



Monthly Meeting and Field Trip Information

Chapter Meeting:
October 19
“Florida Hometown Democracy Amendment 4 Debate”
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Field Trip: October 23
San Felasco Hammock Preserve
Leader: Ivor Kincaid
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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

Submission deadline date for the November 2010 newsletter is October 29, 2010

And So It Is

By Brian Quinn, Paynes Prairie Chapter President

As I write this piece, I am sitting in my mother-in-law’s house north of Belfast, looking out into the Irish Sea, where Scotland and the Isle of Mann can be seen in the distance. Ireland is a beautiful place so green that when the sun shines too brightly one must don sunglasses for protection from the green waves (not to be confused with the little people). On one hand, I am positively thrilled to see such flora thriving with very little potable water used. Yet, on the other hand, I feel a deep sense of loss for Ireland that I don’t think her people suffer.

This week I have had the profound opportunity to visit a private yard (they call it a garden here) and a small working farm. Of course, in both locations, I immediately honed in on the plants. The private garden was gorgeous and well maintained. I was amazed at the variety of plants from black currants to Australian tree ferns to Norfolk Island pines. What I failed to see were plants that I thought were native to Ireland. This 3-acre garden only had few natives and when I pointed it out to the gentleman who showed me around, he just kind of shrugged and said that Ireland had been invaded so many times, that it was all slowly lost. The conquerors would burn the local forests and their settlers would bring in some of their own plants that they knew and would use. After a while, the natives lost out in most of the landscape.

The old working farm looked just like a postcard. It had hedges around most of the fence lines, green fields full of sheep and spotted cattle, and an old stone farmhouse. The farmer had lived there her entire life, and it was simply fascinating to hear her stories of how it had changed in the 60 odd years she had lived there. Most of the farm was grass, but they had a conservation easement at the back, which contained trees and shrubs to attract wildlife; and stabilize the soil around a small river. Finally, I thought. Here is our spread of natives that will attract the hawks, badgers, and foxes - a place where you get to go count the magpies to see where your fortune lies. Sadly, only a couple of plant species designated for conservation are native to Ireland and planted in this wildlife setting. Again, the farmer kind of shrugged and said that was the way it was and those plants were what she had available for installation at the time.

Finally, I went to a local garden shop to see what was available. This was not a chain, but a labor of love that the owner would gladly tell you about it (at least 3 hours if you had the time). They had plants from everywhere but Antarctica. They had wonderful fruit trees, 10 types of Japanese maples, cottage garden flora, and more types of hedge plants than I had ever seen. I counted less than a handful of natives, and a couple of those were cultivars.

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Fall 2010 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 19	Meeting Program: "Florida Hometown Democracy Amendment 4 Debate"
October 23	Field Trip: San Felasco Hammock Preserve
November 2	Chapter Planning/Board Meeting, UF Env. Hort. Dept. Greenhouse
November 16	Meeting Program: "Community Butterflying," Kathy Malone
November 20	Chapter Elections Field Trip, TBA

Florida Hometown Democracy Amendment 4 Debate Featured for October 19 Meeting

In November we will be voting on a proposed amendment to our state constitution known as Amendment 4 also referred to as Hometown Democracy. This amendment calls for local land use changes to be put before the voters for approval or not.

The official ballot summary is:

Establishes that before a local government may adopt a new comprehensive land use plan, or amend a comprehensive land use plan, the proposed plan or amendment shall be subject to vote of the electors of the local government by referendum, following preparation by the local planning agency, consideration by the governing body and notice.

There are, of course, opposing views on this. To quote from the Florida Hometown Democracy website (floridahometowndemocracy.com): "Amendment 4 will give citizens in a community a seat at the table – a vote on new growth." And from the website of Citizens for Lower Taxes and a Stronger Economy, Inc (florida2010.org): "Amendment 4 will lead to wasted tax dollars, fewer jobs and endless litigation for Florida."

The Florida Native Plant Society and this chapter do not have an official stand on this amendment. To help clarify the issue we have invited to the October 19 monthly meeting a panel of four knowledgeable people, two proponents and two opponents to debate the value of this amendment. Questions from the audience will be taken.

The panelists with much abbreviated bio's are:

Joyce Tarnow – active in the statewide Home Town Democracy Committee.

Bob Brinkman – served on numerous local government advisory boards

Mike Byerly – Alachua County Commissioner, Goethe State Forest Management Plan, Paynes Prairie Land Management Review.

Steve Lachnicht – is with the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association.

We hope you join us and take the opportunity to hear and consider the varying thoughts on this important amendment. Please bring along family and friends, or anyone you know who is interested in making an informed decision come November by learning more about this important amendment. This is a wonderful opportunity to have this panel speakers at our meeting. Spread the word, pass it along!



San Felasco Hammock Preserve Field Trip Saturday, October 23

Come out and practice your fall wildflowers! Plants such as Agertina (false horehound) will be blooming and also swamp sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolia*), *Liatis spp.*, and *Agalinis spp.* Meeting time is 9:00. Meeting Location is the parking area on the south side of Millhopper road just east of I-75. There is a fee to park, about \$2. For more info contact Ivor Kincaid at 352-377-6253/eyevor@gmail.com



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This is now the norm – this is what their much older culture evolved the flora into after suffering repeated botanical losses, many years ago. In fact, it is so far removed that I don't think the people here miss native flora or even contemplate it much. I feel a sense of loss for them that they don't get to experience a cypress swamp or sandhill with natives in their backyard. Our young culture still has a chance to better embrace conservation and guard against extirpation and extinction of our native plants. Florida is in the headlights of many developers, despite the recent recession. We need to greatly improve on rescuing plants slated for destruction and also need to keep vigilant and make sure laws are not changed that put our natives under greater risk. These tasks are not something we have to undertake for the next 20 years, but the next 200 years and further. Our small group has the potential to impact Florida 200 years from now. Each one of you has the potential to make an impact in your community and with our chapter. Empower yourself and your family – you might be helping your great great great great grandchildren.



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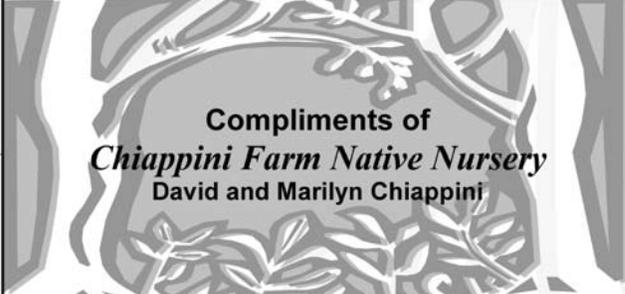
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Would you like to see the Rhexia in color?

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.

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.

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 in .jpg, .tiff, or powerpoint formats only to Erick Smith at urbanforester@gmail.com. The ads cost \$100 and run from October 2010 to September 2011.

Our Pre-meeting Get-Together dinners will be temporarily suspended until further notice. We need to find an establishment that is regularly open on Tuesdays.

Florida Native Plant Society
Paynes Prairie Chapter
Post Office Box 110670
Gainesville, FL 32611

Next Meeting
Tuesday, October 19th
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

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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.