



THE PAWPAW PRESS

Newsletter of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society: March 2019

Wildflower Festival draws great crowd

It was a perfect spring day for the DeLand Wildflower Festival on March 23. Record attendance kept eight Pawpaw Chapter volunteers busy all day, answering questions and talking with folks about the role of native plants in maintaining the cycle of nature. The chapter is lucky to have a corps of members who devote their time and energy toward these important outreach events.



We also send out a big thank you to all the members who propagated and shared native plants from their yards for this and upcoming events. These plants may well make it possible for someone to take the first steps toward introducing native plants to their yards.

We look forward to seeing our newly made friends from the festival at upcoming chapter events.

—Karen Walter (Photo by Nancy Hull)

Last call for name tags

Our 2019 name tag order will be placed soon. If you are a new member or didn't get a name tag last order and would like one, please put your name on the name tag sign up sheet. It will be on the back table at the next meeting. Or you can text or email Karen Walter. Text 570-350-5574 or email to karenlw72@gmail.com. First name tags are free, but if you are replacing a name tag there will be a \$5.00 charge. The order will be placed by April 15 and name tags should be in by the May meeting.



Honoring the intent of the Park of Honor

The Park of Honor was so named by the City of South Daytona to serve as a memorial to citizens of the community who have enriched our lives. We maintain a small part of the park that was originally dedicated to a 13-year-old, Kailynne Quartier, who lost her battle with brain cancer. She was the daughter of retired police Captain Doug Quartier.

Since this is a memorial park, Pawpaw is planting a red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*) to honor Bill Kiel. He and his

wife, Carolyn, have been longtime members and supporters of the Pawpaw Chapter. They participated in field trips for as long as Bill's health would allow, and his friendly smile at every meeting will be greatly missed.

In addition to the buckeye, Friends of the Park of Honor will be planting a wafer-ash (*Ptelea trifoliata*) in honor of Doug Hunt's mother, Mary Lou Hunt. Doug has been instrumental in the design and maintenance of our native garden.

If you would like to purchase a plant in honor of a loved one who has passed, please contact Doug to discuss the purchase and placement. His email is shalehill@gmail.com.—*Sande Habali (photo by Sonya Guidry)*

Need pots? Make your own from hypertufa

Karen Walter gave a demonstration to the Propagation Study Group at the March 9 meeting at Buschman Park, Port Orange. Containers made from hypertufa are porous enough to allow excess water to soak into the container, keeping the soil in the container garden slightly damp. Karen provided a handout with a few recipes included. The primary ingredient for strength is Portland cement. Peat moss is the ingredient that holds the water. Perlite or vermiculite or a combination are the ingredients that provide the porosity. Since peat moss is not a sustainable product, Karen recommends substituting coconut coir for the peat moss.

Hypertufa mimics the qualities of tufa, which is a porous limestone rock naturally found in Greenland and other locations where carbonate minerals precipitate out of ambient-temperature water. Natural tufa is not readily available but hypertufa makes it easy to duplicate the great features of tufa and is fun to create.

The fun part comes when you choose your container or mold. It is important to either cover the mold with a plastic bag or spray with lubricant such as vegetable spray so the mold releases from the hypertufa. Pat the hypertufa in an inch-thick layer over the mold so it resembles rock. Cover and let cure in a shady location for about 48 hours before you remove your creation from the mold. Be careful! It's not completely dry and is still damp and fragile. At this time you can decorate with markings or let it be. Loosely cover again and let it continue to cure for at least another week or two. Rinse your creation several times with clear water to remove excess lime. Fill with your choice of soil and plant. Plants that do well in a calciferous environment such as succulents or cacti or plants that don't mind their soil with a little lime do well. Have fun!—*Karen Walter (photo by Sonya Guidry)*



Strategies for dealing with Brazilian pepper

Although it was viewed as a desirable "Florida holly" in the late 1800's, Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolia*) today is seen as one of the state's most destructive invasive species, choking out native plants in hammocks, pinelands, and mangrove forests from St. John's County south. It is estimated that 700,000 acres in the state are invested with Brazilian pepper, a large shrub or small tree that is in the same family as poison ivy, oak, and sumac, and may cause similar reactions.

The question of how to get rid of what is now characterized as a "prohibited aquatic plant" by the state comes up frequently from property owners and those interested in our public lands. At our meetings, Danny Young, who has over 20 years' experience as a field botanist and environmental consultant, has shared some of his experiences in getting rid of these plants. He says eradicating them is a long-term process that requires expertise to be successful. Once the plants are gone, Danny stresses the need for continued maintenance and long-term management.

Keep up with chapter events on our Facebook page: facebook.com/pawpawchapter/

For the homeowner who identifies a Brazilian pepper on his or her property, Danny recommends pulling or digging it out, being careful not to scatter the berries, and doing one's best to remove every bit of root. The berries can be bagged and left in the sun until no longer viable. If the plants have completely taken over an area, however, it is best to contact a specialist. Danny's strategies for removing the plants from natural areas may be found on the Pawpaw website. For more information, contact Danny at Young Bear Environmental Consulting, 386-212-1952.—*Sande Habali*



Carolina jessamine: welcome antidote to winter

Although we're now in the full embrace of spring, winter is not that distant a memory, and one of that season's delights is the appearance of Caroline jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*). It is a native vine within woodlands and disturbed areas from central Florida, north to Virginia. The blooms are fragrant, yellow trumpets, which begin to show themselves in February. These flowers attract hummingbirds and the dense foliage supplies cover and nesting sites for many birds. The fruit attracts warblers, grosbeaks, cardinals, mockingbirds,

titmice, chickadees, and thrashers. You can utilize this plant as a groundcover or a disguise for a wire fence. Be aware that all parts of this plant are toxic. Those with sensitive skin may need to wear gloves when handling.

—*Samantha Jones (Photo by Homer Edward Price via Wikimedia.)*



Team clean

Eleven members of the chapter participated in March's quarterly cleanup of our two-mile section of SR 40 west of Ormond Beach.

Upcoming events:

April 6 (Sat.): Master Gardeners' Fair, DeLand

April 8 (Mon.): Pawpaw Chapter meeting with David Schroeder from Evolving Landscapes in DeLand. He will speak on landscaping with native plants.

April 12-13 (Fri-Sat): Florida Wildflower Foundation annual conference, Gainesville. For details: FlaWildflowers.org/symposium.

April 13 (Sat): Lagoonacy, Marine Discovery Center, New Smyrna Beach, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

April 15 (Mon.): Park of Honor workday, Olive Street, South Daytona

April 18 (Thurs.): Picnic on the Plaza for Earth Day, Ormond Beach

April 27 (Sat.): Water Festival in Deland 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For details: volusiawater.org

May 4 (Sat) and May 11 (Sat): Rugel's Roundup Citizen Science Project: Danny Young

May 13 (Mon.): Pawpaw Chapter meeting with Paul Rebmann on Volusia wildflowers

May 16-19 (Thur-Sun) FNPS annual Conference in Crystal River. For details: fnps.org/conference/2019

May 20 (Mon.): Park of Honor workday, Olive Street, South Daytona