



The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society
May 2012

Chapter Meeting and Field Trip
May 15, 2012
6:30 PM
PLEASE NOTE EARLIER MEETING TIME
Native Florida Wildflower Garden Tour
Florida Museum of Natural History/Butterfly Rainforest/Harn Museum Complex

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Message from the President **Claudia Larsen**

May will be our last meeting until September, so I hope you all will have a great summer enjoying your yards and planning visits to some great parks and preserves across Florida. I look forward to ending our spring sessions by attending the annual FNPS conference in Plant City where I will meet with other chapter presidents and representatives to discuss shared successes and concerns.

Our chapter is fortunate to have a long history; many other chapters struggle to find officers and retain membership. I think Alachua County’s population demographics and abundance of beautiful, accessible natural areas contribute to our success. We are also fortunate to have our great plant sales that stimulate us to build habitat and beauty into our landscapes. It’s been great working with our officers, current Board members and volunteers who keep the show on the road and provide interesting stops along the way. I appreciate your time and efforts!

I have tried to take the FNPS mission to heart this year “To promote the preservation, conservation and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida”. I think education is a key component in this “promotion”; and I have attempted to target the Gainesville gardening community and interest them in native plants by speaking to Master Gardeners at the Alachua County Extension office, and hosting information tables at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens Spring Festival and the University of Florida Soils Lab Open House.

These folks already know the value of being outside and digging in the earth – so why not open the door wider to invite them to enjoy our natural, sustainable, lovely Florida plants? Although we have a great group of dedicated members who continually attend programs and field trips; it would be wonderful to see more new faces in the crowd too and be able to share our group experiences.

I’m also leading up to a special request for all of you to remember to continue your membership and financial support of the Florida Native Plant Society, who like many environmental groups suffers economically from lack of new or renewing members. Your membership affects statewide FNPS programs of conservation, research and education, so you are making a difference by being a member!

May Program and Field Trip, **Tuesday, May 15, 6:30pm** **(Note Earlier Time)**

Native Florida Wildflower Garden behind the Florida Museum of Natural History, UF Campus

Since many of us are heading for the conference this month we decided to combine our May program and field trip with a visit to the Native Florida Wildflower Garden behind the Florida Museum of Natural History and Butterfly Rainforest. The garden looks great right now and there are lots of plants to view and talk about. Come be inspired by their many species and the landscape that is growing to a mature size. The

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Endangered Species in Alachua County—Wildflowers

Claudia Larsen

The last article of this series will review some lovely wildflowers of our area that are on Florida's Endangered Plant List.

Remember, the “Notes on Florida’s Endangered and Threatened Plants” new 5th edition is now available online from the Division of Plant Industry: www.freshfromflorida.com/pi/enpp/botany/images/fl-endangered-plants.pdf Plants are given alphabetically and information is listed on general habitat where plants are found and the counties where samples have been submitted to the DPI. Pictures used by DPI and in this report are from the Florida plant atlas: www.Plantatlas.org.

Bartrams Ixia (*Calydorea caelestina*, previously *Spheonostigma caelestinum*) Botanist William Bartram is the namesake for this diminutive iris. It exists in grassy flatwoods and is protected on water management district lands in northeast Florida. Ixia can grow in a garden habitat but it is often lost or forgotten when it goes dormant.



Poppy Mallow (*Callirhoe papaver*) This is probably the smallest member of the Mallow Family in Florida, but displays the typical showy colorful petals that we enjoy from other mallows in spring and summer. The lobed leaves form a low basal rosette supporting the bright pink flowers. Its habitat is dry hammocks and disturbed areas. Patches of poppy mallow survived for many years along NW 43 Street and Millhopper Road in Gainesville.



Flyr's Nemesis (*Brikellia cordifolia*) Wish I knew the story behind this name! This aster family member is a fall bloomer with beautiful pink ageratium type flower heads. It is also a hammock resident but seems to do fine in disturbed fields and dry gardens where it will persist for 3-4 years as a perennial. Mature height is 34-36 inches which makes it a nice filler in a landscape of fall grasses.



Lakeside Sunflower (*Helianthus carnosus*) Most members of the sunflower family are known for aggressive spreading by roots, making them *not* the best choice for home landscapes. If you live in a wet prairie or flatwoods habitat in northeast Florida, you might make an exception for Lakeside Sunflower which forms a more civilized clump of leaves visually similar to liriopé. Your reward will be a mass of solitary 4-5 foot spikes of bright 3- inch yellow sunflowers that are long lasting and popular with butterflies and small birds.



Nettleleaf Sage (*Salvia urticifolia*) I do not have first-hand knowledge of this plant's garden preferences, but it is an original inhabitant of calcareous hammocks. It is one of nine salvias that can be found in Florida and is probably good candidate for a shady site.



Florida Pinkroot (*Spigelia loganiodes*) Some gardeners are familiar with the *Spigelia* species with red tubular flowers that occurs in the panhandle and Tallahassee area. Plants grow here in our area, but do not thrive in most conditions. The endangered pinkroot has white or pink tubular flowers found in the forks of leafy branches and it may also be a tempermental garden plant since it is primarily native to calcareous hammocks.



Diverseleaf Crownbeard (*Verbesina heterophylla*) The white crownbeard (also known as Frostweed) found in Alachua County hammocks is fairly common, but this yellow-flowering species is a flatwoods plant that seems happier in moderate to moist soil where it can grow 3 to 5 feet. This species can grow as far south as Volusia county and is a sturdy perennial for the garden.



(I am happy to report that prudent native plant guardians have collected seeds from the above wildflowers, and their progeny are now available in our FNPS native plant sales.)

The following endangered wildflowers are probably not identified very often, but are still necessary components of ecosystems where they are found:

Fall Flowering Ixia, Celestial Lily (*Nemastylis floridana*) This is a small iris found in swamps, marshes and wet flatwoods from Flagler County to central Florida.

Pineland Scurfpea or Pineland Leatherroot (*Orbexilum virgatum*) A member of the pea family (Fabaceae) found in sandhills and flatwoods

Branched Tearthumb (*Polygonum meisnerianum*) There are 22 members of this species listed for Florida. This one is a summer/fall blooming plant found in swamps, wet hammocks and lake margins.

Yellow Sunnybell (*Schoenolirion croceum*). In the Hyacinth Family, it has yellow flowers and lives in wet savannas and bogs.

Information in this article was found in "Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida" by Wunderlin and Hansen, 2003. Photos from UCF Plant Atlas and Claudia Larsen.

Continued from page 1

program is free since we will be outside the museum, but there are limited restroom facilities.

We will have a few refreshments, but no plant ID or plant raffle. Plan to arrive around 6:30 for an informal walk around the plant loop. At 7:30 those who wish can visit the amazing Rain garden in front of Recreation Center. It has been replanted with non-natives but the design concept is inspiring.

Directions:

The Florida Museum of Natural History/Butterfly Rainforest/Harn Museum complex is located at the University of Florida entrance on Hull Road off of SW 34th Street (between University Avenue and Archer Rd.) Go 20 mph on campus!! Turn into museum lot and park anywhere (parking is free after 5pm) The walkway leading to the garden is between the Florida Museum and the Harn Museum of Art and winds down behind the Museum.

**Synopsis of “Ask The Experts” Program
Lisa Jelks**

What fun was had at the April meeting as the general membership had the opportunity to “stump the chumps” (or ask an expert) about all things native. Our experts, [Joe Durando](#), [Kelly Perez](#), [Hector Perez](#), and [Brian Quinn](#) were on hand to answer questions from the audience. Questions ranged from how best to set up a native plant bed (kill the grass, plant your plants, and mulch; don’t use fertilizer. If you can get away with it, burn the small plot—with hose at the ready); how to get rid of betony (eat it!); and why do nurseries use plant stakes when they, in conjunction with the tape, seem to harm the plants (the plants are best left unstaked so the wind can help in root production but in a nursery setting, stakes are frequently necessary). Surprisingly, the most common questions were about the Ashe’s magnolia (seems these trees are very persnickety). We learned that natives normally do not need fertilizer but a slow release fertilizer can benefit certain acid-loving plants. A good native ground cover, such as mimosa, mitchella, ruellia, basket grass, and black seeded needlegrass (a favorite of the experts), can cut down on mowing. Wiregrass, blueberries, palafoxia, liatris, penstemon, chrysoma, and bushy hawthorne are good plants for a dry, sandhill type of yard. Unfortunately, the experts agreed that some invasive exotics, such as climbing fern, are very difficult if not impossible to eradicate (the group agreed that Round-up was a fairly safe herbicide for many uses). One of the more obnoxious non-natives, the inch plant, is also an irritant to pets. It can act like poison ivy and, once on their paws, can spread all over their bodies causing itching and scratching. Altogether, it was a great conversation about plants thanks to our experts and attendees!

Inclement Weather Does Not Dampen Spring Plant Sale !!

With gusty enthusiasm, plant lovers from around North Central Florida bought up native plants at our annual Spring Native Plant Sale at Morningside Nature Park. Friday’s members’ only sale was quite brisk and it was great to see old and new members enjoying a beautiful afternoon among the many wonderful natives. Much was blooming and it was a sight to see. Saturday morning we set



out to the sale with minor trepidation at the impending weather system, but the area’s plant lovers still showed up. Through intermittent rain (sometimes coming down pretty hard) a sea of colorful umbrellas replaced the colorful blooms. By 11:30, however, reports were coming in of a big storm, possibly with hail. So, with swiftness of foot we packed up the FNPS tent and most of the vendors were finished selling by noon. Even though the weather turned sour (as it did for the Fall sale as well) we still had a very successful event. Proceeds from the sale benefit Friends of Nature Parks, who help city Parks and Recreation staff attend meetings, provide summer camp scholarships to school children, and provide environmental education opportunities in our local schools. A big thank you to everyone who helped with the sale, especially Jennifer Staiger, Joe Durando, Ellen Thoms, Charlie Pedersen, Brian Quinn, Howard Jelks, Lisa Jelks, Goldie Schwartz, Bill Russell, Sandi Sauer, Karen Schneider, and Dee Peck.

NORTH FLORIDA REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PARTNERSHIP

On the recommendation of FNPS member Jill McGuire, the chapter Board of Directors wrote a letter to support John Sloane as a new member of the N. Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership that will serve to develop strategies to ensure sustainable water supplies and protect North Florida’s waterways and natural systems. This Partnership includes water management districts, Florida Dept of Environmental Protection (DEP), local elected officials and area stakeholders. The stakeholders represent various groups and will act as an advisory committee to ensure all interests are considered.

The present goals of the Partnership are:

Development of a modeling tool to predict and assess water resource impacts

Study regional groundwater decline in north Florida

Create a coordinated and consistent approach in setting minimum flows and levels

Collect and share science-based data

Develop a regional water supply plan

In recognition of Paynes Prairie Chapter interest, FNPS has been officially listed as a supporting stakeholder for the group.

We thank Jill for her keen attention to these issues, attendance at countless meetings and continued liaison with partner agencies and groups. And congratulations, also – Jill will be serving on the Partnership as well, as a stakeholder from the Suwanee River Water Management District.

To stay informed on current issues visit the Website: floridaswater.com



"I am one of millions of Americans who are both troubled and hopeful about the physical settings of life in our country. As you know my concern has been expressed in an effort called beautification. I think you also know what lies beneath that rather inadequate word. For beautification is far more than a matter of cosmetics. For me, it describes the whole effort to bring the natural world and the man-made world into harmony; to bring order, usefulness – delight – to our whole environment, and that of course only begins with trees and flowers and landscaping." **Lady Bird Johnson, 1968**

(Photo credit: LBJWC Archive photo by John D. Smithers)

The state of Texas has declared 2012 Lady Bird Johnson Centennial Year in honor of the 100th anniversary of her birth. This year we celebrate the founder of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center for the national treasure she was.

Claudia Alta Taylor was born in northeast Texas and cultivated her Texas roots by earning her journalism degree at the University in Texas in Austin in 1934. Throughout her life she championed many causes, but is well known for her environmental commitment which continued after the White House years with President Lyndon B Johnson. In 1982 she co-founded what would become the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. The Center is her legacy to future generations who come to learn about Texas plants and ecology. In 1999 she was presented with the Native Plant Conservation Initiative Lifetime Achievement Award.

The website www.ladybirdjohnson.org is commemorating the centennial of Lady Bird's life.

The posted pictures provide a quick blast thru history and a nice reflection on her life achievements. There is also an interesting feature where you can "send Lady Bird a note" or share a Lady Bird story. I thought this was kind of corny, but when I read through some of them I was quite touched by comments. It's nice when folks can enjoy the beauty of the Texas wildflower landscape; and at the same time honor her memory and be inspired by her work.

"My special cause, the one that alerts my interest and quickens the pace of my life, is to preserve the wildflowers and native plants that define the regions of our land – to encourage and promote their use in appropriate areas and thus help pass on to generation in waiting the quiet joys and satisfactions I have known since my childhood." **Lady Bird Johnson, 1990**



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.

- May 15** **Special Meeting Time and Place**
Meet at 6:30
Native Florida Wildflower Garden
Directions page 3
- Sept 18** **Meeting: Grasses for Landscaping**
Pete Wallace
- Sept 22** **Field Trip Twin Rivers State Forest**
- Board of Directors-Chapter Planning Meeting**
August 6 at 5:30 pm—open to all
Env. Horticulture Dept. Greenhouses, UF

Rice Creek Preserve Field Trip Report

Goldie Schwartz

Our group of ten, which included plant expert Cecil Slaughter from SJRMWD enjoyed clear skies and temperate weather. We lucked out as later in the day storms with blessed rain moved through the region.

We started out in the mesic flatwoods portion of preserve. A short time later we entered Rice Creek Swamp, a floodplain swamp which covers approximately 70 per cent of the property of 4202 acres.

The swamp forms the headwaters of Rice Creek, a large tributary of the St Johns River. The area was an indigo and rice plantation during the 18 century and most of the uplands were managed as commercial pine plantations before District ownership.

Some of the more notable plant species documented within the conservation area include the white fringetree (*Chionanthus pygmaeus*), swamp chestnut oak (*Quercus michauxii*), tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*).

While this area has been well inventoried, we came upon an unlisted fern which was identified as a sword fern (*Nephrolepis exaltata*).

There was a healthy abundance of the family Bromeliaceae with *Tillandsia utriculata* being the most representative.

Without Cecil's trained eye we would have missed varieties from the Cyperaceae family, the sedges that we saw were *Carex godfreyi*, *Carex oxylepis* and *Carex cherokeensis*.

We all stopped to admire the lovely formed parsley hawthorn (*Crataegus marshallii*).

The area is not free of invasive species and we observed Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonium*) and air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*).

There were many red mulberry trees on the path. I was able to confirm that the one growing in my yard will eventually yield luscious fruit because I could exclude it from being the invasive paper mulberry.

Thanks to Michael Bubb for sharing his notes on plant identification, I was able to use notes in naming the sedges.

And finally, from a specially placed boardwalk, we were able to sight the eighth largest bald cypress with a diameter of 24' 9". The top was not visible and might have been cut off.

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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Historic Haile Homestead Landscape Project By Lisa & Howard Jelks

Recently, the Paynes Prairie chapter entered into an agreement with Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) to help with designing and implementing a landscape plan for their Prairie Creek Lodge. While that project is ongoing, another ACT project was quickly begun and completed. Howard and Lisa Jelks were able to provide a simple landscape design for the Historic Haile Homestead's new Visitors' Center. Upon design approval, we purchased plants at the Spring Native Plant Sale (funds donated by the Jelks Family Foundation) and have already installed them. Some of the plants include coontie, red buckeye, pinxter azalea, bluestem palm, Walter's viburnum, fringe tree, Gulf muhly grass, and an assortment of wildflowers. Thanks to Brian Quinn, Jamie Barichivich, and Jennifer Staiger for their assist. In the future, we will add more plants to landscape the retention basin in the parking area.

The Visitors' Center will serve as the gateway for those wishing to tour the Haile Homestead. The Center provides an exhibit and reception area with restrooms. It will also allow for special events like wedding receptions and meetings to help pay for continuing operations and preservation efforts.

In 1854, Thomas Evans and Serena Chesnut Haile moved their family from Camden, South Carolina to Gainesville. It is there they established a 1500-acre Sea Island cotton plantation they named Kanapaha. Completed in 1856 by enslaved craftsmen, the 6,200 square foot homestead stands today as one of the few remaining antebellum homes in North Central Florida. The Historic Haile Homestead is unique for its "Talking Walls." For a reason lost to time, the Haile family wrote on the walls of their home—over 12,500 words in al-

most every room and closet!

The Historic Haile Homestead is open to the public for tours every Saturday from 10AM to 2 PM and on Sunday from 12PM to 4 PM. Tours are \$5 per person, children under 12 are free. The Historic Haile Homestead is located at 8500 SW Archer Road (St. Rd. 24) in Gainesville.



BEFORE



AFTER VIEW 1



AFTER VIEW 2

Welcome new, rejoined and renewed members.

Notestein Nursery is offering a free native plant to new and renewed members who join from March 2012 through December 2012. Plants can be chosen and picked up by appointment at Jim Notestein's Nursery in Gainesville. Call 352-372-2107. Jim is a long-time supporter of FNPS and regular vendor at the spring and fall native plant sales at Morningside

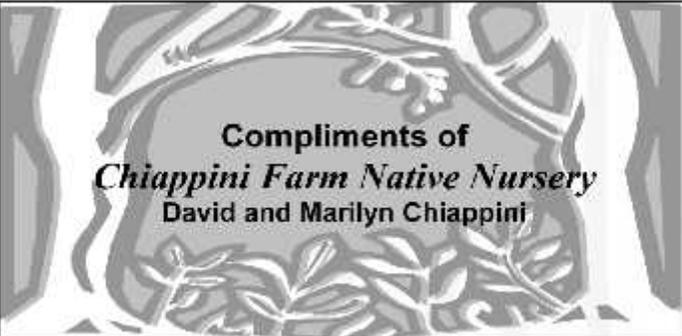
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Advertisements are now being accepted for the Rhexia newsletter! If you would like to support the Paynes Prairie chapter please send a business card size ad in .jpg, .tiff, or Powerpoint formats only to Goldie Schwartz at Rhexia@gmail.com. The ads cost \$100 and run from September 2012 through May 2013.

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, May 15

6:30 p.m.

Florida Museum of Natural History/
Butterfly Rainforest/Harn Museum
Complex
SW 34th St. & Hull Rd.
Gainesville, FL 32611

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 September
2012 newsletter is
August 25, 2012**

Florida Native Plant Society Membership Form

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Check Pertinent Category:

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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.