



The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society
April 2012

Chapter Meeting

April 17, 2012 7:00 pm
Panel of Experts
Help for your Native
Landscape
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Field Trip

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“ Ask The Experts”

The “right plant ” for the “right place” in your yard

Our panelists will be longtime FNPS members and native plantsmen, Brian Quinn and Joe Durando; Natural Treasures Nursery owner, Heather Blake, UF Environmental Horticulture Department professor, Hector Perez, and landscape architect from Your Florida Garden company, Kelly Perez.

Our April program will give our members and the public an opportunity to get specialized garden advice. They will give you advice on growing the natives that will thrive in your landscape.

To participate, send a digital photo of the portion of your yard or the plant you have questions about to our board secretary, Ellen Thoms, by April 14 at emthoms@dow.com. You can also bring written questions and we will answer as many as we can.

To get the best advice it will be helpful to provide your site conditions. How much light the area gets (full sun, partial shade, shade); the degree of soil moisture from very wet to very dry; soil texture (clay, sandy, loam, etc.).

Soil pH (acidic to alkaline) often determines how well a plant will grow in an area. An assessment can generally be made from description of location. A recent soil test would be best.

Fill dirt added during development changes the nature of a natural area.

Consider the categories of what you want to grow in your yard: flowers (annuals & perennials), shrubs, trees, palms and palm like, ground covers, vines and grasses.

There are differences of opinion of the definition of a “native” plant. There is some acceptance for considering a native to be what was growing here before the date Columbus arrived in the New World.

In the introduction to [A Gardener’s Guide to Florida’s Native Plants](#), the author Rufino Osorio states Florida’s native plants are wholly sufficient for realizing nearly any garden plan or landscape scheme that the home gardener may devise.

Planting natives is not just an homage to laziness but an important antidote to urbanization. Increasingly, Florida wildlife depend on us to help them survive. **So, join us and let us help you do your part.**

Endangered Species in Alachua County ~ Orchids, Grasses, Vines & Others

Claudia Larsen

Last month's article highlighted shrubs found in Alachua County that are listed as endangered. This month will highlight other interesting listed species including orchids, vines and grasses that are endangered in the region surrounding our county.

Remember, the "Notes on Florida's Endangered and Threatened Plants" new 5th edition is now available online from the Division of Plant Industry, www.freshfromflorida.com/pi/enpp/botany/images/fl-endangered-plants.pdf. Plants are listed alphabetically and information is listed on general habitat where plants are found and the counties where samples have been submitted to the DPI. Pictures used by DPI and in this report are from the Florida plant atlas www.Plantatlas.org.

Although we rarely see orchids in bloom, there are many species that occur in Florida. Epiphytic orchids fill nooks and crannies in trees and include 18 species across the state. Terrestrial orchids grow in the ground or on rocks and are often associated with Cypress trees. There are over 30 species in Florida including the 3 species listed below.

Crested Coralroot (*Hexalectris spicata*) is found in calcareous hammocks and shell middens where it blooms in spring and summer. **No Photo**

Ladiestresses Orchid (*Spiranthes brevilabris*) is one of 12 species in the *Spiranthes* genus occurring in Florida. The flowers often occur in spiral rows which makes them easy to identify; but the flowers must be carefully observed and dissected to determine the difference between species. This endangered one has flowers that are densely pubescent (hairy) with a yellow center on the flower lip. Plants appear to come out of the ground on a stem since the basal leaves are often absent. You can look for it in wet prairies and flatwoods in the fall, winter or early spring.



Green Addersmouth Orchid (*Malaxis uniflora*) The habitat for this orchid is moist hammocks and ravines.



There are 2 grasses found in Alachua and nearby Marion Counties that are endangered:

Florida Toothachegrass (*Ctenium floridanum*) This grass from dry to mesic flatwoods and pine-oak uplands is also available in some native nurseries. Its inflorescence is a comblike panicle and is a member of the Bermudagrass tribe. The name "toothachegrass" comes from the effect of deadening on gums, lips and tongue when it is chewed.



Brittons Beargrass (*Nolina brittoniana*) This plant is found in sandhill and scrub habitat and has been introduced to the nursery trade by the Bok Tower endangered plant program. Beargrass is in the Agave Family. Its thin curving leaves form a nice 2-3 foot circular clump and in the spring supports showy clusters of white flowers. It is attractive to pollinators and completely drought resistant.



Vines that are endangered here include:

Trailing Milkvine (*Matalea pubiflora*) and **Florida Milkvine** (*Matalea floridana*) Milkvines are slender vines often seen climbing over small shrubs. Trailing Milkvine is a plant of the sandhills; whereas Florida Milkvine prefers wooded hammocks.

Unusual—Does not contain chlorophyll

Pinesap (*Monotropa hypopithys*) Most of us are familiar with Indian Pipes (*Monotropa uniflora*), the ghostly parasite of tree roots in mesic hammocks. These plants have no chlorophyll and appear white or pink with nodding bell-shaped flowers. The endangered Pinesap can be identified by having several flowers on its stem while the common Indian Pipes has one flower per stem (*uniflora*).



Calendar of Events

Please check the Paynes Prairie chapter page at www.fnps.org for most current information and directions to field trips. All 2012 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.

- April 15** **Carl's Garden
Work Day 9am-noon**
- April 17** **Meeting :“Ask the Experts”
Panel will advise plant selection for
native plant landscape.**
- April 21** **Field Trip: Rice Creek Preserve
See Information Below**
- May 15** **Meeting: TBA**
- May 19** **Field Trip: TBA**

**Board of Directors-Chapter Planning Meetings
April 30 at 5:30 pm—open to all.
Env. Horticulture Dept. Greenhouses, UF**

April Field Trip Saturday, April 21, 2012

Rice Creek preserve (Putnam County): This SJRWMD property has a beautiful example of hardwood swamp, remarkable for its assorted bromeliads and Atlantic white cedar. Be prepared for two miles of hiking, some of it along the former rice paddy berms of an 18th century plantation. Meet in parking area for the preserve on Highway 100 approximately 6 miles east of Palatka at 9:00 am, finish by noon.

<http://www.sjrwmd.com/recreationguide/ricecreek>

Directions: Take SR-26 east from Gainesville. From Putnam Hall, take SR-100 15.1 miles east (toward Palatka). Turn right at Rice Creek Preserve sign and meet in parking area. If you reach Bardin Road you have gone 0.5 mile too far.

From our Friends at Putnam County Environmental Council: You are invited to attend a public forum on April 3, 6-8 PM, at the College of Central Florida, Ewers Century Center Klein conference Room, Silver Springs Future: Water Consumption & the Adena Springs Ranch Water Permit. Robin Lewis, PCEC's Science Team Leader, will be on a panel at the forum speaking about potential effects to the Ocklawaha River.

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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Claudia Larsen, micanopywildflowers@yahoo.com

Vice President

Lisa Jelks, jelkslg@ufl.edu

Secretary

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Chapter Representaive

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Membership

Goldie Schwartz, 352-495-3983/afn49@mindspring.com

Field Trip Coordinator

Robert Freese, 386-972-4489/rcfreese99@yahoo.com

Newsletter

Goldie Schwartz, 352-495-3983/afn49@mindspring.com

Plant Rescue

J. Barichivich, 352-375-1972/m.terrapin@gmail.com

Publicity & Media

Vacant position

Director

Connie Caldwell, connie.caldwell@sfcollege.edu

Director

Kelly Perez, kellybperez@gmail.com

Director

Karen Schneider, karenks@ufl.edu

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Director

Dahlonga Peck, Dahlonga1@yahoo.com

Plant ID

Paul Cohen, paulcohen2002@yahoo.com

LET'S VISIT EACH OTHER'S NATIVE LANDSCAPES!

Connie Caldwell



We have been buying native plants and installing them in our yards, many of us for a long time now. Wouldn't it be fun to visit each other's yards and learn how others are using these wonderful plants in their landscapes?

Here is the idea: informal, friendly visits to the yards of those folks who want to participate. (Yes, you have to let us visit your yard, too, in order to participate!) **THIS IS NOT A TOUR OF PICTURE-PERFECT LANDSCAPES!** The purpose is to learn from each other and share our knowledge. We will aim to visit one yard each month or so, at the convenience of the homeowner. I will arrange this with each participant and then pass on the schedule of visits to all of you.

If you would like to participate in this activity, e-mail connie.caldwell@sfcollge.edu and let me know in what month(s) your yard would be best for a visit. Not perfect, mind you, but in its best season.

March Plant ID Workshop for 3-20-12

Species	Common Name	Family	Status
<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	Blue Mistflower	Asteraceae	Native
<i>Descurainia pinnata</i>	Western Tansymustard	Brassicaceae	Native
<i>Hypericum galioides</i>	Bedstraw St. John's Wort	Clusiaceae	Native
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	Sugarberry, Hackberry	Celtidaceae	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/>).

Conoclinium coelestinum was provided by Island Grove Nursery as an example of what is available there. (<http://www.islandgroveagproducts.com/store/pc/Blue-Mistflower-1-gallon-79p3767.htm>)

Volunteers needed April 24 to census Lake Wales Ridge scrub endemics at the Warea tract in Clermont. *Warea amplexifolia* is expected to be in flower after a prescribed fire, but the census will also include the federally listed *Prunus geniculata*, *Polygala lewtonii*, *Nolina brittoniana*, *Paronychia chartacea*, *Clitoria fragrans*, *Eriogonum longifolium* var. *gnaphalifolium*, and *Bonamia grandiflora*. For more details and to coordinate the ride down contact Charlie Pedersen charles.pedersen@freshfromflorida.com

Welcome new, rejoined and renewed members.

Notestein Nursery is offering a free native plant to new and renewed members who join from March 2012 through December 2012. Plants can be chosen and picked up by appointment at Jim Notestein's Nursery in Gainesville. Call 352-372-2107. Jim is a long-time supporter of FNPS and regular vendor at the spring and fall native plant sales at Morningside

Laura Dedenbach	Carrie Adams	Jim Fleming
Barbara Fennelly	Lynn Proenza	Rae M. Gilbert
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Online Registration Now Open for Annual FNPS Conference

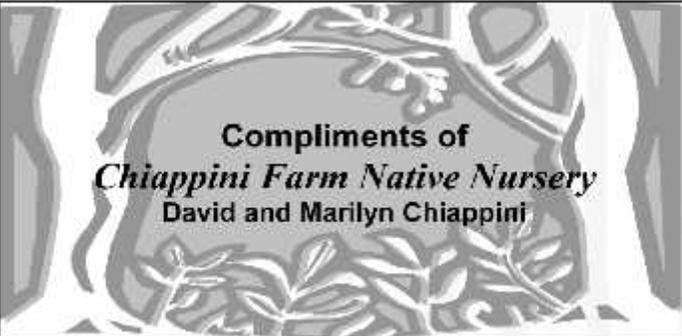
The Florida Native Plant Society's 32nd annual state conference will be held from May 17-20, in Plant City. The Suncoast (Hillsborough County) and Hernando Chapters are jointly hosting this year, and have put together a great lineup of information and activities. This year's conference theme is "Preserving the Natural Heart of Florida." For those who have not attended an FNPS conference before, the usual agenda is: Field trips on Thursday and Sunday, keynote speakers and concurrent breakout sessions on Friday and Saturday. Friday and Saturday there is also a great plant sale with wholesale and retail nurseries from around the state where you'll be able to buy hard-to-find plant species, as well as vendor exhibits, research presentations and poster sessions. On Friday evening there is a book signing social event, and on Saturday a plant ID contest is followed by a banquet. Attending the conference is a lot of fun. While some conference-goers are professional land managers, environmental specialists and researchers whose business is protecting Florida's natural resources, many others are home gardeners who simply love nature and want to know more about native plants and habitats. Registration for the conference is accomplished online at FNPS.org, and is "a la carte": You register for each day (and field trip) separately, as well as for each of the two evening social events. Sign up only for what you'd like to attend, and save \$25 on a full conference registration when you register before April 16th.



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erick@kestreleco.com
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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 in .jpg, .tiff, or Powerpoint formats only to Goldie Schwartz at Rhexia@gmail.com. The ads cost \$100 and run from September 2012 through May 2013.

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

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 we can 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 32603

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 17

7:00 p.m.

(Plant ID Workshop at 6:15)

United Church of Gainesville

1624 NW 5th Ave.

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.

Rhexia Article Submissions Please!
Submit unformatted word documents
only. Submit pictures as separate jpg, or tiff
files. Send all article submissions to:
rhexia@gmail.com
**Submission deadline
date for the May
2012 newsletter is
April 25, 2012**

Florida Native Plant Society Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ County: _____

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:

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| ◇ Not-For-Profit Org. | \$50 |
| ◇ Business/Corporate | \$125 |
| ◇ 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 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.