



Sea Rocket



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

October 2018

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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To contact us by email:
searocketfnps@gmail.com

Celebrate FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT MONTH October 2018



Native plants are part of our heritage



Native plants & animals belong here



In celebration look for more information in this newsletter:

- Oct. 6 from 9 a.m. to Noon: Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden workday at Enchanted Forest Sanctuary (444 Columbia Blvd., Titusville)
- Oct. 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Harvest Festival at Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, Sea Rocket plant sale, food, music, vendors and lots of activities for the whole family
- Oct. 24, Sea Rocket general meeting at Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, speaker Ginny Stibolt *Step-by-Step to a Florida Native Landscape*.
- Oct. 27 at 9 a.m.: Hike with Dr. Paul Schmalzer to Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary

October General Meeting

October 24, 2018

6:30 pm Social time

7:00 pm Meeting

Join us for our monthly general meeting at the
Enchanted Forest Sanctuary



*Step-by-Step
to a
Florida Native
Landscape.*

Presenter: Ginny Stibolt

Author and Botanist, Ginny moved to North Florida in 2004 where she taught herself a whole new way to garden. She began writing a column called "Adventures of a Transplanted Gardener" to share her experiences. As a member of FNPS she soon changed her thinking on what could grow to what belongs here.



Call for Research Track Papers and Poster Presentations

**Florida Native Plant Society
2019 Conference**

**Abstract Deadline: February
1, 2019**

The Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference will be held at the Plantation on Crystal River, Crystal River, Florida, May 16-19, 2019.

The Research Track of the Conference will include presented papers and a poster session on Friday May 17 and Saturday May 18.

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts on research related to native plants and plant communities of Florida including preservation, conservation, and restoration. Presentations are planned to be 20 minutes in total length (15 min. presentation, 5 min. questions).

Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted as a MS Word file by email to Paul A. Schmalzer paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov by February 1, 2019. Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.

10th Annual Mims Mullet Festival, Saturday, October 6.

Enjoy craft sales, car exhibition, live music, children's games and "fried and smoked mullet dinners" (with fixin's.) Bar-B-Q is also on the menu.



This community event is sponsored by Mims United Methodist and First Baptist Churches. Sea Rocket Chapter will set up with plants for sale, and "ambassadors" to meet the public and encourage membership in FNPS.

Mark your calendars NOW to join us in this outreach, and to visit this established family-themed festival.

Volunteers needed!

Help out at our booth at the Mullet Festival. Sign-up with Janina Shoemaker, 2-hour shifts from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary Hike

4900 Melissa Drive, Titusville FL

Saturday October 27 2018 0900-1200

Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary. This is a joint project of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and the State of Florida. Vegetation is primarily oak scrub and scrubby flatwoods with a depression marsh down slope. Prescribed burns have been conducted on the site since acquisition. The endemic *Dicerandra thinicola* occurs here and should be in flower.

The hike will be lead by Plant Ecologist, Dr. Paul Schmalzer .



Directions:

Parking is limited at the site. We will meet at the Indian River Plaza Shopping Center. Park at the western (former K-Mart) corner of the shopping center and we will car pool to the site.

- 1) US 1 to St. Rt. 50 (Cheney Highway). West on St. Rt. 50 to Indian River Plaza Shopping Center.
- OR 2) I-95 to Titusville, St. Rt. 50 exit. East on St. Rt. 50 (Cheney Highway) to Indian River Plaza Shopping Center.

Note: Do **not** go to the 4900 Melissa Drive entrance.



Bring hat, sunscreen,
water, and insect
repellent.



Florida's State Butterfly

Zebra longwings

Excerpted from Jonnie Dietz, *Florida Museum of Natural History* on Florida Wildflowers.org

CLASSIFICATION

Family: Nymphalidae (Brush-footed butterflies)

Species: *Heliconius charithonia*



Photo: Close-up of adult Zebra longwing by Ryan Fessenden

Did you know the Zebra longwing (*Heliconius charithonia*) is Florida's state butterfly? Although they are found throughout the state, this common butterfly is anything but ordinary!

Their elongated wings make them easy to distinguish from other Florida natives, but their unique attributes don't stop there.

Life span

Most adult butterflies live an average of 2–4 weeks, but longwings have a special trick that extends their lives by several months! While feeding on nectar, a longwing collects globs of sticky pollen on its **proboscis**. After enough pollen is collected, the butterfly will regurgitate digestive enzymes onto the pollen mass, breaking it down into a digestible, protein-rich supplement. This "pollen milkshake" contributes to the butterfly's longevity, and aids in the production of eggs or sperm.

Roosting

At night, Zebra longwings frequently roost together in groups. Up to 60 individuals may perch together on a branch, and they often return to the same place each evening.



Zebra longwings roosting together for the night. Photo by [Tony Hisgett](#)



Zebra longwing caterpillar by Ryan Fessenden

Eggs

Females lay small yellow eggs singly or in groups on the leaves and tendrils of their hostplants (*Passiflora* spp.).

Caterpillars

Caterpillars are white with black dots and soft, black spikes. Their coloration signals that they contain distasteful chemicals, warning predators against eating them. Zebra longwing caterpillars will molt (shed their skin) five times before they pupate. Although unpalatable to their predators, Zebra longwing caterpillars are harmless to humans.

Adults

Adults have elongated wings and look unlike any other butterfly in Florida. Their black wings have yellow stripes — colors that advertise they, too, are distasteful to predators. Zebra longwings have multiple generations per year and will fly year round in South Florida.

For more information see the full article at: <https://flawildflowers.org/know-your-native-pollinators-zebra-longwing/>



Can you see the yellow pollen on this butterfly's proboscis? (She's also laying an egg!) Photo by [Adam Skowronski](#)



Fall Outdoors

Get into Gardening every Tuesday by helping at the FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter Nursery Workdays 9am-12noon. Kid-friendly.

Email us for further info and schedule.



Hike Schedule - Resumes in November

If you would like your event listed here for our members to see please email us at searocketfnps@gmail.com

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

Community Corner

Happenings About Town



Saturday October 21
10 am to 2 pm
The Avenue Viera,
2261 Town Center Avenue

Rockledge Gardens
Fall Festival

October 27 & 28, 2018
9am-4pm Saturday, 11am-3pm Sunday

The Deadly 'Love Vine' or 'Devil's Gut' (*Cassytha filiformis* L.)

Penetrates Wasps' Homes and DRINKS THE LIFE FROM WITHIN!

Credit: Mattheau Comerford/Rice University

Edited for Sea Rocket by David Humphrey



Spherical galls made by gall wasps are being preyed on by 'Devil's gut' vine.

Galls that cling to the undersides of oak leaves are often crypts holding the dried-up corpses of wasp larvae, killed by a parasitic plant known as of all things the 'Love Vine.' I prefer the alias of 'Devil's Gut.'

Galls are the swollen tumors of leaf tissue, and their growth is caused by a type of insect called the gall wasp. These parasitic wasps lay their eggs and protect their young inside the galls. There, the growing wasps are safe from harm that is, until the parasitic 'Devil's gut' vine hunts the gall down and enters into the sealed vault turning it into a crypt containing a mummified larva within.

Researchers opened galls that were attacked by the devil's gut. What they found were wasp mummies; the vines had invaded the galls and drained the insects to husks of their former selves for their nutrients, just like in the movie "The Mummy."

In the study, the scientists examined 2,000 galls produced by the wasp species *Belonocnema treatae*, found in oak groves that spanned across Florida. Of those galls, 58 percent had been attacked by the vine.

Love Vines penetrate the galls' outer walls using stubby structures called haustoria, which 'drink' from the living tissue within. The vine "was observed to wrap tightly, multiple times, directly below the gall and develop haustoria to invade the stem tissue," the researchers wrote in the study.

Five other gall-producing insects were fair game for the

love vines: The scientists found evidence of parasitized galls in four additional wasp species, and in one type of gall-forming fly.

"This could be unique, but biologists have cataloged more than 1,300 species of gall-forming wasps and more than 4,000 species of parasitic plants, so this could just be the tip of the iceberg," researchers said¹.



The orangy overgrowth isn't your native parasitic dodder vine - this is the 'Devil's gut' vine, which is not a parasite of the plants, but a parasite of the gall wasp.

After a 'love vine' wraps around a gall, it penetrates the outer wall with structures



called haustoria.

Credit: Scott Egan/Rice University



¹The findings were published online Aug. 20 in the journal [Current Biology](#).

It's Native Plant Month!

Several chapters and organizations congregate every year to celebrate Native Plant Month.



Featuring Speaker

Rufino Osorio, Author

"A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants

Tuesday October 2nd
6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Location: Harry P. Leu Gardens
1920 N Forest Avenue
Orlando, FL

FALL IN FLORIDA

GET READY FOR...

- PUMPKINS
- HEAT
- SHORTS
- FLIP FLOPS
- MOSQUITOES
- MARGARITAS

SO BASICALLY SUMMER, BUT WITH PUMPKINS.

Sea Rocket Adopt-A-Highway Complete!

The Sea Rocket Chapter has adopted a section of Columbia Blvd. Look for the signs!

Join the "Highway Squad!"

We need volunteers to help out in keeping this section of the highway litter free.



We will gather at the Enchanted Forest four times a year, dress-out in vests and collecting equipment (supplied by FDOT).

We will walk the two-mile section in the coolest part of the day but not the median. We hope to have enough volunteers to complete this task in about an hour.

We have a two-year commitment.

Contact Janina Shoemaker (janina13@cfl.rr.com) to **volunteer NOW** and get involved in this great community event which will bring awareness to the FNPS and our chapter.

Children welcome if accompanied by an adult.

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

Sea Rocket Chapter September Board meeting will be held on
October 9 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.



We are partnering with our bank through an affinity membership.



If you bank at the TD bank or wish to open an account at the TD bank our chapter will receive a donation from the bank.

Please find more information in the flyer included with this newsletter or email us with any questions you may have.

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

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

