



THE PAWPAW PRESS

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



Auction action heats a December day

A lovely 75 degree morning took a turn for the chilly, sending many running for sweaters and jackets, but our annual holiday plant auction was still a great success. We were happy to be back at the Marine Discovery Center, which has become an important partner to the chapter.

Danny Young proved to be an auctioneer with an aptitude for seductive starting prices, which led to some exuberant bidding. Auctions being auctions, other folks got some really great bargains. Melissa Lammers and Paul Rebmann assisted as runners and spotters of raised hands.

Special thanks go to Judi Van Horn and all the others who cared for plants between the October plant sale and the auction. And to Karen Walter for her tireless work as organizer-in-chief. All of our plants found new homes and the event brought the chapter \$675 to help us support the FNPS mission of preserving, conserving and restoring our state's native plants and native plant communities.

Perhaps most welcome of all, we got the chance to be together, safely, which itself was cause for celebration

—Karen Walter/photos courtesy Luis Villalon

Join the push to propagate more native plants

Petal Pushers is a group within the Pawpaw Chapter that is interested in learning to propagate and grow native plants. Most people in native plant groups like to grow native plants, but the Petal Pushers want to learn how to start plants from seeds, cuttings and root division. The group's goal is to increase the availability of hard-to-find plants and make them available to the public through our plant sales. The next plant sale will be April 9, 2022. If you are interested in being part of the Petal Pushers please email pawpaw@fnps.org and you'll be added to our notifications. The group hopes to have an outdoor meeting late in January, with date and time to be determined.

At this time the group has lots of seeds available, all harvested from personal backyard plants. Four packs are \$1.00 plus shipping, which is about \$7. Email pawpaw@fnps.org with your choices and address. Payment will be determined then. Seeds available are: summer farewell, greeneyes, coastalplain palafox, slender gayfeather, pink

and white swamp milkweed, whorled milkweed, Stoke's aster, spurred butterfly pea, prickly poppy, necklace pod, starry rosinweed, pink and white beardtongue, Elliott's aster, partridge pea, water dropwort, sleepy hibiscus, coralbean, lanceleaf tickseed and blanket flower.—Karen Walter

In Port Orange, garden is made in the shade

Pawpaw Chapter members from Palm Coast to Sanford and South Volusia flocked to Sugar Mill Botanical Gardens in Port Orange on a crisp, bright December morning to tour the recently expanded native garden section, which includes an impressive 97 native Florida plant species. Special thanks go to David Anderson, Sara Gibbs and Sande Habali—Pawpaw members and garden volunteers—for leading the way. The native section's dedicated installations and signage efforts made it possible to easily appreciate the diversity of native plants that can be cultivated in shady spots gardens.—Story and photo by Sonya Guidry



Mark your calendar for 2022 programs, field trips

January 10: Meeting, via Zoom, with Scott Ward, former plant ecologist at Archbold Biological Station

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

January 15: Field trip to Seminole Rest Historic Site, Oak Hill

February 14: Meeting, via Zoom, with Ray Jarrett on planting and care for urban trees and palms

February 19: Field trip to Princess Place Preserve, Palm Coast

February 21, 2022: Park of Honor work day, 9 a.m., Olive Street, South Daytona

March 14: Meeting, program TBA

March 19: Field trip to Gemini Springs Park, DeBary

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



The Observatory

Leslie Nixon was surprised—and her resident pollinators thrilled—when her *Monarda punctata* had a second flush of bloom. Peter Sigmann reports that *Lilium catesbaei* was one of 30 wildflowers the road crew team spotted during the December cleanup. Share your photos by e-mailing Doug at shalehill@gmail.com.