



# TILLANDSIA

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

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2019

## MONTHLY MEETING

**Tuesday, November 26, 2019, 7:30 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.**

**Get a head start on holiday shopping!** Our merchandise table has **new books and other merchandise** which make great gifts!

## Florida's Native Bromeliads - Chuck McCartney

The bromeliad family includes more than 3,400 species of New World plants composed mostly of epiphytes (with one oddball outlier in West Africa). Florida shares 16 of these species plus 2 named natural hybrids in 3 genera. Native plant enthusiast and longtime Dade Chapter member Chuck McCartney will give us an overview of these fascinating "air plants" that help define the essence of "tropical."



The speaker with a Giant Bromeliad (*Tillandsia utriculata*), Dec. 27, 1986, in a hammock on the north rim of Long Pine Key in Everglades National Park. Chuck says, "... a 'selfie' was taken by putting the camera on my tripod, focusing at the spot I would stand, pressing the shutter release on a delayed timer, then running like hell to get into place before the shutter snapped."

**January 28, 2020:** Hanoch Schmalbach, General Class Falconer, will present about agricultural applications of falconry and the importance and protection of wild raptors.

## Calendar

### November 2019

**9-10 (Sat.-Sun.): The Ramble** at Fairchild – DCFNPS table  
**16 (Sat.): Field trip** (Dade Chapter) – Goulds Pineland  
**21 (Thur.): Give Miami Day - support DCFNPS!**  
**23 (Sat.): Field trip** (w/ Broward Chapter)  
**26 (Tue.): Meeting** at Pinecrest Gardens


### December 2019

**7 (Sat.): Butterfly & Bird Day** – DCFNPS table  
**14 (Sat.): Field trip** (w/ Broward Chap.) Long Pine Key, ENP  
& **Chapter workday at ENP** following the field trip

*No meeting or newsletter in December.*

**Jan. 28, 2020 (Tue.): Meeting** at Pinecrest Gardens  
**March 2020 (Sat.-TBA): 25<sup>th</sup> Native Plant Day!**

### Other events of interest coming up soon

**Nov. 11:** Everglades Nat. Park free entrance (Veteran's Day)  
**Nov. 13, Dec. 11:** Broward Chapter FNPS meetings  
**Nov. 13 and ongoing:** FIU Plant Talks on many Wednesdays  
**Nov. 19, Dec. 17:** Dade Native Plant Workshop  
**Nov. 21:** Keys Native Plant Workshop  
**Dec. 7: Butterfly & Bird Day (Miami Blue NABA)**   
**Dec. 7:** EEL workday (Hattie Bauer Preserve)  
**Ongoing:** EKIP (Every Kid in a Park) individual vol training  
**Ongoing:** Bat, owl or nature walks at Castellow Hammock  
**Until Jan. 13:** "Pollinators" exhibit by Tropical Botanic Artists

## Give Miami Day – November 21, 2019

Please support our outreach and conservation efforts! [givemiamiday.org/](http://givemiamiday.org/)

## FIELD TRIPS

### • Saturday Nov. 16, 2019: Goulds Pineland.

Scout this Miami-Dade Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Preserve for plants, butterflies, birds. You may have participated in the City Nature Challenge here last April.

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

**Difficulty:** Moderate. This preserve has **rugged, uneven terrain** with no trails. You might like a walking stick.

**Bring/wear:** Water, sun protection, **closed-toed shoes**, and **long pants** for walking through saw palmettos on rocky ground,

binoculars to look for butterflies and birds.

**Lost?** Call Patty (305-878-5705)

• **Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019: A Broward County natural area (TBA), led by Jimmy Lange.** Find details of this Broward Chapter trip at [coontie.fnpschapters.org/](http://coontie.fnpschapters.org/). (Dade is invited, too!)

• **Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019: Long Pine Key, Everglades National Park.** Steve Woodmansee will lead the **Broward and Dade Chapters** into varied habitats of this area. Steve's vast knowledge of flora, fauna, natural areas and history always make a walk informative and even entertaining.

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

**Difficulty: Moderate** - prepare for potentially uneven terrain, brush but not long distance walking.

**Bring/wear:** Water, sun/rain protection as needed, long pants and sleeves, closed shoes that might get slightly wet or muddy, insect repellent just in case, **park pass** if you have one.

**Entrance fee:** \$30 per car or with the entrance pass of someone in the car. Share the cost or [buy a pass yourself](#).

**Lost?** Try to contact Richard (954-661-6289) ... but cell reception in the park is inconsistent, **so please be on time.**

**Lunch:** Bring your own to enjoy at the LPK (picnic tables or lawn). Stop for a stroll on the Anhinga Trail as you drive out.

#### Free bonus feel-good activity!

After lunch, return the visitor center and join DCFNPS for **any amount of time, noon to 3 p.m.**, in our project to maintain the native restoration around the visitor center. **Details below.**

## DCFNPS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Chapter workday, Everglades National Park**  
**Saturday, Dec. 14, NOON – 3 PM. – following the field trip.**

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. We have water, hand tools and gloves, but bring your own if you prefer. **It's light work, and even a few minutes of pulling weeds is appreciated!** Contact Patty (305-878-5705, [pharespl@gmail.com](mailto:pharespl@gmail.com)) with questions.

**Butterfly and Bird Day at Castellow Hammock**  
**Saturday, Dec. 7, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** DCFNPS will have a tent. See more details about the event in this newsletter. **We need DCFNPS members to interact with adults and kids** as they learn about native plants and their role in sustaining butterflies and birds and other critters. Please contact Patty (305-255-6404, 305-878-5705, [pharespl@gmail.com](mailto:pharespl@gmail.com))

### Speaking of the November meeting ...

• **Tillandsias needed for the Dade Chapter's display garden at Pinecrest Gardens.** A permanent display of native plants is being designed and installed by the DCFNPS board. It will feature a variety of plants, including bromeliads.

Please help by bringing individuals or clumps of these native *Tillandsia* species to the Nov. 26 meeting: *Tillandsia*

*fasciculata* var. *densispica* (Cardinal airplant), *T. utriculata* (Giant Wild Pine), *T. balbisana* (Cokebottle airplant), *T. flexuosa* (banded airplant), and *T. setacea* (Southern needleleaf), *T. pauciflora* (potbelly airplant). **Please bring plants from only your own property.**

Contact Steve Woodmansee if you need to drop them off at his house in Kendall. (786-488-3101; [steve@pronative.com](mailto:steve@pronative.com))

• **Can you take a few minutes to set up refreshments before some chapter meetings?** All supplies are provided. Please contact Gita ([gita.ramsay@gmail.com](mailto:gita.ramsay@gmail.com)) or a board member at a meeting. Short or long term help, or several people to alternate!

## Butterfly & Bird Day

Saturday, December 7, 2019, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Castellow Hammock Preserve & Nature Center  
22301 SW 162 Avenue, Miami, FL 33170

The event is FREE! 

A day devoted to south Florida butterfly and bird education and festivities!

Presented by  
Miami Blue Chapter, North American Butterfly Association  
Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces

Presentations, nature walks, exhibits, activities for all ages.  
Plant sales – a wide array of butterfly and bird attracting plants.  
Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

7:30 am – Bird Walk with Brian Rapoza of Tropical Audubon Society  
Bring binoculars!

See [www.miamiblue.org](http://www.miamiblue.org) for more information.

Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department provides quality diverse recreation experiences for persons with disabilities. Call 305-755-7848 (V/TDD) to request material in accessible format, a sign language interpreter (7 day notice required) and/or information on access for persons with disabilities.



Sponsors





## DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

**Welcome new members!** In Miami-Dade: Angela Chang, Paul Rehage. In the Keys: Judy Shaw

**The Dade Chapter board will meet on January 5.** If you'd like to attend or submit an agenda item, please contact either the president or vice president for details (see info box).

**Native Plant Day – March, 2020.** Final confirmations are being made, so stay tuned and plan to help! As always, we'll have plant sales, nature walks, educational displays and some of the best speakers to introduce the public to native plants.

**Broward Chapter FNPS.** [coontie.fnpschapters.org/](http://coontie.fnpschapters.org/). Meets at Secret Woods, 2701 W. SR 84, Dania Beach.

• **Nov. 13, 7 p.m.** Institute for Regional Conservation Working with Broward – George Gann, Chief Conservation Strategist

• **Dec. 14, 7 p.m.** - Program TBA



**Sabal Minor (bimonthly newsletter of FNPS).** Look in your inbox for the November - December 2019 issue in early November. Past issues are posted at [FNPS.org](http://FNPS.org) under Resources.

**See FNPS.org home page for:**

- **FNPS 40th Annual Conference.** May 14-17, 2020. University of North Florida, Jacksonville.
- **FNPS research, conservation and ethnobotany grants** (appl. due March 6, 2020). Also a call for **research track papers and poster presentations** for the FNPS 2020 Conference.
- **FNPS 2019 Policy Advocacy Handbook.** (or under the tab Resources > Downloadable Documents > [FNPS Policies.](#)) Plan to help promote the importance of conserving natural areas through the Florida Forever Program to your legislative delegation before and during the next legislative session.

## Why donate to the DCFNPS on Give Miami Day?

November 21, 2019 - beginning at 12:00 a.m.

<https://givemiamiday.org/>

*Give Miami Day is a community-wide day of online giving. What is special is that the Miami Foundation and partners make a bonus gift for donations of \$25 to \$10,000!*

Dear DCFNPS Members and Friends:

Our board and volunteers give many hundreds of hours every year to keep our organization running with as little expense as possible. You also generously donate supplies, plants, refreshments, transportation costs and more. (*Thanks, everyone!*)

Our goal is to have income from membership dues, plant and merchandise sales, raffles and other donations cover our regular expenses, *and hopefully do more!*

This is a challenge for a small organization, but your extra donation on Give Miami Day will go far to help us provide:

- ◆ **A free Native Plant Day** reaching hundreds of people;
- ◆ **Monthly meetings** with great speakers and raffle plants, merchandise and opportunities to meet other native plant lovers;
- ◆ **Field trips, yard visits, projects, newsletter, website, social events** and collaborating with other organizations;
- ◆ **Opportunities to volunteer** in meaningful projects;
- ◆ **Educational tables** at events;
- ◆ **Support for conservation activities**, including FNPS conservation grants, Florida Forever, and The Institute for Regional Conservation's Natives For Your Neighborhood.

Gratefully yours,

Kurt Birchenough, President, Dade Chapter FNPS

## 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/](http://nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/) or contact Steve Woodmansee at [steve@pronative.com](mailto:steve@pronative.com). Bring at least three cuttings or pots, which need not pertain to the topic. **All levels are welcome!**

**Nov. 19 topic:** Sunflower family (Asteraceae)

**Dec. 17: Workshop & holiday party! Topic TBA** (please see the website). Feel free to bring a treat to share.

**Keys Native Plant Workshop. Nov. 21, 5:30 pm.** Francis Tracy Garden Center at 94040 Overseas Highway (MM 94). Open to all but is for serious learning. **For details**, contact Jim Duquesnel ([jduquesn@fiu.edu](mailto:jduquesn@fiu.edu), 305-304-4445).

**Every Kid in a Park (EKIP).** Volunteers are still needed to use interpretive tables with 4<sup>th</sup> graders at Everglades National Park (Royal Palm and Shark Valley). **New volunteers can train by shadowing an experienced person.** Contact Kristy Quillian, 305-242-7861, [ever\\_education@nps.gov](mailto:ever_education@nps.gov).

**FIU Plant Talks.** Many Wednesdays, noon-1p.m. Fun and informative. See [faculty.fiu.edu/~kopturs/planttalk19.html](http://faculty.fiu.edu/~kopturs/planttalk19.html). **Nov. 13** - Early US Plant Explorers: Endeavors in the Atlantic Islands (Dr. Javier Francisco Ortega). All welcome- bring lunch.

**Environmentally Endangered Lands workdays:**

[www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands-volunteer.asp](http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands-volunteer.asp) for information. Register at [eel@miamidade.gov](mailto:eel@miamidade.gov) or 305-372-6611. **Dec. 7** - [Hattie Bauer Preserve](#)

**"Pollinators" - Original artworks by Tropical Botanic Artists.** Through Jan. 13, 2020 **FIU Biscayne Campus**, Glenn Hubert Library, 3000 NE 151 St., N. Miami. Open Free!

## BOOKS ON FLORIDA PLANTS.

By Marty Roessler

Last June, I received a catalog of books from the University Press of Florida. Among the listings was David W. Hall's 2019 book *Grasses of Florida*. This long-awaited publication of the update of his 1978 dissertation provides a comprehensive taxonomic treatment of the family Poaceae. Artificial keys to the tribes, subfamilies, genera and species are presented. For each species, a description of the plant, its habitat, and distribution is given. Many are illustrated to show identifying characteristics. The morphology of grasses has a specialized vocabulary, so I recommend having a copy of Lewis L. Yarlett's 1965 (or later updates) *Important Native Grasses for Range Conservation in Florida*, published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service. This publication or the 1996 book *Common Grasses of Florida and the Southeast* by the same author, published by the Florida Native Plant Society, provide illustrations of the principal parts of grass plants and photographs of many common species.

Volumes V and VI of the *Flora of Florida* by Richard P. Wunderlin, Bruce F. Hansen and Alan R. Frank, published in 2018 and 2019 by the University Press of Florida in Gainesville, also were listed in the catalog. While shopping online for these books, I learned that Volume VII would be published in early 2020 and was available for preordering. Volume I, published, in 2000 covered the pteridophytes (ferns and fern allies) and the gymnosperms (conifers and coonties). Volumes II – VII have dealt with the dicotyledons and volumes VIII – X will cover the monocotyledons.

Each volume contains taxonomic descriptions and keys to families, genera and species. Synonyms are given. Habitat, distribution and status as potentially endangered or exotic are given. Volume I contained many excellent line drawings by Priscilla Fawcett and others. Unfortunately, this feature was not continued in the treatment of the dicots.

The placement of genera within families and the nomenclature of the various species generally follow modern monographs, and references to these is given. Many changes have occurred since 2011 publication of the third edition of Richard P. Wunderlin and Bruce F. Hansen's book *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida*, published by the University Press of Florida. You can keep abreast of future changes on the University of South Florida's *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants* ([www.floridaplantatlas.usf.edu](http://www.floridaplantatlas.usf.edu))

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## CASTELLOW HAMMOCK HAPPENINGS

The Castellow Hammock team has been working hard to get the word out that the park has once again been activated. This was apparent on the night of October 25th when we had close to 60 participants at our Bat Walk. Bat Walks will be a common event at Castellow now that our staff have received training from the BCI (Bat Conservation International) on species identification and the use of a device called an "Echo Meter". The Echo Meter attaches to any smart phone and picks up bat calls that otherwise cannot be heard by the human ear. It amplifies a call through the phone's speaker, records it, and identifies the bat! So far, we have picked up many Mexican free-tail bats, Northern yellow bats, as well as one Florida bonneted bat. The device does have its quirks, but is just another example of how technology is helping us better interpret the outdoor world.

**Bat Walks at Castellow occur every 4th Friday.** There are also Eco-Action days, campfire owl walks and archery. Make a reservation: 305-242-7688, [www.miamidade.gov/ecoadventures](http://www.miamidade.gov/ecoadventures). Call or email [eric.king@miamidade.gov](mailto:eric.king@miamidade.gov) to receive e-news with announcements of activities.

**Address: 22301 SW 162 Ave, Miami, FL 33170**

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## DECORATING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

[First published in the *Tillandsia*, November, 1986. Updated November, 2009]

You might like to have a *real* Florida touch when you decorate for your holiday party -- or anytime. Instead of flamingos and coconut palms, picture casual or formal arrangements of cuttings of native plants (and maybe some exotics) from your own yard. A little judicious trimming or some much-needed pruning could provide you with adequate materials. **Jonathan Foote** has compiled a few tips on constructing arrangements and a list of good materials (*mostly* native) to use.

### First the rules:

- If you want your arrangement to match a specific color theme, spray plant materials with paint. Always use an undercoat of bright silver paint.
- Have both physical and visual balance in your arrangement. Balance the color, visual mass, etc.
- Manipulate your materials. Cut palm fronds into shapes; bend or twist sticks.
- To make wreaths, find supplies at a craft store. Attach materials to wire forms with clamps or to Styrofoam forms with "fern pins" (buy at a flower shop).
- Except for evergreens, fresh materials may last only a couple days. You may need to experiment or replace wilted pieces.

### Now the materials:

- **Evergreens:** Slash pine, sand pine (not in Dade), bald cypress, red cedar
- **Coarse textures:** Seven year apple, red mangrove, myrsine, red-tip cocoplum, satin leaf (use it upside down!), wild dilly, sea grape, pigeon plum, sweet-bay, pitch-apple
- **Fine textures:** Black ironwood, Florida privet, live oak
- **Christmas effect:** Silver buttonwood, bay cedar, winged sumac, live oak, myrsine, marlberry. If they are in fruit, these add bright red color: hollies, lignum vitae, wild cinnamon, Christmasberry, firebush, wild coffee. Pair silver buttonwood with dahoon holly branches (leaves and berries) in a vase.
- **For an "exotic" look:** Ferns, pitch-apple stems, sea grape leaves, palm fronds
- **For special interest:** Cattails, mahogany pods or other seed pods, Fakahatchee grass and other grasses (flowering stalks). Add citrus and other long-lasting exotic fruits, or for short-term use, native fruits such as sea grapes, cocoplum, satinleaf, etc.
- **Interesting containers:** Driftwood, natural-looking containers, baskets, large shells, rocks
- **Wreaths and garlands:** Grape stems (bend before drying), sea grape leaves (pin to Styrofoam), evergreens
- **Decorations on trees or wreaths:** Pine cones (and other cones), winged sumac (fruiting heads), palm (flower stalks), pods (blackbead, exotics such as milkweed and Poinciana). Use decorations in singles or clusters.

Now be creative! Look for materials in your yard with interesting shape, texture, color or fragrance. You can make a modern look as well as a "country" look.

### Editor's notes:

See photos and descriptions of most of the plants listed in this article at [regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/default.asp](http://regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/default.asp).

Concerning **pitch-apple**, *Clusia rosea* -- is it native or not? The IRC says: "Native only to the lower Florida Keys, where it was probably extirpated and then reintroduced from cultivated plants. ... It is already over planted within its native range and escaping from cultivation elsewhere."

### DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

**President:** Kurt Birchenough ([kbirc001@fiu.edu](mailto:kbirc001@fiu.edu), 202-905-3921)  
**Vice President:** Brian Diaz ([bdiaz@frostsscience.org](mailto:bdiaz@frostsscience.org), 786-521-0843)  
**Secretary:** Gita Ramsay ([gita.ramsay@gmail.com](mailto:gita.ramsay@gmail.com), 786-877-7168)  
**Treasurer:** Susan Walcutt ([walcutts@bellsouth.net](mailto: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](mailto:dadefnps@gmail.com)

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

### TILLANDSIA

**Editor:** Patty Phares ([pharespl@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:info@fnps.org), 321-271-6702

**FNPS website, blog, social media:** <http://www.fnps.org>

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