



The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society
November, 2012

Chapter Meeting
Tuesday
November 13, 2012, 7:00 pm
Make Your On Holiday
Centerpiece or Wreath
Linda Hart

Field Trip
November 17, 2012
Sweetwater Branch Preserve
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Yes!! Yes!! Our meeting will be on Tuesday for the month of November, because of schedule conflict. Check next Rhexia for meeting date.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The Bewildering World of Botanical Nomenclature

By Mary Tucker

Article reprinted with permission from the Georgia Native Plant Society "Nativescape" January 2012 Newsletter (website link <http://gnps.org>)

Imagine a world where gardeners couldn't talk to each other about the plants they love to grow. Imagine if botanists working on habitat restoration couldn't communicate effectively about which plants belonged in which habitats. Imagine multi-national cooperation on plant conservation if the scientists couldn't be sure they were all talking about the same species. These scenarios could happen if we couldn't reliably and consistently describe and name plants.

Carl Linnaeus understood the importance of communication when in the 1700s he set about to establish conventions for the naming of living organisms. Under his system of binomial nomenclature, it became possible for every species to be given a two-word Latin name. This allowed everyone, no matter the language they spoke, to begin to communicate about plants and animals. Linnaeus's binomial system is still in use, and in the botanical world, its internationally accepted rules are governed by the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* (ICBN).

I constantly hear groans when the subject of botanical names comes up. Folks complain that they can't remember them or can't pronounce them, and they question why a common name won't suffice. Common names can be useful, especially for really common plants that everyone knows. Why call a sunflower *Helianthus annuus* when everyone knows what a sunflower is? Plus, common names can be charming and descriptive in their own right. Just think of fairy candles, devil's walking stick, doll's eyes, and hearts-a-bustin'.

On the other hand, some common names only have regional usage so would not be understood by someone from another area. Further confusing the issue, some common names are used for multiple plants. For instance, sweet shrub is a name attached to both *Calycanthus floridus* and *Clethra alnifolia*. Common names usually do not indicate anything about the plant's genetic or family relationship. A common name may even be misleading. For instance, our eastern red cedar is not a cedar at all, but rather a juniper, as its

Cont'd page 2

botanical name (*Juniperus virginiana*) clearly tells us.

Thanks to Linnaeus' system, we have a much more accurate way of communicating about plants. Under his binomial system, the first name of a plant is the "genus," which identifies the closely related group to which the plant belongs. A genus may be named after a person (real or mythological), it may be the ancient Greek or Latin name for the plant, or it may denote some attribute of the genus. Whatever its derivation, the genus name is treated as a singular noun in Latin, and as such, it is denoted as either masculine, feminine, or neuter. The gender is indicated by the way in which the word ends. For example, here are three common endings and the genders they signify: -us = masculine; -a = feminine; -um = neuter.

The second term in the binomial name is called the "specific epithet" and serves as an adjective to modify the genus name and to identify the species. The specific epithet often describes some characteristic of the plant, such as color, habitat, texture, scent, habit, size, shape, or geographic location where found. The specific epithet may also be chosen to acknowledge a person. For instance *Gentiana andrewsii* is named in honor of English botanist Henry C. Andrews. Though such an acknowledgement is usually an honor, I read that the devious and clever Linnaeus would sometimes name a poisonous or smelly plant after a rival botanist!

Learning the meanings of common specific epithets may give you immediate clues about a plant. For instance, knowing that *palustris* means "growing in swamps" tells you that *Hibiscus palustris* will tolerate a damp area of your garden.

Because the specific epithet is an adjective, under the rules of Latin it has to agree in gender and number with the genus name that it modifies. For this reason there may be a variety of possible endings to the specific epithet, such as *purpureus* (masculine), *purpurea* (feminine), or *purpureum* (neuter), all of which mean "purple." The base of the adjective may also be combined with a prefix or suffix to alter its meaning. The prefix *atro*, which means "dark," can be added to *purpureus* to get *atropurpureus* (dark purple). The adjective *albus* (and its forms *alba* and *album*) mean "white." By adding a suffix, the meaning can be adapted in a variety of ways: *albescens* = becoming white; *albicans* = whitish; *albiflorus* = white-flowered; *albicaulis* = white-

stemmed.

In the binomial system, the genus name is always written first and begins with a capital letter. The specific epithet is second and starts with a lowercase letter. This is true even if the specific epithet is based on a proper name, such as *michauxii* (honoring botanist André Michaux) or *virginiana* (named for Virginia). The combined names are italicized (or underlined), for example *Lilium michauxii*.

You will sometimes see a person's name (or an abbreviation of a name) behind the name of a genus or a species, for instance, *Chelone glabra* Linnaeus (or *Chelone glabra* L.). Such a designation indicates the person who officially named the plant by publishing its scientific name.

In addition to genus and species, other designations may be added to the botanical name, for instance, subspecies, variety (*variatas*), or form (*forma*), which are abbreviated *ssp.*, *var.*, and *f.* In such a case, another epithet, called an infraspecific epithet, is added, with a term denoting its rank (not italicized) preceding it, for example, *Chrysogonum virginianum* var. *australe*. Infraspecific epithets are formed according to the same rules as specific epithets. The term "subspecies" usually refers to plants that have a distinct geographic distribution. "Variety" is a term that falls in rank between subspecies and form. It refers to plants with an even smaller, more restricted geographic range than subspecies. "Form" is a botanical classification ranking below variety, and it usually describes plants that vary only trivially from others, such as in flower color. This variation may be sporadic and without a distinct distribution. An example of this is the white-flowered form of the normally blue dwarf crested iris (*Iris cristata*). Taxonomic nomenclature would designate this as *Iris cristata* forma *alba*. (Note that you may see this same plant listed in nursery catalogs as *Iris cristata* 'Alba', which is the same way a horticultural cultivar would be designated . . . but more about that later.)

Placement of plants into botanical categories is often debated among taxonomists, and different types of research may lead to different conclusions by different scientists. For instance, among the silphiums, you may see the designations of *Silphium perfoliatum*, *Silphium connatum*, *Silphium perfoliatum* var. *connatum*, or *Silphium perfoliatum* ssp. *connatum*. Cont'd page 4

President's Message from Claudia Larsen

I want to thank Lisa Jelks for serving as chapter Vice-President and giving me the fortitude to continue planning and organizing responsibilities for Paynes Prairie chapter in 2012. All officers and board members brought special input to our meetings and they will all continue to be dedicated members of FNPS in the future, I am sure. I was touched by Michael Bubb's talk at our October program as he explained his journey learning about native plants through not only his own gardening experience, but also from local history of ecology and gardening shared by authors such as Janisse Ray, Norman Gilliland and Don Goodman. It made me think about how I originally learned about native plants and decided they were the common sense of gardening in Florida (or anywhere). It was the people who influenced me throughout the last 25 years that helped me learn about native plants – nurserymen, botanists, butterfly enthusiasts, state park biologists, FNPS and gardening friends – too many to name, but you know who you are – and thank you all for building my experience so that I, too can now share what I have learned.

Rain Gives Way at Plant Sale

Lisa Jelks

I'm starting to see a pattern here. The rain at Friday night's plant sale gave way to glorious weather on Saturday as hundreds of people came out to Morningside Nature Center for the annual Fall Native Plant Sale. Despite wet conditions on Friday, we still had quite a lot of folks turn out, umbrellas in hand. The drizzle was not going to dampen our members' enthusiasm in procuring their latest landscape lovelies! Saturday was steadily busy as the public, en route perhaps to the great Gator victory on the football field, came out to take advantage of the largest native plant sale in north Florida. Leo Nico regaled us with his guitar playing and delightful singing voice. Many people enjoyed the wildflower walk around Morningside. And of course, there was the debut of our new Chapter t-shirts and tote bags! Paynes Prairie chapter member Mindy Lighthipe provided a beautiful art design that was hugely popular—so popular in fact that we sold nearly half of the shirts in just two days! Thank you Mindy, and also special thanks to Leo Nico (Troubadour), Howard Jelks (Plant Police), Joe Durando (Deputy), Gary Schultz (Assistant Deputy), Jennifer Staiger (Organizer), Goldie Schwartz (Friday captain), Charlie Pedersen (Co-captain), Paula Russo (Ray of sunshine), Karen Schneider (Park-a-Plant), Bill Russell (Dependable), Jamie Barichivich (Baker), Brian Quinn (Catch-all), Connie Caldwell (Petition Gatherer), and JoAnna Anchors (T-shirt folder). Thanks also to David Hall and other FNPS members who do double duty for the Friends of Nature Parks. It's because of the dedication of so many people that we are able to continue offering native plant sales and educating the public on the benefits of using natives.



Lisa Jelks, Bill Russell and Jennifer Staiger show off the new t-shirts and tote bags

Business Meeting and Election of New Officers

At our November meeting, we will conduct a short business meeting for elections and a treasurer's report. Open nominations from the floor will be accepted for any office.

Our current slate of nominees:

President: Erick Smith
Vice Pres: Claudia Larsen
Secretary: Ellen Thoms
Treasurer: Goldie Schwartz

Returning Directors: Connie Caldwell, Jennifer Staiger, Kelly Perez

New Directors: Chuck Peck, Mark Elliott

From page 2

The name of a hybrid species is indicated by the multiplication sign (or alternately a lowercase x) before the specific epithet, for example, *Helianthus* × *multiflorus*. A hybrid genus may also be so indicated. For instance, a cross of *Tiarella* and *Heuchera* results in a new genus, which may be designated as ×*Heucherella*.

Horticultural Names

In addition to a botanical name, a plant may also have a horticultural designation or cultivar name (“cultivar” being an abbreviation of “cultivated variety”). Such names are governed by the rules of the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants* (ICNCP), which covers plants used in horticulture, agriculture, and forestry. A plant designated as a cultivar may have been intentionally bred, or it may have originated naturally. For instance, many native azaleas will hybridize in the wild, and cultivar selections may be made from these. In any case, a cultivar should have unique characteristics that make it distinct from other plants. A cultivar is reproduced and maintained under cultivation to retain its characteristics, and these characteristics should remain stable over time.

Unlike a botanical name, the name of a cultivar is not in Latin form. It is capitalized but not italicized. It is further distinguished by enclosing the name in single quotes, as in *Heuchera americana* ‘Dale’s Strain’. Though less common, you may also see a cultivar designated with the initials cv. but without the single quotes: *Heuchera americana* cv. Dale’s Strain. The name of a cultivar may be assigned to the species name, or if the cultivar is of hybrid or unknown origin, it may be assigned directly to a genus. For instance, a hybrid rose of unknown parentage could be called *Rosa* ‘Ambiguity’.

A cultivar name has no legal standing, and the person registering a cultivar name has no ownership interest in that plant. The cultivar name is simply a way to help gardeners better know what they are purchasing. Unfortunately, the naming of cultivars is not strictly enforced, and the same plant may end up with two or more cultivar names. For instance, the cutleaf coneflower cultivar by the name of *Rudbeckia laciniata* ‘Goldquelle’ may also be sold as ‘Gold Fountain’ or ‘Gold Drop’. Fortunately, efforts at standardization are taking place. The “List of Names” or “Naamlijst” (see www.internationalplantnames.com) is used worldwide as a nomenclature guide, with lists of perennials and woody

plants published separately. The lists are available in book form or on CD and can be purchased from the International Plant Names website. The site also has a search engine for plant names. There you can find all of the cultivars of a species, which is very helpful if you are trying to determine if a cultivar name is truly accurate or not.

In contrast to the cultivar designation, some plants may be patented or trademarked (both of which are largely marketing ploys in my opinion). A patent owner can control the propagation, distribution, and sale of the plant and thereby receive royalty payments. If you see PP followed by a number, the plant is patented. Other symbols you may see relating to patents include PPAF (Plant Patent Applied For) and PVR (Plant Variety Rights).

A trademark designation is a bit simpler than the patenting process, and it controls use of the plant’s name, but not its distribution or sale. If a plant has the symbol ® by its name, it is registered and trademarked. The symbol ™ lets you know that the name has been claimed, but it is not officially registered. A trademark indicates the origin of a product, not the product itself (think of Kleenex® tissues vs. Scott® tissues); therefore, trademark names belong to a company, not to a particular plant, and the trademark designation is typically used to market a line of plants (such as the well-known Knock Out® Rose line).

In my opinion, these horticultural name variations can just confuse the issue and make plant selection harder. If I see a gorgeous salvia in the garden center that just goes by the name *Salvia* ‘Best Ever’, I can’t tell a thing about its parentage or how it will perform in my garden. For all I know, it could be a hybrid of salvias from the arid regions of the western United States that would quickly die in the heat and humidity of our climate. Give me a botanical name anytime – even if I can’t pronounce it.

Carl Linnaeus 1707-1778

Conservation Grants Available for 2013

Are you helping preserve, conserve or restore a rare or imperiled plant taxa or plant community?
Paynes Prairie chapter can sponsor your group and apply for a small \$1500 grant in 2013. Contact chapter president Claudia Larsen for more information or see details at www.FNPS.org.

Calendar of Events

Please check the Chapter page at www.paynesprairie.fnpschapters.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.

- Nov 13** **Wreath & Arrangement Designs**
Linda Hart
- Nov 17** **Field Trip—Boulware Springs,**
Sweetwater Branch Preserve
- Jan 17** **What's Happening in the Florida Wildflower**
Foundation Claudia Larsen
- Jan 19** **Field Trip - Barr Hammock Preserve**

2013 BOD Meetings: 1st Monday in Jan., March, May, Aug., Oct.

November Field Trip Sweetwater Branch Preserve

This diverse site features nine different plant communities including sandhill, baygall, upland mixed forest, and sinkhole ponds. Meet at the pavilion by the entrance to the Gainesville-Hawthorne state trail at Boulware Springs Park, 3300 SE 15 Street, Gainesville, Fl. 32641 at 9:00 AM. The trip will take approximately 2.5 hours and cover 1.5 miles.

Contact Sandra Vardaman at smvardaman@alachuacounty.us or call 352-213-0235.

General Meeting Make Your Own Holiday Centerpiece or Wreath

With Linda Hart's expertise and guidance we will use the suggested list of materials, that follows to make our own holiday decoration to enjoy through the season.

If you live where you do not have access to plant material there will be extra available.

For wreath, bring one assembled ready to decorate.

For centerpiece bring a container that can hold water. A basket with a waterproof liner is fine.

Tools needed: scissors or hand held pruners. For large design you might need loppers.

Assortment of greenery to bring: branches, flowers, berries, gourds, rose hips.

Suggested native plants: beautyberry branches, holly branches, magnolia branches, pine cones and branches, small winged elm limbs, palmetto fronds, ferns or whatever you like.

Nonnative: boxwood, Burford holly, leatherleaf ferns, juniper, camellia branches, sago fronds, ivy, flowers, roselle and rose hips, etc.

Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

See our Web page at:

www.paynesprairie.fnpschapters.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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President

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Dahlonga Peck, Dahlonga1@yahoo.com

Plant ID

Paul Cohen, paulcohen2002@yahoo.com

WE'RE ALL LEARNING
Yard Visit Coordinator
Connie Caldwell

We arrive at Sarah Lauerman's yard in the Northwood Oaks neighborhood and the first thing we notice are the beautifully sculpted beds. Even though Sarah has already told us that she is a novice Florida landscaper and really just wants help and advice from us, the front yard already has the look of a planned landscape after just two years!

First, most of the exotics, some of which are invasive, were removed and mulch was spread over the sites for future beds. Nestled into the pinebark mulch (the smaller variety) in the sunnier areas of the largest bed are grasses - lovegrass, Fakahatchee grass, muhly grass, beargrass, sand cordgrass, and lopsided Indian grass. To this very effective mix, Sarah has added goldenrod, tar flower, *Carphephorus*, and *Euthania minor* (flat-topped goldenrod). Sarah says her inspiration for this is an area in the Osceola forest where she works with red-cockaded woodpeckers. Also incorporated into this bed is a mature water oak which Sarah has surrounded with pinxter azaleas, a flame azalea, and *Liriope*.

Alongside the driveway we're treated to a display of dune sunflower, muhly grass, sand cordgrass, and beauty berry. Sarah says she keeps seed trays going for the sunflowers and other plants, for filling in and replacement as needed.

Toward the street side of the front yard is a bed containing sagos, coonties, a flatwoods plum, and a Walter's viburnum. Also on the street side, around the mailbox, is a small area surrounded by a low stone wall. This bed includes red salvia, mist flower, diamond frost, love grass, and coreopsis, so that there is something blooming here most of the year!

We move to the shadier east side of the yard, where there is much discussion of what to plant. Suggestions include Florida anise and sparkleberry, and moving the loquat that is there to a sunnier area. Also on the east side, in the back yard, are another loquat and some oakleaf hydrangea and again, a sunnier area is recommended. We all get a lesson from one of the better informed members of the group in identifying when a dead branch is caused by beetle infestation - yes, we are all learning from each other!

Along the back fence are planted culinary rosemary, lemongrass, and blueberries. *Ilex* is recommended as a plant that would be a good addition to this area, and again, the advice is to move the blue-

berries to a sunnier area. Passion vine here tries to keep ahead of the butterfly larvae, which are many!

A bed next to the house in back contains a butterfly garden - fire-bush, lantana, and more passion vine - the red variety, which does not get eaten by the caterpillars even though butterflies lay eggs on it.

Plans are underway for a raised bed garden in the sunniest area of the back yard, after a valiant attempt to grow veggies in the poor sandy soil of this area, which used to be a pine plantation.

We move back to the front yard, where an area on the west side that adjoins the neighbors had contained azaleas much overgrown with smilax and other less desirable plants. The area is now cleared and suggestions are provided for filling it: rusty lyonia, blueberries, stoppers, a fence with vines such as native wisteria or coral honeysuckle.

Thank you, Sarah, for sharing your yard with us and giving us all another opportunity to learn from each other!

October Field Trip Report—Claudia Larsen

Paynes Prairie Chapter members spent the first wonderful cool October morning walking in O'Leno State Park admiring a wide array of fall grasses and wildflowers. Large stands of Lopsided Indian grass, with their golden awns, billowed in the breeze (see photo) and the sandy understory was dotted with beautiful blue Azure Sage (*Salvia azurea*), yellow Silkgrass (*Pityopsis sp*) and white flowered Snakeroot (*Ageratina sp*). The trees above us included Longleaf Pine, Post Oak, Hickory, Bay and Dogwoods. Other wildflowers identified along our leisurely walk were: Goldenaster (*Chrysopsis subulata*), Honeycombhead (*Bauduina angustifolia*), Summer Farewell (*Dalea pinnata*), Buckwheat (*Eriogonum sp*), Blue Curls (*Trichostema dichotomum*), several species of Liatris, Elephants Foot (*Elephantopus elatus*), and Flat top Goldenrod (*Euthamia sp*). We identified an interesting species of Beggarticks with lacy leaves and very small flowers (*Bidens bipinnata*). Grasses included Pineland threeawn, Foxtail grass, Lovegrass, Bluestem. Plumegrass and Fingergrass. The special find of the day was located in a recently burned area near the campground, where clouds of purple, 15 inch, shrubby plants turned out to be (*Dicerandra sp*). See the photo to appreciate the beauty of these rarely seen wildflowers. [

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.

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Linda Andrese | Isabel Coutts | Joe & Pam Gaffney |
| Gary Gammage | Reuben Judd | Laura Berkelman |
| Lee Bloomcamp | Mike Byerly | Katherine & Art Edison |
| Shari Ellis | Karen Hiliard | Jane Hunter |
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Lopsided Indian Grass



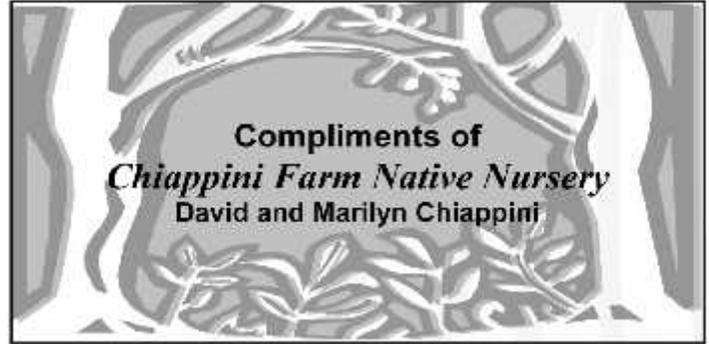
Dicerandra sp.



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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, formats only to Goldie Schwartz at afn49@mindspring.com
The ads cost \$100 and run from **January 2013 through November 2013.**

Have You Blogged Lately?

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

New T-Shirt (\$15) & totebag (\$10) will be available at the November meeting, so bring cash or your checkbook. Totes make great holiday gifts.

Florida Native Plant Society
Paynes Prairie Chapter
Post Office Box 1004
Archer, FL 32618

Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 13

7:00 p.m.

(Plant ID Workshop at 6:15)

United Church of Gainesville

1624 NW 5th Avenue

FNPS Paynes Prairie Chapter Meetings
are held the 3rd Thursday 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
for the January
2013 newsletter is
December 25, 2012**

Florida Native Plant Society Membership Form

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(VISA/MasterCard only) Card type and #: _____

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Check Pertinent Category:

- | | |
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