



# THE PAWPAW PRESS

Newsletter of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society: March 2015

## MARCH MEETING

### Adventures in stalking Florida's wild orchids

Mike Parsons cast the spotlight on Florida's native orchids at the March Pawpaw Chapter Meeting. Mike is 30-year orchid enthusiast and photographer from England who has traveled the world seeking out orchids in their natural environs.



Mike pointed out the unique symbiotic relationship between a native orchid and other living plants in its habitat (such

as fungi). This relationship is actually key to the orchid's very survival. So, saving the native orchid is necessary to save its habitat and vice-versa! Why does it take someone from another country to point the mirror to us?

He makes a passionate plea to Floridians to preserve those sacred sites where the rarest of endemics grow. For that reminder, we thank you,

Mike.

Some of Mike's photo excursions lured him (and his wife, Carol) into situations they would never have expected.

Some lead them down to the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park. On a recent adventure to find and photograph the rarest of the rare, they were led in zig-zag fashion through the swamp, with water sometimes up to their

For a beautifully written retelling of the swamp wedding Mike told us about, see: <http://www.tampabay.com/features/humaninterest/couple-marry-in-swamp-where-love-bloomed-like-rare-orchid/2124943>

chests. There were also a few stories of where the "I'M NOT-MOVING-FOR-NO-BODY" alligators barred their way as they tried to get out of the swamp. Thankfully, everyone lived to tell the tales.

—Sonya Guidry

## NOW BLOOMING

### Walter's viburnum puts on spring show

Spring is at hand and the Walter's viburnum (*Viburnum obovatum*) are setting the stage nicely. A prolific early spring bloomer, this woody ornamental produces numerous small white flowers that can fully engulf the shrub.

There are several cul-

tivars that address different growing conditions. Looking for a smaller shrub? "Mrs. Schillers Delight" tops out at 2 to 3 feet. A medium-sized hedge with lots of color? "Christmas Snow," "Densa," and "Select" grow to around 5 feet and have profuse blooms. The stan-

dard Walter's viburnum can exceed 20 feet when mature and makes a wildlife-friendly thicket.

All varieties will grow from a fairly shady to sunny location. They prefer a moist to dry environment and become drought tolerant if properly established.



Walter's viburnum makes wonderful addition to your landscape.

—Kevin Bagwell

## UPCOMING EVENTS: MARCH

**9** Pawpaw meeting: "On This Day: A Year in Photos," presented by Paul Rebmann

**19** Field trip to Flagler Beach. Contact Kim Johnson: kimjohnson1940@yahoo.com

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# Mark your calendar for...

Pawpaw Chapter sponsored events are in color.

**MARCH 28** Florida Wildflower and Garden Festival, DeLand, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

**MARCH 31** Environmental groups dessert meeting at Stetson University (815 South Alabama Ave., DeLand), 7-9 p.m., sponsored by the League of Women Voters

**APRIL 4** Mini spring birding/nature program at Tomoka State Park, Ormond Beach, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

**APRIL 4** Spring cleaning and cooking with herbs at Full Moon Natives, 10-11:30 a.m.

**APRIL 11** Master Gardeners' Faire, 8 a.m.–noon, Volusia County Ag Center, DeLand

**APRIL 13** Pawpaw Chapter meeting, 7 p.m., Piggotte Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona. "On This Day: A Year in Photos," presented by Paul Rebmann

**APRIL 17–19** Spring festival at Dunn's Creek State Park, Pomona Park, with guided mountain bike tours, hikes, and kayak/canoe tours. Fee for camping.

**APRIL 18** Container Gardening at Full Moon Natives, 10 a.m.–11:30

**APRIL 18** Anastasia State Park Earth Day Fair 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

**APRIL 18** Pawpaw Chapter field trip to Flagler Beach, contact kim-johnson1940@yahoo.com for information (See adjacent story).

**APRIL 19** 2016 FNPS conference planning meeting, 1 p.m., offices of Zev Cohen & Associates, 300 Interchange Blvd., Ormond Beach. Open to all.

**APRIL 21** Sea Oats Chapter meeting on invasives, 7 p.m., St. Augustine Beach City Hall

**APRIL 23** Earth Day in Ormond Beach, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

**APRIL 25** Meeting at Sugar Mill Gardens, Port Orange, with Zach Zacharias speaking on the history of the gardens, 10 a.m.–3 p.m..

**MAY 2** Butterfly and Herb Festival at Full Moon Natives, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Seminars throughout the day: butterfly gardening, uses of herbs: the herbal gourmet's favorite dozen, natural remedies for your yard and home, growing herbs in containers, gardens and landscapes. Create your own customized herb bowls, butterfly lifecycle displays.

**MAY 9, Eco-Buggy Tour, Deep Creek Preserve**

**MAY 28–31** FNPS Annual Conference, Challenger Learning Center, Tallahassee



## APRIL FIELD TRIP

# Two sides of Flagler Beach

Tour Flagler Beach Library native landscape; take boardwalk on intracoastal; have lunch at local restaurant, with optional visit to Kim's native "cottage garden" after lunch.

**Description:** We will visit the newly installed native landscape at the Flagler Beach Library. It is a community project, seeded by the dream of the library director, funded by an annual book sale, and implemented by the cooperative efforts of a local FNPS member, a local nursery, and a construction company's donation of three large pieces of coquina..

Directly behind the library we will access the Betty Stefflick Preserve boardwalk trail, which traverses the edge of the intracoastal waterway. Salt-tolerant vegetation such as black mangrove, Florida privet, Christmas-berry, sea oxeye daisy, and saltwort thrive near brackish waters. The

boardwalk leads to an upland trail with red cedars, live oaks, and hackberry.

After the walk we will have lunch at the Fishermen's Net. For those who wish to add one more excursion on their way home, drive 15 minutes south to visit Kim's native yard (14 Ocean Breeze Circle, Ormond Beach).

**Note:** This Pawpaw Chapter field trip is open to the public, and there is no charge.

**Meet:** 10 a.m. at the Flagler Beach library; 315 S. 7th St (Corner of 7th & Flagler Ave)

**Carpool:** Meet 9:30 a.m. at Publix, SW Corner near Wendy's (Williamson & Granada)

Please contact trip leader, Kim, to be included in lunch reservations

**Leader Kim Johnson:** Phone: (386) 679-2095 Email: kimjohnson1940@yahoo.com

**Carpool contact:** Sonya Guidry (386) 690-1797 Email: guidry.sonya@gmail.com



### MARCH FIELD TRIP

## Visiting a local island

As part of her course work to become certified as a Master Naturalist, Renee Luedke became familiar with Hontoon Island State Park in DeLand. On March 14th, she guided about a dozen Pawpaw Chapter folks on a walk through a hammock area and wet pine flatwoods.

Members saw palms, ancient oaks, gallberry, and pine trees. Members were also treated to shoestring fern (*Vittaria lineata*), which dangled from the palms, air plants (*Tillandsia* species), as well as a beautiful bronze

winged green dragonfly.

Spring has arrived at Hontoon with many wildflowers being spotted including red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*), false pennyroyal (*Philoblephis rigida*), and yellow stargrass (*Hypoxis juncea*). Some carnivorous plants were observed along the wet areas such as small butterworts (*Pinguicula pumila*) and dwarf sundew (*Drosera brevifolia*).

A visit to Hontoon State Park is always worthwhile and it is just a (free) ferry ride away! —Story and photos by Sonya Guidry

