



# THE PAWPAW PRESS

Newsletter of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society: July–August 2018

## Pawpaw's first education grant off to a healthy start

After discussions with Amy Spies of R. J. Longstreet Elementary, the Education Committee on Aug. 18 voted to increase the previously approved grant to the school to \$500. Here is a report from Amy:

Thanks to a generous Pawpaw grant, R.J. Longstreet Elementary has expanded its native plant habitats. To combat overzealous mowing and destruction of previous native plantings, it was decided that new plants would be protected by either raised beds or containers.

The team of 4th grade teachers joined member Lisa Martina on a trip to Green Isle Gardens Native Nursery to purchase the plants for the school. The team was amazed by the variety at the nursery and extremely helpful staff. In addition to the plants purchased at Green Isle, native plants donated by Pawpaw members during the August plant swap are now part of the new gardens. All four of the 4th grade teachers (Rebecca Gilbert, Delilah Ragan, Amy Spies, and Elizabeth Teschner) along with 5th grade teacher and Pawpaw member Brittany Dahl, helped guide 4th grade students during the planting process.

The students assembled the two raised beds and transplanted all of the plants. In addition to the plants in the containers, a large cocoplum was planted between existing beach daisies and a sunshine mimosa (the students' favorite). The tree was planted in an open area in hopes of it spreading and filling in existing ground cover. In addition to learning the value of planting natives, students will be able to observe plant life cycles, seed dispersal, and the importance of pollinators. The aesthetic value of the gardens is immeasurable as well. Barren areas between the school's office and cafeteria are now bursting with color and life!



## It's August: time to swelter and swap

More than 25 people came to visit Buschman Park in Port Orange on a hot and muggy August morning. Armed with a plant list, which included many invasives, field trip leaders Sonya Guidry and Warren Reynolds led the group through this relatively small park on Spruce Creek Road in Port Orange.

A wide variety of plants were brought to the park for swapping, keeping in mind many people would be coming without plants to share. To our delight more than half the group were newcomers to gardening with natives and went



home with plants in order to experience a native garden for the first time.

Since Buschman Park shares its parking lot with the new home of the Port Orange Historical Society, we were invited to visit the structure and enjoy a bit of their air conditioning. Docents gave us personal tours.

After enjoying a lunch at Neighbors Ice Cream Store, we went to tour two yards in the neighborhood. One landscape is in a traditional style neighborhood and the other one is located in a more hammock-like setting. Members went away with new ideas to try in their own landscapes.

## Park of Honor shaping up

A concentrated morning of work by nine Pawpaw members brought changes to our demonstration garden at South Daytona's Park of Honor. Under President Doug Hunt's guidelines and efforts, a path was formed, allowing visitors to walk through the space and view the native specimens without disturbing them.

Members also installed some new plants and grasses to replace plants lost due to city workers' spraying with an herbicide. Thankfully, the City of South Daytona reimbursed us for the lost plants. Now that the garden is looking good again, please help us keep it looking that way by joining in a work day, which are held the third Monday morning of each month starting at 9 a.m.



## With Springs in their steps

A little heat and humidity (well, maybe a lot) did not deter Pawpaw Chapter members from exploring the Wild Persimmon Trail at DeLeon Spring State Park on July 14.

## *The Plea of Papilio polyxenes*

No! Please don't kill me!  
 Don't pick me off and squash me under your heel!  
 I plead guilty. I admit I devoured your parsley.  
 If you'd planted dill, I would have eaten that too.  
 I can't help it—remember that story you loved as a child?  
 I'm a very hungry caterpillar.

Take time to admire my shiny segments,  
 lime-green dotted with yellow and black.  
 Notice how my sharp feet cling to the stalk.  
 Observe the efficiency of my munching mouth.

Soon, I'll wrap myself in a chrysalis like  
a folded green leaf. Meanwhile

your parsley will grow back, while I change and change again.  
You'll be rewarded when my butterfly self emerges,  
swallow-tailed, and cloaked in midnight velvet,  
fringed with gold and sapphires.  
I'll fly around your yard all day, pollinate your flowers,  
and never chomp another leaf  
.—Ellen Nielsen, August 2018

## Upcoming events:

Sept. 10 (Mon): Pawpaw meeting with author Ginny Stibolt on sustainable gardening for climate change

Sept 15 (Sat): Self-arranged paddle trip at Cracker Creek followed by picnic lunch and plant walk. Contact: Warren Reynolds

Sept. 17 (Mon): Park of Honor workday, Olive Street, South Daytona

Oct. 6 (Sat) Tomoka Fest : Chair Sande Habali. Please let Sande know if you have some plants available to sell at this event and/or can help that day.

Oct 8 (Mon): Pawpaw meeting with Wendy Poag, CPR creates P.E.A.R. Park, Leesburg. Plant of the month: Buckthorn (*Sideroxylon* spp.) by Sande Habali

Oct. 12–13 (Fri-Sat). Garden Club of Ponce Inlet's arts, crafts, and plant sale, Ponce Inlet Community Center, 4770 S. Peninsula Drive

Oct 13 (Sat) Carpool to Melbourne's native landscape tour, 10 am to 3 pm, Must purchase tour tickets in advance online.

Oct 18 (Thurs.), 10:00 Nature Walk by the Museum of Arts and Sciences, Ponce Preserve, 4401 S. Peninsula in the Peninsula entrance parking lot, Ponce Inlet

Oct. 15 (Mon): Park of Honor workday, Olive Street, South Daytona

Oct 20 (Sat) field trip to PEAR Park in Lake County for guided tour with lunch at Yalaha Bakery, Contact: Sonya Guidry

Nov. 12 (Mon): Pawpaw meeting with Jacqui Sulek on planting for birds. Plant of the month: Christmasberry (*Lycium carolinianum*) by Danny Young

Nov. 16 (Fri.): Bird watch with Audubon at 8:00 a.m. at Ponce Preserve, 4401 S. Peninsula in the Peninsula entrance parking lot, free. Contact Amy Zengotita, (386) 236-2163

Nov 17 (Sat): Field trip to Titusville to a new site to see rare scrub mint, *Dicerandra thincicola*: Leader David Anderson, assisted by Warren Reynolds (details TBA)

Nov 19 (Mon): Park of Honor workday, Olive Street, South Daytona

Dec. 7 (Fri), 3:00 p.m., Talk on invasive species in Florida with Roger Fulton, Ponce Preserve, 4401 S. Peninsula in the Peninsula entrance parking lot, free. Contact Amy Zengotita, (386) 236-2163

Dec 8 (Sat): Field trip Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales to view rare plants

Dec 10 (Mon): The Pawpaw Chapter's holiday celebration and annual auction

Dec 17 (Mon): Park of Honor workday, Olive Street, South Daytona