



Chapter Board and Committee Chairs

Co-Presidents

Neta Villalobos-Bell
&
Jane Bullock

VP Field Trips/ Conservation

Lavon Silvernell

Secretary

Suzanne Hill

Treasurer

Jane Bullock

Chapter Rep

Tina Mertz

Membership/ Plant Sale

Nancy LaPointe

Outreach Chair

Delphine Salai

Communication Director

Robin Kester

DECEMBER 2025 CHAPTER NEWS

**THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY'S MISSION IS TO
CHAMPION FLORIDA'S NATIVE PLANTS AND THEIR HABITATS.**

Welcome New Members to Lake Beautyberry Chapter!

Kelly L Algarra
Mount Dora

Ben Cashwel
Sorrento

Jean Johnson
Lady Lake

Christina Vargas
Groveland

November Meeting

25th Anniversary as a Florida Native Plant Society Chapter



Nadine and Lavon

Attendees at our last meeting of the year celebrated the Chapter's 25th anniversary acknowledging our Founder, Nadine Foley, and two other prominent contributors to its long history, Barbara Grigg, and Lavon Silvernell.

In the early 1990's, Nadine Foley recognized the value of Florida native plants, not only in personal space and yards, but the environment though conservation efforts on public lands. She organized the Chapter's affiliation with the state organization, Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) in 2000. Barbara Griggs was a mentor to many during propagation of rare plants and with her plant knowledge during field trips. Lavon Silvernell has shared her enthusiasm for the role of natives in a sustainable environment with both children and adults in programs and presentations.

[www.lakebeautyberry.
fnpschapters.org](http://www.lakebeautyberry.fnpschapters.org)

Next Chapter Meeting

Presentation topic "Plant a Sustainable Landscape with Native Plants" and Annual Member Meeting

January 18, 2026 1:30pm, W.T Bland Library, 1995 N Donnelly Street, Mount Dora

In addition to a public presentation, members will vote for 2026 Chapter Officers and to approve the 2026 Budget. The positions below will be voted on during the January meeting.

Vacant positions open for vote.

Please consider contributing to the continuation of our Chapter success. Not sure you can fill the position? It is your interest and willingness to participate that is important. We are here to mentor you to your comfort level. Positions are for one year.

Treasurer This position is primarily bookkeeping income and expenditures. There are minimal scheduled State and Federal IRS forms to submit, mostly online.

Secretary Document Bi-monthly Board and Annual Member Meetings. The minutes are Board approved then stored online.

Chapter Representative Participate, on monthly Zoom calls, with a Council of 30 other Chapters. You will learn about the connection with State FNPS organization and provide the conduit between the two about concerns and information. For more detail. <https://council.fnpschapters.org/new-how-to-page/>

Can you help on a Committee? Not a voted position. Just contact the Chairperson.

Outreach

Chairperson Delphine Salai, weedpuller121@gmail.com

Frequency: Approximately 4-6 events per year. Times varies.

Locations: Within Central Lake County

Different areas of opportunity to volunteer: organization of materials, recruit volunteers, participate at Chapter display table.

Field Trips

Chairperson: Lavon Silvernell, lavonsilvernell@gmail.com

Frequency: Approximately 4 trips per year. Times varies

Locations: Usually within Lake County

Different areas of help: organization, logistics, participation day of trip.

Plant Sales

Chairperson: Nancy LaPointe, laf4good@gmail.com

Frequency: Twice per year, April and October

Location: W.T. Bland Library, Mt Dora

Different areas of help: plant selection, communication with Nursery staff, library, and volunteers, Excel spreadsheet (will train), Preparation of plant Labels, plant descriptions, Pick up plants at nursery for delivery to library

Share Your Interests

The Chapter newsletter reaches a few hundred people on our mailing list. Including interesting insights, experiences, and knowledge inspires others.

Members can submit any environmental related article to our Editor, such as, native plants in your yard, on a hike, or elsewhere you see natives displayed, encounters with wildlife, educational information on plantings, conservation and more. Articles subject to editor discretion.

There is no deadline for submissions. Submit any time you are excited. These articles can be timeless and may be filed in pending until publication at a later date. Include a photo if possible.

Help make our newsletter more interesting for everyone!

Editor Contact: netavb@gmail.com

Plant a Sustainable Landscape with Native Plants

You're interested, but want to know how and where to start. Our speaker, Chris Leibner (pictured to the right), Landscape Designer with Wild Garden Company, will share his knowledge and experience so you have the confidence to add these functional, as well as beautiful, native plants into your yard benefiting wildlife, the environment, and you. Free and open to the public.



Upcoming activities at the Library

Forest Preserve Nature Hikes

December 20, Saturday, 8:30am Forest Preserve Guided Walk and Talk,
"Raccoons and Possums," 1995 N Donnelly Street, Mount Dora.



(c) Greg Hanisek, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC), uploaded by Greg Hanisek

Native Plant Article

American Beautyberry, *Callicarpa Americana*, Propagation



Softwood cuttings

Start the cuttings in late spring to early summer, after the first flush of growth but before the plant flowers.

1. Cut 4- to 6-inch sections from healthy stems.
 - Find a node on the stem.
 - Using clean, sharp scissors to make a cut about ½' to ¼' inch below the node. You cut below 2-3 nodes, not just one on the stem cutting for propagation.
 - Node: place on the stem where one or more leaves emerge, often forming a slight swelling or knob.
2. Remove any leaves from the bottom half of the stem that will be submerged in soil. Also, remove any flower buds to encourage root growth instead of flowering.

Optional—Dip the cut end in rooting hormone*.

3. Place the cutting in a planting pot with a hole in the bottom and with a well-draining potting soil mix* ensuring at least one node is under the soil.
4. Keep the cutting in a warm, bright location. Roots should develop within 2-3 weeks. If you keep it outside, leave the pot in light shade. Keep pots above the ground as ants may enter the pots. As it grows, gradually move it into more sun. You can plant into a larger pot before putting it in the ground.

Seeds

Gather ripe purple berries in the fall.

Cover the seeds with hot water and rub off the pulp to reveal the seeds. Dry the seeds completely.

Optional but for better germination—provide a period of cold stratification.

1. Dampen a paper towel so it is moist but not dripping wet. Wring out any excess water to prevent mold.
2. Sprinkle the seeds, about 10-20, onto one half of the paper towel. Ensure the seeds are spaced about an inch apart to give them room to grow roots without tangling and to minimize the spread of potential mold.
3. Fold the other half of the paper towel over the seeds. Place the folded paper towel inside a

plastic zip-top bag. Seal part of the bag leaving it slightly open or poke a few small holes to allow for some air circulation. Label the bag with the seed type and date.

4. Place the bag in the refrigerator for 30-90 days. Check on them periodically, and if they sprout a root, remove them and plant in a pot with a well-drained potting mix* covering them with a light layer of the mix.

Place the seeds, depending on the size of the pot, so they won't crowd each other, in a planting pot with a hole in the bottom and with a well-draining potting soil mix*. They are very small, so place them just barely under the potting mix.

Keep pots above the ground as ants may enter the pots. Start in light shade with consistently moist potting soil, do not overwater. Germination may take several weeks, typically in January and February.

Once seedlings have developed true leaves, the first two on a seedling, they can be transplanted, and gradually acclimated to more sun before planting in the ground. And, as they mature, they can be transplanted into bigger pots before planting in the ground in April, after any possible freezes.

***Rooting hormones:** Auxins, active ingredients like IBA and NAA stimulate cell division and root formation. Read the ingredient label for IBA or NAA. These are available as powders, gels, and liquids. Choose powder for soil propagation.

***Potting soil mix:** A balanced potting mix is a blend of ingredients that provide nutrients and moisture retention, organic matter, such as compost, peat moss, coco coir, plus inorganic minerals that provide aeration and drainage, such as perlite or vermiculite. Check the ingredients. Most all have these.

Contributed by Neta Villalobos-Bell

Outreach opportunity-Volunteers Needed!

Saturday, December 13, Umatilla Christmas Festival!

Contact Delphine asap to sign up, weedpuller121@gmail.com
Event is this weekend!

Neta

Neta Villalobos-Bell
Co-President
Lake Beautyberry Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society
lakebeautyberry@gmail.com

