



THE PAWPAW PRESS

Newsletter of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society: January 2018

BEST PRACTICES

Frozen plants? Don't prune yet!

This month we experienced a “hard freeze” in Central Florida that damaged a lot of our ornamental and native plants in the landscape. A hard freeze is when temperatures are 28 degrees or less for at least three hours, as defined by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Below-freezing temperatures can burn, wilt, or completely kill many plants that occur in tropical or sub-tropical landscapes. The Central Florida climate zone is listed as “humid subtropical” by the USDA and is in Zone 9B on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map.

This zone typically has warm to hot summers and mild winters but can experience below-freezing events. The lowest recorded temperature for the Daytona Beach area is 15 degrees on January 21,

1985.

Many plants were impacted by the hard freeze and have minor to extensive damage. It is important to leave the damaged plants alone until the dan-

ger of additional freezing temperatures has passed.

Pruning away the damage too early will often trigger the plant to produce new growth during a warming period, which

can then make it more susceptible to another freezing event. Usually, the first week of March is a good time to begin maintenance pruning on the landscape.

Plants that are woody should be cut back in slow increments until fresh, green wood is observed. Plants that completely “melted” to the ground should be pruned away and cleaned up. Many of these plants will regenerate from their root mats.

As plant enthusiasts, we often plant our favorite native plants in our landscapes whether or not it is the proper zone for the plant. Personally, I planted Geiger tree, sea lavender, and gumbo limbo trees in my yard because I love them. This year, I lost them to the freeze. That is part of the deal with Mother Nature! I will try again! —Ray Jarrett



PLANTS AND POLLINATORS

Paul Rebmann brought a beautiful and informative program on native plants and the pollinators that depend on them to the January meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS: FEBRUARY

12

Pawpaw meeting: Program on Florida's invasive plants by Ray Jarrett

17

Field trip to Green Springs in DeBary. Contact: guidy.sonya@gmail.com.

Walk focuses attention on conservation

What is happening with Florida Forever funding?

Our own Sonya Guidry accepted the challenge offered by FNPS to ask this question of our state representatives and senators. She organized a weekday tour of a managed longleaf pine sandhill that was purchased more than a decade ago with Florida Forever and Volusia Forever funding.

This formerly abandoned citrus grove is now part of Heart Island Conservation Area and sports a substantial population of young 10-foot tall longleaf pines.

She chose this area because FDEP has ranked the adjacent area to the east as a critical area for a future Florida longleaf pine system purchase.

By seeing all the benefits Heart Island has to offer, we learned how important it is to acquire such lands. Thanks to this purchase we have an equestrian and hiking trail system, an outdoor laboratory for Stetson University students, a forever water-recharge area for future agricultural and human needs, as well as a future forever home for Sherman's fox squirrels and endangered red cockaded woodpeckers.

—Sonya Guidry and Sande Habali



For more on the walk, see: fnps.org/news/society-news/field-trip-for-florida-legislators

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP

Exploratory stroll at Green Springs

Join us on Feb. 17 for a leisurely stroll on shaded nature trails at Green Springs Park, where we will hone our plant ID skills of natives and invasive exotic species.

Green Springs Park is a 36-acre county park just north of Lake Monroe, which has one of Florida's

few green sulfur springs. This park also serves as a trailhead for two connecting bike paths: the Spring to Spring Trail and the East Central Regional Trail.

After our walk we plan to have lunch at the "famous" Osteen Diner.

Meet on site: 10 a.m. at

Green Springs Park (994 Enterprise/Osteen Rd, DeBary).

Meet to carpool: 9:20 a.m., NSB Walmart behind McDonalds.

Contact person: Sonya Guidry, guidry.sonya@gmail.com or (386) 690-1797.

—Sonya Guidry

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar

FEBRUARY 12 Pawpaw Chapter meeting, 7 p.m. Piggotte Community Center, Big Tree Road, South Daytona, with Ray Jarrett on Florida's invasive plants.

FEBRUARY 17 Green

Springs plant ID walk, DeBary, with lunch at Osteen Diner. Contact Sonya: (386) 690-1797 or guidry.sonya@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY 19 Workday at Park of Honor on Olive Street, South Daytona, starting at 9 a.m.

MARCH 9–12 FNPS guided coach trip to explore the panhandle's rare coastal dune lakes. To

sign up or for more information, contact Devon Higginbotham at 813-478-1183, e-mail indigotravelcompany@gmail.com or visit www.indigotravelcompany.com.

MARCH 12 Pawpaw Chapter meeting, 7 p.m. Piggotte Community Center, Big Tree Road, South Daytona, with Elizabeth Flynn on

preparing your yard for wildlife certification.

MARCH 17 Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge trail walk and picnic lunch at visitor's center. Contact Warren: (386) 478-6633 or warrenreynolds70@gmail.com.

MARCH 19 Workday at Park of Honor on Olive Street, South Daytona, starting at 9 a.m.

JANUARY FIELD TRIP

Celebrating diversity of the natural world

On Jan. 13 Greg Hendricks, master naturalist, Sea Rocket chapter representative, and Enchanted Forest guide led the Pawpaw Chapter on a two-hour trail walk through the varied habitats of Titusville's Enchanted Forest Sanctuary.

Moving through the fire-suppressed mesic hammock, taking note of tall slash pines and sprawling oaks, the group

reached a 300-foot-wide swath of managed scrub habitat crossing the narrow Atlantic Coastal Ridge.

This former ancient dune quickly drops down into a hydric hammock of lancewood and marlberry. A boardwalk then threads its way over soggy swampland with Jack-in-the-pulpits and strap ferns on either side. The geology of the Atlantic Coastal Ridge is clearest where men once tried (and failed) to slice their way through 35 feet of sand then coquina to extend the Addison Canal to Indian River Lagoon.

The chapter extends a hearty thank you to Greg Hendricks for his tour of a park that certainly rivals any in Florida for its diversity.

—Sonya Guidry

