



THE PAWPAW PRESS

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

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Giving monarchs a more diverse diet

Chris Waltz made a compelling case for the commercial development of strains of native milkweed at the September meeting.

To that end, the Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN) has launched the Florida Milkweed Project, which Waltz coordinates. The project is now in its initial phase, which focuses on seed collection. Pawpaw chapter members are actively supporting this effort by reporting the locations of native milkweed in our area.

There is an urgency to the mission, Waltz says, because of the overwhelming reliance on tropical milkweed, *Asclepias curassavica*, in the nursery industry. Tropical milkweed has become so pervasive that there is a danger of it becoming the

only food source for monarchs, Waltz says. In addition, tropical milkweed is evergreen, while all native milkweeds are deciduous, which experts believe may be changing monarch migration patterns and making them more susceptible to disease.

Phase 1 of the project focuses on three of Florida's 21 native species of asclepias, *A. tuberosa* (butterfly milkweed), *A.*



incarnata (pink swamp milkweed) and *A. perennis* (white swamp milkweed).

For more information, see: floridanativenurseries.org/info/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/The-Florida-Milkweed-Project-BRIEFv2.pdf.

— Doug Hunt/
photo by Paul Rebmann

NATIVE PLANT MONTH

New Smyrna to cite native plants

Among the guests at our September meeting was New Smyrna Beach City Commissioner Jake Sachs. As a result of his attendance, New Smyrna's City Commission will proclaim October to be Native Plant Month and cite the contributions of

the Florida Native Plant Society and our chapter during the Oct. 13 City Commission meeting.

FNPS is encouraging similar efforts throughout the state (more than 30 cities and counties have signed on) and would like as many Pawpaw chapter

members as possible to be present for the proclamation. Please be at the New Smyrna City Hall, 210 Sams Ave., at 6 p.m.

If you can attend, please let Sonya Guidry know via e-mail: guidry.sonya@gmail.com

—Doug Hunt

UPCOMING EVENTS: OCTOBER

12 Pawpaw meeting: Author Ginny Stibolt on maintaining a Florida native landscape

10 Mark Wheeler will lead a walk on Mala Compra Greenway Trails in Flagler County

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar for...

October is Florida Native Plant Month!

OCTOBER 3 Planning meeting for FNPS conference in 2016 from 1 to 3 p.m. Contact: marvetteb@cfl.rr.com. All are welcome

OCTOBER 9–10 Gainesville Fall Native Plant Sale, Morningside Nature Center, 3540 E. University Ave, Gainesville. Friday, 4:30–6:30 p.m. for FNPS members and Gainesville park members *only*. Saturday, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., open to public. Sponsored in part by Paynes Prairie Chapter FNPS. Sea Oats reports this to be one of the best opportunities to buy native plants.

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). Located off A1A and Malacompra Road, The Mala Compra Plantation Greenway preserves the oak hammock along A1A through The Hammock to Painters Hill. In Painters Hill, in addition to hammock areas, we will also see ocean scrub.

OCTOBER 12 Pawpaw Chapter meeting, 7 p.m. Florida author Ginny Stibolt will speak on

her latest book, *The Art of Maintaining a Florida Native Landscape*.

OCTOBER 16–18 Bartram Trail Conference. Ravine Gardens State Park, 1600 Twigg St, Palatka. The Bartram Trail Conference works to promote interest in developing public access recreational trails and botanical gardens within the corridor of pioneering Philadelphia naturalist William Bartram's route through eight southern

states. More at bartramtrailconference.wildapricot.org

OCTOBER 17 Gamble Roger State Park event starting at 9 a.m. at the Killdeer Pavilion. Park ranger Celina Cline will discuss the benefits of planting natives and mention area invasives, then lead a hike on the nature trail. She invites FNPS members to join her. For information, call 386-597-3001.

OCTOBER 24 TomokaFest: We need folks to help with a children's craft, lead a walk, or just meet and greet folks to

tell them about FNPS. Spreading the word is part of our mission.

Also, Aggie Armstrong would like us to sell plants at this event. So, if you have any natives you are propagating, please bring them to the meeting or to the park on that Saturday. Please contact Sadehab@aol.com, if you can help in any way.

NOVEMBER 21 Purple Cow Festival at Full Moon Natives from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit PurpleCowFestival.com for details.

THROUGH THE LENS

Nature photography on display

A selection of nature photography by Pawpaw Chapter member Paul Rebmann is on display in an exhibit titled *Our Natural World Around Us* at the Halifax Historical Museum through November 14.

Each of the five display cases features a theme, with "Nature on Canvas" showcased in the center. "Early Botanical Explorers" features plants named for some of the people who botanized locally. Of course this includes the chapter namesake, Rugel's pawpaw, named for Ferdinand Rugel (1806–1879) after discovering this new species near New Smyrna (pictured).



The Halifax Historical Museum is at 252 S. Beach St., Daytona Beach. For an online preview of the exhibit, go to wildflphoto.com/exh/hhm.php.

Paul will be presenting the program *Discovering Nature: Past and Present* at the Halifax Historical Museum on Thursday night, Oct. 22, and on Saturday morning, Oct. 31. The program will delve into why the images were chosen for the exhibit, with information and more photographs about the subjects. There is an admission

fee for these programs. For details, visit the Wild Florida Photo events page at wildflphoto.com/events.html.

—Paul Rebmann



PLANT OF THE MONTH

A boon for birds

Attract birds to your yard with this eye-catching Florida native: *Callicarpa americana*. An easy-to-grow garden delight, beautyberry is a small shrub with arching branches of oval leaves with coarsely toothed edges and a “hairy” underside.

In the spring and summer months, the white funnel-shaped flowers cluster around the stem. In early fall, they develop into the lush purple berries especially attractive to squirrels not to mention birds. The U.S. Department of Agriculture lists it as “an important food source for more than 40 species of songbirds.”

In late fall and winter, beautyberry shrubs lose their leaves and die back, only to rise again in the spring. The easy-going beautyberry is drought-tolerant and can grow in sun to partial shade, although full sun encourages more ber-

ries. In my yard, it grows especially well at the edge of my tree-lined driveway, enjoying the mixed sun/shade combination.

Not only is beautyberry a lovely enhancement for your native landscape, but it also has practical properties. According to an Agriculture Department fact sheet, native Americans drank beautyberry tea made from the roots and leaves to treat stomachache and colic.

The chemical calli-carpenal found in the leaves can help repel mosquitoes and even apparently fire ants and ticks. Historically, beautyberry juice was used as a vibrant dye. Even today the juice can make a tasty jelly, according to Hogtown Homegrown, but I note the cook used 4 cups of sugar to 6 cups of berries, so no wonder the taste is described as “astringent.”

—Story and photo by Carolyn West

VOLUSIA COUNTY

New education coordinator

Trey Hannah is the new education coordinator for Volusia County.

In a press release he says, “I am excited to announce that programs have started. We will offer many different programs throughout each month.



We offer these outdoor education programs to get residents and visitors familiar with Volusia County’s conservation lands and their amazing diversity.

“The lands range from dry scrub habitat at Lyonia Preserve to cypress domes and swamps at Longleaf Pine Preserve. We share information about the lands’ history and uses, along with best

practices for conservation. Volusia County citizens voted to purchase these lands, and we want to make sure they have opportunities to get out there and experience them.

“The programs range from nature hikes and eco-bug-body paddles and bike-about tours. Please check out volusia.org/education or call (386) 736-5927 for registration.”

You can reach Mr. Hannah at (386)736-5927 Ext: 12072. Sign up for e-mail updates on the county’s monthly programs, including those at the Lyonia Environmental Center and the Marine Science Center. at: THannah@volusia.org.

FNPS CONFERENCE 2016

Auction donations needed

One of the biggest fundraisers 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, 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.

Join in the preparations for the workshop by attending the planning meeting on Saturday, Oct. 3. —Ray Jarrett