



TILLANDSIA

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

MAY 2023

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 7:30 PM

Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57 Ave. (Red Road), Miami
Free and open to all!

The meeting will start with a short Annual Members Meeting to elect 2023-2024 Dade Chapter board members.

Program

"Cutler Slough Rehydration Project on Tree Species Within the Deering Estate Natural Areas"

- Katherine Castrillon, Florida International University

The Deering Estate Natural Area (DENA) historically contained a freshwater wetland environment that fed into the Biscayne Bay through the Cutler Creek. Wetland conditions diminished over time as natural sheet flow was interrupted by fragmentation, urbanization, and drainage activities in the Everglades. To restore the authentic watershed of south Florida, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan's Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (BBCW) project was developed to divert freshwater from canals into select ecosystems along the southeast coast. The BBCW's Cutler Slough Rehydration Project (CSR) facilitates this aim, utilizing DENA land as a funnel to resupply Biscayne Bay with freshwater since December 2012.

Katherine Castrillon will discuss her studies of the effects of the rehydration project. These effects include reduction of hardwood



hammock species at low elevations and establishment of species more tolerant of seasonal flooding. Another study with her colleagues showed that fluctuating water levels and variable surface topography allow species which use different hydrological niches to coexist in the same watershed. This integrated monitoring program can provide much insight to where shifts in species composition and species establishment have and will occur

through the course of the rehydration project.

Katherine is a MS student in Environmental Studies, Department of Earth and Environment Institute of Environment at FIU, and a Miami native. After college at FIU, she was a vegetation monitoring intern at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, then at the South Florida Terrestrial Ecosystems Lab she was a research technician for projects throughout south Florida. During

Calendar

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

May 20 (Sat.): Yard visit in Pinecrest – register now

May 23 (Tue.): Monthly meeting with Annual Meeting

May 27 (Sat.): Field trip - Larry & Penny Thompson Park

Other events of interest

May 10: Broward Chapter FNPS meeting (virtual meeting only, topic is carnivorous plants)

May 13: EEL workday. Nixon Smiley Pineland (tour, project)

May 16: Native Plant Workshop in Dade – it's a field trip!

May 16: Native Plant Workshop in the Keys (virtual)

May 16: Coastal habitat workday, Haulover Beach

May 27: Broward Chapter field trip to Jonathan Dickinson SP

June 3: Tropical Audubon Society native plant sale (info TBA)

June 4: Miami-Dade Co. Adopt-a-Tree, MDC north campus

Also in this issue

- ◆ Seed Propagation Tips – by Rob Campbell
- ◆ More News and Things to Do

her master's degree, she worked as a Coordinator for CREST Center for Aquatic Chemistry and Environment's Research Experience for Undergraduates Program, assisting the program manager with students and organizing workshops. With her master's degree, Katherine hopes to assist with conservation and restoration efforts, to resolve issues that may arise in environmental policy and/or natural resource science and management.

- **Come early or stay late** to socialize and browse the merchandise and raffle. The raffle follows the program.
 - **Thank you for your raffle contributions** (native plants, plant-related books, etc.)! **Please label each plant with at least the common name on paper or tape** (more info is welcome).
 - **Online viewing: Live-streamed and recorded on YouTube.** www.youtube.com/channel/UCmassuC5-OsAX2KsRYQ6X5A
- Note:** You will see only the computer-based portions of the meeting (on-screen announcements and presentation), not the raffle and other input from the room. **Chat will be enabled.**
- **Questions?** Email DadeFNPS@gmail.com, text 305-985-3677

• **June 23:** Tiffany Troxler, Ph.D, from FIU. Topic TBA.

• **Past presentations:** Use the **YouTube** link above or from DadeFNPS.org. **Click Videos** or **Live** for available recordings. (The internet was not working at Pinecrest Gardens for the April meeting, so the program was not available virtually or recorded.)

YARD VISIT IN PINECREST Saturday May 20, 2023, 9:30-11:30 AM

The large and lovely garden we will visit was planted with a wide variety of native trees and shrubs which are now over 20 years old – good examples of what you might eventually see if you are landscaping your garden now. This tour will also appeal to those who aren't planting their yards but just want to enjoy the native plants and verdant setting. After the tour, enjoy visiting with the other guests and our hosts, who are chapter members.

- **Who is invited:** Dade Chapter members and a guest. If you are not a current member, please join or rejoin before you register.
- **Registration:** Email Daniela Champney at d_champney@yahoo.com. Please include (1) the name of each member registering; (2) whether you are bringing a guest (a non-member family member or friend); (3) phone number (optional). Please use "Yard visit" in the subject line. Register soon as space may be limited!
- **Other details:** You will receive a response a few days in advance with the address and parking info. Please bring your own water. If you are sensitive to mosquitoes, cover up or bring repellent, just in case. For questions, please contact Daniela.
- **How to join or rejoin DCFNPS:** <https://www.fnps.org/home> or call FNPS at 321-271-6702.

FIELD TRIP

Larry & Penny Thompson Park Saturday, May 27, 2023

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

This park contains a large portion of what remains of the globally critically imperiled **pine rockland plant community** outside of Everglades National Park. Pine rockland is found only in south Florida and the Bahamas, and possess over 400 native plant species. We will visit areas recently burned. Expect to see many wildflowers and hear about much of the history of the park.

This Miami-Dade County park is located in the Richmond Pine Rockland Tract. The site housed a Naval Air Station (including blimps) during WWII and was later divided up under government and private ownership. Tragically, much of the pine rockland was destroyed in building Zoo Miami, government facilities, retail stores and homes, with plans for the Miami Wilds theme park threatening even more.

Read the county's management plan for more about the Richmond pine rockland and history at

https://fairchildgarden.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2018-RICHMOND-PLAN-2ND-ED-FINAL_1.pdf

- **Leader: Roger Hammer**, author and naturalist (<https://www.rogerhammer.com/>) and a member of FNPS. If you bring your books by Roger, he will be happy to sign them. His "Everglades Wildflowers" features many plants in this pineland habitat.
- **Bring/wear:** Water, sun protection, close-toed shoes, long pants/sleeves (to protect from saw palmetto scratches). Soot from burnt stems might rub off on your clothes but it brushes or washes off. Consider a walking stick for extra stability off trail, binoculars for birding, and small bag for trash pickup.
- **Note: Pets are not allowed** on our field trips.



DADE CHAPTER NEWS



DCFNPS board nominations for secretary, treasurer and several directors at large, all for 2-year terms to be elected on May 23: *To submit nominations or for more information, please contact the chapter at DadeFNPS@gmail.com as soon as possible.* The nominating committee will present a slate. Botanical expertise is not required. **Members with enthusiasm for native plants and skills or determination to help the chapter thrive are encouraged to consider serving on the board.** It's a rewarding way to promote the mission of FNPS!

Welcome new member! Charlene Regenhart in Key Largo

DCFNPS Everglades National Park workday, June date TBA. 9 AM – noon (and every other month). Help with our native landscape maintenance at the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center, the first habitat many visitors encounter up close in the park. **New volunteers:** Please contact Patty (pharespl@gmail.com) in advance for more details and required paperwork by ENP.

MORE NEWS and THINGS TO DO

Dade Native Plant Workshop FIELD TRIP – May 16, 6 PM, led by Steve Woodmansee. Instead of an inside workshop, we'll take advantage of the long daylight to take our learning outdoors. Novices and experts alike are welcome! See nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/ for location and details.

Florida Keys Native Plant Workshop (virtual meeting). **May 16, 5:30 PM:** For more info, email FKNPW@outlook.com.

Help enhance coastal habitat at Haulover Park, Miami Beach. May 16, July 15, August 19, 2023, 10AM – noon. Frost Museum's Museum Volunteers for the Environment program is working with Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Miami Beach Botanical Garden, and Miami-Dade County's Natural Area Management Division to care for our critical coastal habitats through nature-based volunteerism. They will manage hardwood encroachment in the dune habitat by pruning and removing sea grapes and coco plum trees as they outcompete critical dune species. **You must register in advance. For more info:** Riki Bonnema, riki@mbgarden.org (tell her you're from FNPS).

Butterfly poster. A beautiful educational poster, "Florida Butterflies, Caterpillars, & Their Host Plants" by Bill Boothe and Marc Minno, is available from the Florida Rare Plant Conference at <https://www.floridarareplants.org/fl-butterflies-poster>.

Proceeds support rare plant conservation work by non-profit programs (Bok Tower Gardens, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens, Archbold Biological Station, and others) that are dependent upon grants and donations to help prevent species extinction. See an image and details on the website.

Miami-Dade County Parks activities, everything from butterfly garden basics and birds to nature camp and music at sunset.

SEED PROPAGATION TIPS

By Rob Campbell

Editor's note:

This article was originally included in the May 2007 *Tillandsia* as part of "What You Missed: Tidbits from the April 2007 meeting", composed of notes taken by the editor. The presenter was the late Rob Campbell, who was a horticulturist and our premier expert on propagation. ("He could root a mop handle!") Read our remembrance of Rob in the [June 2021 Tillandsia](#).

From Rob Campbell's discussion of propagation from seed:

- To keep from spreading diseases to the containers, keep your seed growing area clean and do not reuse soil to start seeds.
- Use a special mix like Promix, or make a 50-50 mix of potting soil and perlite to make a nice fluffy mix. Use a dust mask when mixing perlite. Be careful with peat, especially if you have a cut, to avoid fungal infections.
- If you want to use sand, get a coarse silica sand.
- Use shallow containers, put a *lot* of seeds into one container, and allow the soil to dry out (don't keep it soggy all the time).
- Keep seedlings on metal or plastic tables that can be cleaned and sterilized.
- Put a time release fertilizer (e.g., 10-10-10 Osmocote – those little balls) directly in with the seeds, except for very tender plants.
- Don't pack the soil.
- Put the containers in dappled sunlight. A lathe house with 2" spaces is good.
- Clean and plant tropicals right away.
- When you clean the flesh off seeds, you can smush the fruit and use soap to help wash off the flesh.
- Coontie (*Zamia integrifolia*): Clean off the flesh (or not – some will still germinate), nick the pointy end, plant sideways and bury halfway. They might germinate in a year.
- Some seeds (e.g. satinleaf) have a "trap door" which dissolves and the seedling pops out. Don't crack the seed.
- Tiny seeds like West Indian lilac (*Tetrazygia bicolor*) and firebush (*Hamelia patens*): Use ripe fruit, squash them on newspaper, let it dry a day, scrape the seeds off the paper onto the top of the soil. Don't cover tiny seeds.
- Fluffy seeds like asters: Scatter on top of the soil, scatter a little soil loosely to hold down the fluff and wet it down so the seeds don't blow away. Don't cover the seeds.
- *Tillandsias*: Rub the fluff and seed on a rough tree bark and spray with water to make it stick.
- Tickseed (*Coreopsis leavenworthii*): When the petals die you can collect the seed heads, let them dry a few days and scatter on top of the soil – debris and all. They can store up to a year.
- Lignumvitae (*Guaiaecum sanctum*): The summer crop of seeds grows best. Clean the seeds but don't scratch them. They should come up in a couple weeks.
- Coral bean (*Erythrina herbacea*): Peel a fresh pod and they come up in a few days, but dried seeds take months.
- Marlberry (*Ardisia escallonioides*): This is the worst! It has a dormancy and a bug that chews out the inside of the seed.

When digging up small volunteers to pot up, you will probably lose all the hair roots no matter how careful you are (the soil will

- fall away and the hair roots with it). But you can save the plant.
- Wet the ground well the day before and again as you work.
 - Use something like a big nail to pop it out. A shovel makes the rocks fall and break up the roots.
 - Plant in a pot, keep in a shady place for a week and don't let it dry out. Spritz the foliage every hour on day 1, 4-5 times on day 2, and then gradually let the soil dry out over the next few days.

Other tips:

- Rhacoma (*Crossopetalum rhacoma*): stake up a little when they are small, but don't trim. They grow sideways in the beginning.
- Quailberry (*Crossopetalum ilicifolium*): Grows nicely in a container, longer than in the ground. Keep it dry for a long life.
- If the roots of a plant have been damaged, you can foliar feed with Peters or Miracle Grow to get it strong again. Do this when the air is moist, like after a rain or in the morning or evening, not on a hot, sunny afternoon.

Help ensure that you're in the loop!

Move DadeFNPS@gmail.com and @FNPS.org email out of junk/spam/promotions and into your inbox, and add those senders to your email contacts.

Think you are missing email (from FNPS or Dade)? Let us know!

Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society

For Miami-Dade and the Florida Keys

Chapter communication: 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 (2022-2023):

President: Brian Diaz

Vice-President: Steve Woodmansee

Secretary: Lydia Cuni

Treasurer: Susan Walcutt

At Large: Joey Basna, Riki Bonnema, Gwen Burzycki, Janeen Feiger, Jeanne Rothchild, Jennifer Stine

FNPS Council of Chapters representative: Lydia Cuni

Newsletter editor: Patty Phares

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

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>

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Did you miss a *Tillandsia* newsletter? See past newsletters at

dade.fnpschapters.org/ > Newsletters and articles

FNPS *Palmetto* magazines: See [here](#) (not all available)

FNPS *Sabal minor* newsletters: <https://www.fnps.org/home> under [resources](#)



Pineland snowberry,
Chiococca pinetorum

Photo by
Lauren McFarland

See the [Institute for Regional Conservation](#) for more information.