



# THE PAWPAW PRESS

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

## FEBRUARY MEETING

### Keeping a campus botanically diverse

Although audio-visual issues confined him to the small screen, Ray Jarrett gave the chapter a big-picture view of the land management program at the University of Central Florida at the chapter's February meeting.

Ray showed the diversity of flora and fauna that exists on a vast campus with 20 different plant communities and highlighted the importance of prescribed burns in maintaining the health of those communities.

While an up-close view may have eluded you at the meeting, you can check out Ray's entire presentation on

the chapter's FNPS page: <http://pawpaw.fnpschapters.org/data/uploads/presentations/pawpaw-2018feb-pres.pdf>.



### When thorns are a good thing



Mark Wheeler kicked off our series on "Prickly Plants for Pollinators and Privacy" with a look at wild lime (*Zanthoxylum fagara*), one of our three native relatives of citrus. The others are wafer ash (*Ptelea trifoliata*) and the more familiar toothache tree (*Zanthoxylum clava-herculis*). Wild lime can be grown as an understory tree in our area. It is the larval host for the Giant Swallowtail and provides cover for wildlife, which views its thorns as a desirable defense.

# 111!

Number of paid members of the Pawpaw Chapter according to the latest FNPS report, making us the 11th largest chapter. Of those, five are student memberships. Only three chapters have more student members.

## UPCOMING EVENTS: MARCH

**12** Pawpaw meeting: Preparing your yard for wildlife certification with Elizabeth Flynn

**17** Trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Contact: [warrenreynolds70@gmail.com](mailto:warrenreynolds70@gmail.com).

## CONSERVATION CONCERNS

# Members take part in public meetings

Several Pawpaw members participated in public events related to conservation in February.

On the 20th, Steve Provost, Jane Andrews, Sonya Guidry and Doug Hunt participated in New Smyrna Beach's Coastal Community Resiliency series of public discussions. Breakout discussion groups produced suggestions for the city relating to the environment, global warming and the city's cultural heritage.

On the 24th, Jane Andrews attended a program titled *Volusia Water: Challenges and Opportunities* for which the League of Women Voters served as host and Jim Gross, executive director of Florida Defenders of the Environment, was the featured speaker.

Jane reports that Gross had positive things to say about Volusia County's role in aquifer protection.

However, he spoke with reservations about the water management districts and indicated that we have to have government involvement in our water but that we need the right people for those jobs.

On Feb. 26, Sande Habali attended a Port Orange Environmental Council meeting as a member of the public. Her concern

for attending was to learn more about Port Orange's tree-cutting policies and to share information she learned after looking at the city's landscaping codes.

During the public input portion of the meeting, Sande pointed out that the city's landscaping code's list suggested landscape plants as "native," when the plants actually aren't. The committee promised to begin to take the word "native" out of the code.

She also shared copies of the FLEPPC 2017 list of invasives with the committee, highlighted to show that several of the suggested plants were on the Category I and Category II lists. This was enlightening information to most of the panel, who said they would "look into this."

## FEBRUARY FUNDS

### Monthly treasurer's report

The treasurer reports a beginning balance of \$8,387.21. Monthly revenue of \$73.00 was received from plant of the month donations and the sale of landscape brochures sold at an outreach event. Expenditures were \$394.07 and include honorariums to speakers,



## FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP

On Feb. 17 chapter members explored Green Springs Park in Enterprise and discovered that said springs are aptly named.



## PONCE SAVES THE PLANET

Members Amelia Evans and Sande Habali celebrated Ponce Inlet's Earth Day event at Ponce Park on March 3rd. In addition to sharing information about native plants, they helped children attending the event turn grape vine wreaths into bird nest suppliers.

approved for the Florida Wildflower Foundation. A vendor fee for the 12th Annual Florida Wildflower and Garden Festival was submitted. The refreshment committee was reimbursed giving us an ending balance of \$8,066.14.

Brief discussion centered on donations to the FNPS Conference in May.

—Karen Walter

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# Mark your calendar

**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. 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.

**MARCH 24** DeLand Wildflower and Garden Festival, 9 a.m. to 3

p.m. Contact Warren: (386) 478-6633 or warrenreynolds70@gmail.com.

**APRIL 9** Pawpaw Chapter meeting, 7 p.m. Piggotte Community Center, Big Tree Road, South Daytona, with Zach Prusak of The Nature Conservancy

**APRIL 14** Nature trail plant walk and picnic at Gamble Rogers Memo-

rial State Park. Contact Mark Wheeler at (386) 586-6580.

**APRIL 16** Workday at Park of Honor on Olive Street, South Daytona, starting at 9 a.m.

**APRIL 24** Lagooney at the Marine Discovery Center, New Smyrna Beach, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact Sonya: guidry.sonya@gmail.com or (386) 690-1797.

## THE JOURNEY TO NATIVES

# An old family garden shaped by new priorities

*This article by Melissa Lammers is adapted from an essay in the June 2017 edition of Halifax River Audubon's newsletter.*

When my family moved into our brand-new Ormond-by-the-Sea home in 1965, it was one of the first houses built on a dune that had been clear-cut to make room for a new subdivision.

While awaiting the cement trucks, the surrounding vacant lots were undergoing recolonization by citron melon (*Citrullus lanatus*), lantana (*Lantana camara* – invasive), blanket flowers (*Gallardia pulchella*), prickly pear (*Opuntia humifusa*) and sandspurs (*Cenchrus echinatus* L.).

It was a scene I would become increasingly familiar with right up to today. Back then as now, the early morning calls of the mourning doves seemed both hopeful

and melancholy, perhaps signaling the complicated relationship between nature and man that I was learning about.

As a new homeowner, my father enthusiastically embraced the challenge of landscaping on sand, close to the sea and its ceaseless misting of salt spray. Three ideas guided his gardening decisions: put the right plant in the right place, choose drought-tolerant specimens to minimize the need for water, and avoid herbicides, pesticides and broadcast fertilizers that would soak into our porous limestone substrate and pollute our ground water.

Somehow, his ministrations produced a beautiful yard with little help from these modern day “garden essentials.”

My parents are both gone now. A year and a half ago, I returned to Ormond-by-the-Sea, to

their home on the dune. The yard has been largely neglected for decades.

There is virtually no turf grass but there are many volunteers, some desirable and some not.

For months, I sat on my patio and contemplated all the wonderful things I could do to my tangled yard while watching the lizards, the bees, the butterflies and the birds flitting around the cabbage palms (*Sabal palmetto*), the spiderwort (*Tradescantia*), the Spanish needles (*Bidens alba*), the beach sunflowers (*Helianthus debilis*), the four o'clocks (*Mirabilis jalapa*), the red bay trees (*Persea borbonia*) and the many other plants whose names I am learning. I realized that as enlightened as my father was, there was something missing from his gardening philosophy: the notion of providing habitat for the wildlife

whose homes were (and still are) being replaced by ours.

This realization made me change my landscaping plans. In addition to not putting in new turf grass or an irrigation system, I decided to plant mostly natives that are good for birds, butterflies and bees. Once I made my decision to “go native,” the resources appeared and I found my way to the Native Plant Society, whose members have been of inestimable help, especially Dr. Don Spence.

I have so much more to learn but I have absorbed the most important lesson: the future of our world depends on making changes, like planting a sustainable, native garden. I hope others will consider giving over some of their yards as habitat hospitable to birds and other winged creatures, as well.