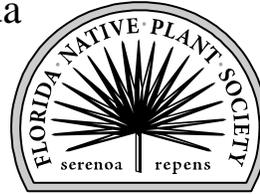




The Lily Pad

The Pine Lily Chapter of the Florida
Native Plant Society



Volume 2, January 2008

President's Message:

It has been an exciting time as we have kicked off our new, local chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Now, we are NEW, again! That is, I have taken on the position of president (new for me) and we all will get to try out our new meeting location at First United Methodist Church in Kissimmee. If you were part of the turnout for some of our more heavily-attend meetings, you'll appreciate that our former location was limiting. Our expectation is that we'll have more room for camaraderie and elbows. Also, we expect to have more ample display space and an easier access to refreshments!

Of course, our new location is just about logistics. I'm sure Kim Duffy will continue to put together great speakers, so that should be a constant. Your leadership team has been enthusiastic and very capable and I appreciate their efforts to date. Our growing pains have challenged us and the relocation of some of our leaders has caused some additional adjustment. However, the lessons learned over the first few months of organization should serve us well. So, I hope to see you at our next monthly meeting on February 21st and at future field trips. If you would like to become part of the leadership team, we have a couple of positions available. But, however you choose to participate, we urge you to become active in our community of folks who care about our environment and want to learn and share about how plants play a vital role.

Mark Johnson

New Meeting Location and Time

**We will now be meeting on the Third Thursday of the month
At 6:30 p.m. in downtown Kissimmee at First United
Methodist Church, 101 Dakin Avenue, 34741**

February Program: To be announced

Our February speaker had an unforeseen event come up and had to reschedule. As of right now I am not sure of what the topic will be this month but I didn't want to hold on to the newsletter too much longer.

Upcoming Events Around Town:

The Osceola County Fair

February 8-17, 2008

Osceola Heritage Park

Fees, times, and for more information please visit www.osceolacounty-fair.com



3rd Annual Garden Party

February 23, 2008 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Downtown Kissimmee

Admission is free.

Celebrate spring with a garden party! Enjoy live entertainment and food as you shop for favorite plants and flowers. You're sure to find what you need to brighten up your yard.

A Sense of Wonder

February 28, 2008 7:30 p.m.

Leu Gardens 1920 N. Forest Ave.

Cost is free

This is a one-woman play about the life of Rachel Carson.

Framing an Earth Jurisprudence for a Planet in Peril

February 29, 2008 8:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m.

Moot Courtroom, Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law, 6441 E. Colonial Dr., Orlando, FL

Cost is free

This symposium will explore legal and ethical implications of the clarion call issued to humanity by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Register online at www.earthjuris.org or contact Alba Cruz at acruz@mail.barry.edu or 321-206-5606

Species Spotlight: American Beautyberry *Callicarpa americana*

By Cindy Meketa

One of my favorite plants is the American beautyberry, *Callicarpa americana*. This plant can also be known as beautybush or French mulberry although it is not related to the mulberry. *Callicarpa americana* is in the **Verbena** family. There are other species of *Callicarpa* native to China, Japan, and Asia but *americana* is the only native in North America. Its range is north to Virginia, Maryland and Missouri and west to Texas. *Callicarpa* is a Greek word which means “bearing beautiful fruit”.

Figure 1



The beautyberry is a deciduous shrub with long stems that can grow to eight ft. tall. It is a loose and open shrub that does well as a backdrop for other plants with its light green leaves. The leaves are aromatic when crushed and if you can recognize that scent you will know the plant even without its flowers or fruit. It is not just the color of the leaves I like but the delicate pink flower clusters that come out at the leaf axils early in the spring and attract a great array of small pollinators. From these flowers come tiny green berries that can become quite thickly bunched as they grow. Then in the late summer the green berries start to turn that beautiful magenta purple color that gives the plant its name. Not only do you get to enjoy this color burst in your garden but the birds and other wildlife can have a feast. The berries will persist on the stems even after the leaves have dropped, but it is important not to prune the plant down until the berries have all gone. Many of our winter snow birds, yellow-bellied sapsuckers, American robins, and cedar waxwings love the berries as well as our resident mockingbirds, woodpeckers and of course the squirrels. Once they find them the berries will be gone in short order. Late February is the time I start cutting back some of my yard plants for new growth in the spring. Beautyberries can be pruned back almost to the ground. New stem shoots will come up from the base and produce the spring flowers and berries. And of course you may have new plants spring up from dropped seeds. It transplants very well and I usually just dig it up, move it to where I want it, give it a couple of good drinks and it is good to go. You can also start this plant with cuttings very easily.

The beautyberry does well in full sun or partial shade. It is drought tolerant and only needs the rain for water. The plants also like a lot of mulch. One of my many beautyberries under my pine trees gets partial sun and produces hundreds of berries every year. When I go hiking I see wild beautyberries in well-drained soil of pinelands, mixed scrub and woodland margins. If you take a nature walk in the fall the purple berries are easy to spot.

So if you like a beautiful colorful, drought tolerant plant that produces food for wildlife you should have at least a few beautyberries in your yard. It is assured your neighbors will be asking for cuttings once the berries are at their showiest.

Below is a recipe for beautyberry jelly from the book *Florida's Incredible Wild Edibles*. I have tasted it and it is delicious. You can get this book at Amazon.com or the local big book stores in the Florida Section for more great recipes.

Beautyberry Jelly

1 ½ qts beautyberries, washed
2 qts water
Boil 20 minutes and strain to make infusion

Use 3 cups infusion, bring to boil, add 1 envelope Sure-Jell and 4 ½ cups sugar. Bring second to boil and boil 2 minutes. Remove from burner and allow to stand until foam forms... Skim off foam. Pour into sterilized jars and cap.

Recipe from *Florida's Incredible Wild Edibles* written by Richard J Deuerling and Peggy S Lantz.
Published by Florida Native Plant Society 1993
PO Box 680008, Orlando, FL 32868

Figure 1. ©Ted Bodner. Miller, J.H. and K.V. Miller. 2005. *Forest plants of the southeast and their wildlife uses*. University of Georgia Press, Athens.

Figure 2. Robert H. Mohlenbrock. USDA SCS. 1991. *Southern wetland flora: Field office guide to plant species*.



Plant Raffle



We will not be having a plant raffle until our April meeting. In the meantime, we will be propagating and searching for sponsors. We encourage you to start your seedlings and propagations at home so that you may have a plant to raffle. Or if you have any ready to be brought in, we can take them and keep them safe in our nursery at Peghorn Park.

FNPS 2008 Endowment Grant Research Awards



The Florida Native Plant Society maintains an Endowment Grant program for the purpose of funding research on native plants. These are grants in the amount of \$2500 or less, awarded for a 1-year period, and intended to support research that forwards the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society which is "to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida."

Application deadline for the 2008 grant cycle is March 7, 2008. Grants will be awarded in Spring 2008 and announced at the 2008 Annual Conference in Palmetto, Florida.

Application instructions are on the FNPS Web site (www.fnps.org). Follow the links Programs/Awards & Grants/Endowment Fund Grants. For additional information, contact Paul A. Schmalzer paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM FNPS MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

New Membership Challenge for 2008: Mega Membership Explosion
December 2007 thru Earth Day, April 22, 2008

Our goal is for each and every FNPS member to present a gift membership to a friend, colleague, neighbor, family, ally, and foe.

Grand Prizes for all Chapters enlarging their memberships by 100%:

- * NEW and GIFT memberships both apply toward 100% goal.
- * Timeframe: December, January, February, March, April events until Earth Day.
- * All awards will be presented at the Conference.
- * Grand Chapters Prizes: Large 6-foot flowing, full-color FNPS flag to display proudly at meetings and community events.
- * Giant super awards for the top three gift givers in the state
- * All members that give four or more gift memberships will be awarded a fantastic prize at the conference.

Glacial Refugia and Glacial Relicts *by Danny Husband*

At the height of the last glacial advance (approximately 18,000 years ago) a mile high ice-sheet covered Canada and the northern United States, extending as far south as Cincinnati Ohio (the rubble pushed south by the ice and marking the southern extent of glaciation, termed a moraine, is still evident). Associated with the huge ice-sheet was a high pressure system that pushed the polar jet stream southward, dominating weather patterns far to the south of the ice covered region. As frigid conditions advanced southward, previously occupied habitat to the north was rendered inhospitable and vegetation was forced to retreat further and further south toward more suitable climates.

Many historical biogeographers (historical biogeography - the study of events in the geological history of the Earth and their use to explain patterns in the distributions of organisms) believe that plants characteristic of more northern latitudes (e.g. spruce and fir trees) survived far to the south of their current distributions in what is termed “glacial refugia”. In essence these species took refuge from the cold in the south, where they “waited” until the ice retreated (much like our winter resident snowbirds). These species then followed the melting ice northward. As the climate warmed most of the southern habitat occupied during the glacial maximum became unsuitable for these typically more northern species. However, within the broader full glacial southern habitat of these northern refugees a few microhabitats persisted where some of these plants are still able to thrive. These species that persist far south and disjunct (separated) from their more widespread northern relatives are known as glacial relicts (not just plants but animals too). Two examples of glacial relicts that I find particularly interesting, the Red spruce (*Picea rubens*) and Frazer fir (*Abies fraseri*), occupy areas of high elevation in the southern Appalachians. As the ice retreated and temperatures warmed the only place these species could persist was at the highest (and hence coolest) parts of the southern Appalachians. Within the warm and humid southeastern United States most glacial relicts persist in the relatively cooler microhabitats of river bluffs and gorges. Important examples include The Tunica Hills of Louisiana and The Apalachicola River Bluffs.

Like most issues in science this view is not without controversy. If you are interested in reading an opposing view with regards to glacial refugia please see Loehle (2007).

One final point! It is important to remember that current plant distributions are not some static condition but rather a snapshot (in geological time) of an ever-changing planet.

Literature consulted:

Carroll W, Kapeluck P, Harper R, Van Lear D. Background paper history: Historical Overview of the Southern Forest Landscape and Associated Resources

<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/sustain/report/histry/histry.htm>

Harrison I, Laverty M, Sterling E. Biogeographic diversity. (<http://cnx.org/content/m12149/latest/#histbiogeo>)

Loehle C. Predicting Pleistocene Climate from Vegetation. *Clim. Past Discuss.*, 2, 979-1000. www.clim-past-discuss.net/2/979/2006/

Workshop Opportunities

Working Across Boundaries to Protect Ecosystems

March 11-13, 2008

Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, Florida

Class Tuition: \$422.00 (lodging not included). Register at <http://nata.snre.ufl.edu>

This workshop uses a case study to demonstrate how political, social, and ecological forces can negatively affect protected areas and how to effectively address these issues. It is part of the series that leads to the Certificate in Natural Areas Management.

Participants will learn to:

- Explore ecosystem management theory and its relevance to conservation practice
- Identify and address specific threats from outside a protected area
- Discover strategies for bringing agencies together to seek common solution
- Learn consensus based facilitation skills

Certified Interpretive Guide Training Workshop

February 26-29, 2008

Tibet-Butler Preserve, Orlando, FL

Course Tuition \$240.00-\$365.00. Register at www.pandionsystems.com

Pandion Systems, Inc., of Gainesville, FL in partnership with the National Association for Interpretation, is offering a professional certification course for individuals who will be delivering interpretive programs or having public contact at interpretive sites.

The CIG Program

The Certified Interpretive Guide program is designed for anyone who delivers interpretive programs to the public. It combines both the theoretical foundations of the profession with practical skills in delivering quality interpretive programming to visitors.

Requirements for the CIG Course

Anyone age 16 or over with a desire to increase their knowledge and skills related to interpretation may participate. Membership in NAI is not required, but NAI members may pay a discounted fee to participate in the program. You can also elect to take the training without becoming certified.

Further Information:

For more information on the program visit www.interpnet.com/certification/index.shtml or email Kathy Gross at kgross2700@yahoo.com.

We Need You!



Would you like to take a leadership role in the chapter? We have a few open spots to serve as board members. If anyone would like to serve as an officer, we have an opening for Membership Chair, Conservation Chair, and Education Chair. We also need a Historian and Hospitality Chair. If you are interested, any present officer would be glad to discuss these opportunities with you.

Don't forget our Next Meeting is on February 21st at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Kissimmee.

The Board of Directors, Committee Chairmen, and Contacts

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Florida Native Plant Society Membership Application

Membership in the Florida Native Plant Society enables you to receive their wonderful quarterly magazine *The Palmetto*. Joining the FNPS also entitles you to membership privileges in the Pine Lily Chapter of the FNPS and a subscription to their monthly newsletter *The Lily Pad*.

w New Member w Renewal

Name _____

Business name or organization _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Home phone _____

Work phone _____

Check pertinent category

w Individual \$25	w Not-for-profit organization \$50
w Full time student \$15	w Business or corporate \$100
w Library subscription \$15	w Donor \$250
w Family or household \$30	
w Contributing \$40	
w Supporting \$250	

*Make check payable to: FNPS
 Detach and mail to:
**Pine Lily Chapter of
 Florida Native Plant Society
 P.O. Box 278
 Melbourne, FL 32902-0278***