

Map highlights best areas in eastern Panhandle to view spring blossoms Field guide features Liberty County wildflowers

The Florida Panhandle has what are arguably the best roadsides in the state for wildflower viewing. But where and when can you see them? A new guide from the Florida Wildflower Foundation pinpoints the best of La Florida's namesake native wildflowers in the eastern Panhandle, including those along State Road 65 in Liberty and Franklin counties. The road is widely considered the state's best for experiencing and enjoying the natural beauty of native wildflowers.

The colorful publication highlights the region's best wildflower routes – which also include Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla counties – and takes in parts of the Big Bend Scenic Byway, numerous state parks and the Apalachicola

National Forest. Contacts for area visitor information, wildflower facts and historic tidbits are provided. More than 40 gorgeous close-ups by Dr. Gil Nelson help with identification.

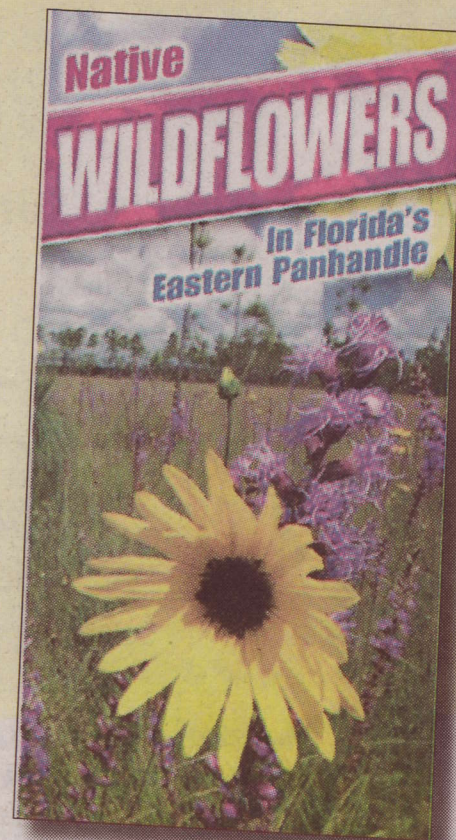
Nelson and Dr. Jeff Norcini – two of Florida's preeminent wildflower experts – developed the routes for the Wildflower Foundation through extensive spring, summer and fall surveys that documented the presence of more than 100 species of "showy" wildflowers. Included are carnivorous pitcherplants, unique trilliums, delicate fringed orchids and several species of Coreopsis – Florida's official state wildflower.

Copies of the free guide, which was produced with financial support

from Visit Florida, are available at Florida Welcome Centers and at Eastern Panhandle visitor centers, state and national parks and chambers of commerce.

The guide, designed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, also may be ordered from the Wildflower Foundation at www.FlaWildflowers.org/learn.php for details.

The Florida Wildflower Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Maitland. With proceeds from State Wildflower license plate sales; it supports, wildflower research, education and planting projects statewide. Visit the Foundation's Website at www.FlaWildflowers.org, to learn more about Florida's native flowers.



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