



Dade Chapter

# TILLANDSIA

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

APRIL 2017

## MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, April 25, 2017, 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!**

### *An Introduction to our Native Palm Species* - Andrew Street, Miami Beach Botanical Garden

Enjoy an overview of Florida's native palm trees, including their horticultural needs and identification. Bring your questions!



Andrew Street is a second generation South Florida native. He is the Horticulturist at Miami Beach Botanical Garden and CEO of XOTK Grandscapes Inc. He is an FSU graduate and Certified Professional Horticulturist as well as a past board member of the South Florida Palm Society. He is an expert in the palms that can be grown in South Florida, including our native species.

Andrew is also a published author for the International Palm Society, the South Florida Palm Society, and the MBBG Horticultural newsletter. In Cutler Bay, where he lives with his wife and two boys, he grows hundreds of species of palm, as well as various cycad and *Tillandsia* species

• **May 23, 2017: South Florida Endemic Plants and Their Conservation** - Jimmy Lange, Field Botanist, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

• **June 27, 2017:** Craig Morell - Director of The Kampong, the National Tropical Botanical Garden's Florida garden

### Inside this issue:

- **Dade Chapter Annual Meeting** – *call for board nominations*
- **“Weed or Wildflower? *Bidens alba* - Spanish needles”**  
– by Martin Roessler
- **Speak Up for Pine Rocklands!**
- **Announcements, news, volunteer opportunities**

**Haven't read the March-April *Sabal minor*?** See [fnps.org/assets/pdf/sabalminor/sabalminor19\\_2\\_2017.pdf](https://fnps.org/assets/pdf/sabalminor/sabalminor19_2_2017.pdf)

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### April

**15 (Sat.): Field trip to ENP** with the Broward Chapter

**22 (Sat.): Chapter workday**, Everglades Nat. Park and Volunteer Appreciation Lunch (*volunteer*)

**23 (Sun): Earthday** at Pinecrest Gardens (*volunteer*)

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

**29 (Sat.): Connect to Protect Network** invites all DCFNPS members to a morning of activities in ENP

### May

**23 (Tue.): Meeting** at Pinecrest Gardens + Annual Meeting (Other activities TBA)

**May 18-21: FNPS Annual Conference**

## IN THE FIELD: Trip, workday, fun day

*Time, address and directions are in the newsletter mailed to members. Please join to enjoy all the activities of the chapter!*

### • **Saturday, April 15, 2017: Field trip to Pinelands of Everglades National Park hosted by the Broward Chapter.**

Chuck McCartney will follow up on his April 12 program to the Broward Chapter with a trip to the Pine Glades Lake area of ENP to see spring wildflowers. This fresh water borrow pit is surrounded by pinelands and open area with many wildflowers. After optional lunch back at Long Pine Key, there will likely be more botanizing in that area. For more ENP info and a map, see [www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/long-pine-key-trails.htm](http://www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/long-pine-key-trails.htm)

**No entrance fee: Fee free day** (4/15,16, 22, 23 for National Parks Week)! *Next time please consider buying an annual park pass or lifetime senior pass for 62+.*

**Bring:** Sun protection, water, lunch if you care to. Prepare for possible mosquitoes.

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Broward Chapter website:** [www.coontie.fnpschapters.org](http://www.coontie.fnpschapters.org)

*If the weather is very bad, call Patty at 305-878-5705 to confirm. Collecting is not permitted. All are welcome.*

• **April 22, 2017: Chapter workday and Volunteer Appreciation Lunch, Everglades National Park, Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center.** The workday is **9 a.m. – noon, followed by lunch** (at the park). Help the chapter enhance the entrance to ENP! We will be doing maintenance – pruning and weeding. Cold water provided; bring snacks to share if you care to. Gloves and hand tools are available. **New helpers are encouraged to come! This a fee-free day (National Parks**

Week) but for other workdays everyone in your car gets into ENP free after the workday. And it's also **Earth Day National Day of Service**. Contact Patty 305-255-6404 (305-878-5705 cell) or pharespl@gmail.com, if you have questions. *Please RSVP to Patty by April 20 if you might stay for lunch.*

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**Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's  
Connect to Protect Network**

**Annual member's meeting**



**Saturday, April 29, 2017, 9:30 a.m. – noon  
in Everglades National Park**

*CTPN extends a warm invitation to  
all Dade Chapter FNPS members to attend.*

This year, the group will meet right smack dab in the middle of a pine rockland, at Camp Everglades, hosted by Network member Jim Happell. There are many reasons to attend, including:

- **FREE** - Entry fee to ENP will be waived
- **GPS MAPPING ACTIVITY** - Work with field biologist Jimmy Lange to conduct a systematic survey for federally listed species on the property. Bring your hand-held GPS unit or we can provide one for up to 5 people (no GPS experience is necessary). This survey is much-needed and we would love to have help from network members.
- **PROPAGATION WORKSHOP** - Peter will demonstrate propagation techniques for some of the species found on site. Participants can propagate their own plants to take home.
- **SEED EXCHANGE** - Participants are encouraged to **bring pine rockland seeds or small plants** to share with others. Seeds **MUST** be sealed in envelopes; we don't want to be accidentally planting anything in the park.
- **SHARE LUNCH** - Those who wish may bring food or beverage to share for lunch at the end of the morning (no pressure!) Or just bring your own lunch.
- **CHILDREN** are encouraged to attend. No pets please.

Watch [facebook.com/ConnectToProtect/](https://www.facebook.com/ConnectToProtect/) for more info closer to the date.

Or contact Patty Phares if needed (pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404)

(Network members will receive more information via email.)



**For more information on the Connect to Protect**

**Network:** [www.fairchildgarden.org/science-conservation/connect-to-protect-network](http://www.fairchildgarden.org/science-conservation/connect-to-protect-network) or email [ConnectToProtect@fairchildgarden.org](mailto:ConnectToProtect@fairchildgarden.org)

*The Connect to Protect Network enlists Miami residents to plant native plants in order to connect the few remaining isolated fragments of pine rockland--a globally critically imperiled plant community. Planted areas can include private yards, rights-of-way along roads, and public lands such as schools and parks.*

*Miami-Dade County residents can join CTPN simply by maintaining pine rockland plants (existing or donated by FTBG) on your property for at least two years. If you do not own property, you may join as an Email-only member. **It's all free!***

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING & ELECTION

May 23, 2017, 7:30 p.m. at Pinecrest Gardens

**Call for Nominations:** Chapter board member nominations are being accepted through April 30. Elections for the Dade Chapter Board positions of secretary, treasurer, and up to three directors at large (all for two-year terms), plus up to two directors for one year terms will be held at the May 23 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 are always needed on the board!*

## DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

**Welcome new members!** Loyce Dunban, Greenscape Landscape Maintenance Corp, Shannon Harry, Brenna Kays, Maha Nusrat, Martha Singleton



**Broward Chapter FNPS.** [coontie.fnpschapters.org/](http://coontie.fnpschapters.org/).

Meets at Secret Woods, 2701 W. SR 84, Dania Beach.

**April 12, 2017, 7 p.m.: Meeting. "A Walk on Long Pine Key: The Flowers That Bloom in the Spring (Tra La!)"**

**- Chuck McCartney.** A witty and informed talk about spring-blooming wildflowers in Everglades National Park.

**See the April 15 field trip announcement in this newsletter.**



**Annual Earth Day Festival, Pinecrest Gardens**

**April 23, 2017, noon - 4 p.m. - Volunteer for DCFNPS.**

**Our members are great ambassadors for our chapter!**

Staff our table to talk with visitors about native plants and FNPS, invite them to join, and help sell native plants. **Please contact Amy Leonard** (aleonar74@yahoo.com, 305-458-0969). This free event features workshops, plant sales, an eco-fashion show, green vendors, wildlife shows, crafts for kids and lots more. See [pinecrestgardens.org/gardens-home](http://pinecrestgardens.org/gardens-home) for more information and locations of overflow parking (with a shuttle).

**Volunteer for a while - then enjoy the event for yourself!**

**37th Annual Florida Native Plant Society Conference**  
**May 18-21, 2017, Westgate River Ranch Resort** south of Lake Kissimmee. Amazing field trips, speakers, workshops, socials, plant and merchandise sales. **Reserve your room or camping site now – availability is limited.** A great way to see other parts of Florida. See [www.fnps.org/conference/2017](http://www.fnps.org/conference/2017).  
*Dade members – to make contact with others for potential sharing of rides or rooms, contact Patty ([pharespl@gmail.com](mailto:pharespl@gmail.com), 305-255-6404)*

**Support the FNPS Conservation Grants** and honor DCFNPS founders, Joyce and Don Gann. Please donate at a meeting, mail a check to DCFNPS at the chapter address (note "Gann Conservation Fund" in the memo line), or contact Susan Walcutt ([walcutts@bellsouth.net](mailto:walcutts@bellsouth.net), 305-297-7757).

See [fnps.org/what-we-do/conservation](http://fnps.org/what-we-do/conservation) to learn about the FNPS Conservation grants program. *It's worthy of your support!*

**VEBER'S** *Jungle Garden*

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## NATIVE PLANT DAY a Success!

Thank you to all our volunteers and attendees for a fantastic day!

On March 25 we held Native Plant Day at Elaine Gordon Enchanted Forest Park in North Miami and greeted over 500 visitors who were eager to enjoy the cool, sunny day (once the clouds cleared!) while learning about why we continue to grow and conserve Florida's native plants.

Programs and walks were enthusiastically attended and there was a lot of buzz about the interesting offerings at the raffle and Chapter plant sales tables. As always, our vendors had a beautiful selection of native plants that went to many new homes, and numerous other organizations brought great displays and lots of information to share. Special thanks to Ted Shaffer for arranging programs and walks; to Vivian Waddell for coordinating the other organizations who participated and for getting the word out to the media; to Gita Ramsay for scheduling volunteers and greeting our guests at the welcome tent; to the Wheeler family for juggling the chapter merchandise sales; to Carl Barta for all of his help with the Chapter plant sales; to Patty Phares for another gorgeous and interesting display at our chapter tent; to our super volunteers, without whom we couldn't have had such a successful day; to raffle donors; and to the many, many more of you who helped in big ways and small.

It takes at least fifty chapter volunteers to make Native Plant Day happen each year, and plans are already underway for next year. If you are able to get involved or have suggestions for next year, please let us know at [dadefnps@gmail.com](mailto:dadefnps@gmail.com) or call Amy Leonard, NPD Coordinator, at 305-458-0969. We look forward to being centrally located in Miami-Dade County in 2018.

See you there next March!

Amy Leonard

## WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

**Dade Native Plant Workshop:** MDC Kendall Campus Landscape Technology Center. 3rd Tuesdays at 7 p.m. See [www.nativeplantworkshop.com](http://www.nativeplantworkshop.com) – see blog for meeting info.  
**April 18, 2017 topic:** Sapotaceae (Sapodilla Family)

**Baynanza – Miami-Dade's Biscayne Bay Cleanup Day.**

April 22, 2017, 9 a.m. – noon at various sites. In its 35th year! [www.miamidade.gov/environment/baynanza.asp](http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/baynanza.asp), 305-372-6784

**Friends of the Gifford Arboretum, Univ. of Miami.**

[www.bio.miami.edu/arboretum](http://www.bio.miami.edu/arboretum) > visits or 305-284-1302.

**May 3, 2017, 7 p.m.: Meeting.** Cox Sci. Center, room 166. Jason Lopez, horticulturist at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden presents “*Bahamian Plants and Their Legacy at Fairchild*”.

**Miami Blue Chapter, North American Butterfly Association**

([www.miamiblue.org](http://www.miamiblue.org); 305-979-9623).

**May 7, 2017, 1-3 p.m.: Quarterly meeting** at Castellow Hammock Park, 22301 SW 162 Ave., Miami, 33170. **Program:** “*Effects of disturbance on Bartram’s scrub hairstreaks and their host plants on Big Pine Key and in Everglades National Park*” Also see the website for the Key Largo Hammocks State Botanical Site walk with Tropical Audubon Society on May 6.

## SPEAK UP FOR PINE ROCKLANDS!

• **Trinity Pineland**, a Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) preserve south of Sunset Drive at SW 73 Avenue, is adjacent to the site of a proposed large charter school of 2500 students. Nearby residents have many concerns.

**The larger environmental community is warning of the potential for serious impact on the delicate pine rockland and its rare species from a massive increase in traffic.**

Endangered and threatened plant species, butterflies, birds and other wildlife could be greatly affected.

See [www.sunsetneighbors.com](http://www.sunsetneighbors.com) for information, a flyer that can be printed and a petition. **Supporters are needed to email all county commissioners to ask them veto the zoning change which would allow the school, and also to attend the April 20 commission meeting** for the zoning change vote (check the website for possible changes).

• **Coral Reef Commons** (the planned development in the Richmond Pineland area along SW 152 St., to include Walmart and much more). **Are you wondering what’s happening and what you can do?**

**From the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website:**

*Coral Reef Commons Draft Habitat Conservation Plan Available for Public Review and Comment March 23, 2017*

*VERO BEACH, Fla. – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking public comments on a developer’s plan to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to eight threatened, endangered, and at-risk species in Miami-Dade County. The plan is part of a process to clear the way for construction to begin on a 137-acre residential and commercial project in south Miami.*

*Public comments will be considered on the draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and associated Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Coral Reef Commons development over the next 60 days. A final decision to issue incidental take permit (ITP) to the applicants will follow.*

*The ITP would cover Bartram’s scrub-hairstreak butterfly, Florida leafwing butterfly, Florida bonneted bat, eastern indigo snake, rim rock crowned snake, gopher tortoise, Miami tiger beetle and white-crowned pigeon.*

Comment by May 19. For how to comment and lots more information (even if you have no comments):

<https://www.fws.gov/verobeach/20170323CRCNR.html>



## WEED or WILDFLOWER?

### *Bidens alba* - Spanish needles

By Martin Roessler

I suspect everyone who reads *Tillandsia* is familiar with the Spanish needle or beggar ticks, *Bidens alba*. This daisy-like member of the family Asteraceae is found throughout Florida and occurs widely in the subtropics and tropics of both the new and old-worlds. It is an annual in much of North America and a perennial in warmer regions. It is cold sensitive and dies back in frosts in South Florida except in sheltered areas. This successful weed can have up to 6000 seeds per plant that remain viable for up to five years. The 2 pronged seeds are transmitted by fur, feathers and clothing.



Spanish needles - *Bidens alba* var. *radiata*

Carl Linnaeus was the first to name the plant *Coreopsis alba* in 1753. In 1836 A. P. de Candolle provided the name *Bidens alba*. Our Florida plants belong to the variety *radiata* named by C.H. Schultz-Bipontinus. The genus name is derived from the Latin “bi” and “dens”, two-toothed, referring to the 2 teeth on the dry achene or seed, and the species “*alba*” referring to the white ray flowers. The variety name “*radiata*” also refers to the radiating ray flowers.

There has been confusion regarding the identity of *B. alba* and *B. pilosa*. Strother and Weedon 2006 in *The Flora of North America* 21: 211 accept the name *B. pilosa* despite recognizing the work of R. Ballard 1986 (*Amer. J. Bot.* 73: 1452 - 1465). However genetic studies in 2006 confirm the narrower circumscription of *B. pilosa*. Plants with 7- 10 outer phyllaries and usually without ray flowers (or less than 8 mm long if present) are considered *B. pilosa* while those with 12 (8-16) phyllaries and 5 - 8 (1 cm + long) ray flowers are *B. alba*. Wunderlin and Hansen (*Atlas of Florida Plants*) follows this definition. *B. alba* is recorded from all Florida counties while *B. pilosa* is a South American species officially known only from Gulf and Leon Counties in the panhandle and Sarasota County on the west coast of Florida.

[See [www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/Plant.aspx?id=1988](http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/Plant.aspx?id=1988) for photos of *Bidens pilosa*.]

Worldwide there are hundreds of species of *Bidens*, 25 in North America and 8 in Florida. In our area, we generally see the

white *B. alba* in pinelands, hammock margins and disturbed sites, and the yellow *B. mitis* and *B. laevis* in freshwater wetlands.

*Bidens* is the number three nectar source for Florida honey bees. Partly because of the taxonomic confusion mentioned above and partly due to the generic use of *Bidens* by butterfly workers, it is hard to obtain a list of butterflies that use *B. alba*. Suffice it to say, if you observe *Bidens alba* in bloom for a few minutes on a sunny day, you will probably see several species of butterflies and other insects visiting the flowers.

*Bidens* has an edible flower that adds a tangy flavor to salads. The shoots, tips and young leaves make good potherbs. It enters a wine, “sinitis”, in the Philippines. Dried leaves are used as a tea. **Raw leaves contain saponin and should not be eaten.**

Medicinal uses include antibacterial against a wide array of bacteria including Salmonella, Staphylococcus, Neisseria gonorrhoea, Klebsiella pneumonia and Tuberculosis. It can lower blood sugar and blood pressure, stimulates the immune system and is anti-inflammatory. The powdered seeds are a topical anesthetic and aid in blood clotting. Some reports indicate the seeds might be good for some prostate issues. It is also used against malaria, snake bite and leukemia.

So remember the next time you are pulling this weed from your garden or removing the seeds from your clothing or pet, this lowly weed (or is it a *wildflower*?) has a number of beneficial uses.

*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 FNPS.*

#### DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

**President:** Kurt Birchenough ([kbirc001@fiu.edu](mailto:kbirc001@fiu.edu), 202-905-3921)  
**Vice President:** Amy Leonard ([aleonar74@yahoo.com](mailto:aleonar74@yahoo.com), 305-458-0969)  
**Secretary:** Gita Ramsay ([gita.ramsay@gmail.com](mailto:gita.ramsay@gmail.com), 786-877-7168)  
**Treasurer:** Susan Walcutt ([walcutts@bellsouth.net](mailto:walcutts@bellsouth.net), 305-297-7757)  
**At Large:** Ted Shafer, Jennifer Stine, Eric von Wettberg, Vivian Waddell  
**Dade Chapter – FNPS Council of Chapters:** Eric von Wettberg ([ebishopv@fiu.edu](mailto:ebishopv@fiu.edu), 305-348-2298)  
**Refreshment coordinators:** Cheryl & Ben Morgan ([ckmorg@bellsouth.net](mailto:ckmorg@bellsouth.net))  
**Membership:** Patty Phares ([pharespl@gmail.com](mailto:pharespl@gmail.com), 305-255-6404)  
**General chapter information:** 305-985-3677  
**DCFNPS website & social media:** <http://dade.fnpschapters.org/>  
**DCFNPS e-mail:** [dadefnps@gmail.com](mailto:dadefnps@gmail.com)  
**Mail:** Dade Chapter FNPS, 6619 S. Dixie Hwy, #181, Miami FL 33143-7919  
**Webmaster:** Haniel Pulido ([dadefnpsweb@gmail.com](mailto:dadefnpsweb@gmail.com))

#### TILLANDSIA

**Editor:** Patty Phares ([pharespl@gmail.com](mailto:pharespl@gmail.com), 305-255-6404)  
**Staff needed for general assistance or co-edit.** Please contact the editor.  
**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](mailto:info@fnps.org), 321-271-6702  
**FNPS website, blog, social media:** <http://www.fnps.org>  
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