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JULY 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!

Erika Martinez
Clermont

Rachel McGhee
Mt Dora

April McClain
Groveland

Brooke Mackey
Groveland

Rebecca Dobes
Eustis

Katie Woodruff
Deer Island

Mike & Abby
Mt Dora

Stephanie Laleau
Umatilla

Krista & Joel Steall
Sorrento

Native Plant Article

Moss: Nature's Quiet Achiever



Moss is that lilliputian patch of dark leafy green plant material. It absorbs water and nutrients through their leaves and clings to surfaces with thread-like structures called rhizoids. They reproduce with spores, like ferns.

Despite its modest appearance, moss plays a huge role in keeping ecosystems healthy.

One of moss's standout contributions is its role in carbon storage.

Sphagnum moss, which forms peat bogs, stores more carbon than all the world's forests put together. In the UK alone, peat bogs hold the equivalent of 50 to 100 years of national carbon emissions.

In the United States, there are peat bogs particularly in the Northeast and parts of the South. They are also found in the upper Midwest, including Minnesota, which has more peatlands than any other state besides Alaska. That's a powerful natural solution to climate change, growing quietly under our feet.

Moss acts like a sponge.

It soaks up rainfall and releases it slowly, helping to prevent soil erosion, reduce flooding and keep habitats damp during dry spells.

Moss improves air quality.

In cities, moss is being used in green roofs. They are used in air-purifying installations because of its ability to trap dust and pollutants. MossLab Filter and Briiv Air Filter can be purchased in the U.S.

It has Ecological benefits.

Moss provides shelter for insects, nesting material for birds and even has antibacterial properties that some animals use to protect their young. Scientists have found that soils beneath moss are richer in nutrients and less prone to disease, making moss not just a plant but a mini-ecosystem engineer.

Moss is a pioneer specie.

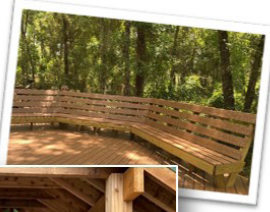
After volcanic eruptions, mosses and lichens are often the first plant to move in, a pioneer specie, because it doesn't require existing soil. It clings to cooling lava and starts the slow transformation of bare rock into soil. Mosses and ferns have been observed colonizing crevices and surfaces of lava flows at Kilauea in Hawaii. At Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument in Arizona, lichens and mosses are among the first plants to establish themselves on the lava flows. Capulin Volcano National Monument in New Mexico features lava rocks covered in moss, which can absorb moisture and turn vibrant green when wet.

Does Florida have mosses?

Of course. Florida has 230 native mosses. Look for them in moist, shady areas, such as on the ground, on tree trunks, or on decaying logs. They have forms ranging from shaggy, hairy mounds to smooth, cushion-like domes. When out hiking, bring a magnifying glass to experience their beauty in miniature.

Adapted for Florida by Neta Villalobos-Bell from article by Sonya Dibbins – England Nature Nerd <https://adoreyouroutdoors.co.uk/>

Upcoming Activities at the Library



Forest Preserve Guided Nature Walks

New topic each 3rd Saturday!
8:30 AM

March 15, 2025	Spring Blooms
April 19, 2024	Trees that Talk
May 17, 2025	Caterpillars
June 21, 2025	Basics to ID Plants
July 19, 2025	Florida Black Bear
August 16, 2025	Tree Defense Against Pests

Our knowledgeable naturalists will help all ages explore the intricate relationships between plants, animals and microorganisms that make up a sandhill forest ecosystem. **Program takes place at the north entry and pavilion at 8:30 AM and a guided hike on the dirt trail is available afterwards. No registration required.**

Sponsored by the GFWC Mount Dora Woman's Club

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@cityofmountdora.com

July 26, 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.

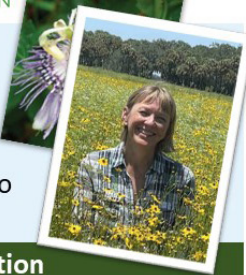


Monarchs in Florida

with Author Stacey Matrazzo
Saturday, August 30, 2025
2:00 PM



**FLORIDA
Wildflower
FOUNDATION**



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

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Next Chapter Meeting

July 20, Sunday, 1:30 pm, "Protecting What Matters: The Environmental Consultant's Role" W.T. Bland Library, 1995 N Donnelly Street, Mount Dora



With so much new development everywhere, here's your opportunity to learn about the acquisition process, regulations, and permitting, to complete a project. Patti Smith, Biologist and owner of EnviroSmith Consulting, will share her knowledge and work experience with us. She will use maps and aerial photos to illustrate how to do a constraint analysis and share specific projects she has worked on. She will show how we can access certain maps too, for example the National Wetland Inventory. Free. Open to the public.

****Our chapter plant sale coordinator, Delphine, will again be bringing some books and a few Florida native coffee seedlings. If you would like to give these treasures a new home, we are asking if you would consider making a donation to Lake Beautyberry. A little bird told me she might even be bringing some of her yummy cookies again!****

Partner Events

**Town of Montverde Butterfly Garden Planting Event, July 18th, 2025,
8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., Park at Montverde Town Hall,
17404 Sixth Street, Montverde, FL 34756**

Join us at the Montverde Butterfly Garden for a hands-on volunteer event as we plant Florida native species to support pollinators and enhance the garden's natural beauty. It's a great way to connect with nature and give back to local environment! The garden is across from the courts on the corner of 4th and Franklin. We'll provide everything you need: tools, water, and guidance. Just come prepared with sun protection and a willingness to dig in and have fun! Come make a difference in our shared green space! [click here to register](#)

**Florida Native Planting at Howey-in-the-Hills Town Hall, July 26th, 2025,
8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., Howey-in-the-Hills Town Hall,
101 N. Palm Ave, Howey-in-the-Hills, FL 34737**

Come volunteer at Howey-in-the-Hills Town Hall as we plant Florida native species that not only support pollinators and boost local biodiversity but also require less watering, making them a smart, sustainable choice for our environment. It's a fun, hands-on way to give back and meet fellow community members. [click here to register](#)

What's BLOOMING IN YOUR YARD?

Submitted by Chapter member Robin Kester

I just noticed over the 4th of July weekend, my Spotted Beebalm / *Monarda punctata* (also known as Dotted horsemint) is just now starting to show some pink and purple at the tips! This is a native plant that will soon bring vibrant color to my garden and a variety of pollinators including bees, butterflies, and even hummingbirds have been known to visit this plant. I can look forward to color throughout the summer. And did you know that Spotted Beebalm smells like oregano when you crush the leaves? It has antimicrobial, antifungal, and antiseptic properties. What a great plant to have in your garden! For a full description, visit <https://www.flawildflowers.org/flower-friday-monarda-punctata/>.



Photo by Robin Kester

Neta

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