



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

SEPTEMBER 2014

MONTHLY MEETING

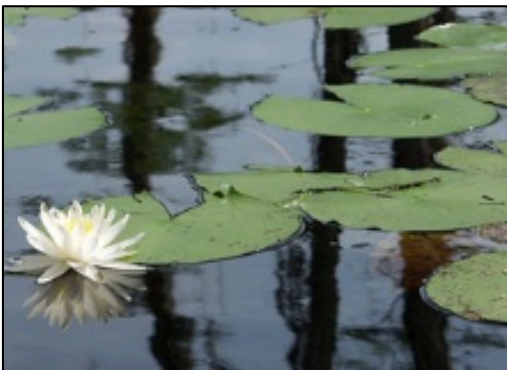
Tuesday, September 23, 2014, 7:30 p.m. (**not** the last Tues.)
Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57 Ave. (Red Road)
Free and open to the public

Refreshments begin at 7:15 pm. Merchandise sales are before and after the program (cash, checks and credit cards). The plant raffle follows the program. **Please label your raffle plant donations** with the plant name. *Your contributions to the raffle and refreshments are always needed and greatly appreciated.*

"Eat Your Veggies Wild!"
- Peggy Lantz

People are enjoying the idea of gathering supper from wild plants. It is a delightful hobby, gets you out-of-doors, and adds interesting, delicious, nutritious -- and free -- vegetables to your table. Maybe "weeds" will even seem less of an enemy. Some of the plants that offer foods for humans in south Florida require not the least hint of chill, but many edible wild plants thrive from south Florida to Canada. Peggy Lantz will bring some edible plants to our meeting and share the details of how to identify, when to gather, and how to prepare and cook them. She will also show photos of other edible plants not available at this time of year or in her yard.

Peggy, a Florida native born in Miami, has been gathering wild plants to put on the dinner table for over 50 years. She wrote, with Dick Deuerling, the first little book about Florida's wild edibles, *Florida's Incredible Wild Edibles*, published by FNPS in 1993. She has also written three other books about Florida nature. She was the first editor of "The Palmetto" and served FNPS for 15 years. She and her husband, Don, live in Orange County west of Orlando on the lake settled and named by her grandfather in 1914.



An edible native plant –
American white waterlily,
Fragrant water lily, *Nymphaea odorata*

Photo:
Shirley Denton

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

Sept. 20 (Sat.): Field trip (Cape Florida St. Park)

Sept. 23 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

Oct. 12 (Sun.): Field trip (Concho Billy Trail, Big Cypress)

Oct. 18 (Sat.): Chapter workday, Everglades National Park;
Miami Shores Green Day (**DCFNPS table***)

Oct. 28 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

Nov. 7-9 (Fri.-Sun.): FTBG Ramble (**DCFNPS table***)

Nov. 22 (Sat.): Field trip (Juno Dunes Natural Area,
Northern Palm Beach County)

Nov. 25 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

Dec. 7 (Sun.): Annual Holiday Potluck Picnic

Dec. 13 (Sat.): Chapter workday, Everglades National Park

Dec. 14 (Sun.): Field trip (TBA)

***Save the date to volunteer – details next month**

Articles in this issue:

- "Jeepers Creepers: The Genus *Ernodea* in Florida" by Roger L. Hammer
- "Garden Tidbits"

UPCOMING FIELD TRIP

If the weather is very bad, call Patty at 305-255-6404 to confirm. Field trips 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, September 20, 2014 (8:45-noon): Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park.

We will join this trip by the Miami Blue Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association to seek out butterflies and the plants they visit, led by Park Biologist Elizabeth Golden. It's also an opportunity to enjoy the beautifully restored natural areas, birds and other wildlife. Some might like to stay for lunch at the Boater's Grill, a lighthouse tour or a swim. See www.floridastateparks.org/capeflorida/ for more information.

Park admission: \$8 per vehicle (2-8 people), \$4 single-occupant vehicle. *There is also a \$1.75/vehicle causeway toll.*

Bring/wear: Binoculars (close focus best) if you want to learn to identify the little butterflies; sun protection; lots of water.

Difficulty: Walking on paved or smooth paths, may be hot.

Background reading: *Palmetto*, Vol. 31: Number 1, 2014, "The Rebirth of Cape Florida" by Richard Brownscombe, Broward Chapter FNPS president.

DADE CHAPTER AND FNPS NEWS

The Dade Chapter FNPS board will meet September 7, 2014.

All chapter members are welcome to attend or to send suggestions for items for the board to consider. Please contact vice-president Buck Reilly (buck@habify.com, 786-291-4824).

FNPS Conference dates, 2015 and 2016.

- **May 28-31, 2015 (note the date change) in Tallahassee.**

Save the date for the perfect opportunity to explore nature in north Florida with the Magnolia and Sarracenia chapters.

- **May 19-21, 2016, in Daytona Beach -- Paw Paw Chapter.**

Broward Native Plant Society. See www.npsbroward.org for field trips and activities. Meetings are at Secret Woods, 2701 W. SR 84, Dania Beach.

September 10, 2014, 7 p.m.: Chapter meeting, "The Institute for Regional Conservation and Habitat Restoration at Home" - Lindsey Nieratka, program administrator of The IRC.

Student Nature Film Series at Pinecrest Gardens. The DisneyNature film "Oceans" will initiate the series on Friday, October 3, at 8 p.m. At 7 p.m., there will be an indoor educational area for students to visit tables by organizations to learn about different areas of ocean conservation.

DCFNPS would like to participate. If you can help introduce kids to coastal plants (mangroves and others) and how they are tied to the ocean by providing information or display materials, or by staffing the table, please contact Amy Leonard (aleonar74@yahoo.com, 305-458-0969).

Welcome new member. Coral Kelly (Citizens for a Better South Florida). And thanks to all who renewed or rejoined – your support of native plants and FNPS is greatly appreciated.

Sabal minor. The September - October 2014 issue of the state FNPS newsletter is available for download at http://fnps.org/assets/pdf/sabalminor/sabalminor16_5_2014.pdf If you have trouble opening the link, contact info@fnps.org.

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

Adopt-A-Tree. Miami-Dade homeowners may receive 2 free trees per year from the county. See <http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/adopt-a-tree.asp> or call 311 for rules and additional information.

• **Sunday, September 14, 2014,** 9 a.m. – noon, at Miami Dade College North Campus, 11380 NW 27 Ave., Miami.

Native trees **Green buttonwood** and **Pigeon plum**, plus fruit or ornamental trees will be available (see the website.)

Urban Paradise Guild plant sale: September 13-14, 2014, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. at Miami Shores Montessori, 577 NE 107 St.

- Natives from various ecosystems.
- Edibles: veggie seedlings, Katuk, Moringa and more.
- Workshops on Natives and Edibles by UPG and friends.

See http://www.urban-paradise.org/PlantSale_2014.

"We all live in the city, and we all deserve to live in Paradise. Urban Paradise is our objective. ...The UPG was founded to bring natural habitat back to the places where we live."

Cutler Bay and Palmetto Bay Coastal Habitat Restoration Project workday. September 13, 2014, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Join the Institute for Regional Conservation in planting thousands of grass seedlings (*Cladium jamaicense*, *Spartina spartinae* and *Muhlenbergia capillaris*). This is an effort to restore critical coastal wetland habitat for migratory birds along Biscayne Bay through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. If you have questions, please contact Sarah Martin (305-505-9192, martin@regionalconservation.org).

Dade Native Plant Workshop. MDC Kendall Campus Landscape Technology Center. 3rd Tuesdays at 7 p.m. See <http://nativeplantworkshop.ning.com> or contact Steve at steve@pronative.com. Bring at least three plants (especially flowering/fruited), even if they do not pertain to the topic. Beginners and old hands are all encouraged to come. Free. *Join on the website (free) to receive an email reminder and to post plant photos for identification or discussion.*

September 16, 2014, topic: Edible wildflowers.

Friends of the Gifford Arboretum meeting, October 1, 2014. "Growing New Trees and Ideas for South Florida" – Dr. John Cozza of Florida International University and former curator of the UM Gifford Arboretum. Social at 7 p.m. followed by the program. Cox Science Center, Room 166. Univ. of Miami. For directions to the arboretum (adjacent to Cox): www.bio.miami.edu/arboretum or 305-284-1302.

National Public Lands Day, September 27, 2014. Volunteer to help with a variety of tasks at a county, state or national parks in this annual event. *Admission to national public lands such as national parks is free even if you do not volunteer.*

- See www.publiclandsday.org/npld-sites/search?state=Florida for a list that includes many local parks (not national parks).
- See <http://evergladesvolunteerprogram.blogspot.com/> for activities at Everglades National Park (as it becomes available).
- Join the Broward Chapter FNPS at 9 a.m. at Secret Woods (2701 W. State Rd. 84, Dania Beach).

If you would like to join other DCFNPS members, contact Patty (pphares@mindspring.com, 305-255-6404).

Tropical Audubon Society. For more info on TAS activities and conservation issues, see www.tropicalaudubon.org or call 305-667-7337. 5530 Sunset Dr., Miami, 33143.

• **Oct. 2- 5, 2014: Birding Festival at Fairchild** (co-sponsored by TAS). Renowned keynote speakers, presentations,

birding adventures, Children's activities, vendors, bird-attracting plants for sale. See <http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events>.

● **Follow conservation issues with TAS.** Comprehensive information about threats to our local natural areas and environment is needed more than ever. **Read the monthly TAS newsletter at www.tropicalaudubon.org to help you stay informed and learn how to take action.** You can also click on "Join Our Mailing List" to receive the information and updates by email. And, of course, join or donate to TAS to support "South Florida's Voice of Conservation." *This is important – we are still fighting for our pinelands!*

Simpson Park makes history. Simpson Park received a Final Designation as a Local Individual Historic Resource in a unanimous vote by the City of Miami Historic and Environmental Preservation Board on July 1, 2014. Juan Fernandez and Adriana Dominguez-Tio of the City of Miami Parks have worked hard to preserve the park and to obtain this new protection. This 8-acre remnant of Brickell Hammock, a tropical hardwood hammock, contains several imperiled species and an abundance of other native species, making it a botanical treasure -- and a wonderful place to escape from the city surrounding it. Read more about the rare plants of Simpson Park in the Institute for Regional Conservation's July 3, 2014, news item at <http://regionalconservation.org/ircs/news.asp>.

The National Park Service still needs torchwood (*Amyris elemifera*) seeds for a project to restore a larval food of the Schaus swallowtail butterfly. **Fruit are ready to harvest when they are about 0.5-1cm long and purple/black.** Place fruits in a paper bag and contact Helena Giannini at 786-249-3013, hgiannini@nps.gov. (See July 2014 *Tillandsia* for more details.)

The Art of Pollination. In the 2nd annual edition by the Chugach Arts Council, artists from around the U.S. contributed to this tribute to one of our most valuable and fascinating resources, our pollinators. See www.magcloud.com/browse/issue/780972 - click on the **gray** Preview tab below the image to see pages. For ongoing projects see www.chugachartsCouncil.org.

Marie Wagner, Chugach Arts Council 623-703-8890

Paid advertising

FOR SALE – PALMETTO BAY

A truly unique treasure in South Florida! Step into Miami 100 years ago, idyllic naked virgin 15,860 sq ft parcel nestled in native Florida flora setting with oak, silver palms, natives and tropical plantings with a frame/stucco 3/1 cottage. In Palmetto Bay on paved street to street frontage, it is hidden in this urban location, just blocks East of US#1 within walking distance to bus and shops. First time offered \$250K.

Pick Cotton Inc. REALTORS 305-235-2313.



The Mission of the Florida Native Plant Society is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

Paid advertising

Pine Rockland for Sale

Vacant (+buildable) .9 acre - LOW taxes with EEL covenant - lovely pine forest + natives. Behind 15201 SW 272 St, 33032. For more info and photos: liztruby@bellsouth.net, 305-281-6166. LOTS more to tell about this charming acre. \$70K. Adjacent pineland is also for sale.



JEEPERS CREEPERS

The Genus *Ernodea* in Florida

by Roger L. Hammer
Photos by the author

Everyone likes low maintenance groundcovers and there are two Florida native species in the Rubiaceae (Madder Family) that deserve a closer look by gardeners, and these are **beach creeper (*Ernodea littoralis*)** and **Coker's golden creeper (*Ernodea cokeri*)**. Both species have many positive horticultural attributes; they attract butterflies and hummingbirds to their flowers, they require very little maintenance, both are extraordinarily salt tolerant, and they are pretty.

Let's first take a look at the more common species of the two, ***Ernodea littoralis***. The genus *Ernodea* is Greek for "offshoot" and refers to the many leafy offshoots along the stem. Beach creeper, as its common name implies, prefers coastal habitats and the species name *littoralis* refers to the littoral zone, or "of the seashore." Another common name is golden creeper, referring to the small, round, golden fruits. In Florida it has a distribution from Volusia County southward along the east coast through the Florida Keys (Monroe County) and then up the Gulf coast to Hillsborough County.



The second species we'll take a look at is **Coker's golden creeper**, named to honor North Carolina botanist William Chambers Coker (1872–1953) who first discovered this species on Great Abaco, Bahamas in 1903. Up until 1996 Coker's golden creeper was thought to be endemic to the Bahama Archipelago but that was before botanist Vivian Negrón-Ortiz noticed herbarium specimens at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden that were collected in southern Florida and labeled *Ernodea littoralis* var.



angusta. After further study, and looking at wild specimens in Miami-Dade County and in the Florida Keys, she determined that the plants were actually *Ernodea cokeri*. Unlike *Ernodea littoralis*, it prefers to grow in pine rockland habitat, just as it does in the Bahamas. In Florida it is restricted to pine rocklands in southern Miami-Dade County, including Long Pine Key in Everglades National Park, and also Big Pine Key (Monroe County) in the Lower Florida Keys. It is interesting to note that it was collected by botanist Ellsworth Paine Killip 1890–1968) on Big Pine Key in 1950.

To tell these two species apart from one another you simply have to look at the leaves. *Ernodea littoralis* has wider leaves (to about 1/2"), typically with three prominent veins, while *Ernodea cokeri* has narrow leaves (to about 1/4") with one vein per leaf. The 4-lobed tubular flowers of both species are either white or pink, changing color as they age. The lobes either arch or curl backward in front of the floral tube.

Both species excel as groundcovers and will form leafy mounds of stems to about a foot tall in cultivation. Use them either in mass plantings as groundcovers or try using them to line walkways, to form a border around a patio, or even try them in hanging baskets. If grown in a hanging basket and placed out in the open, hummingbirds will visit the flowers, but if grown in the ground they will be too low to attract their attention. Butterflies visit the flowers and these include a host of species ranging from sulphurs, swallowtails, heliconians, white peacocks, monarchs, queens, and a variety of skippers.

Look for them in South Florida nurseries that specialize in Florida native plants (see a list of nurseries on the Dade Chapter FNPS website, <http://dade.fnpschapters.org/nativeplants/obtainnatives.php>). Coker's golden creeper will be the hardest to find but it is currently available at Silent Native Nursery in Goulds through monthly retail sales or by appointment with Pro Native consulting (786-488-3101, www.pronative.com).



DADE CHAPTER FNPS TREASURER'S REPORT - Year Ending June 30, 2014

We ended our Fiscal Year with a small loss which is our typical pattern. Our major expenses have always been our Annual Native Plant Day and the fees that we pay to rent our monthly meeting space. We used money from the Bob Kelley Memorial Fund as well as \$400 in donations (from a special raffle at the February meeting and from individuals) to contribute \$1,500 to our state organization, the Florida Native Plant Society, to again fund a Conservation Grant Award in honor of our chapter's founders, Joyce and Don Gann. We also donated \$500 to TREEmendous Miami in support of their Tree Planting Project on US1.

The majority of our income comes from your dues and merchandise and plant raffle donations. Vendors that join us for Native Plant Day also donate 10% of their sales to DCFNPS.

Help boost our bottom line for June 30, 2015, by moving up one membership level or by bringing a friend to a monthly meeting who may become a member. We always need Raffle Plants and check out the merchandise table for new additions to our book selection.

Thank you for your support.
Susan Walcutt, Treasurer

Profit & Loss for Year Ending June 30, 2014

INCOME

Total Monthly Meetings	1,217.02
Total Native Plant Day	1,297.00
Total Membership Dues	2,094.70
Miscellaneous Income	43.48
Total Income	4,652.20

EXPENSE

Total Administration	1,625.95
Total Event Outreach	674.83
Total Monthly Meetings	900.00
Total Native Plant Day	2,571.36
Total Newsletter	639.25
Total Merchandise for Resale	356.44
Miscellaneous Expense	65.00
Total Expense	6,832.83
Net Income	<u>(2,180.63)</u>

GARDEN TIDBITS: Notes from August 2014

Please send your monthly observations by the 20th of each month to the editor – interesting, amusing, helpful ... or just "what's happening." What has become routine to you might be new to someone else, especially new members.

From Steve Woodmansee (mid-Kendall):

- Bahama Strongback (*Bourreria succulenta*) is in bloom and being visited by gobs of butterflies. A few of note are the occasional Ruddy Daggerwing and Julia heliconian. No Daggerwing caterpillars observed on my Shortleaf Fig (*Ficus*

citrifolia) or Strangler fig (*F. aurea*) though.

- Florida Fiddlewood (*Citharexylum spinosum*) is just starting to bloom, and full of pollinators too, especially bees and wasps.
- I mowed around a patch of Creeping Charlie (*Phyla nodiflora*) in my lawn, as it is a favorite for pollinators, especially beneficial wasps and small butterflies such as skippers.
- Southern Orb Weaver spiders are spinning their webs at night in spectacular fashion. They eat most of their web in the morning, recycling its contents for the next night.
- Blue Gray Gnatcatchers are here again, and twitting around my Virginia Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*) looking for bugs.
- Skyblue Clustervine (*Jacquemontia pentanthos*) is rapidly growing along my chainlink fence; it should be a spectacular bloom come October.
- Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) fruit are ripening. I noticed a Northern Mockingbird grabbing one of these fruits, picking off the sticky flesh that surrounds the seed. That was a first for me - I always thought the fruits were too big for that size of bird.

From Patty Phares (Perrine):

- Atala butterflies returned in June on their own to my yard after an absence of four years, and several generations have now been born. An adult nectared thoroughly on the small white flowers in a large patch of Pineland Snowberry (*Chiococca parvifolia*). Although atalas are known for liking small white flowers, atala researcher Sandy Koi says this is the first documentation she is aware of for atalas using that plant.

ONLINE READING

Propagating ferns. If you would like to try propagating native ferns, see "**Ferns Resurrected**" by **Mike Freedman and Jennifer Possley** in Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's magazine, *The Tropical Garden*, Summer 2013 issue, page 53-56.

<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/uploads/illumant/publications/TGsummer13.pdf>

Jennifer is a member of FNPS and our source for a wealth of information about native ferns and their conservation.

New National Champion Tree in Biscayne National Park

(See the complete Biscayne News Release, July 25, 2014, at <http://www.nps.gov/bisc/parknews/newsreleases.htm>)

"A new national champion tree, a **seven-year-apple** (*Casasia clusiifolia*), was crowned in Biscayne National Park. The seven-year-apple joins four other trees in the park receiving the 2014 national champion designation from American Forests.

"The current champion trees vary in height from 25 to 45 feet, yet they are judged not simply based on height. They are also ranked by trunk circumference and crown spread. With a circumference of 13 inches, a height of 25 feet, and a canopy spread of 12 feet, the park now has the largest seven-year-apple in the nation."

Cucumber Mosaic Virus (CMV): A Growing Problem for American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*). This article

was posted on the FNPS blog on July 4, 2014. Go to www.fnps.org and click on FNPS blog on the right.

You'll probably get distracted by News on the FNPS home page and other blog posts, or be drawn into Facebook, but that's good. If you would like, you can sign up to receive a notice by email of new blog postings.

DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

President: Kurt Birchenough

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: Amida Frey, Devon Powell, Surey Rios, Ted Shafer, 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 (pphares@mindspring.com, 305-255-6404)

General chapter information: 786-340-7914

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/dadefnps>

Twitter and Instagram: @dcfnps or Dade Native Plants

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TILLANDSIA

Editor: Patty Phares (pphares@mindspring.com, 305-255-6404)

Assistant editor: vacant

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

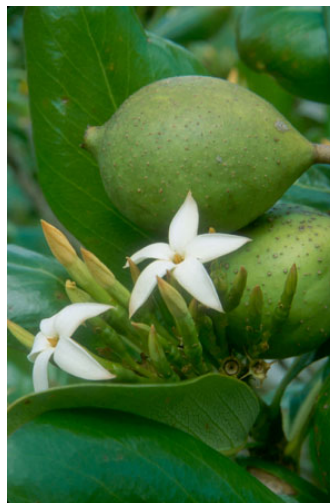
FNPS Website: www.fnps.org

FNPS blog: www.fnpsblog.org

FNPS is on Facebook and Twitter: FNPSonline

Dade Chapter rep. to FNPS: vacant

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Seven-year-apple Photo by Roger Hammer

"Comment: Although the flowers can be very attractive, the fruits can be downright ugly."

-- Natives For Your Neighborhood.
The Institute for Regional Conservation, Delray Beach and Miami.

www.regionalconservation.org