



# Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association

## PAWPAW PICKIN'S

Spring 2011  
Volume 11, Issue 1

### OPGA 2011 Annual Meeting & Grafting Workshop

This year's spring workshop will be held at Wilmington College in Wilmington, Ohio. Wilmington College is a small private Quaker college with an enrollment of 1100 of which 170 are Agriculture students. A highlight of the Agriculture program is a "Living Crop Museum" which features 52 crop species including the history of corn. Rice, cotton, sugar beets, buckwheat and even pineapple are also present to show students crops grown in the past which are part of our agricultural heritage. North American Pawpaws will soon be included in this collection.

Mr. Harold Kneen, Extension agent for Meigs County, OH will be our key note speaker for the 2011 annual Meeting. He will introduce the produce safety program. The introductory program will cover the background on food borne illnesses, customer perceptions, four areas for food safety improvement on a farm: Water, soil amendements, good handling practices, and traceability.

Mr. Rob Jaehning, Program Coordinator, Center for Innovative Food Technology (CIFT) will give a short presentation on CIFT and their future joint venture at Wilmington College.

The OPGA Annual Meeting and Grafting Workshop. this year will be especially important for the future of the OPGA. Many new initiatives are in the planning stages and will be introduced at the meeting. A few surprises are in the works. Grafting demos will be an important part of the workshop and there will be time for you to graft your N. A. pawpaw seeding to take home with you.

*We receive requests for information and questions about our activities. All of this information is just a few mouse clicks away on the OPGA web site at [Ohiopawpaw.com](http://Ohiopawpaw.com).*

*All of our past newsletters are archived at Ohio State University AG link on our web site.*

**May 14, 2011**

**Registration begins at 9:00 AM  
on  
Saturday, May 14**

*The registration form and directions are located on page 7 in this newsletter.  
Watch for updates via E-mail on website.*

**The Ohio Nut Growers Association  
will join the OPGA  
and will demonstrate  
the grafting of nut trees.**

*The OPGA is pleased to have  
the ONGA participate in  
the grafting demonstration  
at*

*Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio.*

### Mission Statement

*The Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association is a not-for-profit, 501(c)5 organization of pawpaw enthusiasts and commercial pawpaw growers, large and small, dedicated to educating and promoting the superior traits of the pawpaw, developing a pawpaw industry, marketing plan, and preserving and studying the wild pawpaw genetics.*

*Contributions of gifts to the OPGA are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. However dues payments are deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense.*

Please check the mailing label (p8) for your dues/account status.

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

It appears that 2011 may be even more exciting than 2010. The OPGA Board of Directors have discussed and planned a new and aggressive direction for OPGA. People are continually interested in North American pawpaws and OPGA membership, and we are continuing to reach out to them. We currently have members in over 23 states, and received four new life members this past year.

The new direction proposed will be introduced and discussed by Ron Powell at the Annual Meeting. Each Board of Directors member is working on various projects. Tony Russell is working on a bi-monthly Email updates to keep members and non-members informed of our activities. Jason Neumann is spearheading a committee to develop a "Pawpaw Activity" book for pre-K to 4th grade students with assistance from Joe Petrie and Dave Simpson. Gene Pouly is working with Secrest Arboretum in Wooster, OH and will graft a number of N. A. pawpaws and work with the arboretum staff to plant the N. A. pawpaw in the new landscape plantings.

Dick Glaser is moving ahead with the initiative that we discussed last year. Dick and his committee are developing an application form and a "Partnership Proposal." This initiative will meet one of the objectives in our mission

statement, i.e., to preserve the wild pawpaw genetics. Two families have already been selected to receive N. A. pawpaws this spring.

Four senior Agricultural Engineering students at the Ohio State University are making good progress on designing and developing a piece of equipment to peel and separate the seed from the pulp.

If you made any observations and /or collected data about your N. A. pawpaws, please consider sharing your information with others. We would like to include your pictures and data with others interested in the N. A. pawpaw. There is much that we do not know about the cultivars that we are currently growing and any help would be appreciated.

I would like to hear from you — members or enthusiasts — as to what you would like to see in your newsletter. I attempt to focus on the questions I receive during the year via phone calls and/or email. Pictures are always welcomed. You do not need to be a writer or a photographer. Just send you comments and pictures to OPGA and we will do the rest.

*- Ron*

## Planting Considerations *by Terry Powell*

Although North American Pawpaw is considered a very carefree tree, whether you are planting the trees in your yard, in a field, or in the woods, it's a good idea to plan carefully because moving the trees once planted is not recommended.

### **When planting in your yard, here are the main considerations:**

Is the tree being planted as an ornamental, or as edible landscape? If ornamental only, plant in sun or shade more than 10' apart to reduce likelihood of flowers being pollinated. If you want fruit, plant no more than 10' apart in an area that gets no less than 5 hrs. of full sun. The tree may reach 25 feet so don't plant near your roof line unless you plan to trim off the tree top every few years.

Although deer rarely eat leaves or fruit, they like to rub their antlers on trunks a couple of inches in diameter and that can totally destroy a tree. Deterrents are: A metal post driven a few inches from the tree; painting three quarters of the trunk with white exterior latex house paint.

You will need to be vigilant about keeping fruit off the ground during the 6 week harvest period so as not to attract animals and bees. This may also be a good reason not to plant near a property line.

Put some type of barrier or visual marker where the tree is planted so it doesn't get overgrown or someone doesn't accidentally mow it off.

### **When planting in an open field, ask yourself:**

Are there deer in the area? If so you will need to protect the tree trunk as described above. Are there wild turkeys in the area? If so the tree needs protection since they will scratch through mulch and dirt and expose the tree roots.

Do you have a plan to keep grass and weeds away from the tree? Do you have a water source nearby for irrigation? When you start harvesting fruit, unless you like to share, you will have to trap raccoons and possums.

### **When planting in the woods**

Do you expect to harvest fruit from your trees? If so, do not plant in an area where they will not receive less than 5 hours of direct sunlight. You will also need to keep weeds and grass away. Many people think wild pawpaw trees are easily transplanted. Due to it's extremely long taproot, this is rarely successful. Transplanting the tree suckers is more easily done, but choose suckers with a decent root system. Do you have a source of irrigation? Just because the tree is wild doesn't mean it doesn't need water when it is struggling to establish a root system. When you start harvesting fruit, you will have to deal with raccoons and possums.

### **Mulching**

When planting trees in a field or woods, I recommend removing anything green within a 2 foot radius of the trunk, and cover that with landscape fabric. Either pin the fabric to the ground or ring it with good sized rocks to keep animals from digging. Cover with mulch at least 3" but keep the mulch away from the trunk. Three - four inch pieces of 4 in. black plastic drain tile around the trunk work well. This clearing and mulching method buys you some time before you will have to contend with weeds. It also helps conserve moisture during dry periods. If turkeys are a problem, cut out the bottom of a 5 gal. plastic bucket and put it over the tree. Mulch inside and outside the bucket. Secure the bucket by the handle to a metal post so it doesn't blow away.

## A Beginner's View of Grafting Pawpaws *by Karen Haynes*

We moved to Ohio three years ago and very much enjoy this area of the country. Our home is in a large lot subdivision with 2 acres of land. The lot is long and narrow, with the front acre in lawn and the back acre entirely trees. At first the trees were impenetrable, full of poison ivy, sticker bushes, and long vines. After getting our house and kids situated, we began to pay attention to the yard. My husband cut a loop trail through the trees, and cleaned out brush so we could better enjoy the property.

It was around this time that a friend introduced me to the Pawpaw tree. And while walking through my own backyard the next day, I realized we have dozens of Pawpaw trees of all sizes. Some with eight inch trunks and thirty feet tall! Many are just little pencil thin shoots coming up from the ground. Most of the Pawpaws in our yard are spindly and thin due to shading from much larger trees.

Last Spring we saw so many flowers we thought we would get bushels of fruit, but most of the flowers did not set fruit. Disappointed, I visited the Cincinnati Nature Center to ask questions. They suggested I contact Dr. Ron Powell of the Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association to find out why my trees aren't as productive as they could be.

Dr. Powell graciously agreed to meet with me and I brought along the friend who introduced me to the Pawpaw. We met at Dr. Powell's home and were so impressed with the many varieties and sizes of Pawpaw trees growing there. Dr. Powell helped me put together a plan to get more fruit from the trees we already have. Apparently when Pawpaws live in shade they grow suckers. So most of the trees in my yard were really suckers off the same few trees! With so little light and genetic diversity, its no wonder the trees aren't producing fruit.

Dr. Powell patiently showed me how to do several grafting techniques, and sent me home with some scion wood cuttings he had taken during the winter before the sap came up. I selected one grafting technique to use for all my grafts, called the bark graft. I did not need a grafting knife to use this technique. I used an anvil type cutter we already had, and some simple grafting tools: a kitchen knife, rubber bands, paraffin film and stretchy foam electrical tape.

I set out to graft the wood in late July. This timing is not ideal, but I had only met with Dr. Powell and obtained the wood in mid July, so the timing could not be helped. I made grafts on two separate days, one week apart. On that first day, I struggled to make the cuts and tie the rubber bands tight enough, all the while being nearly eaten alive by mosquitoes. I tried seven grafts on my first attempt and only one ever did live.

I came away from the experience discouraged, and spent the next week thinking about what to do differently. My next opportunity came the following weekend. Armed with bug spray and determined to take my time, I carefully cut, tied, and wrapped about eight new trees in an hour and a half. I focused on making the bark sit tight against the shaved bark sides of the new wood. On several occasions I re-cut the bark flap in order to get it right. This time I was rewarded with seven of eight grafts taking!



This new wood may not bloom next Spring, but we are hoping it will produce flowers and cross pollinate the existing trees the following year. In the mean time my husband is taking down several trees to open up the forest and let the light shine down on our beautiful Pawpaw patch. I plan to graft in some more new wood this coming spring as well, to get as much genetic diversity as possible.

We did get a few mature fruit in late August and early September, and the flavor is wonderful. It is definitely worth the effort to cultivate this delicious tropical tasting fruit and we can hardly wait to see the forest develop into a more productive natural orchard as the years go by. I was surprised to have this much success with so little experience and so late in the season. If you are thinking about learning to graft Pawpaw trees, give it a try. Anyone can do it! You will learn something new and really feel like you have accomplished something when you see the grafted wood begin to grow.

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

# Bench Grafting Pawpaws

## Pawpaw Mug Cake

by Terry Powell

- 6 level Tablespoons all purpose flour
- 3 level Tablespoons sugar
- 1 egg
- 2 Tablespoons pawpaw puree
- 1 Tablespoon oil
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla flavoring (optional)
- 2 large coffee mugs

Add dry ingredients to a coffee mug and mix well

Add the egg and mix thoroughly

Pour in the pawpaw puree, oil, and flavoring, (if using)

Mix well & split ingredients into the two mugs

Place your mugs in the microwave

Cook for 3 1/2 minutes (1000 watt microwave) or 2 minutes if higher wattage

The cake may rise over the top of the mugs, but don't worry—if you used large mugs, the cake will not run over

Allow to cool. This is a moist, dense cake, but not a pretty cake.

It can be eaten right out of the mug, or tip out onto a plate if you want to add icing, but it will melt on a warm cake.

Makes 2 servings

The recipe can be varied by adding 1 Tablespoon of one of the following: Mini-chocolate chips, raisins, dried cranberries, coconut; 1/4 teaspoon of your favorite flavoring, a dash of spice.

This is a fun recipe for kids to try but exact measurements are important.

Be careful because the mug handles are often too hot to touch with your bare hands.



## Pawpaw Research Results in "Pawpawsicles"

by Tom Nagel

Our resident unofficial "OPGA chef" has let his imagination run wild again. Remember the Deep Fried Pawpaw? He has graciously shared with us his newest pawpaw "creation."

Here are some tacky photos of my recent pawpaw research. I was making pawpaw smoothies, while on vacation up at Lake Erie. It struck me that if I added a little more sugar and found a popsicle mold somewhere.....

Well, I couldn't find a popsicle mold at Lakeside, but we had some small Styrofoam cups in the cottage. I sprayed them inside with non-stick cooking spray, and found that after they froze I could peel the cup off quite easily.



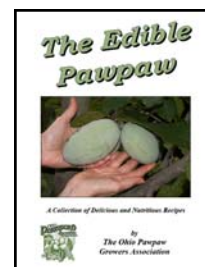
Tom with a "Pawpawsicle"



## 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.



Check website:

**Ohiopawpaw.com**

for calendar, new announcements & updates

## 2010 Pawpaw Home Production

Variety	# of Fruit	Begin Harvest (mth/day)	End Harvest (mth/day)	Total Weight (oz)	Average Weight (oz)
Davis	2	8/17		24.3	12.2
Green River Belle	96	8/4	9/25	414.1	4.3
IXL	11	8/28	9/7	60.9	5.5
KSU 2-11 #1	21	9/3	9/14	112	5.3
KSU 2-11 #2	148	8/22	10/13	633.3	4.3
KSU 2-7 #1	24	10/13		100.8	4.2
KSU 2-7 #2	24	7/31	8/30	96.2	4.0
KSU 8-2 #1	23	8/26	9/10	137	6.0
KSU 8-2 #2	47	8/17	9/3	414	8.8
Lynn's Favorite	16	8/21	8/30	72	4.5
Mary Foos Johnson	7	9/12		15.9	2.3
Mitchell	59	8/26	9/25	251.9	4.3
NC-1 #1	11	8/21	9/3	92.2	8.4
NC-1 #2	70	8/10	9/13	549.5	7.9
Overleese #1	17	8/17	9/2	145.1	8.5
Overleese #2	17	8/10	9/1	165.6	9.7
Overleese #3	76	8/22	9/3	430.1	5.7
PA Golden 1	112	8/10	9/12	527.5	4.7
Prolific	24	8/26	9/3	74.3	3.1
Rebecca's Gold	53	8/23	9/15	415	7.8
SAA Zimmerman	116	8/17	9/14	731.6	6.3
Seedling #1	4	8/26	8/29	30.2	7.6
Seedling #2	9	9/8	9/17	35.5	3.9
Shenandoah #1	5	8/24	9/2	45.2	9.0
Shenandoah #2	14	8/17	9/1	120.2	8.6
Sue #1	204	8/10	9/23	746.7	3.7
Sue #2	6	9/2	9/8	34.8	5.8
Sunflower #1	116	8/14	9/19	739.6	6.4
Sunflower #2	18	9/1	9/25	107.1	6.0
Sunglow	2	8/23		6.4	3.2
Susquehanna	10	8/17	9/3	85.3	8.5
Sweet Virginia	10	8/29	9/25	46.5	4.7
Taylor	16	8/22	9/3	77.4	4.8
Taytwo	11	8/17	9/3	48.9	4.4
Tollgate	21	8/26	9/5	107.2	5.1
Wells	28	8/26	9/8	173.6	6.2
Wilson #1	29	8/17	9/14	124	4.3

This is the first year that I have included the harvest at our farm which is located about 74 miles from our home, in Appalachia. The farm is approximately 50 acres of ridge tops and hillsides but mostly hillsides. We have managed to clear about 5 acres over the past few years and planted about 400 named N. A. Pawpaws and many persimmons, apples, pears, plums, hardy kiwi, a few grapes, jujube, quince, and various nuts — American Chestnuts, pecans, walnuts, butternuts, heartnuts, and Persian walnuts.

## 2010 Pawpaw Farm Production

Variety	# of Fruit	Begin Harvest (mth/day)	End Harvest (mth/day)	Total Weight (oz)	Average Weight (oz)
421	6	8/15	9/4	25.7	4.3
Broad	6	8/17	8/28	27.5	4.6
Cawood #1	3	8/12	9/4	14.9	5.1
Cawood #2	3	8/12	9/4	17.1	5.7
Convis	17	9/2	9/4	42	2.5
Cullman Late	7	9/4		21.2	3.0
Estill	6	8/7	9/2	30.3	5.1
Glaser #1	1	8/17		6	6.
Glaser #2	5	8/28		15.4	3.1
Green River Belle	1	9/4		3.6	3.6
LA Native	10	8/17	8/28	26.7	2.7
Lady D	3	9/29		16	5.3
Lynn's Favorite #1	9	8/12	9/4	33.2	3.7
Lynn's Favorite #2	12	8/17	9/4	52.4	4.4
Mary Foos Johnson	4	9/14		29.6	7.4
Middletown	10	9/4	9/11	33	3.3
Misc Unnamed	246	8/26	9/13	965.4	3.9
Mitchell	21	8/17	9/28	100.2	4.8
NC-1	2	8/12	8/28	9.1	4.6
PA Golden 3 #1	3	8/12		9.1	3.0
PA Golden 3 #2	3	8/12		10.4	3.5
PA Golden 4 #1	1			2.4	2.4
PA Golden 4 #2	3	8/17		18.1	6.0
Potomac	1	8/17		4	4.0
Quaker Delight	1	8/17		6.2	6.2
Rappahannock #1	3	8/12	8/28	10.5	3.5
Rappahannock #2	3	8/12	9/4	7.3	2.4
Rappahannock #3	8	8/12	8/17	20.3	2.5
Ruby Keenan	1	8/17		2.6	2.6
SAA Overleese	5	8/17		18.9	3.8
SAB Overleese #1	3	8/12		13.7	4.6
SAB Overleese #2	7	8/15		68.5	9.8
Seedling #3	15			53.2	3.5
Seedlings #1 & #2	11	8/28	9/4	44.4	4.0
Shawnee Trail	1	9/4		3.8	3.8
Shenandoah #1	8	8/12	9/4	42.9	5.4
Shenandoah #2	2	8/12		9.1	4.6
Shenandoah #3	8	8/12	9/4	41.1	5.1
Shenandoah #4	5	8/12	9/4	16.9	3.4
Shenandoah #5	2	8/12		9.2	4.6
Shenandoah #6	1	8/12		3.6	3.6
Sue #1	3	9/4		2.8	0.9

2010 was the first year that we were able to harvest any quantity at the farm but because of the drought, the harvest was much less than it should have been and very poor quality.

I'll let you draw your own conclusions as the productivity of the various cultivars. The soil at the farm is quite poor, a very heavy clay. The large amount of unnamed fruit harvested at the farm is because our pickers did not record the identity of the tree.

## Huge "Potomac"

The picture below is Lee Brumley's five year old granddaughter. She is holding a 28.64 ounce Potomac pawpaw that Lee grew on his farm. "Super" size pawpaw fruit is commonly produced on a pawpaw tree in its first year of fruiting. The largest fruit from Fox Paw Ridge Farm, LLC was from a Rebecca's Gold at 17.5 ounces in its first year of production. The Rebecca's Gold has not produced a fruit over 11 ounces since!



## Mango *by Derek Morris*

Out of all the 30 or so varieties of pawpaw I have planted on my one acre lot the variety 'mango' is the fastest growing and most productive. In fact it has become a rather large tree in a relatively short time being around 20 foot tall and 12-15 foot wide. 'Mango's other attribute besides its productiveness is its fruit size. It is aptly named as the majority of its fruits do indeed look very much like green mangoes - large ones at that and there is very good seed to flesh ratio.

Even though it has large fruit and is very productive I was not a fan of this variety for several years until recently. Though it is liked by most who try it and even the favorite of some I personally did not like its rather soft texture. It has a softer texture than most and because of this it does not age very well before becoming downright mushy. However this trait is not necessarily a bad thing if one is aware of how to handle and use its fruits. I have found that not only does it become very mushy with much aging but 'mango' can also, as with some other varieties develop strong and even bitter aftertastes. Although it is not my personal favorite as a fresh fruit variety it excels as a processing variety if used before any or much skin darkening has occurred. Its flavor is very good and holds up well in baking and it doesn't take much time to get a lot of pulp from just a few fruit.

Though I consider it best for processing many folks do like to eat this variety as a fresh fruit and enjoy it very much. In my estimation it is best for fresh eating within two days of harvesting from the tree, maybe a day or two longer with refrigeration.

I have never been able to pin down with certainty the history of this variety. The best I can come up with is that it was selected by a Major Collins of Georgia. However it was not selected from the wild in Georgia as some sources say but rather from seed from Indiana or some other state. The seed may have come from a Corwin Davis selection or variety. Whatever, there is no disputing that 'mango' does very well in the

### Third International Pawpaw Conference

"Pawpaw: Its Past, Present, and Future"

Frankfort, KY

September 9-10, 2011

Visit the KYSU web site for registration form

[www.pawpaw.kysu.edu/](http://www.pawpaw.kysu.edu/)

# Directions to OPGA Annual Meeting & Workshop ~ Wilmington College

Saturday, May 14, 2011 ~ Lost? Questions? Call Ron @ 513-382-9031

## From Cincinnati:

- North on I-71 to SR 73 ( Exit 45).
- RIGHT on SR 73 to Wilmington (approx. 7 miles).
- Merge LEFT onto Main Street.
- Continue through city center to College Ave. (Main Entrance to Wilmington College).
- RIGHT on College Ave.
- Kettering Hall is on the left just before Elm St.

## From Dayton:

- East on SR 73 crossing over I-71 and continue approx. 7 miles to Wilmington
- Merge LEFT onto Main Street.
- Continue through city center to College Ave. (Main Entrance to Wilmington College)
- RIGHT on College Ave.
- Kettering Hall is on the left just before Elm St.

## From Columbus:

- South on I-71 to US 68. LEFT on US 68 to Wilmington.
- At city center LEFT on Main Street to College Ave. (Main entrance to Wilmington College).
- RIGHT on College Ave.
- Kettering Hall is on the left just before Elm St.

## May 14 Meeting Schedule:

9:00 AM	Registration begins
9:30 AM	Welcome by Farm Manager
10:00 AM	Harold Kneen, Meigs County Co-op Extension Agent ~ "Produce Safety"
10:30 AM	Rob Jaehnig, CIFT Program Coordinator
11:00 AM	OSU Ag. Eng Seniors ~ Pawpaw Processing
11:30 AM	Lunch
12:30 PM	OPGA Annual Meeting
1:30 PM	Pawpaw & Nut Grafting Demonstration
<i>Times approximate and may be adjusted as necessary.</i>	



## 2011 OPGA Registration Form

***\$12 each for OPGA members in good standing***  
***\$15 each for non-OPGA members***

**By Regular Mail:** Complete the information section below and return with the fee to:  
 OPGA; c/o Ron Powell; 6549 Amelia Drive; Cincinnati, OH 45241

**Or Make Reservations Now & Pay at the Door:**

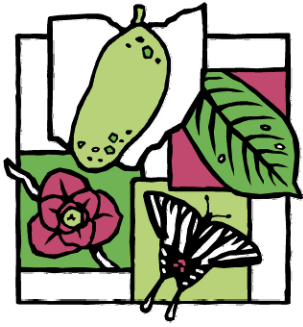
**By Phone:** Ron Powell @ 513-777-8367 ~ **By E-mail:** Botrytis@fuse.net

*Completed registrations by May 8th are appreciated*  
*Make checks payable to OPGA*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



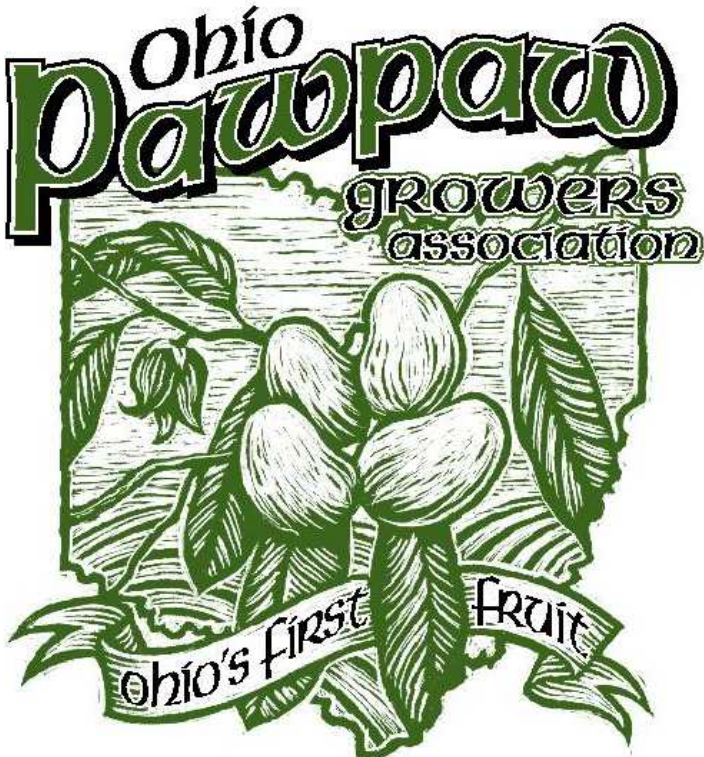
## Pawpaw Pickin's

A publication of OPGA

6549 Amelia Dr.  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45241

*Spring 2011*

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



### OPGA Editor

visit us at our web site: [www.Ohiopawpaw.com](http://www.Ohiopawpaw.com)

*Pawpaw Pickin's* is published bi-annually 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 membership 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 the education about and promotion of pawpaws.

Go to the OPGA web site —  
[Ohiopawpaw.com](http://Ohiopawpaw.com) for a membership form.

Please check the mailing label for your dues/account status.