



THE PAWPAW PRESS



Newsletter of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society – July 2023

The Mission of the Florida Native Plant Society is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

Pawpaw Partners with ReGrow the Loop

– by Leslie Nixon

Volusia County has initiated a project called ReGrow the Loop – a plan to encourage homeowners to add Florida native plants to their landscapes to maintain the natural beauty of the Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail, a Florida and National Scenic Highway. The goals of the project are: 1) regenerate (native) plant coverage along the Loop; 2) educate the community about the flora and fauna living nearby; 3) remove invasive plants; 4) advise homeowners on sustainable landscaping practices; and 5) attract more wildlife.

The Pawpaw Chapter is partnering with the ReGrow the Loop project. We will be developing native plant lists for homeowners, giving educational presentations, and guiding field trips through the natural habitats of the Loop.

The ReGrow the Loop project is a pilot program; if successful, it will be expanded to other areas of the county. This is a great opportunity for us to educate Volusia County's citizens about the benefits of Florida's native plants. For more information (and to take the Citizen Pledge!) visit: <https://www.volusia.org/services/community-services/resource-stewardship/regrow-the-loop.stml>



The Pawpaw Chapter participated in the June 24th ReGrow the Loop public outreach event at the Ormond Beach Library. It was a pleasant surprise to see the auditorium filled with so many residents interested in the initiative! The outreach table had handouts and plants available for a donation. These indoor outreach events are a great way to spread the FNPS message during hot, squally summer weather!

– Sonya Guidry



June Field Trip: An Abbreviated Adventure to Heart Island

– by Sonya Guidry

On June 17th, an intrepid (and perhaps overly optimistic!) group of 10 field trippers set off to explore the Heart Island Conservation Area in DeLeon Springs. Shortly after starting the hike, the sky darkened and an approaching thunderstorm cut the adventure short. Most of the group stopped for an early lunch, finding refuge beneath a pavilion at nearby Lake Dias. The unique Heart Island sandhill habitat awaits further exploration in dryer weather, the longleaf pines alone make a visit worthwhile!



Thank goodness for pre-trek pics!
Paul Rebmann (3rd from left) led and planned this field trip.



Prickly...
soda apple?
or WHAT??



Lisa's classy picnic cloth made our light fruit-and-cheese lunch look absolutely elegant!

A Busy Park of Honor Workday!




– by Judi Van Horn, photos by Sonya Guidry & Dee Hackett

Our intrepid Park of Honor crew of five was out to spiff up and weed, and transplant seedlings that have sprouted to more opportune locations at our South Daytona Park of Honor. Peter Sigmann, Karen Walter, Sonya Guidry, Judi Van Horn and new participant Dee Hackett all contributed to weeding and generally beautifying our little corner of South Daytona.



A Porterweed (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*) was moved to a sunnier spot as was a tiny cedar tree (*Juniperus virginiana*) we found. Karen donated three starry rosinweed (*Silphium asteriscus*) and one calaminth (*Calamintha georgiana*), which she placed in the proper spots with loving care. Zebra longwing and a pair of gulf fritillaries fluttered about the many blooms after the recent rainstorms.

Just some of the plants in bloom at the Park of Honor:

		
<p>Goldenrod (<i>Solidago spp.</i>) showing off their yellow flowers.</p>	<p>Firebush (<i>Hamelia patens</i>) blooming much to the delight of the butterflies.</p>	<p>Fakahatchee grass (<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>) with a display of its own.</p>



<< Renate's little saltbush (*Baccharis halimifolia*) is filling out nicely alongside her plaque.

The partridge peas (*Cassia fasciculata*) were also blooming, and elderberries (*Sambucus simpsonii*) were flowering and producing ripe black berries that (after a taste test!) were pronounced unusually sweet.

All together it was a productive and enjoyable (if slightly soggy) morning!

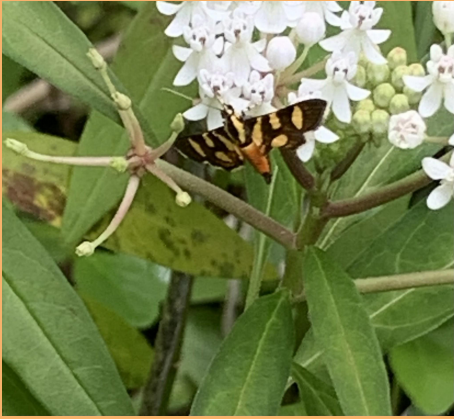


WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Joining our Pawpaw Chapter between March 18th and June 14th:

<p>Tanya Alvarez Nina Gail Deaton Alan Dixon Debbie Doster The Garden Club at Palm Coast, Inc. Miriam Gaylord</p>	<p>Barb Greigger Dorothy Kelly Valenzi Carolyn Kiel Torie Lakkis-Biggs Mary Lightfine Peter May</p>	<p>Nevin Mercede Liz & Robert Merideth Chris & Steve Nott Alan Pillar and Karen Mantone-Pillar Jonathan Shipper Kelly Tobin</p>
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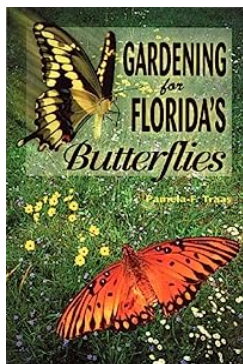
THE OBSERVATORY

Beautiful pollinators and blooms provided by Karen Walter:

		
<p>Orange spotted flower moth (<i>Syngamia florella</i>) enjoying the white swamp milkweed (<i>Asclepias perennis</i>).</p>	<p>Zebra Longwing (<i>Heliconius charithonia</i>) on starry rosinweed (<i>Silphium asteriscus</i>).</p>	<p>Red Banded Hairstreak (<i>Calycopis cecrops</i>) on the perennis.</p>

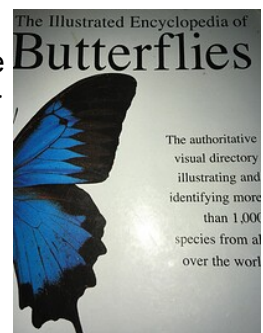
Pawpaw Library Spotlight on . . .

June was National Pollinator Month, so it was time to **Celebrate Pollinators** with books both old and NEW from our Pawpaw library, plus a special online resource.



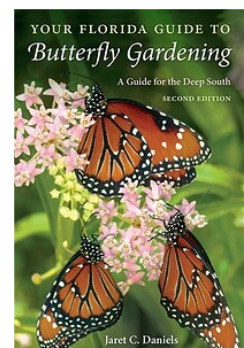
Gardening for Florida's Butterflies by Pamela Traas is a 2nd edition of this classic resource, covering how to provide nectar and host plants to attract and keep butterflies in your garden. She even provides a chart on “weekly watering guidelines during establishment” of your new plants.

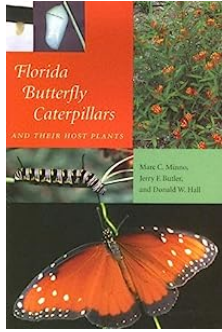
The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Butterflies by John Feltwell will wow you with its photos and information on over 1,000 species of butterflies from around the world.



New books about butterflies:

Your Florida Guide to Butterfly Gardening by Jaret Daniels uses full-color images to show common butterflies and their caterpillars, as well as food plants and host plants. Daniels also discusses current environmental threats to butterfly species, with a special focus on the monarch butterfly, describing how humans can play an important role in sustaining native wildlife populations and promoting biodiversity through our yards and home gardens.





Florida Butterfly Caterpillars and Their Host Plants by Marc Minno, Jerry Butler and Donald Hall is THE book to turn to when you want to identify a caterpillar, or to choose a host plant to attract a specific butterfly! With photos of the egg, larva, pupa and adult representatives of 18 butterfly families and subfamilies, it covers caterpillar anatomy, biology, ecology, habitat, behavior and defense, as well as how to find, identify and raise caterpillars.

Online resource:

The Pawpaw library is not limited to books and videos. Our catalog includes links to important online resources.



The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation is a go-to place for information on all types of pollinators.



Their 2-page paper on **Florida Native Plants for Pollinators & Beneficial Insects** is especially valuable, with a detailed and easy to follow chart that will help you choose new plants **and** tell you what insects are benefiting from the plants you already have.

– Suzie Shaeffer, Pawpaw Chapter Librarian

https://www.xerces.org/sites/default/files/publications/22-019_01_NPPBI-Florida_web.pdf

A perk of being a Pawpaw member:

Reserve and borrow books and other media from Pawpaw's growing library...

First click on this link to go to our online catalog: librarycat.org/lib/pawpaw.fnps

Then click on the big search box to search by author, title or subject. **Or** you can follow the instructions on our "splash" page to browse the catalog. To get a full description of the book, click on its title. If the item is available, you can reserve it by clicking on the **Place Hold** button on the book's page (the member password is: **plantnatives**) and the librarian will set it aside and check it out to you at our next meeting. You can also browse and checkout materials from the library display table before meetings and during breaks. If you won't be attending a meeting in person, but still want to borrow items from Pawpaw's library (or return some), use the online catalog to place a hold and then contact the librarian at storyhat@gmail.com to set up a convenient time and location to meet to pickup or return library materials.

Join us!

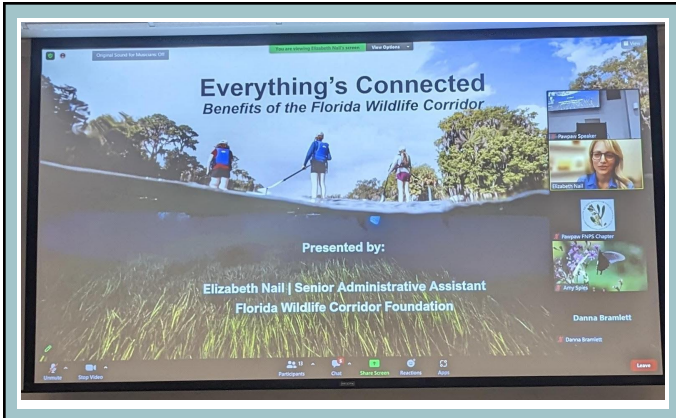
Monthly meetings take place on the **second Monday** of the month at the Piggotte Community Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona

***** Next meeting Monday, July 10th *****

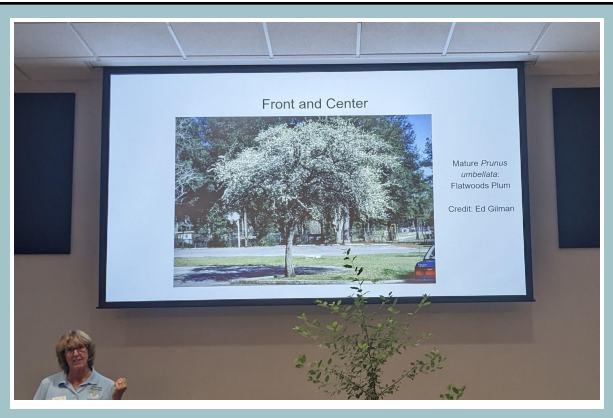
Guest speaker: Mercedes McCallen

Topic: Panthers in Fakahatchee

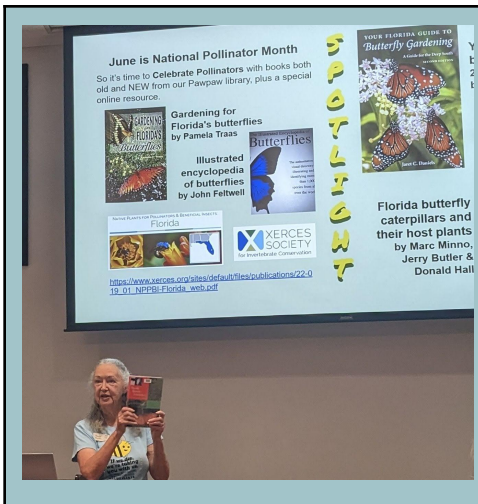
Meeting starts at 6:30 PM, doors open at 6 for socializing



Our June speaker was Elizabeth Nail, Senior Administrative Assistant, Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation.



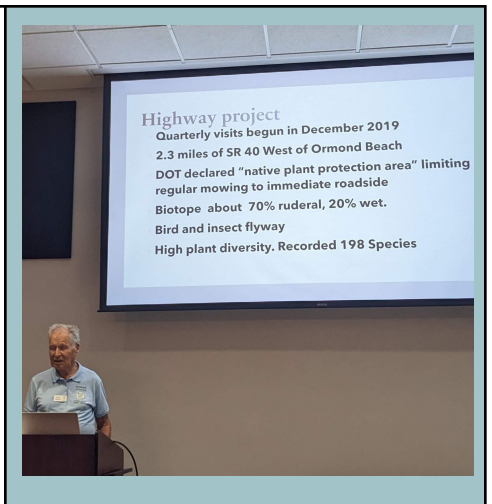
Karen Walter presented the Plant(s) of the Month – flatwood & Chickasaw plums (*Prunus umbellata* & *angustifolia*) – and donated a beautiful sapling for a raffle.



Other highlights from our June meeting...

<< Suzie Shaeffer's Book of the Month presentation celebrated National Pollinator Month and included two new additions to the Pawpaw library.

Peter Sigmann reported on the >> quarterly cleanups on the 2.3-mile stretch of Highway 40 adopted by the Pawpaw Chapter. The most recent cleanup was June 29th and the next is scheduled for Thursday, September 28th.



LOST & FOUND



This shirt was found at the Piggotte Center after the May 8th general meeting. Let us know if it's yours, or if you know who it might belong to.

(If left unclaimed, the editor is fond of flannel shirts and is willing to provide it a good home.)

Upcoming Field Trips:

Saturday, July 22, 9 am (meet at the Tomoka Outpost inside the park)

Kayaking at Tomoka State Park, Trip Leader: Jaycee Spangler

2099 N. Beach St. Ormond Beach

Single kayak: \$30 first hour, \$10 each hour after, \$65 max for the day (plus tax)

Double kayak: \$40 first hour, \$15 each hour after, \$75 max for the day (plus tax)

Canoe (2-person rate): \$40 first hour, \$15 each hour after, \$75 max for the day (plus tax)

No fee to launch your own watercraft!

Plan to bring your own lunch for some post-paddle socializing before leaving the park.

Note: there is a \$4 (single person) or \$5 (up to 8 people) per car entry fee to the park

All participants: register with Field Trip Coordinator Sonya Guidry (guidry.sonya@gmail.com)

Saturday, August 19

Marine Discovery Center, New Smyrna Beach

9:00 AM Tour Native Gardens

10:00 - 12:00 Native Plant Swap at the MDC Pavilion

Saturday September 16, 10 am

Saturiwa Conservation Area in Elkton, FL

Tour led by Mike Adams, owner

Native plant garden workdays:

Park of Honor, 9 am - 12 noon every third Monday, 755 Olive St, South Daytona

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

Environmental Discovery Center, 8:30 - 9:30 am Thursdays following the monthly meeting,

601 Division Ave, Ormond Beach

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

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

Email: pawpaw@fnps.org

Sneak preview:

A game is being developed that may appear in future issues of The Pawpaw Press.

Here's a sample...

If this native plant isn't already in your yard, it will be soon!

Common name scrambled:

Latin name scrambled:

She pens denials: _____

Babies land: _____