



THE PAWPAW PRESS

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

APRIL MEETING

The story of a year, told through pictures

Pawpaw member, Florida Master Naturalist, and nature photographer Paul Rebmann presented the April chapter program, “On This Day, A Year in Photos.”

Almost every day last year, Paul (@WildFlPhoto) tweeted a photograph that was taken on that date in one of the previous 13 years.

With the exception of 23 days when he had no photos taken on that date, the program was a ‘slide show’ of a virtual year from January 1st to December 31st. Each image was captioned with the date and how many years before the photo was made.

A number of these were taken during Pawpaw Chapter and FNPS Conference field trips. Chapter field trip photos included butterweed flowers from a chilly day in 2006 at Bulow



Creek State Park, helmet skullcap from the 2005 Vargal Tract eco-buggy trip, Ockeechobee gourd flower from a 2002 pontoon boat ride on the St. Johns River, and a Tampa butterfly orchid from

a chapter tour of Ben Friday’s landscape along Spruce Creek in 2006.

Conference field trip photos included Harper’s beauty at Apalachicola National Forest and tuberous grasspink from

Camp Blanding.

The slideshow will be available for viewing online sometime in May at wildflphoto.com.

—Story and photos by Paul Rebmann

UPCOMING EVENTS: MAY

11 Pawpaw meeting: “All About Manatees,” with Dr. Katie Tripp

9 Eco-buggy trip to Deep Creek Preserve. Contact Sonya Guidry: Guidry.sonya@gmail.com



APRIL FIELD TRIP

A library goes native

On a sunny Saturday 21 folks attended Kim Johnson's Pawpaw Chapter field trip to Flagler Beach. Local resident Art Woosley wheeled up on his bike to speak to us about how their librarian's dream of enhancing the grounds with native plants became a reality through community effort.

Much of the library's boring, thirsty sod is now replaced by four islands of native plants, each artfully arranged with a large coquina rock, saw palmetto, Fakahatchee grass, live oak, and beach sunflower.

Many of our people did not know Flagler Beach also has a delightful greenway boardwalk along its Intercoastal Waterway directly behind the library. How peaceful it was to walk out over the salt marsh graced with black mangrove, sea oxeye

daisy, dwarfed red cedars dripping with beard lichens, yaupon sprinkled with red berries, saltwort, and Florida privet.

The boardwalk, arching long over the estuary, finally brought us to land, a looped trail and much welcomed shade. Larger cedars, oaks, palms, hackberry, buckthorn, wax myrtle, and, alas, way too many Brazilian peppers line the trail.

The day was topped off by Art and Marion Woosley's kind invitation to bring our picnic lunches over to their lovely home, where we munched our sandwiches on their deck overlooking the Intra-coastal Waterway, the perfect spot to contemplate the notion that Flagler Beach might be a good place to lose yourself...and just be. —*Story and photos by Sonya Guidry*

PLANT OF THE MONTH

The many attributes of marlberry

The Institute for Regional Conservation calls marlberry (*Ardisia escallonioides*) “one of the best shrubs for the garden.” Doug, who presented it as the plant of the month for April, reported liking marlberry so much that he has 10 of them!

This evergreen shrub usually gets no taller than about 10-12 feet with a width of half that. It is naturally found along the coast, documented as far north as Flagler County, although members reported it struggling there. As a hammock plant, it

does well in partial to full shade and is quite salt tolerant. Showy and fragrant white flowers appear sporadically throughout the year and are followed by berries that age from pale green to blackish purple and are relished by birds. If you’re looking for



marlberry make sure you get the native, not *Ardisia crenata* (coral ardisia), a regrettably popular invasive. —Story and photo by Doug Hunt

PROFESSIONALS’ CORNER



Blue flag iris, sign of spring

Blue flag iris (*Iris hexagona*) is a perennial, herbaceous plant that is in the group of monocots, which can be identified by the parallel veins in their flat leaves and the flower having three petals and three sepals.

The leaves typically are about 24 inches long. Flowers occur in spring, as early as February. They characteristically have smaller purple petals surrounded by longer and broader sepals with a yellow stripe at their base.

Blue flag iris is found in wet areas and often

occurs at the edge of a water body. If the plant is not kept wet it typically will not thrive. Blue flag iris will grow in full sun to partial shade, and the plants have long tuberous roots that can be divided to make more plants.

Two of our state’s native species of iris, *Iris virginica* and *I. hexagona*, are widespread, with the remaining four species occurring primarily in the panhandle.

Most iris species are

pollinated by bumblebees.
—Don Spence, PhD
(Photo by Ray Jarrett)

Warm air, warm soil make for happy planting

So we’re looking at May 48 hours that consisted of spring are gone and the heat and humidity are rising.

Now’s a great time to be adding plants to your landscape. The temperatures (both soil and air) are warm and perfect for root growth. An added incentive to plant is that Mother Nature will be helping us water for the next few months.

Please remember to establish all new plants by watering them regularly for the first few weeks.

What’s regularly? Depends upon the plant—it can be as little as a couple of weeks for the hardier

wildflowers and a lot longer for shrubs and trees. Make sure you ask when purchasing the plant.

Also, ensure that your gardens are well mulched. A good mulch (made from organic matter), provides numerous benefits to your garden. It acts as a weed deterrent,

keeps the soil cooler in the heat, and holds moisture better than in gardens that do not use any mulch. —Kevin Bagwell

What’s blooming this month?

- Dune sunflower
- Blanket flower
- Tropical sage
- Wild petunia
- Frogfruit
- Sensitive mimosa
- Black-eyed Susan
- Rosinweed
- Lyreleaf sage
- Blue salvia
- Coral honeysuckle
- Crossvine
- All native azaleas
- Tickseed
- And Tampa verberna (just to name a few...)



FNPS CONFERENCE 2016

We're getting ready for a lot of company

Pawpaw Chapter is proud to host the 2016 FNPS Annual Conference, "CPR for Florida Life! Conservation, Preservation, Restoration," at the Daytona Beach Resort and Conference Center on May 19-22.

First and foremost *thank you* to our committee chairs and volunteers: Kevin Bagwell, Tom

Colvin, Elizabeth Flynn, Sonya Guidry, Sande Habali, Carol Hawkins, Doug Hunt, Friyana Iranput, Ray Jarrett, Barbara Kieran, Don Spence, Peggy Yokabonus, and Danny Young. Our conference is going to be special, exciting, educational, and fun, reflecting our environmental commitment and our laidback Florida

lifestyle.

Please join us for our next conference committee meeting on June 7 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Zev Cohen, 300 Interchange Blvd (I-95 and SR 40), Ormond Beach. We still need committee chairs and volunteers. Check out conference.fullmoon-natives.com and join us. Bring friends...you do not have to be a member to volunteer!

I am always available to talk conference! Contact me any time/day with questions, suggestions, sponsorship leads, advertising opportunities... Marvette Bagwell, 386.295.5500 (call or text), vette@fullmoonnatives.com.

—Marvette Bagwell

Photo: Daytona Beach Resort

Conference logo contest

Calling all artists! We can't have a first class conference without an awesome logo. Your work of art will be featured on conference program, banners, advertising, T-shirts, and more...you will be representing the theme of our conference.

We are currently working on the winner's gift package, but please send your submissions to Tom Colvin, tc7@bellsouth.net. The entry deadline is July 1.

Get those creative juices working and come up with a logo that reflects your (our) conception of conservation, preservation and restoration of our Florida life. Feel free to choose your own medium: pen, pencil, watercolors, chalk, oils, or graphics on the computer just to name a few. Check out www.fnps.org for inspirations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar for...

Pawpaw Chapter sponsored events are in color.

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 and check out the butterfly lifecycle displays.

MAY 9 Eco-buggy Tour at Deep Creek Preserve We will specifically be looking for pawpaws. Meet at 9 a.m. at the entrance to Deep Creek Preserve. This field trip is free and open to the public, but reservations for the eco-buggy are needed. Contact Sonya, Guidry.sonya@gmail.com or 386-690-1797, for information, directions, and reservations. (See story opposite.)

MAY 11 Pawpaw Chapter meeting, 7 p.m., Piggotte Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona. "All about Manatees" with Dr. Katie Tripp, Save the Manatee Club's Director of Science and

Conservation.

MAY 19 Sea Oats Chapter Meeting, 7 p.m., St. Augustine Beach City Hall. “Tree Care”

MAY 21 “How to Attract Butterflies and Hummingbirds,” St. John’s Agriculture Center, St. Augustine, 2 to 4 p.m.

MAY 28–31 FNPS Annual Conference, Challenger Learning Center, Tallahassee, Get your reservations in soon!

JUNE 6 Guided tour of Turtle Mound, Canaveral National Seashore, with Ray Jarrett, 8 a.m. Free and open to the public. At 9:15 a.m., join a pontoon boat ride out of JB’s Fish Camp, 859 Pompano Ave., New Smyrna Beach. Cost is \$20 per person. Money needs to be turned into Sonya by the May 11th meeting. For more information contact Guidry, sonya@gmail.com or 386-690-1797

JUNE 7 Planning meeting for FNPS conference in 2016 from 1-3 p.m. Meet at Zev Cohen’s building at 300 Interchange Blvd, Ormond Beach. (Turn right at McDonald’s). Everyone is invited!

JUNE 8 Pawpaw Chapter meeting, 7 p.m., Piggotte Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona

JUNE 20 Pollinator Day, Tomoka State Park

OCTOBER 24 Tomoka Fest, Tomoka State Park



MAY FIELD TRIP

Pawpaw members in search of pawpaws

Have you ever wondered how the Pawpaw Chapter got its name? Often when people think of pawpaws, they do not think of the little-known scrub plant found only in Volusia County (*Deeringothamnus rugelii*).

Join the Pawpaw Chapter on a (free!) field trip eco-buggy tour through Deep Creek Preserve. A team from Volusia County Land Management will lead the tour and direct us to various locations of Rugel’s pawpaw. We will observe the conditions in which this rare plant are found, as well as observe other pawpaws that may be



growing nearby. The reticulated pawpaw (*Asimina reticulata*) is often found near the Rugel’s.

Take advantage of this rare opportunity to see our mascot in full bloom. Meet at 9 a.m. at the entrance to Deep Creek Preserve on the west side of SR-415, 4.5 miles south of SR-44, on May 9th. Bring a picnic lunch for a stop at Ashby Park.

Then join us the following Monday, May 11, at our monthly meeting, to learn more about Rugel’s pawpaw from Danny Young. Danny has spear-headed many “Rugel’s Roundups” throughout the area to ID these endangered plants and note the conditions under which they live. He will share his expertise as he delivers the Plant of the Month talk

This field trip is open to the public, but space on the eco-buggy is limited.

Contact Sonya Guidry for details and reservations: Guidry.sonya@gmail.com or 386-690-1797 —*Story and photos by Sonya Guidry*



CHAPTER EVENTS

If it's spring, it's time for the Gardeners' Faire

It must be spring when it's time for the Master Gardeners' Faire in DeLand.

We had a great time visiting with old and new friends, both from the plant world and from the people world. We were busy, busy, busy the entire morning! This event was a

big success for us, thanks to many people.

First, we want to thank Kevin Bagwell from Full Moon Natives for providing us with a variety of trees and plants. Also, thanks to the following workers who pitched in with time and, in many cases, plants they propa-

gated from home: Sonya Guidry, Judi VanHorne, Carol Hawkins, Mary Jo Mercier, Tom Colvin, Carolyn Kiel, Kim Johnson, Barbara Kieran, Dot Backes, and Sande Habali.

As an added surprise, Sugar Mill Gardens bought many left-over plants. Some plants are

already in the ground in the native plant section of the gardens.

We are delighted Sugar Mill is embracing putting more natives into their landscapes. Stop by and check them out.

*Story by Sande Habali
Photos by Sonya Guidry*

