



# THE PAWPAW PRESS

*Newsletter of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society: September 2019*

## Pawpaw and partners tag team to spread the word

Pawpaw members spent the last weekend in September working with like-minded groups to share information about the Florida Native Plant Society. On Saturday, we worked with Halifax Audubon to help spread the word about how vital native plants are for our plummeting bird population during North Peninsula State Park's "Plant This Not That" event. We had information to hand out, plants to show and buy, and lots of interesting discussions.

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

Also on that Saturday and then again on Sunday, we shared a booth at Port Orange Family Days with the Port Orange Environment Planning Advisory Board. This group is very interested in learning about and placing more native plants into the community. During the event the Planning Board passed out updated information about recycling while Pawpaw members shared landscape booklets and other information. We were especially gratified to see so many engaged young people. Perhaps we "planted a seed"!

We look forward to additional partnerships as we help spread the word about native plants. —Sande Habali (photos by Luis Villalon, top, and Amy Spies)



## Talkin' natives at TomokaFest

Outreach efforts continued into Florida Native Plant Month when, under the shade trees of Tomoka State Park, Pawpaw members met and talked with many people who stopped by our booth to learn and share about native plants during the park's annual TomokaFest on October 5. We had plants to offer for people to purchase, along with literature to help those who are just getting started.

Also during the day, Pawpaw President Paul Rebmann led hikes through a hammock to show folks native plants thriving in their natural setting. —Photo by Sonya Guidry

# Beautyberry: How Florida says fall

Ah, 'tis beautyberry season, when Florida's hot sweltering summer finally gives way to fall. Linnaeus combined the Greek words for beautiful (*kalli*) and fruit (*carpa*) to name the plant *Callicarpa americana*, and its startling purple clusters of fruit cascading down each branch put on a dazzling show.

Though the fruit has been consumed by over 100 species of birds, this deciduous shrub— so common to woodland edges throughout the eastern US—is not just for the birds. In William Bartram's travels through



Georgia and Florida

he noted that the indigenous people kept beautyberry plants along with other native fruit

bearing trees by their old field settlements. Ethnobotanist Dan Austin reports that native Americans had numerous uses for the Beautyberry.

There are anecdotal reports of early settlers stuffing beautyberry leaves under the harnesses of their draft animals to keep the biting bugs away and recent research is showing there may be more truth to the beautyberry's insect repelling nature.

As for human consumption, books says the fruit is edible, but most folks finds the taste of raw beautyberries almost insipid and rather pithy in texture. It is definitely a lost-in-the-woods survival food unless you add plenty of sugar and lemon juice, in which case you can come up with quite a nice jelly.

So thank goodness for the beautyberry. It show that Florida does have a fall color after all. Let's color it magenta! —Story and photo by Sonya Guidry

## Beautyberry Jelly

1 1/2 quarts beautyberries (washed)

2 quarts water

1/2 cup lemon juice

1 packet Sure-Jell

5 cups sugar

*Sterilize jars and lids before making jelly.*

Wash beautyberries. Place fruit and water in a large pot. Boil 20 minutes. Strain to collect infusion (discard seeds and hulls). Place 3 cups of infusion in a large pot. Bring to a boil. Add Sure-Jell, sugar and lemon juice. Bring to a second boil and boil for 2 minutes, stirring, until mixture begins to thicken. Remove from burner and skim off any foam that has formed on top. Pour into sterilized jars till almost full and cap tight. Invert jars overnight before storing.

*Source: Florida's Incredible Wild Edibles by Richard J. Deuerling and Peggy S. Lantz, published by the Florida Native Plant Society in 1993*

## Mark your calendar: upcoming events

Oct. 1-31 Florida Native Plant Month

Oct 12 (Sat) Field trip to visit the UCF Arboretum with tour led by Ray Jarrett

Oct. 14 (Mon) Pawpaw Chapter meeting, Piggotte Community Center, South Daytona, 7 p.m., with Patrick Bohlen, director of Landscape and Natural Resources and Arboretum, University of Central Florida

Oct. 19 (Sat) Tarflower backyard biodiversity event

Oct. 21 (Mon) Park of Honor work day, Olive Street, South Daytona, 9 a.m.

Oct. 25 (Sat) Volusia Water Alliance Fall Symposium, Sanborn Center, DeLand, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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.