



Lake Beautyberry

FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER



HONORED BY LAKE COUNTY CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Lavon Silvernell (on right) was this year's recipient of the Nadine Foley Conservation Award presented by **Deborah Shelly** (on left) at the Lake County Conservation Annual Member Meeting on March 28, 2026. Lavon is well known and respected throughout the environmental community for her dedication and involvement for over 30 years.



RANDOM NATURE NOTES

MY FIRST JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT

Arisaema Triphyllum

Have you ever read about something, but when seen in person, you are overwhelmed with surprise and how amazing that something is? The plant, Jack-in-the-pulpit, is all green blending into the forest floor so it had to be pointed out to me to know what it was. It was not necessarily the appearance of the plant but it's biology that is fascinated me.



It is a native dioecious perennial wildflower found in moist, shady hammocks, and floodplains. It has a striped green/maroon hooded "pulpit" (spathe) enclosing a "jack" (spadix) spike, or "Jill" spike.

Jack-in-the-pulpit produces pollen but no nectar. Fungus gnats are the primary pollinators which are attracted by a faint fungal scent emitted by the flowers. Once they have descended into the deep chamber, they cannot escape because of the slippery interior walls.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

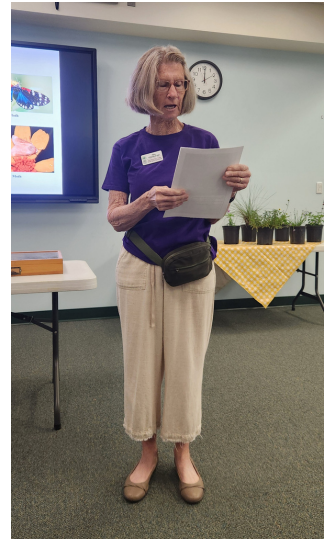
Shaun Breaux, Leesburg FL
Caryn Desinor, Leesburg FL
Deirdre Irwin, Apopka FL
Brett Kreigh, Sorrento FL
Carl Leibner, Leesburg FL
Cindy Newton, Eustis FL
Cathy Saravanja, Fruitland Park FL
Joan Smith, Apopka FL
Tom Smith, Apopka FL
Joe Yuska, Apopka FL



MARCH MOTH MEETING WITH MARC MINNO

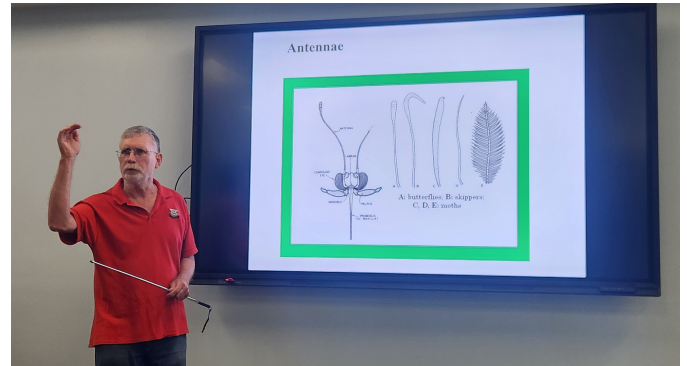
Florida claims over 800 moth species. Dr Minno shared numerous colorful and interesting moth caterpillar and adult pictures. Our take away was the diversity, not only in physical appearance, but in habitat, diet, and behavior.

Aquatic moths in Florida have larvae that live underwater, often in silk cases on submerged plants. The Gopher Tortoise Shell Mothcaterpillar feed exclusively on the keratin-rich scutes of dead gopher tortoise shells. The Luna Moth uses its long twisted hindwing tails to create false echoes that confuse hunting bats allowing the moth to escape. And, there are moths that are active during the day. Whether night or day, moths are vital plant pollinators.



Just like butterflies, Florida moths are in significant decline too, for all the same reasons, loss of habitat and native plants from development and pesticide use. Artificial lights at night act as traps, disrupting navigation, reducing mating opportunities, and making moths easy prey for predators. A study by the Florida Museum of Natural History found that both caterpillar and adult moths are rapidly vanishing driven by rising temperatures in an urban environment and climate change that exceed their thermal tolerance. These are mainly human activities, so humans can play an important role in mitigating these declines.

Dr Minno conducts monthly surveys of all living organisms from plants to insects at the Florida Scrub Trail. If you would like to attend, see his schedule below.



BioBlitz 2026 Schedule



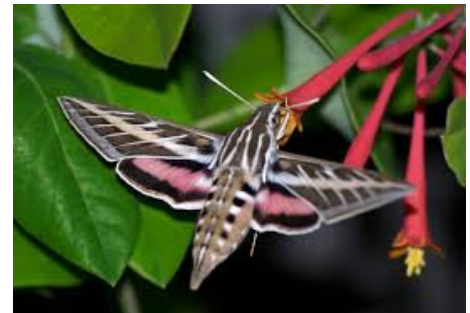
Make plans now to attend
Dr. Marc Minno's 2026
nature walks and
butterfly surveys



February 14
March 14
April 4
May 9

June 13
July 18
August 8

September 5
October 10
November 14
December 12



Time: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Lunch Option: Bring a brown bag lunch if you'd like to join the lunch discussion with Marc from 12:30pm-1:00pm

Where: Florida Scrub-Jay Trail, 11490 Montevista Rd. Clermont, FL

Cost: Per Workshop

- \$10.00 per member,
- \$15.00 per non-member
- Pay by check or cash at the BioBlitz

RSVP required: 352-429-5566 or info@scrubjaytrail.org



NADINE FOLEY MEMORIAL

Founder of Lake Beautyberry Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society

Sunday 3:00 pm
April 26, 2026

Trout Lake Nature Center
520 East CR 44, Eustis



WILDFLOWER FARM FIELD DAY

Due to popular demand, we are planning two wildflower farm field trips this year. Join us on Saturday, April 25 or Sunday, April 26 at 10am to see fields of wildflowers in bloom.

Please note: This field trip is an annual favorite, but nature can be unpredictable. The wildflowers may not be in peak bloom during this time. There will still be flowers in bloom, and the trip has plenty more to offer.

At 10am farm owner Terry Zinn will talk about wildflower farming and easy wildflowers to cultivate. Then he will lead the group on a tour of the farm.

You are welcome to bring your lunch and stay for a picnic. Make sure to bring a camera to have your photo taken in the field of wildflowers!

Trip cost: Free for FWF members and \$20 for non-members.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



FIELD TRIP

**Wildflower
Farm
Field Day**
ALACHUA

led by
Terry Zinn
owner of Wildflowers of Florida, Inc.



April 25 or 26, 10AM



MY FIRST JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT



(Continued from Page 01)

If the spike is male, the threadlike, fuzzy, or smooth pale yellow are tiny yellow male flowers that produce pollen. There is an escape hatch, a small hole at the base of the spike through which the gnats can finally emerge but are now covered with pollen.

If the spike is female, the knobby, bead-like greenish structures at its base are the female flower ovaries.

Random Nature Notes: Submit your random observation article to: lakebeautyberry@gmail.com. Include your name and contact information. All submissions subject to approval and possible editing for clarity.



Isn't nature
wonderous!

PRESIDENT JANE GOES IN DEEP

At this month's coral ardisa invasive removal event in Forest Preserve, President Jane Bullock made a remarkable difference. Not only were the shrubs removed, but berries and a carpet of seedling were cleared from the ground. All help is appreciated, just show up with gloves and clippers. April 25, Saturday, 8am-10am, Forest Preserve, behind W.T. Bland Library parking, 1995 N Donnelly St, Mt Dora



Lake Beautyberry Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

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

520 E CR 44, Eustis, FL 32736-2518

e: lakebeautyberry@gmail.com, w: <https://lakebeautyberry.fnpschapters.org/>



NADINE DOROTHY FOLEY

Nadine Dorothy Foley, 89, of Umatilla, Florida, passed away peacefully on February 25, 2026 at DeScipio Hospice House in Tavares, Florida, surrounded by family. A beloved wife, sister, aunt and community volunteer, Nadine will be remembered for her kindness, willingness to help others, and love of the natural world.

Born on January 30, 1937, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to William and Dorothy Popp, Nadine was oldest sister to brothers William, Larry, and Frank, and sisters Carolyn and Jewel. Nadine grew up on the family dairy farm and orchard located in Tess Corners, Wisconsin.

Nadine became a physical therapist and worked in the Veterans Administration Hospital located in Chicago, Illinois. There she met and married Robert Foley, of Lincoln Park, Michigan. They eventually moved to their charming home on Twin Ponds Road near Umatilla and were happily married for 28 years, until Robert's passing in 1989.

Nadine followed many adventurous pursuits. She was a champion slalom water-skier, a boater and sailor. She traveled extensively seeing cultures and the flora and fauna on several continents. She was a private pilot who enjoyed seeing her beloved Florida landscape from above and played a significant role in the conservation of wild Florida.

Nadine was an especially active community volunteer who served on Lake County planning committees, helping create the 2030 Lake County Comprehensive Plan. She also helped establish the Lake County Conservation Council, the Lake Beautyberry Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, and was a charter member of Trout Lake Nature Center in Eustis, Florida. Nadine also received national recognition as a Lake County 4-H Club Leader.

In later years, Nadine shared many interests with beloved companion, Richard "Gene" Littleton, who preceded her in death in February 2025. Nadine is survived by her brothers Larry Popp and Frank Popp, and sisters Carolyn Littleton and Jewel Bennett.

A service to celebrate Nadine's life will be held Sunday, April 26 at 3 pm at Trout Lake Nature Center at 520 East County Road 44, Eustis, Florida. All are welcome. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Nature Conservancy or Trout Lake Nature Center, charities close to Nadine's heart.

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Delphine Salai

Nancy LaPointe

Email

jgb4203@gmail.com

netavb@gmail.com

lavonsilvernell@gmail.com

hill.susie.m@gmail.com

Jgb4203@gmail.com

gmer98@yahoo.com

laf4good@yahoo.com

chrswfe@gmail.com

hapagraphics@gmail.com

weedpuller121@gmail.com

laf4good@yahoo.com