



Dade Chapter

# TILLANDSIA

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

APRIL 2019

## MONTHLY MEETING

**Tuesday, April 23, 2019, 7:30 p.m. (4<sup>th</sup> Tues, not last)**  
**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.**

### “Selections of Early Botanical Explorations in South Florida”

**Jimmy Lange, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden**  
**Courtney Angelo, Broward County Parks and Recreation**

Our speakers will present on selections of botanical history in South Florida as a way of introducing the rare plant conservation program in Broward County Parks, a collaboration between Broward County and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. The talk will highlight various important historic figures and milestones in South Florida botany that paved the way for the work being done today in Broward County under the rare plant program, culminating in a summary of program goals and highlights thus far.

**Jimmy Lange** is a botanist with the South Florida Conservation Program at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. He has nearly a decade of experience with the flora and habitats of South Florida, with a particular focus on rare plant monitoring and conservation.

**Courtney Angelo, PhD**, is a botanist/natural resources specialist with Broward County Parks and Recreation. She has nearly a decade of experience working in tropical/subtropical systems focusing on the abiotic and biotic drivers of spatial and temporal dynamics of native and invasive plants species.

**May 28 program:** “Weedology 101: History, Science, Technology & Philosophy of Weeding” – Janine Griffiths, Landscape Designer and owner of Green Thumb, Inc.

**Editor’s note:** We’re interested in rare plant conservation in Broward (and all of Florida). After all, from 1836 to 1909 what is now Broward County was wholly contained in Dade County.

• “Saving or Losing the Last Old-growth Forests in Fort Lauderdale” by **Richard Brownscombe** in the April newsletter of the Broward Chapter FNPS. We all need to be vigilant (and lucky?) to preserve our natural areas. (*Excerpt & link, page 3*)

• “April in the Everglades” – by **Roger Hammer, page 4**

## Calendar

### April

**13 (Sat.): Field trip** – Wetlands in Palm Beach Co.

**23 (Tue.): DCFNPS meeting**, Pinecrest Gardens. **7:30 pm**

### May

**5 (Sun): Field trip** – Yamato Scrub (Boca Raton)

**28 (Tue.): DCFNPS meeting & Annual Chapter Meeting**, Pinecrest Gardens. **7:30 pm**

**FNPS 39th Annual Conference: "Transitions"**

**May 16-19, 2019**, at the Plantation on Crystal River

► **Register now at [fnps.org](http://fnps.org) for best field trip selection!**

### Other events of interest

**Apr:** FIU Biology lunchtime seminars, **Wednesdays**

**Apr. 10 & May 8:** Broward chapter FNPS meetings

**Apr. 10, 13; May 4:** Baynanza (register now); EEL workdays

**Apr. 16:** Dade Native Plant Workshop

**Apr. 20 & May 4:** IRC Pine rockland volunteer workdays

**Apr. 20:** Entrance fee FREE day, Everglades National Park

**Apr. 27:** City Nature Challenge

**May 5:** Miami Blue NABA meeting

**May 5:** Native plant sale, Broward Chapter

## 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. Don't spend the day with no place to go - **Dade and Broward Chapter trips are open to all chapters!**

► **Saturday, April 13, 2019: Wakodahatchee and Green Cay Wetlands in Delray Beach** (*plus more if you can stay later!*)

These wetlands were constructed by Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department next to an existing water treatment plant. About 50 acres of former percolation ponds are now a thriving wetlands habitat, with 2 million gallons per day of highly treated reclaimed water used to maintain the wetlands, which attracts an abundance of wildlife in a park-like setting. [Read more here.](#) DCFNPS member and webmaster **Haniel Pulido** will lead us on this walk.

**Bring:** Water, sun and insect protection, lunch if you plan to stay  
**Difficulty:** Easy, elevated boardwalks

• **Part 1: Wakodahatchee Wetlands** (meaning "created waters"). On a ¾-mile boardwalk we should see dozens of

nesting wading birds and many freshwater slough plants along small islands, forested wetlands, and open water ponds.

• **Part 2: Green Cay Wetlands** is a 5-minute drive from Wakodahatchee. The park has 1.5 miles of boardwalk featuring a variety of plant communities and a nature center.

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

► **Sunday, May 5: Yamato Scrub Natural Area, Boca Raton (Broward Chapter hosts)**

([broward.fnpschapters.org/calendar/](http://broward.fnpschapters.org/calendar/))

We will trek into the sands of the 217-acre Yamato Scrub Sanctuary, which contains important habitats for many rare and/or endemic plant and animal species. Habitats we will encounter are scrub, scrubby flatwoods, mesic flatwoods, mesic hammock, and marsh basin.

**Difficulty:** Likely to be moderate with off-trail walking in pine litter and sand in order to reach areas featuring prime habitat where we might see some wildflowers.

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► **Ideas for later field trips and yard visits?** Contact Patty (pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404).

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## NOTICE OF ANNUAL DADE CHAPTER MEETING and ELECTION

**May 28, 2019, 7:30 p.m. at Pincrest Gardens.**

A short chapter business meeting will be held before the program at our regular monthly meeting to elect certain board positions and conduct any other chapter business as needed.

### Call for Nominations:

Chapter board member nominations are being accepted through April 30.

**Elections for the Dade Chapter Board positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and three directors at large (all for two-year terms) will be held at the May 28 chapter meeting.**

A slate will be presented by the nominating committee at the meeting.

Please contact Brian Diaz ([bdiaz@frostsscience.org](mailto:bdiaz@frostsscience.org), 786-521-0843) if you are interested in serving on the board or have someone to suggest.

**The main qualifications are enthusiasm and a desire to see the chapter thrive. You don't have to be a botany expert - a variety of skills is always needed on the board!**

*You love native plants. You sometimes think "Why doesn't this chapter do ...?" Maybe it's time to take your turn on the board!*

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Some of the group who attended our March 2 field trip to Big Pine Key and Little Torch Key. Photo: Haniel Pulido

## THANK YOU FOR MAKING NATIVE PLANT DAY A BIG SUCCESS!

To all our volunteers and attendees - you made Native Plant Day 2019 a fantastic day!

On March 23 we held Native Plant Day at Bill Sadowski Park and Nature Center in south Miami-Dade County. We greeted over 650 visitors - the most in recent history. Several new members joined. The chapter raffle and plant sale were jam packed with amazing offerings. Special thanks to those who donated plants, especially Joy McClafferty and Raul Moas.

As always, our vendors had a beautiful selection of native plants that went to many new homes. Thank you to our speakers, walk leaders, the Sadowski Park staff, and representatives of other organizations. Attendees learned about why we continue to grow and conserve Florida's native plants in a wide variety of programs and walks which were enthusiastically attended. Numerous organizations brought great displays and lots of information to share.

It takes at least fifty chapter volunteers to make Native Plant Day happen each year. Special thanks to Jeanne Rothchild and Brian Diaz for arranging programs and walks; to Vivian Waddell for coordinating the other organizations who participated and for getting the word out to the media; to Gita Ramsay for scheduling volunteers and greeting our guests at the welcome tent; to the Wheeler family for juggling the chapter merchandise sales; to Carl Barta, Raul Moas, and Henry Block for their help with the chapter plant sales; to Patty Phares for another gorgeous and interesting display at our chapter tent; to our super volunteers, without whom we couldn't have had such a successful day; to every single raffle donor; and to the many, many more of you who helped in big ways and small.

Plans are already underway for Native Plant Day 2020 which will be in the north part of Miami-Dade. If you are able to get involved or have suggestions for next year, please let us know at [dadefnps@gmail.com](mailto:dadefnps@gmail.com) or Amy Leonard, Native Plant Day Coordinator, at [aleonar74@yahoo.com](mailto:aleonar74@yahoo.com).

See you there next March! *Amy Leonard*

## **DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS**

**Welcome new members (or welcome back)!** Bea Cassidy, Francys Gomez, Caryl Klose, Micolay Plater-Zyberk, Susan Server, Eduardo Varona, Alicia Warren

**Broward Chapter FNPS** - [broward.fnpschapters.org/](http://broward.fnpschapters.org/)

Secret Woods Nature Center, Dania Beach

- **April 10, 2019, meeting:** "Landscape Architecture & Designing Professional Landscapes with Native Plants" - Rebecca Bradley, Stephanie Dunn of Cadence at Secret Woods
- **May 5: Native plant sale,** 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

### **Florida Native Plant Society 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference May 16-19, 2019 in Crystal River.**

Field trips Thursday and Sunday, workshops Thursday and Saturday, programs Friday and Saturday. There is an impressive list of presenters, social events, vendors and a variety of field trips (you'll find some to fit your interests and energy level).

**Check out information at [fnps.org](http://fnps.org) and register very soon to get your pick of field trips. Make lodging reservation by April 21 for the special conference rate.**

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

Register for Amazon Smile and then always start at [smile.amazon.com](http://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.*

**The Institute for Regional Conservation – Miami-Dade Pine Rockland Initiative restoration events.** Volunteers will help IRC restore these important sites by hand-pulling invasive plants. 9 am-noon. Students can receive approved service hours.

**Information at the links provided below** or contact Michelle Smith, 305-304-6275, [msmith@regionalconservation.org](mailto:msmith@regionalconservation.org)

- **April 20: [Quail Roost Pineland Preserve](#).** This is a cool opportunity to explore a preserve normally closed to the public.
- **May 4: [Pine Shore Pineland Preserve](#).**

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

*Note: we're switching back to the [ning.com](http://ning.com) website.*

**Apr. 16: Deciduous trees**

**Free Entrance Day, Everglades National Park.**

**April 20,** the first day of National Park Week. (\$30 value for a car-full of friends and family!)

**Miami-Dade Environmentally Endangered Lands Program**  
[www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands-volunteer.asp](http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands-volunteer.asp)

- **April 13 (Sat.):** 37th Annual Baynanza Biscayne Bay Cleanup
- **April 19 (Fri.):** Ross Hammock (planting)
- **May 11 Sat.):** Rockdale Pineland (planting)

**City Nature Challenge - Goulds Pineland, April 27, 2019**

- by Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's Connect To Protect Network & Miami Dade Environmentally Endangered Lands Program. A world-wide competition to document biodiversity in cities. Scientists and citizens come together to identify plants, insects, fungi & more. See [www.eventbrite.com/e/city-nature-challenge-goulds-pineland-tickets-59296024004](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/city-nature-challenge-goulds-pineland-tickets-59296024004)

**FIU Biology Department's informal and entertaining lunchtime seminars,** many Wednesdays, noon-1 pm, WC 130.

Schedule: [faculty.fiu.edu/~kopturs/planttalk18.html](http://faculty.fiu.edu/~kopturs/planttalk18.html)

For reminders, contact Dr. Suzanne Koptur ([kopturs@fiu.edu](mailto:kopturs@fiu.edu)).

**Miami Blue Chapter, North American Butterfly Association**  
([www.miamiblue.org](http://www.miamiblue.org); 305-979-9623).

**May 5, 1-3 p.m.: Quarterly meeting** at Castellow Hammock Park, 22301 SW 162 Ave., Miami, 33170. Come early to butterfly in the garden. **"Agroecology, plant diversity, and butterfly host plants at the Tropical Research and Education Center (TREC), University of Florida, Homestead" - Cliff G. Martin.** Larval hostplants and adult nectar sources for nearly every butterfly species found in NABA surveys at TREC occur in different abundances and habitats throughout TREC. Findings of recent studies will help to further an understanding of butterfly ecology and other topics related to agroecology.

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## **Saving or Losing the Last Old-growth Forests in Fort Lauderdale**

**by Richard Brownscombe**

*(Excerpt from the Broward Chapter FNPS April newsletter)*

Quite by accident on March 18, I stumbled across a Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport advertisement that puts up for lease five new industrial Airpark properties offered by the City of Fort Lauderdale. Two of the properties for lease subsume land designated as Natural Resource Areas (NRAs) and "mitigation sites." Both are remnant old-growth (original) forests. A third property appears to be entirely old-growth wetland forest; it has no protected status. A fourth property is scrub habitat, an L-shaped lot that adjoins Cypress Creek Sand Pine Preserve.

Earlier in the day, before I discovered the City advertisement to lease these natural areas for commercial development, I was working on a user-friendly list of all 409 conservation properties in Broward County. No one has published them as a list so that everyone can see and browse through them. Because Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) Gopher Tortoise Preserve was not listed as one of Fort Lauderdale's conservation parks on the City website, I sent an email to City Parks asking why this preserve was omitted. I got a call from a Fort Lauderdale Parks official, who insisted the City has only three conservation parks and that FXE Gopher Tortoise Preserve is not one of them. I said, based on the Broward County GIS map, the "managing authority" is the City of Fort Lauderdale.

This official was also not aware and not amenable to the idea that the City had any responsibility to care for a preserve or remove invasive species in a scientifically-supervised way.

...

But back to the chronology of unfolding events. While Google-searching FXE Gopher Tortoise Preserve, I stumble upon the

five FXE Airpark leases. ...

*Continue reading this dismaying (and very interesting) story:* [mailchi.mp/06b849b62f48/save-four-fort-lauderdale-natural-areas-from-destruction](mailto:mailchi.mp/06b849b62f48/save-four-fort-lauderdale-natural-areas-from-destruction)

*Richard Brownscombe is the president and newsletter editor of the Broward Chapter FNPS and a dedicated conservationist.*

## APRIL IN THE EVERGLADES

By Roger Hammer

Take a drive into Everglades National Park in April and you will see a lot of the usual spring-flowering species. **Alligatorlily** (*Hymenocallis palmeri*) and **string-lily** (*Crinum americanum*) will both be present in the prairies and are showy enough to be visible from your car window. Hike the Long Pine Key Nature Trail from Gate 4 and look for the endemic morning-glory relative, **pineland clustervine** (*Jacquemontia curtissii*), with its star-shaped, glistening-white flowers that are sometimes blushed with pink. **White colicroot** (*Aletris bracteata*) occurs commonly along this trail, and is replaced in the Big Cypress National Preserve to the north by the **yellow colicroot** (*Aletris lutea*). An easy place to see yellow colicroot is along the road leading into the now-defunct Dade-Collier Airport marked by signage along Tamiami Trail. Also along the Long Pine Key Nature Trail is a population of **pineland croton** (*Croton linearis*) just before the first glade. Once you find them, look for Bartram's scrub-hairstreak and Florida leafwing butterflies, both of which use pineland croton as larval food.

When you reach the first prairie, hike out into it and you will see the **prairie milkweed** (*Asclepias lanceolata*) with 2-toned yellow and red flowers standing above the prairie grasses. **Longleaf milkweed** (*Asclepias longifolia*) will be flowering as well, but is more difficult to see because the small, whitish flowers blend in with the surrounding grasses. You should also be able to find **Simpson's grass-pink** (*Calopogon tuberosus*) flowering, as well. Look, too, for the small, daisylike blossoms of **Acmella oppositifolia var. repens**, or **oppositeleaf spotflower**. Eating one of the flower heads will cause a distinct tingling sensation to your lips and tongue.

Also look for the endemic **thickleaf wild petunia** (*Ruellia succulenta*) in flower this time of year, especially in recently-burned pinelands or along the edges of prairies. If you get off the beaten path and wade around in the cypress domes, you may chance upon **cowhorn orchids** (*Cyrtopodium punctatum*) in full regalia, and the **butterfly orchid** (*Encyclia tampensis*) may have some early flowers opening.

If you continue west toward Flamingo, look along the roadside past Mahogany Hammock for the trumpet-shaped flowers of **wild allamanda** (*Pentalinon luteum*) and **mangrove rubbervine** (*Rhabdadenia biflora*) clambering around on the mangroves and other trees. If you're brave enough to handle the

### DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

**President:** Kurt Birchenough ([kbirc001@fiu.edu](mailto:kbirc001@fiu.edu), 202-905-3921)  
**Vice President:** Brian Diaz ([bdiaz@frostsscience.org](mailto:bdiaz@frostsscience.org), 786-521-0843)  
**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:** **Volunteers needed**

**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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saltmarsh mosquitoes, paddle a canoe or kayak out the Hells Bay Canoe Trail and look for **wormvine orchids** (*Vanilla barbellata*). They are at their height of flowering in April and May. If the mosquitoes have hatched out, screaming is optional!



*Jacquemontia curtissii*



*Aletris lutea*



*Calopogon tuberosus*



*Rhabdadenia biflora*

Roger Hammer is a professional naturalist, retired from Miami-

*Dade Parks, author, photographer and member of FNPS.*