



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

FEBRUARY 2017

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 7:30 p.m.
Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57 Ave. (Red Road), Miami
Free and open to the public

Help is needed before the meeting at 6 p.m. to apply labels to Native Plant Day postcards. Please RSVP to Amy Leonard (305-458-0969, aleonar74@yahoo.com)

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 — no mystery plants!

“South Florida Bats: Importance, Distribution and Conservation”

- Gisele L. Colbert and Giselle Hosein, Smart Sciences Environmental Consulting

Why study bats? Bats make up one quarter of the mammalian population on earth, there are over a thousand species worldwide and they are found on every continent except Antarctica. They control pests and aid in disease prevention as well as in pollination and seed dispersal. They also serve as model organisms in medical research and in the development of sound navigational ranging (SONAR) systems. South Florida is home to five species of bats. The Florida Bonneted Bat is listed as critically endangered and is currently one of the rarest animal in the world (fewer than 500). They are tropical bats endemic to South Florida with the largest population in Miami. The Miami Bat Squad, a local non-profit organization, has spent the last three years on a challenging quest to discover Bonneted bat roosts and foraging locations with the aid of volunteer citizen scientists armed with smart phone apps.



Gisele L. Colbert, MS, LEP, has extensive experience in all types of environmental permitting and practical applications of wetland ecology and surface and groundwater hydrology in the South and Central Florida ecosystems. She has been the Principal Scientist on over a dozen Florida bonneted bat surveys in Miami-Dade County.

Giselle “Gi” Hosein, M.S., Wildlife Ecologist, began her wildlife career at the Wildlife Orphanage and Rehabilitation Center of



CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

February

- 4 (Sat.): Chapter workday, Everglades National Park
- 25 (Sat.): Field trip – R. Hardy Matheson Preserve
- 28 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

March

- 5 (Sun.): 11th Four-Organization Picnic, Virginia Key, 3 pm
Please RSVP
- 11 (Sat.): Patch of Heaven tour (landscape & hammock)
- 24 (Fri.): Setup for Native Plant Day
- 25 (Sat.): NATIVE PLANT DAY, North Miami
- 28 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

April

- 22 (Sat.): Chapter workday, Everglades National Park
- 23 (Sun): Earthday at Pinecrest Gardens
- 25 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

(Additional field trips and activities TBA)

Trinidad and Tobago. She was the Wildlife Supervisor at the Seminole Okalee Indian Village Wildlife Park, and now works on issues and ecology of bats in South Florida. She is the vice president and director of the Miami Bat Squad.

- **March 28, 2017:** TBA – (previously announced program will be rescheduled)
- **April 25, 2017:** “An Introduction to our Native Palm Species” - Andrew Street, Miami Beach Botanical Garden

Inside this issue:

- **Four Organization Picnic**, March 5 – *please RSVP*
- **Native Plant Day**, March 25 – *there are ways to help now*
- **Chromolaena odorata, Jack-in-the-bush** - by Martin Roessler
- **Announcements, news, volunteer opportunities**

FIELD TRIPS / TOURS

If the weather is bad, call Patty at 305-878-5705 to confirm. Field trips and tours 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, February 25, 2017, 9 am-noon: R. Hardy Matheson Preserve.** This Miami-Dade Parks preserve is along the banks of Snapper Creek where it opens into Biscayne Bay. It is comprised of Rockland Hammock, Pine Rockland and coastal wetlands and is an excellent site to see limestone caves and many rare species. *Tillandsia* are in abundance. We will also see a restoration area where Brazilian-pepper was cleared in 2006 and a Cold War-era CIA building of undecided origin.

Bring: Water, insect and sun protection (and lunch if you want to picnic at Matheson Hammock after the trip).

Difficulty: Easy to moderate.

Leader: Dallas Hazelton (Project Supervisor, Miami-Dade Parks Natural Areas Management).

Lost? Try Patty's cell (305-878-5705)

● **Saturday, March 11, 2017m 10 a.m.: Tour of Patch of Heaven Gardens.** *Save the date!* This former petting farm attraction in South Miami-Dade's Redland is now known for its tropical hardwood hammock, historic structures, lush gardens with natives and exotics, and cacao trees to provide artisanal chocolate for tourists and locals.

The property was originally owned by Miami's Matheson family. We will tour the gardens, the hammock (contiguous with Castellow Hammock), and buildings. **Details in the March *Tillandsia*.** Please RSVP so there is an idea of the expected attendance.

(Patty, pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404)

Do you have suggestions for field trip and landscape tour destinations and leaders? Please let us know (Patty Phares, 305-255-6404, pharespl@gmail.com)

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

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, 305-297-7757).

Book sale, Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017, 1-5 p.m. Don and Joyce Gann will be offering books, magazines and copied articles from their former nursery office with **all proceeds going to the Dade Chapter's Gann fund for FNPS conservation grants.** 22601 SW 152 Avenue, 786-423-0883. **Topics include:** birds, botanists' explorations, botany, butterflies, ferns, Florida gardening and landscaping, fungi, grasses, native plant propagation and uses, "Old Florida" history, orchids, photography, soils, and others.

22nd NATIVE PLANT DAY

Saturday, March 25, 2017 - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Elaine Gordon Enchanted Forest Park
1725 NE 135th Street, North Miami, FL

FREE and open to the public

Co-sponsored by

The Dade Chapter FNPS &
City of North Miami Parks Dept.

Our annual public outreach and education day has activities for all ages: walks, programs, displays, plants and merchandise for sale, raffles and more.

Bring your family and friends to enjoy this free day of fun and learning! Enjoy the event and explore the rest of the park.

The schedule will be available in March on our website.

How can you help?

● **Raffle and sale donations (plants and non-plant items).** We sell donated plants to raise funds for the chapter, and raffle some of the best or rarest. Start grooming your plants now.

Nature related items such as art, gift certificates, books, etc., are also nice raffle items. **Contact Amy Leonard to arrange advance drop off**, and so we can plan for the raffle selection. We would like to have an especially fantastic selection!

● **Loan display plants or items. Butterfly larvae, host/nectar plants, other interesting plants and items.** Contact Amy Leonard or Patty Phares.

● **Stick labels on postcards Tuesday, February 28. RSVP to Amy Leonard.** Meet at 6 p.m. before our chapter meeting.

● **Suggest a speaker or offer to conduct a walk.** Or help contact speakers from names provided. Contact Ted Shaffer.

● **Distribute stacks of postcards.** Place them at your grocery store, doctor's office, library, school, or other well-trafficked area - available at the Feb. 23 meeting. Contact Amy Leonard to arrange to get some if you can't attend the meeting.

● **Help set up on Friday March 24.** We need help to set up the raffle and other stations, move tables and hang signs the afternoon before NPD. Contact Amy Leonard.

● **Help contact volunteers for Native Plant Day.** We need about 45 volunteers to make the day happen. Give some time and still have plenty to enjoy the event. **Please contact Gita Ramsay** if you, your family, or young people you know might be able to help.

● **Volunteer for Native Plant Day.** This is your Chapter's major public event each year and it wouldn't be possible without your help!

Contact Information:

Amy Leonard: 305-458-0969, aleonar74@yahoo.com

Ted Shaffer: ted.shaffer@bellsouth.net

Gita Ramsay: 786-877-7168, gita.ramsay@gmail.com

Patty Phares: 305-255-6404, pharespl@gmail.com

10th POTLUCK PICNIC

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2017, 3-6 p.m.

Rain or shine!

Historic Virginia Key Beach Park – Orange Pavilion

Sponsored by

TREEmendous Miami

Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society

Miami Blue Chapter, North American Butterfly Association

Tropical Audubon Society

Bring family, nature-loving friends and your favorite pot-luck dish! We will once again share our love of nature and tasty food after a 2-year hiatus from our former December holiday picnic. This year's host, **TREEmendous Miami**, has planted over 11,000 trees and shrubs to reestablish a maritime hammock at the park. This area is now habitat for local wildlife, and as part of the Atlantic Flyway, it provides food and shelter for migratory birds. TREEmendous Miami is also working to remove invasive exotic plants to make the entire park a pristine, native habitat.

3 p.m.: Maritime hammock tour led by Gary Hunt,

TREEmendous Miami's VP of Tree Planting and the leader of their work on Virginia Key. Bring binoculars to better see the wildlife - maybe even crocodiles. Long pants and closed shoes recommended (change to beach wear afterwards, if desired).



4:30 p.m.: Potluck picnic. Enjoy tasty dishes, good company, impromptu recreation (bring Frisbees, footballs, etc.) or the wading beach. See virginiakeybeachpark.net/parkinfo/ for info about park facilities. **Please RSVP and bring a main dish, side dish or dessert to share.** TREEmendous Miami will provide drinks and items from the grill. If you come earlier for the hammock tour, please plan to keep your dish cool or warm as needed. (Note: Cash donations are also possible. Please RSVP and bring your donation to the picnic.)

Driving directions:

* **Take the Rickenbacker Causeway (toll by Sunpass or Toll-by-Plate) to the last traffic light before the bridge to Key Biscayne.** U.M.'s Rosenstiel School is on the right. **Turn left.**

* Tell the entrance booth attendant you are there for the TREEmendous Miami event (don't pay entrance fee).

* Drive along the **left side of the parking lot** to the pink park office building. Bear left.

* The road turns to gravel and curves clockwise along the small railroad track and around the mangrove fringed lake. **Continue to the large cleared area where the orange pavilion can be clearly seen near the beach.** Park north of the pavilion.

Questions? / PLEASE RSVP:

Patty Phares, pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404.

It's March 5 already and you didn't RSVP? Come anyway!

Paid advertising

VEBER'S Jungle Garden

LESLIE VEBER

SPECIAL RETAIL SALE! February 25, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Other dates 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

vebersjunglegarden.com
Instagram: @leslieveber

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



NATIVE PLANT SALE

by The Falls (SW 136 St.)

Everything must go! • All plants priced below wholesale
Nurseries, Landscapers welcome

- **Lignumvitae** – 1 to 14 gal. *Grown naturally, not staked.*
- **Buccaneer palm** – 20 gal. *Full*
- **Coontie** – 1-7 gal.
- **plus other rare plants!**

By Appointment Only Please.

Call 305-235-7701 (leave message if necessary)

Cash only • 10% of proceeds to benefit FNPS



(Continued from page 2)

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

Broward Chapter FNPS. See coontie.fnpschapters.org/.

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

- **Feb. 18, 2017, 7 p.m.: Chapter meeting.** “Plants and Other Wilds of the Big Cypress” - Steve Woodmansee
- **See the website for field trips and other activities.**

37th Annual Florida Native Plant Society Conference, May 18-21, 2017, Westgate River Ranch Resort south of Lake Kissimmee. Amazing field trips, speakers, workshops, socials, plant and merchandise sales. Reserve your room or camping site now – there is a limited number of each kind available. The conference is always fun and informative, and it's a great way to see places you never would have gone to on your own. See www.fnps.org/conference/2017.

The Jan.-Feb. 2017 *Sabal Minor* newsletter from FNPS is at www.fnps.org/assets/pdf/sabalminor/sabalminor19_1_2017.pdf. It is not available by postal mail. Please contact the *Tillandsia* editor if you need help finding a way to read it.

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

Dade Native Plant Workshop: MDC Kendall Campus Landscape Technology Center. 3rd Tuesdays at 7 p.m. See www.nativeplantworkshop.com or contact Steve Woodmansee at 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 email reminders or to post on the site.
● **Feb. 21, 2017 topic: Fabaceae (Pea Family).** Please register on the new website to post and receive emails.

Miami Blue Chapter, North American Butterfly Association (www.miamiblue.org; 305-979-9623).
● **Feb. 5, 2017, 1-3 p.m.: Quarterly meeting** at Castellow Hammock Park, 22301 SW 162 Ave., Miami, 33170. **Dr. Frank Ridgley, DVM, Conservation & Research Dept., Zoo Miami,** will discuss butterfly conservation activities at the zoo,



Simpson Park needs you! The remnant of Brickell Hammock in the City of Miami's Simpson Park is a delightful 7.8-acre oasis of tropical hardwood hammock full of tall trees and history. **You could help others (and yourself!) enjoy it by being a weekend interpretive guide for 1-hour tours.** Volunteers will be trained – you don't need to be an expert botanist. College students are welcome to apply. See more about the park at www.miamigov.com/parks/simpson.html. Contact Gloria Antia (gantia@miamigov.com, 305-416-1317).



The new Simpson Park Hammock Visitor Center. Ribbon cutting Feb. 24.

Gardening for Pollinators, February 13, 2017, 10:30 a.m. – noon. Program by Adrian Hunsberger, Miami-Dade County Extension offered by the Deering Estate and Coral Pines Garden Club at the Deering Estate Visitor Center. Free, open to the public. www.deeringestate.org/gardening-lecture/

Friends of the Gifford Arboretum, Univ. of Miami. www.bio.miami.edu/arboretum > visits or 305-284-1302.
● **Mar. 1, 2017, 7 p.m.: Meeting,** Cox Sci. Center, room 166. "Integrated Plant Conservation: Garden Genetics Close the Loop." - Dr. M. Patrick Griffith, Executive Director of Montgomery Botanical Center. MBC houses one of the world's best palm and cycad collections.

"Non-traditional Partnerships for Rare Plant Conservation" **April 6-7, 2017** at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota. Co-hosted by Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Bok Tower Gardens, and Marie Selby Botanical Gardens.

Each year, the **Rare Plant Task Force of Florida** serves as the place for Florida's professional plant conservation community to share ideas and coordinate ongoing plant conservation efforts around the state. Presentations are on Thursday, with field trips on Friday.

Contact **Jimmy Lange** (jlange@fairchildgarden.org) for

information and submission of abstracts for poster or oral presentations (**due Feb 25**).

See boktowergardens.org/conservation/rptf/ for info and registration.

The Institute for Regional Conservation Pine Rockland Volunteer Day, March 4, 2017, 9 a.m.-noon.

The IRC helps private pine rockland owners who are enthusiastic and passionate about preserving this endangered ecosystem in their own backyards. Such owners often do not have the resources to restore and maintain their land by themselves.



At this workday, volunteers will help an owner in Homestead with invasives removal, brush cutting, trail maintenance and other tasks. **There will be activities for all skill levels.**

It will also be an opportunity to learn about the habitat and the owner's history with their pineland, especially the impact of Hurricane Andrew in 1992. The day begins with a short tour. **Please RSVP for complete details:** Maha Nusrat (mnusrat@regionalconservation.org, 305-505-9192)

WEED or WILDFLOWER?

Chromolaena odorata - Jack-in-the-bush

By Martin Roessler

The editor of the *Tillandsia* suggested that our members might be interested in learning a little about our weedy plants. Plants that grow abundantly especially in disturbed sites like our gardens are generally considered weeds. Long long ago in the botany department of a University not very far away, I was told that a weed is a plant growing out of place. I will rely on that definition as my defense if I pick on someone's favorite flowering plant.

Chromolaena odorata (L.) R. M. King & H. Rob., commonly called Jack-in-the-bush in South Florida, is near its peak of flowering while I am writing this article in December. This composite or member of the family Asteraceae was first described by Linnaeus in 1759 as *Eupatorium odoratum*. In a 1987 study of the Asteraceae, R. M. King and H. Robinson isolated the species as *Chromolaena*. The generic name is derived from the Greek *chroma*, color and *chlaena*, cloak probably referring to the blanketing of the white to pink flowers, but it is possible that it refers to the spreading nature of the shrubby herb. The species name *odorata* refers to the fragrance of the leaves.

C. odorata has a wide range including Florida, Bahamas, West Indies, Mexico to Argentina and Paraguay. It has also been introduced to the Old-World tropics. The wide range and the interaction of people of many areas with the plant result in many common names. Because its peak of flowering is near Christmas it is known as "Christmas bush." Those who contend with the smothering growth habit tend toward names like "Jack-

in-the-bush” alluding to the child’s tale of Jack and the Bean Stalk, “Blood sucking tick” (*garrapata*) or “Conquers all” (*guérit-tout*). Some see the cross formed by the stems and the leaves and call it “Little cross.” The leaf fragrance leads to the names “Paraffin bush”, “Turpentine weed” and “Vanilla” in Jamaica. People who know the plant as a medicinal source have other names such as “Bitter bush” and names in Spanish, French and Native American dialects (See Austin’s *Florida*



Ethnobotany).

Photo: Roger Hammer

Non-traditional medicinal uses include a tea made from the flowers for coughs and diabetes. Leaf decoctions are used for coughs and colds. The Maya Indians used it against stomachache and kidney problems. Others have used it against malaria, gonorrhea, nervous conditions, laryngitis, sleeplessness, depression, fever and skin disorders. The rich complement of chemical compounds some of which are toxic has led to medicinal uses. Dried leaves have anti-bacterial properties against *Bacillus subtilis* and have coagulant/prothrombin activity in animals. Fresh leaf extracts have antifungal and antibacterial properties.

Agriculturally this plant is generally a weed. It is reportedly toxic to some livestock. It has been introduced as a crop for biofuels. The allelopathic properties have been used in black pepper culture to deter roundworms and root-rot fungi.

The flowers are visited by numerous bees, butterflies and flies. The plant’s pyrrolizidine alkaloids are sought by milkweed butterflies to produce pheromones. It is a larval host for the Gaudy sphinx moth (*Pholus labruscae* (L.))

Dr. Martin Roessler is a retired environmental consultant who has spent about 60 years in Florida and worked from Pensacola and Jacksonville south to Key West. He is an original member and past president of the Dade Chapter FNPS.

[Editor’s note: Chances are most normal people would vote for “aggressive weed” and wouldn’t plant this at home. But you

can enjoy the flowers of this shrub and the many butterflies and other insects they attract in open places of many natural or disturbed areas.]

DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

President: Kurt Birchenough (kbirc001@fiu.edu, 202-905-3921)
Vice President: Amy Leonard (alconar74@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
Dade Chapter – FNPS Council of Chapters: Eric von Wettberg (ebishopv@fiu.edu, 305-348-2298)
Refreshment coordinators: Cheryl & Ben Morgan (ckmorg@bellsouth.net)
Membership: Patty Phares (pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404)
General chapter information: 305-985-3677
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 for general assistance or co-edit. 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

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“Native Landscaping: Restoring Beauty & Balance to Florida” - Southeast Regional FNPS Native Landscaping brochure (Brevard to Miami-Dade counties)
 Published in January 2017 by FNPS.

Beautiful, full-color brochures were created for six regions of Florida by FNPS volunteers and plant experts. One side shows 63 recommended landscape species in their "right place" (sunny-dry soils, for example) with at least 6 species for each light and soil-moisture zone. The other side has basic native landscaping tips and recommended links and books for additional information. **Thanks to Richard Brownscombe of the Broward Chapter** for his dedication to this project through the FNPS Council of Chapters and making it happen for all six regions!

The Dade Chapter FNPS will distribute copies for a suggested donation of \$1 each, available at some events and meetings. You may view and print it at our website (when it is uploaded), though it will be tiny – original size is 16.5” x 21”.

Also see other articles and handouts on our chapter website,
including "Where to buy, see and learn about South Florida
native plants."