



November 2018 – February 2019

The Beautyberry

Lake Beautyberry Chapter of the
Florida Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 88 Umatilla, FL 32784

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Lake Beautyberry Chapter – Fall / Winter 2018 – 2019 Calendar

Program Meeting – Sunday, November 18, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

The speaker for the November 18th Lake Beautyberry program, President Lavon Silvernell says, “one thing I’ve learned, we may not be able to fix everything, but we can fix some of the things”. Come hear Lavon at Trout Lake Nature Center, for things you can do in your lifestyle and in your landscape to make Lake County and beyond a healthier, prettier place to live and one that will leave some resources for the future. If you are already living the green life, bring your best sustainable ideas to share. And, bring an old tee shirt to recycle into a shopping or gym bag.

The meeting is open to members, friends and the public. Come at 2:00 p.m. for library, handouts, refreshments and socializing. The program begins at 2:30 p.m.. The meeting will be held at Trout Lake Nature Center, Eustis. Directions: Take SR 19 north out of Eustis to the intersection with CR 44E and turn right at Winn-Dixie and CVS Pharmacy, then go ¼ mile to the nature center entrance on the right.

Holiday Potluck Luncheon – Sunday, December 2, 2018 at Noon

Begin gathering at noon for a Holiday social event held jointly for all members of Lake Beautyberry Chapter, OVAS and TLNC. Luncheon will be served at 1:00 p.m. This is a potluck luncheon buffet so please bring your specialty to share. Table settings and beverages will be provided. Enjoy the chance to socialize with colleagues in the environmental organizations. The Conservationist of the Year Award will be presented. There will be a fund raising raffle, so if you have an unwrapped item with a bird/nature theme you would care to donate to the raffle, please bring it to the luncheon. The luncheon will be held at Trout Lake Nature Center, north of Eustis at 520 East CR 44.

Field Trip – Sunday, December 16, 2018. To carpool, meet at 1:00 p.m. or at park meet at 2:00 p.m.

This field trip will be to Silver Springs State Park located at 5656 E. Silver Springs Blvd, Silver Springs, FL 34488. (It is just east of Ocala on SR 40.) Admission is \$2.00 per person. To carpool, meet at the Winn-Dixie parking lot at the intersection of SR 19 and East CR 44 at 1:00 p.m. or if you prefer meet at the Silver Springs parking lot at 2:00 p.m.

As usual, for a field trip, bring a hat, sunscreen, water, insect repellent, snack and wear comfortable walking shoes. Contact: April McClain: email aprillynn990005@gmail.com for more information or call at 352-988-0374.

Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 20, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

This meeting will be our chapter's Annual Meeting with Election of Officers for 2019. Please consider how you can help keep our chapter running smoothly in the coming year.

The program at 2:30 p.m. will be presented by Lisa Roberts, executive Director of the Florida Wildflower Foundation. Lisa will talk about the mission of FWF, the use of wildflowers along scenic highways, native plants in landscapes and more.

The meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. for library, handouts, refreshments and socializing. The program begins at 2:30p.m. The meeting is held at Trout Lake Nature Center, Eustis. Directions: Take SR 19 north out of Eustis to the intersection with CR 44E and turn right at Winn-Dixie and CVS Pharmacy, then go ¼ mile to the nature center entrance on the right. The public is welcome at our program meetings.

Field Trip – Sunday, February 17, 2019

This field trip will be to the Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park. This is a 9,515 acre nature preserve noted for its year-round wildflowers situated on the banks of the Econlockhatchee River.

Meet at the Mt Dora Lowes parking lot at 1:00 p.m. to car pool or meet at 2:30 p.m. at the Hal Scott parking lot. The address for Hal Scott Park is 5150 Dallas Blvd. Orlando, FL 32833

Directions: Head east on SR 50 to SR 520. From 520, turn west into the Wedgefield subdivision on Macon Parkway. Turn left on Bancroft Blvd., right onto Meredith Parkway, left on Dallas Boulevard. The entrance to the park is 1.6 miles from the Meredith/Dallas intersection, located on the right. Contact: April McClain: email [aprillynn990005@gmail](mailto:aprillynn990005@gmail.com) for more information or call her at 352-988-0374.

Annual Meeting Information

At our January 20, 2019 Annual Meeting we will have Election of Officers. Some members have already said they are willing to serve in the following positions:

President –

Vice President – Programs: John Benton

Vice President – Field Trips: April McClain

Secretary – Barbara Loudon

Treasurer –

FNPS Chapter Rep – Patricia Burgos

The FNPS Chapter Rep position is appointed, the rest are elected. Wendy Poag has served ably and with the chapter's gratitude, but she has taken on FNPS duties at the state level now. Patricia has been attending FNPS Council of Chapters meetings and is up to speed. Mary Davis has been our Treasurer for a few years and has done wonderfully. She has already prepared the 2019 Budget. She would like to pass the position on to another member.

As to the office of President, Lavon Silvernell has been an admirable and enthusiastic President for three years. At this time she is leaving the position open in the event another member would like to be our President. So, this is your chance to serve. If you are interested in either the office of President or Treasurer, let Lavon know at 352-223-4761 by phone or text.

Also, at the Annual Meeting, we will be voting on a small change in the wording in the recently passed Chapter ByLaws.

Save the Date: The FNPS Annual Conference will be May 16 – 19, 2019 at The Plantation on Crystal River, Crystal River, Florida. Let's plan to go!!

President's Message by Lavon Silvernell

There was a philosophy in the past that the natural world was evidence of the nature of God. When one biologist was asked what this revealed, he is reputed to have said, "God must have an inordinate fondness for beetles". While the answer was in jest, there is certainly an argument that, beetles aside, there do seem to be rules or laws which govern the orderly, healthy functioning of this planet and maybe even the universe.

During my tenure as Naturalist at Trout Lake Nature Center, I know I learned more than I taught about how the natural world functions from the lessons I prepped for students and from my observations. I also learned from a very slim book that I discovered in the library at TLNC, "Dr Art's Guide to Planet Earth, for earthlings ages 12 to 120". The author, Art Sussmen, helped to organize all the random information I had acquired into an organized whole reflecting how earth's physical and life systems are interconnected, and how they cycle: nutrients, water and minerals. Dr Art was also explicit about how technological advance and growing human consumption can disrupt those balanced systems.

There are people who believe that the planet will adapt to the impacts that humans are introducing to its systems and organisms. They believe that the changes to the planet will all reach a healthy equilibrium, and they may be correct. But, there is certainly evidence based on past history, that rapid change causes expense, stress and suffering for humans and rapid alteration and loss of habitat will cause mass extinctions for other living things. We have choices. For me, I can drift through life and feel guilty. Or I can do what little I can to slow the change and move toward a more balanced, sustainable future.

Jane Goodall said, "You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make". I believe that.

I trust you too are working in your way for positive change. I hope you will join me for the program at Trout Lake on November 18th on a Sustainable Life and Landscape, share some of the actions you take toward sustainability, learn a few new tactics and come away feeling you are not alone in your efforts. Or as Senator Barbara Mikulski said: "Each of us can make a difference . Together, we can make a change."

"Native Florida Aquatic Plants for Shoreline Aquascapes"

More than 50 members and guests were present at the July meeting to hear Nathalie Visscher of the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission present her "Shoreline Aquascaping" program. She has been working on Invasive Plant Management for 18 years. In her question to the audience, one-half of the people present responded that they live on waterfronts of one kind or another.

Nathalie said "Biodiversity can be thought of as a number of species growing in balance and living together in harmony". One species does not usually takeover an area. Usually native plants live in harmony. A non-native exotic plant can become a monoculture, not living in harmony. Examples in aquatic plants would be Hydrilla, Water Hyacinths and Water Lettuce which can form monocultures.

In the late 1800's, Florida began an aquatic plant management program providing advice and managing for fish and aquatic species. Nathalie described the permit needed for plant management on lakes larger than 10 acres with multiple owners. A permit is required for the use of any herbicide and is mandatory for all bodies of water named Outstanding Florida Waters. Vegetation for a dock may be removed to provide a 50 foot wide access corridor. An online application form for a permit is at www.myFWC.com.

Nathalie and the FWC heartily encourage the public to keep plants along shorelines. Keeping plants along the shores of ponds, lakes and waterways make for stable shorelines and a good assortment of life in the water. A lack of plants leads to algae growth. The plants provide food and habitat, hold shorelines and sediments and protect the shore from wave action. A downed tree left in place provides habitat and a resting place for birds and animals

Planting a variety of native plants provides wildlife food and shelter and an aesthetically pleasing shoreline. Examples of good native plants at the shoreline are Pickerel Weed with lavender flowers, Duck Potato with white flowers, Cannas with yellow, native Hibiscus with red, Mallows with pink, Lizard's Tail with white and the well named Blue Flag Iris.

Nathalie suggests planting from the water's edge and out. Leading to the water's edge you may plant or foster trees such as Cypress, Swamp Dogwood, Buttonwood and Holly appropriate for wet locations. In the water submerged plants such as Fragrant Water Lily with white floating blossoms, Spatterdock with yellow and American Lotus with pinks provide a graceful floating necklace to your shoreline.

In closing, Nathalie said the FWC works to keep exotic plants under control and they try to stop a new infestation right away. She does mapping and surveying and she draws up treatment plans. She welcomed and answered many questions from the interested audience. Thank you to Nathalie Visscher for her informative program. Website: <http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/invasive-plants/aquatic-plant/>

Hidden Waters Preserve Field Trip

Our members and friends enjoyed a field trip to the Hidden Waters Preserve in June. This Lake County Water Authority treasure is located within the city of Eustis and the 90 acres protect the sinkhole lake which drains into the aquifer and also protects the surrounding sandhill restoration areas. Our President,, Lavon Silvernell led the group as we explored the Lake Alfred Trail from the parking area along County Club Road and gradually down the 90 feet elevation change to Lake Alfred.

We all enjoyed the many native plants in summer bloom and the wildlife attracted to the plants in the Preserve. We noted the planted pines have been growing nicely on the sandhill. The understory was a mix of Partridge Peas in bloom and Passion Flower vines accompanied by Sulphur and Gulf Fritillary Butterflies. As we descended, we came into large Sand Live Oaks for some nice shade and as we neared Lake Alfred with the moister soil, we found Sumac, Hercules Club, Goldenrod and there were Tiger Moth larva on the Blackberries. At the lake, there were Common Meadow Beauties, Buttonwoods in bloom, Persimmons with fruit and Willows at the shoreline.

We leisurely circled the lake finding Zebra Longwing Butterflies on Passion Flower vines and also Buckeye Butterflies. With Red Cedar trees and St. Andrews Cross shrubs a few feet higher up, we explored the immediate lakeshore finding an animal track, possibly a raccoon's passage, through the lavender Pluchia blossoms and the Yellow Eyed Grass and then we found tiny Sun-Dews as we had hoped.

Happy with all our discoveries thus far, we next found the in-flowing water. There is a lovely white sand bottomed stream which picks up seepage water and flows along the slope down to the lake. There we met up with Ben and Tracy, LCWA employees working to pick up some fallen trees along the trails. Ben assured us that the stream always flows.

Then, we began our trek back up hill on the trail walking along the beautiful ravine where Sweet Gums grow along with Netted Chain Ferns and Bracken Ferns and then Magnolias as we went higher. As we came to a fork in the trail, some decided to walk back around the north end of the lake to get back to the parking area by noon. Others headed on up higher along the ravine and then out to the open sunny area. This is the high point of the preserve and is where the flowing water starts to gather. We again met up with Ben. By now, hot and tired, we few left accepted the offered ride back to the parking area. Along the way we saw the planted shrubs and wildflowers just inside the fence along Abrams Road on the eastern side of the preserve. There is a parking area there too, with a walk in access point. Hidden Waters Preserve is open to the public during daylight hours. It is a beautiful, peaceful area and so easy to get to.

“Native Pollinators in Florida”

Our September program was presented by Dr. Rachel Mallinger of the University of Florida, Dept. of Entomology and Nematology. In opening her discussion she answered the question why are pollinators important: In a nutshell, they are essential for plant reproduction. About 80% of plants need an animal, most often an insect, to transfer pollen from one plant to another to provide cross pollination to produce a seed. In agricultural crop production, 35% of food crops need pollination. It is also important for plant diversity. In your home garden, insects attracted by your native flowers also will pollinate your vegetables such as squashes, cucumbers, and fruit crops.

Of the possible pollinators, bees are the most important. They are abundant, diverse and have a diet of both pollen and nectar. Rachel accompanied her talk with excellent photos as she described various pollinators. Bees have 2 pairs of wings, are hairy and generally are robust. Other insects acting as pollinators are Wasps who go for nectar and some are carnivorous. Wasps are less hairy, have a thin waist, spurs on their legs and have long antennae. And Flies who are carnivorous, but will feed on nectar. They have large, bulky eyes, one pair of wings, short antennae and are less hairy. After these descriptions, Rachel flashed various photos of insects as the audience guessed the ID of Bee, Wasp or Fly based on what we had just learned. Fun!

Back to Bees, there are 325 species of bees in Florida. As to the Honey Bees, there are 9 – 10 species globally. The Honey Bee, *Apis mellifera*, is not native, is societal in perennial colonies, are generalists as to plant preference and are very important in crop pollination. Although not native, they have been in the US for several centuries. Their natural tendencies allow them to be housed in hives and tended for their honey and moved for crop pollination.

Concerning native Wild Bees, a majority, about 70%, nest underground in tunnels or shallow cavities while 30% form some kind of nest above ground. Most do not form colonies except for Bumble Bees. Usually each female is on her own and has several off spring. Their foraging distance is about 500 meters. In Florida we have Mining Bees who tunnel and are solitary. Leaf Cutter Bees who nest above ground in stems and reeds. They gather pollen and nectar, form a ball, place an egg on top and put it in place in a stem. There are also Sweat Bees which is a large group that go for the salt in sweat. They nest above or below ground in tunnels or in wood. Some are social, some are solitary. They have a metallic sheen. And, Bumble Bees use cavities of rodents or bird nests. They have social, annual colonies, are medium to large, and they are black with white, yellow, red or orange hairs and a robust body. They store a watery honey.

Concerning pollinator declines of both the European Honey Bee and Native wild bees, causes seem to be a combination of problems: Land use changes, Pesticides, Competition from managed bees, Pathogens, Invasive plants displacing native plants and Climate Change. To aid in Pollinator Conservation, provide these essentials: 1. Floral Resources, 2. Nest Habitat and 3. Protection from Toxins. Rachel gave a long listing of native plants which will provide Floral Resources. She suggests planting in groupings with a diversity of wild flowers, trees and shrubs densely planted. Use blooming plants with yellow or white, purple or blue flowers that bloom early in the year. Abundant nectar and pollen are most useful to bees. Bees are not as attracted to red or orange. Examples of plants are: Walters Viburnum, Sparkleberry, Blueberries, Saw Palmetto, Beautyberry, Partridge Pea, Asters, Coreopsis, Seaside Goldenrod, Verbena, Blazing Star, Spotted Bee-balm and Rosinweed.

For Nest Habitat: Leave some open dirt in a sunny spot, relatively bare, well drained and where it will not be disturbed. Available decaying wood, reeds, dead flower stalks, paper straws or reeds in containers all provide nests. As to Protection from Toxins: Do not spray plants when in bloom, minimize all chemicals. If and when you must spray, do it late in the day. Stay away from systemic pesticides. Look for untreated plant starts or seeds. Systemic neonicotinoids stay with the plant throughout its life. Treated seeds, sprayed on soils or on plants – the toxicity stays! Thank you to Dr. Rachel Mallinger for her excellent program.

“Step by Step to a Florida Native Yard”

The Lake Beautyberry Chapter hosted a special workshop in October presented by Ginny Stibolt at the Ag Center in Tavares. Our members were joined by Master Gardeners and IFAS staff to make sure the day went smoothly for all. A full capacity of 40 participants made for a successful event. Ginny gave a general opening discussion of the value of using Florida native plants in your home landscape. Then she followed with numerous pointers derived from her extensive experience in establishing native landscapes. She suggests begin by planting trees allowing for infra-structure, existing desirable trees and the mature size of the trees. Use small, young trees as they will grow better. Then add shrubs and let leaves lie for mulch.

Trees: The waiting game. While your trees grow and there is sunny space yet, plant a butterfly garden or a wildflower meadow. Shrubs provide an important habitat layer. They can be a hedge row or a border to a wild area. Allow space for each shrub to grow to its own shape. There are so many berry producing native shrubs. Use herbaceous plants too. Choose non-fussy species in drifts of similar plants. All in all she offered so many ideas to choose from, there was something for any situation. Her power point with the text is available on the website: www.FNPS.org. Go to Resources and look for “Why Native Landscapes are Important” by Ginny Stibolt and Marjorie Shropshire.

Following her talk, Ginny gave participants a scale drawing for them to begin to lay out a landscape plan along with a Step by Step guide. This guide is also available at www.stepbystepnatives.com. All workshop participants received a folder containing many of our native plant info handouts. Everyone adjourned outdoors to tour the gardens and attend the plant sale where they could cash in their \$5.00 coupon for a plant and buy other plants as they wished. Thank you to Ginny for her enthusiastic and inspiring workshop. Happy Planting!

Editor’s Note: Beginning with the next newsletter in March 2019, the Officers have decided to again try to get “The Beautyberry” to you electronically by e-mail or web-site. There will be hard copies available at meetings and some for handout at public events.