

**September  
2023**



**Happy September Members, this month is a busy one, as Garden Workdays, field trips, and plant sales are back! Please refer to the calendar on the last page for times, locations, and other pertinent details. Next month is Florida Native Plant month! Be sure to check our October newsletter for information on all the things our Chapter will be doing to celebrate!**

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:

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

Orders are now being accepted. You can send your orders to [bslewis53@outlook.com](mailto: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





Florida Native Plant Society  
**SEA ROCKET CHAPTER**

# ***Plant Sale***

**Saturday,  
September 16, 2023**

**9:00am – 1:00pm  
Enchanted Forest Sanctuary  
444 Columbia Blvd. Titusville**

*Join us for our first sale of the fall!!  
Come early for best selection!!!*

*For more info:*

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

# Report for General Meeting August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

Written by : Brittany Bayliss, Photographed by: Laura Covell

If you would like additional information on efforts to restore the Indian River Lagoon, feel free to contact Jessy [wayles@irlcouncil.org](mailto:wayles@irlcouncil.org)

Thank you, Jessy Wayles, for an interesting presentation on the Indian River Lagoon! Jessy, the Northern Region Community Engagement Coordinator for the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary program spoke on the current state of the IRL. The presentation focused on projects aimed at reversing the wildlife and habitat loss caused by nutrient pollution and destruction of intertidal zones. Through monitoring, research, and various assessments, the Indian River Lagoon is undergoing \$1.2 million in research funded by the EPA.





# Report for National Honey Bee Day Participation August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Photographed by Brittany Bayliss and Laura Covell

This year's National Honey Bee Celebration was hosted by Brevard Backyard Beekeepers Inc. and held at the UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County Center in Cocoa. The Sea Rocket Chapter operated an information-based booth which provided festival participants with literature that focused on pollinator friendly garden techniques, native plant care, and planting guide selection.



Volunteers operating our Chapter booth. Please contact [rssecretary@fnps.org](mailto:rssecretary@fnps.org) for volunteer opportunities.



A temporary single-frame observation hive. This specialized case allows inner hive activities to be viewed up close.

## September 2023 Events at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

### Nature Storytime

Wed., Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Geared toward ages 5 and under. Enjoy a half hour story time at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary! Theme: Terrific Trees! Join us for some fun with trees through activities and crafts! Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up. NO SAME DAY SIGN UPS.

### Garden Workday

Sat. Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Grab your hat, sunblock, and water and come help maintain the butterfly garden at the Sanctuary with the Sea Rocket Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society! Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up.

### Sanctuary School

Wed., Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Geared towards ages 6 through 12. Theme: Tremendous Trees! Enjoy learning about trees through fun activities and crafts! Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up. NO SAME DAY SIGN UPS.

### Native Plant Sale

Sat., Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> at 9 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!

### Hike with the Friends of the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Inc.

Sun., Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Join the Friends of the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Inc. for a hike and some tea! Registration required. Call 321-264-5185 for more information.

### Pine Needle Basket Making

Sun., Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Join Yvette Flis for a class on basket making with pine needles. Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up. \*Limited space\*

### Coming Soon!

#### Creepy Crawly Critter Night!

Sat., Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Grab your costume and join us for a night filled with critters! There will be games, crafts, education booths, animal talks, live animals, and a glow trail. Registration is required. \*Spots limited\*

Registration will open at the end of September on Eventbrite. Visit [Creepy Crawly Critter Night Registration](#) to register.

### Tai Chi at the Forest

Every Sat. in Sept. 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.

(More events on next page...)



## **Yoga in Nature**

Every Sun. in Sept. 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 Sat./Sun. in Sept. at 10:00 a.m.  
Enjoy a 45-minute guided hike. Please bring a hat, water, and walking shoes. Days are limited to staff availability. Registration required no later than the day before the hike, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up. NO SAME DAY SIGN UPS.

*The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary was created and managed under Brevard County's Environmentally Endangered Lands Program referendum. The referendum was established by voters in 1990 to protect and preserve the rich biological diversity of Brevard County for future generations. The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary operates in partnership with the Friends of the Enchanted Forest to provide hands on educational experiences for all visitors. Admission to the sanctuary and education center is free and open to the public Tuesday through Sunday from 9 am to 5 pm. Come out to visit soon!*

Species spotlight:

*Lobelia cardinalis* “Cardinal Flower”

Written and photographed by: Brittany Bayliss

Are you looking to fill that garden wet spot, take a stroll along a stream, maybe watch a hummingbird feed? Then be on the lookout for cardinal flowers during your next nursery visit or outdoor activity as this plant’s native region encompasses the northern half of Florida and beyond. The water loving native features tubular red flowers on bloom spikes reaching 3 to 5 feet tall and a bloom period running from late summer through early winter when the plant enters winter dormancy. Although a short-lived perennial, some plants will perish after the initial bloom. Plant cardinal flower in moist areas along a body of fresh water such as a pond edge, stream margin, or even low-lying areas in partial sun. Cardinal flower will naturally self-sow if seed to soil contact is good, seeds are unencumbered by mulch, and soil is kept moist. *For additional information on FNPS: <http://www.fnps.org>.*



Basal rosette of cardinal flower as plant exits winter dormancy.



Blooms of cardinal flower, the flower spikes may reach 3 to 5 feet tall. Flowers are a valuable nectar source for thirsty pollinators.



Once the blooms have been fertilized, seeds begin to develop. Cardinal flower may self-seed in the right conditions.



**General Meeting September 27<sup>th</sup> Speaker:**

# **Ditches, Dipnets, and Duckweed! Identifying and Collecting Florida Native Aquatic Plants**

Matt Mills is the current President and founder of the Space Coast Aquarium Society. He has been keeping aquarium fish and plants for about 30 years. Currently, Matt maintains 20 aquariums and a 100-gallon pond in his home and keeps native Florida native fish, endangered Goodeid livebearers, bushy nose plecos, and many species of Corydoras catfish. He also keeps many species of native aquatic plants, such as Hornwort, Najas, Saggitaria, Salvinia, Frog bit, and several others. Matt enjoys learning about native fish and wildlife and avidly collects all the research material he can find on the subject. The Mills family spends many of their weekends attending aquarium club meetings and collecting Florida native fish and plants from local waterways.



# Please join us September 23<sup>rd</sup>

## Cruikshank Sanctuary- 9:00 A.M. 12:00 P.M.

326 Barnes Blvd #300 Rockledge, FL 32955

The Sea Rocket Chapter's first field trip of the Fall will be held at The Helen and Allen Cruikshank Sanctuary. Guided by Dr. Paul Schmalzer, you can expect to see endangered and endemic species only found in Florida scrub habitat. Come Explore with us! Please bring water, sunscreen, and comfortable shoes.

Two resident Scrub Jays at sanctuary.

Photo by: Laura Covell



## Volunteer opportunities for September

Join us for hands on experience with Florida Native Plants

### September 9<sup>th</sup>-

Garden workdays at the Enchanted Forest were suspended during the summer due to the heat, but we're getting back to work now. Learn about many of Florida's native plants at a single location, get to know some new friends, and enjoy nature's beauty while helping to maintain the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary's butterfly gardens from 9:00am to 11:00am. Please bring water and garden tools if you have them and dress for warm weather. Sunblock is always recommended.

### September 16<sup>th</sup>-

Would you like to know more about some of Florida's native plants? If so, join us as a volunteer during our September 16<sup>th</sup> plant sale! Volunteer shifts include 8:30AM to 11:30AM and 10:30AM to 1:30PM. Opportunities include assisting in the sales booth (adding up tickets, collecting payments, sharing brochures and other information), sales help, assisting with set up and break down, and more! You can sign up for a single shift, or for the entire day. If interested, please contact any Board member, or email [srsecretary@fnps.org](mailto:srsecretary@fnps.org). Remember, Sea Rocket Chapter members are eligible for discounts at all our plant sales!





# NOTES FROM THE BOARD

KIMBERLEY GIBBS HAS RESIGNED AS CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE AND MOVED TO EDUCATION/OUTREACH CHAIRPERSON ON AUGUST 1ST. THANK YOU KIM!

OUR CHAPTERS' GENERAL MEETING THIS MONTH WILL BE PRECEDED WITH A PLANT EXCHANGE. THE EXCHANGE WILL OCCUR FROM 6:00 TO 6:30 P.M., PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF SCHEDULE AS OUR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING BEGINS AT 6:30.

AT OUR LAST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON AUGUST 23RD, MEMBERS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED UPDATED SEA ROCKET CHAPTER BYLAWS. A COPY HAS BEEN SENT TO THE STATE FNPS OFFICES AND EMAILED TO MEMBERS. IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE YOUR COPY, PLEASE CONTACT [SRSECRETARY@FNPS.ORG](mailto:SRSECRETARY@FNPS.ORG).

# FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Board Members

**President**  
Paul Schmalzer,  
PhD

**Vice President**  
OPEN

**Secretary**  
Laura Covell

**Chapter  
Representatives**  
OPEN

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

**Hike Leader**  
Paul Schmalzer,  
PhD

**Hospitality**  
Elizabeth  
Bishop

**Membership**  
Beverly  
Lewis

**Newsletter**  
Brittany  
Bayliss

**Treasurer**  
OPEN

**Education/Outreach**  
Kimberley  
Gibbs

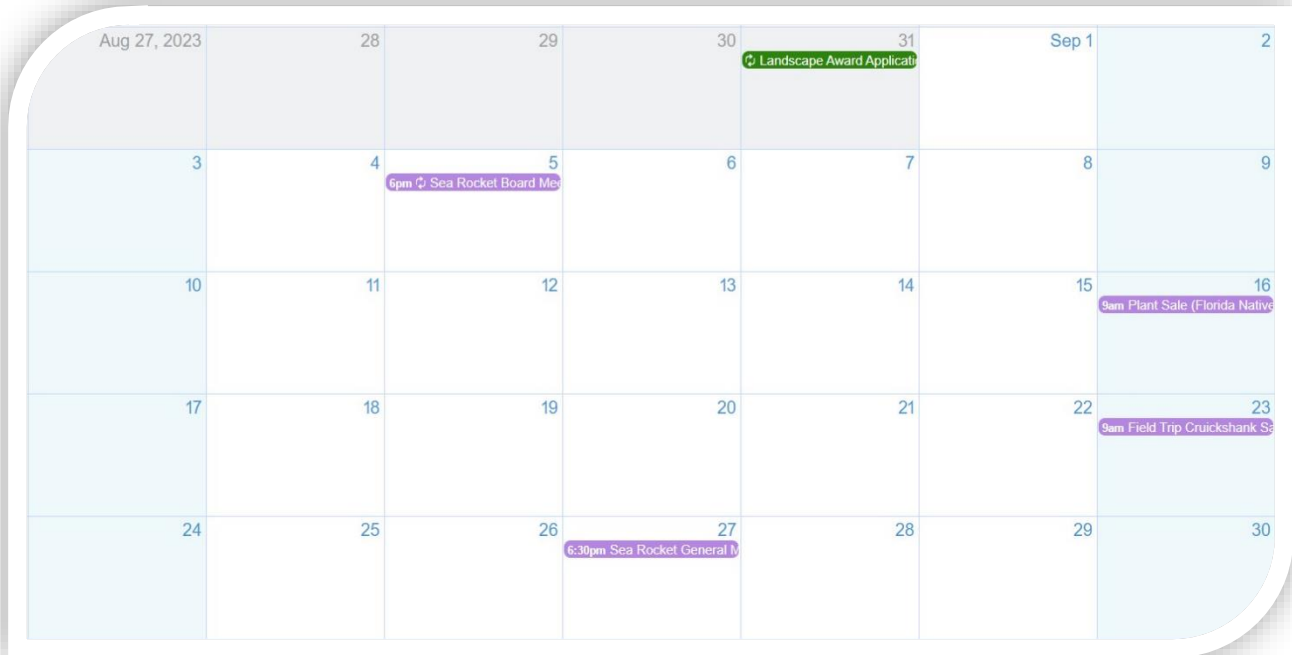
**At Large**  
John Stiner

**Social  
Media**  
Laura Covell

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](mailto:srsecretary@fnps.org). Please note that Board Member terms are one year long with elections being held annually.



September 2023- <https://searocket.fnpschapters.org/calendar/>



**September 5<sup>th</sup>**- Board of Directors meeting at EFS. The monthly meeting is open to all members. Meeting time is 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**September 9<sup>th</sup>**- Garden Workdays at EFS have resumed! Join us to help maintain the native plant Butterfly Garden. Workday hours are from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

**September 16<sup>th</sup>**- Stop by for the first plant sale of the Fall at EFS. Sale hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**September 23<sup>rd</sup>**- Field Trip to Cruickshank Sanctuary, with Dr. Schmalzer. Please bring plenty of fluids and appropriate clothing. Sanctuary address: 326 Barnes Blvd #300 Rockledge, FL 32955. Learn with us between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

**September 27<sup>th</sup>**- General Meeting at EFS. Plant exchange runs from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. Speaker Matt Mills' presentation, "Ditches, Dipnets, and Duckweed! Identifying and Collecting Florida Native Aquatic Plants" will begin at 6:30.

*EFS- Enchanted Forest Sanctuary is located at 444 Columbia Blvd Titusville, FL 32780*