



# THE PAWPAW PRESS

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

## Plant sale is a resounding success

As plant sales, one of the chapter's chief fundraisers, were canceled this spring, plants raised by the Petal Pushers for the events continued to grow, oblivious to the ongoing pandemic. What to do? Perhaps, the propagators postulated, the chapter should have a plant sale of its own. On the last weekend of April, the presence of that proposal was made clearly evident.

By that time, the Petal Pushers' list of plants had grown to more than 400, representing some 50 varieties. To supplement these offerings, and with the advice of Chapter President Katie Tripp, almost 200 commercially grown plants were purchased. When all those plants filled the hallways of the Piggotte Community Center on the day before the sale, the concern on everyone's minds was whether anyone would come to buy them.

It was a worry for naught. As a beautiful day began to unfold, crowds began to arrive. And they bought. And bought. And bought! So many native plants found new homes, soon to be doing their jobs of providing shelter and sustenance to pollinators and birds.

The day would not have been possible without the members who turned out in force to help, lugging and tugging plants out of the Piggotte Center and arranging them in their locations, then hauling and carrying purchases to people's cars. And thanks must also go to the City of South Daytona, which allowed us to use the Piggotte Center and its grounds, and whose Parks and Recreation Department was on hand with giveaways and information about programs for kids. The Southeast Volusia Audubon Society was another valuable partner, manning a booth with information about how native plants support birds.

The overwhelming turnout for the event was beautiful evidence of a deep love of our native plants and of Florida's continually challenged environment. —Karen Walter, photos by Nancy Hull



Many more photos from the event and preparations for it are available at [facebook.com/PawpawChapter](https://www.facebook.com/PawpawChapter)

# Mark your calendar for programs, field trips

## FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS

May 14–16: FNPS virtual conference: [fnps.org/conference/2021](https://fnps.org/conference/2021)

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

May 22: Field trip, Yellow Brick Road, Pershing Road Trail, Tiger Bay State Forest

June 19: Field trip, Martin Dairy trailhead, New Smyrna Beach

June 21: Park of Honor work day, 9 a.m., Olive Street, South Daytona

July 17: Field trip, St. John's River pontoon boat ride

August 16: Park of Honor work day, 9 a.m., Olive Street, South Daytona

August 21: Plant swap, Buschman Park, Port Orange

## PROGRAMS

May 10: Dr. Cindy Bennington, a leader of the Volusia Sandhill Pollinator Project at Stetson, will present a program on the project

June 14, Samantha West, Volusia County Environmental Specialist III and ISA Certified Arborist, on environmental planning

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## The Observatory

Dr. J Cho of Bethune-Cookman visited the Park of Honor and discovered Simpson's stopper in glorious bloom; super sleuth Dave Anderson found Florida bellflower, one of only three species of campanula native to Florida; Suze Peace marveled at longleaf pine candles in their transformation to needles; Doug has had white swamp milkweed in a soupy pot for years and it keeps plugging along. Share your delights and discoveries by e-mailing your photos to Doug at [shalehill@gmail.com](mailto:shalehill@gmail.com).

