



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

SEPTEMBER 2019

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, September 24, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

* *Pre-meeting - special advocacy discussion, 7:15 p.m.*

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, non-plant items such as books, etc.) and **refreshments** are greatly appreciated.

Please label your raffle plant donations.

* *Special pre-meeting discussion - try to arrive by 7:15.*

Laura Reynolds from Conservation Concepts LLC will give a short update on upcoming advocacy concerning Florida Forever and FDOT road expansion.

**"Montgomery Botanical Center:
History, Flora, Fauna, and Exploration"
- Dr. M. Patrick Griffith, Executive Director**

Dr. Griffith will speak about the history of Colonel Robert and Mrs. Nell Montgomery, founders of Montgomery Botanical Center, including the amazing plant collection, the animals that make this garden their home, and the ongoing work to explore for more plants.

Dr. Griffith has led Montgomery Botanical Center since 2005 -- developing the team, focusing resources, and setting priorities to meet the mission. He has worked in leadership, living collections management, herbarium curation, rare plant survey, floristic inventory, laboratory research, and land management, and for botanic gardens, universities, government, and private interests. As Executive Director, Patrick has worked to define, strengthen and promote an important contribution that Montgomery makes to this field – living collections-based conservation and research.



Then visit MBC with DCFNPS on September 28 – if you register while space is available – see below.

October 22: “A Plant’s Best Friends: Beneficial Microbes and Their Importance in South Florida Native Ecosystems” - Dr. Michelle Afkhami, Assistant Prof. of Ecology, Univ. of Miami

November 26: “Florida’s Native Bromeliads” – Chuck McCartney, native plant enthusiast

Calendar

September

15 (Sun.): Field trip (Dade Chapter – pine rockland)

21 (Sat): Field trip (w/ Broward Chapter - scrub sites)

24 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

28 (Sat.): Montgomery Botanical Center tour –

Reservation required, space is limited

October

12 (Sat.): Field trip (w/ Broward Chap. - Pond Apple Slough)

19 (Sat.): Chapter workday at ENP

22 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

November

8-10 (Fri.-Sun.): FTBG Fall Garden Festival/ Ramble

21 (Thur.): Give Miami Day (remember to support DCFNPS)

26 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

December:

(TBA) - Chapter workday at ENP

Additional fall field trips and yard visits are being planned.

Other events of interest coming up soon

Sept. 11: Broward Chapter FNPS meeting

Sept. 13, 25, Oct. 16: EKIP training

Sept. 14: Adopt-A-Tree

Sept. 17: Dade Native Plant Workshop

Sept. 18 & ongoing: FIU Plant Talks

Sept. 19: Keys Native Plant Workshop

Sept. 21, 28, 30 & Oct. 5, 9: EEL workdays

Sept. 28: National Public Lands Day; ENP free entrance day

Oct. 1: Native Plant Show *early bird registration deadline*

Oct. 2: Gifford Arboretum meeting

Can you help oversee the refreshments at chapter meetings?

Just donate a little time for set up before the meetings.

All supplies are provided. Please contact Gita

(gita.ramsay@gmail.com) or a board member at a meeting.

Everyone loves the potluck, so please let us know if you can help make the table ready. We're looking for short or long term help, or several people to alternate setup. Many thanks!

Montgomery Botanical Center walking tour

Saturday, September 28, 2019

Registration is required and space is limited, so register early.

DCFNPS members will have priority in signing up.

However, the group size is limited and it may fill up.

Please register by Wednesday, September 26, with Jeanne at jmrothchild9446@gmail.com. You will receive a confirmation email.

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- **Cost:** \$5/member, \$10/non-member. Cash (exact change appreciated) or check (to DCFNPS) will be collected when you arrive. (This partially covers the chapter's cost for weekend staff at MBC. Additional donations will be accepted!)
- **Bring/wear:** Water, hat, sun and insect protection, comfortable walking shoes, camera

Time, address and directions are in the newsletter mailed to members. Please join to enjoy all the activities of the chapter!

This tour led by Dr. Patrick Griffith, Executive Director, offers a chance to see the garden and the important rare and endangered plants within a landscape that offers incredible vistas, as well as to learn historical facts and information about the grounds and its founders. We may even tread on a portion of the original route of Old Cutler Road. Generally, the walk will be on grassy areas, but may be uneven in some places. Golf carts will be available to assist those with mobility issues if needed.

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, September 15, 2019: Larry and Penny Thompson Park pineland.

A sliver of pine rockland on the eastern edge benefitted from a spring wildfire, and the understory is flourishing. **Shortleaf gayfeather** (*Liatris tenuifolia* var. *quadriflora*), should provide an abundance of color. Firebreaks and sandy pockets provide access with little walking. Some other wildflowers may be past bloom, but we can take time to look closely at small plants and insects to identify. We might spot birds, too. [Photo: Roger Hammer]



Bring wear: Water, long pants, appropriate weather protection.

Contact for questions: Patty Phares, 305-878-5705.

Plant list (entire park): The Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC) website [here](#). (Hint: copy into a spreadsheet and play around to print as desired. No common names.)

Time, address and directions are in the newsletter mailed to members. Please join to enjoy all the activities of the chapter!

Broward Chapter FNPS trips – As always, Dade members are invited and encouraged to attend. coontie.fnpschapters.org/

• **Sept. 21:** Exploring the Rare Species of **Highlands and Crystal Lake Scrub** (Aaron David and Jimmy Lange)

• **Oct. 12:** **Pond Apple Slough**, a Wonderful Wet Natural Area near Secret Woods (Linda Briggs and Jimmy Lange)

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!*

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

Welcome new members! In Miami-Dade: Max and Alyssa Larson, Luca Lionello. In the Keys: Lynn and Del DeLaurentis, Marv Schindler

The Dade Chapter board will meet on October 20, 4 p.m. If you'd like to attend or submit an agenda item, please contact either the president or vice president for details (see info box).

Save the pots. Recycle empty nursery pots by bringing to a meeting for others to take for growing more plants for the raffle.

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Fall Garden Festival & Ramble, Nov. 8-10. As always (since the 1980s) DCFNPS will have an educational display table. **Please save some time to volunteer any day, or to help set up on Thursday.**

You do not need to be a plant expert! See details next month or contact Gita (gita.ramsay@gmail.com) for more information.

Broward Chapter FNPS. coontie.fnpschapters.org/. Meets at Secret Woods, 2701 W. SR 84, Dania Beach.

• **Sept. 11, 7 p.m. Meeting.** "Soil Microbes Support Rare Endemic Scrub Species" - Aaron David. (With a follow-up field trip on Sept. 21.)



7th Annual Native Plant Show

Attendee registration is open

November 7-8, 2019 in West Palm Beach

Hosted by the Florida Association of Native Nurseries

FloridaNativeNurseries.org • PlantRealFlorida.org

October 1 – Early bird deadline, special rates for "a la carte" registration - suitable for most FNPS members

See nativeplantshow.com for classes and registration details.

Landscape architects, designers, garden center owners, homeowners, and others involved with native landscape plants will find new information. Different class tracks for industry professionals and property owners. Exhibits, native plant sale, books, garden items, social. ***The Native Plant Show is unlike any other native plant event!***

FNPS members with good knowledge of South Florida native plants:

You may be able to attend classes for free in exchange for helping with the plant sale setup Wednesday or advising shoppers during the sale on Thursday and Friday.

Contact Emma Haselow at 321-271-4885 or emma@floridanativenurseries.org.

MORE THINGS TO DO

Learn about, enjoy and help native plants and natural areas.

Dade Native Plant Workshop. MDC Kendall Campus Landscape Technology Center, third Tuesdays, 5 pm. nativeplantworkshop.ning.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!**

Sept. 17 topic: Cacti (Cactaceae)

Keys Native Plant Workshop. Sept. 19, 5:30 pm at the Garden Club of the Upper Keys, 94040 Overseas Hwy. It's open to all but is for serious learning. **For details (or better yet, to be added to the email list)**, contact the leader, Jim Duquesnel (jduquesn@fiu.edu, 305-304-4445) or Cynthia Guerra (Guerra-Cynthia@monroecounty-fl.gov, 305-453-8756).

“Flora and Fauna of the Florida Keys” continuing education course, Sept. 1-Nov. 9, 2019. FIU's Center for Coastal Oceans Research. Ten half-day Saturday field trips taught by Jim Duquesnel. More info: james.duquesnel@fiu.edu, 305/304-4445. ccor.fiu.edu/education-and-outreach/courses/index.html.

Adopt-A-Tree: Two free trees to Miami-Dade homeowners per year. **Sept. 14,** South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center. Details on the county [website](#). There's a great selection of [natives!](#)

Every Kid in a Park (EKIP). Volunteer for this amazing program at Everglades National Park (Royal Palm and Shark Valley) that excites kids and volunteers alike. Interact with small groups of 4th graders at interpretive tables on the Anhinga Trail. 305-242-7753, Ever_Education@nps.gov. [Sign up](#) for required training (**Sept. 13, 25 or Oct. 16**) at Zoo Miami.

FIU Plant Talks. Many Wednesdays, noon-1pm. Fun and informative. See faculty.fiu.edu/~kopturs/planttalk19.html. Everyone is welcome to come - and to bring lunch.

National Public Lands Day – September 28, 2019. See www.neefusa.org/npld/volunteers for events in state parks and elsewhere. And Everglades National Park free entrance day.

Environmentally Endangered Lands workdays: www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands-volunteer.asp. The season **starts Sept. 21** with a coastal cleanup, 9 a.m.-noon at East Greynolds Park. Later dates in South Miami-Dade pinelands include planting and cleanup.

Gifford Arboretum, University of Miami. Retiring longtime director Steve Pearson is planning one last series of lectures before a new director begins in January 2020. www.bio.miami.edu/arboretum or 305-284-1302. **October 2, 2019, 7 pm:** Meeting, Cox Science Center, Rm. 166. (Contact Steve about parking if you do not receive his emails.)

SAVE THE DATES

 **The Institute for Regional Conservation's 35th Anniversary Celebration, Oct. 27, 3 – 6 p.m.**

in Miami-Dade County at the historic Simpson Park in Brickell. *Join IRC as we all celebrate 35 years of working together on behalf of South Florida's biodiversity.*

All old, new and future friends of IRC are invited to this free event, which will start with a Mini-BioBlitz in the park's hammock. Details TBA (regionalconservation.org/)

 **Butterfly & Bird Day at Castellow Hammock Preserve & Nature Center, Dec. 7, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Miami Blue Chapter, North Am. Butterfly Assoc. and Miami-Dade County Parks. Details TBA (miamiblue.org/)

DCFNPS TREASURER'S REPORT - FY 2018

The Dade Chapter of the Florida Native in 2008 Plant Society ended its fiscal year on June 30, 2019. We continue to maintain a healthy bank balance thanks to the bequest from the estate of longtime member Dr. Robert Kelley received in 2008. After posting all Income and Expenses, we ended the year with a loss of \$1733 primarily due to a disbursement to Conservation Concepts in support of their lobbying efforts with regard to Forever Florida. We depend on income from our monthly meeting plant raffles and merchandise sales, Native Plant Day, membership dues (we receive 25% of FNPS dues) and member donations. This year we were again able to donate \$1500 to FNPS for a Conservation Grant honoring chapter founders Don and Joyce Gann as announced at the Annual FNPS Conference last May. Funds for this grant come from DCFNPS members' donations with the balance from the Robert Kelley Fund.

Thank you to all our members for your support of DCFNPS through volunteer time and plant and monetary donations. Anyone interested in more detail is welcome to contact me.

Susan Walcutt

Treasurer, DCFNPS, walcutts@bellsouth.net

DCFNPS Profit & Loss July 2018-June 2019

Income	
Donations	764.97
Educational Income	
Monthly Meetings	1,287.57
Native Plant Day	3,165.05
Membership Dues	<u>3,033.80</u>
Total Income	8,251.39
Expenses	
Administration	5,130.55
Education	
Monthly Meetings	1,567.51
Native Plant Day	2,839.30
Newsletter	196.22
Merchandise For Sale	<u>266.83</u>
Total Expenses	10,004.41
Other Income/Expense	<u>15.73</u>
Net Profit (Loss)	(1,733.29)

WOOD SAGE (*Teucrium canadense*)

By Steve Woodmansee, ProNative Consulting

Wood sage, also sometimes called Canadian or American germander, is a member of the mint family (Lamiaceae) and a native wildflower found throughout Florida excluding the Florida Keys. In South Florida, it typically occupies sunny marshes and moist prairies with calcareous soils. Wood sage is a perennial, and plants are rhizomatous, meaning they have an underground stem, and they can spread several feet sending up shoots every few inches or so. Wood sage grows rapidly in late spring and summer, when the rainy season begins, sending up shoots to 2.5' tall.

Typical of most mint relatives, Wood sage has squarish stems. Leaves are opposite with a rough texture being grayish/green color on the top surface and whitish underneath. Leaves and stems are fragrant when crushed emitting an earthy slightly minty fragrance. Wood sage typically blooms spring – fall with a spike-like inflorescence of pink to lavender flowers. Flowers are indeterminate, meaning they start blooming from the bottom and continuously bloom up the spike as conditions permit. Flower of mint family members are typically visited by bees and wasps, however the occasional small butterfly or skipper will nectar on them. Fruits are tiny wrinkled nutlets.



Photos: Shirley Denton

In the landscape, Wood sage is reported to be an “aggressive” wildflower. In other words, it will spread and grow profusely, possible crowding out other plants. This may be the case under optimal wet conditions, but I have used Wood sage in lower areas of my dry pineland plantings, and I find that it generally doesn’t dominate. This is likely due to the fact that my planting area has no hydroperiod (days with standing water) thereby retarding Wood sage growth. Nonetheless, it blooms, insects

DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

President: Kurt Birchenough (kbirc001@fiu.edu, 202-905-3921)
Vice President: Brian Diaz (bdiaz@frostsscience.org, 786-521-0843)
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, Ian Wogan, Steve Woodmansee
Dade Chapter – FNPS Council of Chapters: **vacant**

Refreshment coordinators: **Volunteers needed**
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 might 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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love it, and it can persist for years. I suspect that it would make an excellent addition to a lake edge, shallow pond, or rain garden. Stems are fragile, and easily break/bend. It tends to die back a bit in the winter, but rebounds in the spring. Wood sage is one of those wildflowers for late summer blooms, adding a bevy of beauty for the eye, and a banquet of nectar for the insects.

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

IMAGES OF THE GARDEN

Dave and Louise King’s, Redland

Photos by Dave King



Smear-dagger Moth caterpillar

munching on spadderdock (*Nuphar lutea*) in the pond.
 (The moth is has no gaudy color.)



Spider lilies and butterfly orchids in bloom by the pond.

“Too many butterflies -- OK, you can't have too many butterflies.”