



THE PAWPAW PRESS

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

Field trip team gets us in nature even in pandemic

The Pawpaw Chapter's field trips don't just happen. They take hours of commitment and volunteer time. Warren Reynolds, as field trip chair, coordinates with Mike and Marcia Hafner, and past trip coordinator Sonya Guidry (all of whom are Master Naturalists), to set up a site schedule, do pre-trip reconnaissance, prepare printable plant lists, work out logistics, and provide outreach information to spread the word about upcoming trips.

Even then the coordinator is not done. There's the added chore of sending photocopies of all the trip waiver forms and plant lists to the Society level of FNPS and then logging both the volunteer and education outreach hours.

And recently, holding field trips has had the added responsibility of making sure the monthly outdoor excursions meet CDC guidelines. Group size is kept small, participants wear masks, and social distancing is maintained whenever possible.

Field trips are definitely the heartbeat of the Florida Native Plant Society. It's by sharing and exploring the natural areas of Volusia and Flagler counties that members and visitors have an opportunity in this time of self-isolation to get up close and personal with our native flora so we learn to appreciate, love, and protect it for its amazing network of living diversity.

Our hats are off to our field trip team as they keep the FNPS heartbeat going even through a pandemic.

—Story and photos by Sonya Guidry



Garden takes shape in Ormond

The Environmental Discovery Center in Ormond Beach has added to their collection of native plants.

On June 30, a large swath of grass was removed and the first phase of a native wildflower garden was installed. Courageously enduring the sweltering heat, four people planted 65 natives: blanketflower (*Gaillardia pulchella*), coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*), and wild petunia (*Ruellia caroliniensis*). A welcome visitor appeared almost immediately. (See "The Observatory," on next page.)

The second and final phase is planned for cooler weather in the fall. The EDC, located at 601 Division Avenue in Ormond Beach's Central Park, has a large demonstration garden where interested people can see how attractive and functional native plants are. The building, which houses natural history displays, is closed at this time but the grounds and the park are open for exploring.



Meanwhile, Danny Young reports that, at the Southeast Volusia Audubon's Plants for Birds Garden at the Marine Discovery Center in New Smyrna Beach, the oaks have been installed, the mulch is being spread, and the coquina walkway is almost done. Danny says they will resume planting in the fall "when

(fingers crossed), we have been approved to use the county's tree fund, Covid is not an issue and the snow birds are returning."—*Story and Ormond photo by Leslie Nixon; MDC photo by Danny Young*

The Observatory

Karen Walter loves the flowers on her sleepy hibiscus (*Hibiscus furcellatus*), but laments that they only open for one day. Leslie Nixon was thrilled to see a bee land on lanceleaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*) shortly after it was planted at the Environmental Discovery Center's new native plant garden.

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

Aug. 10: Linda Walters of UCF on Tomoka State Park restoration ONLINE via Zoom

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

Oct. 12: Program on Volusia County's ecosystems

Pawpaw on Facebook

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

Upcoming field trips, events

Aug. 17: Park of Honor work day, Olive St., South Daytona, 9 a.m.

Aug. 22: Annual plant swap, Central Park, Ormond Beach. CDC guidelines in place. No carpools, no planned lunch. Bring 3 or 4 potted native plants to swap (not required). Contact Warren: warrenreynolds70@gmail.com

Sept. 18: Eco-buggy field trip to Longleaf Pine Preserve. Contact Warren: warrenreynolds70@gmail.com