



Dade Chapter

# TILLANDSIA

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

OCTOBER 2019

## MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, October 22, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57 Ave. (Red Road), Miami

Free and open to the public

Refreshments begin at 7:15 p.m., merchandise sales before and after the program. The raffle follows the program.

Contributions of **raffle items** (native plants, non-plant items such as books, etc.) and **refreshments** are greatly appreciated.

**Please label your raffle plant donations.**

### “A Plant's Best Friends: Beneficial Microbes and Their Importance in South Florida Native Ecosystems”

- Dr. Michelle Afkhami, University of Miami

While microorganisms are invisible to the naked eye, they are everywhere and can have dramatic effects on plants and animals! Dr. Afkhami will talk about the importance of plant microbiomes -- the microbial communities that live on and inside of all plants -- for their health and success. She will give an overview of several key microbes that provide crucial benefits to plants, such as nutrient acquisition, protection against pests, and stress amelioration. She will also discuss the role of beneficial microbes for native plants in imperiled ecosystems of South Florida, such as the Pine Rocklands, Everglades Tree Islands, Mangrove Forests, and the Florida Scrub.

Dr. Afkhami is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at the University of Miami. She completed her masters and undergraduate degrees at Rice University, a PhD at the University of California in Davis, and a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship in plant genomics at University of Toronto and Michigan State University before accepting a faculty position at UM. Her research focuses on the role of beneficial microbes and their interaction with plants at scales ranging from genes to ecosystems.



**November 26:** “Florida’s Native Bromeliads” – Chuck McCartney, native plant enthusiast

## Calendar

### October

**12 (Sat.):** Yard visit, home of Rick Cohen (*new activity*)

**19 (Sat.):** Chapter workday at ENP (*volunteer*)

**19 (Sat.):** Field trip (w/ Broward Chap. - Pond Apple Slough)

**22 (Tue.):** Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

### November

**9-10 (Sat.-Sun.):** FTBG Fall Garden Festival/ Ramble - (*volunteer with DCFNPS!*)

**21 (Thur.):** Give Miami Day (*support DCFNPS*)

**26 (Tue.):** Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

### December:

(TBA) - Chapter workday at ENP

**Additional activities are being planned.**

### Other events of interest coming up soon

**Oct. 9:** Broward Chapter FNPS meeting

**Oct. 9 and ongoing:** FIU Plant Talks on many Wednesdays

**Oct. 9:** EEL workday

**Oct. 15:** Dade Native Plant Workshop

**Oct. 16:** EKIP training

**Oct. 17:** Keys Native Plant Workshop

**Oct. 20:** Tropical Audubon Member Migration

**Oct. 27:** Institute for Regional Conserv. 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary event

**Nov. 6:** Gifford Arboretum meeting

**Nov. 7-8:** Native Plant Show

### Can you help oversee the refreshments at chapter meetings?

Just donate a little time for set up before the meetings.

All supplies are provided. Please contact Gita

(gita.ramsay@gmail.com) or a board member at a meeting.

Everyone loves the potluck, so please let us know if you can help make the table ready. We're looking for short or long term help, or several people to alternate setup. Many thanks!

**Save the pots.** Recycle empty nursery pots by bringing to a meeting for others to take for growing more plants for the raffle.

## YARD VISIT

Saturday, October 12, 2019, 10 a.m. - noon

Garden of FNPS member

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

Questions? Contact Patty (pharespl@gmail.com, 305-878-5705)

## FIELD TRIP

**Broward Chapter FNPS trip** – As always, Dade members are invited and encouraged to attend. [coontie.fnpschapters.org/](http://coontie.fnpschapters.org/)

• **Oct. 19 (date change): Pond Apple Slough**, a Wonderful Wet Natural Area near Secret Woods (Linda Briggs and Jimmy Lange). This river wetlands adventure will offer wonderful flora and fauna. You may also get wet below the waist – always fun! See details on the Broward Chapter website.

## DCFNPS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Chapter workday, Everglades National Park**  
**Saturday, October 19, 2019, 9 a.m.-noon**

Help us enhance the entrance to ENP with restoration and maintenance of the native habitat at the **Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center**, begun in 2001. We will be pruning and weeding. We have water, hand tools and gloves, but bring your own if you prefer. Contact Patty (305-878-5705, [pharespl@gmail.com](mailto:pharespl@gmail.com)) with questions or if the weather is very questionable.

**Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Fall Garden Festival & Ramble, Nov. 9-10.** As always (since the 1980s) DCFNPS will have an educational display table. *Please volunteer either day, or to help set up on Friday. (Note that the days have been changed to Sat.-Sun. only.)* We will share a tent with Miami Blue NABA, and part of our message will highlight butterfly host and nectar plants. You do not need to be a plant or butterfly expert – learn on the job! *Please contact Gita ([gita.ramsay@gmail.com](mailto:gita.ramsay@gmail.com)) to volunteer by October 20.*

## DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS



**Welcome new members!** Daniela and Tom Champney, Louise Reece

**The Dade Chapter board will meet on October 20, 4 p.m.** If you'd like to attend or submit an agenda item, please contact either the president or vice president for details (see info box).

**Broward Chapter FNPS.** [coontie.fnpschapters.org/](http://coontie.fnpschapters.org/). Meets at Secret Woods, 2701 W. SR 84, Dania Beach.

• **Oct 9, 7 p.m. Meeting.** "Sustainable SITES Initiative, Environmental Standards for Landscaping" - Jonathan Burgess of ParadeloBurgess.com

• **Oct 19. Field trip** to Pond Apple Slough

• **Sabal Minor (bimonthly newsletter of FNPS).** The September - October 2019 issue was emailed Sept. 9. If you did not receive this issue but have a way to receive email, you can contact Patty to have it forwarded. ([pharespl@gmail.com](mailto:pharespl@gmail.com))  
Past issues are posted at FNPS.org under Resources.

• **FNPS 2019 Policy Advocacy Handbook.** This resource is on the [fnps.org](http://fnps.org) homepage, with a note from Eugene Kelly, Policy and Legislation Chair. Plan to help promote the importance of conserving natural areas through the Florida Forever Program to your legislative delegation before and during the next legislative session in January.

(The handbook is also under the tab Resources > Downloadable Documents > [FNPS Policies.](#))

• **FNPS 40th Annual Conference.** May 14-17, 2019. University of North Florida, Jacksonville.



## 7th Annual Native Plant Show

**Nov. 7-8, 2019 in West Palm Beach**

**Hosted by the Florida Association of Native Nurseries**  
[FloridaNativeNurseries.org](http://FloridaNativeNurseries.org) • [PlantRealFlorida.org](http://PlantRealFlorida.org)

See [nativeplantshow.com](http://nativeplantshow.com) for classes and registration details.

♦ **Landscape architects, designers, garden center owners, homeowners, and others involved with native landscape plants will find new information.**

♦ Different class tracks for industry professionals and property owners.

♦ Exhibits, native plant sale, books, garden items, social.

♦ Dade Chapter FNPS members Steve Woodmansee, Roger Hammer and George Gann will be presenting.

*The Native Plant Show is unlike any other native plant event!*



## The Institute for Regional Conservation's 35th Anniversary Celebration, Oct. 27, 3 – 6 p.m.

at the historic **Simpson Park** in Brickell.

*Join IRC as we all celebrate 35 years of working together on behalf of South Florida's biodiversity.*

Old, new and future friends of IRC are invited to this free event.  
RSVP and details: [regionalconservation.org/](http://regionalconservation.org/)

**3 p.m.** - "Biota Scavenger Hunt" or a leisurely stroll in the remnant of Brickell Hammock preserved in the park.

**4 p.m.** - Presentations and Reception with a look back on IRC's history and to its future, and socializing over refreshments.

Another event will be held Nov. 7 in Delray Beach.

*DCFNPS has enjoyed a close association with IRC since the 1980s. Through the years the IRC and its associates have graciously presented programs, led field trips, contributed to the newsletter, collaborated on events, filled chapter leadership positions and answered questions. And we can't begin to count the number of times members use the online resources Natives For Your Neighborhood and the Floristic Inventory of South Florida.*

*Come join the celebration!*

## MORE THINGS TO DO

*Learn about, enjoy and help native plants and natural areas.*

**Dade Native Plant Workshop.** MDC Kendall Campus Landscape Technology Center, third Tuesdays, **5 pm.** [nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/](http://nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/) or contact Steve Woodmansee at [steve@pronative.com](mailto:steve@pronative.com). Bring at least three cuttings or pots, which need not pertain to the topic. **All levels are welcome!**

**Oct. 15 topic:** Squash family (Cucurbitaceae) - for Halloween

**Tropical Audubon Society** - [www.tropicalaudubon.org](http://www.tropicalaudubon.org)

**Members Migration & Potluck Picnic, Oct. 20, 4 pm.** (non-members also invited) – with music and honoring citizens, volunteers and public officials for notable conservation efforts. **Also** birding trips and other activities. See details on the home page and calendar.

**Volunteer at Pinecrest Gardens.** The 12-acre public garden where our chapter meets invites members and friends to support a unique and historically significant tropical garden by joining their volunteer program. **Work in the nursery or in the gardens.** They also plan to restart their **docent program**, and volunteers can also assist **in educational programs**. You can help **regularly or occasionally**. Contact Harvey Bernstein (305-669-6990, [hbernstein@pinecrest-fl.gov](mailto:hbernstein@pinecrest-fl.gov)) or Lacey Bray (305-669-6990, [lbray@pinecrest-fl.gov](mailto:lbray@pinecrest-fl.gov))

**Keys Native Plant Workshop, Oct. 17, 5:30 pm.** Francis Tracy Garden Center at 94040 Overseas Highway (MM 94). Open to all but is for serious learning. **For details**, contact Jim Duquesnel ([jduquesn@fiu.edu](mailto:jduquesn@fiu.edu), 305-304-4445).

**Every Kid in a Park (EKIP).** Volunteer for this amazing program for 4<sup>th</sup> graders using interpretive tables at Everglades National Park (Royal Palm and Shark Valley). 305-242-7753, [Ever\\_Education@nps.gov](mailto:Ever_Education@nps.gov).

[Sign up](#) for required training (**Oct. 16**) at Zoo Miami.

**FIU Plant Talks.** Many Wednesdays, noon-1p.m. Fun and informative. See [faculty.fiu.edu/~kopturs/planttalk19.html](http://faculty.fiu.edu/~kopturs/planttalk19.html). **Upcoming: Oct 9** – Georgia Tasker “Orchids and Wrangel Island”; **Oct. 23** - “Botany and Forensic Science”; **Oct. 30** - “David Fairchild's Collection of Frangipani.” Everyone is welcome to come and to bring lunch.

**Environmentally Endangered Lands workdays:**  
[www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands-volunteer.asp](http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands-volunteer.asp) for information

**Oct 9:** [Eachus Pineland Preserve](#) SW 180 St. & 142 Ave.

**“Pollinators” - Original artworks by Tropical Botanic Artists.** Through January 13, 2020 at FIU Biscayne Campus, Glenn Hubert Library, 3000 NE 151 Street, North Miami, 33181. Open 7 days a week. Free.

This exhibition emphasizes the variety and variability of creatures that pollinate South Florida’s abundant plant life – birds, butterflies, moths, bees, wasps and aquatic zooplankton – with the plants they pollinate. It was previously showing in south Miami Dade and Key West.

**City of Miami Environmental volunteer workdays.**  
Simpson Park, 55 SW 17th Rd., **October 12 and 26.**

Register through [Eventbrite](#) or Gloria A. Antia ([gantia@miamigov.com](mailto:gantia@miamigov.com), 305-416-1317)

**Butterfly & Bird Day at Castellow Hammock Preserve & Nature Center, Dec. 7, 2019 – SAVE THE DATE**

Miami Blue Chapter, North Am. Butterfly Assoc. and Miami-Dade County Parks. Details TBA ([miamiblue.org/](http://miamiblue.org/))

## CASTELLOW HAMMOCK IS BACK!

Castellow Hammock Preserve & Nature Center (one of our most favorite Miami-Dade County parks) once again has a dedicated staff and programming. The park is at 22301 SW 162nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33170.

**Eric King** is the new Interpretive Program Supervisor (Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces). A host of activities are planned through November, and new exhibits will be coming to the nature center.



• **Saturdays -10am - free nature walk**

• 1st Sundays - Intro to Archery

• 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays - Campfire Owl Walk

• 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays - Eco-Action Day

• 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays – Bat Walk

Some activities have fees and/or

require registration.

Contact Eric at 305-242-7688 or [eric.king@miamidade.gov](mailto:eric.king@miamidade.gov) for more information. **Ask to receive the e-newsletter with announcements of activities.** You can also book special activities at [www.miamidade.gov/ecoadventures](http://www.miamidade.gov/ecoadventures) and click on the “Book and Adventure” box.

As always, you can visit the park on your own to look for birds, butterflies and plants. **On December 7**, attend Butterfly and Bird Day (details TBA at [miamiblue.org/](http://miamiblue.org/))

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## THE OVERLOOKED *CHAMAECRISTA NICTITANS*

By Chuck McCartney

September’s Dade Chapter field trip took us to the eastern edge of the pine rockland at Larry & Penny Thompson Memorial Park in southern Miami-Dade County. This section had burned within the past year and was recovering nicely. It now featured some interesting late-summer wildflowers, including lots of Butterfly Pea (*Centrosema virginiana*), Shortleaf Blazing Star (*Liatis tenuifolia* var. *quadriflora*), and the beautiful Lopsided Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum secundum*), along with a specimen of the rare Rockland Morning Glory (*Ipomoea tenuissima*), all of which I was able to photograph with varying degrees of success. But my favorite photo from that field trip was of a fairly nondescript and often overlooked small-flowered member of the

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Pea Family, *Chamaecrista nictitans*, commonly called the Sensitive Pea or the Hairy Partridge Pea. (below)

Like so many other people, in the past I had ignored this little



relative of the larger, showier Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*). However, as I continue my quest to build a more complete photographic library of native wildflowers, I decided now was the time to try to shoot it. The photos came out surprisingly well. However, while I was labeling the shots in preparation to store them in my digital file for the Fabaceae (the Pea Family), I discovered that there were two varieties listed for this species in *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida* by Richard Wunderlin and Bruce Hansen: var. *nictitans* and var. *aspera*. The key characters offered in that text to distinguish the two varieties were: 1) Plant incurved-puberulent to glabrate (var. *nictitans*) and 2) Plant conspicuously pilose (var. *aspera*).

My photos clearly showed the copious long, spreading hairs on the stems of the plant, so the one I shot was *Chamaecrista nictitans* var. *aspera*, which is apparently the more common form of the species, at least here in South Florida. The species may never win any beauty contest, but in its own way when observed up close, it's rather pretty, with its upright hairy stems and feathery pinnate leaves.

Roger Hammer, in his field guide to Everglades wildflowers, explains that the name *nictitans* means "blinking" or "moving," relating to the leaves that fold up at night, and that *aspera* means "rough," in reference to the coarse hairs on the stem and seed pods.

The same pineland with the *Chamaecrista nictitans* also produced a few flowering plants of a related species, the debatable *Chamaecrista deeringiana*, Deering's Partridge Pea. Wunderlin and Hansen lump this species into a broader concept

of the widespread common Partridge Pea, *Chamaecrista fasciculata*. However, the botanists of the local Institute for Regional Conservation have chosen to maintain *C. deeringiana* as a distinct species, arguing that the plant is perennial, unlike *C. fasciculata*, which is an annual. Another distinguishing characteristic for *C. deeringiana* is that the anther filaments are dark red, as opposed to mostly yellow in *C. fasciculata*.



The largely herbaceous genus *Chamaecrista* at one time was included in the now mostly woody genus *Cassia*. Its unusual generic name derives from a Greek word for "low" or "dwarf" and the Latin word for "crest," according to the late Daniel Austin in his encyclopedic *Florida Ethnobotany*.

### *Chamaecrista deeringiana*, Deering's Partridge Pea

Regarding the treatment of common names in this article, I have asked the editor to forgo the academic tradition of lowercasing such names. I feel that these names should be capitalized. To me, a Live Oak is not the same thing as a live oak.

*Chuck McCartney is a former editor of the American Orchid Society's AOS Bulletin and the Awards Quarterly and was a copy editor with The Miami Herald's Broward Edition, before retiring in 2009. He writes extensively about wildflowers and orchids for numerous publications and is a member of FNPS.*

#### DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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**At Large:** Janeen Feiger, Amy Leonard, Jeanne Rothchild, Jennifer Stine, Ian Wogan, Steve Woodmansee

**Dade Chapter – FNPS Council of Chapters:** vacant

**Refreshment coordinators:** **Volunteers needed**

**General chapter information:** 305-985-3677

**DCFNPS website & social media:** <http://dade.fnpschapters.org/>

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#### TILLANDSIA

**Editor:** Patty Phares ([pharespl@gmail.com](mailto:pharespl@gmail.com), 305-255-6404)

**Please contact the editor if you might like to join the Tillandsia staff!**

**Articles, announcements and news items** are invited for *Tillandsia* from Dade and Keys members. **Advertising rates** from \$12 per month.

#### FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

**FNPS office:** [info@fnps.org](mailto:info@fnps.org), 321-271-6702

**FNPS website, blog, social media:** <http://www.fnps.org>

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