



Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association

PAWPAW

PICKIN'S

Volume 7, Issue 1

Spring 2007

2007 OPGA Annual Meeting & Workshop

10 AM - 3 PM on April 21st

Jackson, Ohio is the location of our next Annual Meeting and Workshop, April 21. Dave Simpson has graciously volunteered to host this year's meeting. Weather permitting, we will have some demonstrations outside in Dave's pawpaw patch and in his new pawpaw orchard next to his barn.

From St. Rt. 32, take St. Rt. 93 south in Jackson. Turn right on Four Mile Road. Four Mile Road is the second right past Walmart. Go straight at the intersection on Franklin Valley Rd. Go across the bridge and Dave's farm is the first drive on the right—7455 Franklin Valley Rd. Dave's phone number is, just in case you get lost, **740-286-3608**.

There will be a \$8 fee for members and a \$10 fee for non-members to cover expenses. Lunch will be provided. Pawpaw scion wood will be available from several of the members. Fox Paw Ridge Farm will have scion wood from Sunflower and NC-1, the last two year's Best Fruit Competition. See you on April 21st at 10 AM until 3 PM.



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President's Patch

2006 had many twists and turns for OPGA. In most ways 2006 was very successful but ended on a negative note. I will elaborate later when this issue has been resolved. OPGA was present at many events and activities last year, many more than in past years. We now have over 70 paid members! This was one goal of the Board, i.e., to be much more active rather than rely on just the festival for our major activity.

I want to thank all of our new members that have joined the OPGA to support our efforts to educate and promote the pawpaw. I am enclosing an OPGA bumper sticker for those who paid dues or renewed in 2007 and 2008. If you would like copies of the "new" **What is a pawpaw** brochure, let us know, we will happy to send some to you.

All of the dates for the OPGA activities in 2007 have not yet been determined. I will keep in contact with those who gave me their e-mail address. If you would like to volunteer to help us at any of the events/activities, give us a call or send an e-mail.

We have a new webmaster and are working on designing a webpage. I'll let you know by e-mail when the web site is up. Any suggestions or ideas for improvement, let us know. . The OPGA new web address:

Ohiopawpaw.com.

The year 2007 is presenting the OPGA many new opportunities to promote pawpaws. I made a presentation at the Ohio Vegetable and Fruit Congress in Columbus in January. The OPGA has been requested to participate in two activities at the Cincinnati Nature Center this fall. We will be returning to Cincinnati's Krohn Conservatory for the Great Outdoor Weekend in September. We will be doing a presentation and demonstration at Chatfield College (St. Martin, OH). We have been in contact with the Ohio Nut Growers Association and will be developing a closer relationship for joint meetings and future activities. Check the calendar on page 4 for a listing of activities.

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.

What's in a Name?

By
Terry Powell

After several years of promoting our favorite fruit, I have noticed that pawpaw suffers from a big identity problem. Most of my promotion has been in Cincinnati—a fairly large metropolitan area with a diverse ethnic population. When I talk about pawpaw to people from The Philippines, or China, even Europe, they frequently say with the utmost confidence: "Oh, yes, I'm familiar with pawpaws". It would seem pawpaw has more recognition abroad than it does in the U.S. However, what people of other cultures are calling "pawpaw" is often the unrelated tropical papaya or possibly another annonaceous fruit.

Pawpaw also has a domestic recognition issue. A few of the factors that contribute to this are the aggressive removal of wooded areas, busy lifestyles, less agriculture, and the passing away of a generation that knew the land. Southern Ohio also has a large Appalachian sub-culture. One would think our native pawpaw would be better known among these folks. But the problem I frequently encounter is they often confuse pawpaw with persimmon. Maybe this confusion happens because both these wild fruits begin with a "p". Another issue is that, sadly, even many country people are out of touch with nature and the only time they heard about pawpaw was from a deceased relative.

Through past and planned international conferences sponsored by Kentucky State University, pawpaw is gaining global recognition. It seems important, then, for people to be able to differentiate between unrelated and related tropical fruits and our native pawpaw. Maybe a name change would solve the problem, but many would object since pawpaw has some historic recognition. Unfortunately, not a great number of people are interested in history and those who grew up singing the pawpaw song are aging. In another 20 years no one will even remember it. Until the pawpaw industry has the benefit of a marketing wizard, I think an entire name change is probably not workable. But giving pawpaw an identifier such as *North American Pawpaw* will at least help. Otherwise, those in other temperate zones may wrongly assume it is a tropical fruit that can't be grown in their climate.

Fortunately, when Latin Americans, the Spanish, and those from the Far East taste the North American pawpaw, they frequently recognize the flavor since annonaceous fruit is either grown there or imported. And at every fruit sampling Americans from all walks of life tend to love the taste. So much so, that people immediately want to know to what store they can go to purchase it. So we have a diverse market waiting whenever we can get a fresh fruit pipeline—a network of growers and people collecting from native stands—organized and running. To that end, I would encourage you to not only promote North American Pawpaws, but also promote growing them in orchards to anyone you find that has some acreage they would like to put to use.

2005 Pawpaw fruit production

Variety	# of fruit	Begin harvest	End harvest	Total wgt (oz)	Ave. wgt (oz)	Largest fruit (oz)
Wilson	13	31-Aug	9/9/2005	39.2	3	6
Wells	10	6-Sep	9/12/2005	44.2	4.4	8.1
Sunflower	9	9-Sep	9/27/2005	55.1	6.1	9.7
Lynn's Fav	9	8/29/2005		37.4	4.2	6.1
PA Golden 1	6	9-Sep		20.2	3.4	6.1
NC-1	5	5-Sep	9/14/2005	36.6	7.3	9.8
Wilson	4	9/6/2005		5.1	1.3	4.1
Sunflower	2	8/29/2005		7.8	3.9	5.6
NC-1	2	9/7/2005		7.4	3.7	4
Mitchell	1	9/8/2005		5.3	5.3	5.3
KSU 2-7	1	9/1/2005		3.6	3.6	3.6
KSU 2-11	1	8/31/2005		1.7	1.7	1.7
total	63			263.6	4.2	
				14.8 Lbs		

2006 Pawpaw fruit production

Variety	# of fruit	Begin harvest	End harvest	Total wgt (oz)	Ave. wgt (oz)	Largest fruit (oz)
Davis	6	11-Sep		28.1	4.7	6.1
Green River Belle	30	27-Aug	13-Sep	145.1	4.8	7.4
KSU 2-11	4	13-Sep	18-Sep	13	3.3	5.3
KSU 2-11	62	1-Sep	4-Oct	278.3	4.5	7
KSU 2-11	7	27-Aug	6-Oct	23.4	3.3	6.6
KSU 2-7	20	24-Aug	18-Sep	66.3	3.3	4.9
KSU 2-7	29	9-Sep	4-Oct	104.9	3.6	7.3
KSU 8-2	12	9-Sep	11-Sep	58.1	4.8	11.3
KSU 8-2	8	1-Sep	14-Sep	45.6	5.7	13.6
Lynn's Favorite	9	30-Aug		44.8	5.0	7.6
Mary Foos Johns	12	8-Sep	14-Sep	36.8	3.1	6.7
Mitchell	14	14-Sep	26-Sep	65.1	4.7	6.9
NC-1	42	11-Sep	26-Sep	332.7	7.9	12.3
NC-1	2	18-Sep	19-Sep	16.4	8.2	9.7
Overleese	4	30-Aug		28.3	7.1	7.6
Overleese	6	8-Sep	17-Sep	43.1	7.2	10.8
Overleese	4	11-Sep	12-Sep	29.1	7.3	9.7
PA Golden 1	115	29-Aug	23-Sep	534.7	4.6	9.2
Rebecca's Gold	18	11-Sep	14-Sep	168.7	9.4	17.4
SAA Zimmerman	17	9-Sep	15-Sep	110.2	6.5	9.3
Seedling	8	4-Sep	17-Sep	32.7	4.1	7.5
Shenandoah	5	8-Sep	15-Sep	27.9	5.6	9
Sue	15	14-Sep	18-Sep	79.3	5.3	6.8
Sue	155	30-Aug	24-Sep	899.7	5.8	12.1
Sun Flower	131	9-Sep	26-Sep	744.9	5.7	16.3
Taylor	3	10-Sep	11-Sep	12.9	4.3	5.4
Tollgate	8	9-Sep	17-Sep	43.5	5.4	6.3
Wells	3	19-Sep		22	7.3	9.1
Wilson	8	29-Aug	3-Sep	26.5	3.3	4.4
Wilson	30	9-Sep	14-Sep	124.6	4.2	5.5
Total	787			4186.7		
				261.7 Lbs		

Harvest data for 2005 and 2006 from Fox Paw Ridge

I have collected harvest data from my two original pawpaw plantings began in 2001. I would like to encourage everyone who is growing fruit to record the data and share it with others. There is much to be gained from the collection of data since we do not have information on all the varieties of pawpaws.

The data that I am sharing with you is the date when the fruit actually fell and the actual weight. I can now begin to tell which of my pawpaw varieties fruit early and which ones fruit late.

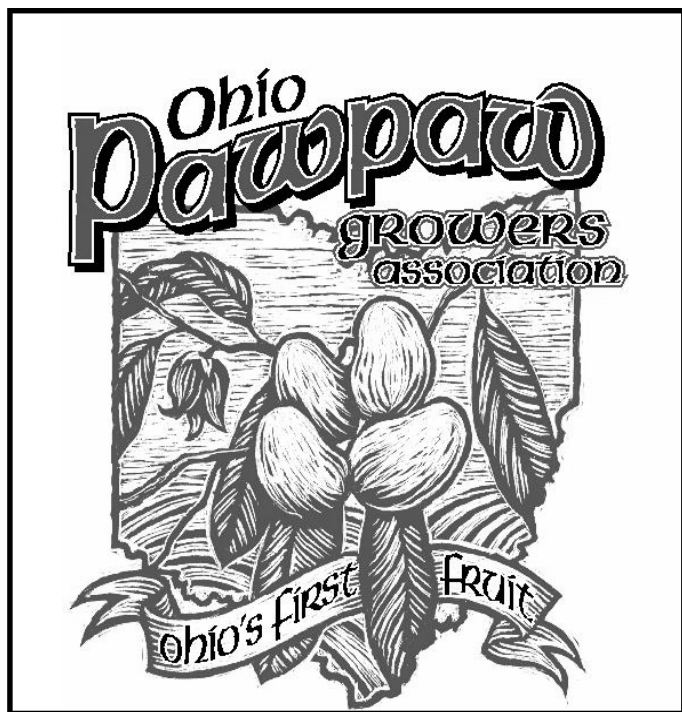
Note that one variety, Sue, produced over 50 pounds in 2006 and a tree of Sunflower produced over 30 pounds of fruit. Rebecca's Gold produced the largest single fruit, over 17 ounces.

The raccoons and opossums did manage to get some of the ripe fruit from time to time but I will harvest the ripe fruit this year before it falls to the ground.

I hope this helps you in selecting your pawpaws and I encourage you to collect data and share with OPGA.

Benefits of OPGA Membership

- ❖ Member voting privileges
- ❖ Annual meeting
- ❖ *Pawpaw Pickin's*, OPGA newsletter
- ❖ Education events
- ❖ Scion wood exchange
- ❖ Learn how to best grow pawpaws in Ohio
- ❖ Learn how to improve natural stands of pawpaws
- ❖ Learn about new varieties and research on pawpaws
- ❖ Exchange ideas and tips on growing, harvesting, and marketing
- ❖ Exchange pawpaw recipes
- ❖ Opportunity to network with growers and others interested in pawpaws
- ❖ Opportunities to volunteer
- ❖ www.ohiopawpaw.com



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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.

2007 Calendar of activities and events

April 21—OPGA Annual; Meeting, Jackson, OH—see front page for directions

April 28—Chatfield College, St. Martin, OH, 10 am—2 pm, OPGA pawpaw overview, how to treat seeds, demonstration on grafting, scion wood available, \$15 registration which includes lunch and a potted pawpaw plant—St. Martin is located on St. Rt. 251, north of St. Rt. 50 in Fayetteville, OH.
For info call Richard at 937-382-5960

May 9—Southwestern Ohio Woodland Owners Association, Middletown, OH—Richard Glaser and Ron will demonstrate pawpaw grafting techniques

May 10, 11 & 12—American Living History Days, Camp Dennison, OH, pawpaw education

June 9 & 10 possible national pawpaw meeting?????

September 7—Cincinnati Nature Center, "Preparing for Night" Pawpaw tasting and education

September 15 & 16—festival, Lake Snowden, Albany, OH

September ??? - Farm Science Review, London, OH

Late September or early October—Joint meeting with the Ohio Nut Growers Association ?

September 29 & 30—Great Outdoor Weekend—Krohn Conservatory and Cincinnati Nature Center, pawpaw tasting and education

In order for the OPGA to be successful, we need volunteers to help us with our display and pawpaw samples. Call Ron or Terry Powell at 513-777-8367 for additional information and to volunteer.