



*Rhexia mariana* ©Darel Hess 2bnthewild.com

### Chapter Elections - Nov. 9 Nominating Committee Seeks Candidates

As called for in our bylaws, we will hold chapter elections for officers at our annual meeting on November 9. Nominating committee members Erick Smith, Ann Stodola, and Jennifer Staiger, have developed a slate of officers to present to the membership and nominations can be made from the floor. All positions are a one year commitment except treasurer which is a two-year term. Joe Durando will complete his two-year term as treasure in 2005. Each officer can serve up to three consecutive terms.

If you are interested in applying for a position, know of a likely candidate, or would like to see a position description, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee.

#### Nominating Committee

Erick Smith(352-380-0648)

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Ann Stodola(352-473-3006)

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Jennifer Staiger(352-375-1972)

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Please plan to join us for regular monthly programs and field trips listed in the Rhexia calendar. Chapter activities are also listed on the Web at FNPS.org. On the left choose chapters, then scroll to Paynes Prairie to see updates on activities, directions to field trips and any current changes or cancellations. Its also fun to see what other chapters are doing and to stay current on state FNPS goals.

# The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter  
Florida Native Plant Society  
October 2004

## An Informal Evaluation of Suburban Tree Wind Damage

By Jack Jordan

Hurricanes of course are bad news, but some lessons in suburban tree wind resistance can be learned from the aftermath of the 2004 series of Florida hurricanes, which may help homeowners keep a balance between the desire for a green canopy and the desire to keep house roofs and vehicles intact.

During free periods between Charley and Frances, when the streets were cleared of debris and other hazards, I did a bit of informal investigation of wind damage done to suburban trees in parts of Gainesville, Springhill, and Tampa. Also I got anecdotal reports from friends and coworkers in Gainesville, Deland, and Ft. Pierce. Maybe other FNPS folks can add further examples from their towns and neighborhoods, and a more thorough list can be compiled later this year, esp. for panhandle and south FL species.

For fairness, the list below does not include first-year plantings, trees damaged by hurricane eye-wall or tornado strikes (which no tree and few buildings can survive), "tackled" trees (crushed by falls of neighboring giants), and falls of outright snags and moribund/vine-smothered/mistletoe-ruined/construction-disturbed trees (which any observant landowner should have attended-to ahead of storm season).

Twig and foliage drops, regardless of annoying mess, were not counted. Thus, this list corresponds to "ordinary high wind" damage to reasonably healthy trees of each species.

Regarding terminology, as used here "downed" refers to case of trunk snapping above ground; "toppled" refers to case of complete uprooting. \* = Non-native to Florida. Underlined = south FL only.

### Category 1: "Widow-Makers"

(This group includes those large trees that showed a tendency to drop massive trunks/branches.) Ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) – many toppled (old and young); Cherry, black (*Prunus serotina*) – some downed; \*Ear-pod tree (*Enterolobium contortisiliquum*) – some toppled (old); branch drops common; \*Gum / Euc (*Eucalyptus* spp.) – many toppled (old and young); branch drops common; \*Horsetail tree / Australian-pine (*Casuarina* spp.) – many toppled (mainly old); Maple, red (*Acer rubrum*) – some downed (mainly old); branch drops common; Oak, hybrid (*Quercus virginiana* x other) – some branch drops; Oak, laurel (*Quercus laurifolia*) – very many toppled (old and young); branch drops common.; Oak, southern red (*Quercus falcata*) – some downed; branch drops common; Oak, water (*Quercus nigra*) – many downed (old and young); branch drops common; Pine, loblolly (*Pinus taeda*) – many downed/toppled (old and young); branch drops common; Pine, sand (*Pinus clausa*) – many downed (mainly old); branch drops common; Pine, slash (*Pinus elliotii*) – branch drops common; \*Rubber-tree (*Ficus* spp.) – many toppled; branch drops common; Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) – many downed; branch drops common; Sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*) – many toppled; some branch drops.

### Category 2: "Clowns"

(This group includes those small trees/large shrubs that easily went to pieces, but presented far less hazard, being less massive.)

\*Bamboo (*Phyllostachys* spp., *Bambusa* spp.) – many canes toppled; \*Castorbean / Palma Christi (*Ricinus communis*) – many toppled; \*Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*) – branch drops common; \*Cypress, Italian (*Cupressus sempervirens*) – many toppled, young and old; \*Cypress, Leyland (*Cupressocyparis x leylandii*) – many toppled, young and old; \*Elm, Chinese (*Ulmus parvifolia*) – many toppled; \*Firethorn (*Pyracantha* spp.) – branch drops common; \*Golden-Rain (*Koelreuteria elegans*) – some downed;

(Continued on page 2)

## Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

The *Rhexia* is published monthly September - November and January - May by the Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society is the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. See our website at [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org).

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## Hurricanes Don't Mix Well with Plant Sales

By Howard and Lisa Jelks

As we all dig out from Hurricane Frances, we are reminded as to how important our tree canopy is in protecting us from harsh winds and floods. As evidenced by what has happened in Haiti where virtually all trees have been removed, we see how even a tropical storm can wreak havoc. Preserved wetlands and natural areas help lessen the impact of these tropical systems.

On the local front, Frances provided us with quite a lesson, and quite a clean up chore. Many of the large trees in our neighborhoods are pioneer species that grow rapidly but can't sustain heavy wind loads.

Because of the heavy damage sustained at Morningside Nature Center, the City of Gainesville, in conjunction with Friends of Morningside (FOM) and our chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, decided to cancel the Fall Native Plant Sale. It was not an easy decision as we know how FOM, FNPS, and the growers rely on this sale as a means to educate the public on the importance of planting native vegetation (not to mention the monetary proceeds). The timing would have been perfect too since so many of us are in need of replacement plants.

However, since Morningside's nature trails were under water and many trees down, the City of Gainesville's Nature Operations closed most city parks in order to conduct a massive cleanup (which is still ongoing and will take months to complete). Safety is their main concern.

Unfortunately, a couple of our main vendors also sustained damage. Breezy Oaks Nursery, which is nestled under a beautiful tree canopy in Hawthorne, had plants blown around and damage from falling tree limbs. Swallowtail Gardens also received enough damage that Scott Simpson did not have enough to sell at the sale. Other growers reported brown and tattered plants, but enough salvageable material to keep selling.

On a more personal note, Howard's sister, who runs a native plant nursery near Pensacola, lost her entire plant inventory to Hurricane Ivan. Her greenhouses were damaged but are still standing.

Although there is enough interest in rescheduling the sale, logistically it does not appear possible. We now turn our attention to the Spring sale, which is slated for April 8-9, 2005 at Morningside Nature Park. Remind your neighbors to replant with natives!

## Program Notes for Tuesday, October 12, 2004

Plant Identification Workshop: 6:30-7:30pm

Program Meeting - 7:30 pm

### Paul Moler - Frogs of Florida

Please join us for our October program at 7:30 pm when Paul Moler will tell us about Frogs of Florida. Paul is a 1970 graduate of the Herpetology Program at the University of Florida's Florida Museum of Natural History. He is presently a Herpetologist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The FWCC's Wildlife Research Laboratory is located just south of the UF campus and is the center for research studies involving the American alligator, gopher tortoise, indigo snakes, bog frogs, sirenid salamanders and a number of other Florida amphibians and reptiles. Paul works in cooperation with many agencies and has helped create educational websites like the one at the UF Department of Wildlife Ecology that describes frog habits and voice calls. [www.wec.ufl.edu/extension/frogs/default.htm#](http://www.wec.ufl.edu/extension/frogs/default.htm#). As usual, refreshments and plant raffle will follow the speaker and the Plant ID group will meet at 6:30pm before our meeting.

## October Field Trip - Ross Prairie State Forest

Saturday, October 16, 2004

Ross Prairie State Forest has 3,500 acres of sandhill, scrub and depression marsh in Marion county. Adjacent to the Cross Florida Greenway, it provides habitat for scrub jays, gopher tortoises, indigo snakes, and migratory birds.

Field trippers will see the new Holly Hammock hiking trail and a variety of sandhills burned during the 2004 growing season. Since Hurricane Jeanne, the ephemeral wetlands are flooded and full of calling frogs.

Participants will meet at 9:00 am at the trailhead picnic shelter on State Road 200. The trailhead is 1.5 miles west of the intersection of County Road 484, on the south side of the road. A Gainesville car pool will meet at 8:00 at McDonalds on Archer Road by I-75. If you have any questions, call Charlie Pedersen at 352.373.0507.

### Suburban Tree Wind Damage (Continued from page 1)

branch drops common; \*Mulberry, paper (*Broussonetia papyrifera*) – some toppled (old); branch drops common; Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) – branch drops common; \*Reed, Giant (*Arundo donax*) – many canes toppled; Saltbush / Silverling (*Baccharis* spp.) – branch drops common; \*Willow, weeping (*Salix babylonica*) – many toppled; Wax-myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) – branch drops common.

#### Category 3: "Stiff Upper Lip" Trees

(These trees commonly dropped some branches (mostly minor), but had trunks that stood their ground.) Cedar, red (*Juniperus virginiana*); Dogwood, flowering (*Cornus florida*); Hickory, mockernut (*Carya alba*); Hickory, pignut (*Carya glabra*); Oak, live (*Quercus virginiana*); Oak, Shumard (*Quercus shumardii*); Oak, swamp-chestnut (*Quercus michauxii*); Oak, turkey (*Quercus laevis*); \*Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*); Persimmon, wild (*Diospyros virginiana*) – branch drops were those in-fruit; Pine, longleaf (*Pinus palustris*); Sycamore / American plane tree (*Platanus occidentalis*).

#### Category 4: Tough/Limber Trees

(These trees showed little or no damage.)

Bald-cypress (*Taxodium* spp.); Basswood / linden (*Tilia* spp.); Birch, river (*Betula nigra*); Catalpa, southern (*Catalpa bignonioides*); \*Chestnut (*Castanea dentata* x other); Elm, Florida (*Ulmus americana*); Elm, winged (*Ulmus alata*); Holly, American (*Ilex opaca*); Holly, Dahoon (*Ilex cassine*); Holly, East Palatka (*Ilex x attenuata*); Hop-hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*); Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*); \*Jerusalem-thorn (*Parkinsonia aculeata*); \*Juniper, Chinese (*Juniperus chinensis*); \*Loquat (*Eriobotrya japonica*); Magnolia, southern (*Magnolia grandiflora*); Maple, southern sugar (*Acer saccharum*); \*Mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*); Mulberry, red (*Morus rubra*); Oak, bluejack (*Quercus incana*); Oak, bluff (*Quercus sinuata*); Palms (all tree types) – a few (mostly exotics) had some frond damage; \*Parasol tree, Chinese (*Firmiana simplex*); \*Pear, flowering (*Pyrus calleryana*); \*Persimmon, oriental (*Diospyros kaki*); Pine, spruce (*Pinus glabra*);

(Continued on page 4)

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**Tuesday, Oct. 12**  
**7:30 pm**  
*(Plant ID Workshop at 6)*

**Upcoming Meetings, Field Trips, and Events**

**Monthly Meetings**

Regular monthly meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday September - November and January - May at 7:30 pm at the Matheson Historical Center, 513 E. University Ave., Gainesville, Florida. Plant ID workshops precede each meeting at 6:30 pm.

**Oct. 12** Florida Frogs Paul Moler  
**Nov. 9** TBA

**Field Trips**

**Oct. 16** Ross Prairie  
**Nov. 13** (Tentative) Mill Creek

**Events**

**Oct. 7, 9, 16, 21, 23, and 30** www.masternaturalist.org  
 Florida Master Naturalist Program Freshwater Module  
**Oct. 30** Black Bear Fest, Umatilla, www.flblackbearfestival.com  
**Dec. 6-10** 1st National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration  
 Wyndham Palace - Lake Buena Vista, Florida

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**Suburban Tree Wind Damage** (Continued from page 2)

\*Podocarp, Japanese-yew (*Podocarpus macrophyllus*); Soapberry (*Sapindus saponaria*); \*Tallow-tree, Chinese (*Sapium sebiferum*); \*Tungnut (*Aleurites fordii*); Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) – all young trees; Tupelo, Ogeechee-lime (*Nyssa ogeche*); Walnut, black (*Juglans nigra*)

**Category 5: Limber Shrubs**

(These large shrubs showed little or no damage.)

\*Arborvitae, oriental (*Platycladus orientalis*); Buckeye, red (*Aesculus pavia*); Buckthorn, Carolina (*Rhamnus caroliniana*); \*Candle-stick-bush (*Senna alata*); \*Chaste-tree / monks-pepper (*Vitex agnus-castus*); \*Chitalpa (*Chilopsis linearis x Catalpa bignonioides*); \*Citrus (*Citrus* spp.); \*Crepe-myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*); \*Cycad, sago (*Cycas revoluta*); \*Cycad, Virgin's (*Dioon edule*); \*Golden-dewdrops / Skyflower (*Duranta erecta*); \*Guava, pineapple (*Feijoa sellowiana*); Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.); \*Holly, Burford (*Ilex cornuta*); Holly, Gallberry (*Ilex glabra*); Holly, Yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*); \*Magnolia, saucer (*Magnolia soulangiana*); Mock-orange / English-dogwood (*Philadelphus inodorus*); Palms (all shrub types) – a few (mostly exotics) had some frond damage; \*Photinia, redleaf (*Photinia x fraseri*); \*Plumbago (*Plumbago auriculata*); \*Pomegranate (*Punica granatum*); \*Privet, Japanese (*Ligustrum japonicum*); \*Snailseed (*Cocculus laurifolia*); \*Stopper, Simpson's (*Myrcianthes fragrans*); \*Viburnum, sweet (*Viburnum odoratissimum*); Viburnum, Walter's (*Viburnum obovatum*);

Scientific names (truncated a bit here) are from Wunderlin (1998), with some exotics from Graf (1981).

**Florida Native Plant Society Membership Form**

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<input type="checkbox"/> Student (full-time)	\$15

Please mail completed form to: Florida Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 278, Melbourne, FL 32902-0278

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendations by the state.