



JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER

Learn and Grow by Sharing

Six Members shared their “story” learning more about native plants and sharing their individual and unique journey.



Lea Faulker mows her pasture around native plants where they pop up now, rather than over them.

Linda Knight overcame resistance to her vision of a nature area in a HOA which has now educated and inspired others in the community.

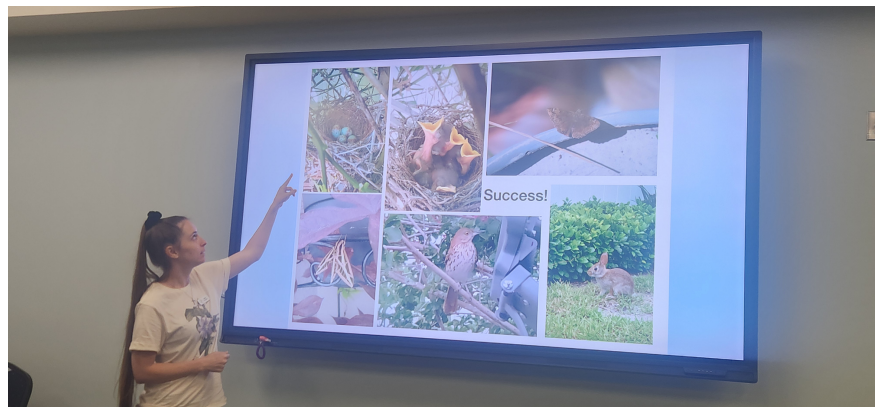


Susan Myers has led volunteers in a public garden to reach 80% native plants.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Allison Berent, Lady Lake
 Laura Grant, Lady Lake
 Brian Hoag, Leesburg
 Kimberly Hoag, Leesburg
 Leslie K Elliott-Manning,
Howey in the Hills

Caryn Desinor, through hands-on garden education workshops and immersive garden-to-table experiences, has added native plants knowing their value in a habitat setting.



After Jaime Vaughn's revelation watching a UF video about the benefit of native plants, she enthusiastically replaced and added more natives to her yard.



Jaime Allen learned and offered suggestions about the best natives that tolerate intense sun and summer heat after returning from the winter in a northern state.



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BEEBALM

Monarda punctata



BEARDSTONGUE

Penstemon multiflorus



STOKES ASTER

Stokesia laevis



TROPICAL SAGE

Salvia coccinea



YARROW

Achillea millefolium



← (5 plants)

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAN YOU NAME FLORIDA'S SEVEN (EIGHT) NATIVE PINES

Sunday, July 19, 2026

W.T. Bland Library, 1995 N Donnelly St, Mt Dora, FL

One of our popular speakers, Biologist Patti Smith, is back to share native pine tree details from history to identification, and more. Save the date. Free and open to the public.



ATTRACT MORE BIRDS TO YOUR YARD



Original Publication 2020: Seminole Audubon Newsletter and Friends of Wekiva River Newsletter.

*The following is the 2nd in a series of 5 articles that will enhance your garden as bird habitat. **Series 1:** Fruit, **Series 2:** Seeds, **Series 3:** Nuts, **Series 4:** Insects, **Series 5:** Shelter and Nests*

Best Florida Native Plants for Birds

*Series 2 of 5 = Food: **Seeds***

Series 2. Providing seeds for birds from native plants in your yard, additionally help ensure the survival of our Florida native plants through dispersal of those seeds by birds to new locations where they can germinate and grow.

As birds eat, they may accidentally knock some seeds from the stems, cones, or flower heads they're feeding on. Once the seeds have contact with the soil, if conditions are favorable, they could germinate into a new generation of plant.

Some birds store seeds. If that cache is not used for some reason, the seeds may germinate and grow further away from the parent plant.

And, as birds feed from these plants, seeds can stick to birds' feet or bodies with small hooks or barbs from the seed structure further distributing the germination and growth of our Florida native plants.

Here are a few Florida native plant suggestions available that produce seeds. Maybe surprising to you, grasses are important sources of seeds. And, most probably, it's not the first bird plant you think to use. Although grasses are not always neat and tidy, they are worth the effort.

Lake Beautyberry Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

Our Mission is to Champion Florida's Native Plants and Their Habitats!

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Pineland Dropseed



Indiangrass



Muhlygrass



Lovegrass

SEEDS – GRASSES

Bunch grasses, also called clump grasses, increase in size laterally through rhizomes, underground stems. Many are fire-adapted meaning they produce seed best after the grass is burned. In a residential setting, in place of fire, they can be maintained with occasional mowing six inches above ground.

01 Pinewoods/Pineywood/Pineland Dropseed. *Sporobolus junceus*

- Height: 1' to 3' Spread: 1' to 3' Soil: dry, sandy
- Light: Full sun to part shade
- Seeds: Stalks of seeds Sept. to November, seeds spread by wind.
- Maintenance: cut back to the ground after seeds are gone

02 Lop-sided Indiangrass. *Sorghastrum secundum*

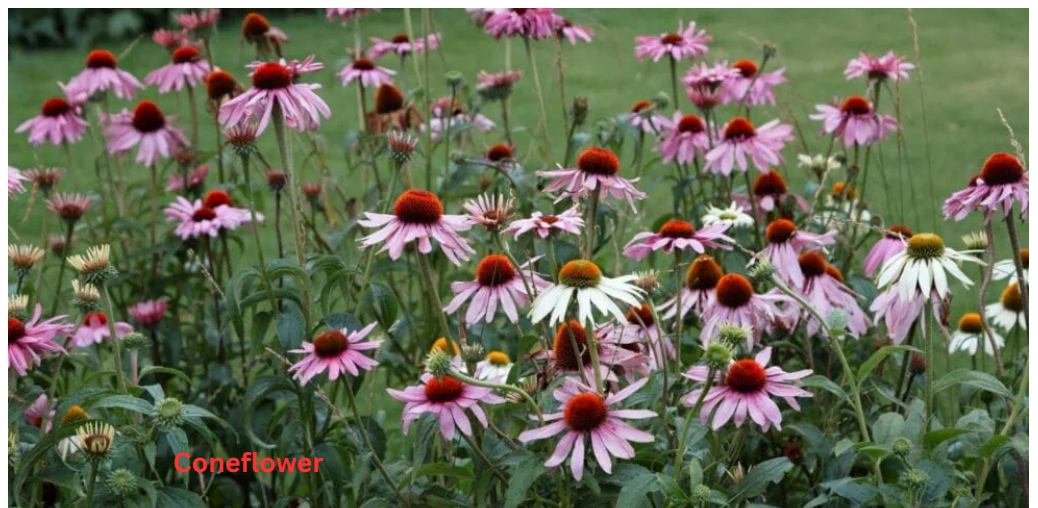
- Height: 2' to 4' Spread: 2' to 3' Soil: sandy, well-drained
- Light: Full sun
- Seeds: tiny grain in hairy, tan spikelet in late Autumn.
- Maintenance: cut out old flower stalks in early spring

03 Muhlygrass. *Muhlenbergia capillaris*

- Height: 1' to 5' Spread: 3' to 5' Soil: sandy, well-drained
- Light: Full sun
- Seeds: follows the Autumn display of purplish-pink delicate flowers.
- Maintenance: cut to within 1' of soil annually in spring or alternate with combing out dead grass that accumulates underneath clump one or two years then cut back

04 Purple Lovegrass. *Eragrostis spectabilis*

- Height: 2' to 4' Spread: 2' to 4' Soil: dry to moist
- Light: best in full sun
- Seeds: October to November, grain reddish brown in purple husk, panicles break off and tumble around yard.
- Maintenance: Pick up the wispy seed heads if they look messy and pull out brown dead leaves underneath the green leaves in spring.



Coneflower



Swamp Sunflower



Rayless Sunflower



Dune Sunflower



Tropical Sage

SEEDS: Wildflowers

Although tedious, you can prune the spent blooms of many wildflowers to encourage re-blooming. And, for the wildflowers that are aggressive re-seeders, leave the soil around them bare or lightly mulched for germination of new plants.

Purple Coneflower. *Echinacea purpurea*

- Height: 2' to 3' Spread: 2' to 3' Soil: well-drained
- Light: Full sun to part shade
- Seeds: Seeds follow spring to autumn blooms

Tickseed

(*Coreopsis species* - 14 Florida native species that grow in moist to dry soils)

01 Leavenworth's Tickseed. *Coreopsis leavenworthii*

- Height: 1' to 3' Spread: 1' to 2' Soil: sandy
- Light: Full sun
- Seeds: Seeds follow Spring to Autumn blooms. Winter dormant, reseeds aggressively

02 Lanceleaf Tickseed. *Coreopsis lanceolata*

- Height: 1' to 2' Spread: 1' – 2' Soil: moist but well-drained
- Light: Full sun to light shade
- Seeds: Autumn. Reseeds aggressively

Sunflowers

(*Helianthus species* - 17 Florida native species, but 3 commonly available)

01 Swamp/Narrow leaf sunflower. *Helianthus angustifolius*

- Height: 4' to 6' Spread: 3' to 5' Soil: wet
- Light: Full sun to part shade
- Seeds: Winter. Tends to form dense colonies

02 Rayless sunflower. *Helianthus radula*

- Height: 1' to 2' Spread: 1' Soil: moist to dry
- Light: full sun
- Seeds: Autumn-Winter. Deciduous, perennial

03 Dune/Beach sunflower. *Helianthus debilis*

- Height: 1' to 2' Spread: 3' to 4' Soil: sandy, but well-drained
- Light: Full sun
- Seeds: Late Autumn to early Winter. Sprawling, declines if too much water, periodically remove spent plants

Sage

(*Salvia species*)

01 Tropical Sage. *Salvia coccinea*

- Height: 2' to 6' Spread: 2' to 3' Soil: sandy
- Light: Full sun best
- Seeds: Seeds follow Summer to Fall. Short-lived perennial, re-seeds aggressively

02 Lyre-leaf Sage. *Salvia lyrata*

- Height: 2' to 4' Spread: basal rosette Soil: adaptable
- Light: Full sun to part shade
- Seeds: Seeds after late Winter or early Spring blooms. Winter dormant, short-lived perennial, reseeds aggressively



Lyreleaf Sage

Resources for additional research on these plants.

Grasses

- A Guide to Florida Grasses, Walter Taylor Kingsley

Wildflowers

- <https://flawildflowers.org>
- <http://www.floridawildflowers.com>

Books. There are many books about Florida wildflowers, but these are three which include comments that may be helpful in residential settings.

- Native Wildflowers and Other Ground Covers for Florida Landscapes, *Craig N. Huegel*
- Central Florida Wildflowers, *Roger L. Hammer* (if the plant is listed “naturalized” under Habitat/Range, it is not Florida native)
- The Guide to Florida Wildflowers, *Walter Kingsley Taylor* (not all plants listed are native to Florida)

Native Plants

- www.fnps.org

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Certified Advanced Florida Master Naturalist, Certified Horticulture Professional, Certified National Association Interpreter. Member of Florida Native Plant Society.



Do you have books about native plants that you no longer read? Consider bringing to a members meeting for our book exchange, as well as native plant seedlings or seeds.

