



THE PAWPAW PRESS

Newsletter of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society: February 2021

Chapter plans spring native plant sale

The Pawpaw Chapter will hold a native plant sale in April. There will be two components to the sale. First, members exclusively will be able to pre-order and pick up their plants in advance. Make your selections from the list of retail plants at Green Isle Gardens: cutt.ly/OIjIJSKB. Then email your order to Karen at pawpaw@fnps.org. Orders must be placed by April 1. Plants should arrive the week of April 12 and pickup will occur at a to-be-specified time and place during that week. Payment is by cash or check at the time of pickup.

If you are not a member and would like to pre-order, become a member at fnps.org/support/membership.

A sale that is open to the public will take place at the Piggotte Center, 504 Big Tree Road in South Daytona, on Saturday, April 24, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The chapter will be on hand to supply information as will South Daytona's Parks and Recreation Department and Audubon. Plants will be grouped by qualities and characteristics including plants for birds, plants for pollinators and their hosts, and plants for ground covering. Payments on sale day will be by cash or credit card.

Masks will be required for admission to the sale and CDC guidelines will be in place for social distancing. Hand sanitizer will be available. Email pawpaw@fnps.org with any questions.—*Karen Walter*

Of peppers and puddles

Hoping to miss late-morning rain, 18 people showed up at Flagler Beach's Betty Steflik Preserve along the intra-coastal waterway for the February field trip. After walking through a tunnel of Brazilian pepper the group saw how the Category I invasive species displaced the normally diverse coastal upland native species.



As soon as the group started out toward the mangrove marsh, however, the rains decided to move in earlier than predicted, necessitating a retreat to the picnic pavilion.—*Story and photo by Sonya Guidry*

Join the chapter's roadside reconnaissance team

The chapter adopted 2.7 miles of SR 40 west of Ormond Beach two years ago and since then has made quarterly visits for botanizing and incidental litter pickup. We have noted more than 60 flowering species. The project is about to get more interesting as the routine mowing will be restricted to the roadside safety strip.

Any member not previously involved is invited to join the team by your sending your e-mail address to peter@sigmann.net. Instructions will follow. The next outing will be on Monday, March 22, at 9 a.m.—*Peter Sigmann*

Chapter finalizes board structure for 2021

In agreement with our chapter by-laws, Pawpaw's Board of Directors consists of our current officers, past president, chapter representative, and the chairs of all standing committees. Our board members for 2021 are:

Officers:

President, Katie Tripp; vice president and program chair, Samantha West; secretary, Rob Bird; treasurer, Karen Walter

Past president:

Paul Rebmann

Chapter representative:

Sande Habali (Karen Walter also serves this role)

Committee chairs:

Membership and Hospitality, Connie Schrider; Outreach and Education, Doug Hunt; Conservation, Melissa Lammers; Petal Pushers, Sonya Guidry; Field Trips, Warren Reynolds

The board meets the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. These meetings are open to any chapter member. Please contact Katie if you wish to join an upcoming meeting. Our committees are in need of members. Please consider joining a committee and becoming more involved with our chapter this year.—*Katie Tripp*

Need a coastal buffer? Consider bay cedar

Bay cedar is an occasional shrub of coastal beaches and dunes from Pinellas, Hillsborough and Brevard counties southward along the peninsular coast of Florida and in the keys. It is also found in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and is sporadically distributed throughout the tropics worldwide.

Suriana maritima is a member of the family Surianaceae, and the only species of the genus. There are four other genera in this family, one found in Mexico and three in Australia.

The simple, linear, and entire leaves are alternate and densely crowded near the tips of the branches. Leaves are 3/8 to 2-1/3 inches long and about a quarter inch wide with rounded tips. The yellow flowers may appear at any time of year, either solitary or in terminal clusters. Flowers have five petals and are 3/8 to a little over a half inch across. The sepals are awl-shaped and nearly the length of the petals. There are five stamens. The dry fruit is nut-like, just over 3/8 inch long, buoyant, and remains viable for long periods in saltwater, accounting for its wide distribution.

This long-lived perennial can grow from 6 to 10 feet wide and tall. It grows in sandy soil from full sun to part shade in dry and extremely dry areas. Bay cedar can handle occasional salt water, such as from storm surges, and considerable amounts of salt wind. Its hurricane wind resistance makes it ideal for hedges in coastal areas. It is suitable for USDA hardiness zones from 9B south, which includes eastern Volusia County and coastal Flagler County into Palm Coast.

The common name comes from the cedar-like fragrance of the leaves when crushed. The genus was named for the French physician, pharmacist, and botanist Joseph Donat Surian.—*Story and photo by Paul Rebmann*



Mark your calendar for programs, field trips

FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS

March 15: Park of Honor work day, 9 a.m., Olive Street, South Daytona
March 20: Ponce Preserves the Planet, Ponce Inlet
April 17: Graham Swamp, Colbert Lane, Flagler
April 19: Park of Honor work day, 9 a.m., Olive Street, South Daytona
May 14–16: FNPS virtual conference: fnps.org/conference/2021
May 17: Park of Honor work day, 9 a.m., Olive Street, South Daytona
May 23: Yellow Brick Road, Pershing Road Trail, Tiger Bay State Forest
June 19: Black Bear Wilderness Trail, Sanford
June 21: Park of Honor work day, 9 a.m., Olive Street, South Daytona
July 17: Pontoon Boat Ride

PROGRAMS

March 8: Danielle Ramsey, Environmental Specialist I with Volusia County Environmental Management, will be speaking on Biomimicry. (VIA ZOOM)
May 10: Dr. Cindy Bennington is a leader of the Volusia Sandhill Pollinator Project at Stetson University. She will be speaking about that project.

How to learn from the experts but never leave home

One good thing to come out of our pandemic has been the gift of virtual information.

Just about everything you may want to learn about native plants and native plant gardening is available for free on the internet. First of all, if you miss a Pawpaw meeting or want to refresh your memory on something you heard, you can log into FNPS and all our meetings have been recorded on the Pawpaw website. The meetings include our Plant of the Month, with this year's theme, "Hedge your Bets," highlighting plants for privacy. And now, an extra bonus has been included and you can participate in a yard tour (virtually, that is). Members are submitting photos of their landscapes, or landscapes in progress, or even "troubled issues" they may want advice on.

Another way to stay informed is to subscribe on YouTube to FNPS (it's free, too). You can view past "Lunch and Learn" programs, which are available to members. You may also subscribe to Cuplet Fern's YouTube channel, where you will find many interesting topics and chats with authors and other experts. And let's not forget about the Florida Wildflower Foundation and all the great information they share with members.

Simply search YouTube for a topic, such as FNPS. You can begin watching right away and if you like what you see, hit "subscribe." Soon enough, you'll be an expert, too!—*Sande Habali*

Petal Pushers powwow to plan propagation

On Feb. 20 nine Pawpaw petal pushers answered the call to meet at Buschman Park in Port Orange to discuss plant propagation goals for the upcoming Earth Day plant sale on April 24.

Karen is developing a spreadsheet showing the number and variety of expected Petal Pusher donations. Connie is developing a flyer to promote the outdoor Earth Day public event to be held at the Piggotte Center. Sonya shared her latest experience at germinating three species of milkweeds and gladly off-loaded some of her excess starry rosinweed seedlings.

—*Sonya Guidry*



The Observatory

Renate took outsized pleasure in the oh-so-tiny violet flowers she spotted on her morning walk.

Share your delights and discoveries by e-mailing your photos to shalehill@gmail.com.

