



# ***Florida Native Plant Society***

## ***Sea Rocket***

### ***Chapter Update***

#### **May 2025**

## **Announcements**

- Committee Chairpersons

All current committee chairpersons (Field Trips/Paul, Hospitality/John, Membership/Beverly, Plant Sales & Gardens/Paul, Social Media/Laura, At-Large/Jesse) have agreed to serve another term for 2025. Our Chapter Representative, Elizabeth, has agreed to serve for 2025. Kudos for all (and the rest of the 2025 Board) for doing so!

- Chapter Updates

David Turcotte has agreed to compile the Chapter Update for three months and has interest in becoming Newsletter Editor later this summer if the position is still vacant.

- Help is Still Needed

Newsletter Editor and Education/Outreach Committee Chairs are still vacant positions on the Board. Board officers Secretary and Vice President are open as well. These positions are vital to our ability to effectively communicate with our members, expose us to and inform the public, and thoroughly chronicle our meetings. Please contact any Board member or attend a Board meeting if you would like additional information. We can always use help at our outreach events and plant sales!

- Board of Directors Meetings

Our Board of Directors meets at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary at 6:00 pm on the first Tuesday of each month. Chapter members are always welcome to attend. Their next meeting will be held on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

- T-Shirts, T-Shirts, T-Shirts!

We now have an ample supply of sharp looking green, tan, and blue Sea Rocket Chapter t-shirts for sale. The shirts are \$10.00, including tax and are a great way to advertise our Chapter while being totally glamorous. Note that they are 100% cotton, and pre-shrunk.

- Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN)

The Sea Rocket Chapter is a member of the Florida Association of Native Nurseries, and our mission compliments theirs (*Growing, planting, and promoting Florida Native Plants for sustainable landscapes*). Our annual membership fee entitles us to complimentary issues of their annual *Guide for Real Florida Gardeners*, an informative booklet that we make available at our plant sales and outreach events.

- Florida Wildflower Foundation (FWF)

This is the other statewide organization (*non-profit*, like FNPS) whose mission overlaps with ours (in this case the *primary difference* being their focus on wildflowers). They provide an array of professional looking, color brochures that we put out on our display table at events along with materials from FNPS and FANN. Between December and April FWF hosted monthly, virtual educational webinars, recordings of which can be viewed and listened to at [www.flawildflowers.org](http://www.flawildflowers.org). Did you know that proceeds from the State Wildflower license plates go directly to the FWF? The first full week of May is National Wildflower Week, and this year it's a family affair! The FWF will be featuring some of the most diverse native wildflower families on their [wildflower family landing page \(https://www.flawildflowers.org/wildflower-families/\)](https://www.flawildflowers.org/wildflower-families/), exploring their ecological roles and relationships to pollinators.

- Possible Local Ordinance for Promoting Native Plants

Titusville City Council will soon be considering a native plant landscaping ordinance, requiring all landscapers to plant a minimum of 50% native plants in future developments. Anyone interested in being informed about this draft ordinance should email Kay St. Onge, at [stongekay@yahoo.com](mailto:stongekay@yahoo.com). Expressions of support of this new native plant landscaping ordinance are best served by attending a Council meeting (the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 pm), or emailing members of the City Council.

- Kudos

Many thanks to Brevard County for our agreement with the Enchanted Forest, which allows us to hold our meetings, educational presentations, and plant sales at the Sanctuary. Our work maintaining the Butterfly Gardens at the Forest is our part of the agreement.

## Outreach Reports

- Florida Native Plant Society Conference

This year's Conference was held in Gainesville, Florida April 2-6. This was the first in-person conference since 2019. The conference was a great success with presentations, meetings, field trips, and social events. There were about 395 in-person and 51 virtual attendees. The next in-person conference is planned for 2027.

- [Blue Origin Earth Day Event, Merritt Island](#)

Beverly and Megan set up and staffed our display table from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at Blue Origin's first Earth Day event, on April 22<sup>nd</sup> (Earth Day)! Many employees stopped by for lively discussion, to appreciate the display, and picked up our informative booklets about Florida Native Plants (and how important they are to sustaining and protecting wildlife and wild spaces). Thanks to Blue Origin for inviting us!

- [Earth Day at Enchanted Forest Sanctuary](#)

A great time was had at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary's Earth Day Celebration, on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, David, Madeline, Beverly, Autumn, Jesse, Paul and Laura for volunteering in our outreach booth, or for helping in the plant sale area. We sold 83 plants and 4 t-shirts!

- [April Membership Meeting](#)

Skip Healy spoke at our April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, delivering a power point presentation, on "Common Beneficial Weeds of Brevard County". He and his wife own and run Change of Greenery, which has designed and established many Florida native & edible residential landscapes (that provide habitat to native pollinators and wildlife). The benefits presented for an array of mostly native plants varied from pollination, hosts for caterpillars, edibles, medicinals, erosion control, groundcover, etc.

- [Bees, Butterflies and Blooms Festival](#)

Beverly, David, Elizabeth, Adam and Jesse set up and staffed our display table at the Bees, Butterflies and Blooms Festival (which used to be called the Honey Bee Festival), from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on April 26<sup>th</sup>, at Brevard County Cooperative Extension. The purpose of the all ages, free festival is to celebrate all things pollinator, with fun activities, speakers, vendors, honey and more! It was a nice day for it, though there weren't as many people as we thought there would be. The festival seems to be a good fit for us, quite naturally.

## Upcoming Events/Volunteer Opportunities

- [May Day Butterfly Walk](#)

The Brevard Museum of Natural History and Science (Cocoa) and Merritt Island Wildlife Association will lead an exploration of the museum's native plant garden, designed to attract and support butterflies found in Florida. The tour will be on May 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:30 am to noon and is free. [Learn more and register.](#)

- [Plant Sale](#)

Our next plant sale will be on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Enchanted Forest. Sea Rocket Chapter Members receive a discount. A list of plants we expect to have available will be posted to the calendar portion of our website ([www.searocket.fnpschapters.org](http://www.searocket.fnpschapters.org)) about a week

before the sale. Contact Paul Schmalzer, [schmalzp@digital.net](mailto:schmalzp@digital.net) if you wish to volunteer. **Volunteer Opportunity!**

- Butterfly Garden Work

There will also be garden work time on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Enchanted Forest, from 9:00 to 11:00 am. Mark your calendars now and if you would like to join us, please bring water, garden tools and garden gloves if you have them, and dress appropriately. This is still a great time of year to be outside, and RSVPs are never required! **Volunteer Opportunity!**

- Next FWF Webinar

“Botanical Jargon, A Concise and Precise Language for Plants”, will be the next winter-spring webinar, on May 21<sup>st</sup> from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. This will be the fifth in a six-part series, “Botany in Context”, sponsored by the Florida Wildflower Foundation and presented by botanist Jim Folsom, Ph.D. Free. [Learn more and register.](#)

- May Membership Meeting

Our next membership meeting will be at 6:00 pm on May 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. Membership Meeting Social Time is from 6:00 to 6:30 pm. This time is set aside to get to know each other, check out the visitor center and gardens around it at a nice time of day, and check out any plants that may still be available from recent plant sales.

Our speaker will be Rebecca Bolt, from Bolt Outdoors. Topic: Coastal dunes: Fauna and Flora. Rebecca Bolt is a wildlife ecologist who has recently retired from 35 years at the Kennedy Space Center. During her tenure at KSC, she worked with animals ranging from fish to mice, was involved in over 30 professional publications, and gave many, many educational presentations.

*Sea Rocket Chapter outreach events are free, and open to the public!*

## Dates to Remember

- May 3<sup>rd</sup> for our next plant sale and garden work day.
- May 21<sup>st</sup> for FWF's Botanical Jargon webinar
- May 28<sup>th</sup> for our next membership meeting (at 6:30 pm).

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### Board of Directors

President: Paul Schmalzer, Ph.D.  
Treasurer: Megan McCormick  
Chapter Rep: Elisabeth Bishop  
Newsletter OPEN  
Hospitality: John Stiner  
At-Large: Jesse Baker

Vice-President: OPEN  
Secretary: OPEN (acting: Laura Covell)  
Membership: Beverly Lewis  
Social Media: Laura Covell  
Education/Outreach: OPEN  
Chapter Update: David Turcotte acting

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### ***Want to know more?? For More Information...***

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

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

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

Chapter Secretary: [srsecretary@fnps.org](mailto:srsecretary@fnps.org)

Florida Native Plant Society: <https://www.fnps.org/>

Facebook Page

