



# THE PAWPAW PRESS

Newsletter of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society: November 2019

## Chapter rescues population of rare Catesby's lily

One September day, a sharp-eyed Bryon White spotted and reported a population of the state-listed threatened Catesby's lily (or pine lily, *Lilium catesbaei*) along a ditch at the west end of New Smyrna Beach on a site slated for commercial development.

The FNPS administrative director, Juliet Ry-

near, contacted Pawpaw's chapter rep, Sonya Guidry, who laid the groundwork for a plant rescue, flagging the plants, obtaining permits from FDOT, and utility line permissions from the New Smyrna Beach Utilities Commission.

Danny Young suggested coordinating with Volusia County through Environmental Specialist Richard Harris to find a suitable county conservation land recipient site.

In November, plant rescuers David Anderson, Cathy Lowenstein, Peter Sigmann, Karen Walter, Bryon White,

Sonya Guidry, and Richard Harris hand dug 14 clumps of pine lily plants, each bearing only a hazelnut-sized leafy bulb. The end result was that a total of 20 individual pine lily plants and propagules were transplanted to suitable wetland sites along forest roads in Longleaf Pine Preserve.

Florida wildflower expert Craig Huegel's website indicates that *L. catesbaei* is extremely sensitive to growing conditions, requiring just the right combination of soil moisture, fertility, and light to prosper. They tend to thrive in lower pockets of wet flatwoods that become saturated in the summer rainy season. Huegel says that without regular fires the bulbs may remain dormant beneath the soil surface for years until fire comes through to open up the vegetation.

Who knew this flashy flowering plant could occupy such a unique fragile niche? We can only hope our efforts will give this lily population its best chance to thrive.—Cathy Lowenstein (photos by Sonya Guidry)



## Practice your paddle-raising for December auction

As has become a chapter tradition, the December meeting will be our annual native plant auction and holiday celebration. To fortify yourselves for bidding, please bring finger food, along with your own plate and utensils, to enjoy beginning at 6:30 p.m. The chapter will provide beverages. At 7, after the election of new officers, the

auction will get underway. For the auction, please bring up to three native plants you have grown or purchased. Make sure the plants are labeled. There also will be select plants purchased by the chapter specifically for this event, and the minimum bid for those plants will be the price the chapter paid.

## Our ‘Petal Pushers’ have a mission: provide plants

The propagation committee, now known as the “Petal Pushers,” had a productive workshop and meeting at Sonya Guidry’s house at the end of November. The primary function of the Petal Pushers is to engage members in propagating native plants for their own interest and as well as providing plants that are not readily available at native garden shops for the chapter’s two main fund-raising events and other outreach events. The chapter participates in the Florida Wildflower and Garden Festival in downtown DeLand on March 28, 2020, and the Volusia County Master Gardeners Plant and Vendor Faire at the Volusia County Fairgrounds on April 4, 2020, as well as many other outreach events.

Collected seeds from native plants were packaged and labeled with growing instructions. The seeds will be available to members and the general public at outreach events for a small donation. The group also collaborated on a list of plants that members will attempt to grow for the main fund-raising events. Petal Pushers agreed that plants should be available at the meetings whenever possible. —Karen Walter

## Exploring Lake Beresford’s diversity

November’s Lake Beresford field trip provided a fantastic day of exploration through a very diverse area rich in native plants and Florida habitats. The weather? Well, let’s say it was certainly brisk tending on cold. Brrrrrr!

Warren Reynolds and Marcia Hafner were our leaders on this walk and what a terrific job they did pointing out must see-plants, trees and shrubs, and educating on the unique features of leaves amongst the different oaks and pines. Our hiking route took us through a pine flatwood and hardwood hammock, leading down to a hardwood swamp bordering Beresford Lake.

Throughout we had plenty of opportunity for looking high and low to identify epiphytes like the golden polypody fern (*Phlebodium aureum*), resurrection fern (*Pleopeltis polypodioides*), wild pine tillandsia (*Tillandsia utriculata*), and our ever present Spanish moss (*T. usneoides*). We also enjoyed tasting several beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) along the way! Hmmm not bad!

David from DeLand helped identify the unique features of the scrub wild olive or devilwood (*Cartrema floridanum*). Warren introduced us to a fairly large grove of devil’s walking stick (*Aralia spinosa*), pointing out never to confuse devilwood with devil’s walking stick. We get it! Ouch!

So, all in all, this field trip was awesome! If you missed it, we missed you and hope to see you on the next Pawpaw field trip.—Nancy Hull



## Mark your calendar: upcoming events

Dec. 9 (Mon) Annual chapter holiday celebration and plant auction, Piggotte Community Center, South Daytona, 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 16 (Mon) Park of Honor work day, Olive Street, South Daytona, 9 a.m.

Jan. 13, 2020 (Mon) Pawpaw Chapter meeting with Elise Schuchman on the air potato beetle, 7 p.m.

Jan. 18, 2020 (Sat) Field trip to Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge, DeLeon Springs. Contact: Warren Reynolds

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