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&
Jane Bullock

VP Field Trips/ Conservation

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Communication Director

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www.lakebeautyberry.fnp chapters.org

JUNE 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!

Narda Vega
Lady Lake

Henry Richter
Eustis

Rodney Van Doren
Eustis

Beth Stendel
Astatula

Steven Smith
Clermont

Patricia Crooks
Clermont

Rose Shiner
Minneola

Rob Oliver
Mount Dora

Angela Hansen
Clermont

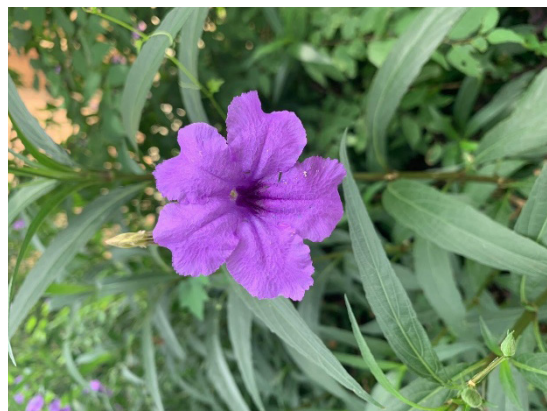
Ron Shaver
Groveland

Cher Rentoumis
Altoona

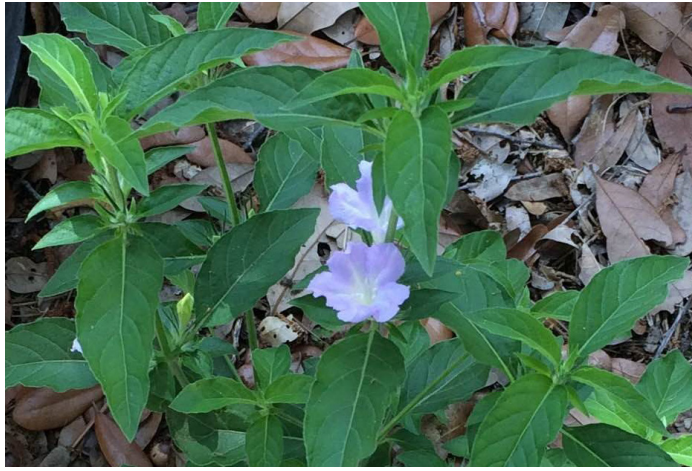
Andrew Pollack & Jill Jarus
Howey-in-the-Hills

Native Plant Article

**Can You Tell the Difference?
Mexican Petunia versus Wild Petunia**



Mexican Petunia *Ruellia simplex*/Brittonia



Wild Petunia *Ruellia caroliniensis*

Characteristics	Mexican Petunia <i>Ruellia simplex</i>	Wild Petunia <i>Ruellia caroliniensis</i>
Native	Native to Mexico and South America	Native to Florida
Growth	Perennial shrub, 3-5 ft height	Perennial, 1-2 ft height
Leaf shape	Lance-shape, opposite, prominent veins underside of leaf, 12" length x $\frac{3}{4}$ " width	Ovate-elliptical, opposite, leaves and stems hairy, 2-2.5: length x 1" width
Blooms	Purple, pink, or white trumpet flowers	Purple trumpet flowers, opens at dawn and drops by afternoon
Invasive	Invasive, forms large, horizontal roots making them difficult to remove	Not invasive, does reseed

Upcoming Activities

Forest Preserve Guided Nature Walks

New topic each 3rd Saturday!

8:30 AM



March 15, 2025
April 19, 2024
May 17, 2025
June 21, 2025
July 19, 2025
August 16, 2025

Spring Blooms
Trees that Talk
Caterpillars
Basics to ID Plants
Florida Black Bear
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@cityofmoundora.com

5 Easiest Native Flowers to Grow from Seed

**Sunday, June 22, 2025
2:00 PM**



Are you ready to try native plant gardening? Learn how to grow

the five easiest flowers native to Florida in our hands-on gardening workshop. All participants will receive free seeds, potting medium and grow pots. Learn more about the Florida Native Plant Society. *No registration required.*

Sponsored by Lake Beautyberry Chapter and the Mount Dora Library Association

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June 28, 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.

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.

Partner Events



**Let's Talk Native Plants! Join us for a guided native plant hike at D Ranch Preserve
Saturday, June 28, 9-10:30am**

Calling all nature lovers, plant enthusiasts, and curious explorers! Conservation Florida invites you to a guided educational hike through our beautiful D Ranch Preserve, a forever protected habitat.

Come learn about Florida's incredible native plant species and how they support our unique ecosystems! What to Expect: Enjoy a scenic Trail Tram ride with stops throughout the property, where conservation experts will lead leisurely hikes, share fascinating facts about native flora, and offer a unique opportunity to connect with Florida's wild lands. Since this event has limited space, we are suggesting a minimum donation of \$5 to secure your place. If you register and can no longer make it, please release your ticket. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lets-talk-native-plants-tickets-1407554004919> to register.

Florida Native Demonstration Garden Site Preparation Day

Solarization & Invasive Plant Removal Event

June 28, 2025 | 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Astor Branch Library
54905 Alco Rd., Astor

Join us as we roll up our sleeves to kick-start the transformation of this space into a vibrant Florida Native Demonstration Garden—coming later this year!

We will be tackling invasive plants and preparing the soil for healthy growth using **solarization**, a natural method that uses the sun's heat to kill weeds, pests, and diseases.

Volunteers under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

No experience necessary.

Supplies Provided!

- ✿ We'll provide gloves, basic garden tools, water, and a T-shirt for volunteers.
- ✿ Feel free to bring your favorite gardening tools if you have them!
- ✿ Please wear closed-toe shoes, sun protective clothing, and sunscreen.

What Volunteers Can Expect

- ✿ Light to moderate physical activity (digging, pulling, covering soil)
- ✿ A hands-on learning experience
- ✿ Helping restore native plant habitat
- ✿ Meet fellow plant lovers

Help us Keep Lake County Beautiful

Join our team of Volunteers! Register online at:
www.keeplakebeautiful.com/#events



Neta

Neta Villalobos-Bell

Co-President

Lake Beautyberry Chapter

Florida Native Plant Society

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