



Rhexia mariana ©Darel Hess

The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society
October 2006

NATIVE PLANT SALE

Oct 21 - Oct 22, 2006

Morningside Nature Center 3540 East University Ave.
natureoperations.org / phone 352-334-2170

It's almost time for the wonderful fall plant sale at Morningside Nature Center.

If you are shopping for a new tree, shrub or wildflower or you are just in the mood for a wildflower walk...then this is the place to be. Members of FNPS and Friends of Nature Parks get a special preview sale on Friday evening from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. The general public is invited on Saturday from 8:30 - 1 p.m.

On Saturday, there is a ranger led wildflower walk, book sales, and information booths. If you need help planning your landscape or getting ideas on what plants will fit best in your landscape, then plan to visit our volunteers at the FNPS tent. While you are there, you can buy a raffle ticket to win a large assortment of plants donated by the plant vendors. Remember: they do not take credit or debit cards at the sale, only cash and checks.

To volunteer as a cashier or park-a-plant helper, call 352-334-2170 or email Alice Tyler at pinetyl@atlantic.net.

This sale is sponsored by Florida Native Plant Society, Friends of Nature Parks and Gainesville Parks & Recreation Dept and 25% of sales proceeds benefits Friends of Nature Parks improvement projects. See you there! *Submitted by:* Claudia Larsen

Anne Barkdoll

The Gory Details of Native Groundcover
Restoration in Florida's Pinelands

OCTOBER 10, 2006 MONTHLY MEETING

Anne Barkdoll is an Environmental Specialist with the Florida Division of Recreation and Parks District 2 Office in Gainesville. She has an M.S. in Soil Science and a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from the University of Florida. She did field work in Central and South America on nitrogen fixation and mycorrhizal fungi.

Her current work with the Florida Park Service focuses on upland restoration, invasive exotic plant control, timber issues, prescribed fire, and cultural resources. Prior to working for the Florida Division of Recreation and Parks she worked in Oregon with the Bureau of Land Management as a Botanist, and in Florida as a consultant.

Anne will discuss restoration of native upland groundcover species in pine systems. The entire process of groundcover restoration going from fire suppressed, bedded up slash pine plantation to native plant nirvana will be demonstrated. Anne will also lead a field trip to Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park to demonstrate the effects of three subsequent years of restoration and the resulting good wildflowers.



<http://www.biologicalresearch.com>

Philosophy of the Sandhills

Sandhills are found in dry, upland areas with sandy soils and sloping terrain. Fire plays a major role in maintaining sandhill ecosystems. These pyrogenic (fire-dependant) habitats require frequent, low-intensity fires, about every two to five years, to minimize competition and stimulate flowering and seed germination of many sandhill plants.

Sandhills burn more frequently than scrub habitats so there are fewer woody shrubs and thickets of undergrowth in these ecosystems. Easily recognized by the tall, longleaf pines and open, park-like understory, these sandhill ecosystems support a variety of plants and animals.

The core species in sandhill ecosystems, longleaf pine, may live from 300 to 500 years. Interspersed with the pines are turkey oaks and a few other hardwood species such as sand post oak, bluejack oak, and persimmon. If regular fires occur, these open stands will continue with a groundcover of only herbaceous grasses and ferns for many years. Along with wiregrass, lop-sided Indian grass, pineywoods dropseed, and bracken fern are common sights in regularly burned sandhills. A variety of flowering grasses and plants may also be seen decorating the open landscape. Among these are blazingstar, butterfly-weed, goldenrod, common asters, gopher apple, and prickly pear. Some plants are listed as endangered. These include clasping warea, a federally endangered species, bent golden aster, and pigeon wing, both listed by the State of Florida.

Once covering vast expanses of land in the Southeast, all that remains of these systems now are a few scattered areas, mainly in Northern Florida and along the ridges of the upper peninsula. Thousands of acres of sandhill have been cleared for agricultural, commercial, and residential use.

Some beautiful examples of natural longleaf pine-turkey oak sandhills may be seen in the Ocala National Forest, Blackwater River State Forest, Elgin Air Force Base, Wekiwa Springs State Park, Torreya State Park, Gold Head Branch, San Felasco Hammock State Preserve, the Ordway Preserve, and the Janet Butterfield Brooks Preserve.

Vince Morris, the ecology unit leader of the [Withlacoochee State Forest](#), offers his philosophy of the Sandhills:

1. Enjoy the Sandhills
2. Understand the Sandhills
3. Love the Sandhills

In order to follow this philosophy it's important to visit them. The following is a guideline to enjoying them which in turn leads to their protection.

1. Visit a spot after a prescribed burn. There are more flowers and wildlife activity in the area from 7 days to a full year after the burns.
2. Hot spot: These spots refer to areas that attract more life and diversity. It has nothing to do with the temperature. They are on ridge tops, bottoms of small watersheds, concentrations of flowers, wetlands, etc.
3. Dress appropriately: Wear long pants and a hat. The long pants will discourage attacks by chiggers, ticks, and other critters that



www.biologicalresearch.com

like to have their meals delivered via human activity.

4. Bring survival stuff: Carry water, compass, and sunscreen and use them.
5. Don't bring anyone who doesn't want to go. Their complaints may drive the fauna away, and you may be tempted to leave with them.
6. Don't overstay your welcome: Enjoy your visit in short bursts.
7. Think small: Insects are the best diversity in the sandhill areas. It's not just the large trees and bushes that should catch your eye. Look for tiny flowers that are evident against the charred backdrop of a recent burn. One flower can attract a great deal of insect activity.
8. Look for something specific: While out visiting the sandhills, look for an animal or a plant that is endemic to the area. Don't try to locate everything in a regional guidebook. White banded trees indicate the presence of Red Cockaded Woodpeckers.
9. Try different seasons and times: Have a goal based on seasonal activity of the sandhills. Look for flowers that bloom in the early morning hours or gopher tortoise activity that occurs in the warmth of the day. If you choose to go to the sandhills in the evening, look for the red cockaded woodpecker.
10. Bring a camera sometimes: If you plan to bring it 50% of the time, you can spend time taking that "perfect" picture. If you leave it out of your "survival stuff," you will be able to see the bigger picture that the sandhill presents.
11. Do something when you are there: Everything has something to offer the naturalist.



www.biologicalresearch.com

Be careful, not scared: Realize that the sandhill is inhabited by many animals who have many forms of protection. Their coloring and skin patterns allow them to blend into their natural surroundings. Unfortunately, they may not be very happy with your disturbance and may attack. The puss moth caterpillar, *Megalopyge opercularis*, a seemingly soft fuzzy caterpillar may contain harsh burning chemicals which can pose a genuine health hazard.

Visiting the sandhills after a controlled burn allows for better visibility because of the absence of brush that masks things. Small flowers and tiny bugs are easier to see. Venomous snakes and other local critters are also more visible. Exotic plants that survived the burn are also easy to remove. The Rattlebox (*Crotalaria spectabilis*) has a showy yellow flower that develops seeds that could last 100 years.

For further information about dates of controlled burns, contact Vince Morris at morrisv@doacs.state.fl.us Approximately seven days after a burn, the plants and animals begin to reclaim the area and these are some of the best times to view the sandhills. Guided plant walks are also available through the center. Call 352-754-6777 and ask for the Recreation Office.

(Sandhill description from University of Florida, School of forest Resources and Conservation website)

Submitted by: Claudia Larsen

2006 - 2007

MEETINGS, FIELD TRIPS, EVENTS

Meetings

October 10 Chapter Meeting
Anne Barkdoll - The Gory Details of Native Groundcover Restoration in Florida's Pinelands

November 7 Board / Conference Meeting

November 14 Chapter Meeting
Ramech Bush / Conservation Land Purchases

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

Oct 14 Stephen Foster State Park
Visit three successive years of native groundcover restoration at Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park and compare habitats before and after restoration. Wander among the wildflowers that result from direct seeding of pine land species. Native wildflowers and grasses like Blazing Star and Lopsided Indian Grass should be blooming in the restored areas. Flatwoods, upland pine, and sandhill communities all converge here on the banks of the Suwannee River. Those who wish to stay longer than the field trip can hike a portion of the Florida Trail along the Suwannee River.

To car pool from Gainesville, meet at the North Main Street Publix (1302 N Main Street) at 8:00 a.m., park on the northwest side of the building *Or* Meet at Tourism Center, just outside the park entrance to Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park at 9:30 a.m.

Directions to Park: Located on U.S. 41 in White Springs. From I-75 to S.R. 136 (Milepost Exit 439 - Old Exit 84), travel east on S.R. 136 for 3 miles. Turn left on U.S. 41. Park entrance is on the left. From I-10 to U.S. 41 North (Milepost Exit 301 - Old Exit 43), travel 9 miles to White Springs. Park entrance is on the left. Please note there is a \$4.00 park entrance fee per car.

Difficulty rating: easy to moderate. Estimated field trip duration from Gainesville roughly 8:00-2:00. For questions please call or e-mail Sandra Vardaman 352-379-9754, sandravardaman@aol.com

November 18 Barr Hammock

2007

January 13 Stormwater Park

February 17 Rally for the Ocklawaha

March 17 TBA

April 14 No Field Trip

Events

October 14 - 15 Florida Butterfly Festival
Florida Museum of Natural History
<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/butterflyfest>



www.flmnh.ufl.edu/butterflyfest

October 20-21

PLANT SALE MORNINGSIDE NATURE CENTER

November 1-3 Public Land Acquisition
and Management Partnership Conference
<http://www.ces.fau.edu/plam2006/index.php>

December 12 Christmas Social

Miscellaneous

The Tarflower Chapter is doing research on pollinators for a presentation / paper that they are doing. If you have any information to share, please contact CRead@lotspeichandassociates.com

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 Annie at: anniebret@bellsouth.net. **Subject line: FNPS**

Deadline date: October 18, 2006

Annual Conference - Gainesville

Conservation Cures by Yards and Miles

April 19 - 22, 2007

Hilton University of Florida Conference Center
1714 SW 34th St

Hosted by the Paynes Prairie Chapter



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.

OFFICERS - DIRECTORS

President:	Charlie Pedersen	charliepedersen@gmail.com
Vice President:	Brian Quinn	bquinn@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu
Secretary:	Claudia Larsen	micanopywildflowers@yahoo.com / 352.846.1070
Treasurer:	Joe Durando	386.462.5455
Chapter Rep.:	Erick Smith	Edsmith@ufl.edu / 352.380.0648
Membership:	Goldie Schwartz	afn49@mindspring.com / 352.495.3983
Field Trip Coord:	Sandra Vardaman	sandravardaman@aol.com
Newsletter Editor:	Annie Bretnall	anniebret@bellsouth.net / 352.377.9056
Submit articles to:		Rhexia@gmail.com
Newsletter Distr.:	Alice Tyler	pinetyl@atlantic.net / 352.528.3968
Plant Rescue Cr:	J. Barichivich	jamie_barichivich@usgs.gov / 352.375.1972
Publicity & Media:	Vacant	
Director:	Jack Jordan	jdjordan@ifas.ufl.edu
Director:	Patti J. Anderson	pja700@hotmail.com
Director:	Mary Rhodes	352.475.2344
Director:	Jennifer Staiger	jennifer_staiger@usgs.gov
Director:	Sandra Vardaman	sandravardaman@aol.com

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

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!

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.



**October 10th 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.