



THE PAWPAW PRESS

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

Customers fall for native plants

Fall is a perfect time for planting, which makes it a great to buy native plants. And that made our plant sale on October 23rd a huge success.

We have many people to thank, starting with the Piggotte Center of South Daytona for allowing us to stage the plants and sell them the next day. Our members alone donated more than 400 plants! Lindley's Nursery and Garden Center of New



Smyrna Beach donated six flats of plants and discount coupons to give out to shoppers. Our chapter was able to purchase plants from Green Isle Gardens with the help of Natural Beauty Native Florida Landscapes. We want to thank the many volunteers who stepped up to help both Friday and Saturday with the moving of plants and assisting shoppers. None of this would have been possible without the organization and tireless efforts of Karen Walter, chair of the Petal Pushers, treasurer, and a Council of Chapters representative.

In addition to selling plants, we had other like-minded organizations to let people know the importance of native plants. These included the Southeast Volusia Audubon Society, Paul Rebmann Nature Photography-Wild Florida Photo, and Volusia's Be Floridian Now with ideas on responsible gardening and volunteer opportunities.

We loved seeing so many old friends and making new ones. —*Sande Habali, photo by Paul Rebmann*

Help us spread the word about school grants

Our application for school grants has been updated. We are interested in helping our young people get involved in the importance of native plants. Teachers and volunteers can help their school with this grant. To access our grant go to <https://pawpaw.fnpschapters.org/> and click on grants.

On a perfect fall day, natives on display

On October 16, 26 plant enthusiasts set out on a spectacular Saturday morning at Lake Beresford Park, eager to enjoy a wonderful walk in search of native and non-native specimens. This popular park was quite busy and parking spaces were at a premium. We were without our trusty and fearless leader Sonya, but were joined by a trio of 4- and 7-year-olds whose curiosity, energy, and knowledge of plants was remarkable for their years.

We began our journey along the paved trail that eventually leads to Blue Spring State Park. We had to dodge several bicyclists along the way, but we were motivated to find *Asimina obovata*, or big-flowered pawpaw: success!

We walked on until we were able to enter the blue trail, and at this point we were treated to an impressive stand of *Aralia spinosa* (devil's walking stick). We continued along to the shore of Lake Beresford and discovered *Callicarpa americana* (beautyberry). The color of the berries on this native plant never disappoints.

Along the shore, we saw *Pistia statiotes* (water lettuce), *Sabal palmettos* (cabbage palm), and *Pinus taeda* (loblolly pine). We spotted *Vittaria lineata* (shoestring fern) and *Phlebodium aureum* (golden polypody fern) and someone with a keen eye found *Melothria pendula* (creeping cucumber)

As we headed back to the parking lot, it should be noted that while many of us walked a little slower, Laila, Naomi and Faith raced off to an adjacent playground with energy to spare. We look forward to their bringing that energy to the chapter in the future. —*Marcia Hafner*



For privacy in a shady spot, yellow anise is an easy choice

Yellow anise or *Illicium parviflorum* is part of our Hedge Your Bets series because anise can be used as a specimen plant or as a hedge and privacy plant. It likes shade to part shade and is easily identified by the licorice smell of the foliage when crushed and the leathery texture of those leaves. Yellow anise is relatively pest-free, not desirable to deer, and makes a good hiding spot for birds.

This plant is endemic to central Florida. It likes acidic to slightly alkaline soil in hammock situations. It is not salt tolerant. The little yellow bloom appears in spring. Anise is generally available wherever native plants are sold.—*Story and photo by Sande Habali*

Show your support with an FNPS license plate

Support the cause you believe in and pre-order your Florida Native Plant Society license plate today. Proceeds benefit the mission of FNPS to promote preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. FNPS needs to sell 3,000 plates to have the state/DMV start producing the plate. For more information, see <https://www.fnps.org/news/society-news/florida-native-license-plate>



Mark your calendar for programs, field trips

November 8: Meeting, via Zoom: Paul Rebmann on beetles and native plants

November 15: Park of Honor work day, 9 a.m., Olive Street, South Daytona

November 20: Field trip, Gamble Rogers State Park, Flagler Beach; contact Warren: warrenreynolds70@gmail.com

December 4: Field trip, Sugar Mill Ruins, Port Orange; contact Warren: warrenreynolds70@gmail.com

December 12: Annual native plant auction, 1–3 p.m., Marine Discovery Center, New Smyrna Beach

December 20: Park of Honor work day, 9 a.m., Olive Street, South Daytona

January 10, 2022: Meeting, via Zoom, with Scott Ward, plant ecologist at Archbold Biological Station

January 17, 2022: Park of Honor work day, 9 a.m., Olive Street, South Daytona

February 14, 2022: Meeting, via Zoom, with Ray Jarrett on planting and care for urban trees and palms

The Observatory

Fall in all its glory, both ubiquitous and uncommon. Clockwise from top left: rayless sunflower (Leslie Nixon), morning glory (Renate Calera), slender blazing star (Dot Backes), lopsided Indiangrass (Dave Anderson), muhly grass (Sonya Guidry), Titusville mint (Dave Anderson). Share yours by e-mailing Doug at shalehill@gmail.com.

