



Tillandsia
Newsletter of the Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society
For Miami-Dade County and the Florida Keys
*Promoting the preservation, conservation, and restoration
of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.*

FEBRUARY 2024

Chapter Calendar

- See <https://dade.fnpschapters.org/events/> for Dade and Broward Chapter activities
- Feb. 17:** DCFNPS field trip. Deer Hammock, ENP. Space limited, registration required
- Feb. 27:** DCFNPS meeting. “Wild Florida: *An Animal Odyssey*” - Kirsten Hines
- Mar. 1:** Deadline to apply for FNPS science and conservation grants and awards
- Mar. 16:** 26th Annual NATIVE PLANT DAY presented by DCFNPS
- Mar. 26:** DCFNPS meeting. “Native Plant Gardening for Moths” – David Fine

CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 7:30 PM
Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57 Ave. (Red Road), Miami
Free and open to all

“Wild Florida: *An Animal Odyssey*”

Photographer and writer **Kirsten Hines** shares photographs, insights and personal stories of discovery from her newest book.

In **Wild Florida: *An Animal Odyssey*** (University Press of Florida; November 14, 2023), Kirsten Hines shares her ongoing passion for Florida’s incredible array of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects, both native and introduced. Weaving over 200 striking, intimate photos with her personal stories of discovery and fascinating natural history insights, Hines covers over 100 Florida animals, many found nowhere else in the world, as well as ecological concepts such as the “why” behind Florida’s animal diversity - its climate gradient from temperate north to Caribbean-like south, its habitats from Appalachian ravines, to ancient sand hills to the Everglades, and its blending of animals from the tropics with those from North America. Florida and its animals are like no other. And, as Hines makes clear, that very uniqueness makes Florida’s wildlife amazing, and vulnerable.



Kirsten Hines aims to inspire nature appreciation and conservation action through wildlife photography and writing. Florida-based and globally traveled, she lectures, leads photography workshops, and guides wildlife experiences, sharing insights from her years as a biologist and environmental educator. Her writing and photography have appeared in numerous publications and exhibitions. Her previous books on Florida’s nature and history include three on South Florida’s national parks and the award-winning gardening reference, *Attracting Birds to South Florida Gardens*.

- **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
You will see only the computer-based portions of the meeting. Chat will be enabled.
 - **Past presentations**, including January’s “Foraging Florida: Finding, Identifying, and Preparing Edible and Medicinal Wild Foods in Florida” by Roger Hammer.
- Use the **YouTube** link above or from DadeFNPS.org. Click **Videos** or **Live** for available recordings.
- **Questions?** Email DadeFNPS@gmail.com, text 305-985-3677

March 26, 2024, program: “Native Plant Gardening for Moths” - David Fine, founder and operator of the Keys Moths [website](#) and YouTube channel.

FIELD TRIP
Deer Hammock, Everglades National Park
Saturday February 17th, 2024

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

*** **Limited to 15 people for logistics reasons, registration required** ***

To register: Email Steve Woodmansee (stevewoodmansee@bellsouth.net) by February 15th. Please indicate your FNPS chapter affiliation (Dade or Broward). You must be a current member. *Steve will respond with more trip description, details of the logistics and what you should bring and wear.*

Deer Hammock, a tropical hardwood hammock found amongst the pine rocklands on Long Pine Key in Everglades National Park. The Hammock and its vicinity boast several woody species that are extremely uncommon on the mainland, including joewood (*Jacquinia keyensis*), white ironwood (*Hypelate trifoliata*), Cuban nakedwood (*Colubrina cubensis*), crabwood (*Gymnanthes lucida*), and Mexican alvaradoa (*Alvaradora amorphoides*). **Poisonwood** (*Metopium toxiferum*) is also present and relatively abundant. We might encounter a variety of epiphytic orchid species as well as the terrestrial Florida dancinglady (*Oncidium ensatum*). In canopy openings, we may also find wild basil (*Ocimum campechianum*). The Hammock has no trails and is relatively low and dense with a large number of saplings.

Logistics: We will meet at the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center at 8:30 and travel by car into the park to the Daniel Beard Center. From there, trucks will be provided to travel to the hammock. If you do not have a park pass, you can ride into the park with someone who does (or pay/share the \$35 entrance fee).

Difficulty: Moderate-hard. We will be off-trail for the vast majority, though it's really only 2.5-3 hours hiking. The substrate will be rocky and jagged at times. Solution holes can be dangerous when obscured by dense leaf litter. Vegetation can be dense, thorny, irritating, etc., though we will do our best to avoid the worst of it. Once we leave the buildings, there will be no restrooms.

Leader: Jimmy Lange is an exceptional botanist and consultant with over a decade of experience in South Florida ecosystems. He is a Senior Scientist with Smart-Sciences, Inc., and a Research Associate of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and the Institute for Regional Conservation. He also serves on the Florida Invasive Species Council (FISC) Plant List Committee and chairs the ECISMA EDRR Plant List Committee. He is passionate about plants, particularly their conservation, and thoroughly enjoys the rigors of plant identification, particularly in troublesome groups like the graminoids.



26th ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT DAY
Saturday, March 16, 2024, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



A. D. (Doug) Barnes Park (3401 SW 72nd Ave.)

Sponsored by the Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society & Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces

*We can't do it without lots of help from our members and friends, so please read on!
More details on volunteering and the event will be coming soon.*

This is a full day of programs, nature walks, educational tables by organizations and agencies, plant and merchandise sales, raffles, activities for all ages, plenty of networking and socializing, and just enjoying nature in the park.

• **Save time to volunteer at the event or for setup on Friday.**

• **Plan to donate native plants and other items** for sales, raffles, children's activities, prizes, or just to give away.

Native plants: Pot up volunteers or prepare plants in 4" to 3-gallon pots. **Please prep your plants now so they are well-established.** Wildflowers and other small species and shrubs are especially desirable. If you need pots or have questions, please contact us. **We can arrange to pick up if you can't deliver.**

Set aside other raffle items related to native plants, nature, gardening (books, useful or decorative items)

Save seeds of SE Florida native species you think would be of interest to others. We can divide seeds up into small packets to give away. *(Let us know what you have at DadeFNPS@gmail.com and/or bring them to the February meeting.)*

• **Donate past copies of the Palmetto magazine to offer to visitors.** Bring on the day, or to the February meeting or field trip.

• **Spread the word** to friends, family, colleagues. General information is on our events calendar <https://dade.fnpschapters.org/events/>, more to follow on the main DCFNPS [website](#).

• **Suggest presenters, organizations to set up display tables, youth groups to volunteer, a food vendor** (not food trucks).

• **Questions or input?** Contact us at DadeFNPS@gmail.com or 305-985-3677, or Brian Diaz at briandiaz1210@gmail.com

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

Welcome new (or long-lost) members! Regina Bermudez, Ved Chirayath, Erick Cruz, Anna Harvey, Manny and Yuly Pomares, Deena Weiss, Janel Wright

FNPS 2024 science/conservation awards/grants: See www.fnps.org ('What We Do/Awards and Grants') for 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. Contact DadeFNPS@gmail.com ASAP about applying for chapter sponsorship. You must still fill the application form from FNPS.

THANK YOU

These Business and Non-Profit members and other businesses support FNPS and DCFNPS at a higher level. Their interest in native plants and extra financial support are much appreciated and helpful to the mission of FNPS and the chapter. They also promote FNPS and may contribute in other ways through event participation, presentations, articles, field trips, donations and more. Thank you from all of us!

Curtis & Rogers Design Studio, Inc. www.curtisrogers.com/

Everglades Nursery www.plantant.com/nursery-availability/1010497/everglades-nursery-brokers-inc

The Institute for Regional Conservation www.regionalconservation.org/

Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Gardens www.keywest.garden/

LandscapeDE www.landscapede.com/

Miami Beach Botanical Garden mbgarden.org/

NaMa Native Landscapes www.namaprojects.com/

Native Tree Nursery www.nativetreenursery.com/

Santos Padron Group, Pond & Gardening pondandgardening.odoo.com/

Smarty Plants Nursery smartyplantsnursery.com/

Susan Casey (Casey's Corner Nursery) www.plantrealflorida.org/professionals/detail/16

Green Explorers Academy greenexplorersacademy.com/

OTHER EVENTS, NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dade Native Plant Workshop, Feb 20, 5 p.m., see <https://nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/> for details. **Topic:** Pine Rockland wildflowers. Old hands and new learners are encouraged to come.

Florida Keys Native Plant Workshop (virtual meeting), Feb. 20, 5:30 p.m. For info, email FKNPW@outlook.com. The FKNPW is looking for volunteer presenters for 2024. If you would like to present on plants native to the Florida Keys, please email Jim at james.duquesnel@fiu.edu or call Jim at 305-304-4445 with any ideas. Presenting is a great way to learn!

Miami-Dade Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) program hosts workdays (with fun/educational components). **Feb. 20:** World Day of Social Justice, County Line Scrub Preserve. **Mar. 3:** World Wildlife Day, Calderon Pineland Preserve. See www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands-volunteer.asp.

Tropical Audubon Society's Bird Day, Feb. 17, 12:00-4:00 p.m. Youth and their parents are invited to attend a free afternoon of games, prizes, exploration and educational activities on the near-native Steinberg Nature Center grounds. Details [here](#).

Castellow Hammock Preserve & Nature Center Open House. Feb. 18, 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. 22301 SW 162nd Ave. Hosted by the Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Dept. Visit tables for various providers of resources for your garden, and walk the grounds and see butterflies, birds and hummingbirds. Notably, wintering Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and a rare Rufous Hummingbird are buzzing around the butterfly garden.

John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park: Delicate Balance of Nature lecture series on Wednesday evenings in February and March. See <https://www.floridastateparks.org/events/delicate-balance-nature-lecture-series-4>

Miami Beach Botanical Garden will have a new "native pollinator pathway" - volunteers are needed.

The MBBG was awarded a grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust to establish a native pollinator pathway. **This project will also serve to demonstrate how native plants can be used to create beautiful landscapes in South Florida yards.** Garden volunteers will have an opportunity to help staff prepare garden beds, plant an array of species, and maintain the pathway throughout the year. **If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for this project,** please contact riki@mbgarden.org.

Village of Pinecrest's free composting program. Food waste, food-soiled papers, and plant debris can be dropped off every day into bins between the Community Center and Pinecrest Gardens near the cottage. **Be sure to read details of exactly what can and cannot be brought** and why you should compost on the Village website [here](#). By combining composting efforts with enjoyable community activities like the Sunday farmers market, Pinecrest is fostering a culture of sustainability and environmental consciousness among its residents. Miami-Dade County is funding this pilot program.

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
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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

***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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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](#)