



Rhexia mariana ©Darel Hess 2bnthewild.com

The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society
January 2006

JANUARY MEETING

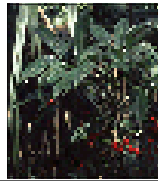
Wildflower Seed Propagation
January 10, 2006

JANUARY FIELD TRIP

January 14, 2006
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Ardisia Removal at
Dudley Farm State Park

Our January field trip has traditionally been to this wonderful state park to aid its efforts in removing exotic plants from the property. We are happy to say that the site we have been working on is showing real progress since we began removing ardisia several years ago. This removal is relatively easy. You simply pull up plants or cut off the ripe red berries. Long sleeves and pants and gloves are recommended. Some tools are provided, but you can bring your favorite shovel and clippers as well. Please bring water and a snack to enjoy also.

Dudley Farm is a unique park that is a working, turn-of-the-century Florida farm, complete with homestead and outbuildings. Our workday will end with a tour of the facilities and information about recent happenings on the farm. Friends and families are welcome to join us.



<http://aquat1.ifas.ufl.edu/ardcre.html>

Meet in the parking lot, near the restroom.
Parking fee is \$4 per car.

Directions from the Oaks Mall: From the I-75 overpass, go west 7 miles on Highway 26 (Newberry Rd.) towards Newberry. At the intersection of Highway 26 and SR 241 you are 1 mile from Dudley Farm. Look for the Dudley Farm State Park sign on your right and drive to the parking area near the entrance cabin. If you pass Canterbury Horse Farm, you went too far. For questions or weather problems, call Claudia at 352-466-3880.

Claudia Larsen, UF Biological Scientist and wildflower nursery owner will be this month's guest speaker. Claudia will draw on her wealth of knowledge to discuss wildflower propagation, including seed collection, seed treatment, stratification, planting and culturing techniques.

Claudia's plants are always a favorite at the native plant sale. Most chapter members also have some of her plants growing in their yards from the plant raffle that happens after every chapter meeting.

If you have been trying to grow a troublesome native from seed, bring lots of questions!

Claudia is a long time pillar of the Florida Native Plant Society and in 2005 won the coveted FNPS Mentor Award, along with Gil Nelson (Magnolia Chapter), Dr. Richard P. Wunderlin (Suncoast Chapter) and Rosemary Fleming (Coccoloba Chapter). She has also won a Star Award from the Friends of Morningside because of her years of work on the local native plant sale.

Plant ID workshops precede each meeting at 6:30 p.m.

From 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., there will be an informal question and answer session about the 2007 FNPS Conference to be hosted by our chapter here in Gainesville. This will give us an opportunity to ask questions about the conference, potential locations, potential for hiring consultants, committees needed, financial questions, or any suggestions to make this a successful event.

**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 charliepedersen@gmail.com
Vice President:	Brian Quinn bquinn@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu
Secretary:	Claudia Larsen 352.846.1070 Clarsen@ifas.ufl.edu
Treasurer:	Joe Durando 386.462.5455
Chapter Rep.:	Erick Smith 352.380.0648 edsmith@ufl.edu
Membership:	Goldie Schwartz 352.495.3983 afn49@mindspring.com
Field Trip Coord:	Sandra Vardaman smvardaman@smtp.co.alachua.fl.us
Newsletter Editor:	Annie Bretnall 352.377.9056 anniebret@bellsouth.net
Submit articles to:	Rhexia@gmail.com
Newsletter Distr.:	Alice Tyler 352.528.3968 pinetyl@atlantic.net
Plant Rescue Coord:	Jamie Barichivich 352.375.1972 jamie_barichivich@usgs.gov
Publicity & Media:	Rose Marie Jones 352.367.1810
Director:	Jack Jordan jjordan@ifas.ufl.edu
Director:	Patty Anderson
Director:	Mary Rhodes 352.475.2344
Director:	Jennifer Staiger jennifer_staiger@usgs.gov
Director:	Sandra Vardaman smvardaman@smtp.co.alachua.fl.us

**ARTICLE SUBMISSION
AND ON-LINE NEWSLETTER**

The editors request that all future articles be e-mailed to: Rhexia@gmail.com. The deadline for the February newsletter is January 16. We will publish the newsletter for you in a timely manner, so you can plan on attending meetings, field trips, and other fun events.

Thank you to those that have submitted their e-mail addresses to receive the *Rhexia* via e-mail. We mail approximately 300 copies of the *Rhexia* and would like to add more of our members to the e-mail list. If you would like to receive the *Rhexia* via your e-mail, please contact Annie with your information at: 377-9056 or e-mail at: anniebret@bellsouth.net. **Indicate in the subject line: FNPS**

Deadline Date to submit articles for February newsletter: January 16, 2006.

OUR BUBBLE IS BROKEN

Our bubble has been broken, in more ways than one. Eight years ago, Gainesville's downtown was enjoying a rebirth of new and improved growth and becoming more pedestrian friendly. The Gainesville Downtown Development Group invited local businesses and volunteer groups to "adopt" landscape bubbles in the downtown area. Each group picked its own design and plants to create an interesting mixture of plant materials. Our chapter found this to be an ideal opportunity to showcase native plants. We chose the island near the bus terminal and opposite Harry's restaurant on SE 1st St and SE 1st Ave. Local native nurseries generously donated excellent plants and several workdays were spent on installation.



In the following years, our volunteers maintained and replaced plants as needed and the island flourished in that poor soil, with little irrigation. Other downtown "bubbles" had to be replaced and re-landscaped when the harsh environment prevailed over them. This fall, the mucky grass had completely filled out and created a beautiful display, the coonties were beautiful large specimen plants, and the Ash tree was the best looking tree downtown.

Then, a few weeks before the Fall Downtown Festival, we were shocked when our whole island was completely cleared and leveled to the ground. What happened? Had an errant bulldozer lost control after a few too many cocktails at Lillians? Was there a stampede of young college men when they found out that Hooters had gone out of business? Had a meteor gone off course from global warming and completely crushed the plants to earth? No, no, no.

After fiery calls and emails to the city commissioners we found there were new plans to create a more unified look for the downtown landscape islands by planting primarily mondo grass, East Palatka Holly and Viburnum in all of them. It also became apparent that the new city manager and other city planners had no idea what Florida native plants were, stating that the plants seemed overgrown and abandoned. And, unfortunately, the landscape company has been commissioned and it's too late to add any more interesting Florida friendly plants at this time.

Luckily, the value of the coonties had been realized and we were able to rescue them from the city nursery and replant them in our native plant garden at the Veterans Park on Tower Road. All other shrubs and herbaceous plants were sadly demolished. We understand the city's desire for easy maintenance and a "tidy" landscape, but bemoan the fact that they do not take advantage of all the gardening and landscape resources available in Gainesville to create a more interesting and sustainable plan. It is a shame that the City of Gainesville, which prides itself on diversity of culture, history, environment, and people, will not include plant diversity in its landscape selections in the downtown area at this time.

Submitted by Claudia Larsen

Happy Footnote: FNPS Members David Pais and Erick Smith have volunteered to provide a list of suitable native plants for consideration in future city plantings and consult on plant design and cultural needs.

2007 FNPS CONFERENCE IN GAINESVILLE!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The state conference is an annual event that is open to the public and held at different locations in Florida. Each conference is hosted by a local chapter. It is traditionally held in May. Thursday is filled with field trips. Friday and Saturday consist of programs, displays, plant sales, and social events. Sunday is filled with more field trips. Participation may include all 4 days or a choice of one-day admission.

Recent conferences have averaged around 400 participants. Since the last conference in Gainesville was in 1997, the Paynes Prairie chapter has agreed to host the 2007 conference.

Even though this is over a year away, there are certain plans that need to be made up to a year in advance. We would like to proceed and form volunteer committees to have in place and begin preliminary planning. Committees will probably meet once a month next year, then more frequently in 2007. Some committees will be busy far in advance of the conference; while others will be working more in the 8 weeks prior to the conference. We will also need volunteers at the conference itself to provide assistance at registration and information tables. We understand it's hard to commit a year in advance, but we hope you will consider participating in some way. We would be glad to have your input for any amount of time you can allow.

We also need a theme for our conference and would appreciate suggestions. The 2006 conference will be in Daytona Beach and the theme is Growing Partnerships: From Backyards to Backwoods.

Chapter and Board members met in December to discuss further plans to host the 2007 state FNPS conference and identify the following committees:

Conference chair committee – coordinate all committees and create a time-line for completion of tasks.

Publicity – News releases to local papers and environmental newsletters. Email invitations to group listserves and work with the Alachua Convention Center to create a welcome bag for participants with several “freebies”.

Registration and volunteer coordinators – assign volunteers and interns as needed before, during, and after the conference. Jobs include staffing the registration/information table Thursday afternoon through Saturday afternoon, and selling t-shirts.

Program for Friday and Saturday – Create invitation letter. Invite 2 keynote speakers and 15 to 18 speakers for 45-minute breakout sessions. Collect biographical and talk information and provide it to Publication Committee for each speaker. Arrange complimentary registration fees and/or hotel room. Send thank-you notes to speakers. Work as liaisons with speakers at the conference for audio-visual needs.

*Speakers may give a 45-minute talk or opt for longer 2 to 4-hour workshops that may create educational CEU's for participants.

Audio-visual – Confirm equipment needs with the hotel and find moderators for all talks on Friday and Saturday.

Field Trips for Thursday and Sunday morning – Create approximately 20 field trips, find leaders and assistant leaders for each trip, provide trip descriptions to Publication Committee. Create instruction sheets with carpool meeting locations and driving directions for participants, arrange any fees, and provide coolers with drinks and lunches as needed for each trip. Send thank-you notes to field trip leaders.

Socials – Arrange a Thursday welcome party, a Friday Book signing, and a Saturday dinner.

Publications – Create a conference registration form that includes brief program synopses. Create conference program booklet. Create informational and directional signage. Provide name badges for participants.

Vendor – Invite vendors of plant-related materials to sell merchandise at conference. Collect fees from vendors. Invite organizations and companies with educational displays, and provide set-up and take-down instructions.

Plant Sale – Invite members of AFNN to sell plants. Set plant sale times and send information to Publications Committee. Work with the hotel to provide an area with a water source for plant sale. Provide a holding area for plants that are sold, but will not be picked up until Sunday morning. Collect fees from vendors. Collect plants that are unclaimed from the sold area and try to contact owner.

T-shirt – Find a t-shirt design and print t-shirts, bags etc.

Silent Auction – Ask for donations for silent auction. Collect auction items and set up at hotel with auction forms. Set deadline for auction and determine winners and post names on conference poster. Distribute auction items and collect money (possibly at registration/information table). Contact winners that do not claim items by Saturday evening and make arrangements. Send thank you notes to donors.

Grants, Sponsors and Awards – Apply for Alachua Convention and Tourist Bureau Grant (Feb 2006, Sept 2006). Set sponsorship levels and advertising fees for conference brochure. Send letters to potential donors, follow-up with phone calls and thank you letters.

Send nomination forms to chapters for Palmetto and Mentor Awards. Order plaques or see if state FNPS will provide. Choose winners and inform them by letter. Provide speakers to award each plaque and invite a proxy to pick up award if winner cannot.

Landscape Awards – Communicate with state FNPS Landscape Committee. Give Publication Committee information for program. Confirm with award winners or proxies who will attend conference. Award winners may need compensation registration fees or rooms at hotel.

Children's Program – Provide a children's program, as needed.

So, as you can see, there is a lot of work to do. But this can also be a fun, rewarding commitment that will promote the Florida native plant information and education for current members and also the general public. Please consider volunteering your time and ideas! Contact Claudia Larsen at clarsen@ifas.ufl.edu or 352-846-1070.

Submitted by Claudia Larsen

NOVEMBER CANOE TRIP

Sam Cole led about a dozen of us on a great canoe trip on November 12. Sam is the park Biologist for Ichetucknee Springs State Park. Floating the spring run tied in nicely with the presentation Jim Stevenson gave the chapter about the challenges facing the Ichetucknee watershed/springshed.

Previously, I had only been on the Ichetucknee during tubing season, so it was a real treat to see the river without any crowds. For me the tape-grass flowing under the cool, swift current of crystal clear water is the iconic image of the Ichetucknee. American eelgrass (*Vallisneria americana*) and strap-leaf sagittaria (*Sagittaria kurziana*) are the two species found in this river.



<http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu/>

According to the website from the University of Florida Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, strap-leaf sagittaria is a submersed plant, unlike most other Sagittarias. The leaves have sharp, pointed tips, and three to five prominent parallel ridges that run the entire length of the leaf. Strap-leaf sagittaria flowers grow on branched stalks that are sometimes

emersed - sometimes submersed. The flowers are white, with three petals. Eelgrass leaves have rounded tips, and definite raised veins. Single white female flowers grow to the water surface on very long stalks. Their website (www.plants.ifas.ufl.edu) has more details and some nice pictures.

We saw a number of neat things in flower, starting at the main spring where smooth beggarticks (*Bidens laevis*) was in lavish bloom. Last year's hurricanes blew down a number of trees letting more light into the water, setting up the lovely spectacle. We also saw mass-flowering of indian rice (*Zizania aquatica*). The rice normally flowers in an earlier season, but the odd weather patterns this year delayed its phenology. Cardinalflower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) was blooming periodically along the river, and we spotted some epiphytic green-fly orchid (*Epidendrum conopseum*). There are many specimens of big aquatic trees along the Ichetucknee, like pumpkin ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) and bald-cypress (*Taxodium distichum*). For wildlife, we saw a few loggerhead musk turtles (*Sternotherus minor*) and waded at the Ichetucknee silts-nails (*Cincinnatia mica*) buried in the mud at Coffee Spring.

We saw evidence of the algae blooms symptomatic of the Ichetucknee's decline. In certain areas, the algae is very visible growing on the tapegrass, and more worrisome, the tapegrass is in decline near some particularly high-Nitrogen side springs. It doesn't take much pollution to become "high-Nitrogen" in a spring run. DEP's springs initiative has some excellent web resources with more information on challenges facing Florida's springs, and positive actions we can take as citizens. www.floridasprings.org/protection/success/ichetucknee/



<http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu/>

Submitted by: Charlie Pedersen

NOVEMBER PLANT IDENTIFICATION

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	Status
<i>Ampelopsis arborea</i>	Peppervine	Vitaceae	Native
<i>Desmodium tortuosum</i>	Dixie Ticktrefoil	Fabaceae	Non-native
<i>Ehretia acuminata</i>	Koda	Boraginaceae	Non-native
<i>Erythrina herbacea</i>	Coralbean, Cherokee Bean	Fabaceae	Native
<i>Lycopus rubellus</i>	Taperleaf Waterhorehound	Lamiaceae	Native
<i>Panicum maximum</i>	Guineagrass	Poaceae	Native
<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	Purple Passionflower	Passifloraceae	Native
<i>Phyllanthus tenellus</i>	Mascarene Island Flower	Euphorbiaceae	Non-native
<i>Phyllanthus urinaria</i>	Chamber Bitter	Euphorbiaceae	Non-native
<i>Quercus margaretta</i>	Sand Post Oak	Fagaceae	Native
<i>Tridens flavus</i>	Tall Redtop; Purpletop Tridens	Poaceae	Native
<i>Verbesina virginica</i>	White crownbeard, Frostweed	Asteraceae	Native

There seems to be some agreement amongst authorities that *Panicum maximum* should be in the genus *Urocloa maxima*. Reinheimer, R. et al. (2005) *American Journal of Botany* 94(4): 565-575. Other internet sources seem to support this change. Wunderlin and Hanson's plant atlas does not recognize the change but does mention *Urocloa maxima* as a synonym (<http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu>). The USDA plant database does recognize the change (http://plants.usda.gov/cgi_bin/topics.cgi?earl=plant_profile.cgi&symbol=URMA3). Special thanks to Mark Garland and Richard Weaver of the Department of Plant Industry for their help confirming correct identification of specimens as well as all those who participated. Submitted by: Paul Cohen

MEETINGS, EVENTS, FIELD TRIPS

January 10 Monthly Meeting
Wildflower Seed Propagation Claudia Larsen

January 28 Event

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Great Air Potato Roundup

The event is modeled after popular litter clean-up efforts, but participants pick up tubers of the invasive air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*) from local natural areas instead of trash. The intent was to educate local citizens about the impact of exotic pest plants on our community's wonderful and unique natural areas, but the participation has been so great that we are actually experiencing a reduction in the amount of air potato infestations in these areas. Please pre-register at: www.natureoperations.org. For more information call 334-2170.

February 7 Board Meeting
Planning the April Native Plant Sale & 2007 Conference

February 14 Monthly Meeting
Florida Defenders of the Environment
"Restoring the Ocklawaha River"

April 7 - 8 Native Plant Sale
Morningside Nature Center, Gainesville

May 17 - 21 Event
2006 FNPS State Conference
"Growing Partnerships: From Backyards to Backwoods"

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. Alsobrook

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.cronesccradleconserve.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



Maria Minno
At the Center for Balance
1705 NW 6th Street
Gainesville, Florida

Phoenix Healing Massage

Call (352)375-3028

Special \$10 discount for FNPS members!



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

Located in the Millhopper Area

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

Friendly Service Since 1970

Next meeting
Tuesday, January 10
7:30 p.m.
(Plant ID Workshop at 6:30)
Doyle Conner Bldg. DPI
1911 SW 34th St.
Gainesville, FL

Monthly Meetings
Regular monthly meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday
in September - November and January - May at 7:30 p.m. at the:
Doyle Conner Building
Division of Plant Industry
1911 SW 34 St., Gainesville

Plant ID workshops precede each meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Florida Native Plant Society Membership Form

Name: _____ Check pertinent category:

Address: _____ Individual \$25

City, State, Zip: _____ County: _____ Family or Household \$30

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____ Contributing \$40

Business Name: _____ Not-for-profit Org. \$50

TOTAL : _____ Check enclosed: _____ Please charge my credit card: _____ Business or Corporate \$100

(VISA/MasterCard Only): Card Type and #: _____ Supporting \$100

Exp. Date: _____ Name on credit card: _____ 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.