



Rhexia mariana ©Darel Hess

The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society
April 2007

Spring Plant Sale April 6 - 7

Morningside Nature Center
3540 W. University Ave.
Gainesville / 352-334-3326

This is a sale of native trees, shrubs and wildflowers for your home landscapes. In addition to plant vendors there will be educational booths, the University Press of Florida book tent, a wildflower walk, light food and more. (Cash and checks only)

A special opening for FNPS and members of Friends of Nature Parks Only is held on Friday April 6, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The sale for the general public is held on Saturday, April 7, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Conference Volunteer Night April 10th 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

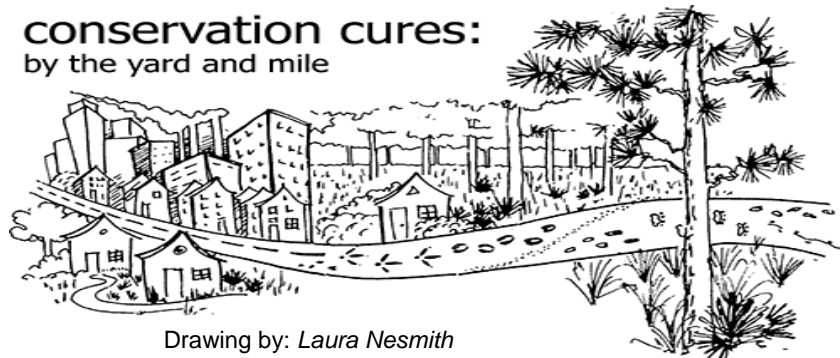
Please join us!

Volunteers who have signed up with Goldie or those who wish to be volunteers should plan to attend our training meeting at the Doyle Conner Building.

We will check your volunteer times, give brief instructions on your duties, and provide refreshments. We will be loading the conference bags with flyers, so if you do not want to work at the conference, but are willing to help this one night, please join us!

If you are not able to attend the April 10th meeting, we will contact you to confirm your volunteer duties.

conservation cures:
by the yard and mile



Drawing by: Laura Nesmith

This Month!

OUR CONFERENCE IS ALMOST HERE

Conservation by Miles and Yards April 19-22, 2007

The Conference is right around the corner! Lots of ideas and planning are finally melding into 4 days of fun trips, educational programs, plant and vendor shopping opportunities, and opportunities to meet many other native plant enthusiasts from around the state.

Remember, you can register for all 4 days or for 1 day; and you can register on site at the conference if you have not registered by mail. The mail cutoff date is April 5. Students may register for half the price.

If you are not planning to attend the conference, we still invite you to drop by and visit the huge native plant sale under the oaks on the Hilton front lawn Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. There will be many new vendors from

around the state with interesting plants you have not seen at our chapter plant sales.

You are also invited to visit the vendors inside the Hilton at no charge – there will be 4 book vendors with lots of interesting books on natural history, gardening, wildlife, etc.

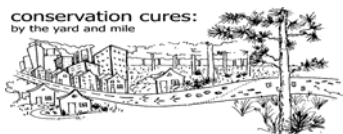
There will also be T-shirts, bird house boxes, and artwork for sale. The Silent Auction is also open to the public – you can bid on many unique items that have been donated to FNPS.

We still need volunteers for the conference to sit at the registration desk, sell T-shirts, assist with field trips, and be room monitors. For more information contact Goldie Schwartz at afn49@mindspring.com or 352-495-3983.

What Else Goes on at the Conference?

The conference keynote speakers, field trips, and programs get all the publicity, but there are also other important things going on....

- ◆ *Florida Native Plant Society Board of Directors Meeting* – Any member of FNPS can attend the quarterly state Board Meetings. This is where you can meet the dedicated individuals that serve on state committees across the state to make our group effective in education, conservation, government policy, communications, publications and science. The purpose of these meetings is to give committee reports, review the state FNPS budget and finances and discuss pertinent projects. It is also a place where members can voice their ideas.



- ◆ *Florida Native Plant Society Elections* – Election of officers occurs at the state conference. This year the membership will vote on elections for the Vice-president of Finance and the Secretary.
- ◆ *Awards for Service* – Recognition is given for members from across the state for service to Florida Native Plant Society, service to individual chapters, and to outstanding members who have made lifelong contributions to the FNPS mission.
- ◆ *Landscape Awards* – The FNPS Landscape Committee presents awards to outstanding landscapes submitted in the categories of Schoolyard, Preservation, Institutional, Commercial, Professional Homeowner, and Amateur Homeowner

Articles submitted by: *Claudia Larsen*

March Field Trip / Work Day at Veteran Park Native Plant Garden

Thanks to the 9 members who came to freshen up the native plant garden at Veterans Park on Tower Road. The garden is located in the rear by the Stonehenge rocks, overlooking Chapman Pond. Plants for this garden were specifically picked for their qualities to provide food, shelter, and nesting habitat for birds.

The plants are really filling in nicely, creating good bird habitat which was evidenced by a bird nest in the young oak tree. Besides weeding the galium (bedstraw) and wild geranium from beds we also planted a Sabal minor palm, a Rusty Haw viburnum, and a few wildflowers to spruce things up. All the viburnums were in flower and there were lots of emerging leaves on the Florida privet, wild plums, hawthorns, and fringetrees. The Buckeyes under the large oak were in bloom also. We have placed small hanging tags on many of the plants so you can identify them when you visit.



I made a mental note to pick up a Florida swamp privet at the upcoming plant sale. Known scientifically as *Forestiera segregata* this plant makes a great hedge grow-

ing 8-10 feet or larger. Although large, the evergreen shrub withstands pruning and is also salt tolerant. It adapts to many soil conditions from moist to dry and is good in sun or light shade. The plant has many small shiny green leaves that form a dense habitat for birds. The flowers occur in inconspicuous yellow clusters in the spring, and their strong scent attracts a diversity of pollinating flies, bees and butterflies. The ½ inch black egg shaped fruit that are sought by a variety of songbirds. Looking at the fruit it is easy to see that the plant is a member of the Olive Family (Oleaceae).

Other species of *Forestiera* that occur in Florida are Eastern swamp privet (*F. acuminata*), and Upland swamp privet (*F. ligustrina*). The commonly

grown *Ligustrum* (Japanese privet) that is in many Gainesville landscapes is not native. There is a rarer *Forestiera*, Godfrey's Privet (*F. godfreyi*) that is found in calcareous/alkaline hammocks from north Florida to Marion and Levy counties. We are lucky enough to have one of these in our native plant garden too.

Another plant that is doing excellent in our garden is the Swamp Dogwood (*Cornus foemina*). Like the Swamp privet the forename "swamp" should not discourage you from planting this one. Both are doing well in the full sun and moderately dry soil at the native plant garden. This is a large deciduous multi-trunked shrub or small tree that grows 5-8 feet. Its range extends even to southern Florida. It will probably do best in lightly shaded sites that are not overly dry. Of course if your site is wet – it is the perfect plant for you. Although the white spring flowers are not large, they do have showy clusters that turn into blue berries that birds love in the late summer and fall.

There are several clusters of Swamp dogwoods planted at our garden. Other little known species in this genus which is best known for Southern Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) are Roughleaf dogwood (*C. asperifolia*) and Silky Dogwood (*C. amomum*) which is rare and found in the panhandle.

Article and Photos Submitted by: *Claudia Larsen*



2007

MEETINGS, FIELD TRIPS, EVENTS

Meetings

April 10 / Tuesday

Conference Volunteer Pep Rally

All Volunteers will meet for final instruction, camaraderie and refreshments!

May 1 / Tuesday

Board of Directors and Planning Meeting

If you would like to help organize Fall 2007 speaker programs, field trips and plant sales, then please come to the May Planning Meeting, 5:30 pm at the Environmental Horticulture Dept Greenhouse Complex behind Fifield Hall, Hull Rd on UF campus. If you would like to make suggestions to the Board or need directions, please contact Claudia at calarsen@ufl.edu or 352-846-1070.

May 8 / Tuesday

Chapter Meeting

Dr Carrie Reinhardt-Adams
University of Florida, Landscape Ecology

Field Trips

April 14 / Saturday

No Field Trip

April 19-22 / Thursday to Sunday

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

May 12 / Saturday

Field Trip

Native Plant Butterfly Garden at Florida Museum of Natural History

Events

April 6 -7 / Friday-Saturday Spring Plant Sale

Morningside Nature Center

3540 W. University Ave., 352-334-3326

April 6 -Member Only Preview, 4:30-6:30pm

April 7 General Public 8:30am-1pm

Visit our website at: www.fnps.org
for more news and events

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:

afn49@mindspring.com

**Deadline date, Sunday, April 15, 2007
for the May Rhexia Newsletter.**

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 land-scape and require cooperation among many people.

The Mile Scale

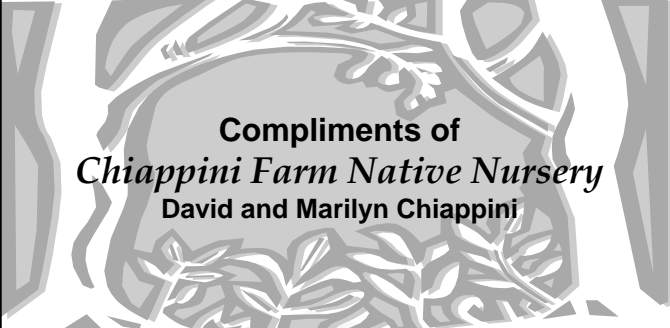
land trusts, public land acquisition, and preserving conservation areas

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Saturdays from 8:30 - Noon



Greg and Linda Hart **(386) 462-2752**

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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.

Meeting
April 10th-Conference
Volunteer Meeting
Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
(Plant ID Workshop at 6:30)
Doyle Conner Bldg. DPI

Conservation Cures by Yards and Miles

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 Auditorium
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:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family or Household | \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing | \$40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit Org. | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business or Corporate | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donor | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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.