



*Rhexia mariana* ©Darel Hess 2bnthewild.com

## Hawthorne City Park Project

The Hawthorne city commission and city residents are launching a community wide campaign to rejuvenate Lake Johnson City Park. This project is a partnership with St. John's River Water Management District, Keep Alachua County Beautiful and the Association of Florida Native Nurseries. The project sounds very exciting and includes the following goals:

- Shoreline maintenance of overgrown vegetation to allow more access for recreation and wildlife observation.
- Shoreline planting of flowering native aquatic plants to add color, beauty and enhancement for wildlife diversity.
- Pressure washing and painting of bathrooms and picnic pavilions
- New native plant landscaping to revitalize and update appeal of the park.
- Construction of wood duck boxes, bird houses, butterfly houses, bat houses and deadfalls to attract wildlife and enhance observation areas.
- Construction of a kiosk to identify the natural areas around the lake.

The first scheduled work day is April 9, but the work will continue throughout the summer. The city of Hawthorne is looking for support from individuals, non-profit groups, schools, clubs or businesses that can donate time and/or funds. We encourage FNPS members who live in the area to volunteer. Contact Tim Logan at 352-481-0038.

# The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter  
Florida Native Plant Society  
April 2005

## Planting Under Oak Trees – The Sequel

By Brian Quinn

Last month I wrote about planting natives under oak trees, and this month I would like to continue on that subject. This time around, I am going to give suggestions for folks who have a few hours of direct or near-direct sunlight near their oak trees. Just this small bit of sunlight opens up many possibilities for your yards, gardens, and larger tracts of land. Please remember that the native plant sale takes place at Morningside on April 8-9, and most if not all of these plants will be available there.

My first suggestion for planting near oaks is the Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*).

This underused small tree is a stunner when in bloom with large white bracts, and it produces berries that are eaten by various species of birds. Be sure to plant a few in close proximity, because this species is dioecious (having separate sexes on each individual plant). Two of the three native dogwoods that grow in our area (*Cornus asperfolia* and *Cornus foemina*) are great under story trees that bloom in the spring with small white flowers, and produce blue berries that are prized by birds and other wildlife. The native persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*) is a fabulous choice for planting near or under oak trees. It produces white flowers in the spring that turn into tasty fruit enjoyed by many critters including man. If you plan on eating the fruit yourself, be careful to let it fully ripen, or else you will be in store for a very bitter meal. The wood is highly prized by artists and furniture makers, and don't forget the eye-catching fall color. The persimmon is another dioecious native, so try to plant a few in proximal areas.

I really like Florida Anise (*Illicium floridanum*) as an under story plant, but it needs a moist soil to look good. The deep-green leaves are highly aromatic, and I cannot resist pulling one off a plant as I pass by and crushing it for the sweet smell. The fruits of this species are used as spices in Mexican and Chinese cooking (see Chinese 5-spice). If you have a dry site, the native rosemaries (*Conradina*) do surprisingly well in lesser light. These threatened

and endangered plants thrive with no care, they are great secondary pollinators, and they flower twice per year. Be careful not to plant *Conradina* in a yard that will get ravaged by pets or children, because they do not grow back after the main stem has been broken. The Needle Palm (*Rhapidophyllum hystrix*) is a wonderful evergreen shrub/tree that enjoys the shade of oak trees. This once rare species likes moist soil, but can adapt to dryer conditions. It is a slow grower, so be patient with it, and give it the time it needs to grow and thrive.

You can really break out the wildflowers with just a little bit of sun. Plants like native petunia (*Ruellia* sp.), Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), Twinflower (*Dyschoriste* sp.), native phlox (*Phlox* sp.), Lyreleaf Sage (*Salvia lyrata*), and Poppy Mallow (*Callirhoe papaver*, which should be planted under deciduous oaks for winter sunlight) can take a surprising amount of shade and still produce an abundance of flowers.

These are just a few of the hundreds of species that will be available to you at the upcoming sale. I hope you can be there to buy plants and other goodies, thereby helping children experience Morningside and other nature parks, and aiding your natural surroundings by replacing what has been

## What Makes Your Neighborhood Green?

Sustainable Alachua County (SAC) wants to help you find out. Everyone wants to live in a clean, healthy, sustainable world...well, let's start in our own backyards! SAC's "Green Map" project is a fun, new initiative searching for all of the places that make Gainesville great. From eco-culture, agriculture, and sustainable dining to green plantings and greenways - Gainesville has

(Continued on page 4)

## 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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## Program Notes for Tuesday, April 12, 2005

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

### Philip Kauth: "Native Terrestrial Orchids in the Landscape"

Phil Kauth is a masters student at the University of Florida, in the Environmental Horticulture Department. His talk will be a photographic presentation featuring cultivation tips and future implications of popular and little known species and hybrid orchids. His research <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/plantrestoration/KaneLab/html/members.htm> centers on the micropropagation and seed culture of native terrestrial orchids. Specific interests include *Calopogon tuberosus* and *Scoila lanceolata* var *lanceolata* and further description of this work is listed on the website: <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/plantrestoration/KaneLab/html/commercial.htm>. Phil's interest in orchids was sparked while working on his BS in biology at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point where he was a member of the native orchid conservation committee of the Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society. Please join us for this program and for refreshments and plant raffle afterwards. The Plant ID workshop before the meeting will begin at 6:30pm.

## March Field Trip: Report from O'Leno State Park

By Erick Smith

You can never tell what motivates people to get up early on a Saturday morning and go look at wildflowers. It was a beautiful spring day for a leisurely stroll along the Santa Fe River but it was a small group that showed up to walk through swamp, bluff and upland pine forests. As a bonus, the park was having one of their largest festivals of the year, O'Leno Days. Great food, rides for the kids, tomahawk throwing and a six-gun shootout between the sheriff, cracker cowboys, and their wives was the highlight of the day.

We started by crossing the bouncy suspension bridge over the Santa Fe River and walked the bluff 15-20 ft. above the river. Native azaleas were just getting started and the splash of light pink and white scattered in the understory was delightful. Lots of American Olive and Rusty Lyonia were also in bloom. We gradually moved into a more upland pine forest. The state park managers have an active burning program and are gradually extending and restoring the sandhill area.

The Santa Fe River goes underground in this area of the park and it was fun watching the water swirl around as it flowed into the surficial aquifer. This park has a good trail system, historical exhibits, camping, swimming, and is only a half hour drive from Gainesville. I encourage anyone who has not visited O'Leno to make the trip.

## March Plant ID Report

By Paul Cohen

Nomenclature is based on "Guide to Vascular Plants of Florida" by Richard P. Wunderlin, University Press of Florida (2003) unless otherwise specified. Plant ID workshops are held at 6:30 PM prior to each meeting. Special thanks to all those who participate.

Sand post oak, *Quercus margaretta* Ashe ex Small, grows slowly and to a height of 60 ft often in association with turkey oak and long leaf pine. It hybridizes with live oak, *Q. virginiana*, in Florida to yield *Q. harbisonii*. Readily attacked by insects Sand Post Oak forms cavities which provide habitat for mammals and birds. It drops acorns which are eaten by deer, turkey, and quail.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	Status
<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	Scarlet Milkweed	Apocynaceae	Non-native
<i>Commelina diffusa</i>	Dayflower	Commelinaceae	Non-native
<i>Cyperus croceus</i>	Baldwin's Flatsedge	Cyperaceae	Native
<i>Fraxinus</i> sp.	Ash	Oleaceae	??????
<i>Ilex xattenuata</i>	East Palatka Holly	Aquifoliaceae	Native
<i>Manihot grahamii</i>	Graham's Cassava	Euphorbiaceae	Non-Native
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	Fabaceae	Non-Native
<i>Oxalis debilis</i>	Pink Woodsorrel	Oxalidaceae	Non-Native
<i>Panicum commutatum</i>	Variable Witchgrass	Poaceae	Native
<i>Parietaria floridana</i>	Florida Pellitory	Urticaceae	Native
<i>Pilea microphylla</i>	Artillery Plant	Urticaceae	Native
<i>Plantago virginica</i>	Virginia Plantain	Plantaginaceae	Native
<i>Quercus hemispherica</i>	Laurel Oak	Fagaceae	Native
<i>Quercus margaretta</i>	Sand Post Oak	Fagaceae	Native
<i>Stelaria medica</i>	Common Chickweed	Caryophyllaceae	Non-native
<i>Tillandsia recurvata</i>	Ballmoss	Bromeliaceae	Native
<i>Tillandsia usinoides</i>	Spanish Moss	Bromeliaceae	Native
<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	Small-leaf spiderwort	Commelinaceae	Non-Native
<i>Viburnum</i> sp.	Viburnum	Adoxaceae	Non-native

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**Next meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 12**  
**7:30 pm**  
*(Plant ID Workshop at 6:30)*  
**Doyle Conner Bldg. DPI**  
**1911 SW 34th St.**  
**Gainesville, FL**

<p><b>Upcoming Meetings and Field Trips.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Monthly Meetings</b></p> <p>Regular monthly meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday September - November and January - May at 7:30 pm. at the Doyle Conner Building, Division of Plant Industry, 1911 SW 34 St., Gainesville. Plant ID workshops precede each meeting at 6:30 pm.</p> <p><b>Apr. 12</b> <span style="float: right;">Phil Kauth</span>  <i>Native Terrestrial Orchids in the Landscape</i></p> <p><b>May. 10</b> <span style="float: right;">Jaret Daniels</span>  <i>Florida Butterflies</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Field Trips</b></p> <p><b>Apr. 8-9</b> <span style="float: right;">Spring plant sale</span></p> <p><b>May 14</b> <span style="float: right;">TBA</span></p> <p>The <i>Rhexia</i> is published monthly September-November and January-May by the Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.</p>	<p><b><i>What Makes Your Neighborhood Green???</i></b> (Continued from page 1)</p> <p>it all! This map will bring our community to life by showing us what is really out there and empowering us to make it better.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Green Map System</a> is a global eco-cultural movement, energized by local knowledge, action and responsibility. <a href="#">Green Maps</a> chart the natural, economic, and cultural environment using a shared visual language of Green Map Icons to highlight green living resources.</p> <p>The effort will cultivate citizen participation and community sustainability, as well as empower people to make more socially responsible lifestyle choices. Sustainable Alachua County is putting together a Green Map for the City of Gainesville and they would like us to help.</p> <p>SAC will be offering community workshops, attending neighborhood meetings, participating in school education programs, and more. Citizens are invited to get involved, participate, and nominate sites.</p> <p>The Green Map folks will be offering a short presentation at our April meeting to talk about the Green Map project and discuss what we, as the Native Plant Society, can do to further our mission to educate the public about native plants. Nominate sites...ask questions...get involved! For more information check out: <a href="http://www.the-green-scene.com">http://www.the-green-scene.com</a>, <a href="http://www.greenmap.org">http://www.greenmap.org</a>. Or call Naomi Ganyo at 352-256-8894</p>
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## Florida Native Plant Society Membership Form

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  - Business or Corporate \$100
  - Supporting \$100
  - Donor \$250
  - Library \$15
  - 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.