

NATIVE PLANT NEWS

BELUTHAHATCHEE CHAPTER



above photo: Bald Cypress at Beluthahatchee Park

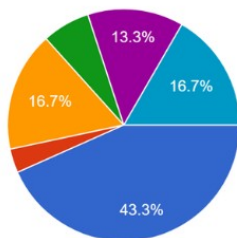
CHAPTER NEWS - Plant Mascot Selected

At the May meeting, we announced the plant mascot winner was the Bald Cypress with over 43% of the votes received. With a majority of members voting for a flower, we decided to do another contest to select a companion flower to join the Bald Cypress in representing our chapter.

An email went out to all members to vote for the companion flower. Vote for your favorite flower and then we will be soliciting designs for our logo! The detailed results from the voting are shown below. Please vote by June 17th.

My vote for the Beluthahatchee Chapter Native Plant Mascot goes to:

30 responses



- Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*): Flood and fire-resistant trees that are...
- Celestial Lily (*Nemastylis floridana*): Perennial herb from a bulb with a singl...
- Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*): Evergreen, sturdy, and...
- Pinxter Azalea (*Rhododendron canescens*): Pinxter Azalea is breatht...
- Darrow's Blueberry (*Vaccinium darro...*
- Bartram's rosegentian or Bartram's M...



NATIVE PLANT FOR JUNE

Bald Cypress

Bald Cypress can be found along our creeks, rivers, ponds and swamps. They are notable for their "knees" in their root system and their buttressed trunks that provide stability. A keystone species that creates structural stability, absorbs floodwaters and forms unique micro-habitats that support a variety of other native plants and animals; these ancient sentinels can live for thousands of years.



Taxodium distichum (photo FNPS)

| FNPS 2025 Annual Report

Membership Matters!

The FNPS 2025 Annual Report was emailed to members this month. If you didn't get a copy, it is available at FNPS.org. It struck me as important that there are over 58,000 Facebook followers but membership is just over 6,000. In fact, membership dropped last year due to the loss of a chapter among other factors.

We are hoping to grow membership locally with the creation of the Beluthahatchee Chapter, but why would people pay money to join FNPS if they can participate in all activities whether they are a member or not? One great reason is to add the weight of a robust membership behind the Advocacy that is done by volunteers at the State level. For example, FNPS led the fight against a series of proposals to "swap" irreplaceable

conservation lands for areas with far less conservation value. Another reason to join is that a portion of your annual dues goes to support Conservation. FNPS is an important partner working to save Florida's endangered plants including the Torreya. Florida torreya is one of the world's oldest and most endangered tree species. In 2025, 26 additional trees were found through a FNPS survey of five private parcels of land covering 536 acres. If you have been thinking about joining FNPS, please consider doing so. Membership is so important to the success of Advocacy and Conservation. Together we can make a difference.

| Mark your Calendar!

- Next meeting is **September 12, 2026** at the Bartram Trail Library at 10:30 am. "Empowering Your Landscape with Native Plants" by Native Plant Consulting



Membership

We now have 45 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

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

beluthahatchee@fnps.org

| FNPS CORE VALUES SPOTLIGHT - Community & Inclusivity

MAY MEETING SPEAKER

Community & Inclusivity - Fostering collaboration, education, and enthusiasm for Florida's native ecosystems.

Ephraim Badea, of St. John's Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve provided an informative presentation about the preservation goals for the Botanical Garden. It is not uncommon for Botanical Gardens to collaborate on Florida Native Plants

despite hosting a large collection of non-native plants in their gardens. It sounds like there will be future opportunities for the surrounding community to support additional native plant selections within the Botanical Garden. Ephraim mentioned one opportunity being a bog garden of Florida native carnivorous plants. He also announced their name will be changing, so be on the lookout for that.

Washington Oaks Gardens State Park hosts an event highlighting Florida native plants. Plant sales are the second Saturday of each month, and include some natives.



Pollinator Week - Feature Article - by Elaine Gallant**Celebrate Pollinator Week 22-28 June!**

Florida Native Plants are so important to all insects, but especially our pollinators. Pollinator week was initiated by the Pollinator Partnership to celebrate pollinators and support pollinator health. Their mission is to promote the health of pollinators, critical to food and ecosystems, through conservation, education and research. Pollinators include birds, bats, bees, butterflies, moths, beetles and other small animals that pollinate plants. We know that many pollinators rely on native plants for their survival and of course, many plants rely on pollinators for reproduction. Many pollinator populations are in decline, due to a variety of reasons including a loss in feeding and nesting habitats. As more and more of St. Johns County is converted from forest and farmland to subdivisions, the plants we have in our yards matter more and more to pollinators. Native plants are better for pollinators because they have evolved together over thousands of years and have developed highly synchronized relationships with the exact nutrition, flower shape and bloom timing needed for pollinator survival. Even some native cultivars have been altered in such a way that their flower shapes or bloom times are no longer ideal for native pollinators. Research has shown that native plants are four times more attractive to pollinators than non-natives. The Pollinator Partnership has provided a brochure that really gets into the details for selecting plants (native!) for pollinators and can be found here: <https://pollinator.org/PDFs/Guides/OuterCoastal.May.2024.rx9.pdf>

*Share your celebration of pollinator week with us on our
Facebook Group Page.*

facebook.com/groups/1258384122763801

*Post a photo of a pollinator on a native plant and
use **#PollinatorWeek** as a tag.*

*You can be in your yard, at a park, at
a local native plant nursery, or
anywhere else.*

*Maybe you will even plant a new
native in your yard or patio to support
more pollinators!*

