

**ELLA P. WOODS  
PATHS OF  
SUNSHINE  
2021 AWARDS**



# **\*First Place\***

## **FDOT District 2 – Lake City Maintenance**

Nominated by Larry Porter, District 2 Wildflower Coordinator



### **Preservation of Two Native Orchids**

Location is not provided because one orchid is listed by the State of Florida as Endangered and the other is listed as Threatened. Both orchids are protected under Florida Statute 581.185.



Chapman's Fringed Orchid

### Lake City Maintenance

Partnering with Jacksonville Zoo to protect and propagate two rare orchids

- Roadside right-of-way site designated a Wildflower Area
- Orchids protected by very selective mowing and signage



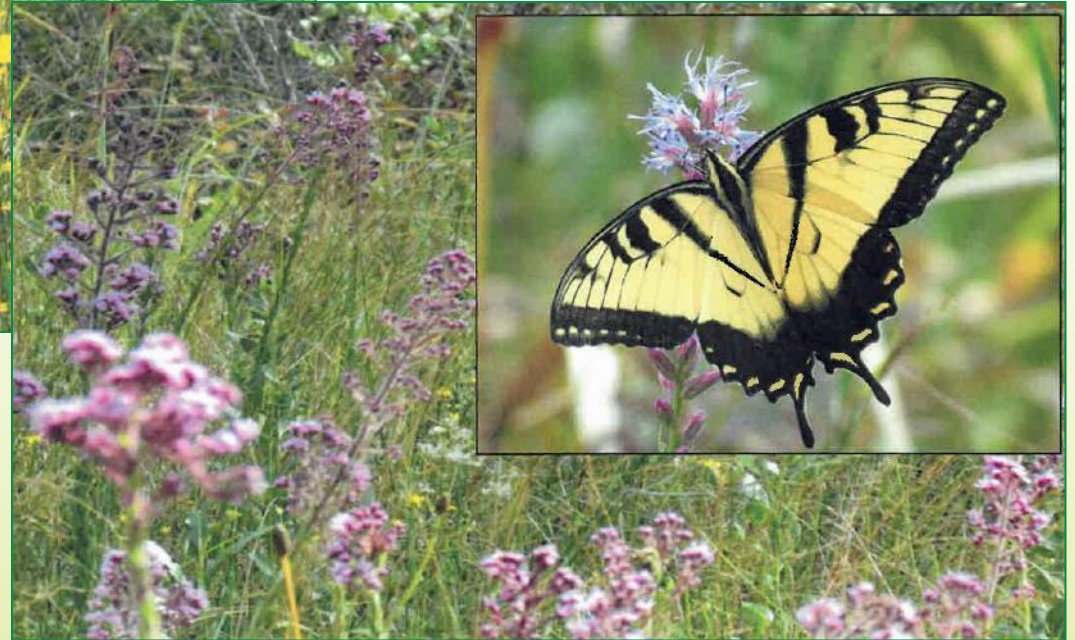
White Fringed Orchid



Chapman's Fringed Orchid blooms in late July to early August.



The White Fringed Orchid rises above the natural grasses and ferns. It blooms in late August through September.



Protecting the orchids has allowed other wildflowers to flourish – like Tickseed and Blazing Star, both of which attract pollinators in the fall.

# **\*Second Place (Tie)\***

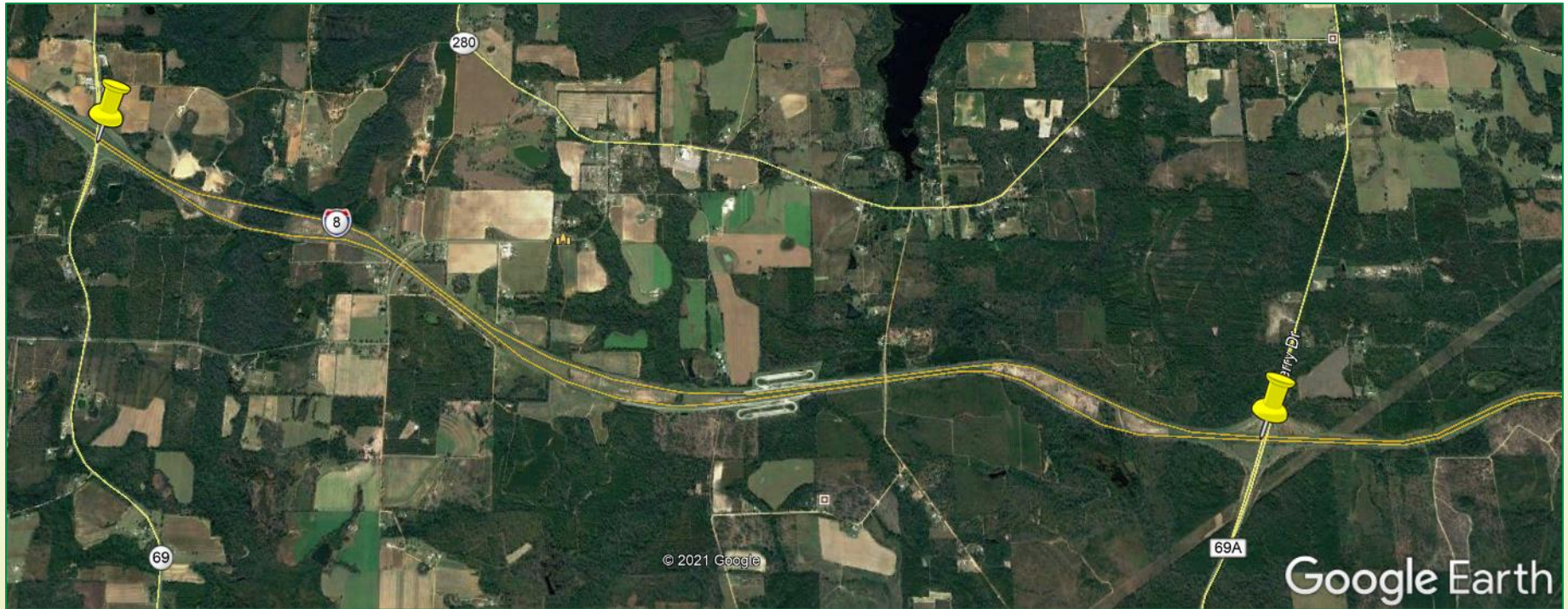
## **FDOT District 3 – Marianna Maintenance**

Nominated by Dustie Moss, District Landscape Project Manager



Multi-year effort to restore hurricane-ravaged medians to open meadows

- Using a sustainable hybrid approach
- Encouraging naturally occurring species
- Sowing seeds collected from local sources
- Sowing seeds from commercial sources



I-10 Medians, between Sneds and Grand Ridge Interchanges (Jackson County)



## Multi-year effort to restore hurricane-ravaged medians to open meadows

- As anticipated, results variable
  - Some portions of the 90 acres became established in showy fields of seeded wildflowers
  - Other portions required targeted herbicide treatments to control weeds





Targeted herbicide treatments is ongoing to reduce undesirable weeds while preserving showy species, both naturally occurring and introduced.

# \*Second Place (Tie)\*

## Turnpike Enterprise – Roadway Maintenance

Nominated by Andrew Seibel, Environmental Specialist Consultant



Revitalization of the ordinary and sterile PGA Boulevard interchange

- Removed 7 acres of invasive species
- Re-planted with three wildflower sites
  - Annual Phlox, Black-eyed-Susan, Goldenmane Tickseed, and Lanceleaf Tickseed



Turnpike Mainline and the PGA Blvd. Interchange (Exit 109) (Palm Beach County)  
Left: Wildflower sites in yellow. Right: Invasive species cleared (red) and new landscaping installed (green).



Removing the invasive species was a dirty job but the results were worth it.  
Photo shows cleared area where dense Brazilian Pepper dominated.



Turnpike, Southbound, Spring 2020

# \*Third Place\*

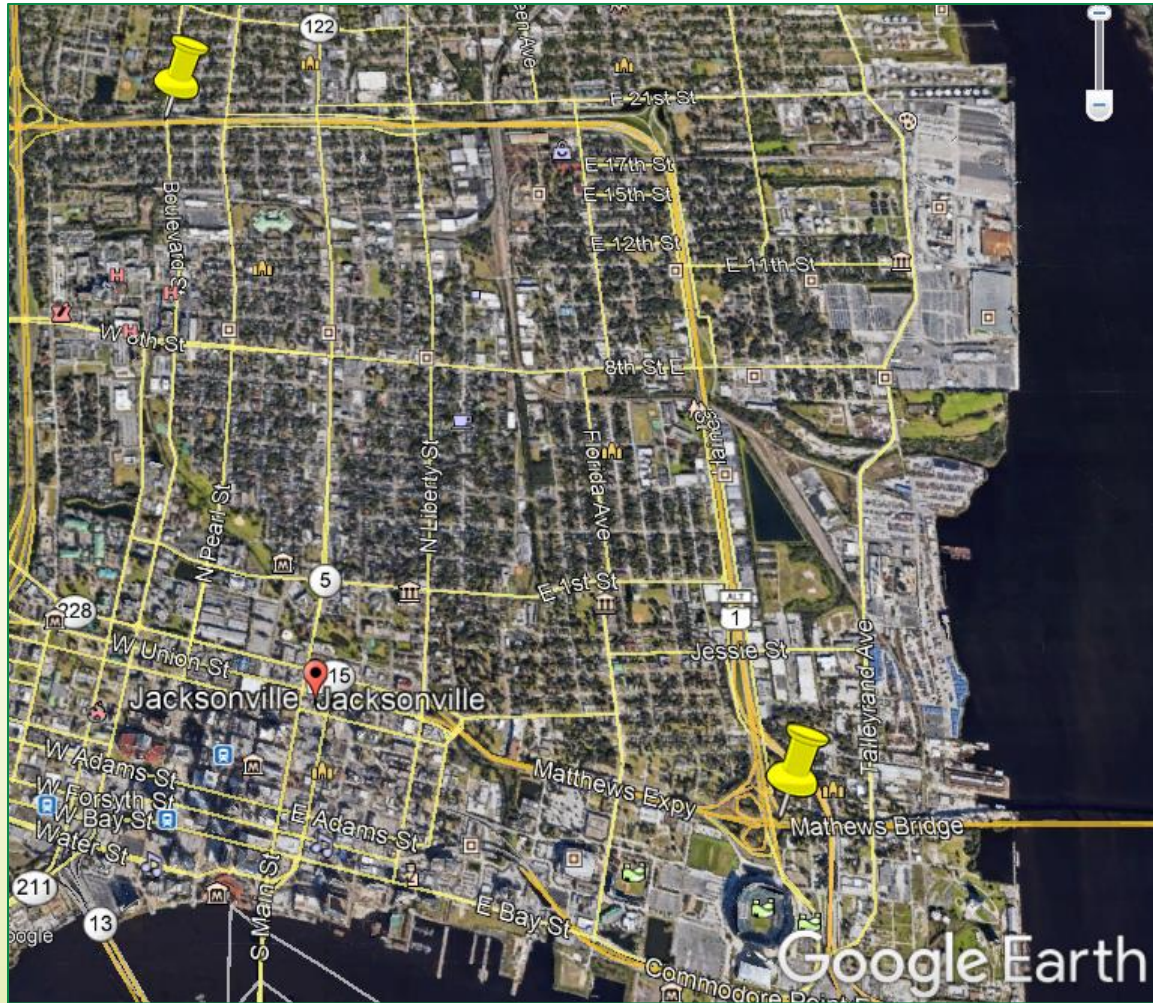
## District 2 – Jacksonville Maintenance

Nominated by Larry Porter, District 2 Wildflower Coordinator



3-mile segment of MLK Expressway  
from Boulevard St. to Arlington  
Expressway

- Most impressive naturally occurring  
expanses of Blanketflower ever to be  
seen in District 2
- Result of reduced mowing
- And in an urban setting!



MLK Expressway (Alt. US-1): Boulevard St. to Arlington Expressway (Duval Co.)







In the inner city of Jacksonville, residents and travelers could enjoy the beautiful sights of nature – beautiful blooms of Blanketflower and other wildflowers in spring and early summer.

# **\*Honorable Mention\***

## **District 2 – Chiefland Maintenance**

Nominated by Doug Dycus P.E., Interim Maintenance Engineer and Douglas Steele, Contracts Coordinator



### ***Second Coming of Coreopsis***

- Pronounced, profuse stands of Coreopsis (Tickseed) in mid-summer
- Panoramic views
- Loved by travelers and pollinators
- Moderate showiness in spring
- Implemented stringent reduced mowing
  - No mowing after spring flowering
  - Provided area with consistent, bountiful showings of wildflowers



SR-500/Alt. US-27 between Bronson and Williston (Levy Co.)





Coreopsis in some areas not as dense but still quite showy.

# **\*Honorable Mention\***

## **District 2 – Lake City Maintenance**

Nominated by Larry Porter, District 2 Wildflower Coordinator



SR-6: Rural Road Connecting Jasper and Madison

- Carpets of Goldenmane Coreopsis from spring to early summer
- About 4 ½ miles
- Reduced mowing allows these swaths of Coreopsis to return each year
- Loved by travelers and pollinators



SR-6 from CR-141 to approximately CR-143 (Hamilton County)





## Working for wildflowers

Funds from the State Wildflower license plate grow wildflowers for bees and butterflies. [Get yours today!](#)



Thanks to the Florida Wildflower Foundation for their support of the Paths of Sunshine Awards Program.

<https://floridawildflowers.org>

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# Thank you!

*In memoriam* Gary Henry, Ella P. Woods Paths of Sunshine Award Co-Founder  
Dick Bush, Former FDOT District 2 Wildflower Coordinator

Jeff Caster (ret.) (FDOT, Office of Design)

Brenda Luedeman (FFGC Roadside Beautification & Paths of Sunshine Chairman, 2019-2021)

Rudy Powell (FDOT, Office of Maintenance)

Carolyn Schaag (FFGC Wildflower Liaison Chairman, 2019-2021)

Jon Heller (FDOT, Office of Maintenance)

Jurists: FDOT – Jeff Caster, Jeff Norcini  
FFGC – Brenda Luedeman, Carol Hall,  
Sue Angle, Christy Linke  
FWF – Dena Wild

Lisa Roberts (Florida Wildflower Foundation)

*All nominees and award winners*



This presentation was composed by Jeff Norcini, *FDOT Wildflower & Horticultural Specialist* and Brenda Luedeman, *FFGC, Chair, Ella P. Woods Paths of Sunshine Award & Roadside Beautification*