



Sea Rocket



Florida Native Plant Society ~ Sea Rocket Chapter ~ Serving Central & North Brevard County

February 2019

The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

~ Sea Rocket ~ Board of Directors

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Nursery

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Hike Leader

Paul Schmalzer, PhD

Newsletter

David Humphrey
(interim)

Hospitality

Armand De Filippo

To contact us by email:
searocketfnps@gmail.com

Sea Rocket



Needs you

See Page 4 to find out why.

Our February 27th speakers will be Anna Hutson and Tim Harrison on Butterfly and Hummingbird Gardening. Anna Hutson has a Bachelor's in Forest Management and Conservation from UF Gainesville. She has worked as an Eco-Tour Guide, an Environmental Educator in Brevard County after school programs and volunteered for Alachua Conservation Trust as an Environmental Educator.

Tim Harrison has a Bachelor's in Conservation Ecology from Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah Ga. where he studied the interactions between plant and animal species in the natural ecosystems of coastal Georgia and Florida.

We grow and sell Florida Native Plants and design landscapes with creating habitat as a major goal. We sell our plants at Farmer's Markets and Festivals in Brevard and Indian River Counties. Tim and Anna created Native Butterfly Flowers in order to bring environmental awareness to typical landscaping practices.

February 2019 Frolics and Ballyhoos

Sea Rocket Chapter General Meetings are the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. Social time begins at 6:30 pm. Meeting begins at 7 pm.

Get into Gardening every Tuesday by helping at the FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Nursery Work-days 9am-12 noon. Kid-friendly. Email us for further info and schedule.

- February 6** **FTA Pine Island Trail Meet** at Lowe's Titusville Hwy 50 and I-95 at 8:30 am
- February 9** **8th Annual Pioneer Day at Sams House.** Starts at 10 AM 6195 N Tropical Trl, Merritt Island, FL 32953 for more info click (See [page 5](#))
<https://www.facebook.com/pioneerdaymerrittisland/>
- February 9** **FTA Cruickshank Loop Trail Meet** at Lowe's in Titusville Hwy 50 and I-95, at 8:30am.
- February 13** **FTA to Ulumay Sanctuary.** Hosted by Gary and Jenine. Go to the link below for details <https://www.meetup.com/SpaceCoastHiking/events/257910004/>
- February 16** **Cuplet Fern Field Trip at 8:45 am** A guided Tour of the UCF Herbarium by The Herbarium Curator, Dr. Elizabeth Harris. See [page 6](#) for more details and links.
- February 16** **Wild Citrus Walk; 9:00 AM, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary** Ron Chicone (Land Management Specialist for Florida's Natural Areas Program) will lead this trip into one of the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary's wild and unfrequented places. **Wild Citrus Walk registration is closed.**
Future hikes are being considered
- February 20** **FTA Tosohatchee South.** Meet at Lone Cabbage Hwy 520 and St.John's River at 8:30 am.
- February 23** **Adopt-a-Highway** You are invited to sign up in advance for the Grand Premier Use of our Highway Cart. Weather Permitting, we will gather at 9:00 a.m. at the Enchanted Forest at the entrance (parking allowed on shoulder to save steps). Call Janina , 321-567-5210 or email janina13@cfl.rr.com to reserve your space for this excellent volunteer project. Bring gloves and wear walking shoes (See [page 5](#))
- February 24** **40 Years of Taking Flight**—Harry P Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803 **4:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.** Join Audubon to celebrate 40 years of raptor conservation, education and community science in Central Florida. [Buy your tickets online](#)
- February 27** **General Meeting and Elections.** Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, at 6:30. Sea Rocket General Meeting with Anna and Tim speaking on Butterfly and Hummingbird Gardening. Their Web page <https://www.nativebutterflyflowers.com/>



All of the Wednesday hikes are between four and seven miles in length and will meet at one of three places at 8:30 am.

The hike locations are tentative because accessibility can change (bridges out, wildfires, etc) but we will always meet At the scheduled place at the scheduled time, for updates call 321-453-1586 or E-mail jescoffier@aol.com.

A Copy of this schedule is online at: <http://jehikesced.blogspot.com>.

Directions to the trails from the meeting places are online at: <Http://jehike.blogspot.com>.

Florida trail information online at <http://www.floridatrail.org>

Sea Rocket Chapter General Meeting Minutes 1/23/19

Board Members present: Lois Harris, Janina Shoemaker, Molly Traugott, Kate Chiodini
Call to Order: 7:00pm

BUSINESS: Approval of last months general meeting minutes. Approved

Treasurer Report: Karen Lyle, \$ 5,204.24 checking; \$2,754.03 saving, \$7,958.27 total

Refreshments – Armand De Filippo, – Thank you for providing these snacks for our enjoyment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Hike Comments –Dr. Paul Schmalzer (Not present)- There was a hike on Jan 12 at Cruickshank Sanctuary;

Next hike is Feb 16 at Enchanted Forest Sanctuary with Ron Chicone

FNPS Conference (May 16-19, 2019) Plantation on Crystal River, Crystal River, FL

February Newsletter: Cheryl Tyson has resigned as Newsletter Chair due to family health issues, David Humphrey is filling in until we find a new Newsletter Chair. Accepting articles, photos, questions or other member ideas to be published in our newsletter. Deadline for submittal is the 25th of each month.

EVENTS:

Adopt A-Highway – Janina- Adopt-a-highway- Next trash pickup day is on February 23, a sign-up sheet was passed around and we hope to see you there!

Next outreach event is at Sam’s House at Pine Island, a historical Merritt Island site, 6195 N Tropical Trl, Merritt Island, FL on Feb. 9 from 10 am to 4 pm. A sign-up sheet was passed around and anyone who wants to come and help out is welcome.

BOD meeting – 2/12/19 @ New York, New York – Titusville starting at 5:30

February Speaker: Anna and Tim speaking on Butterfly and Hummingbird Gardening.

FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm

Guest Speaker – Clifton Best “Florida Bees”

Clifton Best gave a wonderful presentation on honeybees! He explained the way honeybees operate as a super-organism and gave background on how honeybees live. There was an emphasis on how important honeybees are to crops, as more than 1/3 of the world’s crops depend on honeybee pollination and places without honeybees have to rely on hand pollinating crops with a brush. The importance of honeybees was contrasted with how many threats they face because of human causes. Honeybees are suffering from a combination of herbicides, pesticides, parasitic mite syndrome, fungal parasites, and CCD. An easy way to help bees is to plant more native plants and focus on having different flower types that provide enough variety for bees to feast on.

Sea Rocket Elections are Once Again Upon Us.

We need you to help lead Sea Rocket. Give thought to where you will fit in to help lead Sea Rocket into the future. There are several announced retirements from the board. All members are eligible and asked to consider stepping up to the challenge.

**“Ask not what Sea Rocket can do for you;
ask what you can do for Sea Rocket.”**

(paraphrase of JFK, 1-20-61)

President— Exec Board of Directors

Vice President—Exec Board of Directors

Secretary—Exec Board of Directors

Treasurer—Exec Board of Directors

Chapter Representative—Exec Board of Directors

Membership—Board of Directors

Newsletter Editor—Board of Directors

**This is why Sea Rocket
needs your leadership**

Will you help?

2019 Florida Wildflower Symposium



The annual Florida Wildflower Symposium, the Florida Wildflower Foundation's signature event, will be held April 12-13 at the Straughn UF-IFAS Extension in Gainesville, one of the state's premier nature destinations.

The event focuses exclusively on Florida's native

wildflowers, their ecosystems, and the wildlife depending on them. Friday, April 12, will feature morning field trips to natural Gainesville-area gems, with presentations on timely environmental topics beginning at 1 p.m. at the Straughn center. An evening social will follow at First Magnitude Brewing Co., Gainesville.

Keynote speakers Pam and Douglas Stolis of the University of Florida will open Saturday's full day of presentations, workshops and vendors with their talk, "Florida Plant Diversity in a Changing Climate." Talks on roadside wildflowers, butterflies, native bees and more are planned.

Cost is \$45 for Florida Wildflower Foundation members and \$55 for non-members.

[Click to learn more and to register.](#)

Celebrate the history of Merritt Island on “Pioneer Day,”

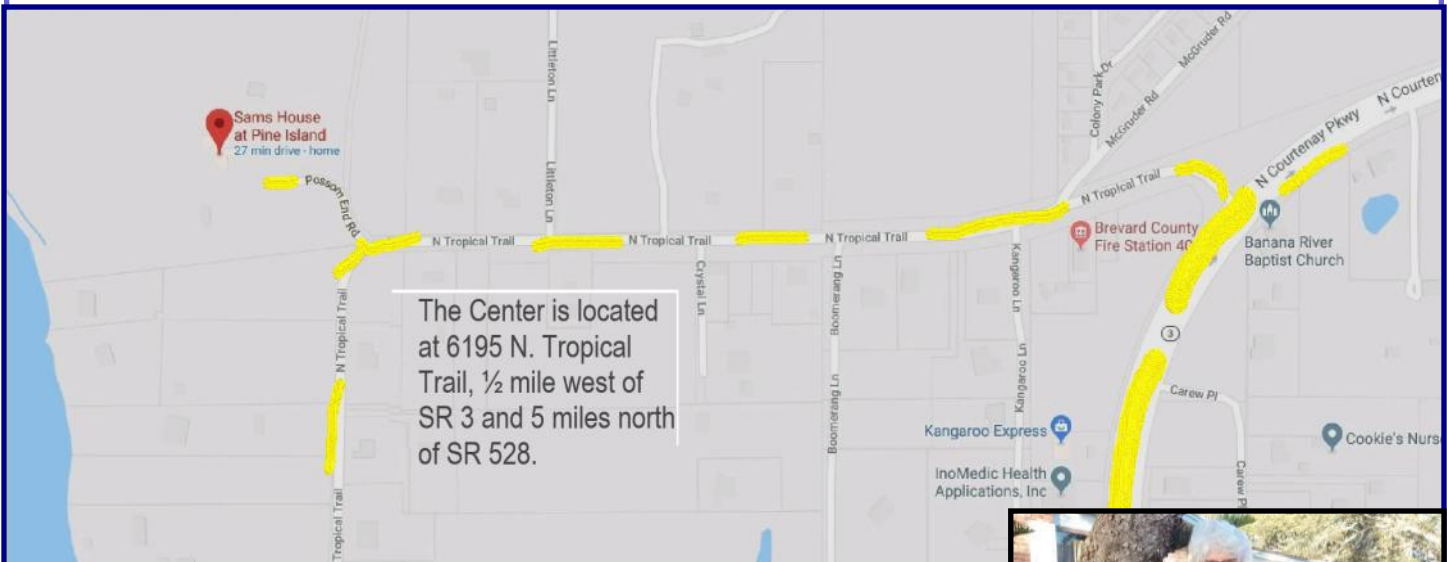
This is an annual event that appeals to history, art, music, and nature lovers. This February 9th event is a partnership between [Sams House](#) at Pine Island and St. Luke’s Episcopal Church . The Center is located at 6195 N. Tropical Trail, ½ mile west of SR 3 and 5 miles north of SR 528. For more information call (321) 449-4720. Sea Rocket Chapter of FNPS will be there with information on our Florida sustainable landscaping and gardens.



- Florida living history demonstrations include archaeology and anthropology, historic reenactors, civil war encampments with artifacts on display, and spinning wool demonstrations.
- Live music throughout the day by Celery City String Band, Chris Kahl, Pine Trio and more.
- A pioneer “parade” through the grounds at 10:45 am, led by drum and fife, of those dressed in period attire.
- Children’s crafts and games such as cow milking, rope tossing, and corn husk dolls
- Pine Island Preservation Society tent with vintage pins, doilies, pioneer bonnets, hiking sticks, nature-themed t-shirts, note cards, postcards and gifts for sale
- Food trucks

Learn about the architecture of St. Luke’s historic chapel built in 1889. (An example of Carpenter Gothic architecture, uniquely American.) During the presentation of “Rebuilt and Remade: Florida citrus in the early 20th century learn about the heyday of the citrus groves in Florida. There will be a **“Cemetery Stroll”** from 12:20 to 2:00 where volunteers dressed in period attire talk about life in their day.

Come share Sea Rocket “secrets” for an hour or two, and then spend the rest of the day partaking of this unique Festival. Call Janina at 321 567 5210, or email janina13@cfl.rr.com to volunteer. **Easy duty for your chapter and fun for the family.**



Adopt-a-Highway Project

You are invited to sign up in advance for the Grand Premier Use of our Highway Cart (Woohoo). Shown here by our Highway Captain, **Janina Shoemaker**, for the next Adopt-a-Highway **Saturday, February 23**. Weather Permitting, we will gather at **9:00 a.m. at the Enchanted Forest at the entrance** (parking allowed on shoulder to save steps). Call or email Janina, 321-567-5210 or email janina13@cfl.rr.com to reserve your space for this excellent volunteer project. Bring gloves, wear closed toe walking shoes, and bring a hat or bandana for perspiration mitigation.



Community Corner

Happenings About Town and Chapter

February 16th at 8:45 am

Cuplet Fern Field Trip

A guided Tour of the UCF Herbarium by The Herbarium Curator, Dr. Elizabeth Harris.

12424 Research Pkwy, Suite 305
Orlando, FL 32826.

RSVP for non-members required.

Contact Email: cupletfern@gmail.com

Web: <https://sciences.ucf.edu/biology/facilities/herbarium>

Map: <https://map.ucf.edu/?show=8102>

You may call it a Tomăto, or Tomāto, or even 'mater but it is still a fruit by any other name.

The fruit vs. vegetable debate can sometimes reach such a fever pitch that the law must step in. In the 1893 United States Supreme Court case *Nix. v. Hedden*, the court rule unanimously that an imported tomato should be taxed as a vegetable, rather than as a (less taxed) fruit. The court acknowledged that a tomato is a botanical fruit, but went with what they called the "ordinary" definitions of fruit and vegetable — the ones used in the kitchen.

Original article on [Live Science](#).

As of December 2018

- Sea Rocket has 90 members. Statistically Sea Rocket is in the middle with 18 chapter having less and 18 chapters having more members.
- Sea Rocket introduced about 300 native plants to East Central Florida.
- Sea Rocket has given over \$1250 in grant money to support environmental activities to individuals and groups.
- Sea Rocket consistently refreshes and upgrades the butterfly gardens at the Enchanted Forest using plants left over from plant sales.

The Sea Rocket Garden Tour is coming to North Brevard.

The Garden Tour Committee is working feverishly to get prepared and organized for the first annual Sea Rocket North Brevard Garden tour. We are planning for an April date . There will be more to follow as details are finalized.

Sea Rocket Newsletter Editor Needed

Must have:

1. Love of words
2. Love of research
3. Love of botany
4. Love of story telling
5. Love of creativity
6. Be computer savvy (somewhat)

As editor you will be one with the planning and pivotal in the information dissemination process.

Encourage your innate creativity and become the next editor of the:

Sea Rocket Newsletter



Garden Tour

Confessions of a Native Plant Junkie

By David Humphrey

I've tried to remain pure to the idea of native Florida landscaping. I've tried. Yet as listed below is my multinational lawn, listing most but not all of the identifiable plant material.

- Green Kyllinga ([*Cyperus brevifolius*](#)) - Australia (figure 3 of the listed Web site)
- Crow's-foot grass ([*dactyloctenium aegyptium*](#)) - Africa
- Torpedograss ([*Panicum repens*](#)) - Africa - Very invasive. No known way to remove it without a great expense.
- Bahiagrass ([*paspalum notatum*](#)) - Mexico and South America
- Heartleaf Drymary ([*drymaria cordata*](#)) - South America. Sticky seeds, spreads easily
- Cupids Shaving Brush ([*emilia fosbergii*](#)) - Africa
- Coatbuttons ([*Tridax procumbens*](#)) - South America - Invasive, noxious weed. I remain vigilant to remove this plant when spotted. See the September 2018 issue.
- Chamberbitter ([*Phyllanthus urinaria*](#)) - Asia
- Creeping beggerweed ([*Desmodium incanum DC*](#)) - South America
- Redspiderling ([*Boerhavia diffusa*](#)) likely native to - South America, but found worldwide.
- Peraguayan purslane ([*Portulaca amilis*](#)) - South America
- Old World Diamond Flower ([*Hedyotis Corymbosa*](#)) - Eurasia
- Brazil pusley ([*Richardia brasiliensis*](#)) - South America
- Largeflower Pusley, Florida Snow ([*Richardia Grandiflora*](#)) - Mexico
- Florida Pusley ([*Richardia scabra*](#)) - Mexico
- Southern Larraflower ([*Spermacoce verticillata*](#)) - South America
- Florakirk Bermuda Grass ([*Cynodon dactylon*](#)) - Africa - hybridized from 'Callie' and Tifton44

This is by no means an exhaustive list of what is commonly considered "weeds", nor is it the full list of non-natives in my yard. I have two Florida native plants in my yard that I consider weeds, most of the native plants I encourage and enjoy.

- Balwins Flat Sedge ([*Cyperus croceus Vahl*](#)) Native - **This I consider a weed.**
- Common Beggerticks ([*Bidens Alba*](#)) Native - I keep some, in corners, for pollinators.
- Sunshine Mimosa ([*Mimosa strigillosa*](#)) Native - Love it, pollinators love it too.
- Yellow joyweed ([*Alternanthera flavescens Kunth*](#)) Native - Just noticed it.
- Frog fruit or Turkey Tangle ([*Phyla nodiflora*](#)) wonderful ground cover and pollinator plant.
- Cutleaf evening-primrose ([*Oenothera laciniata*](#)) Another low growing, spreading native.
- Spreading Dayflower ([*Commelina diffusa*](#)) - Native - considered Aggressive

A noxious weed, harmful weed or injurious weed is a weed that has been designated by an agricultural authority as one that is injurious to agricultural or horticultural crops, natural habitats or ecosystems, or humans or livestock.

These plants can be found in "Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses" a UF|IFAS Extension publication.

Where in the World did all the non-native plants come from?

Basically—every continent in the world except;



Antarctica and North America.

For a drear February day a little sun shine to brighten your spirit.



Encourage-mint for the Titusville Balm

By Ron Chicone and David Humphrey

Brevard County's Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program staff and volunteers and the University of Central Florida Arboretum staff recently worked with Archbold Biological Station staff and Suzanne Kennedy (Floravista, Inc.) to help with the annual monitoring of the Endangered plant Titusville Balm (*Dicerandra thinicola*). This amazing effort by Archbold and Kennedy started back in 2001, and they have collected a prodigious amount of information about this species of mint that only occurs in North Brevard. Monitoring these plants is no "walk in the park." It involves serious scientists crawling through underbrush on hands and knees counting *Dicerandra* stems and finding seedlings. It is very tedious work that requires a passion for botany and the integrity to not "cut corners."

Like other iconic Florida species such as the scrub-jay, gopher tortoise, scrub lizard and indigo snake, *Dicerandra* loves Florida's scrub habitat. One of only two managed populations on public land is at the EEL Program's *Dicerandra* Scrub Sanctuary (DSS) which is adjacent to the much larger population on the City of Titusville's Wellfield. The City of Titusville has been very helpful in the effort to protect and monitor *Dicerandra* and other rare species; however, their primary directive is supplying water to citizens, not maintaining scrub habitat. From a land-management perspective, much of this area has become "overgrown" and no longer supports *Dicerandra* plants.

The good news is that roller chopping, and a very successful prescribed burn was conducted on DSS in fall of 2018 shortly before the November monitoring event. EEL staff, Brevard County Fire and Rescue, Florida Forest Service, and Titusville Fire Department did an outstanding job conducting a safe and effective prescribed burn on this 44-acre urban property that is surrounded by residences, roads and powerlines. Scientists are hopeful this rare plant will endure with a little encourage-mint from fire. Dr. Eric Menges, Archbold Plant Ecology Director, shared that, "After fire, the data indicates increased seedling recruitment and health, with individuals producing an abundance of branches and flowering stems." The burn created many open areas of exposed sandy soil at DSS where *Dicerandra* seeds can germinate, gopher tortoises can dig and scrub-jays can cash acorns.

Dr. Paul Schmalzer hike leader for Sea Rocket offers field trips into the heart of the *Dicerandra* scrub during its bloom season in the Fall. These field trips are informative and are an awakening to the beauty and diversity of native scrub.~



Photo by: Jillian Conley

The flower, named *Nanjinganthus dendrostyla*, lived more than 174 million years ago



This fossil shows a profile of a flower, including its ovary (bottom center), sepals and petals (on either side), and tree-shaped style (top).

Credit: Fu et al., 2018/CC BY 4.0 license

The flower had spoon-shaped petals and a stalky style that rose out of its center, according to the fossils.

One key feature of angiosperms comes in the "angio-ovuly," or fully enclosed ovules — precursors of seeds, which appear before pollination occurs. The newly discovered *N. dendrostyla* has a cup-like receptacle and an ovarian roof that come together to enclose the ovules and seeds. This structure confirms that the newfound plant was an angiosperm, the researchers said.

(The study was published online (Dec.18) in the journal [eLife](#).)

The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Education Center

444 Columbia Blvd, Titusville, FL 32780 321-264-5185

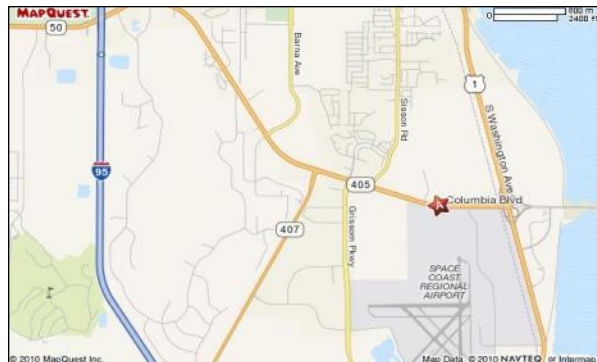


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

From I-95 Northbound: take SR-407 Exit 212 east 2.7 miles to SR-405 intersection. Turn right onto SR-405 and go east 1.9 miles (the Sanctuary entrance is on the left 0.4 miles past Sisson Road)

From I-95 Southbound: take SR-50 Exit 215 east. Turn left onto SR 50 and turn right onto SR-405 (2nd light) Travel 3.6 miles (the Sanctuary entrance is on the left 0.4 miles past Sisson Road)

From U.S. HWY 1: go west 0.5 miles on SR-405 in south Titusville. Sanctuary entrance is on the right.



Florida Native Plant Society Sea Rocket Chapter



For membership information, address change:

P. O. Box 278, Melbourne, FL 32902-0278

Phone: 321-271-6702; Fax: 321-951-1941; Email: Info@fnps.org/www.fnps.org

Sea Rocket Chapter mailing address: 444 Columbia Blvd, Titusville, FL 32780

The Sea Rocket Chapter Board meeting will be held on
February 12th at 5:30 pm.

The meeting will be held at New York New York

All members are welcome to attend.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

This Humongous Fungus Has Been Around Since the Birth of Socrates

By [Laura Geggel, Senior Writer](#) | December 19, 2018 06:44am ET

- Read all about it ==> [here](#)



Much of the fungus (*Armillaria gallica*) is underground, but in the fall it sprouts honey mushrooms.

Credit: Shutterstock

A humongous fungus lurking underground in Michigan is exceptionally old, tremendously heavy and has a curiously low mutation rate, a new study finds.

Here are the fungus' impressive stats: It's at least 2,500 years old (although it's likely much older), weighs nearly 882,000 lbs. (400,000 kilograms) and spans about 75 hectares (0.75 square kilometers, or 140 American football fields). As for its mutation rate, or the rate at which random genetic tweaks occur, it's fleetingly low, said study co-principal investigator Johann Bruhn, a professor emeritus of plant sciences at the University of Missouri.

"We think that this slow mutation rate is perhaps key to the genetic stability of the humongous fungus and may even be a key reason for its great longevity," Bruhn told Live Science. [[Microscopic Worlds Gallery: See Images of Fascinating Fungi](#)]