



President's Message

By Brian Quinn

Autumn has arrived and the tupelo trees are already turning color in my little patch of woods. Soon we can look forward to cooler nights and shorter days, which means it is a great time to start planting the trees and woody shrubs that you bought at the fall native plant sale, which take a lot of initial watering. We keep hearing about how the large municipalities like Jacksonville are going to eventually suck up all of the groundwater from their surrounding areas, and I believe those predictions to be true. Should we allow the public to continue down this destructive path of unfettered lawn irrigation?

With that in mind, remember to responsibly water your new plants, because overwatering them could prevent them from developing good root systems in some cases or kill the plants in more extreme cases. So when you put those plants in the ground, use a healthy amount of good mulch (please no cypress mulch), but keep it about 2" away from the trunk of the plant. When you irrigate your new plants, water deeply once a day for a week and then once a week for a month. If you see leaves drooping in the afternoon or early evening, it is most likely sun wilt and should probably be ignored, but if they are drooping in the morning, you need to add water. These basic guidelines will not only ensure the health and survival of your new flora, but also conserve our most precious resource, water.

October also means the height of fall wildflower season. Plan a trip between Micanopy and Cross Creek or a nice ride to the Lower Suwannee Refuge to see some great roadside autumn color. Take a canoe trip down one of our many scenic rivers. Plan a walk in San Felasco to watch the white oak and other leaves turn color. The passerine bird migration is in full swing, so go out with your binoculars and take a gander at our feathered friends as they pass through our area eating local berries and insects. October is one of those magical months in north Florida where we finally have more temperate weather and Mother Nature is moving and shaking all around us. Take a trip outside and make your own discoveries.

Monthly Meeting & Field Trip Info

Meeting: October 20, "Retrofitting a House for Solar Energy," Tim Keyser, see page 4.

Field Trip: Saturday, October 24, "Native Landscapes and Solar Home, Part 2," see page 4.

Rhexia Article Submissions

Please! Submit unformatted word documents only. Submit pictures as separate jpg, tiff, or pdf files. Send all article submissions to:
rhexia@gmail.com

Deadline date for November newsletter submissions is October 27th.

Paynes Prairie Chapter Members Photo Gallery

This is the first of hopefully an ongoing section of the Rhexia, and an opportunity for members to share their photographs of native plants. This is also good reason to sign up for electronic delivery of the Rhexia, so that you can view the photographs in their digital format and take full advantage of the details and color of these magnificent Florida natives. Thank you all for your photos!



1. b



1. a



1. c



2. a



2. b



2. c

1: Photos by Sandra Gail Lambert from her yard in Gainesville.

- a) *Magnolia ashei* (Ash Magnolia)
- b) *Callirhoe involucrata* (Poppy Mallow)
- c) *Stokesia laevis* (Stokes Aster)

2: Photos by Gary Paul from Farm-Farmstead Trail and Power Easement Trail.

- a) *Asclepias pedicellata* (Savannah Milkweed)
- b) *Asclepias verticillata* (Whorled Milkweed)
- c) *Dalea pinnata* (Summer Farewell)

Rainbow Springs State Park Re-Opens in Time for Florida's "October Is Camping Month"

By Paula Russo

Article by the Friends of Florida State Parks, Inc., a non-profit support organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of all of Florida's State Parks. Visit our Web site at: www.friendsoffloridastateparks.com.

October may just be the perfect month for a stay at the brand new campgrounds at Rainbow Springs State Park. Days are still warm enough to take a refreshing dip in Florida's fourth largest spring. Or a relaxing paddle or float on the Rainbow River which, rightfully, has been acknowledged as a National Natural Landmark and an Outstanding Florida Water. So expect some great wildlife viewing. Then enjoy cooler evenings around a camp fire.

The new campground is well-appointed for comfort and convenience. There are 60 sites in all. Three are easy "pull-through" sites reserved for RVs only. Seven are "tent only" campsites with a common parking area and restroom/shower all connected by paved pathways for easy access.

September Meeting Report: "Restoring Florida's Native Plant Communities"

By Jill McGuire

Thanks to Kent Williges for his informative talk at the September meeting—and for the amazing work he is accomplishing to restore our public areas.

In 2005 the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (the largest land management agency in state with 5 million acres under management) started projects dedicated to "restoring native ground cover to enhance wildlife and ecosystem functions". Some are on state Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) and some have been donated by ranching families.

Kent explained that early restoration methods consisted of just planting longleaf pine seedlings and leaving bahia (and other exotic grasses) in place. However, those grasses will not carry the periodic fire needed to keep long leaf pine ecosystems healthy. Wire grass is needed to complete the ecosystem and provide the fuel necessary for the fire. Without fire, woody species such as gallberry and palmetto take over and shade out native ground covers.

Restoration steps include using herbicides to kill grasses such as bahia and Bermuda, and then disking the land. Seed for

Each tent site has its own electric, water and picnic table. All RV sites are roomy and furnished with stand-up and in-ground grill, picnic table, 20/30/50amp electric service, water, and each site has its own sewer connection. Wheelchair users, or anyone with a mobility challenge, will appreciate that seven of the RV sites are paved making features easy to get to and maneuver around.

Restroom/shower facilities are modern and up to date with all the requirements for ease of use by everyone. There is even a designated "family restroom"—a convenience becoming more and more popular in a variety of settings.

Another amenity is the camp store stocked with essentials and well chosen items for mementos or gifts. And, there is a pool and playground! For more info on Rainbow Springs State Park and to make a reservation through Reserve America, visit: www.floridastateparks.org. 

wiregrass and lopsided Indian grass is then collected from native sites with a flailback harvester (comes in large size tractor or small size ATV mount). Donor sites are preferred within 100 miles of restoration site in order for the growing conditions to be similar, and two acres of wiregrass must be harvested for every one acre to be planted at the new site.

Restoration sites are monitored for several years to determine success of seeding, which includes painstaking plant counting by staff members. It is not unusual to see undesirable sedge grasses and dog fennels the first year, Kent explained, but the wiregrass is there, too and within a couple years the native grasses come on strong after the initial spikes of sedge and dog fennel drop off.

There is no routine maintenance after this and usually in three years the native grasses dominate and are ready to burn (which encourages natural seed production). Once ground cover is established, the longleaf pine seedlings are planted and the new plant community is on its way to restoration! 

2009 Calendar of Events

Please check the Paynes Prairie chapter page at www.FNPS.org for most current information and directions to field trips. All 2008 meetings will be held at the United Church of Gainesville, 1624 NW 5th Ave, Gainesville, 7:00-8:30pm. The plant ID workshop prior to the meeting begins at 6:15.

- October 20** Tim Keyser: Retrofitting a House for Solar Energy
October 24 Interlachen Solar House and Native Landscape
November 3 Fall Chapter Planning Meeting
November 17 Linda Tyson Ph.D., Professor, Santa Fe College Community College
November 21 San Felasco State Park (tentative)
December No Meeting, Happy Holidays!

(Spring program meetings will be January-May, 2010)

Saturday, October 24, 2009

Field Trip Information: *Native Landscapes and Solar Home, Part II*

For an experiential follow up to Tim Keyser's presentation at the Payne's Prairie Native Plant Society Meeting, join us for a tour of his solar home in the beautiful sandhills near Interlachen. For many years Tim has been buying native plants at annual sale at Morning-side Park Nature Center and adding them to his natural landscape. Before we visit his house, we will meet in Interlachen to visit another of Tim's projects, the Jenkins Park 1,000 Trees for Interlachen project.

Directions: Interlachen is located on SR 20 about 30 miles from Gainesville. Meet at 10 a.m. at Keyser and Woodward law office, 501 Atlantic Ave., which is 1 block south and west of the intersection of SR 20 and CR315. Driving time is about 40 to 60 minutes. 

October 20, 2009 Chapter Meeting

Speaker Information: *Tim Keyser to Share Solar Retrofit Experience*

Interlachen attorney Tim Keyser has been working for environmental causes for decades in both his professional and private life. Recently though he and his wife decided to participate in the green revolution in a big way: they decided to do a complete solar retrofit of their home. Tim will share the process of accomplishing a project so many of us dream about. 

Fall Paynes Prairie Chapter Planning Meeting, November 3, 2009, 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Environmental Horticulture Dept Greenhouses, behind Fifield Hall on Hull Rd off SW 34 St, UF Campus
For information or directions, or to contribute ideas contact Claudia (email calarsen@ufl.edu or 352-846-1070)

All members are invited to join the current officers and board of directors to plan spring activities for our chapter. (Pizza provided!)

Thank you to Ivor Kincaid who has volunteered to help plan spring field trips! 

Call for Board Members

Join the Paynes Prairie Chapter Board We Need You!

Elections for officers and board members will be held at our November program meeting, so now is the time to consider if you can help by volunteering a little extra time to our Chapter.

Our planning meetings are held four times a year in January, May, August, and November for a couple hours to brainstorm future speakers and field trips and vote on items such as financial contributions and sponsorships, plant sale issues, and planning changes.

If you would like a copy of officer and board member responsibilities as they appear in our chapter bylaws, contact Claudia Larsen at email calarsen@ufl.edu. Current officers or board members listed in the Rhexia can answer your questions about serving on the board. A lot of us have been doing the job for a long time, and we welcome new people and new ideas. As a small group we have a lot of fun and get a lot accomplished to keep Gainesville's Florida Native Plant Society active in our community and well know for environmental commitment. Join us!

Upcoming Events of Interest

Star Gazing at Dudley Farm Historic State Park, Saturday October 24, 7:30-10:00. (Parking begins at 5:30. PLEASE arrive and park before dark 5:30-7:00.)

Amateur and professional astronomers with the Alachua Astronomy Club (www.floridastars.org) will point their telescopes to the wonders Galileo observed 400 years ago. This is a fund raising event for the Friends of Dudley Farm. Donation is \$5 per adult; children free entry. Light refreshment will be served by the CSO members. All activities will be around the Visitors Center. The Farmhouse area will NOT be open. Direction: Dudley Farm Historic State Park is located in Newberry, Florida on SR 26 (Newberry Rd.) and is 7 ½ miles west of Gainesville I-75 exit 387.



Green notes

The Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC) is selling note cards as a "green" holiday gift for a fundraising campaign. Sets of 12 cards on recycled paper cost \$20, and your purchase supports their efforts to plant and protect urban forests in Florida. The FUFC is an allied organization and provides speakers for our annual conference. For more information, go to www.fufc.com.



Events at Morningside Nature Center, Take a Walk on the Wildflowers Side, Every Saturday in October 9 to 11 a.m.

Enjoy the spectacular fall wildflower bloom at Morningside Nature Center with a guided walk every Saturday. Meet at the Education Office. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring guides you may like to use along the way. This program is free, and is sponsored by Friends of Nature Parks.



Ghost Walk

Saturday October 24, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

On the Saturday before Halloween at Morningside, family and friends are invited for a night hike to the Living History Farm! There you will meet ghosts from 1870 and hear about their lives in rural Florida. Please note: This program is free but admission is one can of food for each adult or child.



Fiddlers Wanted!

For November Contest at Morningside Nature Center The Longleaf Pine Youth Fiddle and Open String Band Contest at the Cane Boil on Saturday, November 28. Three contest divisions are available: Seedling (through 12 years old), Sapling (13–18 years old) and Open String Band (no age limit, not restricted to fiddle). Please read complete rules, and more information about judging. Make this event part of your Thanksgiving weekend tradition!

Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

See our Web page at: www.fnps.org



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

The Rhexia is published monthly
September - November and January - May.

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Paynes Prairie Chapter Meeting Plant ID Workshop

Submitted by Paul Cohen

Have you met a plant you don't know? Join us for the Plant ID Workshop which happens before every meeting at 6:15. All are welcome to bring in plants for identification and for learning the process of botanical species classification.

** (n): native; (e): exotic

ID Plants from September 15, 2009:

Vincia acunifolia (n)

Oldenlandia corymbosa (e)

Oldenlandia boscii (e)

Hyptis mutabilis (n)

Acalypha gracilens (n)

Cocculus carolinus (n)

Elephantopus elatus (n)

Elephantopus carolinianus (n)

Raffle Plants from the September 15 meeting:

Rhapidothymum hystrix (n)

Commelina erecta (n)

Ulmus alata (n)

Rhamnus caroliniana (n)

Eupatorium incarnatum (n)

Ruellia caroliniensis (n)



Would you like to see the Rhexia in color?

There are two ways: you can receive the Rhexia digitally, or you can view the current issue at: <http://www.fnps.org/pages/chapters/chapterpg.php>. To receive the digital version of the Rhexia, please contact Goldie Schwartz, who manages the member's list for our FNPS chapter, at: afn49@mindspring.com.

All photos from <http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/>

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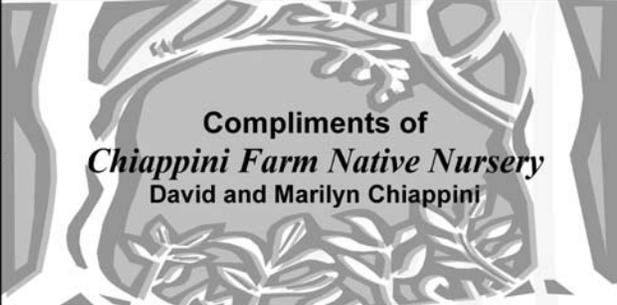
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Advertisements are now being accepted for the Rhexia newsletter! If you would like to support the Paynes Prairie chapter please send a business card size ad to Erick Smith at urbanforester@gmail.com. The ads cost \$100 and run from October 2009 to September 2010.



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Next Meeting
Tuesday, October 20th
7:00 p.m.
(Plant ID Workshop at 6:15)
United Church of Gainesville
1624 NW 5th Ave.
Gainesville, FL

FNPS Paynes Prairie Chapter Meetings
are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month
September - November and January - May
7:00 p.m., The United Church of Gainesville
1624 NW 5th Ave., Gainesville
Plant ID workshops precede each meeting
and start at 6:15 p.m.

Florida Native Plant Society Membership Form

Name: _____
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Total: ____ Check Enclosed: ____ Please charge my credit card ____
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 - Donor \$250
 - Library \$15
 - Student (full-time) \$15

Please mail completed form to: Florida Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 278, Melbourne, FL 32802-0278

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.