



Dade Chapter

# TILLANDSIA

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

JANUARY 2020

## MONTHLY MEETING

**Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 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 raffle follows the program.

Contributions of **raffle items** (native plants, non-plant items such as books, etc.) and **refreshments** are greatly appreciated.

**Please label your raffle plant donations.**

*Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Restoration:  
Old Cutler and 184 Street, 2013 to today*

**Eduardo M. Varona, grass roots environmental activist**

Eduardo has been fully engaged in environmental advocacy through grass roots mobilization for 15 years. A small group of committed residents in South Dade fought to save 130 acres of coastal wetlands in the footprint of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) from being developed. After years battling to have these lands purchased for Everglades restoration and the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (BBCW), in 2010 they won! Since 2013 through the organizing of volunteers, grass roots fundraising, securing SFWMD support, and never taking no for an answer, today these lands are being restored to coastal wetlands with an ecotone to a few acres of uplands.



In 2016 Eduardo was chosen by the Miami Herald as a finalist for the Miami Visionary Awards in the Environment category.

Today he continues to advocate for the continued acquisition, protection, and restoration of BBCW and adjacent lands. He also continues to strongly influence local governments as well as state and federal partners to bring greater resiliency through environmental preservation and restoration to our natural areas and coastal communities in South Dade.

Join **upcoming volunteer BBCW workdays on Jan. 25 and 26** by Liveablecutler. See the announcement in this newsletter.

See Liveablecutler Facebook for a Go Fund Me drive to purchase plants for the restoration, info about workdays, upcoming environmental issues, advocacy for protecting Palmetto Bay lands from development, and more.

<https://www.facebook.com/1535895803330470/posts/2414157608837614?d=n&sfns=mo>

## 2020 Calendar

### January

**18 (Sat.): Field trip** (Dade Chapter) – Navy Wells Pineland  
**28 (Tue.): Meeting** at Pinecrest Gardens

### February

**8 (Sat.): <date tentative> Chapter workday**, ENP  
**15 (Sat.): Field trip** – Coastal restoration area (Jan. program)  
**25 (Tue.): Meeting** at Pinecrest Gardens

### March

**14 (Sat.): Field trip** – Chekika, East Everglades, ENP  
**20 (Fri.): Setup for Native Plant Day**  
**21 (Sat.): 25<sup>th</sup> NATIVE PLANT DAY** - in North Miami  
**24 (Tue.): Meeting** at Pinecrest Gardens

**May 14-17: FNPS 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**, Jacksonville

### Other events of interest coming up soon

**Jan 8, Feb. 12:** [Broward Chapter FNPS](#) meetings

**Jan. 11, Feb. 1:** EEL workdays

**Jan.15-Mar.4:** Delicate Balance of Nature lectures, Key Largo

**Jan. 15 & ongoing Wednesdays:** FIU lunchtime Plant Talks

**Jan 18:** “Flora and Fauna of the Florida Keys” class begins

**Jan. 20:** Everglades Nat. Park free entrance (MLK birthday)

**Jan. 21:** [Dade Native Plant Workshop](#)

**Jan. 21:** [Keys Native Plant Workshop](#)

**Jan. 25:** Native Plant Day event, John Pennekamp CR St. Park

**Jan. 25, 26:** Liveablecutler volunteer restoration workdays

**Ongoing:** [EcoAdventures](#) at Miami-Dade County parks

**Feb. TBA:** [Miami Blue NABA](#) Quarterly meeting

(Note: The program by falconer Hanoch Schmalbach originally announced for January is now planned for Native Plant Day.)

**February 25: Adrian Hunsberger of the Miami-Dade Extension** will discuss new planting guidelines for Florida, and other information to help get your plants off to a great start.

## FIELD TRIPS

• **Saturday, January 18, 2020. Navy Wells Pineland Preserve.**

We visited this 239-acre pine rockland in March 2018 a few months after a prescribed burn and now will see the transition. It was originally used as the wellfield for the Navy base in Key West and is still used as the drinking water supply wellfield for the Florida Keys. This [Miami-Dade EEL preserve](#) is critical habitat for the endangered Bartram’s hairstreak butterfly.

Our leader is **John Geiger**, Instructor of Biological Sciences, International Center for Tropical Botany, FIU. John's graduate research was on Man-in-the-Ground, *Ipomoea microdactyla*, the beautiful red native morning glory found in pine rocklands.

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

**Bring:** Water and sun protection; wear long pants, sturdy closed shoes. Walking will be short distances on and off-trail, sometimes on rocky or uneven ground.

**Lost?** Call Patty (305-878-5705)

• **Saturday, February 15:** Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands and uplands restoration area (topic of January's program) with Eduardo Varona.

• **Saturday, March 14:** Chekika, Everglades National Park with Jonathan Taylor, Restoration Program Manager, ENP

## **DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS**

### **Thank you to all donors to DCFNPS throughout 2019!**

• **On Give Miami Day**, November 21, the chapter received \$781, including an extra \$38 from the Miami Foundation. Your support is greatly appreciated to help fund Native Plant Day and other educational outreach.

• **Donations honoring Dade Chapter founders Joyce and Don Gann** have allowed us to contribute annually since 2013 to FNPS Conservation grants, helping FNPS efforts to preserve native plants and native plant communities.

• **Donations through higher membership levels, raffle item donations and tickets, and Amazon Smile** enable the chapter to continue providing activities.

**The Dade Chapter board meetings.** To attend or submit an agenda item, please contact DCFNPS for details (see info box).

**Sabal Minor (bimonthly newsletter of FNPS).** Look in your inbox for the January-February 2020 issue. Past issues are posted at [FNPS.org](http://FNPS.org) under Resources.

### **See FNPS.org for:**

• **FNPS 40th Annual Conference.** May 14-17, 2020. University of North Florida, Jacksonville.

• **FNPS presents awards and grants for a variety of activities that are in line with the mission of FNPS.**

See <https://fnps.org/participate/awards> for details.

◆ **Research, Conservation and Ethnobotany** grant applications are due March 6, 2020.

◆ **Landscape Awards.** Share your experience to set an example and **inspire others to plant natives**. It doesn't even have to be totally native. Applications are due March 6, 2020.

• **Nominations for [Palmetto Awards](#)** are due March 20, 2020.

• Call for **[Research Track papers and poster presentations](#)** at the FNPS Annual conference. Abstracts due February 1, 2020.

**The Dade Chapter honors its founders, Joyce and Don Gann, by supporting FNPS Conservation Grants announced each year in May at the FNPS Annual Conference.**

You are invited to contribute to our conservation fund 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). *Thank you!*

## **DCFNPS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Chapter workday, Everglades National Park** **(Date tentative, please confirm) Saturday, February 8.**

Help us enhance the entrance to ENP with restoration and maintenance of the native habitat at the **Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center**, begun in 2001. We will be pruning and weeding. We have water, hand tools and gloves, but bring your own if you prefer. *It's light work, and even a short amount of your time is appreciated!* **Please contact Patty (305-878-5705, [pharespl@gmail.com](mailto:pharespl@gmail.com)) for the date and any other questions.**

**Can you take a few minutes to set up refreshments before some chapter meetings?** All supplies are provided. Please contact Gita ([gita.ramsay@gmail.com](mailto:gita.ramsay@gmail.com)) or a board member at a meeting. Short or long term help, or several people to alternate.

### **25<sup>th</sup> NATIVE PLANT DAY**

**Saturday, March 21, 2020**

**9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Elaine Gordon Enchanted Forest Park**  
**1725 NE 135 St., North Miami**

**As always, the event is FREE.**

**Co-sponsored by:**

**The Dade Chapter FNPS and the City of North Miami**

*Save the date and share with your friends now!*

Programs, walks, and activities for all ages; displays by numerous organizations, great plants and merchandise for sale.

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP NOW?**

Contact Amy Leonard, the Native Plant Day coordinator ([aleonar74@yahoo.com](mailto:aleonar74@yahoo.com))

• **PLANTS.** **Prep or pot up your best plants for the raffle/sale as soon as possible** to get them well-established by March. (We can get them there if you can't come.)

**Also: Pot up little plants for young native plant enthusiasts** in our family educational activity. Annuals and shorter-lived shrubs: wildflowers, rouge plant, corkystem passion vines, etc. (non-poisonous, non-thorny, in small pots).

**If you need pots** (any size), **contact Jeanne** (305-562-2365, [jmrothchild9446@gmail.com](mailto:jmrothchild9446@gmail.com)).

• **DONATIONS.** **Set aside non-plant raffle items:** nature or gardening-related items (books, art, tools, decorative items, etc.)

• **PLANS.** **Suggest a speaker, offer to conduct a walk or activity, provide other input – contact Amy as soon as possible.**

• **PUBLICIZE.**

• **Stamp and label postcards** on February 25 before the chapter meeting (**contact Amy**).

• **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.

• **Share the word broadly** to associates, family, friends.

• **SET-UP.** **Plan to help set up on March 20 (Contact Amy).**

• **VOLUNTEERS.** **Help on March 21 or assist in scheduling volunteers** (Gita: [gita.ramsay@gmail.com](mailto:gita.ramsay@gmail.com), 786-877-7168).

Thank you!

*Amy Leonard, Native Plant Day Coordinator*

## MORE THINGS TO DO

*Learn about, enjoy and help native plants and natural areas.*

**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!**

**Jan. 21 topic:** Lentibulariaceae (Bladderwort Family) which includes carnivorous plants such as bladderworts (*Utricularia* spp.) and Butterworts (*Pinguicula* spp.)

**Environmentally Endangered Lands workdays:** [www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands-volunteer.asp](http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands-volunteer.asp) for information. Register at [eel@miamidade.gov](mailto:eel@miamidade.gov) or 305-372-6611. **Jan. 11:** County Line Scrub Preserve.

**Feb. 1:** Pine Shore Pineland Preserve (with The Institute for Regional Conservation).

**Kenwoods Outdoor Learning Center monthly workdays** - our favorite, award-winning **native hammock** at Kenwood K-8, 9300 SW 79th Ave. **Upcoming dates:** 1/11, 2/8, 3/14, 4/11 – **9 a.m. – noon.** Rain or shine, no RSVP needed, but call Henry Block (786-877-4509) if you want to check for date changes. Water, gloves and a fun time provided (bringing a refillable bottle is appreciated).

**Keys Native Plant Workshop. Jan. 21,** 5:30 pm. Francis Tracy Garden Center at 94040 Overseas Highway (MM 94). Open to all but is for serious learning. **For details,** contact Jim Duquesnel ([jduquesnel@fiu.edu](mailto:jduquesnel@fiu.edu), 305-304-4445).

**Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park's Native Plant Day event. Saturday, January 25, 2020,** 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park. This year's theme is insects, both desirable and unwanted, in Keys' gardens. Informational booths, a talk on insects and their role in our environment; nature walks; youth activities. Native plants grown from native seeds will be given away to Keys' residents.

**29th Annual "The Delicate Balance of Nature" lecture series** presented by Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park. MM 102.5 Overseas Hwy. Wednesdays at 7 p.m., **Jan. 15 – Mar. 4, 2020.** Admission free, seating limited. For the agenda and details, see [www.floridastateparks.org/sites/default/files/media/file/2020-DBN-Agenda.pdf](http://www.floridastateparks.org/sites/default/files/media/file/2020-DBN-Agenda.pdf). More info: 305-676-3786 or 305-453-1206.

**"Flora and Fauna of the Florida Keys" continuing education course, Jan. 11 – Mar. 28, 2020.** FIU's Center for Coastal Oceans Research. Ten half-day Saturday field trips taught by Jim Duquesnel. **More info:** [james.duquesnel@fiu.edu](mailto:james.duquesnel@fiu.edu), [ccor.fiu.edu/education-and-outreach/courses/index.html](http://ccor.fiu.edu/education-and-outreach/courses/index.html).

**Livablecutler coastal restoration workdays (Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Restoration). Jan 25, 26, 2020.** 9:00 a.m. – noon. Pinelands and wetlands. **Location:** east of **Old Cutler Rd. on SW 184 St.** Planting, mulching, debris removal, weeding, having fun doing it. Snacks, drinks, most tools provided. Bring gloves, shovels, wheelbarrows if you can. Contact Eduardo 305-299-9809 for more info. [www.facebook.com/livablecutler/](http://www.facebook.com/livablecutler/), [livablecutler@gmail.com](mailto:livablecutler@gmail.com)

**Castellow Hammock Preserve and Nature Center.** Check out

the updated displays, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in the garden, nature walks every Saturday, Eco-Action days, bat walks, campfire owl walks, archery, and Redland bike tours. Tours to Hattie Bauer Hammock (old Orchid Jungle) begin in February. Reservations: [miamiecoadventures.com](http://miamiecoadventures.com).

**To receive Castellow's e-news with announcements of activities:** [eric.king@miamidade.gov](mailto:eric.king@miamidade.gov), 305-242-7688  
**Address:** 22301 SW 162 Ave, Miami, FL 33170.

*There are similar and additional activities (kayaking, fishing and more) at Bill Sadowski Park, A.D. Barnes Park, Arch Creek, Greynolds, Crandon, Chapman Field ... see it all [online](#).*

**FIU Plant Talks.** Many Wednesdays, noon-1p.m. Fun and informative. See [faculty.fiu.edu/~kopturs/planttalk19.html](http://faculty.fiu.edu/~kopturs/planttalk19.html). All welcome- bring lunch! **Jan. 15: "Amazon Forests, Drought, and Fires"**

## JANUARY IN SOUTH FLORIDA

by **Roger L. Hammer**

*(Reprinted from the **January 1998** Tillandsia, photos added by the editor)*

It's hard not to recall the evening of January 19, 1977, that brought snow and 17-degree F. temperatures to Dade County, making most of the vegetation look like it had been hit by ... well, a freeze. Those memories still haunt anyone who prizes their tropical landscape, making us drag potted plants into the house whenever temperatures are dipping down into the lower 40s or below. Needless to say, keep your eye on the weather throughout January.

Any plants that may have suffered cold damage should be left alone until spring. Once warm weather returns, new growth will appear. You may then prune off any deadwood above the new growth.

Many native plants of temperate origin begin flowering in South Florida in January. These include coastal plain willow, *Salix caroliniana*; red mulberry, *Morus rubra*; pop ash, *Fraxinus caroliniana*; wax myrtle, *Myrica cerifera*; and live oak, *Quercus virginiana*. Two notable January-flowering tropical plants in our flora are guiana plum, *Drypetes lateriflora*, and inkwood, *Exothea paniculata*.



**Coastal plain willow**  
 Photo by George Gann,  
**Natives For Your**



photo by Shirley Denton

Neighborhood, [The Institute for Regional Conservation](http://www.instituteforregionalconservation.org), Delray Beach

You may notice small spikes of white flowers protruding from your lawn this month. These belong to the lawn orchid, *Zeuxine strateumatia*, which was inadvertently introduced into South

Florida via

**Above (top to bottom):**

- Red mulberry** – photo by Shirley Denton
- Inkwood** – photo by Roger Hammer
- Wax myrtle** – photo by Chuck McCartney



**Lawn orchid**  
 (non-native) –



Shirley Denton, January 2000



centipede grass sod shipped from China in the 1930s. It has since spread to every Florida county and is now a permanent component of Florida's flora.

Pack your tent and other gear and head out camping this month. This is one of the few months in South Florida that you can actually get into a sleeping bag and not roast! If you want to get away from the crowds in Everglades National Park, try the Clubhouse beach campsite along Florida Bay. It is accessible by hiking five miles west of Flamingo along the coastal prairie trail. You will need a backcountry camping permit from Flamingo Ranger Station.

**For Miami-Dade and the Florida Keys**

**Chapter information:** [DadeFNPS@gmail.com](mailto:DadeFNPS@gmail.com), 305-985-3677  
**DCFNPS website & social media:** <http://dade.fnpschapters.org/>  
**Mail:** Dade Chapter FNPS, 6619 S. Dixie Hwy, #181, Miami FL 33143-7919

**Board members (2019-2020):**

**President:** Kurt Birchenough      **Vice-President:** Brian Diaz  
**Secretary:** Gita Ramsay      **Treasurer:** Susan Walcutt  
**At Large:** Janeen Feiger, Jeanne Rothchild, Jennifer Stine, Steve Woodmansee  
**FNPS Council of Chapters representative:** **Vacant**

**Newsletter editor:** Patty Phares  
**Membership:** Patty Phares  
**Webmaster:** Haniel Pulido Jr., [dadefnpsweb@gmail.com](mailto:dadefnpsweb@gmail.com)  
**Refreshment committee:** **Volunteers needed**

***Tillandsia Newsletter***

**Please contact the editor if you might 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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