



THE PAWPAW PRESS

Newsletter of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society: February 2016

SEASONAL STRATEGIES

Don't touch those pruners...yet!

The good news is that spring is right around the corner. The bad news: It's not here yet.

The last recorded freeze for our area is March 15th, so even though it's tempting to prune a lot of the dead stems off of our plants, I wouldn't recommend it. They actually act as an insulator preventing future freezes from reaching the roots. Firebush and sea grape (some of our more cold-sensitive native plants) can die if the roots freeze.

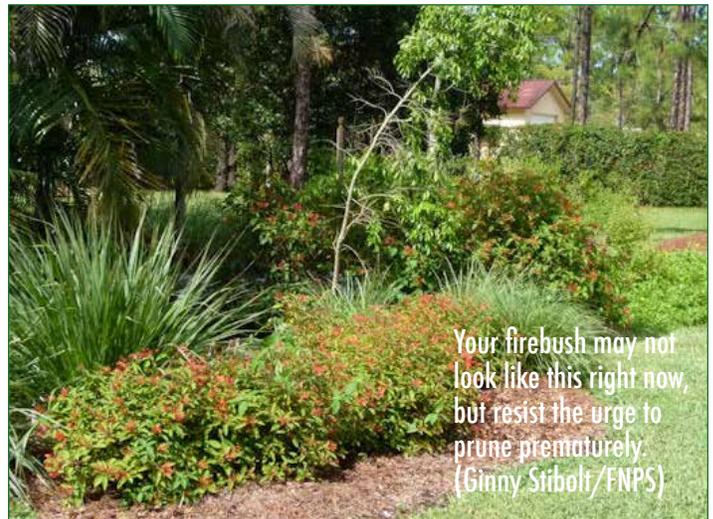
I'll usually start thinking about pruning my plants around the nursery around the first of March. Use the 10-day forecast on one of the weather websites to see if there's a chance for a freeze. If so, wait another week or so and check again. I'll prune most of my firebush and beautyberry

to 6–12 inches from the ground. They'll refresh quickly and turn out nice and full.

Even though you shouldn't prune yet, there's a lot of things you can do in your gardens.

VEGETABLE GARDENS Finish up your winter harvest and start prepping the beds for spring. Clear out the remains of the winter crops, add a nice portion of new compost, and maybe a dose of Azomite (or other mineral supplement).

You can still plant some cool-weather crops this month and pull a harvest from them before it gets too hot. Lettuces, radish and collards are good examples. Some of the beans, squash, and melons can be sowed directly into the gardens at the end of the month. Our vegetable starts should be ready by



Your firebush may not look like this right now, but resist the urge to prune prematurely. (Ginny Stibolt/FNPS)

the first of March just in time for spring planting!

HERB GARDENS Now's a great time to clean up your herb garden by getting rid of spent flowers and leaf litter. Basil is probably gone to the big herb garden in the sky so clean that up as well. Herbs that can be planted this month include parley, fennel, thyme, rosemary, chives, and mints.

BUTTERFLY GARDENS Clean up spent flowers and leaf litter. Most of the native wildflowers are starting to reflush, so March will be an awesome time to replenish those gardens!

NOW SHOWING Depending

upon the temperature, the following native plants will start to show off their color in the next weeks:

- Walter's viburnum
- Coral honeysuckle
- Carolina jessamine
- Florida flame, Pinxter azaleas
- Blue salvia/creeping sage
- Black-eyed Susan
- Tampa verbena
- Coreopsis (all varieties)
- Dune sunflower
- Blanket flower
- Elderberry
- Florida privet
- Acacia (pineland, sweet)
- Tropical sage
- Red maple

Here's to a great spring!

—Kevin Bagwell

UPCOMING EVENTS: MARCH

14 Pawpaw meeting: The state of the county's conservation lands, with Trey Hannah

26 South Volusia landscape tour. Contact Sonya Guidry, guidry.sonya@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the date for...

MARCH 5 The New Smyrna Beach Utilities Commission has its annual “Water-wise Garden Fair” from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Help us promote the conference and sell a few native plants. Sonya will chair this activity. Contact Sonya if you can help. guidry.sonya@gmail.com

MARCH 5 The Town of Ponce Inlet hosts “Ponce Preserves the Planet” from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Ponce Preserve. There will be activities and educational activities for all

ages. Sande will chair this activity. Contact Sadehab@aol.com if you can help.

MARCH 14, Pawpaw Chapter meeting, 7 p.m. Piggotte Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona. Trey Hannah, Volusia County Environmental Education Coordinator, will be the speaker.

MARCH 22, Environmental Council Volusia/Flagler Conservation Environmental meeting at 12 p.m. at the Daytona Beach campus of the University of

Central Florida, 1200 International Speedway Boulevard, in Building 150, Room 115. Pawpaw Chapter is a member of this group. Contact Kevin for more information, kevinb@fullmoonnatives.com

MARCH 26, Chapter landscape tour. Chair: Elizabeth Flynn. See page 4.

APRIL 2 Wildflower Festival. Sign up sheet available. We are partnering with Lyonia for the purpose of promoting the conference. We hope we will be set

up next to Full Moon. Contact Sande: Sadehab@aol.com if you can help

APRIL 18 Giant pygmy pawpaw field trip with Mark Wheeler.

MAY No chapter trip this month. Instead, members should select a FNPS conference field trip to serve as a host volunteer. Volunteer hosts will guide trip participants from Daytona Beach Resort (2700 N Atlantic Ave) to the trip site. Contact sadehab@aol.com if you can help with the conference or Sonya if you can help with the field trips: guidry.sonya@gmail.com

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Coral honeysuckle: a great vine for Florida gardens

Coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*, pronounced: lah-NISS-ser-ruh sem-per-VYER-enz) is sometimes called trumpet honeysuckle due to its trumpet-shaped 2-inch crimson blossoms that appear in clusters in spring and then sporadically until frost.

If you plant this native and it does not appear to thrive the first two years do not be discouraged, in the third year you will be richly rewarded. The blossoms of coral honeysuckle are very attractive to hummingbirds, bees, and moths. Coral honeysuckle is a native,



semi-woody vine that prefers full sun and moist, slightly acidic soil but will tolerate a wide variety of conditions. Coral honey-

suckle is vigorous and can send out shoots from 3 to 15-20 feet long, which may need occasional pruning, depending on

your gardening style.

This stunning vine can be grown from coast to coast in zones 4 to 10A. In Central Florida it is non-invasive, pest-free, and evergreen, and after profuse spring flowering produces red or black berries for songbirds. Coral honeysuckle requires very little care beyond the initial coaxing to climb a vertical structure, is drought-tolerant, produces nectar, and provides shelter for wildlife. This is a must-have plant for every Florida garden!

—Story by Rose Pysh,
photo by Mark
Hutchinson/FNPS



FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP

A lovely way to work off breakfast

On Feb. 20 Peggy Yokobonus led Pawpaw members on an exploration of the Wild Persimmon Trail at DeLeon Springs State Park after a hearty breakfast at the park's Old Spanish Sugar Mill Grill and Griddle House.

Photos by Rose Psych



SILENT AUCTION

More donations needed for conference auction

Ray Jarrett reports that items are coming in for the silent auction at this year's annual conference, one of the biggest fund-raisers to support FNPS, but that more contributions are needed.

In particular, Ray says items like gift baskets

and gift certificates are needed. For example, perhaps a favorite restaurant would be willing to donate dinner for two.

Artwork with a native plant or Florida natural history theme also is needed. Ray has received some artwork that does

not fit the theme, and, while this will still be included in the auction, artwork that hews to the theme is likely to generate more interest.

Among the items donated so far are books, gift baskets, a painted rain barrel, and two sets

of four tickets for kayak tours at the Marine Discovery Center.

Please contact Ray with any items that you wish to donate: rayjarrett1@gmail.com; phone: 386-295-0481.

Local hosts needed for conference trips

The Pawpaw Chapter will provide local hosts to meet and travel with the carpools from the Daytona Beach Resort (2700 South Atlantic Avenue) to the designated field trip site. The host should stay with the trip until the field event is over and all are headed back to the conference (Thursday) or on their way home (Sunday).

These volunteers will assist the field trip guide by coordinating and tending any needs that the trip participants may encounter. It is recommended that each host purchase six bottles of water and six snacks to have on hand in the event there is an unexpected urgent need. At a minimum, a first aid supply of bandaids is also recommended. Full field trip descriptions are available at fnps.org/conference/fieldtrips.

Compensation: Field trip guides and volunteer hosts will have one free (Friday or Saturday) conference day (\$85 value) for each day they volunteer as a field trip host.

Thursday (May 19) field trips that still need a local trip host:

■ Bulow Woods walk with Ranger Celena Cline as guide.

■ Ponce Inlet natural areas with Ray Jarrett as guide (driving-walking).

■ Wiregrass Prairie Preserve with Drs. Walter Taylor and Bill Grey as guides.

■ Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve bluff / mound walk, Richard Harris and Julie Scofield (archeology) as guides. (Car shuttle may be needed for this trip.)

■ Marine Discovery Center kayak and lagoon restoration tour with Warren Reynolds as guide. (You don't need to kayak, just guide folks from Daytona to NSB.)

Sunday (May 22) field trips that still need a local trip host:

■ Paddle trip on Spruce Creek (Cracker Creek Canoeing) with Bonnie Cary and Dr. Bill Grey, plus Gamble Place Preserve Tour, Jill Williams as MOAS guide.

■ Carnivorous plant walk at Longleaf Pine Preserve with Dr. Ray Emmett (expect a two-hour walk).

■ Enchanted Forest south of Titusville, Drs. Paul Schmalzer, Jay Barnhart.

■ Mormon Branch in the Ocala National Forest with Ranger Scott Davis.

—Sonya Guidry



MARCH FIELD TRIP

Landscape tour preview

This half day field trip is a trial run for part of the landscape tour that will be offered by Elizabeth Flynn at the FNPS conference. This trip will not include Ponce Inlet sites since we were just there in January with Ray Jarrett.

This South Volusia landscape tour will include two public installations, a lagoon restoration site, and four home landscapes. We will travel by carpool to minimize the number of vehicles in some quiet neighborhoods.

The tour will take us from South Daytona, to Port Orange, New Smyrna, and Edgewater, allowing 30 minutes per stop.

We will plan to have lunch out at a local New Smyrna restaurant. Please help us keep a head count for this trip by contacting Sonya or sign up on the field trip sheet that will be

circulated at the March 14 Pawpaw Chapter meeting.

Date: March 26

Meet: 8 a.m. to carpool at the South Daytona Pig-gotte Community Center. Specific travel directions and times will be given to the carpool drivers.

Lunch: Plan for a back-porch lunch at Bakka's Bistro and Books.

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

LANDSCAPE AWARDS

Application deadline extended

Speaking of landscapes, the deadline for the FNPS landscape awards, given out annually at the conference, has been extended until March 18. For an application and details, see <http://fnps.org/participate/awards>