



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

OCTOBER 2018

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, October 23, 2018, 7:30 p.m. (4th Tuesday, not last!)
Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57 Ave. (Red Road), Miami
Free and open to the public

Refreshments begin at 7:15 p.m., merchandise sales before and after the program. The raffle follows the program. Contributions of **raffle items** (native plants, books, etc.) and **refreshments** are greatly appreciated. **Please label your raffle plant donations!**

Get a head start on holiday shopping! Our merchandise table will have **new books** at the October and November meetings. *These books and other merchandise make great gifts!*

Climate-Wise Landscaping:

A native landscape helps our only planet
- Ginny Stibolt, author

This presentation is based on topics from the book "Climate-Wise Landscaping: Practical Actions for a Sustainable Future," which takes an optimistic approach, with hundreds of actions property owners or land managers (homeowners, communities and municipalities) can take right now to accomplish at least one of three objectives: 1) to help the landscape survive climate change, 2) to help wildlife survive climate change, and 3) to help to mitigate climate change. The book was written by Ginny Stibolt, a botanist in Florida, and Sue Reed, a landscape Architect in Massachusetts, with a foreword by Doug Tallamy.

Ginny Stibolt is a life-long gardener with a Master of Science degree in Botany from the University of Maryland. Since



moving to Florida in 2004, she has written four peer-reviewed books on Florida gardening published by University Press of Florida. She has also coauthored "Climate-Wise Landscaping" published by New

Society Press in 2018. In addition, she has written hundreds of gardening and nature articles for various publications and speaks regularly to environmental and gardening groups. See her website at www.GreenGardeningMatters.com. All of her books are shown on the website and will be available for purchase at the meeting.

October 21: Attend Ginny Stibolt's free 3-hour workshop "A Step-by-Step Guide to a Florida Native Yard" hosted by the Broward Chapter. See broward.fnpschapters.org/ to register.

Calendar

October 2018

13 (Sat.): Chapter workday at Everglades Nat. Park. **9 am**
23 (Tue.): Chapter meeting at Pinecrest Gardens. **7:30 pm**
27 (Sat.): Field trip -Ludlam Pineland, Deering N. Add. **9 am**

November 2018

3 (Sat): Miami Shores Green Day - Volunteer
9-11 (Fri.-Sun.): FTBG Garden Festival/Ramble - Volunteer
15 (Thur.): Give Miami Day – plan to donate to DCFNPS!
27 (Tue.): Chapter meeting at Pinecrest Gardens. **7:30 pm**
Other activities TBA

Other activities of interest:

Oct. 10: Broward Chapter FNPS meeting
Oct. 10, 17, 24: FIU Biology lunchtime seminars (ongoing)
Oct. 16: Dade Native Plant Workshop
Oct. 17: Every Kid in the Everglades – Next vol. training
Oct. 18-19: Native Plant Show (Bradenton)
Oct. 21: Native landscaping workshop – free! (Broward)
Oct. 25: Simpson Park – geology lecture
Oct. 27: Environmentally Endangered Lands workday
Oct. 30-Nov. 4: Pine Rockland & Tropical Botany Conference
Oct. (TBA): Miami Pine Rocklands coalition meeting

Sign up now to help DCFNPS! (see p.2)

Miami Shores Green Day – Nov. 3

Fairchild's Fall Garden Festival & Ramble – Nov. 9-11

FIELD TRIP

Saturday, October 27, 2018

Ludlam Pineland & Deering North Addition coastal wetlands

We will first visit the 10-acre Ludlam Pineland, with its many endangered and endemic plants. Then we will carpool to the nearby Deering Addition, a 45-acre parcel with coastal band mangrove, cordgrass salt marsh and a small tropical hardwood hammock. The cordgrass salt marsh is one of the rarest natural communities in Miami-Dade County. It's a nice time to see it because a section was burned last winter. Both properties were acquired under the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program. *Time, address and directions are in the newsletter mailed to members. Please join to enjoy all the activities of the chapter!*

Difficulty: Easy (possible mud/wet feet in coastal area).

Bring/wear: Sun and insect protection, long pants (needed in coastal area), water.

Lost? Call Patty 305-878-5705

VOLUNTEER FOR THE DADE CHAPTER

• CHAPTER WORKDAY - Everglades National Park

Saturday, October 13, 2018, 9 a.m.-noon

Please help us enhance the entrance to ENP with restoration and maintenance of the native habitat at the **Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center**, begun in 2001. *Contact Patty (305-878-5705, pharespl@gmail.com) with questions or if the weather is very questionable.* We will be pruning and weeding. **Small hand tools and gloves** are provided, or bring your own. **Prepare for sun**, long sleeves and pants are best. We provide cold water; bring snacks to share if you care to. Volunteers have free ENP admission afterwards.



• MIAMI SHORES GREEN DAY



Saturday, November 3, 2018, 3:30 -7:30 p.m.

This year's Green Day promises to be bigger and better than ever, and it's still FREE to attend. Help introduce DCFNPS and the importance of native plants and habitats to the over 7,000 annual attendees. **Contact Amy Leonard (aleonar74@yahoo.com) to volunteer.** Shifts will be 2:30-5:00 p.m. (includes set up with materials provided to you) and 5:00 until the event is over (includes taking down our display). www.miamishores.com/greenday/

• FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN Fall Garden Festival, featuring the 77th Annual Ramble Friday-Sunday, November 9-11, 2018

Please sign up now to volunteer at the DCFNPS table!

This is our second biggest outreach opportunity each year to inform the public about our Chapter and its mission to promote and preserve native plants. **No specific knowledge is necessary**, but we need you to *volunteer* at our display.



We will share part of the display with Miami Blue NABA to feature butterfly plants and caterpillars.

To volunteer for DCFNPS: Please contact Gita by Oct. 22 (786-877-7168, gita.ramsay@gmail.com). The volunteer schedule will be finalized at our October 23 meeting.

Volunteers who aren't FTBG members are admitted free if they reply on time. Please let Gita know if you are a current FTBG member. (Free entrance for is limited by FTBG.)

Volunteers are needed to:

- Staff our display Fri.-Sun., 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. (AM/PM shifts)
- Set-up on Thursday afternoon, 3:30 - 5 p.m.
- Break-down on Sunday, 4:30 - 5 p.m.

Display items needed: Contact Amy Leonard (aleonar74@yahoo.com), if you have **small plants or plant items** for the display. Contact Patty Phares (305-255-6404, pharespl@gmail.com) for **caterpillars or "butterfly plants."**

For more about the festival, see

www.fairchildgarden.org/Events-Community-Outreach

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

The Dade Chapter board will meet on **October 14**. If you have suggestions, questions or concerns, please contact the president, Kurt Birchenough (kbirc001@fiu.edu, 202-905-3921)

Broward Chapter FNPS. coontie.fnpschapters.org/. Meets at Secret Woods, 2701 W. SR 84, Dania Beach.

• **October 10, 2017, 7 p.m.: Meeting.** Hole in the Donut restoration (Everglades Nat. Park) - Steve Woodmansee

Support the Dade Chapter FNPS by using Amazon Smile!

Register for Amazon Smile and then always start at smile.amazon.com. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases. *Every little bit adds up!*

Give Miami Day - November 15, 2018

Mark your calendar to donate to support the activities of the Dade Chapter FNPS (and countless other worthy organizations). miamifoundation.org/community-investment/give-miami-day/

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING:

More opportunities to learn about, enjoy and help native plants and natural areas.

Dade Native Plant Workshop: MDC Kendall Campus Landscape Technology Center, third Tuesdays, **5 pm.** www.nativeplantworkshop.com or contact Steve Woodmansee at steve@pronative.com. Bring at least three cuttings or pots, which need not pertain to the topic. **All levels are welcome!**

Oct. 16 topic: *Deadly plants!*

FIU Biology Department's informal and entertaining lunchtime seminars, Wednesdays, noon-1 pm, WC 130. Schedule: <http://faculty.fiu.edu/~kopturs/planttalk18.html> For reminders, contact Dr. Suzanne Koptur (kopturs@fiu.edu).

Every Kid in the Everglades Program (EKIP) - Volunteer! Engage 4th grade students and play a direct role in fostering environmental literacy - at Royal Palm and also Shark Valley. See www.volunteer.gov/results.cfm?ID=17620

Oct. 17: Training at ZooMiami. Alternate date can be arranged.

The Native Plant Show: Oct. 18-19, 2018, in Bradenton, FL Classes for professionals and the public, exhibits, plant & merchandise sales. Register now, classes are filling up fast! www.nativeplantshow.com/ Hosted by Florida Assoc. of Native Nurseries: FloridaNativeNurseries.org PlantRealFlorida.org

Simpson Park program: Oct. 25, 2018, 7 p.m.

"Understanding the Geology Underlying Miami - What it tells us about the past and future sea level" - Dr. Sam Purkis, U. Miami. 55 SW 17th Rd. Miami, 305-859-2867. [Register](#) free -Eventbrite

Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Volunteer Workdays. Oct. 27, 9 a.m. - noon: Zoo Miami

Help Miami-Dade's natural areas. Register [here](#) for 10/27, or 305-372-6611, eel@miamidade.gov. Most volunteers are youth, *so adults like FNPS members to work alongside and talk with*

the young volunteers about the plants and habitat are much appreciated! Ask Tiffany Melvin for more information.

Pine Rockland and Tropical Botany Conference October 30 - November 4, 2018, in Miami

The theme *Expanding the Footprint* will focus on reversing the trend of diminishing pine rocklands by focusing on restoration of prior converted pine rocklands.

Who Should Attend? Scientists, educators, land managers, policy makers, naturalists, students, concerned citizens, and anyone else involved in planning, conservation, restoration, tourism or interpretation of the pine rockland ecosystem.

See <https://sites.google.com/site/itbpr2018/home> - click on the navigation icon for details and **registration (free)**. The schedule of presentations will be posted soon.

Miami Pine Rockland Coalition. The MPRC was established to “Educate, Coordinate and Initiate for the Preservation and Restoration of the last remaining 2% of Americas’ Pine Rocklands found only in South Florida.” See www.facebook.com/groups/MiamiRPC/events/ for meetings on Thursdays near the end of the month.

WEED or WILDFLOWER? Groundsel-tree (*Baccharis*)

By Martin Roessler

The genus *Baccharis* was named by Swede Carl Linnaeus, the father of modern botanical nomenclature, in 1754, either from the Greek word *bakkaris*, the name of a plant with a fragrant, bitter root used to flavor wine, or, alternately, in honor of Bacchus, the Roman god of wine and revelry. The genus is in the Aster Family, Asteraceae. There are 350 to 450 species worldwide, with most occurring in the New World tropics. North America is home to 21 species, 4 of which are found in Florida.

Our state’s *Baccharis* species are perennial shrubs to small trees growing to 6 meters (18 feet) tall. They are **dioecious**, meaning they produce male and female flowers on separate plants. The species are defined by leaf shape, the structure (morphology) of the flower heads, and characters of the phyllaries, the green bracts that surround each individual flower head.

Baccharis angustifolia (saltwater false willow) has persistent, narrowly linear leaves along the branches. These leaves arrayed along the branches are referred to as **cauline** leaves. The margins of the leaves are **entire**, meaning they have no indentations. The flower heads are in groups of 3 to 5 near the branch tips in a



panicle-like arrangement. A **panicle** is a compound inflorescence (flower-bearing structure) with stalked

(**pedicellate**) flowers or, in the case of the Asteraceae, flower heads.

Baccharis dioica (broombush false willow) has persistent,



entire, broad leaves with short petioles (leaf stems) and a single prominent mid-vein. The flower heads occur in terminal clusters in leafy panicles or corymb-like arrangements. A **corymb** is a flat-

topped inflorescence progressively flowering from the margin inward.

Baccharis glomeruliflora (**silverling**) has persistent, ovate, elliptic or rhombic (squarish) and leathery leaves with 1-3 serrations per side near the middle to tip of the leaf. The petioles are up to 7 millimeters long. The flower heads are **sessile** (meaning stalkless) or nearly sessile in small clusters called **glomerules** scattered along the branches in the axils where the leaves join the stem.



Baccharis halimifolia (**groundsel tree**) has persistent, short-petioled or sessile, elliptic to broadly ovate or rhombic cauline leaves. The stem end of the leaf is generally entire, while the middle to distal end is coarsely serrate with 1-3 pairs of teeth.

There are usually 3-4 loose **pedunculate** (stalked) clusters of flower heads in terminal panicles. Hybrids and intergrades between *B. angustifolia* and *B. halimifolia* and other species when their range and habitat overlap can make field identification difficult.



French botanical explorer Andre Michaux named *B. angustifolia* in 1803, in reference to the narrow leaves on this bush. Norwegian/Danish botanist Martin Vahl named *B. dioica* in 1794, based on the word “dioicus,” referring to the male and female flowers being born on separate plants. South African-born Christian Persoon named *B. glomeruliflora* in 1807, based on the configuration of the flower heads. Linnaeus named *B. halimifolia* in 1753, in reference to its leaves being able to survive in salt plain habitats.

Baccharis halimifolia occurs in open sandy places, wet fields,

marshes, beaches and disturbed sites. It has a wide coastal range from Nova Scotia to Mexico in North America and is naturally present in the Bahamas and the West Indies. It has been introduced into Europe, Australia and New Zealand. *Baccharis glomeruliflora* occurs in hammocks, moist woods, pinewoods, swamps and along stream and ditch banks in the coastal plain of the southeastern United States from North Carolina to Alabama. *Baccharis angustifolia* occurs in coastal salt marshes, dune hollows and along stream banks in the southeastern United States from North Carolina to Louisiana. *Baccharis dioica* is known from hammocks, dune hollows and mangroves in South Florida, Mexico, the Bahamas and West Indies. It was collected from the area of Miami's old Brickell Hammock but has not been seen in the wild in recent years. Several nurseries and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden have cultivated and distributed specimens of *B. dioica* in South Florida.

The nectar and pollen of *Baccharis* species attract many bees and other small insects, and in some areas, they are important honey plants. *Baccharis halimifolia* is a nectar plant for the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) and other insects. Marsh wrens and other small birds nest in the bushes. The plants are attacked by scale insects and leaf beetles. The pollen and other plant parts are allergenic. The seeds are poisonous to people. The leaves contain glycosidal saponins that are poisonous to livestock. Cattle will generally avoid eating them, allowing them to become a serious pasture weed that requires mechanical or biological control. In Australia where they have been introduced, they have been found to be poisonous to sheep. Medicinal uses include root decoctions for colds and stomach pain. Other herbal medicinal uses have been reported in the past.

Several species are sold as landscape plants. The silvery color, compact form, free flowering and salt tolerance are landscape positives. The rapid growth and tendency to spread is problematical. Several species are available in some plant nurseries and online and as mentioned above, the rare *B. dioica* is currently available from some South Florida sources.

References

- Austin, D. F. 2004. *Florida Ethnobotany*. CRC Press. Boca Raton, Fla. 909 pages.
- Sundberg, S.D., and D.J. Bogler. 2006. *Baccharis*. Pages 23- 34 in *Flora of North America*, Vol. 20. Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford.

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 a former president of the Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. He recorded monthly "bloom lists" on Dade Chapter field trips for over 20 years for sharing in the newsletter, and led countless trips. Now you probably know him from introducing the raffle plants at chapter meetings.

DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

President: Kurt Birchenough (kbirc001@fiu.edu, 202-905-3921)
Vice President: Brian Diaz
Secretary: Gita Ramsay (gita.ramsay@gmail.com, 786-877-7168)
Treasurer: Susan Walcutt (walcutts@bellsouth.net, 305-297-7757)
At Large: Janeen Feiger, Amy Leonard, Jeanne Rothchild, Jennifer Stine, Vivian Waddell, Ian Wogan

Dade Chapter – FNPS Council of Chapters: **vacant**

Refreshment coordinators: Cheryl & Ben Morgan (ckmorg@bellsouth.net)
General chapter information: 305-985-3677
DCFNPS website & social media: <http://dade.fnpschapters.org/>
DCFNPS e-mail: dadefnps@gmail.com
Mail: Dade Chapter FNPS, 6619 S. Dixie Hwy, #181, Miami FL 33143-7919

TILLANDSIA

Editor: Patty Phares (pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404)
Please contact the editor if you would like to join the *Tillandsia* staff!

Articles, announcements and news items are invited for *Tillandsia* from Dade and Keys members. **Advertising rates** from \$12 per month.

FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

FNPS office: info@fnps.org, 321-271-6702
FNPS website, blog, social media: <http://www.fnps.org>
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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!



Muhlygrass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)
 Concho Billy Trail, Big Cypress National Preserve
 DCFNPS field trip, October 12, 2014
Photo by Richard Brownscombe

Muhlygrass is also a great plant for our own gardens, which typically have "moist" soil.

See www.regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/plantdetail.asp?tx=Muhlcapi