



THE PAWPAW PRESS

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

The annual auction is on! Mark your calendar

Some good news, at last! The Pawpaw Chapter's always eagerly anticipated annual native plant auction is going to happen.

The Board of Directors has been working diligently to find a way to have a safe, in-person event and here's how things are shaping up. The auction will take place outdoors at the Marine Discovery Center, 520 Barracuda Blvd., in New Smyrna Beach from 12:30 to 2:30 pm on Sunday, Dec. 13.

There are enough tables at the MDC to maintain safe distance seating, but please bring your own folding chair in case we run short. We expect you to wear a mask when unable to keep a safe distance. There will **no food** at this event.

Danny Young and Paul Rebmann will serve as auctioneers. Please bring a maximum of three native plants (one tray of related small plants may be counted as one plant) that you have grown or purchased. Make sure that all the plants are labeled. If you don't have plants, attend anyway as we will have plenty, including ones the chapter purchases for the auction. The minimum bid for those items will be the chapter's cost.

Non-plant items will be offered in a drawing. Buy tickets (\$1 each or 6 for \$5) and put however many tickets that you wish in the bag for the item(s) that you desire. Non-plant items need to be registered ahead of time with Nancy Hull. E-mail her at nhcatlady@hotmail.com.

We know that everyone has missed the opportunity to socialize in person in these difficult times and we look forward to seeing you in December. Following the above guidelines will ensure we have a safe, successful event.

At Hickory Bluff Preserve, hickories and much more

For October's field trip, a group of Pawpaw members took a walk on the wild side of Volusia County's Hickory Bluff Preserve, led by Warren Reynolds. This 135-acre preserve, bordering the St. John's River and acquired with Volusia Forever funds, is one of Volusia County's most diverse. Hickory Bluff Preserve has a range habitats including upland scrub, pine flatwoods, ephemeral wetlands, cypress dome swamp, hardwood hammock, wet prairie, and a riverine floodplain swamp.



It offered plenty of surprises and fall blooms, Florida style.

Some of the fall beauties included dahoon holly (*Ilex cassine*) and Carolina sand holly (*I. ambigua*) showing off their red berries. Both pig-nut hickory (*Carya glabra*) and water hickory (*C. aquatica*) were found, helping the preserve live up to its name. Along the 1.5 mile loop trail at least four different species of pawpaw plants were seen: netted pawpaw (*Asimina reticulata*), pygmy pawpaw (*A. pygmaea*), bigflower pawpaw (*A. obovata*), and smallflower pawpaw (*A. parviflora*). Fully blooming Florida

paintbrush (*Carphephorus corymbosus*) saluted us as we passed along the upland sandy roadway. Even a couple of patches of vibrant green wild pennyroyal (*Piloblephis rigida*) delighted us with their fragrance. A lone tooth-petal false reinorchid (*Habenaria floribunda*) was spotted.—*Story and photos by Sonya Guidry*

Select native plants available for field trip pickup

Dot Backes has native plants available for pickup on Nov. 14 as part of the Bicentennial Park field trip. Checks should be made out to the Pawpaw Chapter. Available plants: 12 gayfeather (*Liatris* spp.), small and in bloom; 6 Tampa verbena (*Glandularia tampensis*); 12 pineland dropseed bunch grass (*Sporobolus junceus*) small; 12 split-beard bluestem grass (*Andropogon ternarius*), small. For pre field trip order email guidry.sonya@gmail.com.

An FNPS license plate is in the works

Florida Native Plant Society will soon have its own license plate available for purchase from the Department of Motor Vehicles. This license plate has been approved by the governor, but the design of the plants found on the plate has not been finalized. More information will be forthcoming on the FNPS web page.



The Observatory

Georgeann (and gulf fritillaries) are thrilled that the blazing stars are exploding in the native plant garden at Tomoka State Park. Katie's hammock snakeroot is going gangbusters. Doug is happy his Florida Keys blackbead doesn't know what zone it's growing in.

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

Chapter meetings and speakers

Nov. 9: Program on "Plant Native, Grow Nature" with Katie Tripp ONLINE via Zoom

Dec. 13: Annual native plant auction, Marine Discovery Center, New Smyrna Beach, see first page

Pawpaw on Facebook

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

Upcoming field trips, events

Nov. 14: Field trip to Michael Crotty Bicentennial Park, Ormond Beach. Contact Warren Reynolds: warrenreynolds70@gmail.com. CDC guidelines in place. No carpools, no planned lunch.

Nov. 16: Park of Honor work day, Olive St., South Daytona, 9 a.m.

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