

Wildflower Gazette

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Enriching lives with Florida's native wildflowers • www.floridawildflowerfoundation.org

2010 Wildflower Symposium – 'Like a revival'

by Lisa Roberts

Our native wildflowers are becoming more firmly rooted in Florida's communities, as clearly shown by the response to the 2010 Wildflower Symposium in Winter Park. More than 150 people attended the event to learn about wildflower species for landscapes, flowering shrubs and trees, advocacy efforts and the wildflower/butterfly connection.

Presenters included experts such as the Florida Natural History Museum's Jaret Daniels, of the Butterfly Rainforest, who talked about butterfly-attracting wildflowers, and native-plant grower Brightman Logan, whose presentation on flowering shrubs and trees had many attendees scribbling notes.

Eleanor Dietrich, a FWF member and wildflower advocate who lives in Tallahassee, versed the audience in how to jumpstart advocacy in their regions. Along with Jeff Caster of the Florida Department of Transportation, Eleanor authored a model county resolution that has been adopted by seven counties this year. To accentuate the importance of such advocacy, her presentation included her beautiful close-up wildflower photos set to music.

Kariena Veaudry, the Florida Native Plant Society's executive director and a Central Florida landscape architect, introduced the basic principles of landscape design then presented information about readily available wildflowers to use in plans.

Jeff, the Foundation's outgoing board chairman, gave participants a brief look at



Wildflower Symposium participants filled the Florida Federation of Garden Club headquarters' auditorium to capacity on Sept. 25. (Photo/Bill Randolph)

the organization's 2010 accomplishments in its research, planting and education programs – funded for the most part by donations from State Wildflower license plate sales. Incoming Chair Terry Zinn presented the Foundation's 2011 endeavors, including a new planting program for communities currently under development. The audience even got a sneak peak at the Foundation's redeveloped Web site, launching in early November, which will include such things as a virtual library of research on Florida species and an extensive collection of educational resources.

Between sessions, the lobby of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs' headquarters buzzed with a silent auction and book signings by authors Walter Taylor, Craig Huegel and Ginny Stibolt. Outside the building, vendors sold wildflowers and grasses, many species of which were mentioned in presentations.

Those who attended were asked via email to complete a short survey that will help the Foundation plan next year's event. Response has been extremely positive. "Kudos for organizing such a wonderful event. I left feeling great – so inspired!" said Patricia Burgos, who works for the Lake County Water Authority and attended the event. "It was like a revival."

Presenters' PowerPoint presentations are available for download; please email Lisa Roberts at lroberts@flawildflowers.org to receive a link.



IN THIS ISSUE

Fall wildflowers	2
Calendar	2
Scenic Highways	3
New members	3
Volunteers	3
Fall in the garden	4
Plant Profile	4

New officers, board members

During the annual membership that preceded the Wildflower Symposium, Foundation members unanimously elected Brightman Logan as Vice Chair and Gary Henry as Secretary. Brightman, owner of All Native nursery in San Antonio and Gary, a retired FDOT landscape architect who lives in Tallahassee, will serve two-year terms.

New board additions Donna Torrey, Pompano Beach, and Michael Gilkey, Sarasota, were confirmed to serve three-year board terms. Gary also was reconfirmed for three years.

Jeff Caster, FDOT landscape architect and outgoing board chair, received a plaque in appreciation of his year of leadership. "During the last year, Jeff steered the Foundation into a new era," said new Chair Zinn. "Even as he steps down as Chair, his vision and passion will continue to be key to the Florida Wildflower Foundation's success."



A plant sale, held during the symposium, featured wildflowers and plants that experts talked about in presentations. (Photo/Bill Randolph)

Fall color, Florida style *by Jeff Norcini*

Fall color hard to find in Florida? Not if you travel along rural roads.

Now is the time to be looking for wildflowers throughout the state. Fall wildflowers are in full bloom, with the best places to find them being open areas without homes or businesses. Those areas, including woodland edges,

provide the bright light that many species of native wildflowers thrive in. And rural areas are better than urban environments for two reasons – more natural stands of wildflowers, and expectations for manicured landscapes are lower.

Fall is ablaze with mainly yellow and purple wildflowers, and many of them are in the daisy family, like one of the traditional harbingers of fall, the goldenrods (*Solidago spp.*). Though many of the fall “daisy family” (Asteraceae) wildflowers lack the showy petals, they still are quite beautiful. In moist sunny areas, look for sunflowers (*Helianthus spp.*), tickseeds (*Coreopsis spp.*), rayless goldenrod (*Bigelovia nudata*), oneflower honeycombhead (*Balduina uniflora*), beggarticks (*Bidens laevis* and *B. mitis*), vanilla plant (*Carphephorus odoratissimus*), and dense blazing star (*Liatris spicata*). In sunny sites that are sandy, look for blazing stars (*Liatris spp.*), goldenasters (*Chrysopsis spp.*), flat-topped goldenrods (*Euthamia spp.*), narrowleaf silkgrass (*Pityopsis graminifolia*), and coastalplain honeycombhead (*Balduina angustifolia*).

If you prefer white wildflowers, thoroughworts (*Eupatorium spp.*) and ovateleaf Indian plantain (*Arnoglossum ovatum*) are common throughout Florida. In North and Central Florida, look for the appropriately named summer farewell (*Dalea pinnata*).

Other good areas to view fall wildflowers are:

- Along the Florida National Scenic Trail (www.floridatrail.org)
- Florida Water Management Districts lands (www.dep.state.fl.us/secretary/watman)*
- Florida State Parks (www.floridastateparks.org)*
- National Forest lands (www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/florida)*
- State Forest lands*
- Wildlife Management Areas*

* Forested areas and savannahs that are burned typically have showy displays of wildflowers the same year of the burn.



Dense blazing star (*Liatris spicata*) commonly occurs in moist areas.

While many of the fall wildflowers perform well as cut flowers in an arrangement, please do not pick them. If you want to preserve the memory of a wildflower, take a picture – it will last longer. So “don’t pick it – click it,” and let others enjoy the beauty. Also, many of our

native wildflowers reproduce only by seed. Picking a flower reduces the ability of that plant to reproduce and for that wildflower population to sustain itself.

If you want to pick wildflowers, plant some in your garden or in containers on your patio or porch. Seed packets are available from the Florida Wildflower Seed and Plant Growers Association (www.floridawildflowers.com), and sometimes at garden centers or growers specializing in Florida native plants. To find a native garden center or grower near you, visit the Association of



Summer farewell (*Dalea pinnata*) occurs in sunny areas (Photo/Jeff Norcini)

Florida Native Nurseries’ web site, www.afnn.org.

More reasons not to pick wildflowers:

- Picking the flowers of any endangered or threatened species is illegal in Florida. For details, see Florida Statute 581.185 Preservation of native flora of Florida.
- Stopping along a roadside to pick wildflowers can be hazardous to you and other motorists.

Now it’s your turn

If you snap a photo of a showy wildflower site, please share it with other wildflower enthusiasts by submitting it along with location information (such as

road number, county, park, state or national forest, etc.) to Lisa Roberts at lroberts@flawildflowers.org.

Yahoo users can upload images to the Foundations’ Flickr group site. Go to http://www.flickr.com/groups/fla_wildflowers, sign in to your Yahoo account, and follow the directions for uploading images.

Please include location information. If you don’t have a Yahoo account, it’s easy sign up for one.

Wildflower surveys continue

Gil Nelson and Jeff Norcini are in the midst of conducting three-season roadside wildflower surveys to identify wildflower routes in Big Bend, the Panhandle and Corkscrew Swamp vicinity. Spring and summer surveys have been completed in each of these regions, and fall surveys are partially completed.

The best region so far for fall wildflowers has been the Panhandle route, which has widespread, showy flowers, including some large stands of sunflowers and vanilla plant that cover an acre or more. The showiest displays are along State Road 65 between Telogia and Sumatra, County Road 379 in Liberty County, and along some Apalachicola National Forest roads.

[Click here](#) for details about the Panhandle route and routes in the other two regions.

Send route suggestions or the locations of showy wildflowers to research@flawildflowers.org.

FWF Calendar

Nov. 6: Master Gardener Expo, Red Bug Lake Park, Casselberry
(www.seminolemastergardenershow.org)

Nov. 13: Lake County Green Fair, Tavares
(www.lakecountyfl.gov/green_team/green_fair)

Jan. 26-31: Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival, Titusville
(www.spacecoastbirdingandwildlifefestival.org)



Awards and Recognitions

At the close of its 2010 annual meeting on Sept. 25, the Foundation recognized the outstanding efforts of:

- Carolyn Schaag, FWF treasurer, who received the board chairman's award, Friend of Florida's Wildflowers, for her tireless work on behalf of *La Florida*, "land of flowers."
- FWF member Eleanor Dietrich, who was named Volunteer of the Year for helping to author a model County Wildflower Resolution and create an accompanying PowerPoint presentation. Eleanor was instrumental in Leon County's adoption of the resolution and its initiation of pilot roadside wildflower projects. (Photos/Bill Randolph)
- Beth Glover and FWF member Vince Lamb, who received Certificates of Merit for their tireless effort in assuring the adoption of a county Wildflower Resolution in Brevard County.



Carolyn Schaag (above left, Friend of Florida's Wildflowers) and Eleanor Dietrich (above right, Volunteer of the Year) receive awards from Jeff Caster, 2009–2010 board chairman.

- Jeff Caster, who was recognized for his leadership and vision during his service in 2009-10 as the Foundation's board chairman.
- Volusia County, which was recognized for its outstanding overall support of the preservation and conservation of Florida's wildflowers. Volusia's residents, businesses and the county commission set an example that all counties are encouraged to follow.

Thank you, volunteers

"What is a Native Wildflower?" and "What is a Cultivar?" Task Forces

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Nancy Bissett | Dr. Jeff Norcini |
| Dr. David Hall | Dr. Walter K. Taylor |
| Ray Jarret | Terry L. Zinn |
| Brightman Logan | |

Marion County wildflower resolution

James Couillard

Florida Wildflower Symposium

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Eleanor Dietrich | Michael Gilkey |
| Jaret Daniels | Walter Taylor |
| Brightman Logan | Gary Henry |
| Jeff Caster | Donna Torrey |
| Kariena Veaudry | Bill Randolph |
| Carolyn Schaag | Tony Ehrlich |
| Ed Schaag | Beth Ehrlich |
| Tina Drake | Ann Robbins |
| Carole Simmons | Rory Trumbore |
| Terry Zinn | Susie Kontol |

Boktoberfest

Diedrich Dierks

Welcome new members

General

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Shari Vander Wiede | Beverly J. Fleming |
| Julie Zimmerman | Susan Ori |
| Donna Sisko | Wendy Poag |
| Edward Bornman | Eileen Tongson |
| Barbara Peterson | Rory Trumbore |
| Paulette Smith | Peggy Thomas |
| Neta Villalobos-Bell | Marilu Dempsey |
| Paul Merry | Diana Eagles |
| Julie Fisher | Ginny Stibolt |
| Sharon Snyder | Victoria Jones |
| Janell Smith | Brian Dierks |
| Sondra Turner | Patricia Burgos |
| Veronica J. Fazio | Dilma Clements |
| Leah Richards King | |

License Tag

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| JoAnne Kani-Miller | Theresa Davis |
| Neil Armingeon | Jayne Fischer |
| Linda Cecil | Monica Crosby |
| Charlie Stroup | Carol Smith |
| Alexandria Braswell | Sandra Dix |
| Joan Grossenbacher | Pam Traas |
| Kelly Adams | Tanya Price |
| Nancy Conoly | Lana Boardman |
| Karen Meyer | Trish and Bob Egolf |

Student/Senior

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Vincent Hults | Marigene Mueller |
| Judi Daley | Beverly Rublaitus |
| Wayne Peterson | June Dawson |
| Elinor Parker | Annetta Myers |
| Shirley Mullinnix | James Lobb |
| Walter Price | Pat Kelly |
| Grace Matthews | Mary Anne Freyer |
| Candace Arnold | Lynda and Bill |
| Mary Remer | Bartosch |
| Edward Stein | Charlie and Bonnie |
| Skip Mackey | Miller |

Renewals

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Mark Johnson | Julie Becker |
| Herb Hiller | Anne Jonson |
| Katie Moncrief | Craig Huegel |

Contributing

Sea Oaks Property Owners Association Inc.

Thank you, Symposium sponsors!

Please join us in thanking the sponsors of the 2010 Florida Wildflower Symposium:



OecoHort LLC

Wildflowers of Florida Inc.

Stephen H. Goldman Foundation

Foundation partners with Scenic Highway program

Jeff Caster, who represents the Florida Department of Transportation on the Foundation's board of directors, kicked off the state's new Scenic Highways Webinar series recently with a presentation on the state's roadside wildflower program.

Attendees learned about the benefits of wildflowers – from erosion control to ecotourism – and received information about planting and managing wildflowers along highways. Thanks to the partnership between the two organizations, Scenic



Highway managers are rapidly gaining more awareness and knowledge of the benefits of native wildflowers.

Earlier this year, the Foundation entered into a partnership that placed both the Scenic Highways logo and the State Wildflower license tag on free seed packets, which the Scenic Highways program is also helping to fill and distribute. The program also provided volunteers for the Foundation's Wildflower Symposium in September.

Fall in the wildflower garden by Claudia Larsen

All Florida gardeners look forward to fall – we're tired of sweaty, humid days and ready for the season's invigorating cool breezes and bright skies. It's also one of the best times to observe our beautiful Florida wildflowers. Take time to enjoy your garden up close and watch the changes of fall!

In your wildflower garden, the butterflies, bees and wasps are still busy gathering nectar and preparing for migration or dormancy. Goldenrods, asters, dotted horsemint, liatris, meadow beauty and Indian paintbrush are in their glory now.

Native grasses also peak this time of year, exploding with displays of white to pink seed heads. At different times of day the sunlight makes these grasses take on a special glow, and a gentle breeze is all it takes to create a dancing, swaying motion in the garden.

Ironweed blooms early in fall with its bright purple flower heads. Later, the



Ironweed seed heads (*Vernonia gigantea*) ripen in the fall. (Photo/Claudia Larsen)

flowers form seed heads that expand into white puffs. Look closely to see the feathery white pappus that will carry small, dark seeds to new homes in the dirt.

There are many such interesting seeds dispersal mechanisms to be seen in the fall – exploding capsules, interesting pea-like pods, papery husks and spiny seed globes. Think about what the flower looked like prior to forming its seed, and you will truly marvel at nature.

To collect seed from your wildflower garden, check the flower stalk for seed

development. Seeds are mature when they become dark brown and hard or are easily removed from their seed vessel. Dry seeds for several days in paper bags before sowing or storing.

Claudia's wildflower garden is in Micanopy, where she grows many North-Central Florida wildflowers.

Fall garden jobs

- ❖ Remove unwanted grasses, vines or plants that invaded or colonized during summer.
- ❖ Remove dead stems and foliage (remember, however, there may be beneficial larva or eggs overwintering there and that small birds eat from seed heads).
- ❖ Some areas of your wildflower garden may benefit from a light layer of pine needles or composted or chopped leaves to deter unwanted weeds. However, it's fine to have bare soil in your garden.
- ❖ If needed, cut herbaceous shrubs and sprawling wildflower forms to 1/3 their size.
- ❖ Collect mature wildflower seeds from garden plants.
- ❖ Sow wildflower seed in bare areas for flowers next spring.



Collect seeds by snipping off seedheads. Dry seeds for several days in paper bags before sowing or storing.

Wildflower festival wins award

DeLand's Florida Wildflower & Garden Festival Florida recently earned the 2010 Florida Secretary of State Award for Outstanding Special Event. The March festival, held in downtown DeLand, attracted about 9,000 participants, who enjoyed a daylong slate of speakers and perused the booths of vendors selling wildflowers, native plants, gardening

supplies and more. The Florida Wildflower Foundation is a proud sponsor of the event along with such organizations as Main Street DeLand, the River of Lakes Heritage Corridor, Volusia County's extension office and the DeLand Garden Club. The next festival will be held March 26 – be sure to save the date!

Plant Profile — Partridge Pea

(*Chamaecrista fasciculata*)

This plant sparkles in late summer and early fall when yellow flowers adorn its upright V-shaped branches. Partridge pea can form large colonies in open fields, where it attracts many bees, wasps and butterflies. It is found throughout the state in many habitats. It is a larval host plant for Cloudless Sulphur and Little Yellow butterflies and a great seed source for birds.

The showy flowers have 10 long curved stamens, and petals often have reddish spots at their base. Leaves are typical of the pea family, with a linear shape and compound arrangement; and flowers are followed by a narrow "pea" pod containing seeds for the next season.



(Photo/Walter Taylor)

Hardiness: Drought tolerant, salt tolerant

Growth Habit: 1 to 4 feet tall in varied forms from upright V-shaped to spreading.

Soil: Sandy, well-drained

Exposure: Full sun to light shade

Uses: An easy to grow annual or short-lived perennial. It may bloom year-round in South Florida. In North and Central Florida, it emerges in summer, flowers in fall and dies to the ground after frost.