



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

FEBRUARY 2019

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, February 26, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

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

Free and open to the public

Refreshments begin at 7:15 p.m., merchandise sales before and after the program. The raffle follows the program. Contributions of **raffle items** (native plants, books, etc.) and **refreshments** are greatly appreciated. **Please label your raffle plant donations.**

“Sea Level Rise, Coastal Hazards and Natural Solutions for South Florida”

- Chris Bergh, South Florida Program Manager,
The Nature Conservancy



Chris Bergh was raised in the Florida Keys and studied environmental conservation in Florida and Arizona prior to beginning a career that has run the gamut from nature preserve management to urban conservation strategy development.

In 2005 he helped initiate the Florida Reef Resilience Program (FRRP), an interdisciplinary partnership among coral reef managers,

scientists, other NGO's and businesses designed to help Florida's reefs and reef-dependent people cope with climate change impacts, and he has overseen the Conservancy's partnership-based coral reef restoration efforts. In 2013 he helped launch and now leads the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact's Shoreline Resilience Working Group which is focused on identifying opportunities for natural or nature-based coastal defenses for one of the United States' most vulnerable regions with respect to hurricanes and sea level rise. He led the Conservancy's early and ongoing work on sea level rise vulnerability analysis for the Florida Keys and is overseeing the development of on-line decision support tools that help people in the Keys and Southeast Florida's urban areas look beyond their vulnerability to the nature-based solutions for reducing that vulnerability.

March 26: “Endemic Wildflowers of Florida” - Roger L. Hammer

Calendar

February

16 (Sat.): Field trip – Fern Forest (Broward Chapter)

26 (Tue.): Chapter meeting at Pinecrest Gardens. 7:30 pm

March

2 (Sat.): Field trip - Big Pine Key & Little Torch Key

23 (Sat.): NATIVE PLANT DAY – *sign up now to volunteer!*

26 (Tue.): Chapter meeting at Pinecrest Gardens. 7:30 pm

FNPS 39th Annual Conference: "Transitions"
May 16-19, 2019, at the Plantation on Crystal River

Other events of interest

Feb: FIU Biology lunchtime seminars, Wednesdays

Feb. 13 - Mar. 6: State Park lecture series (Key Largo)

Feb. 13: Broward chapter FNPS meeting

Feb. 19: Dade Native Plant Workshop

Feb. 23: Celebration of Life of Cheryl Morgan, DCFNPS member

Biscayne Nat. Park art exhibit: Native plants & pollinators
City of Miami Parks volunteer workdays

FIELD TRIPS

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

● **Saturday, February 16, 2019: Broward Chapter trip to Fern Forest** with leaders Jimmy Lange and Courtney Angelo. <http://broward.fnpschapters.org/>

● **Saturday, March 2, 2019: Torchwood Hammock Preserve on Little Torch Key; multiple habitats on Big Pine Key.** *(Save this info – you will not receive it again in March! If the weather is extremely bad, contact Patty to confirm plans.)*

Our guide will be **Chris Bergh, The Nature Conservancy's South Florida Program Manager and the DCFNPS speaker in February.** Each of these spots has a story to tell about the impacts of sea level rise and our recent hurricanes. There is also lots of native plant diversity, including federally endangered plants, as well as birds, Key deer, and other things to see. Plant field guides, binoculars and camera might be useful. You can participate in as much of the trip as you desire, and also opt out of sections that are more difficult. But any part of this trip with Chris sharing his knowledge will be worth the drive!

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

Bring/wear: Water, lunch, sun protection, insect repellent, **long pants and sleeves, sturdy shoes that can get wet/muddy.** The abundant poisonwood is easily avoidable, but if you are highly susceptible to it (or poison ivy, mango sap, etc.) pay particular attention. A walking stick can help on rougher ground or to get around poisonwood.

Part 1 (10:30-noon): Torchwood Hammock Preserve is owned and managed by TNC. The trail is mostly flat/easy, through hardwood hammock, transitional woodlands, and wetlands. Parts of the trail could have a few inches water or a thin a veneer of mud, so wear appropriate shoes. (½ mile loop)

Part 2 (noon to 3-ish): Lunch and Big Pine Key sites

• Drive north to Big Pine Key for a quick lunch at the picnic area and restroom at the Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce (US1 and Industrial Road, [31020 Overseas Hwy](#)).

• After lunch drive to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Key Deer Refuge's "Blue Hole." From there we will visit the **Blue Hole (freshwater wetland)** and walk through the adjacent neighborhood (on paved streets) and **pine rockland** (flat firebreaks and a bit of rugged natural terrain), and a short stretch of **coastal wetland** (another potentially wet and muddy spot). (1-mile loop, approx. 2 hours)

Part 3 (after 3pm): Long Beach Road. We'll walk through another stretch of potentially wet, muddy wetlands to the coastal berm/dune/ beach. (¼ mile, or up to 1 mile to walk the beach)

Lost/late? Patty (305-878-5705) or Chris Bergh (305-587-4037)



• Ideas for later? Contact Patty (pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404).




Celebration of Life of Cheryl Morgan
Saturday February 23, 2019, 1:15 pm
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Miami
7701 SW 76 Ave, Miami FL 33143
All are welcome.
Please wear bright, happy attire and bring a flower. There will be time before and after for socializing and refreshments.

We are sad to learn that DCFNPS member Cheryl Morgan passed away December 8, 2018. Cheryl and her husband Ben had been faithfully coordinating refreshments at our monthly meetings since 2012. Their gracious efforts provided a friendly atmosphere for our meetings and were immensely appreciated by all. Ben says that Cheryl greatly enjoyed the people and programs at DCFNPS meetings, and the wealth of information she obtained helped her make their yard almost totally native over the years. She also used the information gained from FNPS to teach her elementary students the importance of native plants.


DCFNPS is assembling some native plants to give away to attendees at the service as a tribute, at Ben's suggestion. Do you have a plant or two to contribute? Gita Ramsay is

collecting these plants and asks that they be nice looking and substantial, 1+ gallon for trees and shrubs, or smaller species (wildflowers, etc.) in smaller containers. **Please contact Gita as soon as possible** (Gita.ramsay@gmail.com, 786-877-7168) to discuss the details (what you have, how and when to get them to her – pick up is possible).

24th NATIVE PLANT DAY
Saturday, March 23, 2019
Bill Sadowski Park at Old Cutler Hammock
17555 SW 79 Avenue, Palmetto Bay, 33157
(1/2 mile west of Old Cutler Road on SW 176 St.)



As always, the event is **FREE!**
Co-sponsored by:



The Dade Chapter FNPS & Miami Dade County Parks

Save the date and share with your friends now!

Programs, walks, and activities for all ages; displays by numerous organizations, great plants and merchandise for sale – all in a wonderful setting for birding and butterfly watching.

HOW CAN YOU HELP NOW?

Contact Amy Leonard, the Native Plant Day coordinator
at aleonar74@yahoo.com

- **PLANTS.** Continue to groom your best plants for the raffle/sale. They need to be well-established by March 23. *(We can get them there if you can't come – contact Amy.)*
Also: Please include **little** plants for young native plant enthusiasts in our family educational activity. Annuals and shorter-lived shrubs: wildflowers, rouge plant, corksystem passion vines, etc. (non-poisonous, non-thorny, in small pots).
If you need pots (any size), **contact Patty** (305-255-6404, pharespl@gmail.com)
- **NOT PLANTS.** Set aside non-plant raffle items: nature or gardening-related items (books, art, tools, decorative items, etc.) *(We can get them there if you can't come - contact Amy.)*
- **PUBLICIZE:**
 - Stamp and label postcards on February 26 before the chapter meeting *(contact Amy)*.
 - Deliver a stack of postcards to local businesses and institutions - available at the February meeting. *Contact Amy* in advance so we are sure to cover as many locations as possible.
- **SET-UP.** Plan to help set up on March 22 *(Contact Amy)*.
- **VOLUNTEERS.** Help on March 23 or assist in scheduling volunteers. *It's not too early to sign up!* (Family, friends, and young people you know are also invited and urged to volunteer.) *(Contact Gita: gita.ramsay@gmail.com, 786-877-7168)*.

This is your Chapter's major public event each year and it wouldn't be possible without your help. Thank you!
Amy Leonard, Native Plant Day Coordinator

MIAMI-DADE LEGISLATORS AND DCFNPS VISIT THE DEERING ESTATE

Conservation lands hold the key to resiliency, preserving fresh water supply, offering flood protection and the maintenance of biodiversity in the face of all these dramatic changes. We need a stable source of funding to plan for the future of our state's resiliency and sustainability.

On January 14, five members of the Dade Chapter met with members of the Miami-Dade Legislative delegation, their staff and family members at the Deering Estate. Laura Reynolds, Policy and Advocacy Liaison for DCFNPS, made a presentation advocating for consistent annual funding for conservation lands. Afterwards the group took in a walk in the hammock and a kayak paddle among the mangroves to see first-hand examples of lands benefitting from state conservation funds.

We are asking our legislators to support funding the Florida Forever program to preserve and manage natural lands.



If you are interested in future opportunities to participate (possibly another field trip in late February, and other tasks not involving field activities), please contact Claudia Tenzer (305-450-6668, ctenzer@conservationconceptsllc.org).

DADE CHAPTER NEWS

DCFNPS board will meet Sunday, February 10. If you have input for the board, please contact chapter president Kurt Birchenough (kbirc001@fiu.edu, 202-905-3921).

The Dade Chapter honors its founders, Joyce and Don Gann, by supporting FNPS Conservation Grants each year.

You are invited to contribute to our conservation fund 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). *Thank you!*

Support the Dade Chapter FNPS by using Amazon Smile!
Register for Amazon Smile and then always start at smile.amazon.com. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases. *Every little bit adds up!*

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING:

More opportunities to learn about, enjoy and help native plants and natural areas.

Dade Native Plant Workshop: MDC Kendall Campus Landscape Technology Center, third Tuesdays, 5 pm. www.nativeplantworkshop.com or contact Steve Woodmansee at steve@pronative.com. Bring at least three cuttings or pots, which need not pertain to the topic. **All levels are welcome!**

Feb. 19: Brassicaceae (Mustard Family) including the **Capparaceae** (Caper Family).

Broward Chapter FNPS meeting, February 13, 2019. "Plant Conservation in Broward County: Determining a Historical Baseline" - James Lange, FTBG, and Courtney Angelo, Broward Co. <http://broward.fnpschapters.org/>

FIU Biology Department's informal and entertaining lunchtime seminars, some Wednesdays, noon-1 pm, WC 130. Schedule: <http://faculty.fiu.edu/~kopturs/planttalk18.html> For reminders, contact Dr. Suzanne Koptur (kopturs@fiu.edu).

The Delicate Balance of Nature 2019 Lecture Series, at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, MM 102.5, Overseas Hwy. Wednesdays at 7:30 pm, **through Mar. 6.** 305-676-3786 or 305-451-9570 for more info. **Feb 13: Native Palms of the Florida Keys – Janice Duquesnel.** Florida Park Service Biologist. **Mar. 6: Fueling the return of the Everglades super-colonies**

City of Miami Parks volunteer workdays. 9 am-noon. Register: Eventbrite or Gloria Antia (gantia@mianigov.com, 305-416-1317), Mar. 2 & 16 Virginia Key (+ more dates/places)

Biscayne National Park's new exhibit features exquisite artwork by the Tropical Botanic Artists of South Florida native plants and their pollinators, through May 5.
March 30: Artists' reception, 6-8 pm; special boat trip to Elliott Key for a botany walk (\$44 boat trip or go in your own boat). Book the trip: www.biscaynenationalparkinstitute.org/elliott-key-botany-walk/
Facebook page: www.facebook.com/events/238437520365328/

DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

President: Kurt Birchenough (kbirc001@fiu.edu, 202-905-3921)
Vice President: Brian Diaz
Secretary: Gita Ramsay (gita.ramsay@gmail.com, 786-877-7168)
Treasurer: Susan Walcutt (walcutts@bellsouth.net, 305-297-7757)
At Large: Janeen Feiger, Amy Leonard, Jeanne Rothchild, Jennifer Stine, Vivian Waddell, Ian Wogan
Dade Chapter – FNPS Council of Chapters: **vacant**
Refreshment coordinators: **Volunteers needed**
General chapter information: 305-985-3677
DCFNPS website & social media: <http://dade.fnpschapters.org/>
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Editor: Patty Phares (pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404)
Please contact the editor if you would 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 office: info@fnps.org, 321-271-6702
FNPS website, blog, social media: <http://www.fnps.org>
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