



Lake Beautyberry

FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Neta Villalobos-Bell

RANDOM NATURE SIGHTING

“The beauty of the natural world lives in the details.”

Natalie Angier, Science Journalist for the NY Times and Non-Fiction Writer.

As gardeners, we're close to our plants and ground observations. I had a new one. What I noticed first, the chewed leaves. Second, the culprit was on the underside leaf of our recently planted Redbud tree.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lynn Folts, *Apopka*
Cynthia Ramsey, *Mount Dora*
Marty Bahamonde, *Mount Dora*
Andrea Litton, *Mount Dora*
Douglas Tabor, *Mount Dora*

An online search only suggested whitefly or aphid pest. Definitely not those. It's more of a weevil look. Next, a search on [Bug-Know](#), an insect identifier, just upload a photo. This site identified the insect as *Artipus florianus*, a weevil, little leaf notcher, a Florida native. A start!

However, I took an extra step to verify with a more reliable source, Lyle Buss, University of Florida, Insect Identification Lab, Entomology & Nematology Dept. You can email [Lyle Buss](#) for insect identification. Send a quality photo.

Mr. Buss' response: "That is the **Sri Lanka Weevil**, *Myloccerus undecimpustulatus undatus*. It's an exotic species that has been in Florida since 2000. Their feeding damage is often pretty distinctive; those notches going deep into a leaf like in your first photo." I didn't know they fed on redbud, that's good to know! Please see EDIS Publication [EENY579](#)

It's a very small, 0.2-0.25", white weevil. It chews distinctive, semi-circular notches into the margins of plant leaves. The small, white, grub-like larvae live in the soil feeding on the roots.

Time to go back into the yard for some pest control!



Images by Ken Bell

UPCOMING EVENTS

01 Fall Native Plant Sale!

Saturday, October 03, 2026, 10am-12pm

W.T. Bland Public Library, 1995 N. Donnelly Street, Mount Dora, FL



Fall Native Plant Sale presented by the **Lake Beautyberry Chapter** of the Florida Native Plant Society.



- Buy Florida Native Plants, especially selected for your Central Florida home.
- Cash & Credit Cards accepted.
- Bring your wagon or tote bag. You'll love the offerings!

Come Early ... We've sold out at our Spring Plant Native Plant Sale



02 Seminole Pumpkin Presentation

Friday, October 09, 2026, 10am-12pm, Speaker: Suzanne Hill

W.T. Bland Public Library, 1995 N. Donnelly Street, Mount Dora, FL



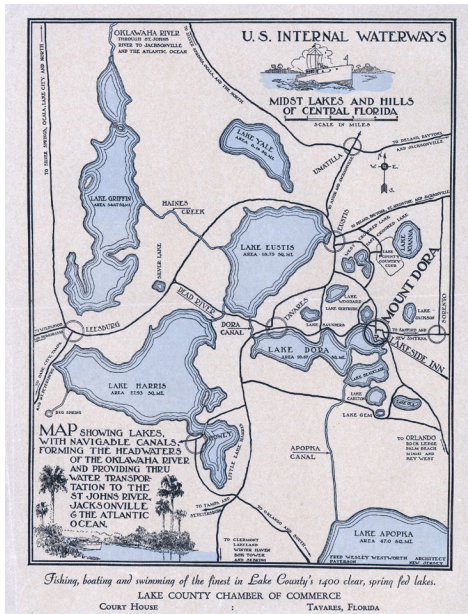
03 WATERSHED WEDNESDAYS

October 14, 2026, 10am-12pm

Hickory Point Pavilion, 27341 SR 19, Tavares, FL

If you missed our September Chapter program, “Native Plants by Lakes, Rivers, and Streams” presented Lake County Parks & Recreation staff Luke Vallentine, Program Manager, and William Blanco, Park Ranger, plan to attend their **FREE** “Watershed Wednesday” presentation.

This is a series of monthly rotating presentations on local water resources. They explore how local lakes, streams, wetlands, and uplands connect. Topics include shoreline protection, stormwater management, and Florida-Friendly landscaping.





Native Plant Month

Join us in celebrating the beauty and importance of Florida's native plants. Every native plant supports pollinators, birds, and a healthier environment.

This October, let's "Plant It Forward" — even one native plant makes a difference!
#GrowNative #RightPlantRightPlace #FloridaNativePlants

UPCOMING EVENTS

04 Fall Festival Table Event

October 17-18, 2026, 9am-3pm

UF/IFAS Discovery Gardens, 1951 Woodlea Road, Tavares, FL



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are essential to the Lake Beautyberry Native Plant Chapter. Join in the fun while you help preserve the Florida's natural beauty for the future.

Can you spare a few hours a month to volunteer on a Chapter Committee?

- **Plant Sale:** One in spring and one in fall.
Chairperson Nancy LaPointe: laf4good@gmail.com
- **Budget:** Track monthly income & expense.
Treasurer Jane Bullock: lakebeautyberry@gmail.com
- **Newsletter:** Write articles on native plants & nature.
Neta Villalobos-Bell: netavb@gmail.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

05 Plant This, Not That!

October 17, Saturday, 9am Presentation, Speaker: Lavon Silvernell
Fall Festival, UF/IFAS Discovery Gardens, 1951 Woodlea Rd, Tavares, FL

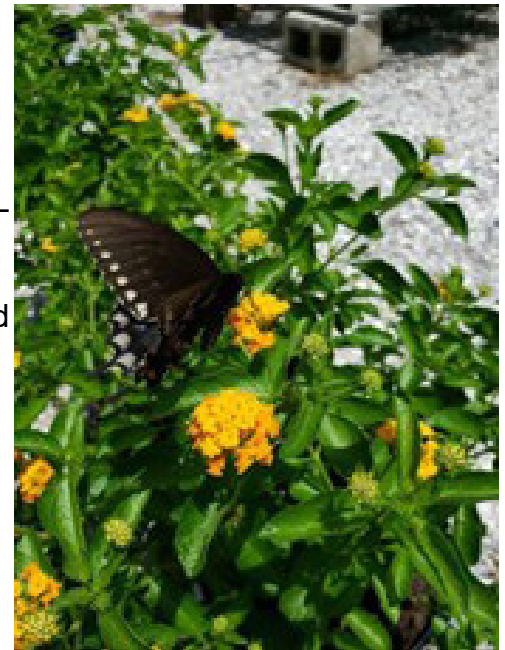
University of Florida has standardized terms describing invasive and non-native plants. "Invasive. A species that (1) is nonnative to a specified geographic area, (2) was introduced by humans (intentionally or unintentionally), and (3) does or can cause environmental or economic harm or harm to humans."

Publications:

01 Invasive Terminology: [FOR370](#)

02 Invasive Plant List: [LIST](#)

Common Lantana is just one of many listed invasives that meets these terms and are listed as an "Invasive". Don't buy them or do remove move them if you have them in your yard. Learn what Florida native plants are better planting options in this presentation by Lavon.



Plant This

Pineland Lantana

Lantana depressa var depressa



Don't Plant This

Common Lantana

Lantana camara/Lantana strigocamara



OCTOBER 24TH LYONIA PRESERVE

Florida Native Plant Society
Lake Beautyberry Chapter Field Trip
Lyonia Preserve

October 24 • 9:30 AM

\$3 per person • Maximum 15 participants

Join us for a guided experience featuring an animal encounter, pollinator garden tour, and guided hike through the preserve. The guided tour lasts approximately 1.5 hours.

We'll also have access to the pavilion for anyone who would like to mingle, enjoy lunch, or have a picnic. After the guided tour, those with a little wanderlust are welcome to explore the preserve trails on their own.

Payment: One person will collect payment for the group. Cash preferred.



06 RESTORATION: Coral Ardisia Removal

Meetup: Library Parking Lot Rear
(Jackson Road)

W.T. Bland Public Library, 1995 N.
Donnelly Street, Mount Dora, FL

CANCELED: September 26, 2026

**NEXT TIME >>> Saturday,
November 28, 2026, 8:00am**

Limited Participants
Inquiry: LakeBeautyberry@gmail.com

GARDENING FOR QUALITY OF LIFE

Before we start, we have to define the title, "Gardening for Quality of Life" because Quality of Life can mean many different things to different people. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), it is "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being." We are a product of interaction with our natural and physical environment. In the end, it relates to all of the following.

- **Economic:** that affords a lifestyle based on money available
- **Social:** that includes safety and security from crime or harm
- **Political:** quality of life and protection of human rights
- **Environmental:** clean air and water that impacts physical and mental health

Author: Neta Villalobos-Bell.
Certified Advanced Florida Master
Naturalist, Certified Horticulture Profes-
sional, Certified National Association
Interpreter. Member of
Florida Native Plant
Society.

This explores "Quality of Life" based on good physical and mental health. So, how can landscaping and gardening affect your physical and mental health? There are many studies to this effect.

Medical Studies

We're very much aware of how a polluted environment causing the decline of bald eagles when agriculture used the chemical DDT. People are negatively affected by chemicals in the environment too.

- In a recent study of pesticide exposure among children living in a major US metropolitan area, traces of garden chemicals were found in 99% of the 110 children tested. Concentrations were significantly higher in children whose parents reported that they use pesticides in their gardens. (Audubon Healthier choices The Audubon at Home guide to Healthier Pest Control, 2002)
- Commonly used pesticides are routinely found in surface and ground water throughout the country. (Audubon Healthier choices The Audubon at Home guide to Healthier Pest Control, 2002). And, most treatment plants don't treat for these chemicals, only bacteria. In 2000, in CA, I was involved in a program targeted to reduce homeowner use of two pesticides in particular. The program started when Central Sanitation District detected toxic amounts of pesticides in both wastewater treatment effluent and storm water runoff into the San Francisco Bay. Diazinon (Bug-B-Gone) and chlorpyrifos (Dursban) are the two commonly used ones and 60% of pesticide use had been traced to residential sources, not industry. That's you and me, not "them". Just one drop of diazinon in the amount of water in 2 backyard swimming pools is enough to kill the water flea, an organism at the base of the aquatic food web. The water flea, ceriodaphnia, is to water quality like the canary was to the miners, a warning. Since then, the federal government has banned these two chemicals. But, be assured there are other chemicals just as bad.
- Lawn pesticides cause the death of estimated 7 million birds per year, in addition, to wildlife down the



Lake Beautyberry Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

Our Mission is to Champion Florida's Native Plants and Their Habitats!

520 E CR 44, Eustis, FL 32736-2518

e: lakebeautyberry@gmail.com, w: <https://lakebeautyberry.fnpschapters.org/>

food web. Do you notice the signs put up by pest control companies warning not to step on in a number of hours? Imagine your dog is out to pee, gets his paws on the grass. He tracks those chemicals indoors where it is deposited on a carpet. Then your grandchild crawls around and puts his fingers into his mouth. This is not uncommon.

These studies all show how negatively using chemicals affects our physical health. Use less toxic chemicals for you health and others. But, we need some positive studies of landscaping. Gardening and landscaping is excellent exercise. It keeps you limber and flexible.

"In 1996, when the US Surgeon General recommended that adults burn at least 150 calories per day in physical activity..." This expenditure represents a total of only about 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity a day and could lower their risk for heart disease, cancer and osteoporosis." (Medical College of Wisconsin – 2004)



Gardening and Landscaping helps us do this. To burn approximately 100 Calories for a 120 to 150-pound healthy person, you would need to spend only:

- 12-15 minutes of spading
- 10-20 raking leaves
- 45-50 minutes lawn mowing (self-propelled mower)
- 25-30 lawn mowing(manual mower)

Mental Health

And, I think we can all relate to how landscaping can be beneficial to our mental health. A study by Dr. Herbert Benson, Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard, says... "Anything rhythmic and repetitious for 20 minutes everyday can significantly decrease stress in your life."

“I can do that just weeding!”



BOARD MEMBERS

OFFICER	NAME	EMAIL
President & Treasurer	Jane Bullock	jgb4203@gmail.com
Vice President	Neta Villalobos-bell	netavb@gmail.com
Secretary	Suzanne Hill	hill.susie.m@gmail.com
FNPS Chapter Representative	Tina Mertz	gmer98@yahoo.com
Membership & Plant Sale	Nancy Lapointe	laf4good@yahoo.com
Field Trips	Caryn Desinor	carynantoinette@gmail.com
Discovery Gardens	Lavon Silvernell	lavonsilvernell@gmail.com
Communications	Clayton Yuen	hapagraphics@gmail.com