



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

SEPTEMBER 2018

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, September 25, 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 p.m., 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!**

“The 2018 National Park Ambassadors Program: environmental leadership for young professionals”
– Haniel Pulido Jr., National Park Ambassador

In December 2017, the South Florida National Parks Trust (SFNPT) selected 12 professionals under the age of 40 for the inaugural class of the National Park Ambassadors Program, a new environmental leadership program in Miami focused on South Florida’s national parks. The participants spent six Saturdays from January to June exploring South Florida’s four national parks (Everglades, Biscayne, Dry Tortugas, Big Cypress) while learning about local ecology, native wildlife, and environmental issues. Mr. Pulido will showcase the results of the program and present the ambassador’s journey through stunning photos and videos.



Haniel is a faculty member and Senior Software Engineer at Miami Dade College where he also conducts Everglades immersions through the Earth Ethics Institute for college students. He’s been a member and webmaster for Dade FNPS for the past 10 years.

As a photographer, Haniel has been documenting wildlife throughout the state and abroad and is currently working on a photo book of South Florida focusing on restoration efforts to the Everglades, starting in Lake Okeechobee all the way down to Florida Bay. The book will be published in the upcoming months in partnership with the SFNPT.

Calendar

September 2018

16 (Sun.): Field trip, Bird & plants walk, Enchanted Forest, N. Miami, *organized by the Broward Chapter*. **8 am**
23 (Sun.): Field trip, Gifford Arboretum native plants, **4pm**
25 (Tue.): Chapter meeting at Pinecrest Gardens. **7:30 pm**

October 2018

13 (Sat.): Chapter workday at Everglades Nat. Park. **9 am**
23 (Tue.): Chapter meeting at Pinecrest Gardens. **7:30 pm**
Field trip and other activities TBA

Other activities of interest:

Sept. 18: Native Plant Workshop
Sept. 22: Environmentally Endangered Lands workday
Sept. 22: Free Everglades entrance (Nat. Public Lands Day)
Sept. 22: Dade Heritage Trust’s Book & Attic Sale
Sept. 25: Every Kid in the Everglades – next vol. training
Sept. 26: FIU Biology lunchtime seminars (Wed. - ongoing).
Sept. 29: Adopt-A-Tree
Sept. 29: TREEmendous Miami planting at FIU
Oct. 5: The Institute for Regional Conservation workday
Oct. 10: Broward Chapter FNPS meeting
Oct. 18-19: Native Plant Show (Bradenton)
Oct. 21: Native landscape workshop – *free!* (Broward)
Oct. 30-Nov.4: Pine Rockland & Tropical Botany Conference

October 23 meeting: Ginny Stibolt presents “Climate-Wise Landscaping is Important for Florida” based on topics from her book “Climate-Wise Landscaping: Practical Actions for a Sustainable Future.” See www.GreenGardeningMatters.com.

October 21: Attend Ginny Stibolt’s *free* 3-hour workshop “A Step-by-Step Guide to a Florida Native Yard” hosted by the Broward Chapter. See broward.fnpschapters.org/ to register.

FIELD TRIPS

Birds (and Plants) Walk

Sunday, September 16, 2018

(Broward Chapter field trip - Dade members invited) with **Brian Rapoza, Tropical Audubon**. See broward.fnpschapters.org

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

Native Plants (and relatives) at the Gifford Arboretum

Sunday, September 23, 2018

Please join us for an easy and informative walk in the Gifford Arboretum at the University of Miami Coral Gables campus. ► (continued) **Arboretum Director (and FNPS member) Steve Pearson** will show us a selection of native trees and shrubs, and then we will visit some of the related plants in plots dedicated to particular orders or families. These plots include tropical and subtropical species from around the world. We may see familial similarity in the natives and non-natives, or we may wonder how such different plants can be related!

For a checklist and introduction to the Arboretum, see <http://www.as.miami.edu/media/college-of-arts-and-sciences/content-assets/bio/docs/Arboretum-Catalog.pdf>. Exhibit 12 is dedicated to South Florida native trees and shrubs. Also in section 2 of the spreadsheet listings of plants, you can see Florida natives planted in other exhibits. Together, the plants in section 1 and section 2 constitute a list of all Florida native plants in the Arboretum.

There is plenty to be learned **whether you are considering plants for your home garden, or you just like to learn about plants.** Invite your friends, but please leave pets at home.

Bring: Water and sun protection, though shade is close by.

Parking: <http://www.bio.miami.edu/arboretum/directions.html> to find the Arboretum, or use "San Amaro Ct & Robbia, Coral Gables" in a Google Maps search. **Parking will be free for this activity in the lot to the left as you enter (the gate arm will be raised).** Other lots require paying by phone, as UM is now enforcing parking every day until 11pm.

Questions: Call Patty Phares (305-878-5705)

Dade Chapter Treasurer's Report FY 2017

We usually aim for a -0- Operating Budget each year.

- A last minute order for DCFNPS water bottles to sell at the FNPS Annual Conference ended our year in the red. Bottles will be for sale during monthly meetings and at some events.
- Thanks to all of our DCFNPS members and guests for their dues and donations which include plant raffles and Native Plant Day vendor donations. These funds are 76% of our income.
- We continue to maintain a healthy bank balance thanks to the bequest from Dr. Robert Kelley received in 2008. Total Assets are \$54,690.65 (\$46,224.55 in Cash and Savings, and \$8466.10 in Equipment and Inventory). We continue to use Savings to augment member donations to the chapter's support of a \$1500 FNPS Conservation Grant.

Anyone interested in more detail is welcome to contact me.
Susan Walcutt, Treasurer, walcutts@bellsouth.net

DCFNPS Profit & Loss July 2017-June 2018

Income	
Donations	2,753.36
Merchandise Sales	1,717.75
Membership Dues	<u>2,643.70</u>
Total Income	7,114.81
Expenses	
Donations	194.80
Administrative Costs	1,815.22
Educational Outreach	4,306.90
Merchandise Purchases	<u>1,253.74</u>
Total Expenses	7,570.66

Net Profit (Loss) (455.85) *

*144 water bottles \$515

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

Welcome new members! Jane and Daniel Atchison-Nevel, Anne and Philip Bao

Sabal Minor (bi-monthly newsletter from FNPS) September-October 2018, Volume 20, Number 5 is now in your email inbox or at fnps.org/resources/sabalminor.

Chapter workday Everglades National Park. Saturday, October 13, 2018, 9 a.m.-noon. Join us in enhancing the entrance to ENP with restoration and maintenance of the native habitat at the **Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center**, begun in 2001. New helpers and friends are encouraged to come! Contact Patty (305-878-5705, pharespl@gmail.com).

Broward Chapter FNPS. coontie.fnpschapters.org/. Meets at Secret Woods, 2701 W. SR 84, Dania Beach.

• **October 10, 2017, 7 p.m.: Meeting.** Hole in the Donut restoration (Everglades Nat. Park) - Steve Woodmansee

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!*

Paid advertising

VEBER'S **Jungle Garden**

SPECIAL SALE!

Fri.-Sat., Oct. 5-6, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Nursery reduction of large plants (bring a truck!)

Natives • Wildflowers • Bamboo • Palms • Bird & Butterfly Plants

**Leslie Veber • 24605 SW 197 Avenue
Homestead, FL, 33031 • 305-242-9500**

vebersjungle.com • Instagram: @leslieveber

Other dates by Appointment – please call to schedule time for one-on-one attention.

Retail • Wholesale • Landscape Design & Installation

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

(How you can help and enjoy 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.**

Sept. 18 topic: Lamiaceae (Mint Family)

Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Volunteer Workdays. Help Miami-Dade's natural areas. Space limited, Register [here](http://www.miamidade.gov) for 9/22, or 305-372-6611, eel@miamidade.gov. **Sept. 22, 9am-noon:** (National Public Lands Day) – Camp Matecumbe Pine Islands Preserve, 13841 SW 120 St.

National Public Lands Day, September 22. Free entrance to

National Parks. (Entrance to ENP is normally \$25 per car)
Dade Heritage Trust's Book and Attic Sale, Sept. 22, 9am-5pm. Awesome collection of publications and books on Miami, Florida, history, etc. 190 SE 12 Terrace, Miami. DadeHeritageTrust.org, 305-358-9572

Adopt-A-Tree. See www.miamidade.gov/environment/adopt-a-tree.asp or call 311. **Sept. 29, 9am-noon** (Amelia Earhart Park). Native trees expected to be offered include satinleaf, locustberry and dahoon holly. *Do your homework to select the right tree for the right place. Come early to get the best pick.*

TREEmendous Miami restoration of the FIU Preserve.
Sept. 29, 9am-noon: Planting workday. TM has worked hard to eradicate exotic vegetation and now invites you to help replant native trees and shrubs. For information and parking directions, **contact Steve Pearson** at wadasaw@gmail.com. *Please become involved in this important project!*

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

The Institute for Regional Conservation. Help plant natives in Lummus Park, Miami Beach, Friday, October 5, 9:00am - noon. (On Friday to allow City of Miami Beach employees to participate.) Check for updates at regionalconservation.org/ or contact admin@regionalconservation.org.

Every Kid in the Everglades Program (EKIP) – Volunteer!
Are you passionate about the Everglades and want to learn more? Engage 4th grade students on a variety of topics and play



a direct role in fostering environmental literacy. See <https://www.volunteer.gov/results.cfm?ID=17620> for training dates and application. Contact the Education Office at 305-242-7753, daniel_miguel@partner.nps.gov.

(Pictured above, from the 2018 flier: Our fellow DCFNPS member Arlene Ferris. See how much fun they are all having?)

Members in the Field

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

Articles, notes, news, photos, letters ...

Let member contributions fill this space!

THE NATIVE PLANT SHOW

Oct. 18-19, 2018 in Bradenton, Florida

<https://www.nativeplantshow.com/> - Register now, classes are filling up fast, discounts end Oct 1.

Making native plants
your new norm

- Combines classes and exhibits to highlight the beauty, functionality and diversity of native plants now available.
- See plants and talk to experts: growers, retailers, landscape and environmental professionals. Find everything you need to make native plants your new norm.
- Attendees include landscape architects, designers, installers, growers, garden centers, retailers, wetland and upland restoration specialists, master gardeners, native plant enthusiasts and property owners.

General Public: Shop for native plants, learn more about them, find professionals that can help and return home ready to plant.

Professionals: Meet the best in the native plant business. Return to work with information and networks you need to succeed, plus your CEUs.

Hosted by FANN - Florida
Association of Native



Nurseries FloridaNativeNurseries.org, PlantRealFlorida.org
321-271-4885

Pine Rockland and Tropical Botany Conference, Oct. 30-Nov. 4, 2018, in Miami. The theme "Expanding the Footprint" will focus on reversing the trend of diminishing pine rocklands by focusing on restoration of prior converted pine rocklands.

Who Should Attend? Scientists, educators, land managers, policy makers, naturalists, students, concerned citizens, and anyone else involved in planning, conservation, restoration, tourism or interpretation of the pine rockland ecosystem.
Save the dates! Schedule available soon, registration is free.

THE GENUS MELOCHIA - OVERLOOKED BY GARDENERS

Roger L. Hammer

Famed taxonomist Carolus Linnaeus (1707–1778), who is often referred to as the Father of Botanical Nomenclature, first described the genus *Melochia* in 1753, when it was placed in the cacao family (Sterculiaceae) and named for Mulukhiyah, an Arabic word for mallow. The Sterculiaceae was recently considered obsolete and is now included in the mallow family (Malvaceae), along with the well-known cultivated hibiscus.

There are five members of the genus *Melochia* in Florida and three of them are regarded as native. These are, *M. pyramidata*, *Melochia spicata* and *M. tomentosa*. ▶

When you first lay eyes on *Melochia tomentosa*, what you will



notice right away are the beautiful pink, half-inch hibiscus-like flowers covering the stems, and the second thing that will catch your attention are the insects swarming on the flowers, especially small butterflies such as hairstreaks, crescents, blues, and skippers, and also nectar-seeking wasps, various native bees, and imported honeybees. In the wild, this shrub is known from Hillsborough, St. Lucie, and Miami-Dade Counties and has recently gained the attention of a

few native-plant nurseries in South Florida, so check with your local nurseries. This shrub may reach about 9' tall and 4' wide with softly-hairy (tomentose), toothed leaves, and is very worthy of a sunny location in home landscapes. Common names are teabush, broomwood, and wooly pyramidflower.

Melochia pyramidata is known from Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, both on the mainland and the Florida Keys, It is somewhat similar to *Melochia tomentosa* but has a more open branching habit and the flowers are slightly smaller. It has not yet caught the attention of nurserygrowers but maybe this article will get them enthused. It is called pyramidflower.

Our third native species is the low-growing *Melochia spicata*, called bretonica peluda (hairy bretonica) in Spanish. It is known



from Suwannee and Lake Counties south through Central Florida to Collier and Miami-Dade Counties. A good place to see this species is along the Flatwoods Trail at the CREW Marsh in Collier County along Highway 850 west of Immokalee. Park at the main entrance at Gate 1 and follow the signage. This species either trails across the ground or may reach a few feet tall, at most, with the characteristic pink, mallow-like flowers that typify the genus.

Why the native *Melochia* species are not more widely grown by native-plant enthusiasts is one of nature's mysteries.

Roger Hammer is a retired Miami-Dade County naturalist, author, photographer and native plant aficionado. He has written numerous books and wildflower identification cards for different parts of Florida. He is a long-time FNPS member and supporter and a frequent contributor to FNPS publications. Search for more of Roger's articles at fnpsblog.blogspot.com. (While you're at it, sign up to follow the FNPS blog!) His latest book, Complete Guide to Florida Wildflowers (Falcon Guides, 2018), covers over 600 wildflowers.

Let us support your interest in native plants.

Help us support native plants!

See <http://www.fnps.org>

or the contacts box above.

It costs very little to make a difference!



Dade Chapter

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: Cheryl & Ben Morgan (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, 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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YOU'RE NOT A MEMBER OF FNPS?

