



THE PAWPAW PRESS

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

MAY MEETING

Learning about a different kind of native

Manatee expert Katie Tripp wants everyone who is interested in “natives” to share her passion for another native, the beloved manatee.

Her passion is contagious. Katie presented us with many interesting facts people did not know, or may have forgotten. She also had available materials about manatees

for us to read and share with others. Katie encouraged us to do what we can to protect these ancient animals by checking out www.savethemanatee.org

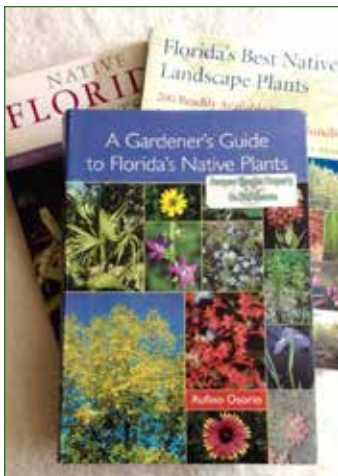
We can also de-stress by watching manatees at Blue Springs State Park via webcam at www.manatv.org

—Story and photo by Sande Habali



BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

...And perhaps you'd like to borrow a book?



What do you get as a Pawpaw member of FNPS?

In addition to the benefits listed below from the Florida Native Plant Society, members of Pawpaw have access to a fully stocked professional lending library. This benefit alone is worth the cost of membership because professional books can be

quite costly. The library is available for your perusal at each meeting.

General FNPS benefits include:

■ *The Palmetto*, our quarterly magazine, which is filled with information on native plants, gardening, conservation of native habitats, etc.

■ *Sabal Minor*, our bi-monthly newsletter,

which will keep you up to date on FNPS news and activities

■ Annual conference discount

■ Native plant gardening and landscaping information

■ Speakers and field trips

So join today and start helping with the FNPS mission. —Sande Habali

UPCOMING EVENTS: JUNE

8

Pawpaw meeting: “Forensic Botany,” with Florida flora expert Dr. David W. Hall

6

Pontoon trip to Canaveral Seashore. Contact Sonya Guidry: Guidry.sonya@gmail.com



MAY FIELD TRIP

Adventures in the land of Rugel's

The May chapter field trip featured an eco-bug-ride through Volusia County's Deep Creek Preserve.

The outing began with a primer on the chapter's namesake plant — *Deeringothamnus rugelii* — by Danny Young, who described the plant as everyone gathered around several that were still in bloom. Danny also reviewed the process that the chapter has been taking the past several years to document populations of Rugel's false pawpaw during the annual Rugel's roundups. The roundup next year will be a workshop conducted as part of the FNPS state conference in Daytona Beach.

In the area around the yellow squirrel banana—another name for

Rugel's—were some of the true pawpaws (*Asimina* species), many with fruit forming. Other plants seen included savannah milkweed (*Asclepias pedicellata*), white-top aster (*Oclemena reticulata*), and yellow milkwort (*Polygala rugelii*), another species named for 19th century pharmacist and botanist Ferdinand Rugel.

After shuttling our vehicles in to the inner parking lot, someone spotted a tiny yellow wildflower that I later identified as dwarf St. Johns-wort (*Hypericum mutilum*). We then boarded the eco-buggy for our trip through the preserve, a recent addition to the Volusia County conservation corridor. During the ride Danielle Ivey explained that parts of

the 8,000 acre property are still being leased out by the county for hunting and agricultural uses and how this helps the county manage the property.

At the primary stop of the day, we saw more of the Rugel's false pawpaws, and also some other non-botanical surprises, including the caterpillar of *Ompalocera munroei*, the pawpaw leaf-rolling moth, in frass-covered rolled up leaves of *Asimina reticulata*.

Flying around and visiting various plants was a four-toothed mason wasp (*Monobia quadridens*) and a rattlebox, or bella, moth (*Utetheisa ornatix*).

We were treated to a red-headed woodpecker as we passed through a clear area with a number of dead tree trunks. Before the tour ended we stopped to see a unique fern, the drooping forked fern. *Dicranopteris flex-*

uosa is listed as a native, being found in scattered locations throughout the state. Some consider it a tropical waif, as it is believed that it was introduced to Florida by tropical storms, with most populations dying off before becoming naturalized. This Volusia County occurrence was documented in 2013. The fern was also found in Palm Coast in 2010.

Many of the participants gathered afterwards for a picnic lunch at Lake Ashby Park followed by a short walk where we found more interesting plants, saw both native and invasive apple snail eggs and a limpkin feeding along the shore.

A repeat of this field trip is expected to be offered during the 2016 FNPS state conference.

—Story by Paul Rebmann/
Photos by Paul Rebmann and Sonya Guidry

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Our star attraction

Appropriately enough, the plant of the month was our own Rugel's pawpaw. Danny told us that:

■ It is endemic to Volusia County. The worldwide range is eastern Volusia County!

■ It prefers to grow in a specific soil type: Immokalee soils. These soils

usually support mesic to xeric flatwoods. If the area is long unburned or mowed or had other disturbances, this plant disappears. It quickly reappears after such events.

■ There is another similar species in Florida, *D. rugelii* var. *pulchellus*. This is the white-flowered pretty false pawpaw, known from three coun-

ties: Orange, Charlotte, Lee.

■ It is in the family *Annonaceae* (custard apple). Other members of this family include the true pawpaws (*Asimina* spp.)

and the pond apple (*Annona glabra*).

■ This plant is our chapter's namesake.

We conduct surveys for it (most every) May. That is when it flowers. Without flowers, it is easily recognizable as a pawpaw, but sometimes it is hard to go further than that in ID. In May, its small yellow flowers (rarely red) make it easy to ID.

Come join us at next year's Rugel's roundup!
—Story by Danny Young



Members spread the word about natives

Earth Day in Ormond Beach

Picnic in the Plaza is Ormond Beach's way to celebrate Earth Day. This April, Pawpaw members had fun talking about native plants with people who are already interested in being "green." Kim Johnson, Sande Habali, Harriet Damesk, and Barbara Kiernan shared information with all the folks who stopped by. There were plenty of other like-minded folks talking about ways to save our planet, such as Sierra Club and Audubon. In addition to the Earth Day activities, the weekly farmers' market was also available.

Display at Ormond Library

Be sure to stop in the



Ormond Beach library and check out the Pawpaw / Florida Native Plant display under the direction of Carla McDougal and Barbara Keirnan. Take a stroll around the grounds and see if you can spot the natives

planted by past members several years ago.

Barbara reports finding the following natives:

- Wild lime
- Simpson stopper
- Fringetree
- Necklace pod
- Love grass

Butterfly and Herb Day at Full Moon

Pawpaw members continued to celebrate Earth Day on the first Saturday in May. That was when Full Moon Natives in Port Orange had its annual Butterfly and Herb Day. Ellen Nielson, Judi Van Horn, Tom Colvin and Sonya Guidry met with folks and handed out information to help them choose native plants for their landscapes. Visitors strolled the gardens, listened to speakers, and chatted with vendors. Everyone had a great time "out in the country." We always enjoy a visit to Full Moon! Check out the website for more activities: www.fullmoon-natives.com/home.htm



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar for...

Pawpaw Chapter sponsored events are in color.

JUNE 6 8 a.m.: guided tour of Turtle Mound with Ray Jarrett. FREE and open to the public
9:15 a.m.: Pontoon ride out of JB's Fish Camp in New Smyrna Beach. Cost is \$20 per per-

son. Contact Sonya at Guidry.sonya@gmail.com or 386-690-1797. See story below.

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 the McDonald's off of the SR 40 exit on I-95). Everyone is invited. Contact marvetteb@cfl.rr.com or tcat7@bellsouth.net for more information

JUNE 8 Pawpaw Chap-

ter meeting, 7 p.m., Piggotte Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona. Dr. David Hall will be speaking on forensic botany: "Plants and crime: Are you prepared to do the time?"

JUNE 16 Sea Oats Chapter meeting, 7 p.m., St. Augustine Beach City Hall. "The Professional Landscaper's Perspective"

JUNE 18 Ag Center program: "Edible Plants of Florida." 2 p.m, Windstorm Training Center,

3111 Agricultural Center Drive, St Augustine.

JUNE 20 Pollinator Day at Tomoka State Park, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We need volunteers. Contact sadehab@aol.com if you have some time that day to help.

JULY 11 Cracker Creek paddle trip and visit to Gamble Place. Contact Guidry.sonya@gmail.com

JULY 13 Pawpaw Chapter meeting, 7 p.m., Piggotte Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona.

JUNE FIELD TRIP

The Seashore from land—and sea!

Due to popular demand, a second boat has been added for our June 6 field trip to Canaveral National Seashore, so the standbys and a few others can sign up. Contact Sonya (see below).

8 a.m.: Turtle Mound walking tour with Ray Jarrett

9:30 a.m.: Three-hour pontoon excursion from JB's Fish Camp with stops at Castle Windy, Seminole Rest, etc.

12:45 p.m.: Lunch at JB's Fish Camp restaurant or bring your own picnic

Pawpaw field trips are open to the public.

A trip fee of \$20 per person (check to Pawpaw Chapter FNPS) is

required to cover the pontoon charter. Payment will reserve your space.

Trip contact: Sonya Guidry. E-mail: guidry.sonya@gmail.com, cell: 386-690-1797

For the Turtle Mound walking tour with Ray Jarrett, you may want to carpool from JB's Fish Camp before entry into Canaveral National Seashore. There is a National Park entry fee unless you have a Golden Age Passport. Ray will be your plant ID guide as you take the walkways up the

50-foot shell mound with over 35,000 cubic yards of oyster and clam shells..

The three-hour pontoon excursion, with Captain Bill of Turtle Mound River Tours, will carry us deeper into the waters of the Mosquito Lagoon. We will make a number of stops including sites known to be the most northern populations of prickly apple cactus (*Harrisia fragrans*), gumbo limbo (*Bursera simaruba*) and strangler fig (*Ficus aurea*). Count on an easy walking stop at Canav-

eral National Seashore's Seminole Rest, where you will note a population of soapberry trees (*Sapindus marginatus*). We will return to JB's Fish Camp dock by 12:30 p.m.

Note: Botanical stops may be difficult for less mobile passengers to negotiate. Expect wet feet.

Possible carpool site: NSB's Walmart shopping area (behind MacDonaldis) at I-95 & SR-44.

Story by Sonya Guidry/
Turtle Mound photo via Ebyabe/Wikimedia

