THE PAWPAW PRESS

Newsletter of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society – October 2026

The Florida Native Plant Society's mission is to champion Florida's native plants and their habitats.



Autumn EcoBuggy Tour!

– by Sonya Guidry
– photos by Amy Spies

Many thanks to Holly Giles, Volusia County Environmental Specialist, who provided the EcoBuggy transportation on September 25th for about a dozen Pawpaw members and friends to make their annual foray onto local conservation lands in search of pine lilies. It was a trip that did not disappoint! Kate sat on the hot seat and gave the Ecotour talk regarding Volusia's early ground breaking history of conservation land acquisition. Certainly this tour through part of the 12,000 acre Longleaf Pine Preserve, with its jigsaw puzzle of cypress stands, bay galls, scrubs, mesic and wet pine flatwoods, confirms that this corridor is an irreplaceable hot spot of biodiversity!







Not only was it Florida's first cool fall day, but a pine lily was spotted right out of the gate. It was followed by a surprising variety of other wildflowers, some wild turkeys (not pictured!) and several butterfly buggy tour escorts.

Jimmy Harrell Fence Garden...or Wilderness?

– by Sonya Guidry

The message from the Black Heritage Museum staff regarding the Jimmy Harrell Fence Garden was: "it looks like a wilderness back there!"

Actually, when the Pawpaw Chapter work crew arrived, the quick consensus was: “wow! With all this recent rain, the Jimmy Harrell fence garden was looking really good!” The tropical sage and Chapman's goldenrod were in full bloom, attracting butterflies and bumblebees! The firebush hedge with flame-colored blooms was just taking off...but threatening to overgrow other plants.

So the pruning shears and clippers came out! Sande, Judi and Sonya spent two hours pruning and weeding, discovering some hidden treasures which can now get some light! Surprise...our little butterfly bush (A*sclepias tuberosa*) was in bloom!









Pictured above top right: The low growing gingerbush (*Pavonia spinifex*) was sporting bright yellow hibiscus-like flowers. Bottom right: The Florida green-eyes (*Berlandiera subacaulis*) looked really happy up in its higher, dryer spot.
So, we can say...until next time, the "wilderness" has been tamed!

Pawpaw Participation at Public Library Events

– by Sonya Guidry



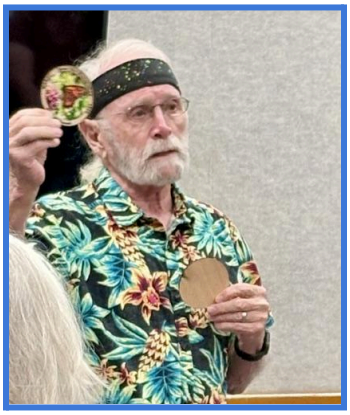
Kudos to Karen for representing Pawpaw Chapter as she hosted a well attended October 4th *Magnificent Caterpillar Show* at the NSB library! This show, offered as a "Regrow Volusia" activity, actually kicks off Pawpaw Chapter's participation in the annual FNPS Celebration of October as Florida Wildflower Month!

Almost every seat at this special Sunday afternoon library matinee was filled with avid gardeners, birders, and local Southeast Volusia residents! Everyone was spellbound by this Doug Tallamy promoted film of Sam Jaffe's amazing Caterpillar Lab! The exquisite close-ups of munching caterpillars shifted our focus to the magnificent contribution that these tiny critters make in helping to maintain our planet's web of life.



<< After the program, Dr. Haleigh Ray from Stetson University was on hand with her Lepidoptera collection and butterfly handbook to answer everyone's questions.

David Bruce from the >> Sugar Mill Garden Club shared their butterfly garden project.





Pawpaw members were on hand at Port Orange Library's How-To Festival on September 12th to show visitors the importance of native plants.

FNPS Conference Field Trip Assistants Needed!

We are planning 28 field trips for the April 2027 FNPS Conference and need to submit them to the FNPS Conference Committee by November.

We are offering Pawpaw Chapter members first shot at serving as trip assistants (for a "free" trip) before opening it up to other Chapters.

These volunteers will be required to:
1. Agree to post their name and cell number as "Trip Contact for the Day" on the participants' trip description sheets.

2. Meet at a hotel to lead carpools at designated departure times or coordinate with those who are traveling to the Conference to meet at the trip site.

3. Make sure FNPS Field Trip waivers are signed.

4. Bring a small first aid kit.

5. Bring a few extra bottles of water.

6. They need to provide their contact information to FNPS so they can be compensated with this "free" trip in exchange for their service.

7. Volunteers should email Sonya if they want to commit to this volunteer service, email: guidry.sonya@gmail.com

Listed below are the Conference Field trips that still need "trip assistants":

Thursday, April 1, 2027 trips needing Trip Assistant Volunteers:

T-3 Cruickshank Sanctuary (Rockledge)

T-4 D Ranch Preserve Tram (Osteen)

T-5 Lake Woodruff NWR (DeLeon Springs)

T-6 Lyonia Preserve (Deltona)

T-7 Marine Science Center tour (Ponce Inlet)

T-9 Smyrna Dunes Boardwalk (NSB)

T-11 Stetson U Sandhill Habitat (DeLand)

T-13 Tosohatchee WMA (Christmas)

Sunday, April 4, 2027 trips needing Trip Assistant Volunteers:

S-3 Enchanted Forest (Titusville)

S-6 Merritt Island NWR (Titusville)

S-7 Moses Creek CA East (West of Crescent Beach)

S-8 Mosquito Lagoon Pontoon tour (Oak Hill)

S-9 North Peninsula St Park (Ormond Beach)

S-10 Ponce Preserve (Ponce Inlet)

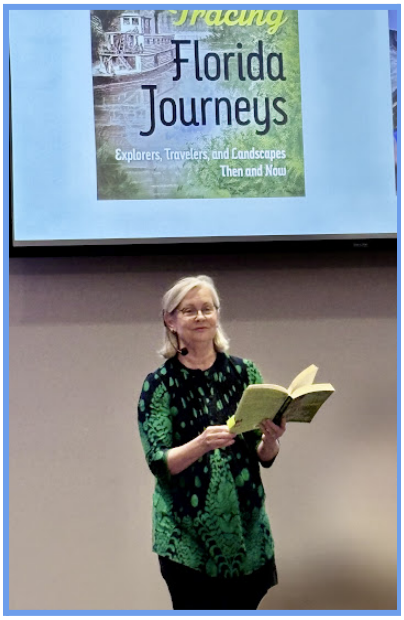
S-11 Princess Place Preserve (Flagler Co)

S-12 Rock Springs Run Reserve (Seminole Co)

S-13 Spring Hammock Preserve (Longwood)

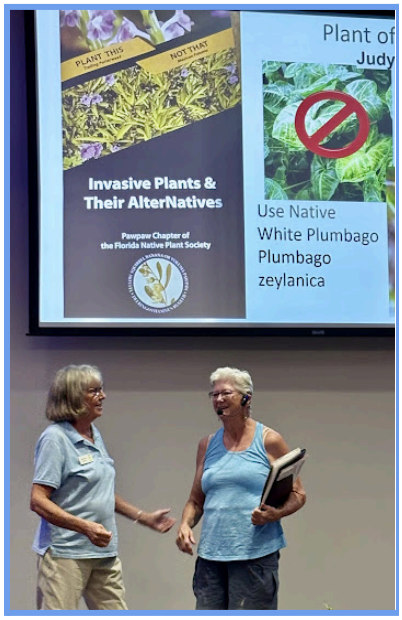
S-14 Yaupon Tea Factory Tour (Crescent City)

Scenes from the September 14th general meeting:



<< Our speaker was Dr. Leslie Poole from Rollins College. Her students are lucky to have such an engaging instructor. Dr. Poole's presentation on early environmental and cultural explorers coming to our state was a heartwarming introduction to these former leaders that make up the story of the real Florida.

Judi did a great job of >> researching the Wild White Plumbago which is an alternative to the invasive arrow vine.



Join us!

Monthly meetings take place the second Monday of the month at the Piggotte Community Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona

***** Next Meeting: Monday, November 9th *****

Meeting starts at 6:30 pm, doors open at 6 for socializing
Guest Speaker: Katie Tripp, Ph.D.,
owner of *Natural Beauty Native Florida Landscapes*

Videos of our monthly speakers and plant of the month presenters are available…
on our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/PawpawChapter
and website: https://pawpaw.fnpschapters.org/meetings/recordings/

Submissions to the newsletter are welcome!
Send in short articles, poems or photos related to native plants!
Share recent discoveries or pictures taken at Pawpaw events!
Email them to the editor at: geomeado@gmail.com



In addition to Sara's delicious array of snacks, Cayla and Kris brought a yummy nutritious brownie made of bananas, dates, tahini, and beauty berries.

Upcoming Field Trips & Events:

Saturday, November 14th, 10am: **Mala Compra Hiking Trail, Palm Coast**

Enjoy a pleasant stroll through a lovely coastal hammock in Flagler County. This easy, three-mile loop remains mostly in the shade. Park and meet across the street at Bings Landing where we will follow the field trip with an optional lunch at Captain's BBQ. Wear clothing appropriate for the weather, Bring water, insect repellant and optional binoculars. Trip leader: Paul Rebmann. Registration closes at 8 am Friday, November 13th. Register at Eventbrite: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pawpaw-fnps-chapter-mala-compra-hiking-trail-field-trip-tickets-2003315452446?aff=erelpanelorg

Native Plant Garden Workdays:

* Park of Honor, 9 am – 12 noon every third Monday, 755 Olive Street, South Daytona

* Dunlawton Sugar Mill Gardens, 9 am – 12 noon, every Wednesday and Saturday
  950 Old Sugar Mill Road, Port Orange

* Environmental Discovery Center, 8:30 – 9:30 am Fridays following the monthly meeting
  601 Division Avenue, Ormond Beach

* Mary Harrell Black Heritage Museum, 9 – 11 am Fridays following the monthly meeting
  314 Duss Street, New Smyrna