



THE PAWPAW PRESS

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

Plants of the month: shared knowledge

Everyone loves the diversity of topics we have for the chapter's monthly programs, but our Plant of the Month gives us a chance to focus on one plant and learn from each other.

In the past few years we've explored "Prickly Plants for Pollinators and Privacy," "Flowering Favorites for Our Feathered Friends," and "Caterpillar Cafes and Butterfly Buffets." Beginning in January we'll be learning about great native plants for screening under the banner of "Hedge Your Bets." This is a great opportunity to share a plant that's a particular favorite, or dive into one that you'd like to learn more about. Some members opt to use a program like Powerpoint, but you don't have to, you can just talk.

Here's a list of suggestions for this year's theme. It includes coastal and upland species, options for sun and for shade. If you have another idea, we're open! To sign up, e-mail Paul Rebmann at naturepaul@wildflphoto.com.

'Hedge Your Bets' options

Florida privet, *Foresteria segregata*
Simpson's stopper, *Myrcianthes fragrans*
Walter's viburnum, *Viburnum obovatum*
Yellow anise, *Ilicium parviflorum*
Marlberry, *Ardisia escallonioides*
Wild coffee, *Psychotria nervosa*
Dahoon holly, *Ilex cassine*
Cocoplum, *Chrysobalanus icaco*
Jamaica caper, *Quadrella jamaicensis*
Varnish leaf, *Dodonaea viscosa* var. *viscosa*
Wax myrtle, *Morella cerifera*
Salt bush, *Baccharis halimifolia*
Myrsine, *Myrsine cubana*
Bay cedar, *Suriana maritima*
Rusty lyonia, *Lyonia ferruginea*
Yaupon holly, *Ilex vomitoria*
Gallberry, *Ilex glabra*
Seagrape, *Coccoloba uvifera*
Pipestem, *Agarista populifolia*
Fakahatchee grass, *Tripsicum dactyloides*

Purple passionvine is fritillary favorite (longwings, too)



Purple passionvine or maypop (*Passiflora incarnata*) is one of six members of the genus *Passiflora* native to Florida. It has a vast range that runs from Pennsylvania south to Florida and west to Texas. A 16th century monk named the flowers of the genus passion flowers because he saw in parts of the flower representations of aspects of Christ's crucifixion.

Generally the flower is purple, but occasionally it is white. In nature *P. incarnata* grows up to 25 feet, climbing trees and draping itself over bushes. Reaching out with tightly wound tendrils, it clings to supportive neighbors. It displays 2-inch flowers with a merry-go-round of pollen-laden anthers, waiting for pollinators to gather the golden pollen on their bodies. Providing nectar to many butterflies, its leaves are also host to gulf fritillary and zebra longwing caterpillars. As we know, the purpose of a larval host is to be eaten, but nature has provided the maypop with an ingenious defense. It has small nectar glands that attract ants, which in turn eat butterfly eggs and larvae.

The fruits of *P. incarnata* are the size of a hen's egg. Inside is a sweet, gooey, mucilaginous filling, surrounding the numerous seeds. Native Americans used this sweetener in their dishes, as well as a relaxant and anxiety reducer. Today, other members of the genus are used to produce the sweetener in many commercial drinks.

P. incarnata seeds are difficult to germinate. It is most easily propagated by sharing portions of the root. This beautiful flower is a delight to see and has a fragrance to savor, but can become aggressive if conditions are right. The last of the plants in this year's theme of "Caterpillar Cafés and Butterfly Buffets," purple passionvine is a worthy addition to a casual landscape. —*Story and photos by Karen Walter*

Slate of officers for 2021 is announced

At the November virtual chapter meeting, the nominating committee announced its proposed slate of officers for next year: Katie Tripp for president, Samantha West for vice president/program chair, Karen Walter continuing as treasurer and Rob Bird continuing as secretary. The only order of business at our Dec. 13 holiday plant auction will be to vote on the officers. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. If the day follows tradition, it will be considerably less painful than another recent election! The chapter sends its sincere thanks to Paul Rebmann and Leslie Nixon for their service and steering us through these challenging times.



The Observatory

Renate was thrilled to watch a recently emerged gulf fritillary dry its wings and then take flight. Karen is loving the show her skyblue clustervine (*Jacquemontia pentanthos*) is putting on in her garden. (Insider's tip: You can take home one of these if you're the high bidder at the auction on Dec. 13.) Doug has been marveling at the number of bees attracted to climbing aster (*Ampelaster carolinianus*).

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

Chapter meetings and speakers

Dec. 13: Annual native plant auction, Marine Discovery Center, New Smyrna Beach, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Pawpaw on Facebook

Keep up with chapter events on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/PawpawChapter>

Upcoming field trips, events

Dec. 5: Field trip to Lake Harney Wilderness Area, Geneva. Contact Warren Reynolds: warrenreynolds70@gmail.com. CDC guidelines in place. No carpools, no planned lunch.

Dec. 21: Park of Honor work day, Olive St., South Daytona, 9 a.m.