



Rhexia mariana ©Darel Hess 2bnthewild.com

FNPS Outreach Activities

2005 Earth Day Report

Earth Day began in downtown Gainesville with a deluge of rain but the clouds parted and soon the plaza filled with people from many cultural and ethnic backgrounds. It was definitely an international atmosphere with diverse music and foods and many displays that reflect the caring community groups that Gainesville nurtures. The green space was filled with running and dancing children--"tomorrow's environmentalists" who came with their parents to celebrate the nature of our planet.

FNPS was in good standing and a steady stream of people gathered brochures and asked plant questions at our information booth. Most people were not aware of our group or its monthly programs and field trips, so it was a day well spent spreading the word of native plant preservation, conservation and education. Thanks to booth sitters Erick Smith, Charlie Pedersen and Rosemary Jones. Sharing the day's event among four FNPS members was great, so we hope you'll consider helping out at future events.

(Continued on page 2)

The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society
May 2005

Firewise Landscaping

By Annaleasa Winter, Division of Forestry Wildfire Mitigation Specialist and Charlie Pedersen, Biological Scientist II, Florida Division of Forestry

We've all seen the images after a wildfire: a smoldering foundation, the rubble of a collapsed house, and charred surrounding forest. Some common sense construction and landscape planning can prevent a wildfire from spreading to your house.

There are two main ways your house can ignite from a wildfire: directly when fire creeps across a dry lawn and ignites flammable vegetation next to the house or an attached deck, porch, or overhanging roof line; or indirectly when burning embers are blown on a roof covered with flammable vegetative debris.

Is your home at risk? First consider your site, including: local area fire history, surrounding native vegetation, property contours and boundaries, and your current landscaping. What are the plant characteristics and placement (duffage or amount of dead materials under the plants, water and salt retention ability, aromatic oils, fuel load per area, size, and distance to your house)? What are the irrigation requirements?

To create a Firewise landscape, remember that the primary goals are fuel reduction and creating defensible space. A minimum of a 30 foot separation from the wildland vegetation to your home on all sides is recommended to give your house a better chance of surviving a wildfire and to provide a safer place for firefighters to work when defending your home from a wildfire. A defensible space is not a bar-

ren landscape but one that is carefully managed to prevent fire from easily burning up to your home and possibly igniting it. You can create a defensible space by carefully situating the trees you plant and widely spacing or clumping shrubs and alternating their heights to provide a break in the continuity of the vegetative fuel bed. Take out the "ladder fuels" — vegetation and pine needles that serve as a link between grass and shrubs and the tree tops, or your landscaping and the eaves of your house. Give yourself added protection with "fuel breaks" like driveways, gravel walkways, sandy patches and lawns.

When maintaining a landscape keep trees and shrubs properly pruned. Prune all trees so the lowest limbs are 6' to 10' from the ground, and remove leaf clutter and dead and overhanging branches. Store firewood away from your house. In moderate or high-risk wildfire areas homeowners should carefully select the landscape plants closest to the house. High resin/wax content in leaves, small leaf size, evergreen habit, and low moisture content all increase potential fire danger.

Characteristics of more fire resistant plants include broad, thick and moist leaves, a high moisture and salt content, a loose branching pattern, self pruning, slow growing and overall healthy plants. Examples of



(Continued on page 3)

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.

President:	Charlie Pedersen	352-373-0507	pedersc@doacs.state.fl.us	Director:	Jack Jordan	jjordan@water.agen.ufl.edu
Vice President:	Brian Quinn		bquinn@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu	Director:	Dick Knapp	352-528-6181
Secretary:	Claudia Larsen	352-846-1070	Clarsen@ifas.ufl.edu	Director:	Mary Rhodes	352-475-2344
Treasurer:	Joe Durando	386-462-5455		Director:	Jennifer Staiger	jennifer_staiger@usgs.gov
Chapter Rep.:	Erick Smith	352-380-0648	edsmith@ufl.edu	Director:	Sandra Vardaman	smvardaman@smtp.co.alachua.fl.us
Membership Chair:	Goldie Schwartz	352-495-3983	afn49@mindspring.com	Plant Rescue Coord:	Jamie Barichivich	352-375-1972 Jamie_barichivich@usgs.gov
Newsletter Editor:	Karen Ahlers	352-546-3560	gourdsandboards@hotmail.com	Newsletter Distribution:	Alice Tyler	352-528-3968 pinetyl@atlantic.net

Outreach Activities

(Continued from page 1)

Florida Folk Festival May 27-29

Paynes Prairie Chapter of FNPS covers a large area of north central Florida. A big part of our mission is to provide opportunities for Floridians who are not involved with FNPS to educate themselves about our native plant communities. Paynes Prairie Chapter members go to festivals and celebrations, set up a table with pictures, pamphlets and books, and engage people who are interested in native plants and are looking for more information. Our latest event was Earth Day, downtown Gainesville, and upcoming we have the Florida Folk Festival May 27-29.

If you are interested in getting out, meeting new people and learning more about native plants, then join us at one of these events. We usually announce them at the meetings or in the *Rhexia*.

To help with the Florida Folk Festival FNPS table call Erick Smith 352. 380. 0648. or stop by and say hello as you enjoy the music.

Program Notes for Tuesday, May 10, 2005

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

Jaret C. Daniels, PhD

Please join us for the last meeting of Spring when our speaker will be Dr. Jaret Daniels from the McQuire Center for Lepidoptera Research at the University of Florida. Dr. Daniels has just written *Your Florida Guide to Butterfly Gardening: A Guide for the Deep South* and will speak to us about this subject. This colorful guide shows readers how simple it can be to start a butterfly garden. It offers a thorough look at Florida's most important butterflies and the plants they prefer for food, shelter, and egg laying.

Dr. Daniels has written extensively on butterflies and other beneficial insects in such publications as "Fine Gardening", "American Butterflies", and "Tropical Lepidoptera". He has worked on the ecology and conservation of several endangered and threatened butterfly species in Florida and the Caribbean, including the Schaus Swallowtail.

The plant ID workshop begins at 6:30pm followed by the talk at 7:30. Afterwards we will enjoy refreshments and a plant raffle. (Remember no meeting in June, July, August - we'll see you in September for the Fall meeting series and plant sale!

May Field Trip - Rice Creek Conservation Area May 14, 2005 - 8:00 am - noon

On May 14th join Putnam County Environmental Council and the Florida Native Plant Society for a joint native plant walk at the Rice Creek Conservation Area. Hikers will meet at the trailhead at 8:00 am on SR100, seven miles east of Q.I. Roberts Middle School. The trip will be led by Willy The Losen and St. Johns River Water Management District botanist, Cecil Slaughter.

Be sure to bring a snack, plenty of water, sunscreen, insect repellent (the mosquitoes can be ferocious), and - if you plan on venturing to see the old growth cypress trees - wear shoes and clothes that can get wet and muddy. Call Willy at (352) 481-6264 to register for the hike and to get directions to the trailhead.

Nature Immersion! LEEF Natural History Workshop - Oct. 21-23, 2005

Enjoy plants, insects, birds, ecology and wildlife, all within your grasp. You and your nature-loving friends are invited to Earth Healing, a hands-on natural history workshop sponsored by the League of Environmental Educators in Florida. The workshop will be held at Camp Crystal Lake, north of Gainesville, on the weekend of Oct. 21-23, 2005. Earth Healing includes nature study, deep ecology discussions, activist empowerment workshops, and a lakeside healing spa. Earth Healing is designed to facilitate environmentalists, environmental educators, and nature lovers in their efforts to protect our natural environment while

enjoying the abundance and beauty it offers.

Some of Florida's best loved naturalists will be leading excursions in the sandhills and ravines around the lake, including butterfly ecologist Marc Minno, Scrub Curriculum expert Nancy Deyrup, insect ecologist Mark Deyrup, forest ecologist Bob Simons, mycologist Karen Garren, wildlife biologist Tony Davanzo, and others. To register for EARTH HEALING natural history workshop, call Maria Minno at (352)357-3028, and soon conference information will be available from the LEEF website at <http://leeflet.brinkster.net/>.

Save Chapter resources, save trees! Sign up to receive your Rhexia via email

Contact Karen Ahlers at gourdsandboards@hotmail.com

Firewise Landscaping

(Continued from page 1)

plants with lower fire risk include: Dogwood, Viburnum, Redbud, Sycamore, Magnolia, Beautyberry, Oaks, Red Maple, Wild Azalea, Sweetgum, Coontie, Winged Elm, Black Cherry, Persimmon, Wild Plum, Sugarberry, Florida Soap-berry, Fringetree, Ferns, Wild Olive, Blue Beech, Hophornbeam, and Sparkleberry.

If unsure about a given plant in your yard, the University of Florida has a publication that helps you grade landscape plants for flammability (Fire in the Wildland-Urban Interface: Preparing a Firewise Plant List for WUI Residents). Another

publication (Selecting and Maintaining Firewise Plants for Landscaping) provides detailed characteristics of fire resistant plants. A variety of Firewise landscaping publications are available online at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>. The Florida Division of Forestry website provides tips on creating defensible space and fire resistant plant lists at www.fl-dof.com.

A worst case scenario for landscaping would be highly flammable native plants like saw palmettos (and their waxy fronds) growing very close to your home or even up into the eaves of your house, an accumulation of dead pine needles within the palmettos, and more combustible vegetative material on the roof. Homeowners should recognize that the proximity of some highly-flammable plants to structures may create a wildfire hazard and that fuel reduction and the proper care and maintenance of landscape plants can greatly reduce the wildfire risk to a wildland/urban interface home.

A carefully planned native Florida landscape can be beautiful, provide food and cover for wildlife, require less water for irrigation and provide

shade to cool the home and reduce energy bills.

Design and build a Firewise structure. In designing and building your Firewise structure, remember that the primary goals are fuel and exposure reduction. To this end, use construction materials that are fire-resistant or non-combustible whenever possible. For roof construction, consider using materials such



as metal, Class-A asphalt shingles, slate or clay tile, cement and concrete products, or terra-cotta tiles. Constructing a fire-resistant sub-roof can add protection as well. For exterior wall facing fire resistant materials such as stucco or masonry are

much better choices than vinyl which can soften and melt.

Fire resistant soffit materials such as aluminum are also recommended to prevent embers from entering the attic. Window materials and size are important. Smaller panes hold up better in their frames than larger ones. Double pane glass and tempered glass are more reliable and effective heat barriers than single pane glass. Plastic skylights can melt.

Install non-flammable shutters on windows and skylights. Include a driveway that is wide enough to provide easy access for fire engines (12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet. The driveway and access roads should be well-maintained, clearly marked, and include ample turnaround space near the house. Keep gutters, eaves, and roofs clear of leaves and other flammable debris.

Any structures attached to the house, such as decks, porches, fences, and outbuildings should be considered part of the house. These structures can act as fuel bridges, particularly if constructed from flammable materials. There-

fore, consider the following. If you wish to attach an all-wood fence to your house, use masonry or metal as a protective barrier between the fence and house. Use metal when constructing a trellis and cover it with high-moisture, low flammability vegetation. Prevent combustible materials and debris from accumulating beneath patio decks or elevated porches by installing fire resistant screening with a maximum 1/4" wire mesh.

Access additional information on the Firewise home page: www.firewise.org

References:

edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR147: *Fire in the Wildland-Urban Interface: Selecting and Maintaining Firewise Plants for Landscaping*. J. Douglas Doran, Cotton K. Randall, and Alan J. Long
edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR151: *Fire in the Wildland-Urban Interface: Preparing a Firewise Plant List for WUI Residents*. Anna L. Behm, Alan J. Long, Martha C. Monroe, Cotton K. Randall, Wayne C. Zipperer, and L. Annie Hermansen-Baez
edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR137: *Fire in the Wildland-Urban Interface: Considering Fire in Florida's Ecosystems*. Anna L. Behm and Mary L. Duryea
edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR138: *Fire in the Wildland-Urban Interface: Understanding Fire Behavior*. Cotton K. Randall
edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIC_BOOK_Wildland_Fire_Education_Handbook

Potluck Fish Fry

Hosted by

Charlie & Maura Pedersen

Saturday, June 11, 4:00 pm
704 NW 31st Pl., Gainesville

Charlie will be serving up
fish, hush puppies, cheese grits
and iced tea. Had a good day
fishing? He'll cook your catch
for you, too! Please bring a side
dish, salad or dessert and a
folding chair if you can.

Please RSVP to:

charliepedersen@hotmail.com
352-373-0507

Wildflowers and Butterflies in April

By Marc C. Minno
St. Johns River WMD
PO Box 1429, Palatka, FL 32178

April in northeastern Florida is a transition from spring to early summer. This has been an unusually wet month and the plants are lovin' it. Normally, we would be sliding into drought conditions, but not this year. The leaves on the trees are all very lush and green. April is one of the peak months for wildflowers.

The pawpaws are spectacular right now, especially the Woolly Pawpaw (*Asimina incana*) that grows in sandhills and dry pinelands. It's often abundant in pastures because grazing animals won't eat the strongly flavored leaves. The large white flowers cover the stems and splash patches of color across the landscape. This small shrub is the larval host plant for the Zebra Swallowtail butterfly (*Eurytides*

marcellus). Look for the interesting caterpillars on the leaves, inside the flowers, or even in the litter around the base of the plants.

April is also a great time of year for hairstreaks such as the Great Purple Hairstreak (*Atlides halesus*), White-M Hairstreak (*Parrhasius m-album*), Red-banded Hairstreak (*Calycopis cecrops*), Gray Hairstreak (*Strymon melinus*), and Southern Hairstreak (*Fixsenia favonius*). Juniper Hairstreaks (*Mitoura gryneus*) perch near the tops of Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) trees, but often come to flowers growing nearby.

The Striped Hairstreak (*Satyrium liparops*) and Banded Hairstreak (*Satyrium calanus*) occur in dry forests with lots of Sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*) and hickory (*Carya* species), and are only out as adults for a few weeks at this time of year. Look for hairstreaks on the flowers of White Sweetclover (*Melilotus alba*) and Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), as well as Sparkleberry and Spanish Needles (*Bidens alba*).

Spring '06 State FNPS Fund Raising Trip

In order to plan our fund raising trip for next spring we need some information from you. This trip will take us up the Amazon River from Iquitos, Peru into a large preserve that is abundant with birds and wildlife. We will visit some villages, and take jungle walks and small boat excursions. We will learn about the uses of medicinal plants, and visit a marketplace and small zoo containing native animals of Peru. And do some fishing, etc. Please e-mail JoAnne Trebatoski at plantnative@msn.com with the answers to these questions to aid us in planning this trip:

- * If the boat we took had bunk beds in most cabins would this prevent you from going on the trip?
- * Would a spring trip interest you?
- * Would a summer trip better suit you?
- * I plan to go on this trip.
- * What are your suggestions for other places to visit on these trips?

Taking the time to send answers to these questions, whether you plan to go on the trip or not, will help a lot.

If at least 20 people would like to go on the trip, we will take a bigger boat with no bunk beds. The smaller boat is the Arca and is a beautiful mahogany boat, but it holds fewer folks and has bunk beds. The Rio Amazonia is the ship we took last year down the Amazon, and is larger and holds more folks with twin beds in most rooms.

Many thanks,
Jo Anne Trebatoski
Fund Raising Chair

Russell, Erick Smith, and Jennifer Staiger for spending time at our booth and helping out with other vendors.

A date has not yet been set for the Fall sale but everyone will be notified via the Rhexia.

Congratulations to Howard Jelks, recipient of the Star Volunteer Award from the Nature Centers Commission for his work with the native plant sales

Spring Plant Sale Report

By Lisa Jelks

Thank you to all our volunteers for a successful Spring Native Plant Sale. Although the weather looked sketchy on Friday night, the rain stayed away and Saturday was picture perfect. A steady stream of customers both days provided for healthy sales.

This year's hot ticket item was the flame azalea, offered by several vendors. Other popular plants included blue-eyed grass, red buckeye, fringe tree, and blue phlox.

Our FNPS booth was popular as well. We dispensed information on planting natives, avoiding cypress mulch, and replacing hurricane damaged trees. We also offered

personalized customer service to anyone who needed help picking out plants for their yard, and plan to offer this service again for the Fall sale. Susan Trammel's t-shirt design proved irresistible to many customers. We decided to split the huge plant raffle into two drawings to make it easier for the winners to get their "instant garden" home and planted. Our own Mary Rhodes was one of the winners!

Thanks to all the vendors for supporting this effort. Our chapter raised some money and we signed up over a dozen new members (plus a dozen renewals).

I would like to especially thank Jamie Barichivich, Joe Durando, Howard Jelks, Brian Quinn, Bill

Compliments of



"Everything Toyota & Lexus"



www.AERSI.com
Phone: (352) 376-8399

Hart's Nursery

Native, Wildlife, & Blooming Plants

Come visit us at the
Alachua County Farmer's Market
441 North - Stall #6
Saturdays from 8:30 - Noon



Greg and Linda Hart

(386) 462-2752



23602 SE Hawthorne Road
Hawthorne, FL 32640

Breezy Oaks Nursery

(Hwy 20, one mile east of Hwy 301)
352-481-3795

F.L. Alsbrook

Jack Janes

Featuring native azaleas, trees, and shrubs

Wild Birds Unlimited®

Your Backyard Birdfeeding Specialist®

Birdseed · Feeders · Nesting Boxes · Nature Gifts · Optics

4215 NW 16th Blvd Gainesville
352-381-1997

www.wbu.com/gainesville
gainesvillewbu@hotmail.com

Mon-Sat 10-6 Sun 12-5



PAIS LANDSCAPES

Florida Native Horticulture
Design and Consulting
Landscape Contracting
Ecological Restorations

Post Office Box 14933
Gainesville, FL 32604

John David Pais

ISA Certified Arborist
FL Certified Landscape Designer
FL Certified Landscape Contractor
FL Native Plant Specialist

352-395-7289 Office
352-215-5452 Cell
352-475-37 Fax
jdpais@earthlink.net
www.paislandscapes.com



Crone's Cradle Conserve

Ecological Preserve - Feminist Retreat Center - Organic Farm

Visit our store Mon.-Sat. 10-4 pm

On CR 318, 6.4 miles east of Citra

Native wood products - Books, cards, calendars
Herbals & Edibles

And at the Union Street Farmer's Market

In Gainesville, Wed. 4:30 - 7 pm Organic Vegetables and Herbs
(352) 595-3377 www.cronescradleconserve.com

Compliments of
Chiappini Farm Native Nursery
David and Marilyn Chiappini

Dental Arts

Eric J. Amundson DDS
Restorative & Cosmetic Dentistry

- ◆ Comprehensive Dental Care
- ◆ Cleanings in a Spa-like Setting
- ◆ The Art of Cosmetic Dentistry
- ◆ Affordable Teeth Whitening
- ◆ Restorative Dentistry Including Implants
- ◆ Preventative Dentistry for Your Family

4040 W. Newberry Rd. Suite 1200 • Gainesville, Florida • 32607
352-376-3400 www.dentalarts.us



Micanopy Wildflowers

Claudia Larsen
(352) 466-3880

Native Wildflowers and Grasses in 4" pots
Available March - October

Wildflowers add beauty and life to your garden!
(Wholesale only by appointment. Minimum order \$100)



2406 NW 43RD STREET
GAINESVILLE, FL
352-376-4922

Located in the Millhopper Area

ANNUALS - PERENNIALS - NATIVES - SHRUBS - TREES -
ORCHIDS HOUSEPLANTS - ACCESSORIES - GARDEN GIFTS

Friendly Service Since 1970

Next meeting
Tuesday, May 10
7:30 pm
(Plant ID Workshop at 6:30)
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

- | | | |
|------------------|--|-----------------------|
| May 10 | Butterflies | Jaret Daniels |
| Sept. 13 | | TBA |
| May 3 | Chapter Planning Meeting | 5:30 - 7:30 pm |
| | <i>Environmental Horticulture Greenhouses, UF</i> | |
| | <i>Call Charlie Pedersen for info: 373-0507</i> | |
| May 14 | Rice Creek Conservation Area | Field Trip |
| | <i>(See page 2 for more information)</i> | |
| May 12-15 | Silver Anniversary State Conference | |
| | <i>25 Years of Preservation, Progress, and Promise</i> | |
| | <i>Hilton Melbourne Rialto Place, Melbourne</i> | |
| | <i>Go to www.fnps.org for more information</i> | |
| June 11 | Paynes Prairie Chapter Potluck Party | |
| | <i>(See page 3 for more information)</i> | |

The *Rhexia* is published monthly September-November and January-May by the Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.

April Plant ID Report by Paul Cohen

Florida Needlegrass, *Piptochaetium avenacioides*, is a tall grass with long black awns worthy of beautifying any land-scape but is difficult to propagate. Found in scrub and sandhills, occasionally it can be found at native nurseries. May Haw, *Crataegus aestivalis*, fruits can be used for jelly and wine making.

Nomenclature based on "Guide to Vascular Plants of Florida" by Richard P. Wunderlin, University Press of Florida (2003). Plant ID workshops precede each meeting at 6:30 pm.

Native plants identified: Burrmarigold, *Bidens laevis*; Netleaf leather-flower, *Clematis reticulate*; Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus florida*; Swamp Dogwood, *Cornus foemina*; May Haw, *Crataegus aestivalis*; Variable Witch-grass, *Dicanthelium commutatum*; Coastal Bedstraw, *Galium hispidulum*; Carolina Cranesbill, *Geranium carolinianum*; Yerba Mate, *Ilex paraguavensis*; Apalachicola toadflax, *Linaria floridana*; Pink Woodsorrel, *Oxalis debilis* var. *corymbosa*; Florida needlegrass, *Piptochaetium avenacioides*; Laurel Oak, *Quercus laurifolia*; Red Oak, *Quercus sp.*; Florida betony, *Stachys floridana*; Cardinal airplant, *Tillandsia fasciculata*; Ohio spiderwort, *Tradescantia ohiensis*; Venus' lookingglass, *Triodanis perfoliata*.

Non-native plants identified: Crepe Myrtle, *Lagerstroemia indica*; Chinese boxorange, *Severinia buxifolia*; Chinese elm, *Ulmus parvifolia*.

Florida Native Plant Society Membership Form

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____ County: _____
 Phone: _____ e-mail: _____
 Business Name: _____
 TOTAL : _____ Check enclosed: _____ Please charge my credit card: _____
 (VISA/MasterCard Only): Card Type and #: _____
 Exp. Date: _____ Name on credit card: _____

- Check pertinent category:
- Individual \$25
 - Family or Household \$30
 - Contributing \$40
 - Not-for-profit Org. \$50
 - 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.