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A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



VOLUME 25, ISSUE # 5

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Sally Steinauer, 1934-2023



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plants with our limited
edition merch!

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RENEW YOUR

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**Time to renew your
membership? Renew today!**

SOCIETY NEWS

It's Florida Native Plant Month!

Each year we celebrate the Florida Native Plant Month in October.

Show your LOVE of native plants by buying our specially designed merch. We have t-shirts, hoodies, or aprons, all made with sustainability in mind.

[Order your merch](#)



Congratulations to our 2023 Landscape Award Winners!

We had fantastic applicants to our Landscape Awards this year. It was a joy reviewing them all, along with our amazing judges. Four outstanding applicants were awarded our highest honor: The Native Garden of Excellence. (click [here](#) for photos). 10 applicants were also awarded The Native Garden of Honor. (click [here](#)

Native Gardens of Excellence



Camp Matacumbe Playground, Miami-Dade County, designed by [LandscapeDE](#)

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Native Gardens of Honor

- Demonstration Garden at Del Tura, Fort Myers - Rosemary Eiden
- Cooper Family Garden, Orlando - Michael Cooper
- Dority Residence, Miami - Studio Cuesta
- A Slice of Paradise, New Port Richey - June Long and Nature Coast Chapter
- Heribacka Residence, Titusville - Eric & Halley Heribacka
- Perry Rooftop Garden, Pensacola - Native Plant Company
- My Sanctuary, Bradenton - Elizabeth Baylis
- In Jo's Yard, The Villages - Joannene Hudak
- Williams Residence, Jacksonville - Lisa Williams
- Lane Residence, Jacksonville Beach - Virginia Lane



Mead Garden Uplands, Winter Park - a restoration undertaken by Tarflower Chapter, The City of Winter Park, and Mead Botanical Garden



West Campus Nature Trails, Sun City Center - maintained by SCC Audubon Club



Mark Miller's Home Landscape, Fort Meyers - the residential home of Mark and Teresa Miller

Thanks to our judges!

We wanted to give special thanks to our 2023 judges:

- Elizabeth Manley, Landscape Architect
- Jordan Parker, Entrepreneur & Social Media Influencer
- Natalia Manrique & Mauricio Gonzales, NaMa Natives
- Pamela Calendar, MFAIA, Eco Artist

[Read More](#)

Welcome to our new TorreyaKeepers Intern

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with generous funding from the **Florida Wildflower Foundation** (FWF), in honor of Carolyn Schaag, Nancy Bissett, and Anne MacKay, FNPS is delighted to welcome **Maddie Snuggs** to our team.

With this support from FWF, we are creating an internship program to provide pathways to employment in the conservation and non-profit sectors. The intent of the internship program is to provide hands-on experiences that will maximize exposure to a wide variety of career opportunities and perspectives, whilst supporting the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society and those of the Florida Wildflower Foundation.

Maddie says:

"Hello, FNPS! My name is Maddie Snuggs and I am the new TorreyaKeepers Intern. I was born and raised in Tallahassee, Florida and graduated from FSU in May of 2023 with my B.S in Environmental Studies. My hobbies include being a plant nerd and bookworm.

My first Magnolia Chapter meeting was in spring of 2023. Immediately, I was welcomed with warmth and the overall feeling of belonging. Now I sit on our local chapter board as Chapter Representative which has been lovely!

I am deeply honored and very excited to have this position. Last season I volunteered with this project and fell in love with the work... even amidst the Rubus attacks and tick bites! Surveying with Lilly in the ravines is some of the most valuable field experience I have ever gained.

FNPS changed my life for the better and I will not take this opportunity for granted!"

We are thrilled to have Maddie on board!

about branding or design? We need you!

In 2024, FNPS will be embarking on updating our branding, logo, website, and other collateral. We're looking for volunteers who are interested in being part of the process. If you are interested and have proven experience in this area, please email: executivedirector@fnps.org



FNPS 2024 Grants Announcement

Endowment Grant Research Award, Conservation Grant Awards, the Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany, and the Cornelia McNamara Grant

The Florida Native Plant Society maintains an **Endowment Research Grant** program for the purpose of funding research on native plants. These are small grants (\$2500 or less), awarded for a 1-year period, and intended to support research that forwards the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society which is "to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida."

FNPS **Conservation Grants** support applied native plant conservation projects in Florida. These grants (\$5000 or less) are awarded for a 1-year period. These projects promote the preservation, conservation, or restoration of rare or imperiled native plant taxa and rare or imperiled native plant communities. To qualify for a Conservation Grant, the proposed project must be sponsored by an FNPS Chapter.

The **Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany** will provide up to \$1500 to graduate or undergraduate students who are studying Florida ethnobotany – i.e., the study of the relationship between peoples or cultures with plants native to Florida or Florida ecosystems. These can be current uses or historic uses.

The Florida Native Plant Society has established a **Cornelia McNamara Grant** program for the purpose of funding applied research on native plants and habitats, particularly those that are rare or imperiled. These are small grants (\$1500 or less), awarded for a 1-year period, and intended to support research that will yield data to inform the management for or restoration of native species and habitats.

Click [here](#) for application guidelines and details.

Papers published by our grant recipients

Shelby Krupar (University of Florida), who received a Research Grant in 2021, and co-authors have published a paper from this project in the journal **Diversity**.

Krupar, S.; A.A. Naranjo, G. Godden, and N. Cellinese. 2023. The fate of *Guzmania monostachia* in Florida rests with humans. **Diversity** 2023, 15, 525.

Maria Pimienta (Florida International University), a 2021 Research Grant recipient, and co-authors have a new paper from their project in the journal **Molecules**.

Pimienta, M.C., D. Salazar, and S. Koptur. 2023. The nighttime fragrance of *Guettarda scabra* (Rubiaceae): Flower scent and its implications for moth pollination. **Molecules** 2023, 28, 6312.

FEATURES

Pollinators at the Library

An example of what can happen when organizations “cross-pollinate”

By Katrina Stephenson from Passionflower Chapter

Earlier this year, Lake County employee, Veronica Dau, reached out to Passionflower Chapter asking us to collaborate on several projects in conjunction with Keep Lake Beautiful and America in Bloom (AIB).

County officials and members of AIB wanted to learn more about FNPS, our mission, and Florida native plants for projects in public spaces throughout the county. They were also interested in installing roadside “pollinator pathways” as other cities have done.



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Beautyberry Chapter presented to a round table of elected officials and county employees in April 2021 about the benefit of planting Florida native plants.

Ms. Dau quickly identified Cagan Crossings Community Library in the Four Corners area of Lake County as a site that was interested in refurbishing their pollinator garden and reached out to the Passionflower Chapter to see if we could help.

The library already had a pollinator garden that had been thoughtfully installed by a local scout troop, but unfortunately, the only plants in the space included invasive Mexican petunia, non-native tropical milkweed, and fountaingrass.

Fortunately, the site did have an (inactive) gopher tortoise burrow, a small self-seeded wild cherry tree, a fully functioning rain bird irrigation system as well as a hose hook-up, some stone benches and stepping stones, and a great combination of all-day sun and deep shade. There was real potential for creating a diverse wildlife habitat.

The first step was to rip out all that Mexican petunia and other non-native invasives. On August 29th, volunteers ripped out an entire truckload of invasive species, most of which had rooted themselves to landscape fabric that was hiding under the thick layer of pine bark. We did away with all of that as well (or at least as much as we physically could!).

We had also reached out to all Passionflower members asking for donations of plants. Keep Lake Beautiful donated funds to the project and Friends of Cagan Crossings started a fundraiser and advertised it to library visitors. With the money raised, we were able to purchase three trellises, a stone bird bath, additional stepping





Amazingly, Passionflower members donated nearly 75 plants, most of which were volunteers from their yards. Native plants from a rescue site were also donated to the project. All in all, by September we collected over 130 plants and over 30 different native species to install on the site, which was roughly 30' by 20'. A complete plant list has been included as an addition to this article.

The project was definitely getting noticed and gaining traction in the local community. When we showed up on September 16th to install the garden, we were greeted by over 20 eager volunteers who had heard about the project from Keep Lake Beautiful, Friends of Cagan Crossings and Give a Day Foundation.

Working off of a rough design sketch, Passionflower members placed the plants in the site starting with the shrubs and grasses, and then the smaller plants and wildflowers. Volunteers were given specific instructions on how to plant each plant and got busy digging. They also moved hardscaping, mulch, and logs into the space. Since many of the volunteers

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important that FNPS members with experience circled around to answer questions, help give instructions, make quick decisions, and provide patient and friendly education when needed. If any other chapters attempt a project like this, we strongly advise having several knowledgeable “forepeople” overseeing the project so that your volunteers are not sitting idly. They may not possess knowledge of native plants and habitat restoration, but they want to do good and are eager to help!

The result: In less than three hours, all plants were in the ground and an incredibly biodiverse wildlife habitat full of colors, layers, and textures now sits in a public space at the Cagan Crossings Community Library. Visitors can enjoy sitting outside in the space or viewing it from inside through the large windows.

Passionflower unveiled the space formally on October 14th to celebrate Florida Native Plant Month. Friends of Cagan Crossings has expressed an interest in forming a garden club and have asked our members for guidance and garden maintenance instructions.

Since this site is at a library, we thought it only appropriate to recommend a list of books and brochures to display so that visitors can learn more about Florida native plants, pollinators, and wildlife, as well. The library staff and volunteers are truly dedicated to educating the public about the benefits of native plants and they are thrilled to now host a demonstration garden in a public space for all to see.

We at Passionflower were very humbled and grateful that Keep Lake Beautiful, Friends of Cagan Crossings, and all the other volunteers involved in this project were fully committed to Passionflower’s vision for the site and trusted our expertise. We consider ourselves fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with a group of dedicated people who - no matter what their background, experience, or knowledge of gardening or native plants - all united around the common goal of doing what is best for our local plant, insect, and animal wildlife.

Our wildflowers, up north! A visit to Minnesota

by Susan Earley

I remember visiting relatives in Minnesota and then driving from Minneapolis to International Falls on the Canadian border where my grandparents and other relatives lived. Since there were no interstates or rest stops on the 6-hour drive north, my younger cousins and I required stops along the side of the 2-lane road, for a short trips back into the woods thick with trees to take care of business. On one of these trips into the woods, someone discovered a patch of wild, low-bush blueberries, a Minnesota native (*Vaccinium angustifolium*). In the bog across from my grandparents' farm, the low-bush blueberries grew wild and thick, and the blueberry pies my grandma made—the first pies I remember eating—tasted wonderful.

I didn't know then that three native species of blueberries grew wild in Florida until after I retired, joined FNPS, and incorporated both Darrow's blueberries (*Vaccinium darrowii*) and Shiny blueberries (*Vaccinium myrsinites*) into my backyard. I've never been able to pick enough for a blueberry pie yet, although the berries are usually plentiful. My blueberry plants may be few and the berries small like Minnesota's low-bush berries, but the truth is that the mockingbirds and bluejays have usually picked the blueberries - most of them - before I get the chance.



One of my cousins, his wife and I discovered this field of goldenrod in 2016 on a backroad drive up Highway 71 to a family reunion around the same time of year. Solidago canadensis. Canadian goldenrod—maybe. In 2016, I had just begun my love affair with Florida natives, and while I was sold on the plan to drive the back roads just for that reason, Goldenrod in northern Minnesota was not one of the few plants I could correctly identify.



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years before I noticed that Florida - my native state - shared some plant species with Minnesota's wildflowers.



path through the goldenrod (Solidago canadensis) and those tall grasses. 2016



Two milkweed species were some of the first Florida natives I planted in my Central Florida yard. *Asclepias incarnata* – only a somewhat successful effort - but planting *A. tuberosa* was woefully unsuccessful and so after just attempt, I moved on to other Florida natives. Imagine my surprise when a lone pop of the bright orange *A. tuberosa* had simply popped up earlier that spring in a cousin's yard located on Rainy Lake which shared the US border with Canada- nearly 2,000 miles from my Florida home. Another surprising plant similar to one of my favorite Florida species was my cousin's Spiderwort— *Transcandia virginiana*. At first it looked so much like Florida's native *Transcandia ohienensis* that I could have been easily convinced. But there are a few fairly obvious differences when looking at the photographs of the sepals of each Spiderwort flower bud.

During that same visitation a hike through a natural area above the lake where the shallow loamy soil covers bedrock and peat bogs, and the forest's detritus enriches the clay soil, we discovered some tall Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) covered with chunky Monarch caterpillars, and their green frass, evidence of their dining on the milkweed. Nearby, we found a third species of milkweed native to both

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My mother planted Spiderworts (Transcandria ohimenses) and tended wildflower beds until she was no longer able. I transplanted them in my gardens whenever I noticed they had popped up.

On another Minnesota trip in 2016, along the backroads with another cousin and his wife, we stopped several times to enjoy the early fall wildflowers. Solidago was everywhere - especially Canadian goldenrod, in fields, in ditches, and bordering mown pathways through a nature preserve. On that 2016 drive north on Minnesota Highway 71, an occasional stalk of Liatris - maybe the native Liatris aspera - stood out against the bright yellow goldenrod.

Minnesota has 5 native Liatris species (commonly called Blazing Star or Gayfeather) and shares at least one native species with Florida: Liatris aspera (Rough Blazing Star). It's usually pretty easy to recognize most plants in the Liatris genus - in general terms - and on my most recent Minnesota visit I recognized it on a stop in Ramsey (just north of Minneapolis) paired with groupings of Rudbeckia hirta, in a corner flowerbed along a walking trail. That

Of Minnesota's 13 or so native milkweeds, 5 are also native to Florida: Asclepias amplexicaulis (Clasping milkweed), A. incarnata (Pink swamp milkweed), A. tuberosa (Butterflyweed), A. verticillate (Whorled milkweed), and A. viridiflora (Green Milkweed).

Solidago species are also plentiful in Minnesota. Once, probably in the mid-50's, I picked goldenrod from the ditch by my grandparents' farm for my grandmother, and she told me to throw them in the trash outside because they made her sneeze - a common misconception now attributed to Ragleaf's pollen, not goldenrod. As a native gardener, I've grown several native Florida Solidago species for several years including Solidago odora var. chapmanii, S. sempervirens (now known as S. Mexicana), S. stricta, and S. canadensis (in a pot because it reportedly suckered aggressively). The spring after, it died back during the winter, I removed it, but it escaped behind a nearby hedge and, as predicted, eventually it grew and began to sucker. S. chapmanii has self-seeded but remains easy to control.

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and 3-foot stalks covered with buds at the top of the stalks that looked ready to open.

Our family is planning a family reunion late next summer, and there's some chatter about going to a location other than Minnesota. I'd rather return to International Falls. It's almost always cooler during the summer, and it means that most of the family's younger generation and their children might not be able to go, but I certainly wouldn't mind. North of Minnesota's Iron Range, much of Minnesota is full of natural forests and lakes, full of wildflowers, and the fall wildflowers are beginning to set flower buds. I'd rather change the time of year because the wildflowers' spring flowers would still be blooming. However, even if we chose a different location, I'll vote for a place where the wildflowers are plentiful and beautiful and growing in a natural area like northern Minn. Hopefully a cooler location than Florida, too.



Liatris spicata (Dense Blazingstar) grows here and in Florida, and both this *Liatris* and *Rudbeckia hirta* (Black-eyed Susans) are staples in my front and backyard and also in this small corner bed along a walking trail in Ramsey, Minnesota, a northern suburb of the Twin Cities —Minneapolis St. Paul, Minnesota.



Liatis in a field here and below. Florida shares their native Liatris aspera (Rough BlazingStar) with Minnesota.

PLACES TO VISIT

Discovering Extension Gardens

Jamie Daugherty

Nestled next to the UF/IFAS Extension Lake County Office, the Discovery Gardens is a little-known local gem. Garden design began in 1994 with a partnership between interested nursery men and women, citizens of Lake County, the Lake County Master Gardeners, the University of Florida County Extension Service, and Lake County Board of Commissioners. Dedicated in 1999, this is one of the oldest and most well-established Extension gardens in the state. Sitting on about 4 acres with 3.5 acres developed, visitors experience 27 themed gardens. Each of the themed gardens demonstrates gardening with different goals in



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the 9 Florida-Friendly Landscape Principles™.

Home to over 700 plants, we work to ensure the presence of both native and Florida-Friendly plants. Our Natural Native Landscape Garden hosts native plants maintained by the Lake Beautyberry chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. The remainder of the garden is maintained by one garden technician and our team of Master Gardener Volunteers along with our Discovery Garden Apprentices (Lake County Volunteers).

In early 2023 we installed new educational signage at the entrance to each garden that provide garden facts and information about the Florida-Friendly Landscape Principles™ highlighted in each garden. New plant ID signs are actively being installed as well. Groups can request guided docent tours by contacting our office. Additional audio and virtual tours will be available soon!



A review from TripAdvisor describes what a visit is like:

"A gem of a garden!"

We love to see botanical gardens when we travel, and this one didn't disappoint. The first reviewer gave quite a lot of detailed information about location, hours variety of gardens etc. so I won't repeat it here.

I'll just say this: we were staying in Tavares for a few days and this garden answered so many questions we had about the various Florida Friendly Plants we'd seen while traveling around Central Florida (while avoiding getting anywhere

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sandwiches and came back for a picnic in the Rose Garden before we headed to the airport in Sanford.

.....

That little gem of a garden was one of our highlights of this whirlwind trip to escape Wisconsin Winter!"

Please come see us the next time you are in our area! The Garden is open Monday-Friday from 8am-4pm and the third Saturday of each month also from 8am-4pm. We are located at 1951 Woodlea Road, Tavares, FL 32778.

Follow us on the main extension page on Facebook [here](#) and our Master Gardener Volunteer page [here](#). More information is also available at our website [here](#). If you would like to be added to our email list or are interested in in volunteering or tours, contact our office at (352)343-4101.

UPCOMING EVENTS

These are just a small selection of our events. [Click here to see more...](#)

Oct 21, Middleburg

Field Trip
Ixia Chapter



Explore the pine flatwood & wet savannahs of Black Creek Ravines where numerous endemic & fire dependent plants call home.

Oct 21, Myakka

Field Trip
Serenoa Chapter

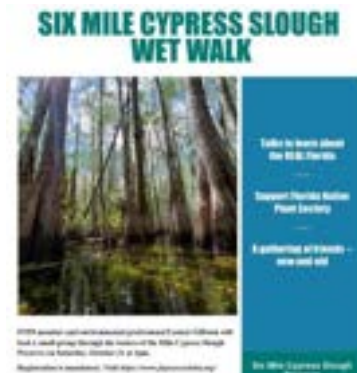


Myakka River State Park with
Paula Benshoff

[Register Here →](#)

Oct 21, Fort Myers

Plant Sale & Work Day
Coccoloba Chapter



Wet Walk at Six Mile Cypress
Slough Preserve

[Register Here →](#)

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Oct 22, Coral Gables Yard Tour Dade Chapter



A visit to two yards in Coral Gables.

[Find Out More →](#)

Oct 22, Virtual Council of Chapters FNPS



Council Representatives will receive an invitation link to the meeting via email.

[Click here to be invited →](#)

Oct 25, Marion County Dicerandra Day FNPS



An educational and volunteer event for the ecologically-interesting native mint genus Dicerandra

[Register here →](#)

Oct 28, Spring Hill Event Hernando Chapter



You are cordially invited to Wings in the Garden – A Celebration of Florida's Native Plants and Their Pollinators

Oct 28, Titusville Field Trip Sea Rocket Chapter



Did you know that Brevard County has its own endemic plant? Dicerandra thinicola, also known as Titusville Balm

Nov 10, The Villages Presentation The Villages Chapter



Get instruction and pointers from the ever-popular Gary Babic on "Preparing Your

[Find out more →](#)

IN MEMORY

We celebrate the lives of our friends

Sally Steinauer, 1934-2023

A powerful proponent of the native plant movement and a tireless supporter of their use in home landscaping, Sally Steinauer passed away Saturday, August 12th at the age of 89. Sally was a founding member of the Ixia Chapter and served in many Board positions throughout the years. She developed an early interest in native plants and began turning her own yard in that direction decades ago.

Her career path included employment at Jacksonville's Parks and Recreation Department and she was instrumental in making the Ixia Chapter the official steward of Native Park in 2010, responsible for planning and implementing its improvements and ongoing maintenance to this day. She is still remembered with fondness by many members for being there every month for workdays, where she could always be found on hands and knees in her exclusive domain "Coontie Corner." While tending to its every need, her head of curly white hair bobbed up and down as she moved, her little great granddaughter thought she lived there.

Her years as Ixia Chapter president brought her own sense of fun and delight into meetings. Newcomers were warmly welcomed,



Photo by Jessica Spencer

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with many other organizations with shared goals. She coordinated on our popular “AlterNatives” brochure and her sunny smile and little hats lit up many an Ixia Chapter outreach table.

Her tributes poured in from old and new members alike upon hearing the news of her death. Many mentioned her charming yard that hosted many meetings and yard tours through the years - “all the starry rosinweed in my yard came from her yard”, “it overflowed with lush beauty and all wildlife was welcomed there” and “joyous landscape of native plants” – are only a few of the comments received. Others wrote how she was responsible for their passion for natives, a dynamo and fun to be with, a kind-hearted person who loved to talk about natives, and a great international traveler. Sally was funny, adventurous and eager to see and learn new things.

Sally’s son contacted our chapter to let us know of her passing after a prolonged illness. He mentioned one of her final wishes was to make a donation to our chapter. Her family plan to place a bench in our adopted Native Park in remembrance of all her many hours spent tending her beloved plants and to memorialize her name to all who stop there to rest.



Written by Bonnie Sinatro, Director of the Ixia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

IN OTHER NEWS

Pawpaw Chapter and Gamble Rodgers State Park

Our Pawpaw Chapter is pleased and honored to have presented Gamble Rodgers State Park with a Community Grant of 500 dollars to aid in their first step in a restoration project. In the words of

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Memorial State Recreation Area has prioritized reestablishing native plant habitats in areas that decades ago were removed or destroyed by dredging and other disruptive activities.

Pictured are Sande Habali and Karen Walter presenting a Pawpaw sign of support and a check to Board members of FROGRS.

In other areas, our members are very much involved with a project in Ormond Beach called Regrow the Loop. This “loop” is a Florida Scenic Highway and National Scenic Byway, popular with cyclists and bicyclists and also known as Ormond Scenic Loop and Trail (OSLT). It meanders along the Halifax River, the Tomoka Basin, crosses at High Bridge Road and continues along the ocean or along John Anderson Drive in a double loop. It includes historical sites, such as Tomoka State Park, Dummit Sugar Mill Ruins, Bulow State Park, and North Peninsula State Park.



Florida Native Plant Month Proclaimed in Collier and Lake Counties!

Our Naples Chapter, lead by Em Kless, Connie Naegle, and Beth Courtright (pictured) received the proclamation at the Collier County Board of County Commissioners meeting on September 26th.



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Commissioners to proclaim Florida Native Plant Month in their chambers in Tavares on October 10th. Lake Beautyberry Chapter Representative Tina Mertz is pictures with Commissioner Sean Parks. Read member Laura Bennett-Kimble's article on the proclamation [here](#).



New Tri-Ology Published

This latest edition, 62(2) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Tri-Ology publication, has action from the botany department, including news records for non-native Pale Tasselflower / *Emilia praetermissa* and native Swamp Chestnut Oak / *Quercus michauxii*. Patti J. Anderson and Alex de la Paz compile the Botany section of this publication. Read the issue [here](#).



Legislative Delegation

Season is here!

You are encouraged to not only attend your local Legislative Delegation but speak on matters of

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impact on some aspect of the lives of its citizens and ecosystems. Read more about Legislative delegations and find yours [here](#).



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