



# THE PAWPAW PRESS

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

## JULY FIELD TRIP

# We detour for plants!

It should come as a surprise to no one that Pawpaw's scheduled three-hour Mosquito Lagoon tour on July 15 stretched all the way to 4½ hours. Plants were involved!

We cruised past Turtle Mound, Eldora and the Doris Leeper homesite on our way to Shotgun Cut. Three kinds of mangroves, roseate spoonbills, egrets, dolphins and manatees were part of our scenery on the way to Seminole Rest.

Successful restoration of the water by the Uni-



versity of Central Florida along the shoreline using oyster bags was also pointed out to us. (Their use of plastic mesh bags was an unfortunate oversight). We also saw the healthy return of seagrass beds in this part of the lagoon. Georgia Zern from the Save the Manatee Club was on board to explain an unusual mob-manatee

commotion.

At Seminole Rest, Ranger Ashley Steele, who had given us a preview of the plants of the Canaveral National Seashore at our July meeting, met us at the dock so we were able to tour the house.

With a plant list from the seashore in hand, we explored the many and varied types of plants on the property. Several additional specimens were discovered. A detailed list will be made available on our website.

Adventures really began when Captain Bill attempted to swing us by the *Harrisia fragrans* (prickly apple cactus) site. The best way to see this elusive plant in its most northern location is certainly to explore by kayak or canoe. The waters are just too shallow for bigger boats to get close.

Truthfully we couldn't have had a more beautiful day to enjoy all our Mosquito Lagoon misadventures! —*Story and photo by Sonya Guidry*

More photos from the trip are on the chapter's Facebook page at [facebook.com/PawpawChapter/](https://www.facebook.com/PawpawChapter/)

## UPCOMING EVENTS: AUGUST

**14** Pawpaw meeting with Katie Tripp on Rose Bay renourishment

**19** Annual plant swap and picnic, Bulow Plantation Ruins. Contact: [guidry.sonya@gmail.com](mailto:guidry.sonya@gmail.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# Mark your calendar

**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 landscape.

**AUGUST 21** Workday at Park of Honor on Olive Street, South Daytona, starting at 9 a.m.

**SEPTEMBER 11** Pawpaw Chapter meeting, 7 p.m. Piggotte Center,

504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona, with Paula Wehr of Halifax River Aububon.

**SEPTEMBER 16** Natural History Day, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Museum of Arts and Sciences, Daytona. Contact Paul at wildfl-paul@earthlink.net

**SEPTEMBER 17** (date to be confirmed by Cracker Creek). Field trip to be led by Warren Reynolds. We will have a 12:30 p.m. picnic lunch at Cracker Creek, then take a 1:30-3:30 paddle trip on the headwaters of Spruce Creek. Bring your own canoe or kayak or rent. Reservations are required by Cracker Creek. (386) 304-0778

**SEPTEMBER 18** Workday at Park of Honor on Olive Street, South Daytona, starting at 9 a.m.



## WEEDS BE GONE!

Kathy, Sonya, Doug and Renate (and Sande and Amelia) filled two bags with weeds at July's Park of Honor work day. But there will be more, so join us on Aug. 21!

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

# A stellar shrub for attracting wildlife

Mike Duggan introduced us to Walter's viburnum (*Viburnum obovatum*) as the plant of the month. The following is adapted from a handout Mike provided:

This versatile native is a great plant for attracting wildlife to your yard. Early blooms are an important source of nectar for pollinators. Its dense foliage provides excellent nesting cover for song birds and early fall fruit supplies nourishment.

Although native to stream banks, sloughs, hydric hammocks, and river flood plains in most of Florida and along the Alabama and southeast coasts, it readily adapts to salt-free uplands with acidic sandy soil having a top layer of humus.

Walter's viburnum is sometimes briefly deciduous in our area but usually evergreen. Tiny white flowers cover the plant in spring, attracting eagerly awaiting butterflies and bees.

It will grow in part



shade, but plant in full sun for maximum blooms. In the fall, watch the small red berries ripen to purple. The birds and small mammals are waiting, too!

If you're an avid gardener, you can shear it into a formal hedge or create a unique topiary. For a more natural look, let it spread by root suckers into a dense thicket. Don't have much space? Allow it to develop into a graceful specimen tree up to 25 feet high. Be sure to prune the lower branches for easy access. Then pull up those spreading root sprouts and pot them for friends, as seed sprouting can take years.

—Photo by Homer Edward Price /Wikimedia