

THE COONTIE CRIER

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

Coontie.org & NPSBroward.org
GoNative@NPSBroward.org

November 2012



COONTIE CHAPTER MEETING & SPEAKER

Wednesday, Nov 14th (2nd Wed.)

Secret Woods Nature Center
2701 W. State Rd. 84, Dania Beach, FL

7:00p – 7:30p Meet and Greet
7:30p – 8:30p **Roger L. Hammer**

"Florida's Endangered Wildflowers"

*Roger L. Hammer is a native Floridian, professional naturalist, and author of the **Everglades Wildflowers** field guide. He received the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Award for "outstanding, consistent, and constant service in the areas of education, research, promotion, and preservation of native plants."*

President: Richard Brownscombe

Vice Pres: Mariana Yi

Secretary & Treasurer: Kay Taylor

Director & Program Coordinator: Eddie Yi

Director & Webmaster: Pete Taylor



State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory

A view of **Snyder Park** in Fort Lauderdale
3299 SW 4th Ave Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315
another urban oasis important to coastal plants & wildlife



Kelly Gorham/MSU NBCNEWS.com

in wild south Florida ... me, nature, an awesome moment.

We have such an important job to care for the remaining wild and natural lands in Broward and to restore urban pockets for native plants and wildlife. Obviously, we have gone too far, too fast, too big with development in coastal Broward with too little conservation. Go to our website, coontie.org, to the "Plants" tab, and click on the "County Map Overview". The bright colors are the protected State, County, city and private lands in Broward. They are just little bright dots here and there.

One day we will be more proud of our great western two-thirds of wildlife management land. Right now it is hard for the public to see and access this swamp in a quiet or serene way. But there is hope. Click on the "Broward Greenway Plan" and note Conservation Levee #6. We will make that one of our field trips. And there

Chapter President: Thoughts

My house is less than two miles from downtown Fort Lauderdale in the neighborhood of Riverside Park between the branch of the North and South fork of the New River. I've chosen an urban life. My brother lives in the deep forests of Oregon. I am so grateful for our field trips into wild and natural areas. Some important part of my spirit seems to live there.

After Sandy's mild rain and windstorm I was in the backyard to net the many leaves from the bottom of the pool. My house is under four large live oaks and a slash pine, even on my tiny urban lot. My neighbor's slash pine was silhouetted against blue sky and I took a deep sigh in the beauty of that magnificent pine. Suddenly, a large raptor with a fish, swooped low in a wide arc. The fish was perhaps 16 inches with some blood. Instantly, I was

is great hope in the wonderful work so many of you do in our parks, protected land, and yards. The public wants to keep, restore, and increase green and wild places.

We see a big disconnect between what the public wants and the speed of conservation efforts. I personally believe that no government or politician alone can change this without a strong grassroots call to save our 189 imperiled Broward species (almost 26% of all Broward native species) and the wildlife that depend on them.

The Broward Chapter has a bold plan to swell the grassroots call for conservation. We propose a downtown Fort Lauderdale botanical garden, designed by acclaimed south Florida landscape architect, Raymond Jungles. People walking on Riverwalk will encounter an awesome and artful native plant garden exhibiting the plants the public never sees.

I believe that it isn't a great public lethargy that fails to fire conservation efforts, it is the fact that so many people have never seen our wild beauty close up. This botanical exhibit will display many seldom seen native specimen plants. On November 17, the Florida Native Plant Society Board will vote to be the lead agency for this project. We will see in the year following who among local philanthropists will invest in building it.



Richard@Brownscombe.net

DADE CHAPTER FNPS ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

November 24 Field Trip: Monument Road, Big Cypress (email Richard@Brownscombe.net regarding carpool)
November 27: Dr. Eric von Wettberg from FIU will speak about ways genetics can help us protect rare species in Florida and the Caribbean.

<http://dade.fnpschapters.org/newsletter/index.php#fieldtrip>

11th Century Black Drink, Yaupon Holly, *Ilex vomitoria*

In the 1600s, Europeans exploring the American southeast wrote of a purification ritual practiced by the native people, involving dancing, vomiting, and large amounts of what the travelers called black drink. Served from shell cups, the highly caffeinated tea was brewed from the shrub *Ilex vomitoria*, a species of holly. In a new study, researchers have found the first direct evidence of black drink—not in shells from Florida or Mississippi, but in ceramic beakers at the ancient city of Cahokia outside what's now St. Louis, Missouri....



The leaves must have been brought to Cahokia from the coastal region between eastern Texas and Florida, 400 kilo meters away, the researchers note—suggesting the drink had huge cultural importance. The beakers were also found at possible ritual gathering sites. If the beakers and black drink go hand in hand, it might signify wide-ranging Cahokian religious influence between the 11th and 13th centuries.

<http://scim.ag/Black-Drink>

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[Editor Note: Since the current native range of *Ilex vomitoria* is as far north as Arkansas (generally the Southeast US) the plants may have been about 250 miles south of Cahokia. This research is interesting evidence of very early (1,000 BP) use of a common Florida native we see cultivated locally. Although we didn't quote the scientific details here, what may be more exciting is the newly achieved ability to chemically analyze such old and scant remains in the cup, down to the likely plant species.]

Secret Woods Nature Center, **Slough Slog**, Sunday November 18, 9:30 am \$6. This is a chance to enter the otherwise closed Pond Apple Slough area south of State Route 84. It is a true swamp slog, but a garden hosing at the end quickly removes the mud, but not the great experience of an urban swamp close up and personal.

Look Forward to our upcoming speakers; tell your friends & neighbors; meet at the Secret Woods:

Dec 12: Elizabeth Golden, Park Biologist Bill Baggs State Park, **"Imperiled Plant Species of Cape Florida"**

Jan 9, 2013: Michele Williams, **"Native American Medicinal Plants"**

Feb 13: Steve Woodmansee, **"Creating an Ecologically and Sociologically Sustainable Landscape"**

Mar 13: Chuck McCartney has special interest in the native orchids & other wildflowers of South Florida (TBA)