



Rhexia mariana ©Darel Hess

The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society
October 2008

Monthly Meeting & Field Trip Info

Meeting: October 21st

Mike Ball, page 4

"Edible and Medicinal Plants
of Florida"

Field Trip: October 18

Bok Tower Sanctuary, page 4

New Meeting Location, Time, Date Info

Greetings native planters! Remember the following changes: we will now be meeting on the third Tuesday of every month (September – May) and our programs will start at 7:00 pm instead of 7:30 pm to allow our rural members a bit more time to get home at a decent hour. The Plant ID workshop will begin at 6:15. Our new location is the United Church of Gainesville (1624 NW 5th Ave). Please plan to attend our fall sessions, because our speakers will be discussing great topics of interest to all of us!

Directions to the United Church of Gainesville, 1624 NW 5th Ave.:

From 441 (NW 13th St.): Go right at NW 5th Ave. if you are coming from the north, left if coming from the south. NW 5th Ave is 5 blocks north of the intersection of University Ave. and NW 13th St. Heading west, UCG is 4 blocks on the right.

From University Ave/Newberry Road: Go right at NW 13th St. (441) if coming from the east, left if coming from the west. Go 5 blocks north and take a left at NW 5th Ave. Heading west, UCG is 4 blocks on the right.

From NW 8th Ave: Take a right at NW 17th St. if coming from the west, left if coming from the east. Heading south, go 3 blocks and take a left onto NW 5th Ave. Heading east, UCG will be one block on the left.

Parking is on the east side of the church. The meetings will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Signs will be posted to aid direction. See you there!

Getting to Know your Native Plants: Some new features at our monthly native plant meetings!

We are adding some new features at the beginning of each meeting we will have a short 10-minute mini-talk on a native plant of our area. The information will introduce you close-up to a new plant, explain the difference between plants in the same genus, or provide planting tips for your landscape. Questions and discussion are invited after speaker program.

Also, the plant raffle will now be held *before* the speaker at 7:15pm, instead of at the end of the meeting. This will ensure that all who wish to participate can without having to stay later than necessary.

A Fall Garden, page 2



Photo by Claudia Larsen

“Plant of the Month” by Paula Russo



If you want a yard full of butterflies and other pollinators, and do absolutely nothing to get it, then *Bidens alba* is the plant for you. Unfortunately, though, it is a much maligned native plant that I’ve seen even the most die-hard native plant enthusiast make a face at its mention.

Bidens alba is such a well known plant that I hardly feel the need to describe

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

it. But for those of you who have not had the pleasure of an introduction *Bidens alba* has aster-like flowers, leaves with toothed margins, and - here’s where the trouble begins – small thin black seeds tipped with 2 barbed spines or “needles” that adhere to everything except perhaps the smoothest of glass.

Any animal covered with fur or clothing who tromps through a bushy patch of *Bidens alba* will



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

come away covered with these seeds. The furry animal will just lick them off and spit them out on the ground. You must admit it’s a clever way the plant has come up with to get its seeds spread around. The animal with clothing must either choose to ignore them, put their clothes (including shoes) through the washer and dryer and hope the remaining stuck on seeds will come off in the next wash, or, painstakingly pick each seed off during the commercials of their favorite TV shows.

Bidens alba, cont.

If you have the space though, you can just let a nice batch grow in a back corner. The plant blooms in late summer and fall and from a little distance the flowers with their white petals dotted with yellow centers make for a very pretty, clean look. They are good for cut wildflower arrangements and when the plants are spent and the patch looks like nothing more than a bunch of tangled dead sticks you just mow it down. You can, though, like me, let it grow right up at the door step and once in awhile clip off the seed heads before they get sticky. Doing this will make the patch bushier and encourage the production of more flowers. A dreaded thought for some, but, think of all those fluttering, darting, and buzzing insects made deliriously happy because of our tolerance.

The September Wildflower Garden

Submitted by Claudia Larsen

Still waiting for the cooler weather, I lazily walk down the paths between my wildflower beds. The side I weeded in August looks great and is really filling out thanks to the generous rainfall. There are plenty of Queen butterflies and an occasional Monarch. I’m wondering if these will spend their lives in Micanopy or be part of the great migration to Mexico. Adios, mariposas! I’m still waiting for the liatris to bloom but have plenty of color from the red salvia and the tall yellow compass plants (*Silphium* sp). The *Silphium* flowers are about 3 inches wide like *Helianthus* sunflowers, but the plant is much better behaved, forming a non-invasive v-shape shrub. It seems to bloom for several months. One pleasant surprise has been the *Flaveria* – a nice bushy 30 inch plant with really bright yellow flower clusters and emerald green linear leaves. I’ll definitely be collecting seeds from that one. The plant is primarily found in central and south Florida and prefers alkaline



Photo by Claudia Larsen

or infertile soils. The purple cone flowers surrendered their seed cones for next year’s crop but I’m counting on them to bloom again before January. I’ve laboriously tried to extract the brown seed pods from the wild petunia (*Ruellia*) before they open on their own and jettison their seed to the winds. (Green seedpods are not ripe yet!)

Continued on pg. 3

The Plant ID Workshop: Paynes Prairie Chapter Meeting, September 16th

By Paul Cohen

<i>Abelmoschus esculantus</i>	Red Okra	Malvaceae	Non-native
<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	Red Buckeye	Sapindaceae	Native
<i>Asimina parviflora</i>	Smallflower Pawpaw	Annonaceae	Native
<i>Cirsium nuttallii</i>	Nuttall's Thistle	Asteraceae	Native
<i>Cornus foemina</i>	Swamp Dogwood	Cornaceae	Native
	Stiff Dogwood		
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Queen Anne's Lace	Apiaceae	Native
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green Ash; Pumpkin Ash	Oleaceae	Native
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia Willow	Iteaceae	Native
	Virginia Sweetspire		
<i>Jacquemontia tamnifolia</i>	Hairy Clustervine	Convolvaceae	Native
<i>Nyssa aquatica</i>	Water Tupelo	Cornaceae	Native
<i>Picea mariana</i>	Black Spruce	Pinaceae	Non-native
<i>Poinsettia heterophylla</i>	Fiddler's Spurge	Euphorbiaceae	Native
	Mexican Fireplant		
<i>Pueraria montana var. lobata</i>	Kudzu	Fabaceae	Non-native
<i>Rhamnus carolina</i>	Carolina Buckthorn	Rhamnaceae	Native
<i>Sesbania herbacea</i>	Danglepod	Fabaceae	Native
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Bald Cypress	Cupressaceae	Native

FYI: The Bald Cypress was found on a mountain in West Virginia at a highway rest stop.

Thank-you all participants. Dr. Weaver of the Department of Plant Industry Herbarium helped to confirm nomenclature. The workshop is educational and not a plant ID service. Nomenclature is based on "Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants" (<http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu>).

September Garden, cont.

The other side of the path is the wildflower bed that did not get weeded...running bahai grass and cockleburs, spurge, overgrown helianthus, bidens and viney things. It is the perfect argument for the Turfgrass association, but Muhly grass bravely sticks out of the melange and begins its awesome display of pink wispy flower heads. The gopher tortoise is happy – he has dug a hole under the Muhly and has plenty to eat right outside his door. I discover a few favorites in that neglected, quiet side of the garden - Rattlesnake master and Rayless sunlower with their low rosettes of leaves no taller than 4 inches high, and a blue *Salvia azurea* that totally blended into the weeds with its thin sparse leaves. Now I'm really looking forward to October to go on a scavenger hunt for more goodies and get in the mood for Halloween.



Photo by Claudia Larsen

(To be continued . . .)

2008/2009 Calendar of Events

Please check the Paynes Prairie chapter page at www.FNPS.org for most current information and directions to field trips. All 2008 meetings will be held at the United Church of Gainesville, 1624 NW 5th Ave, Gainesville, 7:00-8:30pm. The plant ID workshop prior to the meeting begins at 6:15.

October 3 & 4	Fall Native Plant Sale - Mark Your Calendars!
October 18	Field Trip: Bok Tower Sanctuary
October 21	Meeting: Mike Ball, "Edible & Medicinal Plants of Florida"
November 4	Paynes Prairie Chapter FNPS Board Meeting: 5:30-7:30pm. UF Environmental Horticulture Greenhouse Complex, Hull Rd, Gainesville
November 18	Meeting: Ondine Wells, Florida Yards and Neighborhood Program & Statewide Builder & Developer Coordinator
November 22	Field Trip: To be announced
December 16	Meeting: Christmas Celebration
January 20, 2009	Meeting: Karina Veaudry: FNPS State Executive Director
January 24	Exotic Plant Removal Workday – 9am - Noon. Site TBA.

October 21, 2008 Chapter Meeting Speaker Information:

Our speaker for the October 21st meeting is Mike Ball. Mike will give us a talk on edible and medicinal plants of Florida. Mike has had years of study and experience in both edible and medicinal plants. He grew up in south Florida, and is currently living in Lake Wales. He has conducted herb walks for many years in both Florida and the Rocky Mt area of the western U.S. Mike has never given us a lecture before, so please plan to attend and learn more about our native plants.

October 18, 2008 Field Trip Information:

We will be taking a longer distance field trip in October to Historic Bok Sanctuary in Lake Wales. Cheryl Peterson, who gave a wonderful talk to us in the spring, is the head of Conservation at Historic Bok Sanctuary and will be leading our field trip. We will meet on October 18 (please note that this is the Saturday BEFORE our meeting) in the Publix parking lot on Williston Road at 8 am. Cheryl will give us a tour of the Bok facilities and we will get the opportunity to see the scrub mints in full bloom in the endangered species garden. Since this is a long trip, we would like to carpool as much as possible. Brian Quinn will be leading the convoy to Lake Wales. Please contact him at bpatquinn@hotmail.com if you have any questions about the field trip.

FNPS Chapter Board Meeting, November 5, 5:30-7:30pm

Location: University of Florida Campus, the Environmental Horticulture Greenhouse Complex behind Fifield Hall on Hull Road. Food will be provided to sustain brain cells for planning purposes!

All chapter members are invited to join the Paynes Prairie Board of Directors to help plan speakers and field trips for 2009. If you have some ideas, please plan to attend or contact any board member whose names are listed in the Rhexia.

FYI Page:

Butterfly Fest

The Florida Museum of Natural History will hold their annual Butterfly Fest October 18-19, 10am-5pm at their site on SW 34 Street and Hull Rd. FNPS will not have a booth there, but we urge you to attend this fun and educational event. One of the highlights will be hourly tours of the Florida native plant wildflower garden behind the museum. There will also be many workshops and presentation on conservation and attracting butterflies and other pollinators. For a full list of speakers and field trips see their website: www.flmnh.ufl.edu/butterflyfest/

New Restoration Horticulture Degree Program at UF

A new program in Restoration Horticulture at the University of Florida provides horticulture-based training in core courses and prepares students to apply this knowledge to the establishment, management and protection of plant communities. Students will be proficient in many aspects of applied plant science, including native/rare plant propagation, ex situ plant conservation, weed control, nursery production of native plants, and planting design and specification. This program prepares students for careers in state government (DEP, DOT, Water Management Districts), federal government (Department of the Interior) and private industry (environmental consulting firms, native plant nurseries, etc.), and graduate school. For more information about this new program, contact Dr. Carrie Reinhardt Adams at (352)392-1831 x 223, or Dr. Michael E. Kane at (352)392-1831 x 205.

Paynes Prairie Chapter Elections

Members of the 2007 Nominating Committee:

1. Lisa Jelks, jelkslg@ufl.edu
2. Jennifer Staiger, jsstaig@gmail.com
3. Sandi Saurers, sandi@bbos.com

If you are a registered FNPS member you can contact any of the persons listed to nominate yourself or a friend as a chapter officer or board member. Officers and 5 Board members meet informally 4x per year to plan speakers and field trips and discuss chapter activities and expenditures. Interim business takes the form of email and phone calls.

All chapter members are encouraged to also join these meeting to offer suggestions and opinions on chapter activities. Elections will be held in November and date of office will run from Jan 2009-Dec 2009. If you would like a job description or information about any position, please contact FNPS Nominating Committee chair Lisa Jelks by email at: jelkslg@ufl.edu or phone 352-373-3028.

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.

2008 OFFICERS - DIRECTORS

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Plant ID

Paul Cohen/paulcohen2002@yahoo.com

Report on Rain Gardens – Thanks Wendy!

We had a wonderful turnout for our September program meeting. The United Church of Gainesville Hall is bright and spacious with easy parking. Alachua County Extension Agent Wendy Wilber did a fantastic job explaining the parameters of low impact development landscaping and creating rain gardens.

Government studies have shown that up to 70% of the pollution in our streams, rivers and lakes is carried there by stormwater. Although most people never think about stormwater, about half of the pollution that stormwater carries comes from things we do in our yards and gardens! Planting a rain garden may seem like a small thing, but if you calculate the amount of rain that runs off your roof, you would be very surprised. That rain is supposed to soak into the ground, but instead heads down the street to the storm drain, carrying pollution with it.

Keeping rain where it falls, by putting it into a beautiful rain garden, is a natural solution. You not only get a lovely garden out of it, you have the added benefit of helping protect our rivers, streams and lakes from stormwater pollution. You can be part of a beautiful solution!

This alternative to ugly holding ponds strives to keep water percolation on site by diverting it from roofs and roads to nearby swales and depressions that are planted with native plants. The trick is to use plants that can take dry periods and also periods of brief inundation by water (up to several hours). This is easily obtained by using plants like grasses, lilies, ferns and shrubs like asters, wax myrtle, and trees like red maple, river birch and cypress. The plants' roots help slow down the water and force the earth to absorb it.

If you want to create a rain garden to adequately handle your homes runoff and help filter water running into our water system, you will need to plug numbers like the square foot area of your house into the following calculation to determine the rain garden's size.

Example equation:

For a house whose roof area is: (60 feet x 60 feet = 3600 square feet)

Driveway = 500 square feet

$\frac{1}{4}$ of the flow to downspouts (3600 sq. ft) x 25% = 900 ft.

Roof area plus driveway (900 + 500 = 1400 sq.ft.)

Divide square footage by 20 (1400/20 = 70 sq.ft.)

The water garden should be at least 70 square feet, so a 5 x 14 foot or a 7 x 10 foot garden design would be sufficient.

Rain Garden, cont.

The shape of your rain garden can be circular, irregular or a narrow band. Make the rain garden several inches deep in a shallow level depression (not a bowl!) at least 10 feet from your house foundation and any septic tank or drain field, and be sure to get a dig permit to locate underground cables and utilities. Water can move via a sloping landscape or in a pipe connected to your gutter downspout. Water to establish the plants, then let the rain take over.

The Florida aquifer will benefit and you will have a nice addition to your landscape! Check out these websites for pictures and plant lists: www.raingarden.org and www.floridafriendlyyard.com

Information on Upcoming Amendment #4

Reduced or eliminated property tax for Florida landowners is being proposed as Amendment 4 on the November ballot. Registered Florida voters will be given an opportunity to preserve native lands and be given a tax break for doing so. The two elements to Amendment 4 are a tax exemption for perpetually conserved land and also a tax assessment of land used for conservation. No longer will a landowner have to set up an agriculture operation to make living on the land more affordable by reducing taxes. The native land can be valued as a natural habitat and be given a Conservation Assessment. This legislation will allow Florida counties to make changes to their tax assessment process. The following statement will be placed on the ballot:

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, ARTICLE VII, SECTIONS 3 AND 4, ARTICLE XII, SECTION 28. PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION OF PERPETUALLY CONSERVED LAND; CLASSIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF LAND USED FOR CONSERVATION.

Required Legislature to provide a property tax exemption for real property encumbered by perpetual conservation easements or other perpetual conservation protections, defined by general law. Requires Legislature to provide for classification and assessment of land used for conservation purposes, and not perpetually encumbered, solely on the basis of character or use. Subjects assessment benefit to conditions, limitations, and reasonable definitions established by general law. Applies to property taxes beginning in 2010.

Rhexia Article Submissions

Please! Submit unformatted word documents only. Submit pictures as separate jpg, tiff, or pdf files. Send all article submissions to: rhexia@gmail.com

Deadline date for November newsletter submissions is October 31st.

Advertisements are now being accepted for the Rhexia newsletter!

If you would like to support the Paynes Prairie chapter please send a business card size ad to Erick Smith at urbanforester@gmail.com. The ads cost \$100 and runs from October 2007 to September 2008.

Debbie DeLoach, Ph.D.

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Paynes Prairie Chapter
Post Office Box 110670
Gainesville, FL 32611

Next Meeting

**Tuesday, October 21st
7:00 p.m.**

*(Plant ID Workshop at 6:15)
United Church of Gainesville
1624 NW 5th Ave
Gainesville, FL*

Monthly Meetings

Regular monthly meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday
September - November and January - May at 7:00 p.m. at:
The United Church of Gainesville
1624 NW 5th Ave., Gainesville

Plant ID workshops precede each meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Florida Native Plant Society Membership Form

Name: _____
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Please mail completed form to: Florida Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 278, Melbourne, FL 32802-0278

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.