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AUGUST 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!

Brian Scherf
Mount Dora

Lisa Lord
Montverde

Native Plant Article

When Nature Surprises You



Yellow Spatterdock, Yellow Pond Lilly – *Nuphar advena*



Bellura gortynoides



***Bellura gortynoides*,
white-tailed diver moth**

While kayaking Zeigler Dead River in Deland, I was curious about the characteristic half-opened blooms of the Spatterdock. What is its flower structure inside that globe?

While they do open, they don't fully spread out. Their yellow sepals (leaf-like structures that enclose the petals) are the most visible part of the flower and stay somewhat closed, giving the impression of a half-opened bloom. Even when in full bloom, spatterdock flowers retain their characteristic cup or ball shape. They typically open partially in the morning and close at night.

Picking away at the bud, a caterpillar Suddenly slithered out from deep inside. Now my attention was focused on this caterpillar! Was it the larvae of a beetle? What was it doing there? After much research, I believe it to be the larvae of the *Bellura gortynoides*, also known as the white-tailed diver moth.

It's a species of cutworm or dart moth whose larvae are aquatic feeding on the leaves and stems of various aquatic plants. The moth typically has two generations per year, with the mature larva overwintering. Eggs are laid in clusters on leaves of the host plant, hatching in 5-6 days. The young larvae mine the leaf blade during the first three instars. Subsequent instars bore into the petiole creating a burrow in which they feed with their head below the waterline while breathing atmospheric oxygen through spiracles in their tail. Pupation occurs within the petiole.

Yellow Spatterdock is an important Florida native species. Its flowers are pollinated by bees, beetles, and flies such as some sweat bees, syrphid flies, and leaf beetles. The flower's pollination process involves the flower opening in the morning and closing at night, sometimes trapping beetles inside overnight. This behavior can help pollination as the beetles carry pollen from one flower to another when they emerge. The fruit is eaten by waterfowl, even turtles, and it provides excellent habitat for aquatic insects and fish.

Larvae: immature stage of insect

Instars: molting stage as insect develops

Petiole: stalk that joins leaf to a stem

Spiracles: openings on the insect outer skeleton

Pupation: form between larvae and adult

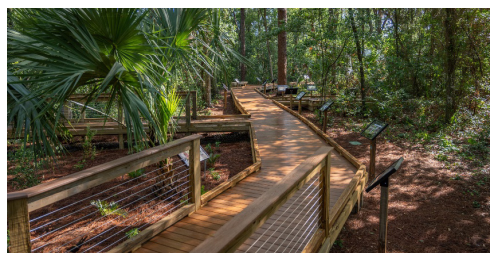
Contributed by Neta Villalobos-Bell

Upcoming Activities at the Library

Forest Preserve Nature Hikes

*****August and September Talks and Hikes are suspended due to extreme summer heat.*****

They will resume October 18, Saturday, 8:30am with "Fruits and Nuts in the Forest." 1995 N Donnelly Street, Mount Dora.



August 23, Saturday, 8am-10am, Coral Ardisia Removal Workday
Forest Preserve, W.T. Bland Library, 1995 N Donnelly Street, Mount Dora

Please join us at the trailhead (look for the 'Forest Preserve Work Day' sign) and bring your work gloves and garden clippers for this work day in the forest, with volunteers on hand to demonstrate

proper removal techniques. Meet time is 8am at the entrance at the Forest Preserve located behind the library parking lot. W.T. Bland Library, 1995 N Donnelly Street, Mount Dora.



Monarchs in Florida

with Author *Stacey Matrazzo*

Saturday, August 30, 2025
2:00 PM



Learn about the threats facing monarch butterflies and what actions you can take in your yard to help them from **Stacey Matrazzo, Executive Director of the Florida Wildflower Foundation**. Stacey is also author of *Native Plants for Florida Gardens*, the definitive guide to Florida native plants and how to incorporate them into your garden. *No registration required.*

Sponsored by the Mount Dora Library Association

Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the content of the program or the views expressed by participants.



**CITY OF
MOUNT
DORA**

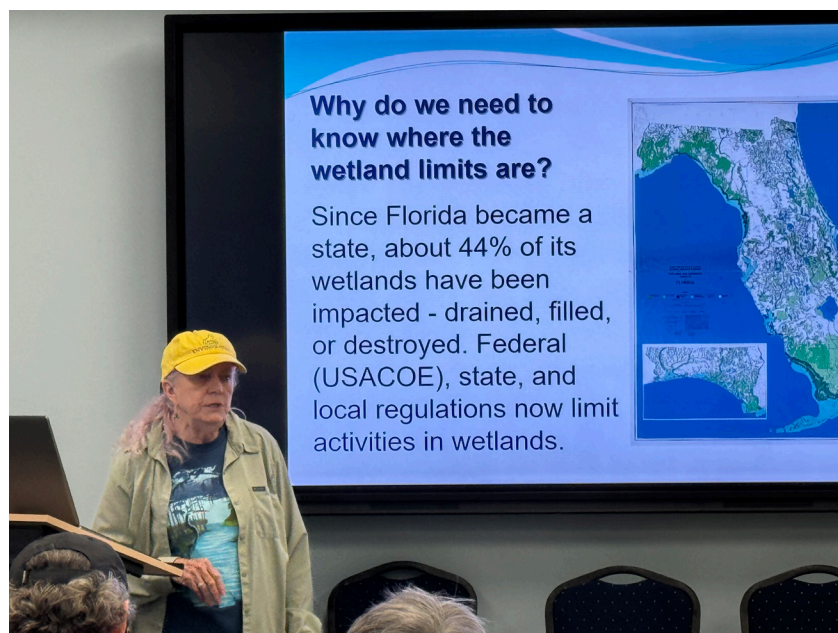
W.T. Bland Public Library
(352) 735-7180(option 5)

1995 N. Donnelly St. Mount Dora, FL 32757
library@mountdora.gov

Last Month Chapter Meeting

“Protecting What Matters: The Environmental Consultant’s Role”

Patti Smith’s presentation was thorough and packed with valuable information about the importance of Florida’s wetlands. A proud Florida native—or “Florida Cracker,” as she described herself—she demonstrated deep knowledge of the state’s history and ecology. She shared her passion for maps and discussed several projects she has worked on, using cartography to reveal Florida’s original landscapes and wetlands, offering a striking contrast to what we see today.

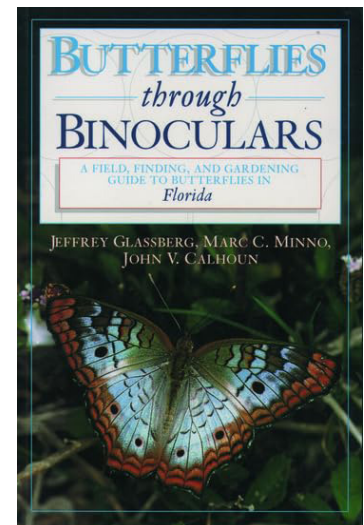
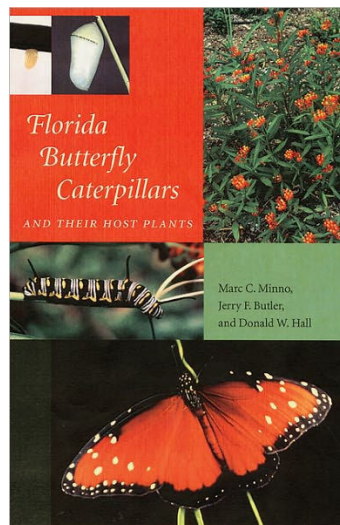
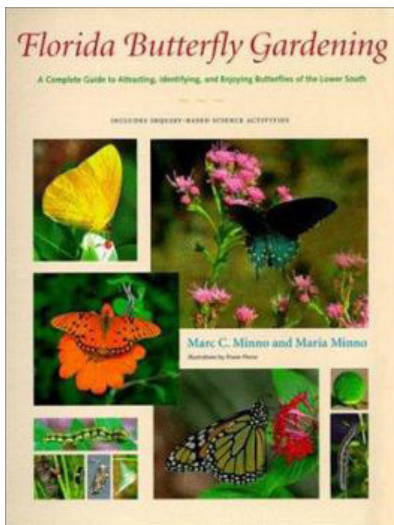
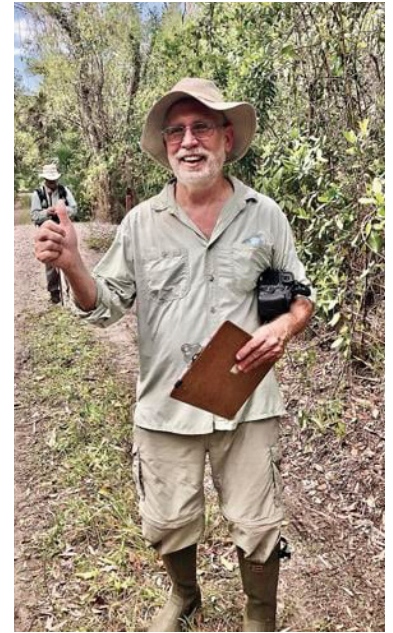


Partner Events

Monthly Nature Walks with Dr. Marc Minno

A 2 hour nature walk, “Bio-Blitz,” with Dr. Minno is a fun learning experience you will want to repeat monthly. Bio-blitz: a group of people, including scientists and the public, identify and document as many species of plants, animals, and other living organisms as possible within a specific area and time frame.

Butterfly expert Dr. Marc Minno’s series of walks are designed to increase awareness of the natural world around us. Sharpening your powers of observation and interpretation, you’ll see nature in a new light by observing insects, birds, and native plants. You may be familiar with some of his books. Florida Butterfly Gardening: A Complete Guide to Attracting, Identifying, and Enjoying Butterflies, Florida Butterfly Caterpillars and Their Hosts, Butterflies Through Binoculars: A Field, Finding, and Gardening Guide to Butterflies in Florida, and more.



Dr. Minno has a Ph.D. in zoology, 21+ years of professional experience as an interdisciplinary scientist and ecologist. He serves as the Lead Ecologist and co-founder of Eco-Cognizant, Inc. and worked formerly with the Saint Johns River Water Management District.



“Stages of a Monarch” photos: Dr. Marc Minno

When: Saturday Dates: August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8, December 13

Time: 10:30am to 12:30pm, Bring a brown bag lunch if you'd like to join the lunch discussion with Marc from 12:30pm-1:00pm

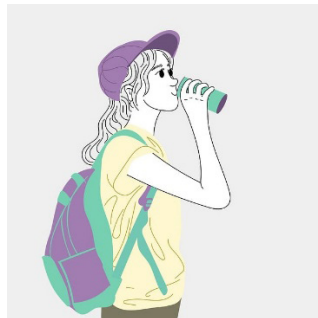
Where: B.B. Brown's Gardens at the Florida Scrub-Jay Trail, 11490 Montevista Rd. Clermont

Cost per workshop: \$10.00 for members, \$15.00 for non-members

R.S.V.P. required: 352 429-5566, or email info@scrubjaytrail.org, you can also visit https://www.scrubjaytrail.org/news/2025_news/2025_BioBlitz.html



Stay Cool and Hydrate!



Neta

Neta Villalobos-Bell

Co-President

Lake Beautyberry Chapter

Florida Native Plant Society

lakebeautyberry@gmail.com