

NATIVE PLANT NEWS

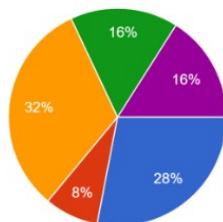
BELUTHAHATCHEE CHAPTER



above photo: Bald Cypress at Beluthahatchee Park

CHAPTER NEWS - Companion Flower Selected Coral Honeysuckle wins with 32% of vote!

My vote for the companion flower to the Bald Cypress Mascot for the FNPS Beluthahatchee Chapter goes to:
25 responses



- Bartram's rosegenian or Bartram's Marsh Pink (Sabatia decandra): A daz...
- Celestial Lily (Nemastylis floridana): Perennial herb from a bulb with a singl...
- Coral Honeysuckle (Lonicera sempervirens): Evergreen, sturdy, and...
- Darrow's Blueberry (Vaccinium darrowii): Darrow's Blueberry is the pl...
- Pinxter Azalea (Rhododendron canescens): Pinxter Azalea is breatht...

The next step will be a logo contest to replace the logo below that was AI generated based on a photo of Beluthahatchee Park. Please stay tuned for logo contest rules and timeline. The Logo will be voted on by Members only, so if you want to have a vote, please join FNPS!



NATIVE PLANT FOR JULY

Coral Honeysuckle

Coral honeysuckle, a hummingbird magnet, is a twirling, twining woody vine that thrives in the Florida sun. It occurs naturally in sandhills, flatwoods and hardwood hammocks. In addition to feeding hummingbirds, butterflies and moths appreciate the flowers. Beyond the flowers, birds enjoy feasting on the tiny fruits. Anyone with a sunny spot and a fence, trellis or arbor should consider adding this wonderful specimen.



Lonicera sempervirens (photo FWF)

| Fall Schedule of Events

Estuaries, forests and wetlands!

Beluthahatchee Chapter will host an outreach table at the GTMNERR Estuary Fest Saturday, Sept 19 from 10 am to 2 pm. This will be a fun family event celebrating National Estuaries Week and will offer music, art, food, entertainment and educational activities for all ages (including our fun outreach table!). If you are interested in helping at the Beluthahatchee table, please email Beluthahatchee@FNPS.org and let us know what hours you would want to help. September also resumes our monthly meetings, with the next meeting at the Bartram Trail Library. We will be rotating throughout the county but based on availability October will also be at Bartram Trail Library. Please join us for socializing as early as 10 am. Meeting starts at 10:30.

We are excited to announce that there will be a fall field trip to Wetland Preserve, LLC on October 2. If you attended the spring field trip, you know this is a special place, but different things will be blooming in the Fall. There is a limit of 15 people who will be able to ride the Golf carts for the ultimate experience. RSVP will open early for FNPS members starting August 1. Non-members will be able to RSVP starting August 24th. Email will go out soon with flyer.

We are also working on a field trip or two this Fall. If you would like to lead a field trip to see a favorite native plant location, please let us know.

| 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

We now have 49 members. 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
FNPS
Business
Members!



* Scan and join us!

Stay in Touch

* beluthahatchee.fnpschapters.org

f facebook.com/groups/1258384122763801
and
<https://www.facebook.com/beluthahatchee.st.johns.fnps>

* beluthahatchee@fnps.org

| FNPS Strategic Plan 2024-2027 Highlight

Why does our work matter?

Did you know that Florida has over 80 distinct ecosystems?

Florida's unique geography and geographical history have created some very unique natural environments. Each of these ecosystems support Florida's biodiversity through the symbiotic relationship between our native plants and the animals that rely on those plants.

Over 3,000 native plant species provide refuge and sustenance for us and wildlife. We are seeing huge pressures from development, invasive species and climate changes.

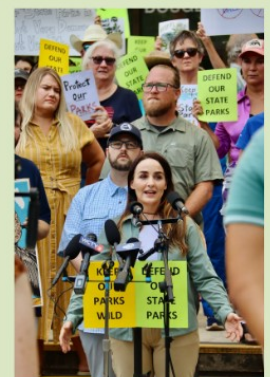
FNPS works to conserve and protect native plant habitats while also restoring native plants in our yards and communities. We are excited to have a local chapter now in SJ County to support this important work!

FNPS Legislative Advocacy Wins

Two important bills passed, SB 302 *Coastal Resilience* and HB 441, *Conservation Lands* - FNPS support for these was conveyed by the Policy and Legislation Committee. Eight action alerts during 2026 legislative session were issued when the committee saw extra weight of mobilized member voices were needed. In addition, the *Blue Ribbon Projects* bill was successfully stopped, preventing jumbo developments from side-stepping local land use governance.

Photo:

Lily Anderson-Messec speaking on behalf of crowd of protestors - protected state parks from incompatible development



Beluthahatchee Chapter - Native Plant Seed Collection and Sharing Program



We plan to start a Florida Native Plant Seed collection and sharing program to support our outreach programs as well as support the St. Johns County Seed Library which is a collection of open-pollinated and heirloom seeds that you can borrow to plant and grow at home. At our last meeting at the Southeast Branch, we noticed that there is a section of the seed library dedicated to native plants, but alas, it was Empty!!

According to the SJCPLS website, you can become a Seed Library member by filling out a membership form and turning it into the Reference Desk at the Southeast Branch. You can then check out up to 6 packets a month from the Seed Library. You can also return seeds you've grown by filling out the seed donation form and depositing in the donation box. In January this program was expanded to the Main Branch Library.

Our sister chapter Ixia has a robust Seed Collection program and they have been collecting and distributing seeds for several years.

Jody Willis, Ixia Chapter President, will be a speaker at our January meeting and will be speaking about their seed collection project. Ixia Chapter graciously gifted us 50 packets of seeds to distribute through the SJCPLS Seed Library.

We are hoping some of our members will get involved in collecting native plant seeds from their gardens (not from public spaces) as long as their gardens are chemical free. We want to ensure these plants are safe for pollinators and other wildlife. Certain chemicals used in herbicides and pesticides are systemic and will spread their toxicity through the seed to the next generation of plants. If you decide to start collecting seeds from Florida Native Plants in your yard, please note the species name, date collected and location collected. This information is needed in the labeling of the seed packets.

If you are interested in helping to manage the seed collection/sharing program, we always welcome active involvement from our members and friends!