



THE PAWPAW PRESS

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

FNPS goes virtual for annual membership meeting

Ordinarily the Florida Native Plant Society's general meeting is held as part of the Society's annual conference, but due to Covid-19, a virtual meeting was held on the FNPS YouTube Channel on Saturday, June 6.

President Susan Carr greeted 126 members and announced a number of society efforts on the conservation front, including the purchase of 12 acres for the preservation of *Warea amplexifolia* and the launch of the Torreya Project to aid in the preservation of Florida Torreya, *Torreya taxifolia*.

A major moment was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between FNPS and the Florida Wildflower Foundation. For more on this collaboration, see <https://fnps.org/news/society-news/memorandum-of-understanding-between-fnps-and-fwf>

Thanks to Valerie Anderson, FNPS offers online webinars, a Lunch and Learn series, and interviews. These are available to all members on the FNPS YouTube channel. These sessions allow members to learn about FNPS, as well as information about native plants and communities.

Other highlights from this year's general meeting:

- FNPS added another part-time paid position, hiring Lily Anderson as Torreya program coordinator.
- Four research grants were given this year thanks to donations.
- FNPS Chapter of the Year was earned by Cuplet Fern Chapter.
- Newly elected Council of Chapters Vice Chair Wayne Baker and Secretary Melanie Simon were introduced.

An online vote was held for new President Bonnie Basham and Directors at Large Andee Naccarato and Mark Kateli.

For details on the grants and names for the awards please view the recorded meeting on the FNPS YouTube channel, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmPZ3sZTiBI&feature=emb_title

This venue may have been new, but it allowed many people the opportunity to visit the yearly general meeting who may not have ever been able to attend a conference. Changes are here, with benefits and drawbacks, but it always feels good to hear about the great things that our organization is involved in.—Karen Walter

Powderpuff: diminutive delight

The plant of the month for June was powderpuff, *Mimosa strigillosa*, also known as sunshine mimosa. This little groundcover fits our plant of the month theme of "Caterpillar Cafes and Butterfly Buffets" mainly because it is a larval host plant for the little yellow butterfly, *Pyrisitia lisa*. Antillean blue butterflies, *Hemiargus ceraunus* var. *antibubastus*, have also been known to feed on and lay eggs on powderpuff. These butterflies are also known as Ceraunus blue.

Powderpuff is a long-lived perennial mainly found on roadsides and disturbed sites and is most widespread in the northern and central panhandle, scattered elsewhere throughout the state. The range includes extreme southern Georgia, coastal Texas and Louisiana and up the Mississippi and Red River valleys into Mississippi and Arkansas.

A member of the Fabaceae (pea family), powderpuff is one of the



several low-growing Mimosa species in Florida, and is the only one that does not have prickles. This is a sprawling, diminutive plant that is woody at the base. The tiny flowers are in a globular cluster, lending the plant the name powderpuff. Most distinctive are the long pink filaments with white to yellow anthers. The rest of each flower can barely be seen in the center of the sphere below the stamens.

Sunshine mimosa lives up to its name, wanting full to partial sun and moderate to dry conditions. It is native in our area so should not need watering after establishment.—*Story and photo by Paul Rebmann*

The Observatory

Georgeann Meadows says her favorite backyard garden plant is rattlesnake master, which found a baby anole as an admirer as well. Sande Habali is smitten by the long bloom season of hairy leafcup. Karen Walter spotted a mini rudbeckia growing from the center of a normal rudbeckia and wondered if it was the work of a wasp gall. Dave Anderson's sea lavender is thriving so much that he has had to cut it back three times.

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

July 13: Jenny Nazak, sustainability educator, on Soil 101, ONLINE via Zoom

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

Upcoming field trips, events

July 18: Lake Ashby Park, New Smyrna Beach, CDC guidelines in place. No carpools, no lunch.

Contact Warren: warrenreynolds70@gmail.com
Aug. 22: Annual plant swap, Central Park, Ormond