



February 2026 Chapter News

***THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY'S MISSION IS TO CHAMPION FLORIDA'S
NATIVE PLANTS AND THEIR HABITATS.***

www.lakebeautyberry.fnpschapters.org

Welcome New Members

- Kelly Agarra Mount Dora
- Dustie Kurzawa Clermont

2026 Board of Directors Elected

Co-President Jane Bullock called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Co-President Jane introduced the 2026 Budget for discussion

- There was no discussion; Jane asked for a motion to approve the budget
- Motion made by Cathy Keller
- Seconded by Clayton Yuen
- Motion passed unanimously

Co-President Neta Villalobos-Bell asked Linda Knight to discuss the candidates for office and the duties of the officers.

- Co-President Jane and Neta assured any new volunteers that they would receive assistance, including a handbook for the treasurer.
- Co-President Jane asked for volunteers for the vacant offices of secretary and treasurer
- No volunteers came forward
- Co-President Jane asked for a motion to approve the slate of candidates:

President: Jane Bullock

Vice-President: Neta Villalobos-Bell

Chapter Representative: Tina Mertz

- Motion made by Cathy Keller
- Seconded by Suzanne Hill
- Motion passed unanimously

2026 Board of Directors

Office	Name	Email
President	Jane Bullock	jgb4203@gmail.com
Vice President & Programs	Neta Villalobos-Bell	netavb@gmail.com
V.P. Conservation & Field Trips	Lavon Silvernell	lavonsilvernell@gmail.com
Secretary	Suzanne Hill	hill.susie.m@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jane Bullock	jgb4203@gmail.com
FNPS Chapter Rep	Tina Mertz	gmer98@yahoo.com
Membership Chair	Nancy LaPointe	laf4good@yahoo.com
Communications	Robin Kester Clayton Yuen	chrswfe@gmail.com hapagraphics@gmail.com
Outreach	Delphine Salai	weedpuller121@gmail.com
Plant Sale	Nancy LaPointe	laf4good@yahoo.com

Plant a Sustainable Landscape with Native Plants

Speakers Chris and Christie Leibner, **Wild Garden Company**, at the January meeting were appreciated for their helpful tips choosing and planting natives for a sustainable yard. Most helpful were landscape design ideas. And, they generously donated their 10 demonstrated plants for the door prize raffle

Wild Garden Company

e: christie@wildgardenco.com



@wild.garden.company



@wildgardenco



..... and a bonus raffle for a free on-site yard consultation!

The 9th Annual Tavares Arbor Day Celebration



Neta & Delphine representing the Lake Beautyberry Chapter

... was held on Saturday, January 17, 2026. Sponsored by the Tavares Public Works Dept, over 200 trees were available for free to attendees. The 10 varieties of trees included bald cypress, eastern red cedar, live oak, persimmon, and pecan. Our chapter was represented by [Delphine Salai](#) (Outreach Coordinator) and [Neta Villalobos-Bell](#) (Vice President). More and more people are interested in native plants, judging from the large number of people who visited our table.

by Delphine Salai



White-Fringed Orchid *Platanthera blephariglottis*

As Jane and I are in the forest monthly removing invasive coral ardisia, we're always observant for what's out of place, something new, something we haven't seen before. And, there it was, right next to an invasive coral ardisia, a native orchid!

Did you know that Florida has over 100 native orchid species? Many of these are terrestrial, growing in the ground, rather than epiphytic (growing on tree limbs). We have 8 species of *Platanthera*, commonly called Fringed Orchids, native to Florida. They all occur in pine savannas or bogs with acidic and wet soils and are pollinated by butterflies.

[To learn more about Florida's orchids by clicking HERE.](#)



Photo credit: NVB



Photo credit: Emily Bell

Next Chapter Meeting

Sunday, March 15, 2026, at 1:30 pm. Meeting will be held at the W.T. Bland Public Library, 1995 N Donnelly Street, Mount Dora, FL 32757.

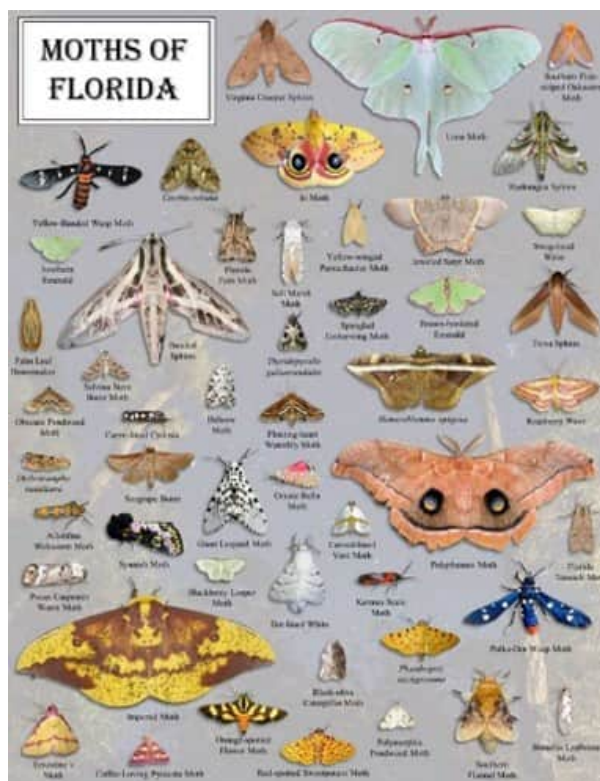
Topic: Nighttime Pollinators – Florida Moths

Speaker: Marc Minno

Marc Minno, biologist, environmental consultant, and author will speak about the importance of moths in our world. A 2024 Florida Museum of Natural History study found strong, consistent declines in both the number and diversity of moths across all life stages, driven by urbanization and the “heat island” effect, light pollution, and habitat loss. Researchers suggest one way we can help is that planting native host plants can help mitigate these declines.



Free and open to the public.



Upcoming Activities at the Library

Forest Preserve **Talk and Walks**

1995 N Donnelly Street, Mount Dora, FL 32757

February 21, 2026, Saturday, 8:30am with “Invasive Plants”



See why and how invasive plants can take over the forest as well as your yard. Passion fruit, a vine, was recently discovered to have spread 10' away from its origin root to smother trees and native plants. Do you have this one in your yard?

Passion fruit, *Passiflora edulis*, is an aggressive non-native, planted for its edible fruit in home gardens. The large shiny green serrated leaf pictured is “passion fruit” placed under the Florida native “passionflower”, which has a smaller pale green leaf.



Forest Preserve Coral Ardisia Removal Workday
1995 N Donnelly Street, Mount Dora, FL 32757
February 28, 2026, Saturday, 8-10am



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



February 21, Saturday, 10am - 3pm, Hickory Point Park, 27341 FL-19, Tavares, FL

This annual Free event highlighting Florida's natural, cultural, and agricultural resources is hosted by Lake County Conservation Council to promote local action.

It focuses on local conservation and offers displays and activities including:

- Eco Roots Sanctuary provides hands-on science experiments and nature crafts, while Create Conservatory offers art-integrated, environmental-themed projects. Meet raptors, bats, and turtles at the Critter Corner. Build a nature critter from a dead tree root with help from Lake Beautyberry Chapter.
 - Wild Garden Co. and Regenerative Designs will showcase native plants, edible landscapes, and pollinator habitats.
 - Wekiva Wild and Scenic River Systems demonstrate water quality monitoring.
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