



THE PAWPAW PRESS

Newsletter of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society: September 2016

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Central Florida Zoo goes native

The featured program at the September meeting was an interesting and informative presentation by Erin Miceli, horticulture manager for the Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens in Sanford.

Erin explained the important connection between animals and plants. It was a natural evolution to involve the exhibit and education of plant habitats along with animal habitats. Animal habitats are designed with as much of the animal's natural flora as possible. We learned



the importance of the animals' ability to browse and consume food in their

natural way. Browsing helps zoo animals maintain their physical, dietary and mental health.

Did you know that giraffes love Brazilian pepper plants? Keepers place branches of the Brazilian pepper high up in enclosure, enabling the giraffe to browse for supplemental food. Who knew!!

Erin gave an overview of each of the themed gardens at the zoo, which in-

clude a spiny garden with lots of prickly plants, a butterfly garden, a native wildflower garden and an herb garden. Plants, animals, insects and birds are all connected.

Central Florida Zoo is doing a great job providing experiences that excite and inspire children and adults to learn and act on behalf of wildlife.

—Karen Walter/

Photo by Paul Rebmann

FACEBOOK CHAMP

Carol Gardner's photo of gulf fritillaries on a white passionflower has been seen by more than 10,300 visitors to our Facebook page.



UPCOMING EVENTS: OCTOBER

10 Pawpaw meeting: Dr. Hyun Jung Cho on the "Living Shorelines Project"

15 Field trip to new native plant garden in St. Augustine, guidry.sonya@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar

OCTOBER 10 Pawpaw chapter meeting, 7 p.m., Piggotte Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona. Dr. Hyun Jung Cho of Bethune Cookman University on the “Living Shorelines Project.”

OCTOBER 15 Field trip to St. Augustine to visit the Sea Oats chapter’s new public garden project and plant sale. Contact Sonya Guidry at guidry.sonya@gmail.com

OCTOBER 22 5th Annual Tomoka Fest, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Ormond Beach. Volunteers needed. Table will be indoors. Please contact Sande at Sadehab@aol.com

NOVEMBER 5 Field trip to Mormon Branch and nearby forest with Susan Carr and Peggy Yokubonus. Contact Peggy at pyokubonus@cfl.rr.com

NOVEMBER 14 Pawpaw chapter meeting, 7 p.m., Piggotte Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona. Drs. Karen Cole and Cindy Bennington of Stetson University on sandhill restoration

DECEMBER 3 Tour of historical Port Orange-South Daytona. Contact Sadehab@aol.com for reservations and information

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Privet cassia for fall-spring color

Senna ligustrina goes by a number of common names including privet wild sensitive plant, privet-leaf senna and privet cassia. It is a member of the pea family and unrelated to the Asian privets (*Ligustrum*) or Florida privet (*Forestiera*), which are in the olive family.

Originally Linnaeus classified the cassias and sennas together—as cas-

sia—resulting in some of its common names being cassia. Its compound leaves have opposite leaflets and no terminal leaflet, which may have been compared to the opposite (single) leaves of the *ligustrums*.

This is a loosely branched fast-growing shrub or small tree of 3 to 10 feet tall. It is a short-day bloomer, bearing

clusters of bright yellow flowers from fall through spring.

As a legume, it is able to grow in nitrogen-poor soils. It is pH adaptable and prefers full sun and medium moisture—not too wet and not too dry.

It is a host for cloudless sulphur and orange-barred sulphur butterflies.

It appears to be fairly short-lived and is susceptible to frost damage.

Fortunately, it re-seeds readily. Seedlings are easy to dig or pull up and can be transplanted or allowed to grow in a random group.

—Dot Backes/Photo by Gil Nelson from “Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida”



LOCAL FILMMAKER

Bartram documentary in the works

Cultivating The Wild is an environmental advocacy documentary by local filmmaker Eric Breitenbach.

From 1773 to 1777 William Bartram traveled across the Southeast. His book *Travels* fostered the development of a truly American strain of natural history.

The documentary *Cultivating The Wild* is both a scholarly examination of the scientist’s life and

work as well as what has come to pass in the more than 220 years since *Travels* was written. Today, natural resources suffer mightily from neglect and exploitation. The film will make a committed stand for our living but vanishing world by focusing on both Bartram and select “modern day Bartrams,” people today who continue his philosophies.

Producer/Director/Editor Eric Breitenbach

is one of Florida’s most well known documentary photographers and filmmakers. He is a senior professor at The Southeast Center for Photographic Studies at Daytona State College.

This project is being partially funded through a kickstarter campaign that ends Friday, Oct 7. For details visit cultivatingthewild.com/#kickstarter.

—Paul Rebmann



SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP

Tiger Bay: rambblers' rewards

On Sept. 10, eight plant enthusiasts explored areas of Tiger Bay State Forest— stretches that are seldom visited yet accessible and close to roadways. Participants rambled less than 2 miles while exploring five different botanical areas.

The endemic and threatened plant,

large-flowered false rosemary, *Conradina grandiflora*, was blooming in the scrub. A dry, depression pond hosted a beautiful tupelo/gum tree, genus *Nyssa*, most probably swamp tupelo/black gum, *N. sylvatica* var. *biflora*.

At a dry, pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*) swamp, a shaded, pine-

straw strewn hunters trail was bordered by vast numbers of tall, yellow-eyed grass, genus *Zyris*, of which 11 species occur in Volusia County.

At another area members centered themselves in a large patch of white (and only white) passionflowers, the alba variant of our purple passionflower, *Passiflora incarnata*.

Participants inhaled the heady fragrance, marveled at the numerous pollinators and took photos of the phenomenon.

Continuing on, we drove a mile on the old DeLand to Daytona brick road. Finished in 1918, the brick road is still used daily by logging trucks and visitors.

The last stop was along Dark Entry Road, in Tiger Bay's wildlife manage-



ment Aarea. Pine/Catesby's Lily, *Lilium catesbaei*, were blooming. Hooded pitcher plants, *Sarracenia minor*, also populate this area. And even though we were at a considerable distance, we viewed the stems and seed heads of giant sand-swamp white-top sedge, *Rhynchospora latifolia*.

—Kathy Crawford/
Photos by Sonya Guidry