

Exciting and hopeful news. Florida Museum of Natural History scientists have found the new nests of Florida's [extraordinarily rare blue calamintha bee](#), *Osmia calaminthae* and added a new location to its known range: Ocala National Forest. They also confirmed the insect feeds on a second, but highly endangered, host plant, false rosemary, *Conradina canescens*.

A federal appeals court upheld [a \\$25-million verdict against the maker of Roundup](#), a weed killer that thousands of litigants blame for causing their cancers. The ruling stemmed from the first trial of about 5,000 lawsuits consolidated in federal court in Northern California against Monsanto. The suits blame glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, for causing non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

North Florida Land Trust has been approved as a recipient of a challenge grant from the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund to help pay back a loan acquired for the purchase of a portion of the [Little NaNa Dune system](#) in historic American Beach on Amelia Island. The 2:1 matching grant would provide \$125,000 to the nonprofit after it raises \$250,000. NFLT financed the purchase of three parcels of land for \$1.255 million and now [needs donors to contribute](#) to help pay back the loan.

Little NaNa is the sister dune of NaNa Dune, the tallest dune in Florida. If you've never been to American Beach to see them – and all the native plants, butterflies, birds and gopher tortoise that use the habitat there – it's well worth the trip.

Interesting story here about [the potential dangers of captive breeding](#) and release of monarch butterflies from the top invertebrate conservation organization.

A major chemical company wants to expand its mining onto [taxpayer-owned property in Starke](#) where it would chew up more than 700 acres of wetlands. Despite community opposition, county commissioners approved the project and it looks like it will get a greenlight from the state despite the company's poor record of following environmental regulations.

I enjoyed this episode of the NPR podcast "Throughline" which [traced the modern day environmental movement](#) from the calamities which inspired Earth Day – unimaginable air and water pollution, rivers on fire and oil spills across the US – to the landmark environmental legislation passed in the early 1970s – Clean Air Act, Endangered Species Act – to the backslides due to deregulation in the 1980s and today.