Rosemary Scrub, a scarce type which is the habitat for many endemic plants, has its richest diversity of rare species in Highlands county, where the last remnants risk conversion to citrus groves. Oak Scrub and Sand Pine Scrub are still quite common, but much of the sand pine type is in commercial forests.

Typical Scrub species include those mentioned above plus shiny blueberry (Vaccinium myrsinites), fettetbush (Lyonia ferruginea), Polygonella polygama, gopher apple (Licania michauxii), hogplum (Ximenia americana), silkbay (Persea humilis), scrub briar (Smilax auriculata), scrub selaginella (Selaginella arenicola), nodding pinweed (Lechea cernua), L. deckertii, scrub prickly pear (Opuntia compressa), scrub rush (Rhynchospora megalocarpa), wiregrass (Aristida stricta), reindeer moss (Cladonia subtenus), grey puffs (C. evansi), and British soldiers (C. leporina).

Plants endemic to Scrub include

- Oak (Q. falcata), Sparkleberry (Vaccinium glaucum), Florida goldenaster (Chrysopsis floridana) is a Tampa Bay area scrub endemic.
- Florida bonamia (Bonamia grandiflora), Florida gayfeather (Liatis ohiingerae), nolina (Nolina brittoniana), scrub balm (Dicerandra frutescens), scrub tita (Cyrilla arida), white werea (Warea carteri), Highlends scrub hypericum (Hypericum cumulicola), scrub plum (Prunus geniculata), Ashe’s mint (Calamintha ashei), pygmy fringe tree (Chionanthus pygmaea), scrub holly (Ilex opaca var. arenicola), pink lupine (Lupinus aridorum), short-leaved rosemary (Conradina brevifolia), Paronychia chartacea, and Polygonella ciliata var. basiramia are found only in central Florida Scrub. Large-flowered rosemary (Conradina grandiflora), four-petal pawpaw (Asimina tetrameria), and Lake's mint (Dicerandra immaculata) are restricted to southeast Florida coastal Scrub. Florida goldenaster (Chrysopsis floridana) is a Tampa Bay area scrub endemic.

**XERIC HAMMOCK**

Xeric Hammock occurs on high, dry sandy inland sites that have not burned for many years. Such places are usually found on ridges adjacent to wetlands which function as firebreaks.

FNAI has defined three Xeric Hammock plant communities. Mature Scrub Hammock develops from Scrub after an extensive period without fire. Sand live oak (Q. margareta), live oak (Q. virginiana), blackjack oak (Q. marilandica), and southern red oak (Q. falcata). Sparkleberry trees that shades out most other species except saw palmetto (Serenoa repens). Scrubby Sandhill Hammock results when a Sandhill with a shrubby understory goes unburned. This forms an open woodland of small oaks, typically turkey oak (Quercus laevis), sand post oak (Q. margareta), live oak (Q. virginiana), blackjack oak (Q. marilandica), and /or southern red oak (Q. falcata). Sparkleberry

**FALL MEMBERS’ MEETING AND BUSINESS MEETING**

**Saturday, October 22, 1983, 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.**

**Tallahassee**

“The Role of the State Government in Protecting Native Areas”

The State of Florida has the opportunity to protect native areas that are not only under its direct control, but also those areas held by private landowners, through regulations, laws, and policies. At this meeting, we will hear from State Authorities on how the CARL program and the Save Our Rivers program, as well as older programs, are working, and ways in which FNPS and its members can insure that significant portions of our natural heritage can be protected.

Field trips to the Coast and to the Bluffs will be conducted on Sunday. There will also be a business meeting for officers and directors to which all members are invited.

The newly-formed Tallahassee area chapter is hosting. For more information, call or write the FNPS office, 1203 Orange Ave., Winter Park 32789, 305/644-5307.

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**A BACKYARD NOTEBOOK**

By Doris Rosebraugh

**REDBERRY STOPPER (Eugenia confusa)**

West and Arnold only commented on the rarity of the Redberry stopper. The Complete Trees of North America by Elias correctly states it is the most common of our native eugenias, but calls it a small tree to 59 feet. I prefer Gann’s more realistic description of intermediate canopy or understory, taller than broad. A 40-foot specimen would be old under true hammock conditions.

My “twig” of 2 1/2 feet, given extra TLC, has zoomed in three years to eight feet. Holding the narrow form, the spread is no more than 4 1/2 feet. This makes it a nice filler in the native border.

The outstanding feature of this tree is its leaves. Simple, opposite, evergreen, uniformly wide to broadest near the base, they taper to long, slender drip points. Dark green in color, they appear to have been sprayed with an artificial coating. Growth habit sends delicate branches curving out and down so that they seem to layer. The glistening leaves, face up, intensify the effect of the light.

Nutritionally, it has a slight problem with iron tie-up in my marl soil but, with applications of chelated iron, renew its green. The fact that it still dazzle. As a relatively slow grower, it could be used as a container tree on a patio. This is truly an outstanding native with its carefully sculptured leaves, reddish trunk, and compact appearance. It is a neat tree in more ways than one.

**RANGE:** As it is listed as cold tolerant, I would try it along the protected coastal areas to Vero Beach.