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Cabel H

Wildflower license plates pay for butterfly gardens

UF is among the schools benefiting from the money.

The Miami Herald

FORT LAUDERDALE — Bright red spikes of salvia flowers swayed in the winter breeze next to blue-flowering porterweed. Yellowtops, with flattish clusters of flowers, were forming a little colony, while the black-eyed Susans and the red-yellow Indian blankets formed sweeps of color in the wildflower beds at Broward College's north campus in Coconut Creek. Several beds, with their charming handmade signs, "Florida Native Wildflowers Planted Here," are now found around the grounds, thanks to a grant from the sale of wildflower auto tags, willing students and a growing environmental consciousness.

Those Florida wildflower auto license tags have been working harder than bees at blossoms. They are financing low-maintenance, butterfly-attracting gardens around the state and boosting science education by adding another \$100,000 to a research endowment established at the University of Florida.

Broward College has just finished an 18-month wildflower project on its three campuses with a \$25,000 grant that produced gardens, science projects, a wildflower art contest and an interactive Web site. Elementary school butterfly gardens and a wildflower teaching meadow at the University of Florida also are the result of car tag sales.

Tags went on sale in 2000, and the Florida Wildflower Foundation began funding gardens and research in 2004. So

far, the \$15 car tags have earned \$2 million to advance the wildflower cause, said Lisa Roberts, executive director. In the last two years, the foundation has funded 30 planting projects.

At Broward College North, the curriculum for arts and sciences has been tied into the five wildflower "pods" on the Coconut Creek campus. At the Davie main campus, students created an interactive Web page showing the location of the wildflower gardens and linking individual flowers to the Florida Museum of Natural History's wildflower and butterfly pages.

"Dr. Peggy Green spearheaded sustainability 20 years ago," said north campus provost Barbara Bryan. "She saw the possibility of a wildflower grant, and worked it into the curriculum."

Green, who is on medical leave, is chairwoman of the college's Environmental Sustainability Committee and a senior professor of environmental science on the north campus. She worked with faculty of the three Broward campuses.

Via e-mail, Green said sustainability "is living in a way that does not jeopardize the prospects of future generations." It's a critical concept to instill in students, she said, and can inspire projects across many disciplines.

"Another great aspect of the wildflower project is that students can plant and maintain the wildflower beds, and leave a legacy to the campus through their stewardship efforts," she wrote. "It is a way to help connect the curriculum through the beauty of nature."

At the north campus, home to 11,000 students, Green and the physical plant staff sited and dug



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Marie Dugan looks through black-eyed Susans on Dec. 17, 2008, at Broward College's North Campus in Coconut Creek.

the flower beds, which students then planted. Students in environmental studies watched the plants for growth and interaction with insects — especially butterflies — and recorded their observations in journals.

The wildflower project nicely dovetailed with other environmental efforts on the campus, including a wetlands and a native hammock planted by Green, faculty, students and volunteers after Hurricane Wilma in 2005.

Wildflower week brought college President David Armstrong to the north campus, along with David McLean, former professor of horticulture at the Davie campus, to teach a workshop about landscaping with wildflowers.

Students gave presentations at elementary schools, handing out wildflower seeds in packets of their own design, said Monica Ramirez, north campus academic dean. A college-wide art and photography competition was held, with winners receiving a three-credit college scholarship and bookstore vouchers.

"We've gone the extra

mile," said Bryan.

A \$100,000 grant to the University of Florida is the second one given to the school and will go toward a graduate position, said Roberts.

"The goal is to get a total endowment of \$500,000 and get a state match," said Terril Nell, chair of environmental horticulture at UF.

Many of the wildflower seeds now sold in the state are not from Florida native plants, Nell said, and grow poorly here, if at all. What is needed are wildflowers, called Florida ecotypes, that have adapted to local heat, light and soils. Using Florida seeds also preserves important native genes, he said. He hopes that genetic markers can be developed so seeds can be quickly tested for ecotype.

Not much is known about what environmental conditions are most conducive to the germination of wildflower seeds, he said, with the exception of a single one, coreopsis. Nell said he'd also like to see wildflowers produced in plant labs by tissue culture.

"We all want to preserve the beauty of Florida," he said

Lepidoptera of Gainesville

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>
<i>Agraulis vanillae</i>	Gulf Fritillary	<i>Lerema accius</i>	Clouded Skipper
<i>Anaea andria</i>	Goatweed Butterfly	<i>Lerodera eufala</i>	Eufala Skipper
<i>Anartia jatrophae</i>	White Peacock	<i>Libytheana carinenta</i>	American Snout
<i>Anatrytone logan</i>	Delaware Skipper	<i>Limenitis archippus</i>	Viceroy
<i>Ascia monuste</i>	Great Southern White	<i>Limenitis arthemis</i>	
<i>Asterocampa celtis</i>	Hackberry Butterfly	<i>astyanax</i>	Red-Spotted Purple
<i>Asterocampa clyton</i>	Tawny Emperor	<i>Neonympha areolata</i>	Georgia Satyr
<i>Atalopedes campestris</i>	Sachem	<i>Panoquina ocola</i>	Ocola Skipper
<i>Atlides halesus</i>	Great Purple Hairstreak	<i>Papilio cresphontes</i>	Giant Swallowtail
<i>Battus philenor</i>	Pipevine Swallowtail	<i>Papilio glaucus</i>	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
<i>Battus polydamus</i>	Polydamus Swallowtail	<i>Papilio palamedes</i>	Palamedes Swallowtail
<i>Calephelis virginiensis</i>	Little Metalmark	<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	Black Swallowtail
<i>Callophrys swaedneri</i>	Sweadner's hairstreak	<i>Papilio troilus</i>	Spicebush Swallowtail
<i>Calycopis cecrops</i>	Red-Banded Hairstreak	<i>Parrhasius m-album</i>	White M hairstreak
<i>Colias eurytheme</i>	Orange Sulphur	<i>Phoebis philea</i>	Orange-Barred Sulphur
<i>Copaodes minima</i>	Southern Skipperling	<i>Phoebis sennae</i>	Cloudless Sulphur
<i>Cyllopsis gemma</i>	Gemmed Satyr	<i>Phyciodes phaon</i>	Phaon Crescent
<i>Danaus gilippus</i>	Queen	<i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	Pearl Crescent
<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Monarch	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Cabbage White
<i>Enodia portlandia</i>	Southern Pearly Eye	<i>Poanes zabulon</i>	Zabulon Skipper
<i>Epargyreus clarus</i>	Silver-Spotted Skipper	<i>Polites vibex</i>	Whirlabout
<i>Euphyes palatka</i>	Palatka Skipper	<i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>	Question Mark
<i>Euphyes vestris</i>	Dun Skipper	<i>Polytes themistocles</i>	Tawny-Edged Skipper
<i>Euptoieta claudia</i>	Variegated Fritillary	<i>Pontia protodice</i>	Checkered White
<i>Eurema daira</i>	Barred Sulphur	<i>Pyrgus albescens</i>	White Checkered Skipper
<i>Eurema lisa</i>	Little Sulphur	<i>Pyrgus communis</i>	Common Checkered Skipper
<i>Eurema nicippe</i>	Sleepy Orange	<i>Strymon melinus</i>	Gray Hairstreak
<i>Eurytides marcellus</i>	Zebra Swallowtail	<i>Urbanus proteus</i>	Long-Tailed Skipper
<i>Feniseca tarquinius</i>	Harvester	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Red Admiral
<i>Heliconius charitonius</i>	Zebra Longwing	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Painted Lady
<i>Hermeuptychia sosybius</i>	Carolina Satyr	<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>	American Painted Lady
<i>Hylephila phyleus</i>	Fiery Skipper	<i>Wallengrenia otho</i>	Southern Broken-Dash
<i>Junonia coenia</i>	Common Buckeye	<i>Zerene cesonia</i>	Southern Dogface



NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION

August

September

October

November

December

Annual Photo Contest

Annual Meeting

January

Local Chapters

Local Chapters with Contact Person

Arizona

NABA-Central Arizona Butterfly Association

Michael P. Pavelin - President

E-mail: mpavelin@cox.net

Web site: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabacaf.htm>

NABA-Southeast Arizona Butterfly Association

Jeff Babson - President

Phyllis E. Babson - Treasurer

P.O. Box 1012

Hereford, AZ 85615

E-mail: SEABA@cox.net

Web site: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabeca.htm>

California

NABA-North Bay (north of San Francisco)

J. David West - President

850 Grandview Road

Sebastopol, CA 95472

E-mail: NBayButterfly@aol.com

NABA-Orange County

Lashoemaker - President

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Web site: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/naba.ct>

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Florida

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