



Rhexia mariana ©Darel Hess

The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society
November 2006

Conservation Cures by Yards and Miles

Join us for FNPS 27th
Annual Conference in Gainesville
April 19 - 22, 2007

Hilton University of Florida
Conference Center
1714 SW 34th St.
Hosted by Paynes Prairie Chapter

The Mile Scale
Next April's conference focuses on cures for the natural world's ills. FNPS promotes cures large and small planted in your back yard or others span the landscape and require cooperation among many people. The Mile Scale - land trusts, public land acquisition, and preserving conservation areas - are explored in this issue of the Rhexia, in November's meeting program, and in our November trip to Barr Hammock.

CONSERVATION TRUST FOR FLORIDA
BY
DR. TOM HOCTOR

November 14, 2006 Monthly Meeting

Dr. Hكتور is the Greenways Program Coordinator. He is a research scientist in the GeoPlan Center at the University of Florida and co-principal investigator on the Florida Greenways Project and the Southeastern EPA Southeastern Ecological Framework Analysis Project. He completed a B.A. in History and Science from Harvard University in 1989, a Masters in Forest Resources and Conservation from the University of Florida in 1992, and a Ph.D. from the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida in 2003. His primary research interests include the design of protected area networks to conserve biological diversity, landscape ecology and species habitat models, and regional conservation planning.

Please join us for a very educational evening.

Rotten Gardening: Stumps, Logs, and Snags

Many of us have had stumps, logs, or even snags on our properties, as a result of storms, droughts, pest damage, etc. Of course, on small lots, these are usually removed, so as not to become a toppling hazard or host a colony of termites. On larger properties with a more naturalized landscape, however, these are sometimes left alone, when they are at a suitable distance from buildings and pathways. Florida weather makes short work of most of them (softwoods and soft-hardwoods), but even if they are around for only a few years, they can serve as appropriate growing places for certain native plants, as well as the many wood-ears, slime-molds (colorful, mobile, sometimes big enough to cause false-alarms of extraterrestrial invasion), and other fungi that will automatically grow on them.

In a moist shady situation, several varieties of native ferns are encountered on stumps/logs that are in advanced stages of decay, though the exotic tuberous sword fern (*Nephrolepis cordifolia*) also enjoys growing on them. If a stump/log has indentations that retain rainwater, a particularly lush growth of ferns can be expected. Spikemosses

(*Selaginella* spp.) and true mosses can grow into fairly large patches if the stump/log is a hardwood that will be around for several years. Hollow stumps/logs, and the layer of wood-bits mulch surrounding them, can sport a growth of the ghostly white Indian-pipe (***Monotropa uniflora***).



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

Though some tree species will suffer root-rot problems if planted too near a stump, at least one desirable native tree, the spruce pine (*Pinus glabra*), produces seedlings that seem to thrive on a rotting log in moist shade, eventually producing an odd straight line of mature trees.

In a more exposed situation, stumps/logs of low aesthetic potential can be screened by plantings of the sort of evergreen native shrubs that take advantage of tree-fall openings in the wild, such as the various buckthorns (*Bumelia* spp.), Walter's viburnum (*Viburnum obovatum*), yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*), staggerbushes (*Lyonia* spp.), sweetleaf (*Symplocos tinctoria*), and many others. Similarly, deciduous shrubs such as cornels (*Cornus* spp.), hawthorns (*Crataegus* spp.), wild blueberries (*Vaccinium* spp.), and coralbean (*Erythrina herbacea*), and also tall herbaceous plants such as sunflower (*Helianthus* spp.), ironweed (*Vernonia* spp.), and goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.), can be used to screen the stump/log for half the year.

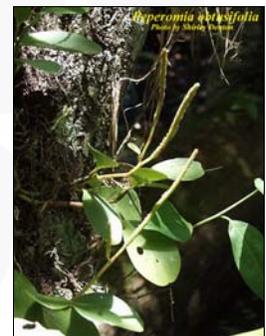
Snags of hardwood can stay upright long enough to provide a platform for epiphytes like Spanish-moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) and Bartram's airplant (*Tillandsia bartramii*), and, further south, many other species. Vines can also be grown on snags, with some kinds making for a bright seasonal show of flowers, but this will tend to bring the snags down much faster, except in the case of relatively light-weight vines such as leather-flower (*Clematis crispa*, *C. reticulata*), pigeon-wings (*Clitoria* spp.), hairy-pod cowpea (***Vigna luteola***), swallow-wort (*Cynanchum* spp.), Florida yam (*Dioscorea floridana*), man-of-the-earth (*Ipomoea pandurata*), and Carolina coralbead (*Cocculus carolinus*). Note that, like a magnet, snags will attract large heavy vines (both natives and non-natives), so that if you plan to grow the smaller vines only, regular weeding-out of the big types will be necessary.



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Some trees have enormous trunk bases when they reach their full growth; these while still alive can support a variety of epiphytes on their buttresses as well as their branches. Golden polypody fern (*Phlebodium aureum*), resurrection fern (*Pleopeltis polypodioides*), and whisk fern (*Psilotum nudum*) are candidates for the lower trunks of live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) and various swamp hardwoods. Bald-cypress (*Taxodium* spp.) often provides a foothold for cinnamon fern

(*Osmunda cinnamomea*) and royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*) on its larger knees as well as its buttressed base; in areas protected from frost additional knee-growing epiphytes include Florida Peperomia (***Peperomia obtusifolia***) and several subtropical native ferns. Cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*) growing in moist situations can have shoestring fern (*Vittaria lineata*) and golden polypody fern on nearly the entirety of its trunk, and whisk-fern on both its trunk and exposed root masses.



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Perhaps some readers have or plan to include a stump/log/snag in their naturalized landscaping, either for a "rotten garden", or purely for the benefit of creepy-crawlies and the wildlife that feed on them. If so, a periodic set of seasonal or annual photos might allow for the creation of an unusual time-lapse album. Submitted by: Jonathan Jordan

Rain Lilies

One of nature's little botanical surprises always pops up in my yard, just when I had forgotten about it. This surprise comes in the form of Florida's two native species of rain lilies. These wallflower plants sit idly looking like a small bunch of chives, totally blending into the background, but then the rains finally grace my yard and a burst of color pops out where nothing seemed to be before. The Atamasco lily (*Zephyranthes atamasca*) has a pure white flower with a yellow center and, in order to produce viable seed, usually blooms in clusters from the same group of plants. The Atamasco lily is found in the northern and central regions of the state and is considered as threatened in Florida. This species has a cluster of black seeds that are very easy to germinate in potting soil, although I tend to plant mine right next to my existing clumps to enhance the size and surprise when they bloom.



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The other native species is called Simpson's zephyrlily (*Zephyranthes simpsonii*), and is normally found in central and south Florida. This lily also produces a beautiful white flower with yellow anthers that emerge from a pinkish shoot. The Simpson's zephyrlily is also threatened in Florida but can be easily propagated by seed or division (they look like little onions). I never water my *Zephyranthes*, even in the driest times, which causes them to die



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back to the ground. So, I am always surprised when they grace me with their stunning blooms. Please plant these lilies in a good deal of sun because they really like bright light, and that produces more flowers. If you would like to see local rain lilies in the "wild" look on the roadsides between Gum Root Swamp and Orange Heights, especially after the Spring and Autumn rains.

Submitted by: Brian Quinn

Barr Hammock

The Alachua County Forever (ACF) program is a voter-approved, bond funded program to acquire, improve, and manage environmentally significant land to protect water resources, wildlife habitats, and natural areas suitable for resource-based recreation. Currently in its sixth year of existence, ACF has been extremely successful in its goal of protecting environmentally significant lands. Throughout the six years of the program, Alachua County and its partners have acquired sixteen properties totaling 10,900 acres and ranging from 25 to 2,300 acres in size. Alachua County has spent only \$19 million, in the purchase of these properties, leveraging \$35 million from other local, state, and national funding sources.

Through these acquisitions, ACF has managed to protect a diverse collection of habitats and species, preserving them for future generations. The first property purchased, Mill Creek, encompasses nearly 1,200 acres and contains pond pine flatwoods, Beech-magnolia slope forest, and seepage and blackwater streams. This property, whose purchase was made possible by a Florida Communities Trust Grant, was recently expanded with a 36-acre purchase to the west and is expected to be open to the public soon.

Around a month ago, Alachua County Forever acquired another gem, Barr Hammock. This 2,309-acre parcel includes a natural land bridge between Levy Prairie to the north and Ledwith Prairie to the south. In addition to protecting valuable water resources and habitats, this project helps to increase connectivity within the region, as it is adjacent to a 3,200 acre conservation easement which borders a portion of the 21,000 acre Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park. The acquisition of this property was also made possible by a grant from Florida Communities Trust. "The Barr Hammock acquisition exemplifies the importance and power of conservation partnerships in land acquisition. It was only through the efforts of many individuals and groups that this acquisition was possible – including Rayonier - the previous owners of the property, The Nature Conservancy, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Conservation Trust for Florida, Alachua Conservation Trust, the Sierra Club, Micanopy Historical Society, Alachua County Historical Commission, Women for Wise Growth, the Town of Micanopy, and the Bartram Trail Conference," Sandra Vardaman, Land Conservation Biologist.

As exemplified above, both the first and most recent purchases by the Alachua County Forever program have been of extremely ecologically valuable properties and the lands that were purchased in between are no exception. Ramesh Buch, program manager: "The community has really responded positively to the Alachua County Forever program, nominating a third of the area of the county for conservation. Without their support and the many partnerships we have formed with other local and state land conservation programs, we would not have been able to achieve the level of success that we experience today, with the protection of so much valuable land for generations to come."

Submitted by: Melanie Leitman, Alachua County Forever Intern



<http://assets.alachuacounty.us/uploads/images/Update-2006-09-29.pdf>

Conservation Cures by Yards and Miles

The Mile Scale

Local land trust protecting native plant habitat

Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) has had a busy few months protecting nearly \$8 million in conservation lands. Since 1988, this local non-profit land trust has conserved 14,000 acres, either by negotiating transactions for public agencies, by purchasing the land outright, or through voluntary conservation agreements with private land owners.

This summer, ACT acquired 280 acres of the Prairie Creek basin – land that fronts the Gainesville-Hawthorne Rail Trail and scenic CR 234 in Rochelle, as well as Prairie Creek itself. In September, the state awarded



Virginia sweetgum (Platanus virginiana) blooming over the Headwaters of Hogtown Creek.

ACT a major grant for reimbursement. Prairie Creek flows through a quintessential Florida swamp forest, occasionally opening up to savannah along Paynes Prairie. Blue flag iris, pickerel weed, lizards tail, and water hemlock emerge blooming from its tannic waters. ACT also proposed a conservation

easement on a 2500-acre working ranch in Putnam County to the Florida Forever program. The project, submitted in partnership with the Nature Conservancy and approved in August, is a key parcel in linking the 9000-acre Ordway Swisher Preserve to other conservation lands.

In October, ACT closed on nearly 400 acres of Lake Tusawilla, just south of Micanopy using funds provided by Florida Communities Trust and generous neighbors. This savannah is like a smaller version of Paynes Prairie, and this year was covered with lotus. ACT will be managing portions of the Tusawilla Preserve as a public park, and will manage some former rangeland with fire to encourage native wildflowers.

Also this fall, the state agreed to fund the acquisition of the Hogtown Creek Headwaters. This property has been the subject of land use battles in the past, and if negotiations are successful, it will become the City of Gainesville's next nature park. On this

75 acres, Hogtown Creek seeps from the ground, then braids together to form the creek, which deeply incises the banks. While parts of the forest have been mismanaged, some of it contains mature and intact mixed hardwood hammock. Ardisia and a few other exotics will need to be removed.

ACT relies on volunteers for much of our land management, and is always looking for folks with the interest, knowledge, or passion to adopt a small piece of Florida to care for. In the coming spring, we will be doing a "BioBlitz" on a couple of properties to inventory the plants, and if you are interested in participating in a fun morning of botanizing, please let us know.

Submitted by: Lauren Day

Education Committee

Education about Florida's native plants and their conservation needs is an important focus of FNPS. FNPS sponsors a variety of Educational Programs:

- Educational displays
- Demonstration gardens
- Natural history workshops for teachers
- Nature workshops for members
- Workshops and learning events for people interested in native plant landscaping
- Pamphlets on Florida Native Plants

The committee is currently starting to create a series of power point presentations that can be used throughout the state to educate municipalities and the general public about native plants in Florida. If anyone is interested in assisting with this project as a member of the Education Committee and/or if anyone has ideas for future projects for the group, please encourage them to contact me directly.

Judy Gregoire - Committee Chair

judy_gregoire@yahoo.com

or jgregoire@brevardparks.com

Submitted by: Erick Smith

New Ixia Chapter brings FNPS to Northeast Florida

Jacksonville is now home to a new Chapter serving Duval, St. John's, Nassau and Clay Counties in northeast Florida.

Bartram's ixia (*Calydorea caelestina*) is a delicate wildflower endemic to 7 counties in northeast Florida. It is thus fitting that Jacksonville is now home to the new Ixia Chapter of the FNPS. Under the leadership of Ann Arthur, President, the chapter is already thriving; before the ink was dry on the bylaws, their October 7 "Gardenfest 2006" event was published in Organic Gardening's "Gardening Events in Florida" (see <http://www.organicgardening.com/events/1,7525,s1-3-15,00.html>).

The Chapter's first meeting as an "official" Chapter was September 21 at the Regency Square Library in Jacksonville, which solidified plans for the Gardenfest. This festival event features author Gil Nelson presenting to the public on landscaping with Florida native plants, along with plants sales, exhibits and refreshments. Co-sponsor IFAS has supplied the Extension Office auditorium for the day's activities. Also in October they team up with Duval Audubon for a Crosby Sanctuary field trip in Orange Part. For more information, see their webpage under Chapters --> Ixia at www.fnps.org, or contact Ann via [e-mail](mailto:).



This ambulating spider can modify its color to match the background in this case a morning glory in a well meadow in the Prairie Creek basin.



2007 Paynes Prairie Chapter Election Time

Elections will be held at the November 14, 2006 program meeting. This year's nominating committee is Lisa Jelks, Howard Jelks, and Joe Durando. If you have nominations for any officer (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer) or chapter Board Member, or questions about these positions, please email Lisa at jelkslg.ufl.edu or call 352-373-3028.

September Plant Identification

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family Name	Status
<i>Acalypha graciliens</i>	Slender Threeseed Mercury	Euphorbiaceae	Native
<i>Acalypha rhomboidea</i>	Diamond Threeseed Mercury	Euphorbiaceae	Native
<i>Bidens alba</i>	Beggerticks, Romerillo	Asteraceae	Native
<i>Chamaesyce hyssopifolia</i>	Hyssopleaf Sandmat	Euphorbiaceae	Native
<i>Drymaria cordata</i>	Drymary, West Indian Chickweed	Caryophyllaceae	Native
<i>Rhexia mariana</i>	Pale Meadowbeauty, Maryland Meadowbeauty	Melastomataceae	Native
<i>Rhynchospora pusilla</i>	Fairy Beaksedge	Cyperaceae	Native
<i>Vernonia gigantea</i>	Giant Ironweed	Asteraceae	Native
<i>Senna occidentalis</i>	Septicweed	Fabaceae	Non-native
<i>Sphagneticola trilobata</i>	Creeping Oxeye	Asteraceae	Non-native



Ironweed, *Vernonia gigantea* is host plant for the American Painted Lady, *Vanessa virginiensis* according to James A. Scott in "The Butterflies of North America".

Attendance by those participating was appreciated. Dr. Patti Anderson and Dr. Richard Weaver of the Department of Plant Industries confirmed the identifications. Nomenclature was determined from "Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida" 2nd Ed. by Richard P. Wunderlin and Bruce F. Hansen (2003).
Submitted by: Paul Cohen

ARTICLE SUBMISSION AND ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

Please send all articles to: Rhexia@gmail.com.
 If you would like to receive the Rhexia via your e-mail,
 please email Goldie Schwartz at: Goldie_Schwartz_afn49@mindspring.com

There will be no December Rhexia newsletter.

Deadline date for January 2007 Issue: December 14, 2006

2006 - 2007

MEETINGS, FIELD TRIPS, EVENTS

Meetings

November 7 Board / Conference Meeting
Contact Charlie Pedersen - charliepedersen@gmail.com

November 14 Chapter Meeting
Ramech Bush / Conservation Land Purchases

December 12 Christmas Social

2007

January 9 Chapter Meeting

February 13 Chapter Meeting

February TBA Board / Conference Meeting

March 13 Chapter Meeting

April 10 NO Chapter Meeting

April 24 Conference Review

May 8 Chapter Meeting

Field Trips

November 18 Barr Hammock

Our November field trip is to Barr Hammock, Alachua County's newest acquisition through the Alachua County Forever Program. This 2,309 acre environmental jewel is a mosaic of upland and wetland natural communities. Participants will experience the majesty of Ledwith Prairie and wander through Barr Hammock. Because the property is not yet open to the public, we will meet at a designated location and then proceed to the site together in vans. The number of participants will be limited, so please call or e-mail Sandra Vardaman to reserve a space on the field trip.

Time: 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m
Meeting Place: call 352-379-9754 or e-mail sandravardaman@aol.com for details and to sign-up for the field trip.

Field Trips

2007

January 13 Stormwater Park

February 17 Rally for the Ocklawaha

March 17 TBA

April 14 No Field Trip

Events

November 1-3 Conference
Public Land Acquisition and Management Partnership Conference
<http://www.ces.fau.edu/plam2006/index.php>. For more information contact: Doreen DiCarlo at: Phone: 561-799-8553/Fax: 561-626-1404/email: ddi-carlo@ces.fau.edu

November 2-3 Conference
Annual Conference on Ecosystems Restoration and Creation - Plant City
Join us as we celebrate our 33rd anniversary of The Annual Conference on Ecosystems Restoration and Creation on November 2 - 3, 2006 at the Trinkle Building located on the Plant City campus of Hillsborough Community College (Plant City, Florida). <http://www.hccfl.edu/depts/detp/ecoconf.html>

November 14 San Felasco
San Felasco Ardisia pull. Help eradicate exotic Ardisia plants from San Felasco State Park. 9am-12:00pm. Meet at San Felasco Park parking lot on south side of Millhopper Rd. (Not Devils Millhopper Park)

November 13-16 Conference
Longleaf Alliance Regional Conference Tifton Campus Conference Center. The University of Georgia, Tifton, GA

The Mile Scale

Conservation Cures by Yards and Miles

November 14th Meeting
Tuesday at 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: _____
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.