



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

APRIL 2016

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, April 26, 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.

"*Ayenia* (Malvaceae) as a Model for Caribbean Biogeography and Conservation of South Florida Pine Rocklands"

— Wyatt Sharber, PhD Candidate, Univ. of Miami.

My dissertation focuses on the plant genus *Ayenia*, which has approximately 85 species distributed throughout the warm, dry areas of the New World. Twelve species are native to the islands of the Caribbean: some are widespread, and some are endemic to a single island. Using a genus-wide phylogeny of *Ayenia*, I reconstruct the relationships of these Caribbean species to each other and to their mainland relatives, attempting to infer the timing, tempo, and location of the evolution of *Ayenia* in the Caribbean and North and South America. This line of research is explored in more detail in the South Florida native species, *Ayenia euphrasiifolia*, the Eyebright *Ayenia*. This species is



restricted to the endangered and highly fragmented pine rockland habitat and is an ideal system for studying the genetic consequences of habitat fragmentation in South Florida pine rocklands. It grows alongside listed endangered

species such as *Euphorbia deltoidea* and *Polygala smallii*, yet it is unlisted, so destructive sampling for genetic analyses is less restricted than other pine rockland understory endemics. I present preliminary results of the current versus historical distribution of *A. euphrasiifolia* in South Florida, and describe future research and hypotheses to be tested in this system.

Wyatt Sharber is currently a PhD candidate and former Anness Fellow at the University of Miami in the Department of Biology under his adviser, Dr. Barbara Whitlock. His research focuses on plant evolution and systematics in the Malvaceae subfamily Byttnerioideae. He graduated from Oklahoma State University in 2011 with a B.S. in Botany and Zoology. He received a Research Grant from FNPS in 2014 to pursue this work.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

APRIL

- 9 (Sat): Field trip (Simpson Park)
- 17 (Sun.): Earth Day Festival, Pinecrest Gardens *
- 23 (Sat): Chapter workday and volunteer appreciation lunch, Everglades National Park *
- 26 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

MAY

- 15 (Sun.): Field trip (Collier-Seminole State Park)
- 24 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens (with Annual Chapter Meeting and election of board)

* Please Volunteer – see announcements for details

May 19-22: Annual FNPS Conference, Daytona Beach

Upcoming programs:

- May 24: "Orchids from Across the Florida Straits: The Cuba Connection" - Chuck McCartney, former editor, Am. Orchid Society Bulletin
- June 28: "Native Plants and Other Wilds of the Big Cypress National Preserve" – Steve Woodmansee

Also in this issue:

- News – Volunteer opportunities -- Events
- What Our Friends Are Doing – more events and activities
- "Strongback" – by Roger Hammer

FIELD TRIP

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!

- **Saturday, April 9, 2016: Simpson Park.** Charles Torey Simpson, a noted naturalist and author early in the 20th century, was instrumental in persuading officials to preserve some of Brickell Hammock. Now, thanks to Park Naturalist Juan Fernandez and his City of Miami maintenance crew, this 8.5 acre site is an environmental, cultural and historic treasure.

Over 20 plant species in the park are Florida state endangered or threatened, including the endangered Gulf Licaria (*Licaria triandra*). See <http://www.miamigov.com/parks/simpson.html>.

Leader: Juan Fernandez, Park Naturalist (and FNPS member)

Difficulty: Easy - smooth but unpaved paths.

- **Sunday, May 15, 2016: Collier-Seminole State Park**
- **Sunday, June 5, 2016: Camp Owaissa Bauer pineland**

DADE CHAPTER NEWS

Volunteer for DCFNPS at the Annual Earth Day Festival, Pinecrest Gardens, April 17, 2016, noon - 4 p.m.

Our members are great ambassadors for our chapter! You will staff our table to talk with visitors about native plants and FNPS, invite them to join, and help sell native plants. **Please contact Amy Leonard (aleonar74@yahoo.com, 305-458-0969).**

This free event features workshops presented by the CLEO Institute and plant societies, food demos, planting activities, plant sales, an eco-fashion show, green vendors, wildlife shows, local school performances, crafts for kids and more.

See <http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov/index.aspx?page=637> for more information and locations of overflow parking (with a shuttle).

Volunteer for a while - then enjoy the event for yourself!

Chapter workday and volunteer appreciation lunch, Everglades National Park, Coe Visitor Center, April 23, 2016. The workday is **9 a.m. – noon, followed by a picnic lunch** (at the park). Help the chapter enhance the entrance to ENP. We will be doing maintenance – pruning and weeding. Cold water provided; bring snacks to share if you care to. Gloves and hand tools are available. New helpers are encouraged to come! Everyone in your car gets into ENP free after the workday. Contact Patty 305-255-6404 or pharespl@gmail.com, if you have questions (305-878-5705 cell, for the morning of the workday). **Please RSVP to Patty by April 21 if you are planning to stay for lunch.**

FNPS Conservation Grants are again being sponsored by the Dade Chapter with a donation of \$1500. Our donation is

funded by members and the bequest of Robert Kelley and has been made annually since 2013 in honor of the chapter's founders, **Joyce and Don Gann**. The focus of these awards is on Florida's endangered, threatened, and rare species and their habitats.

See http://fnps.org/what-we-do/conservation_grants for past awards. Awards for 2016 will be announced at the FNPS conference in May. **Support these awards by donating at any time to the chapter's "Gann Fund."**



NOTICE OF ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING and ELECTION

May 24, 2016, 7:30 p.m. at Pinecrest Gardens

Call for Nominations: Chapter board member nominations are being accepted **through April 30**. Elections for the Miami-Dade Chapter Board positions of president, vice-president, and three directors at large (all for two-year terms) will be held at the May 24 chapter meeting. A slate will be presented by the nominating committee at the meeting.

Please contact Amy Leonard (aleonar74@yahoo.com, 305-458-0969) if you are interested in serving on the board or have someone to suggest.

The main qualifications are enthusiasm and a desire to see the chapter thrive. You don't have to be a botanist - a variety of skills is always needed on the board.

Welcome new members! Joey Basna (student, FIU), Lydia Cuni (student, FIU), Jeannie Dessingue (student), Mary Ann and Tom Hanson, Miami Beach Botanical Garden (Not-for-Profit), Etienne Hernandez Perez, Yinghua Luo, Hernan Martinez, Sanna O'Sullivan, Sally Rowley, Melanie and Joel Trexler, Tina Walker (student, FIU).

Native Plant Day 2016 A Resounding Success!

On March 19, 2016, the Dade Chapter held our 21st Native Plant Day at Bill Sadowski Nature Center and Park. With over 40 volunteers and over 500 attendees this was the best event yet. A very special thank you to those who helped distribute postcards, grow plants, or gave of their time at the event. We certainly couldn't have done it without you. Member-donated plants were especially abundant this year and helped the chapter generate revenue, so please plan to do more of the same next year!

We are already have scheduled **March 25, 2017**, for our 22nd Native Plant Day in the City of North Miami in their beautiful **Elaine Gordon Enchanted Forest Park**.

Your suggestions for speakers or other thoughts about how to make that event even more successful are always welcome. Thank you for helping spread the word about the work our Chapter does through this, our signature event.

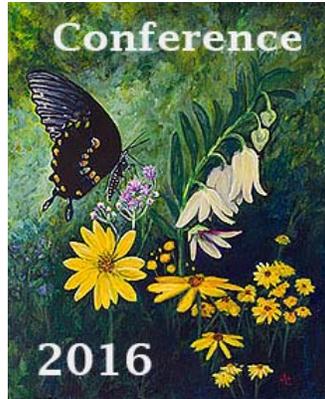
- Amy Leonard

FNPS NEWS

Find the March/April *Sabal Minor* FNPS newsletter at http://fnps.org/assets/pdf/sabalminor/sabalminor18_2_2016.pdf. Remember that the *Sabal minor* is going all-digital. If you were receiving a printed copy, **please provide an email address** to FNPS Administrative Services (321-271-6702, or info@fnps.org) or simply look it up online on your own.

36th Annual FNPS Conference May 19-22, 2016, in Daytona Beach. See <http://www.fnps.org/conference> for preliminary information on great **field trips, programs, workshops and socials**. Make **hotel reservations** now to ensure your ocean-view room at the conference rate through April 29. **Registration will open soon** so check your email.

The annual conference is a *great* way to experience nature in another part of the state, learn from experts about a variety of topics, and mingle with like-minded people from all over the state. Plan to attend!



WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

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

- **Apr. 13, 7 p.m.:** Chapter meeting. **100 Years of Broward Orchids – Chuck McCartney**
- **Apr. 16, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Native Plant Sale** at Secret Woods. Sale by the Broward Chapter, Friends of Secret Woods, and Broward and Palm Beach nurseries.
- **Apr. 30, 9:30 am. Field trip, Jonathan Dickinson State Park**, Hobe Sound with Chuck McCartney. *Dade Chapter folks are “invited enthusiastically!”* Chuck expects lots of spring wildflowers and possibly three orchid species in bloom.

Dade Native Plant Workshop: Enthusiastic folks who wish to learn how to identify South Florida's wild plants. 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.

This free workshop focuses on plant identification, but discussion can include landscape use (or not to use!) Bring at least three cuttings (especially in flower/fruit), which need not pertain to the topic. **Novices and experts alike are welcome.** *Join on the website (free) if you would like to receive an email reminder or post plant photos for ID or discussion.*

April 19 topic: “Foolish” common names (in the spirit of April Fools' Day). These are plants whose common name is misleading in one fashion or another (e.g. Australian-pine, is not related to pine trees at all).

Native Plant Day: An Earth Day Event, April 9, 2016, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, MM 102.5 Overseas Highway, Oceanside

Ongoing: Informational booths by community organizations, children's activities, distribution of plants grown from seeds of Keys natives (for Keys residents).

9:30 & 11:45 – Nature walks

10:30 – "Native Alternatives to Non-Native Plants in Keys' Gardens" - FL Park Service Biologist Janice Duquesnel.

Environmentally Endangered Lands Volunteer Workdays. Please pre-register at EEL@Miamiidade.gov; 305-372-6611. <http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands.asp>

- **Apr. 9: Black Creek Preserve** – SW 112 Ave/211 St (plant)
- **Apr. 16: Baynanza Biscayne Bay Clean-up** (305-372-6784)
- **May 7: Zoo Miami Pineland** (planting)

Tropical Audubon Society. 5530 Sunset Dr., Miami, FL, 33143. 305-667-7337. <http://www.tropicalaudubon.org>. **Apr. 24, 2016: Annual “Wingding”** celebrates South Florida's conservation heroes at a **free community event**. In addition to awards, enjoy the silent auction, food, live music, and a topical panel discussion of **"Climate Change & Habitat Impact."**

Friends of the Gifford Arboretum, Univ. of Miami. <http://www.bio.miami.edu/arboretum> > visits or 305-284-1302. These events and parking are free.

- **April 7, 2016, 7 p.m.: Annual Gifford Lecture.** Dr. Helene Muller-Landau presents **“Tropical Forest Responses to Global Change.”** A reception will follow. Cox Sci. Center, Room 145
- **May 4, 2016, 7 p.m.:** Monthly meeting. **“Island Coasts and Plants: Coastal Ecology and Restoration in the Bahamas”** – Assoc. Prof. Kathleen Sullivan-Sealey, 7 p.m., Cox room 166.

Pelican Party – April 30, 2016, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Help the Pelican Harbor Seabird Station celebrate and fund a year of serving and preserving our local wildlife at the Miami Shores Country Club. PelicanHarbor.org. It's for the birds!

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

May 1, 2016, 1-3 p.m.: **Quarterly meeting** at Castellow Hammock Park, 22301 SW 162 Ave. Barbara McAdam, UF/IFAS/ Extension Service, will speak about **“The 39 Imperiled Butterflies of South Florida”** (and their necessary plants). Come early to enjoy the butterfly garden and hammock.

Kenwoods Outdoor Learning Center 30th Anniversary Celebration

April 30, 2016, 9 - 11 a.m. - You are invited!

The Kenwoods Outdoor Learning Center (KOLC) was initiated in the spring of 1986 with school and community volunteers enlisted to plant dozens of native South Florida trees in an under-utilized grassy section of the school campus. The Dade Chapter FNPS has been a continuing supporter of this **national award-winning schoolyard planting**, and without this support the project would be less than what it has become. Many of the plants have come from donations by chapter members, associated nurseries and a few rescues. Advisory sessions by members helped keep the project focused over these many years. In 1996 KOLC earned the FNPS “Design With Natives” award in the Schoolyard category.

FNPS members and guests are invited to our celebration. There will be short talks from groups and individuals who have supported the project, wildlife exhibit and storytelling for the kids, “hammock” tours, a ceremonial tree planting and more.

In addition, for those who like an extra “nature fix” and some higher-quality uncrowded time in the woods, we will hold a last **cleanup session on Saturday, April 23** at 9 a.m. to tidy-up a bit. As always, your help is genuinely appreciated.

Kenwood K-8 Center is at 9300 SW 79 Ave., Miami FL 33156. The KOLC is the forest toward the north end of the campus.

- Henry Block

Paid advertising

VEBER'S  *Jungle Garden*

LESLIE VEBER

By Appointment Only – please call to come by at a convenient time for one-on-one attention.

**24605 SW 197 Avenue
Homestead, FL, 33031
305-242-9500**

www.vebersjunglegarden.com

**Retail • Wholesale Nursery
Landscape Design and Installation
Natives • Wildflowers • Bamboo
Palms • Bird and Butterfly Plants**



Mabel Fentress Miller Walking Trail

In January, 2016, the Miami City Commission named a trail at Virginia Key Beach Park honoring Mabel Miller, a long time environmentalist and major advocate for the restoration of Virginia Key.

The leadership and efforts of Mabel, who founded Friends of Virginia Key, brought the preservation of Virginia Key to the forefront. Mabel played an integral part in the development of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Nature Center at Crandon Park. She trained Dade County school teachers planning to bring students to Virginia Key and greatly contributed to the education of thousands of students in her 37 years as a science and environmental education specialist. Mabel was a founding member of the American Littoral Society’s Advisory Board, establishing the Florida Park Service’s Citizen Support Group for Cape Florida and developing the program “Plant a Seed” for elementary school students of disenfranchised communities. She wrote the “Field Guide to the South Florida Ecosystem Preserve: Hardwood Hammock Nature Trail” and collaborated on the Key Coastal Hammock Interpretive Trail Guidebook.

Some of us were acquainted with Mabel as a member of FNPS and participant in the Native Plant Workshop some years ago. But it is legions of former students (now middle age) and adults involved in environmental education and preservation who *invariably* respond with enthusiasm (and nostalgia) to the mention of her name.

A celebration will be held in the near future for the naming of the trail, and it is hoped that Mabel will come from her current home away from Miami. We’ll keep you posted!

FNPS BLOG – A Resource Not To Miss

Don’t overlook the great resources offered by your fellow FNPS members on the FNPS blog. You can access the blog on the home page of fnps.org. Scroll down after **News to Latest from the Blog**. Below these articles you will see a list of **Recent Blog Posts**. Once you are at <http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/>, you can sign up for notices (e.g., by email) if you’d like.

One of the latest is “**Not So Tidy Yard**” by Devon Higginbotham, which begins:

If you are like me, you want your yard to look neat. So you mow the grass the moment it starts to look unruly, clip the hedges into geometric cubes, rake the fallen leaves and pick up the dead branches. You may even be compelled to eliminate any pesky bugs that may munch on your favorite shrub, leaving them with unsightly bite marks. Isn’t that the human way?

But why is it we feel it so necessary to be in charge of nature? We love how it looks in the parks and natural areas, but in our own yards we feel we must help out, somehow control and shape nature into our ideals of beauty. ...

But who I we really helping out? The leaf litter that falls to the ground eventually breaks down and supplies nutrients to the soil that help the surrounding plants (plants can’t just get up and move to a better spot if the nutrients are low). The dead branches attract insects that breakdown the fibers into more humus for the soil. Insects, in turn, become a food source for birds that peck through the leaves looking for protein for their nesting brood or themselves. Lizards, frogs and small mammals all seek insects as a primary food source. ...

See <http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/2016/03/the-not-so-tidy-yard.html> for the complete Blog post.

[The following article is reprinted from the July-August 2001 Tillandsia.]

STRONGBACK

by Roger L. Hammer

On Great Abaco, Bahamas, I once spoke to a heavysset, jovial Bahamian woman about several plants in her yard in Marsh Harbor. One was *Bourreria succulenta*, the tree that we, in Florida, commonly call Bahama “strongbark” but is correctly, “strongback.” The common name was explained to me by this woman (who owned a restaurant on the island called “Shut Up And Eat”) because I had asked her about Bahamian bush medicine. She explained to me that Bahamian women make a tea from the leaves to give their husbands a “strong back.” When I asked if that was for lifting things and doing yard work, she replied with great laughter, “Oh, no no no mon!” With that I switched my attention and the conversation to her Scotch bonnet peppers!

Bourreria succulenta is an endangered tree of southern Florida (Miami-Dade and Monroe counties) and is locally common in the hammocks of the Florida Keys, especially along the edges of

the hammocks on North Key Largo. It is especially noticeable when laden with clusters of orange fruit. It has rounded leaves from 2-3" long with a somewhat weeping growth habit. Mature specimens average about 10-18' tall. Clusters of small, 1/2", fragrant white flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds and are produced year round. Mockingbirds and catbirds are especially fond of the fruit. It is one of my personal favorite native trees.



The leaves of Bahama strongbark are hairy when young, becoming glabrous with age, and the hairy young leaves have led some to mistake it for an even rarer species, *Bourreria radula*, the "rough strongback." This species has very rough leaves even at maturity but otherwise is very similar to the previous species. Its range encompasses the Greater Antilles and, historically, the Lower Florida Keys. It is virtually unknown in the wild in Florida but a number of trees still exist in and around Key West. A few can be seen in the old Key West cemetery (right near a grave stone that is inscribed with the sentimental words, "I Told You I Was Sick"). I swear I didn't make that up, go look for yourself! Occasional specimens can also be seen in landscapes around old Key West.

There is also a third representative of this genus in Florida. Little strongback, *Bourreria cassinifolia*, is shrubby and may reach about 8-10' tall. Its leaves are coarsely hairy and are typically only about 1/2-3/4" long and half as wide. Its range in Florida is Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. On the mainland it is found in just a few pine rockland preserves of southern Miami-Dade County and the largest population is in Naranja on property that will almost surely be destroyed by the southern expansion of the busway and MetroRail. In the Florida Keys it is most common on Big Pine Key.

The genus *Bourreria* was named to honor the German apothecary, Johann Ambrosius Beurer (1716-1754) by the Irish physician and naturalist, Patrick Browne (1720-1790), who immigrated to Jamaica. When Browne first published the name in a book on the natural history of Jamaica in 1756, the genus was spelled *Beureria* in the index. It is easy to understand how

the name "strongback" became "strongbark" because if you ever hear a Bahamian say "strongback", it sounds like "strongbock."

Regardless of the name confusion surrounding this group of plants, they all deserve horticultural attention. Also, all three species are listed as *endangered* in Florida. And, if you make a tea from the leaves, they'll give you a strong bock mon!

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)
Secretary: Gita Ramsay (gita.ramsay@gmail.com, 786-877-7168)
Treasurer: Susan Walcutt (walcutts@bellsouth.net, 305-297-7757)
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
DCFNPS Website: <http://dade.fnpschapters.org/>
DCFNPS e-mail: dadefnps@gmail.com
Mailing address: Dade Chapter FNPS, 6619 South Dixie Hwy, #181, Miami FL 33143-7919
Webmaster: Haniel Pulido (dadefnpsweb@gmail.com)

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
 © 2016 Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society, Inc.



Native Plant Day, March 19, 2016