

# The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter  
Florida Native Plant Society  
February, 2013

**Chapter Meeting**  
**Thursday**  
**February 14, 2013 7:00 pm**  
**Florida Soils and Their**  
**Relationship to Plant**  
**Communities**  
**Robert Freese**

**Field Trip**  
**February 23, 2013**  
**Turkey Creek Hammock**  
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**Page 4**

## President's Message

Erick D. Smith

Like all good native landscaping projects, Prairie Creek Lodge started with the best of intentions. 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 focused more on hunting, than on the landscaping of the grounds around the lodge. And until now, no one has stepped forward to create landscaping worthy of this picturesque building.

One of the main 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, our local officers and board members have been working on the Prairie Creek Lodge Native Landscaping Garden project for the last year.

The first step was creating a landscape plan that gathered input from a wide circle of interested parties. We gathered ideas and comments from ACT staff, ACT board members, and Native Plant Society members during a "design charette" last year. After the charette, our local FNPS member Kelly Perez, who is a registered landscape architect, did a fabulous job incorporating our ideas into a cohesive landscape plan. ACT folks and a committee of local Native Plant Society members will finish the final review of the

plans this February. That committee is Sandi Saurers, Jennifer Staiger, Lisa Jelks, Kelly Perez, Brian Quinn, Joe Durando, Claudia Larsen and Erick Smith. We will begin the installation this spring and we're hoping to have lots of helping hands plant flowers, seedlings, trees, and shrubs. There will be opportunities to "sponsor a plant" as well as contribute to plant signage and educational displays. Stay tuned for more information.



1



2



3



4

## Planting a Refuge for Wildlife Goldie Schwartz

This is the title of one of the oldest resource I have in my library. The pamphlet was a collaborative effort of various government entities. I will be excerpting the introduction and showing a landscape plan with listed plants for North Florida and South Florida.

There are many reasons why birds and other animals appeal so strongly to our affections. The simple truth is – they bring us joy. The exuberant songs of cardinals and mockingbirds, the dazzling display of a painted bunting in our birdbaths or feeders, and the sight of colorful butterflies dancing above a wildflower patch – these are personal pleasures that aren't easily measured.

People need to live close to the natural world – to trees, flowers and animals. When we watch the complexity and diversity of nature, we become more observant and more in tune with the important subtleties around us. A monarch butterfly seen in September signals us that the fall migration of many species is beginning. The appearance of a purple martin in February lets us know that spring is close behind.

But many Floridians are becoming increasingly isolated from the natural world as local populations of wildlife are displaced from suburban and urban areas. Bulldozers and backhoes are eliminating the living spaces of many of our wild birds and animals in this fast-growing state. What are the consequences? "Suppose a creature dies out within your 'radius of reach' – the area to which you have easy access," asks entomologist Robert M. Pyle. "In some respects, it might as well be gone altogether because you will not be able to see it as you could before." This "extinction of experience" makes people more isolated from and less caring for nature. On the other hand, if we can preserve native wildlife and plants in our cities and suburbs, we can also maintain the essential bond between people and nature that fosters a sense of stewardship for the land and its life far beyond city limits.

Attracting wildlife to your garden by planning and planting for their needs is simple and satisfying. If we make adequate food, water, shelter and space available, we can increase the number and variety of species that visit our yards and improve our chances to observe them more closely.

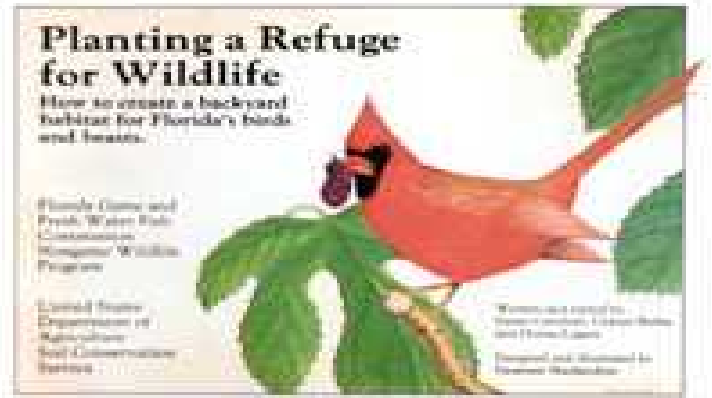
Plants form the natural architecture that animals need to feed, rest, raise young and hide from predators. The more stable and balanced a plant community you create, the greater the variety of wildlife you'll attract. And you'll find advantages in energy and water savings as well as the natural insect and rodent control your miniature ecosystem will provide. Moreover, the National Wildlife Federation has found that attractive landscaping installed with wildlife in mind substantially increases the value of a house and lot: an investment in plants can yield a 3 to 10 percent increase in real estate value.

As Florida's population skyrockets, more and more green space is consumed. Wild animals and birds are squeezed out of the habitat they need for their survival.

There is an ever-increasing need to manage not only the existing forests and large landholdings for wildlife, but also the developed land: the quarter-acre suburban lot, the five-acre townhouse devel-

opment, the 40 acre subdivision, the small city park, larger county parks and even the roadsides of our highways.

We can begin the pleasant task of inviting wildlife to our own yards. No matter where you live in Florida, you can make habitat improvements to benefit your wildlife neighbors.



### Habitat:

Armadillos are not native to Florida, but are now common over most of the state. Armadillos like forested or semi-open habitats with loose textured soil that allows them to dig easily. They eat many insects, or other invertebrates, and some plants. They most often feed at night, and have very poor eyesight.



### Habitat:

Bats live in many different habitats across Florida. They can be found from sandhills to the hardwood forests along the banks of rivers, and probably even in your neighborhood! For bats, one of the most important parts of their habitat is an area to roost. Some bats, like the Brazilian free-tailed bat, the evening bat, and the big brown bat are colonial, meaning they gather together in a colony to roost during the day. Other species, like the Seminole bat and the tricolored bat, are solitary, meaning that they roost by themselves. In Florida, natural roosting sites can be cracks, crevices, and hollows of trees, caves, dead fronds of palm trees, Spanish moss, and tree foliage. Bats also use manmade structures including buildings, bridges, culverts, tile roofs, and bat

# Create a Backyard Habitat Plan

A backyard habitat is really just a landscape designed with wildlife in mind. It will be most pleasing and successful when you have managed to combine the quality of wilderness with just enough cultivation to harmonize with your house and the people who inhabit it. Why not design and plan your landscape in an orderly fashion, just as landscape architects do?




This landscape plan includes an extremely high diversity of wildlife-attracting plants. Suggestions are provided for both north and south Florida below. Many other valuable plants are listed on pages 24-32.

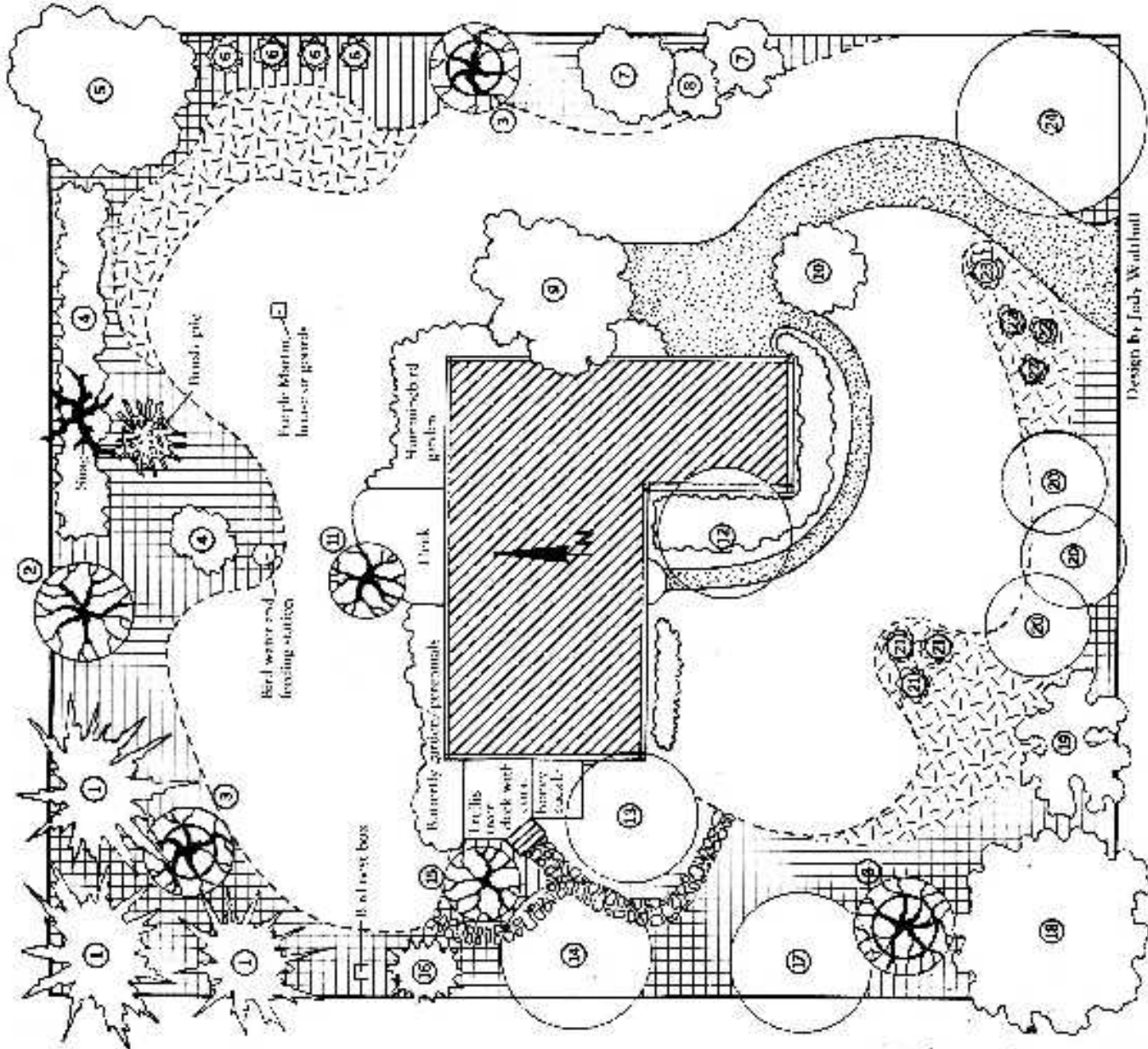
## North Florida

1. Pine
2. Red Mulberry
3. Flowering Dogwood
4. Wax Myrtle
5. Southern Magnolia
6. Blueberry
7. Viburnum
8. Cherry Laurel
9. Red Maple
10. American Holly
11. River Birch
12. Fringe Tree
13. Red Bayberry
14. Black Gum
15. Hawthorne
16. Red Cedar
17. Persimmon
18. Live Oak
19. Coral Bean
20. Cabbage Palm
21. American Beautyberry
22. Elderberry
23. Pokeweed
24. Sweetgum

## South Florida

1. Pine
2. Red Mulberry
3. Wild Coffee
4. Coccoloba
5. Paradise Tree
6. Blueberry
7. Shopper
8. Florida Tropic
9. Coffee Columina
10. Geiger Tree
11. Mockingbird
12. Sea Grape
13. Silver Palm
14. Black Gum
15. Firebush
16. Red Cedar
17. Persimmon
18. Live Oak
19. Coral Bean
20. Thatch Palm
21. Blolly
22. Elderberry
23. Pokeweed
24. Guaiacum

-  Lawn
-  Leaf litter/ground cover
-  Native grasses/meadow area



## Two Pre's For Barr Hammock Field Trip Goldie Schwartz

Not only did the Native Plant Society get access to Barr Hammock before the official grand opening on Feb 2, we started plant identification in the parking lot. A participant in the field trip who lives close to the Barr Hammock Preserve site brought a plant from his property that he could not identify. It turned out to be an abundant low growing plant on the site, the Guinea Hen Weed or *Petiveria* in the family Phytolaccaceae.

We met up with, land manager, Kelly McPherson at the beginning of site for a guided entry. The area that we were visiting can only be accessed by using privately owned roads. We were getting a view of preserve that will not be seen by the general public at the grand opening. The grand opening area is to the north of the site and is known as Levy Prairie.

We begin our walk at Ledwith Lake which has only recently been filled with water. The purpose of the Barr Hammock –Ledwith Prairie Project is to contribute to a regional conservation corridor and protect surface and groundwater. Ledwith Prairie is one of the largest intact wetlands in Alachua County.

The morning is very cool so the mottled sun on the trail is very welcome. We are generally walking through an Live Oak Hammock. More plants, get identified than I can keep track of, so as always this is just a partial listing.

We enjoyed a lively debate about the yellow or Carolina Jessamine *Gelsemium sempervirens* that colored our path in pale yellow, as to the degree of its toxicity. There was a leafless milkweed, *Asclepius lineria*. The oaks almost guaranteed a number of *Tillandsia* and we were not disappointed seeing a Bartrams airplant, *Tillandsia bartramii*.

We stopped at a sabal minor to have Kelly compare its characteristics to a regular sabal palm and a saw palmetto. We tromped through many Swamp Chestnut Oak, *Quercus michauxii* leaves. There were a couple of American Holly next to each other; one had the characteristic spike-like points on the leaves while another did not. This keeps all plant taxonomists on their toes.

We enjoyed a display of color, probably thanks to our very warm January weather, when we entered a more open field with red maple all abloom.

Some of us flexed our muscles around the Ironwood or Musclewood Tree comparing our own physical hardiness to the sinewy look of the trunk of tree. Wikipedia put the tree in genus/species, *Carpinus caroliniana*.

For me, by far, the most interesting plant discovery was the meadow spike-moss *Selaginella apoda*. It was described by members of our group as an early vascular plant, early meaning prehistoric, existing with the dinosaurs. I was enamored with its symmetry and complexity. I would love to see it in general use as a ground cover.



## BLUEBERRIES YES! --- BUT NOT HERE Connie Caldwell

Our January yard visit was hosted by Paul Lyrene who, though his area of expertise at UF is blueberries, is unable to grow them on the soil of his property! This experience was an especially good lesson for us about the importance of knowledge about the soil where we're expecting to grow our plants. Our directions for parking were to pull up into the yard next to a group of 10-year-old long leaf pine trees, and Paul was quick to inform us that these trees can't thrive on his soil either!

The property is a seepage slope, alkaline, high in phosphorous, with a clay layer just one foot below the surface, and water will stand in the yard for days after a rain, except where the slope is sufficient to flow it down the hill. Some things thrive here, such as cabbage palm, but in order to grow the blueberries and other vacciniums used in his research, Paul has brought in soil and created high raised beds, tucking the plants in with lots of pine straw.

In the area near the house, some in raised beds and some in the natural soil, we see herbs, various citrus trees, turk's cap, eucalyptus, vitex, almond bush, tea olive, and a culinary bay. We ask many questions and try our hand at identifying the natives, which include magnolias, hawthorne, water oaks, melanthera, yellow-top, emilia, elderberry, persimmons, pawpaw, salt bush, innocence, lyreleaf sage, carolina jessamine, and sumac.

Along the edge of the woods we find hypericum, oakleaf hydrangea, and yaupon holly. A bed at the foot of a slope on the other side of the path contains swamp sunflower, obedient plant, and mist flower, plants which love the moisture in this area. We continue to walk along the edge of the woods and notice cypress vine, coral honeysuckle, silverbell, parsley haw, a Magnolia bay (Paul points out that this bay really needs a lower pH), crossvine, iresine diffusa, beauty berry, and a firebush loaded with berries. In addition to these natives Paul has planted a thriving Buddha's Belly bamboo, bottlebrush, and both red and white mulberries. We learn about the need to know if a plant can make seed on its own or if it needs to be planted alongside a companion of the opposite gender (dioecious species) or of a different self-incompatibility group (monoecious or hermaphroditic but self-incompatible)!

Our path leads us to an amazing grove of citrus trees - many Chinese Honey mandarins loaded with fruit (to which we're invited to help ourselves before we leave; Paul even supplies bags!). Paul tells us the trees were grown from seed! There are also kumquats, Satsuma mandarins, and a Meyer lemon.

We now proceed into the wooded area below the house and above Levy lake (part of the Alachua County Forever Barr Hammock Preserve), and Paul points out basket oaks, which are actually used to make baskets, red maple, cherry laurel, elm, and a large live oak. Both the elm and the live oak have high fluted roots which we wonder about. Looking down around our feet we notice violets, elephants foot, chain fern, southern woods fern (or maybe maiden fern?), royal fern, a tiny southern grape fern and yes, poison ivy.

As we begin to take our leave, Paul shows us one last plant that is special, a bumelia. Thank you, Paul, for an informative and enjoyable tour!

If interested in participating see note page 7.

## Calendar of Events

Please check the Chapter page at [www.paynesprairie.fnpschapters.org](http://www.paynesprairie.fnpschapters.org) for most current information and directions to field trips. All 2013 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.

- Feb 14** Florida soils and their relationship to plant communities
- Feb 23** Field Trip - Turkey Creek Hammock Preserve
- March 14** Program—TBA
- March 23** Field Trip—Balu Forest
- April 26-27** Spring Native Plant Sale  
Morningside Park

**2013 BOD Meetings: 1st Monday in Jan., March, May, August and November**

### February Field Trip Turkey Creek Hammock Preserve

Turkey Creek Hammock is located south of the Turkey Creek Golf Course subdivision, east of San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park. The property buffers the State Park and preserves good quality upland and wetland natural communities, and numerous karst features. It also protects 1 mile of Turkey Creek, a seepage stream originating several miles northeast of the site.

The hike will be from 9AM to noon. This preserve adjoins San Felasco State Park and provides opportunities to visit seepage stream, wetlands, and other communities.

We will meet at the trailhead kiosk in the parking area for the preserve, which is on NW 93 Avenue. Take 441 north from Gainesville and turn left on NW 93 Avenue. The parking area is on the right. Our tour guide will be Kevin Ratkus from the Alachua County Forever Land Conservation Program.

Posted by Jan Allyn in the Pinellas Chapter FNPS:

We're looking for folks who can contribute information to this mobile field guide to invasive exotic plants. Currently it has only 20 species, but we'd like to include as many from the FLEPPC list as possible. If you think you'd like to help, please message me with your email address and I'll send you a PDF form for reporting information about a species. Feel free to share this information with anyone you know who might be interested in contributing data to the project. Thanks!

Jan Allyn  
[janallyn@usf.edu](mailto:janallyn@usf.edu)  
[jallyn@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jallyn@tampabay.rr.com)

## Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

See our Web page at:

[www.paynesprairie.fnpschapters.org](http://www.paynesprairie.fnpschapters.org)



The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society is the preservation, cultivation, 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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#### Plant ID

Paul Cohen, [paulcohen2002@yahoo.com](mailto:paulcohen2002@yahoo.com)

This flyer is from our friends at the Putnam County Environmental Council. The fundraiser is to support the challenge to the Adena Springs Ranch consumptive use permit.

Romance was published in 1934. About 100 new copies were found and the artist Margaret Tolbert replaced the parchment paper covers with her beautiful springs inspired artwork. She will be at the event to sign copies.

*Please join us for a gala evening exploring*

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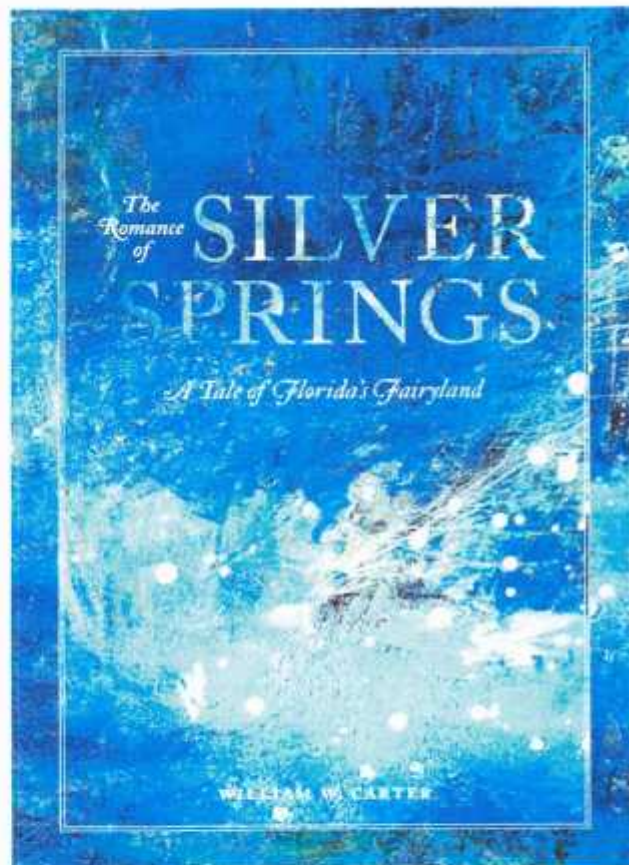
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New T-Shirt (\$15) & totebag (\$10) will be available at the Chapter meeting, so bring cash or your checkbook. Totes make great holiday gifts.

- Plants on front page:
1. Red Maple / *Acer rubrum*
  2. Redbud / *Cercis Canadensis*
  3. Turkey Oak / *Quercus laevis*
  4. Longleaf Pine / *Pinus palustris*

An activity initiated this year by Paynes Prairie Chapter is a monthly yard visit. We tour each other's yards and learn from each other about using native plants in our landscapes. If you would like to participate in this activity (and be willing for us to tour your yard sometime too!), contact Connie Caldwell at [connie.caldwell@sfcollege.edu](mailto:connie.caldwell@sfcollege.edu).

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](mailto:afn49@mindspring.com)

The ads cost \$100 and run from **January 2013 through November 2013.** Or Monthly at rate of \$12.50 per issue

**Have You Blogged Lately?**

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

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

**Next Meeting**

**Thursday, February 14**

**7:00 p.m.**

(Plant ID Workshop at 6:15)

United Church of Gainesville

1624 NW 5th Avenue

**FNPS Paynes Prairie Chapter Meeting:**

are held the 2nd 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  
files. Send all article submissions to:

rhexia@gmail.com

**Submission deadline**

**for the March**

**2013 newsletter i**

**February 20, 2013**

**Florida Native Plant Society Membership Form**

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Library             | \$15  |
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