



Sea Rocket



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

May 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

David Humphrey
(interim)

Chapter Representative

Vacant

Committees

Membership

Lois Harris

Education/Outreach

Janina Shoemaker

Special Media / Marketing

Kate Chiodini

Nursery

Lois Harris

Hike Leader

Paul Schmalzer, PhD

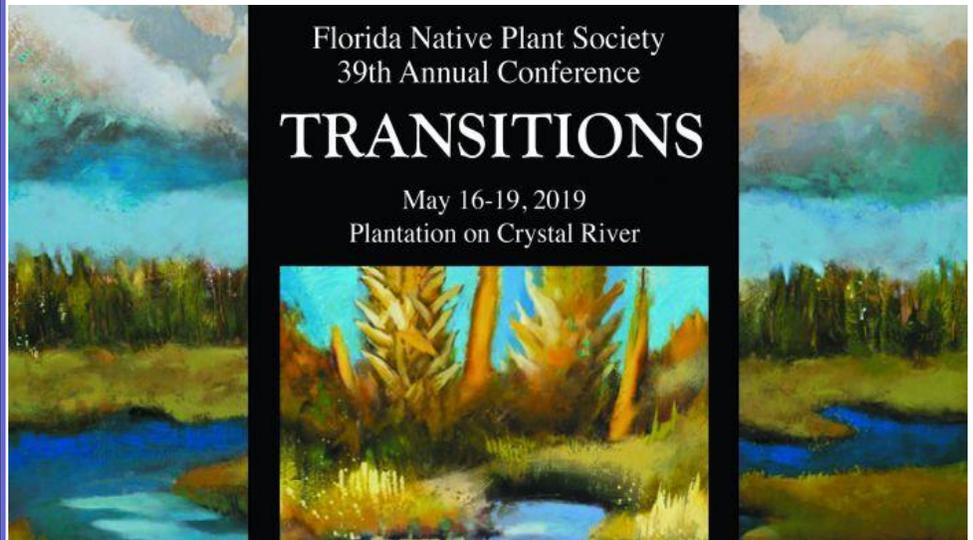
Newsletter

David Humphrey
(interim)

Hospitality

Armand De Filippo

To contact us by email:
searocketfnps@gmail.com



Featured speakers will include well known and highly respected ecologists. Dr. Jack Putz will be presenting his research on ecosystem adaptations to climate change and leading a companion field trip around Levy and Citrus Counties. Dr. Tom Hctor will be discussing regional landscape conservation and the opportunities Florida has to save what's left. Dr. Reed Noss will lead us through an exploration of Florida's unique ecosystems, answering the question: 'Why is Florida so rich in biodiversity?'

This month in our General Meeting on the 22nd we are pleased as punch to have Maureen Phillips, a Sea Rocket Member and Titusville's Water Conservation and Public Outreach Manager speaking on— **Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Water, but Were Afraid to Ask.** Maureen, a Florida native herself (that's person, not plant), has over thirty years of municipal experience (yes, she was 5 when she started) with over 17 in the field of water conservation. Maureen created Titusville's Water Resources Conservation program, which is responsible for creating, coordinating, and implementing education and public outreach programs relating to water conservation. Educating Titusville water consumers on how to save water, how to protect our water resources, and how to use water efficiently are all part of the conservation message that Maureen shares with children and adult water consumers throughout Titusville's service area.

May 2019 Doings and Wing-dings

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.

- May 1** **FTA South Beaches.** Meet at Sam's Melbourne Hwy 192 near I-95 at 8:30 am
- May 11** **Field trip into the Malabar Scrub,** from 9 am to noon hosted by Dr. Paul Schmalzer. (See [page 8](#) for more)
- May 11** **Sea Turtle Festival in Downtown Titusville.** This is a Sea Rocket out reach for the enrichment of Titusville native plant communities. This is an all day event. Need Volunteers.
- May 13** **Giant Butterflies and Native Plants** - Cuplet Fern Chapter Mtg join us as syndicated editorial cartoonist Taylor Jones discusses his lifelong interest in the natural world, especially insects, with a fascinating look at breeding giant silk moths (Saturniids). 6:45pm. Sanford Garden Club, 200 Fairmont, Sanford, 32773.
- May 16—19** **FNPS Annual Conference—**Crystal River. 9301 West Fort Island Trail, Crystal River, FL 34429 (See [Page 4](#) for more)
- May 22** **Sea Rockets General Meeting at 6:30 PM at the Enchanted Forest,** with Maureen Phillips speaking on “Everything you ever wanted to know about the water and were afraid to ask.”

Building a Better Trellis

With Kate Chiodini and Lois Harris



Sea Rocket Chapter General Meeting Minutes 4/24/19

Board Members present: Kate Chiodini, Lois Harris, Janina Shoemaker, David Humphrey, Dr. Paul Schmalzer
Guests: 1
Call to Order: 7:04pm

BUSINESS: Approval of March general meeting minutes. Not Approved.
Will email members the March Meeting minutes in a separate email.

Treasurer Report: Sea Rocket has \$3,463.08 in Checking and \$2,754.30 in Savings.

Refreshments –Thank you for providing these snacks for our enjoyment.

Election BOD: Secretary – **NEED**, Treasurer – **NEED**. This is your chapter, we need you to get involved!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Earth Day Plant sale netted \$965 and added 193 plants to the local environment. The Board of Directors gives big **THANK YOU** to those who helped in the plant sale.

On April 20th Janina and Dave covered another mile on 405. We collected over 50 pounds of trash.

The Earth Day celebration at KSC had six volunteers, Bill and Mary Roe, Marlys and Bill, Janina, and Kate. It was a great day talking and distributing information to local people.

May 11th is the Sea Turtle Festival in Titusville. Need volunteers for this.

Hike Comments – Dr. Paul Schmalzer is hosting a hike through The Malabar Scrub on May 11. Details are in the Newsletter.

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

May Newsletter: The May issue will be the last for David Humphrey. Jill Whitson will be editor in chief for all the following issues. Jill is Accepting articles, photos, questions or other member ideas to be published in our newsletter. Deadline for submittal is the 25th of each month.

EVENTS and Miscellany:

May 11 – Sea Turtle festival in Titusville. Need Volunteers

Social Media – Sea Rocket Facebook page is updated. It can be found under “Sea Rocket Chapter”.

Congratulations - Dr. Paul Schmalzer was nominated for the “Scientist of the Year” Award at Kennedy Space Center.

BOD meeting – 5/14 @ Kelsey’s Pizza, in Port St. John, starting at 5:30.

April Speaker: Movie Night with Doug Tallamy on sustainable landscaping.

FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm

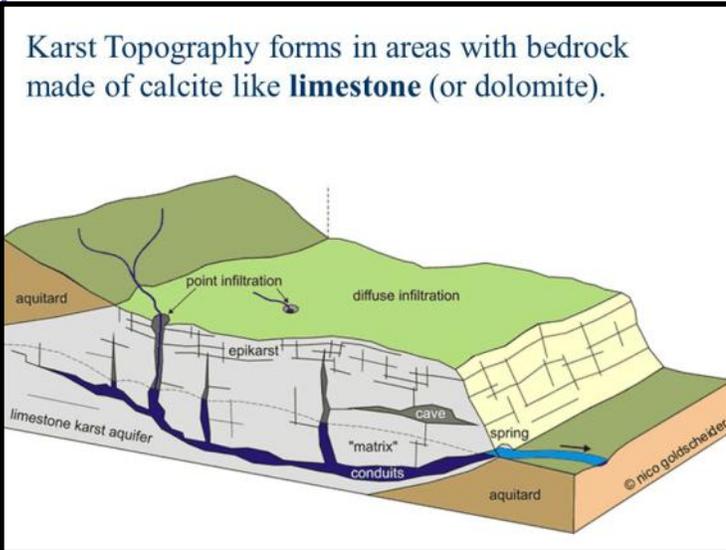


Press Releases: [2019-03-08 Registration Opens](#)

The theme this year is Transitions and it pertains to the Nature Coast region of Florida in a number of ways - sea level rise, migrations of ecosystems due to climate change, and the transition zone between north and south Florida. In this region you can explore **karst topography** including sinkholes, caves, and springs. You will see clear blue spring flows transitioning to tannic (tea colored) as they flow through swamps

The region also has a large diversity of plant communities and the transitions between uplands and wetlands are common, dramatic and highly visible – a great place to learn about Florida’s diverse natural communities. The conference runs from May 16-19th, 2019 at Plantation on Crystal River. More information is available on our website, <https://fnps.org/conference/2019> , and registration is open now.

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Exposed karst formation along the Suwannee River. There are exposed karst formations at the Enchanted Forest as well.

First Annual Sea Rocket Garden Tour Barbara Gwiazda's home.

Date Line 4-27-19 by David Humphrey

It was a beautiful day for a Garden Tour. Barbara took visitors (32 by the final count) on guided tours. Barbara's gardens were in good shape though she was disappointed that a recent hail storm had damaged her garden. I toured the gardens, while Barbara detailed all the plants she had. Her yard is a medley of color and variety. Is it all native? Well, no, not all of it. But it is a beautiful relaxing place to spend time. From where I was sitting, attending to the paperwork, her garden was ablaze with color, texture, and pollinators. Steve, her husband, and "grounds keeper", as he calls himself has a live oak in front trimmed to look like a tree on the Serengeti plain. It must be seen to be appreciated. The gardens in the back are casual with meandering paths in and among the plants. Trees shrubs, annuals, lilies, bromeliads, and ferns are all living in harmony with one another.

Earth Day at K.S.C.

Sea Rocket wants to thank our volunteers for supporting our Native Plant outreach to the movers and shakers at Kennedy Space Center. There was good foot traffic by the display and a lot of questions about native plants. Besides being a beautiful Florida Spring day the outreach garnered several names for the newsletter.

Top Photo: Kate Chiodini (Our President), Bill Klein, and Marlys Breckel.

Bottom Photo: Bill and Mary Roe. Janina Shoemaker is behind the camera in both pictures. Thank you Janina for being Outreach Cood., Photographer, and active member.



Earth Day 2019 Native Plant Sale



Jill and Mary working and talking



Beautiful Day for a Plant sale



Shoppers shopping



Lois working the crowds



Bill and Jill selling native

Photos courtesy of Lois Harris

Community Corner

Happenings About Town



Florida Declared a Global Biodiversity Hotspot



The North American Coastal Plain – the low-lying land stretching from Texas to Florida to New England – was recently named the 36th biodiversity hotspot in the world, highlighting the importance of this region, but signaling concerns over threats to the plant and animal life there.

To be recognized as a global biodiversity hotspot, a region must contain at least 1,500 endemic plant species found nowhere else in the world and have experienced more than 70 percent habitat loss. The Coastal Plain has 1,816 endemic plants and has suffered an 85.5 percent loss of natural habitat. The loss of habitat shows no sign of slowing, according to several studies. **Florida is entirely within the Coastal Plain and is the richest area biologically, but also the most threatened.**

“We are suffering the highest rate of habitat loss because we have the highest rate of human population growth within the region,” said Reed Noss, a University of Central Florida biology professor who was the lead author of a scientific study that landed Florida and the rest of the North American Coastal Plain on the list. <https://today.ucf.edu/florida-declared-a-global-biodiversity-hotspot/>

Cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrical*) The invasive scourge

Cogongrass is found on every continent (except Antarctica) and is considered a weedy pest in 73 countries. In the United States, cogongrass is found primarily in the Southeast. It was accidentally introduced into Alabama in the early 1900s, and purposely introduced as a potential forage and soil stabilizer in Florida (and other states) in the 1930s and early 1940s. **However, soon after investigations began it was realized that cogongrass could be a weedy pest.** Since its introduction, cogongrass has spread to nearly every county in Florida. In



some cases, it has completely taken over pastures so that it is the only species present.

This is a common thread where

cogongrass invades; it quickly displaces desirable species and requires intensive management.

Identification:

The leaves originate directly from ground level and range from one to four feet in length. Each leaf is 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch wide with a prominent, off-center, white mid-rib. The leaf margins are finely serrated; contributing to the undesirable forage qualities of this grass. Meaning it will cut you painfully.



Management:

For many years researchers all over the world have studied cogongrass control. During this time nearly all available herbicides have been tested, but few effective products have been found. For example, all of the commonly used pasture herbicides such as metsulfuron, 2,4-D, triclopyr, Velpar, and other combinations have little to no activity on cogongrass. Only glyphosate (Roundup, etc.) and imazapyr (Arsenal, Stalker, etc.) herbicides have been found to be effective, but long-term control is rarely achieved.

[USDA Noxious Weed List](#)

[Florida State Noxious Weed List](#)

UF/IFAS [Assessment of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas](#)



Malabar Scrub Sanctuary Field Trip Announcement

Hosted by Dr. Paul Schmalzer

Saturday May 11, 2019

from 0900-1200

Saturday, May 11, from 0900-1200 at the 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.

Directions: I-95 south to Malabar Road (SR 514). This is the second Palm Bay exit. Go east about 3 miles on Malabar Road. Sanctuary is on north side of road, just past the Malabar Fire Station. Turn left into sanctuary entrance, go north to gate. Parking is in gravel lot to left.

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

The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Education Center

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

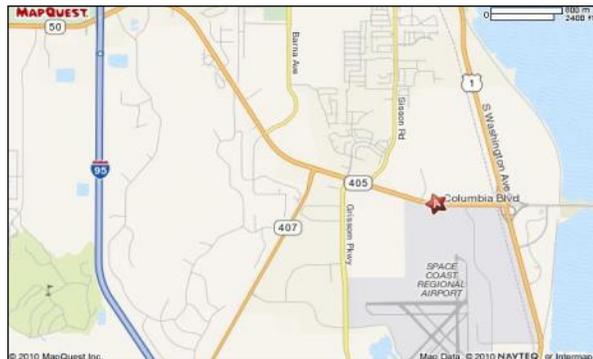


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

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

May 14th at 5:30 pm.

The meeting will be held at Kelsey's Pizza Parlor at Port St. Johns

All members are welcome to attend.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

Bee-wildering! Hives of Notre-Dame in miraculous survival

<https://news.yahoo.com/bee-wildering-hives-notre-dame-miraculous-survival-165818452.html>



Paris (AFP) - Some 200,000 bees inhabiting hives in Notre-Dame cathedral survived the inferno that engulfed the heritage landmark in a miraculous escape, their beekeeper said Thursday.

"The bees are alive. Until this morning, I had had no news," said beekeeper Nicolas Geant who looks after the hives which are kept on top of a sacristy that adjoins the cathedral.

"At first I thought that the three hives had burned but I had no information" after Monday's fire, Geant told AFP.

"Then I saw from satellite images that this was not the case and then the cathedral spokesman told me that they were going in and out of the hives."

Geant said he had been taken aback by calls of support from all corners of the world.

Be sure to check out the bi-monthly newsletter of the
Florida Native Plant Society

Located online at : <http://fnps.org/resources/sabalminor>

