



# Sea Rocket



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

~ Sea Rocket ~

## Board of Directors

President  
*Vacant*

Vice President  
*Vacant*

Treasurer  
Patti Larson

Secretary  
*Vacant*

Chapter Representative  
*Vacant*

## **Committees**

Digital Archivist  
David Humphrey

Education/Outreach  
Janina Shoemaker

Hike Leader  
Paul Schmalzer, PhD

Hospitality  
Armand De Filippo

Membership  
Barbara Gwiazda

Newsletter  
Jill Whitson

Nursery  
Lois Harris

Social Media / Marketing  
*Vacant*

To contact us by email:  
[searocketfnps@gmail.com](mailto:searocketfnps@gmail.com)

## OCTOBER 2020

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.

### To the membership of the Sea Rocket Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.

The time is coming up quickly for the 2021 elections of the Executive Board. Filling the four executive positions on the Board of Directors is a requirement to maintain Sea Rocket's charter. Because nobody is growing younger, Sea Rocket's charter is in dire need.

Sea Rocket's President has served for six years and this year is acting President to keep the Chapter active. Our acting Vice-President is also our President. The Secretary is acting to fill in. Only our Treasurer is elected, and she is retiring this year. All four positions are in jeopardy. Sea Rocket needs new ideas, more energy, younger people to handle the leadership of your chapter.

Losing our Charter is no small matter, but unfortunately is very possible. I have provided the section of Sea Rocket By-Laws that pertains. It is as follows:

#### ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS

- The officers shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.
- Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting by a majority of the membership present. Terms of office are for one (1) year.
- Officers will take office at the March meeting and serve until duly replaced.
- Officers, the FNPS state Chapter Director, and committee members shall serve without compensation except reimbursement for actual expenses incurred.

Please carefully consider the needs of your chapter.

Thank you

Sea Rocket Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS (CONTINUED)

### Section 1. Duties of the President

- A. Preside at all general membership meetings, monthly Board of Directors meetings, and Executive Committee meetings as required.
- B. Appoint chairmen of standing and special committees as may be required.
- C. Be an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee.
- D. Sign all documents, contracts, etc.
- E. Conduct monthly Board Meetings.
- F. Attend annual State Conference, or if unable, appoint a representative from the Executive Committee.
- G. Provide agenda for: Executive Committee meetings, Board of Directors meetings, and the meetings of the general membership.
- H. Yearly, prepare a budget for the following year to be submitted for approval by the general membership at the November meeting.

### Section 2. Duties of the Vice President

- A. Exercise the functions of the President during the absence or disability of the President.
- B. Chair the program committee.
- C. Act as an aide to the President.

### Section 3. Duties of the Secretary

- A. Record, maintain, and report minutes of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and meetings of the general membership at the appropriate meeting monthly. Provide the newsletter editor a copy of the minutes of every meeting of the general membership for inclusion in the monthly newsletter.
- B. Be custodian of all Chapter records except financial.
- C. Prepare all Chapter correspondence.
- D. Record and maintain an inventory of Chapter property, as the Chapter property manager.

### Section 4. Duties of the Treasurer

- A. Record, maintain, and report correct accounts of financial transactions monthly with copies to the secretary for inclusion in the minutes and to provide quarterly, a statement of the Chapter's funds to the newsletter editor for inclusion in the newsletter.
- B. Be the custodian of all monies of the Chapter.
- C. Disburse funds as directed by the President.
- D. Sign all checks as approved and directed by the Executive Committee.

**MANY HANDS—  
MAKE LIGHT WORK**



I quote from the World Atlas web site:

"The *Armillaria ostoyae* is a type of fungus that lives above ground in hardwood and coniferous forests. It is also the world's biggest and most expansive living organisms.

*Armillaria ostoyae* attacks the barks of trees and travels for miles between trees.

In 1988, scientists first discovered a single specimen that had spread 8.8 square kilometers (3.4 sq miles) and was estimated to be around 2,400 years old in Malheur National Forest, Oregon. Aptly named the "**Humungous Fungus**", this growth is considered to be the largest living organism on Earth."

<https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-is-the-largest-living-thing-in-the-world.html>



### What's up with the "Humungous Fungus or Honey Mushroom.

The honey mushroom is a genus composed of several types of parasitic fungi that grow on wood. *Armillaria*, which is the honey mushroom scientific name, is made up of about 10 different species of mushrooms, including *Armillaria mellea*, *Armillaria ostoyae* and *Armillaria tabescens*.

Honey mushrooms can be found growing in temperate regions around the globe, including areas like Asia, Europe and North America. The mushrooms feed on dead plant material and can cause fungal root rot in trees, which spreads through root-like structures known as rhizomorphs. <https://draxe.com/nutrition/honey-mushroom/>

What are **Rhizomorphs**?

A **rhizomorph** is a rope-like aggregation of many hyphal strands. The word "**rhizomorph**" literally means "root form". **Rhizomorphs** are so named because they resemble plant roots. **Rhizomorphs** in a backyard or forest are a sign of a vibrant fungal community.



<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/fungus-lichen/what-are-rhizomorphs.htm>

## Today's weed



### Doveweed (*Murdannia nudiflora*)

By David Humphrey

Doveweed is the latest threat to any kept or unkept Florida lawn. I had not noticed it before this year, but now it is nearly the dominant life form. Doveweed is **not a native weed** but is amazingly comfortable growing in the warm Florida sun. *Murdannia nudiflora* is native to Asia<sup>1</sup> but has found its way to the South Eastern states of America. I could not find this weed on the Florida Invasive Plant list<sup>2</sup> nor is it named amongst the invasive plants of the USDA

“Introduced, Invasive, and Noxious Plants” list<sup>4</sup>, but it is listed as an invasive in the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux International (CABI) listing<sup>3</sup> maintained in the UK. The CABI summary reads in part “*M. nudiflora* is classified as one of the world's worst weeds by [Holm et al. \(1977\)](#), infesting no less than 16 crops in 23 countries. It is a major weed species in rice and other crops ([Moody, 1989](#))...” All sites agree that dove weed is a summer annual, possibly perennial. Pre-emergence herbicides used casually have proven less than effective in the control of this weed. Control of this nasty plant can be found in the University of Florida IFAS publication SS-AGR-391<sup>5</sup>. And I quote “The best control against doveweed is a strong PRE herbicide program.” Also noted is that doveweed performs poorly in a strong health lawn<sup>6</sup>. Propagation is by seed or by vegetative parts. Mowing it over spreads it effectively as does a string trimmer. There are herbicides that can help, but even they need attention and consistent application. Do your homework before applying any herbicide. Doveweed is characterized by longish fleshy leaves on creeping fleshy stems that can and will root at each node. It likes moist soil. and Doveweed is an equal opportunity infestation. St Augustine, Zoysia, Bermuda and in my yard *mimosa strigilosa* or Sunshine mimosa are all subject by this scourge.

References:

<sup>1</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murdannia>

<sup>2</sup> [https://bugwoodcloud.org/CDN/fleppc/plantlists/2019/2019\\_Plant\\_List\\_ABSOLUTE\\_FINAL.pdf](https://bugwoodcloud.org/CDN/fleppc/plantlists/2019/2019_Plant_List_ABSOLUTE_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/35180#tosummaryOfInvasiveness>

<sup>4</sup> <https://plants.usda.gov/java/invasiveOne?startChar=M>

<sup>5</sup> <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/AG/AG39500.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/lawns/lawn-care/best-care-practices.html>

"Also note the cute little flowers. This is another method of propagation for this invasive summer annual weed. This plant I found in North Florida, in Lake City. It can reproduce by pieces of stolon (stems), pieces of leaves, and seeds,"



## **Silphium asteriscus – Starry Rosinweed**



This short-lived perennial has three years in this garden and has taken pruning very well. If not periodically pruned it can reach five feet tall very easily, however, it doesn't take wind very well and will flop over at that height. Trimming will keep it neat, tidy and within the three-foot range in addition to a fuller plant.

The bloom period is relatively long – early spring and well into fall. FNPS gives it light recommendations of full sun to part shade. I have found that it blooms much better and the plant is more robust if it is grown in full sun.

Starry Rosinweed is not salt tolerant and has low tolerance to salty wind or direct salt spray. Regular irrigation works fine, no flooding and can take somewhat long very dry periods.

Propagation is easy as it will self-seed readily on its own. Collecting seed is simple, allow the seed head to dry on the plant, store them at room temperature and plant in late winter or early spring.

Starry rosinweed is another great plant for pollinators and the seeds are eaten by birds.

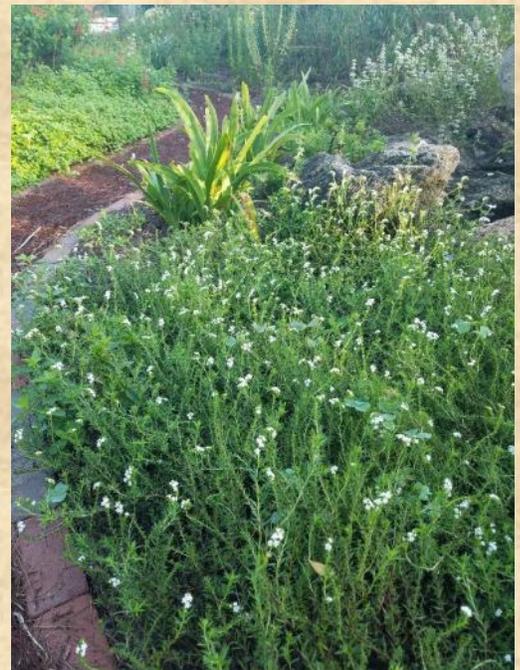
## **Euploca polyphylla - Pineland Heliotrope....**

**..... also known as Heliotropium polyphyllum**

This short-lived perennial has been growing for three years in this garden. The flowers can be yellow or white and persist throughout the year. It has a sprawling habit but takes pruning very well and has become thicker for it. Even though FNPS says it is winter dormant I have not found it to be true. Possibly our milder than usual winters no longer get cold enough to force it into dormancy.

Growing about eight to ten inches tall it makes a great ground cover in full sun to part shade. It can tolerate some salty wind but not direct salt spray. Normal landscape irrigation is adequate to keep it happy in your yard. FNPS indicates that it can take occasional inundation....to....short very dry periods. Grows well in acidic to neutral sandy Florida soil.

Attracts a variety of pollinators but makes an especially good candidate for the butterfly garden.



## Working on the Road Crew.

By David Humphrey 9-19-20

It was a lovely day in the neighborhood of the Enchanted Forest. In fact the weather was nearly perfect. Barbara Gwiazda, Janina Shoemaker and myself Dave Humphrey performed the clean-up contracted with the County Adopt-A-Highway program. Barbara and I set out at 8:30 with happy and determined hearts to pick up the trash of urban life along SR 405, the road in front of Enchanted Forest. Well, I was walking along pulling our little litter cart. By the way, the cart really makes the clean up process easier and thus more enjoyable. The County had recently cut the grass on the North side of the road. The grass must have been head high because the hay was so thick it was like walking in loose sand. I commented to Barbara that I was wearing out, the cart was way heavy. Little did I know why the cart felt so heavy. We got to the 407 (the I95 exit) and we crossed there to head back. As we were crossing I checked on the cart and Lo and Behold the wheels were dragging across the asphalt. I had been dragging the cart for some time before noticing the hay had wrapped around the axle until it jammed up the wheels from turning. This had never happened before. Once on the other side we removed the hay, with some difficulty, and WOW! The cart was so easy to pull it was like it was self propelled. We also met Janina there on the Eastbound side of 405. So Janina joined us and we three pickers of Sea Rocket are, bearing trash we collected so far, and headed back to Enchanted Forest picking up trash and dreaming of a cool drink of water, some shade, and a bathroom.



### SHOE by Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



The first picture is silk grass in front which has little yellow flowers, next row is false rosemary and calamint - both have small lavender flowers, in back are the dune sunflowers.



The second picture has frog fruit and sunshine mimosas flowering and behind them are the firebush and blue porterweed flowers.

\*Of note is that I have not run the irrigation this year, in spite of some periods of weeks without rain.

**The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Education Center**  
444 Columbia Blvd, Titusville, FL 32780 321-264-5185

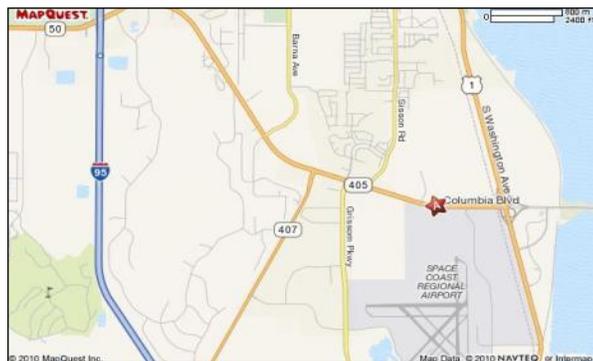


Driving Directions to the Sanctuary:

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

**Due to the Corona virus, the Sea Rocket Chapter Board meetings and General meetings will be on hold until we know more. We hope the next General meeting will be in January 2021.**

**Watch your emails for new information.**

What is the largest living thing in the World?

- A. Bonsai Maple tree in Kyoto Japan
- B. Blue Whale
- C. *Armillaria ostoyae*, fungus in Oregon
- D. Strangler fig, Angkor Wat, Cambodia

Find us on FACEBOOK  .

For a comprehensive view of Sea Rocket activities go to  
<https://www.facebook.com/searocketchapter>

Be sure to check out the bi-monthly newsletter of the  
Florida Native Plant Society  
Located online at : <http://fnps.org/resources/sabalminor>

