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07-13-2009

Roadside Wildflower Trails May Be in Wakulla's Future



"Tierra La Florida" – Land of the Flowers is the name explorer Ponce de Leon gave us when he first landed near St. Augustine in 1513. Now wildflower devotees, tourist officials, and outdoor enthusiasts of all types are hoping to see the establishment of official wildflower trails throughout the state by 2013 marking the 500 year anniversary of the discovery of "La Florida."

The roadside right-of-way (ROW) wildflower program first began in 1963 by the Florida DOT. Besides the aesthetic value, the plantings were found to increase driver alertness and lower overall maintenance costs.

Using native wildflowers adapted to the Florida environment are also of ecological value and support sustainability. Once established and managed appropriately the perennials, like coreopsis, the designated official state wildflower, come back year after year.

Citizens hope to see the development of a native wildflower trail in our area following parts of the Big Bend Scenic Byway. Many people will follow the profusion of wildflower color much like the autumn colors that draw the leaf lookers to our north.

Local residents and visitors are asked to show their support of the pilot program with DOT to preserve native wildflowers by spreading the word among their friends and neighbors, contacting the media, and writing letters to local newspapers and county officials. The initial project area is along Hwy. 98 between Port Leon Dr. and Hwy. 319 in Wakulla County. Citizens are also asked to attend a presentation on Tuesday, July 21, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the County Commission Chambers located behind the Courthouse in Crawfordville to learn more about the wildflower project and show their support for Board approval.



To volunteer or learn more on the local level, contact Lee Norris at This email address is being protected from spam bots, you need Javascript enabled to view it or go to www.floridawildflowerfoundation.org to see what is happening with other wildflower trail projects around the state.

This information originally published on July 13, 2009.

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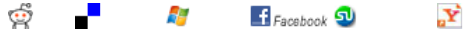
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