

**ELLA P. WOODS
PATHS OF
SUNSHINE
2020 AWARDS**



First Place

FDOT District 2 – Gainesville Maintenance

Nominated by Cindy Tramel, Deputy District Maintenance Administrator



Gainesville Maintenance Goals

Implement veg. mgt. practices that

- Lead to proliferation of wildflowers throughout Alachua and Bradford counties
- Enhance aesthetics
- Reduces mowing
- Benefits pollinators
- Maintains a safe and operational transportation system

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Presents

THE 2020 FIRST PLACE

ELLA P. WOOD
PATHS OF SUNSHINE AWARD

To

FDOT District 2 Gainesville Maintenance

For creating naturally reseeding wildflower "River of Gold" medians on SR-26 from US-41 to CR-9b and

for fulfilling the objectives of the "PATHS OF SUNSHINE" Operation Wildflower Program and the Federal Highway Beautification Act of 1965 and for a cost-effective planting, management and preservation program that produced an outstanding display of native plants and wildflowers on the State of Florida's Highway System in Alachua County.

January 8, 2021

Date

Albert A. Lotz

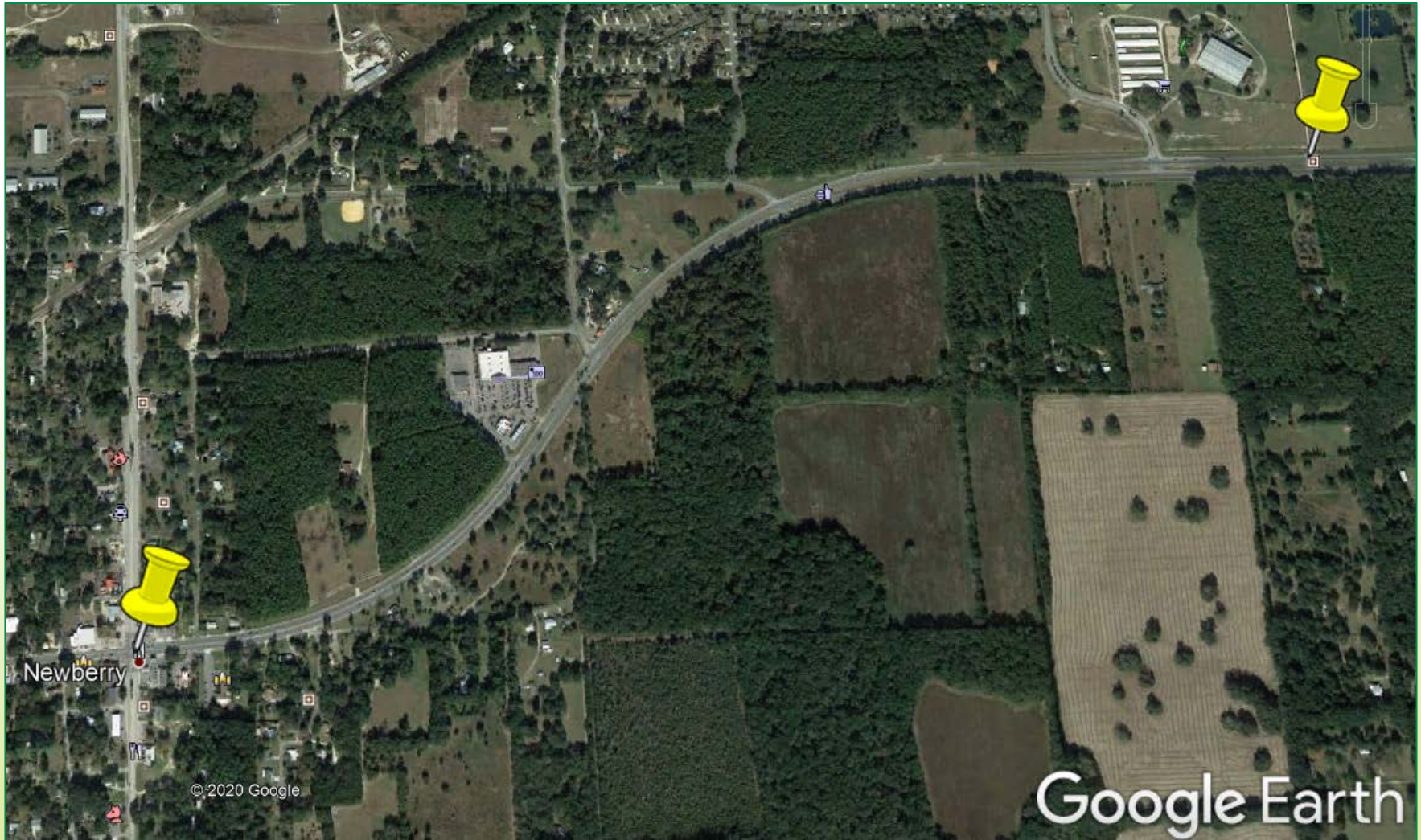
FFGC PRESIDENT



Brenda Luedeman

ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION CHAIRMAN





State Road 26, Newberry Rd. from US-41 to 218 Street (Alachua County)



Because of protective mowing schedules, naturally occurring fleabane is covering large areas in the medians like a late spring blanket of snow.



Protective mowing schedules have allowed coreopsis to re-seed and spread to form this beautiful river of gold in the medians and the adjacent right-of-way.



FDOT dry retention area on the south side of SR-26. Coreopsis, phlox, and fleabane naturally re-seeded and thrived because of protective mowing schedules.

Second Place

FDOT District 3 – Marianna Operations

Nominated by Dustie Moss, District Landscape Project Manager



Replica of rare “Upland Glade”

- Upland Glades only occur in Gadsden and Jackson counties
- Glade-like site discovered in 2015
- Planted with glade wildflower seed collected from local donor sites
- Reduced mowing led to occurrence of 45 more native wildflowers
- Benefits pollinators

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THE 2020 SECOND PLACE

ELLA P. WOOD
PATHS OF SUNSHINE AWARD

To

FDOT District 3 Marianna Maintenance

For replicating a rare “Upland Glade” habitat and growing a roadside wildflower plot on SR-10 and

for fulfilling the objectives of the “PATHS OF SUNSHINE” Operation Wildflower Program and the Federal Highway Beautification Act of 1965 and for a cost-effective planting, management and preservation program that produced an outstanding display of native plants and wildflowers on the State of Florida’s Highway System in Jackson County.

January 8, 2021

Date

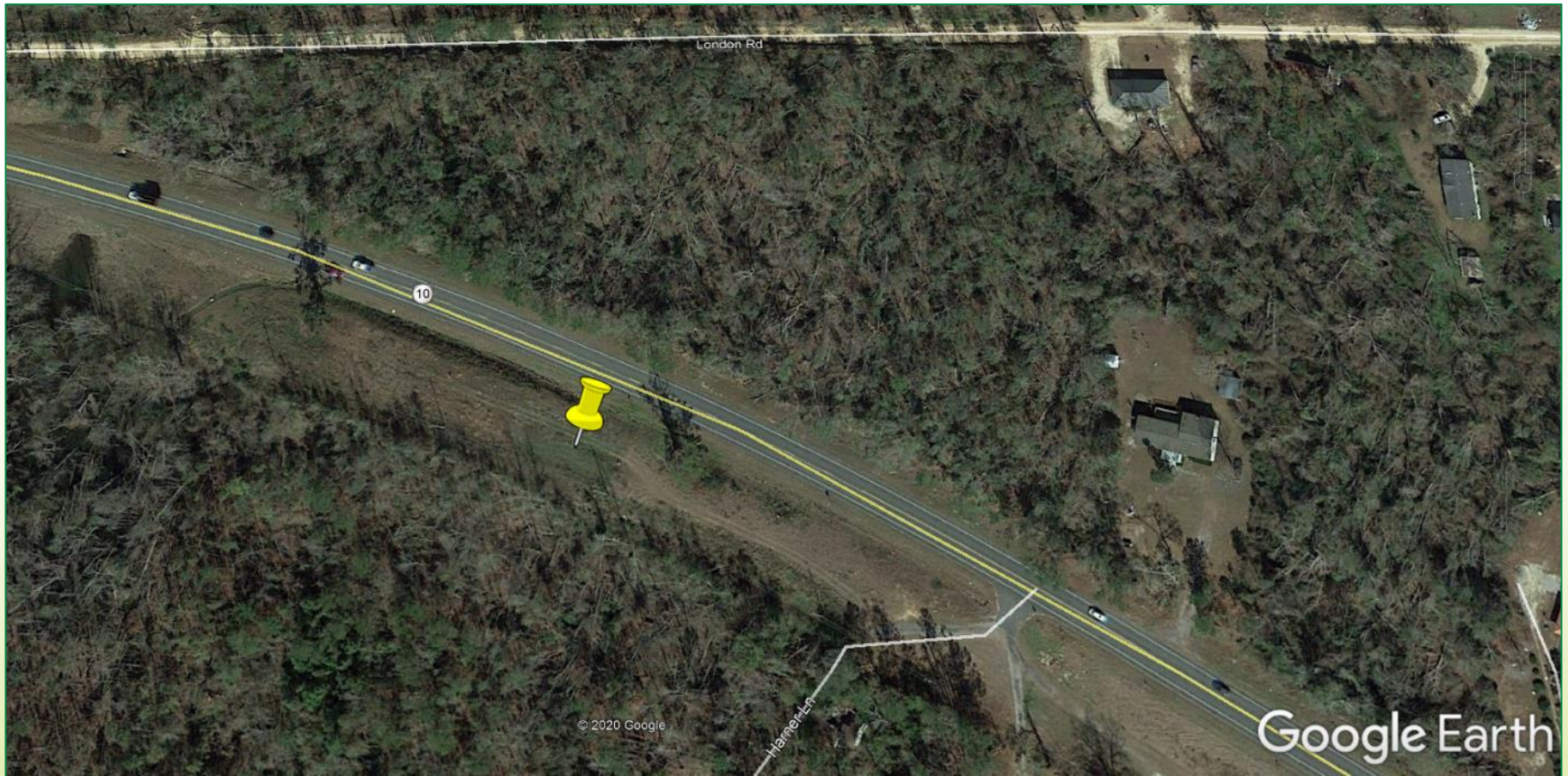
Albert A. Lokrin

FFGC PRESIDENT

Brenda Luedeman

ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION CHAIRMAN





US 90 (SR 10), just west of Cottondale (Jackson County)



The replica glade was planted with seed of native glade wildflowers (Mexican hat and brown-eyed susan) collected from donor populations a few miles away.



Mexican hat and brown-eyed susan



Seed from the glades site will be used to help restore a roadside site devastated by Hurricane Michael.

Third Place

Turnpike Enterprise – Roadway Maintenance

Nominated by Andrew Seibel, District 8 Wildflower Coordinator



Turnpike Enterprise

- Provide best travelling experience
- Wildflower Areas are aesthetically pleasing, engaging and unique
- Protect naturally occurring wildflowers
- Plant new Wildflower Areas
- Maintain Wildflower Areas to ensure long-term sustainability

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

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THE 2020 THIRD PLACE

ELLA P. WOOD
PATHS OF SUNSHINE AWARD

To

FDOT Florida's Turnpike Enterprise District 8 Turnpike Roadway Maintenance

For growing wildflowers above a gas utility easement on SR-91 NB between MP 80 & 81 and

for fulfilling the objectives of the "PATHS OF SUNSHINE" Operation Wildflower Program and the Federal Highway Beautification Act of 1965 and for a cost-effective planting, management and preservation program that produced an outstanding display of native plants and wildflowers on the State of Florida's Highway System in Palm Beach County.

January 8, 2021

Date

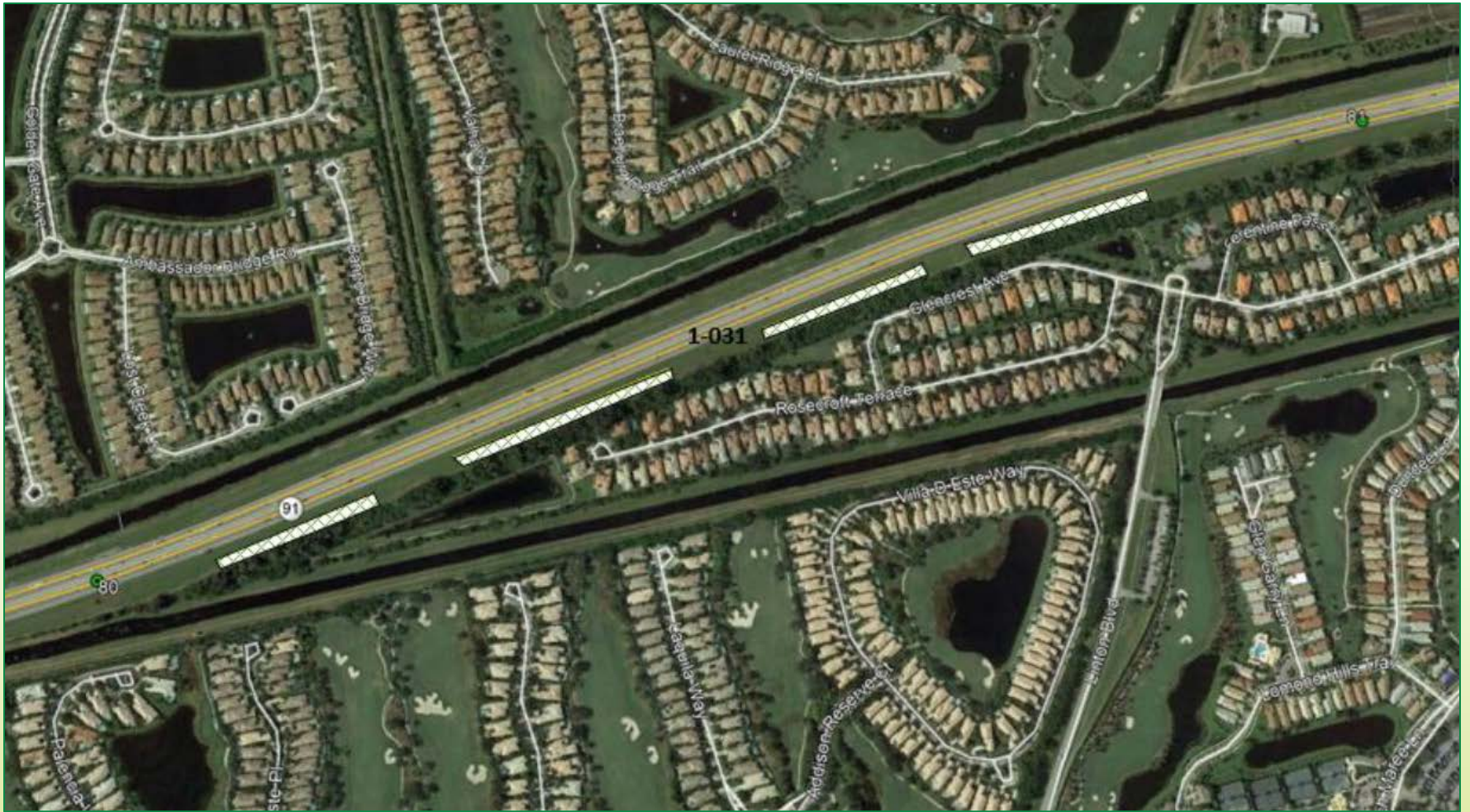
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Florida Turnpike – Four sites between north bound Milepost 80 and 81 before Atlantic Avenue (Palm Beach County)



Black-eyed susan, phlox, and goldenmane tickseed were planted in a barren utility easement where landscape plantings were not permitted.



Coreopsis and black-eyed sultan blooming in mid-April. In February 2020, extended wildflower plantings for a total of 7 beds (5.2 acres).

Honorable Mention

District 2 – Perry Maintenance

Nominated by Larry Porter, Roadside Vegetation Coordinator



Perry Maintenance Goals

Implement veg. mgt. practices that

- Lead to proliferation of wildflowers throughout Lafayette, Madison, and Taylor counties
- Enhance aesthetics
- Reduces mowing
- Benefits pollinators
- Maintains a safe and operational transportation system

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

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2020 HONORABLE MENTION

ELLA P. WOOD
PATHS OF SUNSHINE AWARD

To

FDOT District 2 Perry Maintenance

For encouraging roadside wildflowers along I-10 and CR-255 Interchange to return year after year and

for fulfilling the objectives of the "PATHS OF SUNSHINE" Operation Wildflower Program and the Federal Highway Beautification Act of 1965 and for a cost-effective planting, management and preservation program that produced an outstanding display of native plants and wildflowers on the State of Florida's Highway System in Madison County.

January 8, 2021

Date

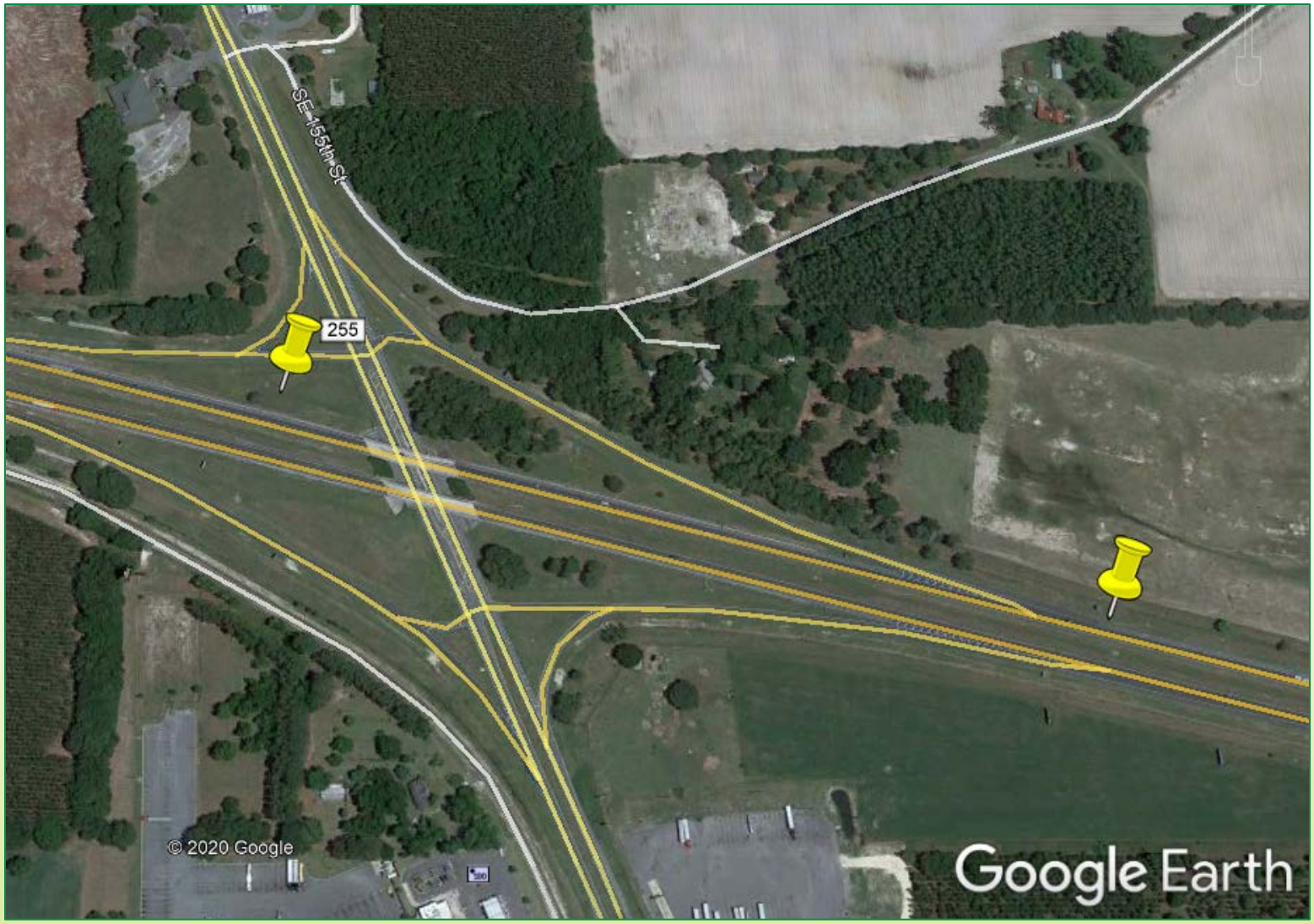
Albert A. Latrini

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Brenda Luedeman

ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION CHAIRMAN





I-10 at the CR-255 Interchange (Madison County)



While there is no FDOT record of planting Indian paintbrush at this location, after it was discovered the Perry Maintenance Unit modified their mowing schedules so that this beautiful wildflower comes back every Spring.



Indian paintbrush has also spread to the infield area between the on-ramp to I-10 from CR-255 and I-10.



Indian paintbrush, coreopsis, phlox, fleabane, and moss verbena combined to make a carpet of vibrant color.

Honorable Mention

District 2 – Lake City Maintenance

Nominated by Larry Porter, Roadside Vegetation Coordinator



Lake City Maintenance Goals

Implement veg. mgt. practices that

- Lead to proliferation of wildflowers throughout Baker, Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee and Union counties
- Enhance aesthetics
- Reduces mowing
- Benefits pollinators
- Maintains a safe and operational transportation system

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

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2020 HONORABLE MENTION

ELLA P. WOOD
PATHS OF SUNSHINE AWARD

To

FDOT District 2 Lake City Maintenance

For sustaining a colorful & diverse mix of wildflower species that bloom March-September on I-10 and

for fulfilling the objectives of the "PATHS OF SUNSHINE" Operation Wildflower Program and the Federal Highway Beautification Act of 1965 and for a cost-effective planting, management and preservation program that produced an outstanding display of native plants and wildflowers on the State of Florida's Highway System in Madison/Suwannee County.

January 8, 2021

Date

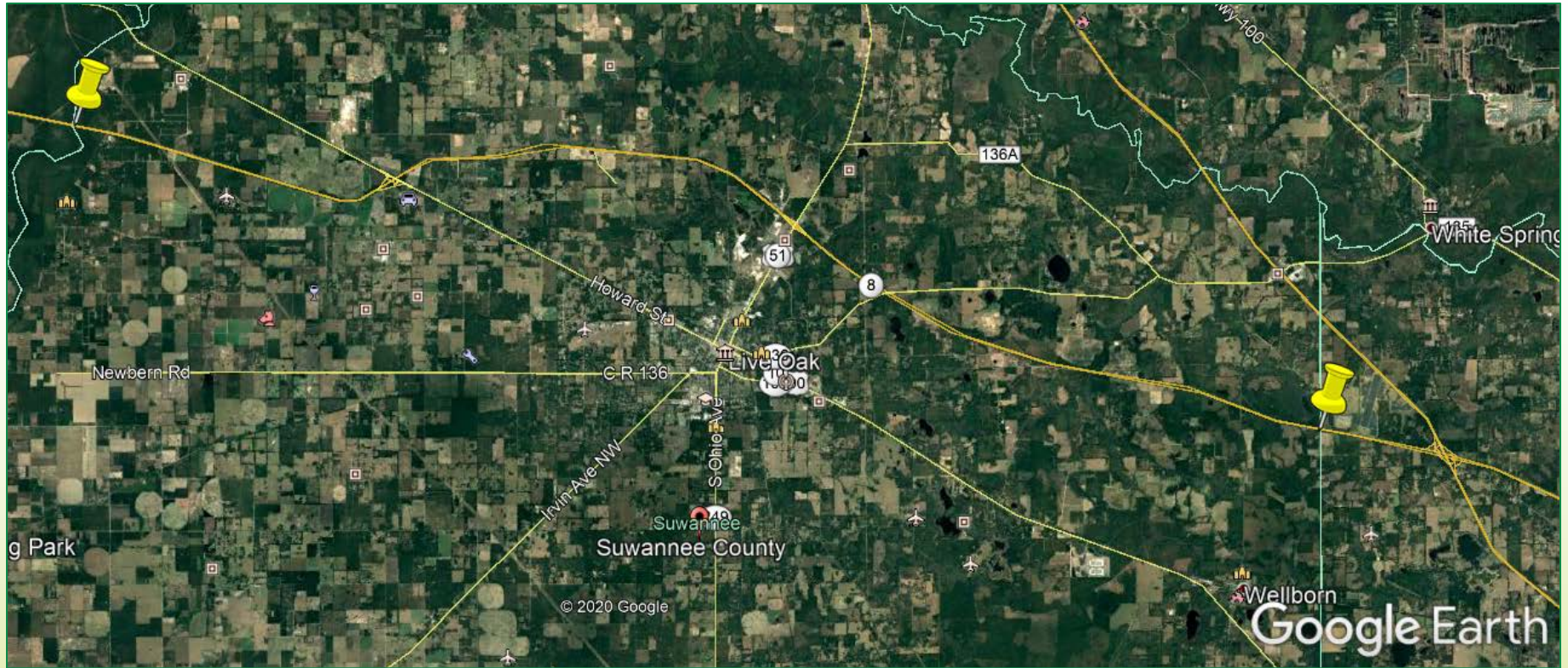
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I-10, Suwannee County, from Madison County line to Columbia County line



Wildflowers, like spiderwort and phlox, began blooming in March.



Blanketflower was spectacular in the Spring and continued to bloom into September.



By early to mid-Summer there were showy displays of standing cypress and soft-hair coneflower on the dry backslopes.

Working for wildflowers

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



FLORIDA
WILDFLOWER
FOUNDATION

Thanks to the Florida Wildflower Foundation for sponsoring the native wildflower seed purchases by Paths of Sunshine awardees.

<https://floridawildflowers.org>

Thank you!

