



Rhexia mariana ©Darel Hess

The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society
March 2006

Native Plant Sale
Morningside Nature Center
April 7 - 8

MONTHLY MEETING

March 14, 2006

Native Planting Advice Workshop
Jackie Owens

It's time to start looking at your yard again and evaluating where you need a few more wonderful native plants. How's the entrance to your door? Need to add a low-growing shrub? Are you still trying to hide those hurricane stumps? How about a nice viburnum, pipe stem or wax myrtle? And you know the butterfly garden can always use more host and nectar plants to feed those hungry probiscus.

When: Friday, April 7
for Members Only
4:30pm-6:30pm
(you can renew or join on site)
Saturday April 8
for General Public
8:30am-1pm

Where: Morningside Nature Center
3540 E. University Ave,
Gainesville, FL
352-334-2170

Remember: Cash and checks only,
no credit or debit cards.

Don't know what to buy?
Let the friendly folks at the FNPS booth help you pick the right plant for the right place, and you can also pick up a beautiful T-shirt and a raffle ticket to win a carload of native plants!

Submitted by: Claudia Larsen

Saturday / March 18, 2006 Field Trip

Get ready for Spring with the Native Plant Society.

To prepare for the Spring Native Plant Sale at Morning Side Nature Center on April 7th & 8th, 2006, we are going to tour three wonderful Gainesville native plant yards for our March 18th field trip. Join us and see for yourself how the owners of these yards (Bob and Erika Simons, Laura and Peter Nesmith, and Marc and Maria Minno) have utilized native plants in their landscape. Take this opportunity to learn from these native plant aficionados, and find out what and what did not work for them. It's a great way to get ideas for your own yard, and figure out which native plants you might want to get at the Spring Native Plant Sale.

Meet at 8:30am on the northwest side of the Publix parking lot located at 1302 N Main Street. We will split up in to smaller groups and carpool to the yards to avoid exceeding the parking capacity of the yard hosts.

Contact Sandra Vardaman at 379-9754 or sandravardaman@aol.com.

Submitted by: Sandra Vardaman

Jackie is licensed in the State of Florida with a background in planting, hardscape, and irrigation design. She has worked with CAD and GIS drafting formats for many years and specializes in native plant implementation in her designs.

As a native Floridian, Jackie has a close tie to the natural regional landscape and feels that specifying trees and plant materials that are indigenous to the area is beneficial for both the local ecosystem and for successful establishment of enduring designs.

Jackie will be presenting a talk on sustainable landscaping design. Topics will include site planning, working with existing vegetation, plant selection, hardscape additions, and minimal irrigation techniques.

Submitted by: Erick Smith

Conference 2007 Ambles Forward

Conference planner hired! Committees set up and staffed! Partnership with Citrus County FNPS chapter established! And by the time you read this, conference site booked! Thanks to all the people who have been working so hard for the initial planning.

The conference is really taking shape. We've got a tentative date: May 17-21, 2007. As long as there are conference venues we can book for that time, we're planning on that. A solid core of people have come forward to volunteer for committees. One change we've made from previous conferences – we hired a professional conference planner. Past FNPS conferences have been run by a mix of local chapter volunteers, staff from the state organization, and sometimes by part-time people hired locally.

There was quite a bit of debate about hiring a professional planner because of the cost. After looking at a number of bids we ended up hiring a local company, The Planning Connection (planning-connection.com). Planning Connection is run by Jackie Cassarly. We basically hired her to be our grown-up. Chapter members are responsible for providing enthusiasm, native plant knowledge, grunt labor, and cash if necessary. Jackie will help provide structure to our enthusiasm, and use her experience with negotiating venue contracts, registration web-sites, conference budgets, and time-line management, to focus us on a better conference.

What can you do to help, native plant enthusiast?

1 - Go to the FNPS conference in Daytona, "Growing Partnerships: Preserving

Florida's Environment from Backyards to Backwoods". The whole conference happens between May 17 and 21, but you can pop down for a Saturday. Details are on the website: fnps.org.

2 - Help us come up with a theme. My suggestion "Eco-Freako's in the Yard" was shot down by the conference committee. I know you can do better. If you have a theme idea, email it to me (charliepedersen@gmail.com). Speaker suggestions and field trip suggestions are also welcome.

3 - When the conference comes to town, **come to the conference**. Set May 17 - 20 2007 aside on your calendar. Even if you can only come down Saturday morning, I guarantee you will learn something great, or better yet, teach something great about native plants.

4 - When the conference comes to town, bring someone to the conference. We're doing all this work, hoping for outreach. So, Reach Out.

5 - Volunteer. The conference committees and volunteers so far are listed on the (page 5). If something appeals to you, contact me or the committee chair. One particular need - a chair for the publicity committee. This individual would be involved with writing and laying out our printed material, and reaching out to the media for public relations and ads.

Submitted by: Charlie Pedersen

February Plant Identification

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	Status
Baccharis halimifolia	Groundsel Tree, Sea Myrtle	Asteraceae	Native
Blechnum serrulatum	Toothed Mid-sorus Fern	Blechnaceae	Native
Cynanchum angustifolium	Gulf Coast Swallowwort	Apocynaceae	Native
Euonymus americanus	American Strawberrybush	Celastraceae	Native
Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweetgum	Altingiaceae	Native
Prunus angustifolia	Chickasaw Plum	Rosaceae	Native
Prunus caroliniana	Carolina Laurelcherry	Rosaceae	Native
Rhapidophyllum hystrix	Needle Palm	Arecaceae	Native
Desmodium sp.	Tricktrefoil	Fabaceae	Both
Clerodendron indicum	Turk's Turban, Skyrocket	Lamnaceae	Non-native
Gibasis pellucida	Tahitian Bridalveil	Commelinaceae	Non-Native
Lonicera japonica	Japanese Honeysuckle	Caprifoliaceae	Non-native
Serissa foetida "Variegata"	Yellow Rim	Rubiaceae	Non-native
Syngonium podophyllum	Syngonium, American Evergreen	Araceae	Non-native
Youngia japonica	Oriental False Hawksbeard	Asteraceae	Non-native



Prunus angustifolia
Photo by Gil Nelson, from his book
Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida

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

Submitted by: Paul Cohen

The larva of the *Actias luna* (Luna moth) hosts *Liquidambar styraciflua* (Sweet Gum) and *Carya* spp. (hickory) according to Marc C. Minno and Maria Minno in "Florida Butterfly Gardening". During the evening the moths are attracted to light and in the day they perch on trees. Nomenclature was derived from Guide to The Vascular Plants of Florida (2003) by Richard P. Wunderlin and Bruce Hansen.

Submitted by: Paul Cohen

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River Rally Report

The 2006 "Rally for the River" was an unmitigated success! River Front Park in Palatka was in full Festive swing with over a hundred vendors. Everywhere crafts and colors, food and music, and smiling faces. A couple "Save the Rodman" banners were displayed outside the park, maybe next year we can counter them with "Rally..." banners.

The Issue: removal of the dam at Rodman Reservoir and restoration of the free-flowing Ocklawaha River. As a major tributary to the St. John's River, restoration of the Ocklawaha would be ecologically beneficial for the entire region. The purpose of the Rally is to demonstrate the economic benefits to regional businesses. Saturday morning Angel's Restaurant on Highway 17/100 was packed with Rally participants.

Dozens of outings and programs were presented, most by volunteers, to inform participants on the cause. I (Karen Garren) led two hikes. Mushroom ID 101 was on Saturday at Mud Springs Trail of Welatka State Forest. We did not expect to find many fungal fruit this time of year and so were not surprised. Although what we did enjoy was good camaraderie, a beautiful picnic site, and various animal tracks. Mushrooms found were: many *Laccaria*, some lovely *Russula*, a few *Lecinum*, and dozens of interesting polypores.

For our hike on Sunday on the Ocala National Scenic Trail, it was cool and breezy but we were well sheltered in the scrub. We hiked 7 miles from the reservoir to Lake Delancy. We discussed the plant and soil characteristics of these dense scrub ecosystems, stressing the importance of ephemeral ponds to herpifauna wildlife and were entertained by lively scrub jays. We found bear scat in the trail and found snags raked for grubs six feet up. Off road-vehicle and ATVs illegally use the hiking trails, doing much damage. As we passed through lovely long leaf pine savannahs, we talked about the role of prescribed burns in maintaining these vanishing ecosystems, visiting gopher tortoise burrows, meeting a six-lined race-runner lizard, and hearing red-cockaded woodpeckers. An oak-canopied pond off FR 88 has a magical aspect. A good time was had by all.

Submitted by: Karen Garren

Ocklawaha Rally

The day couldn't have been more beautiful as Jill McGuire and I set up the FNPS information table at the Ocklawaha River Rally on the banks of the St. John's River in Palatka. A light breeze from the water washed over us all day and a large oak tree sheltered us from the bright spring sunshine.

Karen Ahlers and her volunteers had done a terrific job lining up vendors that were dotted along the river walk with a combination of environmental booths, arts and crafts, music and food. Our table was near native plant vendors Breezy Oaks Nursery and Natural Treasures Nursery who had brought early blooming native azaleas, Chickasaw plums and blue woodland phlox. The Rally had drawn folks from all over and we



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

talked with people from Gainesville, Palatka, Jacksonville, St Johns, Putnum and Volusia counties. Some were familiar the FNPS and others were introduced to our group and invited to visit the FNPS website for learning more about native plants and where to find them. We talked about plants in people's yards, about plants they remembered while growing up in Florida and about their feelings for the Ocklawaha and other rivers of this area. Jill discussed the evils of using cypress mulch in landscapes and the devastation of our cypress forests. People shared stories of their never-ending job of removing exotic pest plants from their yards. In the afternoon, people who had taken field trips came by to enjoy food and music and talk about plants they had encountered. There seemed to be an interest among the Jacksonville people to start their own group and we encouraged them to pursue that by contacting state FNPS, local Master gardeners and their local nurseries. Thanks also to David Pais and Erick Smith for spending their afternoon at the table. This rally is an annual event sponsored by the Environmental Council of Putnum County (ECPC) to bring awareness of conserving natural areas, and of course to remove the Rodman Dam. Consider supporting this event next year by attending some of the many activities.

Submitted by: Claudia Larsen

Volunteers Needed

Outreach Programs for FNPS

If anyone is interested in sitting the FNPS information booth for a couple hours at upcoming festivals, please contact Claudia to sign up. (352-846-1070 or clarsen@ifas.ufl.edu)

- March 11, 2006 9am-4pm, *Ocala Master Gardeners Festival* at Ocala Fairgrounds
- April 7-8, 2006 *Native Plant Sale* at Morningside Nature Center
- April 26, 2006 9am-4pm, *Gainesville Earth Day* at Florida Museum off SW 23 St.
- May 27-28, 2006 *Florida Folk Festival*

ARTICLE SUBMISSION AND ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

The editors request that all future articles be e-mailed to: Rhexia@gmail.com.

If you would like to receive the Rhexia via your e-mail, please contact Annie n at:

377-9056 or e-mail at: anniebret@bellsouth.net.

Indicate in the subject line: FNPS

**Deadline date is March 17, 2006
to submit articles for the
March newsletter.**

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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Call or e-mail Annie Bretnall to help. 377-9056 or anniebret@bellsouth.net

Please consider volunteering your time or ideas. Although there is a lot of work to do, this can also be a fun, rewarding commitment that will promote Florida's native plant information and education for current members and also the general public.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, FIELD TRIPS

MONTHLY MEETING

March 14, 2006

Native Planting Advice Workshop
Jackie Owens

March 14 Chapter Meeting
Native Planting Advice Workshop

March 11 Work Day
Carl's garden workday on Saturday March 11
Contact: Brian Quinn:
bquinn@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu

March 18 Field Trip
Native Landscapes Around Gainesville. We have set up a great set of garden tours so you can see what other people around town have done with native landscaping. Great way to get ideas for your yard before the April plant sale.

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

April 11 Chapter Meeting
Planting Workshop with Erick Smith. Erick Smith, a local urban forester, will present a workshop on proper planting of native trees. Come with lots of questions!

April 15 Field Trip
Orchid Stomp-Goethe State Forest with Paul Martin Brown. Goethe State Forest features an unusual number of terrestrial orchids. This field trip will be a treat. Don't forget to bring your copy of "Wild Orchids of Florida: with References to the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains."

May 2 Board Meeting

May 9 Chapter Meeting
Fire and Natives

May 13 Field Trip
What a great time of year! We'll see tons of plants in flower.

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

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Next meeting
Tuesday, March 14th
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: _____
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 Business Name: _____
 TOTAL : _____ Check enclosed: _____ Please charge my credit card: _____
 (VISA/MasterCard Only): Card Type and #: _____
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 - Business or Corporate \$100
 - Supporting \$100
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 - 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.