



*Rhexia mariana* ©Darel Hess 2bnthewild.com

# The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter  
Florida Native Plant Society  
May 2006

## NATIVE PLANT SALE REPORT

The Friends of Nature Parks/Florida Native Plant Society Spring Native Plant Sale held April 7 and 8 was one of our more successful sales ever. The steady stream of customers kept everyone busy and hundreds of native plants found new homes. Some of you may recall our humble beginnings 17 years ago, with just a few members selling their plants to our small group. Our efforts have evolved into the largest native plant sale in the state. We are educating more and more people every year as to the benefits of planting natives and reducing exotics. I heard many compliments on how well-organized and user-friendly our sale is compared to others in the area (with park-a-plant and one-stop payment). Our knowledgeable customer service was heavily utilized at this sale, with several of our volunteers spending most of Saturday taking customers around to the various vendors and advising them on the right plants for their particular yards. And the weather couldn't have been more beautiful.

Our chapter raised nearly \$350 by selling t-shirts, books, and plant raffle tickets. We also signed up almost 40 new members on Friday night. I would like to personally thank all the vendors for donating wonderful plants to our raffle. Also, without the help of some very dedicated volunteers these sales would not be as fun or successful, so a big thank you to Jamie Barichivich, Howard Jelks (Mr. Plant Police), Claudia Larsen, Charlie Pedersen, Brian Quinn, the ever reliable Bill Russell, Goldie Schwartz, and Jennifer Staiger. Keep reading the Rhexia for a future announcement of the Fall sale dates.

Submitted by: *Lisa Jelks*

## MONTHLY MEETING

May 9, 2006

## Longleaf Pine Restoration

by

JOHN WINN

The May program will feature John Winn speaking on longleaf pine restoration. John is the trustee of the Longleaf Ecology and Forestry Society (LEAFS), a non-profit land trust. Since 1991 LEAFS has maintained two demonstration tracts in northeast Alachua County showing small private landowners things which can be done to restore longleaf pines on their property. On the May 13 field trip, we will visit the LEAFS properties and John's talk will give us a preview of what we can expect to see.

Submitted by : *Sandra Vardaman*



Photo by : *Sandra Vardaman*

# Field Trip

## Goethe State Forest

Wow, what a great April field trip we had to Goethe State Forest with Paul Martin Brown! Paul showed us 6 of the 35 orchids that are known from Goethe State Forest including, rose pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*), woodland ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes sylvatica*), Eaton's ladies'-tresses (*S. eatonii*), many-flowered grass-pink (*Calopogon multiflorus*), short-lipped ladies'-tresses (*S. brevibraris*), and giant ladies'-tresses (*S. praecox*).



Amazingly many of these orchids were right on the road-side within the forest. One such orchid is the short-lipped ladies'-tresses. This plant was thought to be extinct, when Paul found a population of 38 plants on the road-side. The Levy County Transportation Department modified their mowing schedule and now there are thousands of these orchids. Many thanks to the Levy County Transportation Department for allowing these and many other orchids to thrive.

The rose pogonia was another road-side species. This orchid prefers wetter places. It generally has 1-2 flowers that are fairly constant in size (~4cm), but quite variable in color, ranging from washed out lavender to bright pink. Paul says it's fairly common in Alachua County, so be on the look out for this one.

The many flowered grass-pink, is one of the rarest of the grass-pinks in Florida and only flowers 4-6 weeks after a burn. Lucky for us Goethe has a great prescribed burning program and Paul was able to show us this showy orchid in full bloom.

While observing the diminutive Eaton's ladies'-tresses, the group was quite distracted by a raucous group of red cockaded woodpeckers.

Paul also took some of the diehards of the group to a site in Ocala where we saw the endangered green adder's-mouth orchid (*Malaxis unifolia*). The habitat where this plant occurs is less than 2 acres in size and supports over 400 green adder's-mouth orchids.

If you are kicking yourself because you missed Paul's field trip, all may not be lost, it appears that Paul may agree to host a field trip or 2 for the 2007 FNPS annual meeting that the Paynes Prairie Chapter is hosting next spring (don't forget to volunteer).

Many thanks to Paul Martin Brown for leading the field trip and sharing his knowledge of the orchids of Goethe State Forest, and to Libby Zimmerman of the Division of Forestry for assisting with the logistics, and to Charlie Pedersen for organizing the fieldtrip. It was a resounding success!

Submitted by: Sandra Vardaman



Paul Martin Brown  
photo by: Sandra Vardaman

## Mulch

I would like to follow up on Erick Smith's great talk at our last monthly meeting on installing plant material. He did a great job telling us the dos and don'ts of landscaping. Mulch is a key ingredient for native landscaping in Florida. Many Florida soils are well-drained and have little intrinsic organic carbon, so they need a little help when adding plants to your open spaces. I like to call mulch the great equalizer, because it allows someone like me who lives on dry land to put in a host of mesic and wet-land species.

Mulching plants is desirable for a number of reasons. Weeds are diminished because they have been blocked from sunlight, thereby decreasing competition for water and nutrients. Mulch retards the evaporation of water so the top layer of roots stays cool and moist, which allows less or no watering after the plant is established. Also, mulch should provide carbon and some nitrogen as it degrades into organic matter, so there is little or no need for fertilizer. Mulch should be added at a depth of 3 inches or more, because it will compact and degrade quickly. So, to keep from having to repeat applications, add a generous amount the first time. Also, remember to keep mulch at least 2 inches away from the trunk or stem of the plants being mulched, because this will inhibit stem borers and fungi from attacking.

There are many types of mulch available, but some are markedly better than others. I strongly prefer mixed yard mulch like that produced and formerly distributed by GRU. That mulch is not the prettiest, but it contains the most nutrients and will absorb water quite well. I typically use pine needles if I have plants that need a lower soil pH to uptake nutrients, because pine needles will release natural acids into the soil as they degrade. If you are looking for a "finished" look for your yard, try pine bark mulch. It is beautiful to look at and will retard weed growth and water evaporation, but does little in providing nutrients, because it is slow to degrade. I usually use it as a topping on mixed mulch or pine needles when a polished look is wanted. Melaleuca mulch is now available in stores, which helps to reuse unwanted organic material from south Florida. One type of mulch you should never ever use is cypress mulch. This product is sometimes produced using very small cypress trees that are plucked from the environment way too soon. If that is not reason enough, cypress mulch is extremely slow to degrade and does not absorb water which denies your plants of nutrients and a more competent water barrier.

Submitted by: Brian Quinn

## April Plant Identification

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	Status
<i>Asclepias humistrata</i>	Pinewoods Milkweed	Apocyanaceae	Native
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Southern Lady Fern	Dryopteridaceae	Native
<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	East. Sweetshrub, Carolina Allspice	Calycanthaceae	Native
<b><i>Euonymus americanus</i>(see picture)</b>	<b>American Strawberrybush</b>	<b>Celastraceae</b>	<b>Native</b>
<i>Mitchella repens</i>	Partridgeberry	Rubiaceae	Native
<i>Morus rubra</i>	Red Mulberry	Moraceae	Native
<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	American Pokeweed	Phytolaccaceae	Native
<i>Pinus taeda</i>	Loblolly Pine	Pinaceae	Native
<i>Prunus angustifolia</i>	Chickasaw Plum	Rosaceae	Native
<i>Quercus laurifolia</i> var. <i>hemisphaerica</i>	Laurel Oak	Fagaceae	Native
<i>Quercus phellos</i>	Willow Oak	Fagaceae	Native
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Bald-Cypress	Taxodiaceae	Native
<i>Tillandsia usneoides</i>	Spanish Moss	Bromeliaceae	Native
<i>Triodanis perfoliata</i>	Clasping Venus' Lookingglass	Campanulaceae	Native
<i>Viburnum obovatum</i>	Walter's Viburnum	Adoxaceae	Native
<i>Woodwardia areolata</i>	Netted Chain Fern	Blechnaceae	Native
<i>Bromus catharticus</i>	Rescuegrass	Poaceae	Non-native
<i>Ficus lyrata</i>	Fiddlehead Fig	Moraceae	Non-native
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Hairy Catsear	Asteraceae	Non-native
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese Honeysuckle	Caprifoliaceae	Non-native
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed	Caryophyllaceae	Non-native
<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	Small-Leaf Spiderwort	Commelinaceae	Non-native
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	Fabaceae	Non-native



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Submitted by: *Paul Cohen*

Pinewoods Milkweed (*Asclepias humistrata*) and most other milkweeds are host to the larva of the Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). The caterpillars have yellow, black, and white stripes.

Special thanks to all those who participated in the plant identification. Richard Weaver of the De-

partment of Plant Industry was able to identify Southern Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*). Classification is based on Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. by Richard P. Wunderlin and Bruce F. Hansen (2003) and confirmed on "Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants" (<http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu>). Submitted by: *Paul Cohen*

### *Stellaria media*, the common chickweed

Some of you may have been introduced to *Stellaria media*, or chickweed, at the native plant identification workshop this past March. Chickweed is not a Florida native but an agricultural weed originating in Europe and is now considered invasive in over 55 countries worldwide.

This fragile, diminutive herb prefers shady, moist habitats, where it quickly spreads to form thick carpets by rooting at the nodes. In warm climates it germinates, flowers, and sets seed within three months. Seed production is prolific, and seeds may remain viable for up to ten years. As a winter annual which tolerates extremely cold temperatures, chickweed is most common as a weed of winter cereal crops such as wheat and barley.

Chickweed is most troublesome in colder climates and is not a terrible problem in Florida, but it certainly is a nuisance to agriculture. According to the Southern Weed Science Society's annual weed surveys over the past 15 years, it has repeatedly ranked among the top 10 most common, troublesome weeds in Florida. Chickweed has not been declared noxious by federal or state administrations, nor has it been categorized by FLEPPC. **References:** FLEPPC. 2005. List of Florida's Invasive Species. Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, <http://www.fleppc.org/list/05list.htm>, USDA, NRCS. 2006. *The PLANTS Database*, 6 March 2006, <http://plants.usda.gov>.



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Submitted by: *Sarah Marie Schmid*



# MEETINGS, EVENTS, FIELD TRIPS

May 2 Board Meeting  
Joint meeting with 2007 Conference Committee

May 9 Chapter Meeting  
Fire and Natives - John Winn

May 11 Meeting - Other  
North Central FL Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association. DPI on SW 34th St. at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Akers Pence will talk about specific actions you can take to preserve the locally rare Sweadner's Juniper Hairstreak and the other butterflies that share its habitat. For more information: [Zlongwing@aol.com](mailto:Zlongwing@aol.com)

May 13 Field Trip  
Now that we have heard John Winn's presentation on the restoration of longleaf pine flatwoods, lets go see some. John will lead Saturday's field trip to the Longleaf Ecology and Forestry Society's (LEAFS) properties by Lake Alto. These are some of the nicest and most well managed flatwoods in Alachua County! There should be lots spring flowering plants for us to see.

Meet at 8:30AM on the northwest side of the Publix parking lot located at 1302 N Main Street, or at 9:00AM at the LEAFS property on the east side of CR-1471 between 301 and the Lake Alto Boat ramp. Park along CR-1471 by the LEAFS sign (Please do not park in the private driveway).

Contact Sandra Vardaman at 379-9754 or [sandravardaman@aol.com](mailto:sandravardaman@aol.com)

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

May 20 Event  
Master Gardener Plant Sale, at the Alachua County Extension Office, 2800 NE 39th Avenue in Gainesville. For more information, call 352-955-2402.

August 1 Board Meeting

September 12 Chapter Meeting  
Speaker TBA



## **Outreach Programs for FNPS**

If anyone is interested in sitting in 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](mailto:clarsen@ifas.ufl.edu))

- May 27-28, 2006 *Florida Folk Festival*

## **ARTICLE SUBMISSION AND ON-LINE NEWSLETTER**

Please send all articles to: [Rhexia@gmail.com](mailto:Rhexia@gmail.com).

If you would like to receive the Rhexia via your e-mail, please contact Annie at: [anniebret@bellsouth.net](mailto:anniebret@bellsouth.net). **Subject line: FNPS**

**Next Newsletter will be sent out August.  
Deadline date: August 20, 2006**

## **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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**Next meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 9th**  
**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**

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**Please mail completed form to: Florida Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 278, Melbourne, FL 32902-0278**

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