



Dade Chapter

# TILLANDSIA

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

MARCH 2016

## MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, March 22, 2016, 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. The plant raffle follows the program. **Please label your raffle plant donations.** Contributions of raffle items and refreshments are always greatly appreciated.

### *Seagrasses of South Florida:*

#### *Their importance and the influence of urbanization*

— Jennifer Sweatman, PhD Candidate, FIU

South Florida is home to seven different species of seagrasses, all important to fish, invertebrates and humans. Seagrasses provide habitat for commercially important species, food and refuge for juvenile fish and invertebrates, and improve water clarity and quality. Seagrass beds are at risk of degradation from disturbances that result from human development and recreation. This presentation will focus on the services provided by south Florida seagrass beds, and responses of seagrasses and grazing crustaceans (amphipods) to urbanization.

Jenn is a PhD candidate in biology at Florida International University. Her research focuses on identifying biological indicators of changes in water quality within seagrass beds to improve management of these ecosystems. She is also interested in understanding how seagrasses respond to human-induced disturbances, such as nutrient pollution and propeller scarring.



Photo courtesy of Naomi Blinick

• **April 26:** "Ayenia (Malvaceae) as a Model for Caribbean Biogeography and Conservation of South Florida Pine Rocklands" — Wyatt Sharber, PhD Candidate, Univ. of Miami.

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

### MARCH

- 5 (Sat.): Arboretum cleanup – Bill Sadowski Park \*
- 6 (Sun.): Field trip – Everglades National Park
- 18 (Fri.): Setup for Native Plant Day \*
- 19 (Sat.): **NATIVE PLANT DAY \***
- 22 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

### APRIL

- 9 (Sat): Field trip (Simpson Park)
- 23 (Sat): Chapter workday, Everglades National Park \*
- 26 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

\* *Please Volunteer – see announcements for details*

## NATIVE PLANT DAY – MARCH 19

See page 2 for a preview

Please sign up *today* to volunteer,  
and prepare your raffle/sale donations!

### Also in this issue:

- Remembering Gwladys Eliot Scott
- What Our Friends Are Doing – more events and activities
- “Coastal Rosegiant” by Roger L. Hammer

## FIELD TRIP

**Note:** Due to fluctuating water levels, we may change the destination (but hopefully not). Meeting place and time remain the same.

If the weather is very bad call to confirm (Patty, 305-255-6404). Field trips are for the study of plants and enjoyment of nature by FNPS members and their guests. Collecting is not permitted. Time, address and directions are in the newsletter mailed to members. Please join to enjoy all the activities of the chapter!

**Sunday, March 6, 2016: Everglades National Park cypress dome – or alternate site if water is too deep.**

- **ENP entrance:** \$20/car, park pass or carpool from Coe.
- **Bring:** Water, sun protection bug protection (just in case), possibly a walking stick and change of shoes and pants.
- **Wear:** Sturdy shoes & long pants that can get muddy and wet.
- **Deep water precautions:** Zip lock bags for your electronics

- **Difficulty:** Moderate/difficult. Pinnacle rock and holes require careful walking. Leg-sucking mud in the dome.
- **Late?** Try Patty's cell (305-878-5705) but reception is poor in the park. Find us a mile west of the Pa-hay-okee turnoff.
- **Leader:** Steve Woodmansee

*Bring a picnic lunch if you would like. Those up for more outdoor enjoyment might visit some other location (easy) after lunch.*

**Saturday, April 9, 2016: Simpson Park, City of Miami.**  
Details next month.

## MAKE NATIVE PLANT DAY THE BEST ONE EVER

**As a chapter member, please help us make the day a big success! First, please spread information about the event to your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, club-mates. Also:**

- **Donate raffle items and plants for the chapter sale.** We sell plants (in addition to our usual merchandise) to raise funds for the chapter. We also hold a raffle of some of the best and most rare plant specimens you'll find, and also gardening or nature-related items, gift certificates, etc. Please groom your plants now. Contact Amy if you need to drop them off in advance or so we can be prepared for your donations.

- **Distribute stacks of postcards.** Pick some up (contact Amy) for your grocery store, doctor's office, library, local business or other well-trafficked area (with permission, of course).

- **Help set up on Friday, March 18.** Setting up the raffle and other stations, as well as moving tables and hanging signs are some of the easy yet essential things you can do Friday afternoon. Contact Amy.

- **Loan butterfly larvae and potted larval host/nectar plants or other interesting display plants or items.** Share the best of your natives and show the public why they should use more in their yards. Contact Patty.

- **Help at Native Plant Day.** On March 19 we will need about 40 volunteers to make the event happen. 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 young people you know might be able to give us some of their time.**

### Contact information:

Amy Leonard: 305-458-0969, aleonar74@yahoo.com  
Patty Phares: 305-255-6404, pharespl@gmail.com  
Gita Ramsay: 786-877-7168, gita.ramsay@gmail.com

Thank you for your help in making this year's Native Plant Day exceptional!  
Amy Leonard

## Native Plant Day

**Saturday, March 19, 2016**

9 am to 4 pm

**Bill Sadowski Park at Old Cutler Hammock**  
**17555 SW 79 Avenue, Palmetto Bay, 33157**  
**(1/2 mile west of Old Cutler Road on SW 176 St.)**

Sponsored by:

**The Dade Chapter FNPS and Miami-Dade County Parks**

Enjoy a free day of learning and fun for all ages.

Rain or shine!

- Programs and nature walks
- Book, merchandise and plant sales by the Dade Chapter
  - Plant sales by nursery vendors (cash/check)
  - Hands-on take-home projects
  - Plant Clinic
- Exhibits by environmental organizations
- Raffles
- Explore the park's natural areas and arboretum
  - Special: kid's only plant sale!
- Food and drinks available for purchase

Learn about native plants, natural areas, landscaping, water conservation, "bad" insects, butterflies, seeds, geology, wildflowers, tree planting, woodturning and lots more.

**Rain Barrel Workshop by Florida Yards and Neighborhoods**  
**(\$40, pre-register at 305-248-3311 ext. 242)**

Contact the Dade Chapter if you need additional information.  
**The schedule will be posted at <http://dade.fnpschapters.org> when final.**

## DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

### Important messages from FNPS:

- **The *Sabal minor* is going all-digital.** If you currently receive a printed and mailed copy and would like to continue receiving the *Sabal minor*, **please provide an email address** to FNPS Administrative Services (321-271-6702 or [info@fnps.org](mailto:info@fnps.org)). **OR, just look it up every two months at <http://www.fnps.org/resources/sabalminor>.**

- **The Landscape Awards Program deadline has been extended to March 18.** There are many entry categories (*not* just home landscapes), and non-members are invited to participate. Download guidelines and application form at <http://www.fnps.org>.

**Please consider submitting your home landscape or other project (or encourage a friend) – it's a great way to promote native plants to the public!** Homeowner requirements: 75% or more native plants; minimum 2-year grow-in period; no plants on the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's Category I and II lists.

- **FNPS Annual Conference May 18-22, 2016**, in Daytona Beach. See <http://www.fnps.org/conference> for preliminary information on great field trips, programs and socials.

**Support conservation of Florida's native plants with a donation to the chapter's "Gann Conservation Fund".**

This fund supports the FNPS Conservation Grants and honors

DCFNPS founders, Joyce and Don Gann. Please donate at a meeting, mail a check to DCFNPS at the chapter address (note "Gann Conservation Fund" in the memo line), or contact Susan Walcutt ([walcutts@bellsouth.net](mailto:walcutts@bellsouth.net), 305-297-7757).

## Gwladys Eliot Scott: 1934-2016

Gwladys – “Gwladys” – went way back in her journey with native plants. She joined during the first year of DCFNPS in 1982, but she had participated in the Native Plant Workshop since the 1960s.

### WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

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

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

- **Mar. 9, 7 p.m.: Chapter meeting.** Jimmy Lange reports back from Puerto Rico on familiar and different plants
- **Mar. 12, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Native Plant Sale** at Fern Forest

**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](mailto:steve@pronative.com). Bring at least three cuttings (especially in flower/fruit), which need not pertain to the topic. **Mar. 15 topic: Lawn weeds**

**Environmentally Endangered Lands Volunteer Workdays.** Please pre-register at [EEL@Miamiidade.gov](mailto:EEL@Miamiidade.gov); 305-372-6611.

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

- **Mar. 17 (Thurs.):** Florida City Pineland – Palm Dr. & SW 8 Ave. (clean-up)

**The 25th Annual Lecture Series: *The Delicate Balance of Nature 2016.*** 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, MM 102.5 Overseas Hwy., Oceanside. Gate opens 7 p.m. Free, seating limited. Call 305-451-9570.

- **Mar. 9: Invasive Plants: What to do next with native gardening** – Cara Abott, The Inst. for Regional Conservation.
- **Mar. 16: Florida Tree Snails** – Sara Hamilton
- **Mar. 23: A History of John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park** – Elena Muratori
- **Mar. 30: Florida Keys Reef Lights** – Brenda Altmeier

**Tropical Audubon Society.** 5530 Sunset Dr., Miami, FL, 33143. 305-667-7337. <http://www.tropicalaudubon.org>. Search the calendar for events, including:

**Mar. 20: Spring wildflower walk with Roger Hammer.** Registration required

**Deering Estate at Cutler. March 12, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.:** **Archaeology Day.** Educational activities, expert lectures and walking tours of the Estate's unique natural areas for the whole family. [www.deeringestate.org](http://www.deeringestate.org), 305-235-1668

**Friends of the Gifford Arboretum, Univ. of Miami**  
**Thursday, April 7, 2016, 7 p.m.**

**Annual Gifford Lecture**

Dr. Helene Muller-Landau presents on

**“Tropical Forest Responses to Global Change”**

A reception will follow.

Cox Science Center, Room 145

<http://www.bio.miami.edu/arboretum> > visits or 305-284-1302.



Gwladys at home, October 2015 – sans shoes, of course

She was most known to recent members for organizing our yard visits, including to the hammock (a Natural Forest Community) where she and her husband, Gene, built their unique open-air, raised house in 1967, incorporating salvaged Dade County pine.



Gwladys was a volunteer for just about everything in the chapter at some time, from *top* (vice-president or board member many times, but “I’ll never be president”); FNPS conference and Native Plant Day committee member) to *bottom* (weed-puller; table-sitter; newsletter-folder – we stopped counting how many at 10,000; whatever was needed).

Outside of FNPS, she gave her “loving and sweaty attention” to native landscaping and pineland restoration at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation (creating native weed lovers along the way); taught a class at Fairchild; served on the Land Acquisition Selection Committee for the Miami-Dade Environmentally Endangered Lands Program.

She taught science in the classroom and later worked for DERM, but never stopped teaching at *outside* the classroom. Yard visits were for learning, especially for the “newbies.” At Native Plant Day our graduate geographer/geologist (or “geo- person”, as she said) explained rock formations, topography, and how they determine plant diversity and habitat (then taught kids how to fold newspapers into bags). She hooked people on native plants at the dog park and veterinarian’s office.

At the same time she was always a student. She didn’t know all the plants and birds but would grab a nature book to try to identify them (or maybe Google “night bird that sounds like a goat”). She was insightful and pursued long discussions about plants and environmental issues (to the delight of her endodontist and dismay of his staff).

Gwladys was “a no-nonsense person who saw truth and falsehood easily.” Whether challenging a developer speaking to the chapter on building an artificial wetland instead preserving native habitat, or admonishing a park ranger to get outside, or standing up for her friends, she did not shy away from speaking her mind or stepping in, *usually* in a nice but firm way.

A coworker at DERM recalls her after Hurricane Andrew supervising activities at a construction demolition landfill to make sure hazardous materials were not accepted. She was on top of the landfill giving orders and directing the show far beyond the permits requirements. “She was doing it *her* way and she had all the folks there under control. It was a sight to see.”

Most of all, she is remembered simply for how nice she was: fun and funny, fair, dedicated, a devoted (barefoot!) nature-lover and friend.

“*One less soul on the planet who really cared about it.*”

“*She was able to weed better than I could. What an amazing woman.*”

“*Always very energetic, interesting and feisty!*”

“*She was such a magnificent person, so full of life, and she valued her community.*”

“*An intelligent, classy lady.*”

“*She had a practical attitude, didn’t sweat the small stuff, and paid no attention to nonsense.*”

“*She will be missed for her endless kindness, unselfish desire to make everyone feel welcome and always available to help in any way she could.*”

And someone is surely saying about Gwladys, “She was the person who started me on my native plant adventure.”

[Contributions from FNPS members and friends, compiled by Patty Phares]

## COASTAL ROSEGENTIAN

By Roger L. Hammer

Coastal rosegentian (*Sabatia calycina*) is one of the easiest species in the genus to identify as long as you know some key features. The most abundant species in our area is *Sabatia stellaris*, commonly called rose-of-Plymouth or marsh-pink, which has five corolla lobes in various shades of pink, 2-toned pink-and-white, or pure white, and always with a red jagged line at the base of the lobes that forms a circle around a yellow center.



Coastal rosegentian can have 5, 6, or 7 corolla lobes that are typically uniformly pink or rose, but may be white. The center of the corolla is pale yellow to greenish, which may or may not be bordered by a thin, irregular, orange line. The wide calyx lobes are a key character and are visible behind the corolla lobes, sometimes far surpassing them in length. Those on *Sabatia stellaris* are narrow and usually hidden behind the corolla lobes.

*Sabatia* honors Italian botanist Liberato Sabbati (1714–1779), who was the keeper of the Roman Botanic Garden. The species name *calycina* refers to the conspicuous calyx lobes. It was first named *Gentiana calycina* in 1788 by French naturalist Jean Baptiste Antoine Pierre de Monnet de Lamarck (1744–1829), who was commissioned as a Royal Botanist in 1781 and charged with collecting rare plants and minerals for the Royal Garden. American botanist Amos Arthur Heller (1867–1944) relegated it to the genus *Sabatia* in 1894.



Look for this species in wet habitats, especially floodplain forests and flatwoods. It flowers mostly in summertime but may flower sporadically all year, often growing in the company of other members of the genus. There are twelve members of this

genus in Florida and, although all are native to the state, only five species occur south of Lake Okeechobee.

Good places to search for coastal rosegentian in southern Florida are Jonathan Dickinson State Park (Martin County) and in the Big Cypress National Preserve, Collier-Seminole State Park, Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park, CREW Marsh, and Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, all in Collier County. Happy hunting!

*Roger Hammer is a retired Miami-Dade County naturalist, author, photographer and native plant aficionado. He has written six books on Florida and wildflower identification cards for different parts of Florida. He is a long-time member and supporter of FNPS and frequent contributor to Tillandsia.*

**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!**

If you are reading this in digital form but prefer a print newsletter, just hit "print." It only takes a minute.

If you receive a print newsletter delivered by the USPS, please consider switching to email delivery to save chapter funds.

### **DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

**President:** Kurt Birchenough ([kbirc001@fiu.edu](mailto:kbirc001@fiu.edu), 202-905-3921)  
**Vice President:** Amy Leonard ([aleonar74@yahoo.com](mailto:aleonar74@yahoo.com), 305-458-0969)  
**Secretary:** Gita Ramsay ([gita.ramsay@gmail.com](mailto:gita.ramsay@gmail.com), 786-877-7168)  
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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](mailto:buck@habify.com), 786-291-4824)

**Refreshment coordinators:** Cheryl & Ben Morgan ([ckmorg@bellsouth.net](mailto:ckmorg@bellsouth.net))  
**Membership:** Patty Phares ([pharespl@gmail.com](mailto: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  
**DCFNPS Website:** <http://dade.fnpschapters.org/>  
**DCFNPS e-mail:** [dadefnps@gmail.com](mailto:dadefnps@gmail.com)  
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### **TILLANDSIA**

**Editor:** Patty Phares ([pharespl@gmail.com](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Advertising rates from \$12 per month.

### **FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

**FNPS office:** [info@fnps.org](mailto: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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**Giant swallowtail butterflies mating**  
Photo by Cheryl Solomon

### **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 above.

It costs very little to make a difference!



**GOOD NEWS:**  
**The convenient online join and renew**  
**is back at fnps.org**  
**(after a long adjustment to a new**  
**member database system).**