



# THE PAWPAW PRESS

Newsletter of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society: May 2017

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# FNPS honors chapter, Sonya Guidry

Saturday of the Florida Native Plant Society's annual conference was a big day for the Pawpaw Chapter. Not only was the chapter the recipient of the Green Palmetto Award as chapter of the year, but Sonya Guidry received the prestigious Mentor Award, one of the society's highest honors, acknowledging "outstanding lifetime contributions that forward the mission of the society."

We cannot think of anyone more deserving of this honor, and would like to share a portion of her nomination:

"Few people have more selflessly devoted themselves to the Florida Native Plant Society than Sonya Guidry, who contributes thousands of hours of volunteer work on the society's behalf every year. A long-standing member of the Pawpaw

Chapter, she served as one of its first presidents, from 1994-1995. More than twenty years later, her hand still is frequently the first to go up when a volunteer is needed and she is just as frequently the last person to go home.

"She is the chapter's representative to the Council of Chapters and its field trip organizer extraordinaire, a role that included attending to all the details of 20 field trips for the FNPS annual conference in 2016. Her experienced eye as a plant sleuth has made her sought out throughout the state.

"She is a committed citizen scientist, actively reporting finds both desirably rare and dangerously invasive. That commitment included helping finance Dr. J. Cho's *Plants of the Atlantic Center for the Arts*, published by Bethune-Cookman



University Press last year, and to research assistance on Dr. Cho's upcoming *Plants of Canaveral National Seashore*.

"Without calling any attention to herself, Sonya has sponsored scholarships that make it possible for students to expand their interest in the sciences because she believes such experiences

are crucial for building the native plant advocates of the next generation.

"She is in every way the embodiment of what a member of the Florida Native Plant Society should be."

Congratulations, Sonya! And thanks to everyone whose commitments have made the chapter what it is. —Doug Hunt

## UPCOMING EVENTS: JUNE

12

Pawpaw meeting with our own Danny Young on our role in land management reviews

4

Field trip to Judi's Butterfly Garden, Palm Bay. Contact: [guidry.sonya@gmail.com](mailto:guidry.sonya@gmail.com)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

# Mark your calendar

**JUNE 4** Field trip to Judi's Butterfly Garden open house (private residence), Palm Bay at Emerson Dr. and Bellevue St., 75 miles south of NSB. Meet at 8:30 a.m. to carpool behind McDonald's at the NSB Walmart just west of I-95. See: [judibutterflies.com/index.php?s=updates-from-the-garden](http://judibutterflies.com/index.php?s=updates-from-the-garden)

**JUNE 12** Pawpaw Chapter meeting, 7 p.m.

Piggotte Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona, with Danny Young on land management reviews

**JUNE 17** Pollinator Day at Tomoka State Park, 10 a.m. to 1 or 2 p.m. Contact Sande at [Sadehab@aol.com](mailto:Sadehab@aol.com) if you can help man a table that day. The event will take place in their recreation hall.

**JUNE 19** Workday at Park of Honor on Olive Street, South Daytona, starting at 9 a.m.

**JULY 10** Pawpaw Chapter meeting, 7 p.m. Piggotte Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South

Daytona, with Ashley Steele, ranger at Canaveral National Seashore. Ashley, who often covers Seminole Rest in Oak Hill and Playalinda Beach at the southern end of CNS, will present a program in advance of the chapter's boat tour to Canaveral National Seashore's mainland site, Seminole Rest.

**JULY 15** We have chartered Captain Bill and his 24-passenger pontoon boat for a three-hour excursion from the dock just south of JB's Fish Camp. All participants *must* have

a pre-paid (\$20) reservation and *must* be there by 9:30 a.m. for a 10 a.m. departure. The tour will take us south past Turtle Mound, then west through Shotgun Cut, between the mangrove islands to arrive at Seminole Rest. At Seminole Rest, there will be time for a shell mound plant ID walk and quick tour of restored historic structures before our return for a late lunch at JB's Fish Camp.

**JULY 17** Workday at Park of Honor on Olive Street, South Daytona, starting at 9 a.m.

**CHAPTER MEETINGS**

# If you missed our meetings you missed...



Paul Rebmann



Paul Rebmann

In April, Doug McGinniss sharing his lifelong experience with bees and the important role native plants play for them (left); in May, Scott Davis's encyclical knowledge of milkweed and monarchs (above); as well as learning about two great plants of the month, bastard false indigo (above right) and wild coffee (right).



Doug Hunt



Doug Hunt



Port Orange Ted Johnson

### CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

# Plants take us places!

Rare pawpaws were rounded up, *Asclepias* species were tracked down, Earth Day was celebrated, beachside New Smyrna was explored: It's been a busy couple of months for the Pawpaw chapter. See more pictures of these events and keep up with all of our activities on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PawpawChapter/>. *You don't have to be on Facebook to look!*



Sonya Guidry



Sonya Guidry



Sonya Guidry

# Palms, and how to keep them happy

By Ray Jarrett

Palms are a natural and iconic component of Florida's natural and planted landscape. They symbolize the tropics and provide aesthetic beauty for homeowners. Palms come in all sizes and shapes from low groundcovers to towering canopy trees.

Florida has 11 palms that are native to the state including needle palm, saw palmetto, royal palm and the state tree, the sabal palm. These palms grow in a variety of habitats and often make great additions to landscapes.

Additionally, there are dozens of non-native palms used in Florida landscaping including Washingtonian, queen, ribbon, and pindo palms. All of these palms have different needs for their care, watering, and nutrient requirements.

Managing palms in the landscape can be challenging. There are several diseases and nutritional disorders that affect palms. One of the most recent diseases, which has been affecting queen palms and Washingtonian palms, is *Fusarium wilt*. This disease is only known to infect these two species of palms and their cultivars and is always fatal. It is spread by wind, animals and improper pruning and sanitation.

Palms are often harshly pruned annually or 'hurricane cut' for aesthetics and maintenance. This is a bad practice and not needed for palm care. Harsh pruning of palms can lead to nutritional disorders like boron deficiency or manganese deficiency commonly known as 'Frizzle top'.

Additionally, harsh pruning causes palms to grow taller and faster than normal, develop bottleneck trunks and makes them susceptible to insect pests like palm weevils. There are several other diseases than can affect palms including *Ganoderma rot*, lethal yellowing and bud rot of palms. Many of these diseases can be mitigated by ensuring palms are properly pruned and fertilized with an appropriate formulation designed for palms.

These diseases, nutritional disorders and other information about palm care can be found at the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)



branches of palms. Avoid pruning green fronds when possible. When green fronds are pruned, these pruning cuts leave open wounds that can allow fungal diseases to infect the palm.

- Never allow climbers to use climbing spikes on the trunks when pruning palms. Pruning should be done from the ground or with aerial equipment.

- Ensure that palm pruning is

done with hand tools that are sanitized in between each individual palm as recommended by UF/IFAS. Do not allow chainsaws to be used as they are difficult to sanitize in between palms.

Here are some best management practices to consider when managing palms in your landscape:

- Contact an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist to have your palms reviewed for maintenance recommendations, fertilization and overall care.

- Avoid harsh pruning or 'hurricane cutting' palm trees. Harsh pruning of palms can lead to nutritional disorders, insect pests and other diseases.

- Only prune dead fronds and old fruiting

done with hand tools that are sanitized in between each individual palm as recommended by UF/IFAS. Do not allow chainsaws to be used as they are difficult to sanitize in between palms.

- Fertilize palms using an 8-2-12, + 4% magnesium palm fertilizer. This formulation was researched by UF / IFAS and is the recommended for use in Florida.

*Ray Jarrett is an ISA certified arborist (FL-5343A) and longtime member of the Florida Native Plant Society.*