



THE PAWPAW PRESS

Newsletter of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society: February 2022

Partnerships expand chapter's reach

The local edition of this year's Great Backyard Bird Count was an opportunity for some synergistic partnering with Halifax River Audubon. Many Pawpaw members hold "dual citizenship" in both organizations, so it was not surprising to see folks wearing both hats at the event, held February 19 at the Ormond Beach Environmental Discovery Center. Melissa Lammers, Rob Bird, and Suzie Schaeffer worked at a Plants for Birds table, helping adults and children learn the vital role native plants play in sustaining the avian population. Other Pawpaw members who participated included Peggy Yokubonus, who manned a scope and helped participants find birds for their checklists, and Danny Young, who led several discovery walks on the park's hiking trails during the day. The event drew more than 130 people, from children to adults, and drew coverage including an article in the *Ormond Beach Observer*: ormondbeachobserver.com/ormond-beach-observer-3-3-22.—*Sande Habali*

Flagler has a jewel called Princess Place

The call of the great outdoors lured 26 Pawpaw members up for a brief exploration of Flagler County's Princess Place Preserve on February 19. The group used the nature trail nearest the historic 1880s lodge called Princess Place (which is worthy of its own guided tour, available on weekends).

The 1.5-mile walk through tall oaks and along the marshy shore of Pellicer Creek barely scratched the surface of what the preserve has to offer. Warren's plant list helped folks begin to recognize their Florida flora. Though not as diverse as the more tropical coastal hammocks further south, the vistas were every bit as beautiful. Established old oaks, cedars, palms, hickories, and magnolias were evidence of this manicured woodland surrounding the historic lodge having been well fire-protected. The shoreline woodlands included pines, oaks, yaupon, wax myrtle, wild olive, and sparkleberry, all overlooking Pellicer Creek's salt marshes, which included spartina, blackneedle rush, marsh elder, and an occasional black or white mangrove.

Flagler County rightfully calls Princess Place Preserve its conservation jewel. Its 1,500 acres of pristine woodlands, freshwater creeks and salt marshes appear untouched by modern times and are now appreciated by campers, equestrians, kayakers, hikers, and naturalists.—*Sonya Guidry, photo by Susan Anderson*



Stop by our website to check out new features

Have you visited the Pawpaw website lately? It is a great place to learn. In addition to FNPS articles, you can view Plant of the Month recordings and listen to our speakers from past meetings. The tabs will take you on some interesting journeys. Recently added to the web page are our community gardens grants and an updated school grant application. If you know of spaces



in need of native plants, you will want to check out the grants tab. Have fun visiting pawpaw.fnpschapters.org/. Contact pawpaw@fnps.org with any questions or clarifications. While you're there, don't forget to check out the FNPS license plate. Funding from this project supports the FNPS mission to preserve, conserve, and restore our native plants and native plant communities.

Mark your calendar for 2022 programs, field trips

March 14: Meeting, program TBA

March 19: Field trip to Gemini Springs Park, DeBary

March 19: Ponce Preserves the Planet, Ponce Inlet

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

March 26: Wildflower Festival, DeLand

April 9: Spring native plant sale, Piggotte Community Center, South Daytona

April 11: Meeting, program TBA

April 16: Field trip to Castle Windy Trail, Canaveral National Seashore

April 18: Park of Honor work day, 9 a.m., Olive Street, South Daytona

April 23: Earth Day Festival, Washington Oaks Gardens State Park, Flagler Beach

May 9: Meeting, program TBA

May 14: Field trip to Haw Creek Preserve State Park, Palm Coast

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

May 19-22, 2022: FNPS annual conference, virtual: fnps.org/conference/2022



The Observatory

Leslie Nixon's *Conradina* has been holding a bloomathon, and drawing a great deal of attention from the bees. Almost everything in Doug' Hunt's yard is taking a before-spring break, except the apparently indefatigable coral honeysuckle. Share your photos by e-mailing Doug at shalehill@gmail.com.