



# Sea Rocket Chapter Florida Native Plant Society June 2023



*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.*

## Report From Last Meeting

At the last meeting, on May 24<sup>th</sup>, our speakers were Tim and Anna Harrison who have owned and operated Native Butterfly Flowers Nursery since 2015. They gave an excellent presentation on “What you plant matters”. Native plants support native insects such as bees, butterflies, and moths, native birds and animals and the complex interactions that maintain our native ecosystems. Exotic plants are commonly planted in Florida and are widely available. Some have become invasive, that is they spread from where they are planted and may cause damage to native plants and native plant communities by crowding out native plants or hybridizing with them. Even those that are not invasive do not support the diversity of life that native plants do. Converting even part of your yard to native plants can help support native wildlife. To contact Tim and Anna for additional information, check out their web site <https://nativebutterflyflowers.com>.

### ***Did you know:***

- Many invasive exotic plants can still be purchased in Florida. Examples include Mexican petunia (*Ruellia simplex*), Asparagus fern (*Asparagus setaceus*), and camphor tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*).
- Lawn grass is the largest irrigated crop in the U.S.
- A plant can become invasive many years after it was first introduced.

### ***We know now!!!***

## Armand De Filippo

We were saddened to learn of the April 17<sup>th</sup> passing of Armand De Filippo, former Sea Rocket Chapter Board member. Long-time members may remember the pizzas Armand brought to many of our General Membership meetings, and anyone who knew him will remember his kind and gracious manner. We miss you, Armand.

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## Next General Membership Meeting June 28, 2023

Speaker: Kay St. Onge, Topic: Titusville Tree Team

We hope you will join us at our next meeting where Kay St. Onge will be speaking about the Titusville Tree Team. Kay is a recipient of the Marine Resource Council's 2022 Achievement of the Year award for outstanding service to the Indian River Lagoon for her work with the Titusville Tree Team. Kay initiated the Titusville Tree Team in 2019 and will speak on the Tree Team's ongoing efforts.

Kay moved to Titusville in 2014. During the 1980s, she and her husband lived on 40 wooded acres in NW Arkansas where they built a passive solar home and grew the majority of their own food. Beginning in 1991, she and her husband sailed off and on throughout the Caribbean on various sailboats. As well, she has travelled extensively through Central America.

Kay's awareness and concern for the natural world has grown through these experiences. She considers herself a local environmental advocate, seeking to influence Titusville City Council regarding the preservation of trees and the restoration of the Lagoon.

Sea Rocket Chapter General Membership meetings are held at the EEL Program's Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 444 Columbia Blvd, Titusville. We'll have social time from 6:00 – 6:30PM when the meeting begins. There will be a short time for announcements, followed by the presentation. Meetings end at 8:00PM.

## Plant Sale News

We did not hold a plant sale during May, the month of our 2023 Annual Conference.

***Our final plant sale of the season will be held at the Enchanted Forest from 9:00AM-1:00PM on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.***

A list of plants that we expect to have available will be emailed to Sea Rocket Chapter members and attached to the June 10<sup>th</sup> calendar on our website a few days prior to the sale. A link to the website is provided at the end of this document. Remember, Sea Rocket members receive discounts during our sales! If you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact [srsecretary@fnps.org](mailto:srsecretary@fnps.org).

## FNPS Annual Conference

FNPS held a successful 2023 Annual Conference April 28-30<sup>th</sup>. Registration was a bit over 400 for the virtual event. Speakers presented on a wide variety of topics including invasive species, Florida Wildlife Corridor, iDigBio, resilience to sea level rise, carnivorous plants of Florida, ferns of Florida, moths of Florida, Homegrown National Park, and more. There were

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11 papers and posters in the research track including five from recipients of FNPS research grants. There were opportunities for networking, the silent auction, and the plant ID contest. FNPS currently plans to have an in-person conference in Gainesville in 2025.

## **FNPS Annual Members Meeting**

This year's Florida Native Plant Society members meeting will be held online at 10:00AM on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. All FNPS members are invited to participate. We will provide a "year in review" and announce grant awards, Palmetto Awards for members and then we will vote on new officers and directors. Join us via [YouTube live](#).

## **Garden Workdays at the Enchanted Forest**

Six volunteers attended the May 13<sup>th</sup> Garden Workday at the Enchanted Forest. Sea Rocket attendees included Madeline Klinko, Beverly Lewis, Bill Klein, and Paul Schmalzer. Paul is working on establishing a gardens inventory listing at the request of Enchanted Forest staff. *Thank you volunteers!!*

A summer gardens work break was established last year. We will not be scheduling a June workday and the area will be evaluated next month to determine if a workday should be scheduled for July.

## **Field Trips**

Field trips will resume when the weather is cooler. So far this year, we have visited the Pine Island Conservation Area (PICA) on Merritt Island, Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary, in Scottsmoor, Fox Lake Sanctuary, Titusville, and the Buck Lake Conservation Area, in Mims. Many thanks to Dr. Paul Schmalzer for leading these trips for the last 15 years.

## **Annual Picnic**

*Our annual summer picnic is planned for Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>.*

Stay tuned for information on our summer bring-a-dish annual picnic which will serve as our July membership meeting. It is anticipated that the picnic will be held at the Frog Pavilion at Fox Lake Park in Titusville. The pavilion is adjacent to a playground, so feel free to bring the kids!

Clarification of the date and menu will be included in the July newsletter. The Chapter will provide a few items, including but not limited to plates, a main menu item, napkins, and plastic silverware. Elizabeth Bishop, our Hospitality Chairperson will be receiving reservations, which are requested, but not required.

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## Outreach Opportunities

Our Chapter frequently participates in local festivals and other events where we share flyers, coloring pages, and other information with the public about Chapter activities and the Mission of the Florida Native Plant Society. Information about upcoming events, where you can get to know members of our group while helping share the Florida Native Plant Society's message, will be distributed in the future.

## Sea Rocket Bylaws

The Board of Directors is currently reviewing our Chapter Bylaws which will be submitted to the General Membership for final approval. If you would like additional information, feel free to check with any Board member, or contact [srsecretary@fnps.org](mailto:srsecretary@fnps.org).

## 2023 FNPS Member and Supporter Survey

It is anticipated that the 2023 FNPS Member and Supporter Survey will be launching on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Please provide your responses by the end of June. Additional information on the survey will be distributed soon.

*Here's the link:*

[https://ucf.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_7NJ5FFP7K8xYwn4](https://ucf.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7NJ5FFP7K8xYwn4).

## Thank You Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

The Sea Rocket Chapter holds many of its events at the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program's Enchanted Forest Sanctuary and we would like to take this opportunity to say *Thank You!!!!* We also include their monthly flyer in each of our newsletters. Check out this month's events in the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

## ***Upcoming Events!***

- June 6<sup>th</sup> – Sea Rocket Board Meeting, Enchanted Forest, 6:00 – 8:00PM
- *June 10<sup>th</sup> – Plant Sale, Enchanted Forest 9:00AM – 1:00PM*
- June 20<sup>th</sup> – General Membership Meeting 6:30PM.
- July - Sea Rocket Board Meeting, Enchanted Forest *date to be determined.*
- July 15<sup>th</sup> - Annual Picnic

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## ***What's bloomin'?***

*Here's a few pictures of plants currently blooming in our yard. All these plants have been purchased at Sea Rocket Chapter plant sales. Can you name them? Answers on page 6.*



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**NEW Facebook Page: search [searocketchapterfnps](#)**  
**Chapter Website <https://www.searocket.fnpschapters.org>**  
**Chapter Calendar <https://searocket.fnpschapters.org/calendar/>**  
**For additional information on FNPS: <http://www.fnps.org>**

## Sea Rocket Chapter Board of Directors

### Executive Committee

President – Paul Schmalzer, Ph.D.

Vice President – Open

Treasurer – Patti Larson

Secretary – Laura Covell

Chapter Representative – Kim Gibbs

### Committee Chairpersons

Membership – Open

Education & Outreach – Open

Hike Leader – Paul Schmalzer, Ph.D.

Newsletter – June issue prepared by Laura Covell

Social Media – Jill Whitson

Hospitality – Elizabeth Bishop

## Answers to What's Bloomin'

Coral Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	False indigobush <i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	Wild coffee <i>Psychotria nervosa</i>
Wild petunia <i>Ruellia caroliniensis</i>	Rockland lantana <i>Lantana depressa</i> var. <i>depressa</i>	Atamasco lily <i>Zephranthesis atamasco</i>

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# June 2023

## Events at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

### **Propagation Workshop: Vegetative Seed, with Friends of the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary (FEFS)**

Sun., June 4th, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00pm

Join FEFS and Lois Harris for a propagation workshop here at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. Please bring gloves, a hand trowel, hand clippers, hat and water. Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up. NO SAME DAY SIGN UPS \*\*Spots Limited\*\*

### **Nature Storytime**

Wed., June 7th, 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Geared towards ages 5 years and under. Theme: Hop into the World of Grasshoppers! Join us to observe grasshoppers in their environment and do a grasshopper craft. Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up.

### **Native Plant Sale**

Sat., June 10th, 9:00 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!

### **Sanctuary School**

Wed., June 21st, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Geared towards ages 6 through 12. Theme: Insect Inspection! Join us and become a field observer for a day to investigate the wide world of insects at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up.

### **Garden Workdays (Summertime)**

There will not be workdays during the summertime due to high heat and humidity. Workdays will resume once it starts to get cooler again.

### **Tai Chi at the Forest**

Every Sat. in June 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.

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## June 2023

# Events at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary *con't*

### **Yoga in Nature**

Every Sun. in June 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 Sundays in June 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.