



October 2009 - January 2010

## THE BEAUTYBERRY

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

### Chapter Contacts:

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### Lake Beautyberry Chapter Fall/Winter 2009-10 Calendar

#### Field Trip - Saturday, October 24, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

This will be a field trip to the Half Moon Wildlife Management area and will be led by a Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Ranger. Half Moon WMA is west of Wildwood so we will have two carpool sites. It will be worth the drive to see the Pine Flatwoods, Sandhill, Scrub Flatwoods and the habitat restoration in progress. Expect to see Paw Paws and Scrub Jays and we will have trail maps and a bird list.

West Side of County Carpool Site: Meet Saturday October 24th at 8:15 a.m. at the Palm Plaza in Leesburg on US 27 (south of where US 441 branches off). Gather at the Publix under the sign. Contact: Peg Urban at 326-3868.

East Side of County Carpool Site: Meet Saturday, October 24th at 7:15 a.m. at the Winn-Dixie at US 19 and CR 44 north of Eustis. We will then join the others at the Leesburg meeting place. Contact: Nadine Foley 669-2398.

The directions to the Half Moon WMA are as follows if you wish to go directly there. Take US 27 south to Main St. in Leesburg and go West on Main St. It becomes SR 44. Take SR 44 west through Wildwood, under I-75 and continue on (perhaps 10 miles) just past the Providence Ranch on your right and across from the First Baptist Church of Rutland. Turn right. Continue down winding dirt road for about 2 miles to the ranger station.

We will be allowed to drive through and 4-wheel drives are welcome. Contact: Jean Morse at 360-9447. As usual for a field trip, bring water, hat, bug spray, a light lunch and wear comfortable clothing and shoes for walking. The public is welcome.

#### Discovery Gardens Workdays - First Wednesdays of the month at 9:00 a.m.

Barbara Grigg and her small group of regular helpers that tend the native garden will be glad of your help on these workdays to maintain and improve the garden. If you have a native plant to add to the garden or for info, contact Barbara at 383-3631

#### Mt. Dora Plant & Garden Fair - Saturday & Sunday, November 7 & 8, 2009

The two day fair devoted to all things gardening is always fun. Located along Lake Dora's shoreline near Mt. Dora's Simpson Park. Come to stroll and see all the exhibits and plants for sale. Our chapter will have a public outreach table. If you can help tend our table for a few hours, please let Margie Chapin know at 357-4022.

#### Lake County Green Fair - Saturday, November 14, 2009 from 9:00 to 4:00

The Green Fair had a lot of interesting, environmentally friendly exhibits last year. We will have native plant information at the Lake Soil & Water Conservation District exhibit. Check the county website: [www.lakecountyfl.com](http://www.lakecountyfl.com) for details. It will be held at Wooten Park, Tavares along the lakeshore.

## Calendar Continued

### Program Meeting - Sunday, November 15, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Our guest speaker will be Steve DeCreise, Zoo Horticulturist, Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Garden in Sanford. Steve is an engaging speaker and will bring his own style to his subject of "Lichens". Meeting location is at Trout Lake Nature Center in Eustis. Directions: Take SR 19 north out of Eustis to the intersection with CR 44 East and turn right at Winn-Dixie & CVS Pharmacy, then go 1/4 mile to the nature center entrance on the right. Come at 1:30 p.m. for plant exchange, library and socializing. Program begins at 2:00 p.m. The public is welcome at all program meetings.

### CISMA Workshop - Tuesday, November 17, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon

This Aquatic Invasive Plant Identification Workshop will be held at the Ag Center SR 19 south of Tavares. Sponsored by the Lake Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) Steering Committee. Ron Hart of the Lake County Water Authority and Nathalie Vissier of FWC will be the teachers for this workshop. Contact: Lauren Brothers, Lake Department of Public Resources at 352-253-4971 for further information.

### Field Trip - Saturday, December 5, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

This field trip will be held jointly with the Tarflower Chapter at PEAR Park located south of Leesburg off US 27. Go 2 miles south of CR 48 and turn right onto University Ave. and follow it to the end at PEAR Park. PEAR volunteers will be the guides to the restoration areas that are all coming along beautifully. Contact: Peg Urban at 326-3868.

### Annual Meeting - Sunday, January 10, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

We will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of our Chapter's formation. Election of Officers and planning ahead for 2010 and the future. Meeting will be held at Trout Lake Nature Center north of Eustis. Note: Due to a conflict with another meeting, we will be holding our meeting this time on the second Sunday of the month.

### FNPS Annual Conference - May 20 - 23, 2010

Looking ahead in 2010, the FNPS Annual Conference theme will be "Rooted in History, Forever Blooming!" and will be held at the Leon County Civic Center in Tallahassee. The special 30th Anniversary conference will honor our FNPS history and the natural heritage of North Florida. Mark your calendar now and go to [www.FNPS.org](http://www.FNPS.org) for up-dates.

## President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

Ten years ago in September 1999, I sent a letter to 90 people who I thought might be interested in forming a native plant chapter in Lake County. I set a meeting date to gather at Trout Lake Nature Center to explore the possibility. Imagine my surprise and delight that 37 people attended and 13 others called to say they wanted to join, too. With that initial core group of 50 people we were on our way to establishing our chapter. We began program meetings and field trips during the rest of 1999.

At our January 2000 meeting, our ByLaws Committee Chairman, Yvonne Rice presented the ByLaws to the group and they were adopted that day. Members signed up for Standing Committees. The President of FNPS, Candyce Weller and the FNPS Membership Chairman, Katy Roberts attended that meeting and cheered us on saying we were well set to present our application for FNPS Chapter status at the FNPS Board meeting in February 2000. I attended that Board meeting in Tampa and The Lake Beautyberry Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society was formally accepted and recognized.

As they say, the rest is history. Our chapter has thrived in the ensuing decade providing many opportunities for us and the public to learn about and enjoy the wonderful native plants of central Florida. On January 10, 2010 we will celebrate our chapter's

10th Anniversary. It will be a time to look back and to plan ahead. It is likely a good time to take stock and see if there are new opportunities to explore. If you have photos or other items to share from our chapter's activities these past 10 years, please bring them to the January meeting. It will be fun to remember and we can add to our album.

Our chapter has always had the benefit of many people working to keep us organized. It is my hope that will continue as we move forward. The meeting will also be our Annual Meeting with Election of Officers. It is time for a turnover of leadership, so please volunteer to hold an Office or be a Committee leader. An infusion of new ideas and energy will keep us vital in the next decade!

Nadine Foley, President

### **FNPS State Board Meeting**

Reported by Chapter Director Peg Lindsay

The meeting was held on August 15, 2009 at San Pedro Center, Winter Park and was chaired by Gene Kelly, FNPS President. A summary of the Committee Reports follow:

VP for Administration - Status of all contracts OK. When a current contract is up for renewal and performance is acceptable, the contract is renewed without placing the contracted service out for bid. Fritz Wettstein recommends a bylaws change to be voted at the next annual membership meeting so that bylaws conform to current practice.

VP for Finance - Reported on sources of income to the Society. Recommends that all members use GoodSearch or GoodShop as a search engine when doing online shopping. This generates a small amount of revenue to the Society. We also receive a large portion of our revenue from Earthshare, which is part of United Way. Wal-Mart employees are our biggest donor!

Treasurer - Note the Society will again have a projected deficit for CY 2010.

Communications - The FNPS Handbook is being revised to include more help for chapters. They are working on a display for use at large gatherings with interchangeable side panels geared to the audience. They are upgrading and maintaining the "brand" of FNPS within the website and all literature produced. Social Media (Facebook, Twitter) is important. The Society and the Chapters need to use them. Cindy Liberton wants to standardize the names used by the chapters so that search engines find them consistently.

Conference - Keynote speakers have been chosen and have accepted. Everything on track for a good Conference in Tallahassee May 20 - 23, 2010.

Conservation - Thanks to all who have volunteered to represent the FNPS on land management reviews. State personnel have been pleased with the professionalism of the volunteers.

Education & Outreach - Kari Ruder needs good quality photos of landscapes using native plants, with plant lists, if possible. Send to [kari@naturewiseplants.com](mailto:kari@naturewiseplants.com). She also needs any CDs which could be used by other chapters for programs. She is also interested if anyone has any "canned" landscape designs using native plants.

Policy and Legislation - Our lobbyist visited Washington DC recently (for a different client), but while she was there she visited with Florida Senator Nelson to lobby for inclusion of endangered plants in protection legislation, similar to what exists for endangered animal species. He was receptive, but held little hope of such legislation this year, because of the brouhaha over health care reform and the economy.

Publications - Bob Egolf has 100 articles which have already been published in a Palm Beach newspaper with approval from the author to use them. They need to be reviewed within each county or area served by a local newspaper, then submitted for publication. I agreed to take on the "Daily Commercial" to see if they would be interested.

In other FNPS Board business:

We approved submitting a proclamation for the Governor's signature proclaiming the third week of May as "Florida Native Plant Appreciation Week". It takes an act of the Legislature to get a month, and our lobbyist is pursuing this.

What's in a word? Karina Veaudry suggested that so many of our native plants have the word "weed" as part of the name, it gives a negative image to the promotion of native plants. We tell people to plant this weed, or that weed. She suggested we try to revise the common names of native plants to exclude the word weed. Heehee, what a discussion followed. No action.

The Society wants to take out a full-page ad in the AFNN annual publication. This would eliminate the individual chapters paying \$100 for individual listings. Some chapters have no money and do not advertise. The Society full-page ad would include all chapters. We all thought this was a good idea, but do not have the money to do so. The cost is not in this year's budget and it is a deficit budget anyway. Maybe next year.

We approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Florida Wildflower Foundation, the Association of Florida Native Nurseries and the Florida Wildflower Seed and Plant Growers.

And the biggie: The Strategic Plan. The Board has been working on this for over two years. We brainstormed ideas, organized them by category and have chosen the most important and the most do-able for the Strategic Plan. The Plan was finalized at this meeting. There is some awesome talent, admirable enthusiasm and willingness to share knowledge on the State Board. If you know a Board member, thank that person for serving. And be sure to attend the next FNPS Annual Conference.

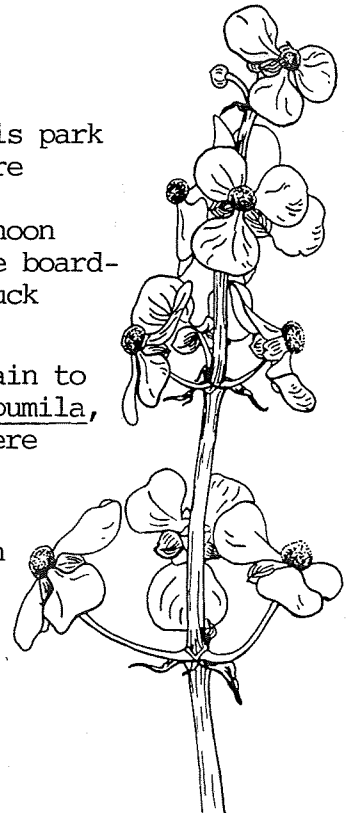
### Field Trip to Twin Lakes County Park

June 20, 2009 Reported by Barbara Grigg

Thanks to recent heavy Spring rains, the twin lakes which give this park its name were filled with both water and aquatic plants. The lakes were surrounded by a wide ring of pink which turned out to be Meadow Beauty (Rhexia sp.). We were also able to find Button Bush, Persimmon and Dahoon Holly (Ilex cassine) in this lake border. As we followed an impressive boardwalk over deeper water, the vegetation gradually changed to include, Duck Potato, Pickerelweed and finally Duckweed and Spatter Dock.

As we left the boardwalk for dry ground the vegetation changed again to species such as Muscadine Grape, Shiny Blueberry, Beautyberry, Smilax pumila, Myrtle Oak and Saw Palmetto. We were in what would be a scrub if it were not overgrown.

After lunch we drove to Pietro's Paw Paws. Terri Pietroburgo who owns this native Paw Paw nursery gave us a tour at her butterfly garden followed by a tour of the nursery. She grows Paw Paws in narrow, deep pots and at present has Asimina obvata and Asimina pygmaea. She would like to stock other species as seed sources become available and would welcome information from Native Plant members about possible seed sources. Paw Paw species are the larval food source for the beautiful Zebra Swallowtail Butterfly so if you missed the field trip and wish to purchase plants or need directions to the nursery, here is the contact information. Address: Pietro's Paw Paws 33930 Washington Ave. Leesburg 34788. Cell Phone: 352-504-6494. E-mail: 1bushwoman @ embarqmail.com. A visit to Terri's nursery is most interesting and she is very willing to share her experience in raising Paw Paws.



*Sagittaria  
lancifolia*  
Duck Potato

## The Surficial Geology of Central Florida

Our guest speaker in May, Gene Bouley, gave a follow-up presentation to his previous talk this time focusing on Florida's soils. Florida is a carbonate platform about 20,000 feet thick and extending out from the peninsula to the 300 foot ocean depth. This is about 3 miles off Miami where there are 3,000 foot cliffs then plunging to 10,000 feet deep underwater. Bear in mind that sea levels have fluctuated over the millions of years and often Florida, as we know it, has been underwater with only a few areas of sandy dunes above water, like the Bahamas are today.

One hundred million years ago, lots of material was coming down from the continent, but the Georgia Channel had a current which kept the sediment from settling. Then, 20 million years ago, the Appalachian Mountains moved up again, filled the channel and then the soils came in and settled forming the peninsula with thicker deposits along the coast. These deposits are sand - sugar sand - quartz sand; small, hard, smooth, rounded particles worked by wave and wind and bleached by the sun.

Gene showed magnified samples of sand from PEAR Park vs. White Mountain sand from New Hampshire. The northern sand has mica, gray quartz and feldspar, the make up of granite. The sand from PEAR Park is just quartz. Our sand will have gray layers in it which are organic layers. And, there will be clay layers which makes the soil impermeable. If clay is mixed with sand all through the soil, it helps to bind and hold water.

Gene also described the karst topography in central Florida and the surficial and deeper Floridan aquifer. The limestone bedrock is porous and also permeable due to cracks and fissures which may produce a solution sinkhole and cause a collapse. A sinkhole may also form when the clay layer gets eaten away from below and the sand collapses in suddenly. Large lakes have been known to disappear down into the aquifer rapidly.

Gene's presentation was detailed and he showed many examples. He has a permanent exhibit on soils, rocks and shells in the science center at PEAR Park. Plan to visit it when you visit the park the next time.

## Attracting Birds to Your Landscape

Our own Peg Urban and Peg Lindsay gave the program at our July meeting which we held in Fruitland Park with guests from the Sumter Chapter of FNPS and others from the area. Their visually beautiful photographs accompanied Peg Lindsay's narration on the subject of "Attracting Birds to Your Landscape". They said if you want birds in your yard remember they need to eat 365 days a year. They need bugs and spiders to feed their babies. And bugs and spiders co-evolved with native plants - so plant natives! Their photos showed the many plant/bird combinations and how planting for a year around food supply is possible with a diverse plant selection.

You may augment with feeders such as tray feeders with good seed and tube feeders for small birds. Lawns are the biological equivalent of concrete where birds are concerned. They need trees, shrubs, berry and seed bearing plants, vines and cover to rest in and to nest and rear their young. There is often enough near-by water here, but a fountain, mister or bird bath will be welcome and provides another spot to observe the birds. Put it near shrubbery and not in an open, exposed location.

You may want to add nesting boxes for the cavity nesting birds such as Blue Birds, Wood Peckers, Crested Fly-catchers and Wood Ducks. Urbanization has removed so many of the natural nest sites. Leave large trees and snags where possible. Peg says, "Think of snags as the latest fashion in residential landscaping". The perching birds need these outposts: Ospreys, Bald Eagles, Red Headed Woodpeckers, Red Shouldered Hawks and they showed photos of these and more. Pines provide a perch for raptors, nest sites and abundant seeds for birds and other wildlife, plus insects for the Warblers. Live Oaks provide all the essentials plus leaf litter for the Brown Thrashers and Towhees to scratch in, acorns for Blue Jays and Wild Turkeys and a home for Flying Squirrels.

Attracting Birds, continued

Peg and Peg's program is available on CD for \$10.00 and they offer a similar CD on "Planting for Butterflies", too. The CD's are packed with photos showing the native plant/bird or butterfly combinations and you will get an excellent idea about how the native plants will look in your landscape. To order the CD's, contact Peg Urban at 326-3868 or Peg Lindsay at 326-2045.

### Field Trip to Members' Home Landscapes

You may wonder where Peg and Peg get all those wonderful photos we have seen in their programs and on their notecards. Well, wonder no more. They often just look out their windows as we found out on our August field trip to visit some of our members' home landscapes.

We started our garden tour at Peg Urban's home in Hawthorne. She makes use of large mulched beds around two large Oak trees out front. There were Blue Curls, Rosinweed, Ruellia, Iron Weed, Rayless Sunflower, native Senna for Sulphur Butterflies, Bee Balm and young Coonties set out to fill in when the blooming plants are out of season. The second bed featured Yucca, Silver-leafed Golden Aster, Garberia, Conradina and Paintbrush with Virginia Creeper loaded with berries up into the Oak and Resurrection Fern along the big Oak's limbs. A beautiful, natural front yard. Then behind her home were Coral Honeysuckle, Partridge Pea, Firebush, Coral Bean and Cross Vine in addition to more of the plants she has in front along with a big bed of tall Dotted Horsemint. Her side yard featured a beautiful Oak Leaf Hydrangea, Carolina Jessamine, Sassafras for Palamedes and Spicebush Butterflies, Wild Coffee and a soft ground cover of Basket Grass.

Our next stop was at Mary Remer's home in Hawthorne. She featured Bird Pepper which the birds love, Fire Spike, Rudbeckia, Blue Curls, Senna, Blue-eyed Grass with a Frog Fruit ground cover which provides larval food for three butterflies and sets off the other plants in her front yard very nicely. Mary's sideyard is an eye-popping area of color along the street side for all to enjoy. Her sideyard is 14' by 50' and is a National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Certified Wildlife Habitat. It receives full sun all morning so she has planted for pollinators with Dotted Morsemint, Beach Sunflower, Bidens, Firebush, Seaside Goldenrod, Coral Bean, Blue Curls and Wax Myrtle which was full of berries.

Mary's backyard was pretty featuring White and Purple Beautyberries, Sunflowers, Rosinweed and Cross Vine. The other side yard with more shade held a Simpson Stopper and Yaupon Holly with a nearby birdbath and Coral Honeysuckle Vine. Happy birds and butterflies at Mary's home.

At Patty Cohen's home at Legacy we visited her broad beds along a tree line. On the way to the back, we stopped at her very pretty water feature and spotted Roseate Skimmer Dragonflies enjoying the perches near the water. The beds held robust and colorful plants under Red Maple, Sweet Gum and Red Mulberry trees. Pentas, Ruellia, Iron Weed, Mexican Sunflower, Purple Sage, Anise Hyssop and Pipe Vine were all planted for butterflies. Long-tailed Skippers were on her Salvias and Silver-Spotted Skippers were on her Budleas. Patty said she began improving the sandy soil about three years ago and she uses worm castings and worm tea. Good results with her healthy, colorful plants in this NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat. Patty fortified us with lemonade and cookies and we headed on.

Next stop was at Peg Lindsay and Bob Putman's home in Highland Lakes. They began their Scrub Garden based on a fallen Water Oak that went down about five years ago and is all gone now, recycled into the plants there now. Peg and Bob have Coral Bean, Conradina, Blue Curls, Coral Honeysuckle, Sandhill Coneflower and Pineland Heliotrope for butterflies. Fruiting plants were Flatwood Plums, Shiny Blueberries, Bird Pepper, Common Nightshade and Red Cedar. They generously provided cuttings of the native Porterweed which was growing abundantly. They had Little Blueberry along the side of the house and out front Blanket Flower and Rosinweed provided color with starts of the native Lantana in their front beds.

Continued on Page 7.

Home Landscapes, continued.

Then, on to Jean Morse's home in Royal Highlands where her beautiful backyard garden looks out to an open area beyond. The entry to her garden features a nice pond with Blue Flag and Cord Grass against a wall. She had Firebush and there was Ginger and Milkweed against a side wall. As we entered her butterfly garden, Sandhill Cranes that use the open area beyond welcomed us. She has Zinnias, Abelia, Hyssop, Stokes Asters and Blue Daze for butterflies. There were Hummingbirds at the Firecracker plants and she introduced a plant new to some of us, Diamond Frost with small, white blossoms. As we completed our visit with Jean, big rain clouds hurried us to our cars and then one of our Florida August rains favored all the lovely gardens we had seen with a blessing of natural moisture. Thank you to our wonderful members for sharing their beautiful gardens with us.

### Eustis Tree Management Plan

At our September meeting, Jim Thorsen, Forest Resources Consultant, was our guest speaker. Jim retired in Eustis after his 37 year career with the USDA Forest Service. His final years of service were as the District Ranger in the Ocala National Forest. Recently he worked with a committee to formulate the Eustis Tree Management Plan. At present he is working to implement the plan by planting 160 trees per year on city right of way and in parks using 12 native species and adding diversity to the existing 2,000 trees on city property.

The trees being planted in Eustis are Live Oak trees, replacing Laurel Oaks many of which were lost to storms in recent years. The Live Oaks need space so they are planted with plenty of room to grow and they can live 300 - 400 years. He is planting Bald Cypress which are growing well. Of the Yellow Pine species, local natives are Long Leaf Pine, Slash Pine, Sand Pine and Loblolly Pine. He is planting Long Leaf Pine in the city to increase their numbers. A great favorite is the Magnolia which is a beautiful tree with large blossoms and fruit for wildlife. There are different cultivars, but they are planting a general selection. Jim discussed the wilt affecting Red Bay, Camphor, Lime and Avocado trees, those in the Laurel family. It does not affect Magnolias.

In smaller spaces he is planting Sabal Palms where their compact root ball will not affect sidewalks. Eastern Red Cedars, Dahoon Holly and Hickory trees are being added with their wildlife food value and they add much to the diversity of the city's trees. Non-natives, Queen Palms and Crape Myrtles are being used in certain places such as under utility lines. Queen Palms planted a year ago got through last winter's cold weather all right. In closing, Jim reminded us about the Black Bear Scenic Byway and the up-coming celebration in the Ocala National Forest. See details on the back page.

### Scattered Seeds

\*\*\*\* Visit our Chapter's Twitter site at: <http://www.twitter.com/FNPSBeautyberry>. To add native plant or nature notes, send brief messages to Patricia Burgos at: [bflyr317@yahoo.com](mailto:bflyr317@yahoo.com) and she will post your information.

\*\*\*\* Is Alaska on your bucket list? Peg Lindsay has info on 3 different Alaska botany/birding/natural history tours to go in Summer 2010, or if not possible then, in 2011. Contact her at 352-326-2045 or [pegcondor@embarqmail.com](mailto:pegcondor@embarqmail.com).

\*\*\*\* Lavon Silvernell, TLNC Naturalist is planning on a series of landscape workshops in Spring 2010 and will appreciate help from Beautyberry members. Contact her at: cell 223-4761 or e-mail [silvernell@lcia.com](mailto:silvernell@lcia.com)

\*\*\*\* The County may not hold an Earth Day celebration in 2010, but our chapter may work with either PEAR Park volunteers for a plant sale or with the City of Eustis and Trout Lake Nature Center to celebrate Earth Day with a tree and/or plant sale.

\*\*\*\* FAWN the Florida Automated Weather Network is a very handy website for rainfall and temperature reports and info on irrigation run time estimates. Go to <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu>.

### Other Upcoming Activities

We have a field trip planned for Saturday, October 24th, but on the same day there will be a Celebration Ceremony for the Black Bear Scenic Byway (SR 40 and SR 19). This will be a day-long celebration beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the 4-H Camp (Camp Ocala) in the Ocala National Forest on SR 19, four miles south of SR 40. We will be celebrating the official opening of the Scenic Byway. The public is invited.

The day's activities will include free food, visiting dignitaries, forest tours, boat tours, exhibits, horse rides, water activities and more! Musical entertainment by Woods & Bridges Bluegrass. Additional information on the event at: [www.floridablackbearsenicbyway.org](http://www.floridablackbearsenicbyway.org).

Plan ahead for the Overnight Trip to the Lake Wales area Tuesday-Thursday, March 23 - 25, 2010. Peg Lindsay is planning this overnight for our chapter jointly with the Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society. It will include a hike at Catfish Creek Preserve State Park, tour of Bok Tower Gardens, a visit to the Ridge Audubon Society Nature Center in Babson Park and hike at Tiger Creek Preserve. On the last day you can opt for a pontoon boat tour on Lake Pierce or a visit to The Natives native plant nursery in Davenport before heading home. This will be a nice trip for anyone interested in native plants and/or birding.

Tentative costs for the accommodations are \$140.00 per person for room, breakfasts and dinners for two nights, plus admissions and optional boat trip. The rooms are at a lodge on Lake Pierce. Contact Peg Lindsay for details and to make reservations at 326-2045 or e-mail at [pegcondor@embarqmail.com](mailto:pegcondor@embarqmail.com).

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First Class Mail