



THE PAWPAW PRESS



Newsletter of the Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society 🌱

*** Special Edition: Fall 2022 Field Trips! ***



Washington Oaks Gardens State Park -story by Sonya Guidry, photos by Amy Spies

Thirteen brave Pawpaw members showed up September 17th, a day that offered more rain than shine. We were blessed with an hour's window to explore the rain-refreshed flora and fauna in one of the park's natural areas. The Mala Compra trail threaded a richly diverse ecotonal zone that separated maritime hammock from the salt marsh along the Matanzas River. Many thanks to our field trip coordinator, Warren, for insisting on "recons" to prepare plant lists, and to come up with alternative plans when trails are closed!



Partridge pea
Chamaecrista fasciculata



Chapman's Goldenrod
Solidago odora var chapmanii



A resident native anole
Anolis carolinensis



Black mangrove – (photo by Judi Van Horn)
Avicennia germinans



Partridge pea
Chamaecrista fasciculata



Greenfly Orchid
Epidendrum conopseum

🌱 Volunteer needed to present a Plant of the Month for February! 🌱

Orlando Wetlands Field Trip

-story by Marcia Hafner, photos by Warren Reynolds



On chilly and windy November 17, 15 members of our chapter had the tremendous pleasure of taking a guided tram tour of the impressive Orlando Wetlands Park in Christmas Florida. For over two and a half hours we rode along in electric vehicle trams driven by volunteer guides Sandy and Kerry. Their knowledge, enthusiasm and love for the park was evident from the start.

It's worth a trip to the park just to learn about its history: when it became operational in 1987 it was the world's first constructed wetland! Visitors from all over the globe come to see this incredible achievement.

But this day for our members was filled with viewing countless numbers of beautiful birds, alligators of all sizes, and even a couple of deer. We saw limpkins, whistling ducks, glossy ibis, herons, egrets, coots, gallinule, anhinga and so many more.

To our delight, much of the park was in bloom with Elliott's aster (*Symphyotrichum elliotii*) and Bur-marigold (*Bidens laevis*). The water bodies were teeming with spatterdock, cattails, and bulrushes to name but a few. Growing behind some beautiful white crown beard, we spotted an impressive specimen of leafless swallowwort that was worth stopping for to get a closer look. Another scenic viewing point revealed non-native, invasive Caesarweed, which a few of our members did their best to eliminate from the landscape.

Tiger Bay Field Trip

—story by Sande Habali & Sonya Guidry, photos by Amy Spies

Our field trip for December found us in the massive state forest known as Tiger Bay. A fascinating trip, enlightened by retired Tiger Bay manager, Cathy Lowestein. She was on hand to verify some of the plants we found in the various landscapes of xeric, sand pine, and some wet areas. She even helped us identify the ways we could tell as the landscapes changed. It was a large group of 24 and a great weather day to spend exploring...on an easy walk with much to see! However, the mystery of how Tiger Bay got its name still remains. 🤔🐅



Cathy points out evidence of Garberia's recent bloom season.



A recent Sand pine fall reveals the nutrient poor white (former beach dune) soil.

SAVE THE DATE!
🌻 PLANT SALE & EXPO 🌻
Saturday, April 15, 2023
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
At the Pigotte Center