



# The Fabulous February Field Trip Report

By Brian Quinn

The February field trip participants traveled far and wide to Tallahassee and Cairo, GA, to view some of our area's rarest and most beautiful native plants. Our first stop was at the home of our host and wonderful guide, Dan Miller. Dan owns a part of a large ravine filled with a



beechness/magnolia forest and a multitude of stunning species, including a large population of *Trillium underwoodii*, native camellia (*Stewartia malachodendron*), mountain laurel

(*Kalmia latifolia*), and various native azaleas (*Rhodendron spp.*) to list a few. After spending a few hours traipsing through the understory, we headed north to Cairo.

Following a short drive north past numerous ephemeral wetlands and a rocking establishment called Big Guns BBQ, we found our way to the Wolf

Creek site, which has been recently designated as a county park. The trout lily blooms (*Erythronium umbilicatum*) had been delayed due to cold weather, and we were joined by numerous other groups who had also arrived to view the spectacular site. Dan lead us slowly down a ravine that increasingly became more and more yellow, because the trout lilies were almost solid mats in some areas. It was a truly surreal natural experience to



walk through such a large population of blooming rare plants—trillium and terrestrial orchids were dotted amongst the trout lilies.

After tearing ourselves away from Wolf Creek, we followed Dan Miller to his small native nursery where we sated our native plant addictions with some of his many available species. Our group of about 25 field trippers was not disappointed with beautiful weather, great trip leadership from Dan, and the chance to see one of the most amazing natural wonders in the southeastern United States. I can tell you that I will be making a personal trip next year to view the mass bloom of the trout lilies at Wolf Creek, GA.



Photos submitted by Brian Quinn

## Monthly Meeting & Field Trip Info

**Meeting: March 16, "Florida Ecosystem Grasses," Botanist Dr. David Hall, Ph.D.. see page 4.**

**Field Trip: March 20, Long Leaf Pine Flatwoods Reserve, see page 4.**

### 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 the April newsletter submissions is March 23rd.**

# Hummingbird Banding

By Brian Quinn

Sometimes in life you have to take a chance, despite the inner feeling that tells you not to do it. Greg and Linda Hart, two very active members in our chapter, took a leap of faith and decided to have the hummingbirds that winter in their yard banded. They have nicely landscaped their yard to attract butterflies and hummingbirds, and it pays off for them, because they have hosted winter hummingbirds for a number of consecutive years. This year, Fred Basset, a retired military officer who spends his retirement banding and chasing hummingbirds, finally convinced the Harts to band their birds, despite their major misgivings.




her out and spread her tail feathers, which indicated that it was a female rufous hummingbird. He then took measurements and placed a tiny band on the bird's leg, which will aid researchers in defining migration patterns and duration. At this point, he put the bird into Greg's hand as a special prize, who said the heartbeat was immeasurably fast, despite the fact that the bird seemed quite calm.



Fred placed a small dot of biodegradable dye on the bird's head to signify that it had already been captured, in case a similar bird arrived to feed, and released it back into the wild. Within ten minutes, that bird was happily feeding on the feeder still located within the cage, thereby proving that it had sustained little trauma from its brief captivity.

Fred brought out a cage on a stand that fit over their hummingbird feeder, and within 10 minutes a female hummingbird buzzed the area looking for a meal. Fred, at first, thought it was a female ruby-throated hummingbird, but said he would know for sure when he had it in hand. The hummingbird went into the trap to feed and was captured. Greg said she clung to the side of the trap and calmly looked out. Fred's experienced hand then grabbed



Fred was on his way up to Idaho, where he thought this bird might arrive at the end of her long migration. Now if he catches her again, he will know the end locations of her migratory path. The pictures accompanying this article were taken by Ron Robinson, who spoke about birds and birdscaping at a chapter meeting last year. 

# The Purple Majesty of Spring

By Ellie Sommer

The fragrant, showy blossoms of *Cercis canadensis* (redbud) are among the first to announce spring in north central Florida. The alternate, heart-shaped leaves of this *Fabaceae* have pointed tips and are palmately veined. The pealike flowers are deep magenta to purple and appear before leaves. The flat oblong legumes that resemble snow peas and are reddish brown at maturity and tend to stay on tree throughout the summer. Although redbuds prefer rich and moist woodlands or woodland edges, the trees adapt admirably to most any habit, making it a landscaping favorite. This understory, deciduous tree does not typically exceed 50 feet.



*Cercis canadensis*  
Photo by Shirley Denton

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



The pods are best picked early as they become tough as they age. Pods are typically steamed or lightly sautéed in butter just as you would prepare snow pea pods—although note that they are not as “sweet” as snow peas or sugar snaps. The “peas” can contain between 25 and 27 percent protein and 7 to 8 percent fat, making them a nutritious wild food.

The inner bark is highly astringent and historical medicinal uses by native people include treating fever, whooping cough, and congestion with a cold infusion of inner bark and some-times the root.

The flowers and young pods of redbud are edible. Use the flowers as soon as they appear, but leave some to mature into seeds! The flowers are rich in vitamin C and have a pleasant sweet-sour taste. They can be used raw in salads, sprinkled in pancake mix, and added to bread dough, cooked oatmeal, or vegetable dishes. The flower buds can be pickled.



As with all wild foods, be sure you have properly identified the plant, the correct edible parts, and prepared it properly before eating. If you are unsure or new at foraging, request the guidance of someone knowledgeable in identifying wild edible plants.



All other photos submitted by Eleanor Sommer

## 2010 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.

<b>March 16</b>	<b>Meeting: "Florida Ecosystem Grasses," Botanist Dr. David Hall, Ph.D.</b>
<b>March 20</b>	<b>Long Leaf Flatwoods Reserve</b>
<b>April 16-17</b>	<b>Spring Native Plant Sale, Morningside Nature Center</b>
<b>April 20</b>	<b>Meeting: Dr's Doug &amp; Pam Soltis, UF Botany Department</b>
<b>April 24</b>	<b>Field Trip to Tuscawilla Prairie, Micanopy</b>
<b>May 4</b>	<b>Chapter Board and Planning Meeting, Environmental Hort Dept Greenhouses, UF Campus, 5:30pm</b>
<b>May 18</b>	<b>Meeting: TBA</b>
<b>May 22</b>	<b>Field Trip Prairie Creek Ranch – tentative</b>
<b>May 20-23</b>	<b>FNPS State Conference, Tallahassee, FL</b>

## Way to go G'ville!

*By Ludovica Weaver*

The City of Gainesville Nature Operations Division wishes to thank the volunteers who participated at the 11th Annual Great Air Potato Roundup. Nearly 1,200 eager participants braved the rain to remove 13,270 pounds of air potatoes, 1,740 pounds of other invasive plants, and one full 20-yard construction dumpster of trash from sites throughout Gainesville!

Invasive plants pose a serious threat to Florida's natural communities. They disrupt important natural processes, such as water flow, and displace native plants and wildlife, including endangered species. Volunteers who helped in the Great Air Potato Roundup made a positive difference by helping to create healthier, more balanced ecosystems and therefore a healthier and more balanced planet.

## March 16, 2020 Chapter Meeting and Speaker Information:

This month Botanist Dr. David Hall will be leading us through a slide show tour of Florida ecosystems with a special focus on grasses. Dr. Hall is a local environmental consultant, book author, and forensic botanist. He is a perennial favorite at our meetings and is excited to share his wealth of knowledge and 35 plus years of experience botanizing in Florida and around the country.



## March 20, 2010 Field Trip Information:

The March 20th FNPS field trip will be to the St. Johns River Water Management District's Longleaf Flatwoods Reserve

Come do a walking tour of one of the most intact Longleaf pine flatwoods plant communities in Alachua County. Beginning at 9:00 a.m, we will walk for 2 1/2 - 3 hours. District land manager Crystal Morris will give the group a tour of active land management and restoration activities on this property which include pine flatwoods and sandhill restoration. This diverse and beautiful property is a must-see.

The meeting location is a grass parking lot on the west side of County Road 325 about half way between SR 20 (Hawthorne Rd. and Cross Creek).

Directions: From Downtown Gainesville, (Main St and University Ave) drive east on University Ave. and then SR 20 (Hawthorne Rd) for about 9 miles. Turn right (south) on CR 325 and drive 3 miles. Look for the SJRWMD sign on the right next to a grass parking area with wooden fence surrounding it. For questions, contact Ivor Kincaide at: 352-377-6253.



## Veterans Park Native Garden Workday

**March 6, 8:30 a.m. to noon**

A spring cleanup is planned for Carl's Garden at Veterans Park on Tower Road. The garden is located in the rear of the park by the Stonehenge Rocks. Our goals are trimming, weeding and adding mulch. A good turnout of volunteers and a couple of hours of work will make a huge difference for this memorial garden. Bring a hat, gloves, drinking water, shovel, and small hand tools. Access the garden through the open metal gate past the main parking area. For more information about Carl's Garden see page 6.

## Upcoming Events of Interest

### Spring Native Plant Sale!!!

Many yards in North Central Florida still have the brown remnants of frozen non-native plants. So now is a great time to replant with native plants that are adapted to both the cold of winter and the heat of summer.

The Spring Native Plant Sale, co-sponsored by Paynes Prairie chapter of Florida Native Plant Society,



Friends of Nature Parks, and the City of Gainesville's Nature Operations Division, is scheduled for April 16 and 17 at Morningside Nature Center on East University Avenue. Friday night is for members only and provides us with the first opportunity to pick up the choice plants. Check-in begins at 4:30 and the sale ends at 6:30. On Saturday the sale is open to the public and runs from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. A guided nature walk around Morningside will begin at 11:30 a.m.

At our booth, members will be dispensing plant advice and providing personalized customer service. An added perk to shopping at the FNPS plant sale is park-a-plant, which offers hands-free plant purchasing and one-stop loading.

Remember, only cash and checks are accepted.

Anyone interested in volunteering at the check-in table Friday night, or at our booth on Saturday, may contact Lisa Jelks at [jelkslg@ufl.edu](mailto:jelkslg@ufl.edu) or 373-3028. Also, Penny Weber is looking for someone to assist her with the cashier organizing. Alice Tyler left some mighty big shoes to fill and any assistance is appreciated. Contact Penny at [pwg8r@bellsouth.net](mailto:pwg8r@bellsouth.net).



### Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

See our Web page at: [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)



The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society is the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

*The Rhexia* is published monthly  
September - November and January - May.

### 2010 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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# Plant ID Workshop for January and February 2010

By Paul Cohen

<i>Acca sellowiana</i> Feijoa	Pineapple Guava	Myrtaceae	South America
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Spring Cleavers,		
	Goosegrass, Stickywilly	Rubiaceae	Native
<i>Ilex cornut</i> "Burfordii compacta"	Burford holly	Aquifoliaceae	Non-Native
<i>Ludwigia octovalvis</i>	Mexican Primrose-willow	Onagraceae	Native
<i>Macfadyena unguis-cati</i>	Catclaw Vine	Bignoniaceae	Non-Native, EPPC(I)
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweetbay	Magnoliaceae	Native
<i>Oxalis intermedia</i>	Broadleaf Woodsorrel	Oxalidaceae	Non-Native
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L. subsp. <i>canadensis</i>	American Elder, Elderberry	Adoxaceae	Native
<i>Tillandsia recurvata</i>	Ballmoss	Bromeliaceae	Native
<i>Tillandsia usneoides</i>	Spanish Moss	Bromeliaceae	Native
<i>Ximenia americana</i>	Tallow Wood, Hog Plum	Ximeniaceae	Native
<i>Youngia japonica</i>	Oriental False Hawksbeard	Asteraceae	Non-Native
<i>Zamia pumila</i>	Florida Arrowroot, Coontie	Zimiaceae	Native

We do not purport to be a Plant ID service and names are presented as an educational service. Thank-you all participants. Nomenclature is based on "Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants" (<http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu>)

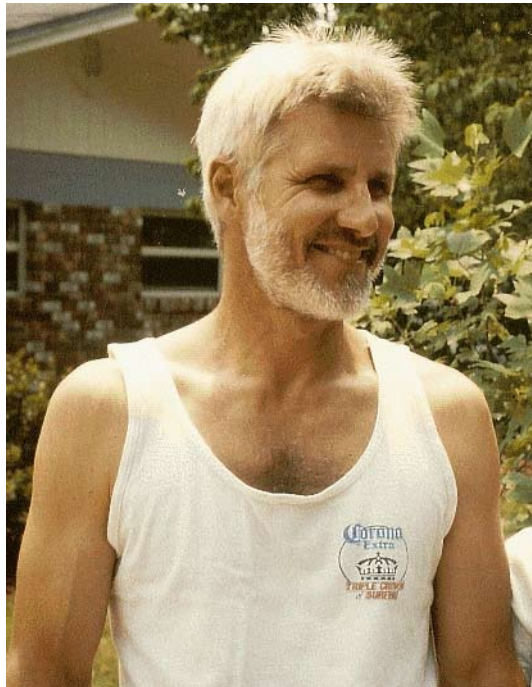
## Carl's Garden

By Claudia Larsen

For the past ten years our chapter has been planting and maintaining an area we call Carl's Garden at the Kanapaha Veteran's Memorial Park, near Chapman Pond. This native plant garden contains many species of plants, especially those that attract feeding and nesting birds. This year, we plan to conduct major maintenance on Carl's Garden in honor of its full decade in existence. Our first maintenance day is planned for Saturday, March 6 at 8:30 am, and we are hoping for a large crowd of enthusiastic native plant volunteers to make it look good. Please bring hats, gloves, buckets, and hand tools.

Many of our newer members ask me about the origin of Carl's Garden, since it was founded before their involvement in our chapter. Carl Miles was a scientist who worked on environmental issues concerning pesticides and mercury, during his career. Carl totally changed his yard in Lake Worth when he lived there, much to the chagrin of his neighbors. They had never quite seen a patch of blue porterweed quite so large in an area of turf lawns and exotic palms. Carl and his wife Crystal moved back

to Gainesville and bought a house in the Royal Park area. He and I spent many weekends on the road going to native plant nurseries to find plants worthy of replacing Chinese wisteria and Bermuda grass. Sadly, right in the middle of his life, Carl was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer and died a few months later on October 1, 2000.



The original Carl's Garden consisted of many rare and endangered plants that Carl and I propagated. Unfortunately, the soil underlying the garden is fractured with areas of clay, rock, and sand, because it was the fill dirt from the adjacent waterfall and water feature. This poor soil was not compatible with many of the plants and they did not survive. Over time, our volunteers have planted and maintained a beautiful garden designed to attract birds, since Chapman Pond is

part of the Florida Birding Trail.

**Join us on March 6 as we work together to improve and refurbish this special garden!**



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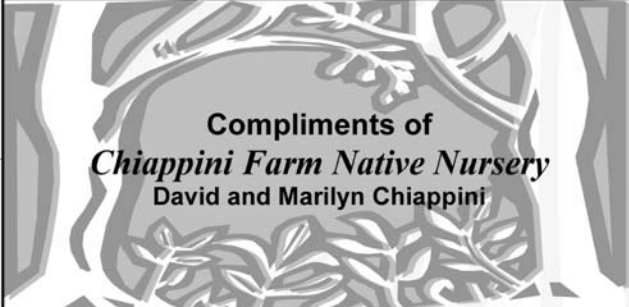
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 you can receive the Rhexia digitally,  
 or you can view the current issue at:  
<http://www.fnps.org/pages/chapters/chapterpg.php>.

To receive the digital version of the Rhexia, please contact Goldie Schwartz, who manages the member's list for our FNPS chapter, at:  
[afn49@mindspring.com](mailto:afn49@mindspring.com).

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 in .jpg, .tiff, or powerpoint formats only to Erick Smith at:  
[urbanforester@gmail.com](mailto:urbanforester@gmail.com).

The ads cost \$100 and run from October 2009 to September 2010.

Florida Native Plant Society  
Paynes Prairie Chapter  
Post Office Box 110670  
Gainesville, FL 32611

**Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 16th**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
*(Plant ID Workshop at 6:15)*  
**United Church of Gainesville**  
**1624 NW 5th Ave.**  
**Gainesville, FL**

FNPS Paynes Prairie Chapter Meetings  
are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month  
September - November and January - May  
7:00 p.m., The United Church of Gainesville  
1624 NW 5th Ave., Gainesville  
Plant ID workshops precede each meeting  
and start at 6:15 p.m.

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

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