



## *Tillandsia*

*Promoting the preservation, conservation, and restoration  
of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.*

Newsletter of the Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society  
**SEPTEMBER 2023**

*(Tillandsia is included in its entirety in the monthly email. This document is provided for printing and saving.)*

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### Chapter Calendar: September-October

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

**September 24 (Sun.): Field trip** – Kirby Storter Park, Big Cypress

**September 26 (Tues.):** Dade Chapter meeting

**October 24:** DCFNPS monthly meeting

**October 28: Field trip** - J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area (Palm Beach Co.)

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### MONTHLY MEETING

**Tuesday, September 26, 2023, 7:30 PM**

**Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57 Ave. (Red Road), Miami**

**Free and open to all**

**"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 (CSRP)** 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. Her studies revealed that the establishment of hardwood hammock species at low elevations may have resulted from the historical drawdown in the regional water table. CSRP has provided a remedy to that trend, causing reduction of hardwood hammock species at low elevations and establishment of species more tolerant of seasonal flooding conditions, including Royal Palm.



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 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 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, tape or stake** (more info welcome!).

• **Online viewing:** Live-streamed and recorded on YouTube. [www.youtube.com/channel/UCmassuC5-OsAX2KsRYQ6X5A](https://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](mailto:DadeFNPS@gmail.com), text 305-985-3677

• **Past presentations:** Use the **YouTube** link above or from [DadeFNPS.org](https://www.dadefnps.org). **Click Videos** or **Live** for available recordings.

**October 24 program: “Abandoned Vehicles of the Everglades”.** Award-winning photographer **Matt Stock** presents dramatic nighttime environmental portraits from his collection, Abandoned Vehicles of the Everglades, an exploration of the relationship between man and nature.

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**FIELD TRIP**  
**Kirby Storter Roadside Park - Big Cypress National Preserve, Collier County**  
**Sunday, September 24, 2023**

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

Fall will have begun, and the wet season is peaking, so why not visit a swamp? The Big Cypress National Preserve is owned by the National Park Service and is 800,000 acres, so we won't be visiting all of it. Kirby Storter Roadside Park is a great place to enjoy nature and has a ¼-mile long boardwalk. We will traverse across marl prairies and cypress strand on an easy walk. Fall wildflowers should be blooming including Muhly grass, Goldenrods, and asters. This area is also known for its wildlife, so we might see gators, snakes, and both migratory and residential birds. You may wish to take the long way home and drive back along Loop Road, enjoying the scenery on your way back to civilization.

**Leader:** Steve Woodmansee, Vice President and Field Trip Coordinator for DCFNPS. He is a botanist and owns Pro Native Consulting, which specializes in plant research, conservation and native plant horticulture. (786-488-3101 if needed).

**Difficulty:** Easy on the boardwalk (most of the trip), moderate if we poke into some cypress swamp or prairie (expect knee-deep water).

**Bring/wear:** Bug protection (just in case), sun protection, water for drinking. Binoculars are handy for viewing wildlife. Bring lunch if you'd like to picnic afterward. **Off-boardwalk (optional):** Sturdy shoes that can get wet. A walking stick may be helpful to some for extra stability.

**Notes:** There are restrooms (johnny houses) and picnic tables. Pets are not allowed on our field trips.

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**DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS**

**Welcome new members!** Anne Boynton-Trigg, Michelle Davis, Josh Ehrlich, Harley Guerra and Sarah Ortiz, Thomas Winston and Gerardo Vildostegui.

Welcome and thank you to our newest **Business and Not-for-Profit member** for financially supporting FNPS and the Dade Chapter at a higher level. **Santos Padron Group LLC, Pond & Gardening.** [pondandgardening.odoo.com/](http://pondandgardening.odoo.com/) (Joan Santos and Eva Padron). *“We are a family business, established in Miami, Florida since 2016. Dedicated to providing the best and most professional water garden maintenance service.”*

**Farewell and many thanks to Leslie Veber.** Leslie's nursery, Veber's Jungle Garden, is now closed as she leaves for her new life in Citrus County. Leslie has been an active DCFNPS member for 30 years, always promoting the chapter and our events to her customers, participating as a vendor at our events, donating plants, and being a kind and generous friend. We will miss her!

**Chapter workdays at Everglades National Park helped make a difference for atala butterflies.**

*“Something exciting is happening in the native pineland plantings around the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center! After an absence of 35 years, the Atala butterfly has returned to Everglades National Park.”* says a Facebook post by the park. *“Now that a breeding population has been confirmed in the park again, the Atala may spread to reclaim more of its native range on its own.”*

**The Dade Chapter has enhanced and maintained this area since 2001.** While some coonties (*Zamia integrifolia*), the atala's host plant, were planted when the visitor center was first rebuilt after Hurricane Andrew in 1992, we added more throughout the landscaped area and continue to scatter seeds as they are produced. Many other plants which provide food and habitat for wildlife have been planted, and many weeds have been pulled. But now we have an excuse (a mandate, even!) to leave more of the weedy Spanish-needles (*Bidens alba*) as nectar sources.

*For information about **Dade Chapter FNPS Everglades workdays** to maintain the landscape around the visitor center, please contact [DadeFNPS@gmail.com](mailto:DadeFNPS@gmail.com). The next workday will be in October (date TBA). It's not difficult, and you never know when you might be helping a rare species. We'd love to have your help and company!*

**Native plant donations for Bill Sadowski Park are still needed.** We are helping the park enhance plantings near the nature center. Only certain plants used by butterflies and by certain insects known to be food for the endangered Florida Bonneted Bat are being requested. Please use the form and species list [here](#) to tell us what species you have to donate. (Just ignore the question about the picnic, which was postponed!) We can use trees and shrubs in 1 to 3 gallon pots, or wildflowers and grasses in 4" to 1-gallon pots. We'll contact you about getting them from you. Questions? - Please contact the chapter at [DadeFNPS@gmail.com](mailto:DadeFNPS@gmail.com). Thank you!

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## ADVOCACY NEWS

New board member Charlie Reverte is now contributing this column to the *Tillandsia*. You can alert him at [charlie@ecece.com](mailto:charlie@ecece.com) about advocacy opportunities consistent with the FNPS mission "**to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.**"

### Endangered Species Threatened by Miami Wilds Development

As you may have heard, endangered species that inhabit Zoo Miami's pine rocklands are under threat. The developers of the Miami Wilds theme park want to build a 27.5 acre water park and hotel on the Zoo Miami property, impacting the largest remaining pine rockland fragment in South Florida outside of Everglades National Park. These endangered species depend on a large and robust pine rockland plant community, which itself is now rare and endangered, to support them. Ron Magill has a [passionate article](#) explaining the impact to wildlife in this environmentally sensitive area and how this development violates the referendum that allowed this development on zoo property.

Renewal of their development lease went up for vote at the Board of County Commissioners on September 6th and the vote was [deferred until September 19th](#) thanks to the help of committed residents like you. We need your help to make sure the development lease is not renewed. You can use [this easy form](#) provided by the Tropical Audubon Society to send a message to all commissioners. Personalizing the message will increase the chance of it being read, or better yet write your own. If at all possible, it's really important to show up at the BCC meeting in person on September 19th to show your support.

111 NW 1st St, Miami, FL 33132, Second floor commission chambers

Downtown parking is expensive so we recommend using public transit if you can. We also recommend that you arrive no later than 8:45 am and bring your ID for check-in. You will have to pass through security screening.

We have already [lost too much](#) of the Richmond Pine Rocklands, including at Zoo Miami, and we need your help now to protect what remains.

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### FALL CALENDAR (events known to date)

(See <https://dade.fnpschapters.org/events/> for Dade and Broward Chapter field trips and meetings):

**Sept. 16:** Broward Chapter field trip - Crystal Lake Sand Pine Scrub in Pompano Beach

**Sept 26:** DCFNPS monthly meeting

**Sept. 24:** DCFNPS field trip – Kirby Storter Roadside Park

**Sept. 30:** Broward Chapter field trip - Fern Forest Nature Center

**Oct. 24:** DCFNPS monthly meeting

**Oct. 28:** DCFNPS field trip - J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area in Palm Beach County. Details TBA

**Nov. 4:** [Family Garden Day: Growing-Native](#) at Pinecrest Gardens. **DCFNPS will participate and need volunteers.** Stay tuned for details.

**Nov. 16:** [Give Miami Day](#). The DCFNPS page is live, fundraising opportunities to be added.

**Nov. 28:** DCFNPS monthly meeting

### Other events (announcements in this newsletter):

**Sept. 16:** International Coastal Clean-Up Day

**Sept. 19:** Dade Native Plant Workshop

**Sept. 19:** Miami-Dade BCC meeting, vote on Miami Wilds.

**Sept. 23:** Miami-Dade Co. Adopt-a-Tree

**Sept. 23:** National Public Lands Day

**Sept. 30:** EEL workday at Florida City Pineland

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### OTHER EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

• **Sept. 16: International Coastal Clean-Up Day.** Spearheaded globally by the Ocean Conservancy. Enjoy a morning helping along our beautiful coastline, or at an inland site to keep trash from washing through waterways or blowing into the ocean. See the **50+ cleanups around the county** at [volunteercleanup.org/miami-coastal-cleanup-day/](http://volunteercleanup.org/miami-coastal-cleanup-day/), including the [EEL workday](#) at the John C. Farina Mangrove Preserve in North Miami Beach, [Tropical Audubon Society ICC 2023 - VolunteerCleanup.Org](http://TropicalAudubonSocietyICC2023-VolunteerCleanup.Org), and many more near where you live and play.

• **Sept. 19: Dade Native Plant Workshop** (<https://nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/>). **5 PM** at the MDC Kendall Campus. Topic

Passifloraceae (Passionflower family). This free public workshop meets every 3rd Tuesday, led by Steve Woodmansee. Novices and experts alike are welcome.

• **Sept. 23: Miami-Dade Co. [Adopt-a-Tree](#)** at the Moss Cultural Center in Cutler Bay. Includes four native shrubs/trees plus two fruit trees. Pre-registration is open.

• **Sept. 23: [National Public Lands Day](#)** “... celebrates the connection between people and green space in their community, inspires environmental stewardship, and encourages use of open space for education, recreation, and health benefits. ... led by the National Environmental Education Foundation, in partnership with the National Park Service and other federal agencies.”

~ **Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks free entrance day.**

~ **Biscayne National Park:** Volunteer event to clean up the Mowry Canal area. See details [here](#). (“Event is full” is probably wrong, go ahead and email to register.)

• **Sept. 30: Environmentally Endangered Lands Volunteer Workday** ([mdc-eel-program-mdc.hub.arcgis.com/](https://mdc-eel-program-mdc.hub.arcgis.com/)). Tree planting at Florida City Pineland. See more sites through April including plantings, urban forest restoration, cleanups, invasive species removal, and three iNaturalist City Nature Challenge/Bioblitz days. Students can earn Community Service Hours. 9 a.m. – Noon. Space is limited.



**Re-wild(life) your yard! The South Florida Wildlife Center** (<https://www.southfloridawildlifecenter.org/>) is seeking property owners in Palm Beach, Broward, or Miami-Dade who can provide a safe and suitable release site for young, rehabilitated animals. The center is dedicated to rehabilitating and releasing wild animals. The most fulfilling part of their work is seeing them return to their natural habitats. However, the rapid development and growing population in South Florida are putting our wildlife at risk. By opening up your property, you will be making a significant impact on the conservation efforts of our region. Email [info@southfloridawildlifecenter.org](mailto:info@southfloridawildlifecenter.org) to see if your native plant habitat might be suitable for becoming a little more wild.

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## Georgia Tasker (1944 – 2023)

Georgia Tasker, a former writer for the Miami Herald and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, died on July 22, 2023. Gardeners and nature lovers who lived in South Florida enjoyed regular doses of information and inspiration from her as the Miami Herald garden writer from 1979 to 2009 and later as a photographer and journalist for Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. She presented in-depth stories about gardening, horticulture, native and exotic plants, nature and environmental issues that were not only informative, but also a pleasure to read.

The Miami Herald obituary (<https://www.miamiherald.com/article277561608.html>) describes the significance of her writing about conservation as well as her travels, which were often related to her concern for the environment. Suzanne Koptur says, “She was such an important contributor to the community with all her articles about not only gardening and plants but conservation, rainforest conservation, and native plants and disappearing habitats. I just thought she was a very positive force ecologically for our community.”

Georgia was also given a boost to community organizations. Her stories brought attention to the Florida Native Plant Society, Tropical Audubon Society, The Institute for Regional Conservation, and others, including those not so “native-oriented” – she loved beautiful plants, especially orchids.

DCFNPS founders Joyce and Don Gann met Georgia when she visited their environmentally-friendly home while writing a story. They became life-long friends, and Georgia became acquainted with FNPS. Her book “Wild Things – The Return of Native Plants”, published by FNPS in 1984, included articles about native plant species previously appearing in the Miami Herald. She received a Green Palmetto Award from FNPS in 1986.

From the opening pages of “Wild Things”:

*Sometimes you can walk in the piney woods and hear a pin drop.*

*It is that way in the heat of things, when bird song is too much effort, even for jays, and flies cannot be bothered to buzz. When there has been no overnight dew, no cooling down and heating up again, only darkness and light and the same wearing hotness.*

*Yet it is in this hot silence you will find, if you look low to the ground, the half-opaque, delicate white pineland morning glory, called Jacquemontia, the butter-yellow pineland allamanda and purple twin flowers, always opening the first one, then the next, nestling in the axils of their small leaves.*

...

*And if you can find them here, operating without much trouble in these extreme conditions, keeping the system humming like the clock that it is, why can't you find them equally at home in your yard?*

*You can.*

*At one time you could not.*

...  
Now we are beginning to think twice. Native Plants – ground covers, shrubs, trees – are making sense once more.  
We are going back to the woods, the seashore, the hammocks, the swamps, the watery plains – where we can find them – and we are looking around. Eyes open, hopes high, thumbs up.  
That's because these plants fit. They hold, as 'twere, a mirror up to nature. They come with the scenery. They are the scenery.  
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and **add those senders to your email contacts.**  
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**Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society - For Miami-Dade and the Florida Keys**  
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**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](mailto: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 communication:** [info@fnps.org](mailto:info@fnps.org), 321-271-6702, <http://www.fnps.org>

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