



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

SEPTEMBER 2015

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, September 22, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57 Ave. (Red Road)
Free and open to the public
(The 4th Tuesday, not the last!)

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. Contributions of **raffle items** and **refreshments** are always greatly appreciated.

“Flora of Shell Mounds in Everglades National Park”
- Jimi Sadle, ENP botanist

Everglades National Park was established in large part to protect the unique flora found within the park boundary. Much of the plant diversity in this vast natural area is concentrated within small uplands scattered throughout comparatively uniform wetlands. High ground in the southwestern mangrove swamps of the park is largely restricted to shell mounds built by early inhabitants of the region. Many of these sites are very remote and in locations difficult to access even in the best of conditions. As a result, available information on plant species at these sites was restricted to a few sites and outdated. In an effort to update and provide a better understanding of the plant diversity found on shell mounds of ENP, inventories have been prepared over the past 10 years. This has led to the development of a better understanding of flora of shell mounds and the park as a whole. Join us for a presentation on these hot spots of plant diversity.

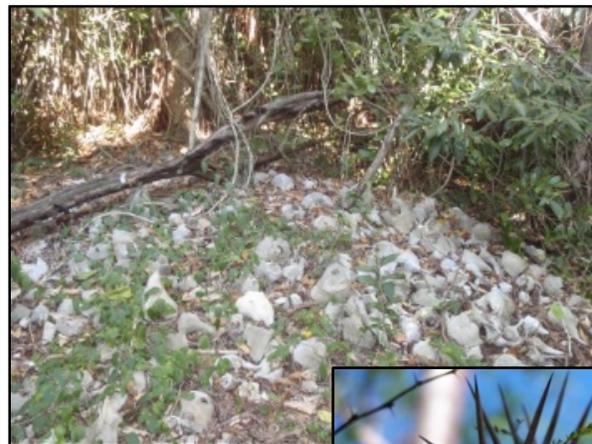


Jimi Sadle has been park botanist at Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks since 2007. Prior to that he managed the Invasive Plant Management Program at Big Cypress National Preserve and also worked as a biologist with The Institute for Regional Conservation. His primary interest is in conservation of rare plant species. Jimi grew up on the Space Coast of Florida and has been in South Florida since 2000.

- **October 27:** “Gardening for Birds and Other Wildlife in South Florida” – **Kirsten Hines**, writer, photographer, biologist
- **November 24:** "Butterflies: How They Function, What They Need, and Why They Are Important" - **Linda Evans**, Miami Blue Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

Sept. 22 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens
Sept. 27 (Sun.): Field trip - Hole in the Donut, Everglades NP
Oct. 17 (Sat.): Field trip – Larry & Penny Thompson Park
Oct. 24 (Sat.): Miami Shores Green Day (DCFNPS table)
Oct. 27 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens
Oct. 31 (Sat.): Chapter workday at Everglades National Park
Nov. 13-15 (Fri.-Sun.): Ramble at FTBG (DCFNPS table)
Nov. 24 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens
Nov. 29 (Sun.): Field trip (tentative)
Dec. 12 (Sat.): Chapter workday at Everglades National Park
Dec. 19 (Sat.): Field trip (tentative)



Shell mound soil

Vachellia tortuosa
(*Acacia tortuosa*),
Poponax – In ENP only
found on shell mounds



Inside this issue:

- **September Field Trip**
Sunday, September 27. Hole-In-The-Donut Restoration area, Everglades National Park
- **Announcements, news, volunteer opportunities**
- “15 Actions I Can Do in My Backyard to Help Conservation” by Steven W. Woodmansee
- **Florida Native Plant Month**
- **Pumpkin Curry** – favorite dish, July Evening Yard Visit.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIP

If the weather is very bad call 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!

Sunday, September 27, 2015:

The Hole-In-The-Donut (HID) Restoration Area, Everglades National Park

- **Leader:** Steven W. Woodmansee
- **Bring/wear:** Wear sturdy shoes and pants that can get wet. Bring **water, sun protection**, bug spray (just in case), and lunch if you would like to picnic afterward.
- **Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate
- **Questions:** Patty (305-255-6404; cell 305-878-5705 for that morning only). There is no cell reception in the HID area.

Say farewell to this year's summer at one of the "friendlier" areas of Everglades National Park. We will be visiting the HID Restoration Area located along the southern edge of Long Pine Key. This 6,000+ acre area was once private farmland, and left fallow after the National Park Service (NPS) acquired it in the 1970s. Unfortunately, over time, Brazilian-pepper came to dominate it, and the NPS took measures to remove this exotic invasive by restoring it back to wetland. This was done by scraping all the soil away to bedrock one section at a time. You will see how nature bounces back and learn about plant succession as we will visit areas restored at different years dating back to 1989!

Expect to see the tail end of summer bloomers such as the primrose-willows and winged loosestrife and the beginning of fall bloomers such as asters, goldenrods, yellowtop and many grasses and sedges. In addition, wildlife is plentiful here, and you will learn some possible reasons for this.

Be prepared to get wet below the knee. Mosquitoes are naturally almost never a problem in these areas and you will learn why. Since the area was scraped, it is mostly flat and fairly easy to get around (compared to other areas of the Everglades).

For more information about the HID Restoration Area, visit: <http://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/nature/hidprogram.htm>

- **Saturday, October 17, 2015: Larry and Penny Thompson Park pineland.** We just visited here last December – all the better now to compare to the bountiful array of fall flowers and regrowth after the extensive burns (arson fires) in May and June.

DADE CHAPTER NEWS

The Dade Chapter FNPS board meets September 13, 2015.

All chapter members are welcome to attend or send suggestions for items for the board to consider. Please contact chapter president Kurt Birchenough (kbirc001@fiu.edu, 202-905-3921).

Welcome new Dade Chapter members: Dorothy Menadier, Stephen and Maria Szydlo, Howard Tonkin. Thank you to

all members for helping conserve Florida's native plants and native plant communities by belonging to FNPS!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Help DCFNPS and native plants

Save the date, start preparing or sign up now.

- **Miami Shores Green Day – Oct. 24.** Help at the chapter's table. Details next month or contact Amy.
- **Chapter workday at Everglades National Park – Oct. 31 and Dec. 12.** Details next month or contact Patty.
- **The Ramble at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden – Nov. 13-15.** Help at the chapter table (contact Gita), or with a materials for the display (contact Amy). Details next month.
- **Native Plant Day - Mar. 19, 2016** at Bill Sadowski Park and Natural Area in Palmetto Bay. **You can start helping now** to line up speakers, secure food vendors, make community contacts and more. Contact Amy.

Amy Leonard (305-458-0969, aleonar74@yahoo.com)

Patty Phares (305-255-6404, pharespl@gmail.com)

Gita Ramsay (786-877-7168 or gita.ramsay@gmail.com)

Dade Chapter FL Native Plant Society

Treasurer's Report, Year Ending June 30, 2015

ASSETS

Total Checking/Savings	51,292.94*
Total Other Current Assets	2,135.77
Inventory	<u>6,312.11</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	59,740.82

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Total Liabilities	47,116.37*
Total Equity	<u>12,624.45</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	59,740.82

*Includes Robert Kelley Memorial Fund – for special projects.

Income

Total EDUCATIONAL INCOME	3,313.00
Total MEMBERSHIP DUES	<u>3,110.20</u>
Total Income	6,423.20

Expense

Total ADMINISTRATION	735.95
Total EDUCATION	4,803.90
Total MERCHANDISE FOR SALE	1,317.62
Total Expense	6,857.47
Total Other Income	37.91
Total Other Expense	<u>83.62</u>
Net Income	(479.98)

DCFNPS ended its fiscal year on June 30, 2015, with a modest loss. Our biggest expense every year is Native Plant Day. The donation of books from the Estate of Lillian S Conesa sold at NPD went a long way to offset these expenses. DCFNPS again funded a FNPS \$1500 Conservation Grant in honor of chapter founders Joyce and Don Gann, using funds from the Robert Kelley Memorial Fund to supplement our members' donations.

Less than half of our income comes from member dues. The balance comes from plant raffles and merchandise sales at

meetings and Native Plant Day, Native Plant Day vendor donations and plant sales at other festivals. *You can help us end this year in the black by renewing your membership at the next higher level, bringing a potential new member to a meeting, participating in raffles (donate items or buy tickets), or shopping at our merchandise table.*

Susan Walcutt, DCFNPS Treasurer

Yard sign from the Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN) is now available from the Dade Chapter FNPS.

Help your neighbors learn the real value of your Florida native plants with this beautiful sign. Durable 8 x 10" white metal sign with holes for hanging or mounting. We are selling them at meetings for \$15 (would be \$20 if ordered from FANN).



See <http://www.plantrealflorida.org/info/why-plant-native/plant-real-florida-yard-sign/>

Tillandsia editor / chapter membership contact change. New address for Patty Phares: pharespl@gmail.com.

FNPS NEWS

Broward Chapter FNPS. See <http://www.npsbroward.org>. Meetings are at Secret Woods, 2701 W. SR 84, Dania Beach.

- **Sept 9, 2015, 7 p.m.: Chapter meeting.** Dr. Ellen Lake presents on **biological controls**. Research facility tour Sept. 12.
- **Sept. 12, 2015, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.: Go Native Plant Sale.** Fern Forest, 201 Lyons Rd. S., Coconut Creek, FL

The September-October 2015 *Sabal minor* is available at http://fnps.org/assets/pdf/sabalminor/sabalminor17_5_2015.pdf. If you did not receive an email notice or print copy (no email on file) contact FNPS at info@fnps.org or 321-271-6702.

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

If you thought you could stay home in September, forget it!

Dade Native Plant Workshop. MDC Kendall Campus Landscape Technology Center. 3rd Tuesdays at 7 p.m. See <http://nativeplantworkshop.ning.com> or contact Steve Woodmansee at steve@pronative.com. Bring at least three cuttings (especially in flower/fruit), need not pertain to the topic.

• **Sept. 15 topic: Sword fern family** (Nephrolepidaceae). In Florida, this family consists of one genus *Nephrolepis*, and includes Boston fern and five other species.

Special discussion leader: This topic will be led by **Jennifer Possley of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden**. Jenn is one of the “ferniest” botanists in South Florida.

Virginia Key Beach Park native plant restoration

- **Sept. 12 (9a.m. – noon): Help Tremendous Miami (and others) plant natives** to restore maritime hammock - benefits wildlife including migratory and nesting birds, American crocodile, sea turtles. 960 trees and shrubs are being planted in August and September in various parts of the park.
 - **8:30 a.m. - sign in**, overview, proper tree planting technique.
 - **After the workday: Free picnic.** PLEASE RSVP for the picnic (info@tremendousmiami.org).

Wear/bring: Closed toe shoes, long pants and shirt, hat, sunscreen, mosquito repellent. Drinks provided. **If possible**, bring mattocks, shovels, gloves. Bring a change of clothes/bathing suit for afterward if you like.

Directions: Take Rickenbacker Causeway (Sunpass/Toll-by-Plate), left at last traffic light before bridge to Key Biscayne (across from U.M. Rosenstiel School). Tell entrance attendant you are with the planting. Proceed staying left, turn left at the pink office, circle the lake clockwise to the orange pavilion.

- **Sept. 19 (9a.m. – noon): International Coastal Clean-up** (305-960-4603 or gforchion@miamigov.com)
- **Oct. 3 (11a.m. – 2p.m.): Maintenance workday** (see 9/12)

National Public Lands Day, September 26, 2015 - the largest single-day volunteer effort for public lands in the U.S. Paint, plant, mulch and clean thousands of acres of public lands at more than 2,200 sites.

Pine Island - Trash clean-up and educational ranger-led programs. If you bring children, join *Everglades Storytime*.

Shark Valley - Habitat restoration (remove the invasive arrowhead vine) or help paint the Visitor Center curbs.

Gulf Coast - Paddle to Sandfly Island to remove invasive species. Contact 239-695-3311 for reservations.

More info: <http://www.publiclandsday.org> and search Everglades National Park or call 305-242-7700.

Miami Blue Chapter, North American Butterfly Association (<http://www.miamiblue.org>; 305-979-9623)

• **Sept. 26, 2015, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Loop Road annual count** (rescheduled). See website for details.

South Florida National Parks Trust: Volunteers needed for planting on an island in Biscayne National Park

Restoration work is underway on a spoil island south of Black Point Marina. Park workers stripped Brazilian pepper and other exotic vegetation earlier this year. Next up: replanting the island with funding support from SFNPT. **Plant red mangroves and other natives** to anchor the island, improve water quality and provide habitat for wildlife. **The SFNPT is assembling a team of volunteers to help plant in late September.** Sign up at info@southfloridaparks.org.

Florida Wildflower Foundation - Wildflower Symposium, Sept. 25-26, 2015, Leu Gardens, Orlando. The theme is “Pollinators: Connecting the Dots,” with presentations, walks, workshops and field trips, many led by FNPS members. <http://flawildflowers.org/events/2015-wildflower-symposium.html>

6th Annual Bird Festival at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, October 1-4, 2015. Join Tropical Audubon Society at FTBG for workshops, presentations, bird walks, activities, vendors (Sat.-Sun.), birding trips (Thu.-Fri.). Bird-attracting plants for sale. (<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Bird-Festival>).

Adopt-A-Tree 2015. Miami-Dade homeowners may receive 2 free trees per year. Call 311 or see rules and info at <http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/adopt-a-tree.asp>.

• **Oct. 4:** A.D. Barnes Park, 3401 SW 72 Ave., Miami 33155; natives **Inkwood, Paradise tree**; fruit trees. 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., rain or shine. This is the final event for the year.

Friends of the Gifford Arboretum, University of Miami.

• **Oct. 7, 2015, 7 p.m.** “Plant Propagation and Containerized Gardening” - Vickie Murphy of Montgomery Botanical Center. Cox Science Center, Room 166. Find the arboretum (adjacent to Cox): <http://www.bio.miami.edu/arboretum> > visits or 305-284-1302. Free parking in Purple Lot, south end of Arboretum.

The Institute for Regional Conservation.

<http://www.regionalconservation.org/>.

- **Join the email list** for current news and opportunities to participate in restoration activities.
- Link **Facebook** for interesting info and cool photos.
- See **Natives For Your Neighborhood** to learn about plants for your landscape.

Miami Pine Rockland Coalition. See the Facebook page (groups/MiamiRPC) and <http://miamipinerocklandscoalition.org>

15 ACTIONS I CAN DO IN MY BACKYARD TO HELP CONSERVATION

By Steven W. Woodmansee
Pro Native Consulting

- 1. Eliminate half my lawn.** Lawns often take up too many resources and can offer little habitat to wildlife.
- 2. Stop watering and fertilizing my lawn.** Sure, weeds will come in, but many of them offer important habitat. There may be brown patches, or exposed dirt during the dry season, but even this will offer habitat to beneficial burrowing insects such as wasps and stingless bees.
- 3. Mow my lawn less frequently, especially in the dry season.** Weedy lawns, or what I call "Urban Meadows" can offer habitat to birds, butterflies and other types of wildlife, but this works mostly if they can grow a little tall and offer structure for these organisms where upon they can live. Consider leaving part of the lawn periodically overgrown throughout the year.
- 4. When mowing, switch to a push reel or electric mower and electric/battery powered trimmers.** The key is to spend more time in your yard. Using these types of tools there will be less noise and dust. People will see you enjoying your yard, and may learn from your good habits. Plus it is good inexpensive exercise! If incapable, consider offering to hire the neighbor's

son or daughter to do it. They may learn to appreciate nature from the experience.

5. Eliminate invasive exotic pest plants. Some fruit trees such as Guava are okay, so long as you use the fruit. A list may be found at <http://www.fleppc.org>.

6. Plan my yard into zones of food production and habitat creation. Growing food is basic human nature, and yet it may become a lost skill. Fruit trees are easier to grow than vegetable gardens. Backyard chickens are good too. When we grow our own food, there is less of a carbon footprint. It also gives one an opportunity to share and coordinate with your neighbors. Creating and mimicking habitats provides the best shelter for wildlife, rather than formalized landscapes. This principle of **Ecological Landscaping** is the best way to both have successful plantings and attract appropriate wildlife, while at the same time reduce the pressures of ecological destruction by farming expansion elsewhere on the planet.

7. Utilize native plants, create habitats historically characteristic to my area while being appropriate to my current soil/hydrological conditions. These data may be obtained using The Institute for Regional Conservation Natives For Your Neighborhood website: <http://regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/default.asp>. There are even guidelines to creating hammock and pineland habitats.

8. Focus on those native plants which provide the most wildlife habitat. This means plants that attract insects. Insects are important sources of food for other wildlife including nesting birds, spiders, dragonflies, lizards, etc. Examples include native palms, figs and oaks, which provide the most wildlife habitat.

9. Add a water feature such as a small pond or even a bird bath. Water features attract even more birds and butterflies, which need to drink from them, but also species such as dragonflies and frogs which need to complete their life cycle using wet habitats. Keep fish in your pond and you will never have problems with mosquitoes. Plus the dragonflies will eat the mosquitoes.

10. Keep my cat indoors. It is unfair to birds and other wildlife to create an oasis only for them to fall prey to these efficient hunters.

11. Have an open front yard. This will be inviting to neighbors, while it will deter crime as there are fewer places for robbers to hide.

12. Create attractive borders around your plantings. One can use rocks, landscape timbers, etc. Having borders makes plantings look purposeful.

13. Advertise in my front yard. Place fun colorful signs extolling the virtues of my plantings.

14. Get to know my neighbors Part of conservation is sharing experiences with others. They may be slow to warm up to your designs, but over time they undoubtedly will be envious of your landscape. The ritual of sharing a meal is an important way to bond with others. Consider having a neighbor over for dinner (you can even eat some of the food you produced in your yard) or host a block party.

15. Hang out in my yard. Place chairs and benches in the *front* and back portions of the yard. Spending time in the front yard

gives one an opportunity to interact with neighbors. It is important for introducing or maintaining bonds with them.

*Steve Woodmansee is the biologist and owner of Pro Native Consulting (www.pronative.com), native plant expert, chair of the Dade Native Plant Workshop, and former president of the Florida Native Plant Society and the Dade Chapter. He is a frequent contributor to *Tillandsia*, speaker and field trip leader.*

OCTOBER IS “FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT MONTH”

Adapted from the Sabal Minor (Sept.-Oct. 2015):

In an effort to increase the recognition of FNPS at the state and local levels, and to solidify the organization as one body rather than a loose connection of chapters, the month of October will be officially declared “Florida Native Plant Month.” We will also designate a “Florida Native Plant of the Year.” FNPS Director of Development Andy Taylor has started promoting the event to local and state governments — and some have already put resolutions in motion.

Florida Native Plant Month and Native Plant of the Year will introduce the public to the benefits of native plants, and provide a framework to promote the FNPS mission to our local and state elected officials. It will also allow us to reach more people, boost membership, and increase donations to the society. Chapters are encouraged to promote their events as part of the FNPS Florida Native Plant Month. Spread the word, promote your events and join us in celebrating Florida Native Plant Month.



The Dade Chapter has not yet made special plans for Florida Native Plant Month. However, you can get in the spirit on your own by sharing a native plant from your yard (or something *about* or *made from* native plants) with a neighbor, inviting a friend to a chapter activity, or participating in one of the many activities going on this fall mentioned in this newsletter.

Enjoying Plants, People and Pumpkin Curry Evening Yard Visit and Social meeting at the home of Gwladys and Gene Scott, July 25, 2015



Photo: Jan Kolb

A hit on the pot-luck table was Cindy Dwyer’s Curried

Pumpkin, made from a “Seminole pumpkin” she and Randy Rakestraw had grown themselves. Cindy was asked to provide the recipe for inclusion in *Tillandsia*. The original article published in the Miami Herald (Ellen Kanner, The Edgy Veggie, Oct. 3, 2013) is no longer available online, but it was also posted at <http://www.knoxnews.com/knoxville/food-and-dining/pump-up-pumpkin-flavor-naturally> (Oct 9 2013).

The origin of Seminole pumpkin (*Cucurbita moschata*) and some other plants used by indigenous people is outside of Florida but part of pre-Columbian flora. The Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants (<http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/>) and other references list *C. moschata* as not native to Florida. Daniel Austin in Florida Ethnobotany states that it “...is an introduction of a plant domesticated in Mexico ... Apparently, the ancestors of the Seminoles brought this variety into cultivation.”

But that is a discussion for another day. For now, we are just sharing the recipe for a delicious dish we enjoyed, made from a plant also used by Native Americans some time ago. This pumpkin is touted as having a superior flavor. Seeds are commonly available online and perhaps from Cindy and others.

YOU’RE NOT A MEMBER OF FNPS?

Let us support your interest in native plants. Help us support native plants! See <http://www.fnps.org> or the contacts box in this newsletter.

It costs very little to make a difference!

DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

President: Kurt Birchenough (kbirc001@fiu.edu, 202-905-3921)
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Membership: Patty Phares (pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404)

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Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/dadefnps>
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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: <http://www.fnps.org>
FNPS blog: <http://www.fnpsblog.org>
FNPS is on Facebook and Twitter: FNPSonline

Dade Chapter – FNPS Council of Chapters: vacant – contact the president

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