



THE PAWPAW PRESS

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



DECEMBER MEETING

Ending the year with plants, and thanks

Our last Pawpaw meeting for 2015 was a special night filled with wonderful people, plants, and food! Special thanks to Kimberly Jones and Harriet Damasek for the decorations. They also had special folks step up and help with set-up and cleanup. The food was terrific and it seemed as though everyone was enjoying the variety of conversations going on before the auction.

The plant selections were varied this year.

Our emcee, Paul Rebmann, did a masterful job getting each plant to the right home with careful explanations of the plants. We want to thank Full Moon Natives for the plants selected just for us. Our Pawpaw members brought some interesting specimens as well. I believe everyone had fun and learned something about native plants.

On a personal note, I want to thank the Pawpaw chapter for granting me the privilege of serv-

ing for three years. I was happy to do it because I believe strongly in the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society: *to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.*

I never could have done the job without the strong support of the Board of Directors (especially our Vice President Carla McDougal) and the many individuals in the chapter. I believe we have

made progress toward the promotion of CPR with the additions of our newsletter (thank you Doug Hunt), streamlining our business meetings, increasing publicity, interesting guest speakers, and the inclusion of our library.

I will continue to support FNPS and Pawpaw as past-president and secretary of the chapter. In addition to thanking each member for the support, I wish to thank the chapter
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UPCOMING EVENTS: JANUARY

11 Pawpaw meeting: "Only in Florida" program by our own Paul Rebmann

16 Driving and walking tour of Ponce Inlet. Contact Ray Jarrett at rayjarrett1@gmail.com

JANUARY EVENTS

'Only in Florida' talk, Inlet walk

JANUARY 11 Florida ranks fourth in the number of endemic species—naturally occurring only in the state—with only California, Hawaii, and Texas having more. While all of the reasons for this high number of unique species are still being studied, there is wide agreement that the geographic isolation of the Florida peninsula, climate and soil variations are all likely factors. Isolation during earlier geologic epochs when higher sea levels created islands in the higher areas is probably also a factor, especially in areas like the highly biodiverse Lake

Wales Ridge.

Our January meeting program, *Only in Florida*, will feature mostly plants—and a few of the animals—that are endemic to Florida through the photography of Paul Rebmann with information about each, including where they are found and how are they different from their more wide-ranging relatives.

Paul is a longtime member of the Pawpaw chapter, a Florida Master Naturalist, and nature photographer.

The program is a preview of the program to



be presented at the 2016 FNPS state conference.

JANUARY 16 January's field trip will be a driving tour that will start with a carpool forming at the Port Orange Causeway Park. Our first stop will be Ponce Preserve. This 41-acre natural area stretches from the Atlantic Ocean

to the Halifax River. At the heart of this park is the Green Mound State Archaeological Site, an ancient Indian midden. A short drive further south on Peninsula Drive will take us to the southern tip of Ponce Inlet and Lighthouse Point Park. This 52-acre park features nature trails, an observation tower, pavilions, and a walk along the jetties. After the tour, participants may have lunch at the Lighthouse Landing Restaurant.

Trip leader: Ray Jarrett, (386) 295-0481, rayjarrett1@gmail.com

Meet 9 a.m. Atlantic (A1A) and Toronita (1.7 miles south of Dunlawton), Wilbur-by-the-Sea.

Carpool contact: Sonya Guidry, (386) 690-1797, guidry.sonya@gmail.com.

Final thoughts

Continued from first page for the gift of a rain chain from Lindleys. I had never heard of this before. It is just lovely. Now, I really can't wait for it to rain!

Now we look forward to our 2016 conference year! Please join me in supporting our new Board of Directors and Conference Committee as we gear up for this all-important conference year. I'm looking forward to another great year. Thanks again for all you do and continue to do!

—Sande Habali

FNPS CONFERENCE 2016

Chapter member creates conference art

In addition to the potluck dinner and auction, the December meeting featured the unveiling of Pawpaw member Jane Coon's original illustration for the 2016 FNPS Conference, which the chapter will host.

Jane's acrylic on canvas painting will be up for auction at the conference, as well as grace conference programs, T-shirts, and totebags. Thanks for offering your time and talent, Jane!





DECEMBER FIELD TRIP

Banks and byways of the St. John's

Between cruising the river, spotting manatees, and dodging the worst of the surprise rain showers, the Pawpaw chapter had a great fall day at Blue Spring State Park.

Nineteen Pawpaw friends and five Lyonia chapter members spent a pleasant morning on St John's River Cruises' pontoon ecotour. Captain

Pete pointed out a variety of water birds, along with our favorite reptiles.

Though we didn't find the elusive Okeechobee gourd, we did discover other shoreline vegetation, including southern red maple, water hickory, pond cypress, fireflag, parasitic dodder, aquatic dollarweed, and patches of yellow-flowering



Bidens mitis.

After our picnic lunch we strolled the boardwalk up to the springhead. When not peering over the rail at a manatees snoozing on the bottom, we identified some of the

plants along the walkway. A quick list from my head is: live oak, sabal palmetto, Spanish moss, *Tillandsia spp.*, greenfly orchid, resurrection fern, golden polypody fern, shoestring fern,

small-flowered buck-thorn, Walter's viburnum, cherry laurel, small-flowered pawpaw, *Baccharis glomeruliflora*, yaupon holly, a late-flowering ironweed, snow square-stem, frostweed, climbing aster, partridgeberry, anglepod milkvine, coral-bean, and beautyberry .

It was a surprisingly pleasant, uncrowded sort of day at Blue Spring State Park. Perhaps the best time to visit in December is when everyone else is attending holiday parades.

Story by Sonya Guidry, photos by Sonya Guidry and Warren Reynolds

