

NATIVE PLANT NEWS

BELUTHAHATCHEE CHAPTER



above photo: Native Garden at 180 Marine Street, St. Augustine, planted by FNPS Sea Oats Chapter

Just prior to disbanding as a FNPS chapter, the Sea Oats Chapter worked with St. Johns County, the City of St. Augustine and the St. Johns County Council on Aging to design and install a garden that would highlight the native plants that early Spanish explorers may have encountered in this area. The garden was installed in 2015 and the above photo was taken earlier this year, showing that the native garden continues to provide a lovely oasis in St. Augustine. Reading through the history of the Sea Oats Chapter, which operated in St. Johns County for about 8 years, they accomplished a lot on behalf of Florida Native Plants!

Logo Contest Update:

We solicited Beluthahatchee Chapter members and two members have indicated they will submit a logo design for the contest. This contest is open to all members and submissions are due September 1, 2026. If you are interested in submitting an entry, but did not get a copy of the contest rules, please email beluthahatchee@fnps.org and we will send you the contest info. Next month we will have a members only vote on the logo! As a reminder, the logo below right was an AI generated place holder for a logo for our chapter.

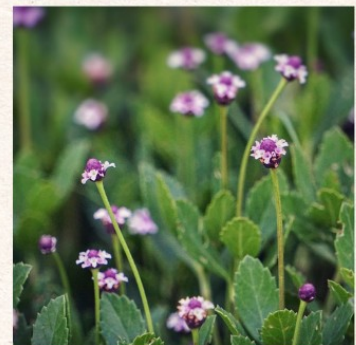


NATIVE PLANT FOR AUGUST

Frogfruit

A member of the Verbena family, Frogfruit is a lovely little ground cover with the daintiest of flowers that literally hum with tiny pollinators all summer. It is especially valuable as a larval host for Phaon Crescent, Common Buckeye and White Peacock butterflies.

Frogfruit can be found on road right of ways and natural areas, but would also make a wonderful plant in your garden or in a hanging basket.



Phyla nodiflora (photo FWF, Emily Bell)

September Meeting Speaker - Karen Janszen, Native Plant Consulting

Empowering Your Landscape with Native Plants

How can you use the power of Florida native plants to support pollinators and other wildlife, reduce water usage, and avoid using pesticides? Join us as and Native Plant Consulting to learn more about starting a rewarding path to incorporate Florida native plants into your landscape in a manageable way. Native Plant Consulting has been serving Northeast Florida for over 12 years, helping clients transform new and existing landscapes into thriving, eco-friendly environments that support wildlife and pollinators. Karen Janszen will be leading this educational discussion. Karen became a Florida native plant enthusiast when she returned to live in Florida full time

after a career overseas in federal service. Karen is learning as much as she can about native plants and earned the Florida Master Naturalist certification in 2026. In addition to a wonderful educational speaker, we will have a few native plants to give away and we will have some updates on our Fall programming, to include our upcoming effort to install a Florida Native Wildflower garden at Beluthahatchee Park. We hope to see you there. The meeting is open to the public, so feel free to invite your friends and neighbors!

Mark your Calendar!

- **Sep 12 Chapter Meeting** at the Bartram Trail Library - 10:30 am.
“Empowering Your Landscape with Native Plants” by Native Plant Consulting
- **Sep 19 GTMNERR Estuary Fest** 10 am - 2 pm - Outreach Table
- **Oct 2 Wetland Preserve, LLC** field trip by RSVP only, 9 am.
- **Oct 10 Chapter Meeting** at the Bartram Trail Library - 10:30 am.
- **Oct 23-24 Native Wildflower Garden** work days for garden preparation at Beluthahatchee Park (Florida Wildflower Foundation Grant project) time TBD

Membership

Welcome to all new members! Invite your native plant friends and family to join! fnps.org/join

Business Members

- The Elegant Garden, LLC
- Native Plant Consulting
- Southern Horticulture Landscape and Garden Center

**Support local
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* Scan and join us!

Stay in Touch

* beluthahatchee.fnpschapters.org



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and
<https://www.facebook.com/beluthahatchee.stjohns.fnps>

* beluthahatchee@fnps.org

FNPS 2027 State Conference: April 1-4 in Daytona Beach

“A Living Mosaic - Connecting People, Plants and Places”

Save the date and book your room for the annual conference at The Shores Resort and Spa! Register by Jan 10, 2027 for early bird pricing of \$200 (\$45 for students). Four keynote speakers include Craig N. Huegel, PhD; Emily E.D. Coffey, PhD; Jack E. Davis, PhD; and Clay Henerson, JD. Field trips are April 1 and 4th while the conference speakers and workshops are April 2-3. There will also be a Native Plant Sale and a

Silent Auction on April 2-3. If you have anything you would want to donate for the Silent Auction, contact info@fnps.org. If interested in attending, call early to secure discounted rooms with no resort fee. Conference rates are good for 3 days before and after the conference contingent on availability. Call the resort directly at 866-934-7467. For more info, check out FNPS.org/2027-conference.

Be Part of the Mosaic - Conference Volunteers Needed

There are many opportunities to volunteer a half day on-site during the conference, which comes with complimentary registration for that day. FNPS Conference is particularly looking for individuals with A/V experience and also for those willing to assist with the Silent Auction, Plant ID contest, Registration and Fundraising. Contact info@fnps.org for more info!



Photo:
Conference Location Hotel

| Toco Creek High School Butterfly Garden - by Reesa Fassett

Situated on the campus of Toco Creek High School, facing International Golf Parkway, is a beautiful new butterfly garden.

It was a collaboration of:

- The Toco's Women in Construction club, which is a chapter of the University of North Florida Women in Construction club.
- Chris McKinney who is an instructor at Toco Creek High School for the Academy of Innovation and the Built Environment
- Native Plant Consulting, Debra Mixon
- Antonio from Scorpio Construction
- Many volunteers that helped clear, dig and plant.



The idea is to bring beauty to the campus and community. The Florida Native plants were chosen to help the environment now and in the future as they attract pollinators who in turn perpetuate life cycles of plants and insects. The hope is other schools will follow suit wanting to do the same for their neighborhoods. A native plant butterfly garden is something individuals can add to their own landscape. The wish is this garden becomes a starting point for many other native gardens throughout the area.

