



# THE PAWPAW PRESS

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

## Chapter shines at Water Alliance fall symposium

Pawpaw's participation in the Volusia Water Alliance's fall symposium on Oct. 26 was a great example of chapter teamwork.

Dot, Leslie, Sande, Sonya and Karen donated good quality native plants that were offered as door prizes. Karen and Sonya set up and manned an outreach table, which was visited by at least 40 people, many of whom expressed an interest in gardening with native plants and finding out more information on the chapter.

And Don Spence was a featured speaker, giving a presentation in which he made the case for landscaping with native plants, pointing out that in addition to using less water and fertilizer, they bring greater biodiversity to our environment.

It was also great to see Melissa, Rob, Jennifer, Georgann, Katie, Cathy, Kip and Linda in attendance. It takes a village!—Sonya Guidry



## Native plants thrive at R.J. Longstreet school

One year after R.J. Longstreet 4th grade students planted a native plant container garden, thanks to a Pawpaw grant, nature is thriving on campus. This addition to our outdoor classroom has added beauty and hosts a variety of species for students to observe. Most recently the corkystem passion vine is being enjoyed by Gulf Fritillary caterpillars and students are able view the entire butterfly lifecycle on the plant.

With the additional support of a Florida Wildflower Foundation grant, students are transforming a section outside the cafeteria into a native tribute garden honoring the school's namesake, R.J. Longstreet. Students have learned of his conservation efforts, especially at Green Mound in Ponce Preserve. During a field trip to the site, they read the sign mentioning his efforts as well as some of the unique Florida native



plants found at the site, including marlberry, wild coffee, and snowberry. In addition to the natives supplied by the Florida Wildflower grant and with the help of Pawpaw members Sonya Guidry, Sande Habali and Amy Spies, all three varieties of natives are now also part of the tribute garden. Signage will be the next phase of the project.—*Amy Spies*



## Grant brings more plants to Indian River

Indian River Elementary received the second installment of their plants from the Pawpaw Chapter School Grant program. The children plant and maintain their gardens as part of an after school garden club.

Teacher Randal Preston says, “The kids really love working in the garden.”—*Sande Habali (photo by Randal Preston)*

## It's election season for Pawpaw, too

A slate of candidates for next year's chapter officers was presented at the October meeting by the Nominating Committee. The election will take place at the December meeting. Currently, the names on the ballot are as follows:

President, Paul Rebmann

Vice President and Program Chair, Leslie Nixon

Treasurer, Karen Walter

Secretary, Rob Bird

We encourage everyone to participate in the chapter, so if you'd like to toss your hat in the ring for any of these positions, contact Sande Habali at [sadehab@aol.com](mailto:sadehab@aol.com).

## DeLeon Springs showcases natives

DeLeon Springs State Park held a native gardening event on Oct. 12 to celebrate Florida Native Plant Month. Jeff Kniesely, that park's assistant manager, led participants through the park's demonstration native garden to showcase a number of native plants and the niches they could fill in a yard. Many beautiful fall wildflowers were in bloom—narrowleaf sunflower, blue curls, many salvias, a stately liatris—and a small collection of native milkweed species were in evidence. With a nice variety of species for shady or sunny areas, the garden also utilizes creative material re-use (think colorful painted tires as planters, a decorative bedframe as a passion vine trellis, sections of palm tree trucks as a bed border) and is a great teaching area.

The park's friends group's nursery and monthly plant sale include natives, so together with the garden the park provide a great outreach for native plant gardeners. According to Vice President and Program Chair Leslie Nixon, look for Jeff as a 2020 Pawpaw Chapter speaker, and she hinted that the park would be a great location for a mini native garden tour field trip.—*Cathy Lowenstein*



## If you need a name tag, now's the time to let us know

Our 2020 name tag order will be placed after the January meeting. This way name tags should be here by the February meeting. If you are a new member or didn't get a name tag last order and would like one, please put your name on the name tag sign-up sheet. It will be on the back table at the next meeting. Or you can contact Karen Walter by text at 570-350-5574 or email at [karenlw72@gmail.com](mailto:karenlw72@gmail.com). New members do not automatically get name tags, so please be sure to put your name on the list if you would like one. First name tags are free, but

if you are replacing a name tag there will be a \$10 charge. There are quite a few name tags that have not been picked up. We also have a few of our club polo shirts available. They are \$20. Karen can help you with one of those as well.

## At UCF, diversity by best practices

The chapter's Oct. 12 field trip took place at the arboretum on the campus of UCF. We had the good fortune to be led on an informative and engaging walking tour by Ray Jarret, superintendent of land management at the university.

Ray led our group along nature trails carved throughout oak hammocks, flatwoods, both pine and scrubby and scrub habitat, providing us with a wonderful overview of the



distinct and varied land management practices that he and his team have employed, resulting in successful habitat restoration. Ray presented evidence of these management practices that includes the use of prescribed fire, invasive species management, restoration and conservation.

The arboretum at UCF presents an amazing opportunity for anyone to learn and benefit from the wonders of our natural world.—*Marcia Hafner (photo by Sonya Guidry)*

## Call for research track papers for 2020 conference

The Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference will be held at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville from May 14-17, 2020. The research track of the conference will include presented papers and a poster session on Friday, May 15, and Saturday, May 16.

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts on research related to native plants and plant communities of Florida including preservation, conservation, and restoration. Presentations are planned to be 20 minutes in total length (15 minute presentation with 5 minutes of questions).

Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted as a Microsoft Word file by email to Paul A. Schmalzer at [paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov](mailto:paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov) by Feb. 1, 2020. Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.

## Mark your calendar: upcoming events

Nov. 11 (Mon) Pawpaw Chapter meeting, Piggotte Community Center, South Daytona, 7 p.m., with Dr. J. Cho of Bethune-Cookman University on the restoration of Reed Canal area. Plant of the Month: Chapman's and seaside goldenrod (*Solidago odora* and *S. sempervirens*) presented by Carol Hawkins

Nov. 16 (Sat) Field trip to Scrub Oak Preserve and Lake Beresford Park. Leaders: Warren Reynolds and Marcia and Mike Hafner

Nov. 18 (Mon) Park of Honor work day, Olive Street, South Daytona, 9 a.m.

Nov. 22 (Fri.) Demonstration of hypertufa by Karen Walter at Ponce Preserve, 10 a.m.

Nov. 23 (Sat) Propagation group meeting at Sonya Guidry's house, 9:30 a.m.

Dec 1 (Sun) Field trip to Canaveral National Seashore. Meet at 12 p.m. for lunch at JB's Fish Camp. After lunch carpool from JB's to tour historic Eldora House and walk the Eldora Loop Trail.

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.