

The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society
JANUARY, 2013

IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR 2013

WHAT'S NEW?

WE ARE CHANGING OUR PROGRAMS TO SECOND THURSDAYS!

We are continuing our monthly program meetings at United Church of Gainesville, 1624 NW 5th Avenue, but will be changing to second Thursdays to avoid schedule conflicts. We hope this time will be convenient for our members. UCG is the best central location available for our group and we appreciate the meeting space they rent to us. Please mark your calendars so you won't miss our great 2013 speakers.

(Any unavoidable changes will be posted via email and at the chapter website www.PaynesPrairie.FNPSchapters.org)

2013 Paynes Prairie Officers and Board Members

Our new chapter president for 2013 is a familiar face and well experienced in Florida Native Plant Society event planning and leadership . Erick Smith received the Green Palmetto award for service from the Florida Native Plant Society in 2008 and he is currently owner of Kestral Environmental Services and helps people throughout Florida with land management decisions and invasive exotic plant removal. Past-president Claudia Larsen will continue with guidance as vice president, while Goldie Schwartz and Ellen Thoms remain serving as treasurer and secretary, respectively. Sandi Saurers will continue as our Chapter Representative. Connie Caldwell, Kelly Perez, and Jennifer Staiger have done a great job and will remain on the board for 2013. We welcome two new board members who will contribute their ideas, Mark Elliott and Chuck Peck; while former board member Karen Schneider will continue to aid the chapter by posting information on the chapter website. The planning group will meet on first Mondays of January, March, May, August and November

Chapter Meeting
Thursday
January 10, 2013 7:00 pm
What's Happening in the
Florida Wildflower
Foundation
Claudia Larsen

Field Trip
January 19, 2013
Barr Hammock Preserve
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Water & Land Legacy
Amendment
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Report
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2013 Paynes Prairie Chapter President
with his Green Palmetto Award.

Constitutional Amendment Would Provide Conservation Land Funding

The nonprofit group, Florida Water & Land Legacy Campaign, is a coalition of environmental groups that is gathering signatures to place a constitutional amendment on the November 2014 ballot that, for 20 years, would guarantee a stable source of money for environmental protection. The founding organizations include the Trust for Public Land, Audubon of Florida, the Florida Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, and 1000 Friends of Florida, among others. The amendment would stipulate that, beginning in July 2015, and continuing for 20 years afterward, one-third of the revenue from “doc stamps” (the excise tax on real estate transactions) would go to revive the Florida Forever program by acquiring and managing environmental lands, including:

- Land, water areas, and related property interests and resources for conservation lands including wetlands, forests, and fish and wildlife habitat;
- Lands that protect significant water resources and drinking water sources, including lands protecting the water quality and quantity of rivers, lakes, streams, springsheds, and lands providing recharge for groundwater and aquifer systems;
- Lands in the Everglades Agricultural Area and the Everglades Protection Area, as defined in Section 7 (b) of Article II of the Florida Constitution;
- Beaches and shores; outdoor recreation lands, including recreational trails, parks, and urban open space; rural landscapes; historic, archaeological, or geologic sites as well as management of lands acquired;
- Restoration of natural systems related to the enhancement of public access and recreational enjoyment; and
- Payment of the debt service on bonds issued pursuant to Article VII, Section 11(e) of the Florida Constitution.

Since 2009, legislators have cut funding for the state's Florida Forever program by 97.5 percent to \$23 million for land management and ecological restoration, including the Everglades. This year, the Legislature reduced water protection and conservation funds dropped to \$8.5 million. The Paynes Prairie Chapter will acquire copies of the petitions and make them available to members at our meetings. While it should not take a constitutional amendment to get the State to allocate adequate funding

to manage existing lands and to acquire environmentally sensitive land, it may be the only way to make it happen. To learn more about the campaign, visit the website: <http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org/>

As of December 21, 2012: To make it to the ballot, we must gather 478,608 signed petitions by November, 2013

Message from the President

Erick Smith

I sit here in Gainesville on this cold late December morning and think about which plants will finally get the message “winter is here”. I’ve watched the trees in my yard stay green and hold their leaves longer and longer almost every year for the last two decades. I am a field ecologist and spend most of my days walking the woods, prairies, and wetlands of Florida. New bird sightings of more southerly species, south Florida tropical invasive exotic plants marching north, relic old growth specimen trees dying at an increasing rate, climate change is absolutely happening.

We do our best to use less energy, recycle, and reuse, but what about climate change and plants, specifically native plants? The only realistic prediction anyone can make is that there will be change. Hotter, colder, wetter, drier, take your pick. As we begin a new year, I ask you to take a moment, sit on your front porch, back porch, gazebo or hammock and look out over the native plants near and dear to you. Put yourself in their roots and envision how you might help them adapt and adjust. Maybe inviting their southern cousins up for a permanent visit is an option. Whatever you figure out, let the rest of us know. Share your experiences, failures and successes with your neighbors and fellow plant people.

The first meeting of 2013 is our very own Claudia Larsen presenting on the Florida Wildflower Foundation. Hearing about successful collaboration and working together across the state to promote wildflowers is a great way to begin the year. I hope to see you there.

14th Annual Great Air Potato Roundup – Saturday, January 26, 2013

The Paynes Prairie chapter will once again be a major sponsor for the 14th Annual Great Air Potato Roundup! This volunteer event is an opportunity to give back to the community by helping to remove invasive exotic plants, like the air potato from natural areas in Gainesville. Register as a group or individual now and mark your calendar for the roundup on Saturday, January 26, 2012 at 9:00 am. Site leaders are also needed to guide volunteers to potato infestations. It's an easy job and more site leaders recruited means more areas can be added to the list. A celebration at Morningside Nature Center will follow the roundup until 1:00 pm, with food, entertainment, guest speakers, and a drawing for prizes! Register in at www.cityofgainesvilleparks.org or for more information call 352-334-3328.

IT'S BIRD HEAVEN!

Yard Visit Coordinator
Connie Caldwell

Karen Brown bought her house on 3 lots in an older north-west Gainesville neighborhood in 1984, and since then she has created a veritable haven for birds and other wildlife. In fact, her house was chosen as a stop on one of the Audubon yard tours! Karen says she had no real plan for her yard, but points out various zones to us that have “just happened”, such as a ginger zone with yellow dancing ladies, and pine cone or shampoo ginger, which we squeezed to feel the creamy liquid. These are not native species but they are not considered invasive.

Some of the native plants growing in Karen's front yard are firebush, beauty berry, chickasaw (or maybe flatwoods) plum, fringe tree, horsemint, yellow anise, oakleaf hydrangea, cutleaf coneflower, gallardia, spiderwort, rudbeckia, coreopsis, snow squarestem, blue curls, a lovely saltbush in bloom, swamp sunflower, a large hackberry tree, and lots of yaupon holly everywhere. Karen reminds us that yaupon holly suckers can create thickets and here is the evidence. But the birds love it! We also see lots of mature cabbage palms that have volunteered throughout the yard, and poke-weeds that Karen leaves until the berries have been eaten by birds. There is a small bog area that once contained various carnivorous plants but it was often ravaged by night creatures. She has just replanted it with some water spider orchids that were rescued from a site that was to be sprayed for invasive plants. There is also a pond with swamp hibiscus, native ferns, pickerelweed, horsetail, alligator lilies, water lilies and lizard's tail. Another area has columbine, hearts-a-bustin', elephant's foot, and Virginia sweetspire.

In the back yard, we see a beautifully vigorous stand of shrimp plant in bloom that Karen says spreads readily and we are encouraged to dig some up to take home. She planted it years ago to attract hummingbirds. The yaupon holly in

this area has also formed a large thicket that must be kept at bay to avoid taking over other planted areas. Karen has planted some other species in the back yard to add some diversity such as ironweed, mock orange, Carolina buckthorn, red buckeye, hickory, silverbell, and dogwood. Moving back toward the front of the house we see redbud, cedar, and false poinsettia, another particularly successful species in Karen's yard.

Karen also has a number of non-native plants, besides the shrimp plant, which enhance the yard's attractiveness for birds and butterflies, such as purple lantana, firespike, night-blooming jasmine, and the Chinese lantern or flowering maple, which is a kind of hibiscus.

A few large oak trees that died have been taken down and the snags and some of the logs were retained for wildlife. The fence around the property is two feet inside the property line and the neighboring yard is unused and gets no attention from its owners so Karen is able to place all her yard waste just over the fence where it decomposes naturally and provides yet another safe place for wildlife. It also enables Karen to get a lot more yard work done without having to haul the debris out to the street.

Karen tells us that now, since her yard is so well established, she spends less time planting and more time cutting back and pulling out! She also has a real problem with the invasive cat's claw vine that has spread from the adjacent vacant lot. A recent project has been removing a large stand of clumping bamboo, eventually (after the extensive root system has been removed) providing a whole new area for planting; wonder what will be here in a few years?

Thank you, Karen, for creating a place of beauty and for helping to increase wildlife-friendly areas in our community.

**SHE GOT HER WISH
Yard Visit Coordinator
Connie Caldwell**

For years, Sandra Lambert dreamed of living in a place with Spanish moss, and here she is, in an older north-west Gainesville neighborhood, where it abounds in her yard and on her street, hanging from oaks and other large trees. When Sandra moved into her house in 1995, the yard was bare. She chose to leave it unmowed for two years, much to the consternation of her neighbors, and was rewarded with lots of beautyberry.

The sunny area of Sandra's yard, along the street, is planted with an abundance of wildflowers - scrub mint, beargrass, goldenrod, mullein, horsemint, eryngium yucifolium, mist flower, yellow frostweed, butterfly weed, gallardia, salvia, bidens, standing cypress - we all are able easily to imagine how it looked 3 weeks ago when everything was blooming! Also in her front yard are oakleaf hydrangea, coralbean, blue curls, ageratina, swamp sunflower, mock orange, elephant foot, ironweed, pipevine, arrowwood viburnum, firebush, hearts-a-bustin', sparkleberry, elderberry, and a beautifully blooming garberia.

We move around to the back yard where Sandra has planted wild coffee, bluestem palmetto, fringe tree, yaupon holly, sweet shrub, obedient plant, Walter's viburnum, and wax myrtle, as well as many of the plants that we saw in the front yard. Sandra tells us she loves vines, so along the newly erected fence she has planted pipevine, crossvine, and passion flowers

On the side of the house we all are awed by the mature Ashe magnolia, which Sandra says had at least 30 blooms this year and she loves to watch the blooms unfold from the very first budded stage. There is also a southern magnolia, dogwood, hophornbeam, red buckeye, melanthera, and coral honeysuckle.

Thank you, Sandra, for your lovely contribution to increasing the use of native plants!

**A Well-Connected Hike
Report on Field Trip to Sweetwater Preserve
Goldie Schwartz**

Sandra Vardaman, County Land Conservation Biologist with Alachua County Environmental Protection Department, Land Conservation Division proudly showed off the 125 acre Sweetwater Preserve. Additionally, our group of ten included several schooled biologists, so we were well armed to go botanizing during a season where plant identification cues were muted or dormant.

Sweetwater Preserve is part of a 54000 acres of connected, protected land in Alachua County. The named connected properties include: Boulware Springs Park, Sweetwater Preserve, Paynes Prairie, Prairie Creek, Phifer Flatwoods, Barr Hammock, Lochloosa, and Longleaf Flatwoods.

Sweetwater Preserve Trailhead is about 1200 feet north of the Boulware Springs Park Gainesville-Hawthorne Trailhead. At trailhead there sits a unique bike rack, painted to depict at opposite ends a Scarlet King Snake and a poisonous Coral Snake. If you see a black snout you are looking at a Coral Snake.

We started on the East Trail, a 1.2 mile walk around 9:15am. Not to sully, the "Native Plant People" pace some of us ended the walk around 1:00 pm, with others still behind. Is there such a thing as negative miles per hour? In earnestness, this is a testament to the wonderment that can be experienced in a small space of a natural setting.

Within the short distance of a 1.2 mile walk there were 8 different natural communities including: Sandhill, Xeric Hammock, Upland Mixed Forest, Sinkhole Pond, Baygall, Seepage Stream, Upland Mixed Forest, Mesic Flatwoods and Floodplain Forest.

Sandra required members of our group to pull three plants of the invasive-exotic, *Ardesia crenata*, before they left the trail. It is encouraged that all hikers do the same.

While on the subject of invasives, there was a good use made of the invasive Camphor Tree. At trailhead and throughout the trail, benches were made from the trunk of the trees.

At a time of year where blooms were not expected we came upon a few: a *Ageratum* (white flowers), surprising specimens still in bloom of *Balduina angustifolia* Honeycombhead, a variety of *Pityopsis*, a few series of lush purple berries on some Beautyberry plants.. Probably, the best time to see blooms in a Sandhill would be September and October.

We happened upon a rarely occurring plant, Indian Pipe or Ghost Plant, *Monotropa niflora*. This was my first sighting of plant that is white because it does not contain chlorophyll.

As we moved from the Sandhill, into the Xeric Hammock, we experienced a display of fall color, from the grape vines interspersed in tree canopy.

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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.

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|-------------|---|
| Jan 10 | What's Happening in The Florida Wild-Flower Foundation
Claudia Larsen |
| Jan 19 | Field Trip— Barr Hammock Preserve |
| 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

January Field Trip Barr Hammock

Barr Hammock is located in southern Alachua County, west of Micanopy. It is the the largest Alachua County Forever preserve at 5,500 acres. The Preserve, includes Levy Prairie. The natural communities of the site support at least 20 plant and animal species that are protected by the State of Florida.

We will meet 9:00 A.M. at the Micanopy Post Office, 202 Early Street, Micanopy, Fl. 32667 and caravan to site. The trip should last till 1:00. Bring comfortable shoes, water and hat.

Any questions, contact Robert Freese at rcfreese99@yahoo.com or call 386-972-4489

Field trip report cont'd from page 4

While there are eight species of the genus *Asimina* we saw about three varieties of Paw Paw.

We learned that the Bracken fern, *Pteridium*, we were looking at is found on all continents except Antarctica and in all environments except deserts. Thus making this genus, the most widely distributed fern in the world.

My last tidbit about our trip is to mention that we saw many grasses and grass-like plants, a few are: *Lechea cernua*, scrub pinweed, a hairsedge, *Bulbostylis*, planted wire grass, *Aristida*, American Sand Grass, *Triplasis Americana*, Elliott's Love-grass, *Eragrostis elliottii*, and finally a few types of *Andropogon*.

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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Even Bees Need Rest

Ellen Raabe (reprinted from Oct/Nov Pinellas FNPS Chapter Newsletter)

Of the native plants in my garden, one of my favorites is four-petal St. John's-wort (*Hypericum tetrapetalum*). It is a lanky little bush with smooth reddish-brown bark, small bright green leaves, and four-petaled yellow flowers. This spring, half the plant died, leaving several barren branches. Fortunately it reseeds itself. My intention was to cut back the dead stems, but the task was forgotten until something else caught my eye in July: little bodies clinging to the tiniest of the dead branchlets. On close inspection, the bodies turned out to be sleeping bees. Checking a few days later, a dozen or so bees were resting there again. After being disturbed, the little bees circle back to find a perch, clean, stretch, and curl up to nap on the tips of the dead branch. They don't seem to use live stems for the same purpose and they are not there in the early morning. But when the afternoon sun beats down on that corner of the garden, the bees settle in for a nap. I'm familiar with the concept that native bees and other insects are important for commercial and backyard crops, for pollinating wildflowers, and as part of the complex web of life. For those reasons, my garden has a variety of habitats, shade and sun, grass and shrub, flowers in different seasons, and some dead material, but the dead material is usually clipped and off to the side, composting. Last winter I reached up to snap a dead twig off a shrub and noticed a dragonfly on the very same twig. Perhaps leaving a few dead branches or twigs in the garden might be warranted, not by the front door where visitors would notice, but off to the side where insects can find a place to rest.



*Hypericum
tetrapetalum*



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.

Eva J Divita

Timothy Keyser

Bruce McElroy and Danny Martin

Michael J Meisenburg

Jane Nogaki

Maura Poglitsch

Gary E Schultz

Alan and Ellen Shapiro

Erick Smith

Cal Welbourn

Kellie A Westervelt

Do You Have Something to Share?

A Couple of Opportunities

"From our Members" section

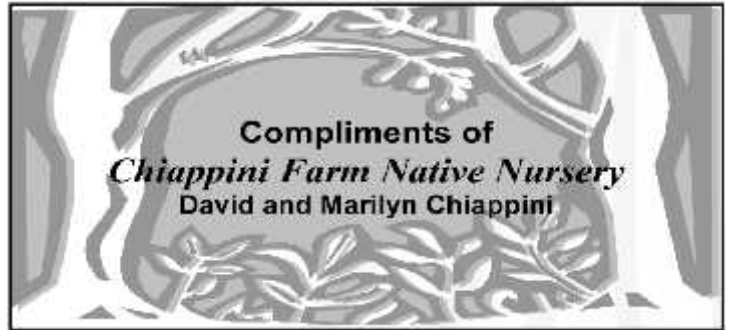
We invite our members to submit brief (150-300 words) ideas from their own experiences with native plants and habitats. On the first go round we want to hear ideas on your favorite plant combination using native plants (2-5 maximum). Describe the selected plants, whether the combination does well in landscape pots or in a particular habitat, and why you believe this to be an ideal combination. Tell us if it a seasonal or year round attraction, if the plants provide support for each other, exhibit complimentary color or structure, or if the combination is visually striking or attractive to wildlife. A photo would be nice but not necessary

Also, An Invitation From Our Yard Visit Coordinator, Connie Caldwell

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@sfcollge.edu.



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 Biological Monitoring
 Invasive/exotic plant surveys & control
 Tree surveys & hazard tree evaluation

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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.

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.** 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, January 10

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 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 February
2013 newsletter is
January 20, 2013**

Florida Native Plant Society Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ County: _____

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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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| ◇ Contributing | \$75 |
| ◇ Not-For-Profit Org. | \$50 |
| ◇ Business/Corporate | \$125 |
| ◇ 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.