



# THE PAWPAW PRESS

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

## NOVEMBER MEETING

### Restoring the past with eye to future

Karen Cole and Cindy Bennington of Stetson University (who are also co-presidents of the Lyonia Chapter of FNPS) and their students have been working on a sandhill restoration project outside the Gillespie Museum on the school's campus for several years. They gave us an update on their

progress at the November meeting.

It is their passion to bring back the sandhill ecosystem that once existed in the area and throughout Central Florida, even from Virginia to Texas, for that matter. Stetson and the DeLand community exist on a ridge, so historically the



area was a scrub-sandhill habitat.

With longleaf pines getting established, Cole and Bennington have been able to turn their

attentions to other aspects of the project. They have added sidewalks and signage to the area for the public to enjoy. Recently, a wildflower area has been planted with the help of the Wildflower Federation and this has brought about an increase of pollinators. The area has become an on-site research center for students.

Restoration of an area that was once someone's backyard takes a great deal of effort, but from many small steps eventually come long strides.

—Sande Habali/Photo by Paul Rebmann

## DECEMBER MEETING

### Election and auction on tap

The December chapter meeting will include a brief business meeting for the election of officers, a slate of which was presented by the nominating committee at the last meeting. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor.

But the main attraction

of the evening will be our annual native plant sale, for which Paul Rebmann will once again serve as master of ceremonies.

Please bring up to three native plants (make sure they are labeled) that you have propagated or purchased. Additionally, Renee Luedke will pur-

chase on the chapter's behalf an enticing selection of plants from Green Isle Gardens that will be offered for sale.

To fortify ourselves for bidding there will be pot luck "heavy hors d'oeuvres," so please bring finger food, as well as your plate and cup.

## UPCOMING EVENTS: DECEMBER

12

Pawpaw meeting: Annual holiday gathering and native plant auction

4

Field trip to Melbourne gardens and native nursery. Contact: guidy.sonya@gmail.com.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# Mark your calendar

**DECEMBER 3** Field trip to Melbourne for a visit to the botanical gardens at Florida Institute of Technology and Maple Street Natives nursery. Contact Sonya Guidry at [guidry.sonya@gmail.com](mailto:guidry.sonya@gmail.com).

**DECEMBER 12** Pawpaw's annual holiday gathering and native plant auction, 6:30 p.m., Piggotte Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona.

**JANUARY 2** Seminole State Forest field trip (for details, see above right)

**JANUARY 9** Pawpaw meeting with Dr. J. Cho of Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach on her "living shorelines" project. 7 p.m. Piggotte Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona.

**JANUARY 16** Monthly Park of Honor work day from 9 to 11 a.m. Demonstration garden, 755 Olive St., South Daytona.

**JANUARY 21** Field trip to Florida Agriculture Museum, Palm Coast (for details, see above right).

## JANUARY FIELD TRIPS

# Seminole State Forest, Ag Museum

There will be two field trips to start out the new year.

### JANUARY 2

First off, the Lake Beauberry chapter invites Pawpaw chapter members to join them on a Monday, Jan. 2, Seminole State Forest field trip off SR

44 just west of DeLand. Ranger Ralph Risch will guide us through several forest habitats including scrub (expect to see scrub jays), pine flatwoods and sandhills and he hopes to point out some rare plants along a spring and sulphur run. There will be a picnic lunch along

Blackwater Creek. Bring water, snacks and insect repellent, and wear long sleeves/pants, and shoes that may get wet.

Pawpaw chapter contact for trip reservations: Sonya Guidry. Email: [guidry.sonya@gmail.com](mailto:guidry.sonya@gmail.com). Cell: 386 690-1797

### JANUARY 21

On Saturday, Jan 21, Pawpaw chapter members will head to Palm Coast for an opportunity to take the Florida Agriculture Museum's guided tour. After taking a tour through five 1930s depression-era restored farm buildings, we will take a tractor-drawn wagon ride through the woods to a 1890s pioneer homestead. We may also consider taking a stroll over the land bridge crossing I-95. (Tour fee: \$9)

Wear clothing to suit the weather and comfortable walking shoes. Bring water, snacks and insect repellent. On our way home we will stop at a Palm Coast restaurant for lunch.

Sign up at the Jan. 9 meeting or contact Sonya Guidry. E-mail: [guidry.sonya@gmail.com](mailto:guidry.sonya@gmail.com). Cell: (386) 690-1797

—Sonya Guidry



### NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP

## Scrub and sinkholes

On a beautiful Saturday ten Pawpaw chapter participants met Dr. Susan Carr and her friend Gail at the Lake Eaton Sinkhole trailhead for a short hike in the Ocala National Forest scrub.

Dr. Carr, who is the niece of the famous sea turtle researcher Archie Carr and is the Executive Director of the Conservation Trust for Florida, helped us understand the topography of the scrub

ridge and the plants that occupy it.

While descending the 168 steps into the dry sinkhole, Gail, a soils specialist, taught us about the sandy soil underlying the area. She demonstrated the use of a soil auger and talked about the various soils of Florida.

After the hike we all went to a local café for lunch.

—Peggy Yokobonus/  
Photo by Warren Reynolds

## HOLIDAY GIVING

# Enticing choices for the plant lover, or yourself!

It's getting to be that time of year again when finding just the right gift can be a very daunting experience. Are you the one who is hard to buy for or do you know someone who is?

How about membership in the Florida Native Plant Society? Gift givers can log onto FNPS.org to register online, or come to a Pawpaw meeting and our membership chair

can handle registration.

Native plant lovers always appreciate plant I.D. books. Books may also be purchased through FNPS. For ideas, take a look at the Pawpaw library to see which books are most popular.

Considering giving a gift certificate for *free* gardening by Renee Luedke. Renee is an active member of the chapter and the owner of New

Moon Landscaping. She serves the greater Daytona Beach area and will do the yard chores you need to have done. These include, but are not limited to, the following: weeding, planting, watering if needed, pruning of large and small items, and general cleanup of your yard. Renee has had extensive experience with native, exotic and invasive plants. She can be reached

at 386-682-0241 and/or [newmoonlandscapes@yahoo.com](mailto:newmoonlandscapes@yahoo.com).

The most obvious gift for a native plant lover is a plant. Great choices will be available at the Pawpaw chapter's annual plant auction on Monday, Dec, 12. Join us for a light supper at 6:30 and stay for the auction. The benefits are in the good deals, along with free advice on plant care.—*Sande Habali*

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

# The varied world of mangroves

November's plants of the month were Florida's three native species of mangrove.

Mangroves grow along the edges of salt bays and tidal streams. They are protected at federal, state and local levels in Florida. Many places regulate mangrove trimming.

Although these plants are all considered mangroves, they aren't closely related botanically speaking.

Red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) grows to about 15 feet tall and is a sprout, bush or tree with oppositely arranged smooth, elliptical leaves.



They develop distinctive, large, arching prop roots and have a thick gray and reddish bark. Yellow flowers appear in the spring. The fruit is a cone-shaped, leathery brown berry that sprouts on the tree and drops as a long green propagule that floats.

Black mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*) grows to 20 feet tall and has oppositely arranged smooth-edged leaves that are shiny on top and fuzzy

below. White flowers appear in spring and produce a seed like a split lima bean. Roots breathe through ventricle snorkel roots called pneumatophores.

White mangroves (*Laguncularia racemosa*) can grow 30–40 feet. They can grow more upland than red and black mangroves. White flowers produce ribbed fruit shaped like spear points that start brown then turn tan.

They produce salt from the base of their leaves. Leaves are opposite and 1–3 inches long. The tops and undersides are light green and thick and leathery.

Sources: *Florida Living Beaches* by Blair and Dawn Whitherington and the University of Florida's [www.Solutionsforyourlife.com](http://www.Solutionsforyourlife.com).

—*Janet Cavuoti/Photo by Cathleen Bester, Florida Museum*