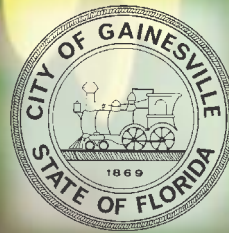


Nature Ops News



November 2004

A Monthly Publication of
Nature Operations Division,
Recreation and Parks Department,
City of Gainesville



Gold Aster, *Chrysopsis mariana*
Photo by Gary Paul, Program Coordinator

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Created by Nature Operations Division Staff

What's Fun In Your Nature Parks?

Barnyard Buddies- FREE

Join us every Wednesday afternoon at 3pm to meet and greet the farm animals. After the animal introductions, help with afternoon feeding. Toddlers and preschoolers will love learning about the Living History Farm barnyard buddies. Meet at the barn at 3pm at Morningside.

Living History Days- FREE

Every Saturday the Morningside Nature Center Living History Farm is open with staff in period dress interpreting day to day life on a Florida farm in 1870. Sample homemade biscuits cooked on the woodstove with fresh butter and cane syrup grown and made on the farm. Help feed the farm animals at 9am and 3pm daily.

Nature Walk and Talk- "Basic Birdwatching"- FREE

The last Saturday of every month features a naturalist-guided walk at 9am. The walk is 1-1.5 hours, wear comfortable walking shoes. Come on out in November to learn the basics of birdwatching- how to find and recognize our feathered friends! Meet at the Morningside education office, 3540 E. University Ave.

By the Light of the Moon- "Winter by Candlelight"- FREE

By the light of the silvery moon with the owls and frogs we'll croon... and we hope you'll join us each Saturday nearest the full moon at one of our nature parks! In November we will take a candlelight tour of the Living History Farm. Meet at 6pm at Morningside education office, 3540 E. University Ave.

Discover & Do- "Leaf the Color to the Trees" Materials \$2

Hey Kids! Bring your favorite adult along for a fun activity and make a cool craft to take home! Please RSVP to 334-3327. In November we will discover why leaves change color and create leaf art for your fall decorations! Meet at Loblolly Environmental Facility, on NW 34th St. between University Ave. and NW 8th Ave.

**For more information, call us at 334-2170 or visit
www.natureoperations.org**



Annual Cane Boil and Longleaf Pine Youth Fiddle and Open String Band Contest!

Get out of the house after Thanksgiving and ward off winter's chill with the warmth of homemade biscuits and some hot fiddling! Come out to Morningside's 1870's Living History Farm on Saturday, November 27th, from 9am-5pm for the Annual Cane Boil and the Longleaf Pine Youth Fiddle & Open String Band Contest.

Join our staff in period dress as they cut, press, and boil sugar cane juice into syrup while interpreting day to day life on a Florida cracker farm. Sample the syrup and enjoy the music. Fresh syrup and traditional Southern food will be available for sale while supplies last. Visit our peddler's wagon for great stocking stuffers.

**\$2 adults \$1 kids 3-12 , F.O.M. Members Free.
For more information call (352) 334-2170 or visit
www.natureoperations.org.**

Young Fiddler competing in the 2003 Longleaf Pine Youth Fiddle Contest
Photo by Gary Paul, Program Coordinator

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">November 2004</h1> 						
	1	2	3 Barnyard Buddies 3pm MNC Farm	4	5	6 Living History 9am-5pm MNC Farm
7	8	9	10 Barnyard Buddies 3pm MNC Farm	11	12	13 Living History 9am-5pm MNC Farm
14	15	16	17 Barnyard Buddies 3pm MNC Farm	18	19	20 Living History 9am-5pm MNC <u>Nature Walk and Talk 9am MNC</u> By the Light of the Moon- 6pm MNC
21 Discover and Do Loblolly Env. Fac. 2pm	22	23	24 Barnyard Buddies 3pm MNC Farm	25	26	27 Cane Boil and Youth Fiddle Contest 9am-5pm MNC Farm
28	29	30	<p>“Now I see the secret of the making of the best persons. It is to grow in the open air, and to eat and sleep with the earth.”</p> <p><i>-Walt Whitman</i></p>			



Hammock snakeroot, *Ageratina jucunda*
Photo by Gary Paul, Program Coordinator

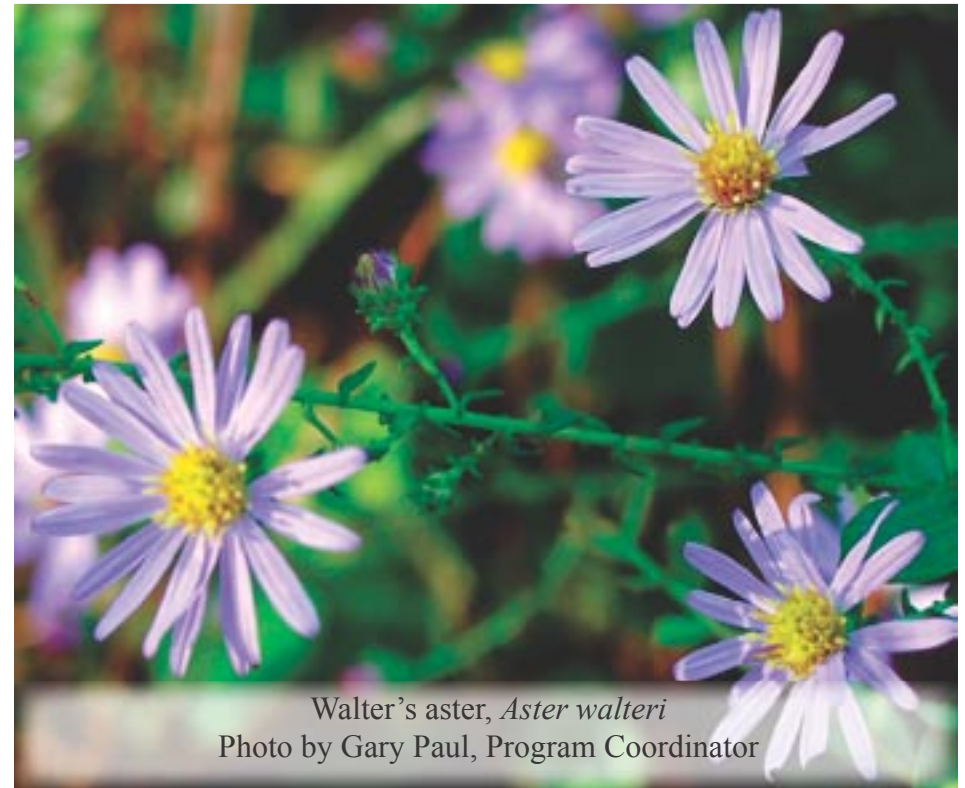
Nature Operations Staff Update

Nature Operations staff have been busy with cleanup after the hurricanes and all the parks except Bivens are now open to the public. Bivens will need to wait for funding to make extensive boardwalk repairs. The Jean Dorney Memorial Fall Wildflower Walks in October drew 64 visitors and many of them made a donation for the new full-color guide to the Common Fall Wildflowers of Morningside. Come by the Morningside office to get your copy! Members of the NOD burn team, Palmer Porter, Brian Hopper, and Jon Reaves are attending a "Fuel Reduction in the Urban Interface" workshop Nov 8-10th. Mike Brooks will attend the Wildland Fire Engine Academy Nov 13-19th. Brian Hopper is attending the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy conference Nov 5-7. We are constantly honing and improving the skills of our staff to care for your wonderful nature sanctuaries. We have bid a fond farewell to Erin Funk, Nicole Hubbell, and Sally Wazny. They have all moved on to full-time positions elsewhere and we wish them the best. We are hiring our current intern, Jennifer Auchenbach, as a teacher for science and interpretive programs. We have hired Sarah Williams, Cynthia Rafter, and Willy the Losen to be the primary staff as we revive our Living History Saturdays. We are steadily improving the quality and authenticity of the Living History Farm and Living History Days as we approach our hosting of the Regional Association for Living History, Farms, and Agricultural Museums conference in February of 2006.

Half Moon Schoolhouse Refurbishment

Morningside's Half-Moon School House, which has fared badly the past 6 years, finally attracted a contractor who cared enough to bid the job and actually begin work. Dan Holton, of Holton Construction, and his subcontractors, have been moving very quickly to complete the renovation, begun shortly before Hurricane Frances put a temporary halt to the work.

As of this writing, the school house has an intact floor, a window put back where it used to be, insulated and sheathed interior walls, new handicapped access and a magnificent new chimney! All that remains is to finish removing the exterior paint down to bare wood, prime and reapply paint, install the bead board wall covering, install the roof insulation with new tin roof and hook up the new potbellied stove. Then the little WHITE school house will be back in business for the 1st time in decades!



Walter's aster, *Aster walteri*
Photo by Gary Paul, Program Coordinator