



# THE PAWPAW PRESS

Newsletter of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society: January 2017

## JANUARY MEETING

### Nature's filters, or man's?

Dr. J Cho of Bethune-Cookman University presented a program on "Living Shorelines" to the Pawpaw Chapter at our January 9th meeting.

Dr. Cho has done extensive research into the waterways of our area. Her new project is a scientific study of the Indian River Lagoon and the role runoff water plays in its health. She is recruiting homes along the river to test whether those with "living shorelines" as opposed to those having permanent structures such as sea walls do a better job at filtering non-source pollutants.

Dr. Cho explained that a living shoreline is one that mimics nature, with native vegetation sloping



into the water. Motivated by recent algae blooms in the river, Dr. Cho and her students in BCU's Department of Integrated Environmental Science hope to convert 10 residential turf grass lawns into living shorelines and compare them with 10 non-transformed properties.

Dr. Cho also gave a preview of a new book in progress, a survey of the plants of Canaveral National Seashore. Several Pawpaw members have been involved in this endeavor, including Don Spence, Sonya Guidry, Ray Jarrett, and Warren Reynolds.

—Sande Habali

## PLANT FAIRE 2017

### Plants, please!

The Pawpaw Chapter has found the Volusia County Master Gardeners' annual Plant and Vendor Faire to be a great venue to get out the FNPS commitment to preserve and conserve native plants. We may not sell much but we do a great job of disseminating knowledge!

We hope that members will start propagating plants for sale at the event. We will also need volunteers to man our space on April 8.

Other ideas include, but are not limited to, selling books, our 'new' FNPS native landscaping brochure, the 2016 conference T-shirts, and possibly native milkweed plants and/or seeds.

So get propagating and join us that Saturday.

—Carol Hawkins

## UPCOMING EVENTS: DECEMBER

13

Pawpaw meeting with Stacey Matrazzo of the Florida Wildflower Federation

4

Field trip to Tiger Bay State Forest. Contact: kcrawford46@yahoo.com

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# Mark your calendar

**FEBRUARY 4** Field trip to explore the south side of Tiger Bay State Forest. Contact Kathy Crawford: [kcrawford46@yahoo.com](mailto:kcrawford46@yahoo.com)

**FEBRUARY 13** Pawpaw Chapter meeting with Stacey Matrazzo from the Florida Wildflower Foundation, 7 p.m., Piggotte Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona.

**FEBRUARY 20** Chapter work day at the Park of Honor on Olive Street, South Daytona, starting at 9 a.m.

**MARCH 4** Waterwise Gardening Fair, Myrtle Beach, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact Sonya Guidry: [guidry.sonya@gmail.com](mailto:guidry.sonya@gmail.com)

**MARCH 13** Pawpaw Chap-

ter meeting, 7 p.m. Piggotte Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona.

**MARCH 18** Speaker series and book launch for Dr. J. Cho's "Plants of Atlantic Center for the Arts," 10 a.m. to noon. Free.

**MARCH 25** Chapter work day at the Park of Honor on Olive Street, South Daytona, starting at 9 a.m.

**JANUARY 21** Field trip to explore wetlands and hammock trails at Audubon Park in Deltona. Contact Sonya Guidry: [guidry.sonya@gmail.com](mailto:guidry.sonya@gmail.com).

**APRIL 8** Master Gardeners' Faire. 8:30 a.m. to noon, Volusia County fairgrounds, DeLand.

**APRIL 17-22** FNPS six-day guided tour of North Alabama. Contact Devon Higginbotham at 813-478-1183 or email [indigotravelcompany@gmail.com](mailto:indigotravelcompany@gmail.com).

## FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP

# A further investigation of Tiger Bay's treasures

For February's field trip Kathy Crawford will lead us to a new, unmarked access to Tiger Bay State Forest's south side. There you will find a hidden historic treasure: a one-mile segment of the 100-year-old Pershing Highway running parallel to, but south of, the current U.S. 92.

This one-vehicle wide "Old Brick DeLand Road" provides easy walking and up-close viewing of aquatic trees and shrubs found on either side of the road. Expect to find dahoon holly, pop ash, black gum, loblolly bay, white bay, cypress, wax myrtle, fetterbushes and *Bidens* species.

Conditions permitting, Kathy will lead us off the brick road and further south on a wind-

ing, narrow hunters' or game trail through periodically flooded open terrain and out to an old cypress dome. Along the way look for carnivorous plants, white violets and any brave early blooming wet pine flatwoods flora waiting to be discovered.

Meet at 11 a.m. Feb. 4 to carpool from MacDonald's, 2994 W. International Speedway Blvd. There will be an optional group breakfast at Cracker Barrel, 2325 West ISB, at 9:30 a.m.

Contact Kathy Crawford for more trip details: [kcrawford46@yahoo.com](mailto:kcrawford46@yahoo.com), (386) 256-5924

Contact Sonya Guidry for breakfast reservation and carpool coordination: [guidry.sonya@gmail.com](mailto:guidry.sonya@gmail.com), (386) 690-1797

—Sonya Guidry



## LOOKING GOOD

Our garden at the Park of Honor is looking much more tidy after members contributed a combined 18 hours of work at our January work day.

## INAUGURAL TOUR

# FNPS takes to the road

The Florida Native Plant Society is heading north—north Alabama to be exact—for six days and five nights of discovery.

Explore the rock outcroppings, caverns and canyons of the southern terminus of the Appalachian Mountains and discover the endemic plants their geology supports,

while enjoying southern hospitality.

Travel is by motorcoach and accommodations include a stay in a Benedictine abbey. Double occupancy is \$995 per person; single rate is \$1195.

Contact Devon Higginbotham at 813-478-1183 or email [indigotravelcompany@gmail.com](mailto:indigotravelcompany@gmail.com).

## SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

# Chapter honors work of student scientists

Once again the Pawpaw Chapter sponsored a special award at the annual Tomoka Regional Science and Engineering Fair, held at Spruce Creek High School on Jan. 28.

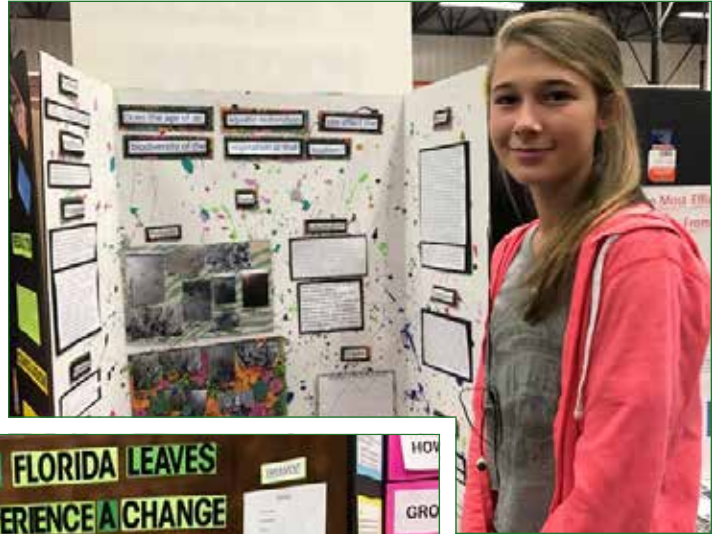
Pawpaw's judges were Don Spence, Danny Young and Sonya Guidry. They selected Emma Schlageter as first-place winner and gave an honorable mention award to Isabel Kraby. Both young women are middle school students.

Ms. Schlageter's project reported on the biodiversity of salt marsh restoration in the Halifax River basin and Ms. Kraby examined leaf pigments of plants commonly found in Florida.

The first-place winner

received a certificate and Dr. Taylor's wildflower book and will be mailed a check for \$60 and will receive a student membership. Our honorable mention winner will receive a certificate and student membership

—Don Spence/Photos  
by Sonya Guidry



## PLANT OF THE MONTH

# Pontederia: prime pick for ponds

Jane Andrews presented January's plant of the month, *Pontederia cordata*, or pickerelweed.

It is a very common native occurring throughout Florida and the American continent. It grows in a variety of wetlands, including naturally occurring ponds and lakes,



and man-made drainage ditches. It flowers most of the year with spikes of violet-blue flowers.

Many butterflies enjoy

the nectar from its flowers. Elimination of invasives like water hyacinths and herbicidal spraying help it establish. Once

established, it is a prolific grower and can cover large areas. It is a natural choice for a living shoreline. —Jane Andrews



## JANUARY FIELD TRIPS

# To forest and farm by foot and wagon

The first month of the year brought two field trip opportunities for Pawpaw members.

On Jan. 2, we were invited to join the Beautyberry Chapter of Lake County to explore Seminole State Forest. Ranger Ralph Risch, a botanist, showed many of the hidden treasures of the forest. We explored flatwoods, scrub, wetlands, sandhills, and a sulphur spring. Even though January is not the best time of year to see and identify natives, we did get to see several specimens, many of which are rare and/or endangered.

A few of the highlights included native bamboo-switch cane, *Arundinaria gigantea*, swamp azalea,

*Rhododendron viscosum*, and Gulf hammock Indian plantain, *Hasteola robertorium* (only two locations known for this plant).

Ralph also took us to a spot where he was able to call the always favorite scrub jay. Seminole State Forest along State Route 44, past DeLand is worth

going back to explore again and again.

On Jan. 21, at least 20 folks from Pawpaw and Sea Oats chapters shared a great day touring the Florida Agriculture Museum. It was a treat to have Mary Herron, a primary founding director, serve as tour guide. Her own pioneer family background coupled with her knowledge and archeological expertise of early Spanish, English, and cracker pioneer life in Florida made her the “real deal.”

The tour included a tractor-drawn wagon ride over to an old relocated pioneer family homestead. Then, as a courtesy to our group, the tractor drove us right to the base of a land bridge over I-95.

We were eager to get out and explore this grassy, shrub-lined overpass built for wildlife (as well as equestrians and hikers). As we trudged up the raised grassy trail we found wax myrtle, red cedar and slash pine growing along the banked sides. On the top, caged in by protective wire fencing, there were huge planter boxes that served as a natural buffer to the noisy auto traffic below.

We ended our excursion by driving to nearby Princess Place Preserve to enjoy our picnic lunch on the front porch of the historic 1886 hunting lodge.

—Sonya Guidry and Sande Habali/Photos by Sonya Guidry

