



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

JANUARY 2014

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, January 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.

At this meeting we will have a special raffle and auction in support of the chapter's Conservation Grant Fund, so please come prepared to participate, to donate items to the raffle, or donate to the fund! See details on page 2.

"The effects of sea level rise on the federal endangered species *Chromolaena frustrata* in Everglades National Park"

- Kristie S. Wendelberger, Ph.D. Candidate, Biology at Florida International University

The Cape Sable thoroughwort (*Chromolaena frustrata*), a shrub in the Sunflower family, is endemic to South Florida. The only place in the world it exists is along the southern coast of



Everglades National Park and the Florida Keys. This plant resides in "upland" forests that are threatened by development, invasive species, and sea level rise. For these reasons, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the plant as Federally Endangered effective as of November 25, 2013. Kristie is studying the effects of increasing salinity levels on the germination and establishment of the species. This information will help us understand its

vulnerability to sea level rise as well as the conditions needed for regeneration in the advent we need to move the species to nearby higher grounds protected from rising seas.

Kristie has been interested in learning about plants since she was a little girl helping in her families backyard garden. The first plant she saved was a Red Maple seedling growing in a sidewalk crack in her front yard. At her insistence, her dad transplanted

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

Jan. 4 (Sat.): Annual Bolla/Gann holiday party (5 -9 p.m.)

Jan. 11 (Sat.): Visit to the FIU Nature Preserve

Jan. 18 (Sat.): Field trip to Secret Woods (Broward County)

Jan. 28 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Garden

Feb. 1 (Sat): Chapter workday, Everglades National Park

Feb. 15 (Sat.): Field trip to FL Keys cactus barrens sites

Feb. 25 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Garden

Mar. 22: 19th Annual Native Plant Day – please volunteer!

May 15-18: FNPS Annual Conference, Ft. Myers

the sapling to the backyard where it grows to this day, now taller than the house. She received her bachelor's degree at Ohio University in Environmental and Plant Biology and her master's degree in Ecology at the University of North Carolina. She has had many jobs in the plant world including spending four years at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden as a Rare Plant Biologist. With the completion of her doctorate, she hopes to continue her work protecting rare plant species and the habitats that harbor them. (Photo by K. Wendelberger)

NAMES OF NATIVE ORCHIDS – PART 1

By Chuck McCartney

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UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

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 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, January 18, 2014.

Secret Woods Nature Center in Dania Beach

This park opened in September 1978 as Broward County's first nature center. When part of the property was scheduled to become a parking lot in 1971, local citizens rallied around their "secret woods". With the help of The Nature Conservancy, Broward County and a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, there is now a 57-acre park containing an inland

freshwater cypress/maple wetland, a pond apple/mangrove community along the New River and a laurel oak hammock. There is also a 3800-square-foot walk-through butterfly garden. **Difficulty:** Easy, walking on trails and boardwalk.

Leader: Chuck McCartney

Bring: Lunch if you'd like to picnic afterward.

Lost/late? Try Patty's cell (305-878-5705)

• **Saturday, February 15, 2014.**

FDOT Florida Keys Cactus Barren restoration site

This site on Lower Matecumbe Key contains numerous unique and endangered plant species and has recently undergone a major invasive removal. We hope to visit another cactus barren in the Upper Keys and will stop at other parks along the way as time allows. Our leader is Stephen Hodges, who presented on the cactus barrens at our June 2013 chapter meeting. Details will be in the February *Tillandsia*.

VISIT TO FIU NATURE PRESERVE

Saturday, January 11, 2014.

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

This 14-acre environmental education facility at Florida International University represents the Florida Everglades with areas for Pine Rockland, Tropical Hardwood Hammock and Freshwater Wetlands habitat. The preserve contains 452 species of plants and animals, including 30 endangered and threatened plants. In addition, an organic garden incorporates a shadehouse, garden plots, fruit grove, meditation garden, compost, biofuels and aquaponics. While the preserve's main purpose is to serve as an outdoor classroom, it also is a popular spot for relaxation and recreation. The tour will be led by Ryan Vogel, FIU Nature Preserve Manager. Ryan says there are many butterflies, birds, reptiles and other wildlife. This is a joint activity of DCFNPS and the Miami Blue Chapter of NABA.

Difficulty: Easy, but trails are not paved.

More information: <http://gogreen.fiu.edu/topics/the-nature-preserve/index.html>.

See http://education.fiu.edu/directions_and_maps.html for more details on directions to the campus.

SUPPORT THE GANN CONSERVATION GRANT FUND IN JANUARY

This January, please join your fellow chapter members in supporting native plant conservation. The Dade Chapter will again fund an FNPS Conservation Grant Award, to be announced at the 2014 FNPS Annual Conference in May. The DCFNPS Gann Conservation Grant Fund is in honor of chapter founders Joyce and Don Gann. Last year we contributed \$2340 – almost enough for two awards. Let's do it again!

At the January 28 meeting:

• Participate in the special raffle and auction. There might be some rare finds!

• Bring interesting plants or native plant-related items for the raffle. (But save some for Native Plant Day.)

• Or make a monetary donation (cash, check or credit card all work) at the meeting.

All proceeds will go towards to the Conservation Grant Fund.

Any time (but especially in January):

Mail a contribution to:

Dade Chapter, FNPS

6619 S Dixie Highway #181

South Miami FL 33146-7919

Please make your check payable to DCFNPS and note that it is for the "Gann Fund."

FNPS Conservation Grants support applied native plant conservation projects which promote the preservation, conservation, or restoration of rare or imperiled native plant taxa and rare or imperiled native plant communities in Florida. Your donation is 100% tax deductible. Thanks for your help.

19th Annual Native Plant Day

Saturday, March 23, 2014

Elaine Gordon Enchanted Forest Park

1725 NE 135 St., North Miami

Save the date and share with your friends now!

As always, the event is **FREE**.

Co-sponsored by:

The Dade Chapter FNPS and the City of North Miami

As always, we will have interesting activities, programs and walks for all. If you have suggestions for speakers especially appropriate for this location, please contact Ted Shaffer (tedshaffer@bellsouth.net)

How can you help now?

• **Pot up plants** for the chapter to sell or raffle. We hope you'll have your best specimens for us. Also look for other non-plant nature or gardening-related items (books, art, tools, etc.)

• **Suggest a speaker** or offer to **conduct a walk** (contact Ted Shaffer, see above).

• Volunteer a few hours to **help organize the event** (contact Amy Leonard: 305-458-0969, aleonar74@yahoo.com).

• **Stick address labels on postcards** (date TBA, contact Amy or Gita to volunteer).

• **Deliver a stack of postcards** to a local business - they'll be available at the February meeting (please contact Amy in advance).

• Plan to **help set up** on March 21 - contact Amy.

• Assist in contacting and **scheduling volunteers** (contact Gita Ramsay: gita.ramsay@gmail.com, 786-877-7168)

• **Raise butterfly or moth caterpillars** feeding on native plants (contact Patty Phares to find out how to help with this; 305-255-6404, pphares@mindspring.com)

Tip:
**Do you plan to donate plants from your yard
for the Native Plant Day raffle?**

Be sure to groom potted plants and finish potting up volunteers as soon as possible – this month!
Newly-potted plants can need a couple months to get established, especially this time of year.

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

Welcome new members: Lisa Ayuso, Gisela Haynes, Ann House and Jose Perez, Stephanie LaRusso, Chi Ngo, Bob Mitchell (transferring from the Naples Chapter), and Maura Vo (all residing in Miami-Dade). Thank you to all who have renewed and rejoined. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Dade Chapter board will meet January 26. All chapter members are welcome to attend or to send suggestions for items for the board to consider. Please contact president Buck Reilly (buck@habify.com, 786-291-4824).

Everglades National Park DCFNPS workday, February 1, 9 a.m. -noon. Help the chapter enhance the entrance to a national park and enjoy the finest weather of the year. 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 – it's a great time to check out wildlife on the Anhinga Trail. Contact Patty 305-255-6404, pphares@mindspring.com if you have questions (305-878-5705 cell, for the morning of the workday only).

FNPS announcements

- The January-February 2014 issue of the FNPS newsletter **Sabal Minor is available** for download at http://fnps.org/assets/pdf/sabalminor/sabalminor16_1_2014.pdf. If you need assistance, please contact FNPS Administrative Services (info@fnps.org, 321-271-6702).
- See www.fnps.org for interesting reads, such as the latest (2012) **Annual Report**, a Broward **rare plants video** and the latest from the **FNPS blog**.
- **Christopher Waltz**, Conradina Chapter member, has joined FNPS Administrative Services.
- Save the date for the **Annual FNPS Conference** in Fort Myers on the Florida Gulfcoast University campus, May 15-18, 2014. Marlene Rodak and her Coccoloba team are working especially hard to make this year's event extra green, extra fun and affordable.
- **FNPS 2014 Endowment Grant Research Awards and Conservation Grant Awards.** Applications and details are at www.fnps.org > Participate/Grants and Awards. Questions should be sent to info@fnps.org. Application deadline is March 7.

- **Call for Research Track Papers and Poster Presentations** - Florida Native Plant Society 2014 Conference. Presented papers will be on May 16 and 17 and the poster session on May 17. Abstracts should be submitted by February 1. See www.fnps.org for details.

- THANKS so much to everyone who has contributed to our **Annual Fund Drive**. It's never too late to give and we will gratefully accept your new year donations!

- See the **online FNPS calendar** for both society and other chapters' events.

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.

Jan. 21 topic: Bromeliaceae (Bromeliad family). Many species are listed, so please bring in cultivated material only.

Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Volunteer Workdays. Help make a difference in protecting our natural areas at preserves all over Miami. Learn about our native habitats, and students can earn community service. Please register at EEL@Miamiidade.gov or call 305-372-6611. Info and calendar: <http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands-volunteer.asp>

- 1/17 – Arch Creek Park, 1855 NE 135 St (trail maintenance)
- 2/7 – Hattie Bauer Hammock, 26715 SW 157 Ave (trail maintenance)
- 2/8 – Crandon Preserve, 6767 Crandon Blvd (coin vine removal)

Friends of the Gifford Arboretum. February 5. Dr. Suzanne Koptur from FIU will present on "Pollination Mechanisms and Plant/Animal Interactions in the Apocynaceae (Milkweed Family)." Social at 7 p.m. followed by the program. Cox Science Bldg., Room 166. Univ. of Miami. For directions: www.bio.miami.edu/arboretum or 305-284-1302.

Miami Blue Chapter, North American Butterfly Association (www.miamiblue.org; MiamiBlueEvents@bellsouth.net).

- **Quarterly Meeting, February 2**, 1-3 p.m. Castellow Hammock Park, 22301 SW 162 Ave. FIU Ph.D. candidate Jaeson Clayborn will speak about **ants and their relationships with butterflies**. Come early to explore the butterfly garden. The public is invited.
- **Tour of Possum Trot, February 1**, 10 a.m. FIU proposes to restore habitats for several endangered butterflies at Possum Trot, a private 30-acre tropical fruit grove, by removing invasive weeds and planting nearly 3000 plants that benefit these butterflies. A sizable part of Possum Trot is a hardwood

hammock. FIU will partner with Miami Blue. DCFNPS members are invited to attend and learn about this project. Address: 14955 SW 214 St., Miami 33187

The Institute for Regional Conservation - Pine Rockland Initiative Workshop, February 22 (morning). Interested FNPS members are invited, even if they are not pineland owners. The workshop will be held at the recently-burned pineland of Terry and Barbara Glancy in the Redland. Pineland management experts share their knowledge, and there may an opportunity to visit an IRC-owned pineland in Florida City. Please contact Sarah Martin at martin@regionalconservation.org or 305-505-9192. Read more about the Pine Rockland Initiative at <http://regionalconservation.org/ircs/aboutus/PRI.asp>.

Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park 23rd Annual Lecture Series: "The Delicate Balance of Nature". Wednesdays through March 26, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, MM 102.5 Overseas Highway. Gate opens at 7 p.m. Free but seating is limited. More details: 305-451-9570 or http://floridastateparks.org/pennkamp/doc/additionalinformation/jpc-2014_agenda_-_lecture_series.pdf.

- 1/15: What if an oil spill happened in the Florida Keys?
- 1/22: Why working with Cuban scientists is important for the Keys
- 1/29: Cloud formation
- 2/5: Everglades restoration

The National Park Service *still* needs torchwood (*Amyris elemifera*) seeds to restore a larval food of the Schaus swallowtail butterfly. Keep them coming - not all seeds are viable, so it takes a lot. If you know of someone else who may have a torchwood, please pass the word along.

Fruit are ready to harvest when they are about 0.5-1cm long and purple/black. Harvest up to half the mature fruit at a time, leaving some food for the birds. Place them in a paper bag and contact Helena Giannini, 786-249-3013, hgiannini@nps.gov.

NAMES OF NATIVE ORCHIDS – PART 1

By Chuck McCartney

Scientific names of naturally occurring plants (and animals, too) seem to “scare” the average person when they really shouldn’t. In botany, the first part of the italicized name (the genus) is always capitalized. The second part (the species) is always lowercased (in modern usage), even when it’s derived from a proper name. Thus, the Dollar Orchid of Miami-Dade and Monroe counties is *Prosthechea boothiana*, even though the species is named in honor of William Beattie Booth, the grower for wealthy 19th English orchidist Sir Charles Lemon. (The rules for names of man-made hybrids and cultivated varieties are different.)

These seemingly strange-looking plant names are made up primarily of Latin or Greek words, with some names derived from the names of people or places. But if you understand the

meanings of these plant names, they might not be so intimidating. Here are the meanings of the scientific names for some of South Florida’s more well-known species of tropical epiphytic (tree-growing) orchids:

Epidendrum nocturnum: The name for this largest-flowered Florida member of this genus comes from the Greek words *epi* (upon) and *dendron* (tree) and literally means “upon a tree,”



Photo by Chuck McCartney

referring to the fact that most of the 1,400-plus members of this New World group grow as epiphytes, using a tree as a support. The species name (epithet), *nocturnum*, for the **Night-Scented Epidendrum** comes from the Latin word for “night,” referring to the alluring incense-like nocturnal fragrance emitted by the flowers to entice their moth pollinators through the darkness.

Encyclia tampensis: This most common of South Florida’s epiphytic orchids takes its genus name from the Greek words meaning “to encircle,” indicating how the side lobes of the lip (the odd petal) of the flower grow around the bloom’s central reproductive structure (called a column) in many species of this



Photo by Chuck McCartney

New World group. The species epithet denotes the Tampa Bay region from which the first plant of this species was sent to England, where it was described in 1847 (as an *Epidendrum*). This is the species often commonly called the **Florida Butterfly Orchid**, although, oddly, it looks nothing like a butterfly and is not pollinated by butterflies.

***Prosthechea cochleata*:** This genus name for the **Clamshell Orchid** may not look familiar to longtime orchid enthusiasts because it previously was placed in *Epidendrum* and later *Encyclia*. *Prosthechea* comes from the Greek for an appendage



Photo by Shirley Denton

or addition, referring to the appendage of tissue located on the back of the reproductive column of the flower. The species epithet comes from the Greek word for “shell” (think of marine cockleshells), referring to the upward-pointing, dark-purplish lip of the flower, which has a distinctly clamshell-like appearance.

(Continued next month)

**Okaloacoochee Slough, Hendry County
Dade Chapter field trip
November 17, 2013**

Photos by Richard Brownscombe, Broward Chapter FNPS

Slogging through the slough



Utricularia purpurea, Eastern Purple Bladderwort



DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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Refreshment coordinators: Cheryl & Ben Morgan (ckmorg@bellsouth.net)

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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

FNPS Website: www.fnps.org

FNPS blog: www.fnpsblog.org

FNPS is on Facebook and Twitter: FNPSonline

Dade Chapter rep. to FNPS: Lauren McFarland

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Check out the Broward Chapter newsletter each month. In the January 2014 issue you can read all about **carnivorous plants** and enjoy some great photos.

<http://www.npsbroward.org/Pete/PIX/E/NPS/lores/NewsLtr.htm>