



PAWPAW PICKIN'S



State Chapter:
Ohio Pawpaw Growers
Association

Fall 2012
Volume 12, Issue 2

Another Successful Year!

2012 has been a very successful year for the North American Pawpaw Growers Association / the Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association. The Ohio Pawpaw Festival (Chris Chmiel, trademark owner), the Farm Science Review, and the Paul Bunyan Show were all well attended this year and we added over 70 new members to our roster and added over 100 new names to our mailing list. We sold the "Edible Pawpaw" cookbook, and pawpaw soap. We focused on recruiting new members and with a membership they received a free seedling pawpaw.

We did not benefit the treasury as in the past but we did add many new members to our roster. We passed out over 800 tri fold flyers, "What is a Pawpaw," at the Ohio Pawpaw Festival as well as many of our popular educational handouts.

Tony Russell and a friend of the OPGA, Jeff Frontz, manned the LOUA APPs Festival in Columbus, OH this past September. The "APP" stands for Art, Plants, and Pawpaws! This was the first year of the festival and OPGA was one of the sponsors. A special thanks go to Jeff for contacting us and assisting Tony on the day of the festival.

Two Board Directors, Hope Keller and Dick Glaser, retired this year and we want to thank them for their contribution and support of the OPGA to help make it a much stronger organization than when they became board members.



We receive requests for information and questions about our activities. All of this information is just a few mouse clicks away on the OPGA website at

Ohiopawpaw.com

All of our past newsletters are archived at Ohio State University AG link on our website.

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.

How to locate back issues of *Pawpaw Pickin's*

I'll be the first to admit that locating past issues of *Pawpaw Pickin's* is not easy but it IS possible.

Navigate to the web site: Ohiopawpaw.com and then go to the **OPGA Info** box and under research partners, click **Ohio State University AG**. On the OSU web site, click on **Horticulture**, then **Fruits**, then **Pawpaws** and finally, **Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association Newsletter**.

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Please check your mailing label for membership status.

President's Patch *by OPGA President, Dr. Ron Powell, PhD*

I have heard from a number of individuals regarding the late publication of the fall newsletter. I am fully responsible for the lateness of the publication. I did not have sufficient material for a full publication and needed to request help from several individuals to write articles. For some reason this has been a difficult fall but hopefully, we are back on track.

I have been asked many times as to what benefits does being a member of the NAPGA/OPGA provide. The benefits include but are not limited to:

- NAPGA voting privileges at National Conference
- Annual OPGA meeting with voting privileges
- Seasonal tours of North American pawpaw grower farms
- Biannual "Pawpaw Pickin's"- NAPGA/OPGA Newsletter
- Educational events
- Grafting workshops and scion wood exchange
- Learn how best to grow North American pawpaws in your area (and around the world)
- Learn about new varieties and research on North American pawpaws
- Learn how to improve natural stands of N. A. pawpaws
- Exchange ideas on growing, harvesting, marketing and uses
- Exchange North American pawpaw recipes
- Opportunities to network with international pawpaw growers and others interested in N. A. pawpaws
- Opportunities to volunteer & educate others about the benefits of N. A. pawpaws
- NAPGA/OPGA educational publications
- Hands-on instruction related to propagation and care of N. A. pawpaw trees
- Access to experts on N. A. pawpaw cultivars / varieties
- Help preserve & study the existing wild N. A. pawpaw genetics
- Promote N. A. pawpaw research
- Sponsor International N. A. pawpaw conferences & NAPGA meetings
- Access to past Pawpaw Pickin's news letters
- Web site: Ohiopawpaw.com
- Online NAPGA/OPGA Discussion Group: <http://yahoo.com/group/Ohiopawpaw>

The challenges of being a pawpaw grower never cease to amaze me! This year we were met with an early spring, which is usually considered to be good, but we had a late spring freeze in April followed by a brutally hot, dry summer. I heard that in Cincinnati, this past July was the hottest on record.

The late freeze killed the open pawpaw flowers and some terminal leaves (see page 5) but I did not observe any fruit that was already set on the trees being injured by the freeze. I also observed the flower buds that were not open did not sustain any freeze injury. So, I had early flowers and late flowers that survived the freeze. Thus, the crop was reduced in quantity by about a third.

We harvested our first ripe pawpaw fruit on July 24th . This is about ten days earlier than 2011. We picked our last fruit on October 11, about one week later than last year. The early harvest was more than likely due to the early spring as well as the hot, dry weather. The fruit was smaller than normal size. I also observed that much more fruit turned yellow but was not necessarily ripe or very aromatic. The overall quality of the pulp was not as good as in previous years.

In late summer, we had a number of severe storms with winds between fifty and sixty miles per hour. These winds knocked off whole clusters of fruit and stripped some trees of their leaves. These trees were already under stress due to the hot, dry weather.

As if this was not enough to deal with, the "fur" disease struck as John Neeb calls the invasion of the raccoons, skunks, squirrels, foxes, opossums, and other four-legged critters that dropped by to enjoy the ripe and sometimes unripe pawpaws. It was aggravating to see branches broken from the raccoons climbing in the trees.

In spite of all of the setbacks this year, we were still able to meet our demand for fresh fruit, frozen pulp, and seeds by processing smaller fruit that we would normally discard. We can't wait until next year to see what new challenges await us!

I want to thank all of those individuals who helped the NAPGA / OPGA last year at our many events throughout Ohio. I am not going to attempt to mention any names because I would probably forget someone and I do not want to do that. Some of our activities are not as exciting as the Pawpaw Festival or the Paul Bunyan Show such as: weeding, mulching, planting, and fertilizing pawpaw trees at various plantings around the state of Ohio. The OPGA has planted N. A. pawpaws on three sites located on Ohio State University property.

We have many ongoing activities, events, and initiatives that could always use additional help from members who are looking to help the organization. If you would like to help, call or email Ron.

- Ron

The Paul Bunyan Show-It's Not Just About Killing Trees

by Terry Powell

If you have never attended the Ohio Forestry Association's 'Paul Bunyan show' you are missing a great event that's fun for the whole family. Its big! Geared toward Ohio's logging industry, and everything associated with it, the show is held at the Guernsey country fairgrounds in Cambridge, Ohio. You will see all the latest and greatest forest industry equipment, supplies and services. There are demonstrations of heavy equipment, chain sawing (and clinics), chainsaw carving, arborist demo (and clinics), grinders and chippers, and sawmills. In addition there is representation by preservationist groups and forest industry education and seminars.

There are talks by naturalists on just about anything that walks or creeps the forest floor. There are wood crafts and secondary wood products on display, hands-on play areas for kids, full hook-up camping, and motels are close by. In addition, there is lumberjack and log burling entertainment, Ohio State Lumberjack Championships, International Lumberjack Competition, Log Loader Competition, Game of Logging (GOL) Professional and Landowner National Competitions, and don't miss the Sawmill & Woodlots Great Firewood Processor Shootout. Anything that has to do with wood is there, including vendors offering wood stoves, intricate carvings and 200 year old reclaimed wood furniture.



Of course you will find all the requisite food including some seriously good BBQ. You never know who you will see at the show. We met Paul Bunyan who assured us that he loved pawpaws and they have kept him fit and sawing these past 100 years. He didn't look a day over 30! Smokey the Bear told us that gorging on pawpaws gets him through his long hibernation (sounds like some people I know). Mr. T. Rex was there last year and he is obviously crazy about pawpaws. You can tell by the picture that he is looking for the biggest ones he can find.

The North American Pawpaw Growers Association has participated in the Paul Bunyan Show for the past 4 years. Our booth is in the educational pavilion right next to our nutty friends-- the Ohio Nut Growers Association folks. The show officials treat their vendors and educators like kings, even offering a complimentary light supper on Friday evening.



One thing we appreciate about show attendees is they are familiar with pawpaws. We just need to let them know the best management or planting practices for getting the most fruit. And we usually have to clear up misinformation. I don't know how many times I heard "Grandpa always said pawpaws are ripe when they are black", or "I was told pawpaws can't be eaten until after a frost". We tell them they are missing a lot of great pawpaws following that advice.



The NAPGA/OPGA will be participating again next year and if you would like to help at our booth next October, let Ron know by July so he can request tickets and a pass for you. If you could work a shift for several hours at the booth anytime Saturday through mid Sunday afternoon to talk with and discuss the growing of pawpaws to the public would be greatly appreciated. Also, no experience is needed—we provide on-the-job training.

Check website:
Ohiopawpaw.com
for calendar, news, announcements & updates

From Obscurity to the Dinner Table: The Pawpaw & Education



by *Dan Bissonette*

The province of Ontario, along with the neighbouring states of Michigan and New York, make up the northern extent of the natural range of the Pawpaw. In Ontario, this range is limited to the extreme southernmost portion of this province.

In its Canadian range, the Pawpaw faces some significant challenges that are more serious than prolonged winters. To begin with, much of the indigenous Pawpaw's original woodland habitat has been lost over the past 150 years due to widespread settlement. In addition, most of our region's residents are not aware of this native tree and its presence here. Even among those who do recognize this species, it is often misunderstood and under appreciated, often relegated as nothing more than a garden curiosity.

Not surprisingly, Pawpaw fruit in this region is not grown as a food crop and is not widely recognized as a food source. There is very little historical connection to this species and even less in terms of cultural significance. While the Pawpaw's presence as a species in Canada is somewhat unique, the circumstances described here are likely not much different from many other regions in the United States. In these cases, how do we move a species, which is practically gone and forgotten, from obscurity to the dinner table?

Our community group, the Naturalized Habitat Network, has spent more than one year trying to answer that very question. Through our special initiative, "Project Pawpaw" we have developed a series of events and resources that are intended to move the Pawpaw from its unrecognized and misunderstood status and into the homes, farms and dinner tables of our region.

While this initiative is made up a variety of events and resources, they are united by one common characteristic: education. Training, either formal or practical, was built into every aspect of this initiative. Separate educational opportunities were developed with the long term goal of having educated growers supplying educated consumers. Otherwise, promoting this species without a strong educational message will limit its advancement to nothing more than

a temporary garden fad.

Since we began this initiative in 2011, we have undertaken the following activities:

(1) Research and Development - Prior to going public with Project Pawpaw, we spent a few weeks planning our events and developing our educational materials. This research included my attending the International Pawpaw Conference, the Ohio Pawpaw Festival and touring Dr. Ron Powell's impressive pawpaw orchard, as well as my own experiences in tracking and growing this species over the past ten years.

(2) Public Launch - An effective launch, complete with media releases and interviews, were crucial in raising community awareness of the Pawpaw and our new initiative.

(3) Community Recruitment - Following our launch, we offered an introductory historical seminar on the Pawpaw to local historical societies. We made four of these presentations and were able to generate interest in our upcoming training sessions.

(4) Grower Training Seminars - Throughout March and early April, we conducted a series of two hour training seminars on Pawpaw cultivation. These were aimed at both home gardeners and farmers. As an incentive, successful participants were each provided with a Pawpaw seedling, along with information on where to purchase additional local seedlings. These



formal sessions were followed by a series of practical tours of local Pawpaw groves, both in their natural habitat and in cultivated settings. Participants also received ongoing consultation for

any questions and concerns relating to their own planting projects.

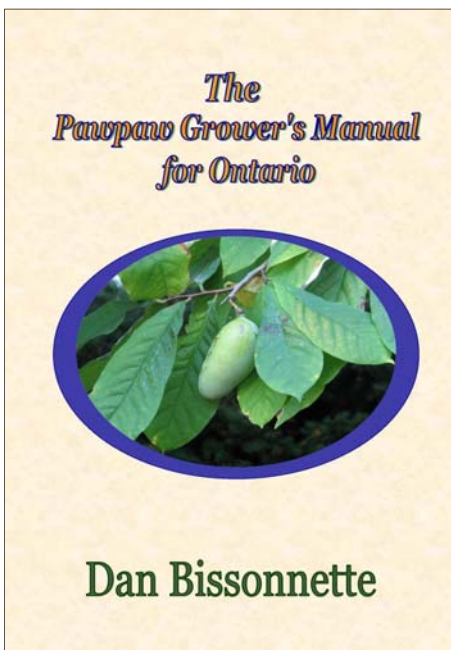
(5) Consumer Education - Coinciding with the annual Pawpaw harvest, we organized two Pawpaw Fruit Orientation Seminars. Samples of fresh fruit were provided to participants, many of whom had never tasted this fruit before. These sessions attracted a mix of professionals and amateur food aficionados.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Participants were encouraged to experiment and develop their own recipes, which is crucial in order to integrate the Pawpaw into a region's culinary traditions. So far, we have over a dozen "made in Ontario" recipes on file. Some of these participants displayed their creations at a local fair, where we sponsored its first ever Pawpaw dessert competition. Besides being a great learning opportunity for our participants, the fair proved to be great venue for raising awareness of the Pawpaw and its versatility in the kitchen. In light of their successes, we hope to offer the Pawpaw Fruit Orientation Seminar and the Pawpaw Dessert Competition as ongoing, annual traditions.

(6) The Creation of a Pawpaw Grower's Manual - As a progression of our Grower Training Seminars, we have developed a permanent educational resource. Through a timely media release, interviews and a public launch, "The Pawpaw Grower's Manual for Ontario" has generated a great deal of interest.



Since its debut in September, it has been sought after by our original participants, as well as those who are learning about the Pawpaw for the first time. In fact, demand for this book has been so strong that we have made arrangements to have it available beyond of our local community by mail order throughout Canada and the United

States. Although developing this manual has required the greatest amount of time and funds of any part of this initiative, its effects will be the most lasting and far reaching.

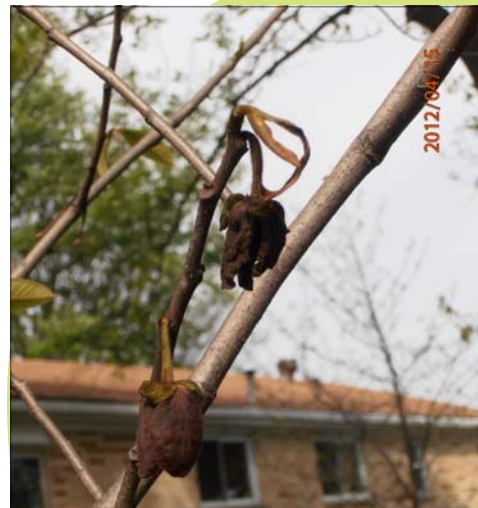
As we move into the final phase of Project Pawpaw, we are pleased with how we have met our targets. For example, we have attracted close to 50 participants to our Consumer Education Program, who continue to develop new locally made Pawpaw recipes. We have provided training to over 150 participants to our Grower Training Seminars and distribut-

ed over 100 Pawpaw seedlings in the process. Furthermore, we are now reaching a new, expanding audience through our Pawpaw Grower's Manual.

Overall, we're pleased with our efforts to restore the Pawpaw's presence in our region, to raise public awareness of this species and to establish it as a community supported food crop. Moving our native Pawpaw from obscurity to the dinner table has not been a simple process, but it has been a rewarding one, with positive benefits that will be realized for years to come.

"The Pawpaw Grower's Manual for Ontario" can be purchased through mail order. The mailing rates for the U. S. is \$15.25. Make the check or money order to "The Naturalized Habitat Network." Be sure to include your complete address and zip code. Mail your order to: The Naturalized Habitat Network, P. O. Box 292, Essex, Ontario N8M 2Y3.

www.naturalizedhabitat.org



Freeze injury on April 15, 2012.

Note the dead terminal growth and the flower buds in the top pic.

The bottom pic shows the freeze injury to the new growth.



Pawpaw Meat Loaf

by
Terry Powell, Ohio

- 1 Cup soft bread crumbs (about 1½ slices)
- 1 Cup pureed pawpaw pulp, divided
- 1 Pound ground beef or ground turkey
- 1 Slightly beaten egg
- 1 TBsp finely chopped onion
- 1 tsp dried celery flakes
- 2 tsp Dijon-style mustard, divided
- ½ tsp salt
- Dash pepper

9x9x2 inch baking pan

Preparation:

Combine bread crumbs and ½ cup pawpaw puree
Mix in ground meat, egg, onion, celery flakes, 1 tsp Dijon mustard, salt and pepper.
Blend thoroughly
Shape into a round loaf
Place loaf in baking pan

Glaze:

- ½ cup pureed pawpaw pulp
- 1 tsp Dijon-style mustard
- 1 TBsp brown sugar
- 1 TBsp vinegar

With a spoon, make a shallow crater-like depression in top of loaf.
Combine pawpaw puree, brown sugar, vinegar and Dijon mustard.
Pour into depression.

Bake: at 350 degrees for 1 hour

Serves 4 or 5

Don't let your OPGA membership lapse. Check your mailing label, call Ron or send him an email. Don't miss any important benefits of OPGA membership.

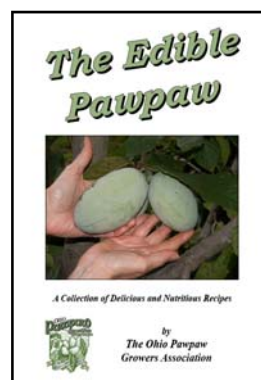
PA Golden #1

This variety is one of the earliest to ripen and is often recommended for those in more northerly climates where ripening may be an issue. It was selected and named by John Gordon of Amherst, NY from seed that originally came from George Slate's collection. It is a medium sized fruit that according to the Kentucky State University's website averages 110 grams. It has medium sized fruit in my orchard and is one of the most productive varieties I have been growing. Because of its prodigious bloom I would guess that it is a great pollinator for other varieties. PA Golden #1 and the variety 'Sunflower' always set the most bloom and set the most fruit in my orchard year after year. While all pawpaw trees are ornamental this variety seems particularly so with its very long leaves and general good tree shape.

The flavor of 'PA Golden #1' is very good and I always seem to detect just a slight orange note in the background. I have never noted any strong or bitter after-taste in this variety unless it gets over-ripe. Compared to 'Overleese', 'Mango', and 'Sunflower' its fruits are smaller and more elongated in shape being very attractive and develop a nice yellowish cast to the skin when just ripe. The texture is medium firm and quite smooth. Overall there is quite a broad range of fruit sizes on 'PA Golden #1' with many smaller fruit and a few that are rather large sized. It produces enough to make it a good commercial variety in my opinion and is an excellent variety for those who want a range of fruit sizes.

An additional note on the PA Golden #1 is that PA Golden #1 is the most common selection in the trade, however, Ron Powell has in his collection, PA Golden #2, PA Golden #3, and PA Golden #4. I do not have sufficient data on the other PA Golden selections to make any decision as to whether or not they offer any superior traits to PA Golden #1.

by Derek Morris, North Carolina



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
Email: Botrytis@fuse.net.**

Rhizopus Rot

Rhizopus rot or *Rhizopus stolonifer* is a weak parasite on ripe fruit. It is primarily a disease of overripe fruit in storage. *Rhizopus stolonifer* is best known as the "black bread mold." A few of the foods attacked are: nectarines, peaches, sweet cherries, plums, sweet potatoes, and North American pawpaw.

Infection in the early stages of fruit ripening by *Rhizopus* requires injury to open the fruit skin, such as hail-injured or cracked fruit on the tree. On ripe fruit, *Rhizopus* rot can spread from fruit to fruit without injury at the point of contact. Fungal growth is rapid at 80° F but ceases at 40° F.

White, whiskery mold appears on the surface of infected fruits, followed by the appearance of fuzzy looking mass of grey-black spores. The tiny, grey-black structures, sporangiophores, are produced on stalks above the white mold. The first time that I was introduced to this fungus was a picture sent to me by Jerry Lehman, I have since seen the fungus at several other N. A. pawpaw orchards.



Taking a rest at Gwynne Conservation Center, London, OH

John Neeb, Tony Russell & Karl McCain



NAPGA/OPGA booth at the Ohio Pawpaw Festival

(Chris Chmiel, trademark owner)



Weed eater used to "slice" a ripe N. A. pawpaw



Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association

State Native Fruit

PRESORTED
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Pawpaw Pickin's

A publication of NAPGA/OPGA

6549 Amelia Dr.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45241

Fall 2012

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/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.

Please renew your membership in NAPGA/OPGA and show your support. Your continued support is needed for the education and promotion of North American 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

- Ron Powell, Ohio - Chapter President
- Greg Hoerrt, Ohio-Chapter 1st - Vice President
- Tony Russell, Ohio - Chapter 2nd Vice President
- Dave Simpson, Ohio - Chapter Treasurer
- Terry Powell, Ohio - Secretary
- Deanna Powell, Ohio - Web Mistress
- Dale Brooks, Alabama
- Lee Brumley, Indiana
- Cliff England, Kentucky
- Gary Gottenbusch, Ohio
- Jerry Lehman, Indiana
- Jason Newmann, Ohio
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visit us at our web site:
www.Ohiopawpaw.com

Pawpaw Pickin's is published biannually by the NAPGA/OPGA, an organization dedicated to advancing education and knowledge of North American pawpaw culture, encouraging the planting of pawpaws, the management of native pawpaws, and perpetuating the utilization of all N.A. pawpaw products.