

August 2023



Hello fellow members, as Summer continues, a whole new orchestra of blooms begins to emerge and mark the passage of time. We'll be having a Florida Native Plant exchange during the Social Time for our September 27th meeting. Members are invited to bring their native plants to exchange or share with others. Additional information will be provided in the September newsletter, get ready to pot up some seedlings! It is time to order your FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter t-shirts, please see flyer for description, ordering, pricing, and pick-up location. The Board of Directors has finished their review of our Chapter Bylaws, which will be presented to the General Membership for approval at our August meeting. Watch for a separate email coming soon which will include a copy of the information. Finally, the Chapter is also seeking a Treasurer, please reach out to rssecretary@gmail.com for information. Please note that field trips and most garden work are on hold until we have cooler weather.

Hello Members!

We are now accepting orders for the Sea Rocket T-shirts! The shirts are 4.3 oz, 100% combed cotton fine jersey. The fabric is laundered for reduced shrinkage. The color will be “natural” which is a very light tan. They are available in sizes XS-5XL. They will cost \$10.00 each.

Below please find the size chart and measurements in inches:

Size	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL	5XL
Body Length	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
Body Width	18	19	21	22	24	26	28	30	32
Sleeve Length	7	8	8	9	9	10	10	11	11

Orders are now being accepted. You can send your orders to bslewis53@outlook.com. Please include “T-SHIRTS” in the subject line and include in your order your name, number of shirts needed and sizes. Payment is accepted upon pick up of t-shirt(s).

August 23 is our next meeting and if you attend, you can place your order in person.

Thank you,

Beverly

Beverly Lewis

Membership Chairman

Product Specifications



Color and font of new Chapter t-shirts.

Report for FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Annual Picnic:

July 15th, 2023



Our annual summer picnic was held at Fox Lake Park, 4400 Fox Lake Rd, in Titusville. We had a great turn out with comfortable breezes as members got to know each other, share recipes, and relax. The event was catered by Popeyes, however, the sides were prepared by members which allowed for several options to choose from, including vegan. The event was minimal waste as reusable cups were brought by members, and utensils were sanitized and stored for later use. Gift bags were provided by the City of Titusville Water Resources Conservation Program and included a water saving garden hose spray nozzle.

We hope to see you there next year!

General Membership Meeting Report: June 28, 2023

Kay St. Onge, from the Titusville Tree Team, shared information about the origins of the group and their efforts to work with the Titusville City Commission regarding the City's Comprehensive Plan. Titusville Ordinance number 20-2021, which was approved by the Commission in September 2021, provides guidelines regarding retention of trees and vegetation.

The Tree Team's latest effort, a draft Concept Plan for an Urban Forestry Program, will be reviewed by the Titusville Environmental Commission soon.

If you would like additional information on the Titusville Tree Team, you can reach Kay at stongekay@yahoo.com.



Please join us for...

General Membership Meeting – Next Speaker

Remember, our Chapter meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month, so our next meeting will be held on August 23rd.

Our speaker will be Jessy Wayles, the Northern Region Community Engagement Coordinator for the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary program. Jessy focuses on getting the citizens of the lagoon involved in various aspects of lagoon life such as citizen science, habitat restoration, and conservation.

Her presentation's title is *Indian River Lagoon; Past, Present, Future*.

We hope you'll join us at the EEL Program's Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 444 Columbia Blvd. Titusville, Florida on August 23rd to hear Jessy's presentation on our lagoon. We'll have social time from 6:00 – 6:30PM when the meeting begins. There will be a short period for announcements and a bit of business, followed by Jessy's presentation.

Hope to see you then!

Plant Sales Review



The June 10th sale was small, but we had a good turnout for our July 8th event. During the two sales, a total of 164 plants found new homes! We gained a few new members and were pleased to see several families with children who were able to pick out their own plants to take

home and care for. Thank you to Brittany, Beverly, Laura, Madeline, Paul, Patti, Rick and all our members and neighbors for their help in making these sales successful.



Above: Families who garden together, stay together.

Left: The newest generation of native plant enthusiasts makes an excellent choice with a starry rosinweed and coreopsis.

Right: A man gazes at the growing point of a potential garden addition and is pleased.

Written and photographed by
Laura Covell



Species Spotlight: *Melochia tomentosa*

Common Names- Tea Bush, Pyramidflower, Broomwood

Written/Photographed by: Brittany Bayliss



M. tomentosa blooms with pollinator. Several species of native bee, skippers, and hairstreaks frequent the blooms.



The thumbnail sized blooms of *M. tomentosa* range from pink to soft lavender and are clustered towards the growing point of branches.

Melochia tomentosa is a valuable Fall source of food for many species of native bee, honey bee, and small butterfly. The tea bush is exceptional at attracting the most diverse pollinators as this plant “buzzes” with life when in bloom. All this activity is easily achieved as tea bush are sun loving, drought tolerant, and low maintenance shrubs that are perfect additions to any xeriscape. The long thin branches give rise to sage green alternating leaves with scalloped edges.

During blooming, five petaled lavender/pink flowers appear clustered towards the ends of the branches. The small leaves and flowers along slender branches give tea bush a wispy unique form that blends in with its garden neighbors.



Can you spot the *M. tomentosa* among this native planting? It is just above and to the right of the giant ironweed blooms.

August 2023 Events at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

Nature Storytime

Wed., Aug. 9th, 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Geared towards ages 5 years and under.

Theme: Do you know our Florida Wildlife Symbols? What is the state butterfly of Florida? Join us as we learn about many of our Florida wildlife symbols through fun activities and crafts! Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up. NO SAME DAY SIGN UPS.

Sanctuary School

Wed., Aug. 16th, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Geared towards ages 6 through 12.

Theme: Wonderful Wildlife Symbols of Florida! Join us to learn about the different wildlife symbols of Florida through fun activities and crafts! Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up. NO SAME DAY SIGN UPS.

Sea Rocket Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) General Meeting

Wed., Aug. 23rd, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Join the Sea Rocket Chapter of FNPS with special guest Jessy Wayles. Jessy is the Northern Region Community Engagement Coordinator for the Indian River Lagoon Council and will be giving a presentation on the Indian River Lagoon, titled: Indian River Lagoon: Past, Present, Future.

Animal Ambassadors with Becky Bolt

Sun., Aug. 27th, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Join Becky Bolt and the Friends of the Enchanted Forest, Inc. for a special program on some of our wonderful educational animal ambassadors! Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to register. ****Spots limited****

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 Aug. 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 Aug. 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 Aug. 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.

FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Board Members

President

Paul Schmalzer,
PhD

Vice President

OPEN

Treasurer

Patti Larson

Secretary

Laura Covel

Chapter Representatives

Kimberly Gibbs

Hike Leader

Paul Schmalzer,
PhD

Membership

Beverly
Lewis

Education/Outreach

OPEN

Newsletter

Brittany
Bayliss

**Plant Sales /
Gardens Acting,**
Paul Schmalzer,
PhD

Hospitality

Elizabeth
Bishop

Social Media

Laura Covel

At Large

John Stiner

We have several openings on our Board of Directors. If you have an interest in serving our Chapter in a long-term capacity, contact any Board Member or email srsecretary@fnps.org. Please note that Board Member terms are one year long with elections being held annually.



Board Member Changes

Newsletter

Tenzin Yeshe resigned as newsletter editor in May as she began graduate school at Florida Tech. We thank Yeshe for her work in preparing our newsletter and her numerous articles on trees and wish her success in her graduate studies. We are pleased that Brittany Bayliss has volunteered to take on the production of the newsletter. If you have articles or information for the newsletter, please contact Brittany at bbayliss234@hotmail.com.

Membership

We have been without a Chair of the Membership Committee for some time. We are pleased that Beverly Lewis has agreed to take on this role. Beverly will also be coordinating our next T-Shirts.

Social Media

Jill Whitson has stepped down as Chair of the Social Media Committee and Backup Chapter Representative. We thank Jill for reestablishing and maintaining the Chapter Facebook page and for filling in for Chapter Representative Kim Gibbs when needed. Jill previously also served as newsletter editor and has helped the Chapter with many projects. Laura Covell will serve as Chair of this Committee.

Treasurer

Chapter Treasurer Patti Larson is resigning effective August 1st. Patti has served in this important role since 2019. Patti participated in our plant sales and many outreach activities. We thank her for her dedicated service. If you are interested in service as Chapter Treasurer or would like to find out more about the responsibilities of the office, contact any Board member, or email srsecretary@fnps.org.

Reminder: Elections for Board Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer) will occur during our annual meeting in February. If you would like to know more about opportunities to serve our Chapter as a Board Officer or Committee Chairperson, contact any Board member, or email srsecretary@fnps.org.



August 2023 Calendar Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Jul 30, 2023	31	Aug 1 6pm ↕ Sea Rocket Board Me	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 6:30pm General Membership	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Landscape Award Applicati	Sep 1	2

August 1st- Monthly Board meeting from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at EFS, 444 Columbia Blvd Titusville, FL 32780. Meetings are open to all members, please feel free to join the Board of Directors if interested in long-term volunteer positions.

August 19th- The Sea Rocket Chapter will be participating with an information booth in the National Honeybee Day Celebration by the Brevard Backyard Beekeepers on August 19, 2023. The event will be held at the UF/IFAS Extension Office at 3695 Lake Drive in Cocoa. If you are interested in volunteering at the information booth, please contact Laura Covell, srsecretary@fnps.org.

August 23rd- Order Chapter t-shirts in person! General Membership meeting at Enchanted Forest Sanctuary from 6:30 to 8:00 pm with social time beginning at 6:00. Our speaker is Jessy Wayles, the topic is Indian River Lagoon; Past, Present, Future.

August 31st- Last day to submit applications for FNPS annual Landscape awards.

September 5th- Monthly Board meeting from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at EFS, 444 Columbia Blvd Titusville, FL 32780. Meetings are open to all members, please feel free to join the Board of Directors if interested in long-term volunteer positions.

September 27th- We'll be having a Florida Native Plant exchange during the Social Time for our September 27th meeting. Members are invited to bring their native plants to exchange or share with others. Additional information will be provided in the September newsletter.