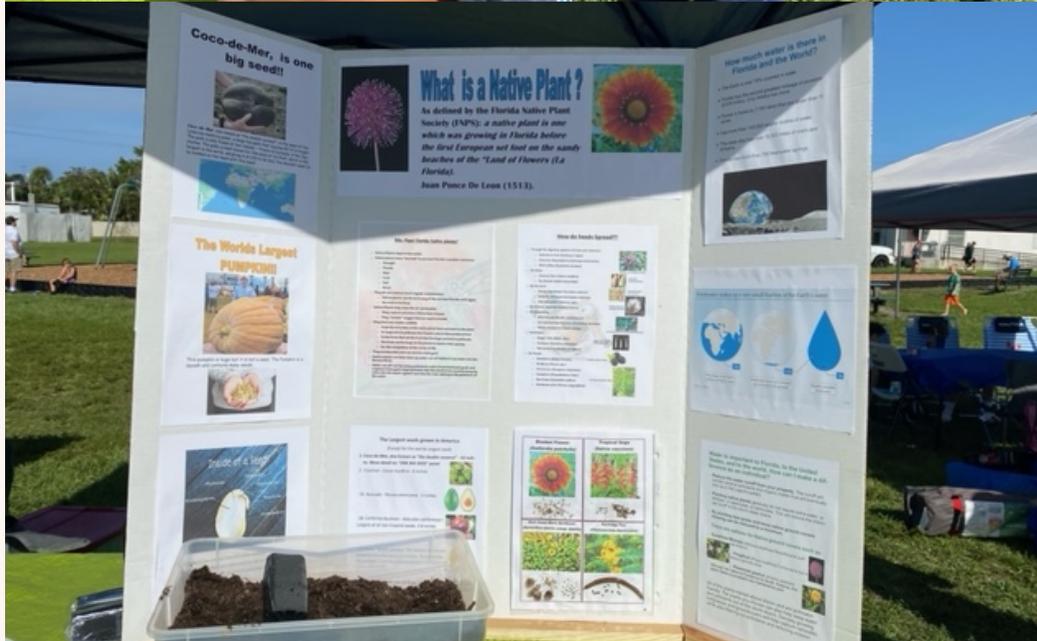
Candid Group Photo sans John Stiner

Outreach Report: Freedom 7 Elementary School on December 3rd

Many thanks to David Humphrey and Patti Larson for volunteering at the Outreach at Freedom 7 Elementary at Cocoa Beach on Saturday December 3. It was perfect weather and busy. We offered a “planting” of various native plants. Approximately 50 children (and parents) potted the seeds to be taken home and cared for.

There was an informative board explaining why native plants are so important.

This was the second year we offered our services and the staff were very excited about our display. All in all it was a huge success!





Gumbo Limbo

(c) National Park Service [[nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov)]

Gumbo-Limbo: *Bursera simaruba*

by Tenzin Yeshi

“[T]he soft, lightweight and easily carved wood of gumbo limbo was used for making carousel horses before the advent of molded plastics.” (UF, IFAS Extension) In the West Indies, these trees are also called turpentine trees.

Bursera simaruba has a distinctive bark, which has been used to make poultice to treat infections. It has a reddish appearance over a green trunk, and the red bark looks like cracked, peeling, flaky skin. Because of this, it is also nicknamed the “tourist tree,” as tourists often visiting the subtropics and tropics where this tree is native to gets sunburnt and...the rest I leave to your imagination.

B. simaruba are semi-evergreen trees, leaves adapting to its conditions of moisture levels. They may drop leaves briefly during a drought or in some late winters. Seeding is said to produce straighter trunks but these trees grow from planted branches and limbs.

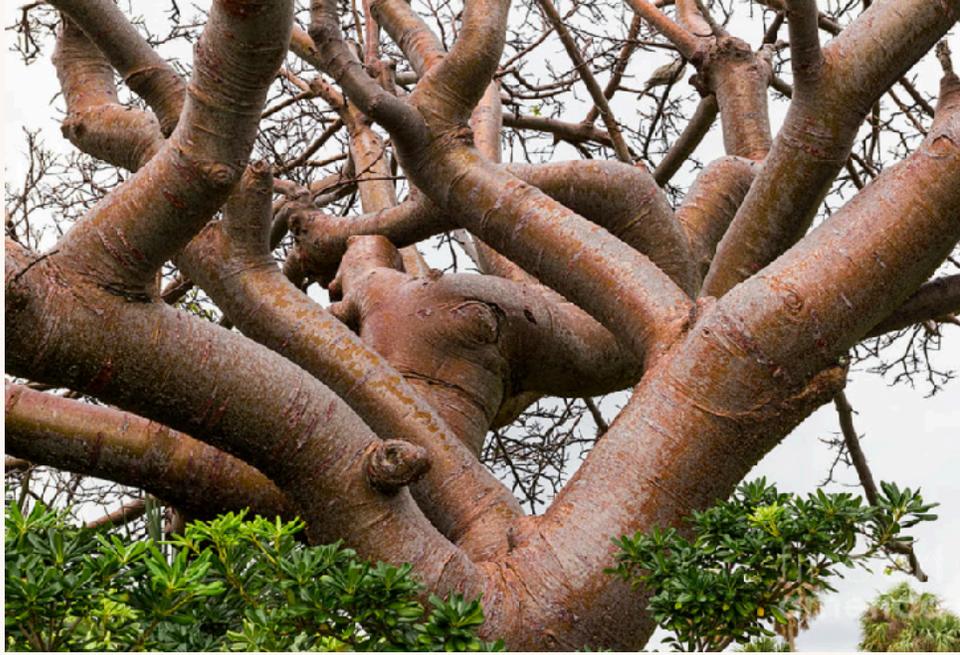
Their inconspicuous flowers are white to pale green in color, blooms in spring, and grows in clusters. Their fruit resembles a strangler fig’s fruit, small, berry-sized and fig-like. “The fruit takes a year to ripen and matures in early summer.” (UF, IFAS Extension)



Bursera simaruba

Fruit & Leaf

(c) UF Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences (IFAS)



Trunk Growth

(c) Les Palenik [images.fineartamerica.com]

Gumbo limbo has great resistance to strong winds. They have a high tolerance for drought as well. Maintenance is low. And, they grow in a wide range of soil conditions, from clay to loamy to sandy, and from acidic to alkaline. They grow fast, in full sun or partial shade, and tolerate salt spray.

This tree species is ideal as a street tree, of a “freestanding specimen on a large property.” They will need room to grow and is an outstanding tree. It is a typical native species of Florida’s tropical hardwood hammocks.

References

FNPS. <https://www.fnps.org/plant/bursera-simaruba>

UF, IFAS Extension. <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/ST104>

UF, IFAS Extension, Gardening Solutions. <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/trees-and-shrubs/trees/gumbo-limbo.html>



Trunk Growth Variant

(c) Ruth Hager [images.fineartamerica.com]

Announcement : Pine Island Conservation Area Field Trip

Saturday, January 14

09:00 am - 12:00 pm

Pine Island Conservation Area. This is a joint project of the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program. Vegetation is primarily flatwoods and marshes. It is the site of a major wetlands restoration project.

We plan to hike some of the trail through flatwoods. After the hike, there will be an option to visit Sams House, a restored historical building, which is now the Management and Education Center for the Central Region of the EEL Program.

Directions:

(1) SR 528 East to Merritt Island, exit on SR3 and go North for about 5 miles, turn left on Pine Island Road and proceed West about 2.5 miles to entrance gate at end of road.

OR, (2) SR 405 East to Merritt Island/Kennedy Space Center, turn right on Space Commerce Way (new road) to SR 3, turn South (right) on SR 3 to Pine Island Road, then right on Pine Island Road and proceed West to entrance gate.

Bring hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent.

Note: This is the Pine Island Road entrance to the Conservation Area, not the entrance by Sams House Management and Education Center. Also, the Indian River Lagoon bridge on SR 405 is under construction and is frequently one lane in each direction. Speed limits are reduced in the construction zone.



January 2023 Events at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

NOTICE: The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary education center & trails will be CLOSED Sunday, Jan. 1st through Monday, Jan. 2nd

Off the Beaten Path Hike: Wetlands

Sun. Jan. 8th 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Visit the three wetlands in areas not open to the public with Naturalists and explore how elevation and land management are critical to these habitats. Bring hiking shoes, water and bug spray. Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up.

Nature Storytime

Wed., Jan. 11th 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Geared towards ages 5 and under. Theme: Birds of a Feather! Learn about birds and basic bird identification through activities and crafts. Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up. NO SAME DAY SIGN UPS.

Garden Workday

Sat. Jan. 14th 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Grab your hat, sunblock, and water and come help maintain the butterfly garden at the Sanctuary! Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up.

Star Party

Sat., Jan. 21st 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Join the Brevard Astronomical Society and us for a night under the stars! Dusk hikes will start at 5:30pm and star gazing will start at 6pm. Registration required no later than the day before, please call 321-264-5185, to sign up. ****LIMITED SPOTS****

Sanctuary School

Wed., Jan. 25th 10 a.m. to 11a.m.

Geared towards ages 6 through 12. Theme: Who's that Bird! Come learn about birds, bird identification and the Great Backyard Bird Count at the Enchanted Forest through fun activities. Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up. NO SAME DAY SIGN UPS.

Tai Chi at the Forest

Every Sat. in Jan. 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Join instructor Kate Perez for a beginner level class on the porch! Loose-fitting clothing, and a water bottle are recommended. Registration required no later than the day before class, please call 321-264-5185. SPACE LIMITED. NO SAME DAY SIGN UPS.

Yoga in Nature

Every Sun. in Jan. 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Join local yoga instructors for a traditional class for all levels on the porch! Wear loose-fitting clothing and do not eat anything an hour before class. Bring water and a mat. Registration required no later than the day before class, please call 321-264-5185. SPACE LIMITED. NO SAME DAY SIGN UPS.

Guided Hikes

Openings Every Sun. in Jan. at 10 a.m.

Enjoy a 45-minute guided hike. Please bring a hat, water and walking shoes. Registration required no later than the day before the hike, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up. NO SAME DAY SIGN UPS.

42nd Annual Conference Virtual: April 28-29, 2023

Big Days Out: Weekends in May

Join us for Florida's premier event focusing on the preservation, conservation and restoration of our natural lands, ecosystems, and local communities.

The theme is *"Adaptations."*

Our 2023 Conference will be a two-day virtual conference on the last weekend in April and several Big Days Out throughout the state on different weekends throughout May.

Registration will open on Valentine's Day.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF CHAPTER OFFICERS

We will be holding elections for Chapter Officers (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary) during the Annual Meeting on February 22, 2023.

An update from the Nominating Committee will be included in the February newsletter. If you have any questions, feel free to attend a Board meeting, or speak with any Board member. We'll need a quorum of members for the vote.

Hope to see you then!

Council of Chapters Update

November: Check out <https://homegrownnationalpark.org> for information on backyard habitats.

December information from the Council of Chapters will be included in the next newsletter.

BYLAWS

The Board of Directors is currently reviewing Sea Rocket Chapter Bylaws. If you would like additional information, feel free to attend a Board meeting, or speak with any Board member. Once the Board finishes their review, the Bylaws will be submitted to the General Membership for approval, and they will be forwarded to FNPS.

Volunteer with Us!

There are many ways to volunteer at Sea Rocket.
We heartily welcome Volunteers in all areas, including Committee Chair positions in:

Nursery
Social Media
Education & Outreach
Membership

All Sea Rocket Chapter meetings and activities are free and open to the public!

Chapter Website: <https://www.searocket.fnpschapters.org>
and our monthly newsletters for more Information on the Sea Rocket Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.

For information on FNPS: <http://www.fnps.org>.

SEA ROCKET NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- 1. MS WORD DOCUMENT**
- 2. TITLED, WITH NAME OF AUTHOR**
- 3. SPECIFY IN EMAIL, "FOR THE NEWSLETTER"**
- 4. IF PHOTOS AVAILABLE: JPG/JPEG (AS ATTACHMENTS)**
- 5. PROOFREAD FOR QUALITY**
- 6. INCLUDE TIME SPENT ON NEWSLETTER WORK**

EMAIL SUBMISSIONS TO: TENZINYESHI2022@GMAIL.COM

DUE BY: 20TH OF EVERY MONTH



January 2023



Board of Directors, 2022

Executive Committee

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Paul Schmalzer, PhD

Vice President
Open

Treasurer
Patti Larson

Secretary
Laura Covell

Chapter Representative
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Committee Chairpersons

Membership
Open

Education & Outreach
Open

Nursery
Open

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Paul Schmalzer, PhD

Newsletter
Tenzin Yeshi

Social Media
Open

Hospitality
Elizabeth Bishop



Upcoming Calendar: January, 2023 Events

Garden Workdays are held at the **Enchanted Forest Sanctuary**, Titusville.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 New Year's Day	2	3 Board Meeting @ <u>EFS</u> 6 pm - 8 pm	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Garden Workday @ EFS Field Trip Details on Pg. 11	
15	16	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Board Meetings are held on 1st Tuesday of every month @ Enchanted Forest Sanctuary </div>			19	20	21
22	23	24	25 General Members Meeting	26	27	28	
29	30	31					

Location: Enchanted Forest Sanctuary
444 Columbia Blvd.
Titusville, FL 32780
Time: Social @ 6 pm
Meeting beings @ 6.30 pm