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November 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!

Michele Beecher
Clermont

Judy Harris
Eustis

Jean Johnson
Lady Lake

Brian Scherf
Mount Dora

Christina Vargas
Groveland

October was Native Plant Month

**Lake County Board of Commissioners proclaimed October
as Florida Native Plant Month.**

Lake Beautyberry and Passionflower Chapters submit this request each year and each year the Commissioners have recognized and supported our efforts though our Mission to champion Florida native plants and their habitats. Thank you Commissioners Sean Parks, Leslie Champione, Kirby Smith, Timothy Morris, Anthony Sabatini.



Left to right: Passionflower members Hillarie Burgess and Kirsten McIntyre, Commissioner Sean Parks, and Lake Beautyberry members Neta Villalobos-Bell and Jane Bullock

Next Chapter Meeting

Please join us for our next meeting, **Sunday, November 16, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.** Meeting will be held at the **W.T. Bland Public Library**, 1995 N Donnelly Street, Mount Dora, FL 32757.

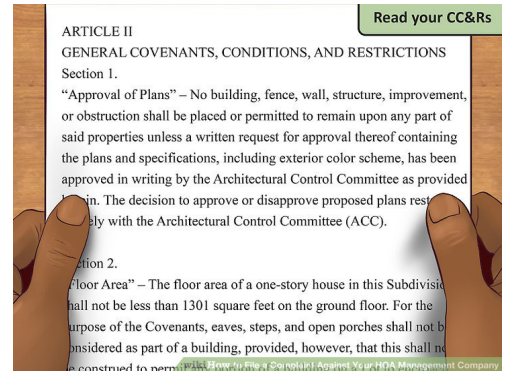
The topic for November is **Navigating HOA restrictions when adding native plants into your yard.**

Speakers: Neta Villalobos-Bell and Suzanne Hill,
Lake Beautyberry Chapter members

Do you find adding native plants to your yard is challenging because of HOA restrictions, blending in a traditional 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.

In addition, help us celebrate our 25th Anniversary as a Florida Native Plant Society Chapter!

Pictured to the right is Villages Chapter member Stephen Turnipseed 2016 Award of Excellence winner, Conversion of a Turfgrass Lawn into a Native Landscape.



Upcoming Events at the Library

Forest Preserve Guided Nature Walks
W. T. Bland Library, 1995 N Donnelly Street, Mount Dora
Join us November 15, Saturday, 8:30am with "Florida Black Bears."





8 Best Wildflower Seeds to Plant This Fall

**Sunday, November 16, 2025
4:00 PM**

Are you ready to try native plant gardening? Learn how to grow the pollinator-loving flowers native to Florida at our planting demonstration. All participants will receive free seeds, potting medium and grow pots. Learn more about the Florida Native Plant Society. *No registration required.*

Sponsored by Lake Beautyberry Chapter and the Mount Dora Library Association

Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the content of the program or the views expressed by participants.



CITY OF MOUNT DORA

W.T. Bland Public Library
(352) 735-7180 (option 5)

1995 N. Donnelly St. Mount Dora, FL 32757
library@mountdora.gov



Nunan Butterfly Garden Monthly Tour

4th Saturdays at 10:00 AM

October 25, 2025	Fall Blooming Plants for Pollinators
November 22, 2025	Landscaping with Native Plants
January 24, 2026	Attracting Birds to the Garden
February 28, 2026	The Power of Native Trees
March 28, 2026	Creating a Wildlife Habitat

All ages are invited to learn more about the native and Florida-friendly plants in our Nunan Butterfly Garden, along with all the wildlife they support, guided by our knowledgeable volunteers. Each month will feature a particular plant, with seeds and clippings available to attendees.

Program takes place at the Nunan Butterfly Garden. No registration required.

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November 22, 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 cooling off and what a wonderful way to spend a Saturday morning. Typically only a couple volunteers show up 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.

Plant Articles

The Importance of Plant Rescues



Plant rescues are a great way to learn about native plant species and help maintain genetic diversity among plant populations. During a plant rescue, plants are taken from sites where development is imminent and where all applicable permits have been obtained. The Florida Native Plant Society has the ability to coordinate and assist in obtaining all necessary permits to allow native plant rescue prior to development activities, and local FNPS Chapters can then mount rescue efforts which usually consist of site visits, plant identification, and removal of species for transplantation into similar habitats.

Become a Plant Warrior—it's a great way to make a difference and learn more about our local plants and habitats! Our rescue group goes out on Thursday mornings to locations in and around Clermont. If you want to participate, you can Email Passionflower chapter at passionflower.fnps@gmail.com asking to be put on the rescue email list.

The Magnolias



Photo credit: D. Hill

According to [The Trees of Florida](#) by Gil Nelson, there are eight (7) native species in the Magnoliaceae Family.

Southern Magnolia – *Magnolia grandiflora* – commercially available

Sweetbay Magnolia – *Magnolia virginiana* – commercially available

Pyramid Magnolia – *Magnolia pyramidata* – state endangered, slopes/bluffs of the panhandle
Umbrella Magnolia – *Magnolia tripetala* – state endangered, few in Okaloosa/Gadsden counties
Cucumber Tree – *Magnolia acuminata* – state endangered, rare, Holmes and Walton counties
Ashe Magnolia – *Magnolia ashei* – state endangered, slopes and bluffs of the panhandle
Tuliptree, Yellow Poplar – *Magnolia tulipifera* – commercially available

Be aware there are more than 200 cultivars of these plants. Cultivars, human-bred traits, such as flower shape, or color in cultivars lead to lack of genetic diversity, reduced wildlife value, potential to cross-pollinate with wild native plants, and make them more vulnerable to widespread disease. Before you buy, ask if the tree species is a cultivar.

Most magnolias do not produce nectar, relying on their abundant pollen as a high in protein food source and sweet scent to attract a variety of primitive beetle pollinators. Leaf beetles, snout beetles, tumbling flower beetles, and sap beetles. While beetles are the primary pollinators for these ancient trees, other insects like flies, and some types of bees and stink bugs, are also attracted to the flowers, though they often arrive later in the bloom cycle when the flowers are past their prime for pollination. Tuliptree is an exception and does produce nectar.

Colorful Fall Natives



Baudouina angustifolia, Yellow buttons, Photo credit: Shirley Denton

Beautyberry, Winged sumac, Blueberries, Climbing aster, Golden aster, Blazing star, Paintbrush, Goldenrod, Narrow-leaf sunflower, Honeycomb, Muhly grass, Lop-sided Indian grass. Fall – a good time to plant natives.

Worms can Jump? Member Article

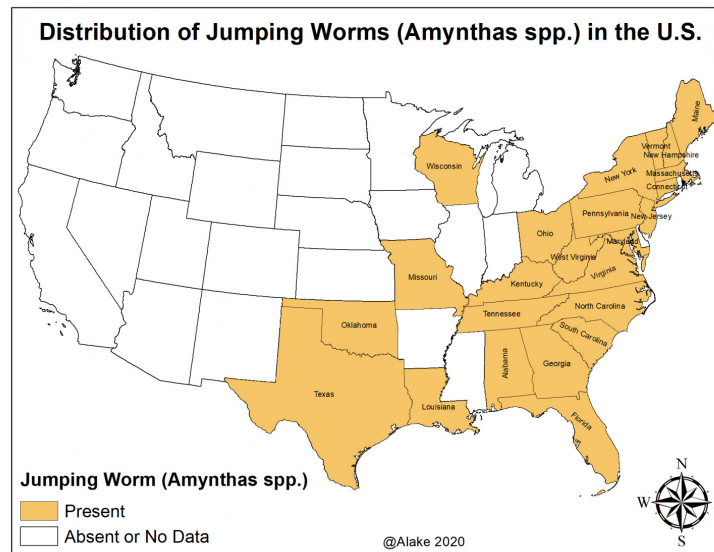
Asian Jumping or Crazy Worm, Alabama Jumper, Jersey Wiggler, Wood Eel, Snake Worm

You must be kidding, right? Actually, jumping worms (several nonnative *Amyntas* species) are considered invasive in Florida and may already be in your own yard! Yikes!

When threatened, these worms jump around wildly, hence their many nicknames. If frenzied thrashing isn't enough to deter a predator or an unsuspecting gardener, they can break off a segment of their tail! This broken bit will continue to flail about and allow the worm to escape.

Native to East-Central Asia, these worms were first introduced to North America in the late

1800s and have since invaded natural habitats in the Northeast, Midwest, and more recently in the Southeast, spreading primarily through the horticultural trade and baitworm sales. They are also spread on dirty equipment and shoes.



A map showing the distribution of *Amyntas* spp. in the continental United States.

Credits: Gideon Alake (Biosecurity Research and Extension Lab., University of Florida). Data source: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/121715> Data

Voracious eaters, jumping worms quickly consume organic material covering soil surfaces, making it difficult for plants to remain rooted and allowing nutrients to be washed away by rain. These surface feeding worms quickly consume garden mulch and partially decayed leaves, needles, and twigs in natural habitats. In fact, this so-called litter layer is home to a vast number of tiny organisms, and many plants can't grow or spread without it. The jumping worm's hard, coffee ground-like castings (poo) degrade soil quality, leaving it inhospitable to many native plant species and susceptible to increased erosion.

Jumping worm skin is smooth, glossy, and rubbery, not slimy or squishy. Adult jumping worms can be 4-5" long. The clitellum (thick, light-colored saddle-like ring) is close to the head. Jumping worms reproduce asexually through parthenogenesis, i.e. without needing a mate, and quickly out-reproduce native worms. Jumping worm egg cases, called cocoons, are small, round, and dark, resembling poppy or mustard seeds and can survive freezing temperatures.



Adult jumping worm. Source: dnr.wi.gov



Jumping worm castings with a single cocoon. Photo: Marie Johnston

To avoid introducing them to your garden or natural areas in Florida:

1. Examine all mulch, compost, nursery stock, and potting mixes for these worms and their egg-filled cocoons.
2. Purchase plants from reputable growers that check for these invasive worms.
3. Wash away all soil from other nursery-grown or pass-along plants before planting in a new location. This is especially important when planting in undisturbed sites.
4. Never dump unwanted fishing worms on the ground!
5. Always use clean garden tools and wear clean shoes when working in natural areas.
6. If worms are present in mulch or compost, solarize it for several days in plastic bags to kill cocoons which are sensitive to temperatures over 104 degrees F.

Jumping worms can be destroyed by putting them in a plastic bag and placing them in the sun or more quickly by stepping on them.

References:

<https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/pestalert/2020/12/09/meet-the-jumping-worm-the-invasive-game-changer/>

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/features/invasive-jumping-worms-can-change-their-world>

There are many helpful videos and other university and government resources on the internet.

Article by Suzanne Hill

Looking forward to seeing all of you and celebrating our chapter anniversary together at the next meeting on the 16th!

Neta

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