



Rhexia mariana ©Darel Hess

The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society
March 2007

Conservation Cures by Yards and Miles

March 13, 2007
Conference Planning Meeting

Due to upcoming conference activities and planning there will be no speaker for the March program.

Final arrangements are being arranged for programs, field trips, and socials.

Please consider volunteering to help to make this the best conference ever!

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

In 1 Month

CONFERENCE UPDATE

Mark Your Calendars

Are You Attending Your First Conference?

The registration brochure with all program information is now available for you to look at and download at www.fnps.org/committees/conference/pdfs/FNPSConf2007advregformv1.pdf!

This is a primer for those of you who have not attended a past conference, but have decided (or almost decided) to come to the April conference. Jill McGuire and I have been conference buddies for about 6 years. We were kind of timid about venturing on our own to strange hotels and places where we didn't know anyone else. But these yearly conferences have turned into great adventures and we find many of the same people from FNPS chapters all over Florida return year after year.

How the conference is set up:

These conferences have been set up in the same format year after year and I'd like to offer some advice to help negotiate all the choices and make your experience the best ever. Remember, the FNPS Conference Registration Desk will be staffed with helpful volunteers who can also answer your questions.

Field Trips and Workshops (Thursday and Sunday): a great opportunity to visit ecological areas across the state and actually learn about their historical, geographical and ecological uniqueness. Many trips fill up, so have a second and third choice in mind. Also, there will be a field trip board at the registration table that shows openings on trips you can join at the last minute. Attendees meet in the parking lot and carpool. Trips are all led by experienced guides. You do have to bring your own snack or lunch, but water is provided. Some trips involving boats require extra fees.

Programs (Friday and Saturday): This can be tricky! It helps to know in advance what you're interested in, even if you change your mind at the last minute. Each morning will begin with a fantastic hour speech by our keynote speakers: Janisse Ray on Friday and William Cullina on Saturday.

After keynote talks, there will be talks focusing on conservation, landscaping, butterflies, scientific presentations from statewide colleges and university professionals and students, plant identification and propagation, and exotic pest plant control.

Indoor and Plant Vendors: The vendors will be open Friday and Saturday from 9am – 6pm.

Visit vendors during refreshment and lunch breaks, or take a break from listening to talks. The plant sale will be tremendous with nurseries from across the state attending. Look for it under the trees on the Hilton's front yard by the pool.

Food: Enjoy free drinks and snacks in conference hall. Lunch – you'll have 1-1/2 hours to find lunch along 34th Street/Archer Road, eat in the hotel or buy a hotel box lunch to eat where you like. (You can also bring your own.)

Socials: You can pre-register for socials in the brochure or pay at the conference, as long as there is still space.

The Thursday social at the Hilton is free if you're registered for the conference, so why not come? Enjoy a snack, listen to music, look at the educational exhibits and spend a little time getting acquainted with the hotel.

The Friday social is at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Come to enjoy the hors d'oeuvres and museum exhibits and meet environmental book authors (be sure to bring your favorite books for them to sign!)

The Saturday dinner is at the Harn Museum. This dinner celebrates the conference and is the main social event, with a seated banquet and instrumental music.

Conference T-shirt: Don't forget to buy your souvenir conference T-shirt designed by member Laura Nesmith!

There is always a lot for Jill and me to talk about after the conference on our way back to Gainesville (actually Melrose and Micanopy). Field trip adventures, favorite speakers, and where we are going to plant those special plants in our yards. Most important though, what really invigorates us are the numbers of dedicated environmentalists in Florida who care about natural areas and those who spend their careers studying, watching, sweating, counting, planting, photographing lands that will remain "Florida Forever". Submitted by: *Claudia Larsen*

TIME TO VOLUNTEER!

The time is fast approaching for our 27th Annual Florida Native Plant Society Conference. This will provide an opportunity to volunteer and support the Paynes Prairie Chapter in its responsibilities to host the state conference. Volunteers can assist in one or more of the following activities: Registration/Information Desk; Room Hosts for concurrent program sessions; Room audio/visual assistant, Field Trip Assistants, Chapter Vendor Booth Assistant, Selling T-Shirts Assistant, Social Parties Assistant, Plant Sale Assistant, Silent Auction Assistant.

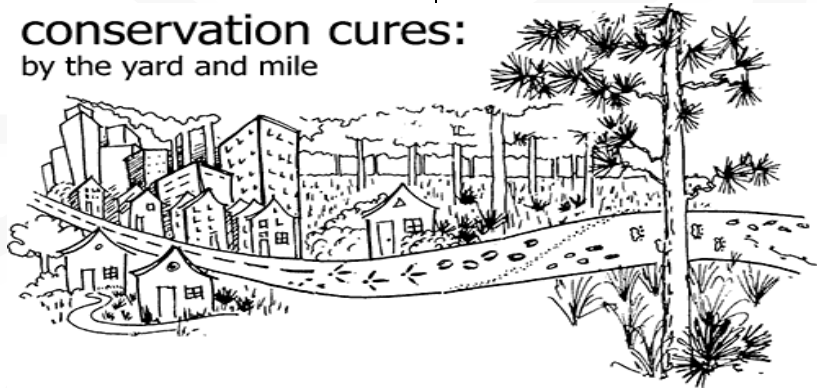
Before the conference we will devote our regular meeting date in April to a volunteer training meeting and to help out with loading conference bags. The date will be April 10th at 7:00 p.m. This will be a fun get-together with drinks and snacks.

Even if you are uncertain that you will be available but you would like to help out please contact our Volunteer Coordinator for Conference, Goldie Schwartz at 352-495-3983 or afn49@mindspring.com. Please state your interest in a special volunteer role or be available for anything. Paynes Prairie Chapter members are the greatest and The Annual Conference needs you to help make this the best conference ever. Thank-You, Thank-You, Thank-You.

GET NATIVE PLANT CONSULTATION WITH ORDER

Do you want to have a stellar yard full of exciting blooms, butterflies, and birds? Well, now you have that chance. Since our chapter is hosting the state conference in Gainesville, you will have the chance to shop from both local and distant nurseries that sell beautiful Florida native plants. But wait, there's more. We want to support these nurseries and the money that they make for the conference by pre-ordering plants. With a minimum \$100 order, you will get free consultation via phone or email to help you decide what is best for your yard. For a minimum \$500 order, you will receive an on-site visit (local area only) from one of our panel of highly experienced plant experts. Not only will you be receiving sage advice for your yard and helping nature by diversifying your landscape, but also 10% of your purchase goes towards funding the conference facilities and speakers. Take this wonderful opportunity to better your landscape and support our local and state chapters. For more information please contact Brian Quinn at: bquinn@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu

conservation cures:
by the yard and mile



||| Program Ads for 2007 Conference Now Available

- ↳ Full page color \$500
- ↳ Full page black and white \$300
- ↳ ½ page \$200
- ↳ ¼ page \$100
- ↳ 1/8 (business card size) \$50

Please support FNPS by buying an ad or being a sponsor.

For more information email: micanopywildflowers@yahoo.com

Spring Plant Sale

April 6 - 7

The 8th annual Morningside Spring Native Plant Sale.

SPECIAL OPENING FOR

FNPS AND FRIENDS OF NATURE PARKS MEMBERS ONLY

When: Friday April 6th

4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

This is your chance to get a jump on the crowds and purchase plants in a relaxed atmosphere.

General Public Opening

When: Saturday, April 7th

8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

In addition to plant vendors, there will be educational and informational booths, the University Press of Florida book tent, a wildflower walk, light food, and more. So, if you need to spruce up your yard after winter's cold temperatures, don't miss this sale! Morningside Nature Park is located on East University Avenue about 2 miles east of Main Street.

The Paynes Prairie chapter will also be holding a plant sale during the annual conference April 19-22 at the Hilton Hotel. This sale will be different, with native plant vendors from around the state.

Submitted by: *Lisa Jelks*

February Meeting Report

We would like to thank members of the Putnam Land Conservancy (PLC) for introducing us to their new organization. Tommy Clay, Claude Brown, Laurie Douglas, Lisa Midola, Willie The Losen, and Kathy Cantwell are key members of this group whose mission as a land trust is to work with state and federal agencies to acquire conservation lands and to help landowners find sound, profitable ways to protect their holdings for future generations.

Besides finding landowners to donate land or sell conservation easements, this group is writing grants and partnering with other conservation agencies to directly buy important land in Putnam County. PLC is already targeting Morrison's Mill near Hawthorne and land parcels along State Road 20 between Hawthorne and Interlachen which are currently threatened by expanding road improvements. They are suggesting raised highways in key locations to allow movement of wildlife; and they are trying to find corridor lands to connect the Ordway Swisher Preserve near Melrose to other large conservation parcels.

For more information about Putnam Land Conservancy visit their website at www.PutnamLandConservancy.org. Please consider supporting this group at their first fundraiser which will be a Cajun boil dinner event April 5, 2007 at Luther Springs. There will be boat rides, music by Gumbo Limbo and a silent auction all for a donation of \$25/person. Submitted by: *Claudia Larsen*

PROPOSED PLANT RESCUE REGULATION

The looming SpringHills megadevelopment is more than enough motivation for native plant lovers to try and push for a countywide regulation that would give native flora at least some chance of surviving.

I would like to pull together a working group of local plant enthusiasts to draft a proposal for consideration by our county commission. This is not the place to go into all the relevant details, but, in short, the envisioned regulation would require of developers, operating on lands with endangered, rare or otherwise noteworthy

plant species, that they suspend development until a team of volunteers could remove as many plants as time and circumstances permit, transplanting these stocks to suitable habitats not threatened by development. None of this work, from drafting the proposed regulation to actually mounting a rescue effort, will be easy, but if you think you'd like to be part of the initial group that crafts the language of the proposal do get in touch. Here's how: griffly3@yahoo.com or 352-262-0103.

Submitted by: Dana Griffin, III

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP REPORT – CLAY RANCH

Although the thermometer had barely reached 28 degrees by 8am, 20 brave FNPS members bundled up for a great trip to the Clay Ranch. Grandin is located between Melrose and Palatka. Its gently rolling hills are covered with open pasture and tracts of scrub oak and live oak/palm hammocks spotted with depressions of past ponds. Seventh generation owner Tommy Clay spent the day showing us the most beautiful parts of his 2500+ acre property, telling us about the history of his family farm which was intertwined with cattle ranching, turpentine and hunting. To avoid the lures of development, Tommy and his son are working with Alachua Conservation Trust to make this land a protected area in the future. Tommy also serves as president of the Putnam Land Trust and is trying to convince other landowners in his area to think about putting their lands into conservation.

Traveling in the back of pickups we drove to several locations, stopping to walk through areas of pinewoods and scrub oak forests. There were also areas with many large live oaks and most areas had been maintained through the years with programs of burning or

mechanical chopping. We talked about water tables and the come and go of ponds, and discussed the possibility of the area once having a large lake in the times of



the Timucuan Indians. As we walked by a large pond, our trip coordinator Willie the Losen stopped to break the ice in an overturned canoe. That made us feel extra cold, but our next stop was at the Clay outdoor pavilion where a hot bonfire and warm tea, coffee and cocoa awaited us. We ended our trip at a special “island” in the middle of the pastures...a large raised area with old oaks and palms and we surmised the possibility of it being an Indian burial ground. If you had been with us and heard the February wind blowing through the palms, you would have agreed there surely were spirits of past Florida pioneers and native people amidst us!

Submitted by: *Claudia Larsen*

February Plant Identification

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	Status
<i>Clematis catesbyana</i>	Clematis	Ranunculaceae	Native
Gigantea	Giant Ironweed	Asteraceae	Native
Nuphar lutea	Pondlily	Rosaceae	Native
<i>Prunus angustifolia</i> ?	Chickasaw plum ?	Nymphaeaceae	Native
<i>Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora</i>	Montbretia	Iridaceae	Non-native
<i>Oxalis debilis</i> var. <i>corymbosa</i>	Pink Woodsorrel	Oxalidaceae	Non-native
?????Geaster sp.???????	Earth-Star	????	????

Submitted by: *Paul Cohen*



www.plantatlas.usf.edu/

Prunus angustifolia has glands at the tip of the leaves and ascending sepals on its blooms. *Prunus umbellata* has glands at the base of the petiole and the base of the leaf blade. Blooms on *P.umbellata* have horizontally spreading petals. These differences are discussed in Robert Godfrey's "Trees, shrubs, and Woody Vines of Northern Florida

and Adjacent Georgia and Alabama." Nomenclature with the exception of Geaster was derived from Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants (<http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu>) compiled by Richard Wunderlin and Bruce Hansen, copyright 2006 and last updated 2/21/07. Special thanks to Dr. Daniel Ward for confirmation of plant ID and to all those who participated. Submitted by: *Paul Cohen*

2007

MEETINGS, FIELD TRIPS, EVENTS

Meetings

- March 13 / Tuesday Chapter Meeting
Conference Planning Meeting
- April 10 / Tuesday NO Chapter Meeting
- April 24 / Tuesday Conference Review
- May 8 / Tuesday Chapter Meeting

Field Trips

March 17 / Saturday March Field Trip/Work Day
Veterans Park Native Plant Garden

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Our native plant garden dedicated to Carl Miles at the Veterans Park on Tower Road is growing beautifully and we are ready to show it off on the landscape tour field trip for participants at the 2007 conference. Can you spend a couple hours helping weed and trim? In case you haven't been before, the garden is at the rear of the park so drive past the main parking lot to the second gate. The garden is located on a hill overlooking the retention pond waterfall. Bring gloves, clippers, hand trowel or shovel, hat and water to drink. Binoculars will come in handy too since the garden overlooks Chapman's pond. We will try to combine a little bird watching with our chores and finish before lunch. For questions, contact Brian Quinn:

bquinn@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu

April 14 / Saturday No Field Trip

April 19-22 / Thursday to Sunday

Annual Conference

Events

March 3 / Saturday Santa Fe Lakefest & Clean-up
In Melrose, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Lakefest is held at Melrose Bay Park and is an environmental education event with fun for the whole family. Call 475-1567 for more information or to volunteer to help with the clean-up.

March 3 / Saturday San Felasco Hammock
Preserve State Park-Ardisia Pull.
9:00am to 12:00pm.

Meet at the main parking area for the trail head off Millhopper Road at 9:00am. For more information contact: Emily Basile at:

Emily.Basile@dep.state.fl.us.

March 24-25 Statewide North American Butterfly Association Meeting in Gainesville. Florida Museum of Natural History. Contact: zlongwing@aol.com.

April 10 Conference Volunteer Pep Rally

6:30 p.m.

Doyle Conner Building Auditorium
Division of Plant Industry

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

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

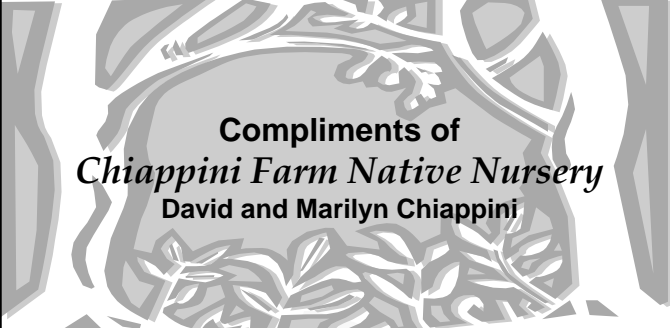
Deadline date, March 19, 2007 for the April Rhexia Newsletter.

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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
March 13th
Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
(Plant ID Workshop at 6:30)
Doyle Conner Bldg. DPI
1911 SW 34th St.

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

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Donor | \$250 |
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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.