



TILLANDSIA

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

JUNE 2023

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, June 27, 2023, 7:30 PM

Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57 Ave. (Red Road), Miami
Free and open to all – in-person and online

**"How to Stop the Holocene Extinction
- Native Plants Need Marketing Too"**

Charlie Reverte, President of Gather AI

Native plants are nature's best-kept secret. They are our most original source of cultural heritage, however, mainstream consumers have been sold the idea that what belongs in their homes are ornamentals, exotics, and fake grass. This talk presents a marketing and business plan to bring the message of native plant restoration to the mainstream through social media and e-commerce. The objective is to reorient consumers to nature and drive wide-scale native rewilding of developed areas.

Charlie is a Miami native and tech entrepreneur who started



[Reforest Miami](#) to help raise awareness of native plants. His love for our ecosystems came from hiking in the Everglades as a kid with the Boy Scouts, and from learning about our ecology while attending MAST Academy and

working at RSMAS. During the day he is president of Gather AI, a supply chain robotics company, and at night he works to raise awareness of native plants. Charlie is also a new board member of DCFNPS. He lives in Pinecrest with his wife and two children.

- **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, tape or stake** (more info 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

Calendar

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

- June 17 (Sat.): FNPS [Annual Meeting](#) (10 AM) – online
- June 17 (Sat.): Dade field trip (4 PM) – Matheson Hammock
- June 24 (Sat.): Chapter workday at Everglades Nat. Park
- June 27 (Tue.): Monthly meeting (in-person and online)

Other events of interest

- June 20: Native Plant Workshop in [Dade](#) (different location)
- June 20: Native Plant Workshop in the Keys (virtual)
- July 15: Miami-Dade Co. [Adopt-a-Tree](#), FIU Modesto Maidique Campus. Pre-registration opens in **late June**.
- July 15: Coastal habitat workday, Haulover Beach

Also in this issue

- ◆ Thank you to our Business and Not-For-Profit members
 - ◆ Spring pruning for pineland plants (from CTPN newsletter)
- Plus lots of news, things to do, things to watch*

- **July (date/details TBA):** picnic or evening yard visit & potluck (no meeting at Pinecrest Gardens)
- **Rescheduled for September 26:** "Cutler Slough Rehydration Project on Tree Species Within the Deering Estate Natural Areas" by Katherine Castrillon (originally announced for May program).
- **Past presentations:** Use the **YouTube** link above or from [DadeFNPS.org](#). **Click Videos** or **Live** for available recordings, including the May program "Science to inform transformation toward a sustainable, resilient south Florida" by Tiffany Troxler, PhD, Florida International University.

FIELD TRIP

Matheson Hammock Park - Saturday, June 17, 2023

** This is a late afternoon trip so you can attend the FNPS Annual Meeting online at 10 AM. **

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

This conservation land is part of the Miami-Dade Park system and Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program. Matheson Hammock is one of the largest and most botanically diverse rockland hammocks in the county, and one of the best examples of coastal rockland hammocks in Florida. With 100 acres of restored forest, it possesses unique geological formations such as solution holes covered with tropical ferns, and even a freshwater wetland. EEL is undertaking a large wetland forest

restoration there, and cool wetland herbaceous species are coming up after the invasive tree clearing. It has rare tree species and some of the largest hammock trees remaining in Dade County. Several tree species should be in bloom. If time permits, we might also visit the mangrove community.

Leader: Steve Woodmansee, Pro Native Consulting. (Call him if needed at 786-488-3101)

Difficulty: Easy to moderate, walking mostly on trails (easy), but rocky off trails.

Bring/wear: Drinks, insect & sun protection, closed shoes.

Consider a walking stick for extra stability off trail, binoculars for birding, and a small bag for trash pickup.

Note: No restrooms. **Pets are not allowed on our field trips.**



DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

DCFNPS board election. At the chapter's Annual Meeting in May, the proposed slate was elected:

Secretary: **Lydia Cuni** Treasurer: **Susan Walcutt**

Director At-Large (2-Year): **Jennifer Stine, Charlie Reverte**

Director At-Large (1-Year): **Gwen Burzycki**

Continuing in their 2-year terms are **Brian Diaz** (President), **Steve Woodmansee** (Vice-President), and Directors **Joey Basna, Riki Bonnema, and Jeanne Rothchild.**

Thank you to **Janeen Feiger**, retiring after serving since 2017.

Thank you too all the board members now serving, and **welcome to our newest board member, Charlie Reverte!** Please see his bio as the program presenter this month.

Welcome new members! Sonia Bauer, Karina Gomez, Anna Hochkammer and Joe Garcia, Sage Hoffman, Marion Knowles (student), Lauren Zitzman (in the Keys)

DCFNPS Everglades National Park workday, June 24. 9 AM – noon (and usually every other month). Help with our native



landscape maintenance at the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center. We weed, prune, clean up debris, and even assist visitors. It's not difficult but is greatly appreciated by ENP. **New volunteers:** Contact Patty (pharespl@gmail.com) in advance for more details and

required paperwork by ENP. **We'd love to have you join us even if you only come occasionally, or come late.**

(Photo: "Before", January 2021. Come to see "After"!)



The Annual Meeting of the FNPS Membership will be on June 17, 2023 from 10-11:30 a.m. EDT

on YouTube. Find links to join and to documents in emails from FNPS, in the [News](#) section at FNPS.org, and elsewhere. This is the opportunity for all members to catch up on the major news and events of 2022 (conservation, policy, Council of Chapters and more), learn who is receiving an award or Conservation or Research grant, and to vote on incoming board members.

FNPS Landscape Awards [applications](#) for 2023 are now open.

Application Deadline: Aug 31, 2023. There's a category for every site - residential, non-residential, restorations, and small wildlife/butterfly gardens. FNPS encourages chapters, community groups, businesses, professionals, government agencies, HOA's and individuals to nominate their own or others'

landscapes for recognition of their efforts to celebrate and highlight the benefits of native plants.

It's not just for the recognition – a good example educates and inspires others!

A minimum 2-year grow-in period is required before submittal, so keep that in mind for a future year if needed.

MORE NEWS and THINGS TO DO

Dade Native Plant Workshop – June 20, 5:00-7:00 PM

Special guest leader and location: Fern specialist and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's Conservation Program Manager **Jennifer Possley** will lead a workshop on the genus *Thelypteris* (shield ferns). Feel free to bring in plants, including other ferns, to ID or discuss.

This month's location: FTBG Corbin building (the classroom building north of the Garden House). Park at the south entrance on Old Cutler Road (not the main entrance).

See nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/ for more details and to sign up (optional). Workshop meetings are free and open to all.

Florida Keys Native Plant Workshop (virtual meeting).

For more info, email FKNPW@outlook.com.

June 20, 5:30 PM: Jimmy Lange presents on grasses

July 18, and August 15, 5:30 PM: Susan and Duane Kolterman present on Malpighiales.

Help enhance coastal habitat at Haulover Park, Miami Beach.

July 15, August 19, 2023, 10AM – noon. Frost Museum's Museum Volunteers for the Environment program is working with other institutions and agencies to care for critical coastal habitat. Manage hardwood encroachment by pruning and removing sea grapes and coco plum trees as they outcompete critical dune species. **You must register in advance.** For info: Riki Bonnema, riki@mbgarden.org (tell her you learned of this through FNPS).

Miami Blue Chapter, North American Butterfly Association.

Some past presentations, including from May 7 on "Monarch butterflies in Florida – the good, the bad and the ugly (truths)", can be seen on YouTube (miamiblue.org/links-research/). Dr. Andy Davis of the University of Georgia has strong statements and advice which will give you much to think about, e.g. "Florida: All of your backyard milkweeds are leading to more OE infections." It's worth watching if you garden to attract monarchs. (OE is a parasitic protozoan infecting monarchs and some other butterflies.)

National Pollinator Week is June 19th-25th, 2023

www.pollinator.org/pollinator-week

"This Pollinator Week we will be emphasizing the connections between climate and pollinators. Pollinators are dying because their food and homes are disappearing, diseases have increased, and rising temperatures and natural disasters are affecting their ability to survive - all of which are related to climate change. At the same time, the conservation of pollinators and their habitats can help combat climate change by supporting healthy ecosystems, air, soil, water, and plants."

Veber's Jungle Garden in Homestead is getting closer to being sold. Leslie Veber invites you to come help clear out inventory at reduced prices! **Please call 305-242-9500 for an appointment and current inventory.** Cash/check.

THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS and NOT-FOR-PROFIT MEMBERS

These members support FNPS and the Dade Chapter financially at a higher level. They also support the mission of FNPS, promote FNPS and may contribute in other ways through event participation, presentations, articles, field trips, donations and more. Thank you from all of us! Over following months we'll introduce them in more detail.



Curtis + Rogers Design Studio Inc.
(Aida Curtis)

<https://www.curtisrogers.com/>

... our long-term relationships with our clients is a testimony to our ability to create environments which engage the senses and lift the spirits, while meeting the operational demands and functional realities of urban projects.



Greenscape Landscape Maintenance Corp
(Jacqueline Rodriguez)

<https://greenscapelandscape.org/>

A commercial landscaping company with well over twenty years of experience, providing professional and personalized services to our clients. We believe in quality over quantity.



The Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC)
(George Gann, Cara Abbott)

<https://www.regionalconservation.org/>

Uniting people and nature to restore our world. We seek to protect - and restore - viable populations of all native plant and animal species within key regions by designing conservation strategies powered by rich, geographically-distributed data.



Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Garden
(Karen Frank-Knoll, Misha McRae, Mary Nelson)

<https://www.keywest.garden/>

The only frost-free, sub-tropical, natural conservation habitat, native plant botanical garden in the continental United States



LandscapeDE

(Douglas Thompson, Ebru Ozer)

<https://www.landscapede.com/>

LandscapeDE is a landscape architecture firm with over fifteen years of experience in Southeast Florida, known for its innovative and award-winning designs. LandscapeDE's work includes public space, park, institutional, and commercial design projects. The firm strongly believes in the use of native plants as a foundational element in its designs.



Miami Beach Botanical Garden

(Riki Bonnema)

<https://mbgarden.org/>

... a unique, subtropical oasis of beauty and tranquility within an urban setting – a community resource that refreshes, inspires and engages our visitors.



NaMa Native Landscapes

(Natalia Manrique and Mauricio Gonzalez)

<https://www.namaprojects.com/>

Where Beauty Meets Resilience. NaMa Native Landscapes is a full-service landscape design studio. We plan, install and maintain native South Florida landscapes using sustainable practices, serving clients across Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties.



Native Tree Nursery

(Leonard Abess, Michelle Phelps)

<http://www.nativetreenursery.com/>

Founded in 1979, with emphasis on South Florida native trees and shrubs as well as South Florida and Caribbean compatible exotic palms, cycads and flowering trees, our goal is to not only produce these fine selections in commercial quantities but to do so with long term performance in mind.



Phyla Landscape Studio

(Malone Matson)

<https://www.phylastudio.com/>

We love subtropical ecology and believe that operating locally – knowing a place, its people, and its natural systems through and through – is the key to producing landscapes that remain healthy and beautiful for years to come.



Smarty Plants Nursery

(Megan Prats)

<https://smartyplantsnursery.com/>

Online Landscape Experience. Smarty Plants Nursery delivers and installs the prettiest plants at the best prices on Tuesdays and Fridays. FNPS members get 10% off by using the coupon code FNPS.

SPRING PRUNING FOR PINELAND PLANTS

Are you a member of the Connect to Protect Network at Fairchild? If not, then read on to see important tips you missed in their **May 2023 CTPN newsletter**.

(If you have some pine rockland species in your yard – or you want to – and aren't a CTPN member, then hop right over to <https://fairchildgarden.org/science-and-education/science/connect-to-protect/> to sign up! It's free, and your whole yard doesn't have to be a pineland. In fact, you don't even need to have pines.)



Below are excerpts from the article **"It's time for some (plant) cut-backs"**. You might want to do some pruning right now. Thanks to CTPN for letting us share this. But you're missing out on all the informative photos that were in their newsletter.

Now that the rainy season is almost upon us, it is a great time to prune back some of your pine rockland plants that may be looking a little leggy or somewhat shapeless. Going after those plant with a sharp pair of pruners in the spring can help keep your home garden looking gorgeous.

Unlike some of the non-native plants that are typically sold in South Florida, pine rockland species respond well to severe pruning. After all, these species evolved in a landscape with frequent fires. Almost every pine rockland plant will respond well to being pruned once a year. The tricks are to (1) not do it until your plants are well-established (i.e. in the ground for at least two years), and (2), do it right before or at the start of the rainy season. A notable exception is the Dade County pine. These do not need (or tolerate) pruning.

When you prune a pine rockland plant, it will look awful at first, but this is temporary. Depending on the time of year, it can take 3-6 weeks for a plant to really leaf out again. Expect 3 weeks in the rainy season and 6 weeks in the dry season. Late May or June is the best time to do it, because plants are not yet growing vigorously, but they will be soon, with the onset of summer rains. **Cut these woody shrubs back almost to the ground to achieve a dense, ball-like shape.**

Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)
Crenulate lead plant (*Amorpha herbacea* var. *crenulata*)
Firebush (*Hamelia patens*)
Florida prairie clover (*Dalea floridana*)
Little strongbark (*Bourreria cassinifolia*)
Locustberry (*Byrsonima lucida*)
Mexican alvaradoa (*Alvaradoa amorphoides*)
Pineland croton (*Croton linearis*)
Pineland sage (*Lantana involucrata*)
Pineland privet (*Forestiera segregata*)
Shrub thoroughwort (*Koanophyllon villosum*)

What does **green** mean? These species can also be grown as a small tree. If you prefer a small tree, then skip the hard pruning back to the ground, and allow the plant to grow tall. It will still respond well to shaping.

These non-woody species also respond well to a heavy late-spring cut-back:

Brickell bush (*Brickellia mosieri*)
Coral hoary pea (*Tephrosia angustissima* var. *corallicola*)
Low rattlebox (*Crotalaria pumila*)
Scale-leaf aster (*Symphytotrichum adnatum*)-- and most other asters
Snow squarestem (*Melanthera parviflora*)
Tropical puff (*Neptunia pubescens*)

Note that most grasses (*Andropogon* spp., *Muhlenbergia capillaris*, *Tripsacum floridanum*) also respond well to annual cutting-back, but this is best done in the fall, after they have gone to seed.

Learn More: Do you want to learn more about installing and maintaining a pine rockland garden? There are guidelines!
<https://www.regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/pdfs/PIR.pdf>

→ **From the Institute for Regional Conservation [plant page](#):**

This is a prostrate, herbaceous perennial herb, with wiry stems that radiate out from a taproot, forming dense mats over exposed limestone and sometimes sand. It is endemic to pine rocklands in southern Miami-Dade County from the Cutler Ridge area north to what is now downtown Miami, but is extirpated north of South Miami.

NatureServe Global Status: Critically Imperiled

United States Federal Status: Endangered

State of Florida Status: Endangered

Florida Natural Areas Inventory State Status: Critically Imperiled

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, Charlie Reverte, 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](#)

Seen on the May 27, 2023, field trip to Larry and Penny Thompson Park. Thanks to Roger Hammer for leading and sharing his knowledge of local history and plants.



Euphorbia deltoidea subsp. *deltoidea*
Deltoid spurge, Wedge sandmat, Rockland spurge
Photo by Lydia Cuni