



THE PAWPAW PRESS

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

NATIVE PLANT MONTH

Spreading the word, sharing the beauty

FNPS designates October as Native Plant Month in Florida, and the Pawpaw Chapter was early to the party by getting Ponce Inlet to make a proclamation at its Sept. 21 meeting.

Pawpaw members Janet Cavuoti, Warren Reynolds, and Sonya Guidry were on hand to accept the proclamation by Mayor Gary Smith, along with Ponce resident Paul Michel, husband of Pawpaw member Kriem Michel.

To help celebrate Ponce Inlet's long tradition of preserving its unique river to sea natural areas, including many ancient oaks, as well as to promote Native Plant Month,

Warren and Sonya will lead a plant walk through Timucuan Oaks Garden on Friday, Oct. 20.

Due to limited parking at Timucuan Oaks Pawpaw members should meet at 9 a.m. at Ponce Preserve, State Road A1A and South Peninsula Drive. We will do a mini tour of Green Mound before carpooling further

south to Timucuan Oaks. After the Timucuan Oaks walk, chapter members are invited to tour Kriem and Paul Michel's creative no-now front yard.

To delve deeper into Florida's natural landscapes, on Saturday, Oct. 14, there will be an all-day Pawpaw Chapter



driving-walking field trip in the Ocala National Forest sandhills near Salt Springs.

We are fortunate to have Dr. Susan Carr, botanist and FNPS president-elect, serve as our guide. Susan will show us the rich understory plant diversity of a fire-maintained longleaf pine sandhill community on an easy walk through a 1-year post-burn site.

Those who are willing to drive on rougher, dusti-

er forest roads will be able to see some 2-3 year post-burn sites.

An alternative option after the walk may be to return to Salt Springs Recreational Area for a picnic lunch and swim in the springs.

For additional details, as well as information about carpooling, contact coordinator Sonya Guidry at guidry.sonya@gmail.com or (386) 690-1797.

—Photo by Amy Zengotita



UPCOMING EVENTS: OCTOBER

9

Pawpaw meeting with our own Don Spence on plant ID

14

Salt Springs sandhill walk with Dr. Susan Carr. Contact: guidry.sonya@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar

OCTOBER 9 Pawpaw Chapter meeting, 7 to 9 p.m., Piggotte Community Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona, with Don Spence on plant identification

OCTOBER 14 Sandhill walk with Dr. Susan Carr near Salt Springs, Ocala National Forest (see first page).

OCTOBER 16 Workday at Park of Honor on Olive Street, South Daytona, starting at 9 a.m.

OCTOBER 20 Timucuan Oaks tour in Ponce Inlet, beginning at 10 a.m., led by Sonya Guidry and Warren Reynolds (see first page).

NOVEMBER 11 Field trip led by David Anderson to Titusville's *Dicerandra*

Scrub Sanctuary to search for a rare scrub mint, *Dicerandra thini-cola*. This scrub sanctuary is sandwiched between subdivisions on a 44 acre section of the old Atlantic Coastal ridge and well worth a visit in fall when this Brevard endemic is in bloom.

NOVEMBER 13 Pawpaw Chapter meeting, 7 to 9 p.m., Piggotte Community Center, Big Tree Road, South Daytona, with Mark Lane, the "Darwinian Gardener."

NOVEMBER 20 Workday at Park of Honor on Olive Street, South Daytona, starting at 9 a.m.

DECEMBER 2 Field trip in New Smyrna Beach: Easy plant ID walk along a paved trail, take side trip to see a native plant installation at Lindley's Nursery, and have lunch at Norwood's Restaurant.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Simpson's stopper: landscape staple

Simpson's stopper originally came from the coastal hammocks of south Florida. It has now become a favorite landscape plant because of its versatility.

It is attractive to butterflies, bees, and birds. The birds like its canopy protection and will feed on the red berries. Look for buntings, cardinals, blue jays, and mocking birds. Simpson's stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans*) flowers periodically

throughout the year, with the peak in spring and summer. The flowers and the leaves are fragrant.

It is recommended for zones 8b to 11, and will tolerate below-freezing temperatures for a short period. It is salt tolerant and likes well-drained soils.

Choose Simpson's stopper as a hedge plant, a specimen plant, a tree, or as a container plant.

It is drought resistant.

Plant in full sun or partial shade. This plant is on the threatened list, so must be purchased from a reputable nursery. This is a must for every landscape!

—Sande Habali/Photos by Sande Habali (top) and Mark Hutchinson/FNPS (below)



CHAPTER OUTREACH

Go to seed for us

Now that your spring and summer bloomers are winding down, why not try to collect some of your bountiful wildflower seeds to use in our Pawpaw Chapter outreach wildflower seed packets?

We want to share our favorite wildflowers with others. (We are particularly looking for native milkweed seeds.) Just place your seeds in an

envelope with a date and plant name on the outside.

We will put them together at a seed packaging party sometime this fall. If you are interested in collecting seeds from your gardens or have any questions as to how to do this, or wish to help with the packaging, please contact Sonya at 386-690-1797.

In steamy month, a double-feature day

ANNUAL PLANT SWAP

Despite the August heat the Pawpaw Chapter's annual native plant swap was a fun-filled day. Bulow Ruins State Park turned out to be the perfect place to hold this event.

True to the FNPS mission, we first took a plant survey along the creekside and down the trail to the

More photos from these events are on the chapter's Facebook page at facebook.com/Pawpaw-Chapter/

historic old sugar mill plantation ruins. We were surprised to see greenfly orchids (*Epidendrum conopseum*) in bloom. The other striking thing about



this overgrown hardwood hammock was the abundance of so many tall ghostly old pines still wearing catface scars. (Catface scars refer to the slashes

made in slash or longleaf pines from the early 1900s to the 1960s for the purpose of extracting resin to be used in turpentine or to waterproof ships.)

Once we all gathered back into the screened

pavilion overlooking Bulow Creek, we loaded the assorted 50 plants on a picnic table, and started drawing lots.

Everyone left delighted with their new plant friends. —Sonya Guidry

LANDSCAPE TOUR

Harriet Damesek has created a habitat for pollinators in her "typical" Ormond Beach neighborhood with the use of native plants, tastefully arranged. The Pawpaw Chapter dropped by for a tour after the plant exchange at Bulow Ruins State Park.

Everyone was dazzled. Mazes of diversity led us along artfully arranged pathways of potted plants, as well as bubbling water features. The yard buzzed with pollinators from caterpillars (protected from



predators with specially arranged bags) to butterflies feasting on a variety of plant species.



The back garden is a hidden oasis with a huge wall of *Hamelia patens* and *Monarda punctata*.

You just have to see it—perhaps more than one time—to believe it. —Sonya Guidry