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SEPTEMBER 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!

We apologize if we miss any new members for this month. Florida Native Plant Society is updating their membership platform and we will welcome new members next month!

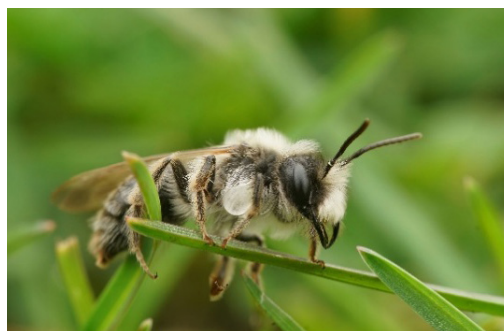
Native Bee Article

Yes, We Have Native Bees



Photo credit: Tim Lethbridge

Halictus poeyi, sweat bee.



Andrena spp. mining bee

Many of you already know the honeybee is not native to North America but was first introduced by settlers in the early 1600s. Native Americans existed for centuries without honeybees, relying on other pollinators, native to Florida, to rear their crops.

According to Cornell entomology professor Bryan Danforth, native bees are two to three times better pollinators than honeybees, are more plentiful than previously thought, over 4000 species in North America, and not as susceptible to colony collapse disorder that has decimated honeybee populations. There are 300 native bee species in Florida.

Florida's native bees vary significantly in size, ranging from tiny sweat

bees smaller than a grain of rice, while the largest include carpenter bees and bumble bees, which can be up to an inch long or more.

Honey Bees vs. Florida Native Bees	Honey Bees <i>Apis mellifera</i>	Native Bees 300 species
Social or solitary?	Social. Thousands in a hive.	Most solitary. Bumble bee being the only social one.
Hive or ground?	Colony in wax honeycomb hive year-round.	Narrow nest either underground or in cavities.
Honey production	Produce honey for larvae to eat. Honey bees collect nectar and convert it to honey. The larvae that are chosen to become future queens will be fed royal jelly which is a white secretion produced by young, female worker bees made with pollen and chemicals from their glands.	Do not produce honey. Solitary bees gather pollen and nectar, and mix them into a pollen loaf for the larvae.
Pollination	Generalist pollinators Gather pollen and nectar from any plant in bloom.	Often specific pollinators Some native bees are generalists, but many are specialists, because they need a certain plant or family of plants to forage from. Usually, the hatching schedule coincides with when their host flowers are in bloom. Some examples of specialists: blueberry bees and cactus bees.
Stingers	Only female worker bees have stingers. After it uses its stinger, the bee dies because it has barbs and dislodges.	Often sting-less, rarely sting. More gentle. Bumblebees can sting multiple times because the barb is smooth.
Color	Black and yellow stripes	Native bees can be dark brown, black, metallic green or blue or striped with red, white, orange or yellow. Sweat bees are most colorful with shades of blue, copper and gold.

Tropical Milkweed Now Listed as Category II Invasive

Asclepias curassavica, commonly known as tropical milkweed has now been officially listed as a Category II invasive species by the Florida Invasive Species Council (FISC) as of June 2025. While it's often planted with good intentions, it has invaded our natural areas, replaced necessary native plants, disrupted monarch migration, and harbors harmful monarch parasites.

For more information: <https://www.floridainvasives.org/plant-list/2023-invasive-plant-species/>

and an issue of Palmetto featuring milkweed can be found here:

https://issuu.com/fnps/docs/palmetto_vol._38_4_



August Chapter Outreach Event

Books and Blooms Wildflower Festival



L-R: Rebecca Campbell, Library Director,
Chapter Members: Delphine Salai, Jane
Bullock, Neta Villalobos-Bell



L-R: Delphine Salai and Lavon Silvernell



Young artist and helper Lavon Silvernell

The first annual Books and Blooms Wildflower Festival was sponsored by the Tavares Public Library on Saturday, August 9. This event was made possible by a generous grant from the Florida Wildflower Foundation, a Florida Native Plant Society Partner.

Three Lake County Master Gardeners, Clayton Yuen and his wife Jeanne (who are members of our Lake Beautyberry Chapter), and Lamar Fife designed and planted 189 pots of native flowering plants last spring at the library. Maria Quirico Bautista, Residential Horticulturist at the UF/IFAS Lake County Agriculture Center in Tavares, and Rebecca Campbell, Library Director, gave this project their enthusiastic support.

Participating in this event inside were Chapter members, Lavon Silvernell and Delphine Salai, with a display table of free publications and a coloring activity for young visitors using crayons for leaf rubbings.

You will want to visit this mature attractive garden and choose which plants you would like to add to your yard! All plants are labeled so it is easy to choose. The garden is located in Ridge Park, adjacent to the Library grounds, 314 N New Hampshire Ave, Tavares.

Article contributed by Delphine Salai

Next Chapter Meeting

Sunday, September 21, 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 September is **Native Plants that Voluntarily Inhabited My Yard.**

Speaker: Jane Bullock, Lake Beautyberry Chapter Co-President

When we purchased our 3-acre lot a few years ago, I was determined to create a wildlife sanctuary, so we let portions of it grow wild. Much to my delight, over the past 3 years I've discovered several native plants among the existing and installed landscaping. I will share with you the plants I found so that perhaps you, too, will be inspired to look for Mother Nature's gifts! Whether 3 acres or less, keep a watchful eye for those unexpected free plantings. Free and open to the public.

Pictured here, Southern Beeblossom (*Oenothera simulans*) is a very common volunteer in many yards that many think are weeds and pull it up, or mow it, before it gets a chance to bloom. The tiny delicate pink flowers are beautiful!



Photo by Robin Kester

Upcoming Activities at the Library

Forest Preserve Nature Hikes

*****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.

September 27, Saturday, 8am-10am, Coral Ardisia Removal Workday Forest Preserve, 1995 N Donnelly Street, Mount Dora, FL 32757.

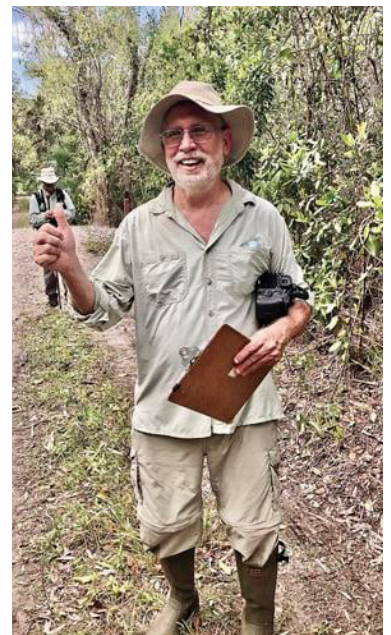
Please join us at the trailhead (look for the ‘Forest Preserve Work Day’ sign) and bring your work gloves and garden clippers for this work day in the forest, with volunteers on hand to demonstrate proper removal techniques. Meet time is 8am at the entrance at the Forest Preserve located behind the library parking lot. W.T. Bland Library, 1995 N Donnelly Street, Mount Dora.

Partner Events

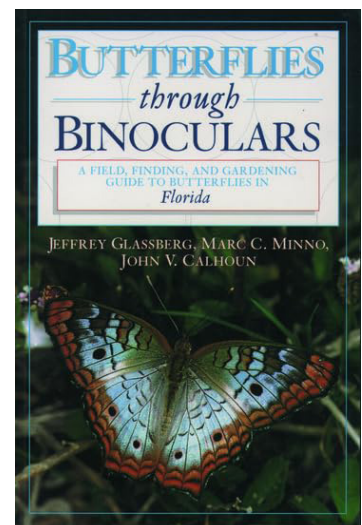
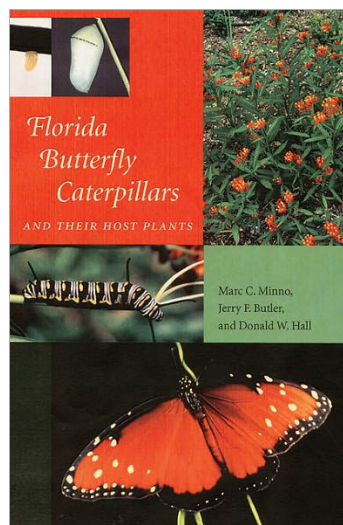
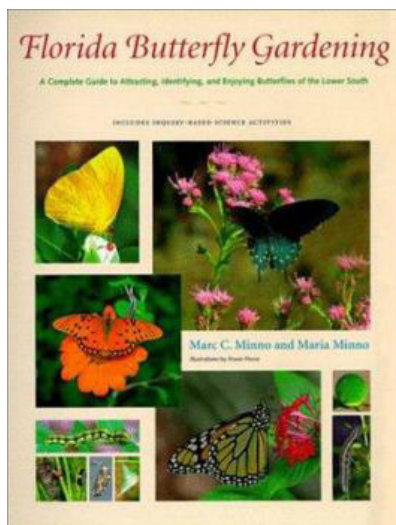
Monthly Nature Walks with Dr. Marc Minno

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: 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

Meadow-Making on a Small Scale: An Urban Meadow How-To Webinar: September 17, Wednesday, 2:00 pm.

Speaker: Troy Springer,
Springer Environmental Services.

To register, visit [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UYgWAF14SA2XvQlcA9e7JA#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UYgWAF14SA2XvQlcA9e7JA#/registration)

This webinar will guide participants through the process from inception to completion, with a strong emphasis on long-term maintenance for thriving urban meadows. This is a Florida Wildflower Foundation event.



Save the date

	Florida Native Plant Sale SATURDAY OCTOBER 4, 2024 10AM – 12PM
Members of Lake Beautyberry Chapter will be available to answer questions and help you with your selections. W.T. Bland Library 1995 N. Donnelly Street Mount Dora, FL 32757	
	
LakeBeautyberry@gmail.com www.LakeBeautyberry.fnpschapters.org	

Miscellaneous

Member donations appreciated

Any of the following items would be greatly appreciated to be donated to the Chapter for the “Free for Donation” tables.

- Healthy native plants in a labeled pot.
- Native plant seeds in a labeled bag.
- Florida specific books, such as plant identification, soil composition, composting, irrigation, propagation, gardening, wildlife, natural areas, hiking areas, and more.

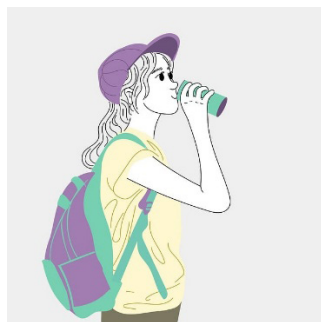


Unique Opportunity to Introduce Native Plantings in a Community Setting

Lakeview Terrace Retirement Community located in Altoona is looking for a Landscaping Supervisor. We had a member reach out to us and stated that the Community Manager is open to native landscaping. What a wonderful opportunity for someone with a love of Florida Native Plants to possibly bring awareness to an entire retirement community of the importance of preserving our precious native plants and their habitat. Visit the link below for more information or to apply.

<https://jobs.ourcareerpages.com/job/953513?source=LakeviewTerraceRetirementCommunity&job-FeedCode=LakeviewTerraceRetirementCommunity&returnURL=https://www.lakeviewterrace.com/>

Stay Cool and Hydrate!



Neta

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