



The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society
February 2012

Monthly Chapter Meeting

Chapter Meeting,
February 21, 2012

Lucy Tobias
"Florida Gardens Gone Wild"
page 1

Field Trip
February 25, 2012
Prairie Creek Preserve
See page 4

Endangered Fern Species
Pages 2-3

Spring Native Plant Sale Dates
Page 3

Prairie Creek Lodge
Landscaping Project
Page 4

Florida Native Plant Society
2012 Landscaping
Awards Program
Page 4

Dioscorea bulbifera
Or
The Air Potato
Page 6

LUCY BEEBE TOBIAS



Award-winning reporter, environmental writer, and photographer Lucy Beebe Tobias retired in 2005 after 23 years with *New York Times* newspapers in Florida to pursue adventures in undiscovered Florida.

Tobias has taken her love affair with the Sunshine State to another level. The prize winning journalist who took us along as she explored the historic and downright quirky nooks of our state now has a book for eco gardeners. It's a combination of both inspirational and practical advice for gardeners.



"*Florida Gardens Gone Wild* is the story of my down and dirty life with gardening," says Tobias. "There are moments of infatuation, days of frustration, and light-bulb moments,

like discovering natives, and organics and connections with nature. I had no idea so many things were so connected. Along

the way I found resources, and places to visit that will surprise even seasoned gardeners."

Her book is available in three formats: a print book with 58 black and white photos, an e-book on Kindle and Nook with over 80 interactive links, and an audio version is in production.

Her first book, *50 Great Walks in Florida* published by University Press of Florida in 2008 takes the reader on short but significant jaunts to fascinating places. No backpacks required. The walks are in botanical gardens, historic areas, and unexpected places like walking on a beach in the moonlight.

Lucy served up videos, blogs and stories about real Florida as Authentic Florida Expert for www.VisitFlorida.com. She shares unique travel, gardening and environment adventures in Saturday Morning Magazine, a free magazine subscription at www.LucyTobias.com. Her motto is: "Off the couch and out the door, let' go discover Florida!"

She writes blogs for Audubon of Florida about Florida's Special Places. They can be seen at www.audubonoffloridanews.org. Lucy won a Volunteer of the Year award for these blogs at the annual Audubon Assembly in October, 2011.



Endangered Fern Species in Alachua County Claudia Larsen

The Notes on Florida's Endangered and Threatened Plants new 5th edition is now available online from the Division of Plant Industry. The Botany Section of the Bureau of Nematology and Plant Pathology has updated the list to include 440 endangered species and 117 threatened species (that are near to being endangered). 13 plants have been added since the last edition. You can view the complete list which now includes many color photographs borrowed from the USF plant atlas. www.freshfromflorida.com/pi/enpp/botany/images/fl-endangered-plants.pdf

Plants are listed alphabetically and information is listed on general habitat where plants are found and the counties where samples have been submitted to the DPI. Being on this list affords protection by Florida statutes, but many of these plants do not have significant physical characteristics to be recognized except by botanists; or they may be dormant when their habitats are disrupted. Looking at the list can be discouraging, but it's still important to keep an historical record showing plant distribution. I'm guessing this list is also not highly funded, so there is limited time spent finding each population and recording its present vitality. Hopefully, there are some undiscovered populations in nearby areas that can continue these genetic lines existing in hard to reach locations.

I assumed that most endangered plants were located in South Florida where habitat has made way for population influx. But scrolling thru the names showed plants located also in west coast, northern and panhandle counties of Florida. I didn't take time for statistical analysis, but similarly, just about all habitats experienced plant loss: wetlands, seepage slopes, sandhills, mesic hammocks.

Of course Alachua County was not immune. Endangered plants here include grasses, orchids, wildflowers and shrubs. The ferns that were listed are very interesting. If you are lucky enough to have one on your property or see it in a naturally protected area, please give it due respect!

***Adiantum tenerum*, Brittle Maidenhair Fern** Three native Maidenhair ferns occur in Florida along with four additional introduced species. According to author Gil Nelson, the genus name "adiantos" is Greek for "unwetted" and refers to the hairless leaves that appear to stay dry under water. A purple-black petiole that ends at the pinnule distinguishes this fern from the common Southern Maidenhair which is widespread in Florida.



This lovely rock loving fern is found mostly in Florida's central peninsula.

***Asplenium monanthes*, San Felasco Spleenwort** The common name for all spleenworts is derived from the Greek work for spleen and indicates that the plants were historically used to treat that organ. First discovered in northern Alachua County's San Felasco Hammock State Preserve, *A. mananthes* is found growing on moss covered limestone rocks. Although it has not been recently reported, populations exist in Florida Caverns State Park and in northern Georgia.



***Asplenium pumilum*, Dwarf Spleenwort** This fern distinguishes itself by having "deltoid" leaves shaped like an equilateral triangle. The species name "pumilum" refers to the fern's small size. Although rare, it has been reported in Alachua, Marion, Volusia, Citrus and Hernando counties.

***Asplenium verecundum*, Delicate Spleenwort** Noted botanist A.W. Chapman first collected this plant in 1840. This is a lacy spleenwort with tufted fronds and an erect unbranched stem, but the *Asplenium* proclivity to hybridize sometimes makes identification difficult. At least two hybrids occurring in Florida are recognized as separate species.

***Blechnum occidentale*, Sinkhole Fern** Blechnums are commonly known as deer ferns. These are tall erect ferns that that may be tasty to deer. Regardless, these might make attractive garden plants in woodland habitats with underlying limestone.



***Polypodium dispersum* (renamed in 1980's *Pecluma dispersa* (A.M Evans), Widespread Polypody**

The Polypodium Family has been referred to as the "true ferns" but has undergone considerable botanical restructuring and renaming. The black petiole supports feathery fronds and the plant is epiphytic, referring to the fact it grows on other plants but does not derive nutrition from its host. It was first described from specimens from historic fern grottoes in Citrus County.



Cont'd page 3

Endangered Fern Species Cont'd

***Cheilanthes microphylla*, Southern Lipfern** This uncommon fern species is adapted to very dry conditions and naturally prefer rocky ledges. The sori or spore cases are located on the lip of the leaves which is a key to identify the species.



***Thelypteris reptans*, Walking Wood Fern** Thelypteris or Marsh Fern Family is one of the largest with 16 named species in Florida. A resident of sink-hole regions in Florida this plant is a reclining evergreen fern with a running nature. Although some ferns in this family spread aggressively, this one is appropriate for rock gardens.

Information for this article was found in Gil Nelson's "The Ferns of Florida" which is a terrific book for those wanting to learn the methods of fern identification which are based on description of fronds (leaf) pinnae (leaflets) ,sori (spore cases)and other morphological features.

FNPS Spring Native Plant Sale!

Mark your calendar for March 30-31 2012

Members only night: Friday, March 30, 4:30-6:30 pm

Members have the opportunity to pick from a full selection of available plants. Not a member, it is OK to join or renew on Friday. General Public: Saturday, March 31, 8:30 am—noon.

More info: www.natureoperations.org

To volunteer: Contact Jennifer Staiger
Jsstaig@gmail.com

Editors Note: To vendors that would like to give advance notice in our March issue of any special plants that you will have available at sale, please contact Goldie Schwartz at afn49@mindspring.com or 352 495-3983.

The Florida Wildflower Foundation is producing a *Coreopsis* brochure and is seeking high resolution close-up flower images of: *C. integrifolia*, *C. leavenworthii*, *C. major*, *C. nuceensis*, *C. pubescens*, *C. tinctoria*, *C. tripteris*

Please email images to Jeff Norcini at ocohort@comcast.net.



FNPS ANNUAL REPORT

Learn more about FNPS and what it does by checking out their first ever Annual Report

<http://www.fnps.org/pages/general/ShowPage.php?pgID=16>

Cinema Verde Environmental Film and Arts Festival



Cinema Verde brings together science and the arts in celebration of a vision of green living by shining the spotlight on environmental issues and sustainable solutions through film, the arts, an eco-fair, eco-tours, and more. This year's festival runs February 24th through March 2nd. This eight-day festival seeks to raise consciousness about environmental issues, educate people, and mobilize support for solving environmental and social problems. Their mission is to utilize a multidisciplinary program featuring films, eco-art exhibits, eco-tours showcasing natural resources, workshops, and other educational activities to bring community organizations, businesses, and citizens together to help forge sustainable solutions for the future. Most of the films and other festival events will be held at Villa East, 301 N. Main Street. Films will include professional environmental feature films, documentaries, shorts, and winners of national and international film competitions. For a complete listing of films and events, please see the Cinema Verde website at: <http://www.verdefest.org/>

Welcome to the members who joined or renewed:

Amanda McCleery
Kellie A. Westervelt
Nancy Taylor
Donald & Diane Hall
Doug Horbeck & Susan Mauk

Martha King
Maura Poglitsch
Lynne & Robert Holt
Jib Davidson
Janice Dumont

Prairie Creek Lodge Landscaping Project

By Erick D. Smith

The Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) Prairie Creek Lodge is a beautiful building located on State Road 234 south of Rochelle on the NE side of Paynes Prairie State Park. It is the main office for ACT staff as well as a public space used by a multitude of groups for concerts, award dinners, weddings, birthday parties, memorials, etc. The previous owners were not focused on the landscaping and grounds around the lodge and until now no one else has stepped forward to create a landscape worthy of this picturesque building.

One of the missions of the Florida Native Plant Society is education, and for many of us, we need to see it in order to believe it. We like to see native plant landscaping that really works and be able to show our friends, "Here, look at this! Look how well these natives fit together providing aesthetic beauty for us and habitat for all the other animals!" With this in mind, during our local chapter board meeting last August, we discussed a project to design and install native plant landscaping/garden at the Lodge.

I was tasked with working out some of the preliminary details and organizing a way forward. First, I talked with Ivor Kincaide, the ACT Land Manager, and he is excited about native plant landscaping around the Lodge. Ivor is the ACT staff member who would be responsible for maintaining the landscaping and ACT has agreed to devote the resources necessary for proper upkeep.

The next big step is creating a landscape plan that gathers input from everyone who cares about this project. Toward that purpose, we will hold a "design charette". This is an open to the public workshop facilitated to give everyone an opportunity to contribute ideas. This will take place on **February 26th, 2012 from 1-5pm** at the Lodge. This will be a brainstorming session with lots of blank site plans for people to doodle on. There will be reference materials, light snacks and good company. Please come and contribute your creative ideas, you don't have to be a landscape architect or expert botanist.

After the charette, our local FNPS member Kelly Perez, who is a registered landscape architect, will do her best to incorporate our ideas into a cohesive landscape plan. ACT and a committee of local Native Plant Society members will review the plans. That committee is Sandi Saurers, Jennifer Staiger, Lisa Jelks, Kelly Perez and Erick Smith. After we have an approved plan we will move forward with installation.

How can you help?

Attend the design charette on **February 26th, 2012 from 1-5pm** at the Lodge.

Review the plan during our monthly meetings and consider "sponsoring a plant".

Help during the landscape installation, date TBD.

Florida Native Plant Society 2012 Landscape Awards Program

Purpose:

The Florida Native Plant Society Landscape Awards Program aims to:

- Promote the use of Florida native plants in all types of landscapes, both new and existing.
- Increase public awareness of the benefits and savings provided by native plant landscaping.
- Recognize citizens who have taken action through use of native plant landscaping to improve and restore the environment.
- Reward skilled professionals who execute quality designs and installation.

Encourage landscape designers, contractors and architects to use Florida native plants in their projects.

Application Process and Forms:

All interested designers, project managers or installers, must complete the FNPS Landscape Awards Application Form. Please read the application form completely as projects that do not meet the entry rules will not be judged! Applications and additional information can be found at:

http://www.fnps.org/pages/programs/programpg_no_pic.php?keyword=Landscape

Deadline for Submission:

Friday, March 2, 2012 via mail or overnight delivery. Please allow 2-3 days for mailing prior to the deadline. Send entries to: FNPS Landscape Awards 2112 Helen St, Melbourne FL 32901

Judging:

A jury of Florida Native Plant Society members in the fields of landscape design, environmental permitting and restoration, native plant nursery ownership and well-educated homeowners will evaluate entries and choose recipients to receive awards.

The judging criteria will be based upon the project's concept and goals, use of native plants, relationship to surrounding native plant communities, preservation of any existing native plants, an educational component for neighbors and visitors, creative solutions to significant obstacles, and planning for ongoing management of the landscape. Judging will be based upon the digital images, plans and written descriptions submitted with each entry.

Awards:

One suitably inscribed plaque will be provided for each winning entry. Awards may not be given in a category if no entry is awarded an appropriate score. FNPS Landscape Awards will be announced and presented at the FNPS State Conference On May 19th, 2012 in Plant City at the Trinkle Center. Award winners will receive complimentary conference registration for the Saturday event, and will be listed on the FNPS website.

Calendar of Events

Please check the Paynes Prairie chapter page at www.FNPS.org for most current information and directions to field trips. All 2012 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.

- February 21 Meeting: Lucy Tobias**
“Florida Gardens Gone Wild”
- February 25 Field Trip: Prairie Creek Preserve**
- March 20 Meeting: Robert Connors**
“Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition”

Plant Sale in lieu of Field Trip for March

February Field Trip

Saturday, February 25, 2012

Field trip will be at Prairie Creek Preserve from 9:00-11:00 AM. We will meet at the parking area along Highway 234 where it crosses the Gainesville-Hawthorne trail, just south of Highway 20. So take a right onto 234 from Highway 20.

Plant communities include pine flatwoods, cypress swamp and wet prairie.

Trip leader is Robert Freese. If you need help with directions call 386-972-4489.

Volunteers Needed for Pine Planting at Caravelle Ranch near Palatka

Biologists need help to restore old pasture to native habitat. We will be planting 5,000 long leaf pine seedlings in a ground cover restoration area.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has made it a priority to use Objective-based vegetative management to improve ground cover on managed lands. This particular site is a restoration of an area that had been bahia pasture and agricultural lands for the past 20 years. The biologists have used prescribed fire, invasive removal and native seed plantings to restore the native ground cover. We will be planting the pines at a very low density to restore the natural flatwoods community that would naturally occur on this area.

You can read more about our restoration efforts here:

<http://myfwc.com/media/202192/gcrreport.pdf>

Caravelle Ranch Pine Planting

Saturday, February 11th from 8:00 am til 12:00 pm

575 Caravelle Farms Rd

Palatka, FL 32177

Driving Directions: Caravelle Ranch is 11 miles south of Palatka and 10 miles north of Salt Springs on SR 19.

You can register or find out more about the event at the link below.

http://outreach.myfwc.com/events/event_details.asp?id=209611

What to bring: Bring gloves if you have them. Drinking water will be available but you may wish to bring a water bottle. Wear long pants and closed toed shoes.

Hats and Sunscreen are highly recommended.

Restrooms: There are restrooms at meeting location but no facilities in the field.

Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

See our Web page at: 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.

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Ellen Thoms, emthoms@dow.com

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Membership

Goldie Schwartz, 352-495-3983/afn49@mindspring.com

Field Trip Coordinator

Robert Freese, 386-972-4489/rcfreese99@yahoo.com

Newsletter

Goldie Schwartz, 352-495-3983/afn49@mindspring.com

Plant Rescue

J. Barichivich, 352-375-1972/m.terrapin@gmail.com

Publicity & Media

Vacant position

Director

Connie Caldwell, connie.caldwell@sfcollege.edu

Director

Kelly Perez, kellybperez@gmail.com

Director

Karen Schneider, karenks@ufl.edu

Director

Jennifer Staiger, jsstaig@gmail.com

Director

Dahlonga Peck
Dahlonga1@yahoo.com

Plant ID

Paul Cohen, paulcohen2002@yahoo.com
Paul Hoffhein, pbhoffhein@yahoo.com

To all who attended the Great Air Potato Roundup—We wish you a good harvest.



A native to tropical Asia, air potato, *Dioscorea bulbifera*, was first introduced to the Americas from Africa. In 1905 it was introduced to Florida. Due to its ability to displace native species and disrupt natural processes such as fire and water flow, air potato has been listed as one of Florida’s most invasive plant species since 1993, and was placed on the Florida Noxious Weed List by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in 1999. Air potato is in the family Dioscoreaceae, or simply the Yam Family. It is an herbaceous twining vine, growing 70 feet or more in length. Leaves are broadly cordate (heart shaped) and alternately arranged on stems. A distinguishing characteristic of air potato is that all leaf veins arise from the leaf base, unlike other herbaceous vines such as smilax and morningglories. Flowers are inconspicuous, arising from leaf axils in panicles 4 inches long, and are fairly uncommon in Florida. Vegetative reproduction is the primary mechanism of

spread. This is through the formation of aerial tubers, or bulbils, which are formed in leaf axils. These vary in roundish shapes and sizes. In addition, large tubers are formed underground, some reaching over 6 inches in diameter.

Dioscorea alata or winged yam can easily be mistaken for air potato, *D. bulbifera*. Winged yam gets its name from its winged internodes, a characteristic feature of the species. Another difference between *D. alata* and *D. bulbifera* is the arrangement of the leaves. *D. alata* has opposite leaves as opposed to the alternate leaves of air potato. Winged yam grows to 30 feet, roughly half the length of the invasive species. This species of *Dioscorea* does not produce nearly as many bulbils as *D. bulbifera*. However, this species can also be considered invasive and problematic, but to a lesser extent than *D. bulbifera*. Although considered to be a species of yam, these plants are very toxic and **should not be consumed**.

Air potato can grow extremely quickly, roughly 8 inches per day. It typically climbs to the tops of trees and has a tendency to take over native plants. New plants develop from bulbils that form on the plant, and these bulbils serve as a means of dispersal. The aerial stems of air potato die back in winter, but resprouting occurs from bulbils and underground tubers. The primary means of spread and reproduction are via bulbils. The smallest bulbils make control of air potato difficult due to their ability to sprout at a very small stage.

This information taken from Web Site of Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants at UF-IFAS.

Plant ID Workshop for 1/17/12 Presented by Paul Cohen

| Species | Common Name | Family | Status |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| <i>Lauris nobilis</i> | Sweet Bay | Lauraceae | Non -native |
| <i>Matelea floridana</i> | Florida Spiny Pod | Apocynaceae | Native |
| <i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i> | Yellow Jessamine, Carolina Jessamine | Gelsemiaceae | Native |
| <i>Clematis terniflora</i> | Sweet Autumn Virginsbower | Ranunculaceae | Native |
| <i>Bignonia capreolata</i> | Crossvine | Bignoniaceae | Native |
| <i>Lonicera japonica</i> | Japanese Honeysuckle | Caprifoliaceae | Non-Native |
| <i>Symplocos tinctoria</i> | Common Sweetleaf; Horse Sugar | Symplocaceae | Native |
| <i>Rhamnus caroliniana</i> | Carolina Buckthorn | Rhamnaceae | Native |
| <i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</i> | Confederate Jasmine | Apocyanaceae | Non-native |
| <i>Vitis aestivalis</i> ??? | Summer Grape | Vitaceae | Native |

I wish to extend a special thanks to all participants. The workshop is educational and is not intended as a plant ID service. Nomenclature adapted from “Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants” (<http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/>).

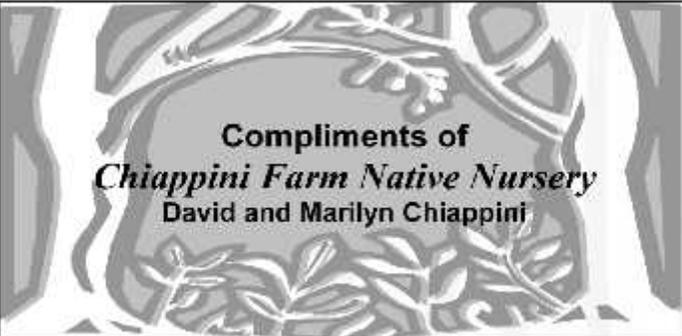
Lauris nobilis is used as a cooking herb which can be substituted by the native plant *Persea borbonea*.



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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 Goldie Schwartz at Rhexia@gmail.com. The ads cost \$100 and run from September 2011 through May 2012.

Have You Blogged Lately?
 Remember to visit the new Florida Native Plant Society blog at <http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/>

Urgent: Send Us Your Email!

We need your support in completing the switch from sending a printed newsletter to sending it by e-mail. Your direct benefits include: allowing more resources for activities and education, and the ability to view the newsletter photos in full color instead of black and white. And for the chapter, we save dollars we can use to promote the use of native plants. Please show your support by signing up to receive the newsletter by e-mail. Just send an e-mail to Goldie Schwartz at afn49@mindspring.com with "Put me on the e-mail list" in the subject line. That's all it takes! Thanks!

Florida Native Plant Society
Paynes Prairie Chapter
Post Office Box 12908
Gainesville, FL 32603

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 21

7:00 p.m.

(Plant ID Workshop at 6:15)

United Church of Gainesville

1624 NW 5th Ave.

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.

Rhexia Article Submissions Please!
Submit unformatted word documents
only. Submit pictures as separate jpg, or tiff
files. Send all article submissions to:
rhexia@gmail.com
**Submission deadline
date for the March
2012 newsletter is
February 25, 2012**

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:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------|
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| ◇ Not-For-Profit Org. | \$50 |
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| ◇ Supporting | \$100 |
| ◇ Donor | \$250 |
| ◇ Library | \$15 |
| ◇ Student (full-time) | \$15 |

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.