



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

Newsletter of the Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, Inc.
- For Miami-Dade County and the Florida Keys -

OCTOBER 2014

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, October 28, 2014, 7:30 p.m.
Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57 Ave. (Red Road)
Free and open to the public

Refreshments begin at 7:15 pm. Merchandise sales are before and after the program (cash, checks and credit cards). The plant raffle follows the program. **Please label your raffle plant donations** with the plant name. *Your contributions to the raffle and refreshments are always needed and greatly appreciated.*

"Rare Keys Species and Their Conservation"
– Janice Duquesnel, Florida Park Service

This presentation focuses on the conservation efforts of five imperiled species in Keys state parks. Janice will also briefly discuss other rare Keys species and the broader ecosystem management strategy of the Florida Park Service.



Janice Duquesnel has a Bachelor of Science degree in Oceanography from Catholic University. She moved to the Florida Keys in 1986 and has worked as a biologist for the Florida Park Service for almost 20 years. Janice began as a District biologist working in the 24 state parks from Ft. Pierce to Key West. Since 2005 she has worked in the Florida Keys primarily from Windley Key to Key West.



Mahogany mistletoe (*Phoradendron rubrum*)
Photo by Janice Duquesnel

Janice's responsibilities are wide-ranging and are geared towards protecting the biological and cultural resources in both the upland and submerged resources of the parks.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- Oct. 12 (Sun.): Field trip** (Concho Billy Trail, Big Cypress)
- Oct. 18 (Sat.): Chapter workday**, Everglades National Park;
Miami Shores Green Day (DCFNPS table, volunteers needed)
- Oct. 28 (Tue.): Meeting** at Pinecrest Gardens
- Nov. 7-9 (Fri.-Sun.): FTBG Ramble** (DCFNPS table, volunteers needed)
- Nov. 16 (Sun.): Yard visit** (Kendall) (*new announcement*)
- Nov. 22 (Sat.): Field trip** (Juno Dunes Natural Area)
- Nov. 25 (Tue.): Meeting** at Pinecrest Gardens
- Dec. 7 (Sun.): Annual Holiday Potluck Picnic**
- Dec. 13 (Sat.): Chapter workday**, Everglades National Park
- Dec. 14 (Sun.): Field trip** (TBA)

November 25 program: Dr. Evelyn Gaiser of FIU -- "Preserving biodiversity in a changing world: the importance of little glass canaries in coal mines." Dr. Glaiser studies the use of diatoms ("glass algae") to understand ecosystem change in aquatic ecosystems.

Articles in this issue:

- "Texas Phoenix Palm Decline" by Andrew Derksen and Michelle DaCosta, Fl. Dept. of Ag. and Consumer Services
- "Garden Tidbits" by Dave King

UPCOMING FIELD TRIP

If the weather is very bad, call Patty at 305-255-6404 to confirm. Field trips are for the study of plants and enjoyment of nature by FNPS members and their guests. Collecting is not permitted. Children are welcome.

Time, address and directions are in the newsletter mailed to members. Please join to enjoy all the activities of the chapter!

Sunday, October 12, 2014, 9 a.m.: Concho Billy Trail, Big Cypress National Preserve (Collier County).

This trail runs east from Turner River Road, traversing dry and wet prairie, pine flatwoods, cypress domes and other habitats. We should see fall wildflowers, perhaps some wildlife and lots of gorgeous scenery. Expect to walk in some nice, refreshing water (ankle-knee-deep) somewhere along the way. We'll

probably be out for 4-5 hours, but if you want to leave early, the way out is the same as the way in – not complicated.

- **Bring/wear:** Sun protection, sturdy shoes that can get wet, plenty to drink, lunch or snacks to carry.
- **Difficulty:** Moderate, on/off trail, but not very rough terrain on the trail, feet may get wet.
- **Lost/questions?** Try Patty's cell 305-878-5705 the morning of the trip; call 305-255-6404 before that day.

November 22 trip: Juno Dunes Natural Area, Palm Beach County, led by Steve Woodmansee. This is about 1.5 hours from Kendall. There are 12 native ecosystems to explore, so save the date for an interesting trip.

VOLUNTEER WITH DCFNPS

Miami Shores Green Day: Good for All. Celebrate Fall. October 18, 2014, 3:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Downtown Miami Shores, NE 2nd Ave., 94th - 99th Streets.

Join the Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce for this community event which will educate and entertain. **DCFNPS will be there spreading the word about native plants**, so come check us out. Numerous other organizations, companies and agencies will feature “green” information, gifts, activities and food, plus a variety of vendors (**including native plant**) and entertainment. See <http://www.miamishores.com/greenday/>.

Able to volunteer at our Chapter table? Contact Amy Leonard (305-458-0969, aleonar74@yahoo.com).

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Ramble, Nov. 7-9, 2014.

Get the inside perspective – *volunteer!* Teach others about native plants at our educational display.

Please respond to Gita Ramsay (gita.ramsay@gmail.com , 786-877-7168) **by October 15** to have a name tag and free entry into FTBG. The volunteer schedule will be finalized at the October 28 meeting.

Volunteers are needed for:

- Staffing our display Friday to Sunday, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Set-up help on Thursday afternoon, 3:30 - 5 p.m.
- Break-down on Sunday, 4:30 - 5 p.m.
- Providing items to display at our table (potted plants, especially)

You'll be promoting FNPS membership and the importance of native plants and habitats. You *don't* need to be a plant expert and you can learn what is needed on the job.

Display items needed: Please loan/donate small native plants (in pots), native butterfly plants (larval food or nectar) or caterpillars for the display. Contact Amy Leonard (305-458-0969, aleonar74@yahoo.com).

Chapter workday, Everglades National Park, Coe Visitor Center, October 18, 2014, 9 a.m. – noon.

Help the chapter enhance the entrance to a national park and enjoy the park and the early fall weather. This will be a maintenance workday. A jug of cold water will be provided; bring snacks to share if you care to. Gloves and hand tools are available but you may prefer to use your own. New helpers are encouraged to come! Everyone in your car gets into ENP free after the workday. Contact Patty 305-255-6404,

pphares@mindspring.com if you have questions (305-878-5705 cell, for the morning of the workday only).

Note of caution: Some have received very expensive tickets for incomplete stops caught on camera when turning right off US1 in Florida City in the past year.

DADE CHAPTER AND FNPS NEWS

Yard visit, November 16, 2014, 3-5 p.m. (new announcement). This 1-acre yard in Kendall was completely overhauled in May, 2014, from a 1950s yard of exotics to a beautiful garden of natives. Details will be provided in the November newsletter.

The Dade Chapter FNPS board will meet October 12, 2014.

All chapter members are welcome to attend or to send suggestions for items for the board to consider. Please contact past-president Buck Reilly (buck@habify.com, 786-291-4824).

Welcome new member. Marci Philbin (Miami-Dade).

Thanks to all who renewed or rejoined – your support of native plants and FNPS is greatly appreciated. Please invite your friends to our activities and encourage them to join!

Do you have good photos? We need them! Photos are useful in the newsletter, or to liven up the email sent with the newsletter link, or in displays and educational materials.

- Native plants (flowers, fruits, or whole plants – whatever is attractive or interesting)
- Native plants interacting with native fauna
- Landscape scenes with natives (100% native not required)
- FNPS activities
- Natural areas

Please contact the editor (pphares@mindspring.com) before sending large files (an alternate address will be provided). High resolution is needed for some uses. Include the name of the photographer, plants, fauna, etc.

Native Plant Day 2015. Our annual public event will be at A. D. Barnes Park on March 28. Save the date!

Broward Chapter FNPS. See www.npsbroward.org for field trips and activities. Meetings are at Secret Woods, 2701 W. SR 84, Dania Beach. **October 14, 2014, 7 p.m.: Chapter meeting, "Stoppers, Stoppers, Stoppers"** -- Janine Griffith presents a down-to-earth workshop on identifying and gardening with the stoppers.

Palm Beach Chapter FNPS. 2014 Native Plant Yard Tour, October 5, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. The tour features Lake Worth, Lantana and Boynton Beach residences and offers native gardeners a unique opportunity to tour private yards landscaped with Florida native plants. This event is free to the public but donations are gladly accepted. For more information, including a map, see <http://palmbeach.fnpschapters.org/yardtour/> or contact Carl Terwilliger 561-601-9673.

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

Dade Native Plant Workshop. MDC Kendall Campus Landscape Technology Center. 3rd Tuesdays at 7 p.m. See <http://nativeplantworkshop.ning.com> or contact Steve at steve@pronative.com. Bring at least three plants (especially flowering/fruited), even if they do not pertain to the topic. Beginners and old hands are all encouraged to come. Free. *Join on the website (free) to receive an email reminder and to post plant photos for identification or discussion.*
October 21, 2014, topic: Fall wildflowers.

Friends of the Gifford Arboretum meeting, Nov. 5, 2014. "Climate Change: What You Need to Know and What You Can Do About It" – **Dr. Harold Wanless**, chairman and professor in the Dept. of Geological Sciences, Univ. of Miami. Social at 7 p.m. followed by the program. Cox Science Center, Room 166. Univ. of Miami. For directions to the arboretum (adjacent to Cox): www.bio.miami.edu/arboretum or 305-284-1302.

Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Volunteer Workdays. Help make a difference in protecting our natural areas at preserves and earn Community Service Hours. Please pre-register at EEL@Miamiidade.gov or call 305-372-6611. Info: <http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands.asp>

Oct. 18: A.D. Barnes Park, 3401 SW 72 Ave. (planting)
Oct. 24: Larry & Penny Thompson Park, SW 179 Ter. & 122 Ave. (clean-up)
Nov. 1: Rockdale Pineland, SW 144 St. & 92 Ave. (planting)
Nov. 4: Tree Island Park, SW 147 Ave. & 10 St. (bird watching)

Wildflower walk at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, November 1, 2014. Support the park and help their education committee create an educational video. Enjoy this special field trip sponsored by the Friends of Kissimmee Prairie Preserve. Take a stroll through the beautiful fall prairie with two of Florida's most recognized wildflower experts, Roger Hammer and Craig Huegel. Roger and Craig will combine their extensive knowledge of Florida's flora, along with their well known wit and humor, to educate and entertain.
<http://www.fnps.org/news/society-news/kissimmee-prairie-state-park>

Tropical Audubon Society. For more info on TAS activities and conservation issues, call 305-667-7337 or see <http://tropicalaudubon.org/tashome.html>. 5530 Sunset Dr., Miami, 33143.

• **Oct. 25-26: Native plant sale.** A great selection of South Florida plants with knowledgeable sales people to help you choose the best ones for your yard. On **Sunday**, stay for supper at the Tri-Annual **Food Truck Migration**.
• **Follow conservation issues with TAS. Read the monthly TAS newsletter on the home page to stay informed and learn how to take action.** Click on "Join Our Mailing List" to receive the information and updates by email. And, of course, join or donate to TAS to support "South Florida's Voice of Conservation."

Paid advertising

FOR SALE – PALMETTO BAY

A truly unique treasure in South Florida! Step into Miami 100 years ago, idyllic naked virgin 15,860 sq. ft. parcel nestled in native Florida flora setting with oak, silver palms, natives and tropical plantings with a frame/stucco 3/1 cottage. In Palmetto Bay on paved street to street frontage, it is hidden in this urban location, just blocks East of US1 within walking distance to bus and shops. First time offered \$250K.
Pick Cotton Inc. REALTORS 305-235-2313.

Pine Rockland for Sale

Vacant (+buildable) .9 acre - LOW taxes with EEL covenant - lovely pine forest + natives. Behind 15201 SW 272 St., 33032. For more info and photos: liztruby@bellsouth.net, 305-281-6166. LOTS more to tell about this charming acre. \$70K. Adjacent pineland is also for sale.



TEXAS PHOENIX PALM DECLINE

By Andrew Derksen, Michelle DaCosta
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Texas Phoenix Palm Decline (TPPD) is a new strain of "lethal yellowing", a bacterial disease affecting palms. Lethal yellowing has long been a scourge of palms, with one epidemic responsible for the near-extinction of the "Jamaican Tall" cultivar of coconut in the greater Caribbean in the late seventies. That outbreak destroyed the commercial coconut industry in the region until the disease-resistant "Malaysian Dwarf" variety of coconut was discovered. The TPPD-strain of lethal yellowing is so named because it was originally collected and described from *Phoenix* palms in South Texas. TPPD was first detected in Florida in dying *Sabal palmetto* palms just outside Tampa in 2008, and is the first lethal yellow bacteria known to affect *Sabal spp.* palms. On the west coast of Florida, local mortality of susceptible palms has exceeded fifty percent of the total population.

The disease is moving southward, and dying *Sabal* palms infected with TPPD have recently been detected in Palm Beach and Broward Counties. It is expected that the disease will

proliferate rapidly throughout South Florida, if it has not already done so. The symptoms for TPPD are common to all lethal yellows, but this was the first time these symptoms were observed on *Sabal* native to Florida. One of the first symptoms observed might be premature fruit drop. This is a prominent symptom in *Phoenix* palms, but is sometimes observed in other species. This symptom is also common in stressed palms or plants that have recently been re-planted and so, observation of fruit drop is not by itself indicative of TPPD. However, while stressed palms may gradually drop their fruit over a week's time, infected palms will drop all of their fruit over a one to two-day period. If the palm is flowering, these flowers will also wither and fall within days.

The next major symptom is the discoloration and death of older, established leaves at the base of the canopy. These leaves will yellow at the tips, but then rapidly turn brown or grey. Concern is warranted if the proportion of dead leaves exceeds that usually expected in the lower canopy. This is the notorious "ring" or "halo of death". The University of Florida palm pathology lab recommends concern if the proportion of dead leaves exceeds a quarter of the leaf total suspended from the plant. This symptom may be difficult to see in residential areas where aggressive landscapers have removed the normal under-canopy of dead leaves from palms. The final phase of the disease will be apparent when the spear-leaf at the top of the palm dies. Once the spear-leaf dies, some of the upper leaves may remain green for some time, but the palm is dead. It must be removed in order to prevent it becoming a reservoir from which the disease can spread.

Thus far, the disease is known to affect *Phoenix canariensis*, *P. dactylifera*, *P. reclinata*, *P. roebelenii* (rare), *P. sylvestris*, *Sabal palmetto*, and *Syagrus romanzoffiana*. The *Phoenix* species appear to be the most susceptible, but once *Sabal* palms express symptoms, they experience a rapid decline and may die within a six month period.

It is believed that a palm may incubate the disease for a year or two before displaying symptoms, and this may have led to the accidental transport of apparently healthy but infected *Phoenix* palms from Texas to Florida as part of the ornamental plant trade. Once established in Tampa, it was only a matter of time before local trade in *Phoenix* and *Sabal* palms from the infected area transported an asymptomatic palm to South Florida. As soon as the infected palms were in Florida, the bacteria would be transmitted by the Florida Palm Cixiid, *Haplaxius crudus*. The palm cixiid is an abundant native planthopper infamous for transmitting diseases between palms. The planthopper sucks bacteria up into its mouth while feeding on infected palms, and then blows them out again when feeding on uninfected palms.

Given the ubiquity and abundance of the native planthopper, the University of Florida does not recommend spraying for the bug. While you might eliminate your local population, other infected individuals would rapidly move in from nearby areas. Palms can be treated with an antibacterial agent such as oxytetracycline, but would have to be retreated once every three to four months. Infected local planthoppers would continually re-infect the palm, requiring constant treatment. The expense of these antibiotic

treatments makes this an untenable long-term management strategy for large stands of palms in natural areas, but some homeowners may wish to preserve particular trees. Immediate removal of sick or dying palms may slow the rate at which the disease spreads through the region. Not transporting palms from infected areas may further slow the spread of the disease across Florida.

The rate of natural expansion in the Tampa area has slowed since 2010, and the rate at which declining *Sabal* palms is being reported is reduced. It appears that while many *Sabal* are susceptible to the bacterium, there is some natural resistance within the population. It is expected that a similar outbreak of the disease will occur in South Florida, with all susceptible members of the population dying out until only the resistant *Sabal* palms are left.

If you suspect that you have a palm suffering from Texas Phoenix Palm Decline (TPPD), please contact either the University of Florida palm pathology lab in Fort Lauderdale (http://flrec.ifas.ufl.edu/palm_prod/palm_diseases.shtml), or the Florida Department of Agriculture Helpline (1- 888-397-1517). If you have a digital camera, you may be asked to take pictures of the palm for preliminary screening. The molecular test to confirm the presence of TPPD is expensive, and it may not be conducted in areas that are already positive for the disease, but plant pathologists will do their best to offer an opinion based on external symptoms.

GARDEN TIDBITS:

Notes from late September 2014

Please send your monthly observations by the 20th of each month to the editor – interesting, amusing, helpful ... or just "what's happening." What has become routine to you might be new to someone else, especially new members.

This month we feature observations reported by DCFNPS member Dave King on September 27th. In 2012 we visited Dave and Louise's rural Homestead property, with its beautiful, extensive native plantings and pond, along with a lychee grove. What an idyllic place for birds and people!

- **A late summer berry bonanza is underway**, with Bahama and wild coffees, Bahama, small and rough strongbacks, bitterbush, Florida thatch palm, Florida boxwood, dahoon holly, American pokeweed, and beauty berry providing a smorgasboard that is making the mockingbirds fat and happy.
- **Fall warbler migration is hot, and hummingbirds are here**, too--including one **Rufous Hummingbird** last week. The Rufous hummers don't come east every winter, so it's always a special treat to have them visit the yard.
- **The short-leaf fig fruits are almost gone**, so there won't be any around for the flocks of cedar waxwings that occasionally show up in winter for a fig feast. The fruits have not gone to

waste, however. Today, while watching a cardinal eating them, my eye was drawn to a flash of bright yellow. It was a **Cape May Warbler**, and it flew to a perch above a fig and started dining ... eating nearly half the fruit before moving on. I'd never seen a warbler eating fruit before, and I can't testify that it wasn't digging away at the fruit to find a worm inside, but it sure seemed to be dining on the fig!

• **The coontie seed cones are fast ripening**, and a few have already burst open, throwing their beautiful orange fruits in arcs as much as *three feet* from the mother plants.



Photo by Dave King

• **Soapberry (which just finished dropping a huge crop of berries) is sending out flower bud clusters again, as are the marlberries in the hammocks.** Plants with flowers open include lancewood, primrose willow, buttonbush (our tree is always late), and small strongback (it flowers all the time), and there are still a few pickerelweeds flowering in the pond.



A pile of Queen butterflies,
 Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park
 DCFNPS field trip, September 20, 2014
 Photo by Bill Shores

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.

DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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TILLANDSIA

Editor: Patty Phares (pphares@mindspring.com, 305-255-6404)
Assistant editor: vacant – please consider volunteering

Articles, announcements and news items are invited for *Tillandsia* from Dade and Keys members. Please submit items for consideration by the 15th of each month. **Advertising rates** from \$12 per month.

FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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