



The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society
March 2012

Spring Native Plant Sale
Members Only
Friday, March 30,
4:30-6:30 pm
General Public
Saturday, March 31,
8:30 am—12:30 pm

Chapter Meeting
March 20, 2012
Robert Connors
Executive Director,
Conservation Trust for Florida

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“Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition”

Robert Connors,
Executive Director,
Conservation Trust for Florida

The Florida Wildlife Corridor project is a collaborative vision to connect remaining natural lands, waters, working farms and ranches from the Everglades to Georgia, protecting a functional ecological corridor for the health of people, wildlife and watersheds.

The Florida Wildlife Corridor was founded by Dr. Tom Hoctor, Director of the Center for Landscape and Conservation Planning at the University of Florida, and Carlton Ward Jr., Conservation Photographer and founder of the Legacy Institute for Nature & Culture (LINC). Their vision and collaboration was inspired by the bear research of the late David Maehr and the commitment of his students, Wade Ulrey and Joe Guthrie, to continue his legacy. Through this project, the team hopes to transcend cultural, perceptual and geographic boundaries, to connect people to the places we need to protect, and ultimately help reconnect and restore the fragmented lands and waters in Florida.

The centerpiece of this strategy is the Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition, launched January 17, 2012, which traverses the Everglades ecosystem into Big Cypress, over to the Everglades Agricultural Area, back to the Okaloacoochee Slough, across the Caloosahatchee, over to Babcock Ranch, back along Fisheating Creek toward Lake Okechobee, up the Kissimmee River with excursions toward the Lake Wales Ridge, up the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, east around Orlando into Ocala National Forest, and north along the O2O corridor (Ocala to Osceola) to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.

The explorers trekking the 100-day, 1,000 mile expedition are photographer Carlton Ward Jr., bear biologist Joe Guthrie, conservationist Mallory Dimmitt and filmmaker Elam Stoltzfus. You can follow their trek from January-April 2012 through National Geographic web at www.floridawildlifecorridor.org/geostory. Also, view the short introductory video at http://youtu.be/an3_EtP2tLs

Endangered Species in Alachua County—Shrubs Claudia Larsen

Last month's article highlighted ferns found in Alachua County and I thought I would continue with shrubs listed as endangered for 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, at www.freshfromflorida.com/pi/enpp/botany/images/fl-endangered-plants.pdf. Plants are listed alphabetically and information is given on general habitat from which 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.

The term "endangered" sometimes gives the impression that plants are rare, unique and impossible to grow; but several listed below are found at our Paynes Prairie Chapter native plant sales and actually do well in a home or commercial landscape. I have grown Sweetshrub for many years as a deciduous 4-foot shrub that thrives in my dry shade under oak and magnolia. It has a nice natural shape and looks attractive even without leaves. The plants at my streetside mailbox have been brutally mowed several times by Progress Energy maintenance crews and they valiantly resprout from root runners. I recently added Swampprivet in my bird feeder area after seeing how fast growing and beautiful they are at our native plant garden in the rear of Veterans Park on Tower Rd.

Growing these plants in your landscape will ensure they will never truly disappear from Alachua County!

Alachua Buckthorn (*Sideroxylon alachuensis*)

Some botanists refer to Buckthorns as Bumelias, but I will not delve into this. This thorny plant is identified as having silvery pubescent leaves and smooth gray stems. I have seen this plant at Paynes Prairie in understory edges of oak woods.



Etonia Rosemary (*Conradiina etonia*)

This local celebrity is named after the scrub areas in the Etonia Forest of Putnam County. This nice evergreen 3 foot shrub has minty fragrant needle-like leaves and prefers dry, well drained sandy soil. Its short life span of 2-3 years is its only



drawback as a landscape plant, but the beautiful array of showy flowers make it a worthwhile native plant.

Godfrey's Swampprivet (*Forestiera godfreyi*)

A cousin of the Fringe tree, this deciduous tree is a member of the Olive Family and was named after FSU botanist Robert Godfrey. Tiny flower clusters bloom in February followed by blue drupe fruit. This plant is found in upland mixed woods that have a limestone layer in the soil.



Michaux's Sumac (*Rhus michauxii*) (no photo available)

Plants in the Sumac Family can be either edible or poisonous, so take care when choosing one for your landscape. This is another species that spreads by roots and has an interesting history as a medicinal plant. It has showy summer flower clusters followed by bright fall fruit.

Pondspice (*Litsea aestivalis*)

Pondspice is in the Bay Family and is generally found on the edges of pineland ponds and swamps where it can be identified by its zig-zag branches and spicy scented leaves. This 10-15 foot shrub prefers rich soil in shaded area. Small yellow flowers emerge in February but its showiest quality are the bright red berries.



Sweetshrub (*Calycanthus floridus*)

This deciduous shrub is aptly named for its fragrant leaves and interesting and showy purple ribbon-like flowers. Because it spreads by roots it makes a good candidate for hedge or border plant where it can grow 4-6 feet high.



Information in this article was found in Gil Nelson's book "The Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida", Pineapple Press, 1996.

Florida Native Plant Society Spring Native Plant Sale

Morningside Nature Center
3540 E. University Ave

EXCLUSIVE Members Only Sale
Friday, 30 March, 4:30 – 6:30 pm
(memberships available at the gate)

Open to the public
Saturday, 31 March, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Cash and Checks only

Lots of native plants to choose from. Over a dozen native plant vendors, some of which do not routinely sell to the public. Proceeds help the Friends of Nature Parks.



Live Music



Guided Wildflower Walk



Free Plant Advice



Hands-free shopping with Park-a-Plant



Volunteers needed

Just one or two hours Friday or Saturday (Park-a-Plant or FNPS booth).

You don't have to be an expert! Contact Lisa Jelks at jelkslg@ufl.edu

USDA Unveils New Plant Hardiness Zone Map

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has just released the new version of its Plant Hardiness Zone Map (PHZM), the first update since 1990. The new map—jointly developed by USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Oregon State University's (OSU) PRISM Climate Group—is available online at www.planthardiness.ars.usda.gov. ARS is the chief intramural scientific research agency of USDA.

The 2012 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map is the standard by which gardeners and growers can determine which plants are most likely to thrive at a location. The map is based on the average annual minimum winter temperature, divided into 10-degree F zones.

Compared to the 1990 version, zone boundaries in this edition of the map have shifted in many areas. The new map is generally one 5-degree Fahrenheit half-zone warmer than the previous map throughout much of the United States. This is mostly a result of using temperature data from a longer and more recent time period; the new map uses data measured at weather stations during the 30-year period 1976-2005. In contrast, the 1990 map was based on temperature data from only a 13-year period of 1974-1986. *(From Nursery Management Newsletter, January 27, 2012)*

According to the new map the west half of Alachua County and most of north Florida is 9a with extreme minimum temperatures of 15-20; and eastern Alachua County and areas down to Pasco and Lake counties are 9b with extreme minimum temperatures of 20-25 F.



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.

**March 20 Meeting: Robert Connors
“Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition”**

March 30-31 Plant Sale in lieu of Field Trip

April 17 TBA

April 21 Rice Creek Preserve

**Board of Directors-Chapter Planning Meetings
March 12 and April 30—open to all.
Env. Horticulture Dept. Greenhouses, UF**

Prairie Creek Preserve Field Trip Goldie Schwartz

While I get a chance to discover the names of all the wondrous plants that surround me in the natural areas we visit on field trips, our field trip coordinator, others who are experts and native plant enthusiasts provide the identification.

This report is written by a non-botanist so if some references do not add up you will know why. Getting the accurate nomenclature for plants is not an easy task for the amateur.

I expect, that as I continue to give an accounting of what I have seen, more names will stick with me. We can only hope for the best.

Prairie Creek Preserve is a restoration project that is converting a previous pine plantation to its natural state of a pine flatwoods ecosystem. Flatwoods usually contain 50 to 75 species of plants per acre. They can be interrupted by cypress swamps which is what happens at the Preserve.

I probably do not have room in this issue to list all the plants we did identify. Some highlights follow: This is not a good time of year for color. So, other than the white from Innocence, *Hedyotis procumbens* and the blue-purple from Violets, *Viola sororia*, the stand-out in the woods was the yellow from Carolina Jessamine, *Gelsemium sempervirens*.

I was surprised to learn wire grass is found in pine flatwoods. When the planted long-leaf grow, the frequently matched plants can meet again.

We saw *Vaccinium galore V. arboretum*, Sparkleberry, *V. myrsinites*, Shiny blueberry, *V. stamineum*, Deerberr.

We were all pleased to see a healthy Red Bay.

Have you ever wondered why the native that you planted in your yard, seemingly with the right amount of light and moisture is not doing very well? It could very well be because your soil is missing the symbiotic partner – mycorrhizae. The pine flatwoods has an undercurrent growth of fungus that contributes to health of plants. If you mix some original soil into your soil it will be inoculated and make your plant happy. That is the best tip that I learned today.

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

Ellen Thoms, emthoms@dow.com

Treasurer

Goldie Schwartz, afn49@mindspring.com

Chapter Representative

Sandi Saurers, sandi@bbos.com

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

Director

Jennifer Staiger, jsstaig@gmail.com

Director

Dahlonga Peck, Dahlonga1@yahoo.com

Plant ID

Paul Cohen, paulcohen2002@yahoo.com

Paul Hoffhein, pbohffhein@yahoo.com

Subject: We need your yard!

Gainesville and Alachua County residents:

We are looking for at least 36 suburban yards in Alachua County (specifically in or near the city of Gainesville) to use in a University of Florida research study. The "Plant for Wildlife" study will evaluate the ability of three types of Florida urban/suburban landscapes, such as native plants, Florida-Friendly Landscaping™, and conventional yards, to support native wildlife, including important pollinators essential to Florida's ecology and economy. Surveys will record the presence/absence of a broad spectrum of species, including butterflies, insect pollinators, birds and landscape plants. Interactions between wildlife and plants will also be recorded. The 3-year comparative study will start in spring 2012.

Our visits would involve regular visits to your yard (front and back) and will occur when organisms are typically most active, between 9 am and 4 pm. If you would like to help we will send you more information about the study in the next few months along with a questionnaire about your yard and maintenance practices.

If you have questions or are interested in participating, please send your name and home address to Dr. Jaret Daniels (jdaniels@flmnh.ufl.edu).

Your participation is greatly appreciated!

Thank you,



Jaret C. Daniels, Ph.D.
Assistant Director of Exhibits and Public Programs
Assistant Curator of Lepidoptera
Assistant Professor of Entomology
Florida Museum of Natural History
University of Florida
PO Box 112710
Gainesville, FL 32611-2710
jdaniels@flmnh.ufl.edu

Presented by Notestein Native Nursery at Spring Plant Sale—White Yarrow, *Achillea millefolium*.



This is a perennial plant with a history of medicinal usage. It is said to have antibacterial, antifungal qualities. It is reported to be analgesic, too. Reported being used to staunch the flow of blood from wounds.

Followup on Springs Talk

Our January speaker, Bob Knight, alerted us to some potential threats to nearby Silver Springs in Ocala.

A historical review shows water levels consistently dropping in springs which might be a red flag to future permits allowing for pumping water from the Florida aquifer.

A good website that explains the new Adena Farm permit and also has a place for public comment directly to the Water Management District is: www.floridaswater.com/facts/AdenaSpringsRanchCUP.html

Florida Audubon's Advocate website also addresses current water issues and has a petition to restore funding to water management districts so they will not continue to layoff scientists and resource managers and sell off public lands that are currently under conservation:

www.fl.audubonaction.org/site/MessageViewer?em_id=18021.0&printer-friendly=1

New Wildflowers Book Available at Plant Sale!

We are happy to announce that Dr. David Hall's new publication *Wildflowers of Florida and the Southeast* will be offered for sale at the March plant sale through the Paynes Prairie chapter. This large compendium has wonderful pictures and information that is organized by flower color.

Welcome new, rejoined and renewed members.

Robert Knight	Roger Gamble
Mimi Moreno	Elizabeth 7 Barnes Gardiner
Jason & Jenny Seitz	Lorraine McDowell
Connie Caldwell	Sandy McGee & Pat Stevens
Eva Divita	Michael Meisenburg
Barbara Faircloth	Buford Pruitt
Robert Freese	Sandy Rodgers

Susan Vince

Gift for new, rejoined and renewed members!

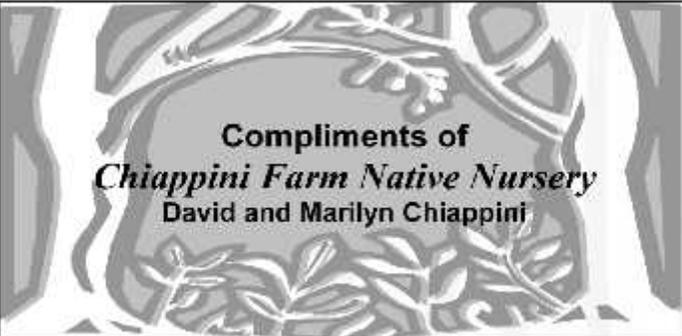
Notestein Nursery is offering a free native plant to new members who join from March 2012 through December 2012. Plants can be chosen and picked up by appointment at Jim Notestein's Nursery in Gainesville. Call 352-372-2107. Jim is a long-time supporter of FNPS and regular vendor at the spring and fall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



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micanopywildflowers@yahoo.com



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Erick D. Smith
erick@kestreleco.com
 (352) 380-0648
 Certified Arborist FL 5376A

Michael Meisenburg
michael@kestreleco.com
 (352) 339-0701
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 (386) 462-2752



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www.yourfloridagarden.com

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 2011 through May 2012.

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 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, March 30

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 April
2012 newsletter is
March 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:

- ◇ Individual \$35
- ◇ Family/Household \$50
- ◇ Contributing \$75
- ◇ 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.