



Florida Native Plant Society

Sea Rocket Chapter

Update

November 2024

Announcements

- **Remember....**

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, our November meeting will be held on the third Wednesday of the month, which is November 20th. We hope to see you then at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, in Titusville. Our Social Time begins at 6:00PM. Meetings begin at 6:30PM.

- **It's Budget Time**

The 2025 Sea Rocket Chapter Budget will be presented to our members for final approval during our November meeting. A copy of the proposed budget, which was approved by the Board of Directors on October 1st, is included as an attachment to the Update email.

- **November 20th Membership Meeting Speaker**

Kimberly Gibbs, Sea Rocket Chapter member and undaunted native plant advocate, will be our November speaker. Her topic: **Stormscaping in Central Florida - Lessons From Hurricane Milton**. Hurricane Milton made landfall October 9th on Florida's west coast as a Category 3 storm, with winds exceeding 100 mph. Join Kim for a photographic journey through storm-ravaged central Florida, focusing on native trees and shrubs. Brevard County and Pasco County, located about 100 miles west of Brevard, share many of the same native trees and shrubs. Which ones weathered the storm well, and which ones did not? Learn more about how Florida's native trees and shrubs, when planted in the right place, will protect your home and transform your yard into a paradise.

- **Annual Meeting – February 26, 2025**

Chapter Officers will be elected during our Annual Membership Meeting in February and Committee Chairpersons will begin their new terms in March. Please consider volunteering for a one-year term as a Board member. That's 12 two-hour meetings, folks, and your help is needed to keep our Chapter running. If you have any questions, feel free to contact any Board member, or email srsecretary@fnps.org.

Upcoming Events *Mark Your Calendars Now!*

- **2024 Holiday Party**

Our annual holiday party will be held at Dixie Crossroads Restaurant, in Titusville, on Saturday, December 7th beginning at 6:00PM. RSVPs are requested to John Stiner, johnstiner85@yahoo.com by Thursday, December 5th. See flyer at the end of this Update for more information.

Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival – January 22–26, 2025

The Sea Rocket Chapter will be joining the Conradina Chapter to participate in next year's Festival where more than 50 exhibits for birding, wildlife, and nature enthusiasts will create an exciting Expo Center where destination tour companies, wildlife and birding organizations, nature-based businesses, authors, photographers, and painters showcase their talents to help you increase your fun. **Volunteers needed for our booth.** Website: <https://scbwa.net/>

- **SAVE THE DATE - 2025 FNPS Annual Conference Seeds For Tomorrow**

The next FNPS Conference will be April 2nd – 6th, 2025, at the University of Florida Hilton in Gainesville, Florida. Check out the QR code at the end of this Update for additional information! On-line registrations will begin in January.

- **Plant Sales and Field Trips Postponed until Spring**

Our Chapter President, Dr. Paul Schmalzer, is recovering well from a recent hospital stay. It is anticipated that additional fall plant sales and field trips, which he coordinates, will be postponed until spring, to assist in his recovery.

- **Upcoming Presentation: How to Attract Butterflies to Your Yard**

The Sea Rocket Chapter is compiling a presentation on attracting butterflies to our yards. Do you have pictures of butterflies on Florida native plants that you would like to share as part of this presentation? If so, please send them to srsecretary@fnps.org by the end of November. Photographers will be given credit for any of their pictures used in the presentation.

Outreach Reports

- **October 19th Plant Sale**

Our successful September plant sale provided new homes to 146 Florida Native Plants!

Thank you, Beverly Lewis, Madeline Klinko, Woody Dierberg, Autumn Nielson, Jesse Baker, and Paul Schmalzer for volunteering, and to everyone who purchased plants! The remaining plants will be available for purchase immediately prior to our next Board meeting on Tuesday, November 5th and whenever you can catch Paul at the Forest!

- ***Dicerandra* Field Trip Postponed**

Our annual field trip to see *Dicerandra thinicola* blooming was postponed this year. We hope folks will join us next time!

- **October 23rd Membership Meeting Presentation**

Speaker: Evan Hall, EEL Program Fire Manager Topic: A Conservation on Fire Management

Evan Hall, Certified Burn Boss, with more than 20 years of experience in fire management, facilitated a discussion on maintaining habitat quality in natural areas using prescribe fire while displaying some of the equipment used during prescribed burns. The following includes some of the information he shared:

- Rule #1 for prescribed fires is safety.
- Florida is the lightning capital of the United States. Florida species have evolved in habitats which naturally included frequent fires and, due to fire suppression which comes with development, many natural areas have become overgrown.

- This impacts biodiversity.
- Prescribed fires are implemented in natural areas to restore a more natural fire cycle in habitats which have become fire dependent and are performed following strict permitting guidelines, including safety, weather, smoke distribution, and habitat needs. Different habitats require different fire frequency and intensity.
- Prescribed fires in natural areas reduce fuel load, so if there is a wildfire, the fire will be less severe. In the past, there have been Brevard County wildfires that started outside EEL Program sanctuaries, which were stopped or slowed by recently managed EEL Program lands.
- Interagency cooperation has allowed many groups to gather sufficient resources to do prescribed burns in a safe manner.

FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter
Annual Holiday Dinner

Dixie Crossroads Seafood Restaurant
Saturday, December 7, 2024 6:00PM

FSVPs requested by Thursday, December 5th.
Please contact johnstiner85@yahoo.com

Attendees responsible for their individual checks.

Board of Directors

President: Paul Schmalzer, Ph.D.
Vice-President: OPEN
Treasurer: Megan McCormick
Secretary: Laura Covell
Chapter Rep: Elizabeth Bishop

Newsletter: OPEN Update: Laura Covell
Education/Outreach: OPEN
Membership Beverly Lewis
Hospitality: John Stiner
At-Large: Jesse Baker

For More Information...

On the Web

Website: <https://searocket.fnpschapters.org>
Calendar: <https://searocket.fnpschapters.org/calendar>
Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/searocketchapterfnps>
Chapter Secretary: srsecretary@fnps.org
Florida Native Plant Society: <https://www.fnps.org/>

Sea Rocket Chapter Facebook Page



FNPS 2025 Annual Conference

