**Jacquemontia pentanthos** Identified

March 1, 2008

**Question:** Our Butterfly Society made a recent field trip to Terry Park. We were all wondering what the vine is on the arbor as you first approach the butterfly garden. The Master Gardener told us it is Jacquemontia, but couldn't tell us the common name. I'd just been to Boc Tower where I first saw the vine. I couldn't remember the common name, skyblue crossvine? Here in southwest Florida my head hurts every time I have to research a plant. There are soooo many varieties. What is the common name of Jacquemontia?

- Monica, Alva

**Answer:** The plant in our butterfly garden is *Jacquemontia pentanthos*. Some common names are skyblue clustervine, blue jacquemontia or more often than not jacquemontia. It is not uncommon for part of a plant’s botanical name to be its common name. Example are *Ixora coccinea*, *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, *Nerium oleander*, *Plumbago auriculata*, and *Ficus benjamina* and *F. retusa*.

Stephan Brown is a horticulture agent with the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the horticulture desk at 533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by e-mailing brownsh@leegov.com. Visit his web page at http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/hort/GardenHome.shtml “Garden Doctor” video clips http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/Video.shtml and flowering trees information at http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/GardenPubsA_Z.shtml