



Dade Chapter

# TILLANDSIA

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

JANUARY 2018

## MONTHLY MEETING

**Tuesday, January 23, 2018, 7:30 p.m. (Not the last Tuesday!)  
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!**

### “Museum Volunteers for the Environment: 10 Years of Restoring Urban Coastal Habitats in Greater Miami”

Fernando Bretos, Curator of Ecology,  
Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science

Mr. Bretos will speak about the efforts of Museum Volunteers for the Environment (MVUE) to engage over 8,000 volunteers to date in restoring over 25 acres of habitat. He will emphasize their work at Virginia Key North Point with Miami-Dade County DERM to restore an active sea turtle nesting beach, a dune, a freshwater wetland and a maritime hardwood hammock. He will also discuss a recent new grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funded by Wells Fargo to restore three new living shorelines, create exhibits at Frost Science about sea level rise, and work with at risk communities in Miami that are dealing with the brunt of sea level rise, flooding and heat island effect. See more about MUVE at [www.frostscience.org/museum-volunteers-for-the-environment/](http://www.frostscience.org/museum-volunteers-for-the-environment/)

Fernando educates Miami residents about marine science, designs science exhibits for the museum and aquarium, and is the creator and director of MUVE. He also operates his own marine research program, has led programs throughout the Caribbean region, and studies green sea turtles in Cuba. Fernando also directs the Trinational Initiative for Marine Science and Conservation in the Gulf of Mexico and Western Caribbean. He holds a Master’s degree in Marine Affairs and Policy from the University of Miami’s Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science and a bachelor’s degree in biology from Oberlin College in Ohio. Fernando is most proud of being a Sunset Elementary student from 1985 to 1987.

## FIELD TRIPS

If the weather is very bad, call to confirm. Field trips are for the study of plants and enjoyment of nature by FNPS members and guests. Collecting not permitted; children welcome. **We encourage your suggestions for field trips!** Please contact Patty ([pharespl@gmail.com](mailto:pharespl@gmail.com), 305-255-6404)

## Calendar

### January 2018

**21 (Sun.): Field trip** – Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park.  
**23 (Tue.): Chapter meeting** at Pinecrest Gardens  
**28 (Sun.): Chapter workday**, Everglades National Park ☀

### February 2018

**17 (Sat): Field trip** - Crystal Lake Sand Pine Preserve  
**24 (Sat.): Chapter workday**, Everglades National Park ☀  
**Homestead Eco Fair** – chapter table ☀  
**Community Day, Chapman Field**—chapter table ☀  
**27 (Tue.): Chapter meeting** at Pinecrest Gardens

**March 24, 2018 - Native Plant Day at A.D. Barnes Park** ☀  
**May 17-20, 2018 - FNPS Annual Conference in Miami** ☀

☀*Please volunteer!*

• **Sunday, January 21, 2018 (8:30 - noon): Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park.**

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

**Park Biologist Elizabeth Golden** will lead us through some of the natural areas beautifully restored after Hurricane Andrew flattened the Australian pines in 1992, including the park's beach dune, mangrove wetlands, maritime hammock and strand. Irma did not do major damage to the park, and Liz will compare the impacts from Hurricanes Andrew and Irma. Bring binoculars to enjoy butterflies, birds and other wildlife.

**Park admission:** \$4 single-occupant vehicle, \$8 per vehicle for 2-8 people. Rickenbacker Cswy toll (Sunpass or toll-by-plate).

**Bring:** Sun protection, water.

**Difficulty:** Easy/moderate. Walking on paved or smooth paths; sand on the beach and dunes (you can opt out as needed).

**Lunch:** Some might stay for lunch at one of the park restaurants, or bring a lunch and find an empty picnic table.

**Late/lost/questions?** Contact Patty (305-878-5705) or Richard (954-661-6289).

**More info on the park and lighthouse tours:**

[www.floridastateparks.org/capeflorida/](http://www.floridastateparks.org/capeflorida/)

• **Saturday, February 17: Crystal Lake Sand Pine Preserve, Pompano Beach (planned by Broward Chap).** Details TBA.

## 23rd NATIVE PLANT DAY

Saturday, March 24, 2018

A.D. Barnes Park Natural Area

3401 SW 72 Avenue, Miami

(Bird Road & SW 72 Ave.)

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!*

We will have interesting activities, programs, displays and walks for all, great plants and merchandise for sale – all in a wonderful setting for birding and butterfly watching.

### How can you help now or before the event?

● **Pot up plants now for the chapter to raffle or sell.** We hope you'll have your **best** specimens for us! Please prep or pot up plants as soon as possible to get them well-established by March. (We can get them there if you can't come.)

**Additional special request: Pot up little plants for little native plant enthusiasts.** Our children's plant sale or distribution will get kids in on the enjoyment that native plants bring. This has been a big success. Annuals and shorter-lived shrubs are ideal - wildflowers, rouge plant, corkystem passion vines, etc. (non-poisonous, non-thorny species in small pots).

If you need small (or any size) pots, contact **Patty Phares** ([305-255-6404](tel:305-255-6404), [pharespl@gmail.com](mailto:pharespl@gmail.com)).

● **Set aside other non-plant raffle items:** Nature or gardening-related items (books, art, tools, decorative items, etc.)

● **Suggest a speaker or offer to conduct a walk** (contact **Ted Shaffer**, [tedshaffer@bellsouth.net](mailto:tedshaffer@bellsouth.net) as soon as possible.)

● **Volunteer a few hours to help organize the event** (contact **Amy Leonard**: 305-458-0969, [aleonar74@yahoo.com](mailto:aleonar74@yahoo.com)).

● **Stick address labels on postcards** (contact **Amy or Gita to volunteer**). This will be done on February 27 right before the chapter meeting.

● **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).

● **Plan to help set up on March 23** - contact **Amy**.

● **Assist in contacting and scheduling volunteers** (contact **Gita Ramsay**: [gita.ramsay@gmail.com](mailto:gita.ramsay@gmail.com), 786-877-7168)

● **Help raise (or find in your garden) butterfly or moth caterpillars** which feed on native plants (contact **Patty to find out how to help with this**).

Thank you for helping make this the best Native Plant Day!

- Amy Leonard

## A GREAT DAY TO VOLUNTEER: Feb.24th

Please help represent the chapter by assisting at one of these events. Or add your own touch by setting up or providing items.

● **Homestead Eco Fair**, noon - 4pm, in Losner Park (104 N. Krome Ave.). The fair connects residents with local

environmental and nature groups and promotes the National Parks Trolley service (free trolley and free park entrance!)

Contact **Gita** ([gita.ramsay@gmail.com](mailto:gita.ramsay@gmail.com), 786-877-7168)

● **Community Day at the Agricultural Research Service - Subtropical Horticulture Research Station** (Chapman Field) 13601 Old Cutler Rd, Miami. Contact **Amy** (305-458-0969, [aleonar74@yahoo.com](mailto:aleonar74@yahoo.com)).

You are also invited to participate at **Community Day for free on your own as a vendor of plants or plant-related items, or with an educational table.** Contact **Libby Mahaffey** (305-281-5226, [addlib@bellsouth.net](mailto:addlib@bellsouth.net)) for more info.

Or help at our **Everglades workday** (see "Dade Chapter News" below)

## FLORIDA FOREVER: DCFNPS meets the Dade Delegation to urge support for Florida Forever funding

On December 15, Dade Chapter FNPS policy consultant **Laura Reynolds** met with the 24 members of the Miami-Dade legislative delegation to discuss the importance of restoring funding to the Florida Forever program in the 2018 budget and specifically supporting as a priority the Brady Bill (SB 370).

**Laura** urged the delegation members to support the restoration of full funding to Florida Forever (the state's premier conservation land acquisition program). Florida Forever has languished without proper funding for years despite over-whelming public support, and was zeroed out in 2016. **Laura** explained the importance of purchasing and preserving the last remaining parcels of our endemic, highly bio-diverse and critically imperiled Pine Rocklands in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. In their comments after she spoke, the legislators discussed support of Senate Bill 370, which would restore \$100 million in funding in 2018, and potentially making this issue a top priority for the delegation overall.



As the meeting concluded, legislators were given literature packets which included our letter with greater detail of the program and how it would benefit Miami-Dade County residents. The letter also invited legislators and their families and staff to come on field trips to premier conservation lands in Miami-Dade County protected with these important state funds. *Chapter members interested in meeting our legislators and helping to lead tours (or coming along to learn and support) should contact **Patty Phares** ([pharespl@gmail.com](mailto:pharespl@gmail.com), 305-255-6404) or **Laura Reynolds** ([lreynolds@conservationconceptsllc.org](mailto:lreynolds@conservationconceptsllc.org))*

## FNPS ANNUAL CONFERENCE



May 17-20, 2018 in Miami  
at the Miccosukee Resort  
[www.fnps.org/conference/2018](http://www.fnps.org/conference/2018)

- **Local coordinators are needed for several activities:** Volunteers, silent auction, game night and plant ID contest and more. *You can receive free conference registration!* Also assist in advertising a landscaping workshop for local residents and helping to greet attendees that day. Contact [conference.fnps@gmail.com](mailto:conference.fnps@gmail.com) for more information.
- See [fnps.org/participate/awards](http://fnps.org/participate/awards) for details of **grants** for **research, conservation** and **ethnobotany research**, and **landscape awards** in numerous categories. All will be announced at the conference. **Deadlines are March 2, 2018.**
- **Submitting a landscape (residential, commercial, professional, restoration, school, and more) is a wonderful way to promote native plants.** Monetary awards will be given for the best landscapes in several categories.
- Submit abstracts for **research track presented papers and poster session by February 1, 2018.** [fnps.org/news/society-news/call\\_for\\_research\\_papers](http://fnps.org/news/society-news/call_for_research_papers)
- **Do you have suggestions for vendors or exhibitors?** Contact [conference.fnps@gmail.com](mailto:conference.fnps@gmail.com).

## DADE CHAPTER NEWS

**Chapter Workdays, Everglades National Park, Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center – 9 a.m. – noon**  
**SUNDAY, January 28 and SATURDAY, February 24, 2018**  
We will continue post-Irma repair and maintenance of our landscape. Cold water is 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!**  
Afterward, you are admitted to the park free. It's a great time to stroll the Anhinga Trail and gawk at piles of alligators, or tour the Nike Missile Base.  
Questions? Contact Patty (305-878-5705, [pharespl@gmail.com](mailto:pharespl@gmail.com)).

**Welcome new (or long lost) Dade Chapter members!**  
Barbara Arnold, Lian Plass, Grant Rawson, Donald Shockey, Kathleen Staples. We're also pleased to have three new student members: Lorna Bravo, Deva Cats-Baril, and Meike de Vringer.

**Support FNPS Conservation Grants and honor DCFNPS founders, Joyce and Don Gann.** We have sponsored awards since 2013 and will continue with your help. *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](mailto:walcutts@bellsouth.net), 305-297-7757).

### Members in the Field

What are our members doing for native plants on the job or as volunteers? Please let the editor know!

## THANK YOU FROM THE DCFNPS BOARD

Your Dade Chapter FNPS board thanks you for your fiscal support of what we have accomplished throughout 2017 and in years previous. Every time you pay your membership dues to FNPS, only a portion of those dues come back to the Dade Chapter to support all that we do. This includes the newsletter, fees to register and set a booth up community events like Ramble and Miami Shores Green Day (among others), Native Plant Day, fully funding a grant that FNPS gives annually, refreshments and meeting rentals.

This is why we appreciate your generosity whether it be in the form of refreshment table or raffle table donations, a few dollars in the refreshment table jar, buying books or other merchandise during meetings, donations to the Gann Conservation Fund (support for a grant that is selected by FNPS), and other gifts.

This past November, DCFNPS participated for the first time in Give Miami Day, with 13 donors giving over \$500 and the Miami Foundation adding a bonus. These funds will be used to replace the screen that many have missed at our meetings. We will be part of Give Miami Day again in November 2018.

We thank you for all of your past generosity in giving of your time and helping to fiscally support our chapter in the past. We hope we can count on you in 2018 to build an even stronger chapter!

Amy Leonard, Vice-President

## WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

*(How you can help and enjoy native plants and natural areas!)*

**Dade Native Plant Workshop: *Note time: 5 p.m.*** MDC Kendall Campus Landscape Technology Center, third Tuesdays. [www.nativeplantworkshop.com](http://www.nativeplantworkshop.com) or contact Steve Woodmansee at [steve@pronative.com](mailto:steve@pronative.com). Bring at least three cuttings, which need not pertain to the topic. **All levels welcome.**  
**January 16, 2018 topic: Mangroves**

**Gifford Arboretum, University of Miami.** [www.bio.miami.edu/arboretum](http://www.bio.miami.edu/arboretum) > visits or 305-284-1302.  
**February 7, 2018, 7 pm: Meeting**, Cox Science Center, room 166. Dr. Michelle E. Afkhami, Assistant Professor of Ecology at UM – **"A Plant's Best Friends: Beneficial Microbes and their Importance in South Florida Native Ecosystems"**

**Miami Blue Chapter, North American Butterfly Association** ([www.miamiblue.org](http://www.miamiblue.org); 305-979-9623).  
**February 4, 2018, 1-3 p.m.: Quarterly meeting** at Castellow Hammock Park, 22301 SW 162 Ave., Miami, 33170. Dennis Olle, Chapter Conservation Director and NABA Director, speaks about the **status of the controversial Coral Reef Commons development on pine rockland** and proposed responses.

**FIU Biology Department's informal and entertaining lunchtime seminars, alternate Wednesdays beginning January 17, noon-1 p.m.,** WC 130. You can bring lunch! The talk schedule will be online soon. **To receive a reminder or for more info,** contact Dr. Suzanne Koptur ([kopturs@fiu.edu](mailto:kopturs@fiu.edu)).

**Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Volunteer Workdays.** Help to protect and restore Miami-Dade's natural areas. [www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands-volunteer.asp](http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands-volunteer.asp) or 305-372-6611 for info and to register.

**February 3, 2018: Deering Estate North and South Addition, 16701 SW 72 Ave. (Coastal clean-up)**

**The Delicate Balance of Nature Lecture Series**, sponsored by Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park. [floridastateparks.org/park-documents/Pennekamp/brochure](http://floridastateparks.org/park-documents/Pennekamp/brochure) Key Largo School, MM 105, Overseas Hwy. Wednesdays at 7:30 pm, Jan. 17-Mar. 7 except Feb. 14. FREE. See the above website for more details.

• **January 24: A Common Garden Experiment Concerning the Florida Silver Palm Tree** - Brett Jestrow (Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden) will revisit previous research on native palms of the Keys, and present updates from new research.

• **January 31: Potential Effects of the New Guinea Flatworm on Florida's Wildlife and Residents** - Tim Collins (FIU) will discuss the flatworm's distribution and potential effects on both our native snails and human health concerns.

**"Flora and Fauna of the Florida Keys."** FIU's Marine Education & Research Center again offers this great non-credit, continuing education course with Jim Duquesnel. Mostly outdoors on Saturdays starting January 13. See a description at [merc.fiu.edu/education-and-outreach/courses/flora%20and%20fauna%20flyer\\_2018%20spring\\_keys%20continuing%20ed.pdf](http://merc.fiu.edu/education-and-outreach/courses/flora%20and%20fauna%20flyer_2018%20spring_keys%20continuing%20ed.pdf). Registration: [fucas.hobsonsradius.com/ssc/aform/B0A70wfl686G0x6702aKxF.ssc](http://fucas.hobsonsradius.com/ssc/aform/B0A70wfl686G0x6702aKxF.ssc)

## MEMBERS IN THE FIELD ENDANGERED *TILLANDSIAS* RESCUED

Last November, the Florida Native Plant Society helped rescue and relocate protected *Tillandsia* species near the Hungryland Trail in J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area in Palm Beach County. **The effort was led by Maha Nusrat, Johnson Engineering, Inc., (JEI) ecologist (and Dade Chapter FNPS member).**

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) manages the natural area and was required by the United States



Fish and Wildlife Service to identify endangered species near the trail, which will be modified in the next year or so. A permit from Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer

Services allowed JEI ecologists to relocate these threatened and endangered species to new habitats within the natural area.

Cardinal airplant (*Tillandsia fasciculata*) and Giant airplant (*T. utriculata*) are widespread in Florida but are classified as endangered by the state because of severe damage to their populations by the invasive Mexican bromeliad weevil, *Metamasius coliziana*. This weevil is currently attacking five species of native bromeliads in sixteen counties. The *Tillandsia* plant species and other endangered epiphytes are also threatened by poaching, exotic pest plant invasions, and climate change.

These two *Tillandsia* species, as well as threatened *T. balbisiana* were relocated to other healthy trees that would provide enough sunlight and nutrients by affixing them to tree trunks using biodegradable grafting tape or simply placed in the trees' nooks and crannies. The plants will continually be monitored by JEI ecologists until the trail modification is set to begin.



The day was a great success. Volunteers who came out to help JEI ecologists included Palm Beach FNPS members, FWC staff, and friends of the community. A total of ten volunteers dedicated their time to relocate approximately fifty *Tillandsia* species to safer locations within the trail.

### DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

**President:** Kurt Birchenough ([kbirc001@fiu.edu](mailto:kbirc001@fiu.edu), 202-905-3921)  
**Vice President:** Amy Leonard ([aleonar74@yahoo.com](mailto:aleonar74@yahoo.com), 305-458-0969)  
**Secretary:** Gita Ramsay ([gita.ramsay@gmail.com](mailto:gita.ramsay@gmail.com), 786-877-7168)  
**Treasurer:** Susan Walcutt ([walcutts@bellsouth.net](mailto:walcutts@bellsouth.net), 305-297-7757)  
**At Large:** Lydia Cuni, Janeen Feiger, Hernan Martinez, Ted Shafer, Jennifer Stine, Vivian Waddell

**Dade Chapter – FNPS Council of Chapters:** **vacant**

**Refreshment coordinators:** Cheryl & Ben Morgan ([ckmorg@bellsouth.net](mailto:ckmorg@bellsouth.net))  
**General chapter information:** 305-985-3677  
**DCFNPS website & social media:** <http://dade.fnpschapters.org/>  
**DCFNPS e-mail:** [dadefnps@gmail.com](mailto:dadefnps@gmail.com)  
**Mail:** Dade Chapter FNPS, 6619 S. Dixie Hwy, #181, Miami FL 33143-7919

### TILLANDSIA

**Editor:** Patty Phares ([pharespl@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:info@fnps.org), 321-271-6702  
**FNPS website, blog, social media:** <http://www.fnps.org>  
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