

April 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.

April Speaker

Kenny Coogan

Topic: *"Florida's Endemic Carnivorous Plants"*

Learn about Florida's endemic carnivorous plants! Florida has dozens of native species of carnivorous plants—more than any other state in the United States—including sundews, butterworts, bladderworts, and pitcher plants. These plants use appealing scents, leaves, and sticky fluids to trap and imprison insects. Digestive fluids then absorb the prey giving the plant its nutrients. Learn the evolution, people, and natural history of this area to discover why Florida is a hotspot of carnivorous plants.

Presented by Kenny Coogan, author of the new book "Florida's Carnivorous Plants".

BONUS: Kenny's book "Florida's Carnivorous Plants" and a selection of carnivorous plants will be available for purchase after the talk!

Kenny Coogan has a Master's Degree in Global Sustainability and is passionate about Florida's wildlife and plants. His professional experience with carnivorous plants started fifteen years ago when he cofounded the Western New York Carnivorous Plant club. Since then he has moved to Florida to teach middle school science and agriculture. He was awarded the Best Beginning Science Teacher for the state of Florida. He has published over 400 articles on pets, livestock, and gardening for publications including *Countryside*, *Hobby Farms*, *Chickens*, *Backyard Poultry*, and *Florida Gardening* magazines. Coogan is an active member with the International Carnivorous Plant Society, serving as the Education Director. He now runs a successful carnivorous plant nursery in Tampa, Florida.

April 2023

EARTH DAY, 2023, Plant Sale

@ **Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, Titusville**

April 22, Saturday

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Help the Florida Native Plant Society's Sea Rocket Chapter and the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary celebrate Earth Day and pick up some Florida native plants for your yard while you're there.

There will be music, guided walks, educational displays, and much more! Knowledgeable Chapter members will be on hand to help with plant selections and answer questions.

Hope to see you there!!!

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

SEA ROCKET FACEBOOK PAGE

- o [Search: searocketchapterfnps](#)

SEA ROCKET WEBSITE

- o <https://searocket.fnpschapters.org/>

SEA ROCKET CALENDAR

- o <https://searocket.fnpschapters.org/calendar/>



42nd Annual Conference
Virtual: April 28-30, 2023
Field Days: Three 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 Conference Field Days throughout the state on different weekends throughout May:

- Naples, *May 6-7* by Naples Chapter
- Tallahassee, *May 14-15* by Magnolia and Sarracenia Chapters
- Sanford, *May 19-21* by Cuplet Fern Chapter

Registration opens on February 22, 2023.

<https://www.fnps.org/conference/register>



Visitors at the Event

Report: Plant Sale on March 25

Sea Rocket started the planting season off with a super plant sale at the Enchanted Forest this March. Selling over 200 plants, we also had 3 families sign up for new FNPS memberships. We had a solid volunteer base show up early and ready to work. A big “Thank you!” goes out to John Steiner, Madeline Klinko, Patti Larson, Jill Whitson, Laura Covell, and Dr. Paul Schmalzer. The weather was perfect, sunny, warm and breezy. The next plant sale is scheduled on April 22, Earth Day! Sale hours are 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 pm.



Pre Sale



Post Sale

Report: March 11 Outreach

The Nature Center at The Great Outdoors, in Titusville, held a grand reopening on March 11th where members were invited to view the center's many exhibits which include taxidermy, artifacts from Native American peoples, shell and sea bean collections, trail guides, a library, and more. Our Chapter provided an information table where visitors picked up lots of free brochures. Over 500 people attended this event.



The Great Outdoors Nature Center, March 11

Garden Workdays at the *Enchanted Forest Sanctuary*

"Would you like to learn more about "Tropical Sage" or "Spiderworts"?"

Then join Sea Rocket members and Enchanted Forest staff from 10:00am to 12:00pm on April 8th while we enjoy some time outside in nature working in the *Butterfly Garden*.

Please, bring water, a hat, and gardening tools if you have any. Call **321-264-5185** (Enchanted Forest) to register for garden work. Feel free to stop by to learn about these two plants which are currently in bloom and easy to grow!

Report: Fox Lake Sanctuary

Field Trip on 02/25/23

words & photos by Madeline Klinko

Fox Lake Sanctuary is 2,568 acres in west Titusville managed by the Brevard EEL (Environmentally Endangered Land) program. Our group of 6 covered an area of about 1.5 miles that consisted of mesic & xeric hammocks, flatwoods and scrubby flatwoods.

In a shady mesic (moist) hammock we saw ferns: swamp (*Blechnum serrulatum*), netted chain (*Woodwardia areolata*), and cinnamon (*Osmunda cinnamomea*).

We saw Laurel family bay trees: Red (*Persea borbonia*), Swamp (*P. palustris*) and Scrub (*P. humilis*) any of which may contract Laurel Wilt Disease, although the smaller Scrub bay may be less frequently affected. A non-native beetle spreads a fungus that stops the flow of water & nutrients through the tree. After wilting, the leaves remain as persistent discolored or brown leaves. We may have seen more wilted bays than on previous hikes to Fox Lake. Dark staining by the fungus of the sapwood under the bark (not just wilt) is diagnostic.

Not in the same family as the bays above, Loblolly-bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*) is a tall, narrow-crowned columnar shaped tree with a deeply furrowed trunk. It produces showy white flowers in the spring & summer. Even though it is perennial, it often sports some brilliant red leaves in the fall & winter.

Contact Sea Rocket: srsecretary@fnps.org



Wilted Bay Tree



Loblolly Bay (Left), Pine (Right)

Tarflower (*Bejaria racemosa*) is a perennial woody shrub with hairy stems. Bees & flies are attracted to its showy, fragrant, white pink-tinged flowers that bloom in the spring. The leathery leaves are also sticky.

Highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) is deciduous & loosely branched, fruit edible. Shiny blueberry (*V. myrsinites*) is evergreen. We saw one with edible fruit on it.

Pennyroyal (*Piloblephis rigida*) has numerous needle-like leaves and terminal heads that are fuzzy brown or masses of tiny purple flowers (or both). The flowers have lobed lips and purple dots typical of those in the mint family.

Four-petal St. Peter's Wort (*Hypericum tetrapetalum*). The 4 petals are yellow. The leaves are opposite and the leaf bases clasp the stems. The stems may grow to 3 inches and become woody and reddish-green.

Both Rusty lyonias (*Lyonia ferruginea*) and Staggerbush (*L. fruticosa*), have rust-colored scales on the lower leaf surface and drooping urn-shaped white flowers, but the Rusty has leaf margins that turn downward. Shiny lyonias (*L. lucida*) has drooping urn-shaped pink flowers.

We saw many Wax myrtles (*Myrica cerifera*) in both wet & drier areas. They provide cover and fruit that are highly valuable to birds.

In an open scrubby flatwoods area, we saw a bald eagle on a pine snag (dead trunk).

Before leaving, we thanked leader Dr. Paul Schmalzer for identifying plants & teaching us.



Pennyroyal Head & Flowers



Four-Petal St. Peter's Wort

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REPORT: Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary Field Trip 3/11/23

words and photos by Madeline Klinko

Nine people, including 2 from the Cuplet Fern chapter, attended the field trip to the Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary (Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program), one of the larger sanctuaries (1500 acres) in the EEL Program network. The eastern section of about 1000 acres supports mesic flatwoods, scrubby flatwoods, and freshwater marshes. In some of the mesic flatwoods, the canopy species is pond pine (*Pinus serotina*) which 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. 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.

We saw four species of insectivorous plants:

Pink sundew (*Drosera capillaris*) - tiny 5-petaled pink flowers on one-sided racemes, leaves in reddish rosettes. The leaves have sticky, glandular hairs that may trap small insects, which the plant digests obtaining nitrogen in the process.

The 2 butterworts had similar leaves: pale green, ovate, arranged in basal rosettes with minute sticky hairs that trap insects. Small butterwort (*Pinguicula pumila*) grows to 8" and may have more than one flower stem. The flower has 5 petals that are shallowly notched and are pale purple, lavender, or whitish. Yellow butterwort (*Pinguicula lutea*) grows to 16" and has one solitary yellow flower of 5 petals that are more deeply notched. This plant is state-listed as THREATENED (in rapid decline but not in imminent danger of extinction).

Bladderwort (*Utricularia subulata*) grows to 18". The tiny flower of 5 petals is yellow on a leafless stem that is bronze-colored. The leaves are not readily evident and are finely dissected and bear bladders at the surface of wet soils.

Open conditions maintained by frequent burning are required by these carnivorous plants as is the case for much of the flatwoods' flora.



Contact Sea Rocket: srsecretary@fnps.org

Bladderwort

Some other wildflowers we saw:

Shortleaf Rosegentian (*Sabatia brevifolia*) - a 5-lobed white flower with a yellow eye,

Largeflower Rosegentian (*Sabatia grandiflora*) - a 5-lobed large rose-colored flower with a star-shaped yellow and green eye,

Roserush (*Lygodesmia aphylla*) - a flower head of ray florets in pale purple or pink, &

Florida Sensitive Brier (*Mimosa quadrivalis var. floridana*) - round heads of many tiny flowers in rose-pink.

Hypericums are generally small shrubs of 4-5 petaled yellow inflorescences or flowers. Most but not all, have many stamens. We saw *Hypericum brachyphyllum*, *H. cistifolium*, *H. reductum*, and *H. tetrapetalum*.

We thanked our leader Dr. Paul Schmalzer for hosting the trip on this beautiful spring day.



Shortleaf Rosegentian



Roserush



Florida Sensitive Briar



Largeflower Rosegentian

Atlantic White-Cedar

Chamaecyparis thyoides

by Tenzin Yeshi

The one key feature all *Chamaecyparis thyoides* stands have in common is a moist soil. *C. thyoides*'s population may be distributed in seemingly dissimilar habitats but no matter what season, they will be found in wet, peaty ground.

A walk along a bay swamp may give way to a rare, Atlantic white-cedar swamp.

“When you walk in an Atlantic white-cedar swamp that is supported by seepage, you are walking on water, in a sense. The ground may not look wet, but poke a deep hole in the peaty earth with a rake handle and it will fill with water all the way to the top. An Atlantic white-cedar stand is a true wetland, and the tree itself is a wetland indicator species.”
(Whitney, Means, Rudloe)



Atlantic White Cedar (c) atlantic-white-cedar.org

C. thyoides is a conifer species in the Cupressaceae (Cypress) family. They grow along the eastern seaboard of the US, from southern Maine to northern Florida, and their distribution belt is narrow and patchy. They grow along the Atlantic and the Gulf coasts. Because they grow along coastal areas and are restricted along wet and swampy grounds, they're found at low elevations. (USDA)

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This species is monoecious, which means both male and female reproductive organs (here, cones) are on the same individual. Mature cones are about 6 mm in diameter and spherical in shape. One cone can contain 5 to 15 winged seeds.

The bark of an Atlantic white-cedar spirals around its trunk like “candy cane stripes.” Their root system is shallow and spreads wide and broad across the ground, where only a sparse ground-cover vegetation grows due to the canopy’s deep shade.

Mature species can grow up to 100 feet and could live to be as old as 200 years. Lightning strikes can kill tall species.

The peaty, mucky floor maintains a cool air in this cedar stand. Mud and dwarf salamanders, bobcat, bears, and other wildlife are found in this habitat. In Ocala National Forest, “a large white-cedar stand supports a healthy population of Florida black bears, and the bark on many of its trees is shredded by bear claws up to a height of six and a half feet.” (Priceless Florida)

References

1. Elli Whitney, D. Bruce Means, and Anne Rudloe. “Priceless Florida: Natural Ecosystems and Native Species” 2004, Pineapple Press, Inc.
2. Silas Little and Peter W. Garrett. “Atlantic White-Cedar” https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/misc/ag_654/volume_1/chamaecyparis/thyoides.htm
3. <https://www.fnps.org/plant/chamaecyparis-thyoides>



Announcement : **Buck Lake Field Trip**

Saturday, April 15

09:00 am - 12:00 pm

Buck Lake Conservation Area. This is a joint project of the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and includes more than 9,000 acres. Vegetation is scrub, flatwoods, hammocks, and marshes. Prescribed burning and scrub restoration have been conducted since its acquisition in 1996. Field trip will be to a part of the eastern section of the area that is primarily scrub.

Directions:

I-95 to St. Rt. 46 (Exit 223). West on SR 46 1.2 miles.

Preserve entrance is on the north side of SR 46. It is a gravel road called Blake Lee Trail. There is a sign marking the conservation area entrance and the mailbox is marked 5060.

Go 0.3 miles north on gravel road to gate. Parking is in grassy area left of road at gate.

Bring hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent.



Report: March 22nd General Membership Meeting

April 2023

Many thanks to Skip Healey, from Change of Greenery, LLC., in Melbourne, who gave an informative presentation titled *Invasive Species in the Landscape*. Skip's company also participated in the Flip My Florida Yard episode which was covered in the last newsletter.

Skip reminded us that Florida native plants have an evolutionary history with Florida insects and other animals, and when we replace non-native species with natives, we help improve ecosystem function. He also relayed that the following non-native plants are just a few of the many which have been rated Category I or Category II invasive exotics by the Florida Invasive Species Council (FISC) formerly known as Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC): Brazilian pepper, Tropical milkweed, Camphor tree, Umbrella (or Octopus) tree, Surinam Cherry, Snake plant, Mexican petunia, Lantana camara, Oyster plant, Asparagus fern, Japanese honeysuckle, Golden Pothos, Popcorn tree, Chinese tallow, Melalucca, Australian pine.

For a full list, contact

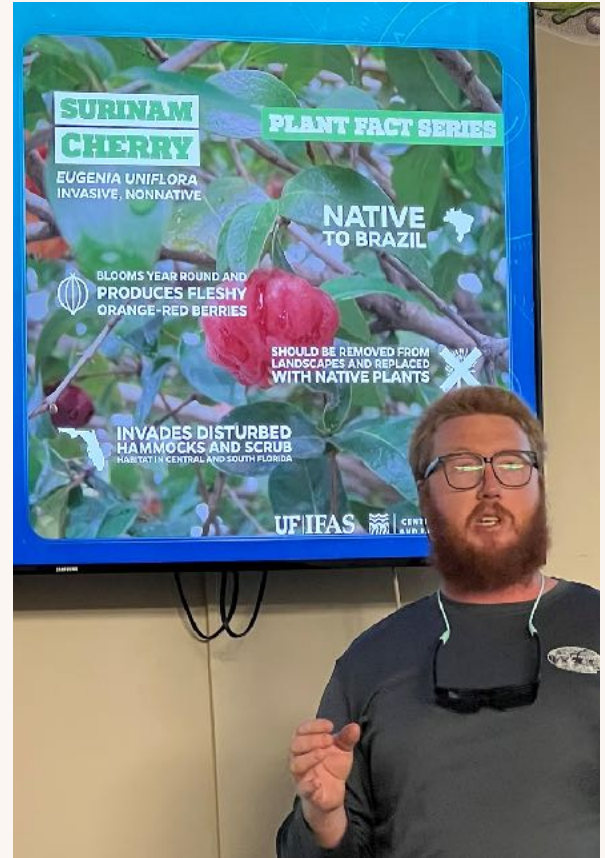
https://bugwoodcloud.org/CDN/fleppc/plantlists/2019/2019_Plant_List_ABSOLUTE_FINAL.pdf

We can all help prevent invasive, non-native species from invading our natural areas by removing them from our own yards and educating others.

For more information on Change of Greenery, LLC, contact Skip at (321) 536-0655, changeofgreeneryfl@gmail.com, or visit their Design Studio and Shop on Fridays or Saturdays from 10:00am to 4:00pm at 1494 N. Harbor City Blvd, Melbourne.

Did you know...

- Brazilian pepper is considered the #1 worst invasive exotic in Florida?
- Australian pine trees are not really pine trees, or that their needles secrete a toxin which inhibits growth of other plants?
- Lantana camara, which is sometimes sold commercially as Butterfly Bush, is toxic to humans and other animals and it can hybridize with our native lantana?
We know now!!!



Speaker: Skip Healey

ROLE OF INVASIVE PLANTS

- Plants that have the capability to outcompete native plants for habitat.
- Invasive Plants alter the state of the ecosystem functions & biodiversity
- Extremely Adaptable
- 2019, State of Florida allocated 45M for Invasive plant removal
- Category 1 vs Category 2

April 2023 Events at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

April 2023

Nature Storytime

Wed., Apr. 12th, 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Geared towards ages 5 years and under.
Theme: Wiggling Worms! Join us for some "wiggly" fun worm activities. Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up.

Off the Beaten Path Hike: Historical Trails

Sun., Apr. 16th, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Hike historical trails that cut through the Sanctuary and learn about early peoples and their use of these lands. Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up.

Sanctuary School

Wed., Apr. 19th, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Geared towards ages 6 through 12.
Theme: The Value of Worms! Learn about the role of worms in the environment. Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up.

Earth Day

Sat., Apr. 22nd, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Join us for a day of fun, featuring educational booths, food trucks, music, crafts, activities, guided hikes and more. Registration not required, but if you have any questions, please call 321-264-5185.

Native Plant Sale

Sat., Apr. 22nd, 11:00 a.m.
Come and support the Sea Rocket Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society's native plant sale. Find an assortment of native plants to beautify your yard and support wildlife!

Geocaching 101

Sun., Apr. 23rd, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Beginners class to discover the global, outdoor treasure hunt. Learn how to find caches, or hidden objects, using a GPS receiver or mobile device. Registration not

required but if you have any questions, please call 321-264-5185.

Butterfly Identification

Sun., Apr. 30th, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Space Coast Audubon and the Friends of the Enchanted Forest are excited to welcome Ed Perry for a Butterfly Identification presentation and field observation walks through the pollinator gardens. To attend check out the link below to sign up.
https://www.meetup.com/space-coast-audubon-meetup/events/292293496/?_xtid=gqFypzkzMDMwNzWhcKNhcGk%253D&from=ref

Tai Chi at the Forest

Every Sat. in Apr. 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 Apr. 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 Apr. at 10:00 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.

Volunteer with Us!

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

***Education & Outreach
Membership***

Sea Rocket Board of Directors OPEN POSITION:
***Membership
Chairperson***

Do you like to mingle? Do you like to make new friends? If so, the Sea Rocket Board position of Membership Chairperson may be just right for you! If interested, contact any Board member, or email SRSECRETARY@fnps.org to find out more.

**SEA ROCKET NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION
GUIDELINES**

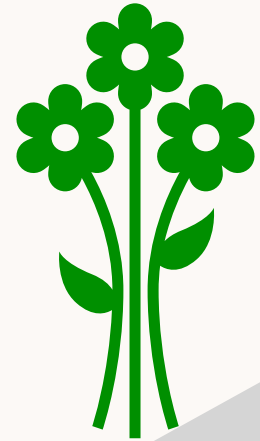
1. MS WORD DOCUMENT
2. TITLED, WITH NAME OF AUTHOR
3. SPECIFY IN EMAIL, "FOR THE NEWSLETTER"
4. IF PHOTOS AVAILABLE: JPG/JPEG (AS ATTACHMENTS)
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EMAIL SUBMISSIONS TO: TENZINYESHI2022@GMAIL.COM

DUE BY: 20TH OF EVERY MONTH



April 2023



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Upcoming Calendar: April, 2023 Events

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<p>Board Meetings are held on 1st Tuesday of every month @ Enchanted Forest Sanctuary</p>		3	4 Board Meeting @ <u>EFS</u> 6 pm - 8 pm	5	6	7
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Field Trip Details on Pg. 12
16	17	18	19 General Members Meeting	20	21	22 Earth Day Plant Sale @ EFS Details on Pg. 2
		25	26	27	28 42 nd Virtual Annual Conference Details on Pg. 3	29 42 nd Virtual Annual Conference Details on Pg. 3
30 42 nd Virtual Annual Conference Details on Pg. 3						

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

