



June – October 2021

Chapter Contacts:

President: John Benton: jbenton3@gmail.com

Vice President: Neta Villalobos-Bell

Secretary: Pam Jennelle

Treasurer: Barbara Loudon

FNPS Chapter Rep: Patricia Burgos

Field Trips: Lavon Silvernell

Newsletter: Nadine Foley

<mailto:lakebeautyberry@gmail.com>

Website: <https://lakebeautyberry.fnpschapters.org/>

Lake Beautyberry Chapter – Spring – Fall 2021 Calendar



Lake Beautyberry Picnic – Sunday June 27, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

LeeAnn Streeper has invited us to picnic on her lawn. Members and friends bring a chair, a picnic type dish to share (no heating or refrigeration required), and your own table service. Beautyberry will provide drinks and ice. Email : lavonsilvernell@gmail.com just to let us know you are coming and for directions. And then on the same day and at the same location:

What one Person Can Do – Sunday June 27, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Whether you own a ¼ acre lot or an acreage you will be inspired by a visit to LeAnn's once Ag land, now restoration marsh, flatwoods and flow way. Restoring a property's natural function is not inexpensive in time or money; but the benefits for water, wildlife and personal satisfaction are priceless. Some of the species we might see during our visit are: Vanillaleaf, Pale Meadowbeauty, Loblolly

Bay, Redroot, Tiger Swallowtail Butterflies and Sandhill Cranes.

LeeAnn's property is off Radio Road, near the Leesburg Mall. Email lavonsilvernell@gmail.com to let us know you are coming and an address and directions will be sent to you. Insect repellent is recommended. There will be a board bridge over the shallow flow way, so bring a walking stick too.

Discovery Gardens Workdays - First Tuesday of the Month at 9:00 a.m.

The next workdays at the chapter's native plant garden will be on July 6, August 3, September 7 and October 5. Lavon Silvernell would welcome help if you can join her in tending the garden and adding new plants as needed. The native garden is located in the back south-west corner of Discovery Gardens at the Ag Center, 1951 Woodlea Road, south of Tavares off SR 19. To let Lavon know you

are planning to come to help at the garden, please email her at lavonsilvernell@gmail.com. Thank you.

In Person Program Meeting Sunday, July 18, 2021. Gather at 2 pm and Program at 2:30



I LOVE this Florida Native Plant

Do you have a Favorite Florida Native Plant? Please share it with us at our first “in-person” member meeting of the year at Trout Lake Nature Center. It’s easy. Send the common and/or scientific name of your top 3 favorite Florida Native Plants by June 25 to: Lake Beautyberry VP Neta at netavb@gmail.com. You will receive a confirmation email letting you know if you are first to choose that plant. You can then send a photo of the plant taken in your yard. If you don’t have an image, we will find one to use. You may also bring a sample of plant material to the meeting. You can talk about it, or we can, whichever way you feel most comfortable. You will have 5 minutes to share information about your plant. After you finish, audience members may also briefly share their experience with the plant providing additional information about how the plant performs in a variety of settings.

Your “Real Garden Experiences” are valuable. The information you provide will encourage other gardeners to select plants they have not thought about before and can now grow successfully. The goal is to increase the variety and number of plants grown thus spreading the value and benefits of native plants in the home landscape for people, wildlife, and our environment.

Workshop – Macrophotography like a Pro – Saturday, August 14, 2021 from 4: 00 to 8:00 p.m.

If you joined Beautyberry’s January program with Dr. Steven Long on Zoom and wished you could create amazing images like those he shared, then here is your chance.

On August 14 from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. Steve Long will conduct a nature photography seminar at Trout Lake Nature Center in Eustis. Dr. Long is an accomplished nature photographer specializing in the macrophotography of insects. His work has been featured in numerous publications, science journals and in a book on moths.



This seminar will cover some basic nature and macrophotography techniques, getting the most out of your equipment, composition, finding and working with live insects, ethical issues and the art of nature photography. The session includes classroom time, guided field work and a photo-sharing session. Bring your camera and your love for nature. As we heard in the January program, Steven has a sense of humor, so fun is guaranteed. Cost: \$40.00 for FNPS members and \$50.00 for non-members. Registration: Email lavonsilvernell@gmail.com

Program Meeting – Sunday, September 19, 2021 Gather at 1:30 p.m. Program at 2:00 p.m.

Landscaping For Birds, Water Conservation, and Species Diversity

Lavon Silvernell is not a stranger to Beautyberry audiences, and she has presented a Landscaping for Birds program for us before. But has many new photos donated by avid photographers, new plant suggestion, new images of landscapes that most homeowners would enjoy on their property and more stories of the birds that use them.

Perhaps the most important message is that a landscape teeming with birds, butterflies, flowers, trees, and shrubs uses less water, little or no fertilizer and chemicals, and sends clean rainwater back to the aquifer or watershed. We hope to create a new standard of landscaping beauty for the neighbors. A style of landscaping that becomes more critical every day as Lake County grows and changes.

Wildflower Festival and Plant Sale at Green Isle Gardens – Saturday, October 2, 2021 Just plan on all day! Volunteer a few hours if you can.



Save the Date for this festival planned in conjunction with the Passionflower Chapter. This plant sale will be held at Green Isle Gardens located south of Groveland on State Road 33. There will be side trips, speakers, vendors and a food truck – so much more than a plant sale. Watch for information on the chapter website and in emails.

Field Trip to Silver River State Park – Sunday, October 10 at 1:30 p.m.

Join us for Sandhill Wildflowers and More at Silver River State Park near Ocala. If you have read any of David Rakes' hiking guides, like "Botanizing with Bears" you know he has walked all over Florida, but he says this Sandhill Trail is one of his favorites. Fall is Wildflower Season in Florida, so this should be a very floristic hike. And if you have walked with David, you know he will tell us the back story of the plants and insects we see.

Address for Silver River Museum and Sandhill Trail: 1425 NE 58th Ave. Ocala, FL. The vehicle entrance fee is \$5.00 for one individual, \$8.00 for up to 8 people. You may want to arrive before 1:30 to visit the Silver River Museum and Cracker Village, Fee \$2.00.

At 1:30 p.m. meet at the Sandhill Trailhead for the Wildflower Walk. It's parking area and kiosk are about 100 feet from the entering pay station. There is no additional cost for the hike, but pre-registration is required, so email: lavonsilvernell@gmail.com. Thank you and see you there.

End of the Beautyberry Calendar. Lots of interesting things coming up and thank you to our members in leadership for planning so many and varied events featuring the wonderful wildflowers of Florida and the natural areas that sustain them. Next page up, a message from our President.

President's Message by John Benton

The big news, of course, is that we may now resume our in-person meetings at Trout Lake Nature Center. I was glad to have the Zoom platform for meetings as a fallback option over the last year, but there is no substitute for seeing familiar faces and having conversations with everyone. Plan to come if you can! July the 18th at 2:00 p.m. at TLNC in Eustis.

We are well on our way to planning another Fall plant sale on Saturday, October 2nd at Green Isle Gardens in conjunction with the Passionflower Chapter. This is our main fundraising effort for the year and allows us to continue to offer quality programming and support for native plants in this area. We will need volunteers in many areas, some prior to the event and others on the day of the event. This will be a fun event and if it is anything like the first affair that we held two years ago, it will be well attended by people that are "native curious" and first-time buyers as well as seasoned gardeners. No matter your level of experience, you will be a valuable part of the festival.

We also need volunteers for several chapter functions – primarily membership maintenance and Facebook/social media presence. Gina Skillings has done an outstanding job with elevating our Facebook presence with fresh and interesting posts. Gina will be leaving us, not suddenly, but soon enough. We need some LBB members to help with the page. If you are on Facebook yourself, I promise that you have the skills to help out. If we can get a few volunteers, it is even easier. Please let me or any other officer know if you are interested. See you in July! See Neta's program note and share your favorite plant with everyone.

Butterfly Identification Program

Our March 21st program meeting was held on Zoom and was presented by Dr. Marc Minno. His books have his beautiful photographs and you are sure to enjoy "Florida Butterfly Gardening", "Butterflies Through Binoculars" and "Florida Butterfly Caterpillars". We got to enjoy many of his photographs as he gave his talk on how to identify Butterflies and similar insects.

Marc listed several items to look for when attempting to identify a butterfly including the pattern of the veins in a butterfly's wings, the color patterns, the antennae, the legs, the genitalia on males which varies by species and is internal on females. And at earlier stages of the butterfly's life cycle by looking at the shapes, colors and patterns on eggs and the larva.

He said the earth is very old and natural selection takes place over many years. Some die out. Survivors reproduce and the species we see today could arise from a common ancestor. Another factor is location. An example is in the USA Buckeye Butterflies may have small differences by location. And then there is the problem in identification of variations due to mimicry of another species to gain an advantage such as tasting bad to a predator which adds to the confusion.

Modern Genetics and Genomics are changing the science of sorting out species and the rate of mutations can be studied now. Genera are being moved around in the study of plants, too, because of the molecular studies in the Plant Kingdom as well as in insects.

Marc presented a series of photographs showing the differences between Butterflies and Moths. Both are Lepidoptera (Scaled Winged Insects). Mind you, at hundreds of millions of years ago on Earth,

Moths are starting out and birds are still dinosaurs. Cadis Flies are close relatives but they have hairs, not scales and they chew, not sucking. The differences between Butterflies and Moths is the Antennae – the tip is clubbed in Butterflies and it is feathered in Moths. Marc's photo of the Giant Silk Moth showed that well. And the Moths are older and the butterflies came from some Moth ancestors.

As Marc showed his beautiful, detailed photos, he gave ID tips for groups such as all the Swallowtail Butterflies, the Hairstreaks, the Whites and the Blues and the Brush-footed Butterflies which look like they have only four legs, not six. He pointed out the mimics such as the Viceroy which is a mimic of the Monarch. And he included the Skippers which are about one third of the butterflies. He said we have been losing butterflies in Florida since the 1980's and some such as the Miami Blue and the Nickerbean Blue are getting rare.

Marc and his company Eco-Cognizant, Inc. make research trips and he hopes to go to Cuba again next although it may not be until 2022. A big thank you to Marc for his detailed and beautiful presentation.

Congratulations to Patricia Burgos

Patricia Burgos has been a Past President for our chapter, more than once, and continues now as our Chapter Representative to the FNPS Council of Chapters. At this year's FNPS Annual Conference in May she was chosen to be the new President of the Council of Chapters. Congratulations to Patricia and thank you for your guidance and leadership at both our Chapter and at the state level of FNPS.

Water, Soils and Wildflowers

Thank you to Lavon Silvernell for organizing this excellent field trip that our members shared with members of the Passionflower Chapter at Lake Louisa State Park on May 23rd. Our guides were Park Manager, Rachel Nunlist and Biologist Chris Matson. As Lake Louisa State park encompasses 4,500 acres, we were happy to see a great deal of it via the trusty and comfortable tram with several stops where we enjoyed shorter walks to search out the native plants found in the various eco-systems.



Chris gave the group an overview of the hydrology of the park and this area of Lake County. There is a Sand Hill bowl around the park. At the north end the Lake Wales Ridge reaches 100 feet in elevation. Big Creek flows from the south to the north beginning at about 175 feet elevation and all the flow is to the north and into Lake Louisa. As we saw it, the Big Creek water was low and not flowing much. Further south in Lake County in the Green Swamp, the flow is to the south becoming the Withlacoochee and headed southwest toward the Gulf.

The largest lake in the state park is Lake Louisa which is a beauty with Cypress Trees on the gradual sloping shoreline and white sand beaches. It is a favorite for swimming and paddling. Within the park

are several lakes, with Bear Lake having equestrian facilities and Dixie Lake has cabins overlooking it as well as campgrounds. Many hiking trails connect the lakes and the facilities.

We began our trip around the park stopping at a restoration area. In the 1980's the land that became Lake Louisa State Park was mostly in citrus groves or in pasture for cattle grazing. Freezes killed the citrus groves, as it did in all of Lake County in 1983 and in following years. The first area we walked at was white sand and we saw thriving Rosemary and Purple Blue Stem Grass there. Oddly, Red Root was also present so there must be a damper layer below for it to grow at that location.

We stopped at a couple other restoration areas named for "Terry" who championed the rescue of native scrub plants from Castle Hill along Hwy 50 in Clermont as growth over took that unique native plant treasure. Chris said that beside the efforts of the park staff, many volunteers have put in hundreds of hours of work to rescue, nurture and then replant native plants in these special spots. Some of the plants we saw coming along in this dry May were Wire Grass, Pines, Saw Palmetto, Summer Farewell, Lupines, Yucca Filamentosa, Andropogon Grass, Prickly Pear Cactus, Turkey Oak, Piney Wood Dropseed and Humistrata Milkweed. In other areas we enjoyed groupings of Oaks, Pines and Grapes and nice stands of Persimmon trees.

We stopped at Big Creek again at the southern origin area and found the water low there. However, two Brown Banded Water Snakes were enjoying the afternoon sunshine curled up in the roots of trees exposed in the low water. On our way circling back we stopped near Bear Lake where the Lake Wales Ridge area of the Park circles around the lake. While enjoying the scenic view, our guides told us that a staff of 18 takes care of Lake Louisa State Park. They are working on restoration in many areas of the park and have established a fire regimen that is nicely in hand now, cycling around every few years.

At our last stop, we enjoyed the bright orange flowers on blooming Butterfly Milkweeds. And, we learned that the initial pines planted in the late 1990's suffered an attack of Turpentine Beetles. There were survivors from that planting and these older pines are now producing the many young pines we were seeing on the hillsides. Now, that is so gratifying for these folks working so hard on restoration!

Thank You to Neta Villalobos-Bell

Thank you to our Vice President Neta for preparing a colorful power point presentation reporting on our chapter's activities for the past several months. It was shared at the FNPS Annual Conference in May and was shown on the FNPS website as well. We do keep busy!!

Ode to Standing Cypress – A Report by Peg Lindsey



The year was 2001. I had just relocated to Florida. My (then) husband and I were out to explore our new county. We saw Trout Lake Nature Center on the map and decided to go there. Nadine Foley was working as a docent that day. She welcomed us, showed us around and treated us like visiting royalty. It was an experience I'll never forget.

A few years later I was encouraged by my new friend, Peg Urban, to join Audubon. Nadine was one of the chapter leaders and I got to know her

better. I loved the field trips because we went to places within Lake County that I would never have found on my own. Encouraged by Nadine, I started going on the FNPS field trips, too. I wasn't interested in the plants – I was visiting wild Florida and looking for birds.

On one of these trips someone pointed to a weed and said that's Standing Cypress. I was unimpressed. On another outing in 2004, this time with Wendy Poag, she pointed out Standing Cypress in full bloom. We were on CR-42, stopped along the roadside with cars whizzing by, really fast and really scary. Everyone around me was oohing and aahing over this tall red-flowering weed. Me, I was worried about being hit by a car.

My next encounter with Standing Cypress was at PEAR Park in 2006. Peter Moeller had planted many of these wildflowers in the Meadow. The full effect when they bloomed, along with the tall, lilac-colored *Liatris* and myriad other wildflowers he had planted, was stunning. They towered above the mass of weedy vegetation with their bright red blossoms. I was finally hooked on Florida wildflowers.

I started my own Florida native garden at my house, maybe around 2010. My husband Bob Putnam wanted Standing Cypress in our garden. We tried for several years and in several places to get these things to grow. No luck.

Bob and I moved to a new home mid-pandemic 2020. Of course, we removed all the non-native plantings and started adding Florida native wildflowers and shrubs. Just for Bob I purchased a Standing Cypress for our new garden. We have a landscaping service company hired by our HOA. One of the workers almost pulled out my Standing Cypress "weed". It kinda resembles Dog Fennel in its pre-blooming state. Luckily, I was standing right beside the plant and saved it from destruction.

I guess it's right plant, right place. We live on a sandhill with miniscule topsoil. This plant species must thrive on lack of water, lack of nutrients and full sun. Gotta love this plant.