



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

MARCH 2020

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, March 24, 2020, 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.

"Natural History of the Pine Rockland-Hardwood Hammock Ecotone: A Fragmented Plant Community Junction with Habitat Restoration Potential"

- Lydia Cuni, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Ecotones are regions of ecosystem convergence in which environmental factors and disturbances have the capacity to alter plant species composition, richness, and diversity. Ecotones are hypothesized to support a high diversity of plant taxa, including locally rare habitat specialists. For my Masters research at Florida International University, I sought to test this hypothesis in the intact pine rockland-hardwood hammock intact ecotones of Long Pine Key, Everglades National Park.

Indeed the ecotone was found to have, on average, higher incidences of species richness and diversity, than either the pine rockland or the hardwood hammock. These results have potential implications for restoration and management of pine rockland-hardwood hammock ecotones outside of Everglades National Park, and highlight this plant community junction as an important feature in a highly fragmented, urbanized landscape.



I thank the FNPS, the Torrey Botanical Society, and the FIU Kelly Foundation Tropical Botany Scholarship for their support.

Lydia was born and raised in Hialeah. She followed her interests in the study of life (biology), graduating from FIU in 2014, later returning for her M.S. Between degrees she was a pine rockland intern with Zoo Miami's Conservation and Research Department, and worked with the South Florida /

Caribbean Network, an inventory and monitoring division of the National Park Service. She is currently a field biologist with the Conservation Team at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

April 28 program: "The Specialist Obligate Multi-tasking Herbivore-Pollinators of Cycads" – Sandy Koi

2020 Calendar

March

14 (Sat.): Field trip – Chekika, East Everglades, ENP

20 (Fri.): Setup for Native Plant Day

21 (Sat.): 25th NATIVE PLANT DAY - in North Miami

22 (Sun.): Field trip (Broward Ch.) Hugh Taylor Birch St. Pk.

24 (Tue.): Monthly meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

April

25 (Sat.): Chapter workday, Everglades National Park

26 (Sun.): Field trip - Camp Matecumbe/Boystown Pineland

28 (Tue.): Monthly meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

TBA: Chapter board meeting

May 14-17: FNPS 40th [Annual Conference](#), Jacksonville

Other events of interest coming up soon

Mar. 7: [EEL workday](#) – Florida City Pineland

Mar. 14: Kenwoods Outdoor Learning Center workday

Mar. 11, Apr. 8: [Broward Chapter FNPS](#) meetings

Mar. 17: [Dade Native Plant Workshop](#)

Mar. 17: [Keys Native Plant Workshop](#)

Mar. 18: Connect To Protect Network free lecture

Mar. 21: [Bee-Cause](#), Tropical Audubon Society

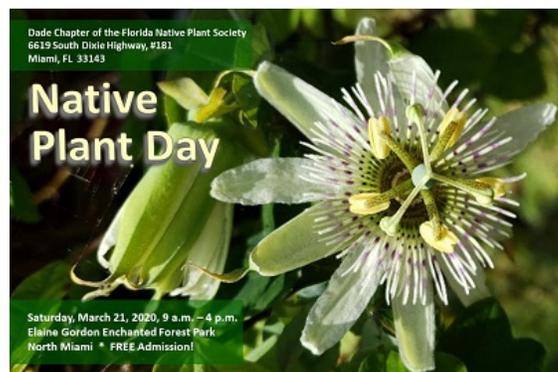
Apr. 9: Volunteer monitors meeting - Schaus' swallowtail

Ongoing: FIU Wednesday lunchtime [Plant Talks](#)

Ongoing: [EcoAdventures](#) at Miami-Dade County parks

NATIVE PLANT DAY – March 21

Please spread the word. Volunteer now if you can!



Inside:

Remembering Joyce Gann

Native Plant Day ▪ Field trips ▪ News

25th NATIVE PLANT DAY

Saturday, March 21, 2020

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Elaine Gordon Enchanted Forest Park

1725 NE 135 St., North Miami



As always, the event is FREE.

Co-sponsored by:

The Dade Chapter FNPS



and the City of North Miami Parks and Recreation

Programs & nature walks

Hands-on activities - kids activities, too!

Plant sales and raffles • Books & other merchandise

8 a.m.: Early Birding Walk – bring binoculars!

Learn about native plants, landscaping, attracting birds and butterflies to your yard, insects, wildlife, the environment.

Come with your questions to ask experts.

FREE! Rain or Shine!

Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Rain Barrel Workshop!

Workshop free. Barrel Cost: \$40.

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/NPD2020RainBarrel>

Drinks and food will be available for purchase.

Schedule will be available at <http://dade.fnpschapters.org>

YOU CAN HELP MAKE NATIVE PLANT DAY AMAZING!

As a chapter member, please help us make the day a big success! Please spread information to family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, club-mates. Also:

- **Donate plants and other items.** We raffle or sell a large variety of native plants, and also raffle gardening or nature-related items, gift certificates, etc. Please do a final grooming of your plants now. **Contact Amy** if you need to drop them with someone in advance, or so we can be prepared for your donations. Proceeds support Native Plant Day and our other educational activities.
- **Distribute postcards.** Pick some up (**contact Amy**) for stores, offices, library, local business, meetings you attend or other places (with permission, of course).
- **Share announcements by email and social media** to your friends, clubs. (Send a link to <http://dade.fnpschapters.org/>)
- **Help set up on Friday, March 20.** Setting up raffle and other areas are easy yet **essential** things you can do. **Contact Amy.**
- **Transport plant donations in your vehicle,** to deliver on Friday or early Saturday. **Contact Amy.**
- **Loan display plants or items.** Share the best of your natives and show the public why they should use more in their yards. **Contact Patty.**
- **Volunteer at Native Plant Day.** On March 21 we will need about 40 volunteers. Give us part of your morning or afternoon, and you'll still have plenty of time to enjoy the event.

Please **contact Gita (now, please!)** if you, family/friends, or young people you know might be able to help.

Contact information:

Amy Leonard: 305-458-0969, aleonar74@yahoo.com

Patty Phares: 305-255-6404, pharespl@gmail.com

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

Thank you for your help in making this year's Native Plant Day exceptional!

- Amy Leonard, Native Plant Day Coordinator

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

<http://dade.fnpschapters.org/events/>

• **Saturday, March 14: Chekika,** Everglades National Park with Jonathan Taylor, Restoration Program Manager. We will assist Jonathan in a qualitative inventory on the status of non-native invasive species within Chekika Hammock (*and also enjoy the scenery and native plants, of course!*) Chekika Hammock was part of the former State Recreation Area, now part of the east Everglades, and is owned and managed by the National Park Service. Named for a Seminole chieftain, Chekika is normally closed to public use. In addition to prairie, marsh, and rockland hammock plant communities, Chekika has a remnant artesian well that fed a lake of its namesake. Restroom facilities are not available.

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

Difficulty: Moderate to difficult. Since this area is closed to the general public, trails are expected to be overgrown.

Bring/wear: Water, sun protection, bug repellent, closed-toed shoes, and long pants for walking through tall marshy terrain and rocky ground. A walking stick could prove useful.

• **Sunday, March 22: Hugh Taylor Birch State Park (Broward Chapter).** Ranger Stitt and park staff will show us the most interesting places in the park and discuss some of the challenges in preserving these imperiled coastal ecosystems, the importance of protecting threatened and endangered species, and the benefits of these ecosystems. See broward.fnpschapters.org/

• **Sunday April 26: Camp Matecumbe/Boystown Pineland Preserve** in Kendall, a Miami-Dade Environmentally Endangered Land (EEL) site, with biologist Tiffany Melvin.

Thanks to board member Steve Woodmansee for planning a great lineup of field trips and leaders in 2020.



Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands, February 15, 2020

REMEMBERING JOYCE

Joyce Walker Gann
1932-2020



Our friend, founder and mentor Joyce Gann passed away on February 21, 2020, in the Redland home she shared with her husband, Don. She is survived by Don, daughters Marilyn Baggett and Debbie West, son George Gann and other family.

Joyce and Don were among the founders of FNPS. She helped form several of the first chapters in South Florida, including Dade, and was our chapter's founding president.

Joyce (with Don) was an integral part of DCFNPS, FNPS, the Dade Native Plant Workshop, the Florida Association of Native Nurseries, and the local community. We obtained our favorite plants from Gann's Native Tropical Nursery and learned about natives at their sides on field trips or at Fairchild Ramble plant sales. We enjoyed their Nature Lovers' Holiday Party and their company in the first row at meetings.

Joyce was active in the Dade Chapter throughout her life and sought ways to contribute. Besides serving on the chapter board for 10 years, she and Don provided plants for displays and projects, held special nursery sales to benefit the chapter, contributed to the newsletter, volunteered at events, and made presentations at chapter meetings. She led pre-meeting plant ID workshops for a few years and served on planning committees for two FNPS Conferences held in Miami. Joyce spoke up when things needed fixing and led early chapter advocacy efforts to preserve natural areas. Joyce and Don also helped establish the Institute for Regional Conservation and the Florida Association of Native Nurseries.

FNPS bestowed its highest honor, the Mentor Award, on them in 2000. This award is given for outstanding lifetime contributions that forward the mission of FNPS.

In 2018, Tropical Audubon Society awarded Joyce and Don the "**Polly Redford Citizen Service Award**" for "passionately sharing their love of native plants, helping organize our region's Native Plant societies" and "parlaying their wealth of knowledge to inspire area scouts, residents and politicians to embrace native flora." Miami-Dade County proclaimed February 11, 2019, as "**Don and Joyce Day**."

It is impossible to include in this limited space everything about Joyce, her interesting life, her accomplishments, and other awards - separately and (most often!) with Don - and how she touched and influenced others. The following articles and contributions from our members say it well.

South Dade News Leader obituary (February 14, 2020):
http://www.southdadenewsleader.com/obituaries/obituary---joyce-walker-gann/article_3e88dd6c-5733-11ea-bb0e-97e16d99a674.html

South Dade News Leader story about "Don and Joyce Gann Day" - February 11, 2019:
www.southdadenewsleader.com/news/don-and-joyce-gann-day/article_ea462ae8-30c3-11e9-be38-8b42a8ae284e.html

Interview with Joyce and Don in the *Palmetto* magazine, Spring, 2000, by chapter member Diane Otis:
fnps.org/assets/pdf/palmetto/otis_diane_don_joyce_gann_vol_2_0_no_1_spring_2000.pdf

"The activity Joyce is most proud of is helping to compile and coordinate native plant information presented in Miami-Dade County's last two Landscape Code Manuals, as well as successful efforts to bring into the code a 30% minimum requirement for the use of native trees and shrubs in new non-homeowner landscaping in Miami-Dade County."

When Joyce helped found FNPS and the Dade Chapter in the 1980's, she threw a pebble into a pond, hoping it would do something good. Those ripples are continuing to move outward with no signs of petering out, a conservation legacy that will continue long after many of us are also gone. Over forty years after FNPS began advocating for the conservation and use of Florida native plants in landscaping, I sat on a bench in downtown Miami, and watched a small black butterfly flutter by - an atala hairstreak. Imagine that - with all of the concrete rising, somewhere in downtown Miami there are enough native plants, including the butterfly's host plant, coontie, to support a small population of a state threatened butterfly. Thank you for your contributions, Joyce. - *Gwen Burzycki*



Joyce in a familiar stance, taking notes during a Native Plant Society field trip in Big Cypress National Preserve, February 2001.

I first got to know Joyce Gann and her husband Don when I started participating with the original Native Plant Workshop back in the mid-1970s. I learned so much about local plants and the environment from them and the other brilliant botanists, both in our meetings and on our great field trips.

Joyce and Don are also personally special to me because we shared the bond of being native South Daders. They knew my family over many years, and Joyce always delighted in reminding me that my parents, through their McCartney Bakery, made her and Don's wedding cake. Joyce, I'll miss you. It was a privilege and a pleasure to have known you.

– *Chuck McCartney*

You may know about The Kenwoods Outdoor Learning Center at Kenwood K-8 Center in Kendall. This award-winning, on campus native tree planting was begun in 1986 and continues today. Joyce took interest in this project from the very beginning and without her support in so many ways, it is unlikely that the project would have ever “taken root”. We remember, and thank, Joyce for her many plant donations, advice, and continued encouragement over the 30-plus years of KOLC. – *Henry Block*

[In the 1970s and '80s] a group of dedicated botanists called the Native Plant Workshop met at Castellow Hammock. Some of my memories are of when we'd be gearing down and about to close a meeting for the evening, the door would open and in would walk Don and Joyce with a bag of what looked like a quarter-acre of plant samples, and the meeting would go on until nearly midnight. There was a field trip the Saturday following each meeting, where we would hike somewhere and look at wildflowers. I look back on those days with much fondness and humbling appreciation, because what better way was there to learn the common and botanical names of native and naturalized plants than by being in the presence of such dedicated botanists? I cannot recall a single meeting or field trip that wasn't attended by Joyce and Don. Thanks for the memories.

– *Roger Hammer*



This photo is of Joyce and Don, long time regulars of the Native Plant Workshop who shared their extensive knowledge on the local flora with other participants, November 2002. In front of them is an Osage Orange that they must have brought back from their travels to the midwest. Despite its name, this plant is actually in the Fig family.

The wood of this species is highly coveted and known for its durability, strength, flexibility, and beauty (not unlike the Ganns!). – *Steve Woodmansee*

I first met Joyce in 2000 at FNPS meetings. When I started going to the Native Plant Workshop, I knew almost nothing about native plants but was eager to learn. Joyce and I usually sat near each other and she helped me look at the plants closely. She was very patient and supportive. I appreciated it – and also appreciated the fact that she and Don were life-long learners.

Joyce gave me her 4-page “Checklist of Selected Native Trees” with growth and light requirements, etc. It was compiled in 1979 with input from others and printed in the Fairchild Tropical Garden Bulletin. It was very organized, detailed and practical. I was impressed as it looked like an Excel spreadsheet and must have taken her weeks or even months to complete, as this was BEFORE Excel was commonly available.

Joyce was a very special person. The world needs more people like Joyce! – *Jan Kolb*

From *Tillandsia*, newsletter of the Dade Chapter FNPS, November 1987:

“Each year, the chapter presents the **Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award*** to a person or persons who have worked beyond their professional capacity to further the preservation, education and use of native plants. Past recipients include Roger Hammer, George Avery, Taylor Alexander, Donovan and Helen Correll, and Senator Bob Graham.

“**This year, with a speech and presentation by Ms. Douglas, the chapter honored Don and Joyce Gann for their combined achievements** ... Together they have made more than 26 presentations on 21 topics concerning native plants to trade shows, conferences and universities. They have published seven articles related to native plants and served on numerous advisory committees for model landscape codes and xeriscape techniques. Their efforts to assist Dade County include two successful State Land Acquisition Proposals, Miami Beach Dune Vegetation Project, and development of lists of suitable native landscape and habitat mitigation plants recommended to replace those lost due to development.”

* (The Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award was presented in 1982-1989).



Donations may be made to the FNPS Conservation Grants in memory of Joyce and in honor of Joyce and Don. You may donate to FNPS [online](#), or continue to donate to our chapter's conservation grant fund in their honor at chapter meetings or by mail. (The chapter has donated annually since 2013 to fund FNPS Conservation Grant awards.)

A commemorative poster with a green and white color scheme. At the top left is a photo of Don and Joyce Gann. The text reads: "With Deep Appreciation to DON & JOYCE GANN". Below this are three bullet points: "Founders of the Dade Chapter FNPS", "Friends and supporters of the Chapter for 30 years", and "Lifelong advocates for South Florida's native plants". At the bottom, it says "The Dade Chapter FNPS will sponsor an FNPS Conservation Grant Award in your honor in 2013". There are also photos of yellow flowers and white flowers on the left side of the poster. At the bottom right, it says "Back To Back, President Dade Chapter FNPS" and "July 14, 2012".

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

Dade Chapter board meetings. To attend or submit an agenda item, please contact DCFNPS (see info box). The next meeting will be in April (date TBA)

Welcome new members! Mary Lou Edelstein, LandscapeDE (Business membership), Claudia Laukien and Matthew Cornell

New chapter website. If you haven't already, check out our new mobile-friendly site. The new easy-to-remember address, www.dadefnps.org, redirects to the one you are used to (dade.fnpschapters.org), so no need update bookmarks and links.

See the **new chapter calendar** dade.fnpschapters.org/events/ and **click on the event listing for complete details of meetings, field trips and other activities.** It shows Broward Chapter and FNPS events as well. Play around with different views – you'll get used to it! (List view is very easy to use.)

Broward Chapter FNPS. broward.fnpschapters.org/. Meets at Secret Woods, 2701 W. SR 84, Dania Beach. Associated field trips will follow (see website).

Mar. 11, 7 p.m. "Biodiversity of a Barrier Island: Life at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park"

Apr. 8, 7 p.m. "Family Portraits: Milkweeds and Mints" – Chuck McCartney

Sabal Minor (bimonthly newsletter of FNPS). See your email inbox (March 5) for the **March-April 2020** issue. Past issues are posted at FNPS.org under Resources.



FNPS 40th Annual Conference May 14-17, 2020. University of North Florida, Jacksonville

Registration is open for this information and activity-packed event! See fnps.org/conference. (There are also [volunteer](#) opportunities to receive free registration.)

Amazing speakers on a wide range of subjects (**Friday and Saturday**), 19 field trips with knowledgeable guides (**Thursday and Sunday**), native plant sale (though far-south Floridians might be sightseers more than shoppers), free workshops, cutting-edge research, current issues in restoration and conservation, landscaping for homeowners and urban planners, sumptuous meals, networking and advocacy opportunities.

MORE NEWS and 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!**

Mar. 17 topic: Mallow family (Malvaceae). Go to the [Institute for Regional Conservation's](#) FISF Online Database Advanced Search tab and select "Malvaceae" under the Plant Family look-up for a list.

Kenwoods Outdoor Learning Center monthly workdays - the award-winning **native hammock** at Kenwood K-8, 9300 SW 79

Ave. **Upcoming dates: 3/14, 4/11 – 9 a.m. to noon.** Rain or shine, no RSVP needed, but call Henry Block (786-877-4509) if you want to check for date changes. Water, gloves and a fun time provided (bringing a refillable bottle is appreciated).

Keys Native Plant Workshop. Tuesday, March 17, 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, 305-304-4445).

Connect To Protect Network lecture. Wednesday, March 18, 7 pm at Fairchild Garden. Christina Stocking from Miami-Dade's Environmentally Endangered Lands Covenant Program will present information on **techniques for managing pine rockland parcels on private property**, followed by Q & A. **Free, open to the public**, no need to RSVP. **Park** in Fairchild's south (staff) lot, and proceed to the Corbin A classroom.

Learn more about the great [CTPN program](#). If you have (*or want to have*) a garden with some pine rockland species or a true pine rockland, check it out!

FIU Plant Talks. Many Wednesdays, noon-1p.m. Fun and informative. See faculty.fiu.edu/~kopturs/planttalk19.html for the most up-to-date info. All welcome – feel free to bring lunch!

Volunteer monitors for Schaus' Swallowtail Butterfly needed in northern Key Largo for surveys in mid-April to late June. Attend a **preseason meeting Thursday, April 9, 7 PM** at the John



Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park visitor center. In addition to discussing the upcoming surveys, Taylor Hunt from the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity will speak about efforts to conserve the Miami blue butterfly. Contact Scott Tedford: Scott.Tedford@floridadep.gov, 772-402-9467

Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society For Miami-Dade and the Florida Keys

Chapter information: DadeFNPS@gmail.com, 305-985-3677
DCFNPS website & social media: www.DadeFNPS.org/
Mail: Dade Chapter FNPS, 6619 S. Dixie Hwy, #181, Miami FL 33143-7919

Board members (2019-2020):

President: Kurt Birchenough **Vice-President:** Brian Diaz
Secretary: Gita Ramsay **Treasurer:** Susan Walcutt
At Large: Janeen Feiger, Jeanne Rothchild, Jennifer Stine, Steve Woodmansee
FNPS Council of Chapters representative: **Vacant**

Newsletter editor: Patty Phares

Webmaster: Haniel Pulido Jr., dadefnpsweb@gmail.com

Refreshment committee: **Volunteers needed**

Tillandsia Newsletter

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>

© 2020 Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society, Inc.

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. *Little bits add up!*