



*Rhexia mariana* ©Darel Hess

# The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter  
Florida Native Plant Society  
January 2009

## The Magic Number

Submitted by Brian Quinn

I was listening to radio news on my way to work a few days ago and an important scientific discovery was being reported. An eminent scientist had spent many months poring over data from specialized NASA satellite images to determine the number and location of trees on earth. She then decided to compare the number of trees to the human population and what she found was completely astonishing. There are only 61 trees per person on our planet. She had expected thousands, maybe hundreds at the least, but the magic number was 61.

Part of the core mission of the Florida Native Plant Society is conservation. We vote, plead, and even cajole our governments, municipalities, and neighbors to preserve and plant sustainable, native trees. Conversely, we live in a country that uses more trees than all of Africa, Australia, and South America combined. Sadly enough, we know how to fix the problem, yet we ignore the solutions. In our daily lives, we consume nearly as much in paper products than food by weight, and we buy cheap furniture and other wood products that we just throw away when we feel like a change.

Let's try to be part of the solution. How about heading out in your yard or community and planting number 62? You don't have to wait for Arbor Day – plant a tree on Christmas or Hanukkah or Kwanzaa or New Year's Day or next Tuesday. You will remember that tree and the day you planted it forever. Go crazy, plant two or three; maybe even a small forest plot. And while you are writing down your holiday list of trees, make sure you use both sides of that piece of paper, because it took a tree that was planted back when Reagan was President to make it.

## Monthly Meeting & Field Trip Info

### Meeting: January 20th

Karina Veaudry, FNPS State Executive Director:  
"The Status of Conservation in Florida" See pg. 4

### Work Day: January 31st

The 10th Annual Great  
Air Potato Roundup. See pg. 4 & 5

## New FNPS Chapter

The Paynes Prairie Chapter donated \$1000 to a new chapter in northern Florida, the Sea Oats Chapter. It is very difficult to start a chapter from scratch, and our gift to them will help them in many facets of their endeavors. Below, please read the letter of thanks from them.

*Dear Brian, BOD, and Members,*

*On behalf of the newly formed Sea Oats Chapter of St. John's County, I would like to thank you for your generous gift. Our BOD has been struggling to find inexpensive ways to get the word out on our Chapter and the events we have planned. This has opened up a whole new world to us. We are so very grateful. We are humbled by this partnering of the Paynes Prairie Chapter, and we will use this resource wisely to further the mission of the FNPS. Thank you again for your gift and for your kind words of encouragement.*

*Sincerely, Cynthia Maguire,  
FNPS Chapter Rep., Sea Oats*

## “Plant of the Month” by Paula Russo

### Holly - *Ilex* spp.

When thinking of plants during the winter holiday season I always think of holly. In an area of Palm Beach County where I grew up the dominate trees in the neighborhood were Melaleuca, Australian pine, and Brazilian pepper, and I had no idea



Florida its own holly species. Things were so bad back then that people referred to the Brazilian pepper with its zillions of red berries as “Florida holly”. And many people, including my family, used its berry covered branches in wreaths and arrangements at Christmas time.

The holly family is well represented in Florida with about ten species depending on whose book you are consulting. Gil Nelson, in his book “Florida’s Best Native Landscape Plants- 200 Readily Available Species for Homeowners and Professionals,” says that at least eleven hollies are native to Florida with at least six species used in landscaping.



Yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*) is the most widely used, according to Nelson. And I believe that he is right, at least in commercial landscapes, because there is hardly any such settings that the



low round green balls of the Yaupon cultivar called ‘Nana’ cannot be seen. Combined with coontie it makes for a very nice neat appearance, I think, but provides no berries for the birds. A big draw back; in my opinion. The natural (not cultivated) Yaupon (8-25’), or one of the cultivated varieties that do bear fruit, is a better choice. If, like me, you make landscape choices not just to satisfy your own eye, but also for the benefit and well being of the feathered and furred who may be depending upon your yard to be the neighborhood grocery store, the native varieties are preferred.

Dahoon (*Ilex cassine*) is a tree with a height of 20-40’ preferring moist soil. American holly (*Ilex opaca*) prefers well-drained conditions and 30-50’ is the average height range. East Palatka Holly (*Ilex x attenuata*) is interesting in that the original tree is a natural hybrid between American and Dahoon hollies and was discovered in 1927 near Palatka. Its height is between 8-25’ and will grow in well-drained to slightly moist soil.



To produce the bright red berries that are attractive to both us and wildlife requires separate male and female plants. Rufino Osorio in his “A Gardner’s Guide to Florida’s Native Plants” has a brilliant solution when space is at a premium – graft a male branch onto a female plant, thus combining both sexes in a single plant. Everybody’s happy!

All photos of *Ilex* are from:  
<http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu>

## November Field Trip Report – Prairie Creek

Submitted by Claudia Larsen

It was Saturday morning, 30 degrees, and I was hoping no one would show up so I could cruise back to my warm coffee and lap cat. But fortunately 4 hardy chapter members arrived at the Gainesville/Hawthorne Bike Trail bundled up and ready to go. Our leader was Ivor Kincaide, land manager for Alachua Conservation Trust who gave us a brief overview of this new ACT acquisition and told us about the ongoing management plans.

The new kiosk at Witness Tree Junction has a map showing the 3 trails which end at either Prairie Creek or Kelly Crossing (near the intersection of CR 2082 and SR 20), or loop back to the kiosk. We hiked along well marked paths along the edge of a wetland admiring Swamp Tupelo (*Nyssa*) and Bald Cypress (*Taxodium*) where there will soon be a boardwalk. There were remnants of liatris and carphophorus wildflowers with their brown seedheads ready to disperse next year's flowers.



Photos submitted by Claudia Larsen

At one point we ducked off the path into a fantastic cypress dome—the trees were tall and we arched our heads to see the brisk wind blowing the high tree tops against the clear blue sky. We continued walking through a wooded area with a dense undercover of Slender

Woodoats grass (*Chasmanthium laxum*). The sun shown on the yellow clumps and it was as beautiful as any wire-grass understory I have ever seen.

It was truly a glorious day to be outside. We reached our destination of Prairie Creek – a nice curve in the creek about 25 feet wide and very scenic where we rested at the picnic table and enjoyed migrating warblers and vireo fluttering in the treetops feeding on insects as the water flowed by.

## High Springs Tree & Landscape Improvements

Submitted by Lisa Williams

High Springs is revising its comprehensive plan and it includes numerous references to planting new trees, native species, as well as preserving existing vegetation in new developments. In the meantime, there are downtown areas where existing “landscape” is in need of improvement. Mature laurel oaks and other hardwoods have been dying, often associated with mushroom root rot and drought stress. The city would like to replace the lost canopy by planting more tree species, especially natives. There are currently two locations that have been suggested for improvement by the Parks Department and other interest groups:

- 1) The James Paul Park as it connects to the community vegetable garden (by the Police Station)
- 2) The railroad crossing/corridor on Main Street (by the Station bakery, Jim Gabriel's bike shop, City welcome building, and other side of the track where the antique shop, and Bennett's Hardware is located)

Plans for improvements and acquisition of grants are being led by Tree Board Member Lisa Williams in cooperation with Santa Fe High School Agriscience advisor, Joann Brady. There are currently 3 vacancies on the Tree Board. If you are interested in finding out more about these projects, contributing ideas or possibly volunteering for the Tree Board you can contact Lisa by email at [gardenerlw@windstream.net](mailto:gardenerlw@windstream.net). High Springs is a beautiful town with old Florida heritage. Please consider helping to plan and to promote sustainable native plant landscaping that will be appreciated by local residents and the many frequent visitors to that area.

## 2009 Calendar of Events

Please check the Paynes Prairie chapter page at [www.FNPS.org](http://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.

January 10-11	State FNPS Board Meeting at Camp Kalaqua (see details <a href="http://www.FNPS.org">www.FNPS.org</a> )
January 20	Meeting: Karina Veaudry, FNPS State Executive Director: "The Status of Conservation in Florida"
January 31	Workday: Exotic Plant Removal, join us for the Air Potato Roundup, 9am - noon.
February 17	Meeting: To Be Announced
February 21	Field Trip: To Be Announced
March 17	Meeting: To Be Announced
March 21	Field Trip: To Be Announced
April 10-11	Spring Native Plant Sale, Morningside Nature Center, ( <a href="http://www.Natureoperations.org">www.Natureoperations.org</a> )

### January 20, 2009 Chapter Meeting Speaker Information:

Please join us for a special program at our monthly meeting January 20 when our speaker will be the Executive Director for the Florida Native Plant Society. Karina Veaudry is starting her second year coordinating efforts between FNPS chapters, building new chapters and assisting state Board members with their missions of education, conservation and preservation. She has recently met with Commissioner of Agriculture Bronson in Tallahassee and attended the Public Land Acquisition Conference in Jacksonville. Grant writing and helping plan the annual state conference are also her responsibilities. Karina's talk title is "The Status of Conservation in Florida." She will give us an overview of the state conservation projects and new conservation planning techniques for cities and counties. This is a good opportunity to learn more about FNPS statewide efforts for native plant protection. We hope to have a great turnout for her.

### January 31, 2009 Workday Info:

Please Join in FNPS Chapter Air Potato Removal, Saturday, January 31, 9am-11am, at Bivens Arm Nature Park, 3650 S. Main Street in Gainesville. Bivens Arm Nature Park, a true natural treasure, is a series of wetlands and creeks consisting of 81 acres, bordered by beautiful upland mixed forests, connecting the southernmost Gainesville creeks with the extensive wetlands of Paynes Prairie State Preserve. Visitors can enjoy the shaded family picnic grounds, the beautifully constructed observation pavilion overlooking the marsh, and the intricate trails that wind under shady live oaks and towering pines.

This year the Paynes Prairie FNPS Chapter has chosen Bivens Arm Park to be the chapter site at Air Potato Roundup. If you are not planning to be a site leader, but wish to join in this great event, please plan to meet fellow members at the site at 9am. It's only 2 hours and picking up air potatoes is an easy job – wear long pants and sturdy shoes. Gloves and drinking water are a good idea too although the park has bathrooms and drinking fountains. Friends and kids are welcome – be sure to plan to drive to Morningside Nature Center (3540 E. University Ave) afterwards to pick up your free T-shirt and enjoy activities from 11am-Noon. There will be free food, music, and guest speakers. Awards are given for largest and most unusual potato found!

## FYI Page:

### **Paynes Prairie FNPS is once again a proud sponsor of Air Potato Day! Site Leaders Needed--10th Annual Great Air Potato Roundup Saturday, January 31st, 2009.**

Don't be a couch potato—put your passion for native plants to work in your community! Be a Site Leader and join in the fun while helping to protect our conservation lands. On the last Saturday of January, more than a thousand volunteers will be removing air potato and other invasive exotic plants from natural areas throughout Gainesville. We need site leaders at each site to introduce volunteers to invasive plants and their impacts on natural areas. Site Leaders serve a key role in getting the message out to the public about non-native invasive plants. Just one Saturday morning can help make a difference for Gainesville's natural areas! To sign up as a Site Leader or for more information, contact the Nature Operations Division at 334-2227 or check the website: [www.Natureoperations.org](http://www.Natureoperations.org)

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## **Climate Change and Invasive Plants**

An article featured in the University of Florida News called "Climate Change Opens New Avenue for Spread of Invasive Plants," discusses the mechanisms of how the spread of invasive species due to climate change and global warming. The research was done by a group of international scientists including UF College of Medicine's Lauren McIntyre, who is an associate professor of molecular genetics and microbiology as well as a member of the UF Genetics Institute. To read the full article, go to: <http://news.ufl.edu/2008/11/19/roving-plants/>

### **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](mailto:rhexia@gmail.com)

**Deadline date for the February newsletter submissions is January 26th.**

### **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](http://www.fnps.org).

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## Plant ID Workshop, November and December Chapter Meetings

Submitted by Paul Cohen

<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	Pecan	Juglandaceae	Non-native
<i>Illicium floridanum</i>	Florida Anise, Florida Anisetree	Illiciaceae	Native
<i>Nelumbo lutea</i>	American Lotus	Nelumbonaceae	Native
<i>Pinus palustris</i>	Longleaf Pine	Pinaceae	Native
<i>Pinus taeda</i>	Loblolly Pine	Pinaceae	Native
<i>Poinsettia cyathophora</i>	Painted Leaf, Fire-on-the-Mountain	Euphorbiaceae	Native
<i>Vanda</i>	Vanda	Orchidaceae	Non-native

Thank-you all participants. The workshop is educational and not a plant ID service. Nomenclature is based on "Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants" (<http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu>).

### Demystifying *Illicium* in Florida

Submitted by Paul Cohen

*Illicium floridanum* has red flowers and dark green, bluntly pointed leaf tips that alternately spiral around the stem. There are a few synonyms which are thought of as commercial cultivars by the horticultural community:

*Illicium floridanum forma album*, F.G. Meyer & Mazzeo, Sida 15:285 1992. These plants have white flowers instead of red. It was found along a stream NW of Monticello on 14 April, 1988 and I have heard it has a very restricted range in Florida and Alabama. This *forma* is available at Breezy Oaks Nursery in Hawthorn and sold as an "albino" flower.



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

There is a Mexican population of *I. floridanum* which is sometimes referred to by its synonym *Illicium mexicanum*, A.C. Smith Sargentia 7:39 1947. This type of specimen was collected in Veracruz Mexico in 1912. Some horticulturalists make a distinction between the two for commercial reasons. It has been referred to in the paleobotanical literature in relation to determine the origin of angiosperms.

*Illicium parviflorum* is available locally. Its dark green leaves have rounded tips. Yellow flowers bloom in early summer are ½ inch wide. It has been suggested as a replacement for *Photinia X fraseri*. Its range extends from zones 6 to 9. It is found in the wild around central Florida and in southern Georgia.

*Illicium anisetum* is the imported species from China, Japan, Korea, Ryukyus and Taiwan. It has elliptic lighter green leaves than those of *I. parviflorum*, and they are very aromatic. Mid-spring flowers are white to creamy yellow but are often sheared off to maintain the size of the rapidly growing shrub.

*Illicium henryi* (Henry anise-tree) comes from western China. It has a pointed apex on the leaf and variegated pink, white, red flowers. It grows throughout growing ranges 7 to 9.

For a good summary on the variety of *Illicium* grown in the United States, go to:

([http://www.ncsu.edu/jcraulstonarboretum/publications/newsletters/ncsu\\_arboretum\\_newsletters/News23\\_92-08.html](http://www.ncsu.edu/jcraulstonarboretum/publications/newsletters/ncsu_arboretum_newsletters/News23_92-08.html))

**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 run from October 2008 to September 2009.

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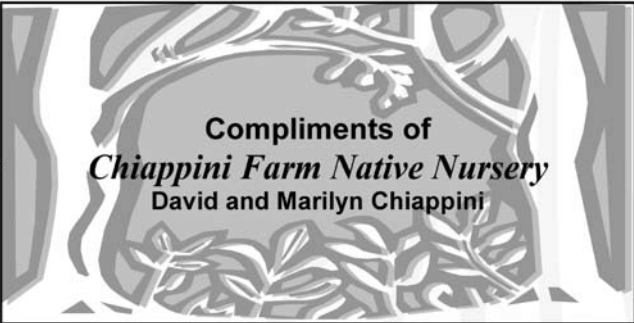
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Paynes Prairie Chapter  
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**Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 20th**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
*(Plant ID Workshop at 6:15)*  
**United Church of Gainesville**  
**1624 NW 5th Ave.**  
**Gainesville, FL**

**Monthly Meetings**  
Regular monthly meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday  
September - November and January - May at 7:00 p.m. at the:  
The United Church of Gainesville  
11624 NW 5th Ave., Gainesville  
  
Plant ID workshops precede each meeting at 6:15 p.m.

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