



## *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.*

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2023

### Chapter Calendar: November - December

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

**Nov. 16:** Give Miami Day, Early Giving Nov. 13-15. See the DCFNPS page [here](#).

**Nov. 28:** DCFNPS monthly meeting

**Dec. 9:** Field trip – Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park (reservation required, space limited)

**Dec. 16:** Chapter workday, Everglades National Park (*volunteers needed*)

(No meeting in December)

### CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, November 28, 2023, 7:30 PM

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

Free and open to all

**"The Germination Experiment: Uncovering the Secrets of *Tetrazygia bicolor* Through Statistical Analysis"**  
Presented by five AP Statistics students at Jose Marti MAST 6-12 Academy in Hialeah  
(a magnet school of Miami-Dade County Public Schools)

AP Statistics students at Jose Marti MAST 6-12 Academy make the course come to life – literally – by designing and implementing experiments with native plants. Through a collaboration with Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, teacher Andy Kearns and the Fairchild conservation team choose a topic each year that addresses a particular need or knowledge gap involving native plants. For the 2022-2023 school year, propagation of *Tetrazygia bicolor* (*Miconia bicolor*), West Indian Lilac, was chosen as a topic for experimental design as conservation horticulturalists at Fairchild previously experienced some difficulty in producing plants from seed.

West Indian Lilac is a shrub or small tree with beautiful leave and flowers found in the margins of rockland hammocks and pine rocklands in Miami-Dade County and the West Indies and is listed as threatened by the state of Florida. (Photo: Andy Kearns)



Students designed experiments to compare germination rates of seeds in different substrates and to also compare germination of seeds that sink with seeds that float. Results of the experiments and lessons learned from the experience will be presented by five successful AP Statistics students who implemented their experiments and analyzed their results within the context of the course. (Don't worry, the science will be presented in a way to be accessible to those with a less-scientific bent.)



The presenters are **Celine Hutchins** (grade 12), **Nestor Suarez** (grade 12), **Nicholas Baez** (grade 11), **Alejandro Ganaza** (grade 11), and **Chris Miranda Jr.** (grade 11).

Their teacher, **Andy Kearns**, is the Mathematics Department Chair, Botany & Research Instructor, Green Club / Fairchild Challenge Sponsor, and Professional Development Liaison at José Martí MAST. He is a long-time member of DCFNPS.



- **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-OsAX2KsRYO6X5A](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmassuC5-OsAX2KsRYO6X5A) You will see only the computer-based portions of the meeting. Chat will be enabled.
- **Past presentations, including October's "Abandoned Vehicles of the Everglades" with Matt Stock:** Use the YouTube link above or from [DadeFNPS.org](http://DadeFNPS.org). Click Videos or Live for available recordings.
- **Questions?** Email [DadeFNPS@gmail.com](mailto:DadeFNPS@gmail.com), text 305-985-3677

**January 23, 2024, program:** Roger Hammer will be back with his new book, "Foraging Florida: Finding, Identifying, and Preparing Edible and Medicinal Wild Foods in Florida"

## GIVE MIAMI DAY – NOVEMBER 16, 2023

Early Giving starts Monday the 13<sup>th</sup>

<https://www.givemiamiday.org/organization/DCFNPS>



DCFNPS is grateful to everyone who has supported our mission "to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of South Florida" this year. You contributed through renewing your membership, making special donations of funds and plants to help support our activities, and by volunteering and participating in activities. Everyone has another chance to help out this year during Give Miami Day!

Through GMD we have extra funds to provide activities like our monthly meetings and our annual Native Plant Day community outreach event (*Save The Date! March 16, 2024 at A.D. Barnes Park*), to enhance our educational materials, and to fund worthy projects that align with our mission.

**GMD is an extra special fundraiser because we qualify for The Miami Foundation's Bonus Pool percentage match based on our total donations raised, so every donation goes even farther.** It's easy, safe and quick to donate online (though you'll probably get sidetracked looking at all the other wonderful organizations you'll want to support!). We look forward to partnering with you to make 2024 an even better year for native plants and native plant communities.

*Thank you!*

## FIELD TRIP: Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park

Saturday, December 9, 2023

*Field trips are for the study of plants and enjoyment of nature by FNPS members and guests. Collecting is not permitted.*

**Saturday, December 9, 2023: Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve.** This very special place is known for its cypress trees and wealth of bromeliads, orchids (probably none in bloom now) and ferns. We will wade in cool water possibly over 2 feet deep, and will go very slowly so no one falls; it may take 4-6 hours (water levels currently seem lower than average). We will walk between two trams for a distance of 1600 feet and along the trams. It shouldn't be arduous. Lunch/snack in the slough, it should be a lovely wet picnic! (Note: the boardwalk at the southern end of the strand 7 miles west of SR 29 on Tamiami Trail is closed.)

<https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/fakahatchee-strand-preserve-state-park>

**Leader:** Russell Clusman, an orchid enthusiast with extensive experience in the Fakahatchee, and DCFNPS member.

**Registration:** Open to current Dade Chapter FNPS members. Registration is limited to 20 participants. Email Steve Woodmansee at [steve@pronative.com](mailto:steve@pronative.com) to register. **Deadline for registration is December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

**Bring/wear:** \$3 cash entrance fee per car. **Long pants (not shorts) and long sleeves; sturdy, closed shoes** (e.g., athletic shoes, don't even think about open toe!) that can get soaked, snake gaiters aren't a bad idea if you have any. **A walking stick (mop handle works) is strongly recommended** to help you negotiate underwater obstacles and climb over logs. Carry water to drink and lunch (we'll eat in the slough). Mosquitoes should not be out, but you may want to bring repellent. Pack anything valuable in plastic bags -- just in case. Dry pants and shoes for the ride home may feel good.

\*\*\* *Although we have never had any major incidents on our field trips, this being a wild place, there are critters such as wasps, leeches, bears, panthers, alligators, and venomous snakes, plus unseen sticks, logs and holes under water. Our advice for what to wear/carry is for your safety and thus the enjoyment of the group.* \*\*\*

**Difficulty:** Moderately difficult, **not suitable for young children.** Wading, climbing over logs, etc.

**Don't be late!** But if you are, try to call Patty's cell 305-878-5705 (if there is coverage). If you miss us at the office, proceed down the road past the office to where you see a large group of cars. If we have already departed, you are probably out of luck. Do not head into the water by yourself.

## DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

**Welcome new members:** Everglades Nursery (Business member), Lori Prepszent (full time student member), Oliver Walker and Aimee Cuadra, and Marcie Ziv.

Thanks to new Business member Everglades Nursery for their extra support. They are a wholesale nursery and brokerage in Homestead. <https://www.plantant.com/nursery-availability/1010497/everglades-nursery-brokers-inc>. “We provide wholesale plants, trees, and nursery supplies to retail garden centers, landscapers and landscape architects, home builders, commercial and residential builders, developers, hotels and resorts, and plant brokers.”

**December 16: 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](mailto: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 fee-free if you request a pass in advance. (**Note:** The workday could be postponed if there is a government shutdown.)

**Thank you to Lydia Cuni,** DCFNPS Secretary and Communications Manager, for preparing the Mail Chimp version of this newsletter every month and giving the *Tillandsia* an updated look. You can still save or print a printable pdf file, but it’s not as nice-looking. The pdf file might not always be uploaded before the email is sent.

### Looking ahead:

**2024 FNPS science awards guidelines and applications.** See [www.fnps.org](http://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 the Cornelia McNamara Grant. **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, schools and individuals engaging in native plant conservation activities. Qualified applicants are needed! Contact [DadeFNPS@gmail.com](mailto:DadeFNPS@gmail.com) for information on applying for chapter sponsorship. You must still fill the application form from FNPS.

**Native Plant Day, March 16, 2024, at A.D Barnes Park - our chapter’s annual public event:** It’s not too early to:

- Save the date to attend and volunteer.
- Start spreading the word to friends and organizations.
- **Propagate plants and pot up volunteers from your garden to donate for the raffle and chapter plant sale,** so they will be beautiful four months from now.

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## TREASURER’S REPORT

### Dade Chapter FNPS - Year Ending June 30, 2023

This year our main source of income was from donations. On Give Miami Day 2022, members and friends generously contributed \$4363, while the Miami Foundation and an anonymous donor contributed even more, with a final total of \$6495. Additionally, plant donations earned \$1768 in chapter plant sales and raffle ticket donations at meetings and Native Plant Day. **Thank you to all who donated so many wonderful plants! These donations support the chapter as well as native plant gardens.** Our other main source of income continues to be membership dues. Dues paid to FNPS and donations paid directly to DCFNPS are 100% tax deductible (if you itemize). Thank you to Business and Not-For-Profit and Life members for their added support. The chapter again donated \$1500 to FNPS for Conservation Grants honoring chapter founders, the late Don and Joyce Gann. Educational activities (meetings and Native Plant Day) are the other main expenses. The balance of the bequest from the estate of longtime member Dr. Robert Kelley received in 2008 remains in reserve for special expenses rather than ongoing needs and are not listed with our regular income.  
*Susan Walcutt*, Treasurer DCFNPS, [walcutts@bellsouth.net](mailto:walcutts@bellsouth.net)

### DCFNPS Profit & Loss July 2022-June 2023

#### Income

Donations	7,644
Monthly Meetings	820
Native Plant Day	2,611
Membership Dues	3,713
Miscellaneous	121

**Total Income** **14,909**

#### Expense

Administration	1165
Conservation	1500
Education	4531

Merchandise for sale	421
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>7617</u>
<b>NET PROFIT (LOSS)</b>	<u>7292</u>

## 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](mailto: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/>.

## OTHER EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Nov. 14: Florida Keys Native Plant Workshop (virtual meeting), 5:30 p.m.** For info, email [FKNPW@outlook.com](mailto:FKNPW@outlook.com). Susan and Duane Kolterman will present Part Two of the plant Order - Fabales. **(NOT the third Tuesday this month)**

**Nov. 21: Dade Native Plant Workshop at 5 p.m.,** see <https://nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/> for details. **Topic:** Magnoliids and primitive angiosperms. Old hands and new learners are encouraged to come. We're back at Miami-Dade College.

**UF/IFAS Extension Miami-Dade County. On YouTube: "Butterflies in Your Backyard Miami."** This recorded webinar series introduces you to the specific butterflies you could expect to find according to the types of habitats in your area. Learn how to discern similar species from one another, and the native plants to plant to attract these species to the home landscape. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fd5YXTRnwm0>. See most of the other upcoming programs, activities and webinars from UF/IFAS Extension at <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/events/?location=miamidadade>.

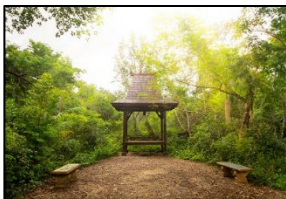
### **New Retail Native Nursery: Florida Butterfly Botanicals**

Hello Miami-Dade! There's a new nursery in town, and we want to take this much appreciated opportunity to introduce ourselves to you. Florida Butterfly Botanicals (<https://floridabutterflybotanicals.com/>) is a 100% pesticide-free nursery located in Redland, south of Miami. We grow Florida native plants in-house with a focus on those that attract and benefit pollinators and wildlife - and ones we think are just plain cool! We opened our doors on October 1st to celebrate Florida Native Plant Month, and continue to be open Saturdays and Sundays for in-person shopping. We have plans of expanding to include an online shop (with pickup, delivery, and shipping options) shortly, as well as begin hosting some fun and informative events with guest speakers.

As a new native plant nursery in South Florida, we are excited for the opportunity to learn from and get to know more native plant enthusiasts in the area and help make native plants more accessible and abundant in our community.



### **Paid advertisement**



### **POSITION AVAILABLE: Patch of Heaven Sanctuary Gardens Director**

This position is responsible for the development, operation and maintenance of a 20 acre property located in the Redland area of Miami-Dade. The property encompasses tropical hammock forest, large scale gardens, multiple water features, historic buildings, green house, butterfly atrium and welcome center, all of which are open to the public. This is a "hands-on" position for a talented person with a great degree of experience in exercising control over horticulture, supervision, and management of gardens.

Please contact [centags@bellsouth.net](mailto:centags@bellsouth.net) for a more detailed description of duties and knowledge/skills desired.

This is a salaried position starting at \$60,000 or more depending upon knowledge, abilities, experience and skills. We encourage anyone interested in this position to visit Patch of Heaven Sanctuary (<https://www.patchofheavensanctuary.org/>) at **21900 SW 157 Ave, 33170** before applying. The property is open Wednesday through Sunday from 8AM to 5PM. The visit will help you understand both the scale and scope of this position. After visiting please apply via email to [centags@bellsouth.net](mailto:centags@bellsouth.net).

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## RECENT ACTIVITIES

Visiting gardens in Coral Gables, October 22



Photo by Daniela Champney

Field trip to J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area, October 28



Photo by Mary Rose

**Help ensure that you're in the loop!**  
Move [DadeFNPS@gmail.com](mailto:DadeFNPS@gmail.com) and [@FNPS.org](https://www.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](mailto:DadeFNPS@gmail.com), 305-985-3677, [www.DadeFNPS.org/](http://www.DadeFNPS.org/)  
Mail: Dade Chapter FNPS, 6619 S. Dixie Hwy, #181, Miami FL 33143-7919

**Board members and team members:**

**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    **Mail Chimp communications:** Lydia Cuni    **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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FNPS *Palmetto* magazines: See [here](#) (not all available)

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