



*Rhexia mariana* ©Darel Hess 2bnthewild.com

## DCA Growth Forum February 10

Plan to attend the Department of Community Affairs' Twentieth Anniversary of Growth Management in Florida: A Retrospective.

The Forum will be at Shands Hospital in Gainesville on February 10, 2005 from 1:30-4pm in the MSB Auditorium on the 2nd floor. The forum is designed to look at how growth management in Florida has changed over the last 20 years.

Participate in an open forum with panelists Thaddeus Cohen, current Secretary of DCA and previous agency Secretaries Tom Lewis, Jim Murley, Dr. John DeGrove, Linda Shelley, Steve Seibert and Colleen Castille as they speak about their tenure with the department and the evolution of growth management in our state.

There will be a reception immediately following the forum. Please RSVP to Stacie. [anderson@dca.state.fl.us](mailto:anderson@dca.state.fl.us) or call Stacie at 850-922-1708. The forum and reception are free and open to the public.

For more information visit DCA's website at [www.dca.state.fl.us](http://www.dca.state.fl.us)

The sponsor for the event is the Florida League of Cities.



# The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter  
Florida Native Plant Society  
February 2005

## Exploring the Native Groundnut

By Brian Quinn

The groundnut (*Apios americana*) is a native vine from the pea family (Fabaceae), which is found throughout the east and as far west as Colorado. The favored food of many tribes of native Indians, this plant was used throughout the history of North America. In fact, the groundnut was a primary food of the Pilgrims, after the stored corn was exhausted.

There are two parts of the plant that are edible, including the roots and the seeds. The root of the groundnut has nodules or tubers, which are swollen nodes found at regular intervals along the entire length, and these tubers contain great quantities of edible starch.

These roots can be cooked in a variety of ways, like roasting, baking, boiling, frying, or drying for flour. The seed pods look like snow peas, and contain small seeds that can be substituted for beans or lentils in soups and stews. Many agronomists consider the groundnut to be an untapped food resource that could be utilized on a wide basis.

The groundnut is a non-woody perennial vine that dies back even before the first frost in Florida. The flowers are, actually, quite stunning bracts that can be deep purple on the outside and light pink on the inside, and the plant produces many blooms. Having groundnut in your yard can provide added bonuses. Since it is in the pea family, the roots fix nitrogen in soil, so fertilizer is not needed for healthy growth. This species is also the host plant for two skipper butterflies, the Silver-spotted Skipper (*Epargyreus clarus*) and Southern Cloudywing (*Thorybes bathyllus*), and one blue butterfly, the Spring Azure (*Celestrina ladon*), which are all found in Florida. I have this vine growing on a pergola in partial sunlight, and it attracts large numbers of the skipper butterflies.

Groundnut is a facultative wetland plant, meaning that it likes wet soils, but can survive in drier substrates, while I

have it growing in mostly sand with no problems at all.

One thing to note about the groundnut is that it can spread aggressively, so be careful to give it plenty of space and don't plant anything else too close. Plant a groundnut in your yard, and you will have one of nature's native food sources beneath your feet!

## Ocala National Forest Trail Update

This is the latest information on the use of motorized off-road vehicles on the trails in the Ocala National Forest from the USDA Forest Service 2005 Winter newsletter.

Over 300 comments were received by the December 1, 2004 deadline. These comments were used to evaluate the Final Environmental Impact Statement planned for release in Spring 2005. To help with implementation of the new plan, the Ocala Forest is moving forward with an OHV volunteer program. Volunteers will train OHV Trail Hosts who will help inform forest users about the new system of trails and where they can ride.

"The new trail system will be a significant change over the existing trails. Trails for motorcycles, ATV's and full size 4-wheel drive vehicles will be clearly identified on the ground through a system of trail markers and signs. Trails will be accessed from trailheads (parking areas). Maps showing the location of trails and trailheads will be available. Maps and international trail symbols will identify which uses are allowed on each trail. Rules and regulations for use of the trails will include existing policies prohibiting mud bogging and night riding to encourage a safe riding experience."

The success of the access plan will depend on a monitoring program by forest staff. Two of the previously closed

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## 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, Feb. 8, 2005

### Plant Identification Workshop: 6:30-7:30pm Dave Conser: "Managing Your Forest Property for Wildlife"

Two southern pine beetle outbreaks, hurricanes, and the dismantling of the fire tower on north-east 23rd avenue, he's seen it all. Dave has been the Alachua county forester for nine-teen years, helping private land-owners with tree-planting, prescribed fire, tree harvest or advice on their yard trees. He has worked for the Florida Division of Forestry for twenty years, using his forestry degree from UF to help people make their vision come about on their time timber ground.

Dave will present practical options landowners have for ecosystem restoration, including tree planting and prescribed fire. He will discuss balance between timber harvest, wildlife, aesthetics, recreation, grazing, forest health, recreation and watershed concerns landowners try to maintain as part of their land stewardship. Whether you're trying to let a corner of your yard grow wild to attract wildlife or if you're trying to restore an old pine plantation to a natural ecosystem, Dave's talk will have something to help you.

### Feb. 19-20 Field Trips - take your pick at the Rally for the Ocklawaha River

We're listing just a few of the 50+ guided field trips and self-guided tours in Putnam County, many led by FNPS members. The Rally has something for everyone including an art show, story telling, and an acoustic music jam session Saturday afternoon at Ravine Gardens State Park in Palatka.

You also won't want to miss the fun and excitement of helping the Putnam County Environmental Council launch it new initiative "The People's Restoration," a US Forest Service sanctioned tree planting event on federal lands near Rodman Dam. Come see why environmentalist have been fighting for 35 years to free the river.

On Saturday evening at 7:00, write your own free ticket to the pep rally by signing a petition to remove Rodman Dam and allow the Ocklawaha to flow freely. Be assured, you'll have a great time while meeting many friends and allies from all over Florida. For more information, call Karen at (352) 546-3560 or email [PCECriverrally@hotmail.com](mailto:PCECriverrally@hotmail.com)

**Registration is required for most trips; most are free; there are fees for river outfitter trips.** For all trips bring water, snacks, insect repellent and wear appropriate clothes and shoes for hiking in February. Some hikes entail getting feet wet. For the complete list go to FDE's web site [www.fladefenders.org](http://www.fladefenders.org). Here are some that feature native plant ecosystems:

#### Saturday Morning Field Trips

- 9am-noon: **Rodman Dam Native Plant Hike** Register with Karen at 352-546-3560 [pcecriverrally@hotmail.com](mailto:pcecriverrally@hotmail.com)  
*(THIS TRIP REPEATS ON SUNDAY MORNING) Botanist and trip leader Carol Lippincott will discuss the effects of a permanent drawdown of Rodman Reservoir on the ecology of native plant communities. (Easy)*
- 9am-noon: **Driving/Walking Tour of Etoniah Creek State Forest** Register at 386-329-2552  
*Sr. Forester Scott Crosby will discuss prescribed burns and silviculture management Putnam County. (Easy)*
- 9am-noon: **Katherine Ordway Preserve** Register with Jill 352-475-1567 or [mikejillmcguire@earthlink.net](mailto:mikejillmcguire@earthlink.net)  
*A general ecology/natural history tour of Ordway Preserve with Dick Franz and Mel Sunquist. (Moderate difficulty)*
- 9am-noon: **Rice Creek Conservation Area** Register with Willie 352-481-6264 or [wthelosen@yahoo.com](mailto:wthelosen@yahoo.com)  
*FTA hike with Willie the Losen through Rice Creek Swamp on a boardwalk and dikes to view old growth cypress. (Moderate)*
- 9am-noon: **Welaka State Forest** Register with Erick [edsmith@ufl.edu](mailto:edsmith@ufl.edu)  
*Native Plant walk with UF Urban Forester Erick Smith through a variety of natural communities. Possibly wet. (Easy-Moderate)*
- 8:30am-noon: **Deep Creek - Cross Florida Greenway** Register with Adele 386-312-2273  
*Driving/walking tour of Cross Florida Greenway-Deep Creek with biologist Adele Mills, Brenda Herring (FNAI) and orchid expert Paul Martin Brown (Moderate to Difficult)*
- 8am: **Canoe/Kayaking the Ocklawaha River** Register with Lars Anderson 386-454-0611  
*SATURDAY: Paddle the natural section of the Ocklawaha River below the dam (Beginning to Expert)  
SUNDAY: Paddle the Ocklawaha through the drawdown Rodman Reservoir (Beginning to Expert)*

#### Saturday Afternoon Field Trips

- 1pm-4pm: **Etoniah Creek State Forest** Register with Willie 352-481-6264 or [wthelosen@yahoo.com](mailto:wthelosen@yahoo.com)  
*FTA hike in Etoniah Creek SF. View Etoniah Creek from atop a 40' canyon with Willie the Losen. (Moderate to Difficult)*
- 1pm-4pm: **Welaka State Forest** Register with Barbara 386-649-4426 or [lcgalloways@hotmail.com](mailto:lcgalloways@hotmail.com)  
*Hike the 1.7 mile Mud Springs Trail with Sr. Forester Terry Dailey through four ecosystems (Easy)*
- 2pm-5pm: **Mushrooms in Welaka State Forest** Register with Karen [iluvfla@gru.net](mailto:iluvfla@gru.net)  
*Easy mushroom identification walk and lecture with botanist Karen Garren*

#### Sunday Morning Field Trips

- 9am-2pm: **Kayak/Canoe for Wild Edibles** Register with Lee 352-595-2432 or [Hawkseyejourneys@cs.com](mailto:Hawkseyejourneys@cs.com)  
*Canoe/Kayak Johnson Creek off the Ocklawaha from SR 19 with Capt Lee Solomon (Beginner to intermediate)*

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**Next meeting**  
**Tuesday, Feb. 8**  
**7:30 pm**  
*(Plant ID Workshop at 6)*  
**Doyle Conner Bldg. DPI**  
**1911 SW 34th St.**  
**Gainesville, FL**

**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 Doyle Conner Building, Division of Plant Industry, 1911 SW 34 St., Gainesville. Plant ID workshops precede each meeting at 6:30 pm.

- Feb. 8** Dave Conser  
*Managing Your Forest Property for Wildlife*
- Feb. 10** Chapter Planning Meeting  
*Environmental Horticulture Greenhouses, UF*

**Field Trips**

- Feb. 19-20** **Rally for the Ocklawaha River**  
*(See page 2 for more information)*

**Events**

- April 9-10** **Spring Native Plant Sale**  
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**ONF Trail Update**

*(Continued from page 1)*

areas at Ocala-Lake Delancy and Paisley Woods that were previously damaged, have now recovered with 80-100% ground cover. This shows that the public is complying with closure orders in these areas. Hopefully people are willing to obey new regulations if they are clearly defined and well marked on the ground.

**January Field Trip Report**

It was an overcast cold day, but 7 FNPS members showed up at Dudley Farm State Park for the invasive exotic *Ardisia* eradication workday. We shifted our focus from the rear of the farm to the new main walking path that connects the visitors center and the farmstead.

Over 25 large trashbags were filled with the noxious plants in our 2 hour shift. Afterwards we strolled around the farm to enjoy the old time ambiance of the park and the frisky chickens. Don't worry if you missed the trip - there are plenty of *Ardisa crenata* left to destroy next time!

**Florida Native Plant Society Membership Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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- Individual \$25
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  - 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.