



# THE PAWPAW PRESS

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

## NOVEMBER MEETING

### Mushrooms, and living to tell about them

Dr. Jay Barnhart, a retired forensic pathologist and avid amateur mycologist, gave an engaging presentation on fungi commonly found in our area of Central Florida at the November meeting.

He showed pictures and described various types of mushrooms. He also explained how a vast underground mycelial network benefits the health of our trees and plants.

Saprophytic mushrooms are primary decomposers, Dr. Barnhart said. They break down fallen trees, sticks and twigs, leaf litter, forest debris, etc., into a substrate that can be inhabited by other types of mushrooms. These secondary decomposers keep the process going until soil has been created.

Dr. Barnhart also spoke about making spore prints by removing the stem

and placing the cap face down on a piece of paper. Usually within hours the spores will fall onto the paper making a beautiful print. These prints are extremely important in identifying mushrooms as they reveal the color, size and shape of the spores.

Many wild mushrooms are edible, delicious and nutritious. Some, however, can be deadly. Make sure you know 100% what you are picking and eating. If not, just leave the mushroom where it



is, enjoy its beauty, and it will continue to make soil and bring nutrients to our

beautiful trees and plants!  
*Story by Scott Thurrott/  
photo by Sande Habali*

## DECEMBER MEETING

### Annual auction and dinner

The Dec. 14 meeting will include the Pawpaw chapter's annual native plant auction and potluck supper. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. with a short business meeting at 6:30.

Members should bring a covered dish and may

bring up to three native plants. In addition to contributions from members, we will also feature some plants and trees purchased from Full Moon Natives. Emcee Paul Rebmann will let us know the backgrounds of the native

plants being offered, so the audience can bid on just the right plant for the right place in their yard. To help us stay green, please bring your own place-setting and cutlery for your meal.  
*—Sande Habali*

## UPCOMING EVENTS: DECEMBER

**14** Pawpaw meeting: Annual native plant auction and potluck dinner

**5** Boat ecotour on the St. Johns River. Contact Sonya at [guidrysonya@gmail.com](mailto:guidrysonya@gmail.com)



## TOMOKA FEST

# Chapter members spread the word about natives

Tomoka State Park's October Tomoka Fest was another great day at the park. Pawpaw members David Anderson and Tom Colvin led a group of enthusiastic native plant lovers on a short hike through the woods. Carolyn West manned the table to inspire those who stopped by to learn more

about the Florida Native Plant Society, and perhaps purchase a native plant donated by members. Sande Habali worked with children on a nature-inspired project.

We called the project "potty pots" because toilet paper tubes were filled with soil and salvia seeds. The *Salvia coccinea* (do-

nated by members) were to be later planted in the ground as an attractor for pollinators.

Luckily, Tomoka State Park volunteers were on hand to help with this project because many more young people came than we anticipated and that is always a good thing!

Later, Kim Johnson came to Tomoka to talk with more folks who

stopped by our table and help with clean-up. Once again, Pawpaw members came through with donations and time to share the visions of the Florida Native Plant Society.

—Story by Sande Habali/photo by Aggie Armstrong

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# Dates to save

**DECEMBER 5** Eco boat tour at Blue Springs in conjunction with Lyonia chapter. Cost: \$20. Contact Sonya for more information: [guidrysonya@gmail.com](mailto:guidrysonya@gmail.com)

**DECEMBER 6** Conference planning meeting, 1 to 3 p.m. at Full Moon Natives in Port Orange. All welcome! Bring ideas!

**DECEMBER 14** Annual native plant auction and potluck dinner. Brief meeting at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner and auction at the Piggotte Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona. Come for the fun, even if you don't have plants. Please bring your own place setting.

**JANUARY 11** Chapter meeting at Piggotte Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona, starting at 7 p.m. Our speaker will be Paul Rebmann.

## FNPS CONFERENCE 2016

### Take action to help auction

Don't forget that one of the biggest fund raisers to support the FNPS annual conference is the silent auction. Please contact Ray Jarrett with any items that you wish to donate: [rayjarrett1@gmail.com](mailto:rayjarrett1@gmail.com); phone: 386-295-0481.

## DECEMBER FIELD TRIP

### Last call for St. John's River ecotour

As of press time, space is still available for the Dec. 5 field trip, a two-hour narrated ecotour with St. Johns River Cruises out of Blue Spring State Park. The captain's knowledge of the flora and fauna along this most beautiful section of the St.

John's River will make this a memorable trip, including the chance to see a lingering Okeechobee gourd still hanging from the vine. Bring your own picnic lunch. We will do a plant ID walk along the Blue Spring Park's boardwalk afterward.

The group price for the trip is \$20 and there is a limit of 20 participants.

Participants should be inside Blue Spring State Park by 9–9:15 a.m. To confirm your spot, contact Sonya Guidry: [guidry.sonya@gmail.com](mailto:guidry.sonya@gmail.com) or 386-690-1797.





## NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP

# The road less taken at Longleaf Pine

Eight hardy souls were not deterred by the prospects of a possible wet walk at Volusia County's Longleaf Pine Preserve. We met at the west entrance off of SR 44 on a beautiful Saturday morning in early November.

This field trip followed the little used and barely marked orange trail. In fact, we missed the first chance to take the loop. We instead turned onto the trail where it was an old dirt road leading left from a point where two other trails made a sharp turn to the right. (For anyone else who would like to check out this one-mile loop, it does not have the nice shiny metal disk blazes of the other trails, but instead is marked

by faded reddish-orange rectangles of paint, larger and higher on the trees than typical trail blazes.)

Parts of the trail were blanketed by a carpet of roadgrass, *Eleocharis baldwinii*, also known as Baldwin's spikerush. We were also treated to an assortment of lichens and fungi, a fitting follow-up to the last chapter meeting program.

Plants seen included at least two species of yelloweyed grass (*Xyris*) and several members of the pipewort (*Eriocaulaceae*) family. Shortleaf rosegentian, *Sabatia brevifolia*, was in abundance, along with a few examples of another *Sabatia* species. We also saw some meadowbeautys, at least one

of which was fringed meadowbeauty, *Rhexia petiolata*.

Carnivorous plants were frequent, including the only pitcher plant found in our area, *Sarracenia minor* (hooded pitcher plant). Although the wrong season to see flowers, we did see the sticky basal leaves of both sundew, *Drosera*, and butterwort, *Pinguicula*.

At one point, where pipeworts and butterworts

were present, there were a number of miniscule plants with tiny, odd-shaped violet flowers on short thin stalks. The flowers consist of three vertical radial violet wings with a bit of yellow on top surrounding the three yellow stamens. This unusual flower was less than a quarter-inch tall. Our group was stumped, but a few days later I identified it when I finally put the right combination of

descriptive terms in Google to lead me to bluethead, *Burmannia biflora*.

It was a pleasant walk in the woods, and all involved seemed to enjoy the morning of botanizing and being out in nature.

Story and photos by Paul Rebmann

