

The Beautyberry

October – November 2020

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

Website:

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President's Message

I miss the in-person meetings with the formal and informal exchange of information and greeting old friends and meeting new ones that occurs at those gatherings. We are just not in a position to hold those types of events right now. We do the best we can with the tools that we have available. As the weather moderates, it is pleasant to stay outside and we are planning more outdoor activities. We hope that you can join us for a few of those. Let us know how we can help you in your gardening, landscaping, and outdoor explorations.

Lake Beautyberry Chapter – Fall – October & November 2020 Calendar

Work Morning at LSSC - Friday, October 23, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

If you can assist, President John Benton asks for your help. There is a piece of upland scrub at Lake Sumter State College, Leesburg, that is named in honor of Pete Kehde, the biology professor that served there for so many years. Lake Sumter students and staff have taken an interest in tackling some of the invasive species that are present and this would be a prime opportunity to work with some new friends in the area. Biology Professor Steve Clark is helping to coordinate the effort.

The order of the day is work clothes and any gardening equipment that may be your favorites efforts, like loppers, trimmers, hand shears, etc – along with water, bug repellent, gloves and sunglasses. I walked the area with Steve last week and there were no bugs to speak of in mid-afternoon. Some of the invasive species we saw were the tuberous sword fern, coral ardisia, camphor tree, etc. If you would like to attend, please email Professor Steve Clark (ClarkS@lssc.edu) or Toni Upchurch (UpchurcT@lssc.edu) to confirm. You may also contact us here, at lakebeautyberry@gmail.com.

The work area is on the northeast corner of the campus, behind the Science and Math Building. The best entrance is on the east, The Nursing Building is most visible and the Science/Math building is behind that. Here is a link to a [campus map](#): The work area is behind the Student Center (9) on the map.

Plant Sale for Lake Beautyberry Members at Green Isle Gardens – Sat. Oct. 24th from 9:00 to 1:00.

Can't you feel it? There is a hint of change in the season and it is nice to get outside again. It is a perfect time to add plants to your landscape. If you have been following our [Facebook Page](#), then you have seen some great examples lately and the two recent issues of The Palmetto, the FNPS quarterly newsletter, have excellent articles on wildflower meadow planting. We are collaborating with Green Isle Gardens to offer a special day for members of Lake Beautyberry to shop. Some of sale proceeds will return to the chapter. What could be better? There are great plant selections, extra assistance with plant choices and supporting the chapter too. What could be better?

What are we using funding for? Three things in particular:

- Supporting FNPS purchase and maintenance of sensitive lands.
- Supporting Student travel to meetings (when such things are possible again).
- Seminole Forest Warea Tract maintenance.

We will have LBB members at [Green Isle Gardens](#) from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. to assist with plant choices. Of course, the GIG staff are there too if we cannot answer your questions. All FNPS members do get a 10% discount on their purchase. If you are not currently a member, we can help with that too. Green Isle Gardens requests that groups be no larger than 4 persons, following social distancing guidelines and wearing a mask when interacting with staff and at checkout.

Where is Green Isle Gardens? Located south of Groveland at 11303 FL State Road 33, Groveland, FL 34736. Go south on SR 33 from SR 50 about 3 miles and watch for the gardens on the right. If you have any questions about the event, please contact us at lakebeautyberry@gmail.com.

**Volunteer Guides are needed. If you are knowledgeable about native plants and have and can help visitors new to gardening with natives, please contact John Benton, see email above.*

Plant Walk at Clearwater Lake – Sunday, November 1, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Have you been for a walk to enjoy Florida's Fall Wildflowers? If you haven't, or if you have and you want to savor the last few blooms while enjoying the company of native plant friends, Beautyberry will have a walk at Clearwater Lake on November 1st. A few of the things we should see in color during a late Fall walk in the sandhill and around the lake are: Indian Paintbrush, Wild Sensitive Plant, Lop-sided Indian, Love and Chalky Bluestem Grasses, dainty Rice Button Aster, and many other sandhill and lakeshore plants. The walk will be about a mile, maybe a little more and while there is a trail, it is uneven ground.

We will meet at 1:00 p.m. at the first small parking lot at Clearwater Lake Recreation Area, Ocala National Forest, 24511 CR, 42 Paisley, Florida 32767. If there is space in the first lot, it is free. In the Day Use Area the parking fee is \$5.50. Dress and prepare for the outdoors, insect repellent is highly recommended. Spaces are limited and pre-registration is required. To reserve a space, email your name and the number of spaces you wish to reserve to: lakebeautyberry@gmail.com. For more information call Lavon Silvernell at 352-223-4761.

If you want to socialize a bit more and increase the value of natural areas to the local community by spending money there, some of us will be visiting Palermo's Pizza just down the road in Paisley. The restaurant has limited outdoor dining, so if you plan to join the group, please mention Palermo's when you email your RSVP. Thank you.

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

Lavon Silvernell and Jan Kolb have continued workdays at the chapter's native plant garden on the First Tuesdays of each month during this year. The next workdays will be on Nov 3rd and December 1st. They would welcome help if you can join them in their efforts tending the garden and adding new plants as needed. The native garden is located in the back of Discovery Gardens (the south-west corner) at the Ag Center, 1951 Woodlea Road, south of Tavares off SR 19. To let Lavon know you are willing to help at the garden, call her at 352-223-4761 or just show up to help.

PEAR Park Gardens – The Fall Bloom is On!

Come to Enjoy during the rest of October and on. Peg Urban sent us a message that most of the fall blooms are at their peak now at the Butterfly Pavilion with a few more yet to come out (some are one [our website](#), and we will use them in our Facebook posts too – Thanks, Peg!). Go to PEAR Park to enjoy the fall flowers, meadow walk, river trail and the science center. A great place to enjoy these beautiful autumn days. PEAR Park is located south of Leesburg. Directions: From the intersection of CR 48 and US 27 south of Leesburg, go south on US 27 for 1.8 miles to the second entrance for PEAR Park at 4800 University Ave. Turn right onto University, then go about 1

mile to the park entrance. You will see parking areas as you drive in toward the building and the near-by wildlife viewing area, just past the Community Gardening area.

Insect Study at Ellis Acres Reserve

Beautyberry members and friends had an interesting morning in June at Ellis Acres Reserve where Wendy Poag, Recreation Coordinator for Lake Parks and Trails has her office with exhibits and native gardens. Our small group had a lovely morning out insect hunting while enjoying the many eco-systems at Ellis Acres and spotting insects and native plant interconnections. The ecosystems there are Longleaf Pine Sandhill, Pine Flatwoods/Xeric, Pine Flatwoods/Mesic, Wetland Forested Mix, Bay Swamp, Freshwater Marsh and Open Lake Water at the shore of Lake Akron. There is a map for trails and the ecosystems are color coded for your guidance. Across the road from the Ocala National Forest, the Ellis Acres entrance is just as you pass through Paisley on CR 42. Parking is available just off the highway for walk ins and also an entrance road to parking further in by the building during open hours.

As we walked, Wendy described the ongoing land management including prescribed burning, mowing and planting to provide native plant diversity over large areas in the reserve. She showed us areas of young Longleaf Pines coming along nicely. She enumerated the many animals and birds she sees regularly: Bob White Quail which we could hear, all of the Woodpeckers except Red Cockaded live there and Summer Tanagers which are territorial and may raise two broods per summer while they are there using the Oaks and Pines. Wendy is aiming to leave more open sandy places for the Wild Turkeys to dust in. In looking for stages of insect life, she remarked that we often miss seeing the caterpillar stages as they often feed at night. Insects must be hardy, facing heat stress, cold spells and dry conditions. Dead standing snag trees are left in place as they are the natural homes for many insects and provide for many other species.

Everywhere we went we had the dancing company of a lovely variety of butterflies. They are in the native gardens near the building, of course, but abundant out and about, too. Tiger Swallowtail, Gulf Fritillaries and Zebra Longwings were all on the wing. We walked in areas under giant Oak trees with huge limbs stretching out providing Black Bears with perches for lounging far above. Imagine their delight now, as those same Oaks are dropping their Acorn crop for them. Wendy pointed out leaning pine trees from rubbing by bears and pines with bark stripped as high as a bear can reach. A lot of extra young pine trees have to be planted to end up with a few growing to maturity. She has many native plants she has added guarded in wire cages to protect them from browsing deer as well until they get big enough.

Thank you, Wendy, for the tour and for all your work. As you said "It takes a lot of work to get new habitat with suitable plant diversity started on old grazing land!!" As we left this beautiful reserve, we were escorted through the gates by two proud families of Sandhill Cranes. What a nice goodbye from the local residents.

Goodbye to Our Piper

As we acknowledged at our 20-year anniversary meeting in January, Barbara and Tony Grigg were among our chapter's Founding Members transferring from Tarflower Chapter after being valued members of FNPS there. As many of us knew, they have been busy with down-sizing from their home near Sorrento for a while. They did move into senior retirement accommodations earlier this year and were settled in. Regretfully, Tony Grigg passed away in May 2020. We will miss him on the trail enjoying plants, miss his help bringing in plants to the meetings, help at public events and we did so much enjoy attending picnics when Tony and Barbara shared their yard and restoration area with our chapter members. And then when Tony had a spare minute, out came the bagpipes and the piper's call went out to the world to acknowledge the joy in all our endeavors. Thank you, Tony. We will miss our Piper. Barbara, dear friend, we share your loss.

Report from Foley Meadow and Glen by Nadine Foley

Summer and into Fall 2020 has been well spent here at Foley Meadow and Glen. Rain came nicely paced and Peanut Pond has risen well and the groundwater, too has been replenished from the sandy hill side. Love that easy perking Astatula B sand. A bumper crop on all of our chapter's namesake American Beautyberry shrubs with the branches weighted down by glistening purple clumps for a couple of months now. All the local birds and those passing by will enjoy them all. The Holly berries down at water's edge are turning red and later there will be Cherry Laurel fruits too for any lucky passing flocks of Robins or Cedar Waxwings. Mushrooms kept popping up after each rain and what a variety in shape and color. Large flat cream colored saucers, orange medium sizes and delicate ivory four inch stems pop up one day and presto, the next morning they are topped by a fluted parasol. Exquisite!

I think other folks, too found an abundance of butterflies of a wide variety this year. Swallowtails of all kinds were out over several months. A pleasure to walk out at any time! It is interesting to just see what happens sometimes. We have not used our vegetable garden space for two years and so the Goldenrod from along the lake decided to take up residence and has filled it in. It started to bloom in Spring and is still going strong.

The wildlife has been wonderful as always and we were delighted one day when the whole Limpkin family raised along the shore was escorted by the proud parents and paraded for our enjoyment through the yard and around the house – all four of their young limpkins!! Then they were about half grown and were being introduced on foot to all the local ponds around here. Later, of course, they were flying and soon they will each return to the usual solitary life on an adult limpkin.

Take care everyone and stay well. If you care to report on your observations from gardening or on wildlife or a natural area you have enjoyed, please submit items to Nadine at diney37@aol.com.