



THE PAWPAW PRESS

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

JUNE MEETING

Our crucial role in land management

The Florida Native Plant Society and the members of its local chapters play an important role in the management of public lands. “Public lands are resources that need to be protected,” Danny Young told the June chapter meeting.

Danny, an environmental biologist and longtime Pawpaw member, shared his passion for public lands and the role of the FNPS Land Management Partners Committee.

We, as members of FNPS and as citizens of our land, are stakeholders in land-management practices.

The LMPC works with state agencies to conduct reviews of properties greater than 1,000 acres that were obtained through public conserva-

tion funds such as P2000 and Florida Forever. State law requires a review of their management plan every five years and an update of the plan every ten years.

The many conservation lands in Volusia County give us an opportunity to become involved in this process and work toward the FNPS mission of preservation and conservation of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

First-time participants may choose to be observers. It is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the natural lands of our area.

For more, check out www.fnps.org/committee/partners.

—Karen Walter

JULY FIELD TRIP

Set sail for Seminole Rest

There’s still space available for the July 15th field trip on Captain Bill’s pontoon boat headed for Seminole Rest in Canaveral National Seashore.

Bring a check for \$20 to the July 10 meeting, where you can learn more about our destination from Ranger Ashley Steele.



FACEBOOK GOLD

Thanks in large part to Sonya’s wonderful photo of a white peacock butterfly nectaring on *Gaillardia pulchella*, a June post about our work day at the Park of Honor drew almost 3,000 people to our Facebook page. Our post on the trip to Judi’s Butterfly Garden (page 3) brought 1,800 sets of eyes and one on Pollinator Day at Tomoka State Park (also page 3) almost 1,400. That’s a lot of people getting the message about Pawpaw and FNPS! [Facebook.com/PawpawChapter/](https://www.facebook.com/PawpawChapter/)

UPCOMING EVENTS: JULY

10

Pawpaw meeting with Ranger Ashley Steele of Canaveral National Seashore

15

Pontoon boat trip to Seminole Rest. Space limited. Contact: guidry.sonya@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar

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.

AUGUST 14 Pawpaw Chapter meeting, 7 p.m. Piggotte Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona, with Katie Tripp speaking on Rose Bay renourishment

AUGUST 19 9 a.m.–1:00 p.m. plant swap and picnic at Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park. After a picnic lunch members may tour Harriet Damesek's lawn-free landscape

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Singing fiddlewood's praises

A plant with an ancient history, fiddlewood (*Citharexylum spinosum*) grows in many parts of the world. The genus takes its name from its use for musical instruments.

The wood is hard, smooth, fine-grained and was originally used to make lyres in ancient Greece. Although not vouchered in Volusia County, it grows very well here, and it can also be found around the world including in Greece, Australia and the Bahamas. It is drought tolerant and has low nutritional requirements.

Today the tree is still used for the sound board of violins and guitars, but it is also used in street plantings due to its rel-

atively small but sturdy stature.

It grows to about 30' with a 15" diameter trunk. It is generally seen as a densely foliated shrub with arching branches and graceful drooping inflorescences of fragrant white flowers from late spring through summer. As summer wanes to fall, the fruit ripens into colorful droops of bitter-sweet but edible berries. Birds and other small animals love them.

Fiddlewood is not very well known to the general public but deserves a



more prominent place in landscape gardens. The Park of Honor in Port Orange has a beautiful specimen in the southeast corner of the garden which showcases the handsomeness of this native.

—Story and photo by Karen Walter

FNPS TRAVEL

Escape heat in rainforests of southeast

The Florida Native Plant Society is sponsoring a motorcoach trip to the Appalachians this fall to botanize, socialize and explore the mountains on a refreshing journey to the temperate rain forests.

The Sept. 10–15 trip will explore the spruce-fir forests of the southeast with local, expert guides. Cost is \$1095 per person based on double occupancy or \$1395 for the single room rate.

A deposit of \$50 will hold your spot. For more information on pricing and the itinerary, visit www.indigotravelcompany.com or call Devon Higginbotham at 813-478-1183.

CHAPTER OUTREACH

Celebrating pollinators

Pawpaw Chapter was well represented at the Tomoka State Park's June 17 Pollinator Day event—and earned a mention in the *Ormond Beach Observer* (<http://tiny.cc/zrn7ly>).

Sande, Connie, Sonya, Kim and Amelia set up a FNPS outreach table. Wildflower seeds

and Florida landscaping brochures were hot items. Sande also supervised a children's table with stamping activities to encourage our younger visitors to embrace pollinators. Paul gave a terrific program on Florida's native plants and their pollinators. —*Story and photo by Sonya Guidry*



JUNE FIELD TRIP

A garden to inspire our own

On June 4, sixteen Pawpaw members trekked to Palm Bay to take a tour of Judi's Butterfly Garden.

It was amazing to see how the passion of one person grieving over the loss of a dearly beloved pet beagle in 2009 could turn the sadness of loss into something so beautiful and alive.

The experience ignited the child spirit within us. There were butterflies flitting willfully in her garden as we threaded paths through charming little hidden garden



displays. Much as kids in a candy shop, we were overwhelmed with many artful design ideas.

In addition to many varied and unusual flowers, there were practical larval feeder plants with organza bags to protect the "cats" at vulnerable instar stages. They are allowed to emerge as adult butterflies in the safe confines of the

double-doored screened enclosure which looks like a mini version of the UF Butterfly Rainforest.

Everyone came away with ideas of what they would like to add to their own landscape. Lisa's hubby will be building ponds,

Doug will have hanging baskets of frog fruit and Gail and Mike carried home two prized butterfly plants.

All were challenged to find ways to create similar butterfly-friendly garden magic, but primarily using native plants. Some of us will just have to return Judi's Butterfly Garden the first weekend of June next year to more carefully absorb all the unique gardening ideas.

—*Story and photos by Sonya Guidry*

For more photos of these and other events, check out the chapter's Facebook page at facebook.com/PawpawChapter/

