



March 2024

Contents

1. Welcome Page
2. Sea Rocket Chapter Announcements
3. Sea Rocket Chapter Reminders
4. Garden Happenings at Enchanted Forest Sanctuary
5. Plant Sale Flyer-First of 2024!
6. 1000 Islands Fest, We'll see you there!
7. General Membership Meeting 03/27/24, Speaker: Lora Losi
8. Field Trip Announcement
- 9-11. Field Trip Report for South Lake Conservation Area
12. Report for Pioneer Day at Sam's House 02/10/2024
13. Coloring Book Page
14. Species Spotlight: Tropical Sage *Saliva coccinea*
15. Chapter Information Page: Take Us Anywhere!
16. Sea Rocket Chapter Board of Directors Page
17. Sea Rocket Chapter Calendar of Events for February 2024
18. Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Calendar of Events for February 2024

Sea Rocket Chapter Announcements:

Election Results 2024

During our Annual General Membership Meeting on February 28th, Paul Schmalzer, Ph. D., was re-elected President, and Laura Covell was re-elected Secretary for the 2024 term. The positions for Vice-President and Treasurer remain open.

National Invasive Species Awareness week



Invasive species pose a significant threat to ecosystems worldwide, outcompeting native flora and fauna, disrupting natural habitats, and causing irreparable ecological harm. NISAW serves as a crucial platform to raise awareness about the impact of invasive species, empowering individuals, communities, and organizations to take action.

Please visit

<https://naisma.org/2024/02/01/nisaw-2024/>

for information and how to get involved.

Sea Rocket Chapter Reminders:

Our Chapter offers many ways to get involved! If you would like to volunteer, speak with any Board member, or send an email to srsecretary@fnps.org so Laura can put you in touch with the lead person for that event. Here's a few of our upcoming events where we'll need volunteers:

- 3/9/24 Plant Sale, Enchanted Forest
- 3/16/24 Thousand Islands Festival, Cocoa Beach
- 4/20/24 Plant Sale, Enchanted Forest

For additional information, see the event listing on our Website's calendar.

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

Sea Rocket Chapter General Membership meetings are held at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, 444 Columbia Blvd, Titusville, FL. We have a Social Time from 6:00 – 6:30pm when the business portion of the meeting begins. Meetings end at 8:00pm. The Sea Rocket Chapter appreciates the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program allowing us to meet at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary.

Garden Happenings At Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

Written and Photographed by Laura Covell



Tillandsia

This is one of the *Tillandsia* species with very narrow leaves. Although it looks quite different, it's in the same genus as *Tillandsia utriculata*.



Coreopsis

Coreopsis leavenworthii is a common species in wet, open sites in our area. It can frequently be seen along roadsides near ditches.



Willow

Salix caroliniana is common in wet areas, and a host plant for the Viceroy butterfly. This picture shows young fruits.



Spider Wort

Tradescantia ohiensis spreads readily. This Florida native's flowers open in the mornings, then close as the day progresses.

Although Winter is at its end, many of the plants in the gardens are thriving, with a few even in bloom and beginning to fruit. See if you can find the plants in these pictures the next time you visit!

Join us March 2nd, we'd love to see you in the Gardens next time, from 9:00 - 11:00AM. Working in the gardens is a great way to learn about Florida native plants while spending time in nature, enjoy meeting new people, and even get some exercise! Please bring water and garden tools, if you have them, and dress for outdoor activities. Don't forget the sunblock!

Sea Rocket's 1st Plant Sale of 2024



Florida Native Plant Society
SEA ROCKET CHAPTER

Plant Sale

Saturday, March 9, 2024

*For additional information,
check the Sea Rocket Chapter Website Calendar.*

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

Would you like to know more about some of Florida's native plants and have the opportunity to learn about a variety of our natives at a single location? If so, join us as a volunteer at our March 9th plant sale! Volunteer shifts include 8:30am to 11:30am and 10:30am to 1:30pm. Opportunities include working in the sales booth (adding up tickets, collecting payments, sharing brochures and other information), sales help, assisting with set up and breakdown, and more!

You can sign up for a single shift, or for the entire day. If interested in volunteering, please contact any Board member, or email

srsecretary@fnps.org.

**Remember, Sea Rocket Chapter members are eligible
for discounts!**

Community Outreach- Join Us March 16th for the First Annual
Thousand Islands Fest!



The Friends of the Thousand Islands, in conjunction with the City of Cocoa Beach and Brevard County’s Environmentally Endangered Lands, is holding the 1st Annual Thousand Islands Fest. A family fun and educational event celebrating the Thousand Islands and the progress being made to heal the Indian River Lagoon.

<https://friendsofthethousandislands.org/>

If you would like to volunteer for this Outreach Event, please contact srsecretary@fnps.org or any board member, to receive more information. We hope you can join us and thank you for interest.

Next General Membership Meeting March 27th, 2024

SPEAKER: Lora Losi

TOPIC: La Dolce Tweeta: Bringing Birds and Life to Your Yard with Native Plants

This program will provide resources that will help you determine what native plants will bring satisfaction AND birds to your yard. Many websites are available to help you search for the correct species for attracting birds and other wildlife. We will go over the basic tenants, goals and benefits of native landscaping, as well as other factors concerning bird health.

Who will make your yard THEIR “La Dolce Vida” place??

BIOGRAPHY- Ms. Losi has earned a Master’s degree in Biology research. She taught High School Physics, Advanced Placement Chemistry and Biology for 28 years, both in Florida and New York State. She and her husband led trips for the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife festival for over 20 years. They have been on the Board of Directors for Space Coast Audubon Society for over 15 years. They have traveled extensively in Central and South America patronizing financially challenged ecolodges to help them conserve the lands, people and birds that they support. Matt and Lora have rewilded 2.5 acres in Western New York State and one acre in the Titusville area.



Field Trip

Malabar Scrub Sanctuary East

Malabar

April 6, 2024

Malabar Scrub Sanctuary Field Trip Announcement

Saturday April 6, 2024, 9:00am -12:00

Malabar Scrub Sanctuary. This is a joint acquisition of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and the State of Florida. Vegetation is scrub, flatwoods, and marshes. Prescribed burning and scrub restoration have been conducted since its acquisition, which began in 1993. Recent and ongoing management aims to improve habitat for the Florida Scrub-Jay. Some Jays have been translocated recently to this Sanctuary from the Cruickshank Sanctuary in Rockledge. The field trip will be to the eastern section of the sanctuary.

Directions: 1501 Malabar Woods Blvd., Malabar.

I-95 south to Malabar Road (SR 514). This is the second Palm Bay exit. Go east about 3 miles on Malabar Road. The Sanctuary is on the north side of the road. Turn left on Malabar Woods Blvd. then, go north to the gate and kiosk. Parking is in a gravel lot to the left at the Malabar Community Park; restrooms are also available there.

The field trip will last about 3 hours. Malabar has established and well-marked trails. Bring water, a hat, sunscreen, and insect repellent. The hike will be mainly in scrub and flatwoods.

Report For 01/13/2024 Field Trip to Pine Island Conservation Area
Text: Paul A. Schmalzer, Ph.D. Photos: Laura Covell

Three people attended the field trip on February 17, 2024, to South Lake Conservation Area in Titusville, Florida, on a rainy day. South Lake Conservation Area (SLCA) is a 155-acre site that was a mitigation donation to the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program, who manages the site.

SLCA is part of a network of adjacent and nearby conservation areas that includes Salt Lake Wildlife Management Area (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission), Seminole Ranch Conservation Area (St. Johns River Water Management District), Fox Lake Sanctuary (EEL Program), and St. Johns National Wildlife Refuge (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

The sanctuary includes flatwoods, scrub, depression marshes, and a small hammock.



Photo 1: View along the trail.



Photo 2: Shiny Lyonia (*Lyonia lucida*) in bloom.



Photo 3: Gallberry holly (*Ilex glabra*) in bloom.

Report For 01/13/2024 Field Trip to Pine Island Conservation Area

Text: Paul A. Schmalzer, Ph.D. Photos: Laura Covel

The entrance is in flatwoods (Photo 1). Common species are shiny lyonia (*Lyonia lucida*) (Photo 2) and gallberry holly (*Ilex glabra*) (Photos 3 and 4).



Photo 4: Gallberry holly (*Ilex glabra*) in fruit.

Several southern magnolias (*Magnolia grandiflora*) are present in the flatwoods (Photo 5). Southern magnolia is usually a species of hammocks. During a period of fire suppression before this site was acquired and managed, these probably established, and they now persist even after cutting and burning.



Photo 5: Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*).

The trail ascends from the flatwoods to a scrub ridge (Photo 6). This ridge is part of the Atlantic Coastal Ridge that formed about 140,000 years ago during a period of high sea levels during the Pleistocene epoch. The vegetation on this ridge is scrub with three scrub oak species (Chapman oak,



Photo 6: View from ridge. Habitat on ridge consists of scrub species.

Report For 01/13/2024 Field Trip to Pine Island Conservation Area
Text: Paul A. Schmalzer, Ph.D. Photos: Laura Covell

Quercus chapmanii, sand live oak, *Q. geminata*, and myrtle oak, *Q. myrtifolia*) as the dominant species. Lupine is one herbaceous species of dry scrub ridges (Photo 7). Our plants have been considered *Lupinus diffusus*; but a recent study placed them in a newly described species *Lupinus floridanus*.



Photo 7: Lupine, recently reclassified to *Lupinus floridanus*.

Along the edge of the firebreak one of our native species of blackberry (*Rubus*) (Photo 8) was in flower.

SLCA preserves a section of the Atlantic Coastal Ridge and its scrub, flatwoods, and depression marsh vegetation and their associated species. It also adjoins a larger landscape of conservation areas.



Photo 8: Florida's native blackberry (*Rubus*) in bloom.

Outreach Report: 12th Annual Pioneer Day at Sams House/Pine Island Conservation Area on 2/10/2024

Written by: Brittany Bayliss Photographed by: Kim Gibbs



The 12th Annual Pioneer Day Outreach event was a success, as many visitors acquired educational materials, purchased Chapter t-shirts, or received new membership instructions. Visitors also participated in casual but beneficial tutorials about the saw palmetto and native shiny blueberry. Many thanks to our volunteers: Elizabeth, Jesse, Gail, and a special thank you to our team lead, Kim Gibbs, for organizing the event.





Ruby-throated Hummingbird Nectaring on Coralbean

The coralbean (*Erythrina herbacea*) offers the nectar of its scarlet red tubular flowers to the ruby-throated hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). The female of this tiny iridescent green bird has a white throat, while the male's throat is a metallic shade of ruby.

SPECIES SPOTLIGHT: SALVIA COCCINEA, TROPICAL sage

WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY BRITTANY BAYLISS

HEAVILY RELIED ON BY HUMMINGBIRDS, TROPICAL sage IS A FLORIDA GARDENER MUST-HAVE. AS A SHORT-LIVED PERENNIAL, TROPICAL sage RESPONDS TO PRUNING WITH SPRAYS OF PARTIALLY FUSED BLOOMS RANGING IN COLOR FROM RED TO PINK. THESE FLOWERS PRODUCE MUCH NEEDED POLLEN AND NECTAR FOR FLORIDA'S NATIVE POLLINATORS AS THIS GEM BLOOMS YEAR-ROUND! ONCE FERTILIZED, THE SEEDS ARE FED ON BY PAINTED BUNTINGS, GOLDFINCHES, AND MANY OTHER SEED EATING BIRDS. DUE TO THE GROWTH HABIT OF TROPICAL sage, UNEATEN SEEDS ARE EASILY CAST AND GERMINATE READILY. FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [HTTPS://WWW.FNPS.ORG/PLANT/SALVIA-COCCINEA](https://www.fnps.org/plant/salvia-coccinea)



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT- PHOTO 1: A TROPICAL sage SEEDLING, THESE GUYS HAVE AN AMAZING TRANSPLANT SUCCESS RATE. PHOTO 2: A RED AND PINK FLOWERED TROPICAL sage GROWING SIDE BY SIDE. PHOTO 3: THIS RED TROPICAL sage IS THRIVING, AND ITS FLOWER ARRANGEMENT WILL ENSURE THE SEEDS ARE DISPERSED CLOSE TO THE MOTHER PLANT. PHOTO 4: THIS LIGHT PINK sage WAS SPOTTED GROWING IN THE SHADE, ALTHOUGH TROPICAL sage CAN WITHSTAND FULL SUN, SPECIMENS WITH LIGHTER COLORED BLOOMS PREFER A LITTLE MORE SHADE.



Information Page: Want more?

Chapter Website

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

Chapter Calendar

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

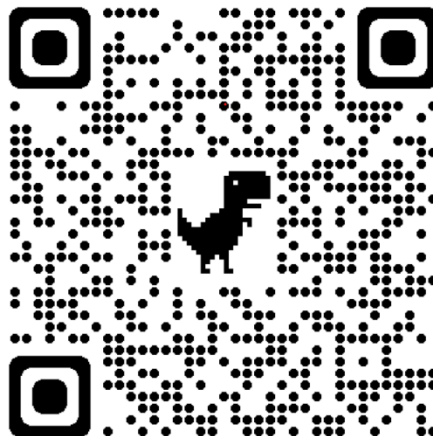
For additional information on FNPS:

<http://www.fnps.org>.

NEW Facebook Page

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

Check out the QR code to our Chapter's NEW Facebook Page!



Sea Rocket Chapter Board of Directors

President:
Paul Schmalzer, Ph.D.

Vice President:
OPEN

Chapter
Representative:
Elizabeth Bishop

Treasurer:
OPEN

Education/Outreach:
OPEN

Secretary:
Laura Covell

Social Media:
Laura Covell

Membership:
Beverly Lewis

At Large:
John Stiner

Gardens/Plant Sales: Paul
Schmalzer, Ph.D.

Hospitality:
Elizabeth Bishop

Field Trip:
Paul Schmalzer, Ph.D.

Editor:
Brittany Bayliss

Currently OPEN Positions include VP, Treasurer, and Education/Outreach. If you are interested in learning more about what you can do to support our Chapter, please contact srsecretary@fnps.org



March 2024 Sea Rocket Chapter Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

Mar. 2nd- Garden Workday in the Butterfly Gardens at Enchanted Forest Sanctuary from 9:00-11:00AM. Please see page 4 for interesting facts, volunteer progress, and gardening ideas!

Mar. 6th- Board of Directors Meeting from 6:00-8:00PM at Enchanted Forest Classroom, open to all members.

Mar. 9th- Plant Sale at Enchanted Forest Sanctuary from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Please see page 5 for more details.

Mar. 16th- Outreach Event, 1000 Islands Festival. Please see page 6 for more information!

Mar. 27th- General Membership meeting at Enchanted Forest Classroom. Speaker: Lora Losi. 6:00-6:30 PM chapter business, 6:30-8:00PM Presentation/Q&A

EFS*- Enchanted Forest Sanctuary is located at 444 Columbia Blvd., Titusville, Florida 32780 For more information please visit <https://searocket.fnpschapters.org/calendar/>

March 2024 Events at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

Garden Workday

Sat. Mar. 2nd 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., Mar. 6th 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Geared towards ages 5 and under. Theme: Brilliant Bunnies! Learn about bunnies through fun activities and crafts. Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up. NO SAME DAY SIGN UPS.

Native Plant Sale

Sat., Mar. 9th 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., Mar. 13th 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Geared towards ages 6 through 12. Theme: Breathtaking Bunnies! Join us to learn about bunnies through fun activities and crafts. Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up. NO SAME DAY SIGN UPS.

Guided Night Hike

Sat. Mar. 24th 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Join staff and volunteers for a guided night hike on the trails at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. Bring hiking shoes, water, a red light if you have one and bug spray. Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up.

Guided Hike with Mark Prynosi

Sun. Mar. 24th 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Join Mark Prynosi for a guided hike on the trails at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. Bring hiking shoes, water, and bug spray. Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up.

Tai Chi at the Forest

Every Sat. in Mar. 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 Mar. 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 Mar. at 10 a.m.

Enjoy a 45-minute guided hike. Please bring a hat, water and walking shoes. Based on staff availability. Availability has been limited recently so keep that in mind when calling to register. Registration required no later than the day before the hike, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up. NO SAME DAY SIGN UPS.