



THE PAWPAW PRESS



Newsletter of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society 🌿

February 2023



The Times Are A A-Changing...

– story & photos by Sonya Guidry

We would like to extend a special THANK YOU to a fantastic trio of Florida Master Naturalists who served our Pawpaw Chapter field trip program so well these past six years. First Warren Reynolds came in 2016. Then his buddies Marcia and Mike Hafner joined the Pawpaw Chapter to work together as a well-coordinated trio of outdoors specialists.

With Warren now taking a needed break from active field trip coordination, Marcia and Mike felt it was time for them to move on to other outdoor adventures. Expect to see them spreading their love of the environment on Trey Hannah's Explore Volusia Outdoors trips!



Warren's skill set brought the Pawpaw Chapter a polished, professional style that was as friendly and outgoing as it was educational. Everyone loves all those check-off alphabetically arranged plant lists!



Marcia and Mike brought a lot of fun to field trips. They often performed the "Mangrove Song"... with accompanying pantomime!



Red, Red. Pointed head
 Roots that walk, that's the talk!
 Black, black. Salt on the back



Roots that stand, tall in the sand!
 White, white. Few in sight
 Dimple, pimple, it's that simple!

Alas, with this change, some of the heart and soul of the Pawpaw Chapter will have to make a huge shift! We will miss you Warren, Marcia and Mike!

January Field Trip – EcoBuggy Tour of Longleaf Pine Preserve



– story by Sonya Guidry,
 photos by S. Guidry,
 Judi Van Horn & G. Meadows

On January 26th a nippy morning greeted the 13 Pawpaw members who signed up to tour some well managed scrub and pine flatwood habitats at Longleaf Pine Preserve. A big thank you to Trey Hannah and Christie Miller from the Explore Volusia's Outdoors program for making this EcoBuggy tour possible.



Yellow bladderwort and
Sundew



Small butterwort
Pinguicula pumila



Witch's broom in slash pine
Pinus elliottii



After the tour Judi Van Horn, Peter and Jeannie Sigmann and Karen Walter replaced the 20 weathered flags that marked the Rugel's Pawpaw plants installed by Bok Tower Gardens Conservancy in 2021.

Still more about Explore Volusia!

Explore Volusia Nature Challenge

– by Paul Rebmann

Have you been meaning to explore more of Volusia County's conservation lands? Are you curious about using the iNaturalist app but a bit intimidated by the technology? Well Volusia County Environmental Management has just the thing for you, a monthly nature challenge at a different property each month.

This program started in October last year and runs through May. Not only is it a fun way to visit some of our local natural areas, participants in the challenge can earn some goodies for completing various levels of the challenge. Previous properties included Scrub Oak Preserve, Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve, Deep Creek Preserve and the January site was at Longleaf Pine Preserve. The February challenge will be at Lyonia Preserve.

Each challenge is set up with five signs along the designated trail that state the observation the participant should make on iNaturalist. This might be "a carnivorous plant" or a certain kind of tree or just "something interesting". Of course, you can also make as many other observations on iNaturalist as you want, and they will show up in that month's iNaturalist project as well.

Trey Hannah, Volusia County Environmental Specialist says "The Explore Volusia Challenge was designed to get people out to the wonderful Volusia County conservation lands so grab your phone and get out and Explore Volusia."

For those of you who do not want to venture out on your own, the county has also been having a group field trip each month at the site. Visit Volusia.org/ExploreVolusia for information on the current month's challenge and other Explore Volusia activities or contact Trey Hannah at Thannah@volusia.org to ask any other questions you may have about the program.



Trey Hannah, our guide on the January field trip in Long Pine Preserve, demonstrates the effect of fire on sand pine (*pinus clausa*) cones.

 **Help wanted!** 
  **Plant of the Month Presenters Needed...**  

The 2023 theme for Plant of the Month is Native Plants Front and Center. This theme is intended to feature those outstanding native plants that look fabulous in front yards. At this time there are openings for May and July through November. A list of suggested plants can be found at <https://pawpaw.fnpschapters.org/native-plants/plant-of-the-month/> although if you have another idea that fits the theme, please bring it to us.

Even though most of the plants of the month have been a short powerpoint presentation, that is not required and we have had some informative and entertaining plants of the month done with alternative formats (posters, only verbal, etc.). Please limit the plant of the month presentation to a maximum of 10 minutes.

To volunteer, contact Paul Rebmann NaturePaul@wildflphoto.com with the plant that you want to feature and the month you want to present.

<p>WIN A GARDEN!</p> <p>Native Florida Plants for Birds, Butterflies & You!</p> <p>Enter Audubon's <i>Plant Real Florida for Birds, Butterflies & You</i> contest for the opportunity to win \$500 for Florida Native Plants for your yard.</p> <p>Birds and pollinators need native plants to survive. For more information, go to westvolusiaaudubon.org/P4Bcontest</p> <p>Sponsored by Halifax River Audubon West Volusia Audubon</p>   <p>Funding provided by FPL and National Audubon Society</p>	<p>On February 1st, Audubon launched the first-ever Plant Real Florida for Birds, Butterflies & You contest. Winning homeowners in Volusia County will receive \$500.00 to purchase Florida Native Plants for their yards. Halifax River Audubon and West Volusia Audubon have teamed up for this groundbreaking contest to help local homeowners help birds and pollinators by creating valuable habitat in their own yards. For more information and to enter the contest, go to: www.westvolusiaaudubon.org/P4Bcontest</p>
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If you haven't done so already...
**Please don't forget to fill out the 2023 Pawpaw Chapter
Member Interest Survey!**
Please go to: <https://bit.ly/PawpawSurvey23>



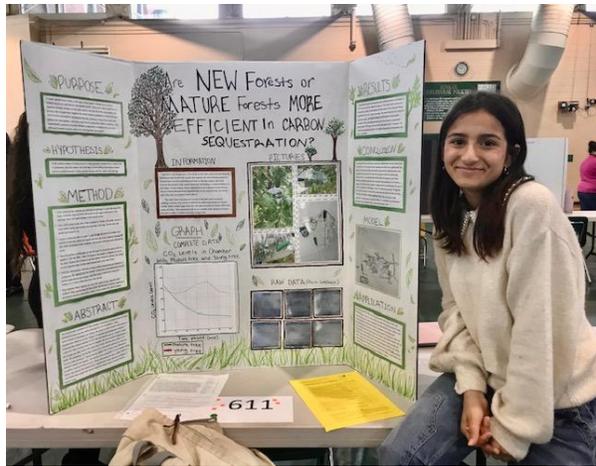
Pawpaws Volunteer at the Arbor Day Tree Giveaway

– Sonya Guidry

Here is the hardworking team of volunteers who helped Volusia County distribute native plants to Volusia County residents from the Lyonia Environmental Center. Left to right: Peter Sigmann, our Pawpaw Chapter Volunteer, Mark Kateli, state level President of the FNPS, and Melanie, a working Mom from Edgewater (who we hope to welcome as a new Pawpaw Chapter member in near the future!)

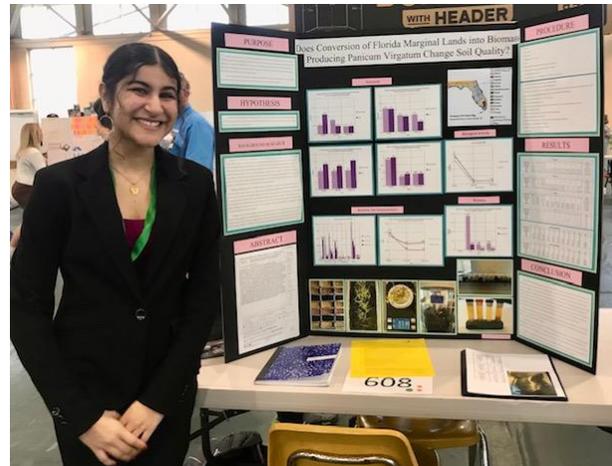
Announcing the Pawpaw Chapter FNPS Special Award winners at the 2023 Tomoka Regional Science and Engineering Fair!

– story and photos by Sonya Guidry



Jayron Aghdasi was our Senior Division winner who attempted to compare the ability of immature trees and mature trees to sequester carbon.

Project title: Are New Forests or Mature Forests More Efficient in Carbon Sequestration?



Rani Gupta was our winner in the Junior Division, with her project titled: Does Conversion of Florida Marginal Lands into Biomass Producing Panicum Virgatum Change Soil Quality?

Rani won a number of Special Awards (\$\$\$) in this 2023 Tomoka Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

Pawpaw Library Committee Spotlight

– by Suzie Schaeffer

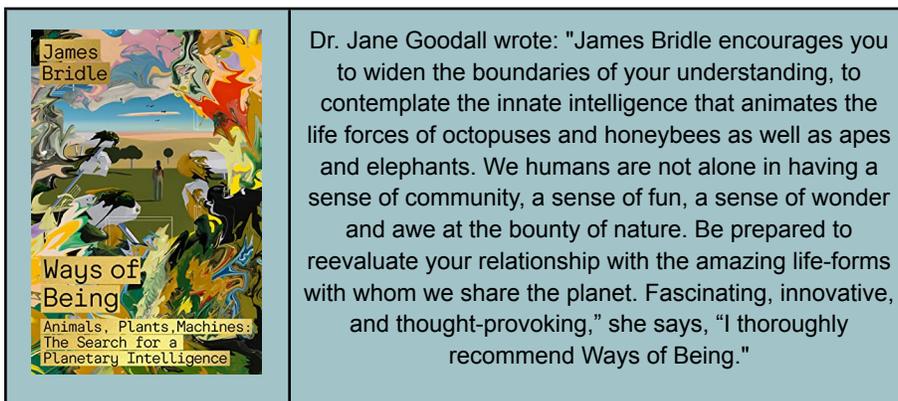
Pawpaw's circulating library of 65+ items is, at this point, mostly made up of books. The great majority of these books are informational. Many help the reader to identify Florida's plants (both the natives AND the invasive exotics), along with what roles those plants have in the various ecosystems in our state. Some focus on the preservation and conservation of those ecosystems and even on saving individual endangered native plants. Other informational books help our members identify and incorporate native Florida plants into cultivated landscapes: home, commercial and institutional. Florida's native wildlife is the topic of some books, since our diverse wildlife is dependent on our native plants, either in nature or in our yards or other cultivated areas.

Another category of books in our library usually not limited to Florida focus on broader topics – rather than informational, these books are inspirational, focusing on why we need to promote, preserve and conserve our native plants and their habitats.

Book of the Month

Pawpaw's board asked me to introduce one title from our collection at each meeting. In January I turned the Library Spotlight on an inspirational book – James Bridle's ***Ways of Being, Animals, Plants, Machines: The Search for a Planetary Intelligence***. It was published just last year and a copy was recently donated to our library by a Pawpaw member

Like many inspirational books, this one starts on a note of futility, focusing on Bridle's visit to a beautiful Greek Island threatened by mining for rare minerals. Shaken, he envisioned a planet propelled toward death by the algorithms of machine intelligence and human avarice. Broadening his scope, the author explored the great contemporary advances in documenting and understanding the intelligences of animals and plants. Bridle ended with a later trip to that Greek island, where scientists were exploring the uses of native plants that sequestered those rare minerals in their tissues, opening a path to harvesting instead of mining those minerals. The author mused about a future beneficial alliance of humans with plants and animals, one that could happen if, as he put it, "we consider true evolution to be a mutually prosperous, non-destructive alignment with the Earth."



Pawpaw's library



librarycat.org/lib/pawpaw.fnps

- **Browse** online from any device
- Members may **place holds** online and pickup books at next meeting
- **Select books** from library display at meetings
- Questions? Comments? Suggestions? **Need help** getting or returning materials from the Pawpaw library?

Contact chapter librarian Suzie Shaeffer at storyhat@gmail.com

Contribute to The Observatory!

Now that the newsletter editor has somewhat caught up with the backlog of news and stories, please submit a photo or two of interesting native species you find for publication in The Observatory. As spring approaches opportunities will abound!



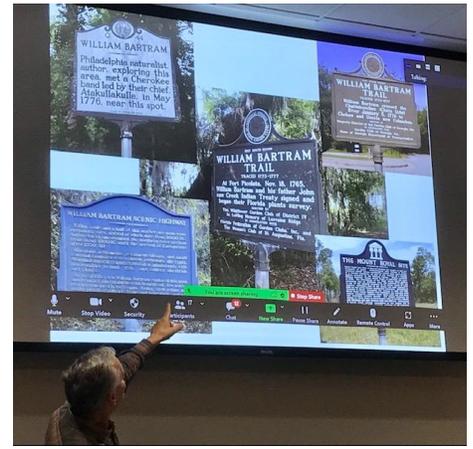
<< In December this little green treefrog (*Hyla cinerea*) rested on the snow squarestem (*Melanthera nivea*) in the editor's yard.

David Anderson shared this close up of false foxgloves (*sp. Agalinis*) taken last fall. >>



**At the January 9th
Pawpaw Chapter
meeting, Stetson
University
Environmental Science
Professor Dr. Tony
Abbot shared his in
depth exploration of
William Bartram's
travels.**

– Sonya Guidry



Join us!

Monthly meeting: 7 p.m. on the second Monday of the month at the Pigotte Community Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona

***** Next meeting Monday, February 13th *****

Our February speaker is Marc Godts from Green Isle Gardens. He is going to talk about the Florida Monarch Project.

Upcoming Field Trips:

February 18th, Spruce Creek, 6250 South Ridgewood Avenue, Port Orange

March 18th Chuck Lemon Trail, 5000 Greenfield Dairy Road, DeLeon Springs

April 8th, Ormond City Walk in Vadner Park, 105 Seminole Avenue

May 20th, Lake George State Forest, Bluffton Hiking Trail

Native plant garden workdays:

Sugar Mill Gardens, 9 a.m. - 12 noon every Wed & Sat, 950 Old Sugar Mill Rd, Port Orange

Environmental Discovery Center, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Thursdays following the monthly meeting, 601 Division Avenue, Ormond Beach

Find us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/PawpawChapter>

Our website: <https://pawpaw.fnpschapters.org/>

Email: pawpaw@fnps.org