



THE PAWPAW PRESS

Newsletter of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society: Summer 2016

CONFERENCE 2016

Well done!

Our June meeting was a celebration of the many members who either volunteered or participated in the 2016 conference. Conference Chair Don Spence bounced all the credit back to our dedicated volunteers. Below is an open letter Volunteer Chair Sande Habali sent to our wonderful Pawpaw volunteers:

Hello Volunteers Extraordinaire!!

Last Monday, May 23rd, I heard a collective sigh throughout the area. WE DID IT!!

We put on an excellent conference because of the Pawpaw volunteers, along with members from Lyonia, Sea Oats, and other FNPS chapters.

Thinking back to the beginning, we want to



thank Marvette for getting the ball started. She and Don found the perfect location for the conference. We know how perfect it was because of all the comments we've heard and read reflecting how much people enjoyed staying on the beach. Marvette, we are so glad you stuck to your guns!

The next obstacle was the socials, especially the Museum of Arts and Sciences. Peggy and Barbara, kudos *plus* go to you for finding this perfect venue. (I know Marvette was right with you on this

score, also). I wonder if you heard how impressed folks were with that place?! I think the conference goers also appreciated the other socials being right at the hotel. You also pulled the menus off so seemingly effortlessly, but "we" know that was a *lot* of work. I'm not sure where the idea came from for the food trucks, but everyone seemed to really enjoy their lunches from these folks.

And speaking of "seemingly effortless," the field trips turned out to be a huge success, but again

"we" know the hours—*no! days*—of work, planning, and computer skills it took for Sonya to put these together. I know she will have ideas as to how future field trips can be planned more smoothly for the next conference (to be hosted by some other lucky chapter!).

And congratulations to Kevin for gathering such a wide variety of plants to appeal to people visiting from all areas. I know you were glad to have Renee Luedke nearby to help and give her expertise on

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UPCOMING EVENTS: JULY

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Pawpaw meeting: Our own Don Spence on tree care for homeowners

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Paddle trip to King's Landing. Contact Sonya Guidry, guidry.sonya@gmail.com

Well done!

From first page natives. The plants were a great buying and learning experience.

Ray Jarrett put together an outstanding silent auction. The items were of high quality. People from outside the conference even commented on how much they enjoyed them.

Danny Young and Catherine Bowman put together a great plant ID contest. You are so good at this, Danny. I heard you stumped some of the “experts.” Of course, we liked your new category for “Chapter with the Most Entries.” Who won that category anyway—oh, yes, *we did!* No surprise when we heard Sonya won for the amateur division and placed third for the expert division. Way to go, Sonya!

Also, thanks to Wild Florida Paul, for putting together an excellent group of vendors. People enjoyed browsing and also visiting our resident artist, Jane Coon. Jane really saved the day when she came up with her beautiful painting!

We can always count on Doug for working behind the scenes in getting us our publicity. We even made the Home-town News! Doug got us the T-shirts that show off Jane’s work so beautifully. These will become collector items.

Pawpaw Co-Treasurer

Carol Hawkins stayed throughout the entire conference at the chapter table. She is so good at keeping us all on track with the money that comes in and out of our chapter. Carol had help from David McGrath on Friday. Co-Treasurer Mary Jo Mercier and Lyonia member Steve Tonjes were on hand the next day.

In addition to the committee chairs were the many other Pawpaw members who helped out during the conference days. Some were at the hotel and others were in the field and still others were both! You guys just pitched in wherever, and this was most appreciated! Needless to say, we couldn’t have made our conference a success without you folks.

And last but by no means least was our fearless leader, Don Spence, who “took the ball” and kept it rolling. I can’t imagine the countless hours you put in, with answering e-mails alone! And to think you kept on teaching through this whole preparation! I thought the speakers reflected a wide variety of interests.

I do believe conference-goers had a great experience. As we think back over the conference, there were so many positive touches that had to have come from you or been initiated by you. So, once again, we thank you.



LIBRARY DISPLAY *The Pawpaw Chapter had an engaging presence at the Ormond Beach Library in May. Chapter members used our banner, posters, books, pamphlets, and items promoting our group and mission, and also the FNPS annual conference.*

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Valuable Jamaica caper

Jamaica caper (*Capparis cynophallophora*) is a beautiful large shrub or small tree that might be thought of as off-limits for our area because of its general perception as a Zone 10 plant. As Pawpaw members who grow it can attest, however, it is happy in coastal locations from New Smyrna Beach to Ormond by the Sea. Thank goodness plants do not read what is written

about them!

A generally pyramidal habit and showy, filamented flowers in summer, along with great salt and drought tolerance, make Jamaica caper a valuable landscape plant, and birds relish the fruit that follows the flowers. It tolerates full sun but does best in partial shade.

Plan on 10 to 15 feet at maturity, a height that it will take some patience



to reach as Jamaica caper is relatively slow-growing. It does, however, respond well to seasonal applications of organic fertilizer.

—Doug Hunt



JUNE FIELD TRIP

Joy of a good meander

Warren Reynolds guided nine kayakers on New Smyrna's Indian River Lagoon on June 18. Joining the trip were two new Pawpaw members, Jane Andrews and Karen Walter, as well as Sande Habali, Sonya Guidry and four of her family members. Despite ominous rumors, the "weather gods" provided perfect paddle conditions for this lazy meander through the mangroves surrounding Brown's Bay. Many thanks to Warren for leading this trip and arranging for the delivery of the colorful array of kayaks.

New member, Carol Gardner, joined us for our picnic lunch. Then the sound of approaching rain cloud rumbles did hasten our walk through the paved nature trail.



Clumps of blooming Butterfly Orchids (*Encyclia tampensis*) graced the southern red cedars. For five people the arrival of rain did not deter a final umbrella walk through

Doug Hunt's artfully arranged butterfly-friendly landscape. Then, once the rain stopped—and as if to answer the call, out came a lone monarch butterfly.
—Sonya Guidry

OFFICERS

Turning over reins

Our co-treasurer, Carol Hawkins, has worked for the Pawpaw Chapter for five years. She has kept us straight with our books and has seen us through the 2016 Conference. She has been a member of FNPS for almost 10 years, so we look forward to being with her when she returns from her northern home this fall. Now she is turning the reins over to Co-Treasurer Mary Jo Mercier.

We thank both treasurers for all they have done and will continue to do! They both rock!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save dates

- JULY 11** Pawpaw Chapter meeting, 7 p.m. Piggotte Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona. Don Spence on tree care for homeowners.
- JULY 16** Paddle trip at King's Landing, Apopka. Participants must be there by 9:30 to make the return shuttle. Fee varies based on canoe or kayak rental.
- AUGUST 8** Chapter meeting
- AUGUST 13** Plant swap and field trip to Ormond Beach's Central Park