



THE PAWPAW PRESS

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



PONCE PRESERVES THE PLANET

Earth Day came early to Ponce Inlet and the Pawpaw Chapter was there to help celebrate. It was a gorgeous day while Amelia Evans, Sande Habali, Rose Pysh (not pictured), Janet Cavouti, and Karen Walters got to share their love of native plants with many of the visitors. We were delighted to see so many folks interested in turning their landscapes native to invite pollinators and help “preserve our planet.”

DEEP CREEK DRIVE

Eight Pawpaw members joined the Lyonia Chapter on Feb. 25 for an extensive tram tour of Deep Creek Preserve led by Trey Hannah. The tour included a fire-improved stand of longleaf pines and damp pine flatwoods areas with carnivorous sundews and many spring bloomers.



FEBRUARY MEETING

Call of the wild (flower)

Stacey Matrazzo of the Florida Wildflower Foundation gave us an overview of the group’s work and the important role wildflowers play in our ecosystems. She also encouraged members to participate in the group’s “Wildflowers, Naturally” program, which recognizes wildflower gardens large and small.



CONFERENCE CALL

The 37th annual conference of the Florida Native Plant Society will be May 18–21 in River Ranch. For details, visit fnps.org/conference. Resort reservations are open.

UPCOMING EVENTS: MARCH

13 Pawpaw meeting with Georgia Zern on the fascinating science of ethnobotany

25 Field trip to Audubon Park in Deltona. Contact: guidry.sonya@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar

MARCH 13 Pawpaw Chapter meeting, 7 p.m. Piggotte Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona. Georgia Zern will speak on ethnobotany, the study of the relationships that exist between people and plants.

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. 1414 Art Center, Ave., New Smyrna.

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

MARCH 25 Field trip to explore wetlands and hammock trails at Audubon Park in Deltona. Contact Sonya Guidry: guidry.sonya@gmail.com.

APRIL 1 Spring Fest, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Canal Street, New Smyrna. Contact Sonya Guidry: guidry.sonya@gmail.com

APRIL 8 Master Gardeners' Faire. 8:30 a.m. to noon, Volusia County fairgrounds, DeLand. Contact Paul Rebmann, wildflpaul@earthlink.net

APRIL 10 Pawpaw Chapter meeting, 7 p.m. Piggotte Center, 504 Big

Tree Road, South Daytona. Doug McGinnis on bees.

APRIL 15 Field trip to NSB's Grace Barack North Beach Community Park (Sapphire and North Peninsula) for an easy plant ID walk on paved paths winding through natural xeric coastal woods. Picnic lunch overlooking the coastal scrub and ocean. Contact Sonya Guidry: guidry.sonya@gmail.com.

APRIL 17 Chapter work day at the Park of Honor on Olive Street, South Daytona, starting at 9 a.m.

APRIL 17-22 FNPS six-day guided tour of North Alabama. Contact Devon Higginbotham at 813-478-1183 or email indigotravelcompany@gmail.com.

APRIL 20 Earth Day at Ormond Beach, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

APRIL 22 Education outreach at the Agriculture Museum in Flagler County. Weed a contact person for this.

MAY 7 Milkweed-related field trip led by Scott Davis

MAY 8 Pawpaw Chapter meeting, 7 p.m. Piggotte Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona. Scott Davis on monarchs and native milkweed.

MAY 13 Rugel's Roundup. Details TBA.

MAY 15 Workday at Park of Honor

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Redbuds usher spring with burst of color

February turns out to be the perfect month to introduce the eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*). This small deciduous tree, found at the edges of woods and along rural roadsides, remains bare twigged and unnoticed during most of Florida's winter...until February. Then it's eye-candy time!

Clouds of blushing pink blooms emerge from the twigs. Butterflies and bees greedily gather nectar from the sweet-pea blooms (which do taste sweet). In March the fading blush is gradually displaced. Yet, the promise of green heart-shaped leaves remains, preparing for next year's sweetheart

show.

Unless you live beachside this small 25 foot tree with full rounded crown could be a good choice for your yard. Though eastern redbud can be found in deciduous woods from Canada to Florida, this far south it seems to do better as an understory tree.

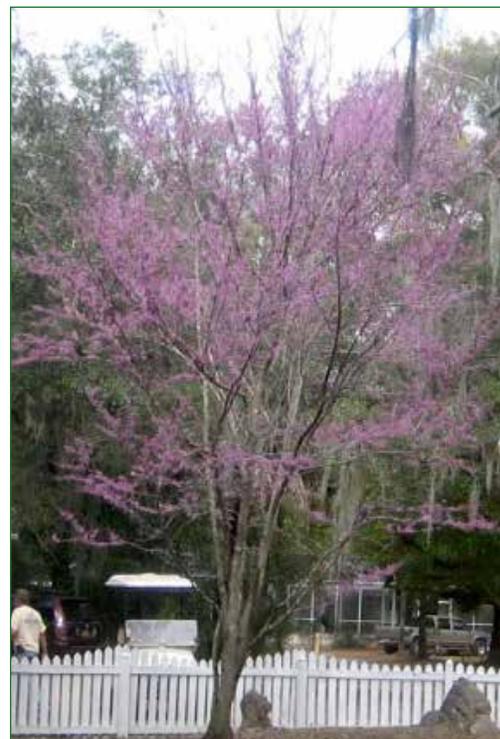
Note, when shopping for your redbud be sure to select a tree from reliable Florida stock that is already adapted to our well-drained sandy soils and climate.

Blooms, leaves, and seedpods have been eaten by browsing deer and humans. Indigenous people have been known to pre-

pare teas from the bark and roots to treat fever, whooping cough and diarrhea.

Companions suggested by Craig Huegel and Gill Nelson are flatwoods plum, flowering dogwood, pignut hickory, beautyberry, and yaupon holly.

—Story and photo by Sonya Guidry





FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP

Along an old road, fresh discoveries

On Feb. 4 Pawpaw nature lovers and guests explored a southeastern section of Tiger Bay State Forest in Daytona Beach on foot. The group's combined knowledge and curiosity provided the "lesson plan."

Along the mile section of the old DeLand-Daytona brick highway were blooming *Bidens alba* (Spanish needle) and *Bidens mitis* (smallfruit beggarticks). Parts of the *B. alba* are edible. *B. mitis*, unlike other *Bidens* in Florida, do not have long "horns" on the seed ends, just many small spiny "hairs".

Also blooming were *Encyclia tampensis* (butterfly orchid-early bloom), *Viola sororia*

(common blue violet), *Lyonia lucida* (fetterbush), *Salix caroliniana* (Carolina willow), *Itea virginica* (Virginia willow), *Myrica cerifera* (wax myrtle-male bloom), and *Rubus spp.* (blackberry).

In the wet pine flatwoods the group followed a hunter's trail and spent time discussing



Bidens mitis

(and sometimes bisecting) *Sarracenia minor* (hooded pitcherplant),



Encyclia tampensis

Drosera brevifolia (dwarf sundew), *Magnolia virginiana* (sweetbay tree), *Sisyrinchium atlanticum* (blue-eyed grass), and *Pinus serotina* (pond pine), which has the ability to grow needles directly from the trunk.

Within a remote spot of the flatwoods, GPS readings were taken of *Lygodium microphyllum* (old world climbing fern). This invasive plant can quickly spread and cover native flora. Tiger Bay staff is currently keeping invasives under control.

—Kathy Crawford/
Photos by Sonya Guidry and Kathy Crawford

