



# THE PAWPAW PRESS

*Newsletter of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society: January 2022*

## Conservation in action by chapter

A recent move to expand disc golf in Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve revealed the ongoing importance of community engagement by the chapter.

Longtime Pawpaw member Sonya Guidry volunteered to help review the 10-year update of the preserve's management plan. Using her knowledge of the preserve and land-management practices, she reviewed 70 draft pages prior to a February 2 public hearing held by Volusia County. Pawpaw members Danny Young and co-conservation chair, Suzie Schaeffer, also attended the meeting. To our surprise, a large group of disc golf aficionados petitioned to expand a small disc golf course within the preserve.

Wasting no time, Pawpaw determined the expansion to be incompatible with the purposes for which the land was acquired and sent a formal letter from chapter President Susan Anderson to Volusia County Resource Stewardship-Land Management by the next morning. Board members also sent personal emails supporting Pawpaw's position. Afterward, co-conservation chair, Melissa Lammers, found the Florida Communities Trust Grant Award for the exact parcel where the disc golf course is located and Suzie Schaeffer reviewed the course's operations in light of the terms of the grant. Their findings reinforced Pawpaw's position.

There are several steps left before the Volusia County Council votes on the updated plan. Please stay tuned to your inbox in case further action is necessary. Thanks to local activists and voters, Volusia County has had conservation land acquisition programs in place since 1986. But to ensure that over time the land is preserved as intended, we have to remain engaged in opportunities like this one.—*Melissa Lammers*

## Petal Pushers make plans for plants

The Petal Pushers, Pawpaw Chapter's propagation committee, braved the January cold and met outside at Ormand Beach's Central Park. Members discussed the ongoing milkweed project to determine the state of current seedlings. Since a native plant sale is slated for April 9 at the Piggotte Center in South Daytona, an inventory of current plants was taken.



Group members admired the garden, which is full of beautiful and bountiful community garden plots. Pawpaw Chapter member Leslie Nixon maintains a plot and volunteers at the community garden, and her native touches abound.

If you are interested in joining this active committee, please contact Karen Walter at [pawpaw@fnps.org](mailto:pawpaw@fnps.org).

# It's name tag time: Let us know who you are

If you are a new member—welcome!—and would like a name tag, or if you haven't requested a name tag, please send your request with your name spelled out as you would like it printed on the name tag, to [pawpaw@fnps.org](mailto:pawpaw@fnps.org). Or you can contact Karen Walter via text at 570-350-5574. First name tags are free; if you are replacing a name tag there will be a \$5.00 charge.

## Annual FNPS conference will be hybrid event

This year's FNPS conference, with the theme "Gateway to Diversity," will be a hybrid event. There will be in-person events at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville May 19-22 and presentations will be broadcast for those wishing to join online. Presentations will be available to registrants for six months after the conference. This is an excellent benefit allowing more flexibility to be able to see the great speakers. Registration opens in March. Watch for details at [fnps.org/conference/2022](https://fnps.org/conference/2022)

## Mark your calendar for 2022 programs, field trips

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: 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

April 9: Native plant sale, Piggotte 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

May 9: Meeting, program TBA

May 14: Field trip to Haw Creek Preserve State Park, Flagler County

May 19-22, 2022: FNPS annual conference, online and in-person in Jacksonville



## The Observatory

Leslie Nixon's Florida privet bloomed early, and a wasp took advantage. Very hungry gulf fritillary caterpillars rendered Peter Sigmann's living sunshade of passionvine temporarily ineffectual. Share your photos by e-mailing Doug at [shalehill@gmail.com](mailto:shalehill@gmail.com).