



*Rhexia mariana* ©Darel Hess 2bnthewild.com

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## Guest Columnists

needed for the

## 2004-05 Rhexia

If you have something interesting to share with our readers, contact:

Karen Ahlers - (352) 546-3560 or  
 gourdsandboards@hotmail.com

# The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter  
 Florida Native Plant Society  
 May 2004

## Florida's Forest Stewardship Program

*An Opportunity for the Private Non-industrial Landowner*

By Chuck McKelvy

Almost 50% (7.2 million acres) of Florida's forested lands are privately owned. The growing desire to live in rural settings along with a shift in ownership from landowners with traditional rural backgrounds to those from urban roots is influencing and promoting the nontraditional aesthetic and recreational values of forestlands. Although many of these new landowners may lack the basic understanding of land management, they desire technical advice and information that will address their multiple resource management interests and allow them to practice active management on their forestlands.

Authorized under the forestry title of the 1990 Farm Bill, the Forest Stewardship Program is a voluntary program that was initiated throughout the United States. The goal of the

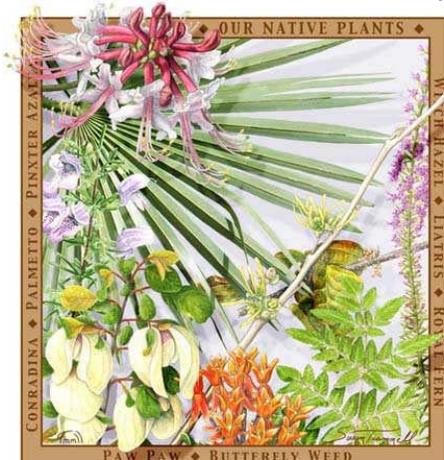
Program is to encourage private non-industrial forest landowners to actively manage their forestlands according to the multiple-use concept. This involves implementing management practices that encourage timber growth while improving wildlife habitat, conserving soil and water resources, enhancing aesthetic appearances and providing recreational opportunities for whomever the landowner chooses.

Florida's Forest Stewardship Program targets landowners who have either recently acquired forestland or who have not actively managed their lands in the past. It also encourages interested landowners who are now actively managing their lands to diversify their existing management strategies to incorporate other forest resources.

The Florida Division of Forestry administers the Stewardship Program in cooperation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Artist Trammell Contributes Design for New Chapter T-Shirts



Many thanks to Susan Trammel for her contribution of an incredibly beautiful image for our new Paynes Prairie Chapter T-shirt. The design, pictured to the left, is a collage of many favorite plants including Pinxter azalea, paw-paw, liatris, asclepias, Conradina, Royal Fern, and Palmetto.

The shirts will be available for sale at our May meeting for the discounted price of \$15. Shirts will also be sold as a fund raiser for the Chapter at the upcoming FNPS conference in Orlando.

You won't want to miss Dr. Hall's talk and the chance to be first in line for the new T-shirt.

## Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

The *Rhexia* is published monthly September - November and January - May by the Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society is the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. See our website at [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org).

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### April Field Trip Report Mill Creek Preserve

The April 17<sup>th</sup> field trip to Mill Creek Preserve fell on a wonderful spring day. This 1,200-acre preserve was acquired through the Alachua County Forever Program in October of 2002. The preserve is located on a hydrological divide where water on the south side of the preserve flows in a southerly direction (Townsend Branch) and water on the north side flows in a northerly direction (Pareners Branch).

Highlights of the trip included a visit to a small blackgum dome swamp that houses an impressive population of the state endangered pond spice (*Litsea aestivalis*). Dog hobble (*Leucothoe racemosa*) and *Juncus repens*, an odd little mat forming *Juncus*, were also well represented in this area.

Next we were off to the slope forest to see some majestic American beech trees (*Fagus grandifolia*), and some Florida maples (*Acer saccharum subsp. floridanum*), winged elms (*Ulmus alata*) and bluff oaks (*Quercus austrina*). Along Townsend Branch, which runs through the slope forest, we observed Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), and needle palm (*Rhapidophyllum hystrix*).

After the slope forest we proceeded to the headwaters of Pareners Branch. At this point some of the group worked on fern identification and the rest explored more of the forest. Species of note in this area included American elm (*Ulmus Americana var. floridana*), and rattan vine (*Berchemia scandens*).

Another fun day in the field!

Check out the new image gallery at the Native Plant Information Network at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center  
[www.wildflower2.org/NPIN/Gallery/gallery.html](http://www.wildflower2.org/NPIN/Gallery/gallery.html)

### Program Notes for Tuesday, May 11, 2004 Plant ID Workshop - 6:00 pm Meeting - 7:30 pm Dr. David Hall Plant Crime Scene Investigation

Dr. David Hall, forensic botanist, will present his program "Plant CSI" that describes how plant and botanical information is used to solve crimes. Dr. Hall has been an expert court witness and works as an environmental consultant specializing in grasses and wetland plants. He was formerly in the Botany Department at UF and curator of the University of Florida Herbarium. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Hall who is a long-time member of FNPS. Refreshments and plant raffle will follow the talk. Note: This is our last formal meeting until September 2004.

### May Field Trip - Dunn's Creek State Park Saturday, May 8, 2004

The fieldtrip for this month will be on Saturday May 8. We are moving it up one week because we don't want to conflict with the FNPS State conference May 13-16<sup>th</sup> in Orlando. We will be exploring Dunn's Creek State Preserve south of Palatka. This is an incredibly diverse area with 21 different natural communities in close proximity. We will be driving from place to place within the preserve along rough roads, so if anyone has a four-wheel drive vehicle, please bring it. Because we will need to coordinate transportation within the preserve, please RSVP by May 6<sup>th</sup> to Erick Smith (352)380-0648 so that we can plan accordingly.

Bring plenty of water, a hat or sunscreen, shoes you don't mind getting wet, and a bag lunch. For those who would like to carpool from Gainesville we will meet at the Main Street Publix (Main and 14<sup>th</sup> St) at 7:30am. For those who would like to meet at the site, from Gainesville drive to Palatka on SR 26 or 20, make a right on US 17 in Palatka and go south. Cross the St. John's River and continue south on US 17. Once you pass through Satsuma, you will come to some large hayfields on your left. Just past the hayfields there's a left hand curve. Just pass the curve, you will see a sign on the left and a wooden-fenced parking area with a picnic pavilion and a biodegradable toilet. This is the Dunn's Creek walk-in site. We will meet J.B. Miller, a biologist with FDEP, at 9am sharp. Plan on an hour and a quarter driving time from Gainesville.

### Rhexia Sponsorships for 2004-05 Available

In our continuing effort to offset the costs of producing the *Rhexia*, reservations are now being taken for the 10 available sponsorships for 2004-05 on a first come, first served basis.

For \$100, you can reserve a space in all eight issues planned for 2004-05.

Sponsorships are a great way to promote your business, honor a loved one, or simply show your support for the Chapter. Remember, there are only 10 spaces available so don't put it off!

To reserve your space, please contact Karen Ahlers at 352-546-3560 or at: [gourdsandboards@hotmail.com](mailto:gourdsandboards@hotmail.com).

### BOD Meeting May 4, 2004 5:30-7:30pm

Your Paynes Prairie Board of Directors will meet May 4 at the Environmental Horticulture Greenhouse classrooms. We invite all members to join us to plan fall programs, field trips and activities.

If you have an idea but cannot attend, please feel free to call or email any one of us (numbers are listed at the top of this page).

We've had a very successful spring with great attendance at all activities and the best plant sale in the state - thank you all for your support and enthusiasm -

Claudia

*In My Yard.... Wednesdays with Hannah* by Sandra Bayless

Today is Wednesday and for my husband and I that means it is a "Hannah Day". Hannah, our 2 ½ year-old granddaughter, spends two days each week with us. Most days are spent exploring the yard with her as our guide. She knows every inch of the property and will give anyone willing to take short steps and listen to her toddler babble a tour. There is always something new for her to discover. As Hannah says, "Come", and take a walk through our yard with us.

When we drive into the garage she is anxious to get going. First stop is the shed for bird seed and then we're off to visit the two gopher tortoise burrows behind the garage. We estimate the gopher population is 8 to 10 at any given time, sharing our two acres with us. They range from dinner plate- to teacup-sized. Hannah has been watching gophers since before she could walk and she knows where each one lives. She leaves a few seed at every hole just in case they are hungry.

Then we check out the cedar trees and grape vines where seed is again dropped for anything that might need a morning snack. We watch a hummingbird at the coral honeysuckle and look for caterpillars on the cassia tree. A quick check of a couple more gopher holes then it's down to the mailbox to see if the purple coneflowers, lance-

leafed coreopsis and brown eyed susans need a drink of water.

Wandering back towards the house through our mowed field under towering pines, birdseed is being trailed behind us like we might need help finding our



Hannah—our budding naturalist!

way home. We see the milkweed is coming back and the gaillardia is blooming. Hannah is on the lookout for the smallest of our gophers. We find it slowly making it's way back to it's tiny burrow, munching grass as it goes

along. She gets a closer look by squatting beside it and watching as it disappears underground. A small sprinkling of birdseed and we're off again.

By this time she's ready for a snack and heads for the blackberries growing along the path to the house. We all gather a handful and she and her Papa sit in the yard swing eating while I check to see if the Stokes asters and black eyed susans have any flowers this morning - both are full of buds but none open yet. The scarlet sage is in full bloom as is the thread leafed coreopsis and more coral honeysuckle blooming over the birdbath.

I turn on the hose and Hannah comes running with her watering can. She helps water in between stops to let the Carolina wrens feed their nestlings in a flower pot. She gently touches the blossoms on the columbine, careful not to break the long stems and deposits a few birdseed, just in case. We observe ants and a spider, catch a caterpillar and a doodle bug, and play hide and seek around the azaleas. She waters the coral vine and standing cypress then takes a long drink out of the can for herself. What birdseed is left is put in the feeder by the beauty berry. Tired and hungry, we head for the house for a dry shirt, lunch, and a much needed nap.

These days spent with Hannah as she explores the great outdoors have given me a whole new concept of what it means to be a lover of nature.

## April Plant ID Report

by Paul Cohen

Hercules Club, also known as the Southern prickly ash or toothache tree, grows throughout the Southern United States. The bark is used in folklore medicine for gastrointestinal problems, rheumatism, and the relief of toothache pain. (Tektran Agricultural Research Services: <http://www.nal.usda.gov/ttic/tektran/data/000007/44/0000074427.html> and Harrar, E. S. and J. G. Harrar, Guide to Southern Trees, Dover:1962).

Skipper Hammond of Williston calls Hercules Club "Tickle Tongue." Hammond notes, "It makes your tongue tingle and if you chew enough of it your whole tongue goes numb. I have noticed that it is more potent in the spring."

Hercules Club leaves have a definite citrusy odor when crushed and provide larval food for giant swallowtail butterflies.

Nomenclature based on Richard Wunderlin and Bruce Hansen's "Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida, Second Edition" (2003). Plant ID workshops take place at 6:00 PM before to the regular monthly meeting. Thanks to all who participate.

### Native Plants Identified

Viburnum obovatum	Walter's Viburnum	Caprifoliaceae
Spermeopsis divaricata	Roughfruit Scaleseed	Apiaceae
Ilex ambigua	Carolina Holly	Aquifoliaceae
Cirsium horridulum	Purple Thistle	Asteraceae
Pyrrhopappus carolinianus	Carolina Desertchicory	Asteraceae
Ostrya or Carpinus	(Hop)hornbean	Betulaceae
Rhipsalis baccifera	Mistletoe Cactus	Cactaceae
Triodanis perfoliata	Clasping Venus Lookingglass	Campanulaceae
Chrysobalanus icaco	Coco Plum	Chysobalanaceae
Commelina erecta	Whitemouth Dayflower	Commelinaceae
Cornus asperifolia	Roughleaf Dogwood	Cornaceae
Forestiera ligustrina	Upland Swamp Privet	Oleaceae
Galium hispidulum	Coastal Bedstraw	Rubiaceae
Zanthoxylum clava-herculis	Hercules Club	Rutaceae
Sideroxylon celastrinum	Saffron Plum	Sapotaceae

### Non-native Plants Identified

Medicago lupulina	Black Medick	Fabaceae
Ligustrum lucidum	Glossy Privet	Oleaceae

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## Forest Stewardship Program

*(Continued from page 1)*

Private forestry and wildlife management consultants also help provide technical assistance to participating landowners. The Florida Cooperative Extension Service publishes a quarterly newsletter for program participants, produces publications relevant to multiple-use management and conducts other informational and educational programs to assist program participants.

A forester and wildlife biologist visit each interested landowner to determine their primary land management objectives, assess the property and discuss management alternatives. This team concept allows for an integrated approach to land management that addresses the landowner's management goals and encourages landowners to consider management options that enhance various natural resource commodities and amenities.

The involved resource professionals summarize their recommendations in a written Stewardship Management Plan which is customized for each landowner's property and goals. In addition to the written plan, the team is also available to provide landowners with guidance during implementation of their conservation practices. Once a significant portion of the management plan has been implemented, the property is eligible for certification as a **Stewardship Forest**. The landowner receives a plaque and sign for their property, as well as public recognition for their efforts, if desired.

The agency professionals who assist participating landowners are not regulatory or law enforcement officials, and are not looking for violations of any laws. Their purpose is not to tell landowners what to do, but rather provide technical advice that will allow participating landowners to achieve their management goals while conserving natural resources. For the past twelve years they have respected the private property rights of all Stewardship Program participants and will continue to do so in the future.

To date, approximately 1,800 properties, encompassing 600,000 acres in Florida, have received written management plans and technical guidance. In addition to technical advice and guidance provided to participants, Florida's Forest Stewardship Program has brought various resource

## Florida Master Naturalist Program

The University of Florida Extension Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) Coastal Systems Module will be offered June 3, 4, 10, 11, 18, and 24 at the Duval County Extension office.

This program is for adults who want to learn more about Florida's environment including individuals, educators and ecotourism operators.

Topics include: ecosystems, key plants and wildlife, and the role of humans in shaping the environment. Advance registration is required and the course fee is \$200. The instructor is Carol J. Wyninger. To register, go to the website [www.masternaturalist.org](http://www.masternaturalist.org).

For more information, call Carol at 220-0232 or email [wyninger@comcast.net](mailto:wyninger@comcast.net).

## Carl's Garden Workday

By Brian Quinn

Nine dedicated volunteers braved the unusually hot morning and help carve a little piece of Kanapaha Park into the early development of Carl's garden.

Landscape timbers were placed, weeds and underbrush were removed, plants were added, and mulch was spread, leaving the area looking much better. At least two more workdays will be planned before this garden will come to fruition.

I encourage everyone to go to this beautiful location to check out the beginnings of a fine garden. I thank all who showed up and worked in the heat, and hope to see more at our next workday, which will include weed removal and plant installation.

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## Gopher Tortoise Conservation Project Needs Hay

The Gopher Tortoise Conservation Initiative (GTCI) of the Ashton



Biodiversity Research and Preservation Institute, Inc., is helping private landowners and others protect gopher tortoises on their land and helping create regulations that permit proper use of the land while insuring the existence of this species.

Studies show that just releasing tortoises in good habitat works poorly. Tortoises, like most other animals, have a homing instinct. Our studies show that if tortoises are contained within the relocation site by a hay bale barrier for 3 to 6 months, they clear their internal homing directions.

Hay bales work because tortoises cannot see the ground horizon and give up trying to escape faster. When property installed, the tortoises rarely dig under them. Old hay begins to decompose in about the proper time the barrier should be lifted to allow tortoises to expand their foraging home range.

We are asking your help in finding "Old Hay" bales that are still intact and will likely hold their shape for at least 3 months after they are put out. Individuals managing relocations are not required to put fencing around relocation sites. We ask that bales be donated but in some situations a nominal charge may be covered by relocation site owners.

We will notify individuals in your area of available hay. It takes about 1200 bales to surround 12-15 acres. If the habitat is good, this is enough area for 30 or more tortoises.

Please contact Ray or Pat Ashton at 352-495-7449 or email [info@ashtonbiodiversity.org](mailto:info@ashtonbiodiversity.org) if you can donate hay.

professionals together. This forum has provided for the exchange of information and a better understanding of integrated natural resource management by both the landowner and resource professionals. Ultimately, this union will benefit Florida's forest landowners and sustain their forest resources for future generations.

If you have at least 25 acres of forestland, are interested in multiple resource management and would like to receive technical assistance provided through Florida's Forest Stewardship Program, please contact the Division of Forestry at (850) 414-9907, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at (850) 414-9911 or your local County Forester. We welcome the opportunity to serve you!

*Chuck McKelvy* is the Forest Stewardship Program Coordinator with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.



## Visit LEAFS

You are welcome to visit a longleaf pine restoration project located 2 miles south of Waldo on CR 1471 and Lake Alto Park. The trails in the flatwoods are open during all daylight hours.

Longleaf Ecology and Forestry Society

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## Upcoming Meetings, Field Trips, and Events

### Monthly Meetings

Regular monthly meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday September - November and January - May at 7:30 pm at the Mathe-son Historical Center, 513 E. University Ave., Gainesville, Florida. A Plant ID workshop precedes each meeting at 6:00 pm.

**May 11** Plant CSI **Dr. David Hall**  
 No Meetings June - August

### FNPS Planning and Board Meeting

**May 4, 5:30-7:30pm** Env Hort Greenhouse Complex, UF  
 Call Claudia at 846-1070 for directions

### Field Trips

May 8 Dunn's Creek State Park

### Events

May 13-16 FNPS State Conference - Orlando

### Donations and Volunteers Needed for FNPS Annual Conference Silent Auction

Donations are being sought by the Tarflower Chapter for a Silent Auction to be held Friday night at this year's FNPS Annual Conference. They suggest that the donations have a native plant theme but not exclusively. Also needed are volunteers willing to help with set up and monitoring the auction during breaks.

Suggested donations include: books, posters, native plants or seeds, photos, botanical artwork, yard art, dried flowers, jewelry, clothing, or anything that touches on preservation and conservation.

Call Daniela DeBiase before May 10 if you plan to participate. She can be reached at: 407-423-3554 or dani\_FNPS@juno.com

Lets be creative and see what we can come up with! Remember, since this is a fundraiser for the State FNPS, we all benefit! Donations can be mailed or taken to the Annual Conference.

Photo credits: *Rhexia mariana*, © Darel Hess - www.2bnthewild.com; Hannah - K. Ahlers; Gopher tortoise - Ashton Biodiversity Research

## Florida Native Plant Society Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Check pertinent category:

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<input type="checkbox"/> Family or Household	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit Org.	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Business or Corporate	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Donor	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Library	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Student (full-time)	\$15

**Please mail completed form to: Florida Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 278, Melbourne, FL 32902-0278**

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendations by the state.