



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

JUNE 2014

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, June 24, 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. *Your contributions to the raffle and refreshments are always needed and greatly appreciated.*

**"The secret lives of Miami's rare native ferns"
– Jennifer Possley, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden**

Miami's small County preserves are home to 25 threatened and endangered fern species. Many of the wild populations have just a few dozen individuals! A chance event such as a hurricane, pest outbreak, or even just moving a pile of fill could easily wipe out an entire population. Monitoring wild populations and building a representative collection of these ferns in the Garden is paramount. Join Jennifer Possley, a field biologist and member of Fairchild's "Conservation Team" as she takes you on a virtual tour to some of Miami's remaining fern grottoes and describes the work Fairchild is doing to preserve the remaining rare ferns.

Jennifer has been a field biologist at Fairchild since 2001. She maps and monitors the rare flora of Miami-Dade County and researches the effects of vegetation management. She has special interests in ferns and as well as non-native invasive plants. Prior to joining Fairchild's staff, she received a B.A. in biology from Kalamazoo College and a M.S. in agronomy from the University of Florida. She is originally from the village of Dexter, Michigan. She is a member of FNPS.



CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

June 14 (Sat.): Chapter workday, Everglades National Park

June 21 (Sat.): Field trip (The Barnacle)

June 24 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

July 12 (Sat.): Chapter workday, Everglades National Park

July 19 (Sat.): Field trip (Arch Creek and Enchanted Forest)

July 27 (Sun.): Annual Evening Yard Visit and Social meeting

Aug. 16 (Sat.): Chapter workday, Everglades National Park

You can help preserve a rare fern featured in Jennifer's program ... Call for Volunteers:

Volunteers are needed on **Wednesday, June 18**, 9 a.m. to noon, to help Fairchild and Miami-Dade County plant over 100 endangered *Thelypteris patens* at the Deering Estate. If you are interested in participating or would like to learn more, please contact Jennifer at jpossley@fairchildgarden.org.

July 27, 4-7 p.m.: Annual Evening Yard Visit and Social meeting at the home of Bill Shores (west of Zoo Miami). Enjoy a potluck dinner and a beautiful yard. Details in the July *Tillandsia*.

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

UPCOMING FIELD TRIP

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 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, June 21, 2014, 9:30 a.m.: The Barnacle Historical State Park. We will explore the small natural rockland hammock and coastal area with **Steve Woodmansee**. The residence of early pioneer Commodore Ralph Monroe, it is a time capsule from the late 1800's surrounded by modern city. Many rare plants can be found here. Later, you can enjoy a tour of the historical home and grounds (11:30, 1:00, 2:30; \$3/adult). You may bring a picnic lunch, or some may go to a restaurant.
Park Admission: \$2/person (bring correct change). Street parking or lot across the street - carpool to save the parking fee.
Difficulty: Easy
Plant list: The Institute for Regional Conservation,

DADE CHAPTER AND FNPS NEWS

Everglades National Park DCFNPS workday, June 14, 9

a.m. - noon. Help the chapter enhance the entrance to our national park. To stay on top of the summer growth and weeds, we will have workdays in June, July and August.

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 your own. *There may be some mosquitoes, and we have spray and a few head nets, but bringing your own net is best if you are concerned. Buy them in sporting goods stores or online.*

New helpers are encouraged to come! Everyone in your car gets into ENP free after the workday – it's always nice to check out the Anhinga Trail. Contact Patty if you have questions (305-878-5705, pphares@mindspring.com).

Backyard cypress pond yard visit will be repeated. Our sincere apologies to chapter members and to Lloyd Wruble who hosted a yard visit to his wonderful property on May 10 – *before* the email newsletter announcing it was sent. Wires got crossed last month and delayed transmittal of the newsletter just enough to matter. Stay tuned to have a second chance!

Welcome new members! Enid Mendoza, Denise Toledo. Thanks to all who have renewed and rejoined in recent months. Your support of Florida's native plants is appreciated.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Dade Chapter FNPS

- President Buck Reilly called the Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society's 2014 Annual Business Meeting to order at 7:44 p.m. on May 27, 2014 at Pinecrest Gardens (11100 Red Road, Pinecrest, FL 33156).

- Kurt Birchenough moved to accept the 2013 meeting minutes as submitted, Susan Walcutt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Buck Reilly presented the proposed slate of nominees generated by the Nominating Committee, all for 2-year terms:

Kurt Birchenough for President

Amy Leonard for Vice President

Devon Powell for Board Member at Large

Ted Shaffer for Board Member at Large

Surey Rios for Board Member at Large

- Buck reminded those in attendance that Susan Walcutt (Treasurer), Gita Ramsay (Secretary), Amida Frey, Eric Bishop von Wettburg, and Vivian Wadell (Board Members at Large) were elected to 2-year terms in 2013 and will be serving the second year of those terms.

- Steve Pearson moved that the membership elect the slate as presented and Patty Phares seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Buck then called for New Business, and hearing none from the membership, called the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

- Submitted by Amy Leonard, acting as Secretary

Please meet and welcome our newest board member, Devon Powell:

As a kid growing up in south Florida, and one that played

outside most of the time, I was very familiar with the common tropical plants and fruit bearing plants that grew in nearly every person's garden. I was also well acquainted with a handful of native plants, but it wasn't until I was completing my bachelor's degree at FIU and chose a course called South Florida Ecology, that I really learned the about the beauty and diversity of Florida native plants. We visited many different habitats as part of the course, and had the chance to closely observe the different plants at each site.

Shortly after graduating I landed my job at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. I started my career as the Nursery Horticulturist where I learned a lot about growing both native and non-native plant species. Several years later I began working with the South Florida Rare Plant Conservation Program under Dr. Joyce Maschinski, and currently serve as Conservation Horticulturist and Connect to Protect Network Outreach Coordinator.

I feel that volunteering with DCFNPS is naturally a good fit. I look forward to learning more about our native flora, and contributing to such an important program. During my time on the board, I hope to increase member participation in local restoration activities and education outreach to younger audiences (elementary and middle school-aged children), and to increase membership and participation from students attending college or university in Miami-Dade County.

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

Broward Native Plant Society. See www.npsbroward.org for field trips and activities.

June 11, 7 p.m.: Chapter meeting. Annual potluck & election. Enjoy yummy foods, plant Jeopardy, member ideas for the next season. Secret Woods, 2701 W. SR 84, Dania Beach.

Adopt-A-Tree 2014. Miami-Dade homeowners may receive 2 free trees per year from the county. See <http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/adopt-a-tree.asp> or call 311 for rules and additional information.

Saturday, June 14, 9 a.m. – noon, G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School, 3601 SW 147th Avenue, Miami. Trees offered are natives **Dahoon Holly** and **Paradise Tree**, plus fruit trees Longan, Mango and Mulberry.

Remaining events are July 26 at Zoo Miami and September 14 at Miami-Dade College North.

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/fruitlet), 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.*

June 17 topic: Broadleaf emergent/pond species (non-graminoid freshwater wetland species whose leaves are above the water)

Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Volunteer

Workdays. Help make a difference in protecting our natural areas at preserves all over Miami. Please register at EEL@Miamiade.gov or call 305-372-6611. Info: <http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands-volunteer.asp>

June 21: R. Hardy Matheson Park, 9610 Old Cutler Rd (planting)

The Institute for Regional Conservation. Please join the IRC in celebrating 30 years.

IRC Photography Contest:

*Submission deadline extended to **September 15, 2014***

Showcase South Florida's diversity and beauty. Show off your favorite photos, help IRC build the capacity of our databases, and win great prizes.

See <http://regionalconservation.org/ircs/30th.asp> for information.

Pine Rockland Conference, June 26 – 28, 2014

The Pine Rockland Working Group (PRWG) works to maintain and restore pine rockland communities, their associated species, and the natural processes, most notably fire, upon which they all depend. This conference will bring together those who are interested in pine rocklands and related natural communities to continue efforts begun in February 2004 with bi-annual conferences and field trips.

The conference will include scientists, educators, land managers, policy makers, naturalists, students and others involved in planning, conservation, restoration, tourism or interpretation of the pine rockland ecosystem. *Anyone interested in learning about or becoming involved in pine rockland issues is also invited to attend.* The conference is free and no registration is required.

June 26: Presentations, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. UF-IFAS Extension Office, 18710 SW 288 St., Homestead, FL 33030 (305-248-3311). Arrive before 9 to sign in. Light refreshments provided, lunch on your own. Bring a sweater - the room may be cold.

June 27: Field Trips (Everglades area and urban South Miami-Dade) and **evening social** (Tropical Audubon Society, S. Miami)

June 28: Field Trip to Key Deer National Wildlife Refuge

Help the IRC restore migratory bird habitat in Cutler Bay.

The Institute for Regional Conservation invites you to help restore important migratory bird habitat in Cutler Bay at upcoming volunteer workdays. The IRC has been partnering with the National Park Service and other organizations to restore migratory bird habitat on the shores of Biscayne Bay. This project will not only give migratory birds a place to rest their weary wings but will also provide habitat for native birds, reptiles, mammals, and plants as well as restore South Florida's unique wetland ecosystems and the critically endangered Pine Rockland habitat. Restoring this coastal area will help mitigate the effects of sea level rise and protect regional and global biodiversity. Check out more information about the project at www.regionalconservation.org.

There will be several work days starting at the end of June. **To help gauge of availability and interest, please contact Lindsey at lnieratka@regionalconservation.org with your preferred availability as soon as possible.** Please feel free to pass this along to any individuals or groups who would be

interested. Interested and committed individuals such as you are vital to the success of the IRC's work.

Paid advertising

Pine Rockland for Sale

Vacant (+buildable) .9 acre - LOW taxes with EEL covenant - lovely pine forest + natives. Behind 15201 SW 272 St, 33032. For more info and photos: liztruby@bellsouth.net, 305-281-6166. LOTS more to tell about this charming acre. \$70K. Adjacent pineland is also for sale.



THE OTHER OAKS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

By Steve Woodmansee

True oaks are vascular plants in the genus *Quercus*. *Quercus* is Latin for oak, and likely where we get the English word "Cork", the material of which is derived from the bark of the Cork Oak (*Quercus suber*) a species native to southwestern Europe and northwestern Africa.

Oaks are characterized by their catkin inflorescences, maturing into fruits commonly known as acorns. These acorns are distinguished by their "cap" with a protruding seed. All south Florida oaks are deciduous or semi-evergreen, and if deciduous, typically don't stay dormant for long.

There are 600 species of oak in the World, 50 of which may be found in the Southeastern U.S. These 50 oak species are represented in two-thirds of the eastern North American forest cover types and dominate 68% of hardwood forests (Stein et al., 2003). Florida is a center of diversity for the genus *Quercus* possessing 25 species with another 15 described hybrids (Wunderlin & Hansen, 2008). In addition, there are many described hybrids between the many *Quercus* species. These are not covered in this article.

Throughout the world, oaks are recognized for their importance to wildlife. They provide an abundance of acorns in the fall which are fed upon by squirrels, turkeys, and hogs to name a few. They are also host to many insects, being important food items for both nesting and migratory birds. In my own yard, I have even observed hummingbirds eating small insects in my

live oak tree. So oaks are sort of a "lynchpin" species. As the data above suggest, if oaks were entirely removed, ecosystems could collapse.

Most of us are familiar with the ubiquitous Virginia Live Oak (*Q. virginiana*) which is found in the Southeastern U.S., throughout Florida's counties (including The Keys), and a small isolated population near Havana Cuba. But are you aware of the six other distinct species which may be found in Miami-Dade County?

Laurel Oak (*Q. laurifolia*), sometimes called diamond oak, or even water oak (which is actually *Q. nigra*), currently occurs in few places within Miami-Dade. Miami-Dade populations of laurel oaks may be found at Kendall Indian Hammocks and Greynolds parks, far eastern portions of the Big Cypress National Preserve, and perhaps some sandy mesic hammocks that still remain in north and central part of the County. It is a fairly large tree, reaching over 80 feet tall in some places, however in Miami-Dade it typically tops out at about 40 feet. On first appearance, it resembles Live Oak, however the leaves are thinner, less hairy, and tend to have a lighter color green with a yellow midrib, and the bark is dark brown (as opposed to gray) and is less deeply furrowed. Laurel Oaks are usually taller than broad, fast growing, and can tolerate some shade. They generally prefer to be near, but not in, freshwater.

Myrtle Oak (*Q. myrtifolia*) is one of the "scrub" oaks in Florida. Scrub and scrubby flatwoods are types of woodlands characterized by sandy soils, reduced canopy of pines (usually sand pine for scrub (*Pinus clausa*) or slash pine (*P. elliotii*) in scrubby flatwoods), and frequent fire. Full sun is the key to these plant communities, and Myrtle Oak does best in it. Plants typically are less than 15' tall, and as broad as tall. Leaves are ovate (oval shaped), with the margins slightly revolute (curved outward), and are a yellowish green color. Hairs are only found on the underside of the leaf, and then in the vein axils. The bark is typically white or gray, and not deeply furrowed. At one time myrtle oak occurred as far south as the pinelands around Brickell Hammock. Plants are slow growing, do best in sandy soils and are fire adapted.

Chapman Oak (*Q. chapmanii*) is another scrub oak, similar in size to myrtle oak. It differs in being somewhat taller, and is more narrow. Bark is grayish-brown and deeply furrowed in wide strips. Leaves can be quite lobed distally (at the tips), and are a dark green. The top surface of the leaves is somewhat pubescent (hairy) and rough to the touch, the leaf underside possesses a rusty to golden pubescence. In Miami-Dade, Chapman oak is only found in remnant scrubby flatwoods areas in the north. Plants do best in sandy soils and are fire adapted. Chapman Oak is reported to hybridize with Dwarf Live Oak (see below) creating the described Rolf's Oak (*Q. x rolfisii*), which is also found in Miami-Dade County among the other scrub oaks.

Sand Live Oak (*Q. geminata*), also a species of scrub oak, is the largest and most tree like of the scrub oaks. Bark is similar to Virginia Live Oak, and the leaves, too, are similar to Virginia Live Oak and Runner Oak (see below). However, the leaves are thicker, a darker green on the upper surface while the

undersurface has a downy pubescence. In Miami-Dade, Sand Live Oak is only found in remnant scrubby flatwoods areas in the north. Plants do best in sandy soils and are fire adapted.

Dwarf Live Oak (*Q. minima*) is the most diminutive species of our native oaks. It generally doesn't reach heights greater than 2', and is more commonly less than 1' tall. However it is a rhizomatous species, and can colonize large patches of open sand, making it a nice ground cover. The leaves resemble Live Oak, but that is all. Stems are smooth white. Plants can typically be found in mesic flatwoods, but also in pockets of soil of some pine rocklands. Plants are slow growing and given its underground nature, this species is highly fire adapted. Chapman Oak is reported to hybridize with Dwarf Live Oak (see below) creating the described Rolf's Oak (*Q. x rolfisii*), which is also found in Miami-Dade County among scrub oaks.

Runner Oak (*Q. pumila*) is another oak species that is rhizomatous. Plants typically top out at 3-4', but some individuals may reach 20' in height. Leaves are canoe shaped and unlobed, possessing white pubescence underneath. Bark is smooth and white. Also, like Dwarf Live Oak, this species is typically found in mesic flatwoods as well as pockets of soil in some pine rocklands, even as far south as Everglades National Park. Plants are slow growing and fire adapted.

Live Oaks are great plants for in the yard, and they do much for wildlife, but perhaps it is time for us to broaden our landscape palate to include some of these lesser known *Quercus* cousins.

Literature Cited

Stein, John, Denise Binion, and Robert Acciavatti. 2003. Field Guide to Native Oak Species of Eastern North America. USDA Forest Service. FHTET-2003-01
Wunderlin, R. P., and B. F. Hansen. 2008. *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants* (<http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu/>). [S. M. Landry and K. N. Campbell (application development), Florida Center for Community Design and Research.] Institute for Systematic Botany, University of South Florida, Tampa.

FNPS CONFERENCE 2014: Planting Natives, Planting Art, Planting Ideas By Gwen Burzycki

If you didn't go to the 2014 Florida Native Plant Society conference at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU), you missed a good one. The venue itself was a showcase of Florida native plant communities, the field trips were very good, the speakers were generally excellent, and the vendors had interesting wares. The conference was driving distance from Miami and I was really surprised to see how few people from the Dade Chapter took advantage of this opportunity to learn more about native plants and related issues from people elsewhere in Florida.

Florida Gulf Coast University was a controversial development project when it was first proposed, because it was in the middle of nowhere at the time and there were many concerns about it

becoming a new development node (which it has become). That being said, the buildings and grounds are LEED certified, and there are many sensible sustainable features. About half of the campus complex is set aside as a natural pine flatwoods/wet prairie complex, and the university has been working on eliminating exotic invasive plants (such as melaleuca) that have infested the wetlands. The landscaping uses a good selection of Florida native plants. There are bike trails and nature trails leading everywhere. The dorms are well-insulated, with the best low-flow toilets I've ever used.

I can't speak for anyone else, but I really enjoyed the two field trips that I attended. I went on a scrub walk in Rookery Bay (who the heck knew that there was rosemary scrub habitat at 10 feet above sea level!?) and a coastal maritime hammock/beach trek at Cayo Costa State Park (can't get there except by boat; we took the ferry). The attendees on both trips ranged from beginners in plant ID to regional experts, and everyone helped everyone else out with pointing out plants, butterflies, birds, and whatever else came across our vision.

There were plant vendors, book vendors, purveyors of fine arts and crafts, and educational booths. Besides the book vendors brought in for the conference, the FGCU bookstore was open, as well. I picked up some new plants for my yard, brought home a few hand-made items, and, naturally for me, bought books.

I found the program to be diverse, with something for everyone. Check out the program at <http://www.fnps.org/assets/userfiles/files/Conference2014/program2014www.pdf> and be envious if you didn't go. I attended a selection of science talks (I heard an update from Dr. Jason Smith at UF on research into laurel wilt, a growing concern for our area), a good talk on outreach (Russ Hoffman spoke on how to target outreach to more efficiently deliver the message to a greater number of people), Dick Workman's craft workshop on weaving a basket from saw palmetto fronds (which appeared in a recent issue of the *Palmetto*, by the way), and a terrific talk by Dr. J.S. Cahill (University of Alberta) on plant behavior (yes, plants DO behave, they just do it in a way and on a time scale that we fast-moving animals don't usually comprehend).

The most unique presentations in my opinion, however, were those where the speaker drew connections between native plants/and native plant communities and the arts and humanities. Dr. Jim Wohlpart, a professor of environmental literature at FGCU, talked about the deep connection that people have with nature. Xavier Cortada talked about his FLOR500 participatory art project. We had a chance to see some of the art created for this project at a gallery opening on the FGCU campus. (Two of the pieces were calling my name, but luckily, others in the group whipped out their checkbooks first.) The last speaker of the conference, Dr. Bill Hammond, presented brain research into the connections that people have with nature, and how experiences in nature and its plants are critical to our learning, creativity and healthy development. Those of us who spend time with nature know this instinctively, but now the research is showing us how it works.

I also visited with old friends and made some new ones. I can't

wait for the next conference in **Tallahassee on April 16-19, 2015**. I hope that more from DCFNPS will go, too!

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

• From the FNPS 2014 Conference:

Laurie Sheldon, the FNPS Social Media Sub-Committee Chair, received a **Green Palmetto Award for Service**. See her blog entries at www.fnps.org and click on the blog on the right side. Since Laurie moved to Miami-Dade County last year, her blog posts have featured many Dade Chapter activities. Congratulations, Laurie!

Wyatt Scharber, a University of Miami Department of Biology student, has been awarded an FNPS **Research Grant** to study pine rockland fragmentation. His research proposal is "Estimating genetic diversity and population fragmentation in the South Florida Pine Rockland endemic, *Ayenia euphrasifolia*." A description will follow in a later *Tillandsia*.

• From the FNPS website:

John Geiger, a Dade Chapter member and past FNPS Research Grant awardee, has **published a new article** based on his work on Man-in-the-Ground, an endangered pine rockland vine known for its striking red flowers. The article is entitled "Genetic diversity and conservation of *Ipomoea microdactyla* (Convolvulaceae): an endemic vine from the Bahamas, Cuba, and southeastern Florida" and appears in *Plant Species Biology* (2014, Vol. 29). Read an abstract under News on the FNPS home page (<http://www.fnps.org/news/society-news/publication-of-research->).

DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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TILLANDSIA

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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
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FNPS is on Facebook and Twitter: FNPSonline
Dade Chapter rep. to FNPS: vacant

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