



THE PAWPAW PRESS



Newsletter of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society – September 2025

The Florida Native Plant Society's mission is to champion Florida's native plants and their habitats.



August Field Trip: Hike & Plant Swap at Lake Ashby!

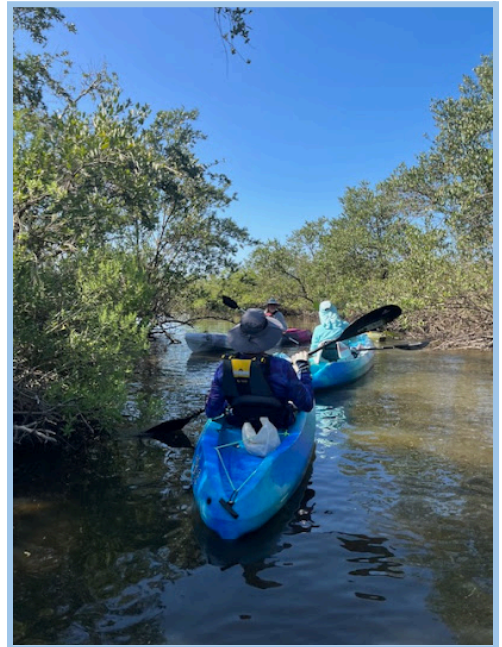
– by Sonya Guidry

Despite the typical sweltering mid-August weather, 17 brave Pawpaw folks and friends showed up at Lake Ashby Park in New Smyrna Beach for a shaded trail walk and our annual native plant swap on August 16th. We discovered some new-to-us hydric hammock plants and a surprising number of invasive exotic species. Some natives we spotted included man of the earth morning glory (*Ipomoea pandurata*) and whisk fern (*Pilotum nudum*).



July Field Trip: Kayaking!

Connie Schrider shared these photos of several Pawpaw members as they paddled around the waters of Gamble Rogers State Park in Flagler Beach on July 20th.



Two Items of Interest from our president, Karen Walter:

Student Scholarship Available

Pawpaw Chapter is pleased to announce the availability of a student scholarship of \$1,000. Applicants must be a high school senior accepted to a college/university pursuing a degree in natural or environmental sciences with a focus on native plants. Or a student already enrolled in a college or university with a major in a curriculum as previously stated. The application and guidelines are found on the Pawpaw Chapter website: www.pawpaw.fnpschapters.org

Pawpaw Chapter is proud to support the academic pursuit of a degree leading to the understanding, research and conservation of native plants and their habitats.

Home Garden Tours

So many homeowners are adding natives to their landscapes. Pawpaw members would love to see what you've done! Here's a chance to show off your hard work and inspire more homeowners to re-style their yards to attract birds and butterflies and other native wildlife.

The Pawpaw Chapter is in the beginning stages of planning a home garden tour in October of 2026. We are in search of homeowners (members or not) that would like to show off their landscapes. We are in search of committee members that will create a brochure that will guide Garden Tour Visitors. If you would like to show off your landscape, whether small or large or be part of our committee, please contact Karen at karenlw72@gmail.com.

THE OBSERVATORY



Kate Muldoon captured this tiny Phaon crescent (*Phyciodes phaon*) on frogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*). The butterfly was one of 30 or so she discovered recently while out for a walk.



Join us!

Monthly meetings take place on the **second Monday** of the month at the Piggotte Community Center, 504 Big Tree Road, South Daytona

***** Next meeting Monday, September 8th *****

Meeting starts at **6:30 PM**, doors open at 6 for socializing

Speaker: Cheryl Petersen, Bok Towers Conservation Program Manager
Topic: The Rare Plant Conservation Program of Bok Tower Gardens."

Videos of our monthly speakers and plant of the month presenters are available...
on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PawpawChapter>
and website: <https://pawpaw.fnpschapters.org/meetings/recordings/>

Upcoming Field Trips:

**Saturday, September 20th at 9 am – Tour of the Marine Discovery Center,
520 Barracuda Blvd, New Smyrna Blvd**

Join the Pawpaw Chapter for our September 20 field trip for a tour of the Marine Discovery Center in New Smyrna Beach. As a follow up to our July speaker, Tess Sailor-Tynes – who excited us with the wonderful conservation projects going on – we decided we needed a tour of the facility!

Education Coordinator Carley Metcalf will guide us through the newest conservation area, up or around Mt. Morgan. Longtime MDC volunteer Karen Walter will help with the living shoreline area, the recent restoration from parking lot to maritime hammock area and the wildflower garden. President of Southeast Volusia Audubon, Liz Meridith and her husband will fill us in on the garden for birds, the purple Martin project and the latest tracking of gps-banded birds.

You may want to bring a lunch or snack. All are welcome to munch at the tables in the shade of the pavilion. The walk is about 1.5 miles on grassy or mulched ground and some paved pathways.

Please sign up on EventBrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pawpaw-fnps-chapter-field-trip-to-marine-discovery-center-tickets-1578880737789?aff=oddtcreator>

Saturday, October 11th – D-Ranch Preserve

Saturday, November 15th - Titusville Balm

Native plant garden workdays:

- * Park of Honor, 9 am - 12 noon every third Monday, 755 Olive St, South Daytona
- * Dunlawton Sugar Mill Gardens, 9 am - 12 noon every Wed & Sat, 950 Old Sugar Mill Rd, Port Orange
- * Environmental Discovery Center, 8:30 - 9:30 am Fridays following the monthly meeting, 601 Division Ave, Ormond Beach
- * Mary Harrell Black Heritage Museum, 9 - 11 am Friday following the monthly meeting 314 Duss Street, New Smyrna.

Find us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/PawpawChapter>

Instagram: [@pawpaw.fnps](https://www.instagram.com/pawpaw.fnps)

Our website: <https://pawpaw.fnpschapters.org/>

Email: pawpaw@fnps.org