



The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society
September, 2013

**Fall Native Plant Sale
Exclusive Member Only
Sale Fri. Sept. 27, 4:30-6:30
PM
(memberships available at
the gate)
General Public
Sat. Sept. 28, 8:30 am-12:30
Morningside Nature Center
3540 E University Ave.
Gainesville, Fl. 32641**

**Chapter Meeting
Gary Paul
Wild About Wildflowers**

**Field Trip
Wildflower Walk
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Photo

Contest

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After a very wet and hot summer, **welcome** to the start of our fall meetings, programs and field trips. This issue is filled with reports of what some members of our group have been doing during the summer. We visit each others homes and derive help and inspiration for our desire to go native with our landscaping. We appreciate the “work in progress” of our efforts.

If you would like to see what is going on in other peoples yards, sign up for our monthly yard visit program. See page 7 for details.

Wild About Wildflowers

Our presenter, Gary Paul, will also be our guide for the September field trip - a wildflower walk on Saturday, September 28, during our fall plant sale at Morningside Park



As we drive into the Park, we can observe the results of many years of restoration efforts with prescribed burns. Part of our appreciation can be attributed to the efforts of our speaker, Gary Paul.

His relatively long career of 30+ plus years have been devoted to conservation of natural resources by being involved in various positions hands-on and administrative in horticulture. This included the management of a couple of botanical gardens, the Leu Botanical Gardens in Orlando and Huntsville Botanical Gardens in Huntsville, Alabama.

Our group might see Gary Paul, scurrying about working and being the chief go-to person, during most of our Native Plant Sales. The plant sale would not be possible without the coordination of the City of Gainesville Nature Operations Division and the Paynes Prairie

Chapter of Native Plant Society.

Gary Paul is currently Program Coordinator for volunteer services for the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Department of the City of Gainesville. He has held many positions with the City since 1993. He has been responsible for the day-to-day operations for 277-acre nature center and 10-acres living history farm.

His outreach duties with the City, in addition to being a presenter for plant society, has involved recruiting, training and supervising staff of 10 involved with daily operations as well as delivery of science programs to 4000 elementary school children.

We look forward to seeing and learning about wildflowers that grow in our very own nature park – Morningside Park.



RIOT IN SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD

Connie Caldwell

Riot of color that is! Our May native plant yard visit took us to Lois McNamara's home in Kenwood, off Tower Road. What a display - three extensive flower beds punctuate the broad lawn and especially on this rainy day the color is spectacular! Lois and her husband Bob have lived in their home just a year and a half so we know a lot of work has gone into creating these and other beds in such a short time.

In addition to the flower beds, there are numerous loblolly pines on the one-acre lot, as well as sweet gum, redbud, dogwood, azaleas, and others. We start our tour at the ditch and culvert under the driveway where there is a whimsical display of red poppies and galliardia along the top (Lois tells us that being of Dutch origin, she must have her tulips and these preceded the poppies and galliardia in this spot). In the ditch next to the culvert are Louisiana iris, canas, and native red hibiscus. During our tour Lois frequently asks what other natives could be added, so for this area we suggest native iris, lizard tail, cardinal flower, and climbing aster.

The "red and purple" bed contains native wisteria, blue-eyed grass, coral bean, and red salvia, as well as many wildflowers not native to Florida. Lois scattered seeds from a package of wildflowers for the Southeast U.S. to get the effect she wanted. The bed contains a total of 32 species. For this bed we suggest adding blue salvia (*S. azurea*) and bog salvia. (As an afterthought, how about some spiderwort?)

Lois has prepared a plant list for each bed and area of her yard. The "hot colors" bed contains 46 different species so again here's a listing of just the Florida natives: Firebush, coreopsis basalis and coreopsis lanceolata, rudbeckia hirta, gaillardia, asclepias tuberosa, silkgrass, red salvia, partridge pea, and native ruellia. Since the native milkweed is not yet prominent in the bed but some Mexican milkweed is, we suggest adding more of the native milkweed and also caution Lois to be sure to cut back the Mexican milkweed in September so that the monarch butterflies will proceed with migration as they are meant to do.

The third bed in the front lawn is the "pastel" bed. Here are beauty berry, Coreopsis, blue-eyed grass, Stokes aster, native Guara, blue curls, and crinum americanum, as well as 45 additional species. For the shady area behind this bed suggestions for planting are partridge berry, woodland phlox, oakleaf hydrangea, twin flower, sparkleberry, anise, and sweet shrub.

Moving toward the back yard, around the periphery are coral honeysuckle on the fence, Walter's viburnum, Elliott's aster, sparkleberry (Lois managed to get some of these in the ground as well as all of the other plants that she bought at last week's native plant sale!), mock orange, Virginia willow, and beauty berry. More beauty berry is planned for the perimeter of this area. We suggest also some sparkleberry and other vaccinium species, and anise. In addition, there are oaks, hickories, more pines and sweetgums, dogwoods, cherry laurels, ironweed, native flame azalea, and the ever present Virginia creeper. An unknown tree that is struggling

to survive in front of a very large pittisporum is happily identified as a pear tree! So guess what is coming out---

Speaking of coming out, Lois is working hard to eliminate the invasives that are evident in some areas of her yard - coral ardisia, tradescantia, sword fern, bamboo and, even though they are native, the poison ivy and smilax. Don't we all know how much work that is!

Beds in the back yard contain oakleaf hydrangea, coonties, rudbeckia hirta, red salvia, wild blackberries, coreopsis basalis, beach goldenrod, poppy mallow, coreopsis lanceolata, yellow top, yellow frostweed, lyreleaf sage, fringe tree, red buckeye, columbine, fragrant goldenrod, violets, and elephant foot, as well as more of the lovely non-natives that add color.

A shady garden on the east side of the back yard has oaks, sweet gums, native azaleas, woodland phlox, frostweed, maidenhair fern, cinnamon fern, mimosa strigillosa, and various non-natives.

By this time it's begun to rain pretty hard so, dripping wet, we enter the pool area and are offered towels to dry off and hot coffee and fresh orange juice from the trees in the yard, as well as yummy sweet goodies. NO, IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO PROVIDE TREATS WHEN YOU HOST THESE TOURS! Lois tells us that her Dutch background cannot allow guests to come into the house without being offered food! So we eat and enjoy.

Thank you Lois for hosting us on a very wet day!

OPEN LOT WITH GOPHER TORTOISE SIGN

Connie Caldwell

We were directed to park our cars for our June yard visit, alongside lot with Gopher Tortoise sign. Three resident gopher tortoises enjoy the abundance of native plants in the 1.3 acre lot purchased by Lee Bloomcamp and her husband Tom in 2004. They moved into their home on a 1.7 acre lot next door in 1995 and chose to add the gopher tortoise lot in order to restore it to its longleaf pine/wiregrass habitat.

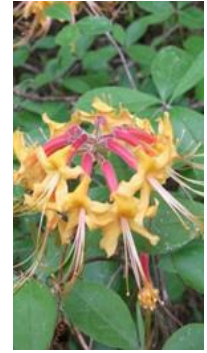
The diversity of plants on the lot is amazing. Many of the plants have been revealed by burning (very carefully and a little at a time!) and others are rescue plants from lots in the subdivision that were scheduled for development. Here are some of the plants we saw in this area (the tortoises must have been hiding from us but we did see their burrows).

Longleaf pine, weeping yaupon, blue jack oak, turkey oak, yellow haw, wax myrtle, crabapple, sparkleberry, sumac, witch hazel, arrowwood, native azaleas, shiny blueberry, deerberry, standing cypress, Michaux's milkweed, eupatorium, beach sunflower, whitetop aster, phlox, carolina baptisia, butterfly milkweed, amsonia, Indian plantain, baptisia alba, scrub mint, silky aster, summer farewell, partridge pea, buckwheat, queen's delight, narrow leaf pawpaw, blackroot, paintbrush, dayflower, elephant's foot,

Cont'd on page 4



Florida Native Plant Society Spring Native Plant Sale



Morningside Nature Center
3540 E. University Ave

EXCLUSIVE Members Only Sale
Friday, 27 Sept., 4:30 - 6:30 pm
(memberships available at the gate)

Open to the public
Saturday, 28 Sept., 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Credit Cards Accepted

Lots of native plants to choose from. Over a dozen native plant vendors, some of which do not routinely sell to the public. Proceeds help the Friends of Nature Parks.



Live Music



Guided Wildflower Walk



Free Plant Advice



Hands-free shopping with Park-a-Plant

Volunteers needed

Just one or two hours Friday or Saturday (Park-a-Plant or FNPS booth).

You don't have to be an expert! Contact Lisa Jelks at jelkslg@ufl.edu

Co-Sponsored by City of Gainesville and Friends of Nature Parks

Cont'd from page 2

white penstemon, gaura, yucca, roseling, greeneyes, blackberry, sandhill milkweed, tread softly, rustweed, sensitive briar, prickly pear, scrub pawpaw, bracken fern, rudbeckia, twinflower, silver croton, fleabane, scrub skullcap, gopher apple, false vervain, ageratina, liatris, blue curls, hypericum, and lots of wire grass.

The lot on which the house is located is beautifully landscaped with a number of beds containing a mix of native and non-native plants. Here are some of the natives we saw:

Silverbell, yellow anise, hamelia, dog banana, needle palm, wild olive, dogwood, fringe tree, saw palmetto, East Palatka holly, oakleaf hydrangea, clethra, leucothe, mock orange, coral bean, green dragon, columbine, pine-land lantana, coontie, spiderwort, georgia aster, passionflower vine, stokesia, red salvia, pink turks cap, twin flower, blue flag iris, southern woods fern.

Along the front of the house is a bed of succulents, and where water drains by the front door, a bed of pitcher plants. We'd been hearing frogs singing the whole time and now we knew the source. The frogs also enjoy the water garden, which happily was able to take the place of an elderly turkey oak that left a large hole after its demise. Many native plants lend their beauty to the pond:

Eryngium, coneflower, obedient plant, scarlet hibiscus, pickerel weed, cardinal flower, blueeyed grass, swamp milkweed, white-top sedge, ruellia, fog fruit, lemon bacopa, trillium, pink hibiscus, water lily, poppy mallow, swamp sunflower, and bottlebrush buckeye.

Around the edge of the house lot are more wonderful native plants. What a haven for wildlife! Some of these plants are:

Beautyberry, red buckeye, chicasaw plum, hearts-a-bustin', rusty lyonia, Simpson's stopper, maples, native azaleas, spicebush, bastard indigo, Walter's viburnum, rabbit-eye blueberry, Darrow's blueberry, wild coffee, ironweed, Chapman's rhododendron, lovegrass, fakahatchee grass, passionflower vine, gamma grass, spigelia, bee balm, gallardia, goldenrod, trumpet vine, wild plumbago, crossvine, and coral honeysuckle.

Once again we have been treated to an experience of beauty and the heart-warming knowledge that someone is actively caring for our environment. Thank you, Lee and Tom!

Restoration Project

Lois McNamara

How do you restore a property to its original natural vegetation? Ask Paul Hoffheim and Ellie Sommer and they will tell you it takes years of persistent work. In the fifteen years that Paul and Ellie have been working at restoring their ten acres to its primarily long leaf pine habitat, they have been pulling the invasive and non-native species, as well as introducing "new" native species that they did not find on their property. They prefer to remove the objectionable plants by hand or tools or controlled burns, but they do not fail to resort to using herbicides on the nastiest culprits, such as Japanese climbing fern and air potatoes. Paul reports that when they bought the property, the air potatoes were the most numerous invasive; eliminating it takes up to six years. However, the invasive climbing fern is the most diffi-

cult challenge.

We began our guided tour in a meadow area in front of their house; at present *Chamaecrista fasciculata*, commonly known as partridge pea with its yellow flowers, predominates the scene. The area is also populated by the nonnative hairy indigo (*Indigofera hirsute*) which blossoms later in the season with purple flowers. It is tolerated because of its value to wildlife. In earlier years, quail frequented this foot high habitat, but sadly the quail population has declined in recent years.

As we enter the lightly wooded areas where pines, grasses and native herbaceous plants grow on the sandy soil, Paul points out numerous grasses, both the natives that he and Ellie are encouraging, such as four finger grass, split beard bluestem, *Andropogon virginicus*, wire grass, silk grass, and love grass. He also demonstrates the exotic grasses growing on their property, including goose grass, Bermuda, Bahia, and Centipede. These grasses were probably introduced to Florida for agricultural uses; eliminating them varies in difficulty, depending on the root or rhizome structure of the species.

Walking through the higher sandhill areas we also note interesting plant and fungi growths. In one area earth stars appear sprinkled over the sandy soil. Ellie picks up a handful of lichens known as British soldiers with their red "fruit." Reindeer moss is plentiful. A variety of interesting plants are noted by various hikers: blue curls, rust weed, cotton weed. Various native plants, such as standing cypress, catch our attention as we move toward the wetter areas. Paul points out St. Augustine grass in its natural taller state, growing quite nicely in partial shade.

Moving toward the tannin creek with its small waterfall – the features which prompted Paul and Ellie to purchase their property – we enter the riparian zone. From time to time, water rises to cover the lower regions of the trees and plants growing here. Paul explains how trees have evolved different ways of coping with temporary standing water. Some grow a significantly broader base to withstand the soggy ground they grow in. Some send out above the ground roots in all directions. Others such as the multiple trunk maple appreciate the extra water and the constant source of moisture nearby to grow to a much larger girth and height than most maples in their suburban settings.

In the flood plain area, the tree cover is heavy, the soil nurtures various ground covers, and the temperature seems to drop about ten degrees. We cross two small bridges but do not hike to the swampy area, which is once again adequately supplied with water. Paul tells us that for the first time in their fifteen years of living on their woodland site, the swamp dried up last year. In the cooler most heavily wooded area, we see chain fern, Virginia fern, native azaleas, lots of lizard tail and bay trees, some of which show signs of damage from the ambrosia beetle that is attacking our bays.

Looking just beyond the riparian zone, Paul points out an area that was previously used for turpentine gathering from the pine trees in the days before the development of synthetic substitutes. He explains how most of the adjoining landowners have agreed to build on only a small area of their property, working to restore the remaining acres to their natural vegetation. Collectively, it is known as Woodbine, an area of approximately 300 acres. He tells us about remnant species: the gopher tortoise, the indigo snake – not seen for years now – and the elusive otter who uses one particular spot in the creek for his otter toilet but fails to show himself to the land owners.

We make our way back toward the house, which seems perfectly suited to the wooded site on which it was built. With its weathered wood exterior and its broad wrap around screened porch, America's premier architect Frank Lloyd Wright would have found it a fine embodiment of his concept of organic architecture; it blends into the setting and with its wide porches under generous eaves, it is well suited to Florida's heat. We are welcomed to that cool porch for icy cool drinks. Thank you, Ellie and Paul, for an informative, enjoyable morning.

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.

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Sept 12 | Wild About Wildflowers
Gary Paul |
| Sept 28 | Wildflower walk with Gary Paul
Morningside Nature Center during
Plant Sale—11:00 AM |
| Oct 10 | General Meeting TBA |
| Oct 19 | Ordway Preserve—Reservations
recommended |

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



PHOTO CONTEST

You can be a monthly winner for a \$10 gift certificate for Sweet Dreams Homemade Ice Cream at 3437 W University Avenue.

Post a picture of a native plant, tree, bush or vine on our Facebook Page—Paynes Prairie Chapter of FNPS. The picture that gets the greatest number of “likes” will be the winner. For now, the cut-off date will be the day before our regular meeting, which is the second Thursday of the months we meet.

While at the Facebook page you can browse currently posted pictures by clicking on honeysuckle vine picture, then click on picture you want to like and you will see “a like” to click on. You can vote for as many pictures as you like, but please only vote once for any choice.



Important: You must be at our meeting to receive your gift certificate.

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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Rainbow Springs – May Field Trip
Goldie Schwartz

The day was perfect for a walk in the park. I arrived a little early and was able to pass the time doing two of my favorite pastimes, looking at people and plants. The park attracts large groups of patrons, many of them families that bring their children, coolers and water noodles. This is the destinations of a very large majority of the visitors.

Rainbow Springs is considered to be the fourth largest first magnitude Florida spring that pours out 490 million gallons of water each day. The spring forms the headwaters of the short Rainbow River, a major tributary of the Withlacoochee River.

The parking area was filled with trees and understory growth. I awaited the arrival of our guide for day, Erick Smith to get help in identifying plants. We saw Yaupon, Red Maple, Ruella, Wild Poinsetta, Beauty Berry. There was also prolific specimens of red bud and many volunteers of same along planted parking area. I believed red bud to be a delicate specimen tree that is somewhat of a rarity in Alachua County. So, it was a surprise to see it growing with such vigor right in the parking area.

There is archaeological evidence that Rainbow Springs has been in use for thousands of years. The area around the springs also played a major role in the Second Seminole War (1835-1842). During the 1930s the Springs was operated as a family owned amusement park. The park offered submarine tours, gardens, waterfalls, a monorail, aviary, zoo and a rodeo area. After the interstate highway system was completed traffic was diverted away from attraction to land of the “Big Mouse”. The amusement park closed for good in 1974. It took until 1995 for it to reopen as a state park.

The path that we hiked and the waterfalls that we saw are part of the infrastructure that remains from amusement park. The view is romantic enough that it is a popular wedding site. We passed what looked like a preparation for such an event.

Some plants along the way that I noted, but by no means an all inclusive list. Sugarberry, East Palatka, Buford holly Pignut hickory, Pomegranate missed with flatwood plums, yellow anise, mimosa strigolosa, dogwood, river oats. A very unique hackberry specimen, two separate trunk growing together. Native azaelas, not in bloom.

The park tries to control invasive species, one that was mentioned surprised me, an invasive red salvia.

We had a unique opportunity to compare the flowers from an elderberry *Sambucus nigra* growing on the dry side, with the flowers from spotted water hemlock *Cicuta maculate* just a few feet away on the wet side. If a distinction could be made, it would be by someone who had years of experience observing both plants. In actually, both plants are poisonous, it is only the fully ripened fruit of the elderberry tree that is safe. All other parts of elderberry contain cyanogenic glycosides. The poison in the hemlock plant is cicutoxin.

When we made it to the butterfly garden, the destination for our

hike we were able to sit awhile on provided benches and enjoy the quiet and surroundings. We met a frustrated butterfly photographer and a dedicated volunteer pulling weeds. Afterwards we enjoyed our lunch on the porch at the entrance.

**PLANT ID FROM THE MAY 9, 2013
MEETING**
from Rob Garren

Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin
<i>Carex lupuliformis</i>	False hop sedge	Native
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	American horn-beam	Native
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Lanceleaf tick-seed	Native
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Drug fumitory	Not Native
<i>Gaura angustifolia</i>	Southern bee-blossom	Native
<i>Hordeum pusillum</i>	Little barley	Native
<i>Juncus dichotomus</i>	Forked rush	Native
<i>Juncus marginatus</i>	Grassleaf rush	Native
<i>Rhynchospora fascicularis</i>	Fasciculate beaksedge	Native
<i>Zephyranthes atamasca</i> var. <i>treatiae</i>	Treat's rainlily	Native



Yum-yum. While most of us would not eat turtle, we did enjoy our turtle decorated cake after great presentation of what Gopher Tortoises like to eat.

Compliments of Paula Russo.
Thanks again, Paula.

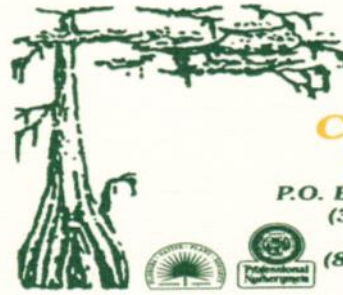


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Advertisements are now being accepted for the Rhexia newsletter! If you would like to support the Paynes Prairie chapter please send a business card size ad in .jpg, format only

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

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.

Looking for new Rhexia editor: Current editor will be stepping down. Currently using Publisher format. Can train interested party in using Publisher.

Great learning opportunity for native plant enthusiast.

Can contact any board member and/or current editor, Goldie Schwartz—



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, Sept. 12, 2013

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:
afn49@mindspring.com
**Submission deadline
for the October
2013 newsletter is
September 20, 2013**

Florida Native Plant Society Membership Form

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Total: ____ Check Enclosed: ____ Please charge my credit card ____

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- | | |
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| ◇ Contributing | \$75 |
| ◇ Not-For-Profit Org. | \$50 |
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| ◇ Supporting | \$100 |
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Please mail completed form to: Florida Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 278, Melbourne, FL 32802-0278

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