

THE COONTIE CRIER

Newsletter of The Broward Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society
Dedicated to the promotion and preservation of Native Plants!

<http://www.NPSBroward.org>
GoNative@NPSBroward.org



MARCH, 2012

COONTIE CHAPTER MEETING

Wednesday, March 14th (2nd Wed.)
Agriculture Extension Service, 3245 College Av, Davie
7:00p – 7:30p Snack & Chat
7:30p – 8:30p **GUEST SPEAKER**
Beth Mattison, “Biological control of Melaleuca quinquenervia: The end of an error.”

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LOOKING FORWARD

March 31st, Everglades Field Trip with Jack Lange
April 11, Speaker, Lisa Jameson, “Removing Invasive Exotics in Loxahatchee”
May 9, Speaker, Dr. Michael Orfanedes, “Pruning”
June 13, Annual Pot Luck & Election

The Dade Chapter FNPS 17th NATIVE PLANT DAY

Saturday, March 10, 2012 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Miami Dade College's (Kendall Campus) Landscape Technology Center 11011 SW 104 Street, Miami, FL (Raymond Jungles speak at 2:20-2:45, “How to stitch together the natural and built environments to restore Florida's Habitats.”

Photos, information & map at:

<http://dade.fnpschapters.org/events/nativeplantday.php>

Beth Mattison will speak at our regular second-Wednesday, March 14th, evening meeting about the biological control of Melaleuca quinquenervia (Punktree). Below are two other Category I “Most Invasive” plants in Florida: Rhodomyrtus tomentosa (Rose Myrtle) and Paederia foetida (Skunkvine).

Photo credits: flordia.plantatlas.usf.edu (Florida Atlas), Shirley Denton, USF Herbarium, Betty Wargo



Everglades Field Trip, Saturday, March 31st

Jack Lange will be leading us in another of his wonderful field trips, this time to the Everglades. Whether you are new to exploring, just want to enjoy seeing the wild, want to learn to identify more native plants, or learn interesting facts, you will enjoy this trip. Trip details will be on our website at npsbroward.org.

Lapsed Member Campaign We will soon send letters and call our friends and former members. Sometimes all it takes is a friendly invitation for old friends to renew. Membership income is the lifeblood of the Broward Chapter. A little money removes stress for leadership and strengthens our capacity to do the work of the Native Plant Society. Please tell Kay if you can help with the Campaign: GoNative@NPSBroward.org



Caribbean Native Plants, The Exuma Cays

On a recent FNPS trip to the Exumas Land and Sea Park, Bahamas, we were privileged to see some of South Florida's plants growing in the cays. That sometimes-harsh, dry environment and ample time, shape the trees and shrubs into art. In the photo on the left are Joewood (*Jacquinia keyensis*) trees. We also saw many truly majestic, old and large Lignum Vitae (*Guaiacum sanctum*). About 66% of the Exuma Cays inventory lists plants also native in Florida. Among the most common there and in landscaping here are: Bay Cedar, Silver

Buttonwood, Locustberry, Bay Bean, Black Torch, Golden Beach Creeper, Red Stopper, White Stopper, Spanish Stopper, Blolly, Red and White

Mangrove, Wild Dilly, Bahama Coffee, Inkberry and many, many more. You can view photos of the Florida Native Plant Society Exumas trip and see these native plants in their natural setting at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/28456518@N00/sets/72157629112114080/with/6939159267/>

New Plant Hardiness Zone Map

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released an updated version of its Plant Hardiness Zone Map.

This tool, jointly developed by USDA's Agricultural Research Services and Oregon State University's PRISM Climate Group, provides greater accuracy and detail than the 1990 version. It is now available online: www.planthardiness.ars.usda.gov. The new Internet-friendly map offers a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based interactive format.

The urban heat island with Hardiness Zone 11A visible on earlier versions of the map that covered a very isolated portion of Fort Lauderdale now reaches its northern limit just NE of Sunny Isles Beach, and follows the coast east of US1 through northern and Downtown Miami. It can easily be seen on the interactive map tool, <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/InteractiveMap.aspx>.

There is another page with numerous free downloads of different products associated with the main maps, <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/Downloads.aspx> and GIS data and shape files may be purchased through Climate Source http://www.climatesource.com/PHZM/gis_data.html



This wild aster was captured last November on our hike in Big Cypress. Steve Woodmansee identified it from this photo as *Symphyotrichum concolor* (Eastern Silver Aster), typically found in the mesic pine flatwoods. We happily sloshed through water that day although this plant was dry near the trail's edge. It is not uncommon on the East Coast as far north as New York according to the USDA Plants Database.

Send corrections, photos, ideas concerning local native plants, or general feedback to GoNative@NPSBroward.org.

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