



Dade Chapter

# TILLANDSIA

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

June 2018

## MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, June 26, 2018, 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!**

*“Conservation of Hyper- Fragmented Uplands  
in Miami-Dade County”*

– James G. Duncan, Miami-Dade County  
Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources

Much of South Florida was once covered by a vast expanse of forestland, including pine rocklands and hardwood hammocks. These forestlands were biologically unique plant communities because they included an intermingling of temperate plant species, at the southern limits of their range, and tropical plants, at the northern extent of their range. Development caused the hyper-fragmentation of these habitats and the local government, Miami-Dade County, through regulatory, acquisition, and incentives program sought to slow the rate of development and preserve the upland biodiversity found in the County. A brief overview of these programs is presented. The unique peninsular location and subtropical environment caused speciation along a geographic gradient. Deltoid spurge subspecies are presented as an example of this speciation trend and exemplify the importance of preserving the fragmented ecosystem.

James is a graduate of the University of Florida and is a South Florida native. Past work experience includes environmental waste management, wetland monitoring, ecosystem restoration, entomology, listed species issues, environmental planning, and upland resources regulations. James has worked on these issues at the local, state and federal level, including on the ground projects in four different countries. He is an Environmental Resources Project Supervisor in the Division of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) and currently serves as the Adopt-A-Tree coordinator.

**July Evening Social & Yard Visit Meeting**  
Saturday, July 14 (no program at Pinecrest Gardens in July).

Enjoy the garden of Arlene Ferris, an informal and pleasing native/exotic mix in a verdant neighborhood in South Miami.

Gardens of other members nearby may also be open.

**4:00-5:30 Enjoy the gardens • 5:30-7:30 Potluck dinner**  
Details in the July newsletter

## Dade Chapter Calendar

### June 2018

**9 (Sat.): Chapter workday** at Everglades National Park

– *New volunteers and friends are encouraged to come*

**10 (Sun.): Yard tour** in Cutler Bay (4:30)

**26 (Tue): Chapter meeting** at Pinecrest Gardens

### July 2018

**14 (Sat.): Evening Social & Yard Visit Meeting**

in South Miami (*no meeting at Pinecrest Gardens*)

## YARD TOUR

Sunday, June 10, 2018 (Rain or shine)

Home of DCFNPS member

Friends are welcome but please leave Fido home.

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

When the member bought this house in 1995, the yard was nothing but grass. Now it is a beautiful, lush tropical hammock with ponds, mature native canopy, rock walls and many



interesting garden features – all on a standard 75x110' lot! From the back porch, he can watch the birds at the pond. There are many mature trees including Lignum vitae, thatch palms, oaks, gumbo limbos, Jamaica dogwood, redberry stoppers, and more. Regrettably, he is moving to a larger home but hopes to sell to someone who will appreciate and preserve some of the landscaping.

This visit is part of an ongoing opportunity to learn about native plants in various landscape settings, formal and informal, and to learn the property owner's successes and challenges in using them. Please contact Patty if you have questions or suggestions ([pharespl@gmail.com](mailto:pharespl@gmail.com), 305-255-6404, 305-878-5705).

## CHAPTER WORKDAY

### Everglades National Park

Saturday, June 9, 2018

Now in its 18th year (!), this project by our chapter restores and maintains native habitat around the **Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center**. **If you are new to FNPS or have never helped at a workday, why not give it a try!** If you come late or leave early, no problem. If you have questions about what we do, please contact Patty (305-878-5705, pharespl@gmail.com).

**Small hand tools and gloves** are provided, or bring your own. **Prepare for sun and possible mosquitoes** by wearing long sleeves and pants. **Some head nets (use over a wide-brimmed hat)** and **bug spray** are available if needed, but bring your own if possible. We provide cold water; bring snacks to share if you care to. Volunteers have free ENP admission afterwards.

The project was begun in 2001 when DCFNPS was invited to enhance landscaping installed when the visitor center was rebuilt following Hurricane Andrew (1992). There are pineland, hammock and wetland sections, but most of our attention is to the pinelands. Workdays are held every other month to maintain the plantings, which are used by wildlife and educators and provide visitors with their first taste of the Everglades. The project received a landscape award from FNPS in 2007.

Challenges include hurricanes, building repairs, planting on fill (especially bad for pine trees), legacy trees like huge mahoganies in the wrong places, the usual weeds in any planted landscape, and more. But the pineland plantings do receive periodic prescribed burns! And we love it after all these years.

## MEET THE NEW DADE CHAPTER BOARD

At the Annual Meeting of the Dade Chapter FNPS on May 22, 2018, the proposed slate was approved unanimously, all for 2-year terms:

President: **Kurt Birchenough**

Vice president: **Brian Diaz**

Directors-at-large: **Amy Leonard, Jeanne Rothchild, Ian Wogan**

**Kurt** continues after previous terms as president and vice-president. **Amy** is immediate past vice-president and has been a board member since 2003, serving as president and vice-president, and also coordinator of Native Plant Day for many years. **Brian** and **Ian** (our May speaker) joined FNPS this year and are new to the board. **Jeanne** is a longtime member and volunteer, and is also new to the board.

**Continuing for the second year of their terms** are **Gita Ramsay** (secretary), **Susan Walcutt** (treasurer), and directors-at-large **Janeen Feiger, Jennifer Stine** and **Vivian Waddell**.

Many thanks to **Lydia Cuni, Hernan Martinez** and **Ted Shafer** retiring (for now, anyway!) as directors-at-large. **Kudos to Ted**, who has previously served as president and vice-president and has assisted with Native Plant Day for many years by planning the entire program schedule.

## Welcome to our three new board members!

**Brian Diaz** was born and raised in Hialeah. As a child, he had a



powerful fascination with nature although he lived in a city with few natural spaces. He explored his yard for plants and critters and studied them closely, looking through books about wildlife, and religiously tuning in to one of his greatest childhood heroes, Steve Irwin. He changed his major at Johns Hopkins University from biophysics (intending a career in medical research) to natural

sciences when he rediscovered nature and resolved to go into conservation and ecosystem restoration. He started studying the flora of the area in his leisure time. Working with local environmental groups, he applied his knowledge to projects dealing with invasive plant removal and native tree plantings and was eager to learn more. After moving back home, Brian got back to work learning the identities, histories, and ecological roles of many of Miami's plants and loving every moment of it. This background knowledge has been indispensable in his work as the restoration project coordinator with the Philip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science, restoring coastal ecosystems on Virginia Key and by Oleta River State Park. He recognizes the immeasurable value of our global biodiversity and the stresses being put on it. His goal is to use conservation and restoration as tools to fight against biodiversity loss. He hopes to further his work in protecting Miami-Dade's native flora by joining the Dade Chapter board.

**Jeanne Rothchild** was born and raised in Northern Indiana, relocating to Miami in 1996. Her adoration of the natural world



took hold during summers at her grandparents' home on a lake in the Northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan where she explored the shoreline to find sundew plants, waited for deer or beaver to appear, and hiked in the pristine woods. Jeanne has since had

many wonderful adventures in the great outdoors, which continue to propel her desire to protect and preserve the environment, whether it's our oceans, mountains, or prairies - as the saying goes, *there is no planet B*. Additionally, over the last 20 plus years, she has developed a partiality for the special ecosystems of Florida. Although she can't identify all of the plants, butterflies or birds she encounters, they are all important to her. It gives her great joy to watch the birds fluttering in the birdbath, the bees and butterflies gathering nectar from the flowers, or the occasional snake darting out of sight, right outside her door. Jeanne believes individual efforts can make a difference, especially when united in action. To this endeavor she supports several conservation organizations, some which carry out efforts worldwide, others in our own region.

**Ian Wogan** is a Miami native, Principal and co-founding member of True Tree Service, a company founded on the

principles of arboriculture and sustainability, focusing on solutions for optimum tree health and management in the urban environment. Since its formation, Ian has overseen daily operations of prescribed tree management, horticulture management, and arboriculture consultation. He earned a BA in Environmental Studies from FIU, is an ISA Certified Arborist, and holds ISA TRAQ certification (Tree Risk Assessment Qualification). Ian is also a Florida State Certified Professional Mangrove Trimmer, is a Florida Urban Forestry Council member, and is the acting President of the Tropical Arborists Guild.



## DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

**Welcome new members!** Jamie Anderson, David Andrews, Omar and Elsa Machado, Brian Olson, Corey Oostveen, David Reese, Cara Rockwell and Christopher Baraloto, Arielle Simon

*Sabal Minor* (bi-monthly newsletter from FNPS) May – June 2018, Volume 20, Number 3. If you missed it (**especially new members in May**), please see [fnps.org/resources/sabalminor](https://fnps.org/resources/sabalminor).

### Support the Dade Chapter FNPS by using Amazon Smile!

Register for Amazon Smile and then always start at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases. *Every little bit adds up!*

## FNPS ANNUAL CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

The conference was a success in spite of the rainy weather and challenges of being in a big city where every road is under reconstruction. **A huge thank you to chapter members and friends** who attended, presented, donated and promoted the conference; to volunteers on-site, trip leaders and vendors; to those who helped with the planning. Although a committee of FNPS members and employees from all over the state planned the conference, local assistance was essential.

Also thank you to the family of the **late Dade Chapter member Marjorie Brown**, for allowing the use of her beautiful resurrection fern artwork to represent the conference theme.

- **Many chapter members, Miami-Dade residents, employees and students presented at the conference with programs and posters.** Especially gratifying were the high school students presenting their research – a new feature.

- **FNPS members and field trip leaders know how to play in the rain!** Sightings on the 23 field trips included endangered plants, orchids, crocodiles, endangered Schaus swallowtail butterflies, and an alligator sporting an orange tracking device on its head.

- **Congratulations to plant ID contest winners, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place** in the “Expert” category: DCFNPS members Chuck McCartney, Lydia Cuni and Mary Rose.

- While you can't hear it, you can see the slides of the opening featured speaker, **George Gann of The Institute for Regional Conservation**, whose talk was entitled “*The Promise (and some perils) of Ecological Restoration*”

at [regionalconservation.org/ircs/pdf/FNPS%20Ecological%20Restoration.pdf](https://regionalconservation.org/ircs/pdf/FNPS%20Ecological%20Restoration.pdf). Also see posters about restoration by other IRC employees at [www.regionalconservation.org/ircs/news.html](http://www.regionalconservation.org/ircs/news.html).

- **The Dade Chapter contribution to the FNPS Conservation Awards** will support outplanting dancinglady orchids in Jonathan Dickinson State Park using seed collected in the park.



A member of the next generation of botanists records orchid data along with Park biologist Mike Owen on the conference field trip to Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve State Park. Photo by Richard Brownscombe.



Shoestring fern, *Vittaria lineata*, with fiddleheads. Deep Lake, Big Cypress, conference field trip. Photo by Mary Rose

- **A Silver Palmetto Award was presented to Richard Brownscombe, Broward Chapter president and Council of Chapters representative (among other things).** But we like to think that he has dual chapter citizenship because we benefit so much from his efforts. The Silver Palmetto award is made by the FNPS President to the Board member who has been of the greatest assistance during the past year. **Our congratulations and thanks to Richard**, who created the Native Landscaping brochure for SE Florida and handled production for all regions. He plans many of the field trips our chapters share, and he creates his chapter's beautiful newsletter which you can find at [coontie.fnpschapters.org/](https://coontie.fnpschapters.org/)

## THE RICHMOND PINE ROCKLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN – Second edition

The draft of a new management plan for the Richmond Pine Rocklands is ready for you to read and comment on. But even if you don't have comments to offer, you'll want to look at this informative document.

The draft plan was prepared by Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, the principal author being Jennifer Possley, with many other authors and contributors. It is a comprehensive discussion of the past and present Richmond Pinelands and proposed plans for management. It's also quite beautiful!

See [sites.google.com/aol.com/mdc-richmond-pr/home](https://sites.google.com/aol.com/mdc-richmond-pr/home) for the draft plan and the original 1994 plan.

A public meeting was held on May 22 to invite public input on the County's plan and to update the public about Richmond's natural resources, their management, and the laws that affect them. **Additional public comment is invited on the 2018 Management Plan through June 30, 2018.** See the above link for instructions.

Look through the plan and you will understand why the Vision Statement for management of the pine rocklands in the draft plan is:

*“Richmond’s unparalleled diversity of plants, animals, and habitats is widely embraced as a priceless piece of South Florida’s natural heritage, which merits the highest quality protection, restoration, and management now and for future generations.”*

### Walk in Trinity Pineland with Joy Klein, May 6, 2018 – photos by Jennifer Stine



Butterflyweed with seed pods (*Asclepias tuberosa*)



Ceranus Blue butterfly on wild poinsettia

## WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING (or SAYING)

*(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 are welcome.**

**June 19 topic:** Aquatic and Wetland Plants of the Everglades. *This month the NPW will be led by Dr. Theresa Chormanski*

**Adopt-A-Tree 2018.** Miami-Dade homeowners may receive two free trees per year from the county, **including some natives.** See [www.miamidade.gov/environment/adopt-a-tree.asp](http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/adopt-a-tree.asp) or contact [adoptatree@miamidade.gov](mailto:adoptatree@miamidade.gov) or 311. Check the website a month before the event to confirm event location, event date, and trees species available on **July 14** (Harris Field, Homestead) and **September 29** (Amelia Earhart Park).

The program is designed to strengthen the condition of our community's tree canopy. The program provides both native "ornamental" shade trees and a variety of non-citrus fruit trees. From 2001 to 2017, there have been 202,707 adopted!

From the “News & Notes from South Florida's National Parks” email newsletter.

**Deferred Maintenance - Maintenance Backlog Grows As Congress Considers a Fix.** *The maintenance backlog ([www.nps.gov/subjects/plandesignconstruct/defermain.htm](http://www.nps.gov/subjects/plandesignconstruct/defermain.htm)) at national parks is \$11.6 billion and growing - a discouraging trend that has some in Congress proposing a fix. The need at Everglades alone is \$90 million. One bit of good news: Restoration of the Flamingo Visitor Center is moving ahead after the park secured \$1.5 million in funding with a federal grant matched by SFNPT.*

See more from the Trust at [www.southfloridaparks.org](http://www.southfloridaparks.org). Join, donate or sign up for the newsletter.

### DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

**President:** Kurt Birchenough ([kbirc001@fiu.edu](mailto:kbirc001@fiu.edu), 202-905-3921)

**Vice President:** Brian Diaz

**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:** Janeen Feiger, Amy Leonard, Jeanne Rothchild, Jennifer Stine, Vivian Waddell, Ian Wogan

**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/>

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### 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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