



THE PAWPAW PRESS

Newsletter of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society: May 2020

Botanizing in the backyard and by bicycle

Staying at home during the pandemic has resulted in most of my recent botanizing being done in the yard or from a bicycle while getting exercise. Near the end of March the bees alerted me to the fact that my lone yaupon was blooming, which due to the tiny size of the flowers would otherwise be easy to overlook. A calm morning allowed photographing the flowers with white, four-lobed corollas. This plant is female so the flowers have a roundish green ovary topped with a cap-like stigma in the center surrounded by four mostly whitish staminodes (infertile stamens). Make flowers lack the ovary, having just a green depression in the center and the white stamens are tipped with yellow anthers.



Another native that was blooming quite nicely in April, both in the yard and along the roadsides, was the powderpuff. You will be learning more about *Mimosa strigillosa* during the June Pawpaw Chapter meeting as the plant of the month.



In addition to the large patches of powderpuff and other little wildflowers seen while bicycling on the north peninsula I came across a beach morning-glory that is usually found in the dunes. I noticed that the bicycle trail along A1A on the north peninsula is populated with a number of beach plants, including sea rocket.

To see more of my recent botanizing, both native and non-native, read the latest Paul Rebmann Nature Photography blog at www.wildflphoto.com/blog.php or highlights in my newsletter www.wildflphoto.com/nl/nl202005.html. Stay safe!

—Story and photos by Paul Rebmann

From spring through fall, partridge pea performs

When you are selecting plants for your Caterpillar Cafe and Butterfly Buffet, be sure to include partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*). It begins to work in early spring when its sensitive leaves start appearing. Several caterpillars such as cloudless sulfur, gray hairstreak, orange sulfur, sleepy orange, little yellow, and ceraunus blue use partridge pea as a host plant. Its little yellow flowers will appear throughout the summer attracting bees, birds, and butterflies.

These plants are found throughout Florida in dry pinelands, wooded and open disturbed areas and dunes. They prefer sun, or partial sun and do not need water once established. They will tolerate poor soil.



Their work isn't finished in the fall when the flowers leave and turn to seeds enrobed in a brown casing. Eventually, the entire plant disappears, but not before fulfilling its final role.

As a member of the pea family, partridge pea is known as a "soil fixer" because it will replenish the soil with nitrogen. Seeds may be harvested, kept in a cold refrigerator for several weeks, and returned to the soil to come up as new plants in the early spring. Even without human intervention, new plants will show up in (often surprising) new places. Plants can become 4 feet high and 3 feet wide. Pawpaw members report seeing them successful on beachside properties. Partridge pea is pretty, practical, and purposeful, so give it a try!

—Sande Habali, photo by John Bradord via fnps.org/plants/plant/chamaecrista-fasciculata

Native plants available from Pawpaw's Petal Pushers

If you're looking for native plants, Pawpaw members are growing them, and sales support the chapter. Growers with their contact information and available plants are listed below. Checks should be made out to FNPS Pawpaw Chapter and mailed to Karen Walter, 1107 36th St, Edgewater, FL 32141

Sonya Guidry, 386-690-1797, guidry.sonya@gmail.com: scorpiontail (small, \$1); tropical sage (small, \$1, large, \$3); lanceleaf tickseed (small, \$1); horsemint (small, \$1, large \$3); Simpson's stopper (\$2, small); Florida privet (\$1, small); corkystem passionvine (\$1, small, \$2, medium); beautyberry (\$1, small, \$3, large); red cedar (\$2, small, \$3, medium); bird pepper (\$1, small); yellow jessamine (\$1, small); white plumbago, (\$3, large); ricebutton aster (\$2, medium); dune sunflower (\$2, medium).

Sande Habali, 386-235-0524, sndhbl49@gmail.com: In one-gallon pots (\$3 each): beautyberry, blue curl, lyreleaf sage, bee balm, tropical sage, scorpion tail, goldenrod (clumping variety), wild petunia, and Southern red cedar. Also, one 5-gallon red cedar (\$5) and small tickseeds (\$2).

Karen Walter; 570-350-5574; karenlw72@gmail.com: aquatic milkweed, 4" pot (\$2); bird pepper, 4" pot (\$2).

Dot Backes, (386) 438-1835: violets (small, \$1.50); gayflower/liatris (small, \$1); buttonsage (medium, \$3); prairie iris (large, \$3); skullcap (small, \$1); frogfruit (small, \$1); red cedar (large, \$15); red cedar (medium, \$5); coontie (medium, \$5); prickly pear (medium, \$5); beautyberry (large, \$5); beautyberry, (small,\$3); yellow jessamine (small, \$3); lopsided Indiangrass (small, \$2); scorpiontail (large, \$5); starry rosinweed (medium, \$5); coralbean (large, \$5); coralbean (small, \$3); woodland sunflower (large, \$6); whorled milkweed (medium, \$5); pineland dropseed bunch grass (medium, \$5); Tampa false verbena (small, \$3); St. Andrew's cross (medium, \$3).

—Photos by Sande Habalie



Chapter meetings and speakers

June 6: FNPS membership meeting **ONLINE**

June 8: Nash Turley, UCF ecologist, on Lawn to Wildflowers **ONLINE** via Zoom

July 13: Jenny Nazak, sustainability educator, on Soil 101

Aug. 10: Linda Walters of UCF on Tomoka State Park restoration

Upcoming field trips, events

June 15: Park of Honor work day, meet at 9 am

June 13: Haw Creek Preserve State Park, Seville. CDC guidelines in place. No carpools, no lunch.

Contact Warren: warrenreynolds70@gmail.com

June 15: Park of Honor work day, meet at 9 am

July 19: Black Point Wildlife Drive, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

The Observatory

Georgeann Meadows admired the spiderwort that has gone wild in front of a vacant house in her neighborhood. Karen Walter delighted in her garden's visitors, and that her patience with her Stoke's aster was finally rewarded. Speaking of patience, Sonya Guidry waited eight to 10 years on her oakleaf hydrangea. But don't feel too bad for her, as her *Encyclia tampensis* has 88 blooms at one time. Share your delights and discoveries with chapter members by e-mailing your photos to Doug at shalehill@gmail.com for inclusion next month.

