



The Rhexia

PAYNES PRAIRIE CHAPTER
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
MAY 2011

Monthly Chapter Meeting and Field Trip Information

Chapter Meeting, May 17, 2011: Marc Minno, "Butterfly Gardening" See page 4.

Field Trip May 21, 2011 Lochloosa Wildlife Conservation Area Alachua County Robert Freese, 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

Submission deadline date for the September 2011 newsletter is August 27, 2011

Thank you for the Winged Elm!

Jenny Seitz

In late March, the League of Environmental Educators in Florida (LEEF) held their annual conference at the Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center in Starke. LEEF is committed to increasing community involvement with the environment through education and to promoting community-based support for environmental issues. Our members come from a variety of backgrounds, from classroom teachers to natural resource professionals to state park personnel.

In 1994, we started a living memorial of planting a tree at each conference location. The Paynes Prairie Chapter Board agreed to donate a native tree to plant at this year's conference. Claudia Larsen brought us a beautiful winged elm (*Ulmus alata*). We planted it

the Sunday morning of the conference near a lodge. In the future it will provide shade to those enjoying the scenery and fellowship from the porch. The conference center staff agreed to care for the tree.

In addition, Claudia gave a lovely presentation about utilizing native plants and wildflowers on school grounds and exploring the educational opportunities gardens provide for students.

On behalf of LEEF, I thank the Paynes Prairie Chapter for the

tree donation and for Claudia taking time to present at the conference.

Yours naturally,

Jenny Seitz, Conference Chair



Natives or Weeds?

Joni Ellis

In lieu of writing an article this month, I am printing an excerpt from an online article at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/greenacres/weedlaws/JMLR.html>. This is also where the footnotes can be found. I hope you visit the site to read the full article. It is fascinating. It seems Alachua County, as progressive as we are, needs a bit of education on native landscaping. If this topic interests you, we may need a committee to explore this subject more and see if we need to make recommendations to our City Commission to protect native landscaping. Enjoy your summer.
~ Joni

Natural Gardening as a Fundamental Right

Natural gardening can be constitutionally protected speech and, therefore, any weed law must be closely related to a compelling state interest. While not all natural landscapes are obvious to even a casual viewer, many are. Indeed, this is often the real “problem.” Symbolic speech is as protected as oral speech. One of the best ways a person can announce his or her concern for what humankind has done, and is doing, to the environment is to restore a portion of the environment to its natural state. Restoring natural vegetation can, therefore, be a form of speech and, as such, is entitled to the same protection that speech receives under the First Amendment.

Weed Laws as Unconstitutionally Vague

Even if not a constitutionally protected fundamental right, natural landscaping can escape attack from out-dated weed laws because such laws generally do not define the term “weed” and are, therefore, unconstitutionally vague. The Chicago Ordinance, like many, merely outlaws “weeds” or an accumulation of weeds. As such, these laws provide a subjective and relative standard, which violates the Due Process Clause.

A law is void for vagueness where it does not clearly define what it prohibits. A law is void on its face if it is “perfectly vague”; to sustain the challenge the statute must be one which provides no “ascertainable standard for inclusion or exclusion.” Weed laws that fail to define “weed” suffer from such a constitutional infirmity.

The term “weed,” where not statutorily defined, must be ascribed its dictionary definition. But “what is a weed?” is a vague and subjective determination. Its meaning varies depending on who is applying the definition and where the subject plant is located in relation to other “desired” plants. Thus a “weed” to a farmer may be a rose or iris growing in his corn or wheat field. But a rose or iris is not a “weed” to the conventional gardener, who would cite corn or wheat growing in his flower

bed as “weeds.” As Justice Douglas wrote: “Words which are vague and fluid may be as much a trap for the innocent as the ancient laws of Caligula.” Weed laws can clearly be such a trap.

In *Newark V. Garfield Development Corp.*, one court addressed the issue directly. In that case, the court struck down an ordinance that stated “all areas shall be kept free from weeds or plant growth which are noxious or detrimental to public health and welfare or a public nuisance defined in article 2.” Article 2 defined public nuisance as “any premises which are unsanitary, or littered with rubbish or garbage, or which has an uncontrolled growth of weeds.” The court held:

“That which appears to be contained without exception in all weed control legislation but which is lacking in the ordinance in question is the definition of the particular vegetation which is sought to be controlled or a mechanism by which the particular vegetation is designated to be noxious and therefore subject to government control.”

The court summarized the reason for the ruling as follows:

“It seems clear to this court to be utterly repugnant to our system of law to punish a person for an act, the criminality of which depends not on any standard erected by the law which could be known to the defendant in advance, but one erected by a judge or jury after the trial has been completed.”

Without an exact definition of what type of vegetation is prohibited, weed laws violate due process because they allow law enforcement officials and judges to rely on their own notions of what is right and what is wrong. The primary thrust of the void-for-vagueness doctrine is:

“The requirement that a legislature must establish guidelines to govern law enforcement.... Where a legislature fails to provide such minimal guidelines, a criminal statute may permit a standardless sweep that allows policemen, prosecutors and juries to pursue their personal predilections.”

Weed laws create such a result. Absent guidelines within the text of the weed law itself as to what plant species are prohibited, an enforcement officer is free to decide, strictly on his own, whether the plant complained of in a given situation is illegal. Since weed inspectors have no guidelines to determine if a homeowner violates the weed law, this is unfair and unconstitutional.

What's Blooming in Your Garden???

Claudia Larsen

Our yards and landscapes are all unique, but our plants share a common thread being native to this area of Florida. We would like FNPS members to share what plants do well in their yards to help inspire others to try different plants. Describe the location or use of your favorite plant and show off your photography by sending pictures to our newsletter editor (email Rhexia@gmail.com)

Please let us know what's blooming in your yard or highlight a native plant that thrives for you. Sharing information is the best way to learn about native plants.



Photo by Claudia Larsen

Although my garden is packed with yellow coreopsis and pink phlox that have returned each year from seed, there was another stand out that surprised me this spring. A nice strip of Greeneyes made its appearance on the strip of my driveway and has been blooming continuously since April. The plants have rounded silvery-white foliage and stalks of light yellow flowers

with a central green disc, which is the namesake for the flower. I enjoyed these bloomers on a daily basis and was beginning to collect some seed, when I noticed a shorter version of the plant in a nearby area. On closer examination it was apparent that these Green eyes had different growth habits so I began to research them in the wildflower guides. I discovered they were indeed different species, with the smaller plant keying out as *Berlandiera subcaulis* and the larger plant as *B. pumilis*. Both plants are commonly found in sandhill habitats.

If you have these in your garden or nearby roadside, the key difference is the appearance of a small ring of red flowers in the green disc. The leaves of *B. pumilis* are also floccose (covered with tufts of soft wooly hairs). The *B. pumilis* might be considered more showy, but both plants are worthy of planting in a dry sunny or slightly shaded garden where they will bloom in spring and summer.



Florida Native Plant Society Spring Internship

Emily Wilson

While having the opportunity to work in a FNPS native plant garden, I have learned many things. For one, it must have been a pain to water a garden in the old days, carrying buckets of water from a stream up to your newly planted natives is quite a chore. But the reward of watching the native petunia and Gailardia blooming was well worth it, and the fact that native plants established in the right area hardly have to be watered was a plus. This means only toting tens of gallons of water when the rain gods are spiteful to us nature lovers. This aspect of laboring in Carl's Garden did give me a great appreciation for the rain and the weather channel, that's for sure.

An aspect of native gardening that I never thought about was the wildlife that would come along with it. Brian Quinn made me very aware of this with his great fondness of the many bird species in the area, always pointing them out and informing me to watch out when I'm near the mulberry tree when it has fruit. Still to this day I have not gotten defecated upon. I was really thrilled to see the many types of birds enjoying the native trees that are not so prevalent in today's manicured lawns. I honestly have

never seen that variety of feathered friends outside of a zoo.

A project that was completed this season was laying down the crushed concrete path that allows easier accessibility for our mobile friends with wheels. The path also lightens up the garden making for a greater contrast to show off the many species, which is a great added bonus. I had noticed that prior to the laying of the path, many families with young kids didn't enter the garden, but as of the past couple of weeks, I have noticed an increase of visitors and stroller marks on the path. I believe that the FNPS work day was a success, and hopefully, the increased traffic will spark more interest in growing native Florida flora in yards.

Over all, this internship was a great experience, allowing me to become familiar with many plants and encouraging me to have a native garden of my own. Looking toward the future I was thinking of pursuing a career in Restoration Ecology where knowing your native plants is a must, and gardening for the Paynes Prairie Chapter has given me that first step, which I greatly appreciate.

Spring 2011 Calendar of Events

Please check the Paynes Prairie chapter page at www.FNPS.org for most current information and directions to field trips. All 2011 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.

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| May 17 | Meeting, "Butterfly Gardening," with Marc Minno |
| May 21 | Field Trip: Lochloosa Wildlife Conservation Area, Alachua County |
| May 19-22 | FNPS State Conference, Maitland, FL (www.FNPS.org) |

May 17, 2011 Chapter Meeting: "Butterfly Gardening," Marc Minno, Speaker

Please join us at 7pm, May 17 to hear Marc Minno's presentation on Butterfly Gardening. Marc and Maria Minno are longtime FNPS members and have landscaped their NW Gainesville home with many unique butterfly host and nectar plants. They are the authors of "Florida Butterfly Gardening" and Marc also co-authored "Florida Butterfly Caterpillars". This is our last meeting until September 2011, so please plan on attending to finish up our Spring season of talks.



May 21, 2011 Field Trip Lochloosa Wildlife Conservation Area Alachua County

Lochloosa Wildlife Conservation Area (Alachua County), Saturday, May 21, 9 AM - noon. This SJRWMD preserve along Lochloosa Lake is very scenic and seldom visited. Plant communities include deep and shallow marshes, wet prairies, pine flatwoods, and cypress swamp. Some portions are recovering from recent wildfires and the regeneration should provide opportunities for seeing interesting wildflowers. The site is primitive with no facilities; bring water, wear long pants. We will generally stick to trails but there may be some short off-trail excursions.

If carpooling, meet in the Publix parking lot at 1302 N. Main St at 8:15 AM. Park away from the store near Main Street. If driving, take hwy 20 east to Hawthorne, hwy 301 south past Lochloosa village, right on dirt road at sign for Lochloosa Wildlife Conservation Area. Proceed 2.5 miles to parking area by fishing pier Trip leader: Robert Freese, cell: 386-972-4489 or rcfreese99@yahoo.com

Spring Plant Sale a Big Success!

Lisa Jelks

This year's Spring Native Plant Sale was one of the most successful in our history! Friday night's receipts were the second highest ever, and only missed being the best by \$4.00. Thanks to all our members who came out to purchase the wonderful assortment of natives. Friday night was bustling and many vendors nearly sold out. However, Saturday also saw a steady stream of plant buyers, and our volunteers happily helped many customers to choose the right plants for their yards. We had perfect weather and a festive atmosphere with the addition of live music and food. Leo Nico entertained the crowds with his singing and guitar playing (with an assist from Nancy Lasseter), and TerraNova (the catering arm of Civilization Restaurant) provided tasty treats and coffee, including delicious sandwiches and drinks.

The end results of all the hard work that goes into these plant sales are more natives in our local landscapes, a better informed public on the benefits of natives and the negatives of exotics, and less grass to be watered and fertilized. A win-win-win for everyone! Thank you to all our members who helped at our check-in table Friday night or the information booth on Saturday: Howard Jelks as plant police and his deputy Joe Durando; Jamie Barichivich, Charlie Pedersen, Brian Quinn, Bill Russell, Goldie Schwartz, Erick Smith, Jennifer Staiger, and Ellen Thoms. Several more members helped with cashiering and their loyal assistance is also greatly appreciated. Thank you to all the vendors for participating in this very worthwhile event. Mark your calendars for the Fall sale October 7-8, 2011.



Thank you Erick!

Claudia Larsen

Thanks to Erick Smith for presenting our April program on landscaping with trees. His talk might have been called "the chi of landscaping with trees" as he delivered his special insight on expectations of tree selection, placement and growth. We probably understated his lifelong experience as an urban forester and land manager; but it was apparent that Erick has fostered his knowledge by keen observation of trees in their natural habitats, and critical thinking on their adaptation to our yards. His talk engaged everyone in the room to share comments and questions, so we all took part in the program. We are lucky to have Erick as a longtime FNPS member who served in the past as field trip coordinator, Board member and our liaison to the city and county government.

Looking for a Creative Opportunity?

Wanted For Fall, 2011

Rhexia Publisher and Editor

Mary Santello

Greetings dear Paynes Prairie Chapter members! I will be stepping aside after this May issue as the publisher of our monthly newsletter, The Rhexia. The chapter would like to ask if anyone in our membership would be interested in stepping up and taking over this fun, creative, and educational volunteer role. I have learned so much doing The Rhexia and it has been a very rewarding way to give back to this awesome organization that does so much locally and on the state level to advance the role of native plants in the preservation of our beautiful Florida environment.

Having some experience working with a publishing program like InDesign or Microsoft Publisher would be great, but not necessary. All you really need is a little creative juice! I will be available to help train and transition anyone willing to give it a try. You will be starting in August for the publication of the September 2011 newsletter.

Please contact the chapter VP Joni Ellis, joni@opticsforhetropics.org, and Mary Santello, santellom@gmail.com if you are interested.



Wildflowers vs Mowers

Mowing season for the Alachua County Public Works Dept is revving up, and Road Superintendent Ron Kaylor has been surveying many roads and making notes on areas that will receive contour mowing to protect wildflowers. We appreciate his good intentions to continue the wonderful diversity of our county's wildflower populations by being good caretakers. If you know a county road with outstanding or endangered wildflowers you can contact Ron to add a particular section of the road to his survey list. Be sure and state which road section by mentioning nearby intersecting roadways and also note if the wildflowers are on north, south, east or west of the road way. Contact information for Ron Kaylor is 352-374-5245 x1213 or email rkaylow@alachuacounty.us



New Name for Native Growers

If you look for plants, nurseries or garden professionals from the Association of Florida Native Nurseries (AFNN) to help you with your landscape planning, you may need to adjust the favorites list on your browser. The group has changed its name to Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN). The name change was prompted to promote easier recognition and a friendly acronym for advertising advantage. FANN continues to be the foremost nursery association for promoting sustainable landscaping and restoration utilizing our Florida native plants.

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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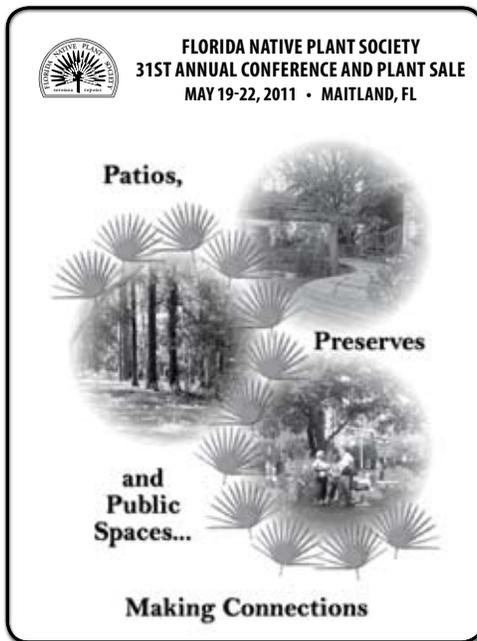
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Upcoming Events and Items of Interest



FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY 31ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE PATIOS, PRESERVES, AND PUBLIC SPACES: MAKING CONNECTIONS SHERATON HOTEL NORTH – MAITLAND, FLORIDA MAY 19TH – 22ND, 2011

Attend the Florida Native Plant Society conference that connects Florida's natural values and conservation with the landscapes that we create in our personal and public environments.

The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council will hold their annual symposium at the same venue May 17-20, 2011 - right before the FNPS Conference.

For complete information and to REGISTER, please visit <http://www.fnps.org/pages/conference/>
Register today – space is limited!

Approved CEU credits for ASLA, FNGLA, SAF and ISA Pending credits for APA



Plant ID Workshop, April 2011 Meeting

Paul Cohen

<i>Aristida stricta</i> var. <i>beyrichiana</i>	WIREGRASS	POACEAE	Native
<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	SCARLET MILKWEED; BLOODFLOWER	APOCYNACEAE	Not Native
<i>Calyptocarpus vialis</i>	STRAGGLER DAISY	ASTERACEAE	Not Native
<i>Clematis terniflora</i>	SWEET AUTUMN VIRGINSBOWER	RANUNCULACEAE	Not Native
<i>Commelina erecta</i>	WHITEMOUTH DAYFLOWER	COMMELINACEAE	Native
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA; GRAYBEARD	HYDRANGEACEAE	Native
<i>Koeleruteria elegans</i>	FLAMEGOLD	SAPINDACEAE	Not Native
<i>Lepidium virginicum</i>	VIRGINIA PEPPERWEED	BRASSICACEAE	Native
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE	CAPRIFOLIACEAE	Not Native
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	VIRGINIA CREEPER; WOODBINE	PLANTAGINACEAE	Native
<i>Petiveria alliacea</i>	GUINEA HEN WEED	PHYTOLACCACEAE	Native
<i>Plantago virginica</i>	VIRGINIA PLANTAIN; SOUTHERN PLANTAIN	PLANTAGINACEAE	Native
<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	CAROLINA LAURELCHERRY	ROSACEAE	Native
<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>	LAUREL OAK; DIAMOND OAK	FAGACEAE	Native
<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	LIVE OAK	FAGACEAE	Native
<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	LYRELEAF SAGE	LAMIACEAE	Native
<i>Solanum viarum</i>	TROPICAL SODA APPLE	SOLANACEAE	Not Native
<i>Verbesina virginica</i>	WHITE CROWNBEARD; FROSTWEED	ASTERACEAE	Native

I wish to extend a special thanks to all participants. The workshop is educational and is not intended as a plant ID service. Nomenclature adapted from Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants (<http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/>).



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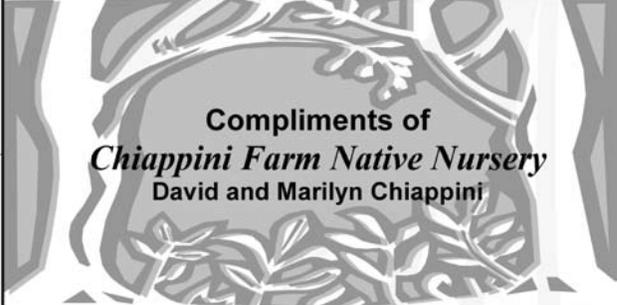
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Have You Blogged Lately?

Remember to visit the new Florida Native Plant Society blog at <http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/>

Urgent: Send Us Your Email!

We need your support in completing the switch from sending a printed newsletter to sending it by e-mail. Your direct benefits include: allowing more resources for activities and education, and the ability to view the newsletter photos in full color instead of black and white. And for the chapter we save dollars that we can put to use to promote the use of native plants. Please show your support by signing up to receive the newsletter by e-mail. Just send an e-mail to Goldie Schwartz at afn49@mindspring.com with "Put me on the e-mail list" in the subject line. That's all it takes! Thanks!

Florida Native Plant Society
Paynes Prairie Chapter
Post Office Box 12908
Gainesville, FL 32604

Next Meeting
Tuesday, May 17th
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

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