



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

FEBRUARY 2014

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, February 25, 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.

We will continue the special raffle and auction in support of the chapter's Conservation Grant Fund, so please participate, donate items or donate to the fund.

*A New Look at the Mint Family (Lamiaceae)
– Roger Hammer*

The Mint Family (Lamiaceae) has undergone some recent revisions with some members of the Verbenaceae (Verbena Family) being moved into this rather well-known plant family. Thirty-seven genera are represented by this plant family in Florida and some are widely cultivated by butterfly gardeners and even grown as potherbs to add to stews and soups or to make refreshing teas. This program will highlight many of the more interesting mints found growing wild in the Sunshine State.



Forked Blue Curls (*Trichostema dichotomum*)
– Roger Hammer

Roger Hammer is a retired Miami-Dade County naturalist, author, photographer, and native plant aficionado. He is the author of *Everglades Wildflowers, Florida Keys Wildflowers, A Falcon Guide to Exploring Everglades National Park, Florida Icons: Fifty Classic Views of the Sunshine State* and wildflower identification cards for different parts of Florida. He received the first Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award in 1982 from the Dade Chapter FNPS for "education, research, promotion, and preservation of native plants"; a Green Palmetto Award in Education from FNPS in 2003; a Lifetime Achievement Award from DCFNPS, Tropical Audubon Society

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

Feb. 15 (Sat.): Field trip to FL Keys cactus barrens sites
Feb. 25 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Garden
Mar. 15 (Sat): Field trip (Everglades National Park)
Mar. 21 (Fri): Set up for Native Plant Day – volunteer
Mar. 22 (Sat): 19th Annual Native Plant Day – please volunteer and prepare plant donations now!
Mar. 25 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Garden
Mar. 30 (Sun): Field trip (Fakahatchee Strand prairies)
Apr. 12-13 (Sat.-Sun.): Chapter display at FTBG Butterfly Festival
May 15-18: FNPS Annual Conference, Ft. Myers

and Miami Blue Chapter–North American Butterfly Association in 2011; and an Honorary Doctor of Science from FIU in 2012. Roger is a long-time member and supporter of FNPS.

NAMES OF NATIVE ORCHIDS – PART 2

By Chuck McCartney
Page 4

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, February 15, 2014. Florida Keys Cactus Barren sites and Windley Key.**

Stop #1: A Florida Department of Transportation restoration site on **Lower Matecumbe Key that contains a Florida Keys Cactus Barren**, along with a unique wetland area, coastal berm and mangrove fringe. The site is one of the few attempts to restore this rare habitat and will give the opportunity to see some of the challenges faced in the restoration process. Numerous rare and endangered plant species are present at the site, including the Florida Keys indigo, Yucatan fly mallow, Poepigg's rosemallow and Limestone flatsedge. The wetland

area contains species that have been documented for the first time in the Florida Keys, or have only been sparingly observed.

Stop #2: The nearby **Snake Creek Hammock** (pending permission from FWC) where another more ecotonal cactus barren can be observed with other unique species.

Stop #3: Windley Key Fossil Reef Geological State Park (MM 84.9). Eat your picnic lunch (and our traditional cheap cookies), enjoy the exposed fossils and walk the easy but interesting hammock trail.

Stephen Hodges, field botanist for Fairchild Botanic Garden and conservation botanist for the Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden, will lead us at the cactus barrens. He presented on these sites at our June 2013 meeting.

Difficulty: Mostly easy – short distances at the cactus sites, terrain is not rough. Windley Key trail is approximately 1 mile.

Bring: Water, sun protection, lunch if you'd like to picnic later.

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

• **Saturday, March 15, 2014. Everglades National Park.** Chuck McCartney will lead a trip in search of orchids to follow his March 12 presentation to the Broward Chapter. Dade Chapter members are invited to the program and field trip. Details will be in the March *Tillandsia*, or see www.npsbroward.org.

• **Sunday, March 30, 2014. Fakahatchee Strand - prairie walk** (not a slough slog). Details in the March *Tillandsia*

NATIVE PLANT DAY Make it the best one ever!

DCFNPS's 19th Native Plant Day will be on March 22, 2014, at Enchanted Forest Elaine Gordon Park, 1725 NE 135 St., North Miami, co-sponsored by the City of North Miami. Our FREE annual public outreach and education day has activities for all ages: walks, programs, plants for sale, and more. Bring your family and friends to enjoy this day of learning and fun. Our program will be on the chapter website closer to the event - be sure to share it far and wide!

As a chapter member, you can help make the day a big success:

• **February 25: Give a bit your time to place address labels on postcards that we mail out.** We'll meet at Pinecrest Gardens at 5:45 p.m. before our regular meeting. Contact Amy to RSVP.

• **Help distribute stacks of postcards.** Pick some up any time after February 25th and give them to friends, place them at your grocery store, doctor's office, library, church or other well-trafficked area (with permission, of course). Contact Amy or pick some up at the February meeting at Pinecrest Gardens.

• **Help set up on Friday afternoon, March 21.** We need about a half-dozen people to help us prepare the day before NPD. Setting up the raffle and other stations, as well as moving tables and hanging signs are easy yet essential things to be done. Contact Amy.

• **Loan butterfly larvae, potted host/nectar plants or other interesting display plants or items.** Contact Patty.

• **Raffle and plant sale donations:** We sell plants and nature-related items (in addition to our usual merchandise selection) to raise funds for the chapter. We also raffle some of the best and most rare plant specimens and gardening items you'll find. Please groom your plants now or look through your gently used items to prepare. Contact Amy if you need to drop them off in advance of the event and so we can prepare for the selection you'll bring.

• **Help at Native Plant Day, March 22:** We will need about 40 volunteers at the event. If you can give us part of your morning or afternoon, you'll still have plenty of time to enjoy the event! Please contact Gita if you, your family members, or a group of young people you know might give some time.

Contact information:

Amy Leonard (305-458-0969 or aleonar74@yahoo.com)
Patty Phares (305-255-6404 or pphares@mindspring.com)
Gita Ramsay (786-877-7168 or gita.ramsay@gmail.com).

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

Chapter trips on the FNPS blog. New transplant to Miami-Dade (and Social Media Sub-Committee chair for FNPS), **Laurie Sheldon**, recently described her experiences with learning a new flora on our field trips in January. Meet her online (if you haven't in person) and even learn about some plants in her recent blog post. See <http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/2014/01/a-new-chapter.html>.

Do you receive a paper *Tillandsia*? If so, you may be missing out on the **color photos** accompanying many articles. See them at <http://dade.fnpschapters.org> or consider switching to electronic delivery. It saves funds (about \$9 per year per person) and even some labor to fold and mail. Please contact info@FNPS.org to change your chapter newsletter or *Sabal* *Minor* delivery preference.

Support native plant conservation by contributing to the Dade Chapter's conservation fund, which in turn funds FNPS Conservation Grant Awards, to be announced at the 2014 FNPS Annual Conference in May. Our chapter's fund honors founders Joyce and Don Gann. Please make your check payable to DCFNPS and note that it is for the "Gann Fund." Mail to:
Dade Chapter, FNPS
6619 S Dixie Highway #181, South Miami FL 33146-7919

Broward Native Plant Society, February 12, 7 pm, at Secret Woods, 2701 W. SR 84, Dania Beach. "**The Spanish Moss Industry - a fascinating story of one Florida native plant that made it big, twice**" – by Dr. Kristine Stewart. www.npsbroward.org.

Naples Chapter 5th Annual Banquet and Lecture, February 28, 2014. Dr. Doug Tallamy: "Are Alien Plants Bad?" See www.NaplesFNPS.org or call 239-597-7222. You may attend the lecture only or the full evening.

CHAPTER POSITIONS OPEN

A message from Lauren McFarland

I am saying "goodbye", as I have moved away from Miami-Dade. I am really going to miss this group -- the meetings, plants raffles, the great field trips and all our other wonderful activities! The Dade group truly has a special set of plants, habitats and people. Now I have to learn a whole new palette of plants. And I must also pass the torch on several duties:

- 1. Board member.** This is a great way to add your input to our local activities. You don't need any special skills, just a willingness to get involved. And it's fun.
- 2. Chapter Representative for the state FNPS.** With the recent FNPS reorganization, the Chapter Rep will be a very important part of planning for the whole organization and connecting chapters throughout the state. It's educational and enjoyable, you meet great people, and there is a yearly planning retreat (at an interesting plant venue) for all chapter reps.
- 3. Handling emailing** of the chapter newsletter link, meeting reminders or chapter information.
- 4. Making new member nametags** for the monthly meeting.

Contact our president, Buck Riley (buck@habify.com), to volunteer to give any of these rewarding jobs a try. If your travels find you in the Gainesville, FL, area, feel free to stop by.

Lauren McFarland lauren@ilcs.net

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.
Feb. 18 topic: Amaranthaceae (Amaranth family). This family includes many coastal species such as joyweed, samphire, glasswort, globe amaranth and other amaranths.

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

- 2/7 – Hattie Bauer Hammock, Redland (trail maintenance)

- 2/8 – Crandon Preserve, Key Biscayne (coin vine removal)
- 3/8 – Deering Estate, Palmetto Bay (coastal cleanup)

Tropical Audubon Society. For more info on these or other activities, see www.tropicalaudubon.org or call 305-667-7337. Doc Thomas House, 5530 Sunset Dr., Miami, 33143.

- **Native Plant Sale:** Feb. 8, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Feb. 9, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., **food trucks** 4-8p.m. **Rain barrel workshop** on Saturday.
- **Porter-Russell Pine Rockland Preserve walk, Feb. 8.**
- **Conservation actions need your support** -- including asking the National Park Service for a plan that safeguards, rather than exploits, Biscayne Bay.

The Institute for Regional Conservation - Pine Rockland Initiative Workshop, February 22 (morning). *Interested FNPS members are invited, even if they are not pineland owners.* Learn from pineland management experts and visit pinelands in the Redland. 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/pennekamp/doc/additionalinformation/jpc-2014_agenda_-_lecture_series.pdf.

- 2/12 - Carnivorous Plants by Dr. George J. Wilder
- 2/19 - Why Is Bird Migration Unique in the Florida Keys?
- 2/26 - Spotted Eagle Ray Research
- 3/5 - Increasing Freshwater Flow in Florida Bay Mangrove Lake Estuaries

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. Contact Helena Giannini, 786-249-3013, hgiannini@nps.gov.

ALERT!

The National Park Service is considering making Everglades National Park smaller.

Florida Power & Light owns land within the current boundary of Everglades National Park (ENP). The National Park Service has a critical need for this land in order to complete several regional restoration projects, including the one to put more water into ENP using the new Tamiami Trail bridge and the additional Tamiami Trail bridges now being planned.

FPL bought the land decades ago and has been planning to use it to build a new transmission line connecting the Turkey Point power plant complex to transmission lines on the north side of

Miami-Dade County. The National Park Service (NPS) has tried to buy the land but FPL has never agreed to a sale price. Instead, FPL has proposed a land swap with the National Park Service to exchange FPL's holdings, which are located well inside the park boundary, for NPS-owned land on the eastern edge of the park. FPL is part-way through the process to obtain state and federal approvals for transmission lines to be located on the eastern edge of ENP in the lands to be swapped. Congress has voted to allow this land swap IF the Secretary of the Interior concurs, and contingent on any conditions that the Secretary of the Interior puts on the swap.

THIS IS A BIG DEAL. This action is not consistent either with the law that established Everglades National Park or the law that allowed ENP's expansion into the East Everglades. It sets a precedent that the United States can cut pieces out of a national park to benefit private interests. It could mean that national parks might not be preserved forever. This land transfer would make it easier for FPL to put high tension transmission lines on the eastern boundary of ENP, close to an area where many birds, including the endangered wood stork and Everglades snail kite, are feeding and nesting. The birds would be at risk for being killed by collision with the power lines. It would also cut off public access to the eastern boundary of ENP south of Tamiami Trail by putting a wide swath of private land between the publicly-owned levee that provides access to the area and the adjusted eastern boundary of the park. The only way to stop this is to make many voices heard, **LOUD AND CLEAR.**

The National Park Service (NPS) has just released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) analyzing the potential impacts of the land swap with FPL. The DEIS contains several alternatives, but none is selected as preferred. **NPS IS LOOKING FOR YOUR INPUT IN ORDER TO CHOOSE.**

How you can help:

- **Download the Draft EIS** at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=37220>. Review it. The Executive Summary provides an overview if you don't have time for a detailed review.
- **Attend the Public Meeting and express your opinion.**
Date: February 19, 2014 Time: 5:30 to 8:30 pm
Location: Florida International University-Stadium Club
11310 Southwest 17th Street, Miami Florida, 33199
The Stadium Club is located within the FIU Football Stadium between gates 2 and 3.
- **Prepare written comments and submit them before March 18, 2014.** You may enter your comments directly online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/EVER>. You may also comment via mail to: Everglades National Park FPL Project Planning Team, Attn: Morgan Elmer (DSC-P), P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287; or by hand delivery to Park headquarters, at 40001 State Road 9336, Homestead, FL 33034-6733.

Contact Gwen Burzycki (786-216-2385 or cosmicbotanist@hotmail.com) for more information.

NAMES OF NATIVE ORCHIDS – PART 2

By Chuck McCartney - Photos by the author

[See Part 1 in the January 2014 *Tillandsia*, featuring *Epidendrum nocturnum* (Night-Scented Epidendrum), *Encyclia tampensis* (Florida Butterfly Orchid), and *Prosthechea cochleata* (Clamshell Orchid)]

The seemingly strange-looking italicized scientific names of plants are a turn-off at first for some beginners, but they shouldn't be. If you understand the meaning of those unfamiliar words, maybe they'll be less intimidating. Here are the meanings for some of South Florida's more well-known epiphytic (tree-growing) orchids:

***Oncidium ensatum*:** This species is one of the exceptions to the word "epiphytic." Most members of this big New World genus, which now numbers approximately 317 species due to recent taxonomic realignments, are epiphytes. However, in Florida, this species is generally found growing on (not in) the ground, even



though on rare occasions it has been seen growing epiphytically as well. The genus name comes from the Greek word *oncos*, meaning a swelling or tumor (also the source for the word "oncologist," a doctor specializing in the treatment of tumors). For the orchids, the name refers to the callus, or swelling of tissue, near the top of the flower's lip, which functions in the orchid's pollination mechanism. This native of Florida, Cuba and

the Bahamas has long been known as *Oncidium floridanum* (named for the state of Florida), but now orchid scientists believe it is the same as the Mexican/northern Central American *Oncidium ensatum*. That species name comes from the Latin word for a type of sword, referring to the long, sword-like leaves on the large plants of this beautiful yellow-flowered orchid.

***Ionopsis utricularioides*:** Both names of this pretty little

Oncidium relative compare it to the flowers of other plants. The genus name comes from the Greek words *ion* (violet) and *opsis* (having the appearance or likeness of) because to German botanist Carl Sigismund Kunth, who created the genus in 1815, the flowers resembled some of the true violets in the genus *Viola*. (Remember that so-called African Violets in the gesneriad genus *Saintpaulia* are unrelated to true violets.)



Swedish botanist Olof Swartz's 1788 species name for what he called *Epidendrum utricularioides* compares the flowers of this orchid to those of some species of carnivorous Bladderwort in the genus *Utricularia*. Worldwide, many *Utricularia* species do have pretty bilaterally symmetrical, orchid-like flowers. The *-oides* suffix on the end of the orchid's species name is similar to *-opsis* in the generic name and indicates a resemblance to something else.

***Cyrtopodium punctatum*:** This largest of Florida's tropical epiphytic orchids is commonly called the Cowhorn Orchid or Cigar Orchid because of the shape of the large, elongate pseudobulbs that, when leafless in the winter, do, indeed, resemble either of those well-known objects.



This New World genus takes its name from a combination of the Greek words *kyrtos* (curved) and *podion* (little foot), referring to the curved "column foot" at the back of the reproductive column that connects it to the lip. The species epithet comes from the Latin word *punctatus*, meaning "pricked" or "spotted," alluding to the prominently speckled flowers of the species.

DADE CHAPTER FNPS: 2013 IN REVIEW

Chapter activities included:

- **Monthly meetings** with programs covering ants, art, butterflies, cactus, conservation, endemic plants, landscaping, orchids and plant diseases; and July's **Annual Evening Yard Visit and Social meeting**.
- **Monthly field trips** - from watching the waters flow in the Deering Estate rehydration and wading in the waters of the Okaloacoochee Slough, to botanizing in parks and privately-owned pinelands.
- **Newsletters** with articles on topics ranging from insects for native plant pollination to an award-winning landscape.
- **Yard visits** to gain inspiration from chapter members' beautiful landscaping with native plants.
- **Workdays at Everglades National Park** every other month for the Chapter's landscaping/restoration project at the Coe Visitor Center (completing its 13th year).
- **Workdays at Bill Sadowski Park** to restore the native tree arboretum.
- **The 18th Native Plant Day**, this time at Bill Sadowski Park.
- **Other events:** John Pennekamp State Park Native Plant Day/Earth Day; Pinecrest Gardens Earth Day; MDC-

Homestead Day of the Young Child; Air Base Elementary School Green Education Fair; MDC-Wolfson Hispanic Heritage Month celebration of *La Florida*; Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's Ramble; 9th Annual four-organization holiday picnic.

2013 news of note:

- **The Dade Chapter donated \$2340 to the FNPS 2013 Conservation Grant Awards fund**, which funded 81% of the two grants awarded in 2013. Donations to the chapter's fund were made in honor of chapter founders Joyce and Don Gann.
- **Chapter members Dave and Louise King received a "Landscape Award of Excellence"** for their native plant landscape at the 2013 FNPS Annual Conference in Jacksonville.



Deering Estate rehydration field trip, October 2013
– Ybis Sanabria

DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

President: Buck Reilly (buck@habify.com, 786-291-4824)

Vice President: Kurt Birchenough

Secretary: Gita Ramsay (gita.ramsay@gmail.com, 786-877-7168)

Treasurer: Susan Walcutt (walcutts@bellsouth.net)

At Large: Amida Frey, Amy Leonard, Surey Rios, Eric von Wettberg, Vivian Waddell

Past President: Ted Shaffer

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

Membership: Patty Phares (pphares@mindspring.com, 305-255-6404)

General chapter information: 786-340-7914

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/dadefnps>

Twitter and Instagram: @dcfnps or Dade Native Plants

DCFNPS Website: <http://dade.fnpschapters.org/>

DCFNPS e-mail: dadefnps@gmail.com

Mailing address: Dade Chapter FNPS, 6619 South Dixie Hwy, #181, Miami FL 33143-7919

Webmaster: Haniel Pulido dadefnpsweb@gmail.com

TILLANDSIA

Interim Editor: Patty Phares (pphares@mindspring.com, 305-255-6404)

Assistant editor: vacant

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: vacant

© 2014 Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society, Inc.