

April 2016

The Rhexia

Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Florida Native Plant Society Mission:
Promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plant communities of Florida.

Paynes Prairie Native Plant Society General Meeting

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship
4225 NW 34th Street, Gainesville

Our Meeting This Month:

“Fungal Biology in Northern Florida”

By Dr. Matthew E. Smith

Dr. Smith will discuss how studying fungal biology is different from studying plant biology. He will also present some information about our unique local fungi and why our region is ripe for further studies of our native mycota.



Photo by Julieta Brambila

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Our Speaker This Month

Dr. Matthew E. Smith is a fungal biologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology. There are >5.1 million species of fungi that are important globally as decay agents returning nutrients back into the environment. Fungi are also important disease agents and symbionts of plants and animals. Despite this, fungi are among the least studied terrestrial organisms. Dr. Smith studies the ecology, evolution, and taxonomy of fungi with a special focus on plant-symbiotic ectomycorrhizal (ECM) fungi (those that grow in a mutualism with plant roots) and truffles (fungi that make fruiting bodies underground). Dr. Smith teaches Fungal Biology, is curator of the UF Fungal Herbarium, and identifies unknown fungi for Florida stakeholders. Dr. Smith has several ongoing projects in his lab, including research focused on ectomycorrhizal fungi diversity in southern South America, evolution and systematics of early-diverging 'zygomycete' fungi (those related to the mold on strawberries), and diversity and systematics of fungi associated with ambrosia beetles (with UF collaborator Dr. Jiri Hulcr).

Report on March Field Trip –

PRAIRIE CREEK CONSERVATION CEMETERY

By Rob Garren

On Sunday March 13th, a group of FNPS members took a field trip to the Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery located at the Alachua Conservation Trust's (ACT) Prairie Creek Lodge property. Our tour guides were Freddie Johnson of Conservation Burial, Inc. (CBI) and Ivor Kincaide, ACT Land Manager for the Prairie Creek site. The cemetery is a mixture of former pasture, old field, and mixed oaks – as a result the vegetation community is a mix of desirable native species such as live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), sand live oak (*Quercus geminata*), longleaf pine (*Pinus elliotii*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*),

cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*), coontie (*Zamia pumila*), Elliott's lovegrass (*Eragrostis elliotii*), pinebarren frostweed (*Crocanthemum corymbosum*), broomsedge bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus*), rustweed (*Polypremum procumbens*) and prickly pear (*Opuntia humifusa*), as well as some ex-



otic and nuisance species, mainly bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum*).

In addition to visiting the property and simply enjoying the hike, we also were exploring the possibility of assisting CBI in expanding the use of native plants within the cemetery. Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery is a green burial certified facility meaning that no chemicals or non-decomposable materials can be used in burials. Small brass markers are the only permanent identifying nameplates, with family and friends of the deceased often bringing live plants to install. It is our hope that Paynes Prairie FNPS can play some role in aiding the cemetery in developing native plant recommendations as well as possibly identifying areas where exotic and nuisance species might need further attention. The officers and board of our chapter will be discussing this effort in the coming months to see how we may be of assistance.



Thanks to both Freddie Johnson and Ivor Kincaide for taking time on a Sunday morning to give us a tour of the property. If you have not visited the Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery or the Prairie Creek Lodge, I highly recommend a stroll on a nice day. The work that is being done out there is a positive step toward maintaining a sustainable ecosystem while allowing for other compatible uses of the property.

Report on Spring Yard Tour – “Gardening Is a Journey, Not an End”

By Connie Caldwell

Photos by Maura Poglitsch, Julieta Brambila, and Lois McNamara

For Dan White, the gardening journey of the last seven years has been both challenging and rewarding. As we visit his six-acre mesic hammock property for our yard visit on March 5, we benefit much from what he’s learned in his restoration process. Dan tells us that in addition to preserving this special ecosystem, he wants to educate folks to show what can be done, and that some of his builder clients, after visiting his property, have completely changed their landscape plans. Good going, Dan!



Opening the canopy by eliminating some of the trees, such as sweetgums (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), and eliminating exotic invasive species, has allowed the understory to grow and helps nature to begin to heal and become again what it once was. Dan points out that the soil in some areas is “like Iowa” – black and rich from allowing leaf litter to

continuously accumulate.

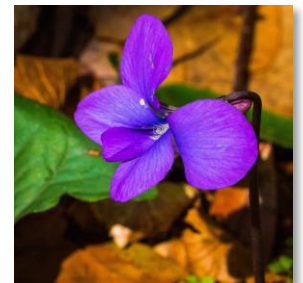
We begin our tour at the front of Dan’s house where he has mounded soil over large limestone boulders, creating a scrub area. Here we see plants such as false rosemary (*Conradina* species), Atlantic St.-Johns-Wort (*Hypericum tenuifolium* – formerly *H. reductum*), downy phlox (*Phlox pilosa*), trailing phlox (*Phlox nivalis*), various xeric native ferns, *Garberia* (*Garberia heterophylla*), several *Liatis*

species, lanceleaf tickseed (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), coontie (*Zamia pumila*), wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), tropical sage (*Salvia coccinea*), as well as Darrow’s blueberry (*Vaccinium darrowii*) and shiny blueberry (*V. myrsinites*). Moving toward the back of the house, Dan tells us that throughout his property he’s planted as many as 300 azaleas, including sweet pinxter azalea (*Rhododendron canescens*), Florida flame azalea (*R. austrinum*), dwarf azalea (*R. atlanticum*), Alabama azalea (*R. alabamense*), and piedmont azalea (*R. flammeum*). Only one or two are blooming on this day in early March, even though his record says that this is the time of full bloom, so we have to imagine the breathtaking beauty when they’re all blooming - and the fragrance!



Along the back of the house, Dan has constructed a limestone rock wall (all the limestone on the property has been brought in from elsewhere) where he has plants such as violets (*Viola* spp.), spleenworts (*Asplenium heterochroum* and *A. platyneuron*), wild columbine, and various other ferns including lip ferns (*Cheilanthes* spp.).

In the back yard we see a slope grouping of planted Florida yew (*Taxus floridana*), firebush (*Hamelia patens*), wood oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*), *Rhododendron atlanticum* and *R. austrinum*, spotted wakerobin (*Trillium maculatum*), Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrosticoides*), coral bean (*Erythrina herbacea*), *Senecio*, leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*), and umbrella magnolia (*Magnolia tripetala*). These plantings are mixed in with the indigenous dogwoods (*Cornus* spp.), yaupons (*Ilex vomitoria*), umbrella magnolias, ageratina, muscledwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*), spruce pine (*Pinus glabra*), various oaks (*Quercus* spp.), and American holly (*Ilex opaca*). Along the creek, Dan has planted sweet pinxter azalea among the indigenous canopy of



blackgums (*Nyssa sylvatica* var. *biflora*) and magnolias, with an understory of red buckeyes (*Aesculus pavia*). Dan describes his method of pollinating the trillium – using a Q-tip – that he says will give you lots of seeds!

We move to the north side of the house, a drier area higher on his slope, where Dan points out gum bully (*Sideroxylon lanuginosum*), tree sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), American snowbell (*Styrax americanus*), American plum (*Prunus americana*), Alabama croton (*Croton alabamensis*), flatwoods plum (*Prunus umbellata*), devilwood (*Cartrema americana*), and swamp chestnut oak (*Quercus michauxii* – Dan’s current favorite, he says). Someone mentions the Spanish moss on the sparkleberry and Rob Garren notes that he had heard years ago that some folks thought its abundant presence is a sign of cleaner air – who knows! We learn that much of Dan’s process is a try-it-and-see-if-it-works approach.

Now we continue back toward the front of the house along the driveway. So many not-yet-blooming plants everywhere! Here there are beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), meadow rue (*Thalictrum* sp.), Elliott’s blueberry (*Vaccinium elliotii*), violets, pinkroot (*Spigelia* spp.), Godfrey’s privet (*Forestiera godfreyi*), Walter’s viburnum (*Viburnum obovatum*), Simpson’s stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans*), bluff oak (*Quercus austrinum*), winged elm (*Ulmus alata*), dwarf hawthorn (*Crataegus uniflora*), hop-horn beam (*Ostrya virginiana*), and basswood (*Tilia caroliniana*, which Dan warns is a very weak tree – don’t plant it near your house). Proceeding to the adjacent other section of woodlands, we will find numerous indigenous smallflower pawpaws (*Asimina parviflora*) interspersed among very tall screen of Godfrey’s privet in full bloom. Dan says he gathers the pawpaw fruits on July 4, when the fruit is really soft and squishy, and then plants the seeds immediately, with good success.



Wild Indian Strawberries (*Duchesnea indica*)

As we walk along the south side of the house and then the path to the creek, we see bays (*Persea palustris*, *Gordonia lasianthus*, and *Magnolia virginiana*), Florida torreyia (*Torreya taxifolia*), Florida crabapple (*Malus angustifolia*), red buckeye, and Carolina scalystem (*Elytraria caroliniensis*). In one area, Indian strawberry (*Duchesnea indica*), guinea hen weed (*Petiveria alliacea*), and coral bristlegrass (*Setaria macrosperma*) are working well as groundcovers. Dan points out that he first introduces plants in test plots, and then replicates what works. In a seep area, logs are stacked to prevent erosion and capture water for wet loving plants, such as pinewoods rosegiant (*Sabatia gentianoides*), dwarf witchalder (*Fothergilla gardenii*), and swamp rosemallow (*Hibiscus grandiflorus*). On the other side of the path are Joe Pyeweed (*Eupatorium* sp.), coastal doghobble (*Leucothoe axillaris*), pondspice (*Litsea aestivalis*), smooth Solomon’s-seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*), royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*), elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*),



magnolia, blackgum, needlepalm (*Rhaphidophyllum hystrix*), Elliott’s blueberry, pinebarren frostweed (*Crocianthemum corymbosum*), and a 3-acre area that Dan says will be covered with jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) and chain fern (*Woodwardia areolata* and *W. virginica*). Dan tells us you can create a microclimate for more northern plants such as spring ephemerals by providing some shade in the summer and enriching the soil.



Dan Explaining What He’s Done Creekside

At the creek, Dan has constructed a terraced rock wall and planted rue anemone (*Thalictrum thalictroides*), rainlily (*Zephyranthes atamasca*), pinkroot (*Spigelia* sp.), dimpled troutlily (*Erythronium umbilicatum*), cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), Allegheny spurge (*Pachysandra procumbens*), and 20 types of native ferns, with numerous more northern occurring (Piedmont) species. Using a method by which Egyptians changed the course of the Nile, a fallen log was placed along the creek and sand has built up over the log to create soil where the creek used to flow. String-lily (*Crinum americanum*), cardinalflower, and swamp azaleas (*Rhododendron viscosum*) are established in this area.

Following the path back to the north side of the house, we see spider lilies (*Hymenocallis* spp.), bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), atamasco lilies (*Zephyranthes atamasco*), bristlegrass, spikegrasses (*Chasmanthium* spp.), wild coffee (*Psychotria nervosa*), Carolina scalystem, Ashe magnolia (*Magnolia ashei*), various *Hypericum* species, Miccosukee gooseberry (*Ribes echinellum*), Florida torrey, huckleberry (*Gaylussacia* spp.), hawthorn, and lyreleaf sage (*Salvia lyrata*). Dan tells us he has

been using the concept of companion planting in which certain groupings of plants benefit each other. He's found, for example, that the *Setaria* and *Chasmanthium* grasses are very good partners for *Trillium*.



Trillium maculatum by Rob Garren

Thank you, Dan, for showing what one individual can do towards restoring a natural environment, and for sharing your journey with us. This 6 acre parcel provides habitat for a wide variety of native Florida plant species, many of which most folks will never see in the wild due to their relative rarity. Dan has successfully developed an urban refugium for these species.

Editor's Note: This "zebra-tree" found near Dan's property (photo on right by Rob Garren) was, unfortunately, the all-too-common exotic paper mulberry (*Broussonettia papyrifera*).



GAINESVILLE GREENWAY CHALLENGE

By Dee Peck



With our first successful scheduled workday behind us, I am looking forward to many more. In two hours on March 5th, ten wonderful volunteers removed 2 large bags of trash, 5 bags of Ardisia berries and seedlings, and hung many mature plants up to dry! Future work days will take place on the first Saturday of each month, or dates can be arranged to suit a particular group. Prizes will be awarded for the most hours worked in 2016 to both an individual and a group, and these will be presented at the Great Invader Raider Rally 2017. For more information or to register, please visit www.GnvGreenwayChallenge.org or call me at 352-393-8428 Monday through Thursday.

Dee Peck

It Pays to Join! New and Renewing FNPS members will be given a credit at Notestein's Nursery equal to the dollar amount of the membership fee. Call Jim at 352-372-2107 to cash in once you've joined.

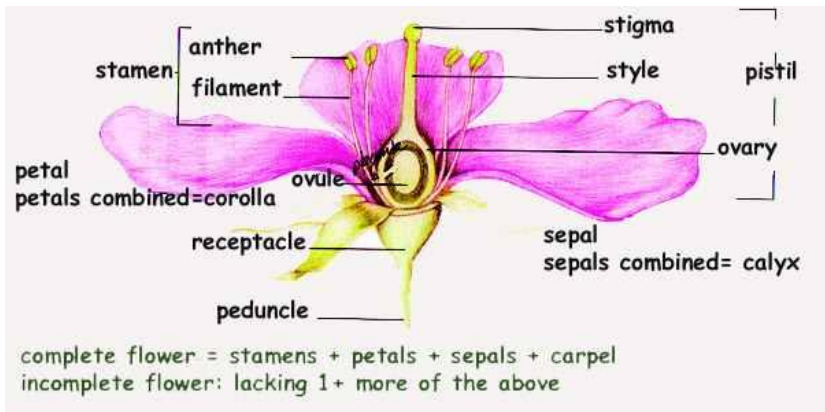
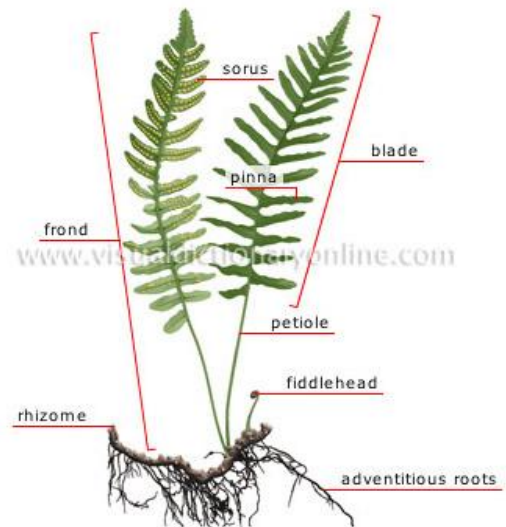
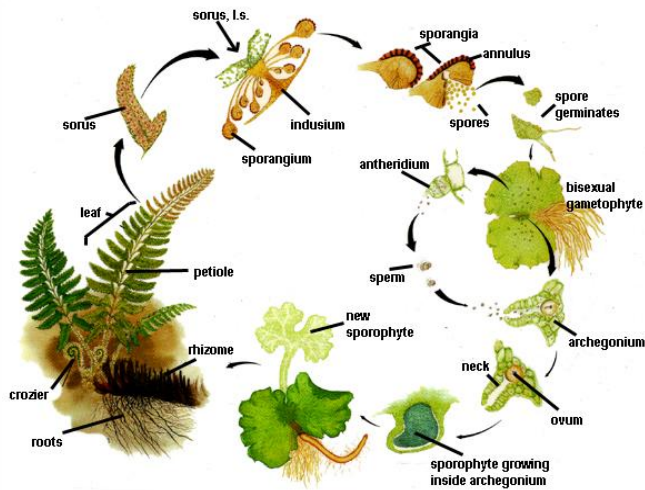
March 2016 Plant ID Workshop

Submitted by Paul Cohen and Robert Garren

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	Origin
<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>	SOUTHERN CATALPA	BIGNONIACEAE	Native
<i>Dichantherium aciculare</i>	NEEDLELEAF WITCHGRASS	POACEAE	Native
<i>Ilex coriacea</i>	LARGE GALLBERRY	AQUIFOLIACEAE	Native
<i>Mahonia fortunei</i>	FORTUNE'S MAHONIA	BERBERIDACEAE	Not Native
<i>Orthosia scoparia</i>	LEAFLESS SWALLOWWORT	APOCYNACEAE	Native
<i>Philodendron hederaceum</i> var. <i>oxycardium</i>	HEARTLEAF PHILODENDRON	ARACEAE	Not Native
Cf. <i>Plumbago zeylanica</i> .	DOCTORBUSH	PLUMBAGACEAE	Native
<i>Poa annua</i>	ANNUAL BLUEGRASS	POACEAE	Not Native
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	HERB-OF-THE-CROSS	VERBENACEAE	Native
<i>Viburnum nudum</i>	POSSUMHAW	ADOXACEAE	Native

Nomenclature for *Mahonia fortunei* was adapted from Ed Gilman's IFAS Fact Sheet FPS-377 (1999) entitled **Mahonia fortunei** (http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/database/documents/pdf/shrub_fact_sheets/mahfora.pdf). We extend gratitude to all who participated. The workshop is intended to be educational and is not a plant ID service. Unless otherwise noted, all nomenclature adapted from *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants* available on the web at (<http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/>).

Fern Life Cycle





Downy phlox (*Phlox pilosa*) planted in Dan White's yard
 Photo by Rob Garren



Pinebarren frostweed (*Crocyanthemum corymbosum*)
 Photo by Rob Garren

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Congratulations to Jill McGuire!

Paynes Prairie Chapter Board member Jill McGuire was recently honored by the Santa Fe Audubon Society as **Conservationist of the Year** at their annual meeting in Melrose, Florida. Jill is a long time member of both FNPS and Audubon and has worked tirelessly for years to promote conservation around Lake Santa Fe. She educates the community about water resource issues through a yearly Santa Fe Lakefest and cleanup. Jill has given much time, energy and wise advice to FNPS as well. In her acceptance speech she challenged us all to be more proactive on water and land development issues that north central Florida faces now and in the future. *Well done Jill!*





Florida Native Plant Society
Spring 2016 Native Plant Sale
Morningside Nature Center
3540 E. University Ave
Friday, 22 April, 4:30 - 6:30 pm

EXCLUSIVE Members Only Sale
(memberships available at the gate)

Open to the public

Saturday, 23 April, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

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

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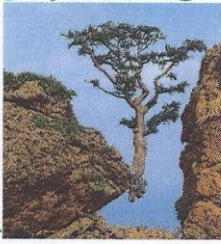
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Who Among Us Can Grow This Plant?

You could win \$100 worth of plants from Notestein's Nursery if you are the first to propagate *Rhexia* (our namesake) from seed. You will need to grow several flats of 4 inch pots in time for either our Spring or Fall Native Plant Sale to qualify. Call Jim with questions: 352-372-2107.




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To become a sponsor of the FNPS Paynes Prairie Chapter, email your business card size ad in JPG or TIFF format to our Treasurer. Ads run January – November (except for summer months) for \$100 or monthly for \$12.50.

Florida Native Plant Society
Paynes Prairie Chapter
P.O. Box 1004
Archer, FL 32618

To:

Paynes Prairie Chapter: Florida Native Plant Society Activities Calendar for 2016

April

Tuesday, April 19 – FNPS General Meeting 7 PM (6:15 for Plant ID) at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall.
Presentation by Dr. Matthew E. Smith: *Fungal Biology in Northern Florida*

Friday & Saturday, April 22–23 – Spring Plant Sale at Morningside Nature, 3540 E. University Ave.
Friday: 4:30–6:30 PM (Members Only) Saturday 8:30 AM–12:30 PM

May

Tuesday May 10 – FNPS General Meeting 7 PM (6:15 for Plant ID) at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall.
Presentation by Larry Schwandes: *Carnivorous Plants of Alachua County*