

## Pawpaw Chapter Submission for Green Palmetto Award:

The FNPS Pawpaw Chapter wishes to submit the name of Daniel J. Young for the 2013 Green Palmetto Award for Service. Danny Young, a UCF Graduate, is currently a biological consultant with Zev Cohen and Associates in Ormond Beach. He is a specialist in gopher tortoise protection and relocation. He was a key consultant in the preparation of the Doris Leeper Preserve Management Plan for Volusia County to submit to DEP for state owned lands within the preserve. He garnered Pawpaw Chapter volunteers to assist in plant and scrub jay surveys on Doris Leeper as well as other properties.

Despite an active family life and full time consulting career with Zev Cohen, Danny has found time to volunteer on various Pawpaw Chapter educational out-reach projects. My first exposure to Danny was in 1996. He and his wife (before children) volunteered with the Pawpaw Chapter on a Lyonia Preserve restoration project. When planting native scrub plants on a sandy hill exposed by a major road project, he was the only one who thought to bring along a product he called "water-grabber". Since then he has served the Pawpaw Chapter as an interpretive trail guide at the Gamble Place and the Museum of Arts and Sciences. Over the years he has presented informative programs, which always reveal his passion for anything related to Florida's natural habitats. His knowledge and enthusiasm have had a lasting positive effect on his audiences.

Since FNPS partnered with land management agencies on Land Management Reviews, Danny has been a strong proponent for securing volunteers from several FNPS chapters to serve on mandatory reviews of public lands bought with C.A.R. L. and Florida Forever funds. This involvement helped to build stronger community support for those approved Land Management Plans, even when they were contested in public.

Danny Young is also to be credited for initiating the Pawpaw Chapter's first "Rugel's Roundup" in May of 2012. He worked with Pawpaw Chapter to set up a "citizen science" project to do a systematic survey of Volusia County's rare endemic pawpaw species (*Deeringothamnus rugelii*). Danny worked closely with Volusia County Land Management, and other known field specialists, as Dr. Eliane Norman, and Michael Jenkins, to set up a strategic survey plan. Logistics of the survey involved training of the volunteers for positive identification of *D. rugelii*, use of GPS devices to document its location on prepared maps. The intent was to make this an annual event, which will expand to other Volusia County areas suspected to be suitable for this rare endemic species. Positive results can already be seen by this collaborative citizen science project. It has stimulated local public interest in a rare endemic plant, and has encouraged Volusia County Land Management to keep it as a species of interest, knowing that disturbance is key to its survival.

Over the years, Danny's work and FNPS activity has had a positive impact on Florida's land management, preservation, and habitat restoration. In the process he continues to inspire those around him. He is truly one of Florida's sons worthy of the FNPS Green Palmetto Award.

Respectfully submitted by FNPS Pawpaw Chapter Representative, Sonya Guidry