As a park manager one of the most important tasks we are assigned is managing state owned lands. In the park service we strive to make lands available to citizens of our state as well as tourists, educators and anyone who shows interest in what we do, this is what separates us from other land management agencies. Providing “access for all” is a rewarding concept to be involved in, it also provides for some unique challenges that other land managers do not face. Throw a few of these unique challenges in with a park being located close to a sprawling urban center like Gainesville and bordering a major highway like I-75 and the challenges get ever greater. Invasive plant management, nuisance animal control, cultural resource monitoring and restoration, native ecosystems management, hydrological restoration and monitoring the application of prescribed fire… o my…

A seventh generation Floridian, born in Winter Haven, Park Manager Robert Steele spent his youth learning about Florida wildlife and ecosystems while camping, hunting and fishing with his family in Florida's many State Parks, wildlife management areas, and national wildlife refuges. He is currently the Park Manager at San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park and Devils Millhopper Geological State Park.

General Meeting

Land Management in Today’s State Parks
with Robert Steele, Park Manager
Tuesday, October 17, 2017
Phillips Hall, Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship
4225 NW 34th Street, Gainesville, FL 32605

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Paynes Prairie Chapter Contact List

President
Rob Garren   ecologist@cox.net

Vice President
Mark Elliott   markelliott1955@gmail.com

Secretary
Ellen Thoms   ellen.thoms@douglasproducts.com

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

Chapter Representative
Sandi Saurers   sandi@bbos.com

Director
Connie Caldwell   cnncldwll@gmail.com

Director
Karen Schneider   karenks98@yahoo.com

Director
Jill McGuire   mikejillmcguire@earthlink.net

Director
Michael Bubb   Michael.Bubb@medicine.ufl.edu

Director
Dan White   dtwhite.gville@gmail.com

Field Trip Coordinator
Karen Garren   iluvfla@cox.net

Newsletter Editor
Karen Ahlers   ahlers.karen@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

Facebook Page Maintenance
Lisa/Howard Jelks   jelkslg@gmail.com

Chapter Website   www.paynesprairie.fnpschapters.org

Field Trip (con't from page 1)

Drive time is approximately two hours and we expect to arrive there between 10:00 AM and 10:30 AM. To carpool or caravan, meet at 8 AM at the Publix located at the corner of Williston Road and SW 34th Street near the post office facility. If you need further directions or have questions, please contact Karen Garren at iluvfla@cox.net.

October Field Trip #2
Croom Tract
Withlacoochee State Forest
Colleen Werner, State Forest Biologist
Saturday, October 28, 2017

On October 28th we will be meeting Colleen Werner, Withlacoochee State Forest Biologist for an approximately two hour guided walk through the Croom Tract, an area of the forest dominated by sandhill habitat along with some basin marsh. For anyone who enjoys birding, we will be hiking through red-cockaded woodpecker clusters. The site has a good burn history so there will be plenty of grasses and flowers in bloom.

We will meet Colleen at 10:00 AM at the Tucker Hill Trail Head. For detailed maps go to http://myfwc.com/media/2790050/Croom-Map.pdf or contact Rob at ecologist@cox.net.

To carpool to the trailhead, please meet at 8 AM at the Publix parking lot at Williston Road and SW 34th Street (near the post office facility). Please note that once we get to the Tucker Hill Trailhead, we will need to carpool further in two vehicles to reach the final parking area to our hike. There is only parking room for 2 vehicles at the final terminus of the drive before we begin the hike.

For maps and further information or questions, please contact Rob at ecologist@cox.net.

Photo Credits: Our thanks to Wesley Hetrick for permission to use his photo, Sunrise at Paynes Prairie, on Page 1. See more of Wesley's images at https://www.flickr.com/photos/wesleyhetrick Also to Peter May for permission to use his Rhexia photo. See more of Peter’s work at http://www2.stetson.edu/~pmay/index.htm
President’s message
By Rob Garren

As my three year term as President of our Paynes Prairie Chapter winds down, I thought it time to solicit the membership for one or more willing individuals to step up and volunteer to run in the upcoming elections in November. For the folks who volunteer to run for this position, I can tell you that you will have the opportunity to work with a very dedicated and knowledgeable group of Board Members and other Officers who make the job much easier. There is an efficient system in place which, through the work of many folks, has evolved over many years – the end result being that the Paynes Prairie Chapter is the largest chapter in the state. This statistic has been true for a number of years despite competition from much larger counties in central and south Florida.

Early in my tenure, we instituted a convenient centralized storage facility for our equipment and outreach materials. I believe this has made volunteer coordination for our various events easier by having a single location for most of our displays, audio-visual equipment, brochures, and the like. Additionally, we have a secured a continuing commitment from the provider of our meeting venue the past two years – I hope this arrangement will continue into the foreseeable future. I believe that having a long-term, consistent meeting venue removes a lot of uncertainty and frees us up to work for our Mission Statement.

Finally, thank you to all the folks who have helped me out as well as all who attend our meetings, field trips, and other partner events. It is, after all, participation by our members and the public at large that spread our message of native plant conservation. Assistance with the duties and tasks of this office will of course be provided to the next president so as to make the transition as smooth as the one I was fortunate enough to have provided to me. I hope some of you will consider running for the position – it is a very worthwhile cause as we all already know. I look forward to seeing many of you at the next meeting on October 17th. I will be more than happy to discuss the duties of the office with anyone who wishes to do so (with no obligation)!

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It’s That Time of Year Again!
Election of Officers

We are now accepting nominations for positions on the Paynes Prairie chapter board. We will hold the elections for the new term at the general meeting on November 21, 2017.

If you have been considering taking on a more active role in the chapter, or know someone who has, please send your nomination to a member of our nominating committee listed below prior to November 21. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

Mark Elliott
markelliott1955@gmail.com

Karen Schneider
karenks98@yahoo.com

Karen Garren
iluvfla@cox.net

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Rob doing just one of the many things he does so well - photography. Thanks for all the great images Rob!
(Photo by Karie Garren)
The David Hall Yard Tour, May 2017, was one of the best attended outings this year and why wouldn’t it be? Dr. Hall is a preeminent southeastern US plant identification expert, has authored numerous books and publications and, since retiring from the University of Florida, hires out as environmental consultant and forensic botanist! Can you imagine the relief of a crime scene investigator to have plant perfect documentation of time and location? It’s as good as a mystery novel!

To save on limited parking space at David’s northwest Gainesville home many of us carpooled, a good opportunity to meet new participants and plan for lunch after the tour. A winding brick drive hedged by diverse shrubbery led to a sprawling ranch-style 1950’s house perched atop a hill overlooking a sinkhole. It was a beautiful cool spring day of blue skies, dappled light filtering through magnificent loblolly pines (Pinus taeda) and southern magnolia (Magnolia grandiflora) original to the property, large swathes of open sunny areas inviting lounging or picnics. David greeted us, handed out an 8 page single-spaced list of plant names and told us to fasten our seatbelts! His yard and property are a well-orchestrated collection of native and non-native landscaping plants that rival some botanical gardens. He admits to catering to his wife’s tastes with about 1 acre of turf.

We began at the front with liriope-bordered beds (Liriope muscari) of flame bush (Hamelia patens), many varieties of Curcuma and Hedychium gingers, native Chapman’s azalea (Rhododendron minus var. chapmanii) and Florida flame azalea (Rhododendron austrinum), and oak-leaf hydrangea (Hydrangea quercifolia). Color was provided by native beach sunflower (Helianthus debilis), cardinal flower (Lobelia cardinalis), cutleaf coneflower (Rudbeckia laciniata), woodland pinkroot (Spigelia marilandica), ironweed (Vernonia gigantea), and a ground cover of perennial peanut (Arachis pintoi). A stand of podocarpus (Podocarpus macrophyllus), red anise (Illicium floridanum), service berry (Amelanchier arborea) and a cabbage palm (Sabal palmetto) screened the front of the house, reminiscent of Japanese landscaping philosophy of hidden views and surprises with change of aspect. On his list the area David calls “Circle” there are plantings of Satsuma and Chinese honey oranges, ruby-red grapefruit, and Fuyu persimmon trees.

Rounding the south side of the house, we saw a very tall, straight live oak (Quercus virginiana), walked past a huge stand of bamboo (Bambusa multiplex), saw a beautiful Carolina laurelcherry (Prunus caroliniana) in full flower, abuzz with pollinators and as Michael Bubb pointed out, "The most common tree in Florida!" We found shiny and Darrow’s blueberries (Vaccinium myrsinites and V. darrowii), and in an unlikely spot, poppy mallow (Callirhoe papaver). We passed by a HUGE exotic coontie, what David calls “cardboard palm” (Zamia furfuracea), more oak-leaf hydrangea and a panda ginger (Asarum maximum).

Down a long sloping vista of well-manicured lawn leading to the sinkhole pond bordered by stately cypress trees (Taxodium distichum), magnificent Florida maples (Acer saccharum var. floridanum) and cabbage palms were scattered plantings of lilies, cannas, begonias, a great variety of hibiscus hybrids, gingers, dwarf elephant ear and gorgeous clumps of blue maidencane (Amphicarpum muhlenbergianum). An ancient oak stump covered with resurrection fern (Pleopeltis polypodioides) made graceful yard art. Around the sinkhole pond many other trees, some planted, others originating with the property include Florida dogwood (Cornus floridana), fringe tree (Chionanthus virginicus), ash magnolia (Magnolia macrophylla var. ashei), dahoon holly (Ilex cassine), swamp blackgum (Nyssa sylvatica var. biflora), sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua), and live oak (Quercus virginiana), all over a lovely carpet of creeping
Hall yard tour
(continued from page 4)

powderpuff (*Mimosa strigillosa*). The property has 3 septic systems. David fought with the city of Gainesville for 11 years to get a sewer line installed, the last one in his neighborhood!

The sinkhole was divided by a berm planted with irises. A second smaller pond to the north held little water but the obviously moist soils supported many wetland and upland native plants including bastard false indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*), tall nutgrass (*Scleria triglomerata*), mild water-pepper (*Persicaria hydropiperoides*), twinberry (*Mitchella repens*), buttonweed (*Diodia virginiana*), and a beautiful stand of royal fern (*Osmunda regalis* var. *spectabilis*). Trees and shrubs seen included pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*), needle palm (*Rhapidophyllum hystrix*), horse sugar (*Symplocos tinctoria*), bluestem palm (*Sabal minor*), saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), Virginia sweetshrub (*Itea virginica*), swamp chestnut oak (*Quercus michauxii*), American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), swamp dogwood (*Cornus foemina*), and a grove of red buckeye (*Aesculus parviflora*). In the “back 40” are spruce pine (*Pinus glabra*), southern magnolia. Up the slope towards the house, David is using chenille plant (*Acalypha chamaedrifolia*) to replace turf. He says it holds up well to foot traffic and mowing. Another participant said that, in her experience, it’s incredibly invasive and that eventually he’ll regret it!

And still another sinkhole! This one was the largest, edged by a half dozen residences and with a half acre pond about 20 feet down the muddy slope. All the ponds were abnormally low; this was the driest spring in the last 30 years. A thicket of shrubs included wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), horsesugar (*Simulocos tinctoria*), little bluestem palm (*Sabal minor*), soapberry (*Sapindus saponaria*), mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), and wild azalea (*Rhododendron canescens*). We also spotted some trilliums (*Trillium maculatum*) and a few green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*). Almost feels like we’re in the Smokey Mountains!

Heading around to the north side, we find a rambling wooden gazebo with enough floor space to hold a square dance! Hemmed in by border grass (*Liriope muscari*), plantings along the west end of the house include the Oriental fringe tree (*Chionanthus retusus*) that has, according to David, “many, many more flowers” than the native, also the Chinese indigo (*Indigofera kiriowii*) with lovely clusters of pink flowers, many hybrid varieties of rhododendrons and gingers, and four-o-clocks (*Mirabilis jalapa*).

David and his wife are both professional tennis players; in fact that’s how they met. The clay tennis court above the house has its own irrigation system! During dry weather it must be watered or it will crack. Raccoons love to play on it! Dave pointed out a very rare Godfrey’s privet (*Forestiera godfreyi*) which leans and climbs, and an endangered sweetshrub (*Calycanthus floridus*). Draping across the top of the court fence is a spectacular clump of yellow jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervires*) and a bower of self-seeding blue glory (*Thunbergia battiscombei*) which looks like a morning glory but is in the Acanthaceae family with *Dyschoriste*, *Blechum* and *Ruellia*. A lush, dense 4-foot high hedge of coontie (*Zamia integrifolia*) is the backdrop for yellow angel’s trumpet, a beautiful *Solanum* hybrid. Along the fence to the adjoining yard are charming sparkleberry trees (*Vaccinium arboreum*) or as David calls them, “Farkleberries: eat ‘em makes you farkle!”, and several hummingbird-attracting Cherokee bean (*Erythrina herbacea*) in full flower.

Flanking the tennis shed are a pair of flatwoods plums (*Prunus umbellata*), accompanied by a rusty blackhaw (*Viburnum rufidulum*) and a dying swamp bay (*Persea palustris*). Following the fence line back to the driveway, we encountered more oak-leaf hydrangea, wild white indigo (*Baptisia alba*), the Oliver maple (*Acer oliverianum* subsp. *formosanum*), and Georgia savory...
Hall yard tour  
(continued from page 4)

(Calamintha georgiana) which, according to David, attracts bees like crazy!

Retiring to the stone-flagged deck around the swimming pool with its ingenious drainage system, we enjoyed tangerines and admired potted plantings of hibiscus, rhododendrons, orchids and a variety of succulents. Thank you very much, David, for your hospitality and for sharing a gem of a garden tucked into an unexpected Gainesville neighborhood. The above accounting is by no means a definitive listing of the diversity of David Hall’s gardens. For a list of the beautifully grown specimen quality ornamentals placed for best horticultural effect, you will have to get a copy of Dave’s list or cajole another visit to see for yourself! Let me know if you do go, I want to go along!

### Plant ID Workshop for September 2017

Compiled by Paul Cohen and Rob Garren

Thank you to everyone who contributed plants and expertise. The workshop is intended to be educational not a plant ID service. Nomenclature adapted from Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants (http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/).

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<td>Desmodium tortuosum</td>
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### Native Plant Auction

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<td>Dwarf Witchalder</td>
<td>Hamamelidaceae</td>
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<td>Monarda punctata</td>
<td>Spotted Beebalm</td>
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<td>Guinea Hen Weed</td>
<td>Phytolaccaceae</td>
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<td>Zamia integrifolia</td>
<td>Florida Arrowroot, Coontie</td>
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**Zamia furfuracea** (Cardboard palm or Cardboard cycad) grows in Southeast Florida and is the other species of Zamia native to Florida. Image from http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/photo.aspx?ID=10500
Fifteen plus a few of us were able to find our way to Connie’s transformed suburban yard in the upper section of Rock Creek subdivision. As mentioned in her invite, Connie has taken a typical subdivision yard of grass, liriope, large oaks, loblolly pines, and elms and added paths and irregular thoughtfully arranged beds of mostly native specimens….100 plus for us to see. This is a FFL (Florida Friendly Landscape) certified yard and has also been recognized and received the approval of the Rock Creek Neighborhood Association. Today we saw the 10 year effort of a work of love to invite native plants back into a suburban environment with beauty and success.

Connie provided plant lists organized according to areas we toured, for example FRONT YARD, north to south. As we walk a path along the side of the garage, past a short wall towards the front door, we pass an Ashe magnolia (*Magnolia ashei*), native pinxter (*Rhododendron canescens*) and flame (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*) azaleas with buds ready to bust in the spring. Small trees are spaced through out this bed and fill the yard to the front street including red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*), snowbell (*Styrax americana*), silver bell (*Halesia* sp.), and bastard indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*). A lovely specimen of Chapman’s rhododendron (*Rhododendron chapmanii*), Walter’s viburnum (*Viburnum obovatum*), shiny blueberry (*Vaccinium myrsinites*) and coontie (*Zamia integrifolia*) add the layer of medium shrubs. Spring native flowers are interspersed among these plantings and are listed and identified in the description of other areas of the yard. One of the amazing changes for Connie returning to her yard from a summer away was the spreading ground cover of basket grass (*Oplismenus setarius*) and wild cucumber (*Melothria pendula*).

We move on to the East side of the Front Yard that is divided into five areas or beds interwoven with grass paths. In front of the house is the one and only bed with irrigation and includes plants that may need water during very dry spells. Here we see spotted beebalm (*Monarda punctata*) Salvia’s red, white and pink (*Salvia coccinea*), golden alexander (*Zizia aurea*), and ragwort (*Senecio* sp.).

The dry beds in the middle front yard include taller native flowering plants like starry rosinweed (*Silphium asteriscus*), Flyer’s nemesis (*Brickellia cordifolia*), firebush (*Hamelia patens*), Chapman’s goldenrod (*Solidago odora var. chapmanii*), whitetop aster (*Sericocarpus tortifolius*), and narrowleaf sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*) along with some non native plumbago, pineapple (with fruit), and a lemon Eucalyptus, fun additions to the many smaller natives like Florida greeneyes (*Berlandiera subacaulis*), Stokes’ aster (*Stokesia laevis*), manyflower beardtongue (*Penstemon multiflorus*), threadleaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata*), woodland pinkroot (*Spigelia marilandica*), and coastal mock vervain (*Glandularia*).
maritima), two of the many plants Connie propagates by cuttings. Pineywoods dropseed grass (Sporobolus junceus) is randomly spaced among these plants.

Now we turn back towards the side of the house and we see one of the more recent beds Connie planted near the street. It is filled with Sunshine Mimosa (Mimosa strigillosa) mixed in with a variety of natives, inspired by a bed at North Florida University in Jacksonville. The only natives that still thrive in the midst of this bed are lanceleaf tickseed (Coreopsis lanceolata) and frog fruit (Lippia nodiflora).

The next beds include a winged elm (Ulmus alata), purple lovegrass (Eragrostis spectabilis) getting ready to bloom, and some of the favorites like Georgia calamint (Calamintha georgiana), false rosemary (Conradina sp.), and narrowleaf silkgrass (Pityopsis graminifolia). Blooming southern beeblossom (Gaura angustifolia), button rattlesnakemaster (Eryngium yuccifolium), and seaside goldenrod (Solidago sempervirens) are more examples of some of the plants in this area.

We move further along the side yard. We see mature pawpaws (Asimina parviflora and Asimina triloba), coralbean (Erythrina herbacea), Adam’s needle (Yucca filamentosa), garberia (Garberia heterophylla), needle palm (Rhapidophyllum hystrix), white fringetree (Chionanthus virginicus), mapleleaf viburnum (Viburnum acerifolium), southern arrowwood (Viburnum dentatum), beautyberry (Callicarpa americana), oakleaf hydrangea (Hydrangea quercifolia), and a pygmy fringetree (Chionanthus pygmaeus). Nestled in amongst these larger specimens are scorpionstail (Heliotropium angiospermum), hairawn muhly (Muhlenbergia capillaris), scaleleaf aster (Symphyotrichum adnatum), beargrass (Nolina brittoniana), Juba’s bush (Iresine diffusa), hammock snakeroot (Ageratina jucunda), leatherflower (Clematis reticulata), and bracken fern (Pteridium aquilinum).

Next we move to the back yard. Connie has tried edibles in this area including thornless blackberry and Chinese honey mandarin tree which are the only two left. She has added some old fashioned roses instead and continues to have a variety of natives, some we have seen in other areas, but additional varieties include paleleaf woodland sunflower (Helianthus strumosus), elderberry (Sambucus nigra ssp. canadensis), pipestem (Agarista populifolia), rougeplant (Rivina humilis), Carolina buckthorn (Frangula caroliniana) and swamp dogwood (Cornus foemina).

The final area is to the left of the driveway. An area once covered with Boston fern now has a meadow feel of blackseed needlegrass (Piptochaetium avenaceum). A large Simpson’s stopper (Myrcianthes fragrans), flatwoods plum (Prunus umbellata), southern crabapple (Malus angustifolia), and a Palatka holly (Ilex x attenuata) provide a wooded wildlife area for birds, home to a pair of chickadees.

Under the trees near the street, we see purple and white beautyberry (Callicarpa americana), river oats (Chasmanthium latifolium), white wild indigo (Baptisia alba), tall redtop grass (Tridens flavus), wild columbine (Aquilegia canadensis), southern shield fern (Thelypteris kunthii), and giant bristlegrass (Setaria magna).

The description of this yard does not and cannot match the detail and design Connie has put into the flow and use of many of our North Central Florida natives, more than are included in this article. Thank you, Connie for sharing your skill and your labor of love in developing a native setting enjoyed by us and your neighbors in Rock Creek.
October is Florida Native Plant Month

October’s cooler weather is a great time to enjoy Florida wildflowers and native landscapes. We want to spread the word to our leaders, constituents and the public about the importance of Florida’s native plants and communities during Florida Native Plant month. Help us promote appreciation and conservation of our natural heritage, while recruiting new members to the Society. Show your support by attending these meetings where proclamations will be introduced by Paynes Prairie chapter members.

Alachua County Commission Meeting
Tuesday, October 24th, 2017 at 9:00 am
12 SE 1st Street, 2nd Floor, Gainesville 32601

City of Gainesville City Commission Meeting
Thursday, November 2, 2017, 5:30 pm
City Hall Auditorium at 200 East University Avenue, 1st Floor, Gainesville 32601
Have you ever seen a comic strip character in love, their head in the clouds, surrounded by hearts and rainbows? Or heard it said of someone, “they walk in beauty”? Well, that’s what an outdoor natural history tour with Marc Minno feels like! Everywhere we go, butterflies, plants, and interesting insects show up! On a lovely September morning, a group of Florida Native Plant enthusiasts met at the west parking lot of the UF entomology building and crossed the street to the Natural Area Teaching lab (NATL) arguably one of the most biologically diverse areas of campus. We checked out the created wetland, compared freshly cleared oldfield to an oldfield of several years age, walked up the hill to an oak hickory hammock, saw examples of good butterfly larval host plants, and learned how warming climates are affecting butterfly populations’ distribution and migration patterns. Trails were mowed and easy walking for the most part, photo opportunities abounded. We all became experts at catching glimpses of movement and calling out for Marc’s attention.

First stop – the Stormwater Ecological Enhancement Project or SEEP is a created wetland consisting of a retention basin and central marsh where stormwater runoff is filtered and biologically treated, a berm and weir system controls water levels to the sinkhole pond, and ephemeral (temporary) wetlands provide a nursery area for small fish and juvenile amphibians. Leaning over the rustic board fence we saw dense patches of Spanish needles (Bidens alba), tangles of the exotic red cypressvine (Ipomoea quamoclit), button weed (Spermacoce prostrata), the clustered mille graines (Oldenlandia uniflora), straggler daisy (Calypptocarpus vialis), and obnoxious exotic chamber bitter (Phyllanthus urinaria), all either larval host plants or nectar provision for adult butterflies. “A natural butterfly garden!” said Marc, sweeping his arm wide. In the lawn at our feet he pointed out Southern matchheads (Lippia stoechadifolia). First butterfly seen, the white peacock (Anartia jatrophae), is common in south Florida but populations have been steadily moving northward in response to warmer winters. Joint vetch (Aeschynomene americana) is the host plant for the barred yellow (Eurema daira). A common buckeye (Junonia coenia) flitted through Bidens and near the pond darted blue dragonlets and saddlebag dragonflies.

Marc described a butterfly species of special concern. Threatened by habitat loss to development, Sweadner’s hairstreak (Callophrys swaedneri) has red cedar or juniper (Juniperus virginiana) as larval host plants and a short 2 week window of adult breeding activity in the spring and autumn. Keep your eyes peeled! He found moth larvae in willow leaf nests. Coastalplain willow (Salix caroliniana) also hosts larvae of Viceroy (Limenitis archippus). Black cherry (Prunus serotina) is host for the Red-spotted Purple (Limenitis arthemis astyanax). Larvae eat cherry leaves and then pupate at the leaf tips to avoid ant predation. Birds heard or seen from the parking area include red-bellied woodpecker, a pair of Carolina wrens, American crow, blue jay, mockingbird and blue birds. At the pond a common yellow-throat was
heard. Marc mentioned that white mulberry (*Morus alba*) is a terrific bird attractant.

The trail next climbed a hill through remnants of planted pine woods where, in the understory, were guineagrass (*Urochloa maxima*) and a lovely lanceleaf rattlebox (*Crotalaria lanceolata*). Thick patches of the exotic hairy indigo (*Indigofera hirsuta*) are the host plants for larvae of Ceraunus Blue (*Hemiargus ceraunus*). Marc checked through beggar’s ticks or Dixie ticktrefoil (*Desmodium tortuosum*) for leaves folded and webbed into nests, finding a beautiful large larvae of the long-tailed (green) skipper (*Urbanus proteus*). Munching on the leaves, it will absorb anti-predator toxins. Closer to the pond was a beautiful pink *Desmodium* sp. in flower. Around the pond wetlands, PVC pipes attracted little green squirrel tree frogs for population surveys. Birds seen or heard included tufted titmouse and chickadees.

We then headed up the hill to open field areas. An area of about an acre in size had been freshly cleared of all vegetation and few insects were observed there. Across the trail was another area where several months to a year ago trees were dropped and left in place. It is now succeeding to oldfield with lots of weedy light-loving plant species including *Bidens*, ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*), peppervine (*Nekemias arborea*), Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), littlebell morning glory (*Ipomea triloba*), Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis* var. *scabra*), passionflower (*Passiflora incarnata*), and various grasses. Several cloudless sulfurs (*Phoebus sennae*) drifted past, at least one orange-barred sulfur (*Phoebus pilea*) was seen. Marc pointed out Dorantes skipper (*Urbanus dorantes*) which is similar to the green long-tailed but sits with closed wings, and Horace’s duskywing (*Erynnis horatius*), one of the brown spread-wing skippers, “a tough group” taxonomically according to Marc who noted that Horace’s duskywing is one of the more common species of this group.

A female Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*) flitted over vines searching for host plants, probably *Passiflora*, on which to Lanceleaf rattleboxoviposit eggs for the next generation. A pair of Phaeon cresents (*Phyciodes phaon*) flitted around in the trail, the female finally settled sufficiently long to be photographed as did a male barred yellow. Plants growing along the trail included the native pink purselane (*Portula pilosa*), tropical Mexican clover (*Richardia braziliensis*), and common spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*). Marc caught a glimpse of golden orange – the southern skipperling (*Copaeodis minima*) is Florida’s smallest skipper and one of the smallest in the world. Marc
occasionally referred to his butterfly field guide, a fold-out laminate available in the museum giftshop. A great blue heron was heard back by the pond.

Following the trail back into the old overgrown pinewoods, we spotted Florida’s state butterfly, a zebra longwing (*Heliconius charitonius*). She also seemed to be in search mode, drifting away through the canopy at about 12 feet up. Attached to a pine tree high overhead was a huge owl box. The many trail guide markers were battered but still informative. A white-eyed vireo was heard.

Part of the NATL’s research objective is to determine ecosystem responses to various land management methods such as use of fire of different periodicities as well as selective thinning. The trail turned off into early and late hammock successional stages. In an open tangle of vines winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum*) was starting to show its autumn red, grape vines (*Vitis rotundifolia*) lay in drapes. A trail information sign defined the two hickories: pignut (*Carya glabra*) as smooth lanceolate-leaved and mockernut (*C. tomentosa*) with velvety fuzz on the underside of more rounded leaves than the pignut. Around another turn in the trail, we entered a densely-treed hammock and found a yellow mushroom, probably *Russula foetida*, growing out of woodsgrass (*Oplismenus setarius*) which, with this summer’s great amount of rainfall, has become so rampant as to almost border on invasive! The beautiful flowers of snow squarestem (*Melanthera nivea*) attract all sorts of pollinators. An eastern hop hornbean (*Ostrya virginiana*) tree peeked through the woods and the one tree trunk felled by the storms that crossed the trail and had to be clambered over was covered with vines and flowers of the native satin curls (*Clematis catesbyana*). On the return trail through oldfield we saw golden threads of dodder vines (*Cuscuta sp.*) which are parasitic on many plants.
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• Land management that enhances habitat suitability for native plants;
• Education;
• Public policies that protect our native flora, especially rare species;
• Research on native plant species; and,
• Encouragement of local landscaping practices and policies that preserve Florida’s native plant heritage.