



Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association

PAWPAW PICKIN'S

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OSU & OPGA sign MOU

The OPGA has worked very hard for the past several years to establish a pawpaw planting for research purposes in the State of Ohio. I am very pleased to announce that OPGA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ohio State University South Centers, Piketon, Ohio.

The announcement was released to the media on July 3, 2008. The Farm and Dairy magazine carried the news release on the second page. A copy of the article in on page 2.

The MOU "scope" reads as follows: "The OSU South Centers will provide land, maintenance and labor for the establishment of the pawpaw planting. OPGA will provide 150 seedlings, assistance with grafting of scion wood and buds, and assistance with fruit evaluation. Fruit not used for evaluation will be the property of OSU to be used when possible with Direct Marketing programs, local food programs, and other Extension functions. Further seedlings may be provided by mutual consent to allow for expansion of the planting." "Deliverables" reads as follows: "Published research reports and data will be the joint property of OSU and OPGA. Unpublished data will be the property of OSU. Credit will be given to OPGA for the seedlings and maintenance of the trials in all educational material. Publications will be joint authorship with Dr. Ron Powell. "Financials" reads as follows: "There will be no financial obligations to either party."

Signed: Tom Worley, Ph.D., Director, OSU South Centers and Ron Powell, Ph.D. President, OPGA.

[I want to thank those Board members that provided comments and feedback on the original MOU proposal.]

President's Patch

If you haven't checked out our revised web site, **Ohiopawpaw.com**, please do so. Our web master is continuing to work very hard to completely rework our web site. It is not completely finished and new features will be added. Be sure to visit the web site for copies of the OPGA publications and a preview of our **NEW** pawpaw cookbook.

We need your pictures, comments, stories, experiences, and pawpaw related activities so that we can add them to the web site.



**Check the OPGA
web site for the up-
dated calendar.**

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Check your mailing label to see when your dues are due.

Mission Statement

OPGA is an organization of pawpaw enthusiasts and pawpaw growers, small and large, dedicated to promoting the superior traits of the pawpaw plant and fruit, developing a pawpaw industry and marketing plan, preserving and studying the wild pawpaw genetics in Ohio.

Native Ohio pawpaw tree making a comeback

PIKETON, Ohio — A native Ohio tree, once farmed by American Indians on large plantations for its fruit and medicinal benefits, is being reintroduced to horticulture for preservation and as a potential niche market crop.

Ohio State University Extension researchers at OSU South Centers at Piketon are teaming up with the Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association to help establish a pawpaw industry in Ohio, not only as a landscape species but also as an additional fruit crop.

Goal. "The goal of the collaboration is to potentially establish plantations of pawpaws for germplasm pres-

ervation, as a landscape tree, and as a crop that supports sustainable agriculture, agritourism and local foods," said Shawn Wright, a horticulturist with OSU South Centers at Piketon.

Wright and his colleagues are evaluating native pawpaw trees and selected cultivars for a variety of performance characteristics, such as growth habit, fruit production and fruit quality.

They then plan to graft the top performing specimens on rootstock to develop a variety of cultivars that could be grown for the landscape and agricultural industries.

History. The pawpaw (genus

Asimina) is related to the sweetsop and soursop, but is the only member of that family not confined to the tropics.

Native American Indians cultivated the pawpaw for its fruit, a large berry that tastes like a cross between a mango and a banana. The fruit is high in protein and minerals, while its biomass is known to have anti-cancer properties.

The bark and seeds contain natural insecticides, known as acetogenins, which have been used to produce organic pesticides.

Cultivating. Wright said the

pawpaw is not cultivated on a large scale, like apples, peaches or pears, because the fruit does not store or ship well, and the tree is difficult to transplant because it has a long taproot.

However, cultivating the pawpaw locally is being sought because the tree makes an attractive landscape plant and has few insect and disease problems.

"The pawpaw has a very unique form and it is virtually pest-free. The tree is the only larval host of the zebra swallowtail butterfly," said Wright. "Deer don't like it. Rabbits don't like

it, and it's well-suited for Ohio's climate and soils."

Wright hopes the cultivation project will help preserve wild pawpaw germplasm, create new cultivars for the industry, and serve as an educational tool to teach the public about the history of the pawpaw and its benefits.

The project, which began this year, will continue for another 15 years. The first fruit won't be harvested for market until 2014.

To learn more, contact Shawn Wright at 740-289-2071 or wright.705@osu.edu.



(Submitted photo)

This pawpaw tree is a native Ohio tree, once farmed by American Indians on large plantations for its fruit and medicinal benefits. It is being reintroduced to horticulture for preservation and as a potential niche market crop.

A2 FARM AND DAIRY — Thursday, July 3, 2008

Proof is in the Punch By Dick & Susan Glaser

A recent local dinner event held at the General Denver Hotel in Wilmington, Ohio provided the opportunity to further promote the versatile pawpaw. Sixty-two dinner guests gave excellent ratings to a punch made from pawpaw puree. The punch bowl was filled and drained several times and of all the local foods featured at the dinner the pawpaw punch was the only one for which there were no left-overs!

The fund raising dinner was sponsored by Clinton County Open Lands as a way to promote local foods and growers. The CCOL is a land trust organization devoted to preservation of farmlands and natural areas within Clinton County. The event was so successful plans for an even bigger event next year were being discussed before the evening ended.

Check the mailing address for your dues status.

Cincinnati Nature Center

Is in need of your dried Pawpaw seed

Here at Cincinnati Nature Center, we are always looking for new ways to provide attractive educational experiences for visitors. I stumbled on pawpaws in 2002 and quickly realized the tree and the fruits are interesting from a natural history perspective as well as from a human history and culinary angle. We also encourage the planting of native plants and the pawpaw tree has great appeal in the landscape.

Cincinnati Nature Center does have a number of smaller stands of native pawpaw on the site. The Center also owns the Long Branch Farm and Trails site in Goshen, Ohio where there is a sizable native stand of pawpaws which we are working to improve for increased fruit production.

Beginning in 2007, we have had an interpretive pawpaw exhibit up for the month of September and have several occasions in which children can make their own pawpaw seed necklaces. If you should have dried out/dead pawpaw seeds, Cincinnati Nature Center would be interested in them for use in crafts.

Jason Neumann

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Note: Jason is a new OPGA Board member

2008 Annual Meeting & Workshop

a success

by

Dick & Susan Glaser

On May 24th the Annual OPGA Spring Workshop was held in Wilmington, Ohio at the home of Dick and Susan Glaser. It was the OPGA's largest workshop to date, with thirty people attending. Participants came from all parts of Ohio and from Indiana and West Virginia.

Pawpaw cookies and muffins were enjoyed with coffee and juice as the group arrived. Dick Glaser lead a discussion on seed propagation, then gave a tour of his seedbeds where he is growing primarily Shawnee Trail

and Quaker Delight two selections native to Clinton County. He then led a tour of his property. He pointed out the heavy fruit set on *Shenandoah*, one of several named varieties he has planted. Walking into the woods, the group observed a small pawpaw orchard containing over twelve different varieties; including *Sunflower*, *NC1*, *Sue*, *Green River Belle*, *Overleese*, *Taytwo*, *Shawnee Trail* and *Quaker Delight*. Further into the woods, abundant native pawpaw groves were noted some of which have been field grafted with *Overleese*, *NC1* and *Sue*.

An excellent lunch was provided by Gary Gottenbush, owner of Servatii's Pastry Shops in Cincinnati. Gary is a developing his own pawpaw orchard in Newtown, Ohio. Garland Hunt of Mansfield, Ohio delighted the group with his demonstration on making a whistle from a young pawpaw branch.

Following lunch a business meeting was held. The current OPGA officers were re-elected and two new board members were elected – Jason Neumann, who is with Cincinnati Nature Center, and Joseph Petrie of Loudonville, Ohio. Discussion included exploring the development of a process for extracting pawpaw pulp and the planning of a pawpaw planting at the Cincinnati Nature Center in Clermont County.

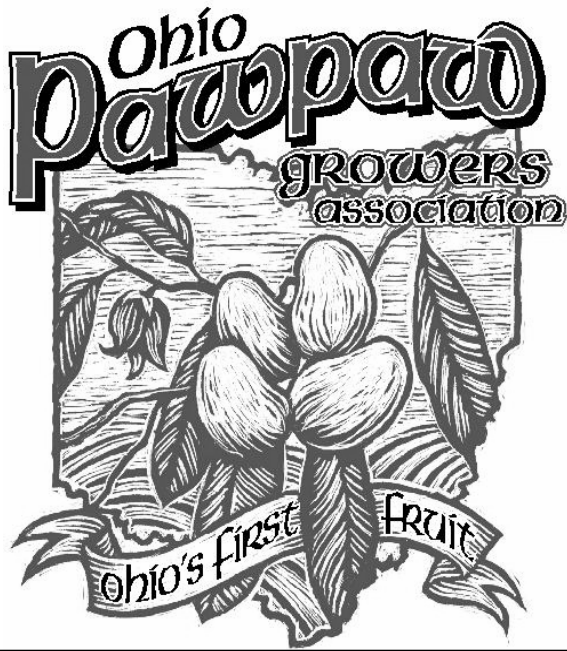
Several individuals demonstrated various grafting methods. OPGA president, Ron Powell demonstrated the whip and tongue graft on seedling pawpaw trees with named pawpaw varieties.

Don Cullman, with Ohio Nut Growers, demonstrated cleft-grafting. He grafted *Manchurian Ash*, a variety resistant to Emerald Ash Borer, onto an existing ash tree on the Glaser property. Larry Cook of Jasper, Indiana demonstrated other grafting methods he has found successful. Chip budding on pawpaw seedlings was demonstrated by Dick Glaser.

After the demonstrations, workshop participants worked hands-on using the whip and tongue method to graft named varieties onto a pawpaw seedling. Each left the workshop with their newly grafted tree and new knowledge of the pawpaw. It was a very successful day.

If you missed this year's event, plan to attend next spring. We are scheduled to meet in Marysville, Ohio with Don and Barbara Cullman as our host. Date TBA.

**Please check your mailing label
for current membership status.**



We need your help

One of the challenges that the OPGA faces each year but especially this year, is the increasing demand for fresh and frozen pawpaws. I hear of pawpaws being sold at Farmer's Markets, restaurants, and other sources but we have no other information on the source of the pawpaws. We would like to request that if you run across pawpaws at local markets or events, you would send us the information on the source of the pawpaws. We receive many requests for pawpaws and we want to set up part of our web site as a market place for buyers and sellers of pawpaws.

We have seen an increased demand for local grown foods. This fall, we have had three requests for pawpaws for local food "dinners."

A thank you for all of all volunteers

As we wrap up the pawpaw season I want to sincerely thank all the OPGA members who volunteered their time and energy with our various events.

Dick Glaser, Dave Simpson, Tony Russell, and Travis Carney worked with me at the Farm Science Review in London, Ohio over the three day event.

Terry and Dick Glaser helped me at Heritage Days at Camp Dennison in May.

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www.Ohiopawpaw.com

Pawpaw Pickins is published biannually by the OPGA, an organization dedicated to advancing education and knowledge of pawpaw culture, encouraging the planting of pawpaws, the management of native pawpaws, and perpetuating the utilization of all pawpaw products.

OPGA Dues

We are now able to print mailing labels with each member's anniversary date when dues are due. Dues will now be collected on your anniversary date. We hope that the change will be helpful.

Please renew your membership in OPGA and show your support. Your continued support is needed for educating and promoting the use of pawpaws.

Go to the OPGA web site—
Ohiopawpaw.com for a membership form.

Thank you cont.

Dave Simpson spent a day at the Ohio Pawpaw Festival (Chris Chmiel, trademark holder) enlightening people with educational brochures and signing up new members.

Richard and Susan Glaser educated and distributed fruit samples and pawpaw baked goods for two days at Krohn Conservatory for the Great Outdoor Weekend.

Kelly Wanstrath, a student at Cincinnati State, Gail Kern, a volunteer at CNC, and Terry helped me at Cincinnati Nature Center educating people about pawpaws and distributing fruit samples and pawpaw baked goods for the Great Outdoor Weekend.

A very special thanks goes to Gary Gottenbusch of Servatii's Pastry Shop & Deli. Gary provided Pawpaw Bites for Heritage Days, lunch at our annual meeting and lunch for the Pawpaw Workshop at Kentucky State University.

Due to your efforts, hundreds of people have been introduced to pawpaws!