



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

APRIL 2015

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, April 28, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
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. Contributions of raffle items and refreshments are always greatly appreciated.

A Second Look at Everglades Wildflowers - Roger L. Hammer

Roger's presentation coincides with the 2nd edition 2015 release of *Everglades Wildflowers*. Roger traveled thousands of miles through six counties to photograph more than 360 wildflowers in six months. This effort led to a vastly improved book on the wildflowers of the historic Everglades region.

On the heels of that book came *Attracting Hummingbirds and Butterflies in Tropical Florida*, which covers 80 Florida native species and 120 non-native species that can be successfully grown in USDA Zones 10 and 11 (coastal Central Florida, mainland South Florida, and the Florida Keys). No previous books covered this region of Florida with any thoroughness, so this book is for gardeners who live within the scope of the book. Both books will be available at the meeting. Roger is currently working on a new wildflower guide for Central Florida.



Bartram's rosegentian (*Sabatia decandra*) photographed in Big Cypress National Preserve.

Roger Hammer is a retired Miami-Dade County naturalist, author, photographer and native plant aficionado. In addition to the two books featured this month, he has written four other books on Florida and wildflower identification cards for different parts of Florida. He received the first Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award in 1982 from the Dade Chapter FNPS for "education,



CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- Apr. 12 (Sun): Field trip** (spoil island, Coconut Grove)
- Apr. 19 (Sun): Pinecrest Gardens Earth Day** (vols. needed)
- Apr. 25 (Sat.): Chapter workday**, Everglades National Park
- Apr. 28 (Tue.): Meeting** at Pinecrest Gardens
- May 9 (Sat.): Yard visit**, Palmetto Bay – *mark your calendar*
- May 16 (Sat.): Field trip** (Key Largo)
- May 26 (Tue.): Meeting** at Pinecrest Gardens. (also Dade Chapter Annual Meeting and board election)

research, promotion, and preservation of native plants"; a Green Palmetto Award from FNPS; a Lifetime Achievement Award from three local organizations; and an Honorary Dr. of Science from FIU. He is a long-time member and supporter of FNPS.

- **May 26:** "The Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program" - Cynthia Guerra, Program Director
- **June 23:** "How You Can Help Conserve the Pine Rocklands of Miami" - Devon Powell, Connect to Protect Network Outreach Coordinator, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Inside this issue:

- **Recycle Dead Palms into Bird Houses for Cavity Nesting Birds** – by David King
- **Gulf Graytwig** – by Martin Roessler
- **Native Plant Day Wrap-up** – by Amy Leonard

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!

Sunday, April 12, 2015 Clarrington Island, a spoil island in Biscayne Bay. This island just offshore from the Coconut Grove Sailing Club is vegetated with native plants (and some exotics, of course). Members of the sailing club have taken an interest, and Susan Walcutt (CGSC and DCFNPS member) has arranged for the sailing club to host the Dade and Broward FNPS chapters. We will identify plants and make suggestions for signs. Access to the island is a quick boat ride (as many trips

as needed will be made). Bring lunch to enjoy in a 2-story chickee on the island after exploring. Everyone should plan on staying until after lunch.

Bring/wear: Sun protection, water, lunch. In case of a few bugs, you might want repellent.

Difficulty: Easy

Questions: Call Susan Walcutt 305-297-7757

• **Saturday, May 16, 2015:** Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park. An easy, shady walk. Details TBA

YARD VISIT

Saturday, May 9, 2015,

Address: Home of member

Who is invited: FNPS members and their guests

[*Note: We are repeating our May 2014 yard visit because most of you did not receive notification in time. Be sure to mark your calendar now!*]

This one acre property hides a very lovely surprise – a cypress pond. Large cypress trees grow with their knees poking up out of water that is filled with native water plants, fish and turtles. Surrounding the ¼ acre pond are many upland species of shrubs and trees. After Hurricane Andrew, this property (formerly part of the Mitchell Grove of avocado and mango trees) became an opportunity for new landscapes. One half of the acre is planted with exotic flora and the other half is planted only with native plants. Lloyd wanted to recreate a bit of the Everglades in his own backyard, and he succeeded. Paths, a dock, a bridge and wood benches invite you to wander and sit. It is really a strange and wonderful sensation to gaze at cypress trees in the middle of suburbia. Come wander and wonder! If you remember our August 1995 yard visit here, it will be interesting to see how the landscape has endured and matured.

This visit is part of an ongoing opportunity to get to know native plants in a hands-on manner and to see them in various settings, formal and informal, and to learn the property owner's successes and failures at growing them. If more information is needed, call Gwladys Scott at 305-238-8901.

DADE CHAPTER NEWS

Welcome new Dade Chapter member! Father Gregory Mansfield and the Spanish Monastery (Not-for-Profit membership).

Book donation. We thank the family of **Lillian Conesa**, a former longtime DCFNPS who passed away last year, for a donation from her estate of 99 books and 83 other publications about plants and nature. Many were sold at Native Plant Day to benefit the chapter. As a Miami-Dade County librarian, Lillian loved books, but handwritten notes and drawings along with her books show her as a lover of nature and an avid learner.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING and ELECTION

May 26, 2015, 7:30 p.m. at Pinecrest Gardens

Call for Nominations: Chapter board member nominations are being accepted **through April 30**. Elections for the Miami-Dade Chapter Board positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and three Directors at Large (all for two-year terms) will be held at the May 26 chapter meeting. A slate will be presented by the nominating committee at the meeting.

Please contact Amy Leonard (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.

Volunteer for DCFNPS:

**Pinecrest Garden's Annual Earth Day Festival
April 19, 2015, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

• **Help at the display.** The DCFNPS Board will take care of the details, but our members are great ambassadors for our chapter. You will talk with visitors, tell them what we do, invite them to join, and help sell native plants.

• **Help pick up plants in advance.** Help pick up 50 1-gallon plants to sell at our display during the week before the event (Friday preferred but not required). You just need to be a plant shuttle (and 50 plants don't take up as much space as you think, so even if you don't have a truck, we can use your help!).

Please contact Amy Leonard (aleonar74@yahoo.com).

This **free event** features wildlife and plant presentations and exhibits, green and eco-friendly workshops presented by the CLEO Institute, vendors, entertainment, garden tours, food, farmers market and more. See <http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov/index.aspx?page=324> for more info and locations of overflow parking (with a shuttle). **Why not volunteer for a bit and then enjoy the event for yourself?**

FNPS NEWS

Broward Chapter FNPS. See www.npsbroward.org. Meetings are at Secret Woods, 2701 W. SR 84, Dania Beach, FL 33312

• **Apr. 8, 2015, 7 p.m.:** "Flower Dude Does Digital: A Wildflower Bouquet" - Chuck McCartney, wildflower enthusiast

• **Apr. 11, 2015, 9 a.m.-1p.m. Chapter & Friends Plant Sale** at Secret Woods. Seed of Broward species, newspaper pot-makers, and wildflower guides also for sale.



May 28-31: FNPS 35th Annual Conference, "Born to Burn" in Tallahassee. Field trips and workshops are Thursday and Sunday, with speakers and workshops on Friday and Saturday. Evening social events will be at the Capital Building, Wakulla Springs State

Park and Tall Timbers Research Station. You will be able to register for the days you choose. *Conference registration opens soon, but you can make hotel reservations now.* See www.fnps.org for information.

Paid advertising

VEBER'S JUNGLE GARDEN SPRING FESTIVAL

April 18, 2015 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
24605 SW 197 Ave., Homestead, FL



Butterfly tour at 1 pm

Native plants, bamboo, butterfly attractors, flowering plants,

Also: Avocado honey, chocolates, jewelry, fish dip

Check or cash only

Join us for a beautiful day in the country!
<http://www.vebersjunglegarden.com/>

NATIVE PLANT DAY 2015 WRAP-UP

Did you attend the Dade Chapter's 20th Native Plant Day this year? If you did, you already know that it was one of the best ever with fantastic programs and nature walks, one of the most diverse raffle tables in recent history, some of the most fantastic books for sale, a special kids-only plant sale and scavenger hunt (among other hands-on activities), enthusiastic and engaging volunteers, an abundance of vendor-grown plants, and a host of like-minded organizations spreading their message, too.

The weather couldn't have been better from the start of the day with the well-attended early bird walk, led by Tropical Audubon Society's Paul Bithorn, to the moment the tents and tables were taken down. So many Chapter members contributed behind the scenes and during the event to ensure its success and the enjoyment of the nearly 600 attendees at A. D. Barnes Park's Natural Area on March 28, 2015! A hearty thanks to those who played a role: from growing raffle plants to donating books to leading a walk or monitoring the plant holding area so attendees could enjoy the event. This is the Chapter's chance to shine in the public eye and you helped to make that happen in a very big way this year!



A bountiful raffle. See many more photos on Facebook.

Be on the lookout for some of the programs to be expanded at our Chapter meetings in the near future. And if you couldn't make it this year or you'd like to have a bigger role next year, please contact Amy Leonard (aleonar74@yahoo.com). Native Plant Day 2016 is already in the planning stages and we'll announce our location and date as soon as they're confirmed.

– Amy Leonard, Vice President, DCFNPS and Native Plant Day coordinator

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

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 cuttings of plants (especially flowering/fruitlet), even if they do not pertain to the topic. **April 21, 2015 topic:** Rutaceae (Citrus Family)

Tropical Audubon Society. For info on TAS activities and conservation issues: <http://tropicalaudubon.org/tashome.html> or 305-667-7337. 5530 Sunset Dr., Miami, 33143.

Annual Meeting & Silent Auction, April 26, 2015, 4 - 8 p.m. Mingle with local conservation heroes; enjoy food and drinks, live music; inspiring conservation content, speaker, honoring members of our environmental community. **Everyone is welcome.** See the website for details as they are available.

Citizens for a Better South Florida.

- **May 3, 2015, 5 - 7 p.m. An Evening in the Garden – Citizens Annual Fundraiser at Miami Beach Botanical Garden.** Celebrate South Florida's environmental achievements, enjoy live music, hor d'oeuvres, drinks, award ceremony and the beautiful garden. Information and tickets: www.abettersouthflorida.org/ or 305-648-0000.
- **Buy Florida native plants at the GO NATIVE! Nursery.** Schedule an appointment to purchase plants at 305-648-0000.

Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Volunteer Workdays. Pre-register: EEL@Miamiidade.gov or 305-372-6611. For info see <http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands.asp>.
Apr. 11: Black Creek, SW 112 Ave. south of 211 St. (planting)
Apr. 25: Baynanza - Bay Clean-up, various sites, 305-372-6784
May 9: Rockdale Pineland, SW 144 St. and 92 Ave. (planting)

The Institute for Regional Conservation. Workshops in Palmetto Bay. Call 305-259-1234 or see <http://regionalconservation.org/ircs/pdf/thalatta.pdf>
Apr. 9: “Restoring the Link between People and Nature”
May 21: “Natives for Your Neighborhood”

Friends of the Gifford Arboretum, University of Miami.
May 6, 2015: “The Secret Lives of Miami’s Rare Native Ferns” – Jennifer Possley of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. A virtual tour to some of Miami’s remaining fern grottoes and work to preserve 25 rare ferns. **At 6:30 take a real tour of the new native fern collection** in the Arboretum. **At 7 p.m. move inside for the program** in Cox Science Center, Room 166. Directions to the arboretum (adjacent to Cox): www.bio.miami.edu/arboretum > visits or 305-284-1302. Free parking, Purple Lot, south end of the Arboretum.

Miami Blue Chapter, North American Butterfly Association (www.miamiblue.org; MiamiBlueEvents@bellsouth.net; 305-979-9623). **May 3, 2015, 1-3 p.m.:** **Quarterly meeting at the Kampong**, 4013 S Douglas Rd, Miami, FL 33133. Program: **“Butterflies as Pollinators”** – **Dr. Suzanne Koptur**, Prof. of Biological Sciences, FIU. Park in the lot north of the Kampong. You are welcome to walk the grounds afterward.

RECYCLE DEAD PALMS INTO BIRD HOUSES FOR CAVITY NESTING BIRDS

by David King

If you or a neighbor has taken out a palm, tie a piece of it up in a tree and *voila!*—you have a future bird house in your yard. Coconut palms work great, but a smooth Cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*) might also do. Your log should be at least 8” in diameter (10 or even 12 would be better) so slimmer palms won’t work. Royal palms would be great, but their weight makes them impractical. The log should be 2 to 3 feet long.

Palms that have been dead awhile are OK as long as they’re not already rotting. Covering the top of the log will increase life of your house and ensure it will last at least one nesting season. I’ve used sheet metal in the past and it worked well, my neighbor has successfully used plywood, and right now I’m trying pond liner. Anything that keeps rain from seeping into the open pores of the cut palm will work. Screws don’t hold well in the soft palm wood, but they *do* hold. I tried using galvanized wire with the pond liner, and I believe waterproof adhesive goo would be good. Feel free to be creative.

You might consider covering the bottom as well as the top. Two years ago I had a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers start their hole too close to the bottom of the log, and they excavated their way right out the bottom. I don’t know if covering the bottom would have kept that nest contained, but I think it’s worth the small additional effort to possibly prevent a nesting failure.

I attach my houses to trees using nylon rope – I don’t like to put nails into living trees. Synthetic rope will last as long as the log does, and it’s easy to remove when the house is no longer serviceable. You could use wire or build some sort of bracket,

but always consider what its impact on the host tree will be. However you do it, getting the log onto your tree will be a two-person, two-ladder job (one person to hold the log while the other ties it tight).

The house does not need to be very high. One of my neighbor’s is only eight feet up and it has housed multiple generations. Mine are 10 to 14 feet up. When locating the houses in your yard, consider who the future tenants might be; different species will have different habitat preferences for their home sites. Woodpeckers will be the ones to chip out the nest cavity, but Screech Owls or Great-crested Flycatchers may later sublet the residence. And prepare yourself for the possibility that evil Starlings might move in.



The pictures will give you an idea of what you will have. One shows a newly made house in a Mahogany with a pond liner top and bottom attached with galvanized wire. The other shows an older house in a Gumbo-Limbo with a sheet metal roof attached with screws and a Red-bellied Woodpecker bringing a meal to its babies.

Finally, don’t forget to plant lots of native trees and shrubs in your yard so your house will be in a good neighborhood with all the things that provide for raising a family!

David King is a retired ENP ranger. He and his family tend their acre of native plants and wildlife near Homestead. Their beautiful hammock and pond won a Landscape with Natives Award from FNPS in 2013. The chapter visited in July 2012. At that time they had seen 100 species of birds.

GULF GRAYTWIG

By Martin A. Roessler

On February 22, 2015, members of the Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and the Miami Blue Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association visited Camp Owaissa Bauer, a Miami-Dade County park on Bauer Drive (SW 264 Street). We had useful notes from Roger Hammer, retired Miami-Dade County Parks naturalist, and Jennifer Possley, field biologist with Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, to help us find some interesting plants. In particular, the uncommon, winter flowering species, Gulf Graytwig, was on our “Look For” list.

The Gulf Graytwig, or White Wood of the Bahamas, (*Schoepfia chrysophylloides*) was named as *Diplocalyx chrysophylloides* by Achille Richard in 1850 and transferred to the genus *Schoepfia* by Jules Emile Planchon in 1854. *Schoepfia* was named in honor of the German botanist Johann David Schoepf and the name *chrysophylloides* refers for the resemblance to a species of *Chrysophyllum* in the Sapodaceae. Gulf Graytwig and the native Hog-plum, *Ximenia Americana*, were both formerly placed in mostly tropical Olax family, Olacaceae, but Graytwig is now placed in the Schoepfia family, Schoepfiaceae.

The genus *Schoepfia* consists of about 38 species which are widely distributed throughout the tropics except Africa. The species is distributed from Volusia County to the Florida Keys in Florida and widely in the Bahamas, and West Indies to Guatemala in Central America.



Gulf Graytwig – Photo by Bill Shores
The stink bug *Vulsirea nigrorubra* – Bugguide.net

This shrub or small tree (to about 25 feet) is characterized by alternate, exstipulate (having no stipules, outgrowths on one or both sides of the base of a petiole, the leafstalk), and usually pointed, short leaves which gradually narrow below to a short petiole. It has clusters of red-orange tinted flowers and red fruits turning black at maturity. The fruit attract a host-specific native fruitfly (*Anastrepha interrupta*) which lays eggs within the fruits.

Another Graytwig-specific insect is *Vulsirea nigrorubra*. It is a true bug (Heteroptera) of the stink bug family (Pentatomidae) and has been observed to carry ripe fruit to its nest. We observed this black and red stink bug as well as a gastropod snail (flatcoil, *Polygyra* sp?) on a specimen of Graytwig.

Parasitism has been confirmed in Florida and the Bahamas. The modified sucker-like root organs (haustoria) of Graytwig have been confirmed on at least 10 host species. This semi-parasitic relation does not appear to adversely affect the host plant growth but may make Graytwig difficult to propagate. So come on a field trip to enjoy Gulf Graytwig – and its interesting insect companions – in the wild.

References:

Correll, D. S. And H. B. Correll, 1982, Flora of the Bahama Archipelago, J Cramer, Germany. (Provides data on distribution in the Bahamas and etiology information.)

Hammer, R. L, 2004, Florida Keys Wildflowers. A Falcon Guide. Globe Pequot Press. (Provides color photograph and ecological information.)

Long, R. W. And O. Lakela, 1971, A flora of tropical Florida. University of Miami Press. (Provides data on the names and life span of botanists identified by abbreviations as the authority responsible for the scientific description and name of a species.)

Tomlinson, P. B., 1980, The biology of trees native to tropical Florida. Harvard University Printing Office. (Provides botanical illustrations by P. Fawcett, descriptions, keys, ecological notes.)

Werth, C. R., W. V. Baird and L. J. Musselman, 1979, Root parasitism in *Schoepfia* Schreb. Biotropica 11: 140 - 143. (Provides data on the host species.)

Additional information and color photographs of the graytwig and insects mentioned above can be obtained by entering the scientific name in the Query Box of your internet browser.

Marty Roessler is an environmental consultant and longtime member of FNPS. He has contributed more field trip reports and plant lists than we can count!

DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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TILLANDSIA

Editor: Patty Phares (pphares@mindspring.com, 305-255-6404)
Assistant editor: VACANT – please join the team!

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

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