



THE PAWPAW PRESS

Newsletter of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society: October 2018

We participated in outreach events including the National Trails Festival in DeLand, Tomokafest in Ormond Beach, and Stetson University's Mostly Green Halloween. We traveled to Orlando for a joint meeting with other FNPS chapters from Central Florida. We heard the impressive restoration story of P.E.A.R. Park in Leesburg and then went there to see the results for ourselves. We caravanned to southern Brevard County for a tour that showcased how beautiful native landscapes can be. And we made the News-Journal in a story about our grants for local schools. It was October, it was Florida Native Plant Month, and all we can say is, "Whew!"

Highlights are below. Most of these events have been covered on the chapter's Facebook page, where you can find other chapter news and many more photos: facebook.com/PawpawChapter/

A kickoff for Florida Native Plant Month, with cake!

Four venturesome Pawpaw members attended the Oct. 2 kickoff for Florida Native Plant Month at Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando. The event was hosted by six FNPS chapters as well as local Audubon and Sierra clubs. Orlando-area dignitaries were on hand to speak of their support for FNPS. And since our society is celebrating its 39th birthday, cake was served.

Leu Gardens is the setting for the Tarflower Chapter's meetings. Our little group arrived early to tour these imaginative gardens. We were delighted to discover a robust specimen of the Florida torreyia. *Torreya taxifolia* is a rare and critically endangered species of the yew family that is native to the northern panhandle area of Florida and southern Georgia.



The speaker for the evening was the entertaining author of *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants*,

Rufino Osorio. His pictures and anecdotal commentary had everyone chuckling and gaining appreciation for the serendipitous way native plants find their way into our lives. He left us with a quote by Louis Pasteur; "Where observation is concerned; chance favors the prepared mind." –Karen Walter



Talking the talk at Tomoka

Eight Pawpaw members gathered in the shade of Tomoka State Park's trees on Oct. 6 to meet with folks wanting to know more about native plants. The big question of the day was, "Where do I find natives?" We had the answer because members had been growing popular plants to sell. Kids were

kept busy working on an art activity so parents could ask questions and get more information about plants that would help bring birds, bugs, and other pollinators into the yard. A little rain did not dampen the enthusiasm of the day.—*Sande Habali*

Landscape inspiration from our southern friends

Twelve members of the Pawpaw Chapter took an extra field trip on Oct. 20 to the Melbourne area to see the hard work of our neighbor, Conradi-na Chapter. The chapter and Maple Street Natives Nursery put on an outstanding tour of gardens that demonstrate the area's commitment to natives and Lagoon Friendly landscapes. The tour included



seaside and inland homes and a post office. Maple Street Natives was also an important stop. Everyone enjoyed the day and went away with lots of ideas and knowledge (as well as plants!)—*Sande Habali*



We're in the news

Thanks to the efforts of our communications chair, Nancy Hull, the *Daytona Beach News-Journal* on Oct. 28 published an article on the chapter's grant to R. J. Longstreet for a native plant container garden.

Upcoming events:

- Nov. 12 (Mon): Pawpaw meeting with Jacqui Sulek on planting for birds. Plant of the month: Christmasberry (*Lycium carolinianum*) by Danny Young
- Nov. 16 (Fri.): Bird watch with Audubon at 8:00 a.m. at Ponce Preserve, 4401 S. Peninsula in the Peninsula entrance parking lot, free. Contact Amy Zengotita, (386) 236-2163
- Nov. 17 (Sat): Field trip to Titusville to a new site to see rare scrub mint, *Dicerandra thincicola*: Leader David Anderson, assisted by Warren Reynolds (details TBA)
- Nov. 19 (Mon): Park of Honor workday, Olive Street, South Daytona
- Dec. 7 (Fri), 3:00 p.m., Talk on invasive species in Florida with Roger Fulton, Ponce Preserve, 4401 S. Peninsula in the Peninsula entrance parking lot, free. Contact Amy Zengotita, (386) 236-2163
- Dec. 8 (Sat): Field trip Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales to view rare plants
- Dec. 10 (Mon): The Pawpaw Chapter's holiday celebration and annual auction
- Dec 17. (Mon): Park of Honor workday, Olive Street, South Daytona

Plant of the month: when being a bully isn't a bad thing

Sideroxylon tenax is also known as tough bully. It has been documented in several counties in Florida, however it is not often found in the wild. It is widely used as an accent plant, security screen, specimen shrub, or a hedge. It tolerates poor soil, but needs organic humus to help it. Plant it in full sun or partial shade. It can be identified by the top of its leaves being a bright green while the underside is coated in rust hairs. Thorns can be found on the tips. The bark is reddish-brown and can be sharp. It is drought and salt water tolerant. It is a favorite plant for birds and other wildlife. The seeds, without the pits, are edible for people. It is, indeed, a plant that is a prickly plant for privacy and pollinators.—*Sande Habali*



OCTOBER SNAPSHOTS



National Trails Festival, DeLand



Mostly Green Halloween, Stetson University



Field trip to P.E.A.R. Park in Leesburg guided by October's speaker, Wendy Poag