

The Passionflower Chapter



of the Florida Native Plant Society

the Maypop

the occasional newsletter

of

The Passionflower Chapter of
the Florida Native Plant Society, Inc

Spring 2018

coming events - details inside

April 21- Water Saving Lawns annual business meeting follows
-- 10 AM, Cooper Memorial Library

April 27-28 - Friday & Saturday all day -- Annual Florida Wildflower Foundation Symposium

details @ FLAWildflowers.org

April 29 -- Sunday 1 pm Lake Beautyberry **garden tour** call Lavon Silvernell -- 352-223-4761

May 5 -- Saturday morning
Tour Taryn Evan's yard and Native Plant Nursery - see page 4

June Field Trip t/b/a

May 16-20 FNPS Annual Conference

This year's Conference will be at the Miccosukee Resort on the west edge of Miami, centrally located to a number areas for some really interesting field trips with a variety of native plants that we don't see in our neck of the woods. Details on back cover. Registration now open

Water Saving Lawn How To's:

Design Strategies, Plant Selection & Irrigation

Saturday, April 21st, 10 AM, Cooper Memorial Library

Have you been spending too much on water for your lawn? If so, you're also wasting our over-used and increasingly scarce water resources.

Want to do better? Then come to **Water Saving Lawn How To's: Design Strategies, Plant Selection & Irrigation Choices**, Saturday, April 21, 10 AM at Cooper Memorial Library, Clermont.

Landscape designer Jon Pospisil, principal of Living Landscapes will help us think through how to integrate landscape design strategies with a variety of specific plants and assorted options for irrigation along with cost considerations for each of these factors into a coherent plan for reducing water use in our lawns and home landscapes.

We'll meet for this program at our usual spot, Cooper Memorial Library. If you don't see us in one of the meeting rooms downstairs just outside the inner door to the library, then look for us upstairs in one of the computer labs. As usual, we also plan to have a selection of native plants available for you to see.



The mission of the Florida Native Plant Society is the preservation, conservation and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida

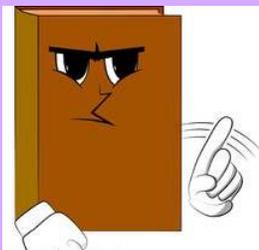
The Indispensable Role of Beneficial Insects

That was the title of Taryn Evans talk at our March 17 th program meeting. And, as we've come to expect from Taryn, who is not only President of the Marion Big Scrub FNPS chapter but also a student of insect life, it was an information packed program.

Do you know?



Which type of insect is the most effective pollinator of magnolia trees?



Well if you'd only come to Taryn's talk, you **would** know !!!

But, even though we were devastated by your absence, we don't hold grudges, so we'll let you in on the secret IF ----- you promise to do better in the future and turn to page 4.

She began by reviewing the major groups of beneficial insects, with photos to help us recognize them, and a bit of information on why each is beneficial including the other insects (some beneficial, most not) that each genus tended to prey upon. Most of us were easily puzzled by some real puzzlers she showed us, flies that look like wasps, etc.

We've all probably seen the statistics on how much of our food is pollinator dependent, and so, how very important pollinators are to US, not to mention other wildlife. (Please don't get too wild. We'd like to see you at our next meeting!)

Perhaps nothing Taryn said made that point more forcefully than a photo from one region in China, of men on ladders, hand pollinating apple(?) trees because pollution or pesticides had killed off all the insects that nature designed to do the chore. And now, as China becomes more prosperous and wages rise, the orchard owners can no longer afford hand pollination. Consequently, the trees are being pulled out to be replaced with wind pollinated crops like corn or wheat.

Of course native plants are needed as larval hosts for many insects, and flowers, especially the composites like members of the Aster family (Asteraceae) are needed for pollen and nectar. Other plants mentioned included Stokes aster, frostweed, yellow crownbeard, beach-bean, and fleabane.

But insects also need water and in many cases, shelter -- things like bee boxes or our bunch grasses which are used by beetles to overwinter. Some insects need a patch of leaf litter or bare sand to complete their life cycle too. And even insects

that are not pollinators are very necessary for bird food or prey for lizards that then become food for those critters higher on the food chain.

The most practical point Taryn made was very simple: **if you want beneficial insects in your yard, don't kill off the ones that are there already.** And try to live with the harmful ones if they're just on ornamental plants.

The beneficials are buzzing around, looking for dinner. So if you use chemicals to kill off the bugs you don't want, you are not only likely to kill many beneficials too, you won't have the smorgasbord the good guys are looking for. As a result, instead of hanging around in your yard, they'll go elsewhere and won't be around the next time to attack that same bug that bugs you so much! Taryn says, "Trust Mother Nature to establish a natural balance in your yard." Good advice for all of us!

Come with us to see Taryn's home and nursery, Saturday May 5th - pg 4

Your Chapter at Work

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

A creative idea from our vice president

If all you know about Jim Lobb, our chapter's vice president, is that he is a really nice guy who almost always brings in 4 or 5 plants to share with us at every meeting, and that he's the fellow you see putting up or taking down signs before and after our programs to help people find us, you don't know nuthin' 'bout Jim.

For many years, he has helped several of our local elementary school teachers by going into the classroom with a variety of visual aids and telling the children about the importance of native plants and how they help the bees and butterflies. He's also led many a native plant walk for middle school field trips to the Cemex nature education center down on CR 474.

Taking very seriously the importance of convincing suburban home owners to make their yards more wildlife friendly, and knowing that often there are extra unclaimed trees at many of the bare root tree giveaways, Jim has come up with one way many of us can bloom where we are planted! Here's how Jim describes it ---



Pictured above is one of my neighbors, Bob, who is the proud owner of 4 Chickasaw plum trees. He has been taking very good care of them, making sure they are getting watered through this dry season.

Want to find a great way to meet and make friends with your neighborhood? I guarantee you will get to know some wonderful people.

I started growing seedlings of native trees, some from the periodic Soil & Water Conservation District bare root tree giveaways, others from trees with seeds in my yard. I planted them in 3 gal. pots using the sandy soil from my yard. I became a victim of my own success running out of room on my property.

I found that many of my neighbors were very happy to receive and have them planted at no charge in their front yard.

The original trees the builder planted have been removed because they were species that grew too big. Now we are planting trees such as Chickasaw Plum, Sand Live Oak, Sweet Acacia, Simpson Stopper etc. which will remain proportional with our smaller homes.

They not only enhance the look of our subdivision but also support our Florida birds and native pollinators, the little critters that share our planet and whose survival we may well find to be crucial to our own.

Jim

On the Field at Crooked River Preserve

by Melanie Simon

The weather was perfect for the Passionflower field trip to the Crooked River Preserve, the 64-acre Lake County Water Authority property in Clermont that our chapter visited the morning of March 24th. The trails are relatively short, part sun and part shade, and easy to navigate.

Jim Lobb, who has done a lot of volunteer work at the preserve, guided the group. Jim pointed out the scrub and sandhill restoration areas as well as wetlands along Lake Louisa and the Palatka River. Jim was especially diligent about pointing out all the Titi shrubs (*Cyrilla racemiflora*) which grow in wetter areas and will soon be in full bloom with elongated clusters of tiny white flowers.

Many native plants were identified, including: Trumpet creeper, Cherry laurel; Blueberry (*Vaccinium darrowii*) and Sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboretum*); Resurrection fern; Red Bay (*Persea borbonia*) and Swamp Bay (*Persea palustris*); Carolina Sand Holly (*Ilex ambigua*); Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) and Sabal Minor; Beautyberry; Sweet Gum; Witch Grass; Winged Sumac (*Rhus opallinum*); Bluestem Grass (*Andropogon*); Prickly Pear; Scrub Olive; Wireweed; Tough Buckthorn (*Sideroxylon tenax*); Hickory; Pitvopsis; Shiny Lyonia; Button Bush, Gopher Apple, Adam's Needle (*Yucca filamentosa*) & the federally listed Florida bonamia.

There are a lot of different types of Oak trees in the preserve. Turkey Oaks and Chapman Oaks were readily identified, but the group concluded that we needed an expert to differentiate many of the other oak species.

A few plants were blooming, among them a sparkle berry (*Vaccinium arboretum*), a pawpaw in the sandhill restoration area and beautiful Lizard's Tail (*Saururus cernuus*) in the wetlands area. Thanks to David Biega, on page 5 you can at least see some great photos of what you missed out on. Hope you can make it to our next outing!



Which type of insect is the most effective pollinator of magnolia trees? **. Beetles !**



Although a vast array of insects visit Magnolia blossoms, most arrive after the blossoms peak fertility. Beetles arrive on time, and not just one at a time.

Many different families of beetles: sap-feeding beetles, tumbling flower beetles, leaf beetles and weevils, among others (or if you prefer their technical names: Nitidulidae, Mordellidae, Chrysomelidae and Curculionidae).

This month's Field Trip will be a visit to the home and **Native Plant Nursery of Taryn Evans**, up in Wiersdale. Clermont folks will gather in the Publix parking lot, behind the Crooked Spoon to car pool, folks farther north will meet at a place t/b/a.

Watch for an email and our facebook page. Call or email **Linda Heizer** (info to the right) who will coordinate this Field Trip.

Follow us on Facebook: PassionflowerFNPS

Your Chapter Leadership Team



Jon Pospisil, President
PassionflowerFNPS@gmail.com

Jim Lobb, Vice President

Susan Knapp, Chapter Rep

Linda Heizer, Treasurer

Arline Jelly, Secretary

More photos from our Crooked River Filed Trip



Saururus cernuus (Lizard's Tail)
Crooked River Preserve 3/24/18
by David Biega



Sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*)
Crooked River Preserve 3/24/18
by David Biega

Really?

I am a nobody, nobody is perfect,
therefore I am perfect.

Every time I find the meaning of life,
they change it.

Always remember you're unique, just
like everyone else.

A retired husband is often a wife's full
time job.

We spend the first twelve months of
our children's lives teaching them to
walk and talk and the next years
telling them to sit down and shut up.

"What did the carrot say to the
wheat? Lettuce rest, I'm feeling beet."

Knee: A device for finding rocks in
your garden