



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

JULY 2015

MONTHLY MEETING

Annual Evening Yard Visit and Potluck Social

When: Saturday, July 25, 2015. 6:30 p.m.

Where: Home of Gwladly and Gene Scott - 17010 SW 77 Avenue, Palmetto Bay (just west of the Deering Estate)

Who: FNPS members and their guests (children welcome).

Directions: From SW 168 Street, turn south on SW 77 Ave., go 2 blocks. Park diagonally on the swale or in the north or south driveway.

Schedule: Come as early as you can to fully enjoy the yard and evening. Guided yard tour at around 7p.m., dinner after the tour, followed by the plant raffle. The Scotts invite those who would like to stay later to sit around a bonfire and chat.

Bring:

- Potluck dinner item or appetizer with serving utensil (drinks, plates, etc., provided)
- Raffle plants
- Lawn chairs if you want to be assured of a seat.

More details:

Dress for warm weather and possible mosquitoes (bring repellent just in case).

In case of rain: The party is still on! We will have a dry place.

Questions: Call Gwladly at 305-238-8901

The Scotts live in a 1.64 acre natural forest community with hammock and wetland plants. Oaks and pines dominate the high ground, while swamp bay, Dahoon holly and even a pond apple are on the lower ground. The property slopes down to an area of very ragged Miami oolite rock - a Karst topography - indicating a previous seasonal flooding before a canal was made. The house was built into the hammock, using native Dade County Pine that was salvaged in the 1960s from huge piles of bulldozed trees waiting to be burned after land clearing for housing in South Dade. The house has a very open design, for good reason: no air conditioning. But it is very livable - amongst the natives!

There is no meeting at Pinecrest Gardens in July or August.

Fall programs:

- **September 22:** "Flora of Shell Mounds in Everglades National Park" - Jimi Sadle, ENP botanist
- **October 27:** "Gardening for Birds and Other Wildlife in South Florida" - Kirsten Hines, writer, photographer, biologist
- **November 24:** "Butterflies: How They Function, What They Need, and Why They Are Important" - Linda Evans, Miami Blue Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

July 25 (Sat.): Annual Evening Yard Visit and Potluck Social meeting (Palmetto Bay)

Aug. 1 (Sat.): Chapter workday at Everglades National Park

Aug. 8 (Sat.): Field trip (Navy Wells pineland), 5 p.m.

There is no newsletter or meeting in August.

Inside this issue:

- **Announcements and news**
- "Flowering Native Trees from Key Largo" by **Martin A. Roessler**
- **Scenes from FNPS conference field trips** - *plants and snakes*

UPCOMING FIELD TRIP

If the weather is very bad, please confirm in advance. 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!

Saturday, August 8, 2015: Navy Wells Pineland. Enjoy a late afternoon walk in this county preserve, one of the larger tracts of pine rockland remaining outside of Everglades National Park. We will be led by **Steve Woodmansee**, biologist and owner of Pro Native Consulting. We'll see summer wildflowers and hopefully some butterflies and birds. The Miami Blue Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association will join us. We might see Bartram's Hairstreak, Florida Duskywing, Cloudless and Little Yellow Sulphurs, plus common butterflies.

- **Bring/wear:** Water, long pants, sun protection. Close-focus binoculars might help for looking at butterflies.
- **Difficulty:** Moderate (some rocky, off-path terrain, not long distances).
- **Afterward:** Join the group at a local restaurant for dinner if you would like (place to be decided).
- **Questions:** Contact Steve (steve@pronative.com, 786-488-3181), or Patty (305-878-5705) as second choice.

MEET OUR NEW VOLUNTEERS

You may have noticed some new names on the *Tillandsia* pages. We hope to see more articles on great native landscape plants from Ralph, and the editor looks forward to Zen's collaboration on *Tillandsia*. Also, welcome to the newest DCFNPS board member, Jennifer Stine.

• **Ralph J. Ferrer** contributed the article "Willow in the Rough" in the July issue. Ralph is a designer and project manager with JRA, Inc., an engineering, planning, and landscape design consulting firm where he works on a variety of governmental and residential design projects. He has a Master's in Landscape Architecture from Florida International University and an Associate's in Architecture from Miami-Dade College where he also participated in their Landscape Technology program. Mr. Ferrer has a knowledge and understanding of the analysis, planning, and design for a range of scales that include site, community, urban, and regional. He also has a passion for the use and awareness of native plant material, their communities, wildlife, and how they could contribute in reshaping South Florida's built areas while re-establishing its fractured natural areas.

• **Zen Kurokawa** is the new assistant editor of *Tillandsia*. "I am a new resident to Florida, after vacationing here on and off for many years. My former residence was in the Pacific Northwest so getting used to the heat and humidity is a challenge. I have a BS and MS in Physics, earned a living as a digital design engineer with a post layoff career as a technician in physical oceanography responsible for robotic submarines. I am interested in the many environmental issues that challenge Florida both on land and in the sea. On land insects and herptiles capture my imagination, in the sea it is corals. I like DCFNPS because of the many outdoor activities and the focus on plants gives me a perspective on this new environment."

• **New DCFNPS board member, Jennifer Stine:** "I'm a second generation Miami Native. Growing up in Miami I spent as much time as I could exploring our unique south Florida environment. I enjoyed riding and showing my horses and volunteering at a wildlife rehabilitation center caring for sick, injured and orphaned Florida wildlife. After earning my AA in Biology from Miami-Dade College, I had the opportunity to spend a year in Germany as an *Au-Pair* and travel throughout Europe. This experience led me become a certified travel agent that resulted in an 11 year career in the travel industry. While working, I attended FIU and earned a BS in Environmental Studies with a minor in Economics. Currently I work for Miami-Dade County as the complaint response inspector and arborist in the Tree Permitting Program of DERM. In my free time I enjoy attending the monthly meetings and participating in the other activities with DCFNPS and the Friends of Fakahatchee where I also volunteer regularly. I am grateful to join the board and look forward contributing to DCFNPS."

YOU'RE NOT A MEMBER OF FNPS?

Let us support your interest in native plants. Help us support native plants! See www.fnps.org or the contacts box in this newsletter. It costs very little to make a difference!

DADE CHAPTER NEWS

Everglades National Park DCFNPS workday, August 1, 2015, 9 a.m. - noon. Help the chapter enhance the entrance to our national park. A jug of cold water will be provided; bring snacks to share if you care to. Gloves and tools are available but you may prefer your own. *There may be mosquitoes. We have spray and a few head nets, but bring your own net if you are concerned. Buy them online or in some sporting goods stores.* Everyone in your car gets into ENP free after the workday. Questions? - contact Patty (pphares@mindspring.com, 305-255-6404; or 305-878-5705 the morning of the workday).

Welcome new Dade Chapter members: Andrea Clement, Ian and Lynn Kupkee. Thank you to all members for helping conserve Florida's native plants and native plant communities!

Native Plant Day, March 19, 2016. Save the date! The event will be at **Bill Sadowski Park and Natural Area** in Palmetto Bay. We are excited to be working again with the wonderful park staff and have begun planning. If you would like to **be a part of the planning** please contact Amy Leonard (305-458-0969, aleonar74@yahoo.com) -- help line up speakers, secure food vendors, make community contacts and more.

Share your extras, information or talents.

- **Do you have empty plastic pots?** Especially 4", 1-gallon, or unusual sizes and shapes. Members need containers to continue potting up plants for raffles and projects. Please contact Patty (pphares@mindspring.com, 305-255-6404)
- **Do you have native plants or seeds to share?** Bring them to meetings (raffle or to give away). Or tell a board member or the editor that you have natives to offer to school gardens (butterfly larval host plants or nectar plants are always in demand).
- **Do you have information to share?** Potential newsletter material: articles, notes on your garden or walks, interesting items online, news of interest. Contact the editor.
- **Do you have good photos?** For the newsletter, displays and educational materials: **native plants, insects and animals, landscapes, FNPS activities, natural areas.** Please contact the editor (an alternate address will be provided).

Thank you to retiring board member, Amida Frey, for his six years as a board member and scheduling many interesting programs!

FNPS NEWS

Broward Chapter FNPS. See www.npsbroward.org.

- **Aug. 15, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.: Chapter & Friends Plant Sale.** Secret Woods, 2701 W. State Rd. 84, Dania Beach, FL
- **Sept. 12, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.: Go Native Plant Sale.** Fern Forest, 201 Lyons Rd. S., Coconut Creek, FL

The July-August 2015 issue of the state FNPS newsletter *Sabal minor* is available at www.fnps.org. If you did not receive your *Sabal minor* by email (or postal mail for some) contact FNPS at info@fnps.org or 321-271-6702.

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 cuttings of plants (especially in flower/fruit), even if not pertaining to the topic.

- **July 21, 2015: Butterfly host plants**
- **August 18, 2015: Polygonaceae (Buckwheat Family)**

Miami Blue Chapter, North American Butterfly Association (www.miamiblue.org; MiamiBlueEvents@bellsouth.net; 305-979-9623) invites you to the following events. Contact Miami Blue for more details.

- **July 18, 2015, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Shark Valley** annual butterfly count.
- **July 25, 2015, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Loop Road** annual count.

• **August 2, 2015, 1-3 p.m.:** Quarterly meeting at Castellow Hammock Park, 22301 SW 162 Ave. Miami, FL 33170. **Angel Abreau will speak about photography.** Come early for refreshments and to look for butterflies in the garden.

Adopt-A-Tree 2015. Miami-Dade homeowners may receive 2 free trees per year from the county. Call 311 or see <http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/adopt-a-tree.asp> for rules and additional information. **9 a.m. – 1 p.m., rain or shine.**

- **July 25**, Goodlet Park, 4200 West 8 Ave., Hialeah 33012; natives **Dahoon Holly, Orange Geiger**; fruit trees
- **August 29**, Harris Field Pavilion, 1034 NE 8 St., Homestead 33130; natives **Pigeon Plum, Green Buttonwood**; fruit trees.
- **October 4**, A.D. Barnes Park, 3401 SW 72 Ave., Miami 33155; natives **Inkwood, Paradise tree**; fruit trees.

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

- **See the new TAS website for summer activities**
- **Workdays:** July 11, 18 and August 15.
- **Conservation committee meetings, open to all:** July 22.

Miami Pine Rockland Coalition. See the Facebook page (groups/MiamiRPC) and <http://miamipinerocklandscoalition.org> for news about efforts to preserve the Richmond Pineland Tract from development, such as a cleanup day on June 27 at Larry and Penny Thompson Park to pick up litter exposed by recent fires.

FLOWERING NATIVE TREES FROM KEY LARGO

By Martin A. Roessler

Members of the Dade County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society including some of our Florida Keys members visited Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park on May 16, 2015. On a great day of botanizing in a West Indian Hardwood Hammock habitat, we were serendipitously

rewarded by glorious displays by two of our native flowering trees that in my opinion match any of the tropical flowering trees for beauty. The lancewood and the Jamaican dogwood were in full bloom.

The **lancewood** *Ocotea coriacea* was originally described by Olof Swartz and assigned its current scientific name by Nathaniel Brittan. It has been called *Nectandra* in many of the earlier works on Florida and West Indian floras. The name *Ocotea* is derived from aboriginal name “l’octe” for French Guiana. The species name *coriacea* means leathery and refers to the texture of the leaves.

This member of the family Lauraceae (laurel or avocado family) is common in South Florida and throughout the Bahamas, West Indies and Central America. The rather large tree (35 feet) can be recognized by having alternate, lanceolate, pointed leaves which are fragrant when crushed. The white flowers form on new growth and occur in loose long-stalked panicles. The



Photo: Keith Bradley

flowers are pleasantly fragrant (hence the name sweet wood or sweet torch used in the West Indies and Bahamas) and occur in spring and secondarily in autumn. Allegedly this species was used to make lances leading to our common name, lancewood.

A photograph of the flowers can be seen in Rodger Hammers book “Florida Keys Wildflowers” and botanical illustrations can be found in Tomlinson’s book.

The **Jamaican dogwood** *Piscidia piscipula* was originally described by Carolus Linnaeus and assigned to its current name by Charles Sargent. It was known as *Ichthyomethia piscipula* in some earlier floras. Both names are derived the Greek and Latin names for fishes. The use of powdered bark and leaves for poisoning fishes in sustenance fisheries in the tropics is the basis of the West Indian common name of fish fuddle. The name dogwood is in reference to their use as fasteners (dogs) in boat building in Jamaica. More common names and their origin can be found in Dan Austin’s “Florida Ethnobotany” book.

The Jamaican dogwood is a member of the Papilionoideae (with pea-like flowers) group of the Fabaceae (Leguminosae) bean family. It ranges widely in the West Indies and reaches into the Bahamas and Florida especially in the Keys. It reaches 30 feet or more and is a large tree. It can be recognized by the greyish bark and large compound leaves with 5-9 gray-green leaflets that measure 2-4 inches long and 1-2 inches wide. Flowering occurs during a short period and is usually completed by the end of May. The pink, white and green flowers form dense panicles on the flowering branches and appear during the end of the dry

season defoliation. The tan to brown winged fruits occur in clusters that are showy during the early summer period.

The flowers attract many insects, especially native bees and birds including hummingbirds, warblers, orioles and doves. The



Photos: Keith Bradley

Hammock Skipper butterfly uses the leaves as a larval food source and a Psyllid sucking insect makes nests on the leaves. The leaves, bark and heartwood have been used medicinally and a number of potential pharmaceuticals have been identified.

Additional photographs of flowers can be seen in Hammer (2004) and botanical drawings are in Tomlinson (1980).

Both of these medium to large trees would make interesting flowering yard trees if you have the space.

Austin, D. F. 2004. Florida Ethnobotany. CRC Press. Boca Raton, Florida. 909 pp. (Provides information on international common names, uses and pharmaceutical components.)

Hammer, R. L, 2004. Florida Keys Wildflowers. A Falcon Guide. Globe Pequot Press. (Provides color photographs and ecological information.)

Long, R. W. And O. Lakela, 1971. A Flora of Tropical Florida. University of Miami Press. (Provides data on the names and life span of botanists identified by abbreviations as the authority responsible for the scientific description and name of a species.)

Tomlinson, P. B., 1980. The Biology of Trees Native to Tropical Florida. Harvard University Printing Office. (Provides botanical illustrations by P. Fawcett, descriptions, identification keys and ecological notes.)

Dr. Martin Roessler is an environmental consultant and longtime member of FNPS. He has contributed many articles and field trip reports to Tillandsia and led countless field trips over the past 25 years. Marty is a founding member of the Dade

Chapter and was the second president.

Photos by Keith Bradley, from Natives For Your Neighborhood.

The Institute for Regional Conservation, Delray Beach, FL.

<http://www.regionalconservation.org>.

FNPS Annual Conference in Tallahassee May, 2015

Scenes from field trips

■ Tate's Hell State Forest

Water moccasins toss down tiny fish dying in a pond as it dries down. Yum – popcorn!



Photo: Mary Rose

The land which became Tate's Hell State Forest was drained in the 1960s and 1970s for commercial timber production. In the 1990s the state began purchasing and restoring the land to protect Apalachicola Bay from runoff.



Several stands of dwarf cypress (or "miniature" or "hat-rack" cypress) exist, where trees over 150 years old are only 15 feet tall.

Photo: Amanda Martin

Yellow pitcher plants (*Sarracenia flava*) and Savannah meadowbeauty (*Rhexia alifanum*)



Photo: Amanda Martin

■ **Bradwell Bay National Wilderness Area**, located in the Apalachicola National Forest.



Photo: Wendy Poag, Lake County Beautyberry chapter.

DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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TILLANDSIA

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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

FNPS office: info@fnps.org, 321-271-6702
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FNPS is on Facebook and Twitter: FNPSonline
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