

Ixia e-news

Volume 1, Issue 4

May 2, 2007

Special points of interest:

- **St Johns River Celebration Day:** May 19, 2007, from 9 am to 4 pm at Walter Jones Historical Park in Mandarin.
- **June 2 Fieldtrip:** Our next fieldtrip will be on June 2, 2007, with **Gil Nelson** at Jennings State Forest in Clay County to look for Bartram's Ixia in bloom. Please check the website (www.jaxnativeplants.org) for details to be posted soon!

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FNPS Annual Conference and April Field Trip Summaries

"Conservation Cures by Yards and Miles" April 19-22, 2007

Every year for the past 27 years people from all over the State and Nation have attended this educational conference, which focuses on natural areas, native plants and ecological aspects of the state of Florida. The Paynes Prairie chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society hosted the 2007 Annual Conference. The Friday session was opened by Janisse Ray who is a naturalist, environmental activist and author of *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* and *Wild Card Quilt*. The keynote speaker on Saturday was William Cullina, Nursery Director for the New England Wildflower Society. Attendees had a choice of field trips, and could choose to listen to speakers who focused on a scientific theme, a backyard landscape theme or a conservation areas theme. A Native Plant Sale brought to one location native plants from nurseries throughout the state. There were also Educational exhibits and vendors of horticultural products, books and artwork on Friday and Saturday.

A guided plant walk through the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTMNERR), April 28, 2007

This field trip was quite well led by Jerry and Linda Harrison of the GTMNERR. Since they have been identifying plants and maintaining a herbarium at the reserve for approximately 15-years, they were extremely knowledgeable about the local flora. The few lucky Ixia participants were treated to a two hour walking tour starting in the parking area of the main office/education center, extending into the hiking trail about one mile, and then back to the educational center. Once back at the educational center we reviewed several herbarium specimens including plants we had seen on the walk and interesting plants collected in the past. Jerry and Linda have put together an impressive herbarium collection and should be commended for their work. Please see page 3 for a list of plant species identified.

May 17th General Meeting (see page 4 for location, time)

May 17th Program:

"How FireWise Are You?"

Chuck Byrd, NEFL Preserve Manager for The Nature Conservancy will talk on the role of prescribed fire in our ecosystem and how landowners can implement landscape design and construction techniques to help fireproof their homes.

General Meeting next month on June 21, 2007.

The Ixia chapter monthly meetings are open to alternate location suggestions from our members. If you would like to propose an alternate location, then please be willing to take the lead on securing the facility and writing up announcements and directions for the newsletter.

Working to control Invasive Plants in Our Area

AlterNative Brochure Award!

Ixia is the proud recipient of a FNPS Education Award! At the February Ixia Board retreat, members discuss the need for educational materials to hand out to landscape planners, developers, and homeowners to promote Florida friendly landscaping with aesthetic plants that do not have a negative impact in the landscape. The FNPS Chapter does not fund 'typical' membership brochures, but does consider targeted outreach materials eligible for Chapter financial assistance. Work will begin on designing the brochure and volunteers are asked to serve on the Brochure subcommittee. Interested volunteers should contact Trish Gramajo at

tgramajo@tnc.org or 598-0004.

First Coast Invasive Working Group

Public land managers in the five counties of Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns have gathered to form the First Coast Invasive Working Group, a coordinated group of public and private land managers whose purpose is to leverage resources to prevent and manage for invasive species. Public land managers and large private landowners who would like to participate in the group should contact Trish Gramajo with The Nature Conservancy at 904-598-0004 or tgramajo@tnc.



See example :
www.fleppc.org/Misc/AlterNative2.pdf

Educational Presentation to Educate Florida's Decision Makers

The FNPS Education Committee is creating a presentation that will be distributed to all FNPS chapters for use throughout local municipalities. The goal of the presentation is to educate Florida's decision makers at various levels about the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society. This valuable education tool will communicate the importance of conserving Florida's natural communities as a means to encourage support for the FNPS mission throughout Florida. The Committee will soon be looking for photos to use in this presentation. Future presentations for various audiences are also planned. The goal is to distribute CD's to chapters at the October Members Retreat. Within the next two weeks the plan

is to circulate a draft for comment.

If you would like to review a copy of the draft, please e-mail Janet Koehler at jkoehler@bellsouth.net.

The next major activity is a Native Plant curriculum that elementary school teachers can use with students throughout the state. **If you know of any existing material that would be appropriate, please e-mail Janet Koehler.**

"looking for photos to use in this presentation"

"goal of the presentation is to educate Florida's decision makers at various levels"

Please use updated FNPS Membership Forms

Please be sure when you renew your FNPS membership that you use the 2007 membership forms! These forms are located at www.fnps.org. The new membership rates are as follows:

NEW Individual/Gift: \$25

Renewing Individual: \$30

Family/household: \$40

Contributing: \$50

Please visit the FNPS website to renew your membership or contact:

FNPS Administrative Services

Phone: 321-271-6702

Email: info@fnps.org

Mail: PO Box 278, Melbourne FL 32902-0278



Mystery flower! Can you ID this native plant? How about the insect? Hint: Use zoom to view.

**Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine
Research Reserve (GTMNERR) –
Plant List from Ixia fieldtrip on April 28, 2007**

Vascular Plants as checked off from a checklist provided by
Jerry and Linda Harrison ("A Vascular Flora of
GTMNERR"): *means exotic

- AGAVACEAE (Agave)
Yucca aloifolia* [Spanish bayonet]
- AIZOACEAE (Mesembryanthemum)
Sesuvium portulacastrum [Seapurslane]
- AQUIFOLIACEAE (Holly)
Ilex cassine var. cassine [Dahoon]
Ilex glabra [Inkberry, Gallberry]
Ilex opaca var. opaca [American Holly]
Ilex vomitoria [Yaupon]
- ARECACEAE (Palm)
Sabal palmetto [Cabbage palm]
Serenoa repens [Saw palmetto]
- ASTERACEAE (Aster)
Baccharis halimifolia [Salt Bush]
Borrchia frutescens [Bushy Seaside Oxeye]
Cirsium nuttallii [Nuttal's Thistle] (Bee Fly observed
on flower)
Eupatorium capillifolium [Dog Fennel]
Iva frutescens [Marsh Elder]
- BATAACEAE (Saltwort)
Batis Maritima [Saltwort]
- BIGNONIACEAE
Bignonia capreolata [Crossvine]
- BRASSICACEAE (Mustard)
Lepidium virginicum [Virginia Pepperweed]
- BROMELIACEAE (Pineapple)
Tillandsia bartramii [Bartram's Airplant]
Tillandsia recurvata [Ballmoss]
Tillandsia usneoides [Spanish Moss]
- CACTACEAE (Cactus)
Opuntia pusilla [Cockspur Pricklypear]
Opuntia stricta [Erect Pricklypear]
- CARYOPHYLLACEAE (Pink)
Silene antirrhina [Sleepy Catchfly]
- CHENOPODIACEAE (Goosefoot)
Salicornia perennis [Perennial Glasswort]
Suaeda linearis [Sea Blite]
- CUPRESSACEAE (Cedar)
Juniperus virginiana (Red Cedar)
- CYPERACEAE (Sedge)
Carex dasycarpa [Sandywoods Sedge]
Rynchospora megalocarpa [Sandyfield Sedge]
Scleria triglomerata [Tall Nutgrass]
- ERICACEAE (Heath)
Vaccinium arboreum [Sparkleberry]
- EUPHORBIACEAE (Spurge)
Cnidioscolus stimulosus [Stinging Nettle]
- FABACEAE (Pea)
Desmodium triflorum* [Threeflower Ticktrefoil]
Erythrina herbacea [Coralbean]
Indigofera suffruticosa* [Woody Indigo]
Melilotus albus* [White Sweetclover]
- Melilotus indicus* [Indian Sweetclover]
Rhynchosima minima [Climbing Dollarweed]
- FAGACEAE (Beech)
Quercus chapmanii [Chapman's Oak]
Quercus geminata [Sand Live Oak]
Quercus myrtifolia [Myrtle Oak]
Quercus virginiana [Live Oak]
- HAMAMELIDACEAE (Witchhazel)
Liquidambar styraciflua [Sweetgum]
- JUGLANDACEAE (Walnut)
Carya glabra [Pignut Hickory]
- LAURACEAE (Laurel)
Persea borbonia var. borbonia [Red Bay]
- MAGNOLIACEAE (Magnolia)
Magnolia grandiflora [Souther Magnolia]
- MALVACEAE (Mallow)
Sida acuta [Common Wireweed]
- MORACEAE (Mulberry)
Morus rubra [Red Mulberry]
- MYRICACEAE (Bayberry)
Myrica cerifera [Wax Myrtle]
- ORCHIDACEAE (Orchid)
Epidendrum magnoliae var. magnoliae [Green-fly
Orchid]
- PINACEAE (Pine)
Pinus elliottii [Slash Pine]
- PLUMBAGINACEAE (Leadwort)
Limonium carolinianum [Carolina Sea Lavender]
- POACEAE (Grass)
Dichanthelium commutatum [Variable Witchgrass]
Eustachys petraea [Pinewoods Fingergrass]
Piptochaetium avenaceum [Blackseed Needle-
grass]
Rhynchelytrum repens* [Rose Natalgrass]
Spartina alterniflora var. glabra [Smooth
Cordgrass]
Spartina patens [Marshhay Cordgrass]
Sphenopholis obtusata [Prairie Wedgescale]
Sporobolus virginicus [Seashore Dropseed]
- POLYPODIACEAE (Polypody)
Pleopeltis polypodioides var. michauxiana
[Resurrection Fern]
- ROSACEAE (Rose)
Prunus serotina var. serotina [Black Cherry]
Prunus umbellata [Flatwood Plum]
- RUTACEAE (Citrus)
Zanthoxylum clava-herculis [Hercules'-club]
- SCROPHULARIACEAE (Figwort)
Verbascum virgatum* [Wand Mullein]
- Solanaceae (Nightshade)
Physalis walteri [Walter's Groundcherry]
- VERBENACEAE (Vervain)
Phyla nodiflora [Turkeytangle Fogfruit]
Verbena officinalis var. halei [Texas Vervain]
- VITACEAE (Grape)
Vitis aestivalis [Summer Grape]

Conservation Updates from March-April

Voluntary Codes to Curb Invasive Species Adopted by the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens during National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week

At the suggestion of The Nature Conservancy the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens adopted by resolution the Voluntary Codes of Conduct with regard to invasive plants. The Codes are based on the broader set of voluntary codes developed at the Missouri Botanical Congress in partnership with The Center for Plant Conservation and other horticulture industry leaders, gardens and organizations to enhance plant biodiversity and deter the threat of invasive species. The Nature Conservancy has helped Lowes, the Florida Department of Transportation and The Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens adopt the best management practices. To learn more about the Arboretum, visit, www.jacksonvillearboretum.org; to learn more about the Voluntary Codes, visit, www.centerforplantconservation.org.

NEFL Native Plant Fair

The Nature Conservancy and the City of Jacksonville Parks Department held the first Native Plant Fair at Westside Regional Park on March 31st. Over 15 exhibitors including the Ixia Chapter were on hand to answer questions regarding the uses and benefits of native plants in their home garden. The event was held to educate the NEFL public on alternative plants to use to replace common invasive plants in NEFL such as Chinese Tallow, Lantana, and Mexican Petunia among many others. Florida maple and Indian blanket flower were given away to over a hundred visitors that came to enjoy the Saturday morning event.

Upcoming Event Listing:

May 19th, Free Timucuan Boat Rides!

Explore Machaba Balu and the Timucuan Trail State and National Parks

Saturday, May 19, 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Preservation Project Jacksonville, the National Park Service, the Florida Park Service and The Nature Conservancy are partnering to host this environmental-focused event. Activities include boat tours of Fort George River and Machaba Balu Preserve and educational programs that focus on the rich history of the Talbot Islands State Parks, Fort George Island and Kingsley Plantation. Boat tours and educational seminars are offered on a first-come, first-served basis due to limited space. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Boat Tour Schedule: 10:30 a.m.; 11:30 a.m.; and 12:30 p.m. trips

Directions: Event will be held at the Ribault Club on Ft. George Island located at 11241 Fort George Road, Ft. George Island, FL 32226. For more information, contact The Nature Conservancy at (904) 598-0004 for more information

June 2nd, Ixia Fieldtrip to Jennings State Forest — To be Guided by Gil Nelson (famous Author of numerous native plant guides and books)

Gil Nelson has offered to lead us through Jennings State Forest in Clay County to look for Bartram's Ixia in bloom. The full details for this fieldtrip are still being developed, so stay tuned to the Ixia Website for more details as to the meeting time and place. We will also send out an email update once the details are worked out. We will need a several more (Gil has 1 truck) vehicles suitable for off-road travel, so please contact Pete Johnson if you would like to volunteer your 4-wheel drive truck (pjohnson@sjrwm.com).

FYI — the start time for this trip will be very early in the morning in order to catch the blooms before they dry up (see page 5 for Ixia flower information).

**Ixia Chapter of the Florida
Native Plant Society**

c/o Ann Arthur
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Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

Email: annwarthur@yahoo.com

Please visit our website at
www.jaxnativeplants.org

*Serving Clay, Duval, Nassau, and
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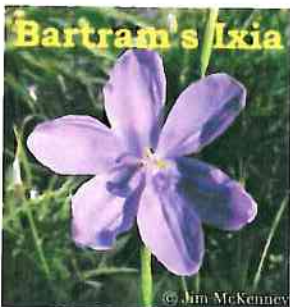
**WELCOME! to Northeast Florida's Ixia Chap-
ter of the Florida Native Plant Society!!**

Our Chapter's name is *Ixia*, named after Bartram's
ixia "*Calydorea coelestina*" - a beautiful, special lit-
tle wildflower that is endemic to only 7 counties in
Northeast Florida where we are located.

***The Ixia Chapter meets at 6:30PM on the third
Thursday of each month in Suite 102 of the St.
Johns River Water Management District building.
Off Baymeadows Rd & I-95, the address is:***

**7775 BAYMEADOWS WAY, Jacksonville, FL
32256**

Plant Profile: *Calydorea caelestina*



Calydorea caelestina

Bartram's Ixia (common name) is an en-
dangered, endemic Monocot known from
only seven counties in northeast Florida.
It is in the iris family **Iridaceae**.

Field Description: Perennial herb with
slender stem 8 - 16 inches tall. **Basal
leaves** few, narrow, grass-like, shorter
than the stem; **stem leaves** less than
3.5 inches long, scattered on the stem.
Flowers 2.5 inches across, with 6
large, blue-violet petals appearing in early
morning, fading by 10:00 a.m.;
3 **stamens** with conspicuous yellow,
elongated **anthers**; **style** purple with 3
jagged, fan-shaped stigma lobes. **Fruit** a
green capsule, 0.8 inch long.

Habitat: Wet to mesic flatwoods.

Best Survey Season: Flowers mid-April
to mid-June. Nearly invisible at other
times. Individual flowers open only for
one morning.

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to
NE FL.

Conservation Status: Although 60 or
more populations have been reported
since the early 1900s, most have not been
seen recently. Only a few populations
are known on conservation areas.

Protection & Management: Burn flat-
woods every 2-3 years in growing
season. Avoid clearcutting or mechanical
site preparation in flatwoods.

(Florida Natural Areas Inventory, 2000)