



Tillandsia

Newsletter of the Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society
*Promoting the preservation, conservation, and restoration
of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.*

OCTOBER 2023

Chapter Calendar: October-November

See <https://dade.fnpschapters.org/events/> for Dade and Broward Chapter activities

Oct. 14: Chapter workday, Everglades National Park (*volunteers needed*)

Oct. 22: Yard visit – Two gardens in Coral Gables

Oct. 24: DCFNPS monthly meeting

Oct. 28: Field trip – J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area (Palm Beach Co.)

Nov. 4: “Family Garden Day: Growing Native”, Pinecrest Gardens – DCFNPS table (*volunteers needed*) and presentation

Nov. 16: Give Miami Day. See the DCFNPS page [here](#).

Nov. 28: DCFNPS monthly meeting

CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 7:30 PM

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

Free and open to all

“Abandoned Vehicles of the Everglades” - Matt Stock, Photographer

This is a journey of photography deep into the heart of the Everglades. This body of work represents more than just decomposing automobiles; it personifies the relationship between civilization and this expansive and untamable wilderness. Through countless hours of research, of slogging through the slough, and of photographing day and night, these images tell the story of humanity’s interaction with one of the most important wetland ecosystems in North America. In so doing, “Abandoned Vehicles of the Everglades” helps to tell the story of how seemingly disparate and irreconcilable elements come together: fire and water, progress and preservation; growth and decay; sustenance and development all find equilibrium in the Everglades. I hope that the photographs accompanied by narration of my experiences in pursuit of these vehicles will give you a sense of what it was like for myself, and our team on location deep in the shadowy and furtive Everglades, re-discovering vehicles lost to history. The stories of the vehicles themselves are rooted in oral histories, local knowledge, folklore, and personal experiences of exploration.

Bio: Passionate about preservation, Matt works cooperatively with state and national parks as well as non-profit organizations to raise awareness about ecological conservation with his artworks. Stock’s knowledge of his craft and innovative methods have led to many honors and awards. In 2019 he was one of 30 artists and arts organizations awarded a Knight Arts Challenge Grant for his *Abandoned Vehicles of the Everglades* project. Stock teaches photography at Ransom Everglades School. In 2023 he graduated *summa cum laude* with his MFA in photography from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD).

Read about Matt’s many honors in the full bio on the chapter [calendar](#).

Photo: Matt Stock in the Everglades, 2021



- **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. Chat will be enabled.
- **Past presentations:** Use the **YouTube** link above or from [DadeFNPS.org](https://www.dadefnps.org). **Click Videos** or **Live** for available recordings.
 - **Questions?** Email Dadefnps@gmail.com, text 305-985-3677

November 28 program: “The Germination Experiment: Uncovering the Secrets of *Tetrazygia bicolor* Through Statistical Analysis”, presented by five students in grades 11 and 12 at Jose Marti MAST 6-12 Academy (a public magnet school of MDCPS) studying with Andy Kearns, mathematics department chair (and FNPS member).

Our apologies! Due to unforeseen circumstances, we were unable to provide live streaming and recording of the September meeting.

FIELD TRIP
J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area (Palm Beach Co.)
Saturday, October 28, 2023

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

Fall is in full force. J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area is over 60,000 acres and managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Wildlife Management areas were created for hunters and fishermen, but they are managed for native plants and other wildlife. **We will walk in the area of the Hungryland Boardwalk, though the boardwalk is closed for renovation.** Cypress swamp, pine flatwoods, hammocks, and marshes will be visited. The time of the field trip is between hunting seasons, so it should be less crowded. Fall wildflowers should be blooming including Catesby's lily, Florida Celestial lily, blazing stars, deer tongues, goldenrods, and asters. This area is also known for its wildlife, so we could see sandhill cranes, snakes, and both migratory and residential birds. You may wish to camp overnight (on your own).

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.)

Entrance fee: \$3/person, \$6/car (BRING CASH OR CHECK, no credit cards or other forms of payment)

Difficulty: Moderate to difficult, along trails for the most part (probably mostly wet), but we may also poke into wild areas, and it will be a long day. Be prepared for knee deep water, where a walking stick will be helpful for extra stability.

Bring/wear: Sturdy shoes and clothes that can get wet or muddy, bug protection (just in case), sun protection, walking stick, water for drinking, lunch. Binoculars are handy for viewing wildlife. You might want a towel and change of clothes and shoes for afterwards.

Notes: Restrooms are available. Please do not bring pets.

Brochure: <https://myfwc.com/media/26177/corbett-recguide.pdf>

A VISIT TO TWO YARDS IN CORAL GABLES

Sunday, October 22, 2023, 9:30-11:30AM

On this yard visit, we will see the gardens of two DCFNPS members. Both homeowners transformed their yards into beautiful examples of what can be done with mostly native plants. They did it by themselves, without the help of a landscape designer. Both gardens are well established and you will see many different plant species. One features over 150 different species, many native, plus some fruit trees. We'll also see plenty of butterflies and birds. Both homeowners look forward to welcoming members to their gardens. Refreshments will be offered and staying longer after the tour is encouraged.

- **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 nonmember family member or friend); (3) phone number (optional). Please use "Yard visit" in the subject line.
- **Other details:** A few days before the event, you will receive a response 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. **No pets, please.** For questions, please contact Daniela.
- **How to join or rejoin DCFNPS:** <https://www.fnps.org/home> or call FNPS at 321-271-6702.



Pinecrest Gardens Family Garden Day: Growing Native

Saturday, November 4, 2023, 9 AM – 2 PM

** Volunteer for DCFNPS table - or just attend to learn and enjoy **

DCFNPS will have a table with information about native plants and FNPS. If you might be able to help or have items to display, please respond via the form [here](#). You do not need to be a native plant expert, just to have a willingness to learn and interact with others who are interested. We will have literature to share and display items. (Do you have any nice plants, butterfly larvae or other items to use?)

9 AM -10 AM: Sensory Hour, for neurodivergent and cognitively sensitive families.

10 AM – 2 PM: Garden activities, demos, talks, garden art, tours, exhibits, children's activities, plant sales and more. Chapter board member Joey Basna will present on "Landscaping with Native Plants" (an add-on activity, time TBA). See [here](#) for more info and to purchase advance tickets for entrance and add-ons.

Welcome new members: Ana Gonzalez, Viviana Planas, Saralee Silverglade

October 14: Chapter workday at Everglades National Park. 9 AM – noon (and 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. **We'd love to have you (and friends/family) join us even if you only come occasionally, or come late.** Afterwards you can go into the park free if you request in advance. Watch the partial solar eclipse starting at 11:57 a.m. (Where are those viewing glasses from 2017?)

Ongoing: Native plant donations for Bill Sadowski Park to enhance butterfly/bat planting areas near the nature center. Only specific species are needed, so please see the species list and fill out the form [here](#). (Ignore reference to the picnic.) Trees/shrubs 1 to 3-gallon; wildflowers/grasses 4" to 1-gallon. We'll contact you about getting them. Questions: DadeFNPS@gmail.com. Thank you!

The FNPS *Palmetto* magazine Vol 39, No. 3 was sent by postal mail and/or email in late September. If you did not receive it, please contact FNPS. Don't miss the interesting article "**Got Milkweeds? Optimizing Cultivation and Increasing the Availability of Locally Rare *Asclepias* Species**" by Lydia Cuni, Sabine Wintergerst, Samantha Walsdorf, and Jennifer Possley of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and also DCFNPS members. (The rest of the issue is very nice, too!)

If you would like to have the *Palmetto* emailed to you instead of receiving a print copy, please email communications@fnps.org.

Give Miami Day, November 16 (and Early Giving on November 13-15). Please consider making a Fundraising page and invite friends and family to donate to support all the activities of the chapter, including Native Plant Day and our annual contribution to FNPS Conservation Awards in memory of our founders, Don and Joyce Gann. See our page at <https://www.givemiamiday.org/organization/DCFNPS>.

Native Plant Day, March 16, 2024, at A.D Barnes Park. It's not too early to add our chapter's annual public event to your calendar! Save the date to volunteer or attend.

ADVOCACY UPDATE

The chapter supports advocacy consistent with the FNPS mission "**to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.**" Contact board member Charlie Reverte at charlie@ecece.com concerning issues to consider and for questions.

Miami Wilds theme park. Keep up the pressure to protect endangered species and imperiled Pine Rocklands habitat from this development! As you probably know, the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners vote on **Miami Wilds** is deferred to December 12. CALL or WRITE to the BCC by December 11 and urge them to explore other locations for the Miami Wilds development that are NOT environmentally sensitive. ATTEND the commission meeting on December 12 and voice or show your opposition. **Tropical Audubon Society provides updated info and an easy way to send your message [here](#).** You can subscribe to TAS field trip, conservation and event updates at <https://tropicalaudubon.org/>.

FNPS AWARDS

Congratulations to 2023 FNPS Landscape Awards recipients in Miami-Dade.

Camp Matecumbe Playground, Miami-Dade County
Residential Multi-Family and Non-Residential Category
Native Garden of Excellence



- **Native Garden of Excellence:** [Camp Matecumbe Playground](#) is in Camp Matecumbe Park at 13841 SW 120th Street, adjacent to a 76-acre EEL pine rockland preserve. The park housed young Cuban refugees who escaped the Castro regime in the 1960's. The design by **LandscapeDE** (a Dade Chapter business member) and the weaving together of the historic, the natural, and the physical activity elements impressed the judges. This park is under the Department of Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces.
- **Native Garden of Merit:** [The Dority residence](#) designed by **Studio Cuesta**.

Looking ahead: 2024 FNPS science awards guidelines and applications have been posted at www.fnps.org (click on 'What We Do/Awards and Grants'). This includes the Endowment Grant Research Awards, Conservation Grant Awards, the Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany, and Cornelia McNamara Grant. Send questions to info@fnps.org. **The application deadline is March 1, 2024.** **Conservation Grant applications** must first be selected by a chapter (each chapter can sponsor one). Please spread the word to local organizations and individuals engaging in native plant conservation activities. Additional qualified applicants are needed!

OTHER EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Oct. 17: Dade Native Plant Workshop at 5 p.m.** This will be a walk on a former pine rockland site next to the Westchester Library

(on Coral Way near SW 94 Ave.) led by Joe Montes de Oca (no indoor workshop).

<https://nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/profiles/blogs/17-october-2023-dade-native-plant-workshop-field-trip>

• **Oct. 17: Florida Keys Native Plant Workshop (virtual meeting), 5:30 p.m.** For info, email FKNPW@outlook.com. Duane and Susan Kolterman present (topic TBD).

• **Oct. 14: Environmentally Endangered Lands Volunteer Workday**, Nixon Smiley Pineland Preserve. **Also Nov. 3** - Coastal Habitat and cleanup, **Nov. 11** - Science and Peace Day at Hattie Bauer Hammock Preserve. The EEL program includes numerous interesting opportunities to learn as well as to serve. See (<https://mdc-eel-program-mdc.hub.arcgis.com/>)

• **Nov 11: Free entrance day in National Parks** (Veterans Day)

THERE'S A NEW SPURGE IN TOWN

By Roger L. Hammer

The genus *Euphorbia* is a member of the Spurge Family (Euphorbiaceae), named to honor Euphorbus, a first-century Trojan War hero and Greek physician who prescribed a *Euphorbia* species medicinally as a powerful laxative. The most famous plant in this family is the popular Christmas poinsettia.

In Florida, there are 41 native species in the genus *Euphorbia* and 9 non-native, naturalized species. Some are lawn and roadside weeds but one species is a state- and federal-listed endangered species, while two others are each state-listed endangered and federal-listed threatened species.



In May 1978, botanists David and Sally Black collected a *Euphorbia* in the Big Cypress National Preserve but mistook it for *Euphorbia porteri* var. *scoparia* (previously known as *Chamaesyce scoparia*), which has since been renamed *Euphorbia ogdenii*, endemic to the lower Florida Keys. Then, in 2020, botanists Keith Bradley and Jimi Sadle discovered the same plant in Everglades National Park, realized it was an undescribed species, and began the formal process of officially naming it. My friend, Dr. Alan Franck with the University of Florida, explained that *Chamaesyce scoparia* had been assigned to both *Euphorbia hammeri* and *Euphorbia ogdenii*, until it was finally determined that they were two distinct, endemic species—one from the Everglades region and the other from the lower Florida Keys.

Hammer's sandmat - *Euphorbia hammeri*

In May 2021 I received a phone call from Bradley asking if I would photograph the plant for the article that was to be published, so I met up with Jimi Sadle at the Daniel Beard Research Center in Everglades National Park, where he worked as a park biologist. The two of us hiked about a half mile to a rocky glade there on Long Pine Key that was surrounded on both sides by pine rockland habitat. After a brief search, Jimi pointed out plants of it in flower for me to photograph.

It wasn't until later, after it was officially published in the Journal of the Botanical Institute of Texas (Studies in the vascular flora of the southeastern United States, VII) as a new species, that I learned they had honored me with the name *Euphorbia hammeri*. The bright red flowers are only about 1/8" wide with oblong leaves to about 3/8" long and 3/16" wide. To date it is only known from rocky prairies on Long Pine Key in Everglades National Park (Miami-Dade County) and in the southern portion of the Big Cypress National Preserve (mainland Monroe County). I have since submitted the official document necessary to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to have it officially listed as an endangered species, and used the common name Everglades spurge.

I'm still waiting on fame and fortune!

Roger Hammer is a professional naturalist and was the manager of Castellow Hammock Nature Center for Miami-Dade County Parks for 30 years. He received the first Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award presented by the Dade Chapter FNPS in 1982, and numerous other awards from FNPS and other organizations. He is the author of countless articles, and also numerous books on Florida nature (www.rogerlhammer.com/index.html). Roger is a longtime member of FNPS.

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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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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

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***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, 321-271-6702, <http://www.fnps.org>

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

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