

## July – November 2016

### *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 – Summer/Fall 2016 Calendar

### Program Meeting – Sunday, July 17, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

Our own member, President Lavon Silvernell will present our program “Real Florida, Real Close” at this meeting. Lavon serves on the county advisory committee for Keep Lake Beautiful. She says “We love wildflowers, we love nature and Lake County’s Economic Development and Tourism thinks it has economic value. So how can we be more effective at ‘keeping nature close’ in our Lake County: landscapes, roadsides and lakeshores.” Plan to come to hear her ideas.

The meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. for plant exchange, library, handouts, refreshments and socializing. Lavon’s program begins at 2:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at Trout Lake Native 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.

### Discovery Gardens Workdays – First Wednesdays of the month at 9:00 a.m.

The next work days will be August 3, September 7, October 5 and November 2. Barbara Grigg and her regular helpers welcome a few more workers to tend and improve the native plant garden at Discovery Gardens at the Ag Center, Tavares. They will be glad of your help and if you have a native plant to add to the garden, please let Barbara know at 383-3631

### Planning Meeting – Thursday, August 18 at 5:00 p.m.

The Chapter planning meeting will be held at Trout Lake Nature Center. All Lake Beautyberry Officers, Committee Chairs and interested members are asked to attend. There will be discussion about events coming up, future planning and how to maximize our outreach to the community. Please convey your ideas for future programs or field trips to Lavon or Patricia for consideration if you cannot attend.

### Field Trip to Smyrna Dunes – Sunday, August 21, 2016 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Smyrna Dunes South is a remnant of the beach dune system that once was the Florida East Coast. There is a mangrove marsh, circular boardwalk with a tower, Atlantic Ocean overlook, tidal pools on the Ponce Inlet side, fishing and dogs to watch, gopher tortoise burrows, and of course, native plants, plus a nice demonstration garden. Bring a towel to sit on the beach and enjoy the cool ocean breezes and your snack. As usual for a field trip, bring a hat, sunscreen, water, insect repellent, snacks and wear comfortable walking shoes. Since this is a bit of a drive, please consider carpooling. Meet at one of two places: Winn Dixie at CR 48 and US 27 Leesburg at 2:00 p.m. or Winn Dixie at SR 19 and CR 44E Eustis at 2:30 p.m. Contact: Lavon Silvernell at 223-4761.

**Florida Wildlife Festival** – Saturday, September 10, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Florida Wildlife Festival held in Cadwell Park, Umatilla, has morphed from the Black Bear Festival to a gathering to appreciate all the inhabitants of the forest habitat including the bears. There will be guided tours into the Ocala National Forest, music, programs, activities for children and much more. Our chapter will have an info table on native plants. Plan to help a couple hours and enjoy the festival.

**Potluck Picnic and Meeting** – Sunday, September 18, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

Longtime Beautyberry/FNPS member Audrey Reed has agreed to share her one of a kind home and amazing views with FNPS members and guests providing a relaxing location for our Beautyberry potluck picnic. Bring a dish to share and a chair for yourself. If you have a small table to add, please bring it too. Audrey's home is in Howey-in-the-Hills. Directions to her home will be available closer to the date. Assemble beginning at 1:30 p.m. and we will plan to eat at 2:00 p.m.

After the picnic there will be a brief business meeting. Then we will walk through the sandhill or you may sit and enjoy the view. Gently sloping hills capture rainwater creating a small lake. The dry upland to the low wetland allows for the creation of an area of amazing plant diversity and views. Please contact Lavon at 352-223-4761 or [lavonsilvernell@gmail.com](mailto:lavonsilvernell@gmail.com) for more information.

**Florida Wildflower Symposium** – September 23 – 24, 2016

The Florida Wildflower Foundation will host the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Wildflower Symposium at beautiful Silver Springs State Park in Ocala. Author and naturalist Roger Hammer is the keynote speaker. There will be field trips, hands on work shops and educational presentations. For more info and registration go to [www.FlaWildflowers.org](http://www.FlaWildflowers.org). There will be camping available at the park.

**October, Florida Native Plant Month**

Lake County Commissioner and FNPS member Sean Parks has agreed to present the 2016 Florida Native Plant Month proclamation this year. The date has not yet been announced so watch for emails with the date. If you do not receive Beautyberry emails, contact [lavonsilvernell@gmail.com](mailto:lavonsilvernell@gmail.com) and ask to be added. Commissioner Parks also asked for us to start thinking about pictures of Lake County that show exemplary use of native plants that could be shown during the proclamation.

So, start snapping photos of native plants being used in different settings as parks, homes, businesses, right of ways, schools, public buildings, recreation areas and some of Lake County's beautiful natural views like the one across Trout Lake with the sunset reflected on the Cypress trees. Send photos to Lavon or Patricia Burgos.

**Beautyberry Fundraiser Plant Sale** – Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

This plant sale fundraiser will be held at Green Isle Gardens located 2 miles south of Groveland on Hwy 33. Share your love of native plants, their beauty and their function. There will be hourly tours of the nursery to learn about the 100's of native plants available for purchase. Hourly drawings for free native plants and wildflowers. You are invited to participate as a shopper, or a guide, or as a helper for checkout or at the Beautyberry information and membership table. FNPS members receive a 20% discount and Beautyberry will receive 30% of the sales for the day. As an added attraction this year, Green Isle Garden's owners, Marc and Terry Godts, will offer garden tours of their nearby property which includes gopher tortoise habitat and sandhill plants. Contact Lavon at 223-4761 to let her know how and when you can help on this day.

**WingsandWildflowers Festival** – Friday, Saturday & Sunday, October 14 – 16, 2016

Cover a shift at the Beautyberry information table or just come to enjoy the programs, fieldtrips and vendors with plants, hardscape and other nature related items. Marc and Terry will be in Africa on this date. So, Beautyberry will have a display/sale of native plants as an enticement for guests to stop and chat with members about the beauty and habitat value of native plants. To pre-register for fieldtrips and programs or for more information visit the W&W website at [www.wingsandwildflowers.com](http://www.wingsandwildflowers.com).

Let Lavon know when you can volunteer during W&W. At the August planning meeting we will discuss the possibility of a Garden Tour during the W&W festival.

**Mt. Dora Plant and Garden Fair** – Saturday & Sunday, November 12 & 13, 2016 all day.

The Mt. Dora Plant & Garden Fair will be held in Donneley Park, downtown Mt. Dora. Volunteers are needed to tend our outreach table. Please contact Lavon to let her know when you can work. This garden fair has all types of plants and unusual landscape enhancements offered by numerous vendors.

**Program Meeting** – Sunday, November 20, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. for plant exchange, library, handouts, refreshments and socializing. The program will begin at 2:30 p.m. when Brent McCallister, landscape architect and Beautyberry member, will outline the process of converting your conventional landscape to a Sustainable Landscape. Preparation, analysis, planning and design are just some of the steps involved to ensure that you and your plants will be able to function well in a landscape designed to work with nature. The meeting will be held at Trout Lake Nature Center. See directions in the meeting item for July 17 above in the calendar.

There is a tentative plan, if there is interest, to offer a series of Sustainable Landscape Workshops at a later date which will cover each step of the process as described by Brent in greater detail. These workshops would allow participants to create a plan for their own landscape. Let us know if you would be interested in attending such workshops.

**President's Message by Lavon Silvernell**

**Loving Nature, Living with Nature.** Most people love Nature in theory. 75% of Florida voters, checked Yes for Amendment 1, “to acquire, restore, improve and manage conservation lands” for water and wildlife. Surely that indicates that we value natural areas in Florida. Lake County’s Economic Development and Tourism department thinks Lake County’s natural resources and small town charm have economic value and allude to them in their advertising slogan, “Real Florida, Real Close”. So surely the County would work to maintain highly visible roadside wildflowers to promote a natural image.

Ummmh maybe yes, maybe no. There is a difference between “loving” something in the abstract and living with it day in and day out. Many people “love” children. But that doesn’t mean they want noisy, messy children living next door. Nature is a lot like those children, we enjoy them both, but many folks want to enjoy them at a distance or for a visit and then send them home.

We had 100 people at our Monarch program, but Monarchs and most butterflies fit into the, let them visit and then send them home niche, pretty well. They quietly munch, leaving holes in the leaves, execute a theatrical metamorphosis, and then serve as graceful lawn decorations or flit away. It’s doubtful that a program on oak leaf-rollers could draw a crowd. Maybe, a call to the exterminator. These small inchworms drop from oak trees in the spring and merely turn into a mottled brown moth. But what this insect lacks in charisma it makes up for in food value for scores of birds and their young from Carolina wrens to hungry baby cardinals. And heaven forbid a snake, rodent or bobcat wander through the average homeowner’s yard. Despite the fact that one third of Lake County is some sort of environmental land and there is likely a wetland or conservation area within blocks of most Lake County homes.

Even wildflowers and native trees are often too much trouble to share our space. Wildflowers have some not so attractive periods and that is especially true if they are annuals and need to go to seed for the next year. Even perennials need enough time to reach flowering before they are mown. And for a generation with 3 inch lawns as their standard of beauty that is a problem. That means that wildflowers like spikes of red standing cypress, masses of yellow partridge pea and roadside ditches full of purple ironweed have been manicured out of right of ways and from under power lines.

It can be a little depressing to see wildlife and wildflowers disappear, but I have hope. Most Lake County residents are property owners and most give little thought to the positive or negative impact their acreage has on the loss of space and services which used to be provided by natural areas. But together we can persuade more people to make the switch to a landscape that is managed for beauty and its biological functions. At the July Beautyberry program I will share some tips for Living with Nature and still Loving the birds, bugs and wildflowers that accept the invitation to move into our natural yards and public areas, too.

### **Welcome to the New Passionflower Chapter**

During the past three years, Jon Pospisil has been organizing and hosting programs in Clermont to reach that area of Lake County with native plant information. His dedication has met with success! With ever growing attendance and a growing commitment from new FNPS members, it is not surprising that the south Lake group decided to form their own chapter. The new "Passionflower Chapter of the FNPS" was welcomed into the state society at the FNPS Conference in May. Congratulations to the members of Passionflower and the Beautyberry members look forward to a close relationship beginning with the shared Potluck Picnic September 18<sup>th</sup>. And, thank you to Jon, the new President of the Passionflower Chapter for his very successful expansion of the Florida Native Plant Society in south Lake County.

### **Lake Louisa State Park Field Trip**

Reported by Barry Wright

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, the chapter visited Lake Louisa State Park. Twenty-two members and non-members attended the guided tour. The park is off of US 27 south of Clermont, 7 miles south of SR 50. The park is 4,500 acres and has 3 lakes, Lake Louisa, Hammond Lake and Dixie Lake. Eleven distinct natural plant communities lie within this eastern-most boundary of the Green Swamp. We started out at the park entrance where The Friends of Lake Louisa State Park have, over the last 3 years, converted a large grass area to a Native Plant Site both to add natives and to eliminate the grass and its maintenance.

When we started out the weather was very pleasant with sun and few clouds. The group moved from the entrance down to Lake Louisa and boarded a tram. The Park Manager, during the tram ride, provided history of the park and information on the flora and fauna within the park. Lavon Silvernell (the chapter president) also provided further information on various plants during the tour. About an hour into the tour the rains started and did not quit for about an hour. Fortunately, the tram provided most of us with ample protection from the rains. The weather did make us change the tour, because of concerns of going off road and getting stuck in the sand.

The park residents include deer, squirrels, raccoons, gopher tortoises, bald eagles and osprey. Activities include fishing, canoeing, kayaking, biking, camping and hiking. The Park Manager discussed the prescribed burns that are done regularly within the park when the conditions are just right. These burns are done to reduce fuel loading for pines, wiregrass and other native plant species. This also helps gopher tortoises by opening up areas to burrow.

Fortunately, before the tour ended the rains stopped. A number of us picnicked down at the swim area of Lake Louisa and some were adventurous enough to hike the trail near the lake.

### **A Visit from Anne Cox**

While President of FNPS, Anne Cox made it a point to visit the chapters around the state and we were happy to welcome her to our meeting in March. She discussed the scientific orientation of the Society so that the information disseminated on native plants in Florida is always founded in the most up to date, science based fashion. This is borne out in the information provided on the FNPS website, to the chapters and in the journal "The Palmetto". She also described the organizational structure of FNPS

and the new Council of Chapters and how they work with the FNPS Board of Directors. She considers the 36 chapters to be the heart of the Society.

She was proud of the statewide effort to proclaim October Florida Native Plant Month which was very successful. She encouraged everyone to attend the FNPS 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in May in Daytona. Anne also talked about the Land Management Reviews and Landscape Award given annually. She ended with going over the benefits of membership. It was a pleasure to welcome Anne to our chapter meeting and she congratulated us on our successful chapter.

### **Scrub Point Preserve Field Trip**

Patricia Burgos and Ben Gugliotti of the Lake County Water Authority conducted our tour of the Scrub Point Preserve in February. They provided transport on a wagon so we could cover the large area of the preserve not usually open to the public. This preserve is a peninsula out into John's Lake in south-east Lake County.

We enjoyed the early spring growth and bloom of the scrub plants and stopped many times to walk and look finding Scrub Plum noting the zig-zag of the branches, spotting Saw Palmetto in bloom, covered in a variety of pollinators and locating young starts of the Sky-Blue Lupine and Carphophorus. The trees were Sand Pines and Turkey Oaks. Patricia and Ben located a Polygala for us, in bloom with a low, pretty purple flower. It typically blooms in February through April. At this high point of the preserve we saw the patch of Clasping Warea which had bloomed last fall so this endangered plant has another protected place to grow and thrive.

This preserve was purchased for water protection purposes not for recreation. However, as we headed downhill to John's Lake we found an accessible landing area from the lake and they do plan to have an area for canoes to get in and out and there are nearby picnic tables. The lakeside area has beautiful large trees and the shoreline has pickerel weed, duck potato and white fragrant water lilies. An altogether lovely spot to end this enjoyable trip afield with thanks to Patricia and Ben.

### **Monarch Butterfly Program**

Scott Davis made the trip from the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge in north Florida where he works down for our chapter's meeting in May and he did not seem to mind the trip at all as he hopped off his motorcycle at many stops finding new populations of milkweeds all along the way. These locations are now noted by GPS and are into his ever growing data base for Monarch food plants, "The Milkweed Atlas".

Scott gave an excellent power point program which can only be summarized here. You can get his whole power point via e-mail at [Scott.Davis@fws.gov](mailto:Scott.Davis@fws.gov). Over 100 people enjoyed his program and Monarch larval and nectar food plants were available at the front door for purchase.

He gave the basics about Monarch Butterflies. They are a Tropical species, not a Temperate species. Frost kills Monarchs. So they have an intricate migration every year. Monarchs are larval host obligates to milkweeds and there are 21 species of native milkweeds in Florida. Not all of the tropical population migrates. In the past, the tropical population used to be in drier plains, not forests, so the Monarchs worked their way north.

There are four generations as they move north in March – April. In fall, way up in the north, they enter sexual diapause with no reproduction. Then, generation four flies south to the Gulf Coast and then around the curve and to the west to the Oyamel Forest near Mexico City. Along the Gulf Coast some are captured and tagged and sent on their way. The butterflies are tough and built for a 3,000 mile trip and then they enter a 6 month hibernation in Mexico. In 2015 the over-wintering population at Oyamel plummeted to 50 million from 1 billion previously. The forest is being harvested and to the north development with loss of habitat and a protozoa O.E. attaches to female Monarchs and kills the larva or results in sick and underweight off-spring.

In gardening for milkweeds it is best to use native milkweeds. However, availability may be a problem. The Tropical Milkweed is more easily found. Here's how to handle this. The native milkweeds die back in winter and it breaks the O.E. cycle. If you do plant Tropical Milkweed, cut it back in winter to break the O.E. cycle. The native nurseries are spraying against O.E. Scott showed many plant species used by Monarchs both nectar and larval and Monarchs use Red Cedars for shelter. Other resources via e-mail are: [monarchmilkweedinitiative@gmail.com](mailto:monarchmilkweedinitiative@gmail.com) and [www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org). In conclusion, Scott showed how to "drop a pin" to him to send coordinates for milkweed locations for the Atlas.

### **Save the Dates for the Next Overnight**

Peg Lindsay and her cohorts are already busily planning the next overnight excursion for our members and other interested folks from OVAS, TLNC, etc. This one will revolve around Gainesville and environs. All the details will be in the next "Beautyberry" in late fall, but for now Save the Dates: February 15, 16, and 17, 2017. For now, some of the plans already formed up as follows:

Wednesday, Feb. 15, a.m. Dudley Farm guided tour, p.m. Baughman Center guided tour and evening, watch the bats.

Thursday, Feb. 16 a.m. Sweetwater Wetlands Park, p.m. Paynes Prairie hike to see the Sandhill Cranes.

Friday, Feb. 17 a.m. Florida Museum of Natural History and Butterfly Rainforest, p.m. Paynes Prairie Visitors Center.