



NAPGA E-zine

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Do you have what it takes to be a Citizen Scientist?

During the new business portion of May's Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association (OPGA) Annual Meeting, Charles Hoy, Jason Neumann and Richard Munson volunteered to look into the possibility of having the OPGA & NAPGA participate in data collection and research with the USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN). Phenology is the study of plant and animal life cycle stages and the relationship of those stages to changes in climate and weather. In recent years we have become especially aware of how weather can affect pawpaw production here in North America.

Variables like the availability of pollinators, late spring frosts, summer droughts, etc. all affect the quality and quantity of our pawpaw harvests. Knowing how pawpaws adapt to changing weather and climate over time and which varieties are best suited to particular climates are a couple of ways we would benefit from taking the time to record and share our observations. We may also want to collect varietal information to determine the size and flavor profiles that people like. When fruit ripens is critically important for pawpaw. Date of fruit ripening would be documented through repeated visits to the same individual tree around the time fruit is beginning to ripen. Each time a tree is visited, the observer would record whether ripe fruits were observed ("yes" or

"no). For *Asimina triloba*, ripe fruits are defined as: "One or more ripe fruits are visible on the plant. (For *Asimina triloba*, a fruit is considered ripe when it has turned brown or brown-black)". Then we might want to know; What percentage of all fruits (unripe plus ripe) on the plant are ripe? The reporting protocol offers these choices: Less than 5%; 5-24%; 25-49%; 50-74%; 75-94%; 95% or more; so the observer would check the appropriate box. Data collection can be done with clipboards, iPads or smartphones (offline data collection is supported). This gives you some idea of the types of questions we will ask and how adaptable the data collection process can be.

Who can participate? We all can! Our membership in OPGA/NAPGA indicates our interest in pawpaws and most of us live in areas of the country that grow pawpaw in the wild or we have our own plantings that we tend to. Individually, we each already monitor the progress and health of our trees and the timing of harvests. In order to be able to see changes and trends over time through our data collection, however, we each need to ask and answer the same questions (as in the ripe fruit example above). This will help organize our observations. Essentially, we just need to standardize the terms that we use and the recording methods we take to describe what we see.

There are a number of benefits to partnering with The USA-NPN. First and foremost they provide a framework of questions to match up with our observations and a cloud-based repository for uploading our data. Additionally we will be able to add datasets to include the varieties of pawpaw that have been developed. Our datasets can also be (cont. page 2)

contact us at: WWW.NAPGA.com or WWW.Ohiopawpaw.com

Contact the pawpaw discussion group at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ohiopawpaw>

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visualized across sites, through time, and across varieties. This allows each of us to better understand how our pawpaws compare with other pawpaws across North America. The USA-NPN will provide us access to online training sessions and training materials that will help us learn more about phenology and build stronger ties within our NAPGA/OPGA membership base. The NAPGA/OPGA will also be able to conduct their own training sessions as needed. Let us know what you think.

In order for us to better understand the level of interest in partnering with USA-NPN, please take the online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LL6HHG5> (Note: our free Survey Monkey subscription limits us to 100 survey responses, but we can do additional surveys as needed to make sure all have a chance to respond) The survey is anonymous. Responses will be reported in a future newsletter.

There are not enough scientists in North America to collect the data for the pawpaw research project. This study will highlight the research opportunities that are possible using data collected by citizen scientists in making important measurements. Previous studies have shown that citizen scientist data collection are nearly as accurate as professional scientist measurements. This project is still in the planning stages and your input and suggestions are more than welcome and encouraged.. Contact CC Hoy with your comments, ideas or suggestions. cchoy01@gmail.com. Thank you for your interest.

7th Annual NC Pawpaw Fest

The 7th Annual NC Pawpaw Fest will be held Saturday, August 23rd from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Forsyth County Agriculture Building. The physical address is 1450 Fairchild Rd, Winston-Salem, NC. Activities include, a local chef giving cooking demonstrations with pawpaws, tours of the demonstration pawpaw orchard, presentations, and vendors selling N. A. pawpaw trees, seeds, and fruits.

For additional information, call Derek Morris at 336-703-2850. Web sites to visit include: www.ncpawpaw.com and www.facebook.com/ncpawpaw.

LOUA Apps Festival Columbus, OH

Pawpaw festivals are becoming more common across Ohio as well as across the country. This will be the third year for this local festival held in Columbus Ohio. It is located in the Clintonville area on Weber Rd. across the street from the Indianola Informal School. It will take place on Saturday, September 20th from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM. If you are interested, contact Tony Russell at trussell70@wowway.com.

NAPGA Member Benefits & Privileges

- ◆ Member of NAPGA (default state chapter is the OPGA)
- ◆ Voting privileges at International Conferences
- ◆ Biannual "Pawpaw Pickin's"- NAPGA Newsletter
- ◆ Educational events if available in your state
- ◆ Scion wood exchange. Fox Paw Ridge Farm, LLC has over 80 named varieties available.
- ◆ Learn how best to grow North American pawpaws
- ◆ Learn about new varieties and research on N. A. pawpaws
- ◆ Learn how to improve natural stands of N. A. pawpaws
- ◆ Exchange ideas on growing, harvesting, processing, marketing and uses of N. Am pawpaws
- ◆ Exchange N. A. pawpaw recipes
- ◆ Opportunities to network with international pawpaw experts and others interested in N. A. pawpaws
- ◆ Opportunities to volunteer & educate others about the benefits of N. A. pawpaws
- ◆ NAPGA and OPGA educational publications
- ◆ Help preserve & study the existing wild N. A. pawpaw genetics
- Promote N. A. pawpaw research
- Sponsor International N. A. pawpaw conferences & NAPGA meetings
- ◆ Web sites: www.NAPGA.com & www.Ohiopawpaw.com and Online NAPGA/OPGA Discussion Group: <http://yahoo.com/group/Ohiopawpaw/>

On the Trail of Lost Pawpaws

Early in my work with North American pawpaws, I came across a file for “lost” pawpaw cultivars published by the Back Yard Fruit Growers, Lancaster County, PA. They printed a long list of N. A. pawpaws that they considered to be “lost.” The list included Glaser, Middletown, SAB Overleese and Ford Amend. Derek Morris, a contributor to Pawpaw Pickin’s for several years, had requested me for a number of years to see if I could track down Ford Amend pawpaw. Ford Amend was introduced in 1950 and originated in the Pacific Northwest. It has been reported that the fruit is slightly small and earlier in ripening than Sunflower.

As far as I could determine, the only source of Ford Amend was Rain Tree Nursery. I had contacted Rain Tree Nursery located in Morton, Washington, with no luck.

Someone, can’t remember who at this time, informed me that Washington State University had a planting of North American pawpaws that contained Ford Amend. I was given the name of Dr. Carol Miles. Dr. Miles informed me that the Ford Amend pawpaw trees were originally included in their pawpaw planting. However, she informed me that they had removed their pawpaw planting and stated that they had received their plant material from Rain Tree Nursery. Dr. Miles was quite accommodating and contacted Sam Benowitz of Rain Tree Nursery for me. So, now I had the right contact at Rain Tree Nursery to fulfill my quest for scion wood of Ford Amend.

I contacted Sam and we worked out a scion wood trade and I am happy to say that I now have several grafted Ford Amend pawpaws. Hopefully, Derek will receive his grafted Ford Amend this summer.

I wish to thank everyone involved in my successful quest to locate and graft a few Ford Amend N. A. pawpaws for my collection. My collection of N. A. pawpaws continues to increase and I currently have

over 102 different selections in my planting. Members of the NAPGA can obtain scion wood from the collection of all but patented or trademarked plants.

I am still looking for N. A. pawpaw selections that are no longer in the trade. I am especially looking for WLW Mason. This selection came from the Voice of America property in Mason OH where the WLW radio tower is located, just a short distance from my home. WLW Mason was introduced by Ernest Downing, Preble Co., OH.

Since we currently have no easy way to grow cultivars on their own root system, we must necessarily bud or graft the pawpaws to increase their numbers. Thus when the original plant dies, we no longer have a plant that can increase by root suckering to preserve itself. For example, we have lost the parent plant of Quaker Delight discovered by Dick Glaser at Wilmington College, Wilmington, OH. Quaker Delight was the “Best” fruit winner in 2003 at the Ohio Pawpaw Festival (Trade Mark owned by Chris Chmiel). The only way Quaker Delight can be preserved is by budding or grafting. This must be done by dedicated pawpaw enthusiasts that want to see these superior N. A. pawpaws continue to survive.

Take a look at the list of “lost” pawpaws published by The Back Yard Fruit Growers at www.sas.upenn.edu/~dailey/pawpaw.html. Maybe you know of one or more of the “lost” pawpaws that is on the list or maybe of another “lost” N. A. pawpaw that should be added to the list. These N. A. pawpaws may or may not be better than the cultivars that are available today but these pawpaws have never been evaluated and may be worth saving but we may never know.

- Ron

We would like to hear about your experiences and pictures would be welcomed. This is your time to speak out about your successes and questions about pawpaws;

What Happened to My Trees?

This year, we lost more than 100 trees at Horner Hill Farm over the winter including pawpaw, persimmons, hazelnut, black walnut and black cherry.

Despite rigorous over-wintering preparations made in late fall each year; losing seedlings is just something you live with when you raise pawpaws and other trees. But losing three year old grafted trees when you thought you had taken all the necessary precautions harder to deal with.

The winter in central and south-eastern Ohio was extraordinary in a few ways

- 1) We had several instances where a substantial rain fell over a 24 hour period and was then followed by a hard freeze that lasted for weeks
- 2) What is referred to as the “polar vortex” dumped brutally cold arctic air and high winds into Ohio
- 3) There were several temperature swings of more than 30-40 degrees in 24 hours

Our wintering process involves the generous use of leaf mulch to create an insulator around the bottom, sides and top of the trees and protect them as much as possible from extreme cold. This year, those precautions were not sufficient. We are researching what else can be done to protect our young, valuable trees.

We are interested in your experiences with last winter’s weather in your area. Email us at OPGAMemberServices@Yahoo.com and let us know your location and losses.

Hopefully we will have a revised approach to protecting our young trees from whatever this winter has in store. If you have any ideas, we would love to hear from you.

Thanks, Tony Russell,

2nd Vice President