North American Pawpaw Growers Association

PAWPAW PICKIN'S

State Chapter: Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association

Autumn 2011

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OPGA is now a State Chapter of NAPGA

The idea of changing the name of Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association was introduced several years ago and was thoroughly discussed by members and at that time decided to postpone any further consideration of a name change. At the Annual Meeting held at Wilmington College this past May, the OPGA members agreed with the Board members and we officially organized the North American Pawpaw Growers Association and the Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association is now a State Chapter.

It was noted that we now have members in 23 states. Kentucky, Indiana, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Virginia have growing numbers of OPGA members. I have spoken to individuals from Canada who asked if they could join and other OPGA members that said they know of individuals who are reluctant to join OPGA because it is an "Ohio" organization. Remember that we are now calling the name of the fruit, North American pawpaw.

I hope that you agree with this change. Since there is basically no "national" pawpaw organization. I believe that the Board has taken a bold step in filling this void.

We have many challenges ahead. We need to rewrite the by-laws for the OPGA and write new by-laws for the NAPGA, change the newsletter to reflect the new name, create a new logo, change the letterhead on all of our publications, and get the word out why it was necessary to change the name. Your input and support is important to us and the future of the NAPGA and OPGA. Any suggestions and/or comments you have, please let us know.

Mission Statement

NAPGA is an organization of pawpaw enthusiasts and backyard and commercial 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.

Please check your mailing label to see when your dues are due.

2012 OPGA Annual Meeting

The 2012 OPGA annual meeting will be held at Fox Paw Ridge Farm located in Adams County, Ohio.

Plans are being made to have a full day of grafting with grafting experts from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences with a variety of fruit and nut trees.

The May meeting date will be posted on the OPGA web site, and e-mails will be sent to everyone on our list. Be sure your address is current!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

North American Pawpaw?

I was requested by our Web Mistress regarding a change, in part, of the common name of pawpaw when referring to *Asimina triloba*. Since *Asimina triloba* is now being grown around the world (Italy, England, Germany, Portugal, South Korea, Romania, etc.), the pawpaw, *Asimina triloba*, is being increasingly confused with papaya, *Carica papaya*. The common name of papaya is also "pawpaw" around the world. "Pawpaw" and "papaw" are common synonyms of papaya in North America and elsewhere.

In order to avoid confusion between "pawpaw" and "papaya", I have spoken with Dr. Kirk Pomper, Kentucky State University (Principal Investigator of Horticulture, Curator-USDA-National Clonal Germplasm Repository for Pawpaw, and Adjunct Associate Professor of Horticulture-University of Kentucky), and NAPGA and OPGA future publications and literature will reflect the common name, pawpaw, *A. triloba*, as North American pawpaw.

President's Patch: Case for a National N.A. Pawpaw Evaluation Program

The N.A. pawpaw growers need to be able to make N.A. pawpaw selections based on the collective experience and observations of both the large and small growers. There is little information in books, websites, and plant catalogs available to us. We need to collect and make available our experiences and observations. The Regional Variety Trials are over and even though the plots remain, there is much more information to gather and observations that could be made and distributed.

We need to be doing long-term evaluations. We need to establish a network or partners in both the public and private sectors that will embark on new N.A. pawpaw evaluation programs with the goal of providing better overall information for making N.A. pawpaw selection decisions. We need to evaluate N.A. pawpaws for insects, diseases, flowering characteristics, ripening dates, fruit size, and other horticultural features.

It would be great to have an idea of how N.A. pawpaw cultivars compare relative to *Phyllosticta* leaf spot. Are there regional differences in the level of *Phyllosticta* leaf spot on N.A. pawpaws. Is *Phyllosticta* a significant problem on the fruit?

I am not a horticulture researcher but can collect data if shown how to do so. We need a set of standards so that we can collect data and make observations in a consistent and repeatable way.

I have written an article on *Phyllosticta* for this issue and used the following descriptors: trace, light, moderate, and heavy to describe the levels of *Phyllosticta* on the foliage. I did include any observations on the fruit. It may be to some an arbitrary observation but I have spent a life time observing insects and diseases. I also included a chart on my observations.

Unfortunately several of the "best" tasting N. A. pawpaws come from trees that develop heavy levels of *Phyllosticta* on the foliage and fruit. When you observe large fruit that has cracked open due to *Phyllosticta*, I ask myself why aren't we selecting N. A. pawpaws for other qualities than large good tasting fruit with few seeds?

Even though the N.A. pawpaws seem to come through the years of heavy levels of *Phyllosticta*, but does it affect the overall health of the plant, or decrease fruit production the following year, etc.

Do we need to think about establishing a National North American Pawpaw Evaluation Program that are in divergent environmental conditions in different areas of the country that can provide a richer database for N.A. Pawpaw growers. We already have a partial evaluation program in place with the Regional Variety Trial plots but there are additional N.A. pawpaw growers than ten years ago and with their inclusion, the evaluation program could fill in the many gaps that are now evident. It would be beneficial to the N.A. pawpaw nurseries to know how well their offerings are doing in other regions of North America. A common question that I have been asked this year is, "will this variety ripen in my area?" I have several reports that some of the "newer" varieties do not ripen in the northern range of the N.A. pawpaw.

In summary, the differences due to environmental variables across the country and now around the globe, as well as from one year to the next, the change in susceptibility of a particular taxon of the N.A. pawpaw due to the development of new pathogen genetics, the deeper understanding of the intertwining within the disease triangle—these are among the many reasons it is important to improve the accuracy of our perceptions and our horticultural solutions and practices.

- Ron

Paw-mpkin Pie

by Terry Powell

2/3 cup granulated sugar
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp ground ginger
1/2 tsp ground cloves
8 ounces canned pumpkin
8 ounces pureed pawpaw pulp
10 ounces evaporated milk (**not the whole can**)

- 9 inch deep dish pie pan (must be able to hold 4 cups)
- Mix the sugar, spices, and salt in a small bowl.
- Beat the eggs in a large bowl.
- Stir in the pumpkin, pawpaw pulp, and sugar-spice mixture.
- Gradually stir in evaporated milk
- Bake in preheated oven (425 degrees F) for 15 minutes.
- Reduce temperature to 350 degrees F and bake for 40 to 50 minutes or until knife inserted near center comes out clean.
- Cool for 2 hours.
- Refrigerate until served.

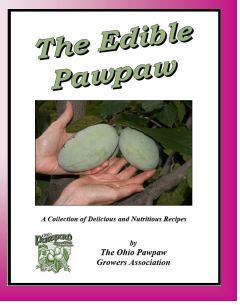
May be served with whipped cream.

Serves 8

Request for Pawpaw Recipes

The Edible Pawpaw recipe book is nearly sold out. Time to start work on another! Please send your pawpaw recipes to:

Ron Powell
6549 Amelia Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45241
or Botrytis@fuse.net.



Please check the address panel (p8) for current membership & dues status.

Sunflower Pawpaw

by Derek Morris

'Sunflower' is one of the very few varieties of pawpaw that is noted by some to be self fertile. I cannot verify if this is true since I have many varieties planted but I have read several accounts of people with a lone 'sunflower' that produces fruit. After reading all these accounts and observing my 'sunflower' it would not surprise me at all if it indeed is self fertile. It can be safely said that 'sunflower' is certainly a productive variety. It also seems that 'sunflower' tends to grow more wide than tall, I do not know if this is always the case but mine has. I have younger ones planted out now so I will see if this holds true of them as well. Not only is 'sunflower' productive but it's fruits are large in size. In fact 'sunflower' produces my single largest fruit every year and has since it started producing 8 or so years back. Many of it's fruits are at or slightly less than one pound so there is little doubt why it is touted as one of the best for commercial purposes.

The flavor of 'sunflower' is generally very good but I have noted a slight bitter finish in "some" of it's fruits. Some people seem to notice this more than others. Nonetheless 'sunflower' is the favorite among many growers and a variety I would not want to be without. It always ranks high in taste tests. It also has nice thick flesh/texture and relatively few but large seed. One other feature of this variety is that it is among the latest ripening, so late that growers in far northern areas may not get ripe fruit. It has been noted that seedlings from 'sunflower' make especially strong rootstock for those who want to do their own grafting. According to the KSU website 'sunflower' was discovered in 1970 in the wild near Chanute, Kansas by Milo Gibson.

BEST FRUIT WINNERS

According to our records, here is a list of Best Fruit Winners from past annual Ohio Pawpaw Festivals (Chris Chmiel TM Owner).

2001—Unnamed wild fruit entered by Mason Chambers
2002—Shawnee Trail entered by Dick Glaser
2003—Quaker Delight entered by Dick Glaser
2004—Hale entered by George Hale
2005—NC-1 entered by Fox Paw Ridge Farm
2006—Sunflower entered by Fox Ridge Farm
2007—Rana entered by ?
2008—Prairie King entered by Ken Neighbors
2009—Shenandoah entered by George Hale
2010—Sunflower entered by ?
2011—Overleese entered by Fox Paw Ridge Farm

Bordered Leaf Spot
(*Phyllosticta asiminae*)
on North American Pawpaw
(*Asimina triloba*)
by Ron Powell, PhD

The N.A. pawpaw is well known for its freedom from serious insect and disease pests. However, in some areas of the native range of the pawpaw, *Phyllosticta asiminae*, Bordered leaf spot, is increasingly causing injury to the foliage and more importantly, the fruit.

Phyllosticta sp., according to Agrios, is a "common mitosporic fungi causing primarily foliar but also other symptoms on a large variety of host plants." Mitosporic fungi is another name for the imperfect **fungi and they produce asexual spores called conidia.** The classification of the imperfect fungi is not easy since there are no sexual spores produced.

Phyllosticta fungus grows on leaves. However, the same organism is called *Phoma* if it is found on stems and the conidia measure up to 15u and it is called Macrophoma if the conidia measures over 15u. "All three genera are characterized by small ostiolate (a pore-like opening) pycnidia (an asexual spherical or flask-shaped fruiting body) sunk into the substratum, very short condiophores (a specialized hypha on which one or more conidia are produced), and hyline (colorless/transparent) spherical or oval spores) (Alexopoulos, 1962).

Martin stated, "(Etym. Phyllon leaf and stictos, pricked or spotted, a punctate or spotted leaf). Perithecia lenticular, thinly membraneous, covered by the epidermis, but often protruded, punctiform, growing in discolored areas of leaves, and rarely of branches, sporulate small, ovoid, entire, hyaline, or light green, basidia very small or none."

Martin further describes *Phyllostica Asiminae* as "spots pale brown, irregular, 0.5-1 cm, border dark, narrow raised, perithecia black, subglobose, barely erumpent, epipyllous, scattered, 100—125u in diameter; sporulate obovate, subhyaline, tinged with green, 7-9 x 5-6u. "An additional symptom of Phyllostocta is that diseased tissue often falls out, leaving holes in the leaf."

The Ohio Naturalist in 1901 described *P. asiminae* as "spots pale brownish, of irregular shape (1/2-1 cm), bordered by a distinct, dark raised line: perithecia subglobose, deeply immersed, their apices barely visible on the upper surface of the leaf, scattered, 100—120 mmm. Diam.; spores yellowish with slightly greenish tinge obovate, 7-9 x 5-6 mmm."

P. asiminae can occur on the foliage and surface of the fruit (Missouri Beginning Farming) and can cause the fruit to crack when it expands and destroy the fruit (ATTRA). If the fruit lesions are not severe, the lesions can be removed from the peel and consumed. Wet weather in spring and early summer contributes to the development and growth of *Phyllosicta* (Univ. of Nevada).

Ames and Greer report that *Phyllosticta* occurs only during periods of high humidity and frequent rainfall. Dense foliage and lack of air circulation contribute to the development of *Phyllosticta*, so proper spacing and pruning can reduce the incidence of the fungus.

There was no research that could be found on the control of *P. Asiminae* on N. A. pawpaws. However, by looking at the control of *Phyllosticta* leaf spots on other woody plants, some general control measures can be proposed for *Phyllosticta* on N. A. pawpaws. It is believed that the spores are splashed by rain from the previous year's fallen leaves. If in fact the spores over winter on last year's fallen leaves, then it would be possible to apply a fungicide to the soil in late fall. There are several possible fungicide choices that come to mind that are approved for fruit trees. Lime sulfur or Bordeaux sprays need to be evaluated and recommended for the control of *Phyllosticta* on N. A. pawpaw.

Generally, protective control measures are not warranted for the control of most leaf spots diseases but some of the pawpaw selections are very susceptible to *Phyllosticta* injury.

Recommended practices for the control of Bordered Leaf Spot:

1) One recommendation is that fallen leaves and fruit are collected and then disposed of (composted, burned or hauled away) in the fall, however, there is little to no evidence that any of these practices will significantly reduce the level of infection the

following spring or summer.

2) Fertilize the N.A. pawpaw trees in early spring. Research on the exact amount of fertilizer to be applied has yet to be finalized but Kentucky State University recommends before budbreak in early spring 1 oz. N per tree the first year after planting, 3-4 oz. N per tree (about 50 lbs/A at 295 trees per acre) in years 2-5, and 5-6 oz. N per tree in year 6 and beyond.

3) Adequate air circulation through the leaf canopy may aid in the drying of the foliage, preventing the fungal spores from germinating.

4) Proper pruning and thinning of the pawpaw tree will improve air circulation through the tree.

5) Adequate air circulation can be enhanced by the proper spacing of the trees. A minimum of 8 feet between trees is recommended by Kentucky State University.

6) Avoid wetting the foliage when watering or irrigating pawpaws in the landscape late in the day so the foliage will have time to dry.

Disease assessment:

I have been observing and recording the severity of *Phyllosticta* using the following numerical values. Visible and measureable things to consider are the size of the leaf spots, the number of leaf spots, whether holes are present, the number of leaves infected, fruit lesions, and date of observation. Severe injury can be observed on the fruit and few leaf spots may be found on the leaves. There may or may not be any correlation between the level of infection on the foliage and fruit.

1) No symptoms. No leaf spots present.
2) Trace. Leaf spots are small, no holes and just a few leaves scattered on the tree.
3) Light. Numerous small leaf spots scattered on leaves on the tree and no holes present in the leaves.
4) Moderate. Large leaf spots but not coalescing and a few holes are observed in the center of the leaf spots on several leaves on the tree.
5) Severe. Large leaf spots coalescing; numerous holes observed in the leaf spots and many leaves scattered around the tree.

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Don't let your NAPGA/OPGA membership lapse. Check the address panel, call Ron or send him an email. Don't miss any important benefits of your membership.

We receive requests for information and questions about our activities. All of this information is just a few mouse clicks away on the NAPGAOPGA web site at Ohiopawpaw.com. All of our past newsletters are archived at Ohio State University AG link on our web site.

The 3rd International Pawpaw Conference

by Marc Stradler

The 3rd International Pawpaw Conference was held September 9th and 10th at Kentucky State University, in Frankfort, Kentucky. The conference was sponsored by the Kentucky State University, the Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association (OPGA), and the PawPaw Foundation (PPF). 112 people attended the event from 18 states and several countries—Canada, Romania, and The Netherlands. It had been 10 years since the previous conference was held. Speakers for the two-day event, as well as attendees, included scientists, growers, and enthusiasts. OPGA's president, Ron Powell, along with Neal Peterson, President of PPF, and the University's Dr. Kirk Pomper were co-chairs of the conference's planning committee.

Friday's program was held at the main campus of the KYSU in Frankfort. Saturday's program was held at the University's farm, south of the city, where acres of pawpaws have been planted. Presentations included grafting techniques, marketing strategy, growers' reports, new varieties, and developments in invitro micropropagation of pawpaws. Each day participants were treated to pawpaw tastings. Tables were filled with slices of perfectly ripe named varieties, as well as some KYSU experimental varieties. While the classroom presentations were very educational, it seemed that the most popular part of the conference was the orchard tour at the KYSU farm. As Dr. Pomper was leading the tour through rows of hundreds of trees, he invited everyone to pick up pawpaws that had dropped to the ground. Normally, because of ongoing research, visitors are not allowed to pick up fruit at the farm, but Dr. Pomper's team had finished cataloging fruit, and it was only going to rot. The scene was like a group of children on an Easter egg hunt, as people scurried under the trees, picking up armloads of pawpaws.

Photo by Marc Stradler. Jerry Lehman, left foreground, and Sherry Stadler, right foreground.

Neal Peterson, left , and Dr. Pomper, right, standing in the Regional Variety Trial Plot at Kentucky State University.

The event was capped off on Saturday evening with a pawpaw extravaganza dinner, featuring eight dishes made with pawpaws. The pièce de résistance, as participants had hoped, was of course the pawpaw ice cream made by OPGA member Gary Gottenbusch, owner of Servatii Pastry Shop and Deli, Cincinnati, OH.

Roundup is Labeled For The North American Pawpaw!

Stephen Adams, Registration Manager, glyphosate, Chemical Regulatory Affairs states, "There is no EPA crop group defined as 'Tropical and Subtropical Trees and Fruit' so, I believe the confusion only lies with our label categorizing pawpaw as such. While most of the crops listed in this section of the label are confined to the warmer weather of the tropics, pawpaw (Asimina triloba) is the only member of the family Annonaceae...that is not confined to the tropics. Furthermore, the FR Notice that establishes the tolerance for the pawpaw does not give a genus species name nor does the 40 CFR listing of the tolerance."

"I am, therefore, confident that the pawpaw that is native to North America (Asimina triloba) is the variety to which this tolerance refers and, therefore, the use of glyphosate for weed control around this tree, as described in the section titled "Tropical and Subtropical Trees and Fruit" in the Roundup WeatherMAX Herbicide (524-537) and Roundup PowerMAX Herbicide (524-549) labels, is a legal application."

There are several labels that list pawpaw as a labeled crop under the "tropical and subtropical trees and fruits" section. These include the Original, Powermax, Weathermax and Aim.

Check Ohiopawpaw.com for calendar & new announcement updates!

Please check address panel (p8) for your dues/account status.

North American Pawpaw Postage Stamp Proposal

by John Vukmirovich

The OPGA sent out a memo to our members in April. "John Vukmirovich, a member of both the Pawpaw Foundation and the Ohio Pawpaw Grower's Association, is thinking of reviving a moribund project: getting the United States Postal Service to issue a first class rate pawpaw stamp.

John received sufficient encouragement and support and went forward with the project. John states, "I worked on the proposal during May and June of this year; after several revisions, aided by the comments of a handful of pawpaw devotees, I finished the final draft in at the end of July. I submitted it August 15th. The USPS has a committee that considers up to 10,000 request per year from the citizenry. They meet quarterly. I submitted the proposal when I did in hopes that it will be taken up this upcoming fall quarter, or better yet, the first quarter of 2012. The guidelines for the required written proposal are very strict, and they don't seem to favor organizations or causes, but rather, actual ideas from common citizens that would have a broad appeal to many Americans."

"Mindful of this, I tried to write a proposal that was visual, evocative, appealing to the heart as well as to the eye. The text of the proposal is below."

"They say that rivers flow down to the sea from the land, but rivers of the imagination flow into the land, and are a part of it, flowing from the Appalachians and the Alleghenies west to the Mississippi, moving in and among the mountains, turning into streams and creeks that glide past and alongside countless ridges and into innumerable hollows, until the waters and the land are inseparable. Alongside those rivers, creeks, and streams, deep in the hollows and on the sides of the ridges, in the shadow of the mountains, grows a fruit-bearing tree that like the rivers is a part of the land itself, inseparable: *Asimina triloba*, the North American pawpaw."

"The flowers of the pawpaw, our largest edible native fruit, are as visually striking as the fruit is delectable. The purple flowers, with their wide and pointed petals, bloom usually by mid-June. The six-petaled and two-tiered flowers are textured as if cut from crepe paper. The back tier's large petals point to ten, two, and six on the clock face of nature, while the first tier's are at noon, four, and eight. But the effect, accentuated by the yellow, pollen-rich center, is timeless. The purple is deep and rich, as if an artist first laid down a chocolate-colored under painting, an imprimatur, before applying the purple, the color of the under layer adding a sweetness, one might say, to the flower's color, if not to the fruit itself."

"Once pollinated, the clusters of light-green fruit swell until they are roughly mango sized and shaped, their skins irregularly daubed with a patina of brackish purple or brown. Inside, the flesh is a creamy yellow that darkens as the fruit matures, and at its peak, has a custard-like consistency, while the fruit as a whole gives off a heady floral aroma. The flavor teases the senses, banana-vanilla upfront, but at times behind that, pineapple or coconut accents, befitting its long, droopy tropical leaves. The bean-shaped seeds are large and dark chocolate brown."

"For centuries, Americans—from the Native Americans to the settlers, from George Washington to Thomas Jefferson, from the members of the Lewis and Clark expedition to today's many devotees—have harvested and relished pawpaws on late September or early October days. Some consume pawpaws right after being picked, while others puree the flesh and fold it into batter for cakes, cookies, and quick breads, or blend it into custards, ice cream, and smoothies, the last with a healthy splash of dark rum, if you please. Pawpaws are also part of American folk culture, along with crazy quilts, tadpoles in Mason jars, and classic folk tunes such as "Shenandoah," "Barbara Allen," and of course, 'Way Down Yonder in the Pawpaw Patch.' Pawpaws belong on back porches on golden September afternoons, at suddenly conceived Indian Summer picnics, and at the family dinner table after Sunday services with the first hints of autumn in the morning air. Pawpaws belong to the world of red and black-checked wool shirts, dungarees, and grandpa's fedora, and where children still read and dream about Daniel Boone, Davy Crocket, and Mike Fink, as well as Tom, Huck, and Jim. And some varieties of pawpaws are named for some of America's most storied rivers: Allegheny, Potomac, Wabash, Susquehanna, and Shenandoah."

"Hold a booklet of current-issue "Forever Stamps" in front of you, and instead of a monotonous array of Liberty Bells, imagine an alternating two-stamp depiction of pawpaws, the first focusing on the deep purple flowers with foliage, the second on a cluster of ripened fruit with one in the foreground cut open to reveal the subtle yellow flesh and the chocolate-colored seeds: one can almost smell the tropical scent and savor the unique texture of the fruit. One might also well wish it were still necessary to lick a stamp."

"*Asimina triloba*, the North American pawpaw, has been, and still is, a part of the texture of American folk culture, in food, in music, and in history. Pawpaws are found along ridges and in the shadow of mountains, and along creeks and streams that empty into rivers that are part of the land itself, as the pawpaw is of the land itself, inseparable from the land, America."

"What can you do to support this effort? Please send a postcard to the USPS Advisory Committee with a brief message referencing the proposal. Here's the address:

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
C/O Stamp Development
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Efant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

The process takes up to three years, and the USPS does not inform those who have submitted accepted proposals ahead of time. Thus, we'll find out if we have been successful if and when the USPS announces the release of the stamp. Feel free to check Pawpawstamp@gmail.com for updated information.
And please pass the word around!

Pawpaw Pickin's

A publication of NAPGA/OPGA

6549 Amelia Dr.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45241

Autumn 2011

North American Pawpaw,
***Asimina triloba*,**
is the largest edible fruit native to North America.
It is found in 26 states and 1 Canadian Province.

NAPGA Editor

visit us at our web site:
www.Ohiopawpaw.com

***Pawpaw Pickin's* is published biannually by the NAPGA, 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.**

NAPGA/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 NAPGA/OPGA and show your support. Your continued support is needed for the education and promotion of pawpaws.

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

Please check the address panel above for your dues/account status