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To learn more about the
FLORIDA WILDFLOWER
GROWERS COOPERATIVE
 visit
www.floridawildflowercouncil.org

Fall Native Plant Sale

Friday, Sept. 17, 2004
 4:30 pm-6:30 pm
 (FOM & FNPS Members Only)
 Saturday, Sept. 18, 2004
 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter
 Florida Native Plant Society
 September 2004

Coming Soon.....Fall Native Plant Sale:

Friday Sept. 17 - 4:30-6:30 pm & Saturday Sept. 18 - 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Most of you are not strangers to our great bi-annual plant sales. This fall's sale will be following the course of the previous sales with the benefits of a special members-only sale on Friday evening and the convenience of park-a-plant. The Saturday sale for the general public will include a wildflower walk led by Morningside Nature Park naturalists at 1pm, many educational displays and sales of books and birdhouses. Trees, shrubs, wildflowers and wildflower seed suitable for central Florida will be offered for sale by local vendors.

Fall is the perfect time to reclaim your yard from summer weeds, to re-mulch worn areas, prune overgrown plants, and get shrubs and trees established. If you need advice on any of these gardening activities, drop by the FNPS information booth and talk with our friendly advisors. As time permits, we will try to provide personal plant advisors to anyone who needs help deciding the right plant to buy for the right place in the landscape. We will also have native plant lists, pamphlets, wildflower notecards and our beautiful new chapter T-shirts for sale.

We would also like to promote our chapter's plant raffle, so plan to buy a ticket for a chance to win one of three groups of plants donated by vendors. Tickets will be located at the checkout table on Friday night and at the FNPS booth on Saturday. Winning tickets will be drawn at noon. (You do not need to be present to win, but must pick up the plants in a timely manner).

If you can spare a couple of hours either Friday or Saturday we also need volunteers to help at the FNPS information booth. We know many of you have wonderful gardens and landscapes and can help others pick the right plant for the right place. Contact Erick Smith to volunteer at the

FNPS booth, as a plant advisor, or to assist vendors at 352-380-0648 or edsmith@ufl.edu. If you would prefer to help at the check-out table as a cashier or at the book booth, please contact Alice Tyler at pinetyl@atlantic.net or 352-528-3968.

For more information on the sale check www.natureoperations.org. See you there!

Gardening with Wildflowers

by Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor

Establishing wildflowers in one's yard or creating a wildflower meadow are not easy tasks. Wildflowers need help in becoming established; however, once they are established, the garden or site containing these plants will need minimal care. When planting wildflowers make a concerted effort to emulate nature. The more one knows about the biology of the plants (e.g., where they grow in nature, when they produce seeds, when the seeds germinate, etc.) the better chance the results will be positive.

Not all attractive wildflowers one might desire can be grown in Florida due to their climate, soil type, and other habitational requirements. Plants that grow in the Panhandle probably will not do well in South Florida; the reverse is also true. Experiment with different species, but experiment with the common, more hearty-types. Read books that are available on Florida wildflowers, paying attention to species that occur in your locale.

Seed Source

There is no single place where one can purchase seeds of wildflowers grown from Florida plants. Check with your local native plant nursery and county agent for possible locations for buying seeds.

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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.

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Message from the President

November is election time so please make sure your vote counts. Even though national elections get heavy publicity, it is the local elections that may effect you on a more personal level. Please take time to be informed on the issues and stands of local candidates.

The Paynes Prairie chapter will also hold its election at our November annual meeting. Officers and directors are elected for one year and can serve three consecutive terms. The only exception is the Treasurer, which is a three year term.

It has been a great joy to me to have three other officers and five board members to help guide our 2004 chapter activities. They have planned great programs and fun field trips, and have many exciting ideas for next year. These people are all listed in the *Rhexia* and are happy to discuss any ideas you have. All of them have agreed to retain their offices or move on to other chapter positions, leaving openings in 2005 for vice-president and secretary.

Our 2004 secretary, John Shryock, recently accept-ed a job in California. We appreciate his carefully detailed minutes and many contributions, and wish him well in his new pursuits. Joe Durando has agreed to fill in as secretary and keep FNPS records until the November elections.

The BOD has appointed a Nominating Committee and a slate of officers will be printed in the October *Rhexia*. Committee members are: Jennifer Staiger jennifer_staiger@usgs.gov (352-375-1972), Erick Smith (edsmith@ufl.edu (352-380-0648) and Ann Stadola astadola@ufl.edu (352-473-3006).

Lisa and Howard Jelks jelkslg@ufl.edu (352-373-3028) have been appointed as the Auditing Committee to review the Chapter's 2004 finances.

If anyone would like to serve as an officer, any present officer would be glad to send you a job description and discuss this opportunity with you. The commitment is one year with four →

Program Notes for Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Plant Identification Workshop: 6:30-7:30pm

Our plant ID workshops will continue this fall, an hour before each meeting. This is an excellent opportunity to learn to identify plants from your yard using popular field guides and taxonomy techniques. The workshop is useful to both beginners and those experienced in identification procedure. Please bring a branch with leaves and any identifiable part like flowers, seeds or fruit. We would appreciate it if you can contain the plant in a bag or newspaper to minimize mess. Paul Cohen will conduct the workshop.

Program Meeting - 7:30 pm:

Terry Zinn

Growing Wildflowers for Seed Production in Florida

Please join us for the first program of the fall! Terry Zinn is a member of the Florida Wildflower Growers Cooperative that was recently formed as an organization of people interested in growing native Florida wildflowers to be harvested for bulk seed. This seed will be used for roadside plantings and is also available for public sale. He will be telling us about his group and also show the methods used for growing wildflowers as an agricultural crop. Some of Terry's seed will also be for sale at the Fall Native Plant Sale. The talk will be followed by a plant raffle and refreshments.

September Field Trip - Juniper Spring Run

Saturday, September 25, 2004

Juniper Spring Run is one of the premier spring runs in central Florida. The stream winds through the Juniper Springs Wilderness Area with no residential houses and no powerboats. Lots of interesting plants, birds, the occasional otter, deer, and alligator. There is a small dock halfway for a lunch spot. Swimming is allowed at the beginning and at the end. We'll meet at the IHOP on SW 13th St. at 8:30 to carpool to Juniper Springs Recreation Area, arriving about 10 am. Drive time is about 80 minutes one way; the canoe trip takes 4-5 hours.

Cost: \$3.00 to enter recreation area, canoes are \$28.00 each with 2-3 people in each canoe. If you bring your own boat they will shuttle you and your boat back from the takeout point to your car for about \$5.00.

Juniper Springs Recreation Area is located on State Road 40, 22 miles east of Silver Springs. From Gainesville: Drive south towards Ocala on US 441 (SW 13th St.) and take the SR 326 bypass to the east around Ocala. This will dead end into SR 40, make a left (east) and go about 20 miles and you will see the Juniper Springs Recreation Area sign. If you pass US 19 you have gone too far.

Please RSVP to Erick Smith 352-380-0648. If you are going solo and plan on bringing your own canoe, please call and I will match up partners.

planning meetings in that time. Please consider joining us as a more active member -- also remember, any member is welcome at planning meetings. The

next BOD meeting is November 16. (check *Rhexia* calendar for time/place)

Claudia

Growing Little Perennial Wonders

by Linda Smith, Pinellas Chapter FNPS

Wildflowers have special attributes that are astounding. They show us complexity disguised as simplicity. They show us adaptability and seasonal change. An ongoing saga can be written about their strengths. From the first sign of new growth to the resting season following seed production, they are an ever changing marvel. They add diversity, and, for the observant and curious gardener, new techniques to try.

A few principles apply to dry-site perennials. Dry site wildflowers are accustomed to Florida's sandy soils. Fertilizer will cause overgrowth and does not enhance the plants growth pattern.

These plants will grow in low spots that drain but if the area stays too wet during a rainy season they may chose to not return for another year.

Direct sun for six hours a day is a good formula. Full sun is also generally acceptable.

A light sprinkling of leaves and grass clippings each season helps to retain moisture and build organic content in the soil. Heavy mulching will inhibit reproduction and could retain too much moisture during wet seasons.

If you are hoping for new plants from seeds, plant along with clumps of native grasses. The effect is similar to a light protective mulch and seeds that fall are more likely to sprout.

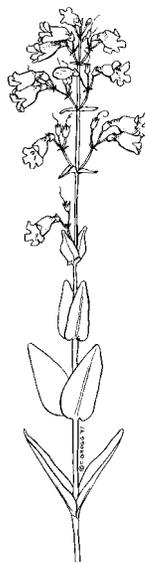
Summertime is a great time to plant. The summer rains help a lot when newly planted root balls can dry out rapidly. Fall and win-

ter planting allows seedlings to establish good root systems before the spring and accompanying drought arrives.

Enhance bouquets of trimmings from shrubs with a long spray of beard tongue or ironweed. Add them to a collection of zinnias and salvias for those birthday bouquets for your friends.

Four examples of perennial wildflowers are ruellia, ironweed, beard tongue and rosin weed. These durable plants are fascinating to watch through the years. They adapt easily to sandy soils, full to part sun and do not require irrigation once they are established. They each bloom in the season of their choice. Their seeds are as interesting as their flowers. Each flower is a sweet reminder of humble simplicity. Each seed is a reminder of the complexity of life itself.

Ironweed grows from central Florida north through the Carolinas and West Virginia. Some species are found as far west as Mississippi. In the late summer and autumn, they are very showy. Tall stems with clusters of deep purple flowers reach about 4 feet high. In a garden in central Florida, they will return faithfully every spring and will sometimes bloom in



Beardtongue
(*Penstemon multiflorus*)
Cathy Vogelsong

late spring and again in the fall. Deep green leaves provide a good background. They transplant easily and require no irrigation once established.

Another tall grower is rosin weed. Cultivated varieties may differ somewhat to the related aster species found in fields and roadsides. When purchased as a 4" seedling, it can unfold into a vigorous tall bloomer with lots of bright yellow flowers. Rosin weed does well in sandy soils with minimal organic content. When the blooms fade, it responds well to clipping back and will produce periodic blooms through the growing season. In some cases, rosin weed will grow to five feet tall and three feet wide. A light clipping here and there keeps it in shape. It is assumed the seed will entice some seed eating birds and so there is a decision to be made to remove all the seed bearing branches.

Beard tongue blooms in the spring or autumn when under cultivation. The two foot shafts of bell-like white or pink flowers are long lasting. The small clumps grow slowly larger through the years. When viewed close up, the flowers are amazing, with a furry bearded tongue on the lower petal reminiscent of the cousin snap dragon. The seeds mature slowly and tend to not reproduce easily. These are particularly well suited for drier sites.

The growing and blooming season of ruellia more than makes up for the scruffier dormant period. The delicate blue blossoms and rounded clusters of leaves and stems will make you smile and feel quite calm. As it volunteers around the yard it will enhance any bed. It often finds very appro-

(Continued on page 4)

May Plant ID Report

by Paul Cohen

Richard Weaver, Ph.D., of the Division of Plant Industry was able to identify the only potted specimen brought to the workshop by growing it in his back yard until it flowered. He identified it as *Eupatorium album* after nobody else could. Recognition was not possible until the plant bloomed.

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 6:30 PM before to the regular monthly meeting. Thanks to all who participate.

Native Plants Identified		
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elderberry	Adoxaceae
<i>Viburnum nudum</i>	Possum Haw	Adoxaceae
<i>Amaranthus bitum</i>	Purple Amaranth	Amaranthaceae
<i>Matelea floridana</i>	Florida Milkvine	Apocyanaceae
<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	Yaupon Holly	Aquifoliaceae
<i>Ilex x attenuata</i>	East Palatka Holly	Aquifoliaceae
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	Groundsel Tree	Asteraceae

Native Plants Identified (con't.)		
<i>Baccharis glomeruliflora</i>	Silvering	Asteraceae
<i>Eupatorium album</i>	White Thoroughwort	Asteraceae
<i>Krigia virginica</i>	VA Dwarf Dandelion	Asteraceae
<i>Eleocharis geniculata</i>	Canada Spikerush	Cyperaceae
<i>Rhynchospora sp</i>	Beaksedge	Cyperaceae
<i>Leucothoe axillaris</i>	Coastal Doghobble	Ericaceae
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Bog Rush	Juncaceae
<i>Juncus marginatus</i>	Shore Rush	Juncaceae
<i>Argemone albiflora</i>	Bluestem Pricklypoppy	Papaveraceae
<i>Dichanthelium aciculare</i>	Needleleaf Witchgrass	Poaceae
<i>Dichanthelium commutatum</i>	Variable Witchgrass	Poaceae
<i>Physalis arenicola</i>	Cypresshead Groundcherry	Solanaceae
<i>Solanum americanum</i>	Am. Black Nightshade	Solanaceae
Non-native Plants Identified		
<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	Chinese Privet	Oleaceae
<i>Talinum paniculatum</i>	Pink Baby's Breath	Portulacaceae
Undetermined		
Carex sp.	Sedge	Cyperaceae

Gardening with Wildflowers

(Continued from page 1)

Seeds can be collected from wild plants, but one must be certain that the seeds are fully mature. Never attempt to dig up and transplant wildflowers from the wild. For many species it is illegal and secondly many wildflowers do not transplant well. Purchasing wildflower mixtures usually is not worth the effort and money. One may have good results the first year from such a mixture, but most often the second and subsequent years' production will be poor. Packets of selected individual species (e.g., black-eyed susan, *Rudbeckia hirta*; blanket flower, *Gaillardia pulchella*) that grow naturally in Florida are ones best investments. One should have a mix of perennials and annuals in the garden.

When to Plant?

The time to plant seeds in Florida soils is the fall or early winter because the cooler months are usually the most stress-free times. Plants that need to produce rosettes or basal leaves before blooming in the spring have the time to do so when seeds are planted in the fall.

Establishing Wildflowers

Tossing seeds here and there on the ground will not work. One is wasting one's time and money. Just as if one were planting a vegetable garden, proper soil preparation is crucial. It may be a good idea to obtain the pH (hydrogen ion content) of the soil from the county agent's office. Checking the pH will allow one to determine if the soil is acid or alkaline. Many attractive wildflowers will not grow or not do well on former orange grove sites because of the alkaline soils produced when much lime was added for the citrus plants. Try to change the pH level of the soil. To the contrary, native azaleas, lyonias, blueberries, and other members of the heath family (Ericaceae) require acid soils for hearty productions. Seeds from lupines, morning-glories, and other species that have hard seed coats should be soaked before planting.

Steps to Follow

A step by step presentation for establishing wildflowers follows.

1. Carefully choose the site. Think about shade vs. sun, drainage, slope, etc. Wildflowers that grow in dry, sandy soils most likely will not do well in wet soils.

2. Once the site is chosen, proper preparation of the ground is very important. Eliminate grasses and other vegetation that will compete with the wildflowers. Pull out unwanted vegetation or herbicide the area if there is much vegetation present. Use biodegradable herbicides that contain glyphosate. Products on the market that are safe are Roundup and Kleenup. Always

Call To Action: Ask Albertson's for Florimulch

Due to a collection of happy circumstances, we have discovered that Albertsons has a contract with Forestry Resources Inc. the producers of Florimulch, a by-product of Melaleuca eradication and an alternative to Cypress mulch.

It turns out that any Albertsons store can place an order; and we just have to go to the store and request it. It's now up to FNPS members to create a demand that Albertson's would view as profitable.

FNPS members are encouraged to spread the word to friends and family to ask for Florimulch. If a few members could buy say 30 to 50 bags, Albertsons will notice and perhaps view it as a market niche for them.

If you know of local businesses that regularly offer Florimulch, make sure to continue to thank them with your pocketbook and verbal support. In the case of independently-owned businesses, this conscious choice to "do the right thing" is especially laudable.

Florimulch was developed by Forestry Resources, Inc. of Ft. Myers to promote a commercial use for Melaleucas in support of their eradication. Melaleuca, was introduced to Florida in the 1920's by federal foresters looking for a way to dry up the Everglades. The melaleuca experiment backfired as the tree rapidly

adapted, and overwhelmed, its new environment. With no natural pests or enemies, Melaleuca quickly invaded and literally destroyed hundreds of thousands of acres of once pristine natural areas.

As a consumer of Florimulch®, you not only protect Florida's native cypress trees, but support continued removal of Melaleuca. Supporters of Florimulch® include Friends of the Everglades and Florida Native Plant Society. Use of non-cypress mulch is also endorsed by Florida's Water Management Districts' Waterwise Guide and the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program's Guide to Environmentally Friendly Landscaping.

Perennial Wonders

(Continued from page 3)

appropriate places to volunteer like exactly between two small green shrubs or along the edges of the garden.

These plants have thrived nearly untended in an "average" yard in Pinellas County. They are seasonally available through Wilcox Nursery in Largo. In some cases these common names may not exactly match species identified in field guides. That is because they are grown by specialized nurseries throughout Florida and also because they exhibit different virtues when under cultivation. Enjoy whatever they do!



Gaillardia pulchella
Photo by Karen Ahlers

read and follow the directions given on the container.

3. After 2 weeks or so, rake away the dead vegetation. If one still has vegetation remaining, repeat the process. Depending upon the richness of your soil, one might want to apply a light application of fertilizer, such as 6-6-6 to the soil before planting. Do not over fertilize. Very sandy soils may need some organic matter for soil enrichment; however, do not over do it.

4. Rake or till the soil lightly. Try not to exceed a depth of more than 1 inch so as not to uncover a large amount of

unwanted weed seeds already in the soils.

5. Mix the seeds with sand or loose soil in a proportion of four parts sand to one part seeds. This will help obtain an even spread of the seeds. Hand-broadcast the seeds on a non-windy day.

6. Seed to soil contact is very important. Press the seeds in the ground by walking lightly on the bed or by very lightly raking the soil. Do not cover the seeds too deep.

7. After the seeds are planted they must be kept moist. Water with a fine spray every other day; do not let the ground completely dry out. Once the plants are established reduce the frequency of watering, but the plants should not wilt. Less watering makes the plants form deep roots.

8. Most often one will have to periodically weed the bed to keep out unwanted grasses and other plants.

9. At the end of the season (mid-late summer) when the plants have died and gone to seed, mow the bed to about 3".

10. Best of luck. Keep experimenting. Try new species, too. Do not give up even if the first try gives poor results.

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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 Matheson Historical Center, 513 E. University Ave., Gainesville, Florida. Plant ID workshops precede each meeting at 6:30 pm.

Sept. 14	Wildflower Seed Production	Terry Zinn
Oct. 12		TBA
Nov. 9	Florida Frogs	Paul Moler

Field Trips

Sept. 25	Juniper Springs Canoe Trip	
Oct. 16	(Tentative)	Ross Prairie
Nov. 13	(Tentative)	Mill Creek

Events

Sept. 17-18	(See story page 1)	Native Plant Sale
Oct. 2	Black Bear Fest, Umatilla,	www.flblackbearfestival.com

Oct. 7, 9, 16, 21, 23, and 30 www.masternaturalist.org

Florida Master Naturalist Program Freshwater Module

Dec. 6-10 1st National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration
 Wyndham Palace - Lake Buena Vista, Florida

Sept. 25, 26: RavineFest Folk Music Festival
 Ravine Gardens State Park, Palatka, 386-329-3721

Sept. 23, 25: Yes, But Is It Edible?

Come find out at Karen Garren's mushroom identification class being offered through Santa Fe Community College's Continuing Education Program. Sept. 23: Lecture/workshop
 Sept. 25: Foray at the Temple of the Universe
 Call 352-395-5193 for more information or to register.



The *Rhexia* is published monthly September-November and January-May by the Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Photo credits: *Rhexia mariana*, © Darel Hess - www.2bnthewild.com

Florida Native Plant Society Membership Form

Name: _____
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 Phone: _____ e-mail: _____
 Business Name: _____
 TOTAL : _____ Check enclosed: _____ Please charge my credit card: _____
 (VISA/MasterCard Only): Card Type and #: _____
 Exp. Date: _____ Name on credit card: _____

Check pertinent category:

- Individual \$25
- Family or Household \$30
- Contributing \$40
- Not-for-profit Org. \$50
- Business or Corporate \$100
- Supporting \$100
- Donor \$250
- Library \$15
- 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.