



## Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

[www.paynesprairie.fnpschapters.org](http://www.paynesprairie.fnpschapters.org)

January 2023



### MEETING INFORMATION

The Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society is located in Gainesville and has a large and active membership. We engage an excellent roster of speakers at our monthly meetings and sponsor activities like plant sales and field trips to interesting locations throughout north central Florida.

We meet on the **3rd Wednesday** of the month at the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship Hall located at [4225 NW 34th Street, Gainesville, FL 32605](#). Meetings are monthly September through May, with no meeting in December. Each **meeting begins at 6:30 pm** with a Plant ID Workshop and general socializing. **Programs start at 7:00 p.m.**

## JANUARY 18 MEETING with Guest Speaker: Bill Korn



Bill has a BS in Forestry from the University of the South in Sewanee Tennessee, and a MS in Public Administration from the University of South Florida. He has certifications in Forestry, Burn Management, Public Management and is a qualified American Tree Farm System inspector. After 40 years of public service in forestry and environmental management in Tennessee and Florida, he began a small consulting forestry company, EcoWoodsmen LLC, to continue the tradition of service and assistance to landowners and conservation clients. More information on his accomplishments can be found on his business website. Check it out. It is interesting and impressive.

<https://www.ecowoodsmen.com/about-ecowoodsmen>

**Join us at the meeting to learn about Bill's extensive career in public service and his more recent work as a consulting forester and prescribed fire manager working with private landowners in northeast Florida.**

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*The Rhexia* is published eight times a year by the Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Comments are welcomed. Readers are encouraged to submit articles and images for publication consideration to gracehowell@gmail.com

## A Message from the President...

Hello Paynes Prairie members!

Well, 2023 is off and running! The last bit of news from 2022 is that Lee Bloomcamp will join our board of directors. Paul Lyrene has stepped aside, and we thank him for his service. Maya Frere has offered to take on the newsletter editing, and Grace Howell has graciously offered to ease her into the job. Grace has done a wonderful job and we are all very grateful for her hard work. The rest of the current officers and board members have agreed to remain, and we are all very pleased. That said, anyone who is interested in learning what goes on behind-the-scenes is welcome to attend board meetings for a first-hand look.

We have a great line-up of speakers for this year, and we will start off with Bill Korn talking about land management with fire. He will also be leading our January field trip. All that information is below. So, put Wednesday, January 18th on your calendar and we will see you soon.

Happy New Year!

-- Mark



Largeleaf grass-of-parnassuss, *Parnassia grandifolia*





## NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP REPORT

### Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge

November 19, 2022

by Mark Elliott

Photos By Rob Garren



Toothpetal false rein orchid, *Habenaria floribunda*

Four cars left from the Steeple Chase Publix parking lot on a cold rainy Saturday morning. Debbie Meeks led the way and we zigzagged our way heading southwest towards the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge. Fifty-five minutes later we were driving along the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge Nature Drive, probably a former logging road, passing hunters on their way out. One fellow stopped and asked if I was aware that there were hunters in the area. He admonished me

that we were required to have 40 square centimeters of orange on our bodies and orange hats. My (sorta) orange plaid shirt was two layers below my jacket, and I wasn't inclined to change that. Arriving at gate 14 we found Andrew Gude and at least 12 Friends of Lower Suwannee WMA members waiting for us. Two of the 7 Paynes



Glade lobelia, *Lobelia glandulosa*



Prairie members had brilliant orange woolen hats. Apparently, they got the memo.

Andrew started by explaining that they were in the process of restoring this part of the refuge to what is thought to be the original state. Toward this end, much of the area on one side of the path had been masticated and then burned in the not-too-distant past in an effort to eliminate the midstory vegetation and allow the understory to recover. He remarked at the longevity of the seed bank and the variety of forbs and grasses that sprouted. It did look pretty nice – certainly diverse.





Dahoon holly, *Ilex cassine*

We started off on a path that would ultimately lead to the Suwannee River. Almost immediately half of us were off in the weeds trying to identify plants by spent flowers and seed heads. There was a discussion about using certain long-lived plants like palmettos and pines to determine what the “natural” state of the area would look like 200-300 years ago. This can be really difficult and had not been done.

Alongside the high and dry path was a fairly large ditch with what seemed to us to be a lot of water in it. Andrew said that the spring and early summer had been very dry, and the water should be much higher. Indeed, the trees and shrubs on the far side suggested the water table was typically much higher. Andrew said the ditches

and ponds (we didn’t see the ponds) had been dug to build the logging roads. In the early part of the last century the area had been clear cut and replanted with slash or loblolly pines. Given the high water table, much of the soil had been seriously disturbed by the logging practices employed at the time.

Along the way we stopped to consider a tall, large cylinder on the side of the path. It had been erected by Bat Conservation International to provide roosting sites for rare Rafinesque big-eared bats which typically roost in hollow trees. At the end of the trail, near the river was another



Sugarcane plumegrass, *Saccharum giganteum*

combination bat house and wood duck house. This had the typical small, slatted spaces on the bottom with the hole to the wood duck cavity on top of that. I have never seen this before and wonder if it works! After a group photo we headed back towards our vehicles. This was only slightly faster as we found more interesting plants to puzzle out. Without one of our regular professional botanists, we did the best we could. The Friends of Suwannee folks, while pretty savvy, seemed to be impressed.

Given this is November, there weren’t many plants still in flower. Of note was glade lobelia (*Lobelia glandulosa*) with its typical vibrant blue, rice button aster (*Symphyotrichum dumosum*), a few goldenrods (*Solidago species*) and, surprisingly, toothpetal false reinorchid (*Habenaria floribunda*). While admiring a musclemoore (*Carpinus caroliniana*) trunk, we also noticed a tree covered with so many species of lichens it almost looked like multi-colored bark.

Rather than bog the narrative down any further with names, I have added the list, as best as we could identify, below.

It was nice meeting other folk and sharing stories and we thank Andrew Gude and Debbie Meeks for taking time to show us an interesting part of Florida many of us had never seen.





## PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED ON THE LOWER SUWANNEE NATIONAL REFUGE FIELD TRIP

<i>Acmella oppositifolia</i> var. <i>repens</i>	Oppositeleaf spotflower
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	False indigo
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	Groundsel tree
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	Musclewood
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush
<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	Partridge pea
<i>Crinum americanum</i>	String-lily
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Common boneset
<i>Habenaria floribunda</i>	Toothpetal false rein orchid
<i>Hyptis alata</i>	Clustered bushmint
<i>Ilex cassine</i>	Dahoon holly
<i>Iris virginica</i>	Blue flag iris
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Red cedar
<i>Lindernia grandiflora</i>	Savannah false pimpernel
<i>Lobelia glandulosa</i>	Glade lobelia
<i>Melanthera nivea</i>	Snow squarostem
<i>Nyssa biflora</i>	Swamp blackgum
<i>Persea palustris</i>	Swampbay
<i>Pinus palustris</i> , <i>P. taeda</i> , & <i>P. elliotii</i>	Longleaf, loblolly, & slash pine
<i>Pluchea</i> sp.	Camphorweed
<i>Saccharum giganteum</i>	Sugarcane plume grass
<i>Serenoa repens</i>	Saw palmetto
<i>Symphotrichum dumosum</i>	Rice button aster
<i>Teucrium canadense</i>	Wood sage
<i>Viburnum obovatum</i>	Walter's viburnum

*Acmella oppositifolia*  
var. *repens*:



*Symphotrichum dumosum*:



*Chamaecrista fasciculata*:







## CARL'S GARDEN GETS A FACELIFT!

Carl's Garden Workday November 12, 2022

*Report and Photos by Lisa Jelks*

Our former fearless leader, Brian Quinn (and his wife, Nikki), returned from the cold climes of Northern Ireland just in time to help spruce up Carl's Garden at the Veterans Memorial Park. Brian was behind the creation of the Garden back in 2005. With the help of several volunteers, we were able to spread a new layer of crushed concrete on the Garden's paths. A huge thank you to Erick Smith for coordinating the delivery of the concrete fines and renting the special equipment to help spread it out. With rakes and shovels in hand, our volunteers made efficient work of the day's task. In addition to spreading the crushed concrete, we also pulled some weeds and did some trimming. While the Garden is in winter mode now, we look forward to a beautiful spring. Stay tuned for another workday early next year. Thank you to Erick, Brian, and Nikki, and also Howard and Lisa Jelks, Rob Garren, Steve Walsh, Jamie Barichivich, and Jennifer Staiger for coming out and continuing to help maintain Carl's Garden for all to enjoy.







## **JANUARY FIELD TRIP! Frank and Barbara Bova Farm with Bill Korn Saturday, January 21, 2023**

Frank and Barbara Bova are clients of Bill's and have graciously agreed to let Bill take us on a tour of their farm where they have been burning and doing site preparation for planting Long Leaf pine this winter. The address is 13020 NE 140th Ave, Waldo, FL.

29°47'01.5"N 82°11'01.3"W

[https://maps.app.goo.gl/epewcwtcBDE9e9jH7?g\\_st=ic](https://maps.app.goo.gl/epewcwtcBDE9e9jH7?g_st=ic)

Since it is close, we won't do any carpooling or caravanning. Meet at the Bova farm at 10:00 am at the farm.



## **LOCAL NATIVE PLANT NURSERIES**

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### **Falling Creek Nursery**

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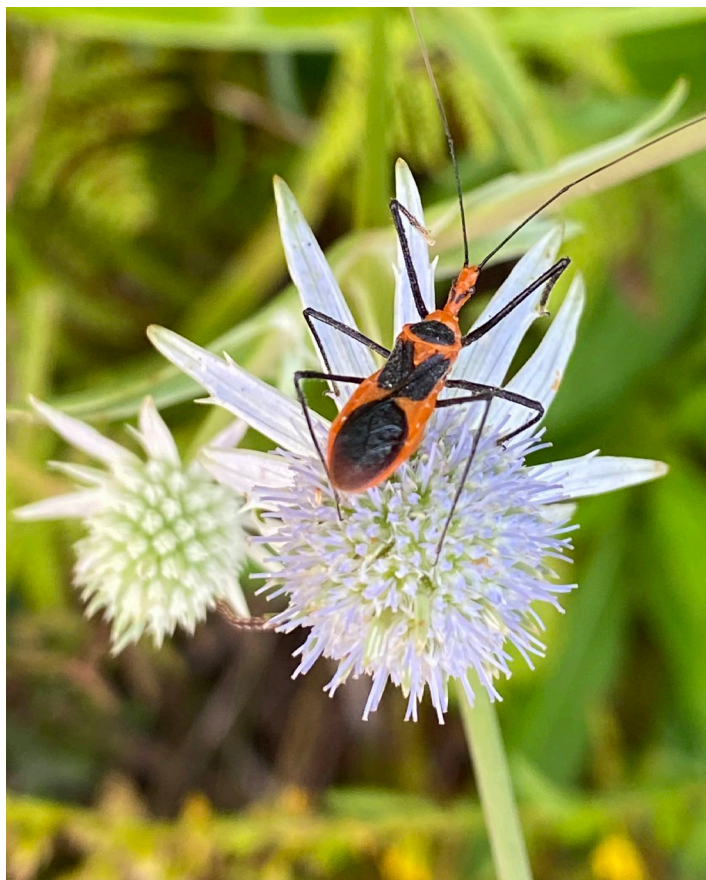
Open by appointment, in Trenton  
352-225-1381  
[naturaltreasuresfn@gmail.com](mailto:naturaltreasuresfn@gmail.com).

### **Notestein Native Nursery**

Open by appointment, in Gainesville  
352-372-2107

### **Grow Hub**

Open Mon-Fri 8am-12pm  
and Sat-Sun 9am-3pm  
2900 NE 8th Avenue  
Gainesville  
352-275-7144





# FNPS Announcements:

## FNPS 2023 Endowment Grant Research Awards, Conservation Grant Awards, the Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany, and Cornelia McNamara Grant

The Florida Native Plant Society maintains an **Endowment Research Grant** program for the purpose of funding research on native plants. These are small grants (\$2500 or less), awarded for a 1-year period, and intended to support research that forwards the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society which is "to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida."

FNPS Conservation Grants support applied native plant conservation projects in Florida. These grants (\$5000 or less) are awarded for a 1-year period. These projects promote the preservation, conservation, or restoration of rare or imperiled native plant taxa and rare or imperiled native plant communities. To qualify for a Conservation Grant, the proposed project must be sponsored by an FNPS Chapter.

The **Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany** will provide up to \$1500 to graduate or undergraduate students who are studying Florida ethnobotany – i.e., the study of the relationship between peoples or cultures with plants native to Florida or Florida ecosystems. These can be current uses or historic uses.

The Florida Native Plant Society has established a **Cornelia McNamara Grant** program for the purpose of funding applied research on native plants and habitats, particularly those that are rare or imperiled. These are small grants (\$1500 or less), awarded for a 1-year period, and intended to support research that will yield data to inform the management for or restoration of native species and habitats.

Application guidelines and details are on the FNPS Web site ([www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)), click on 'What We Do/Awards and Grants'. Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to [info@fnps.org](mailto:info@fnps.org).

**Application deadline for the 2023 Awards is March 3, 2023.** Awards will be announced at the May 2023 Annual Conference. Awardees do not have to be present at the Conference to receive award.

## Call for Research Track Papers and Poster Presentations Florida Native Plant Society 2023 Conference

The Florida Native Plant Society 2023 Annual Conference will be held as a virtual meeting, April 29 and 30, 2023. The Research Track of the Conference will include presented papers and a virtual poster session using the Whova platform on April 29 and 30. Poster presentations will be uploaded to the Whova site one week prior to the meeting (April 21, 2023)

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts on research related to native plants and plant communities of Florida including preservation, conservation, and restoration. Presented papers are planned to be 20 minutes in total length (15 min. presentation, 5 min. questions).

Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted as a MS Word file by email to Paul A. Schmalzer [paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov](mailto:paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov) by January 15, 2023. Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster. Details on preparing and uploading a virtual poster will be provided when the abstract is accepted.




**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS - THEY HELP FUND OUR CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**



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To become a sponsor of the FNPS Paynes Prairie Chapter, email your business card-sized ad in JPG or TIFF format to Goldie Schwartz at [afn49@mindspring.com](mailto:afn49@mindspring.com). Ads appear in eight issues, January- November (except for summer months) for \$100 or monthly for \$12.50.



Florida Native Plant Society  
Paynes Prairie Chapter  
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The Mission of the Florida Native Plant Society is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

The society fulfills this mission through:

- Support for conservation land acquisition
- Land management that enhances habitat suitability for native plants
- Education
- Public policies that protect our native flora, especially rare species
- Research on native plant species and,
- Encouragement of local landscaping practices and policies that preserve Florida's native plant heritage.

**Photo Credits:** Our thanks to Wesley Hetrick for permission to use his photo, Sunrise at Paynes Prairie, on Page 1. See more of Wesley's images at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/wesleyhetrick>

## CALENDAR

### Paynes Prairie Chapter Florida Native Plant Society

#### **WEDNESDAY JANUARY 18:**

**General Meeting  
7:00 pm IN PERSON**

*(See page 1 for details )*

**Saturday, January 21:  
Field Trip to Frank and  
Barbara Bova Farm  
with Bill Korn**

**10:00 am**

*(See page 7 for details )*