



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

FEBRUARY 2018

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, February 27, 2018, 7:30 p.m.
Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57 Ave. (Red Road), Miami
Free and open to the public

Come early at 6 to help put mailing labels on Native Plant Day postcards. RSVP to Amy Leonard (see page 2).

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!**

(This month's program is rescheduled from June 2017.)

"Horticultural Resource Management for Home Gardens: the Balances between Fertilizer, Water and Health for Natives and Exotics"

– Craig Morell, Director, The Kampong of the National Tropical Botanical Garden

Craig will speak on using native species in a mixed landscape, with particular emphasis on using the right plants for the right location. Even some of the most stalwart native species can be planted in the wrong place. There are excellent resources and learning gardens nearby, so use those resources and ask the right questions to get the most out of your native plantings. So often, native species are planted with the assumption that any native species will grow anywhere. Basic horticultural practices are still needed to grow plants, native or not. Native does not equal zero-care!



Craig is a career horticulturist, starting to grow plants over 40 years ago. He is the Director of The Kampong Botanical Garden in Coconut Grove, one of the five gardens of the National Tropical Botanical Garden. He worked at Pinecrest Gardens for 11 years before starting work at The Kampong in 2016. A 10 year stint at the Boca Raton Resort preceded Pinecrest Gardens. Long of a fan

of the right plant for the right place, he favors epiphytes and palms in his own collection.

March 27 program: Julia Onnie-Hay, Herbalist – “Medicinal Plants and Folk Healing Traditions of South Florida”

Calendar

February 2018

- 17 (Sat): **Field trip** - Crystal Lake Sand Pine Preserve
- 24 (Sat.): **Chapter workday**, Everglades National Park ♦
Homestead Eco Fair – Chapter table ♦
Community Day, Chapman Field–Chapter table ♦
- 27 (Tue.): **Chapter meeting** at Pinecrest Gardens

March 2018

- 23 (Fri.): **Setup for Native Plant Day** ♦
- 24 (Sat.): **Native Plant Day** at A.D. Barnes Park ♦
- 27 (Tue.): **Chapter meeting** at Pinecrest Gardens
- 31 (Sat.): **Field trip** - Navy Wells Pineland (South Dade)

May 17-20, 2018 - FNPS Annual Conference in Miami ♦

♦ *Please volunteer!*

FIELD TRIPS

If the weather is very bad, call to confirm. Field trips are for the study of plants and enjoyment of nature by FNPS members and guests. Collecting is not permitted; children are welcome. **We encourage your suggestions for field trips!** Please contact Patty (pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404)

● **Saturday, February 17, 2018. Crystal Lake Sand Pine Preserve in Pompano Beach.**

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

(Thanks to the Broward Chapter FNPS for this trip!)

All remaining Scrub ecosystems in Broward County total just 1% of their size in 1943, yet support some endemic species and rare plants and wildlife that can survive in no other habitat. We may visit one or two additional nearby preserves as time allows.

Leader: Linda Briggs-Thompson, Environmental Program Manager with Broward County Parks and Recreation

Difficulty: Easy, short distance, some walking on sand.

Bring/wear: Water, closed shoes, sun protection.

Lost? Call Richard (954-661-6289) or Patty (305-878-5705).

● **Saturday, March 31, 2018. Navy Wells Pineland Preserve.**

We will visit an area of this county preserve in Florida City that burned in January and should be in raging new growth. Details next month.

See photos of the January field trip to Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park on page 4

23rd NATIVE PLANT DAY

Saturday, March 24, 2018, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

A.D. Barnes Park Natural Area
3401 SW 72 Avenue, Miami
(Bird Road & SW 72 Ave.)

FREE!

Co-sponsored by:

The Dade Chapter FNPS & Miami Dade County Parks

Save the date and share the word now!

Plan to bring your family and friends to enjoy this free day of fun and learning! Activities for all ages: walks, programs, displays, plants vendors, books and merchandise for sale, raffles and more. Then explore the rest of the park.

The schedule will be available in March on our website.

How can you help?

• **Continue grooming your plant donations.** We pick some of the best or rarest to raffle and sell the others. **We also need small plants for our children's activities** to get kids in on the enjoyment of native plants. Annuals and shorter-lived shrubs are ideal - wildflowers, rouge plant, corkystem passion vines, etc. (non-poisonous, non-thorny species in small pots). *If you need small (or any size) pots, contact Patty.*

• **Nature-related raffle items:** art, gift certificates, books, etc.. *Contact Amy Leonard to arrange advance drop off or to provide a list of species or raffle items so we can prepare in advance. Please be sure to label plants so there is no ID confusion!*

• **Loan display plants or items. Butterfly larvae, host/nectar plants, other interesting plants and items.** *Contact Amy or Patty.*

• **Stick labels on postcards Tuesday, February 27. RSVP to Amy Leonard.** Meet at 6 p.m. before our chapter meeting.

• **Suggest a speaker or offer to conduct a walk.** Or help contact speakers from names provided. *Contact Ted.*

• **Distribute stacks of postcards.** Place them at your grocery store, doctor's office, library, school, or other well-trafficked area - available at the Feb. 27 meeting. *Contact Amy to arrange to get some if you can't attend the meeting.*

• **Help set up on Friday March 23.** We need help to set up the raffle and other stations, move tables and hang signs the afternoon before NPD. *Contact Amy.*

• **Help contact volunteers for Native Plant Day.** We need about 45 volunteers to make the day happen. Give some time and still have plenty to enjoy the event. *Please contact Gita Ramsay if you, your family, or young people you know might be able to help.*

• **Volunteer for Native Plant Day. This is your Chapter's major public event each year and it wouldn't be possible without your help!** *(Contact Gita – it's not too early!)*

Contact Information:

Amy Leonard: [305-458-0969](tel:305-458-0969), aleonar74@yahoo.com

Ted Shaffer: ted.shaffer@bellsouth.net

Gita Ramsay: [786-877-7168](tel:786-877-7168), gita.ramsay@gmail.com

Patty Phares: [305-255-6404](tel:305-255-6404), pharespl@gmail.com

FNPS ANNUAL CONFERENCE



May 17-20, 2018 in Miami
at the Micosukee Resort

www.fnps.org/conference/2018

Save the dates to attend all or part of the conference (programs Friday & Saturday; field trips Thursday & Sunday; workshops Thursday). **Registration opens in late February.**

• **Local volunteers are needed. You can receive free conference registration!** Contact conference.fnps@gmail.com for more information.

Assist with advertising a landscaping workshop for local residents and/or greeting attendees that day.

Help at registration, silent auction or other tables (and such).

• **Start saving silent auction items.**

• **Suggest/be a sponsor** fnps.org/conference/become_a_sponsor

• See fnps.org/participate/awards for details of **grants for research, conservation and ethnobotany research, and landscape awards** in numerous categories. All will be announced at the conference. **Deadlines are March 2, 2018.**

• **Suggest vendors/exhibitors** to conference.fnps@gmail.com.

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

Did you receive your Palmetto magazine in early February? (Volume 34; Number 2 > 2017, with the American lotus flower on the cover.) If not, please contact FNPS (info@fnps.org, 321-271-6702) to confirm your address or membership status.

Promote native plants and represent the chapter by assisting (or taking charge!) at events on February 24, 2018.

• **Homestead Eco Fair**, noon - 4pm, at Losner Park (104 N. Krome Ave.). **Contact Gita** (gita.ramsay@gmail.com, 786-877-7168)

• **Community Day at the Agricultural Research Service** (Chapman Field), 13601 Old Cutler Rd, Miami. **Contact Amy** (305-458-0969, aleonar74@yahoo.com).

Chapter Workday, Everglades National Park, Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center, Saturday, February 24, 2018, 9 a.m. - noon
Continue post-Irma maintenance of our landscape. Cold water is provided. Gloves and hand tools are available, but you may prefer your own. **New helpers are encouraged to come!**
Afterward, you are admitted free to the park. Contact Patty (305-878-5705, pharespl@gmail.com) if you have questions.

Welcome new members! Andi Ashby, Sharon Nelson, Roxana Deya Tejada, and FIU student Michael Cartamil.

Support FNPS Conservation Grants and honor DCFNPS founders, Joyce and Don Gann. We have sponsored awards since 2013 and will again in 2018 with your help. Awards are announced at the Annual Conference in May. **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, 305-297-7757).

Members in the Field

What are our members doing for native plants on the job or as volunteers? Please let the editor know.

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

(How you can help and enjoy native plants and natural areas.)

Dade Native Plant Workshop: *Note time: 5 p.m.* MDC Kendall Campus Landscape Technology Center, third Tuesdays. www.nativeplantworkshop.com or contact Steve Woodmansee at steve@pronative.com. Bring at least three cuttings, which need not pertain to the topic. **All levels welcome.**
Feb. 20 topic: Beach Dune plants

Gifford Arboretum, University of Miami. www.bio.miami.edu/arboretum > visits or 305-284-1302.
Mar. 7, 7 pm: Meeting, Cox Science Center, room 166.
Dr. Chris Baraloto, "Comparing the Conservation Value of South Florida and Amazonian Forests"

FIU Biology Department's informal and entertaining lunchtime seminars, alternate Wednesdays, noon-1 p.m., WC 130. Schedule: faculty.fiu.edu/~kopturs/planttalk17.html For reminders, contact Dr. Suzanne Koptur (kopturs@fiu.edu).
Feb. 14: Dr. Brad Bennett, "Flora of Southern Florida Visual Database"

Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Volunteer Workdays. Help to protect and restore Miami-Dade's natural areas. www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands-volunteer.asp or 305-372-6611 for info and to register.
Feb 24: Eachus Pineland Preserve, SW 180 St. & SW 142 Ave. (Invasive plant removal)
Mar. 3: Ned Glenn Nature Preserve, SW 188 St. & SW 87 Ave. *The Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC) will join in and tell about the restoration work IRC has been doing there.*

2018 Rare Plant Task Force Meeting. April 12-13 at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens in Jacksonville.
The Impact of Climate Change and Natural Disasters on Rare Plant Conservation. Co-hosted by Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Bok Tower Gardens, and Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens Register at boktowergardens.org/conservation/rare-plant-task-force/. For questions contact Jimmy Lange at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden (jlange@fairchildgarden.org).

Miami Pine Rockland Coalition. Meeting Feb. 22, 2018, 7 p.m. at the Arden "Doc" Thomas House (Tropical Audubon Society) 5530 Sunset Drive, Miami, FL 33143.
www.miamipinerocklandscoalition.org/
Are our beloved Richmond Pine Rocklands beyond our help now that the largest parcel of privately owned habitat has been bulldozed for a new strip mall and high-density housing? Updating our continuing legal battles to "Save it, Not Pave It". More importantly, what can WE do to keep the fight going to preserve this globally imperiled habitat from destruction in the name of corporate profits and lobbyists' campaign contributions?

COMMON PURSLANE: Native? Non-native?

By Chuck McCartney

Common Purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*), a frequently encountered weed of roadsides and unkempt yards (such as mine) is *not* native to Florida. Or it *is* native. Well, which is it? It seems that the answer to that question depends on which authority you consult.

Robert K. Godfrey and Jean W. Wooten in *Aquatic and Wetland Plants of*



Southeastern United States: Dicotyledons (1981) definitely state of this species: "Native of the Old World, widely naturalized in temp. and trop. regions of the Americas."

This is echoed by Donovan S. Correll and Helen B. Correll in *Flora of the Bahama Archipelago* (1982), who note that it is "native of the Old World tropics; now introduced into tropical and temperate regions throughout the

world." Walter Kingsley Taylor, in *The Guide to Florida Wildflowers* (1992), goes one step further, asserting that it is "Native to Europe."

On the other hand . . . it's interesting that neither John Kunkel Small, in his *Manual of the Southeastern Flora* (1933), nor Robert W. Long and Olga Lakela, in their *A Flora of Tropical Florida* (1971), made any mention of this species being non-native, although in the latter work, the authors concede that it is a "cosmopolitan weed." More recently, in *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida* (Third Edition, 2011), Richard P. Wunderlin and Bruce F. Hansen shared the opinion that this is a native species, as does the online *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants* from the University of South Florida (which is in Central Florida).

So, take your pick.

Nevertheless, the little yellow flowers with their five deeply notched petals are pretty when you look at them up close -- but you may have to wait till later in the morning to see them because this species, like its occasional weed companion, Common Fan Petals (*Sida ulmifolia*), is a "late riser."

The flowers of this annual are borne on a spreading, low-growing, succulent-stemmed plant. The stems, often of a reddish color, bear smooth, fleshy oblong leaves that are rounded and wider at the apex.

An alternate common name listed for *Portulaca oleracea* by Wunderlin and Hansen is Little Hogweed.

There are folk usages of this species, most often as food. Here's what Julia F. Morton says in *Wild Plants for Survival in South Florida* (6th Edition, 1990):

"Tender young stems have acid flavor . . . [and are] rich in calcium and iron; they are widely eaten raw in salads or sandwiches, or cooked as greens, or chopped with meal or bread crumbs and fried. The minute seeds were used by American Indians and aborigines in other countries for mush and bread. . . . [The seeds] are ground to a flour between stones."

Florida has three other native *Portulaca* species: *pilosa*, *rubricaulis*, and the recently added *minuta*. The *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants* also lists two exotic (non-native) species: *amilis* and *grandiflora*.

The number of species listed for the genus *Portulaca* varies widely, but Correll and Correll estimate it at approximately 200 worldwide, mostly in the tropics and subtropics. The name seems to have been derived from Latin meaning a small gate or door, possibly an allusion to the lid of the seed capsule and apparently first applied to *Portulaca oleracea*. That species epithet seems to compare the plant to a garden vegetable, in recognition of the species' use for food. Our weedy plant, the type species on which the genus was based, was named by Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus in 1753.

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.

JANUARY 2018 FIELD TRIP
Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park
Photos by Jennifer Stine



Some manatees came, too.

DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

President: Kurt Birchenough (kbirc001@fiu.edu, 202-905-3921)
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: Lydia Cuni, Janeen Feiger, Hernan Martinez, Ted Shafer, Jennifer Stine, Vivian Waddell

Dade Chapter – FNPS Council of Chapters: **vacant**

Refreshment coordinators: Cheryl & Ben Morgan (ckmorg@bellsouth.net)

General chapter information: 305-985-3677

DCFNPS website & social media: <http://dade.fnpschapters.org/>

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TILLANDSIA

Editor: Patty Phares (pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404)

Please contact the editor if you would like to join the Tillandsia staff!

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, 321-271-6702

FNPS website, blog, social media: <http://www.fnps.org>

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Poorman's-patch, Stickleaf
Mentzelia floridana



Beach clustervine
Jacquemontia reclinata

(top) Walter's groundcherry
Physalis walteri