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

October 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!

George Marek
Sorrento

Rebecca Marek
Mount Dora

Carl and Joan Scott
Eustis

September Chapter Meeting

Voluntary Plants in the Yard and Habitat for Wildlife

Attendees at September's program by Jane Bullock was interactive, a sharing of experiences. Jane's goal moving into her new home four years ago was to landscape for wildlife AND she accomplished it! In addition to a professional landscaped native plant meadow, voluntary natives popped up everywhere providing additional food and shelter for the increasing number of wildlife that found Jane's property. Popups included Maypop passionflower, gopher apple, winged sumac, Partridge pea, Persimmons, Turkey oak, and Magnolia. Wildlife included native bees, butterflies, gopher tortoise, spiders, and birds. A huge variety of birds included Eastern Bluebird, Blue Jay, Northern Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, American Robin, Sandhill Crane, Summer Tanager, Carolina Wren, Great Crested Flycatcher, Red-headed woodpecker, red cockaded woodpecker, red bellied woodpecker, downy woodpecker, swallow tailed kites, great horned owl, quail, red shouldered hawk,



Speaker Jane Bullock

red tailed hawk, brown thrasher, blue-gray gnatcatcher, pine warbler, yellow rumped warbler, yellow throated vireo, American goldfinch, Carolina chickadee, wild turkey, Northern Parula, phoebe, sparrows, crows, and hummingbirds.



Lavon telling about the wildflowers she brought from her yard



The table set up each meeting with books, plants, and miscellaneous items that have been donated that you can pick up for free or give a voluntary donation for



Every meeting we have a raffle of plants and sometimes even a native plant book!



Picking out which item to choose when your ticket is called!

Nematodes—Friend or Foe?

Root-knot Nematodes in Florida



Lantana (*Lantana depressa*) root with nematode "knots"

Nematodes are thread-like, unsegmented roundworms that live in soil and around plant roots. Due to its warm climate (no hard winter freezes) and sandy soil, Florida provides great habitat for nematodes. Although most nematodes are beneficial, some are plant parasites. These plant-parasitic nematodes are so tiny they can only be seen by using a microscope. They have a stylet or spear-like mouth part that punctures plant roots and sucks out the juices which can weaken a plant. Root-knot nematodes inject a hormone into the roots that causes “knots” or galls to form. So much damage can be done to the roots that bacteria and fungi can enter and cause rotting of the root system and even kill many kinds of plants. On trees and shrubs, root-knot nematode damage usually becomes apparent over time with gradual thinning of the leaf canopy.

This happened in my yard with seven large native lantana (*Lantana depressa*) that were planted three years ago, and this spring finally looked so bad that we decided to remove them. The roots were ugly, covered with warty-looking bumps galls or were completely rotten. My research showed that this was classic for root-knot nematode damage.

Since the planting area was too near to tree roots, we could not use black plastic to solarize the soil. We decided to try planting French marigolds (*Tagetes patula*) since they are reported to suppress nematodes, particularly root-knot nematodes, by releasing substances that are harmful to them and acting as a trap crop, preventing nematode reproduction.

Further research showed that *Lantana depressa* is especially vulnerable to root-knot nematodes so will not be planting any more of them in our yard.

I plan to report the results of our French marigold experiment in a future newsletter.

*****UPDATE***** The Marigolds worked as the nematodes seemed to navigate to them and in turn the marigolds died as a result!

© Tim Kester



Success! Marigold is dead but so are the nematodes!

Article contributed by Suzanne Hill, Lake Beautyberry Chapter Member

Field Trip This Week!

Fall Wildflower Walk at Gum Slough

Date: Thursday, October 9

Leaders:

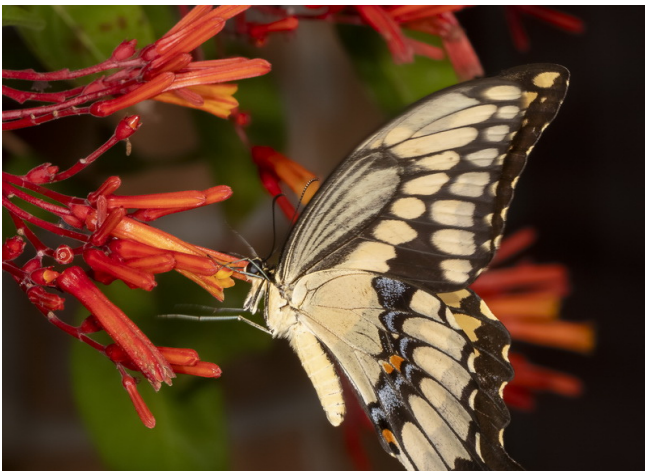
- Nancy Dwyer – Retired Biologist, Half Moon Wildlife Management Area (9,500 acres)
- Athena Phillips – President, Sumter Chapter of FNPS

WALK DETAILS

We'll hike the
Mill Creek Boardwalk Bridge loop
(1.5 miles, from Pendarvis Road to McKinney Road)

You'll see:

- Scrubby flatwoods
- Hardwood hammock
- Floodplain forest
- Beautiful fall wildflowers in bloom
- Historic logging tramway & bridge relic



CARPOOL

Meet at Lake Square Mall parking lot, behind Dunkin' Donuts (do not park in the Dunkin' lot) at 8:00 am.



ON SITE

Meet at 9:00 am at the Check Station, one mile inside the front gate.



ADDRESS

8864 CR 247
Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538



RSVP REQUIRED

Email:
Lavonsilvernell@gmail.com
to reserve your spot.

Outreach Opportunity

Lake Beautyberry will have a table at the Fall Festival of Plants & Learning (flyer below) and **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS** to provide information on our chapter and the fun and informative native plant activities our Chapter provides and participates in.

Volunteer Time Slots are:

Saturday October 11: 9:00am to noon, or noon to 4:00 pm

Sunday October 12: 9:00am to noon, or noon to 3:00 pm

To sign up contact Delphine Salai (352-217-8786 or weedpuller121@gmail.com)



**A GARDENING CELEBRATION, FALL FESTIVAL
OF PLANTS & LEARNING | 2025**

HOSTED BY: UF/IFAS EXTENSION LAKE COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

**FAMILY FRIENDLY
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
FUN ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS**

**A FUN & ENGAGING EVENT FEATURING
LOCAL VENDORS, EDUCATIONAL
ACTIVITIES, AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR
THE COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY KIDS!**

OCTOBER 11 & 12
SATURDAY 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
SUNDAY 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

\$2.00 PER PERSON
10 YEARS & YOUNGER FREE

LOCATION:
**AG CENTER
DISCOVERY GARDENS**
**1951 WOODLEA RD
TAVARES, FL 32778**

CONTACT INFORMATION:
MARIA QUIRICO BAUTISTA
MQUIRICOBAUTISTA@UFL.EDU

Next Chapter Meeting

Sunday, November 16, 2025, at 1:30 pm. Meeting will be held at the W.T. Bland Public Library, 1995 N Donnelly Street, Mount Dora, FL 32757.

The topic for November is **Navigating HOA Restrictions when adding native plants into your yard.**

Speakers: Neta Villalobos-Bell
and Suzanne Hill

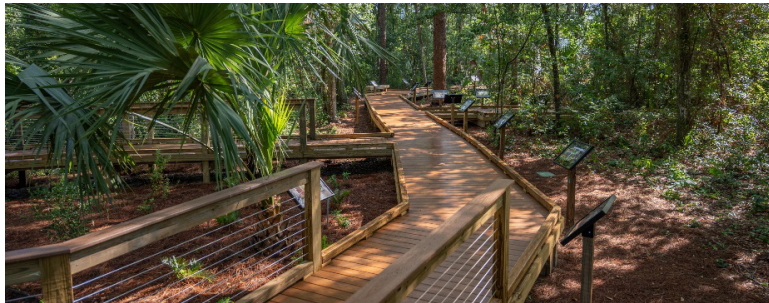
Do you find adding native plants to your yard is challenging because of HOA restrictions, blending in with a traditional landscape community, or negative feedback from neighbors? Attend this meeting for practical tips to overcome these obstacles. These suggestions are valuable even if you're not in an HOA.

Free and open to the public.

2024 Landscape Award Winner, Award of Excellence in the Residential Category.



Upcoming Activities at the Library



Forest Preserve Talk and Walks
1995 N Donnelly Street, Mount Dora, FL 32757

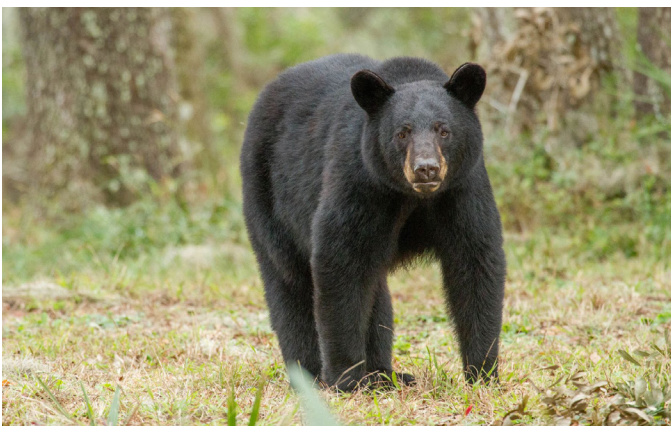


Photo by Jan Stefka, <https://floridawildlifefederation.org/>

October 18, Saturday, 8:30am with "Fruits and Nuts in the Forest."

Who's eating our forest plants and are those plants edible by humans too?

November 15, Saturday, 8:30am with "Florida Black Bear."



October 25, Saturday, 8am-10am, **Coral Ardisia Removal Workday** Forest Preserve, 1995 N Donnelly Street, Mount Dora, FL 32757.

Do you know someone that needs Bright Future Volunteer Hours? This is a GREAT way to earn them!

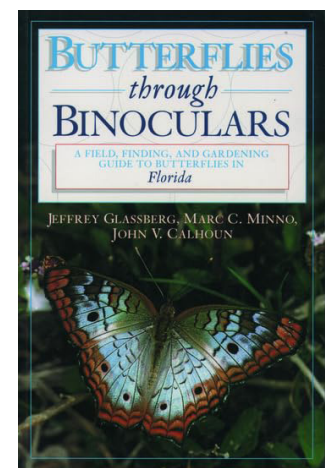
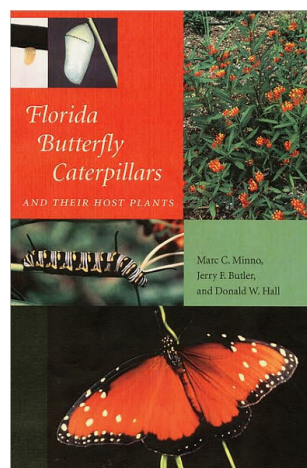
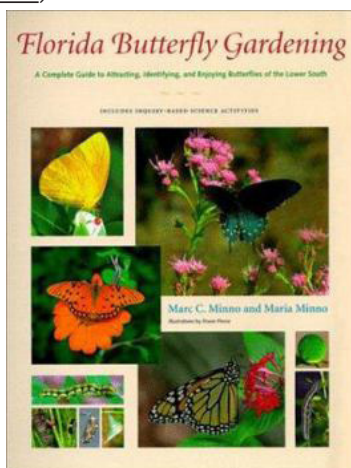
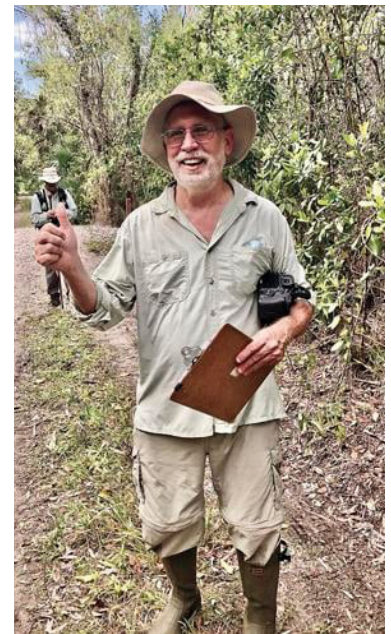
The weather is starting to cool off and it is a great time to get ahead of the Coral Ardisia seedlings that have come up. **Volunteers have tapered off over the summer and the Forest Preserve could really use your help!** Please join us at the trailhead (look for the 'Forest Preserve Work Day' sign) 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.

Partner Events

Monthly Nature Walks with Dr. Marc Minno 3 DATES LEFT!

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.

When: Saturday Dates: 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

Neta

Neta Villalobos-Bell

Co-President

Lake Beautyberry Chapter

Florida Native Plant Society

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