



Rhexia mariana ©Darel Hess 2bnthewild.com

Fall Plant Sale is a Hot Item

By Claudia Larsen

Nintey degree weather did not discourage plant buyers at the September Fall Native Plant Sale at Morningside Nature Center. It was a slow but constant crowd of folks who visited booths to check out many varieties of trees, shrubs and wildflowers. We thank the Nature Operations staff for taking care of park-a-plant and facility organization; and we also thank Friends of Nature Parks who volunteered their time as cashiers. The FNPS booth had excellent volunteers giving landscape advice and making plant purchase suggestions. We also want to welcome the 22 new members who joined Paynes Prairie Chapter this weekend: Jim & Claudia Barrett, Janet Cavouti, Susie Collins, Sharon & Gary Dockter, Ann Foster, Genny Fulmer, Gene Griffis, Maria Christina Gurucharri, Penny Guy, Hannah Hamilton, Heidi Hatton, Katie Hogan, Steven & Cathleen Kabat, Harriet Kornblatt, Matt Lake, Lynn Lefebvre, Lisa Mallory, Bonnie Manford, Vera Rabino, Jerry Rose, Casey Schmidt, Pam & Rick Shamel, Marilyn Spalding, George Baldwin and Jacqueline Sulek.

We hope you will all join us for upcoming monthly programs and field trips that interest you. Thanks again to all FNPS members who volunteered their time and enthusiasm. We have tentatively set the date for Spring Plant Sale on April 7 & 8, 2006 so mark your calendars.

The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society
October 2005

Gardening for Birds with Natives, Part 1

By Brian Quinn

Right now is a wonderful time to take a walk in the woods with your binoculars and enjoy the fall passerine bird season, but I must warn you that birding and attracting birds to your yards can become addictive. Bird gardening is such a broad subject to cover in one article, so I am going to break it down by plant groups, and this month I will try to cover trees. Birds are a beautiful and vital part of our ecosystems, but the overall numbers of many species seem to be suffering a long-term decline. Most of this decline can be attributed to human actions such as wetland destruction, the use of certain agrochemicals, deforestation, and change in land use from agriculture to more urban settings. The good news is that you can do something to help by adding certain plant species to your yards and community areas that will attract birds.

A couple of years ago, we decided to change the focus of Carl's Garden to make it more bird friendly, since it is located only a few yards from a section of the Great Florida Birding Trail. In the process of choosing the plants, I had the chance to talk with some very experienced bird gardeners, and this series of articles is the product of those interactions. Trees are the basic structure for many gardens, and the types of trees you plant will ultimately dictate the wildlife you attract to your yard. It is important to think of resident and migratory passerine bird populations when you plant your bird garden, because you must consider having food for birds during Spring and Fall, the most important seasons for birds. Migrating birds become quite hungry and need to find food in order to finish their journey.

I start my bird garden with any of the various species of cherries or plums (*Prunus sp.*), because they are easy to grow, have early blooms for insects, and usually produce a nice crop of fruit.

One of the best bird trees in my garden is the Carolina buckthorn (*Rhamnus caroliniana*), because it is a heavy-fruiting plant that attracts many species of birds. Elm trees (*Ulmus sp.*) provide early seed and insect larvae for many birds, especially finches, and hollies (*Ilex sp.*) are

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Migratory Butterflies

By Marc C. Minno, SJRWMD

Northern Florida isn't exactly tropical, yet there are lots of native plants and animals in this region that have tropical affinity. Some common kinds of tropical butterflies found in southern Florida are noted for making large migrations. Large not only in distance traveled, but also in the numbers of individuals involved. Butterfly migration differs from that of vertebrate animals such as caribou, whales, or salmon, in that the same individuals do not return to the place of origin. The Great Southern White is a common butterfly found mostly in salt marshes along the coastline of peninsular Florida. The wings of the adults are typically white with narrow black borders and the tips of the antennae are a beautiful robin-egg-blue color. The females are usually white, but there is also a gray form. During years favorable to Great Southern Whites, this species becomes incredibly abundant, and the adults begin to fly northward along the coast by the millions. People stop and notice as clouds of these white butterflies sweep along beaches and through seaside towns. They are on a one-way trip further north, and later succumb to cold temperatures as winter sets in. Other kinds of Florida butterflies that disperse northward in large numbers during spring and summer include Long-tailed Skipper, Dorantes Skipper, Brazilian Skipper, Clouded Skipper, Cloudless Sulphur, Orange-barred

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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.

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Program Notes for Tuesday, October 11, 2005

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

Terry Zinn: Growing Wildflowers for Seed Production in Florida

Terry Zinn is a member of the Florida Wildflower Growers Cooperative that was recently formed as an organization of people interested in growing native Florida wildflowers to be harvested for bulk seed. This seed will be used for roadside plantings and is also available for public sale. He will be telling us about his group and also show the methods used for growing wildflowers as an agricultural crop. The talk will be followed by a plant raffle and refreshments.

October 15 Field Trip - Prices Scrub

The October 15 field trip for Price's Scrub will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the entrance gate on C.R. 320. To drive to Price's Scrub from I-75, take Exit #374 (Micanopy exit for CR 234). Go west on CR 234, away from Micanopy. CR 234 will curve several times, and automatically turn into CR 329 when it enters Marion county. 3.4 miles from the interstate exit, turn left on CR 320. Drive 2 miles, and there will be an obscure gate on the left (North) side of the road. If you have any questions, or would like to carpool from Gainesville, please contact Charlie Pedersen at 352-373-0507.

September 24 Field Trip Report

"Goatweed Leafwing," "Goatweed Leafwing," I heard someone exclaim as I stepped out the back door. Nearly 20 travel-weary butterfly enthusiasts from West Palm Beach, later joined by another 20 or so local native plant society members, perked up and strided toward the call. The spotting of this seasonal butterfly that's not something you see all the time, was an exciting start to my garden open house on September 24.

In all, we spotted 36 species of butterflies in my yard that day. Gainesville is a butterfly-rich area. By contrast, I used to see about 10 – 15 species in my garden in suburban south Florida on any given day. I'm up to 48 species total in my yard in High Springs since spring. What makes the yard so rich? I haven't totally figured it out, but we have left several patches unmowed. A heaping helping of bidens helps...the smaller butterflies, such as the hairstreaks and skippers, work the area heavily for nectar. Several hundred of Claudia Larsen's wildflowers (Claudia, thanks for all your hard work propagating these gems) blanket the back slope down from the house. While the small butterflies also visit this area, the larger swallowtails, brush-foots and sulphurs frequent the planted wildflowers more. Another important factor is the amount of host plants we planted. If you start a butterfly garden, focus on host plants. That way, you will keep generations in your yard. If you only have nectar plants, the butterflies are most obliged, I'm sure, but they will move on to other places that meet a greater number of their needs.

(Continued on page 3)

Other happenings

Join Alachua Audubon Society and Dr. Ken Meyer for their first program of the 2005-06 season. Dr. Meyer is a Courtesy Associate Professor in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, and Executive Director of the nonprofit Avian Research and Conservation Institute, here in Gainesville. He is also the world's leading authority on swallow-tailed kites; truly one of our most spectacular raptors. Come early and get a good seat, as Dr. Meyer is an excellent speaker and he always draws a good crowd.

September Plant ID Report

By Gary E. Schultz

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	Status
<i>Ampelopsis arborea</i>	Peppervine	Vitaceae	Native
<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	Virgins bower	Ranunculaceae	Native
<i>Fatoua villosa</i>	Hairy crabweed	Moraceae	Non-native
<i>Ipomoea hederifolia</i>	Scarlet creeper	Convolvulaceae	Native
<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	Glossy privet	Oleaceae	Non-native
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese honeysuckle	Caprifoliaceae	Non-native; invasive exotic
<i>Matelea pubiflora</i>	Sandhill spiny pod	Apocynaceae	Native; State listed as Endangered
<i>Paederia foetida</i>	Skunk vine	Rubiaceae	Non-native; invasive exotic
<i>Phyllanthus urinaria</i>	Chamber bitter	Euphorbiaceae	Non-native
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Chinese elm	Ulmaceae	Non-native

Volunteer for Exploratory Conference Committee

Yes, the rumor is true! The Paynes Prairie Chapter has been asked to host the annual Florida Native Plant Society conference in 2007 or 2008. In order to defray the feeling of widespread panic we'd like to form an exploratory committee to discuss options and needs of conducting a conference for 400 people before we commit to this project. Being on this committee will not glue you to any commitment (yet) but if you have experience or opinions on the conference subject, the officers would like to hear from you.

For those of you who have not had the pleasure of attending an FNPS conference, you might like to know that it consists of a Thursday of field trips, Friday and Saturday at a hotel with speakers, plant and vendor sales, and food.

Saturday evening is usually a social followed on Sunday morning by a few more 1/2 -day field trips. People attend for 1-4 days depending on their interests. The Gainesville Chapter last hosted this event in 1997 when David Pais and Claudia Larsen were conference chairs. The conference committee breaks into groups and meets monthly for perhaps a year before the conference. Registration is handled by the state FNPS office, but the chapter will have to have enough volunteers (20-30) for registration check-in, field trip organization, food and entertainment coordinating.

Field Trip Coordinator Position Open

The Board of Directors feels that our field trip organization would be smoother if one person (or a team of 2-3 people) would volunteer to coordinate trip information each month for our chapter. Responsibilities would include writing the field trip information for the Rhexia with directions, time of travel and a preview of what plants, ecosystems, etc we'd be seeing. Creating a monthly field trip list and contacting leaders would be nice, but the planning group can generally come up with many sites to explore as well. A post-field trip report for the Rhexia would also be welcomed and could include descriptions of the trip and/or a list of plants identified. There are many places to identify plants around Gainesville and field trips are a great way for members to get to know each other better and hone the skills of plant ID. Please contact Charlie Pedersen if you think you'd like to help. pedersc@doacs.state.fl.us 352-955-2253

Gardening for Birds with Natives, Part 1 (Continued from page 1)

one the most prolific and earliest fruiting trees in our area. The red cedar *Juniperus virginiana* is another tree that provides not only berries, but also shelter for overwintering and migrating birds. Fringe trees (*Chionanthus virginicus*), crabapples (*Malus angustifolia*), hawthorns (*Crataegus sp.*), persimmons (*Diospyros virginiana*) and dogwoods (*Cornus sp.*) bloom beautifully in the spring and produce fruits that are used by many bird species. Finally, oaks (*Quercus sp.*) and hickories (*Carya sp.*) produce nuts that are great sources of protein for birds and other types of wildlife.

These are a few examples of the many trees that will help to sustain our dwindling bird populations. One important point to note is that many of these tree species have separate male and female plants, so make sure you know the sex of the tree before installing it to ensure you are getting the plant you expect and the birds you desire. Now it's time to get those binoculars out and take a stroll.

Migratory Butterflies (Continued from page 1)

Sulphur, Sleepy Orange, Cassius Blue, White Peacock, Common Buckeye, Zebra Heliconian, Queen, and the Monarch. The females lay their eggs along the way as they disperse northward and their populations build in size through the summer. About this time of year, some migratory butterflies begin to reverse direction and fly southward into Florida or beyond. These aren't usually the same individuals that left in the spring, but rather it's their offspring or other generations that are flying southward. You may notice also that while butterflies such as White Peacocks mostly seem to be flying northward at this time of year, Long-tailed Skippers, Clouded Skipper, Cloudless Sulphurs, Common Buckeyes, and Monarchs are flying southward. The Monarch is especially remarkable in being able to fly from southern Canada all the way to central Mexico over several months time. Since Florida has such a mild climate, we have resident populations of Monarchs in central and southern parts of the state. However, at this time of year, millions of migrating Monarchs pass through Florida on their way to Mexico. You may see aggregations of Monarchs along the coast or near the St. Johns River. Monarchs seem to orient along the shores of large bodies of water. As you watch butterflies at this time of year, note which direction they are heading and think of the far away places they are going.

Field trip report (Continued from page 2)

The "puddling area" delighted the garden open house guests. Some one dozen sulphurs and a snout, along with a few large swallowtails, including Tiger Swallowtail and the Palamedes Swallowtail, were easy to observe at our drainage trench. Or, as we'd rather call it, our "stream." It's simply where excess rainfall dared to flow and eroded an area by our driveway. We filled it with river rock. When the edge is moist, many puddlers come to visit. Male butterflies puddle before they mate to collect salts and proteins they pass onto the female.

If you are interested in learning more about butterflies, you may be interested to know several of us are starting a local chapter of the North American Butterfly Association (www.naba.org). Our next field trip is Saturday, October 15, at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. Meet by the picnic tables behind the building at 10 a.m. We will lead a guided butterfly walk until noon. Bring water, sunscreen, a butterfly field guide and close-focusing binoculars (not required, but desirable). For more information about the chapter, e-mail me at zlongwing@aol.com.

Article by Kathy Malone, founding president of the North Central Florida Chapter of NABA, and the Atala Chapter of NABA, West Palm Beach. Currently a "Project Butterfly WINGS" coordinator at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville.

Another Great Fall Wildflower – Elephant’s Foot

Our chapter’s native plant sales are always an opportunity to see and learn about new plants for me; and this September sale was no exception. One plant that peaked my interest was Elephant’s Foot. Actually the plant in question is pretty common all over Florida and many of you may have it naturally growing in your yards or see it in urban pieces of natural area. Hart Nursery had a beautiful specimen with white flowers for sale this year; but the ones in my yard are definitely purple so it got me wondering. Gary Paul who directs activities at Morningside Nature Center has been busy photographing wildflowers that occur in the park and he mentioned to me that the park actually has 2 different species of Elephant’s Foot. So that was enough to send me to the research books; and here’s what I learned.

Elephant’s Foot (*Elephantopus* species) is a wildflower in the Aster or Composite Family that is common in Gardening Zones 4-9 in the Eastern USA. Its large lower leaves, which may be up to 10 inches long, provide the inspiration for the common name. Elephant’s Foot grows in full sun to partial shade and prefers dryish sandy soil. It has no insect or disease problem and provides a good ground cover when plants are massed. I can attest to this since they grow in the sparse grass under my pine trees and have formed a nice colony. Since I mow infrequently and at a tall height, they are spared the scalping blades and I mow around them in fall allowing the flowers to develop.

The flower bloom consists of 2-5 small flower heads arranged in a compound inflorescence. These blooms may vary in color from white to lavender in late summer and fall. And each flower head is surrounded by a leafy bract so that the entire flower head can be mistaken for a large single bloom. If you take the time to look at this flower closely this will make complete sense – Really!

I was surprised that there are actually 4 species that occur in Florida.

The most common is Tall Elephant’s Foot (*Elephantopus elatus*) It occurs in the whole state of Florida and upwards to S. Carolina where it is found in dry flatwoods and sandhills. It has large basal leaves at ground level and a hairy stem with no leaves which can reach 48 inches tall. The bracts subtending the flowers are also hairy and the flower color is usually white to lavender.



Second most common is Carolina Elephant’s Foot (*Elephantopus carolinianus*) which is found in most of Florida’s panhandle and north central counties, but not south of Lake Okeechobee. This plant has no basal (bottom) leaves but the stem supports at least 4 hairy leaf nodes with leaves, before branching with flower heads that may vary from white to lavender. It can be found in hammocks and floodplain forests.

Smooth Elephant’s Foot (*Elephantopus nudatus*) is a less frequent member of this genus. It is very similar to *E. elatus*. It also has basal leaves and a scapose (leafless) stem but the flower bracts are not as hairy as *E. elatus*. It is found in more moist soil, primarily in flatwoods, bogs and wet hammocks of the panhandle and central interior counties of Florida.

Devil’s Grandmother (*Elephantopus tomentosus*) is the last in this group. This plant has basal leaves and a leafless stem like *E. nudatus* and *E. elatus* but the flower head is larger. Colonies may be found in sandhills and calcareous hammocks only in the western Florida panhandle. I could not find a reason for the evil sounding name for this plant, and it seems like a charming and harmless wildflower to me. Also I could find no references that told of any historical or medicinal value for any of the *Elephantopus* species; but they are listed in the Minno [Florida Butterfly Gardening](#) book as a good nectar plant for butterfly gardens and Pam Trass’ [Gardening for Florida’s Butterflies](#) states that “butterflies love the tiny purple blossoms and the flower clusters are useful in dried arrangements because they will last for years. This plant is so simple to grow that it can make even the most black thumbed gardener proud.” Once you know this distinct plant you will always recognize its “footprint” in the forest. (Claudia Larsen)

2005 Chapter Elections, Slate of Nominees

Chapter Elections – Nov. 8

Nominating Committee Seeks Candidates

Pursuant to our bylaws, we will hold Chapter elections for officers at our meeting on November 8. The nominating committee (Jennifer Staiger, Patti Anderson, and Buddy Barnard) have developed a slate of officers to present to the membership and nominations can be made from the floor. Officers and directors serve a one year term with the exception of Treasurer, who serves two years. Each officer can serve up to three consecutive terms. If you are interested in a position, know someone who is, or would like to see a position description, please contact Jennifer Staiger (jennifer_staiger@usgs.gov, 352-375-1972).

Slate of officers and directors:

President – Charlie Pedersen

Vice President – Brian Quinn

Secretary – Claudia Larsen

Treasurer – Joe Durando

Chapter Representative – Erick Smith

Directors – Jack Jordan, Mary Rhodes, Jennifer Staiger, Sandra Vardaman, and Patti Anderson

We also need members to provide input and ideas on the development of Chapter programs and activities. We welcome and encourage you to attend our next planning meeting on November 1 (5:30-7:30 pm at the UF Environmental Horticulture Greenhouses on Hull Rd.; please call Claudia at 352-846-1070 for directions).

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Tuesday, October. 11
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 pm.

Oct. 11 **Terry Zinn**
Growing Wildflowers for Bulk Seed Production

November 8 **Jim Stevenson**
The Ichetucknee Watershed

Dec 13 **FNPS Social**

Field Trips

October 15 Prices Scrub
Charlie Pedersen

Nov 12 Ichetucknee River Canoe Trip
Sam Cole

Events

October 7-9 2006 Gopher Tortoise Council Meeting

October 21-23 5th Annual Florida Natural History Wkshp

October 22 (13:00-16:00) Lubee Bat Festival

May 17-21 2006 FNPS State Conference

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