

November 2012

Alabamawildflower.org



Alabama Wildflower Society Blanche Dean Chapter

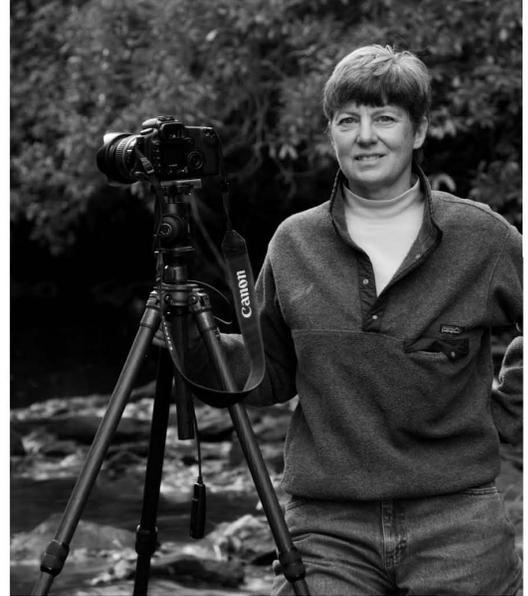
VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

Beth Maynor Young

Please join us in welcoming Beth Maynor Young to our next meeting on Monday, November 5th. We will meet at our regular time—7pm— at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Beth Young is an accomplished conservation photographer who has spent much of her life chronicling the natural beauty and remnant wild places of the contemporary South. In 1990, she founded Cahaba River Publishing, a conservation-motivated firm that supports her life's passion—nature and landscape photography. Today Beth's photographs give us a moving vision of the natural world and speak quietly yet deeply of our need to preserve the South's unique environmental heritage.

Her new book "Longleaf, Far as the Eye Can See" is out, and this will be her first talk about the book. beth@bethyoung.net

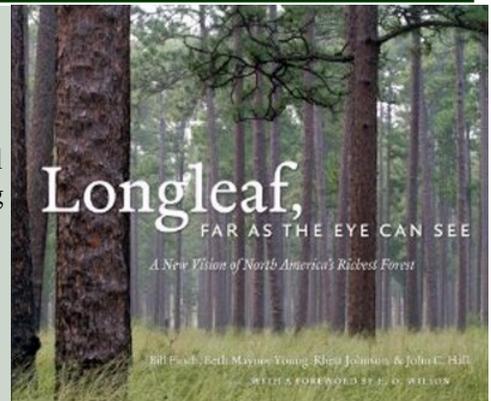


Her photographs are mostly from unprotected places—each with its own story of biological compromise and imminent threat. But these places also embrace a southern tradition— of being saved and preserved, of restoration and resurrection.

Longleaf,
Far as the Eye Can See
By: Bill Finch, Rhett Johnson, John Hall
and Beth Maynor Young

Join us at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens
on Monday night November 5th at 7pm

**you will have the opportunity
to purchase Ms. Young's book.**



AWS: BDC - Minutes of September 12, 2012 meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Linda Sherk at approximately 7:10 p.m. at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Treasurer Maryalys Griffis reported that there was \$1225.49 in the chapter's holdings. John Manion, BBG curator, made known that two classes leading to Certificate status would soon be held, one dealing with rock outcrops and the other, native plants for birds. Dan Spaulding will be present at the BBG on October 25 to sign copies of the new publication *Ferns of Alabama*. On October 20, a nature hike will be led by Ila Hatter at DeSoto State Park from 1:00 p.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Marty Schulman introduced our speaker for tonight, Dr. Andrew T. Gannon, Professor of Biology at Birmingham-Southern College. His topic was Butterfly-Passionvine (Maypops) Coevolution: Butterflies Avoid Plant Bodyguards. It appears that Dr. Gannon is sometimes referred to as "The Bug Man".

The passionvine is a beautiful flower. Some have said that its natural design has a crucifixion image. It is short-lived, existing for only about a day. It cannot withstand freezing. In the U.S., it grows from Florida to Tennessee and Kentucky. It grows in tropics around the world, primarily in Central and South America. It is native. It can be mildly invasive. Propagation from seed can be difficult as it generally spreads vegetatively via underground root systems. It has male and female entities.

The passionvine is beloved food for the butterfly groups Gulf Fritillaries and Zebra Longwing, particularly the former whose larval stage is 2-1/2 to 4 weeks. Things get rather interrelational and complex during this time. The caterpillars lay eggs on the vine nectar which in turn attracts ants. These ants act as bodyguards for the plants.

There are about 500 species of passionvines. They produce 40-50 chemical compounds for defense from various herbivores. The butterfly larvae AND the adult butterfly take these compounds and convert them to poisons within themselves, making them inedible for ravaging predators.

The caterpillars exhibit "adaptive radiation", the phenomenon of evolutionally improving dependent upon geography. The fritillaries migrate but less so than the monarch. They go south in the fall and north in the spring.

Butterflies, after visiting a host passionvine, will posit other eggs on a non-host non-passionvine plant. (They only eat passionvine). Ants will take many eggs from the passionvine and simply drop them (?). The survival rate of the eggs is higher on non-host plants. More eggs will be laid on passionvines WITHOUT ants. The number of ants on vines will influence the caterpillars laying eggs on non-host plants.

It should be noted that ants will not eat the eggs which are toxic for them.

Yes, this is a study in interrelations and evolutionary adaptation. Most, most interesting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10 p.m. We will next meet on November 5.



Respectfully submitted,
Charles E. Gleaton, Recorder

Support Forever Wild by voting YES November 6th

Check out the recently released commercials from the The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The spots feature former Auburn coach Pat Dye and former Alabama coach Gene Stallings encouraging people to get out and enjoy the great outdoors.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4v-qdNdL4Y&feature=share&list=UUG-cFEpzJ59NR9v88o5rHgpw>

Recently, the Birmingham News ran a letter-to-the-editor about the incredible educational opportunities available at the Turkey Creek Nature Preserve just minutes outside of Birmingham. The letter also acknowledges the role Forever Wild plays in expanding experiential education on various tracts around the state.

Please let us know if you would be willing to sign a letter-to-the-editor in your area.

Bee Frederick

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Did you know that Beth Maynor Young helped save Turkey Creek when the county threatened to build a jail on the banks of the creek? Her lovely photography of Turkey Creek are enjoyed by many.

Forever Wild

Created in 1992 by a constitutional referendum that garnered 83 percent of the vote, Forever Wild is a program dedicated to preserving Alabama's most beautiful and environmentally sensitive land and water, all while expanding the recreational opportunities available to the public.

Forever Wild helps keep our water clean, protects our wildlife, and helps ensure that our children will have the opportunity to experience the natural wonders of our beautiful state.



Calendar Dates to Remember:

11/5/12 Blanche Dean Chapter Meeting, speaker will be Beth Young introducing her Long Leaf Pine book due out in October.

11/17/12 Fall Color trip to High Falls and Buck's Pocket, Michelle Reynolds leading, more details to follow.

3/4/13 Pot Luck Meeting at the BBG starts at 6:30PM

3/16/13 Field Trip to EL Paso Wildflower Preserve with the Freshwater Land Trust

(back up date is 4/6/13) more details to follow

4/2/13 Blanche Dean Chapter Meeting at the BBG (hopefully will move to Monday , April 1)

4/27/13 Field Trip to Cloudland Canyon in GA...Rachel Young leading, more details later

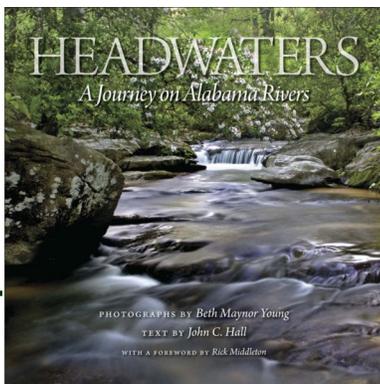
6/3/13 Blanche Chapter Meeting at the BBG

9/9/13 Blanche Dean Chapter Meeting at the BBG

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

President - Linda Sherk
Vice President of programs - Marty Schulman
Vice President of field trips, Michelle Reynolds
Treasurer - Maryalys Griffis
Recorder—Charles Gleaton
Editor/Web Site - Karen Hutchinson

We're on the WEB!
AlabamaWildflower.org



Headwaters: A Journey on Alabama Rivers is another recent book of photos by Beth Maynor Young's which can be ordered on her web site.

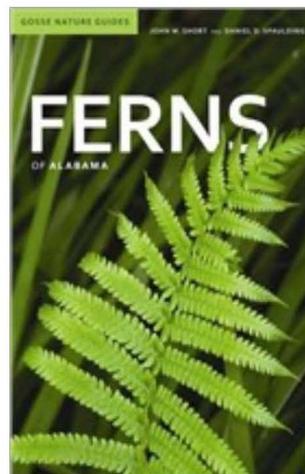
Beth&bethyoung.net

Alabama has a geology and biology story that trumps any other state in the U.S. This story of Alabama is told by a master story teller John C. Hall.

Friends of Locust Fork EVENT!

Nov 17th: Friends of Locust Fork River are sponsoring the annual Horton Mill Hike. Moderate 1-2 hours, bring snack, meet at Horton Mill Bridge at 9:00. Contact Joe Still for more information.

(205) 9665-4565



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