

The Rhexia



Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

www.paynesprairie.fnpschapter

November 2019

November General Meeting

Enhance Your Yard and Attract Wildlife with Renee Stambaugh, habitat designer

Tuesday, November 19, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Plant ID Workshop at 6:30 p.m.

Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship Hall

4225 NW 34th Street, Gainesville, FL 32605

We know that native plants attract birds, butterflies and pollinators to our yards. Discover how to utilize landscape design elements to further enhance the character of your yard, reduce maintenance, and provide environmental benefits. Don't miss this dynamic presentation by Renee Stambaugh, habitat designer and founder of Native Plant Consulting, based in St. Augustine.

A lifelong resident of northeast Florida, Renee has extensive knowledge in the field of native plants, birds and butterflies. In addition to backyard, beachfront, residential and commercial projects, Stambaugh is the landscape consultant for St. Johns County Parks and Recreation. For more information, feel free to visit www.nativeplantconsulting.com.



November Field Trip

Price's Scrub State Park

November 16, 2019

8:30 am to carpool or 9 am onsite

Last winter, chapter President Mark and VP Karie participated in the Price's Scrub State Park Land Management Plan review. The property has potential to add connections to the Florida Wildlife Corridor. A background in landscape connectivity and wildlife corridors perked my interest to see the site.

We were all disappointed in the cancellation of the fall Native Plant Sale and field trip due to predicted severe storm winds. Great news! Soil scientist Rick Robbins has agreed to lead a "re-do" field trip to Price's Scrub State Park in Marion County on Saturday, November 16th. This hike will feature geology and soil conditions of Marion County's rolling hills and relate soils to plant communities. From the trailhead we will hike approximately ¾ mile to the scrub area and take soil borings. There should be some late autumn wildflowers. We may even carpool to his nearby farm for more soils and geology sampling and discussion.

Price's Scrub is located at 9555 NW Hwy 320, Miccanopy on Marion CR 320, just west of Interstate 75, about 12 miles south of Gainesville. Meet at the parking area at 9 am. To carpool, meet at 8:30 am at the SE corner of the parking lot of Publix on Williston Road and SW 34th Street. Please wear sturdy closed-toed shoes, a hat and bring water and insect repellent. Let's try this again!



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The Rhexia is published eight times a year by the Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Comments are welcomed. Readers are encouraged to submit articles and images for publication consideration to ahlers.karen@gmail.com

December Field trip:
Indian Lake State Forest in Marion County
Saturday, December 7th, 2019

We will meet at 9 am at the Bear-N-Oak trailhead on SR 35, NE 58th Avenue. From the parking area, the trail cuts through some scrubby planted pine forest, crosses a power line, meanders through lovely mixed wood hammock to Indian Lake, a deep sinkhole lake. There are many sinkhole depressions and some grandiose trees. The trail cuts around the east end of the lake and heads west to another parking area off NE 90th Street Road where there is an information kiosk, picnic pavilions and a trail to the primitive camp site, but we'll save that for another day. After traversing more hammock, the trail climbs to some lovely sandhills that look to be in restoration but have nice plant diversity.

Directions to get there: take Hwy 441 south, merge with Hwy 301 and head toward Ocala. Take the Ocala cut-off, CR 326, east. After passing the RR tracks and going around the big curve, look for the intersection with CR 35 which becomes NE 58th Ave. Turn left and go north about 1.5 miles. Pass Silver Springs State Forest, where the spring 2018 field trip with the Big Scrub chapter was rained out, but we'll save that for another trip. Go around a big curve, the parking area is on the right. Can also be accessed from NE 95th St. off Hwy 301, through Anthony, up to NE 97th St. Rd, down around the curve to NE 90th St Rd to NE 58th Ave, turn right south for about a mile to the parking area. Site map is at https://www.fdacs.gov/content/download/33702/file/indian_lake.pdf, best street map is at Natural Atlas.com. More information will be available at the general meeting. Bring plenty of water, insect repellent, wear sturdy close-toed shoes, a hat is recommended. You'll want to bring a camera. Meet to carpool at 8 am at the SE corner of the parking lot of Publix on Williston Road and SW 34th Street.





The Rhexia
Paynes Prairie Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society
November 2019

Carl's Garden Workday December 14

It's that time of year again. The cooler temperatures lure us back for a morning of "yard work" at Carl's Garden. Our Chapter maintains this native planting in memory of Carl Miles. Be prepared to spruce up the garden by pulling weeds, trimming, and possibly planting a few plants to replace the trees we lost earlier.

The workday will commence at 9:00 am on Saturday December 14th. Afterwards, we will reward our hard efforts with a nice lunch somewhere.

Carl's Garden is located at the southeast corner within the Kanapaha Veterans Memorial Park (enter at the most eastern gate on SW 41st Place off Tower Road). Bring gloves, clippers, sun protection, and drinking water. If you are unfamiliar with the history of Carl's Garden, visit the September 2005 edition of the *Rhexia* to learn more (see <http://paynesprairie.fnpschapters.org/data/uploads/newsletters/2005/sept05rhexia1.pdf>).



Come visit our table at this fun event!

LITTLE ORANGE CREEK NATURE DAY

Enjoy a day outdoors with friends and family!

- Nature walks starting at 9 AM
- Tree planting at 11 AM
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- Vendors
- Native plant sale

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A Stewardship Forest

Photos and text by Connie Caldwell

We drive south from Archer, turn onto the Levy/Alachua County line road onto a dirt road and into James Brown's long forested driveway. We gather at James's cypress wood house, which he built himself, wraparound porch and all. James bought the 28.5 acres of sandhill and scrub property in 1981. With assistance and a grant from the U.S. Forest Service, he has been managing the property and restoring longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) habitat to enhance wildlife and conserve it in the most ecological manner possible. Much of his effort involves removing laurel oaks (*Quercus hemisphaerica*) and planting longleaf pine. Although the property was logged over in the 70's, a few stately longleaf pines, at least 200 years old, remain.

We follow James uphill through xeric hammock among mature sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*) and sand live oaks (*Quercus geminata*). Along the path we spot dog fennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*), scrub rosemary (*Ceratiola ericoides*), wire grass (*Aristida stricta*), deer moss (*Cladonia evansii*), yellow Jessamine (*Gelsmium sempervirens*). James points out grass-stage longleaf pines that he has planted, and an amazing needle palm (*Rhaphidophyllum hystrix*) that he also planted. We're told that when he first bought the property, he received dogwoods (*Cornus florida*), sycamores (*Platanus occidentalis*), and sweetgums (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) from the Arbor Day Foundation. He planted those too.

As we approach the highest elevation of 136 feet we see more scrub rosemary, Elliott's lovegrass (*Eragrostis elliotii*), coastalplain chaffhead (*Carphephorus corymbosus*), turkey oak (*Quercus laevis*), camphorweed (*Heterotheca subaxillaris*), gopher apple (*Licania michauxii*), gayfeather (*Liatrix* sp.), lady lupine (*Lupinus villosus*), pineland false foxglove (*Agalinis divaricata*), lopsided indiagrass (*Sorghastrum secundum*), two kinds of wireweed (most likely *Polygonum nesomii* [formerly *Polygonella robusta*] and *Polygonum pinicola* [formerly *Polygonella gracilis*]), narrowleaf bluecurls with purple flowers (*Trichostema setaceum*), persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), silkbay (*Persea borbonia* var. *humilis*), narrowleaf silkgrass (*Pityopsis graminifolia*), winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum*), and some very old sand live oaks. We are reminded that in the deep sand at this elevation plants grow very slowly, so that trees appear smaller than their actual age.

Now we head downhill, to the edge of Goethe State Forest, and back into James's property on another trail. We walk through more xeric hammock/sandhill/scrub. We're aware of how blended the three habitats are as

(Continued on Page 5)

Election of Officers

Please join us as we tend to the business of the chapter by electing new officers at the general meeting on November 19, 2020. Our thanks to our nominating committee for preparing the following slate for your consideration.

President: Mark Elliott
Vice-President: Karen Garren
Secretary: Ellen Thoms
Treasurer: Goldie Schwartz
Chapter Rep: Sandi Saurers

Directors:
Michael Bubb
Gary Hunt
Grace Matthews
Jill McGuire
Karen Schneider
Paul Lyrene

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting. If you have considered taking a more active role in the chapter, perhaps this is the opportunity you've been waiting for!





Stewardship Forest

(Continued from Page 4)

we walk. We notice a bigflower pawpaw (*Asimina obovata*), then we come across a gopher burrow. Right at home in this habitat!

Then we're back at the house, where Peggi treats us to delicious refreshments that include gourmet teas that she made from red hibiscus, and some made from winged sumac. We enjoy our treat in the naturally cooled high-ceilinged room. No air conditioning here!

Thank you, James, for your generous work toward the healing, well-being, and conservation of this beautiful piece of property, and Peggi for feeding us so well.

(See additional observations on Page 6)



Nestor was a spoiler

By Lisa Jelks

With Tropical Storm Nestor approaching our area right before the Fall Plant Sale at Morningside, the decision to cancel had to be considered. Because the sale takes place on City property it is ultimately their decision and they chose to put the safety of the vendors, volunteers, and customers first. Considering the weather forecasts of rain, lightning, and wind, prudence won out. Our forecasters, unfortunately, did not consider Nestor's speed and the weather was not as bad as predicted for our area (although the storm did spawn several tornadoes just to our south).

In the 30 years of our plant sales' history, we've only had to cancel a few times. Most of our vendors do not actually sell retail to the public, however, for those of you who are still in need of plants now, please consider patronizing the nurseries that advertise on page 9 in this *Rhexia*.

Save the date now for the **Spring Sale, April 17-18, 2020** and remember to check out our Facebook page to get all the latest information: <https://www.facebook.com/Paynes-Prairie-Chapter-of-FNPS-124351387638422/>

December Events and Non-events

Happy Holidays to our Paynes Prairie Family! We wish you a happy, healthy season of thanksgiving, celebration, and the start of another year.

Remember there will be no general meeting and no *Rhexia* in December but our schedule will resume in January 2020.

Two Chapter events will take place in December - a field trip to Indian Lakes State Forest on Dec. 7 and the annual workday at Carl's Garden on Dec. 14.

Membership to FNPS makes a great gift that can reap real benefits too Florida's environmental future. Easy to give by clicking [here](#) or use the membership form on Page 10.



Additional Observations Regarding Plant Species Recorded on the James Brown Property
 By Karen Garren (edited by Rob Garren)

Common name	Scientific Name	Additional Notes
Mesic mixed woods south from James' house		
Florida anise	<i>Illicium floridanum</i>	
Flowering dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>	
Southern magnolia	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	
Tree sparkleberry	<i>Vaccinium arboretum</i>	
Sand live oak	<i>Quercus geminata</i>	
Turkey oak	<i>Quercus laevis</i>	
Florida rosemary	<i>Ceratiola ericoides</i>	The individuals here are large but appeared scraggly and stressed.
Yellow jessamine	<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	
Centipedegrass	<i>Eremochloa ophiuroides</i>	
Yankee weed	<i>Eupatorium compositifolium</i>	First frost occurs approx. 6 weeks after first flowering for this species.
Elliott's lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis elliottii</i>	
Wiregrass	<i>Aristida stricta</i>	Mostly in flower.
Saw palmetto	<i>Serenoa repens</i>	
Top of Hill – Deep Sands		
<i>Area was summer burned a couple years ago – prior to 2014 the area was winter burned following roller chopping</i>		
Gopher apple	<i>Licania michauxii</i>	
Gayfeather	<i>Liatris</i> sp.	
Longleaf pine	<i>Pinus palustris</i>	
Deer moss (Evans' reindeer lichen)	<i>Cladina evansii</i>	
Pineland false foxglove	<i>Agalinis divaricata</i>	Host to buckeye butterfly.
Saw palmetto	<i>Serenoa repens</i>	
Wiregrass	<i>Aristida stricta</i>	
Florida rosemary	<i>Ceratiola ericoides</i>	From Carol Lippincott: “ <i>Ceratiola</i> forks every year – thus a 6 inch high plant is 2 years old.”
Narrowleaf silkgrass	<i>Pityopsis graminifolia</i>	
Lopsided indiagrass	<i>Sorghastrum secundum</i>	Flowers in Florida around Columbus Day every year.
Forked bluecurls	<i>Trichostema dichotomum</i>	More common than narrowleaf bluecurls (<i>T. setaceum</i> , also noted on James' property).
Redbay	<i>Persea borbonia</i> var. <i>borbonia</i>	Subject to <i>Fusarium</i> wilt vectored by the Ambrosia beetle, an invasive exotic insect. This disease is also threatening the avocado industry.
Walking North through the Area along the Road Boundary with Goethe Forest		
Cottonweed	<i>Froelichia floridana</i>	
Purple sandgrass	<i>Triplasis purpurea</i>	
Capillary hairsedge	<i>Bulbostylis ciliatifolia</i>	
Michaux's croton	<i>Croton michauxii</i>	Formerly <i>Crotonopsis linearis</i> .
Splitbeard bluestem	<i>Andropogon ternarius</i>	A denizen of the sandhills and scrub areas.
Back Down the Hill		
Devil's walkingstick	<i>Aralia spinosa</i>	



Lethal Bronzing of Palms

By Mark Elliott

You may remember a disease of coconut palms, called Lethal Yellowing, that swept through south Florida a couple of decades ago. Lethal Bronzing is similar to Lethal Yellowing but has more far reaching consequences for native Florida palms. Let's start with a little history and microbiology.

Lethal Yellowing of coconuts is caused by a phytoplasma, a type of bacteria that lacks a cell wall and cannot be cultured in the laboratory. A couple of decades ago, as microbiology/molecular techniques advanced, mycoplasma like organisms (MLOs) that *infected plants were* split off and given the name "phytoplasmas". While the popular Jamaican Tall coconuts were all but eliminated, Malayan Dwarf coconuts seemed to be resistant and so we still have coconuts in South Florida and the Caribbean.

In the 1980's scientists started noticing dying Phoenix palm trees in Texas. The symptoms looked similar to but not quite the same as those caused by Lethal Yellowing. In 2002, scientists determined this Texas disease was also a phytoplasma but was different from Lethal Yellowing on a molecular level. At that time the disease was called Texas Phoenix Palm Decline because it was thought to only affect Phoenix or date palms in Texas. Subsequently other species of Phoenix palms became infected.

By 2006 the disease had been detected in Florida, Louisiana and Mexico and infected other palms outside of the genus Phoenix including Queen palm (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*). In 2008, the phytoplasma was also isolated from the Cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*). For this reason, the name was changed to "Lethal Bronzing disease". Currently the phytoplasma has been detected in 16 different species of palm.

The first infections in Florida were centered in Hillsborough County but the disease has now spread to 31 counties, as far north as Duval and as far south as Broward. While Lethal Bronzing has been detected in Alachua County, experts say it is not as common as in other parts of the state. Traffic going north and south on highways is thought to be reason the disease has spread; the insects hitch rides on vehicles.

According to Brian Bahder, an assistant professor of insect vector ecology with the University of Florida's Insti-

tute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, the disease starts with plant hoppers, tiny insects with piercing-sucking mouth parts. They feed on the tree's sap and inject their saliva into its phloem tissue through their "needle-like" mouths. When plant hoppers feed on an infected tree, they acquire the phytoplasma. When they move and feed on healthy trees, the phytoplasma is transferred to the phloem of the healthy trees and they become infected. The phytoplasma is limited to the phloem of the palm trees and cannot survive outside of the tree or the insect. This means it cannot be transmitted mechanically by pruning tools etc. When a tree is infected with Lethal Bronzing,

the symptoms start slowly. First, the tree will drop its fruit prematurely. Any flowers on the tree will slowly die. The oldest leaves will eventually turn brown. There is no chance of a tree surviving once the spear leaf, or the youngest leaf of a palm tree, gets diseased. It takes four to five months from acquiring Lethal Bronzing until death, and there is no treatment once infected.

Bahder recommends infected palms should be removed quickly and mulched to prevent spread of the disease. Healthy palms can be pumped with oxytetracycline antibiotic to prevent becoming infected but this is expensive and must be repeated every three to four months. Healthy trees near infected trees should be tested and treated to prevent infection. Tampa values its

palms and is spending a lot of money to keep the disease from spreading by replacing dead palms with a mixture of species of trees to help prevent further spread and maintain the diversity and aesthetics of the street canopy.

Our concern of course is for our native cabbage palm, *Sabal palmetto*. We don't know what other tree species can fill the niche of the cabbage palm in our native forests. We do know that the disappearance of one species can have a negative cascade effect on other species in the environment. So...what species...plant or animal, insect to bat will we lose if we lose the cabbage palm?

Photos of the insect and disease symptoms can be found in this link to a Pest Alert produced by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer services Division of Plant Industry. [freshfromflorida.com/content/download/39924/868718/Pest_Alert - Texas Phoenix Palm Decline.pdf](https://freshfromflorida.com/content/download/39924/868718/Pest_Alert_-_Texas_Phoenix_Palm_Decline.pdf)



Lethal bronzing symptoms on sabal palm.
Photo: UF/IFAS Schall



Plant ID Workshop for October 2019

Compiled by Paul Cohen and Robert Garren

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	Status
Workshop			
<i>Agalinis purpurea</i>	Purple false foxglove	Orobanchaceae	Native
<i>Aristida purpurascens</i>	Arrowfeather threeawn	Poaceae	Native
<i>Asimina incana</i>	Woolly pawpaw; Polecat bush	Annonaceae	Native
<i>Bulbostylis ciliatifolia</i>	Capillary hairsedge	Cyperaceae	Native
<i>Clematis catesbyana</i>	Satin curls	Ranunculaceae	Native
<i>Croptilon divaricatum</i>	Slender scratchdaisy	Asteraceae	Native
<i>Croton michauxii</i>	Rushfoil; Michaux's croton	Euphorbiaceae	Native
<i>Dichantherium aciculare</i>	Needlegrass witchgrass	Poaceae	Native
<i>Dichantherium portoricense</i>	Hemlock witchgrass	Poaceae	Native
<i>Digitaria filiformis</i> var. <i>filiformis</i>	Slender crabgrass; Shaggy crabgrass	Poaceae	Native
<i>Eragrostis elliotii</i>	Elliott's lovegrass	Poaceae	Native
<i>Erigeron strigosus</i>	Prairie fleabane	Asteraceae	Native
<i>Hexasepalum teres</i>	Poor joe; Rough buttonweed	Rubiaceae	Native
<i>Lechea mucronata</i>	Hairy pinweed	Cistaceae	Native
<i>Liatris tenuifolia</i> var. <i>tenuifolia</i>	Shortleaf gayfeather	Asteraceae	Native
<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	Common eveningprimrose	Onagraceae	Native
<i>Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium</i>	Sweet everlasting; Rabbit tobacco	Asteraceae	Native
<i>Quercus falcata</i>	Spanish oak; Southern red oak	Fagaceae	Native
<i>Quercus margarettae</i>	Sand post oak	Fagaceae	Native
<i>Symphotrichum adnatum</i>	Scaleleaf aster	Asteraceae	Native
<i>Trichostema dichotomum</i>	Forked bluecurls	Lamiaceae	Native
<i>Vitis aestivalis</i>	Summer grape	Vitaceae	Native
Plant Auction			
<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	Whorled milkweed	Apocynaceae	Native
<i>Glandularia maritima</i>	Coastal mock vervain	Verbenaceae	Native
<i>Berlandiera subacaulis</i>	Florida greeneyes	Asteraceae	Native
<i>Hypericum tenuifolium</i>	Atlantic St. John's-Wort	Clusiaceae	Native
<i>Justicia pringlei</i>	Cooley's waterwillow; Cooley's justica	Acanthaceae	Native
<i>Melanthera nivea</i>	Snow squarestem	Asteraceae	Native
<i>Monarda punctata</i>	Spotted beebalm	Lamiaceae	Native
<i>Psilotum nudum</i>	Whisk-fern	Psilotaceae	Native
<i>Sapindus saponaria</i>	Soapberry	Sapindaceae	Native
<i>Silphium asteriscus</i>	Starry rosinweed	Asteraceae	Native
<i>Trichostema dichotomum</i>	Forked bluecurls	Lamiaceae	Native

Note: As many of us have observed over the past few years, a great many numbers of scientific plant names have been changed (revised). This is an ongoing process due, in large part, to DNA analysis which has become a modern taxonomic tool. This process is ongoing and will continue to refine classification systems as more information becomes available. For those who are interested in these changes, a good exercise some of you may wish to undertake is to examine the historical synonymy of some of the plants in the above table. *Happy Classifying!* Rob Garren

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/>).

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Florida Native Plant Society
Paynes Prairie Chapter
Post Office Box 1004
Archer, FL 32618



The Mission of the Florida Native Plant Society is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

The Society fulfills this mission through:

- Support for conservation land acquisition;
- 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.

Can you grow *Rhexia* from seed?

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 four inch pots in time for either our Spring or Fall Native Plant Sale to qualify. Call Jim with questions - 352-372-2107.



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/~pOctober/index.htm>

Paynes Prairie Chapter Florida Native Plant Society

November 16: Field Trip **Price's Scrub State Park**

8:30 to carpool or 9:00 onsite
(See page 1 for details)

November 19: General Meeting **7:00 pm**

Plant ID Workshop at 6:30 pm
(See page 1 for details)

November 23: Nature Day **Little Orange Creek Nature Day**

(See page 3 for details)

December 7: Field Trip **Indian Lake State Forest**

(See page 2 for details)

December 14: Carl's Garden **Work Day**

(See page 3 for details)

Save the Date!
Spring Native Plant Sale
April 17-18, 2020