



THE PAWPAW PRESS

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

AUGUST MEETING

Native bromeliads face uncertain future

Jay Thurrott, president of the Bromeliad Society International, gave the Pawpaw Chapter a fascinating look at Florida's native bromeliads and the threats they face at the August meeting.

Bromeliads are a neotropical family, Jay told us, meaning that all of them are naturally found in the New World. In the United States, they are only found along the east coast, to as far north as Virginia.

Jay first introduced us to Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), perhaps the best known of Florida's 16 species of bromeliads. There are also two naturally occurring hybrids.

He showed examples of bromeliads found in Volusia County, including *Tillandsia bartramii*, *T. fasciculata*, *T. recurvata*, *T. utriculata* and *T. x flor-*

idana. Jay kindly brought along trays full of the latter two so everyone got a native bromeliad to take home.

Unfortunately, many of Florida's native bromeliads are under threat from man, in the form of loss of habitat, and from nature, in the form of the Mexican bromeliad weevil. The weevil has quickly made its way north from South Florida, where it



was first discovered, and Jay showed us devastating photos of trees in Port Orange where the whole

bromeliad population on a tree had been wiped out.

— Doug Hunt/
photo by Sande Habali

FNPS CONFERENCE 2016

Donations needed for auction

One of the biggest fund raisers to support the annual conference of the Florida Native Plant Society is the silent auction. Items included in the auction consist of technical/field books on plants and Florida natural history, artwork, gift certificates

from local businesses, and gardening supplies.

We are currently accepting donations for the upcoming annual conference being held in Daytona Beach in 2016. Anyone who can help contribute an item or solicit items for the auction would greatly

be appreciated.

Please contact Ray Jarrett with any items that you wish to donate or items that you solicit for the auction. E-mail: rayjarrett1@gmail.com; phone: 386-2950481

—Ray Jarrett

UPCOMING EVENTS: SEPTEMBER

14

Pawpaw meeting: Presentation by Chris Waltz of the Florida Milkweed Project

26

Fall wildflower walk with Dr. Susan Carr. Contact: guidry.sonya@gmail.com



AUGUST FIELD TRIP

Sleuthing and swapping on the shores of Little Lake



Shell Bluff Park west of Bunnell was the site Gail and Mike Duggins selected for the Pawpaw Chapter's August 22 plant swap. What a wonderful hide-away park on Little Lake this turned out to be, complete with picnic shelter, restrooms, and deeply shaded nature trails.

In addition to sprays of shoestring ferns (*Vittaria lineata*) and a young red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*), we found a number of "green dragons" (*Arisaema dracontium*) and endangered angularfruit milkvine (*Gonolobus suberosus*). Carolyn Kiel was dubbed "Queen of



Plant Spotting" for finding an early blooming white-flowered green-fly orchid (probably *Epidendrum magnoliae*). Paul Martin Brown, in his book *Wild Florida Orchids* (University of Florida Press), puts this orchid in the locale where it was found and surprised me



by saying it is known to bloom from August to March. So this one was barely an early bird.

We also saw a terrestrial orchid ready to bloom, probably a *Habenaria spp.* Carolyn Kiel also discovered the neat spiraling seed spike of slender woodoats (*Chasmanthium laxum*).

The group also collected four bags of invasive Caesarweed (*Urena lobata*). A more horrifying discovery made by Mark Wheeler was Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*). The roots were almost impossible to remove completely, but we filled a bag with the spore-bearing vines.

The more than a dozen Pawpaw members who participated were happy to have Eric Powell from the Sea Oats Chapter join

the festivities.

After lunch and the plant swap it was just a short drive over to the Shell Bluff boat launch on a much bigger lake, Crescent Lake, where folks looked all the way across to Crescent City, where we had our lunch at Three Bananas back in January. What a view!

New member Warren Reynolds was inspired to consider bringing his kayak over and paddling up the creek to Little Lake Park. From the looks of things he had better bring his machete or loppers to break through the vegetation to access Lake Little.

Despite the soaking humidity and the need for some insect repellent, it was a pleasant day spent in a hydric hammock.

—Story and photos by Sonya Guidry

COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

Push for publicity

The highlight of the FNPS Council of Chapters and Board Meeting held at Orlando's Turkey Lake Park on August 15 was meeting the new FNPS Director of Development, Andy Taylor.

He is already coordinating a state wide push to have October designated as the Florida Native Plant Society Month. Publicity should include proclamations and distri-

bution of the new "Native Plant of the Year" posters. Blazing star (*Liatris spp.*) has the inaugural honor of being the 2015 "Florida Native Plant of the Year".

All chapters of FNPS will get a statewide publicity blitz of their October activities and events, inviting all Florida public officials, friends, and neighbors to participate.

—Sonya Guidry

In memoriam: Don Lieb

Yet another pillar of our Pawpaw Chapter has been lost. Don Lieb and his gardening wife, Jeannie, came to us in the early years when the chapter was struggling to organize itself.

Don had recently retired as comptroller from Ohio State University Hospital. So fortune smiled on us June 18, 1991, when Don stepped up to offer this foundling chapter his highly capable skills as treasurer, a position he would hold until 2003.

Even as the chapter forged ahead to establish itself as a 501(c)3 (not for profit) entity, Don laid a very clear accounting format that we con-

tinue to follow to date.

Over the years with his wife, Jeannie, Don also lent both hands and back to the Pawpaw Chapter, as it installed several native garden projects in Volusia and Flagler Counties.

For many, Don Lieb will be most remembered as the smiling, cheerful,

nimble-footed monkey-taker at our annual native plant auctions.

Though retired to Florida, Don remained an avid Ohio State Buckeye fan. So when my front-yard buckeye bush blooms in February or March, I'll think of Don Lieb. The over-wintering hummingbirds will say thank you!

—Sonya Guidry



PLANT OF THE MONTH

A pollinator friend for sun or shade

Scorpion-tail (*Heliotropium angiospermum*) is a long-lived perennial with woody, branched stems and hairy leaves that alternate. The small white flowers are in two rows on elongated, curved, terminal spikes. These spikes can grow three to four feet tall. Scorpion-tail is moderately salt tolerant and grows in sand. It can

be used in landscaping as a tall ground cover or a small shrub. It propagates by seed well, so give it room!

Scorpion-tail is native from Volusia County south to the Keys and from Pinellas County south into mainland Monroe County. It can be found in disturbed sites, shell mounds, and coastal



hammocks.

In our yard, we have some scorpion-tails in shade and some in full sun. The ones in full sun seem the happiest. Bees and butterflies visit the

plants for their nectar.

This information was found in two of Walter Kingsley Taylor's books and the FNPS website.

—Fran Burdick/
photo by Doug Hunt

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP

Wildflower walk, more

Join the Pawpaw Chapter for a guided fall wildflower and native plant ID walk with Dr. Susan Carr on Sept. 26 at the Clearwater Lake Recreation Area in Ocala National Forest. After a picnic lunch we will travel farther west to tour the Carr Family "Cabin in the Woods."

Dr. Carr is a plant ecologist, with her PhD work on the diversity of native ground covers in fire-maintained pine-lands. She has agreed to duplicate this trip for the 2016 FNPS Conference.

Field trip goal: Not only do we want to see a great variety of fall wildflowers, but we want to understand the signif-



icance of forestry management.

Difficulty: Moderately difficult due to length of walk on uneven terrain.

Contact person: Sonya Guidry. Cell: (386) 690-1797 Email: guidry.sonya@gmail

Carpools: Leave at 8:30 a.m. from Ormond Publix and NSB Walmart

Meet: 9:30 a.m. at Clearwater Lake Recreation Area, (SR 42, one mile west of Paisley)

Admission fee: Re-

duced to \$2.75 each.

After our picnic lunch (bring your own) we will travel 15 minutes west to take a tour of the Carr Family "Cabin in the Woods," where Dr. Carr's father and uncle, who would grow up to become an astronomer and a herpetologist respectively, spent many boyhood hours, growing to love the environment and all its critters.

—Sonya Guidry/
Photo by Sandra Friend

UPCOMING EVENTS

In brief...

SEPTEMBER 14 Pawpaw Chapter meeting, 7 p.m., Piggotte Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona. Chris Waltz of the Florida Milkweed Project.

OCTOBER 10 Mark Wheeler will lead a walk on Mala Compra Greenway Trails on A1A in Palm Coast. (Harriet Damesek coordinating the carpool from Ormond).

OCTOBER 12 Pawpaw Chapter meeting, 7 p.m. Ginny Stibolt will speak on her latest book, *The Art of Maintaining a Florida Native Landscape*.

OCTOBER 24 TomokaFest: Pawpaw Chapter will provide outreach with an exhibit, children's activity table, tours.