



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

OCTOBER 2016

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, October 25, 2016, 7:30 p.m.
Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57 Ave. (Red Road), Miami
Free and open to the public

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 with the plant name — mystery plants are fun, but not for this!*

Our presenters are attending the International Tropical Botany and Pine Rockland Conference at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and graciously agreed to do double duty.

● **“Botanical Research & Conservation in the Turks & Caicos Islands”** - **B Naqqi Manco**, Project Manager, Department of Environment & Coastal Resources, Turks & Caicos Islands Government

The Turks & Caicos Islands (TCI) are the south-easternmost banks of islands of the Lucayan Archipelago, politically separate from the Bahamas as a United Kingdom Overseas Territory (UKOT). With eight to ten endemic species and rapid anthropogenic change and habitat loss from development and invasive species, TCI has an important responsibility in protecting its botanical heritage. Partnering with Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, as well as other international institutions, TCI has a number of projects, programs, and community-based efforts focusing on research and conservation of native plants and their ecosystems. This presentation is an introduction to the botanical heritage of TCI and the challenges and opportunities presented by being a remote UKOT with a small but rapidly-growing population.



B Naqqi Manco locating a population of previously "lost" endemic plant slender-stemmed pepper-grass *Lepidium filicaule* on Grand Turk in 2012.

B Naqqi Manco grew up on the island of Grand Turk (among a number of other locales) and has always been fascinated by nature. He studied in the US, and at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in the United Kingdom. He was a conservation ecologist with an NGO and now works for the Turks and Caicos Government on plant and ecosystem conservation projects.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

October

15 (Sat.): Chapter workday, Everglades National Park
22 (Sat.): Miami Shores Green Day – *please volunteer*
25 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens
28-30 (Fri.-Sun.): Field trip - Archbold Biological Station

November

11-13 (Fri.-Sun.): Fairchild Ramble – *please volunteer*
22 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens.

(December activities TBA)

● **“Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation for the Bahamian Archipelago”** - **Ethan H. Freid**, Bahamas National Trust, Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve

The Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve (LLNPP) is a 25-acre site on Eleuthera. Since 2009 the LLNPP has developed a welcome center, education pavilion, lath house, medicinal plant display beds, an edible history section, 1.5-mile trail system, weather station, and a tower overlook. Ninety percent of the site is intact Caribbean Dry Forest. The LLNPP has existing populations of five endemic species and has added 30 more (~34% of the 89 vascular plants endemic to the Bahamian Archipelago). It also has a horticulture program, permanent forest plots to study forest growth and change in relation to climate and climate change, and natural history internships. The Levy Preserve looks to become a leader in Bahamian Botany by increasing awareness of plants, their conservation importance, and training the next generation of field botanists.

Ethan is a botanist specializing in the terrestrial ecology and plant taxonomy of The Bahamian Archipelago. He grew up in California, and received a Ph.D. in Botany from Miami University (Ohio). *(continued on page 2)*

● **November 22:** “The Trouble with Exotic Mangroves”- Dennis Giardina, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Inside this issue:

- **Miami Shores Green Day, FTBG Ramble, ENP workday** – please volunteer!
- **Archbold Biological Station field trip, Oct 28-30** – register before October 19 (sooner to ensure your place)
- **“What’s Old Is New Again”** - by Chuck McCartney
- ***Liatris*** – our favorite fall flower ... plus other news

Ethan has worked and traveled throughout the Caribbean, Central and South America and Central Africa and has published 14 papers and 30 technical reports on projects in the Bahamas



and the Caribbean. He taught at the College of the Bahamas and the University of Tampa and now conducts science and conservation projects at the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve and throughout the archipelago.

Ethan Freid and *Euphorbia longisulicola*

- **Shelley Cant-Woodside, Director of Science and Policy of the Bahamas National Trust**, will have a poster presentation before and after the program.

SUPPORT THE FNPS MISSION: VOLUNTEER FOR EVENTS

You don't need to be a plant expert to volunteer at our chapter table at public events or for ENP workdays. Learn on the job!

- **Miami Shores Green Day, October 22, 2016, 3:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

Miami Shores, NE 2nd Ave., 94th - 99th Streets.

To volunteer for DCFNPS: Contact Amy Leonard (305-458-0969, aleonar74@yahoo.com).

Join the Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce for this FREE community event. **DCFNPS will be there spreading the word about native plants and Native Plant Day (Mar. 25 in North Miami).** Numerous other organizations, companies and agencies will feature “green” information, gifts, activities and food, plus vendors (including native plant) and entertainment. See <http://www.miamishores.com/greenday/>

- **Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Ramble November 11-13, 2016.**

Get the inside perspective – *volunteer* at our educational display. You'll be promoting FNPS membership and the importance of native plants and habitats.

To volunteer for DCFNPS: Please contact Gita by Oct. 20 (786-877-7168, gita.ramsay@gmail.com). Volunteers who aren't FTBG members are admitted free **if they reply on time**. The volunteer schedule will be finalized at our Oct. 25 meeting.

Volunteers are needed to:

- Staff our display Friday, Saturday or Sunday, 9a.m.-4:30p.m. (morning and afternoon slots)
- Set-up on Thursday afternoon, 3:30 - 5 p.m.
- Break-down on Sunday, 4:30 - 5 p.m.

Display items needed: Please loan/donate small **native plants** (in pots), **native butterfly plants** (larval food or nectar) or **caterpillars** for the display. Contact Amy Leonard (305-458-0969, aleonar74@yahoo.com).

- **Chapter Workday: Everglades National Park. Coe Visitor Center. October 15, 2016 - 9 a.m. – noon.** Help the chapter enhance the entrance to ENP. (*Really, how many of you can say you have landscaped a National Park?!*) We will be doing pruning and weeding. Cold water is provided;

bring snacks to share if you care to. Gloves and hand tools are available. New helpers are encouraged to come! Everyone in your car gets into ENP free after the workday. Contact Patty 305-255-6404 or pharespl@gmail.com, if you have questions (305-878-5705 cell, for the morning of the workday).

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

Welcome new members! Erick Ahlbrandt, Laura Shepherd, Harry Sherman

Broward Chapter FNPS. See <http://coontie.fnpschapters.org/>. Meetings are at Secret Woods, 2701 W. SR 84, Dania Beach.

Oct. 12, 2016, 7 p.m.: Chapter meeting. “Understanding the Impacts of Invasive Plant Species in Natural Areas” - Cara Abbott, The Institute for Regional Conservation.

Renew your FNPS membership online – it's easy! To recap the email you should have received from FNPS recently: **Securely renew online by using the link** provided in renewal reminder email messages. You will find a pre-filled form with all your membership information. **You can quickly make any updates needed and pay securely.** You can expect to receive your first reminder email about 2-3 months before you are due to renew. **You can renew immediately or wait until your actual renewal date.** (And you can still renew on a paper form.)

ARCHBOLD BIOLOGICAL STATION FIELD TRIP: October 28-30, 2016

Don't miss this special weekend at one of the most interesting places in Florida -- and only 150 miles from Miami. Archbold Biological Station has 5000 acres of globally significant natural preserve northeast of Lake Okeechobee near the southern end of the Lake Wales Ridge. See www.archbold-station.org.

Please see more details in the September *Tillandsia*. The basics are below. For questions or help with registration, contact Patty (305-255-6404, pharespl@gmail.com).

- **Come for one or both nights, or only for the day on Saturday** (and *still* make your Halloween party). **You may arrive early Friday, leave late Sunday.**
- **Saturday, 10-12pm:** tour with Dr. Eric Menges
- **Other excursions** with our own knowledgeable members, or self-guided nature trails with signage. Some visitor services are available before 4 p.m. Friday.
- **Sunday morning:** optional side trip to scrub near Lake Placid now home to former DCFNPS member Jerry Russo.
- **Accommodations** are in the station's lodge. **Meals** are in the dining room except for a bag lunch on Saturday.
- **REGISTRATION CLOSES OCTOBER 19, or sooner if the limit is reached.**
- **Register and pay online** at http://www.archbold-station.org/html/temp/fnps_trip_2016.html. See the form for all the options of nights and meals.
- **Everyone must register in advance**, even to attend only for the daytime on Saturday (no fee if you do not want meals).
- **\$5 for tour with Dr. Menges** (collected by DCFNPS on Sat.).

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

Dade Native Plant Workshop: MDC Kendall Campus Landscape Technology Center. 3rd Tuesdays at 7 p.m. See <http://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.*

Oct. 18, 2016 topic: FLEPPC Listed **Category I** "Invasive" plants and their Native Plant Look-alikes. See the list at <http://www.fleppc.org/list/list.htm> (last month was Category II).

► **New website!** <http://www.nativeplantworkshop.com> ◀
Please replace your ning.com bookmark and register on the new site. Click on the "Native Plant Workshop Members Group" box. List your favorite native plant as "Coontie" to alert the webmaster that you are legit. When you receive an account verification email, click on the link to finalize your registration.

Friends of the Gifford Arboretum, Univ. of Miami.

7 p.m., Cox Science Center, Room 166. 305-284-1302, <http://www.bio.miami.edu/arboretum> > visits or 305-284-1302.

- **Nov. 2, 2016 meeting:** "Gardening on a Mission: Water Conservation and Saving the 39 Imperiled Butterflies of South Florida" - Barbara McAdam of Miami-Dade UF/IFAS Extension
- See the website for **tours** and **Music in the Arboretum**.

Miami Blue Chapter, North American Butterfly

Association. (<http://www.miamiblue.org>; 305-979-9623)

Nov. 6, 2016 meeting. 1-3 pm at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, 102601 Overseas Hwy., Key Largo (Mile Marker 102.5). Free after admission to the park (park entrance free to current MB members). Scott Tedford of the Florida Park Service will discuss **Schaus' Swallowtail surveys** conducted in April-June. Come learn how you can participate next year!

Environmentally Endangered Lands Volunteer

Workdays. *Adult volunteers are always helpful in guiding the teens who provide their youthful energy.*

Please pre-register at EEL@Miamiidade.gov; 305-372-6611.

<http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands.asp>

- **Oct. 15: County Line Scrub** - NE 215 St., east of San Simeon Way (invasive plant removal)
- **Nov. 5: Larry and Penny Thompson Pineland** – SW 179 Terr. & 122 Ave. (cleanup)

WHAT'S OLD IS NEW AGAIN

By Chuck McCartney

Orchid taxonomy is in a great state of flux at the moment as botanists try to understand genetic relationships within this vast plant family and attempt to reconcile traditional taxonomic methods based primarily on anatomical features with molecular evidence piling up from ever-expanding DNA studies. This has led to a lot of confusion about the "correct" name to use for many orchids long familiar under other names.

In the program I presented for the Dade Chapter on May 24 on the connection of Florida's native orchids to orchids in Cuba, I illustrated and discussed a species for which I used the name

Heterotaxis sessilis. While doing my initial research for this program a couple of months prior to the date of presentation, I consulted one of the most authoritative sources of information on current orchid names, a website called the *World Checklist of Selected Plant Families* (<http://apps.kew.org/wcsp/home.do>) maintained by Britain's Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. I wanted to verify that *Heterotaxis sessilis* was still the correct name for this orchid, which in Florida is found almost exclusively in the Fakahatchee Strand. And that was the name accepted at that time.

During the meeting, chapter member Amida Frey asked about the meaning of *Heterotaxis*, and I made a pretty good guess based on its two component words that it may have meant "a different name." When I got home that night, however, Ami's question sent me to my library to find out for sure. Actually, it comes closer to meaning "a different ordering," indicating that the great 19th Century English orchidologist John Lindley, who created the genus, considered it a transitional link between one large group of orchids and another.

A couple of days later, I sat down to e-mail Ami with this information but I wanted to get the date when Lindley published the genus. (It was 1826.) That sent me back to the *World Checklist* -- where, much to my surprise and chagrin, I discovered that *Heterotaxis sessilis* had morphed once again into its long-familiar name *Maxillaria crassifolia* (a name that I had shown as a synonym for this orchid in my program).



First it was *Maxillaria crassifolia*, then it was *Heterotaxis sessilis*, and now it's back to being *Maxillaria crassifolia*. Photographed in the Fakahatchee Strand by Jake A. Heaton.

A little background here: Until recently, the genus *Maxillaria* was considered a grouping of some 580 highly variable species of New World orchids. Using molecular data from DNA studies, a group of orchid scientists attempted to break up this "mega-genus" into more meaningful (and more closely related) taxonomic groupings, and this splitting of the old genus *Maxillaria* was accepted -- for a while. Now, though, there

seems to be a move afoot to lump some of these “splitter groups” back into a more broadly defined genus *Maxillaria*. That is how this *Heterotaxis sessilis*/*Maxillaria crassifolia* name reversal has come about.

Subsequently, I also consulted the *World Checklist* regarding the status of *Camaridium vestitum*, the former *Maxillaria* that Roger Hammer found years ago deep in the Fakahatchee Strand. The orchid gurus at Kew have also lumped that segregate genus back into the broader concept of *Maxillaria*, and the species has reverted to its earlier name of *Maxillaria parviflora*. The latter is the synonym I presented in my discussion of this orchid.

I want to alert members of the Dade Chapter who attended my program to these latest name changes, lest they think I was giving out erroneous information about these relatively uncommon native orchids that we share with Cuba.

To avoid this kind of thing in the future, my young plant explorer/field photographer friend Jake Heaton suggested, just half jokingly, that perhaps when I present programs like this one, I should have an on-screen disclaimer stating that the names used in the program were correct as of the date of my research. Such is the state of flux in which we now find ourselves with the botanical names of orchids -- and many other plant species.

In this case, we might appreciate the common name. It isn't called "**Hidden Orchid**" for no reason! The little "smudge" of yellow way down among the leaves in the center of the accompanying photo is the underside of the flower.

Chuck McCartney is a former editor of the American Orchid Society's AOS Bulletin and the Awards Quarterly and was a copy editor with The Miami Herald's Broward Edition, before retiring in 2009. He writes extensively about wildflowers and orchids for numerous publications and is a member of FNPS.

DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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TILLANDSIA

Editor: Patty Phares (pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404)
Staff needed for general assistance. 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
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FNPS is on Facebook and Twitter: FNPSonline

Dade Chapter – FNPS Council of Chapters: vacant – contact the president
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LIATRIS: Our Favorite Fall Flower

Photos by Jennifer Possley



A pure-white *Liatris tenuifolia* (Shortleaf gayfeather)

We're used to flowers of *Liatris* species being “rose purplish.” This white *Liatris tenuifolia* was photographed at Zoo Miami in September 2016. A purple specimen is seen below. This species is present in many pinelands in South Florida, including pine rocklands of Miami-Dade County and Monroe County Keys.

Liatris flower in the summer and fall and can be spectacular following a burn. Now is the time to walk in pine rocklands to catch some in their glory. Keep an eye out for that special white one!
 - Patty Phares



◀ The more typical purple *Liatris tenuifolia*

Liatris chapmanii ▶
 (Chapman's gayfeather, Blazing star) – not common in South Florida. (8/2008)



◀ *Liatris gracilis* (Slender gayfeather, Blazing star) is common in our pine rocklands. (10/2014)