

May 2015

The Rhexia



Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Florida Native Plant Society Mission:
Promote the preservation,
conservation, and restoration of the
native plants and native plant
communities of Florida.

“Local Natural History with a Focus on Fire”

Meeting: Thursday, May 14, 2015
7 PM, Matheson Museum
513 E. University Avenue, Gainesville

Our May speaker is Dr. Jack Putz, distinguished teacher, scholar and professor at the Biology Department of the University of Florida. He will bring copies of his latest book whose description is listed on page 2. Dr. Putz is a long time Gainesville resident and supporter of the Florida Native Plant Society who has written articles for the *Palmetto* quarterly magazine.

In his official UF page he writes, “As an applied ecologist, my goal is to use science to solve real-world problems related to ecosystem management and conservation. I conduct research on forests and savannas in Florida, but also in South America (principally Bolivia), South Africa, and Southeast Asia. I hold joint appointments at UF with the School of Forest Resources and Conservation and the Center for Latin American Studies.”

Join us in May for our last program until September 2015.

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About Our Speaker This Month

New Book Just Out

Finding Home in the Sandy Lands of the South

By Jack E. Putz

Cypress Highlands Press of Florida recently published a book of Florida natural history essays by our own Professor Francis E. “Jack” Putz from the Department of Biology. The publisher invites readers to join Jack for a merry romp through our sandhills and swamps. In each of the 52 essays in this series he brings alive some aspect of familiar nature in the Sunshine State. With sprinklings of history and culture, he tells stories about the Spanish moss draping your live oaks and the pocket gophers tunneling in your yard. His goal is help people feel at home in Florida by showing that exciting nature is often readily accessible, just outside the door, underfoot, and overhead. The subtext in this volume is his personal struggle to accept Florida and the South as home. The path he took to this personal discovery included slogs through cypress swamps, climbs into the canopies of savanna live oaks, and dashes after fox squirrels through longleaf pine savannas. Along the way he shares some botanical and ecological insights about everything from sand grains to hurricanes. The volume has something for readers interested in wild edible plants, those who are curious about Tung Blossom Queens, and anyone interested in foraging for wild edibles. Some of these essays will be familiar to readers of *The Palmetto* and the *Gainesville Sun*, but most are new.

Buy your copy of *Finding Home in the Sandy Lands of the South* at the meeting on May 14 and you will be able to own a first edition, signed by the author!

THANKS to and from Our Speaker on April 9th

We received the following communiqué from Jonathan Brainard:

“THANKS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO YOUR CLUB. *The Native Plant Society* was a wonderful audience and I really enjoyed speaking at the club meeting last evening.

“I also want to thank you all for the free membership to the Florida Native Plant Society. Please share with your audience that they can get answers to many of their questions at our website ssjsierra.org. From there, they can navigate to the national Sierra Club website and also click to see what is going on with our state chapter. We would welcome any of your members at our monthly meetings as well. Hope to see many of you there!”

Sincerely,

Jon Brainard

Education Chair, SSJ Sierra Club



Florida’s natural beauty is captured here in this photo of a Columbine flower, taken at the NPS sale on April 3–4. Photo by Rob Garren

Our April "Field Trip" -- Spring Plant Sale Report

By Lisa Jelks

It's hard to remember when the last plant sale occurred where it didn't rain, but the weather could not have been any better for our 2015 Spring Native Plant Sale! The sunshine and cool breezes brought out a good number of members on Friday night to take advantage of the wonderful selection of plants. Sales were brisk and many vendors saw their plants being whisked away to deserving landscapes. On Saturday, while being serenaded by guitarist/vocalist Leo Nico, a steady stream of shoppers cleaned out several plant booths. And while there were fewer questions directed to our volunteers at the chapter booth, we spoke with dozens of interested residents about their yards and the benefits of going native. The afternoon was capped off by the exciting raffle, which was won in part by fellow organizer Penny Weber with Friends of Nature Parks! A giant Thank You to all the volunteers who helped organize and pull off this biannual event, from Friday's check-in table, to cashiers, park-a-plant helpers, and table sitters. I would also like to thank Jack Putz for so generously donating sales of his latest book, *"Finding Home in the Sandy Lands of the South"* to our chapter. (Copies are available for \$7.)

Lastly, please **SAVE THE DATE** for the **Fall Native Plant Sale October 9 and 10.**



Emily and Jim Notestein: Appropriately Dressed!



Answering Questions; Giving Green Advice



Our NPS Booth



Lisa Spreading the Message: "If your lawn is green, you're not!"

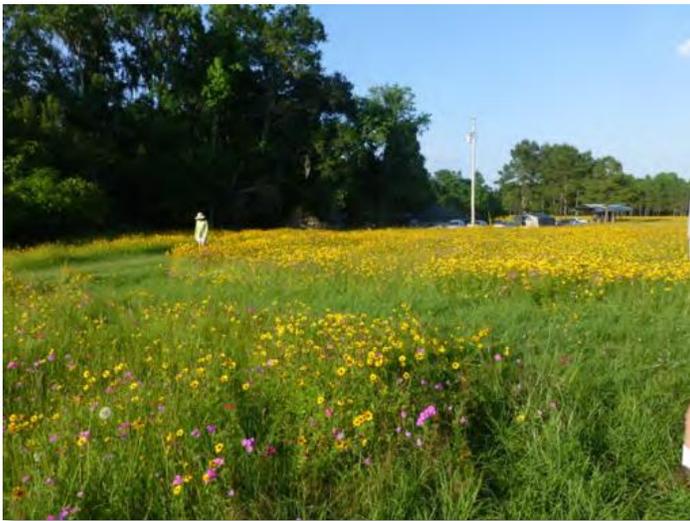
Our May Field Trip: Not to Be Missed!

Terry Zinn's Wildflower Farm

Sunday, May 17th at 2 PM

Many of us enjoyed touring Terry Zinn's wildflower farm in November, 2014. On that trip, we were introduced to his equipment and Terry told us about his planting and harvesting procedures. Now come see the wildflowers themselves in all their glory! In fact, the wildflower fields are so popular in May, that Terry could only accommodate the Native Plant Society's return trip at this time by allowing us a Sunday afternoon visit. Professional photographers book time and space in Terry's fields in mid-May!

So don't miss this **golden opportunity** (literally!) to appreciate the beauties of the natural world.



Coreopsis Field at Zinn's Farm, May, 2014

Coreopsis Photos by Lois McNamara



Several Species of Coreopsis (Tickseed)

Directions to Zinn's Wildflowers of Florida

Wildflowers of Florida grows natives for seed for use mainly in roadside planting although you will also see their seed packets in garden stores locally. Co-owner Terry Zinn will guide us around the property discussing various wildflowers, their growth habits, etc.

Bring your camera, bug spray, water. Long pants and closed shoes are recommended.

There are several ways to get there but do not use Google. GPS works.

Take 75 to exit 404 which will say High Springs and Lake Butler. (It is the exit that you may have seen signs for on 75 about the FL Welcome Center featuring Florida citrus and an alligator!)

When getting off 75 North at exit 404, turn to the left (east) toward Lake Butler on CR 236.

Take CR 236 east to second 4 way stop (CR 239).

Turn left on CR 239 (north); go about one mile.

Turn onto 98th Street, which is a dirt road on left.

Stay on the dirt road, which becomes 107th Street.

The gate is where 107th Street turns left and becomes 278th Ave; it is 2nd gate on right.

Come through gate and drive left until you get to house where there is plenty of parking.

Wildflowers of Florida, Inc.

27715 NW 107 Street
Alachua, Florida 32615

Note that if you have a GPS and put the address in, GPS will take you right to gate. **Don't use Google maps as it won't get it right. GPS works.**

Yard Visit This Month: May 9th

May flowers abound at the yard of Ann Bryan in northwest Gainesville. Join us as we visit her yard on **Saturday, May 9, at 9:00 AM.**

Carpool meeting location: Senior Center parking lot on NW 34th Street, departing at 8:45 AM sharp.



Current View in Ann Bryan's Backyard. No lawn!

"My main focus is attracting wildlife to my yard."

Ann describes her yard this way: "in a subdivision, on a standard size lot, with challenges from neighbor's yards. When I first began planting natives I foolishly didn't consider the original habitat (dry sandy soil) and planted a number of moisture-loving plants that needed irrigating. Those have been replaced, and I have not used my irrigation system in over a year. . . I have two rain barrels, used mainly on helping new plants get started. The natives in my yard include 10 species of native trees, 25 species of shrubs and 15 of wildflowers. Most of my efforts have been in the back yard – but [I] have plans for the front yard and will welcome advice."

PAYNES PRAIRIE CHAPTER CONTACT LIST

President

Rob Garren ecologist@cox.net

Vice President

Chuck Peck Innrr152@gmail.com

Secretary

Ellen Thoms emthoms@dow.com

Treasurer

Goldie Schwartz afn49@mindspring.com 352-495-3983

Chapter Representative

Sandi Saurers sandi@bbos.com

Director

Jennifer Staiger jsstaig@gmail.com

Director

Karen Schneider karenks98@yahoo.com

Director

Mark Elliott mse@ufl.edu

Director

Jill McGuire mikejillmcguire@earthlink.net

Field Trip Coordinator

VACANT

Newsletter Editor

Lois McNamara loismcnamara1@gmail.com or
rhexia@gmail.com

Membership Chair

Goldie Schwartz afn49@mindspring.com 352-495-3983

Plant Rescue

Jamie Barichivich m.terrapin@gmail.com 352-375-1972

Plant ID

Paul Cohen paulcohen2002@yahoo.com

Chapter Website Maintenance

Karen Schneider karenks98@yahoo.com

Chapter Website: www.paynesprairie.fnpschapters.org



Rob Garren's Photo of a Flame Azalea, Taken at the Native Plant Sale, April 3-4.

Typing Herbarium Labels for the Botany Office at DPI

by Barbara Smith

The biggest insult I received this year was when someone said to me, "I saw you in the botany office, doing data entry today. I thought you came here to do something fun and exciting." Well, who knew typing labels could be such fun? And, a botany office IS exciting! Okay, I'm just typing labels, but ... as a Master Gardener volunteer in the Division of Plant Industry's botany office, I also contribute to expansion of the herbarium, a library of pressed plant specimens.

DPI's herbarium documents the plants growing in Florida, some endemic, many from elsewhere. There are plants from other states as well, and sometimes plants are swapped with other herbaria. One purpose of any herbarium collection is to provide a reference for identifying unknown plant samples. When trying to identify a plant, perhaps by differentiating between species of a particular genus of plants, a scientist may utilize a pressed specimen found in the stacks of the herbarium.

Besides creating a herbarium, the botany office does plant ID for the entire state. State plant inspectors, county extension agents, homeowners, nursery & other business owners, in addition to other scientists at DPI, UF, and around the state, submit plants for ID and request plant information through the botany office.

- entomologists and plant pathologists may ask for a plant to be identified so they can figure out which pest they are dealing with since insect pests and diseases attack particular plants.
- a nursery owner may need to know the scientific name for a plant she is growing for sale or the name of a weed she is trying to eradicate.
- a homeowner, concerned about invasive plants, may want to positively identify a suspicious plant that has taken over part of the yard before taking action.
- state plant inspectors find unknown plants

growing in nurseries when they inspect and also send in invasive species for identification when they find them.

The first time an invasive plant species is submitted from a particular county, botanist Marc Frank adds that plant to the herbarium

collection and submits updates to the website, ISB: Atlas of Florida Vascular

Plants [<http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu>]. So, when we look at the map on the website, that invasive plant shows up.

"Well, who knew that typing labels could be such fun?"

The botany office is a problem-solving whirlwind, steered by botanists, Patti Anderson and Marc Frank, and shared by part-time botanist, Dick Weaver, and two lucky MG volunteers. As one of those volunteers, I can witness any of the following on a given day:

- live plants coming in the door and in the mail; plants in presses ready to be dried, then frozen
- dried pressed plants, between old newspapers, ready for labels to be typed
- completed herbarium specimens, filed neatly, in special airtight, bug-proof file cabinets
- computers "tuned in" to plant reference websites
- microscopes for examining plants, worktables full of plant parts at various stages of identification
- walls of reference books for checking all manner of taxonomic information
- file drawers filled with orderly documentation for every plant that enters the office
- a continuous flow of questions, discussions, and ultimately, decisions about plant taxonomy

My job is typing herbarium labels from pressed plant specimens that will be added to the herbarium. Carefully, in pre-selected batches of plants, I examine the report for each plant and transfer that information to a strictly formatted label. The plant's ID is part of the label and includes genus, species, author, family & common name, and comments by the identifying botanist. There is also information such as where the plant was located, who

collected it, date of collection, and the collector's comments on the plant or habitat.

For any plant that will become part of the herbarium, the location information is very exact and sometimes even includes GPS coordinates. The goal is to document where the plant was found precisely enough that you could, theoretically, go back to that spot again and find it.

Label making is slow, deliberate work, but I enjoy trying to keep all the details straight and sometimes I get to look up a family name or solve some other riddle. I enjoy trying to guess the families and just seeing the plants with their names makes me remember all the fun I had as a botany student. After I proof the batch of labels, Marc proofs them again and prints them on special acid free paper. Tony DiCarlo, also a MG volunteer, takes this same batch of plants and creates herbarium specimen sheets by cutting, arranging, and gluing the plant material for optimal display of plant characteristics. Tony gets to use little weights, tools, and glue for his part of the job and looks like he is having a lot of fun. He attaches my labels to his herbarium sheets. These completed sheets are filed in the herbarium cabinet, arranged by plant family. And the herbarium grows!

For more information about the DPI botany office and herbarium, contact Patti Anderson at Patti.Anderson@FreshFromFlorida.com or Marc Frank at Marc.Frank@FreshFromFlorida.com.

It's Wildflower Season

By Lois McNamara

Finding unusual wildflowers is pure serendipity, and such was my experience when a daughter and I went on a country drive for Mother's Day, 2014. Along a boggy right of way southeast of Gainesville, we saw Hat Pins (*Eriocaulon decangulare*), which look exactly like three inch stick pins! In the same area, we also happened upon Drum Heads (*Polygala cruciata*), flowers that look exactly like miniature versions of the objects they are named for! The thimble like flowers occurred in different colors: yellow, pink, lavender.



© Jim Stasz

USDA-NRCS Database

They look so much like manufactured items that it is hard to believe they are naturally occurring botanical specimens. Along the same road on a dry sandy expanse we saw Rhexias and several species of native milkweeds.

However, when it comes to unreal looking flowers, there are more, such as Sand Squares (*Paronychia rugelii*). Their tiny flowers grow in a group arranged in squares! Members of the Native Plant Society on a Saturday morning yard tour saw these on the property of Paul Hoffhein and Ellie Sommers

Frank Lloyd Wright once said: "There are no right angles in nature." He obviously hadn't seen Sand Squares.



last year, along with earth stars (*Geastrum* sp.), another oddity of nature. Paul and Ellie are intent on preserving all the natives and eliminating almost all exotic species from their ten acres. It's heart-warming to know that such botanical treasures survive if given

a chance and heartwarming to know people who make that possible.

It's spring again and there are plenty of *Coreopsis basalis* and *Phlox drummondii* blooming along our highways, making driving a real pleasure.

And there are fields of *Coreopsis basalis* at **Terry Zinn's Wildflower Farm, which is our field trip destination for May (17th at 2 PM)**. The photo at right features Terry Zinn's Wildflower Farm, near Alachua.

Zinn allows -- even encourages-- interested people to have photos taken in his field. He welcomes people who bring their children, relatives, and occasionally, their horses, out to take photos. Professional photographers are welcome as well.

Come celebrate wildflower season on our May field trip. But if you travel slowly along country roads, and stop to walk a little, or take a country trail, chances are you will find some much rarer specimens. Maybe you'll even be lucky enough to see hat pins, thimbles or earth stars.



All wildflower photos by Lois McNamara unless otherwise specified.



Photo by Wilma Gordon

Wildflowers in the Gainesville Yard of John and Wilma Gordon, NPS Members

Submissions to *The Rhexia*

Do you have an issue that stokes your indignation?

Have you recently discovered a beautiful natural area that you'd like to tell your fellow native plant enthusiasts about? Write up the subject you're passionate about and chances are the rest of *The Rhexia* readers will read it in the next newsletter.

Send submissions to loismcnamara1@gmail.com or to Rhexia@gmail.com.

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Ads run Jan—Nov (except for summer months) for \$100 and monthly for \$12.50.

Who Among Us Can Grow This Plant?

You could win \$100 worth of plants from Notestein's Nursery if you are the first to propagate *Rhexia* (our namesake) from seed. You will need to grow several flats of 4 inch pots in time for either our Spring or Fall Native Plant Sale to qualify. Call Jim with questions: 352-372-2107.



PLANT ID FOR APRIL 2015 MEETING

Submitted by Paul Cohen and Rob Garren

<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	Bastard false indigo	<i>Fabaceae</i>	Native
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	Groundsel tree; Sea myrtle	<i>Asteraceae</i>	Native
<i>Carex stipata</i>	Awlfruit sedge	<i>Cyperaceae</i>	Native
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	Sugarberry; Hackberry	<i>Cannabaceae</i>	Native
<i>Dichanthelium aciculare</i>	Needleleaf witchgrass	<i>Poaceae</i>	Native
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Italian ryegrass	<i>Poaceae</i>	Not Native
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black medick	<i>Fabaceae</i>	Not Native
<i>Philadelphus inodorus</i>	Scentless mockorange	<i>Hydrageaceae</i>	Native
<i>Rudbeckia cf. laciniata</i>	Cutleaf coneflower (tentative ID)	<i>Asteraceae</i>	Native
<i>Ruellia caroliniensis</i>	Carolina wild petunia	<i>Acanthaceae</i>	Native
<i>Thelypteris kunthii</i>	Widespread maiden fern; Southern shield fern	<i>Thelypteridaceae</i>	Native
<i>Verbena cf. scabra</i>	Harsh vervain (tentative ID – sterile)	<i>Verbenaceae</i>	Native
<i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>	Rusty blackhaw	<i>Adoxaceae</i>	Native

Viburnum rufidulum has berries, which are used by birds and small mammals.

Carex stipata is a great choice for use in wetlands restoration. It is a common and adaptable sedge.

Philadelphus inodorus (scentless mockorange) has white flowers are fragrant and are pollinated by bees.

Thelypteris kunthii grows quickly to a height of two feet or more and is used internationally as a ground cover.

We extend gratitude to all those who participated. The workshop is intended to be educational and is not a plant ID service.

Nomenclature adapted from “Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants” (<http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/>).

JOIN US...

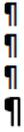
Learn more about our Florida native plants by attending lectures, networking with other native plant enthusiasts, and participating in field trips to sites where natives grow or are utilized in landscapes.

Membership applications are online at our website: <http://www.paynesprairie.fnpschapters.org>

WHEN DO WE MEET?

Paynes Prairie Chapter of the FL Native Plant Society meets on the second Thursday at 7 PM each month September - November and January - May at the Matheson Museum, 513 E. University Avenue in Gainesville. Bring plant questions and come early, at 6:15, for a plant ID clinic. You could win a plant in the Plant Raffle, too. Or bring your extra native plants to add to the plant raffle. Monthly field trips are generally held on the Saturday following our meeting.

Florida Native Plant Society
Paynes Prairie Chapter...
PO Box 1004
Archer, FL 32618



TO:

Paynes Prairie Chapter: Florida Native Plant Society Activities Calendar for 2015

May

Saturday, May 9, 8:45 AM: Yard Tour, Meet at Senior Center parking lot on NW 34th

Thursday, May 14, 7 PM: Monthly Meeting, Matheson Museum

May 17, 2 PM: Field Trip to Terry Zinn's Wildflower Farm

May 28–31: State NPS Conference, Tallahassee

October

October 9–10: Fall Native Plant Sale, Morningside Nature Park