

The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society
March, 2013

Chapter Meeting
Thursday
March 14, 2013 7:00 pm
Biology and Ecology of the
Pecan Truffle
Dr. Matthew Smith

Field Trip
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Balu Forest
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The Biology and Ecology of the Pecan Truffle (*Tuber lyonii*) in Pecan Orchards of the Southeastern USA

Please join us to learn about native fungi! Dr. Matthew Smith is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology at UF and also the Curator of the Fungal Herbarium at the Florida Museum of Natural History. He has completed postdoctoral research at UC Davis, the Department of Biology at Duke University and the Farlow Herbarium at Harvard. His work encompasses identification of new fungal species in Japan, China and Guyana and he has recently completed a chapter called: "The systematics and ecology of edible ectomycorrhizal fungi" in the upcoming book "**Edible Ectomycorrhizal Mushrooms**".

Dr. Smith's work at the Herbarium includes identifying unknown fungi for IFAS Extension, the UF Plant Disease Clinic and the UF Veterinary School. He will be speaking to us on his extensive work on the biology of native hypogeous fungi or "truffles" that are harvested throughout parts of the southeastern US.

If you would like a preview of his talk visit his website, www.plantpath.ifas.ufl.edu/faculty/Smith/faculty-Smith.shtml. Here you'll find a video of using trained dogs to find edible *Tuber lyonii* truffles.

The Pecan Truffle (*Tuber lyonii*) is a large native truffle and is considered a choice edible. This truffle species is harvested and consumed throughout parts of the southeastern US where truffle sellers sell it for \$10-\$20 per ounce. Herbarium records indicate

this species is distributed across eastern and southern North America, from northern Mexico to Quebec and as far west as the Rocky Mountains. The Pecan Truffle has been reported in 16 US states, two states of Mexico, and two Canadian provinces. This truffle is most frequently found in symbiotic association with pecan trees in orchards but has also been found in native forests and woodlands dominated by *Carya* (hickory) and *Quercus* (oak). It also fruits in US truffle orchards originally established to grow the European Black Truffle (*Tuber melanosporum*). *Tuber lyonii* usually fruits during late summer and early fall, although in Florida the fruiting bodies have also been found during winter and spring.

Although the pecan truffle was first recognized in 1903, its biology remains mysterious and poorly understood. Studies suggest it is common across much of the pecan growing region of the US. Like all truffles, *Tuber lyonii* fruits below the ground and is therefore likely to be more widespread than the scattered records suggest. At the same time, the pecan truffle can be extremely abundant at some locations; several pounds of truffles have been found in only a few hours.

What's In Your Bed?

Goldie Schwartz

We are not getting personal, we did not ask, who is in your bed. During our yard visit on Saturday, Feb 9, we toured 18 “garden beds.”

Our yard visit group had the opportunity to visit Connie Caldwell, the program coordinator's yard. While my GPS told me to turn left, I knew from looking right at the corner house that this was my destination. The landscape of the home had the unmistakable palette of a restorationist. Neighboring homes had “typical” suburban landscapes with expansive lawns and a few shrubs. Connie has been working in her yard since she moved in with her partner Jeff about five years ago. When asked what the yard was like when she moved in, she said it was weedy and full of Boston sword fern, with a lot of struggling St. Augustine grass. Clearly, the front and backyard have been getting the help to be transformed to an interesting, diverse mostly native plant retreat. All the beds had good layers of mulch. The grass was limited to walkways between the beds.

The first bed I noticed, was the “Stop sign bed”, where a public right of way has been enhanced with *Oenothera speciosa*, showy primrose, *Rudbeckia*, black-eyed Susan; *Gallardia pulchella*, blanket flower; *Ipomopsis rubra*, standing cypress; *Callerhoe papaver*, poppymallow; *Phyla nodiflora*, frog fruit. Also added to this list was a sunflower. At this time of year, we did not see the full potential color of this planting, but would expect a rich display during the summer.

Most of the beds had soaker hoses or micro-irrigation inside them. Nevertheless, Connie stated she does not do much watering once plants are established, only in case of extended drought. The exception was the herb bed. In addition, the Front Shady Bed benefited from a rain barrel outflow and also occasional watering. Something was working as it should by looking at the display from two *Rhododendron canescens*, pinxter azalea. This wet-loving, deciduous shrub was in full bloom thinking it was already early spring on February 9.



The front yard has not been friendly to growing rabbiteye blueberries, so Connie is now trying them in the backyard. A friendly bit of advice was offered, to move the blueberries away from the elderberry tree because it would grow and shade them out.

Inevitably, there are many good ideas we pick up from each other, both from our hosts' successes and failures. In the front, yard we saw chicken wire boxes covering some plants. A couple of swamp hibiscus were being protected from marauding squirrels. It seems the squirrels find the shoots of these plants a real delicacy. The same technique was used in the back to protect seedlings. Connie provided the group with a list of the plantings in all of the 18 beds. We can use the list to stimulate our memory of what we might want to try in our own yards. Connie has certainly been

busy these last five years and in the process has created a visual feast and a great habitat for many of our fauna.

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@sfcollge.edu.

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



Thanks to all members who participated in the Air Potato Roundup. An estimated 10,000 pounds of potatoes were picked up by volunteers ranging in age from preschoolers to adults. An extra 73 bags of invasive Coral Ardisia and 41 bags of trash were also removed from our parks! There was a great celebration at Morningside Nature Center and an exhibit from Division of Plant Industry introduced us to the new beetle that will help as a biological control to further reduce populations of air potato in Florida. The fight continues to restore our parks to their totally native community.

Do You Have Something to Share? New “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.

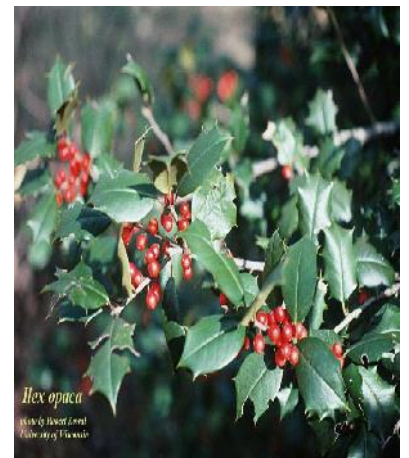
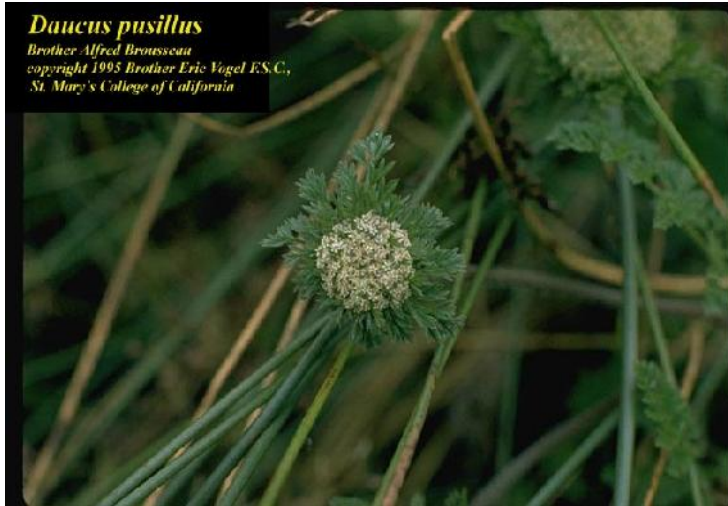
February 2013 Plant ID Workshop

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|------------|
| <i>Acalypha arvensis</i> | Field Copperfield | Euphorbiaceae | Non-native |
| <i>Clematis terniflora</i> | Sweet Autumn's Virginbower | Ranunculaceae | Non-native |
| <i>Colocasia esculenta</i> | Wild Taro | Araceae | Non-native |
| cf. <i>Daucus pusillus</i> * | American Wild Carrot? | Apiaceae | Native |
| <i>Elephantopus elatus</i> * | Tall Elephantsfoot | Asteraceae | Native |
| <i>Emilia fosbergii</i> | Florida Tasselflower | Asteraceae | Non-native |
| <i>Galium aparine</i> * | Spring Cleavers | Rubiaceae | Native |
| <i>Houstonia procumbens</i> * | Innocence | Rubiaceae | Native |
| <i>Hymenopappus scabiosaeus</i> | Carolina Woollywhite | Asteraceae | Native |
| <i>Ilex opaca</i> * | American Holly | Aquifoliaceae | Native |

Nomenclature derived from Wunderlin, R. P., and B. F. Hansen. 2013. *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants* (<http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu>).

Submitted by Paul Cohen

* see picture



Cont'd from page 5

provide income while simultaneously enhancing and conserving its biodiversity, soil, watershed and recreational values. Since 2002 restoration work has resulted in the planting of longleaf seedlings on about 600 acres.

The gopher tortoise and hooded pitcher plant are the only two listed species positively known to occur on Balu Forest. The gopher tortoise is listed as a 'Species of Special Concern' by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the hooded pitcher plant is listed as 'Threatened' by the Florida Department of Agriculture. Management activities planned for the forest will be designed to protect and improve the habitat for these two species.

Uplands are dominated by natural pine stands, slash pine (*Pinus elliotii*) plantations and planted longleaf pine (*P. palustris*) and comprise the vast majority of the sites. Midstory and understory species may include red bay (*Persea borbonia*), laurel oak (*Quercus laurifolia*) and saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*).

Floodplain forests occur along riparian areas with dominants/co-dominants that may include blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), water oak (*Quercus nigra*), laurel oak (*Q. laurifolia*), and bald and/or pond cypress (*Taxodium distichum* and/or *T. ascendens*). Associated midstory and understory species include red bay, red maple (*Acer rubrum*), water ash (*Fraxinus caroliniana*), wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) and buttonbush *Cephalanthus occidentalis*.

Xeric pine/oak flatwoods are characterized by scrub oak (*Q. cinerea*) among other xeric oak species, slash and loblolly (*P. taeda*) pines. Saw palmetto, wax myrtle, numerous grass species and broom sedge (*Andropogon spp.*) typically occurs in the understory of these stands.

This property is a very diverse collection of ecosystems and should be a wonderful March trip for us.

If You Want to Modify an Existing Landscape to a Native Landscape

Excerpted from Planting a Refuge for Wildlife

Surround your lawn areas with beds of trees and shrubs. Plant small shrubs and ground covers around solitary trees. Design irregular borders for these beds to create more wildlife edge.

Mulch your tree and shrub beds with leaf litter, lawn clippings, tree trimmings or chips. Melaleuca mulch is also very effective. These mulches are a rich food source for ground foragers like towhees and thrushes, provide cover for small mammals, reptiles and amphibians, and also enrich your soil. Leave a few patches of bare soil for birds that "dust."

If your yard is already filled with exotic (non-native) species, proceed slowly. You can replace these plants with native species over time.

A Few Native Trees for Central—North Zone and Their Value to Wildlife



Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus florida*

Bright red fruit very attractive to many species of birds.



Winged Elm, *Ulmus alata*

Early source of seeds for many songbirds, including finches, sparrows, grosbeaks; fox and gray squirrels and rabbits also utilize elm fruits.



Sugarberry or Hackberry, *Celtis laevigata*

Dark fruit eaten by many birds, including catbirds, mockingbirds, robins, thrashers, towhees, cedar waxwings and flickers, and also butterfly larvae.

Calendar of Events

Please check the Chapter page at 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.

- March 14** **Native Pecan Truffles of the Southeast**
Dr Matthew Smith
- March 23** **Field Trip—Balu Forest**
- April 11** **“Ask the Experts” Panel**
- April 13** **Field Trip to Native Plant Landscape Project**
- April 26-27** **Spring Native Plant Sale**
Morningside Park
- May 9** **Program TBA**
- May 11** **Field Trip TBA**
- May 16-19** **FNPS Annual State Conference**

2013 BOD Meetings: 1st Monday in January, March, May, August and November

Balu Forest Field Trip

Let's meet at 8:45 AM at the Kangaroo store at the NE corner of highway 26 and 301 (coming from Gainesville, people should take a left just before the 301 bridge to access this meeting spot). We will caravan to the preserve and the trip should finish around noon.

Those who prefer to drive directly to the site on highway 26 can contact Robert Freese at rcfreese99@yahoo.com or 386-972-4489 for precise directions and should plan to arrive by 9:00 AM

Balu Forest is a 1,585 acre tract located in Northeastern Alachua County, Florida. Balu was purchased in 1997 as a future site for a solid waste facility designated as Site Echo. Because of alternative plans for solid waste disposal, Site Echo was considered for other purposes. Initially slash pine timber management was designated as the primary management goal for Site Echo. However, in 1999, the Alachua County Board of Commissioners established new management goals for Site Echo based upon public input. Renamed Balu Forest, this area is to be restored to a native longleaf pine flatwoods ecosystem and managed on a sustainable basis to

Cont'd on page 4

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, cultivation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant community of Florida.

The Rhexia is published monthly

September - November and January - May.

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Editor's note: We have not included our Plant ID Workshop results for a few of our issues. We want to share the variety of plants that members bring in for identification, so we are including information from past ID's .on this page. See the February Plant ID Workshop on page 3.

October 2012 Plant ID Workshop

| <u>Common Name</u> | <u>Scientific Name</u> | <u>Family</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|--------------------------|--|----------------|---------------|
| Alysicarpus vaginalis | White Moneywort | Fabaceae | Non-Native |
| Corchorus aestuans | Jute | Malvaceae | Non-Native |
| Desmodium incarnum | Creeping Beggarweed | Fabaceae | Non-Native |
| Eupatorium capillifolium | Dog fennel | Asteraceae | Native |
| Hyptis alata | Clustered bushmint, Musky mint | Lamiaceae | Native |
| Ipomoea hederifolia | Scarletcreeper | Convolvulaceae | Native |
| Macfadyena unguis-cati | Catclawvine | Bignoniaceae | Non-Native |
| Panicum rigidulum | Redtop Panicum | Poaceae | Native |
| Paspalum setaceum | Thin Paspalum | Poaceae | Native |
| Phyllanthus tenellus | Mascarene Island Leafflower | Phyllanthaceae | Non-Native |
| Poinsettia cythophora | Painted Leaf, Fire on the Mountain | Euphorbiaceae | Native |
| Poinsettia heterophylla | Fiddler Spurge, Mexican Fire Plant | Euphorbiaceae | Native |
| Robinia pseudoacacia | Black Locust | Fabaceae | Non-Native |
| Sida rhombifolia | Arrow leaf sida, Cuban Jute, Indian Hemp | Malvaceae | Native |

January 2013 Plant ID Workshop

| <u>Scientific Name</u> | <u>Common Name</u> | <u>Family</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Ardisia crenata | Coral Ardisia, Scratchthroat | Myrsinaceae | Non-native |
| Dioscorea bulbifera | Air Potato, Air Yam | Dioscoreaceae | Non-native |
| Polypremum procumbens | Rustweed | Tetrachondraceae | Native |
| Rhododendron canescens | Sweet pinxter, Mountain azalea | Ericaceae | Native |
| Scoparia dulcis | Sweetbroom, Licoriceweed | Plantiginaceae | Native |
| Thelypteris kunthii | Widespread Maiden Fern | Thelypteridacea | Native |

Nomenclature derived from Wunderlin, R. P., and B. F. Hansen. 2013. *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants* (<http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu>). On behalf of FNPS I thank all those who participated, including Dr. David Hall who offered alternative versions of the common names.

Submitted by Paul Cohen

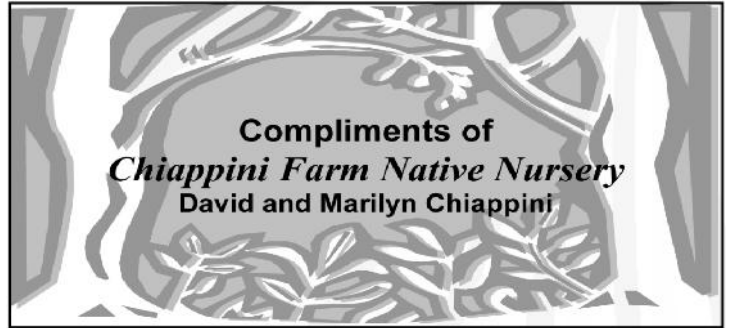


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New T-Shirt (\$15) & tote bag (\$10) will be available at the Chapter meeting, so bring cash or your check-book. Totes make great gifts.

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, format 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

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.

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, March 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:
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Submission deadline
for the April
2013 newsletter i
March 20, 2013

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Supporting | \$ |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Student (full-time) | \$15 |

Please mail completed form to: Florida Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 278, Melbourne, FL 32802-0278

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