



THE PAWPAW PRESS

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

JUNE MEETING

Forensic botany: plants as fingerprints

“Plants and crime: Are you prepared to do the time?”

This was the provocative question posed to us by Dr. David W. Hall, botanist and plant forensic expert. Dr. Hall gave a fascinating talk to Pawpaw members at our June 8th meeting. He recounted several stories telling how knowledge of plants and their parts have helped him and others solve various crimes.

We learned it is important to be observant about plants and their parts, including seeds and roots. Knowing a plant’s family, genus, and species is also important when certain evidence has to be narrowed down. His extensive knowledge has even helped solve crimes in areas just because parts of a plant proved to be

endemic.

Dr. Hall has written many books and brought his latest book with him for purchase, a color-coded book of *Wildflowers of Florida and the Southeast*. Many folks bought copies for themselves, but one



is now available in our portable library for members to check out, just one

more benefit of membership. —*Story and photo by Sande Habali*

FNPS CONFERENCE 2016

Help us create a winning logo

Get your creative juices flowing and help us design artwork to be used when the Pawpaw Chapter hosts the FNPS annual conference next May. Your design will appear on programs, flyers, T-shirts, etc. and should reflect the theme: “Native Plants are C P R for Florida Life! Conservation, Preservation, Restoration”

In addition to the prestige and honor of being a

winner, the creator of the selected logo will receive a weekend getaway at the Daytona Beach Resort and Conference Center along with a local restaurant dinner card. Hard deadline is Aug 1st, but earlier is better. Submittals may be sent to tcat7@bellsouth.net. or bring them to our planning meeting on July 19.

Entries may be photos, oils, watercolors, digital

composites, sculptures, fingerpaints: let your creativity soar. Just make sure your artwork can be digitally reproduced in high resolution and is scalable.

Not the creative type but know a friend who can rock it? Pass on the info and maybe they will invite you on the weekend stay or to dinner. The contest is open to all.

—*Marvette Bagwell*

UPCOMING EVENTS: JULY

11

Pawpaw meeting: “Natural and Safe Solutions for Lawn and Garden” with Kevin Bagwell

13

Cracker Creek paddle trip. Contact Sonya Guidry: Guidry.sonya@gmail.com



JUNE FIELD TRIPS

In pursuit of an elusive “apple”...

Native “apples” in Florida! “Apples” in Volusia County? Thanks to the dedication of our intrepid field trip leader, Sonya Guidry, the two-year search for the endangered *Harrisia fragrans* is over! Pawpaw chapter members located a prickly “apple” orchard in southern Volusia County.

Sonya and I first met Dr. Jon Moore from Florida Atlantic University, Wilkes Honor College, when he presented a paper on the fragrant prickly apple at the 2012 FNPS Conference in Plant City. His research paper was titled *Transplantation of the Endangered Fragrant Prickly Apple Cactus, Harrisia fragrans, in St. Lucie and Indian River Counties*. He explained the scrub habitat and conditions

of its survival historically and that it exists now on St. Lucie and Brevard County coastlines. He mentioned it could “possibly” be found in Volusia County and gave Sonya the coordinates. When he said it would be “hard to find,” I think that was all the challenge she needed.

First, Sonya tried by land to find the little guys. Sonya and I battled swarms of mosquitos while we traipsed through the dense foliage of the Castle Windy midden at Canaveral National Seashore in search of *Harrisia fragrans*. And by “we,” I certainly mean Sonya! I was too busy trying to find sunlight to relieve the buzzing noises and discomfort that follows. We eventually realized we were a bit too far north

and were not looking in the right terrain. We needed to be in scrublike conditions.

Undeterred, Sonya began asking anyone and everyone she met with a boat to take her by water to find the fragrant prickly apple.

Eventually, Sonya added another feather to her cap and became a tour volunteer and plant ID guide at the seashore. Naturally, her enthusiasm for finding *Harrisia fragrans* carried over to other volunteers, who then enlisted the help of a Park Service boat. The exploratory group of volunteers, fellow Pawpaw members Dot Backes and Sonya, and the Marine Discovery Center's kayak specialist, Warren Reynolds, set off in early April. Success! Not only did they find the prickly spple, but also gumbo limbo (*Bursera simaruba*) and strangler fig (*Ficus aurea*). Now

Sonya wanted to share her findings with her Pawpaw Chapter folks and friends. An outing to Canaveral National Seashore became our June field trip.

We were fortunate to have Captain Pete and Captain Bill at the helms because the waters were tricky, with several shallow spots.

We totaled about 30, including the "best baby" our boat captain ever had and the young son of one of our members. (Never too early to start those botanists!) We checked out the "goodies" along the Castle Windy shoreline and trail, searched for the gumbo limbo tree (alas, we couldn't find it this trip), and photographed as many fragrant prickly apple plants as we could see. We considered our trip a success and it was fun, too.—*Story by Sande Habali/photos by Doug Hunt and Sonya Guidry*



...and the treasures of an ancient mound

A small, dedicated group met Ray Jarrett for a tour of Turtle Mound inside Canaveral National Seashore bright and early the morning of June 6 before the pontoon boat ride. Ray gave us an overview of the history of that area and was our guide to the plants, many of which appear north of their usual range. Judy Van Horne documented as many as possible.

In addition to fragrant prickly apple, *Harrisia fragrans*, we found:

Bird pepper (*Capiscum annuum* var. *glabriusculum*)
 Tough bumelia (*Sideroxylon tenax*)
 Marlberry (*Ardisia escallonioides*)
 Simpson stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans* var. *simpsonii*)
 White stopper (*Eugenia axillaris*)
 Hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*)
 Moonflower (*Ipomoea albana*)
 Seaside oxeye (*Borrchia frutescens*)
 Saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*)
 Marine vine (*Cissus trifoliata*)
 Myrsine (*Myrsine cubana*)
 Small flower buckthorn (*Sageretia minutiflora*)
 Torchwood (*Amyris elemifera*)
 Sida sleepy morning (*Waltheria indica*)

Wild coffee (*Psychotria nervosa* var. *lanceolata*)
 Doctorbush plumbago (*Plumbago zeylanica*)
 Corkystem passionflower (*Passiflora suberosa*)
 Greenbriar (*Smilax* spp.)
 Summer grape (*Vitis aestivalis*)
 Florida privet (*Forestiera segregata*)
 Grey nickerbean (*Caesalpinia bonduc*)
 Lantana (*Lantana camera*) not native
 Painted leaf (*Poinsettia cyathophora*)
 Rosy bay bean (*Canavalia rosea*)
 Frostweed (*Verbesina virginica*)
 Papaya (*Carica papaya*)
 Yellow top (*Flaveria linearis*)
 Wild lime (*Zanthoxylum fagara*)
 Sea blite (*Suaeda linearis*)
 Six-angle foldwing (*Dicliptera sexangularis*)
 Strangler fig (*Ficus aurea*)
 Red mulberry (*Morus rubra*)
 Ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*)
 Butterfly orchid (*Encyclia tampensis*)
 Scorpion tail (*Heliotropium angiospermum*)
 Red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*)
 Black mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*)
 White mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa*)
 Buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus*)
 Red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
 Yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*)
 Gingerbush (*Pavonia spinifex*)
 Poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*)

This tour will be a field trip during the 2016 conference.—*Sande Habali*



Pawpaw members shine at conference

Several Pawpaw members participated in the 2015 FNPS Conference, “Born to Burn,” in Tallahassee. As usual, it was interesting and stimulating.

We learned a great deal and met many fascinating people all dedicated to the conservation, preservation, and restoration of native plants. Photos and description of the conference are available at <http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/>. From there you can link with Facebook. Remember: you don’t have to “join” Facebook to enjoy the photos and comments about anything to do with the Florida Native Plant Society. It is a great way to stay informed.

Pawpaw members attending included Sonya Guidry, Kim Johnson,



Paul Rebmann (and Virginia), Peggy Yokubonus, Barbara Kiernan, Danny Young, and Sande Habali. We each attended different field trips and social events, but all got together

at Wakulla Springs for the social on Friday night.

We are all proud of Danny Young for winning the plant ID contest, which we understand was a challenge for all who

tried. Naturally, he will spearhead the ID contest for *our* conference!

Our own Kim Johnson was honored for her hard work in creating a native habitat at her home in Ormond-by-the-Sea by winning a FNPS Landscape Award. Her yard sets an example to all that even a small yard can become an oasis for wildlife with native plants.

Why not have your yard or business recognized with a FNPS Landscape Award for the 2016 conference? Stay tuned for details on changes happening so more landscapes can be recognized.

We are already excited about the 2016 conference in Daytona Beach.

Story by Sande Habali/
photo by Sonya Guidry

What’s the buzz: 2016 conference update

We are on track and developing an exciting conference. The conference committee team is always looking for suggestions on workshops, experiences from past conferences, and agendas. The more feedback we have, the more ideas we can implement. Let’s open discussions on making our conference *the model* for the future.

Let’s use this opportunity as a tool to partner with other like-minded organizations and even get local/state media involved. Let folks know the awesome work we do as a volunteer organization and work a bit on advocacy. Not only is this going to be a great educational ex-

perience, but a great time to network, meet, learn, and get involved.

Join us for our next conference planning meeting on Sunday, July 19 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the offices of Zev Cohen, 300 Interchange Blvd, Ormond Beach

Let’s share ideas, find out what’s being planned, join the discussion.

If you can’t make the meeting, send any suggestions, feedback, or ideas via email/text or call (386-295-5500 or vette@FullMoonNatives.com).

This is our time to shine. Let’s put our spin on a conference and let’s place no limits on our creativity.

—Marvette Bagwell

INVASIVE ALERT

A swallowtail you don't want in your yard

Butterflies are beautiful, graceful, and an insect almost everybody loves. They play an important role in pollination and are important prey in the food web. The largest and most attractive butterflies are the swallowtails.

In Florida, we have about a dozen species of swallowtail butterflies in the family *Papilionidae*. Many of them have specific larval host plants:

Spicebush swallowtail: spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)

Pipevine swallowtail: Dutchman's pipe (*Aristolochia* spp.)

Giant swallowtail: *Rutaceae* family plants, including citrus (*Citrus* spp.), torchwood (*Amyris elemifera*), wild lime (*Zanthoxylum fagara*)

Palamedes swallowtail: bay trees (*Persea* spp.)

There is a swallowtail that is unwanted in Florida but is likely to arrive soon, if it is not here already. The lime swallowtail butterfly is a destructive pest that is native to Asia and was introduced into the Caribbean region in 2004 and detected in Puerto Rico in 2006.

The lime swallowtail is a strong flyer and feeds primarily on *Rutaceae* family plants. Similar to invasive, exotic plants, introduced populations of exotic insects pose a severe threat to Florida's ecosystems by vectoring plant diseases, over-browsing vegetation and competing for host material with native species.

This butterfly, at first glance, looks similar to a couple of our native



species of swallowtails. A closer look and it is easy to identify. The swallowtails native to Florida that are primarily yellow in color all have distinct tails at bottom of their hind wings. The lime swallowtail does not have

tails! There is a suffusion (speckling) of yellow marks on the forewing or the 'shoulders' of the front wing. Also, on the rear wing a large blue eye-spot is located on the upper margin and a red spot on the inner margin.

Story by Ray Jarrett/
Photo by Delano Lewis/UF

JULY FIELD TRIP

Escape the heat on Cracker Creek

The Pawpaw Chapter will be back on the water for its July field trip, this time to Cracker Creek in Port Orange.

Cracker Creek is part of Spruce Creek, which has been designed an Outstanding Florida Waterway and is a natural blackwater river, getting its coloration from tannic acid from decaying vegetation that stains the water black.

After our two hours on the water (bring your own watercraft or rent one), there will be an opportunity to take a tour of historic Gamble Place, the onetime home of James N. Gamble, son of Proctor and Gamble founder



James Gamble, and to enjoy a picnic lunch at the Cracker Creek picnic pavilion. (Tour fee: adults, \$6, seniors, \$5.)

Meet: 9 a.m. at Cracker Creek, 1795 Taylor Road, Port Orange.

Bring: water, insect repellent, picnic lunch, sunscreen

Wear: clothes and

shoes that can get wet

Watercraft rental rates (two hours) if you do not bring your own:

Single kayak, \$24

Double kayak, \$36

Canoe, \$36;

Single Hydrobike, \$30

Tandem Hydrobike, \$40

Contact: Sonya Guidry, guidry.sonya@gmail.com or (386) 690-1797

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar for...

JULY 11 Paddle trip and visit to Gamble Place. Contact Guidry.sonya@gmail.com (see left)

JULY 13 Pawpaw Chapter meeting, 7 p.m., Piggotte Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona. Kevin Bagwell on "Natural and Safe Solutions for Your Yard and Garden."

JULY 19 Planning meeting for FNPS Conference in 2016 from 1-3. Meet at Zev Cohen's building at 300 Interchange Blvd (Turn right at McDonald's). Contact marvetteb@cfl.rr.com