

## October 2022 — January 2023



### *The Beautyberry.*

Lake Beautyberry Chapter of the  
Florida Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 88 Umatilla, FL 32784  
Website: <https://lakebeautyberry.fnpschapters.org/>

### Chapter Contacts:

President: Neta Villalobos-Bell  
Vice President & Programs: Peggy Schochet  
Vice President & Field Trips: Lavon Silvernell  
Secretary: Pam Janelle  
Treasurer: John Benton  
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## Lake Beautyberry Chapter Calendar — Fall 2022 and Winter 2023

**Native Plant Sale** — Sunday, October 9, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. This Native Plant Sale will be held at Trout Lake Nature Center, 520 East CR 44, Eustis, FL. Phone: (352) 357-7536. The native plants offered will all be suitable for this central Florida area. They have been raised at Green Isle Gardens south of Groveland. This will save you a drive south and you will have a wide variety of wildflowers, grasses and ground covers, upland shrubs and trees and vines to choose from.

**October Proclaimed as "Florida Native Plant Month"** — Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. If you can, please attend the Board of County Commission meeting when the Board will issue their Proclamation for Lake County's participation in Florida Native Plant Month. Commission meetings are held in the building at 315 W. Main St., Tavares, 2nd Floor. The nearby parking garage provides free parking. See the President's Message following the Calendar for more info. Usually, they take up an agenda item such as this early in the meeting. So, if you can attend, try to be there a little before 9:00 a.m.

**Field Trip to Lake May Reserve** — Sunday, October 23, 2:00 p.m.  
Join Lake Beautyberry Chapter of FNPS and Patty Smith with Friends of Wekiva and Seminole State College\* to explore Lake May Reserve. We'll walk the trails through scrub, sandhill, a little flatwoods, and wetlands — marsh to lake, this variety of ecosystems means a diversity of plants from, honeycomb head, Florida rosemary, long leaf pines to wetland plants. Some are newly planted by the Florida Wildflower Foundation around the Marsh and Lake. Habitat diversity also means many birds, butterflies, and wildlife find just the right conditions to thrive on this Lake County Public Land. The address for Lake May Reserve is 36300 County Rd 44A, Eustis, FL. Perhaps this walk will spark some ideas for how you can create more diversity and habitat in your own landscape. To register for the field trip or for questions, [email: lavonsilvernell@gmail.com](mailto:lavonsilvernell@gmail.com). \*p.s. Patty's students rate her as "Awesome".

Calendar continued on page 2.

**Discovery Gardens Workdays** - Third Tuesdays of the month at 9:00 a.m. Next workday is on October 18, 2022. Lavon Silvernell leads the effort of maintaining the chapter's Native Gardens at the Ag Center, at 1951 Woodlea Road, south of Tavares off SR 19. The upcoming workdays will be November 15, December 20 and January 17. To let Lavon know that you are willing to help at the garden, call her at 352-223-4761. Lavon would welcome a helper for a specific date or someone who could help on the regular schedule.

**Mount Dora Plant and Garden Fair** — Saturday and Sunday, November 12 & 13, 2022 9:00 to 4:00. The Plant and Garden Fair is held on the two days right in downtown Mount Dora with a large variety of landscape plants for sale along with garden art features and often water gardens, etc. Our chapter will be there to offer native plant information and knowledge. We will not be selling plants as we plan to have our native plant sale on October 9<sup>th</sup>. (See above, please). If you attend the Fair, please stop by our tent and if you can help for an hour or two, that would be great.

**Lake Beautyberry Chapter Board Meeting** — Thursday, November 17, 2022 9:00 a.m. Every other month the Board meets at Trout Lake Nature Center, usually in the picnic shelter for two to three hours. The Board is comprised of the Officers and Committee Chairmen and they do the planning ahead for our chapter and handle business as the year moves along. The Board wants the general membership to know all members may attend these meetings. New ideas and energy would be welcome at the meeting and committees can use help from the general members. Thank you.

**Program Meeting** — Sunday, November 20, 2022. Gather at 1:30 p.m. Program at 2:00 p.m. Peggy Schochet has arranged for Nancy Bissett, owner of The Natives Nursery to be our guest speaker. Her talk is titled: "Is Cloning Native Plants a Good Idea?" Planting species within their range of genetic diversity offers different benefits and drawbacks from species that are propagated as named cultivars or clones with an identical genetic makeup. These will be compared and contrasted and will include considerations such as longer and more versatile blooms, adaptation to varying seeding conditions, more attractive to pollinators, more resilient to varying weather, disease, predation, and soil conditions, locally sourced and helping to preserve not only the species, but the genetic variability within the species. Cultivars offer uniformity and reliability in production and performance, enhanced characteristics in size, shape, and color form, suitability to container growth and appeal, and market draw as something special

Nancy graduated from Florida Southern College (summa cum laude), with a BS. Degree in horticulture and botany, June 1980. She co-founded The Natives Nursery in 1982. The meeting is held at our regular meeting location at Trout Lake Nature Center. Address: 520 East CR 44, Eustis, FL As always, for our program meetings and field trips, the general public is welcome to join us.

**Holiday Potluck Luncheon with Environmental Friends** — Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. Trout Lake Nature Center will be the location for our annual gathering. Tableware and drinks will be available, or you can bring your own table setting (plates and utensils), **along with a tasty dish to share, please.** Following the luncheon there is a fund-raiser raffle of nature related items that generates funds for Trout Lake, Audubon and Beautyberry. If you have any items that you no longer want, bring them in to raffle. It may be just the treasure someone else is looking for.

After the raffle and clean up duties and in the spirit of years past when this holiday meal followed the Christmas Bird Count, there will be a walk at Pine Meadows just around the corner to spot birds and native plants. Directions: Go back onto SR19, turn north and drive just a short distance (0.4 mile) and turn right onto Pine Meadows Drive. There are County Park and Conservation Area signs posted which will guide you further into the large preservation area.

**Lake Beautyberry Chapter's Annual Meeting** — Sunday, January 15, 2023 Gather at 1:30 p.m. program at 2:00 p.m. There will be a speaker at this meeting. Karen Kennen, Lake County Master Gardener will give a talk titled "Native Edibles for Wildlife and Humans". The speaker will be followed by our Annual Meeting. Members will consider the 2023 budget as presented by the Treasurer and Board members, hear ideas and suggestions from the Board and the membership for the coming year and elect officers for 2023. Between November and January, the Board welcomes members who will consider serving as Officers or Committee Chairmen. Step right up folks there is plenty to do for all. The Annual Meeting will be held at Trout Lake Nature Center. See above, please, for location information.

**President's Message**  
By Neta Villalobos-Bell

Our Chapter submitted a Proclamation request to the Lake County Board of County Commissioners to declare October as "Florida Native Plant Month". A special thank-you to Commissioner Sean Parks for sponsoring this to the full Board at the Lake County Board of Commissioners meeting, October 25, Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. at 315 W. Main St., Tavares, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. If you are available, please plan to attend.

In honor of Florida Native Plant Month, Lake Beautyberry Chapter, Membership Chair Nancy LaPointe and her Committee, will host a Native Plant Sale on October 9, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. at Trout Lake Nature Center, 520 East CR 44, Eustis, FL. Fall is a great time to plant!

After years of providing formal presentations at our member meetings, Peggy Schochet, VP of Programs, proposed a different approach, a propagation workshop. The workshop was met with overwhelming success. After the basic propagation process was introduced by Remy Partlow, attendees went outside for a hands-on activity and left with their own propagated plant and the instructions to do more at home. Please let me know your ideas for any other activities.

Also, special thanks go to Lavon Silvernell, VP Field Trips, for her careful consideration for each field trip site selection for its environmental message, such as, restoration success, plant diversity, or connections to other natural areas. She has demonstrated that there's always more to learn and experience when in our natural world and field trips are a great way to learn and stay involved in our community.

Several members have already participated in the ongoing invasive coral ardisia monthly removal workdays in Mt. Dora at the 19-acre Forest Preserve behind W.T. Bland Library. It can be a daunting exercise but when we come together, we are mighty warriors. Please feel free to accompany us in the worthwhile activity. Your participation will be greatly appreciated. Email Neta for details at: [netab@gmail.com](mailto:netab@gmail.com)

Lake County is growing and our members are encouraged to advocate for sustainable growth, clean water and air, quality of life issues while still protecting open green spaces and wildlife corridors. Please let me know if you do attend and hopefully speak at a Board of County Commissioners meetings or with any City or County decision makers. I would like to recognize and thank you in my next President's Message. As always, **Thank You** for being a Chapter member.

Neta, President, Lake Beautyberry Chapter

**Editor's Note:** Re: the Propagation Workshop. Remy Partlow plans to post her power point presentation on our chapter's website. Peggy Schochet will also post her instruction sheet on plant propagation on the website. Copies will also be available at the native plant sale.

Web site: <https://lakebeautyberry.fnpschapters.org/>

## Save The Date News

Save Saturday, March 4, 2023 for the next Conservation Symposium. Lake Beautyberry plans to be a host again for this event along with many other organizations in Lake County. Next see the news from Jane Hepting, Steering Committee, Chairman:

Dear Conservation Groups.

I have great news! The Leesburg Campus of Lake-Sumter State College has agreed to let us hold our 2023 Conservation Symposium on its campus. They have offered, free of charge, the Health Sciences Center, the Science & Math Building, or both, depending upon our needs. They suggest Saturday, March 4, 2023. We will have lots of room, inside or outside, for exhibits, and lots of classrooms. There is also an auditorium for plenary sessions. Professor Steve Clark, has agreed to serve on our steering committee and hopes to involve LSSC students in the planning and hosting of the event.

Having lots of classrooms gives us a great opportunity to run workshops to educate the general public on conservation issues. I hope every conservation group will plan on setting up an exhibit and will consider hosting a workshop or activity on a topic important to you. The UUCLC's Social Justice and Environmental Committee is thinking about inviting a car dealer to bring an electric car and offer free rides in it. The more fun, helpful stuff we can offer, the more people will come. Maybe Trout Lake or LEFF can offer activities that appeal to children and teens. Maybe some organization could test water samples for phosphorus and nitrogen. It's time to put on our thinking caps. Maybe we should start by asking, "What do we want the public to learn during this event? What would be of interest to the public?"

Besides Steve Clark, the following persons have agreed to serve on the Steering Committee: Nadine Foley, Karen Woolhouse, Karen Frank and Tina Mertz. If your group would like to appoint an additional person to serve on the Steering Committee, please let me know. More volunteers are welcome!

The Steering Committee will send you more information soon. In the meantime, please urge all of the members in your group to save the date: Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 — probably 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. If I should be sending updates to another person in your group, please let me know. Thanks so much for your support. Best Wishes, Jane Hepting, 352-250-6771