



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

OCTOBER 2017

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, October 24, 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!

*“Butterfly gardening at Miami urban schools:
Plugging students into nature through habitat
rehabilitation on school grounds”*

- Jaeson Clayborn, PhD candidate, FIU

Habitat loss is a major factor that contributes to the decline of butterflies and other insects globally. School grounds provide an opportunity to restore green space in the local community. Fifth graders at three schools in Miami-Dade County participated in a south Florida native plant butterfly garden study. The study demonstrates the tangible effect of outdoor schoolyard learning activities in student knowledge of conservation issues, and the importance of hands-on experience in engaging students to advocate for butterflies.



Jaeson Clayborn is a PhD candidate in the Department of Biological Sciences at Florida International University, conducting his research in the lab of Dr. Suzanne Koptur. His doctoral work investigates swallowtail butterflies and their interactions with host plants and

predatory ants in tropical dry forest in the Florida Keys. He also is involved in exposing primary school students and teachers to garden, restoration and aquaponics projects, leading to academic achievement and social awareness about environmental quality.

YARD VISIT

Sunday, October 15, 2017, 4-6 p.m.

Enjoy the large yard of chapter member in Pinecrest, with a



½ acre remnant pineland restored after Hurricane Andrew's destruction -- and, happily, barely touched by Irma!

◀ In 2016 an experi-

Chapter Activities

October

14 (Sat.): Chapter workday, Everglades National Park ☼

15 (Sun.): Yard visit, home of Raul Moas, Pinecrest (4 p.m.)

21 (Sat.): Field trip, Nixon Smiley Pineland

Miami Shores Green Day ☼

24 (Tue.): Chapter meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

November

10-12 (Fri.-Sun.): FTBG Fall Garden Festival/Ramble ☼

28 (Tue.): Chapter meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

Field trip TBA

December

9 (Sat.) -tentative: Chapter workday, Everglades Nat. Park ☼

16 (Sat): Field trip (date tentative) - TBA

☼ *Dade Chapter volunteers needed*

mental planting of pineland grasses and herbs was carried out by Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden on the property. See the 2016 FNPS *Palmetto* article (Vol. 33:1) “**From ecological desert to native meadow**”: www.ftg.org/Portals/0/consteam/Palmetto%2033_1%20MOAS.pdf?ver=2016-08-11-152920-910.

Another part of the property is a hammock which was heavily damaged by Irma. Raul also has a greenhouse where he propagates native plants (including many uncommon species) which he often donates to DCFNPS. Raul will also share take-home plants and refreshments with us while we enjoy the view.

FIELD TRIP

Saturday, October 21, 2017 8:45 –11:30 a.m.

Nixon Smiley Pineland (formerly Tamiami Pineland)

If the weather is very bad, call Patty at 305-878-5705 to confirm. Field trips are for the study of plants and enjoyment of nature by FNPS members and guests. Collecting not permitted; children welcome. *Trips are in collaboration with the Broward Chapter.*

This 120-acre Miami-Dade County preserve on the western edge of Miami's Rock Ridge represents the ecotone between pine rockland and rocky marl prairie. It is one of the largest pine rocklands left in Miami, and is uniquely characterized by its large patches of sandy soil among the outcrops of limestone. It is one of the most biodiverse sites in the county. Rare species include *Asclepias verticillata* (whorled milkweed) and

Physostegia purpurea (false dragonhead). Fall wildflowers and grasses will be blooming.

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

Lost?: Call Patty 305-878-5705.

Parking: *Inside a closed gate -- please be on time!*

Difficulty: Moderate. Unpaved paths, some through brush. Some areas are very rocky but we will mostly stay near a less rocky trail.

Bring/wear: Water, sun protection, long pants. **Sturdy, closed shoes or boots are important in this rocky pineland. A walking stick may be helpful where rocks occur.**

Leader: Jimmy Lange, field botanist at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and member of FNPS.

Lunch afterward: Join us at a casual eatery nearby.

DCFNPS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

► CHAPTER WORKDAY

Saturday, October 14, 2017, 9 a.m. - noon
Everglades National Park, Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center.

Post-Irma repair and maintenance of our landscape (photo below on 9/17/2017, before cleanup by National Park Service crews).



Cold water provided; bring snacks to share if you care to. Gloves and hand tools are available, but you may prefer your own. **New helpers are encouraged to come!** Contact Patty 305-878-5705 or pharespl@gmail.com, if you have questions.

► MIAMI SHORES GREEN DAY

Saturday, October 21, 2017, 3:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Join the Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce for this **FREE community event**. DCFNPS will be there spreading the word about native plants. **To volunteer for DCFNPS:** contact **Amy Leonard** (aleonar74@yahoo.com, 305-458-0969). Numerous organizations, companies and agencies will feature “green” information, gifts, activities and food, plus vendors and entertainment. www.miamishores.com/greenday/

► FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN FALL GARDEN FESTIVAL AND RAMBLE November 10-12, 2017 – *please sign up now to volunteer!*

Get the inside perspective – *volunteer* at our educational display to promote FNPS and the importance of native plants and habitats. No special skills needed – learn on the job. We will share part of the display with Miami Blue NABA to feature butterfly plants and caterpillars.

To volunteer for DCFNPS: Please contact Gita by Oct. 20 (786-877-7168, gita.ramsay@gmail.com). **Volunteers who aren't FTBG members admitted free if they reply on time.** The volunteer schedule will be finalized at our Oct. 24 meeting.

Volunteers are needed to:

- Staff our display Fri.-Sun., 9a.m.-4:30p.m. (AM/PM slots)
- Set-up on Thursday afternoon, 3:30 - 5 p.m.
- Break-down on Sunday, 4:30 - 5 p.m.

Display items needed: Contact Amy Leonard (305-458-0969, aleonar74@yahoo.com.) if you have **small plants or items** for the display. Contact Patty Phares (305-255-6404, pharespl@gmail.com) for **caterpillars or “butterfly plants.”**

► *Update: Butterfly and Bird Kids Day at Castellow Hammock originally scheduled for October 21 is canceled.*

DADE CHAPTER AND FNPS NEWS

The Dade Chapter board welcomes your suggestions, concerns, offers of help. Please contact chapter president Kurt Birchenough (kbirc001@fiu.edu, 202-905-3921) to have your input considered at a board meeting. *Contribute to the chapter's mission.*

Broward Chapter FNPS. coontie.fnpschapters.org/. Meets at Secret Woods, 2701 W. SR 84, Dania Beach.
November 8, 2017 meeting: "Weedology" - Janine Griffiths and Alyssa Lavoro

FNPS Annual Conference, May 17-20, 2018 at the Miccosukee Resort in Miami. *Save the date to attend and help.*

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

Dade Native Plant Workshop: Note time: 5 p.m. MDC Kendall Campus Landscape Technology Center, third Tuesdays. www.nativeplantworkshop.com or contact Steve Woodmansee at steve@pronative.com. Bring at least three cuttings (especially in flower/fruit), which need not pertain to the topic. **All levels welcome. October 17 topic: Fall wildflowers**

Miami Blue Chapter North American Butterfly Association meeting:
November 5, 2017 at Tropical Audubon Society, 5530 Sunset Drive, Miami. **“Unfurling a full spectrum approach to Environmental advocacy.”** *Love the Everglades Movement*

honors the Miccosukee perspectives. See miamiblue.org/.

FIU Biology Department's informal lunchtime seminars, Wednesdays, 12 - 1 p.m., in WC 130. See the schedule faculty.fiu.edu/~kopturs/planttalk17.html for talks about carnivorous plants, whisk ferns, *Coccothrinax* palms and more.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden:

Part time Conservation Horticulturist and
Connect to Protect Network Program Assistant

See www.fairchildgarden.org/About-Fairchild/Employment-Opportunities

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POST-IRMA THOUGHTS

Whether you're looking in the rearview mirror or still plugging away ...

Lend a Hand

● **Kenwoods Outdoor Learning Center**, our favorite, award-winning native hammock at Kenwood K-8, 9300 SW 79th Ave., Miami **needs cleanup help with chainsaws and hauling branches**. Contact Henry Block: hbpobop@gmail.com. Next date is **tentatively October 21, 9 a.m.-noon (and more later)**.

● **Our National Parks Need You!** The South Florida National Parks Trust is signing up volunteers to **help with hurricane recovery at Everglades, Biscayne and Big Cypress when they are ready** to receive outside help. **Sign up at the link to receive updates** and information as workdays are scheduled.

Questions: Jessica@southfloridaparks.org / 305.665.4769. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScy27pLENmsOMnt8idpz9mi5wiD9nUUiu2cNq051XVXkj7Qlg/vie/wform>

See www.nps.gov/aboutus/news/severe-weather-response.htm for daily updates about the affected national parks, including a link to photos. *Hover over the photo for captions.*

● **Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Volunteer Workdays**. Help to protect and restore Miami-Dade's natural areas. www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands-volunteer.asp or 305.372.6611 for info and to register.

Friday, Oct. 27: Florida City Pineland (cleanup)

• **Other gardens and parks with native plants are still cleaning up.** Contact places near you to see if you can assist. For Miami-Dade County Parks see https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSem2a7_aqQxZae9A5kJqo_RbVcdV0LvC7Yd5rutB7UINyeGJw/viewform

• **Save seed.** Some plants flower and set seed in response to the stress, or the nice sun and rain! Save mature seeds in paper bags for Native Plant Day or other events. Dry seeds like the native Bahama sennas or Privet senna are great to give away.

Repair or Replant When You're Ready (or make a nice pen holder)

• **Now you have another opportunity to think it out.** Do a better job of placing large trees and shrubs away from overhead lines and roofs. Incorporate new features.

• **See the chapter website for nurseries and opportunities to obtain native plants.** Not all entries are up to date, so reconfirm. dade.fnpschapters.org/documents/wheretobuysee.pdf

• **Adopt-A-Tree 2017. October 29,** Miami-Dade Co. Fair and Expo Center, 11200 SW 24th St. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Miami-Dade homeowners may receive two free trees per year from the county, including some natives. (Or volunteer to help!) See www.miamidade.gov/environment/adopt-a-tree.asp#0 or contact adoptatree@miamidade.gov or 311.

Natives include Firebush, Inkwood, Black Ironwood, Simpson's Stopper, Marlberrry, Locustberrry, Orange Geiger.

• **The Institute for Regional Conservation – Natives For Your Neighborhood** can help you research appropriate natives for your area. (regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/default.asp) Look up information on most commercially available species.

• **Other online resources:**
<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/pinellasco/2017/09/14/deciding-what-to-do-with-trees-after-a-storm/>

<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/treesandhurricanes/>

<http://livingvintageco.com/2013/08/50-ways-to-upcycle-tree-branches-and-logs/> Save some pieces of your trees!

<http://coontie.fnpschapters.org/index.php?id=newsletters>
Broward Chapter FNPS October 2017 news: "Which native trees should we plant to replace the trees downed by Irma?"

Native landscaping (as an alternative to birdfeeders) to attract songbirds [Click [here](#)] - Compiled by James G. Duquesnel for FIU continuing education class: Flora & Fauna of the Fla. Keys

Tips from Friends

DCFNPS members and friends provided thoughts about their post-Irma landscapes – ideas to keep in mind as you repair and re-landscape, even if it's for next time.

Suzanne Koptur:

Visualize how big something can get in 10 or 20 years. Be sure to **keep the canopy thinned** to help the winds blow through.

Shade is such a valuable resource, but keep the tree trunks at least ten feet from houses, and **have a variety of plant sizes - more pleasing for the eye and for wildlife, too.**

Steve Woodmansee, Pro Native Consulting:

• Natural communities fluctuate over time, there is no reason why our yards shouldn't also.



• Hurricanes are opportunities in the landscape. Fit in that plant you always wanted but didn't have the right conditions for.
• Offer to help our neighbors re-landscape with natives.
• Before you start planting, take time to re-think your landscape. If your yard did poorly, perhaps analyze why. Discuss it with other FNPS members at a meeting.

Roger Hammer:

Native landscape trees that toppled were our two 45'-tall buttonwoods (*Conocarpus erectus*) and a soldierwood (*Colubrina elliptica*). The soldierwood was able to be stood back up. Our 45'-tall satinleaf (*Chrysophyllum oliviforme*) lost some major branches and one of the trunks is split, and our Mexican alvaradoa (*Alvaradoa amorphoides*) lost one of its trunks, too. **Large native trees that only lost small branches in the upper canopy** include shortleaf fig (*Ficus citrifolia*) and gumbo-limbo (*Bursera simaruba*). **Small to medium-sized trees that made it through Hurricane Irma mostly unscathed** include lignumvitae (*Guaiacum sanctum*), white ironwood (*Hypelate trifoliata*), pearlberry (*Vallesia antillana*), marlberrry (*Ardisia escallonioides*), Jamaican caper (*Quadrella jamaicensis*), wild dilly (*Manilkara jaimiqui* subsp. *emarginata*), pond apple (*Annona glabra*), twinberrry stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans*), white stopper (*Eugenia axillaris*), Spanish stopper (*Eugenia foetida*), redberrry stopper (*Eugenia confusa*), red stopper (*Eugenia rhombea*), milkbark (*Drypetes diversifolia*), blolly (*Guapira discolor*), firebush (*Hamelia patens*), Bahama strongback (*Bourreria succulenta*), rough strongback (*Bourreria radula*), sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*), and sea-plum (*Coccoloba diversifolia x Coccoloba uvifera*).

All of our native shrubs, as well as all of our native palms, took the storm in stride. **My advice is, if you grow tall trees, hire a certified arborist every couple of years to open the canopy and make them more resistant to toppling and major limb breakage.** It pays off in the long haul.

Barbara McAdam, UF/IFAS Extension-Miami-Dade:

I'm flipping the hole left by a good sized mango tree into a **water garden** with native aquatic plants: pickerel weed, duck weed and a non-native beauty, lotus!

If You Can't Lick 'Em, Join 'Em

Carl Barta:

- If you lost plants for hummingbirds, like Firebush, put out some hummingbird feeders when you start to see the birds. Other birds might also appreciate a bird feeder for now, depending on what is still available.
- If your canopy is gone, cover shade-loving plants with blown off branches that have leaves. (Time might be past to use this suggestion, but save for the future!)
- Let leaves remain on the ground, maybe even some fallen trees or branches, if possible. Good mulch and wildlife habitat.

Mother Nature:

Especially now, leave a few Spanish-needles (*Bidens alba* var. *radiata*) flowers for the butterflies until you have plenty of other flowers back. You can pick off seeds before they fall.

Ruth and Victor Balestra's horizontal Live oak

This tree became a beautiful, living art piece after Hurricane Wilma toppled it in 2005. It's still great for climbing and wildlife, but now it's easy to prune and can't fall any more.

Patty Phares – A Lignum vitae remains as it came to rest after Hurricane Andrew in 1992: propped on its elbows, but roots not exposed. It has become a much more interesting tree with graceful, intertwining trunks.



DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

President: Kurt Birchenough (kbirc001@fiu.edu, 202-905-3921)
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TILLANDSIA

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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