



Spring Native Plant Sale

**Members Only
Friday, April 26
4:30-6:30 pm**

**General Public
Saturday, April 27
8:30 am-12:30 pm
Page 4**

**Chapter Meeting
Thursday, April 11,
7:00 pm
“Ask The Experts”**

**Field Trip
April 13, 2013
White Property
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**Yard Visit
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**Conference Registration
Information
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“Ask the Experts”



We want to help your plantings be successful. With the Spring Native Plant Sale around the corner, you may be thinking about adding some new native plants to your yard or even renovating a whole section of property to increase diversity and habitat quality for insects and birds. We are fortunate to have many members with years of experience planting and evaluating natives.

Our “panel of experts” will be available to discuss gardening options and strategies.

Our panelists will be: Brian Quinn, former Paynes Prairie Chapter president whose property in Alachua teems with diverse trees and shrubs; Kelly Perez, registered landscape architect who owns “Your Florida Garden” native and Florida-Friendly landscape services (yourfloridagarden.com); and Erick Smith our current chapter president, who owns Kestrel Ecological Services specializing in land management and exotic plant removal.

You can bring plants and get help with identification; bring as much of the plant as you can including fruits and flowers when possible. Generally having a few exotics in a yard can add to our enjoyment of diversity. However invasive exotics need to be removed from your yard. Do you have a plant that is doing unusually well? Bring it in and see if it is one of the invasives.

Is your yard especially shady, sunny or mottled? Ask what would be best suited for these conditions. If you have a lot of tree cover, find out what would be the best understory plants for your specific tree cover.

Does your house need more tree cover? Bring information about your site conditions and location and learn the names of the best trees for your area. Also, don’t forget to ask how far from property should the tree be planted to keep your house safe. There are many shrubs, grasses, vines and wildflowers to consider. Have you tried some with “iffy” results? Maybe you could describe situation and the experts will help you make it work.

Also, remember planting advice is also available at the FNPS tent at the plant sale on Saturday. With so many great plants, it’s hard to choose, so let the “experts” help you.

IT'S ALL ABOUT RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT PLACE!

Connie Caldwell

Our March native plant yard visit took us to Mark Elliott's 5 acre yard, where the first thing we notice is blooming pinxter azaleas. Mark built his house on this property about 10 years ago, and some of his plantings have matured amazingly well, such as the large and lovely Walter's viburnum (which just finished blooming) in the island formed by the circular driveway. In this island, we also see parsley haw, titi racemosa, styrax, amorpha fruticosa, hearts-a-bustin, swamp azalea, beauty berry, buckeye, spigelia, a variety of ferns, and numerous bulbs, including the ground orchid blatilla.

Mark informs us that his soil is mostly clay and therefore quite moist. As with most of us, he has found that finding the right place for each plant is largely experimental.

An area alongside the driveway has a large and beautiful Florida anise in bloom, a chickasaw plum, mock orange, ilex ambigua, winged elm, winterberry, an eryngium, a yellow-berry holly, and some very happy coonties which Mark says are now coming up all over.

A grassy path in the front of the house along the woods' edge treats us to mayhaw, dogwood, sweet shrub, coral bean, Simpson's stopper (which Mark says really should be widely used as a hedge), mapleleaf viburnum, swamp dogwood, ash, fringetree, and flame azaleas which will bloom later.

Foundation plantings along the front of the house include blue-eyed grass, rain lilies, iris, a rare adder's tongue fern, two kinds of eryngium, cardinal flower, a Japanese maple, various iris, a star magnolia, American holly, and an Alachua rose. Some of these plants form a bog garden and alongside is a row of potted pitcher plants!

Mark tells us his plan is for the front flower bed, which takes up most of the front yard, to contain all natives, and he describes some of the difficulties in this; for example, not all the plants bloom at the same time or for a long season. He has found that cutting back plants such as Elliot's aster and giant ironweed is advisable to prevent them from falling over. Additional plants in this area include day lilies, 3 kinds of goldenrod, wax myrtle, pluchea, scarlet hibiscus, coral honeysuckle, baptisia alba (also a purple one), red salvias, stokesia, and several bulbs such as crocosmia, african iris, blood lilies, and amaryllis. We ponder a contorted mulberry tree which does not produce fruit. Mark says it could be because of the contortion or it might be a male. Numerous bird feeders are all around this area and we stand watching the birds for a while, the more informed among us identifying them, some of them by their calls!

Beyond this bed Mark points out an acacia, persimmons, loquat, pyrocantha, ash, chestnut, hypericum, cypress, and a Viburnum rufidulum in bloom. A walk through the woods is rewarded with the sight of a mature needle palm that Mark moved from his previous house, a pair of sparkleberries in bloom, and a large cretaegus.

We move on to the side yard and here we see a loblolly bay, swamp chestnut, a raised bed vegetable garden and, in a drier area, standing cypress which is spreading nicely, and a formosa lily.

Along the back foundation of the house, there are a lot of various ferns, yellow canna, and a mountain laurel which Mark plans to find a better place for. (There it is again, right plant - right place!) The area Mark refers to as the "Back 40" contains bamboo, cypress, fringetree, woods oats, and Ilex vomitoria.

We end our tour in the greenhouse, where we are amazed by the lush collection of tropical plants, including a number of orchids. Mark points out an area nearby under trees where these plants live in the summer.

Thank you, Mark, for sharing your yard and your experiences with us - a visual treat as well as a learning opportunity!

If you are interested in participating in these monthly yard tours, please contact connie.caldwell@sfcollge.edu.

Conference Registration is now open!

FNPS Ixia Chapter presents the Florida Native Plant Society's 2013 conference. The theme, "Celebrating La Florida; the Land of Flowers," is to commemorate Ponce deLeon's naming of this region when he landed in NE Florida 500 years ago.

The conference will be held May 16th through May 19th at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. Field trips will be held on Thursday May 16th and on Sunday May 19th. Field trips are filling up fast! Two of them only have one spot left! Our evening socials are fantastic this year. We have added a St. Johns River Boat Dining experience with the St. Johns Riverkeeper, Lisa Rinaman. In addition to the spectacular ambiance on the water, the river cruise offers a cash bar and a DJ.

There is a special 2-hour Home Landscape Design Workshop which will be presented by two landscape architects on Saturday afternoon from 12:50pm until 2:45pm. To register for this workshop, please visit <https://www.eventville.com/catalog/eventregistration1.asp?eventid=1010289>. The cost is just \$25!

Please visit our conferences website <http://fnps.org/conference> for all the details.

Space is limited on the field trips, workshops, and the socials, so don't delay. Register today online at <https://www.eventville.com/catalog/eventregistration1.asp?eventid=1010214>. EARLY BIRDS: Save \$25 each for Friday and Saturday programs when you register by April 15.

Rights of Springs and Nature
Found on the Web at
www.rightsofmotherearth.com/ecudor-rights-nature
an idea whose time has come

Ecuador Rights of Nature

Ecuador Constitution Adopted September 2008

Nature, or Pachamama – an indigenous word for all life, has been legally acknowledged as having rights by the Ecuadorian people in their new constitution. Ecuador is the first country to incorporate rights of nature in their constitution.

Rather than treating nature as property under the law, these laws acknowledge that nature in all its life forms has the *right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its vital cycles*. And we – the people – have the legal authority to enforce these rights on behalf of ecosystems. The ecosystem itself can be named as the defendant.

Ecuador's new constitution includes a Chapter addressing Rights for Nature.

Chapter: Rights for Nature

Art. 1. Nature or Pachamama, where life is reproduced and exists, has the right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its vital cycles, structure, functions and its processes in evolution.

Every person, people, community or nationality, will be able to demand the recognitions of rights for nature before the public organisms. The application and interpretation of these rights will follow the related principles established in the Constitution.

The State will motivate natural and juridical persons as well as collectives to protect nature; it will promote respect towards all the elements that form an ecosystem.

Art. 2. Nature has the right to an integral restoration. This integral restoration is independent of the obligation on natural and juridical persons or the State to indemnify the people and the collectives that depend on the natural systems.

In the cases of severe or permanent environmental impact, including the ones caused by the exploitation on non renewable natural resources, the State will establish the most efficient mechanisms for the restoration, and will adopt the adequate measures to eliminate or mitigate the harmful environmental consequences.

Art. 3. The State will apply precaution and restriction measures in all the activities that can lead to the extinction of species, the destruction of the ecosystems or the permanent alteration of the natural cycles.

The introduction of organisms and organic and inorganic material that can alter in a definitive way the national genetic patrimony is prohibited.

Art. 4. The persons, people, communities and nationalities will have the right to benefit from the environment and form natural wealth that will allow well-being.

The environmental services cannot be appropriated; its production, provision, use and exploitation, will be regulated by the State.



Florida Native Plant Society Spring Native Plant Sale

Morningside Nature Center
3540 E. University Ave

EXCLUSIVE Members Only Sale
Friday, 26 April, 4:30 - 6:30 pm
(memberships available at the gate)

Open to the public
Saturday, 27 April, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

NOW accepting credit cards!

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.



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

Calendar of Events

Please check the Chapter page at www.paynesprairie.fnpschapters.org for most current information and directions to field trips. All 2013 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 11** "Ask the Experts" Panel
- April 13** Field Trip - Daniel T. White, Esq. Property
- April 26-27** Spring Native Plant Sale
Morningside Park
- May 9** Gopher Tortoise Preservation
Pat Ashton
- May 11** Field Trip - Rainbow Springs
- May 16-19** FNPS Annual State Conference

2013 BOD Meetings: 1st Monday in January, March, May, August and November

April 13 Field Trip, Saturday, 9am-noon

FNPS member Daniel T. White, Esq. has invited us to tour his property at 3810 NW 39 Avenue, Gainesville 32606. Please meet at the site at 9am. Dan's residence is located off NW 39 Avenue between NW 34 St. and NW 43 St. Turn into NW 38 St. that is north of 39 Ave. This is a small private road near a metal fence that stretches along NW 39 Avenue. The residence is the first 2-story house on left.

Trip contact is Claudia Larsen 352- 215-9067.

The property consists of almost 6 acres, and sits directly on NW 39th Ave, between NW 34th St and NW 43rd St, on the banks of Possum Creek. You must take NW 38th Street north to get to the house. We will spend a couple hours hiking small paths through the property. Please wear sturdy shoes and hiking apparel since there may be vines or thickets with spines in the wilder areas.

Dan sends this description of the site we will visit: According to native plant consultant and nursery owner Pete Wallace, the property was originally a mesic hammock, hardwood climax community, which became disturbed from agricultural use and residential development. The canopy consists of elm, magnolia and various types of oak.

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Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

See our Web page at:

www.paynesprairie.fnpschapters.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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Cont'd from page 5

The understory consists of a variety of trees and shrub-like trees, predominantly blue beach, ironwood and various dogwood species. The property also has indigenous population of ashes (green, white and wafer ashes) and a robust population of hawthorns.

The property also contains several bluffs marked by minor limestone outcroppings (which we have augmented), springs and seeps, of course the creek and the surrounding wetland areas that house expansive colonies of jack-in-the-pulpit and ferns. You will also find numerous *Matelea* specimens and a robust population of some of the largest green dragons I have ever seen.

When I purchased the property 5 years ago, I confronted a sterile forest leading all the way to the dwelling's perimeter, proliferated with cherry laurel and a host of exotic ground covers and understory plants. After years of removal of exotics and replanting with native, the character of the mesic hammock is being slowly coming back to life. We have also experimented with other slope forest plants, with fairly good success. We have several colonies of trillium and other more northern woodland flower species (names escape me now). We also planted Florida yew, torrey pine and several kinds of native azalea and rhododendron which have also flourished. In the front entry way of the house I built some artificial scrub exhibits on small dunes and raised sand beds, which have some interesting combinations with windflower, columbine and some things that I never thought could co-exist. All in all, I think that I stopped documenting at 200 or so native species. We have reworked the hydrology so water use is minimal.

It's been a lot of work. After 5 years, we seem to have just knocked it back. But it's certainly rewarding to hear my neighbor (a birder) say that he has seen species recently that he hasn't seen in years, if ever.

Turkey Creek Hammock Preserve Michael Bubb and Paul Cohen

The Turkey Creek Hammock Preserve field trip took place Saturday February 23 at a property acquired in 2009 with funds from the Alachua County Forever Program with money from sales tax and the Florida Communities Trust.

Kevin Ratkus, an environmental specialist on the staff of Alachua County Forever led the tour. He described the property as the site of a former Cattle Ranch. When the park opens to the public, probably within the next two years, features related to the historical usage, such as a livestock scale and remnants of a corral, will serve an interpretive role. Kevin described the wet land habitat on this property as self-restoring after human disturbance, in particular logging. Bald cypress was growing in most of these habitats.

At the front gate where the group parked there was what appeared to be a home site because the lawn grass and formosa azaleas and building foundations. Small areas of *Ardisia crenata* await removal. A *Sapium seberiferum*, Chinese tallow had already been eradicated.

The tour visited an upland area and habitat that could be described as a hardwood hammock. The hardwood hammock included a stream flowing through it which could serve as a good bird habitat supporting water thrush, tanagers, and warblers. *Smilax pumila* was growing right next to the stream.

Other species seen were *Nyssa sylvatica*, *Houstonia procumbens*, *Thelypteris kunthii*, *Carex longii*, *Peltandra virginica*, *Vaccinium darrowii*, *Leucothoe uniflora*, *Quercus hemispherica*, *Carpinus caroliniana*, *Dicanthelium commutatum*, and *Dicanthelium lariflorum*.

We were fortunate to have Robert Garren join us on the field trip. He collected two species on the trip that he later identified for us. One is the small white-flowered mustard (Brassicaceae) with the long slender fruits. It is Florida watercress, *Nasturtium floridanum*. This plant is a native endemic species (occurs only in Florida) and is an obligate wetland species. It's not particularly rare but as it is an endemic, it is nonetheless rare in the world of plants! The other species was the bastard white oak, *Quercus austrina*. This is also called bluff oak by most of us but Wunderlin doesn't seem to use that term any more.

March Plant ID Workshop

<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	Glossy Privet	Oleaceae	Non-native
<i>Passiflora suberosa</i>	Corkystem Passionflower	Passifloraceae	Native
<i>Triodanis perfoliata</i>	Creeping Venus' Looking-Glass	Campanulaceae	Native
<i>Vernonia gigantea</i>	Giant Ironweed	Asteraceae	Native

Thanks to all who participated. Nomenclature based on the internet website Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants (<http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/>) on March 21, 2013. The workshop is not intended to be a plant ID service. If the specimen has a flower please bring it along with rest of the plant.

Submitted by Paul Cohen

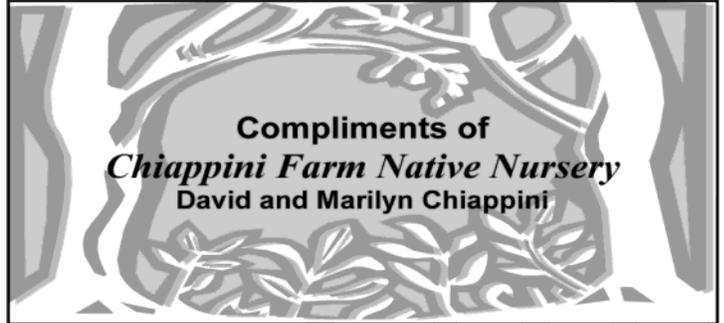


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New T-Shirt (\$15) & tote bag (\$10) will be available at the Chapter meeting, so bring cash or your check-book. Totes make great gifts.

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, format only to Goldie Schwartz at afn49@mindspring.com. The ads cost \$100 and run from **January 2013 through November 2013.** Or **Monthly at rate of \$12.50 per issue**

An activity initiated this year by Paynes Prairie Chapter is a monthly yard visit. We tour each other's yards and learn from each other about using native plants in our landscapes. If you would like to participate in this activity (and be willing for us to tour your yard sometime too!), contact connie.caldwell@sfcollge.edu.

Have You Blogged Lately?

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

Florida Native Plant Society
Paynes Prairie Chapter
Post Office Box 1004
Archer, FL 32618

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 11, 2013

7:00 p.m.

(Plant ID Workshop at 6:15)

United Church of Gainesville

1624 NW 5th Avenue

FNPS Paynes Prairie Chapter Meetings
are held the 2nd Thursday 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
files. Send all article submissions to:
afn49@mindspring.com
Submission deadline
for the May 2013
newsletter
April 20, 2013

Florida Native Plant Society Membership Form

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Total: ____ Check Enclosed: ____ Please charge my credit card ____

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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.