



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2016

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, November 22, 2016, 7:30 p.m.
Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57 Ave. (Red Road), Miami
Free and open to the public
(It's the fourth Tuesday, not the last)

Refreshments begin at 7:15 pm., merchandise sales before and after the program. The plant raffle follows the program. Contributions of **raffle items** and **refreshments** are always greatly appreciated.

Please label your raffle plant donations — no mystery plants!

“The Trouble with Exotic Mangroves”
- Dennis Giardina

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

This program will profile the threat posed by the importation and commercialization of mangrove species from the Eastern Hemisphere to the native mangrove forests and ecosystems of South Florida. The Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area has been working to combat this threat here at Matheson Hammock, Fairchild and Kampong Tropical Botanic Gardens. Compelling images will illustrate the program.



Lumnitzera racemosa, an invasive exotic mangrove

For over 25 years Dennis Giardina's career has focused on endangered species recovery and exotic species control. It began in 1989 with the US Forest Service at the Caribbean National Forest, working on the Puerto Rican Parrot Recovery Project. Later he worked at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, restoring long leaf pine ecosystems and at Florida Panther and 10,000 Islands National Wildlife Refuges. From 2005 to 2008 Dennis was the Park Manager of Fakahatchee Strand Preserve

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

November

11-13 (Fri.-Sun.): Fairchild Ramble – chapter display
22 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens.
27 (Sun.): Field trip – Black Point Park

December

10 (Sat.): Field trip – Pine Shore Pineland Preserve
17 (Sat.): Chapter workday, Everglades National Park
No meeting or newsletter in December

Save the date:

Annual Nature Lovers' Holiday Party, January 7, 2017

State Park before becoming Everglades Region Biologist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Since 2008, he has been the Co-Chair of the Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (ECISMA). ECISMA was created to formalize cooperation among land management agencies to improve the effectiveness of exotic species control across the borders of the Everglades Protection Area and the surrounding urban and agricultural areas of South Florida.

• **January 24, 2017:** “Rare Plants and Everglades Restoration” – George Gann, Chief Conservation Strategist, The Institute for Regional Conservation

FIELD TRIPS: November and December

If the weather is bad, call Patty at 305-878-5705 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.

Plant lists: Print lists for most South Florida conservation areas from The Institute for Regional Conservation's website, www.regionalconservation.org > Floristic Inventory of South Florida > Plants by Conservation Area.

Inside this issue:

- **Swampbush, *Pavonia paludicola*** - Roger L. Hammer
- **In Our Yards in Late Fall** - Steve Woodmansee
- **Pine Rockland Species Receive Endangered Listing**

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

• **Sunday, November 27, 2016: Black Point Park** on Biscayne Bay. This walk follows our November program on exotic mangroves, though we hope to see only natives. We will walk a path along a mangrove swamp habitat. This is not (cont..p. 2)

natural, pristine habitat, but there are many coastal upland species. If the tide is low enough, we'll try to find Swampbush, *Pavonia paludicola* (see the article in this newsletter.) **Marty Roessler** will be our botanist.

See the October 2010 *Tillandsia* (<http://dade.fnpschapters.org/pastnewsletters/2010/10.php#npnn>) to read "Native Plant Name Notes: *Cynanchum angustifolium*" by Chuck McCartney concerning an interesting plant observed on the September 2010 trip to this park.

Bring: Water, sun protection; lunch if you care to picnic.

Difficulty: Easy, 1-2 miles on a trail. Turn around any time.

• **Saturday, December 10, 2016: Pine Shore Pineland Preserve.** Pine Shore is a remnant pineland next to Gloria Floyd Elementary School. Though tiny, this site contains rare plants and is unusually high and sandy. With **Jimmy Lange**, field botanist at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, as the leader, you'll learn a lot about plants, not just look at them!

Difficulty: Easy but not on smooth paths.

Bring: Drinks, sun protection.

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

Welcome new member! Olga Cuni

Fall Garden Festival and Ramble at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Nov. 11-13, 2016. You can still share butterfly larvae that use native plants (also chrysalises, eggs, or the plant) for the chapter display table. Contact Patty Phares, pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404.

Broward Chapter FNPS. See <http://coontie.fnpschapters.org/>. Meetings are at Secret Woods, 2701 W. SR 84, Dania Beach. **Nov. 9, 2016, 7 p.m.: Chapter meeting. "Insect-plant Interactions" – Sandy Koi.** See the website for more info about this program, later programs and field trips.

The November-December *Sabal minor* is available at: http://www.fnps.org/assets/pdf/sabalminor/sabalminor18_6_2016.pdf. It is no longer distributed by postal mail. Please contact the *Tillandsia* editor if you need help in obtaining *Sabal minor*.

NATIVE PLANT DAY 2017 – March 25 at Enchanted Forest Park Elaine Gordon Park in North Miami. We're gearing up for plant sales, nature walks, educational displays and some of the best talks to introduce the public to native plants. **If you have ideas for presenters, non-profits, or vendors for food or merchandise who may want to participate, or suggestions to make this our best event ever, contact Amy Leonard** (aleonar74@yahoo.com, 305-458-0969). **Please save the date** and plan to volunteer and share our signature outreach event with your friends and family!

ANNUAL NATURE LOVERS' HOLIDAY PARTY

Save the date: January 7, 2017

Home of Don & Joyce Gann in Redland

Enjoy a pot luck dinner at one of Miami architect Alfred Browning Parker's 1960s houses, built in a hardwood hammock.

Details to follow in the January *Tillandsia*.

Support the **Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society** by using **Amazon Smile!**

Remember to always start at <http://smile.amazon.com> and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

Chapter Workday: Everglades National Park, Coe Visitor Center. December 17, 2016 - 9 a.m. – noon.

Help the chapter enhance the entrance to ENP. We will be doing pruning and weeding. Cold water is provided; bring snacks to share if you care to. (Fresh cinnamon rolls are highly likely.) Gloves and hand tools are available. New helpers are encouraged to come! Everyone in your car gets into ENP free after the workday. Contact Patty 305-255-6404 or pharespl@gmail.com, if you have questions (305-878-5705 cell, for the morning of the workday).

FOR HOLIDAY SHOPPING ... GO NATIVE!

Books, yard plaques, garden gloves, shirts, decorative & useful items

Visit the merchandise table at our November meeting.

Gift membership

Support native plants, habitats and wildlife while introducing your friends to FNPS.

<http://www.fnps.org>, info@fnps.org, 321-271-6702

Plants and more

See where to buy native plants at

<http://dade.fnpschapters.org/nativeplants>.

Support native plant nurseries and other plant sales.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Every Kid in a Park (EKIP)

Are you passionate about the Everglades? Do you want to learn more? Consider volunteering for Every Kid in a Park!



"Every Kid in a Park" (EKIP) is an environmental education program that connects fourth-grade students to Everglades National Park. Thanks to volunteers, ENP can welcome over 70 fourth-grade classes to the park! Volunteers staff one of five "field lab" tables focusing on alligators, birds, hydrology system, invasive species or periphyton/sawgrass.

Volunteers commit to a minimum of 1 day per week at Royal Palm or Shark Valley (4 hours, plus travel). Program dates run from mid-October to mid-March. If you cannot attend a scheduled training, there are opportunities to train by

"shadowing" during the program. Please contact anna_lee@partner.nps.gov with the best day of the week (M-F) for a 9 a.m.-3 p.m. session and the location you prefer (Shark Valley or Royal Palm).

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

Dade Native Plant Workshop: MDC Kendall Campus Landscape Technology Center. 3rd Tuesdays at 7 p.m. See <http://www.nativeplantworkshop.com> or contact Steve Woodmansee at steve@pronative.com. Bring at least three cuttings (especially in flower/fruit), which need not pertain to the topic. **Novices and experts alike are welcome.** *Join on the website (free) to receive email reminders or to post on the site.*

• **Nov. 22, 2016 topic: Boraginaceae** (Borage Family), includes plants like the Strongbacks and Heliotropes.

• **Dec. 20, 2016 topic: Gymnosperms** (Pines, Cypress, cycads). *We'll also enjoy our annual holiday party that night. You are invited to bring a dish or beverage.*

► **New website!** <http://www.nativeplantworkshop.com> ◀

Please register on the new site. Click on the "Native Plant Workshop Members Group", use coontie as your favorite native, click on the verification email link to finalize your registration.

Friends of the Gifford Arboretum, Univ. of Miami.

<http://www.bio.miami.edu/arboretum> > visits or 305-284-1302.

• **Dec. 3: Annual Gifford Arboretum Picnic** at 10:30. Tour and lunch – free (donations welcome), bring a side dish if you would like. Everyone is invited! Check for more details online.

• See the website for **tours** and **Music in the Arboretum**.

Environmentally Endangered Lands Volunteer Workdays.

Adult volunteers are always helpful in guiding the teens who provide their youthful energy.

Please pre-register at EEL@Miamiidade.gov; 305-372-6611.

<http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands.asp>

Dec. 10: Crandon Park & Preserve, 7200 Crandon Blvd. (restoration project)

The National Park Service continues its 100th anniversary with a fee-free day at Everglades National Park (and others that normally charge fees) on November 11, Veterans Day.

SWAMPBUSH (*Pavonia paludicola*)

by Roger L. Hammer

Swampbush is the unbecoming common name of a rare, native mallow known as *Pavonia paludicola*. The genus *Pavonia* commemorates Spanish botanist and traveler, José Antonio Pavón Jiménez (1754-1840) who, during the reign of King Charles III of Spain, was sent on the first of three expeditions to Peru and Chile from 1777–1788. Noted botanist Hipólito Ruiz López (1745–1816) accompanied Pavón and together they discovered many new species of plants. The name *paludicola* basically means "swamp dweller," and relates to the mangrove swamps that this species inhabits.

Swampbush was first described as *Malache scabra* in 1772 but that name was later deemed to be illegitimate nomenclature. Botanist Dan Henry Nicolson (1933–) described it as *Pavonia paludicola* in 1989, but his initial description did not satisfy the

official rules for valid publication, so it was corrected and resubmitted successfully by botanist Paul Arnold Fryxell (1927–2011). Therefore, the name is officially cited as *Pavonia paludicola* Nicolson ex Fryxell.

Swampbush is not at all common in Florida, having only been vouchered in Collier, Miami-Dade, and mainland Monroe counties but it is widespread in the West Indies and the tropical Americas. Collections have been made in Florida as early as 1874 by botanist Edward Palmer (1839–1909) along Biscayne Bay, as well as other collections from Chapman Field Park, R. Hardy Matheson Preserve, the Deering Estate at Cutler, and Black Point, all along Biscayne Bay in Miami-Dade County. George N. Avery (1922–1983) and John Popenoe (1929–) found a population along the Turner River in 1972 and that remains the only known Collier County population. In Monroe County it occurs along the mangrove shorelines of Lostmans River (Lostmans Key), Rodgers River, and Broad River, all in Everglades National Park.

Swampbush, *Pavonia paludicola*



Photo by Roger Hammer

In May 1999 I was preparing to embark on my third solo canoe trip down the 99-mile Everglades Wilderness Waterway, from Chokoloskee to Flamingo in Everglades National Park, when my botanist friend, Keith Bradley, said I should paddle down the Rodgers River and look for *Pavonia paludicola* because it had not been reported from that region since botanist Frank Craighead saw it there in 1966. The third night of my excursion was spent camping on a wooden chickee in Rodgers River Bay, so at dawn on my fourth day I decided to alter my course by leaving the official wilderness waterway and taking the Rodgers River west to the Gulf of Mexico, then skirt the Gulf coast south and return to the wilderness waterway in the Broad River. I recall paddling leisurely along the scenic Rodgers River in my canoe when I spied a tree on the south bank that was clearly not a mangrove and, lo and behold, it was *Pavonia paludicola*. As I continued my journey west I paddled by dozens more of them

along both banks, and even saw three species of orchids growing on their boughs. These were *Encyclia tampensis*, *Polystachya concreta*, and *Prosthechea boothiana*.

I must say that seeing that bushy tree along the Rodgers River, about halfway between Chokoloskee and Flamingo, made the trip more memorable than it otherwise would have been. I saw several other specimens along the Broad River, where I watched a ruby-throated hummingbird sipping nectar and eating pollen from the small, dime-sized, green, hibiscus-like flowers. Because of its butterfly- and hummingbird-attracting attributes it's a shame that this state-listed endangered species is not available in the native-plant nursery trade. Until it is, our only alternative is to grow the related and very similar Bahama Swampbush (*Pavonia bahamensis*), endemic to the southern Bahamas and offered periodically through plant sales at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables.

The easiest place to see *Pavonia paludicola* is, in fact, at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden where it is planted alongside *Pavonia bahamensis*. You can find them easily this time of year by listening for the mouse-like twittering of ruby-throated hummingbirds as they guard their prized territory from intruders. Both are near one of the lakes in Plot 166 but *Pavonia paludicola* is labeled *Pavonia spicata*, an older synonym.

Roger Hammer is a retired Miami-Dade County naturalist, author, photographer, native plant aficionado and recipient of awards for his efforts on behalf of native plants. He is a long-time member and supporter of FNPS.

IN OUR YARDS IN LATE FALL

By Steve Woodmansee

Wondering what to do in November and December in your yard?

- **Consider leaving part of your lawn unmowed**, and watch the native wildflowers and weeds pop up. You will be surprised by the multitude of pollinators which visit.
- **Now is a good time to weed**, as they are less aggressive during the dry season.
- **I like to prune my shrubs one last time**, as plants don't grow as much in the winter.
- **Do you like to BBQ?** Wood from many of our native plants impart great flavor. Be mindful of which species are toxic. My favorite wood to use is from Buttonwood and Oaks. Even twigs work. Just add them to your coals.
- **Haven't mulched lately?** Now is a great time, as mulch helps reduce moisture loss during the dry season.
- **Consider buying a native tree or shrub for use as a Christmas tree.** The cost is about the same.
- **Create a water feature** such as a pond in your yard, cooler weather means less sweat! Water features greatly increase the amount of wildlife in your yard. Be sure and add mosquito fish to your pond, but wait at least one day.
- **Weather is awesome. Spend time outdoors!**

Steve Woodmansee is the biologist and owner of Pro Native Consulting (www.pronative.com), native plant expert, chair of the Dade Native Plant Workshop, and former president of the Florida Native Plant Society and the Dade Chapter. He is a frequent contributor to Tillandsia, speaker and field trip leader.

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TILLANDSIA

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Staff needed for general assistance. Please contact the editor.

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 blog: <http://www.fnpsblog.org>
FNPS is on Facebook and Twitter: FNPSonline
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Pine Rockland Plants and Insect Receive Endangered Listing

Four plants endemic to Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties are now listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. *Linum arenicola* (sand flax), *Euphorbia deltoidea* subsp *serpyllum* (wedge spurge) and *Chamaecrista lineata* var. *keyensis* (Big Pine partridge pea) were given endangered status, and *Argythamnia blodgettii* (Blodgett's silverbush) is threatened.

Also, the **Miami Tiger Beetle** is now listed as endangered.

See the FWS press releases for photos, details and to brush up on what it actually means to be listed:

- https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=fish-and-wildlife-service-listing-four-south-florida-plants-as-threatened-&_ID=35817
- https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=u.s.-fish-and-wildlife-service-to-list-miami-tiger-beetle-as-endangered-&_ID=35827

Also see the Institute for Regional Conservation website <http://regionalconservation.org> > Floristic Inventory of South Florida for photos and information about these plant species.