



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

MARCH 2017

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, March 28, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

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

Free and open to the public

Refreshments begin at 7:15 pm., merchandise sales before and after the program. The plant raffle follows the program.

Contributions of **raffle items** and **refreshments** are always greatly appreciated. **Please label your raffle plant donations!**

"Medium and Long Term In-Vitro Conservation of South Florida Endangered Orchids"

- David Riera and Dr. Amir Khoddamzadeh,
Florida International University

Cyrtopodium punctatum (Cigar orchid, Cowhorn orchid) is an epiphytic orchid species restricted and endemic to south Florida's tropical hardwood hammocks and cypress swamps. It grows on cabbage palm, buttonwood trees and cypress stumps. Its population in south Florida has been decimated due to habitat fragmentation and overharvesting, making it a state-listed endangered species and considered critically imperiled by The Institute for Regional Conservation and Florida's Natural Areas Inventory. This orchid's sexual reproductive potential is extremely depressed, placing natural populations at risk. Presently, botanical gardens or private collections house the species as a conservation method. Our speakers have developed an artificial seed production protocol which can provide protection for short/medium-term as well as cryopreservation with the long-term storage goal of this orchid's genetic material as an alternative ex-situ strategy to safeguard the survival of this rare Floridian orchid.

Dr. Amir Khoddamzadeh is faculty in the Agroecology Program at the Department of Earth & Environment in FIU, and an affiliated faculty in the Inter-national Centre for Tropical Botany at the Kampong Botanic Garden. He is the faculty supervisor of the FIU garden club and organic garden, advisor of several student research projects, and teaches numerous horticulture, agriculture, plant biotechnology, and environmental topics. His current research projects focus on medicinal plant and anti-cancer compounds, gene-banking of endangered plants (mostly orchids), and optical sensor technology. Dr. Khoddamzadeh served as a chair in the American Society for Horticultural Science working group and editor in chief of Scientific Journal of



CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

March

5 (Sun.): 11th Four-Organization Picnic, Virginia Key, 3 pm

11 (Sat.): Patch of Heaven tour (landscape & hammock)

24 (Fri.): Setup for Native Plant Day (*volunteer*)

25 (Sat.): NATIVE PLANT DAY, North Miami (*volunteer*)

28 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

April

15 (Sat.): Field trip to ENP with the Broward Chapter

22 (Sat.): Chapter workday, Everglades Nat. Park (*volunteer*)

23 (Sun.): Earthday at Pinecrest Gardens (*volunteer*)

25 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

29 (Sat.): Connect to Protect Network invites DCFNPS to a day of learning in ENP

Agricultural Research. He serves on the FNPS Conservation and Education Committee.

David Riera's childhood in Hialeah and Marine Corps service in the U.S. and Iraq kept him close to nature in his early life. He received an A.S. degree in Biotechnology at Miami-Dade College, and B.S. degrees in Environmental Science and Marine Biology at FIU. He is now working with Dr. Amir Khoddamzadeh to develop a method to conserve endangered wetland orchid species using a plant biotechnological approach and will be awarded his M.Sci. this spring. David also established a summer research outreach program mentoring at-risk high school students while giving them practical research skills. He fervently believes that the path to conserving and restoring our wetlands can be achieved by cultivating the next generation of advocates, innovators, and educators.

• **April 25, 2017:** "An Introduction to our Native Palm Species"
- Andrew Street, Miami Beach Botanical Garden

Inside this issue:

- **Native Plant Day**, March 25 – you can *enjoy and volunteer*
- **Patch of Heaven tour** • **Field trips** • **Picnic**
- **Pineland restoration at Zoo Miami**
- **Announcements, news, volunteer opportunities**

Native Plant Day

Saturday, March 25, 2017 - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Elaine Gordon Enchanted Forest Park
1725 NE 135th Street, North Miami, FL
FREE and open to the public

Co-sponsored by

The Dade Chapter FNPS &
City of North Miami Parks Dept.

Enjoy a free day of learning and fun for all ages.
Rain or shine!

- Programs and nature walks
- Book, merchandise and plant sales by the Dade Chapter
 - Plant sales by nursery vendors (cash/check)
 - Hands-on take-home projects
 - Plant Clinic
- Exhibits by environmental organizations
 - Raffles
 - Explore the park's natural areas
 - Special: kids-only plant sale!
- Food and drinks available for purchase

Learn about native plants, natural areas, landscaping, water conservation, butterflies, seeds, wildflowers, woodturning and lots more.

Rain Barrel Workshop by Florida Yards and Neighborhoods
(\$40, **pre-register** at <http://tinyurl.com/zwfchbe>)

Contact the Dade Chapter if you need additional information.
The schedule will be posted dade.fnpschapters.org when final.



FIELD TRIPS / TOUR

If the weather is bad, call Patty at 305-878-5705 to confirm. Field trips and tours are for the study of plants and enjoyment of nature by FNPS members and their guests. Collecting is not permitted. Children are welcome.

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

• Saturday, March 11, 2017, 10 a.m. - noon: Tour of Patch of Heaven Gardens.

This former petting farm attraction in South Miami-Dade's Redland is now known for its beautifully restored tropical hardwood hammock, interesting historic structures, lavish gardens, and cacao trees intended to provide artisanal chocolate for tourists and locals. The gardens are lush with native and exotic plants and large water features. The property was originally owned by Miami's Matheson family.

We will tour the hammock (contiguous with Castellow Hammock) with solution holes, beginning of a pineland restoration, gardens and buildings, led by owner FNPS member Bruce Chesney and horticulturists Fred Hubbard and Roberto Del Cid. (More description and photos at

www.miamiherald.com/living/home-garden/article85840602.html.)

There's something for everyone on this tour – it's a field trip and garden visit combined.

Please try to RSVP if you might come so there is an idea of the

expected parking needs. (pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404)

MAKE NATIVE PLANT DAY THE BEST EVER

As a chapter member, please help us make the day a big success! First, please spread information about the event to family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, club-mates. Also:

• **Donate raffle items and plants for the chapter sale.** We sell plants (in addition to our usual merchandise) to raise funds for the chapter. We also hold a raffle of some of the best and most rare plant specimens you'll find, and also gardening or nature-related items, gift certificates, etc. Please groom your plants now. Contact Amy if you need to drop them off in advance or so we can be prepared for your donations.

• **Distribute stacks of postcards.** Pick some up (contact Amy) for your grocery store, doctor's office, library, local business or other well-trafficked area (with permission, of course).

• **Help set up on Friday, March 24.** Setting up the raffle and other stations, as well as moving tables and hanging signs are some of the easy yet essential things you can do Friday afternoon. Contact Amy.

• **Loan butterfly larvae and potted larval host/nectar plants or other interesting display plants or items.** Share the best of your natives and show the public why they should use more in their yards. Contact Patty.

• **Help at Native Plant Day.** On March 25 we will need about 40 volunteers to make the event happen. If you can give us part of your morning or afternoon, you'll still have plenty of time to enjoy the event. **Please contact Gita if you, your family members, or young people you know might be able to give us some of their time.**

Contact information:

Amy Leonard: [305-458-0969](tel:305-458-0969), aleonar74@yahoo.com

Patty Phares: [305-255-6404](tel:305-255-6404), pharespl@gmail.com

Gita Ramsay: [786-877-7168](tel:786-877-7168), gita.ramsay@gmail.com

Thank you for your help in making this year's Native Plant Day exceptional!

Difficulty: Easy.

Bring: Water, sun protection, insect protection just in case. Bring lunch if you'd like to picnic at Castellow afterward.

Late/lost: Patty (305-878-5705)

Added attraction (as if anything more is needed!): Burr's Berry Farm is just east on 216th St. on your way home.

• **Saturday, April 15, 2017: Field trip to Long Pine Key, Everglades National Park with the Broward Chapter.** Chuck McCartney and spring wildflowers!

• **Saturday, April 29, 2017: Connect to Protect Network at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden invites all DCFNPS members to attend their spring meeting.** *Save the date* for hands-on learning about pinelands, endangered species, propagation and more at the Boy Scout's Camp Everglades in Everglades National Park.

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

11th Potluck Picnic - Sunday, March 5, 2017, 3-6 p.m. Historic Virginia Key Beach Park – Orange Pavilion

- TREEmendous Miami
- Dade Chapter FNPS
- Miami Blue Chapter NABA
- Tropical Audubon Society

Bring family, nature-loving friends and your favorite pot-luck dish. Rain or shine.

3 p.m.: Maritime hammock tour led by Gary Hunt.

4:30 p.m.: Potluck picnic

See complete details in *February Tillandsia* or contact Patty, pharespl@gmail.com, 305-878-5705).

Welcome new member! Lauren De Caso

Broward Chapter FNPS. See coontie.fnpschapters.org/.

Meetings are at Secret Woods, 2701 W. SR 84, Dania Beach.

March 18, 2017, 7 p.m.: Chapter meeting. See the website for meetings, field trips and other activities.

Support the FNPS Conservation Grants and honor DCFNPS founders, Joyce and Don Gann. Please donate at a meeting, mail a check to DCFNPS at the chapter address (note "Gann Conservation Fund" in the memo line), or contact Susan Walcutt (walcutts@bellsouth.net, 305-297-7757).

37th Annual Florida Native Plant Society Conference
May 18-21, 2017, Westgate River Ranch Resort south of Lake Kissimmee. Amazing field trips, speakers, workshops, socials, plant and merchandise sales. **Reserve your room or camping site now – there is a limited number of each kind available.** The conference is fun, informative and a great way to see other parts of Florida. See www.fnps.org/conference/2017. Some speaker and field trip information is already posted – check it out before registration opens!

Annual Earth Day Festival, Pincrest Gardens, April 23, 2017, noon - 4 p.m. - Volunteer for DCFNPS. Our members are great ambassadors for our chapter! Staff our table to talk with visitors about native plants and FNPS, invite them to join, and help sell native plants. **Please contact Amy Leonard (aleonar74@yahoo.com, 305-458-0969).** This free event features workshops presented by the CLEO Institute and plant societies, food demos, planting activities, plant sales, an eco-fashion show, green vendors, wildlife shows, local school performances, crafts for kids and more. See www.pincrestgardens.org/gardens-home for more information and locations of overflow parking (with a shuttle). **Volunteer for a while - then enjoy the event for yourself!**

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

Dade Native Plant Workshop: MDC Kendall Campus Landscape Technology Center. 3rd Tuesdays at 7 p.m. See www.nativeplantworkshop.com – see blog for meeting info. **March 21, 2017 topic:** Myrtaceae (Myrtle or Stopper or Eucalyptus Family), a plant family well represented in South Florida and the Caribbean.

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Encounters: Friend or Foe? Tropical Botanic Artists exhibit highlights plant/animal interactions in Biscayne National Park. Dante Fascell Visitor Center, 3/10 - 5/14, 2017, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



March 11, 5 - 7 p.m.: Full moonrise reception featuring a talk by the artists.

This exhibit is **in memory of the life and work of the late Dr. Marjorie Brown** (member of Tropical Botanic Artists and FNPS) who initiated conversations with BNP that led to TBA's art shows there. Park entrance, exhibit and reception are **free**.

Plant Biologists of South Florida annual meeting - March 18, 2017, 9:30 a.m. at Pincrest Gardens, 11000 South Red Road (SW 57th Ave.). An informal meeting where all kinds of botanists share their work. Information at pbsf.org. \$5 garden entrance, meeting free. **All are welcome.**

Activities at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park (MM 102.5 Oceanside Overseas Hwy.)

• **The 26th Annual Lecture Series: *The Delicate Balance of Nature 2017*. Wednesdays through March, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.,** Gate opens 7 p.m. Free, seating limited. Call 305-451-9570 for more info on these and other programs.

Mar. 22: Gardening with Fish: Solar-powered aquaponic systems - FIU Ph.D. Candidate Jaeson Clayborn. Grow vegetables with water circulated from fish tanks.

Mar. 29: Go Native: The Why & How of Native Habitat Protection in the Keys - Misha McRae, Key West Botanical Garden Society

• **Native Plant Day: An Earth Day event - Saturday, April 1, 2017, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.** This year's theme is native plants to attract butterflies. There will be booths by community organizations (including DCFNPS), a talk on butterflies, nature walks (including one for kids) and youth activities. Native plants will be given away to Keys' residents. **Free park admission.**

29th Annual John C. Gifford Arboretum Lecture **Monday, April 3, 2017 - 7 p.m.**

University of Miami, Cox Science Center, room 126

See www.bio.miami.edu/arboretum/ or 305-284-1302 for more information and directions. Free.

"Mutants in our Midst: Darwin, Horticulture and Evolution"
- Dr. William (Ned) Friedman, Harvard University Arnold Professor and Director of the Arnold Arboretum. Horticulture played a central role in laying the foundations for discovering evidence of evolution and understanding how evolution works.

Tropical Audubon Society. 5530 Sunset Dr., Miami. 305-667-7337, www.tropicalaudubon.org.

Mar. 18, 2017, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.: BEE-cause FLEA - Supporting the Pollinators who feed our Planet — Birds, Bees, Butterflies, Bats & Beetles. Vendors, workshops, tours. Raise awareness of our increasingly threatened local pollinators.

ZOO MIAMI PINELAND RESTORATION

On January 28, 2017, volunteers (including some from DCFNPS) participated in a pine rockland restoration planting at Zoo Miami. **The project is supported by a \$5000 2016 Conservation Grant from FNPS.** Donations from our chapter and individual members (in honor of chapter founders Joyce and Don Gann) have helped fund FNPS grants for conservation projects all over Florida. We are especially happy when we can help support projects in Miami-Dade. Thanks to all our donors!

Below is a message from Dr. Frank Ridgley DVM, Conservation and Research Department at Zoo Miami. See more at zoo.miamiconservation.com/project/pine-rockland-restoration/

It took Zoo Miami staff three weeks with two operators, a back hoe, and dump truck to clear the fill and invasive *Neyraudia reynaudiana* from this historic disturbed site dating back to the



Before and after

We concentrated when possible on Richmond Tract species that are either rare or presumed extirpated.

This project will also contribute to two scientific studies in partnership with Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. Rhizomes from *Neyraudia reynaudiana* were collected to undergo herbicide trials at FTBG to find more effective applications and minimize herbicide use since this species is the most labor intensive for Miami-Dade Natural Areas Management invasive plant control crews. The eleven *Amorpha herbacea* var. *crenulata* planted will be enrolled in an ongoing study by FTBG to compare survival at this restoration planting versus outplantings in intact habitat at the neighboring Martinez

1940s. Funds from FNPS allowed us to purchase 641 plants from local nurseries and using local germplasm. We planted over 700 plants including some donated by Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden (FTBG) and some rescued before the site was cleared. This represents 41 species, including one federally endangered, three state endangered, seven state threatened, and four imperiled butterfly host plants.

Pineland. This site will be incorporated into the existing invasive plant and fire management controls funded by Zoo Miami and performed by Miami-Dade County Natural Areas Management on an annual basis.



DCFNPS president Kurt Birchenough spots an imperiled Florida Duskywing ovipositing

Future planting dates are not set, but we are always continuing to look for funding and sponsorships. If we acquire more funds, we will be sure to let DCFNPS know as we move to finish this new area. The clearing and preparation is always the most time consuming. Subsequent plantings should be easier and we can give a lot more notice. We really thank you all tremendously for your trust in us and helping us in our efforts to continue to improve the Richmond Tract pine rocklands.

- Frank Ridgley, DVM, Zoo Miami

DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

President: Kurt Birchenough (kbirc001@fiu.edu, 202-905-3921)
Vice President: Amy Leonard (aleonar74@yahoo.com, 305-458-0969)
Secretary: Gita Ramsay (gita.ramsay@gmail.com, 786-877-7168)
Treasurer: Susan Walcutt (walcutts@bellsouth.net, 305-297-7757)
At Large: Devon Powell, Surey Rios, Ted Shafer, Jennifer Stine, Eric von Wettberg, Vivian Waddell
Dade Chapter – FNPS Council of Chapters: Eric von Wettberg (ebishopv@fiu.edu, 305-348-2298)
Refreshment coordinators: Cheryl & Ben Morgan (ckmorg@bellsouth.net)
Membership: Patty Phares (pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404)
General chapter information: 305-985-3677
DCFNPS website & social media: <http://dade.fnpschapters.org/>
DCFNPS e-mail: dadefnps@gmail.com
Mail: Dade Chapter FNPS, 6619 S. Dixie Hwy, #181, Miami FL 33143-7919
Webmaster: Haniel Pulido (dadefnpsweb@gmail.com)

TILLANDSIA

Editor: Patty Phares (pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404)
Staff needed for general assistance or co-edit. Please contact the editor.

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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