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Broward Chapter Florida Native Plant Society

JUNE 2013 NEWS & POTLUCK

A Potluck Tradition

We celebrate the end of the Speaker Series and another year of education and volunteer action with an annual potluck. Guessing games (plant related, of course), charting our direction for next season, and a Board election is the agenda. Good food, a chance to talk with other plant people, and a pleasant evening is the focus.

EVERYONE is invited, so feel free to bring a friend or partner. Your admission is a food or beverage to share with others.

We take a break (no meetings or hikes) in the summer months of July and August.

Join us at the [Secret Woods Nature Center](#), Wednesday, June 12, 7pm



Apios americana, Groundnut



As you might expect the Groundnut vine (a FABACEAE, pea family) has an edible high-protein tuber. But resist digging it up as it is rare here, apparently the southern end of its range. The mahogany-colored flower and dense inflorescence is pleasant to see twining in the moist understory of our wilds. We have read that it is abundant, even aggressive, in some Eastern states where you might boil and eat it for its nutty potato-like flavor.

photo with permission: [Alan Cressler](#)

Bartonia verna, White Screwstem



This Lilliputian delight may be lost forever in Broward and is apparently imperiled in many Florida counties and Southern states. The North Carolina Native Plant Society shows it as 2-8 inches high with "scalelike leaves less than 1/4" long". Screwstems are in the GENTIANACEAE family along with the Eutoma (see below) and the wonderful Sabatias (Rosegentians). Save our Broward wildflowers.

photo with permission: [Alan Cressler](#)

Asclepias lanceolata, Fewflower Milkweed



This is about as abundant an inflorescence as you will see on this Milkweed appropriately named "few flower" (in comparison to other *Asclepias*). But the color is stunning, especially on its tall singular stock in an elfin Cypress forest. Many report it a challenge to cultivate, perhaps because it is host to monarch and queen butterflies and delicious to slugs or because it requires a combination of wet to moist *sandy* soil and sunshine.

photo with permission: [Alan Cressler](#)

Eustoma exaltatum, Seaside Gentian



This appealing flower sits atop a tall stock of orderly gray-green leaves in moist soils. A full cluster of such flowers varying from purple to white pedals with a dark centers is not uncommon. This Gentian wants wet to moist soil and full sun, so time to get that marsh garden going or keep a wet saucer under the pot. This *Eustoma* stands one to three feet tall.

photo with permission: [Alan Cressler](#)

Magnolia virginiana, Sweetbay Magnolia



Not all the fanfare of the grand magnolias, but isn't this sweet? We have seen this slender tree, tall and graceful, in wetland thickets. The [Institute for Region Conservation](#) notes, "A beautiful small tree for wet spots in the garden. Most botanists would consider this to be the most primitive tree native to South Florida. It has been cultivated in the United States since as early as 1938."

photo with permission: [Alan Cressler](#)

Followup on Your Recent HB 999 Action

"More [state] funding will be dedicated to land conservation than during any of the preceding 4 years, several horrible bills were stopped dead in their tracks, and some of the worst elements of House Bill 999 and Senate Bill 1684 were removed during the final moments of the [2013] session."



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Protecting & Growing Broward Native Plants

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