



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

JANUARY 2019

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, January 22, 2019, 7:30 p.m. (4th not last Tues.)
Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57 Ave. (Red Road), Miami
Free and open to the public

Refreshments begin at 7:15 p.m., merchandise sales before and after the program. The raffle follows the program. Contributions of **raffle items** (native plants, books, etc.) and **refreshments** are greatly appreciated. **Please label your raffle plant donations.**

“Fruit Among the Natives: Growing Fruit Trees That Can Easily Coexist with a Native Landscape”
Jeff Wasielewski, UF/IFAS Miami-Dade Extension

Fruit trees are a valuable part of any landscape. In addition to providing the same benefits as all trees in the form of increased canopy cover, carbon sequestration, the prevention of soil erosion, etc., they are also a long-term and reliable source of locally-grown food. Non-native fruit trees do not detract from the value of an otherwise native landscape. Both can be part of a highly productive and healthy landscape that provides for both people and wildlife.



Jeff Wasielewski has been active in the South Florida horticulture community for over 25 years and is currently the Commercial Tropical Fruit Extension Agent for UF/IFAS Extension Miami-Dade County. He has a strong drive to educate the public on proper horticulture, and he does so through talks, classes, and publications.

February 26: “Sea Level Rise, Coastal Hazards and Natural Solutions for South Florida” - Chris Bergh, The Nature Conservancy.

Florida’s Arbor Day – January 18, 2019

On the third Friday of January, Florida celebrates the state Arbor Day, founded by J. Sterling Morton in Nebraska in 1872. According to the [Arbor Day Foundation](http://ArborDayFoundation.org):

“Morton wrote and spoke about environmental stewardship and the interrelatedness of life. He encouraged everyone to set aside a specific day to plant trees. In 1872, the State Board of Agriculture accepted a resolution by J. Sterling Morton ‘to set aside one day to plant trees, both forest and fruit.’ ... More than one million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day.”

Please plant a tree or seed - forest or fruit!

Calendar

January

19 (Sat): Field trip (organized by Broward Chapter)
20 (Sun.): Potluck Picnic & Nature walk 12:30 pm
22 (Tue.): Chapter meeting at Pinecrest Gardens. **7:30 pm**

February

2 (Sat.): Chapter workday at Everglades Nat. Park. **9 am**
(See announcement for note on government shutdown)
26 (Tue.): Chapter meeting at Pinecrest Gardens. **7:30 pm**

March

2 (Sat.): Field trip - Big Pine Key & Little Torch Key
23 (Sat.): NATIVE PLANT DAY – volunteer or attend!
26 (Tue.): Chapter meeting at Pinecrest Gardens. **7:30 pm**

FNPS 39th Annual Conference: "Transitions"
May 16-19, 2019, at the Plantation on Crystal River

Other activities of interest

Jan. 14, 28: FIU Biology lunchtime seminars
Jan. 15: Dade Native Plant Workshop
Jan 16-Mar. 6: State Park lecture series (Key Largo)
Feb. 3: Miami Blue NABA Quarterly meeting



Four-Organization
2019 POTLUCK PICNIC

January 20, 12:30-3:30 pm

RSVP by Jan.17 appreciated, not required!

See page 2

FIELD TRIPS

As always, Dade and Broward FNPS chapters join forces.

- **Saturday, January 19, 2019.** The Broward Chapter returns to Hugh Taylor Birch State Park to continue a chapter Citizen Science effort begun and thoroughly enjoyed in December. See <http://broward.fnpschapters.org/>
- **Sunday January 20, 2019:** Come to the Four-Organization picnic at **A.D. Barnes Park**, or come after the meal to join the **nature walk at 2:30**. There are uncommon native plants to see as landscape trees, and we can also botanize a bit in the natural area, which has hammock and pine rockland. This is also a good park for birding, and there are sure to be some butterflies, so you might want to bring binoculars.

(Consider joining the Tropical Audubon Society bird walk at the park, 7:30-11am)

Address and other details: See the picnic announcement.

Contact Patty if needed (pharespl@gmail.com, 305-878-5705 c)

• **March 2: Big Pine Key and Little Torch Key.** Chris Bergh of The Nature Conservancy will show us visible evidence of Sea Level Rise (topic of his February presentation), and we will also enjoy seeing habitat and plants. We'll start later to allow for the distance. Details next month.

• **April and beyond???** **Can you suggest and/or arrange a field trip or tour?** What sorts of trips would you like to have? Let's talk! Contact Patty (pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404).

24th NATIVE PLANT DAY Saturday, March 23, 2019

Bill Sadowski Park at Old Cutler Hammock

17555 SW 79 Avenue, Palmetto Bay, 33157
(1/2 mile west of Old Cutler Road on SW 176 St.)

As always, the event is FREE!

Co-sponsored by:

The Dade Chapter FNPS & Miami Dade County Parks

Save the date and share with your friends now!

Programs, walks, and activities for all ages; displays by numerous organizations, great plants and merchandise for sale – all in a wonderful setting for birding and butterfly watching.

HOW CAN YOU HELP NOW?

Contact Amy Leonard, the Native Plant Day coordinator at aleonar74@yahoo.com

• **PLANTS.** Prep or pot up your best plants for the raffle/sale as soon as possible to get them well-established by March. (We can get them there if you can't come.)

Also: Pot up little plants for young native plant enthusiasts in our family educational activity. Annuals and shorter-lived shrubs: wildflowers, rouge plant, corkystem passion vines, etc. (non-poisonous, non-thorny, in small pots).

If you need pots (any size), contact Patty (305-255-6404, pharespl@gmail.com).

• **DONATIONS.** Set aside non-plant raffle items: nature or gardening-related items (books, art, tools, decorative items, etc.)

• **SPEAKERS.** Suggest a speaker or offer to conduct a walk or activity, or provide other input – contact Amy by the Jan. 13 board meeting if possible (or even if you miss that date.)

• PUBLICIZE:

• Stamp and label postcards on February 26 before the chapter meeting (contact Amy).

• Deliver a stack of postcards to local businesses and institutions - available at the February meeting. Contact Amy in advance so we are sure to cover as many locations as possible.

• **SET-UP.** Plan to help set up on March 22 (Contact Amy).

• **VOLUNTEERS.** Help on March 23 or assist in scheduling volunteers (Gita: gita.ramsay@gmail.com, 786-877-7168).

Thank you!

Amy Leonard, Native Plant Day Coordinator



Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society,
Miami Blue Chapter, No. American Butterfly Association,
Tropical Audubon Society, and
TREMENDOUS Miami

invite members, their families and guests to
celebrate a new year of nature at our

2019 POTLUCK PICNIC

Sunday, January 20, 2019, 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.
A.D. Barnes Park, 3401 SW 72 Ave., Miami, FL 33155
(Bird Road/SW 40 St. & SW 72 Ave.)
Shelter #3 – turn left at the intersection
Rain or Shine!

◆ RSVP by January 17 is appreciated - but not required! ◆
to Patty (pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404)

Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to share.
Drinks will be provided. Bring lawn chairs for extra seating.
No pets or glass beverage containers are permitted in the park.

After lunch (~ 2:30) join an easy nature walk,
or just enjoy the company and the park.

You are welcome to bring lawn games or other entertainment.
Playgrounds and pool will be open.

Extra bonus: Tropical Audubon Society bird walk with Bill Boeringer. 7:30-11am. Turn left at the T-intersection and park in spaces on either side of the road. There is no fee or pre-registration. Be there by 7:30 with your binoculars!

Our somewhat-annual event was first held in December 2005 as a holiday picnic at A.D. Barnes Park. This year DCFNPS is making the arrangements. Contact that day: Patty 305-878-5705
See you there!



DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

Help FNPS preserve conservation lands!

FNPS is *again* reaching out to state legislators to make a case for funding the Florida Forever program in order to preserve and manage natural lands effectively. Several DCFNPS members are assisting with taking Miami-Dade legislators out in the field to get to know some of the lands we would be helping to preserve. The first trip on January 14 at the Deering Estate includes a presentation by staff, then walking and kayaking. Another trip will likely occur in late February. There are also other volunteer tasks that are not in the field.

If you care about the future use of Florida Forever funds and the lands that could be saved, why not volunteer to help? You do not need to be a plant expert!

Please contact Claudia Tenzer (305-450-6668, ctenzer@conservationconceptsllc.org) for more information.

Welcome new members! Loretta Mackay, Bianca Mijares, Lourdes Rodriguez

DCFNPS board meets, Sunday, January 13, 4 pm. If you have input for the board, please contact chapter president Kurt Birchenough (kbirc001@fiu.edu, 202-905-3921).

Chapter workday, Everglades National Park
Saturday, February 2, 2019, 9 a.m.-noon

Help us enhance the entrance to ENP with restoration and

maintenance of the native habitat at the **Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center**, begun in 2001. We will be pruning and weeding. Contact Patty (305-878-5705, pharespl@gmail.com) with questions or if the weather is very questionable.

Please be in touch with Patty if the government shutdown is still in effect. We plan to work, but we may need to be self-sufficient for tools and disposal of debris.

Sabal Minor (bi-monthly newsletter from FNPS) Jan.- Feb. 2019, Volume 21, Number 1 is now in your email inbox or at <https://fnps.org/resources/sabalminor>.

FNPS presents awards and grants for a variety of activities that are in line with the mission of FNPS.

See <https://fnps.org/participate/awards> for details.

- **Nominations for Palmetto Awards** are due by March 13.
- **Research, Conservation and Ethnobotany** grant applications are due March 1.
- **Landscape Awards.** Are you proud of your landscape (home, school, business, restoration, city ...)? It's not bragging, it's sharing your experience and setting an example that might **inspire others to plant natives**. It doesn't even have to be totally native. Applications are due March 1.

The Dade Chapter honors its founders, Joyce and Don Gann, by supporting FNPS Conservation Grants each year.

You are invited to contribute to our conservation fund 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). *Thank you!*

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN NEWS FROM THE SOUTH FLORIDA NATIONAL PARKS TRUST

South Florida's National Parks are open for business, thanks to the efforts of numerous park partners. *You can help, too!* **Contact the South Florida National Parks Trust** at info@southfloridaparks.org for more information.

- **Sign up to volunteer** - Experienced volunteers are needed to help staff park visitor centers. Send SFNPT an email with "volunteer" in the subject line if you know a park well enough to answer visitor questions,
- **Donate to support basic park functions** (like toilet paper!) during the shutdown.
- **Send a note of thanks to park rangers** to let them know you appreciate them and the work they do. Living through a government shutdown isn't fun for anyone... less so if you're a park ranger. Send the Trust an email with "thanks" in the subject line to pass along, or send a card to 1390 South Dixie Highway #2203 Coral Gables, FL 33146 to be delivered when the shutdown ends.

Support the Dade Chapter FNPS by using Amazon Smile!

Register for Amazon Smile and then always start at smile.amazon.com. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases. *Every little bit adds up!*

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING:

More opportunities to learn about, enjoy and help native plants and natural areas.

Dade Native Plant Workshop: MDC Kendall Campus Landscape Technology Center, third Tuesdays, 5 pm. www.nativeplantworkshop.com or contact Steve Woodmansee at steve@pronative.com. Bring at least three cuttings or pots, which need not pertain to the topic. **All levels are welcome!**

Jan 15: Apocynaceae (Dogbane family)

FIU Biology Department's informal and entertaining lunchtime seminars, some Wednesdays, noon-1 pm, WC 130. Schedule: <http://faculty.fiu.edu/~kopturs/planttalk18.html>. For reminders, contact Dr. Suzanne Koptur (kopturs@fiu.edu).

Miami Blue Chapter, North American Butterfly Association (www.miamiblue.org; 305-979-9623).

Feb. 3, 2019, 1-3 p.m.: Quarterly meeting at Castellow Hammock Park, 22301 SW 162 Ave., Miami, 33170. Program information will be on the website.

The Delicate Balance of Nature 2019 Lecture Series, at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, MM 102.5, Overseas Hwy. Wednesdays at 7:30 pm, **Jan. 16-Mar. 6.** 305-676-3786 or 305-451-9570 for more info. Topics include Fungi, Changing Coastal Ecology, Composting, Native Palms and more.

WHAT BUGS YOU?

By Steve Woodmansee, Pro Native Consulting

I met someone at a party. Upon hearing that I was a botanist, she asked me the identity of a plant in her yard, what was eating it, and how to get rid of the pest. Well, despite the challenge of identifying a plant from a verbal description and the fact that I am not an entomologist or a plant pathologist, I answered gleefully (and somewhat flippantly to my shame afterwards), "That's great news! You need do nothing."

She looked at me puzzledly. Surely, if something is eating your plants, you should do something to stop it, right? I elaborated. Insects are very important to us; too long have we killed them indiscriminately. According to Doug Tallamy in his book *Bringing Nature Home*, 96% of terrestrial bird species rear their young on insects. If you want to support nesting birds, you need to support the bugs. Native plants do just that. If you kill the bugs, you are missing the whole zeitgeist of "planting native." Remember when lubber grasshoppers were everywhere? Where did they go? I fear their absence was likely caused by us killing too many of them. I did warn her that it was possible that her plant might die, but it also might not.

She was getting it, and becoming relieved in a way, and before moving on to another conversation, she verified: "Do nothing?" I answered "Do nothing."

The minute we start introducing pesticides into our yards, whether they be organic Neem tree oil, Sevin dust, or some newly created chemical compound, we unbalance the system. You see, in addition to birds, these insects "pests" also feed beneficial insects, and some chemicals kill arbitrarily and can

have unintended long term effects. Ladybird beetles (ladybugs) eat scale insects (and other small bugs). Like birds, many wasps and bees feed their young with caterpillars, and of course wasps and bees themselves pollinate many of our native flowers. Ants are pollinators too, and according to E.O. Wilson, are even more important than earthworms at aerating and conditioning the soil. But it takes the predators a longer time to bounce back, and then the pests wreak havoc in our yards for a period of time as the system attempts to recover.

Here is a way to help determine if you have a healthy native yard. Grab a lawn chair and sit down for 10 minutes in your favorite spot, hopefully where there are some blooming natives. While your blood pressure decreases, you should begin spotting all the cool insects: bees, wasps, moths, butterflies, dragonflies, etc. Look for herbivory (chewed leaves or flowers), wasp holes in the ground, spider webs, etc. If you don't have all of these, you may need to kick your yard up a notch and plant more flowering natives. Include a water feature such as a small pond with fish, this will also attract dragonflies whose larvae develop in freshwater. Keep it sunny, as most of South Florida's habitats are open and sunny and likely support the most insect diversity.

In addition, when you go outside and enjoy your yard at night, you should hear crickets and katydids. Cicadas unfortunately have disappeared from suburban Miami-Dade for the most part, and are now restricted to a few forested parks. I had a friend introduce a pair of centipedes into my yard, and now I have a huge colony occupying my yard. Centipedes are voracious predators, so if they are doing well, there must be enough bugs.

I have no sentimental plants in my yard. I recommend that if you have trouble growing a certain native plant, having no success after multiple attempts, because of insects, fungi, soils, or whatever, maybe it's time to give up on it and work with what does well. My marlberry has looked like hell for the longest time because of scale insects, and now this year is becoming stately and beautiful with no interference on my behalf.

Ignore what bugs you and learn to love insects.

Steve Woodmansee is the biologist and owner of Pro Native Consulting (www.pronative.com), native plant expert, chair of the Dade Native Plant Workshop, and former president of the Florida Native Plant Society and the Dade Chapter. He is a frequent contributor to Tillandsia, speaker and field trip leader.

JOIN THE CONNECT TO PROTECT NETWORK

Have you become a member of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's [Connect to Protect Network](#) yet? If not, why not??

The Network is intended as a citizen science network, and members are periodically asked to respond to polls, provide data, or provide seeds. Participation is always optional. Membership is free, and all **members receive 5 free plants**. School members receive 10 free plants. **Members must have property where they can plant their 5 pine rockland plants, with the intention to maintain a native planting area for at least 2 years.** An optional yard sign advertising membership is also free.

To join simply send your name, address and phone number to ConnectToProtect@fairchildgarden.org



DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

President: Kurt Birchenough (kbirc001@fiu.edu, 202-905-3921)

Vice President: Brian Diaz

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

Treasurer: Susan Walcutt (walcutts@bellsouth.net, 305-297-7757)

At Large: Janeen Feiger, Amy Leonard, Jeanne Rothchild,
Jennifer Stine, Vivian Waddell, Ian Wogan

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

Refreshment coordinators: Cheryl & Ben Morgan (ckmorg@bellsouth.net)
305-985-3677

General chapter information: 305-985-3677

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

DCFNPS e-mail: dadefnps@gmail.com

Mail: Dade Chapter FNPS, 6619 S. Dixie Hwy, #181, Miami FL 33143-7919

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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INSECTS TO LOOK FOR AND LOVE

Photos by Mary Rose:

Halictid bees on *Cordia globosa* and a morning glory

