



Dade Chapter

# TILLANDSIA

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

JULY-AUGUST 2014

## MONTHLY MEETING

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

**Sunday, July 27, 2014, 4 -7 p.m.**

**Annual evening yard visit and social meeting.**

Join us at the home of Bill Shores in SW Miami-Dade County for a relaxing afternoon that includes a casual yard tour, potluck dinner and socializing. The usual plant raffle wraps up the evening.

### What to bring:

Dish to share (drinks provided).

Raffle donations (please label with the plant name)

**Who is invited:** FNPS members and their guests.

**Address:** 14740 SW 155th Terrace.

**Directions:** Take the FL Turnpike or US1 to SW 152 Street (Coral Reef Drive). Go west to 1 block past 147 Avenue and turn left onto 147 Court. Turn right at the second street, which is 155 Terrace. It's the third house on your left -- inside the trees and shrubs. Park along the street at the second house on the left or the house directly across the street.

This 1/2 acre home was purchased after Hurricane Andrew devastated the area near Country Walk. The yard now includes over 20 years of growing trees, shrubs, orchids, and wildflowers native to South Florida and the Keys. This habitat has also attracted a variety of rare birds and butterflies over the years. While the outer lot line is planted with a living fence line of mostly native shrubs and trees, the inside area includes native and non-native palms, smaller rare native bird and butterfly attracting trees, and various native shrubs and wildflowers. Much of this neighborhood contains St. Augustine grass yards, however some of Bill's immediate neighbors have also started replacing grass with native trees and shrubs.



Man-in-the-Ground, *Ipomoea microdactyla*, which you might find in Bill's garden. Come see his unique method of cultivating it.

Photo by Chuck McCartney

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

**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

There is no *Tillandsia*, meeting or field trip in 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, July 19, 9:30 a.m. – noon. Arch Creek and Enchanted Forest Park, North Miami.**

**Gwen Burzycki** will lead a Short Summer Stroll to Arch Creek and Enchanted Forest Elaine Gordon Parks. These two parks are located in North Miami and are contiguous, but one is owned by the City of North Miami, and the other is a Miami-Dade County Park. Both are largely forested with tropical hardwood hammock, so it should be relatively cool and shady despite the summer heat. Enchanted Forest originally contained pinelands on the west side, and the park has been attempting to restore that area through hardwood removal and planting of pineland species. There is also a champion-sized red bay in the park, which should be enjoyed and celebrated, since laurel wilt is spreading through Dade County and will eventually reach the tree and kill it. Arch Creek Park was once the location for a natural limestone bridge over the creek, but it collapsed long ago and was replaced by a constructed bridge that should allow us to travel between the two parks without repositioning the cars. There is a butterfly garden on the north side of the park that provides habitat for a large number of native butterflies.

This will be an easy walk, most of which will be on trails (Enchanted Forest has a paved nature trail through the hammock). Neither park has a lot of poisonwood or poison ivy, so feel free to come in shorts if you wish. There are picnic facilities at the parks, but Gwen has also become aware of a very good deli off Miami Gardens Drive, so after the walk, everyone

who wishes is welcome to stay on for lunch either on site or at the deli.

## CHAPTER WORKDAYS AT ENP

**July 12 and August 16, 9 a.m. - noon.**

Help the chapter enhance the entrance to Everglades National Park at our landscaping project around the Coe Visitor Center.

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. Contact Patty 305-255-6404, pphares@mindspring.com if you have questions (305-878-5705 c, the day of the workday only).



## OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

### Native Plant Sale with the Broward Chapter FNPS

**August 30, 2014, 8 a.m.**

**Secret Woods Nature Center, 2701 W. SR 84, Dania Beach 33312**

Along with Friends of the Secret Woods and local nurseries, the Broward Chapter will sell native plants to the public. If you live in North Miami-Dade, this is a chance to find native plants without driving to Homestead. If you have a special species request, please let the Broward Chapter know several weeks in advance so they can look for it as they shop at wholesale nurseries. (Richard Brownscombe [Richard@Brownscombe.net](mailto:Richard@Brownscombe.net)). See <http://www.npsbroward.org/> for more chapter news.

**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, July 26, 9 a.m. – noon,** at Zoo Miami, east parking lot, 12400 SW 152nd Street, Miami. A selection of **native trees**, plus fruit or ornamental trees will be available (see the website.)

**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](mailto: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.*

**July 15 topic:** Phyllanthaceae (Leafflower Family). This family has been newly split off of the Euphorbiaceae.

**August 19 topic:** Apocynaceae (Dogbane Family)

**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.

### 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. This project will also provide habitat for native birds, reptiles, mammals, and plants, help mitigate the effects of sea level rise, and protect regional and global biodiversity. See [www.regionalconservation.org](http://www.regionalconservation.org).

There will be several work days this summer. **Please contact Lindsey at [lnieratka@regionalconservation.org](mailto:lnieratka@regionalconservation.org) if you are interested in helping.**

**The National Park Service needs torchwood (*Amyris elemifera*) seeds** for a project to restore a larval food of the Schaus swallowtail butterfly. **Fruit are ready to harvest when they are about 0.5-1cm long and purple/black.** Fruit may be

available year round, reportedly becoming abundant on the mainland in December and more plentiful when the rains arrive. Harvest up to half the available mature fruit at a time, leaving some food for the fauna in your yard. But some fauna do not like to share! Near-ripe fruits may be seen one day and gone the next. They may also be in the sun at the top of the tree and hard for you to reach. Nevertheless, **any small number of seeds can help this project.** Place any fruits you can harvest in a paper bag and contact Helena Giannini at 786-249-3013, [hgiannini@nps.gov](mailto:hgiannini@nps.gov).

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: [lizruby@bellsouth.net](mailto:lizruby@bellsouth.net), 305-281-6166. LOTS more to tell about this charming acre. \$70K. Adjacent pineland is also for sale.



## COMING TO A MEANINGFUL CONCLUSION

By Chuck McCartney

Each plant's "scary" latinized scientific name tells botanists something about the plant, and learning that meaning is part of what can make the study of botany productive and enjoyable. If you look carefully at a long list of botanical names, you'll notice that some endings of the species epithet (the second part of the binomial, or two-word, designation for the plant) are repeated. These are suffixes, just as "-ily" (as in happily) or "-ful" (as in hopeful) or "-iness" (as in business) are common suffixes in English words that are added to a root word to modify its meaning.

The following is a list of four frequently encountered suffixes for botanical names, discussing what they mean and giving examples of South Florida species bearing that ending. Once you identify and understand the suffix, the next part of the fun is to puzzle out the meaning to the root word to which it's attached. Then you can comprehend the meaning of that part of the plant's

name. Some of these suffixes also can be found at the end of a genus name:

**-ensis/-ense:** Literally: of, or belonging to. By extension: from that place. One example is our most frequently encountered epiphytic (tree-growing) orchid in South Florida, *Encyclia tampensis*. The species epithet refers to that fact that the first plant of this orchid sent to botanist John Lindley in England and named by him in 1847 originated in the Tampa Bay region of west-central Florida. At the time, Lindley placed it in the genus *Epidendrum*, so the species epithet was spelled *tampense* because the gender of the species name had to agree with the gender of the genus name (in this case neuter). A plant that retains the "-ense" place-origin suffix spelling is *Solanum bahamense*, the Bahamas Nightshade.

**-oides/-odes/-opsis:** Literally: like, or having the form of, with "-opsis" similarly meaning having the appearance of. Two great examples in South Florida incorporate both suffixes. The name of our pretty little native orchid *Ionopsis utricularioides* means that to the botanists who provided each name, the flowers had the appearance of true violets (*Ionopsis*) and had the form of the flower of some bladderwort species in the genus *Utricularia* (*utricularioides*). Then there's that nasty invasive Australian tree called Carrotwood, *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*, meaning the genus resembles some species of the related genus *Cupania* in the Sapindaceae (Soapberry Family), while the species name refers to a perceived similarity to some species of *Anacardium* (the cashew and its close relatives). The "-odes" ending, although less common in Florida plants, can be found in the botanical name of Sea Lavender, *Argusia gnaphalodes*, in the Boraginaceae. To 18<sup>th</sup> Century Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus, the father of our modern two-word system of plant nomenclature, this coastal species resembled plants of *Gnaphalium*, the so-called Cudweeds in the Asteraceae that now mostly have been moved to the genus *Gamochaeta*.

**-ifera/-ofera/-ophora:** Literally: bearing, carrying. The spelling of the suffix ending can vary according to the gender of the genus name (as in *Encyclia tampensis*/*Epidendrum tampense* above). Here in southern Florida, we have a tree we all usually seek to avoid: Poisonwood, *Metopium toxiferum*. The species name indicates that it bears poison, meaning the oils in the plant that can cause itchy contact dermatitis. Then there is the genus name *Indigofera*, which means bearing the valuable blue dye indigo, one of the early commercial crops grown in Florida. The "-ophora" spelling can be found in the Wild Poinsettia or Painted Leaf, *Poinsettia cyathophora*, which means "bearing a cup," referring to the cup-like structure called a cyathium that contains the plant's tiny minimalist true flower. Remember that the pretty, usually basally red-painted "petals" are just modified leaves that help the plant mimic a larger flower to attract a pollinator from a distance.

**-icola:** Literally: dwelling. By extension: dwelling among. Pioneering early 20<sup>th</sup> Century South Florida botanical explorer John Kunkel Small seemed to like this suffix. He named the rare Sand Flax *Linum arenicola*, meaning dwelling in sand (hence, also, our word "arena," a sandy place where combat occurs). Then there's the rare South Florida terrestrial orchid

*Basiphyllaea corallicola*, which literally means dwelling in coral. Small didn't get his geology quite right here, though. The orchid grew in the Miami oolite limestone of extreme southeast Florida and the Lower Keys. Although we still to this day commonly call this "coral rock" (as in the Coral Castle tourist attraction near Homestead), true fossilized coral rock is found mainly in the Upper and Middle Keys, as we have seen on field trips to Windley Key Fossil Reef Geological State Park.

To see if I could demonstrate that Sea lavender "has the form of" a species resembling plants of *Gnaphalium*, I looked online for a similar plant. This one might fit, sort of. I'll just trust Linnaeus.  
 –Editor



Sea Lavender, *Argusia gnaphalodes*,  
 Photo by Shirley Denton

Compare to:



[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Starr\\_030523-0063\\_Gnaphalium\\_sandwicenseium.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Starr_030523-0063_Gnaphalium_sandwicenseium.jpg)

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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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. **Advertising rates** from \$12 per month.

**FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

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