



Dade Chapter

# TILLANDSIA

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

MAY 2015

## MONTHLY MEETING

**Tuesday, May 26, 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 brief Annual Chapter Meeting with election of board members for 2015-2017 terms will precede the program.

*The Miami-Dade County  
Environmentally Endangered Lands Program  
- Cynthia Guerra, Program Director*

In 1990 voters of Miami-Dade County established and funded the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program to purchase and protect environmentally-sensitive land. The EEL Program has acquired and manages approximately 24,000 acres of the hammocks, pinelands, scrubby flatwoods, freshwater wetlands and mangrove forests that are protected and preserved through the EEL Program. Come learn about the status of this program which is vital to preserving our county's natural areas.



Cynthia Guerra is the Program Director of the Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program. Prior to that, she was the Executive Director of the Tropical Audubon Society, a local environmental conservation, advocacy and education non-profit organization that is part of the National Audubon Society. Cynthia has dedicated her career to working towards and contributing to improving environmental protection and conservation of natural areas and ecosystems, and educating and engaging others in protection of natural lands and native species.

• **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:

- Yard visit – Saturday, May 9
- Announcements and news
- "The Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program" - by Cynthia Guerra

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

**May 9 (Sat.): Yard visit**, Palmetto Bay – *mark your calendar*  
**May 16 (Sat.): Field trip** (Key Largo)  
**May 26 (Tue.): Meeting** at Pinecrest Gardens. (with Dade Chapter Annual Meeting and board election)  
**May 28-31: FNPS Annual Conference** in Tallahassee  
**June 20 (Sat.): Chapter workday**, Everglades National Park  
**June 23 (Tue.): Meeting** at Pinecrest Gardens  
**TBA: Field trip**

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING and ELECTION

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

Elections for the Dade Chapter Board positions of Secretary, Treasurer and three Directors at Large (all for two-year terms) will be held at the chapter meeting

A slate will be presented by the nominating committee at the meeting. **New participation on the board is needed, welcome and encouraged.** Please contact Amy Leonard (305-458-0969, aleonar74@yahoo.com) **by May 10** if you are interested or have someone to suggest.

The main qualifications are enthusiasm and a desire to help the chapter thrive. You don't have to be a botanist - a variety of skills is always needed on the board!

## 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, May 16, 2015: Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park.** Once slated to become a condominium development, this park contains one of the largest tracts of West Indian tropical hardwood hammock in the U.S. It is home to 84 protected species of plants and animals. Most of the park's trails are paved and accessible to bicycles and wheel-chairs. See <http://www.floridastateparks.org/keylargohammock>. On our leisurely stroll we'll practice tree identification – bring a reference to help with that if you would like. The paperback

booklet *Trees of the Everglades National Park and the Florida Keys* by George Stevenson would be a great one to carry.

**Bring:** \$2.50 park fee per person (exact change), water, sun protection, bug spray and long sleeves (there could be few mosquitoes), lunch if you would like to picnic afterward.

**Difficulty:** Easy – walking on smooth paths. You can go the distance that works for you and easily turn back.

**Lost/late?** Call Patty's cell (305-878-5705)

## YARD VISIT

**Saturday, May 9, 2015,**

**Address:** Home of member

**Who is invited:** FNPS members and their guests

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

**July Evening Yard Visit and Social meeting – Would you like to host this year's potluck and yard tour?** This fun annual gathering in lieu of a formal meeting is held at the host's convenience in the late afternoon on a weekend in July (usually Saturday). You can show off your native plants – and your non-natives as well! If you have room for 25 to 40 people in your yard and shelter (inside or on a patio) in case of rain and might like to offer your yard, please contact Amy Leonard ([aleonar74@yahoo.com](mailto:aleonar74@yahoo.com), 305-458-0969). Details of tables and chairs can be worked out – don't let that be an obstacle.

**Welcome new Dade Chapter members!** Eduardo de Aragon, Jeanne Clarke, Elizabeth Fels, Virginia Garcia (student), Megan and Justin Hooper, Ximena Mesa, Daniel Reschigna, Melissa Robin, Timothy Wright and family. Thank you to all who rejoined recently. Your ongoing support is what makes us thrive.

**The Dade Chapter FNPS is again pleased to announce the donation of \$1500 to fund an FNPS Conservation Grant award** in honor of our chapter's founders, Joyce and Don Gann. Funds were donated by DCFNPS members and augmented by monies from the chapter's Robert Kelley Memorial Fund, which provides funds for special projects. The FNPS Conservation Grants will be announced at the annual conference later this month.

## FNPS NEWS

**Broward Chapter FNPS.** See [www.npsbroward.org](http://www.npsbroward.org). Meetings are at Secret Woods, 2701 W. SR 84, Dania Beach, FL 33312.

**May 13, 2015, 7 p.m.: The Future of Plant Conservation - What the public needs to know to save Florida native plants.** A panel Q&A discussion with Dr. Joyce Maschinski (Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden), Steve Woodmansee (Pro Native Consulting), Jimi Sadle (Everglades National Park) and Pat Howell (Broward County Parks). All are invited to this very special program.

**May 28-31: FNPS 35<sup>th</sup> 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 several beautiful locations. Don't miss this interesting and enjoyable event!

Can't go for all four days? Then register for two days. See [fnps.org](http://fnps.org) for information and to register; call 321-271-6702 or 239-273-8945 with questions.



**The May-June FNPS newsletter, Sabal Minor,** is available at [fnps.org](http://fnps.org) > Resources.

**FNPS no longer mails postcard acknowledgements of renewals but now acknowledges renewals by email** (or by postal mail if a member does not have email). Also, members are now reminded of pending renewals by email before postal mail is sent. Renewing when you receive the email reminder will reduce costs even more and stop additional pesky reminders!

**FNPS travels to Cuba.** The Florida Native Plant Society in partnership with the Florida Keys TREE Institute present *The Plants of Central and Northwest Cuba, November 15-22, 2015*- Pinar del Rio, Vinales Valley, Zapata Swamp, Cienfuegos, Havana. See [fnps.org](http://fnps.org) for more information.

## 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](mailto:steve@pronative.com). Bring at least three cuttings of plants (especially flowering/fruitlet), even if they do not pertain to the topic. **May 19, 2015 topic: Pine Rockland shrubs**

**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. Follow **pine rockland preservation** news with TAS and the Miami Pine Rockland Coalition (<http://miamipinerocklandscoalition.org/>) -- join the mailing list and the Facebook group MiamiRPC)

**Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Volunteer Workdays.** Pre-register: [EEL@Miamiidade.gov](mailto:EEL@Miamiidade.gov) or 305-372-6611. The final workday of this season is May 9. For info see <http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/landangered-lands.asp>. **May 9:** Rockdale Pineland, SW 144 St. and 92 Ave. (planting)

**The Institute for Regional Conservation. Pre-register for this workshop in Palmetto Bay.** Call 305-259-1234 or see <http://regionalconservation.org/ircs/pdf/thalatta.pdf> **May 21: “Natives for Your Neighborhood” presented by Lindsey Roland Nieratka.** NFYN is an online resource that will help you learn how to turn simple gardening into habitat restoration by using plants that are native to your specific area.

**Friends of the Gifford Arboretum, University of Miami. May 6, 2015: “The Secret Lives of Miami’s Rare Native Ferns” – Jennifer Possley,** Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. **6:30 p.m. – tour the new native fern collection. 7 p.m. – program** in Cox Science Center, Room 166. Directions to the arboretum: [www.bio.miami.edu/arboretum](http://www.bio.miami.edu/arboretum) > visits or 305-284-1302. Free parking, Purple Lot, south end of the Arboretum.

**The UF-IFAS/ Miami-Dade County Extension Office** produces **Miami Green Bytes**, an online newsletter for local gardeners, arborists, and landscapers. To be added to the distribution list, contact Lize Luna at [lluna@ufl.edu](mailto:lluna@ufl.edu). See the Spring 2015 issue for “Irritant Plants – Taking precaution when working outdoors” and other articles. <http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/pdfs/Verdant%20Bytes/MiamiGreenBytesSpring2015.pdf>.

**Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area.** We learned about the awesome work by **ECISMA** at our March program by Tony Pernas. From <http://www.evergladescisma.org>: “*ECISMA is a formal partnership of federal, state, and local government agencies, tribes, individuals and various interested groups that manage invasive species and is defined by a geographic boundary.*”  
Read more online about the invasive species of plants and animals in great need of control and how to report sightings. Use a free Smartphone App (IveGot1) to **report sightings from the field**. Or **report online** with a web form. Step-by-step instructions for reporting invasive plant species online are at [http://www.eddmaps.org/florida/about/step\\_by\\_step.cfm](http://www.eddmaps.org/florida/about/step_by_step.cfm).

You can also call **FWC’s Exotic Species Hotline** at 1-888-IveGot1 (1-888-483-4681) for Burmese pythons and other animals.

## THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM

by Cynthia Guerra, Program Director

When settlers came to the Miami area in the early 1900s, the county contained a vast wilderness of nearly 2,000 square miles of watery marshes and 280 square miles of globally-rare tropical pine rockland forests and tropical hardwood hammock. Since then, the county has experienced dramatic population growth with accompanying urban and rural development that resulted in significant reductions of these unique natural habitats. By the late 1980s, there was widespread recognition that preserving some of the remaining wilderness was needed. That’s why the voters of Miami-Dade County established and funded the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program in 1990 to purchase and protect environmentally-sensitive land. Today, the EEL Program has acquired and manages 33 square miles of these lands, and manages an additional four square miles of Miami-Dade County Parks natural areas. This represents approximately 24,000 acres of the hammocks, pinelands, scrubby flatwoods, freshwater wetlands and mangrove forests that are protected and preserved through the EEL Program!

There are EEL Preserves throughout Miami-Dade County. Containing freshwater marshes, tree islands, globally-endangered pine rocklands and tropical hardwood hammocks, these Preserves are vital and thriving natural lands that are part of our shared natural heritage to treasure for this and future generations. These Preserves support diverse wildlife and lush native plants, protect outstanding geologic and natural features, and sustain our ecosystem. Recently, the EEL Program has been expanding opportunities for the public to enjoy these special places by installing nature trails in a manner that is also protective of the natural environment. Some of the most recent trails installed and ready to enjoy are at the Camp Matecumbe/Boystown Pineland EEL Preserve, Hattie Bauer Hammock EEL Preserve, and Rockdale Pineland EEL Preserve. The newest trail will be completed in the Pine Shore Pineland EEL Preserve in May 2015.

You can help maintain and protect these special places! Each year from September through May, the EEL Program hosts Community Volunteer Workday events. Working together, EEL Program biologists and naturalists work with volunteers of all ages to remove invasive and damaging exotic vegetation, restore native plants and trees, and conduct needed clean-up activities. While working, volunteers learn to identify various invasive plants and gain a better understanding of the rare ecosystems and local habitats unique to South Florida. Community volunteers can also earn needed community service hours. To get more information about the volunteer workdays or the EEL Program, please contact EEL at 305-372-6611 or [eel@miamidade.gov](mailto:eel@miamidade.gov) or visit [www.miamidade.gov/environment/landangered-lands.asp](http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/landangered-lands.asp)

**Scenes from the field trip to Clarington Island in Biscayne Bay, April 12, 2015**

*Richard Brownscombe shares images in photos and words.*

A summer storm pick up and dumped a heavy shower, but we were under cover watching the blue sky under the cloud. It soon cleared, as expected, leaving everything fresh and sunny. On cue, a



sailing club boat slid expertly to the dock and we were off in the bay breeze to Clarington Island just off shore.

On the spoil island we looked for and found native plant identification signs in good shape. They just needed to be cleared or moved a bit to be visible from the trail. They confirmed a few of the species we were doubtful about.

Jorge and I wandered off trail and found common and uncommon species, some we could identify, some not. We heard the playful shouts of girls in the far distance and finally worked our way around to re-join them as the sky darkened a second time and let go a torrent. They had gathered for lunch under the chickee and the girls played in the eave waterfalls as we ate and relaxed waiting for the storm to pass. When it did I found a silver-blue Seaside Heliotrope, *Heliotropium curassavicum*, among the Sea Purslane, *Sesuvium portulacastrum*, and Saltwort, *Batis maritime* that appeal to my odd interests and got lost looking at the strange flower parts of these species.



Mature seed pods of the Varnish Leaf, *Dodonaea viscosa*, a very handsome pantropical shrub that tolerates the salt of harsh coastal environments.

**All DCFNPS members – Miami-Dade and Keys:  
Please contribute to *Tillandsia*.**

We'd like to hear from you with news, announcements of upcoming events, and articles relating to native plants and natural areas or issues that impact them.

Little snippets about your native plant gardening experiences or observations in the wild; amusing, thought-provoking or informative articles (one paragraph or a whole page); photos (whole plants, flowers, interesting features, landscapes); or just "what's happening out there" ... all can be considered for inclusion. What has become routine to you might be new to someone else, especially new members!

Contact the editor ([pphares@mindspring.com](mailto:pphares@mindspring.com), 305-255-6404)

**DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

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**Past President:** Buck Reilly ([buck@habify.com](mailto:buck@habify.com), 786-291-4824)

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**General chapter information:** 305-985-3677 (new number)  
**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/dadefnps>  
**Twitter and Instagram:** @dcfnps or Dade Native Plants  
**DCFNPS Website:** <http://dade.fnpschapters.org/>  
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**TILLANDSIA**

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**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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Advertising rates from \$12 per month.

**FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

**FNPS office:** [info@fnps.org](mailto:info@fnps.org), 321-271-6702  
**FNPS Website:** [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)  
**FNPS blog:** [www.fnpsblog.org](http://www.fnpsblog.org)  
**FNPS is on Facebook and Twitter:** FNPSonline  
**Dade Chapter rep. to FNPS:** vacant

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**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.**