

Tallahassee Democrat (June 22, 2011)

Panhandle Is Best Place For Wildflowers

Re: "Over the garden fence, planting a new idea," (Mary Ann Lindley, May 29).

We enjoyed Mary Ann Lindley's column about adding native plants to her garden, and we're especially thrilled she shared their beauty and benefits with Tallahassee readers. Florida's native flowers are much more than beautiful — they are the building blocks of healthy ecosystems, and they play important roles in the support of pollinators that put food on our tables.

In May, 71 people attended the Panhandle Wildflower Symposium in Quincy, co-sponsored by the Florida Wildflower Foundation and the Gardening Friends of the Big Bend. The event made it clear that there is tremendous regional interest in native plants and trees — so much so that the symposium may become an annual event. It's a natural fit: The Panhandle just happens to be the state's best place in which to view wildflowers on roadsides and in natural areas.

Readers looking to learn more about Florida's native flowers are invited to visit our website at www.flawildflowers.org.

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