



Dade Chapter

# TILLANDSIA

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

JUNE 2016

## MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, June 28, 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 before and after the program. The plant raffle follows the program. Contributions of **raffle items** and **refreshments** are always greatly appreciated. *Please label your raffle plant donations with the plant name — mystery plants are fun, but not for this!*

**Native Plants and Other Wilds  
of the Big Cypress National Preserve**  
— Steve Woodmansee

Arguably the most beautiful place in Florida, the Big Cypress National Preserve holds many botanical surprises. Steve will portray the results from a 3-year study on the flora of the Preserve, and highlight some of his favorite experiences from traversing this 800 thousand acre Florida gem. The program will also cover the many habitats, plants and animals found there. We will find out what Steve and colleague Jimi Sadle did upon startling an angry mother bear. You will want to experience the Big Cypress National Preserve on your own!

Steve is a Miami native who has worked as a botanist for more than 20 years, including at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, The Institute for Regional Conservation and teaching at Miami Dade College. He owns Pro Native Consulting, providing environmental consulting services and growing and selling unusual native plants. He has served as president of both the FNPS and the Dade Chapter and is co-chair of the Dade Native Plant Workshop. He and has written for numerous journals and other resources, led many field trips and presented programs. His expertise is in native plant identification, rare and exotic plant research, native plant horticulture, institution building, and award winning native plant community restoration.



## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

### JUNE

- 5 (Sun.): **Field trip** (Camp Owaissa Bauer)
- 18 (Sat): **YARD VISIT** (Kendall) – *new announcement*
- 25 (Sat.): **Chapter Workday**, Everglades National Park
- 28 (Tue.): **Meeting** at Pinecrest Gardens

### JULY

- 23 (Sat.): **Evening Yard Visit & Social meeting**
- TBA (July/Aug): **Chapter Workday**, Everglades Nat. Park

- **July 23 (Saturday):** Save the date for our **Evening Yard Visit and Social meeting**. We will enjoy the garden of Lisa and Richard Warren in Kendall, with a yard tour, potluck dinner, raffle and socializing.

### Also in this issue:

- **News and announcements**
- **YARD VISIT** to **townhouse community in west Kendall**
- **The Odd Fruits of the Arthritis-Vine** – **Chuck McCartney**
- **June in South Florida** – **Roger Hammer**

## JUNE 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.*

*Time, address and directions are in the newsletter mailed to members. Please join to enjoy all the activities of the chapter!*

- **Sunday, June 5, 2016: Camp Owaissa Bauer**  
We'll visit this South Miami-Dade County park to see pine rockland in glorious restoration, early summer wildflowers, and other habitats with interesting plants and butterflies. **If you have never been here, now is a great time.** **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 will also be along. (We will not continue afterward to Hattie Bauer – it is closed due to an arson fire.)

**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!)

## YARD VISIT

**Saturday, June 18, 2016**

**Palm Point Townhomes** (home of John Scally)

**Bring/wear:** Sun protection, shoes for walking all around the community, water.

**Lost?** Call Patty 305-878-5705 - but if you arrive late it might be difficult to meet up, so **please be on time!**

If you ever wondered what it might be like to plant *hundreds* of natives in a backyard that is a maze of alleyways, don't miss this yard visit! After the 2005 hurricanes destroyed much of the landscaping at his townhouse community in The Hammocks, DCFNPS member John Scally took on the task of replanting with natives. Ten years later, he has planted hedges, specimen trees and beds of shrubs throughout the community all by himself, and also landscaped his own personal courtyard.

**You will see examples of attractive, healthy landscaping in very confined places between buildings, along streets, in parking lot islands, and in small alcoves -- all sites that might translate to parts of your own small or large yard.** There are especially nice specimens or hedges of yellowwood, willow

bustic, cinnamon bark, pigeon plum, wild coffee, stoppers,



shortleaf fig, firebush and numerous others. This will involve a bit of walking, but you can leave at any time. Restrooms and cold water fountains are available at the pool.

Jamaica caper (in fruit). Photo: John Scally

## CHAPTER NEWS

**Welcome new members:** Duncan and Komal Blount

**Chapter Workday: Everglades National Park.**

**Coe Visitor Center. June 25, 2016 - 9 a.m. – noon.**

Help the chapter enhance the entrance to ENP. We will be doing pruning and weeding. Cold water is provided; bring snacks to share if you care to. Gloves and hand tools are available. **There might be mosquitoes; we have repellent and a few head nets, but you will be most comfortable if you come prepared.** 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](mailto:pharespl@gmail.com), if you have questions (305-878-5705 cell, for the morning of the workday).

## FNPS CONSERVATION GRANT AWARD

Donations from our chapter and individual members (in honor of chapter founders Joyce and Don Gann) have helped fund FNPS grants for conservation projects all over the state the past several years. We are especially happy when we can help support projects in Miami-Dade. Thanks to all our donors who make it happen!

**This year Zoo Miami was awarded a \$5000 Conservation Grant, the only award out of 10 applications in 2016.** The award was announced at the FNPS Annual conference in May in Daytona Beach. The project abstract reads:

*“South Florida’s pine rocklands ecosystem hosts a unique and highly threatened plant community - more than 98% of pine rockland habitat has been destroyed by development. Zoo Miami’s 740-acre site is situated within the second largest remaining pine rockland ecosystem in the world, lagging only behind Everglades National Park. In this project, Zoo Miami’s Conservation and Research Department seeks funding to plant threatened and endangered pine rocklands plants as part of an ongoing pine rocklands restoration project on zoo grounds. We will focus on threatened plant species that have been historically extirpated from Zoo Miami and adjacent reserves, and will include one federally endangered species, five state endangered species, and ten state threatened species. We will engage the Miami-Dade community in this project by using volunteers from the community to conduct plantings.”*

**Another Dade Chapter Conservation Grant winner from 2015 is “Pine Rockland Post-Burn Restoration and Community Education, Florida International University Nature Preserve.”** This project was delayed to obtain permits for the burn, so they will be working on this project in 2016.

## WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

**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.* **June 21 topic: Shade loving native plants.**

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

● **June 4: Field trip to the Fakahatchee Strand**

● **June 8: Chapter meeting.** Roger Hammer presents on wildflowers of Central Florida, plus annual pot luck dinner.

*Dade Chapter members are invited to both activities.*

**Adopt-A-Tree 2016.** Miami-Dade homeowners may receive two free trees per year from the county, **including some natives.** See <http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/adopt-a-tree.asp>

for complete information and schedule. Check back for updates. Contact: [adoptatree@miamidade.gov](mailto:adoptatree@miamidade.gov) or 305-372-6784.

**Sunday June 26th, 9 a.m. – noon, FIU Biscayne Bay Campus,** 3000 NE 151st Street, North Miami.

**Kenwoods Outdoor Learning Center** at Kenwood K-8 Center (9300 SW 79 Ave, 33156) celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 30, 2016 (see the April *Tillandsia*). The first plantings of native trees were in 1986 and it is now a self-sustaining native hammock. A butterfly garden was started in 1994.

Kenwoods is on the grounds of a public school, and while access is now limited, **you are still welcome to see it during school hours.** To visit Kenwoods, stop by the Upper Academy Office at north entrance of school for a badge. Inquire at the main office to possibly visit the butterfly garden. For further information,

contact [Kenwoods.OutdoorLearningCenter@gmail.com](mailto:Kenwoods.OutdoorLearningCenter@gmail.com). FNPS members may also contact Karen Picciano, 305-510-4177.



Kenwoods - April 30, 2016



Kenwoods – 1992, post Hurricane Andrew cleanup

### Connect to Protect Network Update

Summer is making its way to South Florida and the CTPN plants in the nursery are responding accordingly. So many lovely plants in bloom, some I'm seeing for the first time. Hues of pinks, yellows and oranges are on display to dazzle the eye, not to mention the flurry of activity of butterflies!

Recently the conservation team had the great fortune of "rescuing" almost 200 *Licaria triandra* (Gulf licaria) seedlings from a private residence in South Miami. What a treat! Most are doing well in our shade greenhouse after the initial transplant shock. We are growing these tropical trees -- exceedingly rare in Miami-- for future municipal plantings around Miami, and possibly for sale to Fairchild members.

**The objective of Fairchild's Connect to Protect Network is to create corridors and stepping stone gardens to connect isolated pine rockland fragments,** increasing 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. **Miami-Dade residents are eligible to join the network if you agree to maintain at least five pine rockland plants on your property for at least two years.** New members are eligible to receive a free pine rockland starter kit of 5 plants!

For more information or to join, contact CTPC at [ConnectToProtect@fairchildgarden.org](mailto:ConnectToProtect@fairchildgarden.org) or visit our web page on <http://www.fairchildgarden.org> under "Science and Conservation."

Peter Vrotsos, Connect to Protect Network  
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

### National Park news:

● **"Inside Looking Out": Biscayne National Park Gallery.** June 3 – Sept 12, 2016: Thirty works of art created by the staff, volunteers and partners of South Florida's four national parks offer an "insider's" perspective from those who often know the parks best, and those who work to protect these places every day. Free, 9 to 5 daily; artists reception June 5, 2 - 4 p.m.

● **Everglades stamp.** The Everglades will soon be "forever." The U.S. Postal Service will issue a new "forever" stamp celebrating the Everglades at a launch party on June 2 in the park. **The Everglades stamp, part of a new set of 16 national park stamps, features the park's Pine Rocklands,** one of South Florida's most endangered habitats, in a photograph taken by Paul Marcellini of Miami.

● **Restore Flamingo!** Vote daily until July 5 for the five parks you want to see receive a share of \$2 million in American Express funding for a preservation project. Vote for funds to restore Everglades National Park's Flamingo Visitor Center, a distinctive example of Park Service Modern architecture and the Mission 66 building program that transformed America's national parks in the 1950s and 1960s. <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/voteyourpark/>

**Butterfly & Bird Day. *Save the date.* September 17, 2016 at Castellow Hammock Park,** hosted by Miami Blue NABA and Tropical Audubon Society. Rick Cech, noted butterfly and natural history author and photographer, will be among the presenters. **We will need DCFNPS volunteers for our table.** Information will become available over the summer at <http://miamiblue.org/>.

Also see the website for **summer butterfly counts** by Miami Blue NABA. **Please consider helping!**



## THE ODD FRUITS of the ARTHRITIS-VINE

By Chuck McCartney

The interesting and varied Dade Chapter FNPS field trips are always a great learning experience, even for some of us old-time enthusiasts who dare to call ourselves "field botanists," and it's a shame that more chapter members don't avail themselves of these excellent outings. You can study plants in books, you can sit through illustrated programs about them at our meetings -- but until you actually encounter these plants in their natural habitat, you cannot say you really know and begin to understand them.

The few intrepid members who drove a considerable distance to participate in the May 15 field trip to Collier-Seminole State

Park were rewarded with such an enjoyable educational field trip. The hike took us through the Royal Palm Hammock on a rock-paved and boardwalk trail that wound through one of the few original natural stands of Royal Palms (*Roystonea regia*) in Florida. The hammock portion of the trail offered a mix of temperate and tropical plant species typical of the coastal hammocks of that area. The boardwalk portion then extended into a portion of the adjacent mangrove and salt marsh environments of this 7,271-acre preserve.

It was along this boardwalk portion of the trail that we encountered a plant some of had seen before but, apparently, never paid close attention to. It was a woody vine that I remembered seeing in the Fakahatchee Strand and elsewhere over the years. But what attracted us to the plant were the odd shamrock-like “leaves” that it sporadically bore in addition to its more typical foliage. We also had noted flat reddish-brown “winged” seeds clustered at the ends of some the plant’s small twigs. Finally, Yinghua Luo, a visiting scholar from China doing work at Florida International University, pointed out to us old-timers that these thick shamrock-like “leaves” were really the plant’s unusual three-capsuled fruits.

These fairly large fruits were certainly distinctive and oddly attractive, and I wondered how I had managed to overlook them in the past. As our group studied them, we noted that each of the three rounded segments of the fruit were green and flattened and had a waxy look to them. But as we looked at other plants of this species along the boardwalk, we began to piece together what was going on. Each of these segments had a midline like the diameter of a circle, and it became clear that as the “leaves” dried to brown, they split apart along this midline, opening up to reveal and disperse the samara-like seeds, which were reminiscent of the seeds of West Indian Mahogany (*Swietenia mahagoni*).

In an act of botanical hubris, I trusted to my rusty memory (never a good thing to do!) and decided this plant must be *Gouania*, and everyone sort of went along with that for want of a better name.

Later that day, after I got back home to Hollywood, I was still puzzled by this woody vine and its distinctive fruits, wondering whether I had identified it properly. I rather quickly discovered that I had not. The first thing I did was bring in a forklift to hoist the hefty volume of Donovan and Helen Correll’s *Flora of the Bahama Archipelago* off a bookshelf. (OK, that’s a joke, folks - - but it is a BIG book!) I was sure it would contain an excellent Priscilla Fawcett drawing of *Gouania*, and it did. However, much to my surprise -- and chagrin -- I quickly realized that our plant from Collier-Seminole was not *Gouania lupuloides*, commonly called Chewstick. The drawing showed that that woody vine in the family Rhamnaceae produces small, inflated winged fruits vaguely reminiscent of Varnishleaf (*Dodonaea viscosa*) in the unrelated family Sapindaceae. So much for trusting memory!

What, then, was the plant we had observed? I didn’t have a physical specimen of it to try to key it out in Richard Wunderlin and Bruce Hansen’s *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida*. It is illegal to take plants from a state park and doing so goes against the Dade Chapter’s field trip code of ethics as well.

Also, I had failed to take photographs of it. The fee-taker at the Collier-Seminole entrance station had kindly provided a small checklist of some of the plants of the park, but it proved basically useless because it listed the plants only by some of the most bizarre “common names” I’ve encountered this side of Wunderlin and Hansen’s book. In retrospect, I probably should have printed out an authoritative list of the plants of the park from the Institute for Regional Conservation’s invaluable database (<http://regionalconservation.org/ircs/database/plants/>) ahead of time to take with me. So, my next brilliant move was to go to a complete plant list of the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park, where I was sure I had seen this species in the past, and work my way through the list, hoping a name on it would set off a light bulb of recognition. Not a great way to go about identifying an unknown plant! But it worked.

I finally deduced that our Collier-Seminole woody vine was *Hippocratea volubilis*, known as the Arthritis-Vine and called Medicine Vine in Wunderlin and Hansen. It wasn’t listed in the Corrells’ Bahamas flora, so I went searching for illustrations for that species in some of the floras for Florida and the Southeast that I have in my home library, sure that they would illustrate those distinctive three-part fruits. No such luck.

There was an illustration of *Hippocratea* by Linda Baumhardt in Robert Long and Olga Lakela’s 1971 *A Flora of Tropical Florida*. It showed a flowering branch and a detailed drawing of a single flower. It also showed a fruit -- but only early in its development and not at the big shamrock-like three-part stage we had encountered in the wild. John Kunkel Small’s 1933 *Manual of the Southeastern Flora* had a small inset drawing of flower details, but, again, not a fully expanded fruit. The color photograph in Roger Hammer’s *Florida Keys Wildflowers* (2004) shows only the flowers.

Daniel Austin’s encyclopedic 2004 *Florida Ethnobotany* doesn’t illustrate the plant, but it offers a treasure trove of information about *Hippocratea volubilis*, including that Linnaeus’ 1751 generic name for this plant derives from the name of Hippocrates, the Greek physician sometimes called the Father of Medicine (as in the Hippocratic Oath). Austin translates the species epithet, *volubilis*, as “climbing,” although other texts indicate that it comes from a Latin word meaning “turning” or “rotating” and, possibly by extension, “twining.” He also says the more frequent common name of Arthritis-Vine refers to the plant’s swollen nodes, which looked to someone “like the similarly inflamed joints of arthritic humans.” Despite the genus name and the common name for this species, Austin points out that there is scant information about “Medicine Vine” actually being used to any great extent for medicinal purposes.

In seeking for an I.D. for this plant, normal people in these modern times immediately would have gone to the Internet for this kind of search, but I am too “thrifty” (read: cheap) to have my home computer hooked up to the World Wide Web, so I wasn’t able to do that till the following morning, when I got to my local Broward County Library branch, where I use the free public-access computers for that kind of research and e-mail correspondence. On the Web, there were a number of photographs of both the fruits and flowers of *Hippocratea volubilis*, verifying my identification from the night before, so I

promptly e-mailed several of my hiking companions from the Collier-Seminole trip, apologizing for my error in identifying the interesting Arthritis-Vine.



The distinctive mature fruits of the Arthritis-Vine look like giant shiny shamrocks. Photo: Martin A. Roessler



Once they dry, the Arthritis-Vine fruit segments split apart across the midline suture to reveal the winged seeds. Photo: Martin A. Roessler

[See photos of the flowers and leaves at <http://regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/plantdetail.asp?tx=Hippvolu>]

Chuck McCartney is a former editor of the American Orchid Society's AOS Bulletin and the Awards Quarterly and was a copy editor with The Miami Herald's Broward Edition, before retiring in 2009. He writes extensively about wildflowers and orchids for numerous publications and is a member of FNPS.

## JUNE IN SOUTH FLORIDA

by Roger Hammer

[Reprinted from *Tillandsia*, June, 1997 and June 2003.]

• If you have large trees on your property, now is the time to think about having them structurally-pruned (not hatracked!) in the event of a hurricane. Properly pruned trees will not only mature with a better branching habit, but they will weather tropical storms and hurricanes much better.

• Bartram's marsh pink, *Sabatia bartramii*, flowers throughout the summer months in the Big Cypress National Preserve. This is one of our showiest wildflowers, with large, rich rosy-pink (rarely white) multi-petalled flowers. You can easily find this species by exploring the open glades dotted with cypress trees off Tamiami Trail. The flowers are worth the mosquitoes!

• The foul-smelling native fungus called lattice stinkhorn, *Clathrus spp.*, makes its grand appearance in the rainy summer months. This fungus is round, red in color, and often is seen sprouting from lawns and mulch. It emits a putrid odor which attracts flies.

• Speaking of odors, the mastic tree, *Sideroxylon foetidissimum*, will flower throughout June and July. The pungently-fragrant flowers can be detected in hammocks, and these attract multitudes of bees and nectar-seeking wasps. The flowers are followed by oblong, olive-sized, yellow fruit that fall in mass beneath the tree. The rotting fruit also give off a pungent odor and are fed upon by raccoons. Ripe fruit are edible but are gummy and may make your lips sticky. Green fruit are sold in Guatemalan marketplaces and are given to children in lieu of chewing gum ... or perhaps it is an attempt by Guatemalan mothers to make their children's lips stick together!

Roger Hammer is a retired Miami-Dade County naturalist, author, photographer and native plant aficionado. He is a long-time member and supporter of FNPS and frequent contributor to *Tillandsia*.

### DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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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

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