



# THE PAWPAW PRESS

*Newsletter of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society: March 2021*

## Grants help introduce children to nature

Spring is the best time of year to be thinking about ways for our children to get outdoors and fight Nature Deficit Disorder. This can happen as close as their schools when there's a native plant garden in place. Both the chapter and the Florida Wildflower Foundation offer grants to help encourage schools to plant natives.

Pawpaw offers schools grants to establish or improve native gardens. For full details on the program go to [pawpaw.fnpschapters.org/grants/](http://pawpaw.fnpschapters.org/grants/). Please help spread the word about this program by letting educators and parents of school-age kids know about it.

For additional information about the Wildflower Foundation's "Seedlings for Schools" program, go to [flawildflowers.org/grants/#seedlings-for-schools](http://flawildflowers.org/grants/#seedlings-for-schools). The Foundation will send schools who receive the grants seedlings, usually in time for the fall semester. The Pawpaw Chapter is available to help with the matching requirements of the program by serving as volunteers for those projects.

As we get back to normal, however that is now defined, please contact us if we can help in any way to get kids into nature. Email us at [pawpaw@fnps.org](mailto:pawpaw@fnps.org).—*Sande Habali*

## Ormond garden gets wildflower infusion

On March 19 using plants purchased through our president and native plant landscaper Katie Tripp, two Pawpaw members (Georgeann and Leslie) and four helpers (John, Duane, Arlene, and Kathy) added 100 native flowers to the wildflower garden at the Ormond Beach Environmental Discovery Center. To the existing blanket flower, Carolina petunia, and spiderwort, they added coreopsis, seaside goldenrod, false rosemary, silkgrass, Maryland goldenaster, and beebalm. The cool weather and a lot of enthusiasm made the work a breeze. The young plants are eager to bloom so they can attract pollinators and human visitors alike.—*Story and photo by Leslie Nixon*



## Register now for FNPS annual conference

This year's Florida Native Plant Society annual conference will be a virtual event (May 14–16), but it won't be just another Zoom meeting. The conference will use a platform called Whova that will let you bookmark and attend your favorite sessions; contact and network with other attendees, speakers, and vendors/exhibitors; join workshops; and "sit down" with your favorite plant nerds at a virtual table. The keynote speaker on Saturday will be Craig Huegel, who will address how to provide better habitat for pollinators. Registration for the entire conference is just \$35. For more information or to register, go to [fnps.org/conference/2021](http://fnps.org/conference/2021).

# Mark your calendar for programs, field trips

## FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS

April 17: Field trip, Graham Swamp, 5135 Colbert Lane, Flagler Beach  
April 17: Spring festival and plant sale, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Palm Coast  
April 19: Park of Honor work day, 9 a.m., Olive Street, South Daytona  
April 24: Native plant sale, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., Piggotte Center, South Daytona  
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

April 12: Kristen Daniels, beekeeper and master gardener, on “All About Honey Bee Forage: Its Nutritional Content, How it is Found and Where It Is Used.”  
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

## Diversity on display at Ponce Preserve

Despite the Bike Week traffic, 17 people made their way to Ponce Inlet to take a walk at Ponce Preserve for the chapter's March field trip.

Before taking the hammock trail, Warren had everyone tour the native installation around the parking lot. After a decade, it is good to see fiddlewood, necklace pod, wax myrtle, simpson stopper, coontie, and hog plum still holding their own.

For its latitude Ponce Preserve's subtropical maritime hammock is amazingly diverse. Except for an occasional hackberry or Hercules club the overstory consists largely of live oak trees, all pruned by the prevailing sea winds. Beneath this protective overstory lies an unexpected diversity of subtropical plants: Simpson and white stoppers, wild coffee, yaupon holly, marlberry, snowberry, colicwood, and wild lime.

And there was good news on the invasive plant front. Two of the category I invasive exotic plants previously found at the park were not seen this time. So, kudos to Ponce Inlet's parks management team for eradicating the air potato and Brazilian pepper. That was no easy task!—*Story and photo by Sonya Guidry*



## A southern red cedar needs a new home

Melissa Lammers has a southern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) that has been in her yard in Ormond by the Sea for three years. Unfortunately, it is in the wrong place, both relative to her house and relative to winter winds. One side of it is nearly perpetually windburned due to proximity to the ocean. It is about 8 feet tall. Melissa doesn't have anywhere else she can put it in her yard, but if you, or someone you know, wants it, they just have to come dig it out. Melissa really does not want to leave it on the curb as yard waste, if at all possible. If you're interested, shoot her an e-mail at [melissalammers@gmail.com](mailto:melissalammers@gmail.com).

**Pawpaw on Facebook** Keep up with chapter events at [facebook.com/PawpawChapter](https://facebook.com/PawpawChapter)

# The Observatory

Lots of spring blooms to celebrate this month. Suze, Carol, and Sonya all sent photos of sweet Pinxter azalea and Katie and Carol both shared their fringetrees. We also have daisy fleabane from Renate, red buckeye from Sonya, and blue-eyed grass (and greeneyes) from Peter. Karen found a netted pawpaw at Gold Head Branch State Park. Share your delights and discoveries by e-mailing your photos to Doug at [shalehill@gmail.com](mailto:shalehill@gmail.com).

