



THE PAWPAW PRESS

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

Chapter awards research of student scientist

The Tomoka Regional Science and Engineering Fair, at which young scientists from grades six through 12 compete for awards, was held on January 25 in DeLand.

This year the Pawpaw Chapter awarded a prize to seventh-grader Lily Schlageter of New Smyrna Beach Middle School. She is a younger sister of Emma Jean Schlageter, who was a previous Pawpaw Award recipient. Danny Young and Rose Pysh served as judges for the chapter.

Lily's project was titled, *The Effects of Dragline Ditch Restoration on Saltmarsh Vegetation*.

She measured the type and extent of saltmarsh plant species at restored (filled) and non-restored dragline ditches before and after restoration. Her results showed that restoring the ditches increases the extent of saltmarsh vegetation. Miss Schlageter received a prize of \$100 cash, Dr. W.K. Taylor's *The Guide to Florida Wildflowers*, and a one-year membership to FNPS.

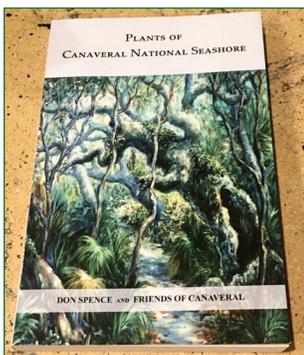
Pawpaw member Danny Young also presented an award on behalf of Young Bear Environmental Consulting to Danysia Lacey, a sixth-grader at Holly Hill Middle School. Danysia measured the effectiveness of roof design at capturing water runoff.—*Danny Young*



John Baehre of Young Bear Environmental Consulting presenting the award to Lily Schlageter on the chapter's behalf.

Bring air potato bulbils to February meeting

Following up on January's program, Cassandra Kelm with the FDACS Air Potato Control Group has confirmed that air potato bulbils—the small potato-like growths on the vines—can be taken to the Volusia County IFAS Extension Office. If Pawpaw members bring bulbils to our February meeting, Katie Tripp will transport them to the office. Cassandra is grateful for the chapter's support and says that if we identify any public areas in need of air potato beetle treatment, she will gladly provide beetles to us.—*Katie Tripp*



Talk on Canaveral National Seashore's plants

The Pawpaw Chapter's Don Spence, an assistant professor at Bethune-Cookman University, will give a talk on his book *Plants of Canaveral National Seashore* at the Marine Discovery Center in New Smyrna Beach at 6 pm on Thursday, Feb. 20. The Marine Discovery Center is located at 520 Barracuda Blvd. Don will discuss how the book may be used as a guide by residents and plant enthusiasts to identify various species found in the national park, as well as in the surrounding area.

Weather permitting, the presentation will be held in the amphitheater located behind the Marine Discovery Center, so bring a folding chair or blanket.

Park of Honor native garden gets a YouTube moment

Dr. J Cho of Bethune-Cookman University visited the chapter's demonstration garden at the Park of Honor in South Daytona during our January work day and created a wonderfully informative video introduction to the park and its plants for her YouTube channel. Check it out at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrW9OPLFLvc>.

A woodland walk to start the year

Members of Pawpaw gathered on Saturday, Jan. 18, to start the 2020 New Year off with a field trip to the Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge in DeLeon Springs. As members were gathering in the parking lot to begin



our trek to the Myacca trailhead, there were plenty of comments on how the weather was just perfect for a walk amongst the wildflowers, fauna, and trees. We all looked to Warren for an informative guide along the trail and we weren't disappointed.

Keep up with the chapter online at [facebook.com/pawpawchapter/](https://www.facebook.com/pawpawchapter/)

Warren stopped numerous times to instruct and point out unique characteristics of natives such as the *Tillandsia usneoides* (Spanish moss), *Hypericum hypericoides* (St. Andrew's Cross), and *Carphephorus odoratissimus* (vanilla leaf). It was good to learn how to determine the differences between the native and non-native woodsorrels and

the numerous native and non-native ferns. Sande was observant and hiked a bit off the path to point out the one red highlighted plant on our plant list, the very invasive non-native *Urena lobate* (Cesarweed). A few members discussed the need to be vigilant in attempts to eradicate this invasive.

Rounding out the field trip were some opportunities to observe and enjoy evidence of the presence of Florida wildlife: woodpecker cavities in a couple snags, several active gopher tortoise burrows, and observing a nesting bald eagle from a distance.—*Story and photo by Nancy Hull*

Chapter meetings and speakers

- Feb. 10: Stacey Matrazzo of the Florida Wildflower Foundation on edible natives
- March 9: Jeffrey Kneisley of DeLeon Springs State Park on its native plant garden
- April 13: Valerie Anderson, FNPS communications coordinator, on the FNPS mission
- May 11: Linda Wilinski, Florida nature photographer
- June 8: Nash Turley, UCF ecologist, on Lawn to Wildflowers
- July 13: Jenny Nazak, sustainability educator, on Soil 101
- Aug. 10: Linda Walters of UCF on Tomoka State Park restoration

Upcoming field trips, events

- Feb. 22: Lyonia Environmental Center, Deltona
- March 14: DeLeon Springs State Park, DeLeon Springs
- April 18: Mala Compa Trail, Palm Coast
- May 9: Hickory Bluff Preserve, Osteen
- June 13: Haw Creek Preserve State Park, Seville
- July 19: Black Point Wildlife Drive, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge
- Aug. 22: Ormond Central Park, Ormond Beach, annual plant swap
- Sept. 19: Pine Lily eco-buggy tour at Longleaf Pine Preserve, New Smyrna Beach