



Dade Chapter

# TILLANDSIA

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

MAY 2016

## MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, May 24, 2016, 7:30 p.m.  
Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57 Ave. (Red Road), Miami  
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. **Our brief Annual Meeting to elect the new chapter board will be held before the program.**

**“Our Native Orchids: The Florida-Cuba Connection”**  
- Chuck McCartney

Of Cuba's estimated 312 orchid species, Florida shares about 63 of them. With only a few exceptions, most of them probably blew onto our shores (or got here by other natural means) from our large Greater Antilles neighbor to the south. This program will take a look at these shared species.



(l) *Sacoila lanceolata* - in Florida



(r) *Clamshell Orchid (Prosthechea cochleata)* - in Cuba  
Photos by Chuck McCartney



Chuck McCartney, who now resides in Hollywood, is a fourth-generation South Floridian. He retired after 19 years as a copy editor for the Miami Herald Broward Edition, and before that was editor of the American Orchid Society's publications.

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

### MAY

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

### JUNE

- 5 (Sun.): **Field trip** (Camp Owaissa Bauer)
- 28 (Tue.): **Meeting** at Pinecrest Gardens
- TBA: **Chapter Workday**, Everglades National Park

May 19-22: **Annual FNPS Conference**, Daytona Beach

Orchids, including many of our native species, are among the first flowers he remembers as a child growing up in Homestead. He has been a longtime member of the Florida Native Plant Society and prior to that was a member of the original Native Plant Workshop.

- **June 28: "Native Plants and Other Wilds of the Big Cypress National Preserve"** – Steve Woodmansee

### Could you host our summer evening yard visit and social meeting on a weekend in July?

You don't have to have a "perfect" landscape or totally native yard. Please contact Amy Leonard (aleonar74@yahoo.com) if you might be interested or have a place to suggest.

## Win a *Lignumvitae (Guaiacum sanctum)* at the May meeting!

Member Ron Nuehring has donated a 3' tall specimen to be auctioned (silent or otherwise). Delivery arrangements can be made within a reasonable distance if needed. This plant volunteered in a large clay pot a few years ago when Ron's late wife Elane would start new plants by the easiest method possible: simply placing pots of soil beneath the tree where seeds would drop. This pot also contains several smaller bonus seedlings. Other smaller pots may also be available. See <http://regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/plantdetail.asp?tx=Guaisanc> or other websites for information about *Lignumvitae*.

### Also in this issue:

- **FIELD TRIPS** – page 2
- **News and announcements**
- **What our friends are doing** – more events and activities
- **"A closer look at our partridge peas"** – by Jennifer Possley

## FIELD TRIPS

*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, May 15, 2016: Collier-Seminole State Park**

The 7,271-acre Collier-Seminole State Park includes one of three original stands of royal palm trees in Florida, within large areas of mangrove swamp. We will walk first on the Royal Palm Hammock Nature Trail/Boardwalk (might be good for spotting birds).

Next, we can visit other features such as the last existing Bay City Walking Dredge (a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark), eat lunch and decide what other areas of the park to visit.

See <https://www.floridastateparks.org/park/Collier-Seminole>

On the way back east, those interested will visit areas along Tamiami Trail which burned in recent months and should have abundant new growth and spring wildflowers.

**Park fee:** \$5.00 per vehicle, \$4.00 single occupant

**Bring:** Sun and mosquito protection, water, lunch

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Lost?** Try Patty's cell (305-878-5705) – no guarantees

**NOTE: Please keep these June 5 trip details handy in case your June *Tillandsia* has not arrived.**

### ● **Sunday, June 5, 2016: Camp Owaissa Bauer**

We'll visit this South Miami-Dade county park especially to see pine rockland in glorious restoration, along with early summer wildflowers. We will no doubt stray into other habitats to look for interesting plants and butterflies in this large, diverse park. **Jane Dozier**, Environmental Resource Project Supervisor for Miami-Dade County Parks Natural Areas Management, and **Roger Hammer**, former naturalist with Miami-Dade Parks, are expected to join us to share their knowledge of the park. Miami Blue NABA members may also be along. Afterward, some might go to Hattie Bauer nearby.

**Bring:** Sun protection, water, binoculars if you are interested in "butterflying", lunch if you want to picnic afterward.

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Questions / lost?** Call **Bill Shores** (305-793-2230). (Thanks to Bill for organizing this trip!)

## DADE CHAPTER NEWS

### Annual Chapter Meeting & Election

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

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](mailto: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!** Steve Frank, Manny Hernandez, Leah Materna-Laurel, Mary Schneider

**Ready to recycle your *Palmetto* magazine?** Bring it to a chapter meeting for a new member or potential member.

**Earth Month Volunteers.** Thank you to chapter members who volunteered at celebrations and education events in April. Countless hours were given throughout the county, spreading the word about native plants and our chapter at these (or other) events: **John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park Earth Day, Pinecrest Gardens Earth Day, Hialeah High Environmental Fair, Baptist Hospital Environmental Fair, and Kenwoods Outdoor Learning Center 30th Anniversary celebration.**

## FNPS NEWS

**Find the May-June *Sabal Minor* FNPS newsletter at [http://fnps.org/assets/pdf/sabalminor/sabalminor18\\_3\\_2016.pdf](http://fnps.org/assets/pdf/sabalminor/sabalminor18_3_2016.pdf). Remember that the *Sabal minor* is now all-digital. To receive an email from FNPS with the link above, you need to have an email address on the roster.**

**The latest *Palmetto* magazine** (Volume 32: Number 4 > 2015) was sent to current members in March. Don't miss the article "**Across the Florida Straits: Observations on Plants in Cuba**" by **Chuck McCartney** (our May speaker) recounting the FNPS trip in November, 2015.

**36<sup>th</sup> Annual FNPS Conference May 19-22, 2016**, in Daytona Beach.

See <http://www.fnps.org/conference> for registration, schedule and hotel information. The best field trips fill up, so don't wait! You can sign up for 2 days or 4 days.



## WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

*Ever wonder what enables our native trees to persist in a hurricane-prone environment? Come to this!*

**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. **Novices and experts alike are welcome.** Join on the website (free) to receive an email reminder or post plant photos.

**May 17 topic: Native plants with the most hurricane resistance.** We will share our own experiences and discuss characteristics and adaptive strategies which may possibly lend themselves to hurricane resistance. This is a bit of a departure from our usual plant ID focus but should be interesting.

**Broward Chapter FNPS.** See <http://coontie.fnpschapters.org/>. Meetings at Secret Woods, 2701 W. SR 84, Dania Beach 33312.

- **May 11, 7 p.m.: Chapter meeting.** “Survival Strategies of Native Plants” - Dr. George Rogers
- **May 14: The Don't-Do-What-I-Did Landscape Tour**

**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>

- **May 7: Zoo Miami Pineland** (planting). Experienced adults are always needed to help oversee the planting techniques of the many students who volunteer. Please consider offering your assistance!

## CONNECT TO PROTECT NETWORK

Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden's conservation team invites **everyone interested in Miami-Dade's pinelands** to its next Connect to Protect Network (CTPN) meeting on Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Science Village classroom.

The meeting will include a program, discussion, a visit to Fairchild's own pine rockland exhibit at 11 a.m., and distribution of plants to new members at noon. **Please RSVP to [ConnectToProtect@fairchildgarden.org](mailto:ConnectToProtect@fairchildgarden.org)** for more information, to have your name on the list for free admittance (at both gates), and to ensure that a starter kit of plants is available to new members. (Otherwise, plants will be available on the first Saturdays of each month.)

The objective of the CTPN is to create corridors and stepping stone gardens that connect isolated pine rockland fragments. These corridors and stepping stones can be created or restored on rights-of-way along freeways, on privately owned lands and on public lands such as school yards and parks.

Planting native pine rockland species and managing non-native invasive plants will increase the probability that birds, butterflies and bees can find and transport seeds and pollen across developed areas that separate pine rockland fragments, improving gene flow and genetic health of native plants.

By joining CTPN you will receive a starter kit with five free plants grown at Fairchild's nursery, expert advice on growing them, PLUS bragging rights knowing that your property is part of a network dedicated to strengthening Miami's unique and imperiled pine rocklands.

The FTBG conservation team strongly encourages **anyone interested in our pinelands** to come to this special day of discovery (even if you do not become part of the CTPN) and looks forward to meeting with you.

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## A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR PARTRIDGE PEAS

By Jennifer Possley  
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden



Here in South Florida, we are lucky enough to have four native partridge peas. Three are quite common: *Chamaecrista deeringiana*, *Chamaecrista fasciculata*, and *Chamaecrista nictitans* var. *aspera*. A fourth, *Chamaecrista lineata* var. *keyensis*, is extremely rare. Let's take a closer look at each of our partridge peas, from most to least common.

*Chamaecrista fasciculata*, whose common name is the generic “partridge pea” is very widespread in a variety of plant communities in the continental US; its range includes the eastern 2/3 of the country. Its ubiquitousness in most of the US means that it is a major food source for quail, and perhaps that the common name “partridge pea” may have been bestowed upon it by a European visitor who likened our quail to Eurasian partridges. The common partridge pea is an annual herb with

yellow anthers—a fact that is important in distinguishing this species from the other three.

*Chamaecrista deeringiana*, or “Deering’s partridge pea,” was named by renowned botanist John Kunkel Small for his friend and benefactor Charles Deering. It is very widespread in Florida, but its national range is smaller than that of *C. fasciculata*, and includes only pine forests in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. While superficially similar to *C. fasciculata*, Deering’s partridge pea differs in having rust-colored anthers and in the fact that it is a perennial plant.

*Chamaecrista nictitans* var. *aspera* is our “hairy partridge pea.” It does indeed have hairy foliage, but the hairs are most noticeable on the pods. Hairy partridge pea is found in a variety of plant communities throughout Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. It is also the only one of our partridge peas whose range includes the West Indies. This, our most tropical partridge pea, is also our most weedy. If you plant a few in your yard, you may soon have a good-sized patch of hairy partridge peas! Like *C. fasciculata*, the hairy partridge pea is also an annual. It is also the species that most strongly exhibits the “sensitive pea” response, whereby its leaves fold closed when touched.

*Chamaecrista lineata* var. *keyensis*, the “Keys partridge pea” is endemic to the Florida Keys, where it is not uncommon in pine rocklands preserves on Big Pine Key. Globally however, this species is so rare that it is a candidate for the federal endangered species list, currently undergoing the process to become officially endangered. Like *C. deeringiana*, the Keys partridge pea is a perennial species with rust-colored anthers. The two species are markedly different though, in that the smaller leaves of the Keys partridge pea are densely fuzzy with green-gray hairs.

I asked long-time DCFNPS member and native plant expert Steve Woodmansee if he had any advice about cultivating partridge peas. He said that, unfortunately, few nurseries sell partridge peas, but if you are lucky enough to find some, they need full sun, and seeds germinate well, especially after soaking in warm water for at least 24 hours.

The next time you find yourself in a pine rockland and see a yellow partridge pea flower bobbing in the breeze, take a closer look! With anther color, leaf hairiness, and range in mind, you can easily determine which species you are examining.

*Jennifer Possley is a field biologist with Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's conservation team. She has been working with native plants in Miami-Dade County since 2001 and is a member of FNPS.*

## All DCFNPS members – Miami-Dade and Keys: Contribute to *Tillandsia* and to the chapter’s activities

**Please offer for consideration:** news, announcements, articles relating to native plants and issues; observations about native plant gardening or nature experiences; photos ... What has become routine to you might be new to someone else. Also please suggest field trips, yard visits ... or anything else. Contact the editor (pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404)



**Photos, clockwise from top left:**  
 Common partridge pea (J. Possley)  
 Deering’s partridge pea (J.T. Johnson)  
 Hairy partridge pea (J.T. Johnson)  
 Keys partridge pea (H. Liu)

### DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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**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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