



THE PAWPAW PRESS

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

Opportunities for involvement abound

Our chapter has grown to 152 members, making us the 8th largest in the Florida Native Plant Society. That means we have a lot of new members, many of whom, unfortunately, we have yet to be able to meet in person. Until we can socialize again at meetings, volunteer opportunities provide a great opportunity to interact, and to help the chapter fulfill its mission. Here are a couple for you to consider:

The chapter adopted a 2.3-mile section of SR 40 west of Ormond Beach 2 1/2 years ago. A group of members conducts litter removal every three months. Being there gives us a chance to observe and inventory the flowering flora. We find substantial variation in prevalence and distribution of plants in bloom from year to year and find “new” plants at most visits.

Because more hands make lighter work, the “road team” could use some new (or old) blood. Send your email address to peter@sigmann.net and timely instructions will follow. The tentative dates of the remaining 2021 outings are Monday, September 27, and Monday, December 20.

Also, the Lyonia Environmental Center is looking for volunteers to work in its pollinator garden on July 30 from 9 to 11 a.m. as part of a volunteer and learn gardening project. Chapter members Sande Habali and Karen Walter have signed up, and if you'd like to help out, please call Christie Miller, the Be Floridian Now and Volunteer Coordinator for Volusia County, at 386-736-5927, or, for more information, email: volunteervolusia@volusia.org.



Discoveries from the last road cleanup event

Partying with pollinators? Yes!

Pawpaw members Sande Habali and Nancy Hull went to Tomoka State Park to celebrate Pollinator Week. We joined the party to talk with many like-minded folks about pollinators and the plants they love. Pawpaw Chapter brought information and plants to the party. Katie Tripp and her Natural Beauty Native Florida Landscapes also joined with a wide variety of plants.

This was also an opportunity to celebrate the success of Tomoka's native plant landscape section. This section has been an ongoing program for Aggie Armstrong, park services specialist; Tomoka State Park; and many volunteers. Today, it was teeming with pollinators!

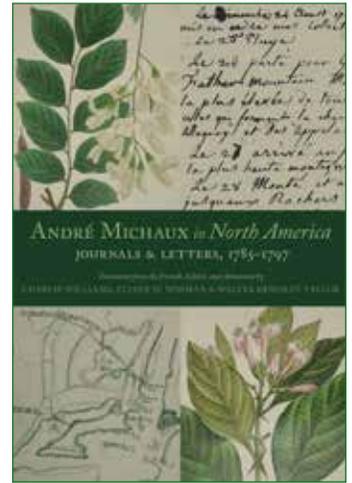
—Sande Habali (photo by Nancy Hull)



It's a moment for André Michaux

The Smithsonian Magazine issue of July/August, 2021, contains an article (<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/andre-michaux-scandal-thomas-jefferson-180977946/>) about André Michaux's travels in North America and his involvement with luminaries of the day, including Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and Louis XVI. Michaux's charge from Jefferson was to "take notice of the country you pass through, its general face, soil, rivers, mountains, its productions—animal, vegetable and mineral—so far as they may be new to us and may also be useful or very curious." One byproduct of his expeditions was *Flora Boreali-Americana* (1803), the first account of all plants known in eastern North America.

Chapter member Mark Wheeler commends the article as "a great read for tree-huggers and those with interest in American history," and takes special note of a plug for the book *André Michaux in North America: Journals and Letters, 1785–1797*. It is a 20-year effort by Eliane Norman, professor of biology emerita at Stetson University; essential guidebook author Walter Kingsley Taylor; and Charlie Williams, founder of the André Michaux International Society. Published last year, the 608-page book contains the first translation into English of Michaux's journals from 1785 to 1797.



At Leeper, where there is burn, there is rebirth

Early summer heat did not deter 16 Pawpaw members from taking the half mile shaded walk through the Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve out to its scenic 40-foot bluff on June 19.

Fire suppression for more than 50 years has allowed the sand pine scrub to become an overgrown mature xeric hammock. So along with the usual expected shrubby plants of rusty lyonia, wild olive, sparkleberry, sand hollies, deerberry, and hogplum, we noted that hardwood



trees have moved in, creating a shady overstory mix of live oaks, pignut hickory, and southern magnolia. The understory seen along the way included an assortment of coonties, Chapman's goldenrod, a variety of vines, and even some pawpaws (*Asimina obovata*) with unripe fruit.

Midway the group took a side spur trail toward the east, where the wide shaded tunnel abruptly opened to a totally different vista. Acres and acres of xeric forest, which had been chopped and burned in 2012 to comply with the preserve's scrub management plan (for scrub jays), had just been re-burned last December. Everyone wandered out a bit into the recent burn site area to puzzle over the great variety of 2-3 ft high scrub plants re-emerging. Plants seen emerging here were Carolina indigo, rusty lyonia, scrub oaks, scrub hickories, scrub palms in bloom, coralbean, red lovegrass, passionflower, dog fennel, and prickly pear, to name a few.

Some experts suggest that it may take five to eight years for recently burned scrub lands to mature enough to support scrub jays. With all the new nearby local development, this large area of managed scrub could be a story of hope for the future. —Sonya Guidry (photo by Amy Spies)

Mark your calendar for programs, field trips

FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS

July 17: Field trip, St. John's River pontoon boat ride
July 19: Park of Honor work day, 9 a.m., Olive Street, South Daytona
August 16: Park of Honor work day, 9 a.m., Olive Street, South Daytona
August 21: Plant swap, Buschman Park, Port Orange
August 23: Park of Honor work day, 9 a.m., Olive Street, South Daytona
September 18, Field trip, Tomoka State Park, Ormond Beach
September 20: Park of Honor work day, 9 a.m., Olive Street, South Daytona
October 16, Field trip, Lake Beresford, DeLand
October 18: Park of Honor work day, 9 a.m., Olive Street, South Daytona
November 15: Park of Honor work day, 9 a.m., Olive Street, South Daytona
November 20, Field trip, Gamble Rogers State Park, Flagler Beach
December 4 Field trip, Sugar Mill Ruins, Port Orange
December 20: Park of Honor work day, 9 a.m., Olive Street, South Daytona

PROGRAMS

July 12, Richard Harris, Volusia County Environmental Specialist II, on land management practices in Volusia County conservation lands
August 9, Vitor Vasconcelos, Associate Professor of Ecosystem Dynamics at the Federal University of ABC, and Jesse Jones, of the University of Florida's Residential Landscape Ecology Lab, on yard management, native plants, and how we benefit

The Observatory

Scarlet hibiscus is loving the rain at Katie's house and Dave found spider lily responding to the increased precipitation in the marshes. Renate had a happy surprise of a large stand of Leavenworth's tickseed behind Halifax Hospital, and Dave's timing was also right to catch tarflower's seasonal show. Share your delights and discoveries by emailing them to Doug at shalehill@gmail.com.

