



THE PAWPAW PRESS

Newsletter of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society: August 2020

Trees expand presence in the Park of Honor

Thanks to some outside inspiration and a generous contribution to the Pawpaw Chapter, the Park of Honor has two impressive specimens of sweetbay magnolia, *Magnolia virginiana*.

The inspiration came from Renee Stambaugh of Native Plant Consulting, our speaker in June 2019. Renee visited the park and thought that the quadrants in the middle of the park surrounding the fountain could greatly benefit from the addition of native trees. The anonymous contribution was made in honor of Charles Cuidera, who was chapter president back in 2004. The board decided that the trees would honor all of those



who have contributed to the chapter and are no longer with us, and signs to be installed in early September will so indicate.

Earlier this year, when Doug Hunt and Paul Rebmann met with Brian Peek, public works director for the City of South Daytona, to discuss the tree siting, Brian suggested that two trees framing the pavilion at the back of the park might be a better way to go. That proved to be an inspired suggestion as well.

After several months of delay brought on by Covid-19, on Aug. 18 Lindley's Nursery finally installed the trees at the park. They give the chapter an additional presence in the park where we already maintain a thriving native plant garden and provide a way to showcase a most handsome native tree. We're thankful to all who made this possible, and for our ongoing partnership with the City of South Daytona.—*Story and photos by Doug Hunt*

Volusia Forever and Volusia ECHO on November ballot

There will be two important local ballot questions in the general election on Nov. 3 that are fundamental to protecting our quality of life in Volusia County. Voters will be asked whether they want to extend Volusia Forever and Volusia ECHO, two voter-approved programs set to expire next year. These award-winning programs have protected important wildlife and special areas as well as funded facilities for arts, culture, historic preservation, and outdoor recreation.

Over the last 20 years, Volusia Forever has permanently protected more than 38,000 acres, including much of the Volusia Conservation Corridor, Spruce Creek Preserve, and areas adjacent to rivers, lakes, springs, and other preserves. Continuing this program will provide the funds to further increase the Conservation Corridor and springshed, and to protect important natural areas, including areas that protect our drinking water supplies.

Volusia ECHO projects have helped construct museums, cultural and arts facilities, preserved historic sites,

and provided opportunities for outdoor recreation throughout Volusia County. The long list includes: environmental projects like Lyonia Environmental Learning Center and Marine Discovery Center; cultural projects like Museum of Arts and Science and African American Museum; historic preservation projects such as Barberville Pioneer Arts Settlement and Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse; and outdoor recreation projects such as Coraci Sports Complex and Jackie Robinson Ballpark. Attendance records show that ECHO funded-facilities host more 600,000 visitors each year and many more enjoy the 70 miles of trails throughout the county.

The ballot questions will allow for reauthorization of the programs for another 20 years. Since this is a continuation of an existing program, there will be no increase in taxes.

Why do we need to extend these programs? First of all, we need to acquire additional lands to protect our drinking water supplies as well as protect important water resources like springs, rivers, lakes, and lagoons. But we have also learned during this special time we're living through that we need more places to safely go outdoors. As our population continues to grow, we will need more natural areas protected, more opportunities for outdoor recreation, and more cultural and arts facilities. Taken as a whole, these are the things that make Volusia special, and protect our quality of life.

The Pawpaw Board of Directors recently voted to make a \$500 contribution in support of these measures. For more information on Volusia Forever and Volusia ECHO, visit: <https://www.echovolusiaforever.org>, and please also like the Echo Volusia Forever Facebook page.—*Melissa Lammers*

The Observatory

Renate Calero is marveling at the bees that visit her spotted beebalm (*Monarda punctata*), which she grows in containers in her front yard. Looking for a native option for hanging baskets, Doug Hunt is giving pineland heliotrope (*Euploca polyphylla*) a try.

Share your delights and discoveries with chapter members by e-mailing your photos to Doug at shalehill@gmail.com for inclusion next month.



Chapter meetings and speakers

Sept. 14: Program on a homeowner's waterfront restoration ONLINE via Zoom

Oct. 12: Program on Volusia County's ecosystems ONLINE via Zoom

Pawpaw on Facebook

Keep up with chapter events on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/PawpawChapter>

Upcoming field trips, events

Sept. 18: Eco-buggy field trip to Longleaf Pine Preserve. Contact Warren Reynolds: warrenreynolds70@gmail.com. CDC guidelines in place. No carpools, no planned lunch.

Sept. 21: Park of Honor work day, Olive St., South Daytona, 9 a.m.

Oct. 19: Park of Honor work day, Olive St., South Daytona, 9 a.m.