



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

OCTOBER 2015

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, October 27, 2015, 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. Contributions of **raffle items** and **refreshments** are always greatly appreciated.

Gardening for Birds and Other Wildlife in South Florida
– Kirsten Hines

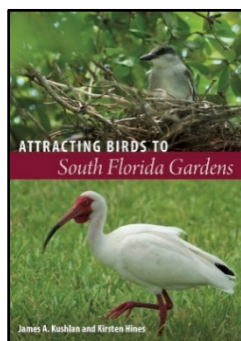
Learn why gardening is different in sub-tropical South Florida, why native plants are so important, and what you can do to make your own yard, even just a patio, more attractive to our unique community of birds and other wildlife, helping to restore and maintain the region's ecological functions through wildlife-friendly landscaping.



Kirsten Hines is a writer, photographer, biologist and environmental educator focused on wildlife, nature, travel and conservation. She has long championed Florida's native plants and habitats



and continues to do so in her books *Attracting Birds to South Florida Gardens* and *Birds of Fairchild*. More of her work can be seen at <http://www.KirstenNatureTravel.com>. Books will be available for purchase at the meeting.



CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

OCTOBER – Celebrate Florida Native Plant Month

- 3 (Sat.): FIU nature preserve workday *
- 11 (Sun.): Yard visit / native plant celebration
- 17 (Sat.): Field trip – Larry & Penny Thompson Park
- 24 (Sat.): Miami Shores Green Day *
Pine rockland restoration – Tropical Park *
- 27 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens
- 31 (Sat.): Chapter workday – Everglades Nat. Park *
Pineland restoration tour – Coral Pine Park

NOVEMBER

- 13-15 (Fri.-Sun.): The Ramble at FTBG *
- 24 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens
- 29 (Sun.): Field trip – Loop Road, Big Cypress

DECEMBER

- 12 (Sat.): Chapter workday – Everglades Nat. Park *
 - 19 (Sat.): Field trip – Bear Cut, Key Biscayne
- * Please Volunteer – see announcements for details

Inside this issue:

- Chapter announcements and volunteer opportunities
- Florida Native Plant Month – special activities
- What Our Friends Are Doing – more events and activities
- “The Most Difficult to Photograph Native Plant - Prickly Applecactus, *Harrisia fragrans*” – by Roger Hammer

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!

Saturday, October 17, 2015: Larry and Penny Thompson Park pineland. This park is part of the botanically rich Richmond Pineland Complex and thankfully is safe from the planned development in other areas that have been in the news. We visited here last December – **all the better now to compare to the bountiful array of fall flowers and regrowth after unusually widespread burns due to arson fires in May and June.** Miami Blue NABA is also invited, so if you want to try to spot butterflies, bring close-focus binoculars if you have them.

• **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

- **Bring:** Water, sun protection.
- **Difficulty:** Easy - paved and unpaved paths, but open and sunny.
- **Delayed or lost?** Try Patty's cell, 305-878-5705.

Upcoming field trips:

- **November 29, 2015 (Sunday):** Loop Road (Big Cypress)
- **December 19 (Saturday):** Bear Cut (Key Biscayne)

DADE CHAPTER NEWS

Tillandsia staff needed. Our newsletter assistant, Zen Kurokawa, is moving to the Florida west coast. We thank him for volunteering and wish him well! If you might be able to help with layout, proofreading or gathering/writing content, please contact Patty Phares (pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404)

VOLUNTEER WITH DCFNPS

Miami Shores Green Day

October 24, 2015, 3:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Downtown Miami Shores, NE 2nd Ave., 94th - 99th Streets.

To volunteer for DCFNPS: Contact Amy Leonard (305-458-0969, aleonar74@yahoo.com).

Join the Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce for this community event. **DCFNPS will be there spreading the word about native plants.** Numerous other organizations, companies and agencies will feature “green” information, gifts, activities and food, plus vendors (including native plant) and entertainment. See <http://www.miamishores.com/greenday/>.

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Ramble

November 13-15, 2015.

Get the inside perspective – *volunteer* at our educational display! You'll be promoting FNPS membership and the importance of native plants and habitats. You *don't* need to be a plant expert and you can learn what is needed on the job.

To volunteer for DCFNPS: Contact Devon Powell (DevonPowell111@gmail.com or 954-288-7238) by about October 15 to have a name tag and free entry into FTBG. The volunteer schedule will be finalized at the October 27 meeting.

Volunteers are needed to:

- Staff our display Friday to Sunday, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Set-up on Thursday afternoon, 3:30 - 5 p.m.
- Break-down on Sunday, 4:30 - 5 p.m.
- Provide items to display at our table (potted plants, especially)

You'll be promoting FNPS membership and the importance of native plants and habitats. You *don't* need to be a plant expert and you can learn what is needed on the job.

Display items needed: Please loan/donate small **native plants** (in pots), **native butterfly plants** (larval food or nectar) or **caterpillars** for the display. Contact Amy Leonard (305-458-0969, aleonar74@yahoo.com).

Everglades National Park DCFNPS workday

October 31, 2015, 9 a.m. - noon.

Help the chapter enhance the entrance to our national park. **This will be a special workday in cooperation with AmeriCorps.** We will do extra pruning as well as our usual weeding and will need our experienced FNPS members to help guide the AmeriCorps volunteers. 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. Everyone in your car gets into ENP free after the workday. Contact Patty Phares if you have questions (305-255-6404, pharespl@gmail.com) or 305-878-5705 (cell) the morning of the workday.

Celebrate
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT MONTH
October 2015

The chapter has arranged additional opportunities for our members and friends to celebrate the first ever Florida Native Plant Month (FNPM). **Please spread the word, invite your friends and attend as many as you can.** See FNPM activities all over the state at <http://www.fnps.org/news/plantmonth>.

Special Dade Chapter activities are listed below. (Details of the October meeting, field trip, Everglades workday and Miami Shores Green Day are included elsewhere.)

October 3, 2015 (Saturday), 8:30 a.m. - noon:

FIU Nature Preserve workday.

Planting, weeding, moving things.

Directions: From SW 8th Street, turn south on SW 117 Ave. Turn east on SW 17 Street and pass one stop sign. Park on the right. The preserve entrance is on the left.

Contact: eric.vonwettberg@fiu.edu.

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

October 11, 2015 (Sunday), 3:30 - 6 p.m.:

Native plant celebration and yard visit at the home of the Nojaims and Carrie Cleland.

Enjoy this beautiful yard with a hammock area, a water feature, a giant tree cactus, and lots of oaks. The family will be moving soon (yes, again), but first, they want to share this yard with those who would most appreciate it: FNPS! One of our very own long-time members designed it decades ago.

Address / directions: 5200 SW 63 Court (west of Red Road). From Miller Road (SW 56 Street), turn north onto 63rd Avenue, the road across from tiny Brewer Park with tennis courts. Then take the first left turn, then immediate right (63 Court). The property begins on the left, just after the two-story house. Entrance is at the other end of the chain-link fence.

Phone: 305-668-0593

October 24, 2015 (Saturday), 9 a.m. – noon:

Help restore pine rockland habitat at Tropical Park. Volunteers will spend the morning removing non-native, invasive plants from the understory of this small forest fragment.

We will also do some planting in a recently restored area of the preserve.

For more information, and to RSVP, please contact Devon Powell (DevonPowell111@gmail.com or 954-288-7238).

October 31, 2015 (Saturday), 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.:

Tour of pineland restoration at Coral Pine Park.

TREEmendous Miami will give a tour of its work at Coral Pine Park in Pinecrest. This attractive small pineland planting project has done very well. The tour leader will explain how the project was planned and work was carried out by TREEmendous Miami and volunteers from the DCFNPS. The surrounding area was originally pineland and is now residential.

Free, open to the public, free parking, easy access.

Address: 6955 SW 104 St., Pinecrest, FL 33156

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

Broward Chapter FNPS. See <http://coontie.fnpschapters.org/>.

Meetings are at Secret Woods, 2701 W. SR 84, Dania Beach.

- **Oct. 14, 2015, 7 p.m.:** Chapter meeting. Development and management of Green Cay & Wakodahatchee Wetlands.
- **Oct. 17, 2015, 9 a.m.:** Tour of Green Cay (Palm Beach Co.)

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.

Oct. 20, 2015 topic: Beech and Oak family (Fagaceae). We have lots of oaks in Florida, and they should be in fruit still.

TREEmendous Miami. Oct. 3, 11a.m. – 2p.m.: Maintenance workday - Virginia Key Beach Park native plant restoration. More info: info@treemendousmiami.org or see the September *Tillandsia*.

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

Nov. 1, 2015, 1 - 3 pm: Miami Blue Quarterly Meeting. John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, 102601 Overseas Hwy., Key Largo (Mile Marker 102.5). See the website for program information. Free after admission to the park (park entrance free to current MB members).

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. 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, 2015: 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, Montgomery Botanical Center.

• **Nov. 4, 2015, 7 p.m.** “Sea Level Rise and Changes in Coastal Vegetation in Southern Florida” - Dr. Don DeAngelis, UM.

Location: Cox Science Center, Room 166, near the arboretum.

See <http://www.bio.miami.edu/arboretum> > visits or 305-284-1302. Free parking, Purple Lot, south end of arboretum.

Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Volunteer Workdays. Help make a difference in protecting our natural areas at preserves and earn Community Service Hours. Please pre-register at EEL@miamidade.gov or call 305-372-6611.

<http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands.asp>

• **Oct. 3, 2015:** Camp Matecumbe Pineland, 13841 SW 120 St. (planting)

• **Oct. 10, 2015:** County Line Scrub, NE 215 St., east of San Simeon Way (exotic removal)

• **Oct. 30, 2015:** Larry & Penny Thompson Park, SW 179 Ter. & 122 Ave. (clean-up)

• **Nov. 7, 2015:** Tree Island Park, SW 147 Ave. & 10 St. (bird walk & clean-up)

The Institute for Regional Conservation.

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

▪ **Join the email list for current news, interesting articles** and opportunities to participate in restoration activities.

▪ Link to **Facebook** for interesting info and cool photos.

▪ Click on **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> for information and activities. Join to support and stay in touch.

ROGER'S PICK:

The Most Difficult to Photograph Native Plant

By Roger L. Hammer

What is your most special plant? For a display at the March 2015 Native Plant Day, we asked some of our native plant experts to tell about a plant they consider special – a favorite native plant, or the most beautiful, or the most interesting, or some other superlative. Their selections were as unique and entertaining as the contributors! Here is Roger Hammer's pick.

Prickly Applecactus, *Harrisia fragrans*

Have you ever been in the mangrove-buttonwood forests? Yes? Well, how about in July – AT NIGHT?

That is where and when you will have to be if you want to photograph the state- and federal-listed endangered, endemic Prickly Applecactus. Despite the sweltering heat and humidity, I suggest a long-sleeved shirt worn with denim blue jeans, thick socks and boots, and a mosquito-mesh hat. Bring Deep Woods OFF if you care to. Running and screaming are optional.

Oh, and bring a basketball so you can throw it through the hordes of saltmarsh mosquitoes and then take the picture through the hole.



I'm only slightly exaggerating. The flower buds open at about 9 o'clock and your misery will be over at around midnight.

When you see the flower all else will seem eclipsed because there before you will be one of the most magnificent Florida native wildflowers in the state. However, there's a good chance that it's the most seldom seen wildflower in Florida.

Prickly Applecactus occurs along the east coast of Florida in Volusia, Brevard, Indian River and St. Lucie counties, and also Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, including the Florida Keys.

The photographs were taken in the mangrove-buttonwood forests near Flamingo in Everglades National Park in July 2012.

If you find a basketball out there, it's mine.



Roger Hammer is a retired Miami-Dade County naturalist, author of several books, photographer, and native plant aficionado. He is a member of FNPS, a frequent speaker, and generous contributor to Tillandsia and Palmetto.

Editor's note: If you look up this plant on The Institute for Regional Conservation website (<http://regionalconservation.org/ircs/database/plants/PlantPage.asp?TXCODE=Harrsimp>), you will find it listed as *Harrisia simpsonii*. The IRC states: "The Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants has placed this into synonymy under *H. fragrans*, a

federally listed species just to the north of our area. We are maintaining the two as distinct entities for the time being."

Click the link to Natives For Your Neighborhood for information on the use of this plant (by either name) in "natural landscapes and habitat restorations. Also spiny buffer plantings."

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)
Vice President: Amy Leonard (aleonar74@yahoo.com, 305-458-0969)
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At Large: Devon Powell, Surey Rios, Ted Shafer, Jennifer Stine
 Eric von Wettberg, Vivian Waddell
Past President: Buck Reilly (buck@habify.com, 786-291-4824)

Refreshment coordinators: Cheryl & Ben Morgan (ckmorg@bellsouth.net)
Membership: Patty Phares (pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404)

General chapter information: 305-985-3677 (new number)
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/dadefnps>
Twitter and Instagram: @dcfnps or Dade Native Plants
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TILLANDSIA

Editor: Patty Phares (pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404)
Staff needed – coedit, layout, content. Please contact the editor.

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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Thank you for reading *Tillandsia* and keeping up with the news from DCFNPS. Please send the board and newsletter editor your suggestions, comments and newsletter items. We love to hear from our members!

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