



Sea Rocket



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

March 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

President

Kate Chiodini

Vice President

Lois Harris

Treasurer

Needed

Secretary

Needed

Chapter Representative

Vacant

Committees

Membership

Kate Chiodini

Education/Outreach

Janina Shoemaker

Special Media / Marketing

Kate Chiodini

Nursery

Lois Harris

Hike Leader

Paul Schmalzer, PhD

Newsletter

David Humphrey
(interim)

Hospitality

Armand De Filippo

To contact us by email:
searocketfnps@gmail.com



Arizona, 2011

DIRT

OR



Living Soil

On March 27th our speaker will be Sally Scalera. Sally graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture. In 1993 she joined the UF/IFAS Extension in Brevard County where she is the Urban Horticulture Agent and Master Gardener Coordinator. **She will be speaking to us about the importance of maintaining a living soil, and how to bring weak soil back to life.**

March 2019 Doings

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.

March 1 National Peanut Butter Lover's Day...So relax with a protein rich PBJ on sourdough toast for lunch. Though peanut butter is high in fat (188 calories per 2 Tbsp. serving), half of the fat is oleic acid, a healthy monounsaturated fat, such as is found in olive oil. www.healthline.com/nutrition/is-peanut-butter-bad-for-you.

March 2 KBB Sykes Creek Pkwy Cleanup from 9 to 11 am Volunteer cleanup at N. Sykes Creek Pkwy in Merritt Island at the bridge! Anyone is welcome, though we ask no kids due to it being a dangerous spot. If you are interested, please email Evelyn at tazze-lady@aol.com.

March 6 FTA Bull Creek Cemetery Trail. Meet at Sam's Melbourne Hwy 192 near I-95 at 8:30 am.

March 15 –16 Titusville Garden Club Plant Sale from Friday 9 to 5 and Saturday 8 to 2. Titusville Garden Club 5275 Sisson Rd.

March 17 Forest Funday at the Enchanted Forest. From 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Free family-friendly hands on activities in the screen porch, ongoing in the afternoon! No registration required.

March 20 FTA Orlando Wetlands Park meet at Lowe's Titusville Hwy 50 and I-95 at 8:30 am

March 27 Sea Rocket General Meeting with Sally Scalera speaking on the importance of maintaining a health soil.

March 30 Fox Lake Sanctuary Field Trip. 9:00 am to 12:00 PM Hosted by Dr. Schmalzer. See [page 3](#) for complete details.



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](http://jehike.blogspot.com).

Meeting place addresses:

- Lowe's Titusville Hwy 50 and I-95
- Sam's Melbourne Hwy 192 near I-95
- Lone Cabbage Hwy 520 and St John's River

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

Community Corner

Happenings About Town

Florida Native Plant Society



Sea Rocket Chapter
444 Columbia Blvd
Titusville FL



Check us out at our new web address:

Web: <http://searocket.fnpschapters.org/>

Email: searocketfnps@gmail.com

Preserving, conserving and restoring the native plants
And native plant communities of Florida

Fox Lake Sanctuary Field Trip Announcement

Saturday March 30, 2019 0900-1200

This sanctuary was acquired in 2007 by the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program with some additions in 2009 and incorporates about 2568 ac. Habitats include oak scrub, scrubby flatwoods, mesic flatwoods, extensive freshwater marshes, hardwood swamps, and parts of several lakes. Prescribed burning of scrub, flatwoods and marshes has been conducted since acquisition.

Directions:

The entrance to Fox Lake Sanctuary is within Fox Lake Park and the street address is 4400 Fox Lake Road. Take I-95 to St. Rt. 50 (Titusville). Exit and go east a short distance to intersection with St. Rt. 405. Turn left (north) on SR 405. Note SR 405 has sections that run North-South and East-West. Continue on SR 405 to Fox Lake Road. Turn left on Fox Lake Road and go to the end. Park entrance is at the end of the road. Take the park road to its farthest point by Fox Lake. Sanctuary entrance is near the boat ramp and the large pavilion.

Bring hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent.

The revival of growth management



With Florida growing by up to 1,000 people a day, state leaders need to revive growth management "before rampant development irreparably spoils what makes our state special," says Paul Owens (left), president of 1,000 Friends of Florida.

2019-Symposium Enews

Owens will outline the plan for restoring growth management at the regional and state levels during a presentation at the Florida Wildflower Symposium in Gainesville. The annual event is set for April 12-13 at the Straughn UF-IFAS Extension. Cost is \$45 for Florida Wildflower Foundation members and \$55 for non-members.*

Read more about [1,000 Friends of Florida's action to encourage growth management and view more of what's on tap during the symposium.](#)

2019 Florida Wildflower Symposium



Calling for Volunteers:

Sea Rocket Chapter offers opportunity to view the Gardens and Habitats as incentive for Hosts & Hostesses for the April 27th Premier Garden Tour. If you are willing to assist the home owners in presenting their sites to paying visitors, please sign up soon with Janina Shoemaker, (321 567 5210) to secure your vaulted position on that Saturday. Easy but important tasks: check tickets, converse with owners and visitors, and facilitate the individual tour of the garden. The sooner you volunteer, the choice of site is yours, and all sites are spectacular.

16 positions available, a half day commitment is expected.



Florida pellitory, *Parietaria floridana* Friend or Foe?

Friend,

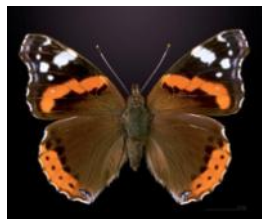


This green herbaceous plant is called Florida pellitory, *Parietaria floridana*. This is a Florida native, is an annual or short-lived perennial with small leaves. It

has, small and indistinct green flowers. Visually, it has no outstanding physical characteristics. It is a low growing, green, mounding plant.

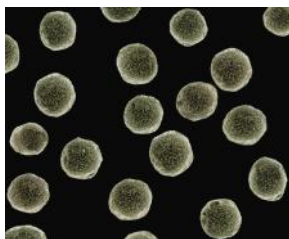
The only means of propagation is by seed. It grows in a moist, shady spots. It grows with vigor on the North side of the Enchanted Forest kiosk. The north side is in shade most of the year.

On the Plus side, you should know that Florida pellitory is a larval host plant for the Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta rubria*, butterfly, also found in Florida. How fortunate is that?



Or is it a Foe?

Florida Pellitory is a **severe** allergen. It has a bloom season in Florida of all year. It produces a prodigious amount of pollen. Along with Oak, Pine, and ragweed, Florida Pellitory adds another known allergen to the air.



Pellitory (*Parietaria* sp) SEM close-up view of pollen grains at 1050x magnification, a well-recognized and important inhalant allergen

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/IN/IN81000.pdf>

This plant has a single stem and root system which, though the plant may be a square foot in size, makes pulling them out somewhat easy and rewarding.

In the Mediterranean and in Australia *Parietaria judaica* is called the asthma weed where it accounts for a large majority of allergy cases.

Sea Rockets Adopt-a-Highway Project 2-23-19

Discover the world of native plants along the Right of Way along SR405. It is more of a field trip with both Native Plant enthusiasts and Master Gardeners identifying many of the plants found along the way. The combination of friendly, knowledgeable people (two people have degrees one on Botany, and one in biology) to ask questions of make the walk more interesting than merely a chore that needs to be done. It is a productive way to see what nature does with these plants, some native, some not so much. Using our new carts made moving and cleaning a snap. The carts have proven themselves to be very effective. A big thank you goes out to Janina Shoemaker, Elizabeth Bishop, Molly Traugott, Barbara Gwaizda, David Humphrey and Patti Larson for their help to make this effort fun and an adventure.



From left to right—Barbara, Patti, Dave, Molly, Elizabeth, Janina (behind the camera)

Plant cyborg able to move itself to a preferred light source

by Bob Yirka , Tech Xplore

A team of researchers at the MIT Media Lab built a cyborg that combines a plant with electronics and ultimately allows the plant to choose when it would like to move to a brighter spot. The cyborg is the brainchild of team leader Harpreet Sareen, and he has named it Elowan.



Prior research has shown that plants have many natural sensors and response systems—they respond to humidity and temperature levels, for example, or the amount of water in the soil in which they are planted.

The idea is reasonably simple—place sensors that listen to the electrical signals generated by a plant and then convert those signals to commands carried out by the motorized wheels. ~



Planting by the Moon—Fact or Folklore?

by David Humphrey

Gravitational Pull Influences Moisture in the Soil

My wife and I have been over this concept countless times on planting by the moon. I have always said, “The best time to plant is when you can.” Not being a farmer by trade “when I can” is a function of daily life, and nothing to do with astronomy. Well, it is within the realm of possibility I was not totally correct. After reading an article by [Caren Catterall](#) on gardening by the moon, I am seeing there may be an explanation based in science for this belief. The Old Farmers Almanac uses moon phases in their planting guides and are relied upon by a multitude for over a century. So what is the story?

I was certain that the mass of the moon does not change by what we see (The phase). The full moon is not more massive than the new moon. It is the alignment of the sun and moon. If the two are aligned, as during the New Moon or the Full Moon, the gravity will draw the ground water up closer to the surface thus causing seeds to absorb more water and burst forth. The article goes on to explain the four principal phases of the moon, the New Moon, Second Quarter Moon, Full Moon, Fourth Quarter Moon. Each major phase has a particular effect on the plants. Ms. Catterall explains in some easy to understand and rational way what to plant, when, and why. Admittedly, my understanding of the cosmological gravitation effects may not be completely accurate, but this idea is new to me. To better understand, follow the links provided.

OMG! I might have to tell my wife “You were right!”

[Learn how lunar planting affects gardening success](#)

Browse the Planting by the Moon [2019 Planting Guide](#) options

Florida Native Plant Society's 39th Annual Conference

"Transitions"

May 16-19, 2019 at the Plantation on Crystal River

9301 West Fort Island Trail, Crystal River, FL 34429

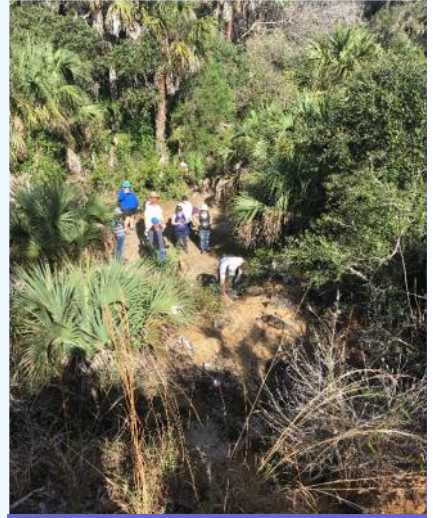
<https://www.fnps.org/conference/2019>



Great turnout for Sea Rocket Chapter's February Wild Citrus Walk

By: Ron Chicone, Jr.

I want to thank the awesome group of people who came out to the Enchanted Forest and braved the untamed terrain north of the Addison Canal. We saw so many cool things including two Whitetail Deer that ran within 20 feet of us. We walked what is probably an actual remnant of the famous 1837 Hernandez Trail. We descended into an old coquina quarry of unknown origin and pushed through jungle-like foliage. We found what



Looking down into the old coquina quarry.



On the Old Citrus Trail

I call The Old Citrus Road which lead us down to our ultimate objective, the wild hammock that harbors the golden sweet grapefruit of a forgotten era. We marveled at the size of the ancient live oaks and talked about the occurrence of rare tropical plants like snowberry, and the ethnobotanical attributes of Yaupon Holly.

Florida Native Plant Society members Martha Pessaro and Ray Wunderlich noted the ecological importance of our

large Bromeliads and the unique adaptations of our native pines. It was a great day to be out in the woods. I also want to thank my wife Lara for her valuable assistance, and the Environmentally Endanger Lands Program staff for protecting this unique treasure and allowing us off-trail access.

Saturday, February 9th, Pioneer Day at Sams House on Merritt Island.

By Jania Shoemaker

It was a beautiful cool day as Sea Rocket began setting up our booth. Sea Rocket is usually in the back across from the screen house. This year that section was blocked off since there was a nesting barred owl in an old palm tree on the site Sea Rocket normally occupies..



Sea Rocket was next to the Master Gardeners under a giant oak tree, at the beginning of the loop, or at the end depending on your direction. This was a good spot as several of the Sea Rocket members are also Master Gardeners.

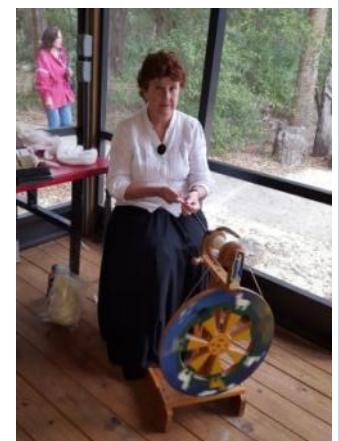
Janina set up the display table better than I have ever seen. It was both informative and inviting. We had many visitors to Sea Rocket with many inquiries as to membership, and 14 sign ups for the Sea Rocket Newsletter. Several people were curious about the up-coming Garden Tour this April 27th.

The Old Timers parade, those dressed in period clothes, had grown larger over the years as more people become interested in the "way hit wus". Beautiful belles, Gentlemen, Ladies, Civil War soldiers, and scrub crackers and a goat named China Doll were all represented. It was a grand display. Sea Rocket members and EEL employees worked hard in getting the Sams House grounds in pristine condition.



This is a yearly event and is one worth the effort to attend. Sams House Sanctuary Steward, Martha Pessaro reported over 1,175 vehicles were counted. There were 25 vendors and 30 exhibitors and 70 volunteers. It was a very busy day. And a good way for Sea Rocket to show our stuff to Brevard residents and visitors.

(Photo Credit : Barbara Gwiazda)



Seminole Rest A Hidden Gem of Nature and History

By Ron Chicone

Just up the road from Sea Rocket Chapter's stomping grounds, in the Old Florida-permeated community of Oak Hill, lies a hidden gem of nature and history. On a narrow strip of land overlooking the beautiful Mosquito Lagoon are several pre-historic shell mounds covered with some of the biggest Simpsons Stopper and Red Cedar you have probably ever seen. Couple that with the two beautifully restored, Late Victorian (pre-1888), houses that sit atop these mounds and it's quite a fantastical site that is protected and maintained as part of the Canaveral National Seashore (CNS). Some folks may think that building these houses on these ancient pre-historic monuments was disrespectful, but it turned out to be quite fortuitous.

The Tumor and the Snyder families, owners in the late 1800's and early 1900's, loved this paradisiacal natural landscape. So, when the road-builders came calling with cash in hand to mine the valuable shell marl in the mounds, they refused to sell. And today we are all the benefactors of their land ethic.

Standing on this ground, gazing upon the expanse of sea and pristine islands, one can experience a primal human instinct coming not so much from the head, but more from the chest, saying "stay here, this is a good place." Since as far back as 2000 BCE (based on the Orange Series pottery found at the site) people have lived on Seminole Rest at least seasonally. According to the CNS, the site's most active occupation was from 700 to 1100 AD when it was a large quahog (hard clam) processing center. They would gather the clams, remove the shell, and dry or smoke them to take elsewhere and consume. The mounds or hills of discarded shell eventually were covered with vegetation, most prominent of which were probably very large live oaks. Now, if you have ever driven through Oak Hill on US 1 and wondered, "why do they call this flat, piney place Oak Hill?" the name of the town comes from the original name given to the shell mounds.

There are still beautiful oaks at Seminole Rest, but what's really impressive is the tropical nature of the

plant species occurring at this northerly location. Shell middens in general, with their calcareous soils, are known for having unique flora, and this one is even more exceptional due to its subtropical-temperate climatic overlay. Simpsons stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans*), white stopper (*Eugenia axillaris*), soapberry (*Sapindus saponaria*), wild lime (*Zanthoxylum fagara*) and plumbago (*Plumbago zeylanica*) are all tropical species growing on these mounds. The alkaline soils from the breakdown of calcium-rich shell promote the establishment of these and other calciphytes, like Southern red cedar (*Juniperus silicicola*). They all must tolerate the relatively sterile and droughty soils of these hills of shell. The cedars here are not tall but they are majestic. Old and twisted, defiant and erudite, these and other trees of this exposed bluff are the veterans of many hurricanes and droughts. For thousands of years

people of many tribes and nations have loved this peaceful and picturesque landscape, and we are lucky to still be able to experience this throwback to Old Florida amidst a bustling modern east coast.

Seminole Rest is not a large park, give yourself about two hours to take it in, including the exhibits and gift shop in

the historic house. But there are other things to do here. Bring a kayak and explore the islands of the CNS, do some fishing, and there's a local flea market. But most of all do not miss an opportunity to eat at Goodrich's seafood restaurant on the waterfront just north of Seminole Rest.



Mosquito Lagoon



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
March 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.

Fun Facts About a Misunderstood Animal, the Vampire Bat.



To start with bats are not rodents like mice or rats. They are in their own order, Chiroptera, which translates to “hand-wing,” Bats are mammals, giving birth to live young.

Some common bats in Florida are:

- Brazilian (Mexican) free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*)
- Southeastern myotis (*Myotis austroriparius*)
- Evening bat (*Nycticeius humeralis*)
- Eastern red bat (*Lasiurus borealis*)
- Seminole bat (*Lasiurus seminolus*)
- Northern yellow bat (*Lasiurus intermedius*)

All of these are harmless and in fact, are beneficial to humans.

They eat bugs, and not just any bugs but the deadliest of all creatures throughout the world, the mosquito!

However, even among the misunderstood there are those that are doubly misunderstood and feared—the vampire bat! There are no vampire bats in Florida, and they are not venomous.

(The word “venom” as used in the referenced article is used differently than we might use it.) Their saliva, not venom, has a powerful anti-coagulant component that science is just beginning to understand. Scientists are investigating its use in fighting hypertension, heart failure and more. Bat saliva is not a poison as are many of the anticoagulants dispensed regularly today requiring close monitoring to prevent serious bleeding and even death. ~