

# October 2023 Newsletter



## Happy Florida Native Plant Month!

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# September 27, 2023

## General Membership Meeting Review

**Speaker: Matt Mills**  
**Topic: *Ditches, Dipnets, and Duckweed!***



Matt is President and Founder of the Space Coast Aquarium Society and he shared some of his knowledge on Florida native fish and plants, along with information on a few of his favorite, and least favorite, exotics. Matt reminded us that Florida's native, aquatic flora and fauna isn't just located in the uplands and ocean, it is found in ponds and lakes, streams, and even roadside ditches!

We were also reminded that collection of plants on conservation lands requires permission from the managing agency.

### ***Did you know?***

- Sometimes, differentiating between a native and non-native plant requires a microscope?
- Azolla is a Florida native aquatic fern that floats!
- Some fish are called livebearers, which means they give birth to live young?

## Plant Exchange

We also had a plant exchange during social time. Members brought in a significant number of plants to share and most of them found new homes! This is the first time we've tried this idea in a while; we'll probably do it again, but we'll be sure to announce it ahead of time!



Aaron's new necklace pod



Barbara's new rouge plant



Elizabeth's new wild coffee

## October 25, 2023 General Membership Meeting Presentation Speaker: You!!! Topic: *Show and Tell*

- ◇ For our October meeting, we invite Chapter members to share stories about their experiences growing Florida native plants: in their yards, at their businesses, or around town if you have participated in any projects involving Florida natives. What's your favorite Florida native plant? What worked best? What didn't work at all? Did you have any surprises? What's the most important thing you have learned? Any other information you feel could be beneficial to our members? If you have any pictures you would like to have included in the PowerPoint presentation, or considered for inclusion in our November newsletter, please send them in as soon as possible and no later than October 20<sup>th</sup>. Plant photos should include the name of the plant; common names are acceptable. If there are any faces in your pictures, please include authorization for releasing your pictures for use in the newsletter as part of your email.
- ◇ RSVPs are not required to participate, but we'll be using a list of folks who sign up ahead of time, or who send in pictures, to keep the early part of the discussion flowing smoothly.

Please email RSVPs and pictures to [srsecretary@fnps.org](mailto:srsecretary@fnps.org) by October 20<sup>th</sup>.

# **October 7<sup>th</sup> Garden Workday at Enchanted Forest**

Join us at our next Garden workday from 9:00 – 11:00AM on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program's Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Butterfly Gardens where you can get to know some new friends as you learn about many of Florida's native plants while helping to maintain the gardens. Please bring water and garden tools if you have them and dress for outdoor activities. Don't forget the sunblock!

## **\$\$ 2024 Budget Planning in Progress \$\$**

The draft 2024 Sea Rocket Chapter Budget will be presented to the General Membership for approval at the November 15<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting. The November meeting date is moved to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Please send any suggestions that you would like to have considered to [srsecretary@fnps.org](mailto:srsecretary@fnps.org) no later than October 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Annual Elections of Officers**

As a reminder, we will be having our next Annual Meeting on Wednesday, February 28, 2024. We will be holding elections for Chapter Officers (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary) during that meeting. If you have interest in serving as a Chapter Officer, or would like to nominate someone else (and they agree to be nominated), please submit your nomination to [srsecretary@fnps.org](mailto:srsecretary@fnps.org) no later than the December Board meeting which will be held this year on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

# September Plant Sale Results

Mother Nature gave us a very nice day for our September 16<sup>th</sup> first plant sale of the fall season when 70 Florida native plants found new homes! Thank you to Paul Schmalzer, Beverly Lewis, Autumn Neilson, Woody Dierberg, Brittany Bayliss and Laura Covell for their efforts in making the day a success! Our next sale will be held on October 21, 2023.

## Do you follow Facebook?

The Sea Rocket Chapter has a **NEW** Facebook page where you can view upcoming events and get links to information with more details. Please check out our **NEW Page**, and if you are so inclined, give us a “like”, or two, or more!!

Choose “Follow” to be sure you always receive information on the latest happenings!

<https://www.facebook.com/searocketchapterfnps>

Don't forget our Web Site and  
Chapter Calendar!

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

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

## September Enchanted Forest Garden Workday

We held the first garden workday of the fall season at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary on Saturday September 9, 2023. After a hot, wet summer parts of the garden needed attention. Fortunately, we had a lot of help. Eight Sea Rocket and Enchanted Forest volunteers participated including Madeline Klinko, Beverly Lewis, and new member Marlene Weiss. We were joined by a Boy Scout group from the Orlando area consisting of 12 young women and four adults. Many weeds were removed. Thanks to all who participated. The next garden workday will be October 7.

-Paul Schmalzer





Announcement:

FNPS 2024 Endowment Grant Research Awards,  
Conservation Grant Awards, the Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany, and Cornelia  
McNamara Grant

The Florida Native Plant Society maintains an **Endowment Research Grant** program for the purpose of funding research on native plants. These are small grants (\$2500 or less), awarded for a 1-year period, and intended to support research that forwards the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society which is "to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida."

FNPS **Conservation Grants** support applied native plant conservation projects in Florida. These grants (\$5000 or less) are awarded for a 1-year period. These projects promote the preservation, conservation, or restoration of rare or imperiled native plant taxa and rare or imperiled native plant communities. To qualify for a Conservation Grant, the proposed project must be sponsored by an FNPS Chapter.

The **Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany** will provide up to \$1500 to graduate or undergraduate students who are studying Florida ethnobotany – i.e., the study of the relationship between peoples or cultures with plants native to Florida or Florida ecosystems. These can be current uses or historic uses.

The Florida Native Plant Society has established a **Cornelia McNamara Grant** program for the purpose of funding applied research on native plants and habitats, particularly those that are rare or imperiled. These are small grants (\$1500 or less), awarded for a 1-year period, and intended to support research that will yield data to inform the management for or restoration of native species and habitats.

Application guidelines and details are on the FNPS Web site ([www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)), click on 'What We Do/Awards and Grants'. Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to [info@fnps.org](mailto:info@fnps.org).

**Application deadline for the 2024 Awards is March 1, 2024.** Awards will be announced in May 2024.

# Kennedy Space Center Herbarium Now Available Online

Over the past four decades, we have assembled a significant herbarium collection at Kennedy Space Center through ecological work on Kennedy Space Center, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Canaveral National Seashore, Cape Canaveral Air (Space) Force Center, and other areas of Brevard County, particularly Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program sanctuaries. The collection totals 4042 specimens representing 1015 taxa. We have completed the digital imaging of the collection, and it is now available to the public at the **SERNEC (Southeast Regional Network of Expertise and Collections)** website [www.serneportal.org](http://www.serneportal.org)

To get information on the collection and view images of specimens go to the website [serneportal.org](http://serneportal.org).

1. To see overview information on collection: On Home page, select Search Collections, go to Kennedy Space Center Herbarium (KSCFL), Click on icon.

2. To search for specimen information and images: On Home page, select Specimen Search, then Search Collections. A list of all herbaria collections in SERNEC will appear. Deselect all. Then select (check) Kennedy Space Center Herbarium (KSCFL). Click Search at top right of page. Search Page will appear. Can search by Taxonomic Criteria (family, genus, species), Locality, Collector, Specimen Criteria, etc.

-Paul A. Schmalzer







Florida Native Plant Society  
**SEA ROCKET CHAPTER**

# *Plant Sale*

**Saturday,  
October 21, 2023**

**9:00am – 1:00pm**

**Enchanted Forest Sanctuary  
444 Columbia Blvd., Titusville**

*Come early for best selection!!!*

*A list of plants we expect to have available for sale will be posted to our website calendar a few days before the sale.*

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

# BACKYARD BIODIVERSITY DAY & FLORIDA NATIVE PLANTS SALE

## OCTOBER 21, 2023

9AM-3PM

TO BENEFIT UPLAND HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS AT MEAD BOTANICAL GARDEN  
1300 S DENNING DR, WINTER PARK, FL 32789

WILDLIFE EXHIBITS  
GUIDED HIKES  
EXPERT SPEAKERS  
KIDS ACTIVITIES  
WORKSHOPS



PRESENTED BY THE TARFLOWER CHAPTER OF  
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, ORANGE COUNTY



**CATEGORY ARCHITECTURE**

**GROUND**  
Solutions  
FLORIDA NATIVE LANDSCAPE DESIGNS  
GroundedSol.com

**Audubon**  
SOCIETY

**Bowman and Blair**  
Ecology and Design, Inc.

**Track Shack**  
EST. 1977  
Orlando, Florida  
Keeping Central Florida Fit

**PINE CREEK**  
DEVELOPMENT

**FLORIDA Wildflower**  
FOUNDATION

**BORRELLI + PARTNERS**  
ARCHITECTURE PLANNING LANDSCAPE INTERIORS

**SIERRA CLUB**

**Pegasus**  
ENGINEERING

# October 2023 Events at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

## **Nature Songs with Laura Covell and Becky Bolt**

Sun., Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Join Laura Covell and Becky Bolt on the porch for music, puppets, songs about plants and animals and a fun rhythm jam! For kids of all ages! Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up. NO SAME DAY SIGN UPS.

## **Garden Workday**

Sat. Oct. 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.

## **Nature Storytime**

Wed., Oct. 11<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: Nifty Nocturnals! Join us to learn about nocturnal animals in our forest through fun activities and crafts. Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up. NO SAME DAY SIGN UPS.

## **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\* For information on registration call 321-264-5185.

## **Sanctuary School**

Wed., Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Geared towards ages 6 through 12.

Theme: Notable Nocturnals! Enjoy learning about our nocturnal critters through fun activities and crafts! Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up. NO SAME DAY SIGN UPS.

## **Native Plant Sale**

Sat., Oct. 21<sup>st</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!

## **Prehistoric Lunch**

Sun., Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Join Archaeologist Elaine Williams and the Friends of the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Inc. for a presentation and a taste of what the local peoples ate. Registration required. Call 321-264-5185 for more information.

## **Rhymes and Reasons to Appreciate Spiders**

Sun., Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Join Dee Fairbanks-Simpson and the Friends of the Enchanted Forest Inc. for an interactive Florida spider id and learning session. Registration required.

To register visit:

<https://www.meetup.com/space-coast-audubon-meetup/events/295942805/?isFirstPublish=true>

(More on the next page.....)

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

Every Sat. in Oct. 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 Oct. 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 Oct. 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

### American Beautyberry: *Callicarpa americana*

Written By Brittany Bayliss

The American Beautyberry is a hearty shrub that can be either deciduous or evergreen depending on the region, regardless of region, a winter pruning will encourage blooming. Beautyberry benefits from long dry spells with moist periods that are provided naturally by seasonal showers. During Spring-Summer, it bears sleeves of white to pink flowers along pendulous branches that give way to its namesake fruits. Initially green, the berries ripen into a beautiful magenta and attract all sorts of migrating bird species. Not only a host plant for Spring Azures and Snowberry Clearwings, the American Beautyberry provides needed resources via flowers and berries to various pollinators and birds.



Beautyberry in bloom, the delicate flowers form indiscrete clusters in regular intervals along branches. Photo by Laura Covel

Flower clusters give way to fruits. This ombre display is caused by the fruits maturing at different rates (from base to growing tip). Phot by Brittany Bayliss

Mature berries are easy to spot and are worth defending! This mockingbird is guarding its bounty from migrating warblers, buntings, and catbirds. Photo by Brittany Bayliss

## Word Search- Plant ID Terminology

F	C	W	J	D	E	E	C	H	I	N	A	T	E	P
B	S	H	K	A	J	J	T	H	J	D	U	D		S
E	A	M	S	Y	F	X	F	L	S	J	N	W	P	J
O	Z	N	I	X	Y	L	A	C	J	D	B	R	E	X
F	U	E	D	M	A	K	I	A	A	K	G	N	D	N
S	D	K	X	R	S	W	U	T	H	R	A	N	U	W
A	P	D	O	G	O	Y	Y	K	S	S	P	U	N	O
K	I	I	T	N	N	G	W	I	D	A	D	E	C	X
J	S	P	E	B	T	S	E	N	L	Y	G	X	L	K
W	T	P	K	D	K	R	E	N	K	K	P	A	E	E
B	I	W	A	A	A	V	G	W	O	N	O	B	O	U
I	L	Q	J	T	K	K	S	I	S	U	L	E	L	S
D	O	F	S	E	H	I	O	Y	D	V	S	M	E	F
S	O	S	T	A	M	E	N	F	F	F	J	L	F	K
J	E	G	J	R	G	J	X	X	B	S	L	D	B	C

**Androgenous-** An inflorescence with staminate and pistillate flowers

**Calyx-** Collective term for sepals of a flower, encloses the petals

**Carpel-** Female reproductive organ of a flower, typically consists of stigma, style, ovary

**Catkin-** A dense spike of apetalous, same- sex flowers (*Salix*)

**Disk-** Formation of tiny, fused flowers at center of “flower” (*Asteraceae*)

**Echinate-** With prickles or spines, (*Echinacea*, coneflower)

**Peduncle-** The main stalk of a flower, inflorescence

**Pistil-** Consists of one (simple pistil) or many carpels (compound pistil)

**Spathe-** A large bract (or pair of bracts) enclosing an inflorescence

**Stamen-** Male reproductive organ of a flower, typically consists of anther(s) and filament(s)



## Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary Field Trip

### Saturday, October 28, 2023

### 9:00 AM - noon

Did you know that Brevard County has its own endemic plant? *Dicerandra thinicola*, also known as *Titusville Balm*, or Titusville mint, is found in just a few places in the Mims and Titusville areas, and nowhere else on earth.

Join us and see this amazing beauty. Check out our web calendar for meeting location.

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



*Dicerandra* Scrub Sanctuary. This is a joint project of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and the State of Florida. Vegetation is primarily oak scrub and scrubby flatwoods with a depression marsh down slope. Prescribed burns have been conducted on the site since acquisition. The endemic *Dicerandra thinicola* occurs here and should be in flower.

**Parking is limited at the site. We will meet at the Indian River Plaza Shopping Center. Meet at the southwestern section of the parking lot. We will carpool to the site.**

Option 1.) US 1 to St. Rt. 50 (Cheney Highway). West on St. Rt. 50 to Indian River Plaza Shopping Center.

Option 2.) I-95 to Titusville, St. Rt. 50 exit. East on St. Rt. 50 (Cheney Highway) to Indian River Plaza Shopping Center.

**Note: DO NOT go to the 4900 Melissa Drive sanctuary entrance.**

Bring hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent.

# FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Board of Directors

**President:**  
Paul Schmalzer

**Vice President:**  
OPEN

**Chapter Representative:**  
Elizabeth Bishop

**Treasurer:**  
Interim, Paul Schmalzer

**Education & Outreach:**  
Kim Gibbs

**Secretary:**  
Laura Covell

**Social Media:**  
Laura Covell

**Membership:**  
Beverly Lewis

**Partner At Large:**  
John Stiner

**Gardens/Plant Sales:**  
Paul Schmalzer, acting.

**Hospitality:**  
Elizabeth Bishop

**Field Trip:**  
Paul Schmalzer

**Editor:**  
Brittany Bayliss

At our 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).





# October 2023 Sea Rocket Chapter Calendar of Events

Oct 1, 2023	2	3	4	5	6	7
		6pm Sea Rocket Board Me				10am Butterfly Garden Workd
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
						9am PLANT SALE SEA ROC
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
			6pm Sea Rocket Chapter - Sf			9am Dicerandra Scrub Sancti
29	30	31	Nov 1	2	3	4

**Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>**- Sea Rocket Chapter Board meeting, Open to all members. Time from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at EFS\*

**Oct 7<sup>th</sup>**- Garden Workday. Join us in the butterfly garden at EFS\* from 9:00 am to 11:00 pm as we lend a hand to our Chapters' sponsor. Learn plant id, techniques, propagation tips.

**Oct 21<sup>st</sup>**- Our second plant sale of the fall will be from 9:00 to 1:00 pm at the EFS. Now is a great time to start making Spring selections!

**Oct 25<sup>th</sup>**- For the first time, the Sea Rocket Chapter will host a member led meeting titled "What's in your yard", which is centered around sharing personal triumphs, hard earned lessons, and the experience of being a native plant enthusiast. Social time begins at 6:00 pm, the meeting will begin at 6:30 pm. Please contact [srsecretary@fnps.org](mailto:srsecretary@fnps.org) for questions/submissions.

**Oct 28<sup>th</sup>**- Join us for a treat of a field trip from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the *Dicerandra* Scrub Sanctuary in Titusville where the *Dicerandra thinicola* specimens should be in bloom. Led by Dr. Paul Schmalzer, this Chapter outing is sure to be a crowd pleaser. Meet up location at Indian River Plaza Shopping Plaza, we will carpool to the sanctuary. Please see pg. 13 for directions and packing list.

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

# Word Search Answers

						E	C	H	I	N	A	T	E	
			K											
	A		S										P	
		N	I	X	Y	L	A	C					E	
			D					A	A				D	
				R				T		R			U	
	P				O			K			P		N	
	I					G		I				E	C	
	S						E	N					L	
	T	P						N					E	
	I		A						O					
	L			T						U				
					H						S			
		S	T	A	M	E	N							