



THE PAWPAW PRESS

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

Outing brings two chapters together

Among the rewards of membership in the Florida Native Plant Society is the chance to meet like-minded folks from around the state. Of course the annual conference is a great occasion for that when there isn't a pandemic going on, but FNPS also actively encourages ongoing cooperation between chapters. So we were very happy



when Mandy Morgan, the Tarflower Chapter's vice president for programs, reached out and asked if Pawpaw could lead a field trip when they headed to Cracker Creek for a camping weekend in late January.

Sonya Guidry made two reconnaissance trips to Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve to scout hikes. A few days before the event, Sonya, field trip coordinator Warren Reynolds, Marcia Hafner, and Karen Walter returned to the preserve to fine-tune the walk and for Warren to prepare a plant list, as he does for all Pawpaw trips.

The result of this substantial effort was a weekend of happy cross-pollination between 10 members of Tarflower and four from Pawpaw, during which they explored an old wagon road through the xeric hammock. As usual, FNPS folks were much like kids in a native-plant candy shop. A side spur led the group to a recently prescribed 95-acre scrub burn before they headed to a 40-foot bluff overlooking Spruce Creek's famed oxbow marshy island vista. And, given the beautiful winter day, it was perhaps not surprising that the group ran into another Pawpaw member, Carol Hawkins, out taking in Florida's natural beauty.

The event brought a big thank-you from Tarflower, and a promise of seeking out future joint ventures.

—Photo by Sonya Guidry



Invasives abundant, but natives hanging in there

It was a Florida cold day at Colby-Alderman Park, located in Cassadaga when the Pawpaw Chapter took its January field trip. The area is filled with invasive plants, probably brought in when the area was being developed as a Spiritualist Camp in the 1800s. Coral ardesia, flame-gold trees, sword ferns, wild pineapple, camphor trees

and even Kudzu are just a few of the invasive plants we found. In spite of all these plants, we were able to find various oaks, magnolias, pines, bays and cherries trying to survive to support wildlife. We all enjoyed the park and the day.—*Sande Habali, photo by Amy Spies*

Mark your calendar for programs, field trips

PROGRAMS

Feb 8: Dr. Basil Ianonne, an ecologist from the University of Florida, will be speaking (via Zoom) about his research on increasing biodiversity in suburbia using native plants.

May 10: Dr. Cindy Bennington is a leader of the Volusia Sandhill Pollinator Project at Stetson University. She will be speaking about that project.

FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS

Feb. 13: Betty Steflik Preserve, Flagler Beach

Feb. 15: Park of Honor work day, 9 a.m., Olive Street, South Daytona

March 13: Ponce Preserve, Ponce Inlet

March 15: Park of Honor work day, 9 a.m., Olive Street, South Daytona

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

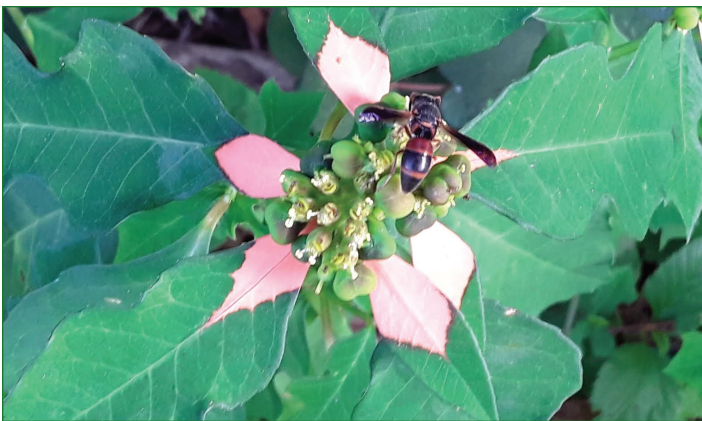
May 17: Park of Honor work day, 9 a.m., Olive Street, South Daytona

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



The Observatory

Leslie and Katie savored the non-stop blooms of Stoke's aster and starry rosinweed in their respective gardens. Georgeann found beauty in the catkins in Tomoka State Park, while Renate admired the wild poinsettias in Buschman Park. Share your delights and discoveries by e-mailing your photos to shalehill@gmail.com.

Pawpaw on Facebook Keep up with chapter events at facebook.com/PawpawChapter