



Jean Daubenmire receives her Green Palmetto Award at the Lake Beautyberry Chapter meeting on July 15, 2001. Pictured with Jean are Dick Henley, Chapter President, and Nadine Foley, Chapter Director.

2001 Green Palmetto Award for Science

Jean Daubenmire

by Nadine Foley, Lake Beautyberry Chapter FNPS

Jean Daubenmire earned her Master of Science Degree in Botany at the University of Idaho. She married Rexford Daubenmire and assisted him in field work and co-authored many papers in plant ecology for the next half century. Jean was always at Rexford's side in the field.* Their book, *Forest Vegetation of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho* (1968) is frequently cited by ecologists and is still in print. Rexford was a faculty member at the University of Idaho for ten years and for 29 years at Washington State University. When Rex retired from Washington State University in 1975, the Daubenmires moved to Lake county, Florida. Not ones to sit still in retirement, the Daubenmires immersed themselves in Florida botany. I first met Jean when she and Rex came on the first of many visits to the University of South Florida (USF) to verify the identification of the numerous plants they had collected in Lake county. Many of their specimens are now in the herbariums at USF and the University of Florida and were new records for Lake county. Their visits were always welcomed.

Visitors to Flat Island Preserve, an 1,800-acre site about three miles from Leesburg and owned by the Lake County Water Authority, can hike the Daubenmire Trail. Jean and Rex did the initial plant survey for the preserve and helped lay out the approximately four mile trail named in their honor.

Jean also has been very active in the Master Gardeners. She helped establish Discovery Garden, a Lake County Horticultural Learning center located in Tavares. Discovery Garden is a 3.5 acre site made up of 19 theme gardens developed as a joint effort of Lake County Board of Commissioners, University of Florida County Extension Service, Friends of the Horticultural Learning Center, and the Master Gardeners of Lake County. Each theme garden demonstrates how home owners can obtain the type of landscape they wish for their own yards.

Jean Daubenmire is well deserving of this award for her many contributions to ecology globally and for her past 25 years of dedicated study of Florida native plants. ✨

*Jean's husband, Rexford Daubenmire, was a pioneer in plant ecology whose ideas were considered radical when he introduced them in the 1950s but now have been widely accepted. He died at the age of 85 at their home in Mount Plymouth, in 1995.