



Rhexia mariana ©Darel Hess

The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society
November 2008

Save the Date!
Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc.
Fall Round UP! & Awards Ceremony

Sunday, November 16, 2008 from 3 to 6 PM

Join us to celebrate
Florida Remembered
back at the Whitehurst Horse Prairie Ranch

The O'Neill family
will be honored with an award for protecting
their BoPoDo Farm in Marion County.

This year's keynote speaker will be
Nelson E. Bailey,
a County Court Judge in Palm Beach County. Judge
Bailey is a "Florida Cracker Storyteller" and he shares
his knowledge of Florida's uniquely intertwined agri-
cultural history and multi-cultural heritage.

Kate Barnes,
an award winning landscape painter, will be painting
on location during the event. Kate's paintings will be
on display and available for purchase.

Please take a moment to consider how you can help
us make our
Fall Round UP! & Awards Ceremony for 2008 a huge
success!

For more information, go to:
Ph. & Fax: 352-466-1178, www.conserveflorida.org,
info@conserveflorida.org

Monthly Meeting & Field Trip Info-

Meeting: November 18
Ondine Wells of the Florida Yards and
Neighborhoods Program, page 4

Field Trip: November 22nd
Prairie Creek Preserve with
Ivor Kincaid of Alachua Conservation Trust,
page 4

Plant Sale Report

Submitted by Lisa Jelks

The Fall Native Plant Sale at Morningside Nature Center enjoyed beautiful weather and steady shopping. Although overall the sale brought in less money than past sales, a few vendors actually saw higher sales revenues. This may be because of the slumping economy or the depressed housing market causing less demand for landscapes. However, that left some great bargains for those plant lovers who did show up. A very big thank you for all those who helped out, including Joe Durando, Howard Jelks, Tootie Richey, Goldie Schwartz, and Jennifer Staiger. Be sure to mark your calendar for the Spring sale, which is scheduled for April 10 and 11.

Get Well Alice!

Submitted by Brian Quinn, President

One of our most active members, Alice Tyler, is now recovering from hip replacement surgery. Alice works tirelessly for FNPS and the Audubon Society in her free time, and we will miss her as she recovers. After working with her on various projects, I decided that if I ever grow up, I want to be just like Alice. If anyone wants to contact Alice and wish her well, please email her at pinetyl@atlantic.net. We have already missed her at meetings and want her to know that there is still a generous amount of *Bidens alba* that needs to be pulled in Carl's Garden!

“Plant of the Month” by Paula Russo

Sweetgum: *Liquidambar styraciflua*



<http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu>

Sweetgum is a deciduous, single-trunked, conical shaped large tree with spreading branch and star shaped leaves. It is a fast grower to heights between 40 and 125 feet. The flowers are small, greenish yellow clusters which on the female tree produces spiny seed balls. The dropping of these “gum balls” can be messy on driveways or in formal settings. But the showy fall colors of wine red, yellow and maroon make up, I think, for a few messy habits. It prefers moist soil but is very adaptable. It provides cover and food for wildlife.

The following is an excerpt from Gil Nelson’s excellent book “The Trees of Florida – A Reference and Field Guide”:

The sweetgum has the distinction of being one of only a few North American trees that were discovered in the New World by a Florida explorer. In 1528, traveling with de Soto on his Spanish expedition to the land of the flowers, fellow traveler Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca listed the tree among several species that he found on a site near what is now the city of Apalachicola. He was able to recognize this tree, no doubt, by its similarity to the Turkish species of the same genus whose sap was widely used in Europe as perfume and incense, as well as in the treatment of diphtheria.

The genus name of the sweetgum literally means liquid amber and refers to the fragrant, yellowish liquid which exudes from the trunk when the tree is injured. Its common name, too, derives from this sweet smelling sap. In the Old South, the sweetgum had many uses. Reputed for its medical value, it was selected by Confederate doctors as a treatment for dysentery and by mothers as an ointment for their children’s sores and skin afflictions. Children also used dried bits of the tree’s bitter-tasting rosin as chewing gum.

The November Wildflower Garden

Submitted by Claudia Larsen

November’s wildflower garden seems even more vibrant than October. Except for 2 cold nights the weather has been beautiful – however I have to make my choice of wearing shorts and getting bitten by the last few voracious mosquitoes or wearing long pants and spending an hour removing all the *Bidens* hitchhiker seeds stuck to my pants!

Wavy white plumes of *Iresine* blow in the wind while beneath their tall stems, the pink lovegrass sparkles in the sun. Purple *Liatris* is in full glory as well as the *Ageratina* with its bouquets of small white flowers. The yellow goldenaster are poking out of the open areas along with red salvia. The white woods aster is reputed to be invasive and spread by roots, but it looks lovely in bloom and entwined in my bamboo fence. I was disappointed by the wild *ageratum* (probably too dry this year), but surprised by some lovely light blue *Salvia azurea*.

I’m also surprised there are still plenty of butterflies including monarchs, queens, yellow sulfurs, zebra longwings and a few gorgeous yellow American swallowtails. I am collecting flower seeds like crazy as they mature—many asters species, blackeye susans, and all sorts of sunflowers. I see cardinals and small finches pecking the ground to find seeds that have already shattered.

As I picked the dry brown pods of the cassia, they popped open in my hand expelling the small black seeds to the earth before I could even get them in the bag. But I’ll be glad to have them there another year. I am lucky that the Blue Curly and *Coreopsis* also plant themselves for my future garden – its always different every year and beautiful to me and hopefully others.



Photo submitted by Claudia Larsen

Beautifying your Roadside Easement with Wildflower Seed

Submitted by Claudia Larsen

Is your easement presently overgrown with grass or shrubby weeds? Do you dream of a colorful flower-filled plot dancing with bees and butterflies? Now, thanks to the Florida Wildflower Seed Growers Cooperative (www.Floridawildflowers.com), there is a source of local seeds that are not from Texas or Vermont, that you can plant. You have probably seen their display at our spring and fall Native Plant Sales at Morningside; or perhaps you have purchased their seed packets at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens or at garden retailer. I have grown their seeds and am always impressed with the seed quality and germination results.



But how do you proceed and what can you really expect??? Expect seasonal color – most Florida wildflowers are showy in spring (March-May) and fall (September-November). In this area spring color is provided by pink/purple Phlox and yellow *Coreopsis*. Black-eye susans and other *Rudbeckia* cone flowers provide summer color along with shrubby white Dotted Horsemint (*Monarda*). Fall has spectacular yellow color from goldenrod (*Solidago*), sunflowers (*Helianthus*), Goldenasters (*Pityopsis*) and *Coreopsis*. Eye-catching purples are from masses of Ironweed (*Vernonia*), *Liatis* and *Carphephorus* species.

Mowing Issues:

Try to discourage mowing from Feb- April and Oct - Nov. You will need mowing at least once in the summer and probably in December or January. Do not mow the plants until they have died back and formed seeds. You will have to look at the seeds to make sure they are mature - do not mow until the seed heads look brown and mow at 3-4 inches height. You will have to endure 2-3 weeks of ugly dead-looking plants. If seeds are still green, they are not ripe and will not germinate next year! Putting a sign in the area that designates it as a wildflower garden or butterfly garden may help prevent unnecessary mowing and complaints, but a call to the city or county office that mows your area will also help. I have also used posts and orange survey tape to protect special plants. This is not attractive but prevents mass destruction of low or unusual plants like dutchmans pipe.

Site Evaluation:

What's there now? Is there a steep slope where seeds could be washed away by a heavy rain? Are you in a neighborhood where easements are regularly mowed?

- * Do not rototill the soil because it will promote weedy growth.
- * The seed does best if it has bare ground or can grow between other plants.
- * If there is a thin groundcover with open patches of soil you can mow to 1 inch, then broadcast seed and rake into the ground. (Don't do this on a windy day – the seeds are very fine) Do this between October and February so the seeds benefit from a chilling cycle and natural rain.

A very light dusting of grass clippings, shredded leaves or pine straw is OK but do not mulch heavily with leaves or mulch since most of these seeds also need light to germinate. Seeds will benefit from being tamped into the soil for contact – I just walk over the bed while it is dry. If you can water the site, the water will wash the tiny seeds into the soil crevices. You can also plant a few plants that will reseed to help get things started. Use 1 plant every 3-4 feet apart. Water twice a week to establish plants. This works best with phlox, coreopsis species, and blackeye susans.

- * If you have a average groundcover it should be sprayed with (Roundup or similar product), then plant in 1 month. If you have heavy groundcover, then wildflower seeding is not recommended, Perhaps you can incorporate a few young plants or a groundcover like matchheads (*Phyla nodiflora*) or goldenaster (*Pityopsis*). You can also consider enhancing with tough native grasses like lopsided Indian grass, broomsedge, pink or white lovegrass that will provide a fall show.

Continued on page 6

2008 Calendar of Events

Please check the Paynes Prairie chapter page at www.FNPS.org for most current information and directions to field trips. All 2008 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.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| November 18 | Meeting: Ondine Wells, Florida Yards & Neighborhood Program; Statewide Builder & Developer Coordinator |
| November 22 | Field Trip: Prairie Creek Preserve with Ivor Kincaid of Alachua Conservation Trust |
| December 16 | Meeting: Christmas Celebration Potluck. Please bring a dish and/or drink to share! |

2009 Calendar of Events

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| January 10-11 | State FNPS Board Meeting at Camp Kalaqua (see details www.FNPS.org) |
| January 20, 2009 | Meeting: Karina Veaudry: FNPS State Executive Director |
| January 24 | Workday: Exotic Plant Removal, Join us for the Air Potato Roundup, 9am - noon. |
| February 17 | Meeting: To Be Announced |
| February 21 | Field Trip: To Be Announced |
| March 17 | Meeting: To Be Announced |
| March 21 | Field Trip: To Be Announced |
| April 10-11 | Spring Native Plant Sale, Morningside Nature Center, (www.Natureoperations.org) |

November 18, 2008 Chapter Meeting Speaker Information: Please join us November 18 to hear Ondine Wells, statewide builder and developer coordinator for the University of Florida, Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program. Ondine provides educational sources and training on Florida-friendly landscapes in new construction throughout Florida. Even if you are not building a home, Ondine's talk will cover many interesting features of low-impact landscaping and may help you understand the impacts of landscaping on the health of your neighborhood environment. Refreshments will follow the talk.

November 22, 2008 Field Trip Information: Join Ivor Kincaid for a tour of the beautiful private conservation area, Prairie Creek Preserve, which is owned and managed by ACT. The 320-acre preserve, adjacent to the Gainesville-Hawthorne Rail Trail in Rochelle and next to Paynes Prairie State Park has a variety of hardwood hammocks and swamps with many fall flowers in bloom. Directions: from Gainesville drive east on Hawthorne Road (SR 20) towards Hawthorne. Just pass Kate's Fish Camp and Prairie Creek is the right turn for Rochelle, County Road 2082. Turn right and drive a few miles until the intersection of County Road 234. On the right before the intersection is a picnic bench and kiosk. This is the spot. The Gainesville Hawthorne Trail has a crossing there and parking is on the grass. For more information, contact Ivor Kincaid, office: (352) 373-1078, email : act.landmanager@gmail.com

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

Deadline date for January newsletter submissions is December 19th.

FYI Page:

2008 Chapter Elections To Take Place During the November Chapter Meeting

The Paynes Prairie Chapter officer elections will be held at the general membership meeting November 18th. The slate of officers for which we'll be voting is:

President: Brian Quinn
Vice President: Paula Russo
Secretary: Erick Smith
Treasurer: Joe Durando
Chapter Representative: Heather Blake

Board of directors: Claudia Larsen, Ellen Thoms, Debbie DeLoach, Ellie Sommer, and Jill McGuire. Remember, nominations from the floor will also be accepted prior to the vote.

Rural and Family Lands Protection Program (RFLPP)

Submitted by Charlie Pedersen

Funding for the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program (RFLPP) was provided during the 2008 legislative session as part of the re-authorization of the Florida Forever Program. The Rural and Family Lands Protection Program is much different from the Conservation and Recreation Lands Program (CARL) funded under Florida Forever and its predecessor programs. While CARL focuses on protecting and preserving natural communities and providing nature-based recreational opportunities, the RFLPP focuses on maintaining the integrity and function of working agricultural landscapes and ensuring opportunities for viable agricultural activities on working agricultural lands.

RFLPP will focus on acquiring development rights using permanent easements from qualified and willing agricultural land owners. This program, through permanent easement acquisitions, will protect agricultural lands in the path of development so that Florida will continue to maintain a viable agricultural sector as part of the State's economy, while allowing its citizens the opportunity to continue to enjoy rural landscapes and open space.

Holiday Gift Idea Give an FNPS Membership!

Need a gift for a gardener friend? Consider giving a Gift Membership to the Florida Native Plant Society. Gift memberships are available for only \$25 and after a year are renewable at the regular rates as listed on the membership form on the back page of the Rhexia newsletter.

Memberships in FNPS are effective for one calendar year which includes subscription to the Palmetto and Sabal minor newsletters and an opportunity to join in lots of fun with local chapters throughout the state. Membership forms can be found at : www.FNPS.org website.

PAYNES PRAIRIE CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



The Rhexia is published monthly September - November and January - May by the Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society is the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. See our website at: www.fnps.org.

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Plant ID

Paul Cohen/paulcohen2002@yahoo.com

Plant ID Workshop October 2008 Chapter Meeting

Submitted by Paul Cohen

<i>Ageratina jucunda</i>	Hammock snakeroot	Asteraceae	Native
<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	Blue Mistflower	Asteraceae	Native
<i>Coreopsis leavenworthii</i>	Leavenworth's Goldenrod	Asteraceae	Native
<i>Helianthus debilis</i>	East Coast Dune Sunflower	Asteraceae	Native
<i>Helianthus sp.</i>	Sunflower	Asteraceae	?????
<i>Heterotheca subaxillaris</i>	Camphorweed	Asteraceae	Native
<i>Ipomoea hederifolia</i>	Scarletcreeper	Convolvulaceae	Native
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Blackgum	Cornaceae	Native
<i>Passiflora suberosa</i>	Corkystem Passionflower	Passifloraceae	Native
<i>Poinsettia cyathophora</i>	Paintedleaf, Fire-on-the-Mountain	Euphorbiaceae	Native
<i>Poinsettia heterophylla</i>	Fireplant	Euphorbiaceae	Native
<i>Psychotria nervosa</i>	Wild Coffee	Rubiaceae	Native
<i>Solidago leavenworthii</i>	Leavenworth's Tickseed	Asteraceae	Native
<i>Solidago odora</i>	Anisescented Goldenrod, Sweet Goldenrod	Asteraceae	Native
<i>Solidago sempervirens</i>	Seaside Goldenrod	Asteraceae	Native
<i>Sporobolus indicus</i>	Smutgrass	Poaceae	Asia

Passiflora suberosa L. also known as corky passionflower, corkystem passionflower, devil's pumpkin, huehue haole, indigo berry, maypop, wild passionfruit is larval food for the Gulf Fritillary, Julia, and the Zebra Longwing.

Thank-you all participants. The workshop is educational and not a plant ID service. Nomenclature is based on "Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants" (<http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu>).

Beautifying Easements, from page 3

The way DOT (Division of Transportation) starts its wildflower roads is scraping down to bare soil and spraying the seed that is mixed with a little hay to hold it down,. Then they water with big tanker trucks to establish the seed. The project is usually a success or failure depending on the amount of rain that season. Recent drought times have prevented showy roadsides. If you are a member of a group that would like to sponsor a road enhancement project, you can contact DOT. You buy the seed and DOT does the planting and installs a wildflower sign. There are also native plant consultants that can advise you for your personal property – (see ads in this newsletter).

Owners of property that adjoins non-limited access right of way may apply for a Permit for Landscaping on State Road Right of Way. With this permit, adjoining landowners may construct and maintain approved landscape projects on the right of way immediately adjacent to their property. See their website www.dot.state.fl.us/emo/beauty/wildflowers.htm. DOT's wildflower coordinator for Alachua and surrounding counties is Dick Bush. You may contact him at his email:

Dick.Bush@dot.state.fl.us, or by phone: 386-961-7454. For information about Florida's Highway Beautification Programs visit: <http://www.MyFloridaBeautiful.com>

Finding Wildflower Seed:

The best place to get Florida wildflower seed and information is the local coop group that grows seed rather than seed companies from other parts of the country. The coop website www.Floridawildflowers.com. They offer seed in different size packages. A few ounces of flowers or a Florida mixture is your best bet. Some of the interesting mixtures are the Avon Ecotype which contains wiregrass and fall blooming plants; the Wet Flatwoods mix for moist sites; the Southeast Roadside mix that contains coreopsis and larger perennials; and the Upland Meadow with spring blooming plants and showy fall grasses.

These tips are my own observations and not meant to circumscribe published information for locations in other parts of the state or US – Enjoy your wildflowers!

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 to Erick Smith at urbanforester@gmail.com. The ads cost \$100 and run from October 2008 to September 2009.

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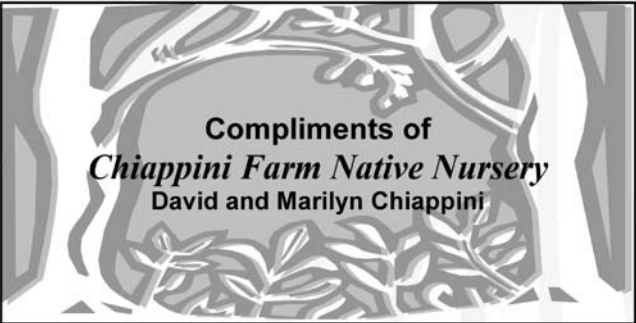
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Florida Native Plant Society
Paynes Prairie Chapter
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Gainesville, FL 32611

Next Meeting
Tuesday, November 18th
7:00 p.m.
(Plant ID Workshop at 6:15)
United Church of Gainesville
1624 NW 5th Ave.
Gainesville, FL

Monthly Meetings
Regular monthly meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday
September - November and January - May at 7:00 p.m. at the:
The United Church of Gainesville
11624 NW 5th Ave., Gainesville

Plant ID workshops precede each meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Florida Native Plant Society Membership Form

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 - 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.