

Scenic Watch



"Coastal highways showcase
wildflower diversity"



Photo: Steve Coleman

"Georgia tickseed (Coreopsis nudata) is a short-lived native perennial that thrives in wet conditions."

"While driving or riding around the local roads at

Covering
News From
June
2018



Fun Festivals
and Events

Central

Through July 4
Super Boat Grand Prix
Festival, Lido Beach
Through Sept 21
Bandshell Concert Series,
Daytona Beach

this time of the year you might think - wow, look at all those wildflowers. They may all look alike as they blur past your window, but did you ever take the time to check the intricate details of these amazing flowers?

A popular road this time of year is Highway 65 that goes through Sumatra.

Visit some of the unique local shops along the way - they are a great source of information as to where the best wildflower viewing sites are in that particular area. The UF/IFAS Extension Bookstore (<https://ifasbooks.ifas.ufl.edu/>) has a number of books that go into much more detail about wildflowers.

All of this beauty is right in your backyard... If you miss this season's show, fear not - there will be an encore in the fall."

-- Carole McKay, Guest columnist, Tallahassee Democrat

[Read this article for additional info on plants including photos](#)

Legal: "Trees for the planting, thanks to tree mitigation fund"



July 2-4
Smoke of the Water and
Fire in the Sky, Space
Coast
July 3
Red Hot and Boom,
Altamonte Springs
July 3
Baldwin Park
Independence Day Bash,
Orlando
July 3
Freedom on the
Waterfront, Mount Dora
July 4
4th of July Celebrations,
Safety Harbor
July 4
July 4th Celebration,
Gulfport
July 4
Red, White and Blue
Festival, Tampa
July 4
Walt Disney World July
Fourth Celebrations, Lake
Buena Vista
July 4
Red, White and Boom!,
Clermont
July 4
Watermelon 5K, Winter
Park
July 4
Star Spangled Sanford,
Sanford
July 4
Fireworks at the Fountain,
Orlando
July 4
Independence Day
Celebration, Ormond
Beach
July 4
July 4th Symphony Under
the Stars, Cocoa
July 4
Celebration of Freedom,
Winter Springs
July 6-7
Daytona Coke Zero 400,
Daytona Beach
July 7
First Saturday Jam,
Barberville
July 7

Photo: Resident Community News

"If you've always wanted or needed to plant a tree in the right-of-way in front of your property, now you can, thanks to the City of Jacksonville's tree settlement with a variety of civic groups in July 2017.

The suit filed in 2015 by the Public Trust Environmental Legal Institute of Florida challenged the city's use of the Tree Mitigation Trust Fund established in 2000 by charter amendment. Developers pay into the fund when they cut down trees and the money is supposed to be used to mitigate the loss by paying for new trees to be planted elsewhere in Duval County.

Although the \$20 million settlement provides funds for trees to be replaced or added to public property, including that strip of grass between the street and the sidewalk in front of your home, each request for a tree requires that a bill be filed for approval by the Jacksonville City Council..."

-- Kate A. Hallock, Resident Community News

[Read details on how to apply here](#)

"Two vacant lots in the 'heart' of St. Petersburg. Why does one look so much nicer?"

Art Stroll and Gallery Walk, New Smyrna Beach

July 7-8

17th Annual Indialantic Craft Festival, Indialantic

July 12

Alive After 5, Sanford

July 14

Second Saturday St Petersburg ArtWalk, St Petersburg

July 14-15

SharkCon, Tampa

July 20

Cocoa Beach Friday Fest, Cocoa Beach

July 21

Downtown DeLand Classic Car Cruise-In, DeLand

July 21

Art Walk, Sanford

July 22

Tampa Indie Flea, Tampa

July 27

St Pete Indie Market, St Petersburg

July 27

Climb to the Moon, Ponce Inlet

July 28

Wine Walk and Art Walk, New Smyrna Beach

South

July 3

Lighthouse Story Time and Crafts for Kids, Jupiter

June 30-July 4

Key Lime Pie Festival, Key West

July 4

America's Birthday Bash, Miami

July 4

Old Fashioned Fourth at Flamingo Gardens, Davie

July 4

4th of July Fireworks

Cruise, Sanibel Island

July 4

Red, White and Boom, Cape Coral

July 4



Photos: Susan Taylor Martin, St. Pete Times

"When several old buildings on the 400 block of Central Avenue were demolished two years ago, the owners were required to attractively fence and landscape the property.

The reason? To avoid having an unsightly vacant lot in the "heart of downtown," city planning director Dave Goodwin said at the time.

But for more than a decade, a big parcel a few

July Fourth Celebration,
Delray Beach

July 4

Old-Fashioned Fourth of
July Picnic at The
Barnacle Historic State
Park, Coconut Grove

July 7

MiMo on the Beach
Walking Tours, Miami

July 7

Underwater Music
Festival, Big Pine Key

July 8

Sunday Jazz Brunch, Fort
Lauderdale

July 11, 26, 27

Jupiter Lighthouse
Moonrise Tour, Jupiter

July 10-12

Islamorada Summer
Classic, Islamorada

July 12-14

Mel Fisher Days, Key West

July 12-15

Florida Supercon, Fort
Lauderdale

July 14

Supercar Saturdays
Florida, Fort Lauderdale

July 14-15

International Mango
Festival, Coral Gables

July 17-22

Hemingway Days, Key
West

July 18

Jupiter Lighthouse Sunset
Tour, Jupiter

July 19

Third Thursday Art Walk,
Islamorada

July 25-29

Miami Salsa Congress,
Miami Beach

North

July 3-31

Bands on the Beach,
Pensacola

July 4

4th of July Concert and
Fireworks, St Augustine

July 4

blocks to the east and even more in the heart of downtown has remained an unsightly vacant lot. Is that a problem?

'Yes, that is why we changed the code,' city zoning official Elizabeth Abernethy said this month.

Seems that the un-landscaped lot, once planned for a Grand Bohemian hotel and more recently a 35-story apartment tower, was cleared in 2005, three years before the new code took effect...

Meanwhile, the 400 block of Central — which was subject to the regulations — has been temporarily transformed into a lovely private park surrounded by expensive black-iron, estate-style fencing.

Under a 2008 change to its Land Development Regulations, the city won't issue a demolition permit in the downtown area unless the applicant has a city-approved site plan and meets 'any pre-demolition conditions.'

As a condition of selling the 400 block of Central to billionaire John Catsimatidis' Red Apple Group in 2016, one of the owners, First States, had to clear the property of three buildings and a crumbling parking garage. To get the demolition permit, it also had to landscape the entire 2.5 acre site, which included laying 100,000 square feet of sod and planting shrubbery along the fence. The total cost was estimated at several hundred thousand dollars.

Catsimatidis, who famously said 'St. Pete needs a skyline,' plans a soaring mixed-use tower on the property. Many of those who live and work in the area, though, hope he takes his time so they continue to enjoy the tranquil oasis there now.

Says Anna Sprito, who works in a downtown bank: 'It's really nice to walk by and look at and see some greenery.'"

-- Susan Taylor Martin, Waveney Ann Moore, Tampa

Sertoma's 4th of July Celebration, Pensacola
July 4
Riverfest, Milton
July 4
Star Spangled Spectacular, Panama City
July 6
First Friday Garden Walk, Palm Coast
July 7
First Saturday Militia Muster and Training at Fort Mose, St Augustine
July 7
Guided Tour at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, Gainesville
July 7-8
First Weekend Union Garrison, Amelia Island
July 8
Florida Safari, Ocala
July 13-14
Pensacola Beach Air Show, Pensacola Beach
July 14
Artrageous Artwalk, Fernandina Beach
July 14
Bridge of Lions 5K Run, St Augustine
July 15
Gainesville Indie Flea, Gainesville
July 16-21
Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament, Jacksonville

[For many more events and details please visit the Orlando Times Travel Calendar here](#)

Bay Times

[Read entire article](#)

"FPL looks to cities, counties to regulate tree trimming for next storm season"



Photo: Sun Sentinel

"Toppled trees left many South Florida residents in the dark after Hurricane Irma..."

Ninety percent of FPL's customers, or 13 million people, lost power as a result of Irma.

One of those people without power for 10 days was Broward County Commissioner (and former Broward Mayor) Barbara Sharief, and she's determined that's not going to happen again — at least not because of overgrown trees.

Sharief is proposing an ordinance that would fine property owners who violate FPL's 'Right Tree, Right Place' program.

Expected to be on the Broward commission's agenda in April or early May, the ordinance would fine owners \$500 if they fail to relocate, replace or remove trees that don't meet the 'Right Tree' code, and \$500 if a property owner fails to properly prune an existing tree that may violate the code, or fails to notify FPL of a tree that can't be brought to code..

Parkland adopted a similar ordinance after 2005's



Hurricane Wilma...

In a letter by FPL attorney Kenneth Rubin to the Public Service Commission, FPL estimated it would cost \$8 million to \$9 million more to trim half the territory every two years, instead of a third every three years, which is currently the practice.

'Legislation, particularly at the local level (e.g., municipal and county ordinances), could be enacted that restricts the type and location of vegetation that can be planted in the vicinity of power lines. Legislation could also provide electric utilities additional rights to address existing vegetation conditions on customers' property that impede operation or maintenance of utility facilities,' wrote Rubin in his response to state regulators' questions regarding recent hurricane damage.

Palm Beach County Commissioner Steven Abrams said he would like to see the county and FPL work together on the issue.

'We're a heavily landscaped county. There are some old neighborhoods where the trees have been existing for ages,' he said.

Norm Easey, CEO of the Florida Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture in Sarasota, said FPL does a good job of vegetation management in the state, but 'we don't help ourselves. There are many communities that are OK with planting huge trees underneath power lines.'

Still, the overgrowth is not completely the fault of cities or homeowners, Easey said, adding that FPL has been known to put in a power line 'where maybe they shouldn't. If you don't have your ducks in a row, don't put in the power line.'

...FPL and other electric utility customers can provide feedback online at Floridapsc.com. To leave a comment, click on 'Consumer Comments on Hurricane Preparedness and Restoration' in red

letters..."

-- Marcia Heroux Pounds, Sun Sentinel

[Read entire article](#)

"After decades of destruction,
native orchids making a comeback"



Photo: South Florida Sun Sentinel

"The delicate Florida Butterfly orchid, decimated by development and illegal collection over the past century, is about to make a comeback in Palm Beach County.

Students at 12 schools have been attaching them to trees on their campuses, where they are expected to flourish unimpeded over the next six months. Several businesses and clubs are also propagating the fragrant plants, creating a potential native orchid renaissance that is already spreading through South Florida.

The flowers are budding as part of the Million Orchid Project, a plan developed by Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables to replenish South Florida's native orchids in urban settings...

The Million Orchid Project started in 2012, after Fairchild garden officials observed a similar propagation project in Singapore, said Jason

Downing, a Fairchild conservation biologist. Now four sites in Miami-Dade are growing the plants and introducing them to native trees, making sure to attach only orchids that are native to the area and won't crowd out local native flora, he said...

Orchids

Orchids are a colorful group of flowering plants made up of petals, sepals and lips. There are about 30,000 varieties.

Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden in Coral Gables began the Million Orchid Project in 2012. The garden wants to replenish the wild orchid population that has been decimated by theft and development.

Orchids can be grown at home. Many people make the mistake of overwatering them. They need a south or east-facing window and a balanced fertilizer, according to the American Orchid Society.

Pine Jog Environmental Center is planning to release an orchid-growing kit later this year called OrKit."

-- Lois K. Solomon, South Florida Sun Sentinel

[Read entire article](#)

