



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

FEBRUARY 2020

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, February 25, 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.

Improving Landscape Care:

What Plant Enthusiasts Need to Know

– **Adrian Hunsberger, Miami-Dade UF/IFAS Extension**

Learn about the new planting guide lines for Florida and what you can do to get your plants off to a great start. Then to keep them trimmed and in shape, Ms. Hunsberger will share information on proper pruning techniques for shrubs and trees. She will also speak about the plant pests your native landscaping might be susceptible to, along with the beneficial insects that can keep the pests in check.

Adrian Hunsberger is the Urban Horticulture Agent at the University of Florida/IFAS Extension in Miami-Dade County since 1999. She is also the resident entomologist.



Adrian holds a B.S. degree in Horticulture from Virginia Tech and a M.S. degree in Entomology from University of Florida. In addition, she has over 13 years of research experience at the University of Florida using biological and organic pest control methods. Her major focus is teaching homeowners how to manage pests sustainably, landscape water conservation, Florida Friendly landscape practices, and vegetable gardening.

Adrian's duties include

coordinating a volunteer corps of over 100 Master Gardeners who help solve homeowner gardening problems.

March 24: "Natural History of the Pine Rockland-Hardwood Hammock Ecotone: A Fragmented Plant Community Junction with Habitat Restoration Potential" – Lydia Cuni

2020 Calendar

February

8 (Sat.): Chapter workday, ENP

15 (Sat.): Field trip – Coastal restoration area (Jan. program)

TBA (Sat.): Field trip (Broward Chapter) Doris Freeman Preserve in Parkland

16 (Sun.): Chapter board meeting

25 (Tue.): Monthly meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

March

14 (Sat.): Field trip – Chekika, East Everglades, ENP

20 (Fri.): Setup for Native Plant Day

21 (Sat.): 25th NATIVE PLANT DAY - in North Miami

24 (Tue.): Monthly meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

May 14-17: FNPS 40th Annual Conference, Jacksonville

Other events of interest coming up soon

Feb. 8: Kenwoods Outdoor Learning Center workdays

Feb. 12: [Broward Chapter FNPS](#) meeting

Feb 15: Bird Day, [Tropical Audubon Society](#)

Feb. 18: [Dade Native Plant Workshop](#)

Feb. 20: [Keys](#) Native Plant Workshop

Feb. 29: Native garden workshop, Coral Gables Farmers Mkt

Feb. 29: Panthers hockey game tickets support [ECISMA](#)

Mar. 7: [EEL workday](#) – Florida City Pineland

Thru Mar.4: [Delicate Balance of Nature](#) lectures, Key Largo

Ongoing: FIU Wednesday lunchtime [Plant Talks](#)

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

FIELD TRIPS

● **Saturday, February 15, 2020. Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Restoration.** Eduardo Varona will lead us on a tour of the restored uplands (pineland) and wetlands areas of the ongoing, ambitious and successful restoration by volunteers with [Liveablecutler](#). This was the topic of the informative program by Eduardo in January.

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

Difficulty/conditions: Easy - short distance, but some terrain could be a little uneven. There could be mosquitoes, also possibly a little mud on your shoes, but we won't get wet.
Lost? Call Patty 305-878-5705

Native plant donations (hammock, pineland or wetland species) are welcomed! Please bring them along, and they will

be planted later if appropriate and beneficial for the site. Contact Eduardo to donate plants later or volunteer at workdays (livablecutler@gmail.com, 305-299-9809).

• **Doris Forman Preserve in Parkland (Broward Chapter hosts) – February - date and details TBA**

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

Thanks to board member **Steve Woodmansee**, who is planning a great lineup of field trips and leaders in 2020 (except for this month's trip which was postponed from last year.)

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

The Dade Chapter board meetings. To attend or submit an agenda item, please contact DCFNPS (see info box). The next meeting is scheduled for February 16.

Welcome new members! Katherine Castrillon, Regnier Jurado, Daniel Lago (student), Wendy Mesa

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

Feb. 12, 7 p.m. "Benefits of Urban Trees and Landscapes for Communities" – John Harris

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**.

Please help out a few minutes to set up refreshments before chapter meetings when you can. All supplies are provided. Please contact Gita (gita.ramsay@gmail.com) or a board member at a meeting. Short or long term help, or several people to alternate. If you see a need before or after a meeting, you can also just step up and help – it will be appreciated!

Chapter workday, Everglades National Park 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)** if you have questions.

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. *Little bits add up!*

25th 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 under the canopy of towering oaks.

HOW CAN YOU HELP NOW?

Contact **Amy Leonard**, the Native Plant Day coordinator (aleonar74@yahoo.com)

- **PLANT DONATIONS.** Continue to groom your best plants for the raffle/sale. They need to be well-established by March 21. *(We can get them there if you can't – contact Amy.)*
 - Also: Please include 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).
- **HELP TRANSPORT PLANT DONATIONS.** Can you pick up some plants to deliver on Friday (Mar. 20) or early on March 21? **Contact Amy.**
- **NON-PLANT RAFFLE DONATIONS.** Set aside nature or gardening-related items (books, art, tools, decorative items, gift certificates, entrance tickets, etc.) *(We can get them there if you can't come - contact Amy.)*
- **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. *It's not too early to sign up! (Family, friends, and young people you know are also invited and urged to volunteer.)* (**Contact Gita:** gita.ramsay@gmail.com, 786-877-7168).

This is your Chapter's major public event each year. It wouldn't be possible without your help. Thank you!

Amy Leonard, Native Plant Day Coordinator

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, 305-297-7757). *Thank you!*

DCFNPS DISPLAY AT PINECREST GARDENS

Native plants replace the birds

A display of native plants is now in place at Pinecrest Gardens in a former Parrot Jungle bird cage courtesy of DCFNPS. Board members Kurt Birchnough, Jennifer Stine and Steve Woodmansee and Steve's sister Helen Woodmansee installed the plants on January 31, 2020. Susan Walcutt took care of arrangements for the project.



Five native plants were installed in pots:

Firebush (*Hamelia patens*), Simpson's stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans*), Bahama wild coffee (*Psychotria ligustrifolia*), Scorpionstail (*Heliotropium angiospermum*), and Florida peperomia (*Peperomia obtusifolia*).

Tillandsia species were placed on driftwood supplied by Kurt:

Cardinal airplant (*Tillandsia fasciculata* var. *densispica*), Twisted wild-pine (*T. paucifolia*), Reflexed wild-pine (*T. balbisiana*), Spanish-moss (*T. usneoides*), and Florida airplant (*T. floridana*).



DADE CHAPTER
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

MONTHLY PROGRAMS
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
4TH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
(EXCEPT JULY, AUGUST & DECEMBER)
7:30 PM PINECREST GARDENS
HIBISCUS ROOM

dedefnps.org



A sign with chapter info will be installed using our new website name and a QR code to link to the website.

You'll have the opportunity to check it out before upcoming meetings.



NEW DADE CHAPTER FNPS WEBSITE!

The new Dade Chapter website is **HERE:**

www.dedefnps.org



Kudos to our expert webmaster **Haniel Pulido** and thank you for all the effort that went into this project! Check out the new calendar featuring field trips and events from both the Dade and Broward chapters, plant profiles, and more. The new design is modern, easy to navigate, and mobile friendly. Please share the website with your friends on social media to invite them to our next meeting, Native Plant Day and other activities.

Handouts have been updated and are easy to read online or to print. Bilingual handouts for trees and shrubs have been added (previously they were only distributed on paper).

Also note the new website address "dedefnps.org" which is short and easy to remember. **It redirects to the "real" address (dade.fnpschapters.org) which stays the same as always**, so no need update saved bookmarks and links if you don't want to.

Notes on the new calendar:

We are using the "Team Up" calendar provided by FNPS. Our Dade calendar shows Broward events as well. As close neighbors, members often participate in activities of both chapters. FNPS items are also automatically included.

The source of calendar items is color coded:

Dade Chapter in **aqua**,
Broward Chapter in **plum**, and
FNPS in **green**.

You can experiment with different features to choose a view and ways to see details. Many people like "List" view (select at top right). You can hover over items, or click on "Details" at the top, or click on an item to see more info.

If you'd like to see yet *another* chapter's calendar, go to fnps.org – events and use the calendar filter to choose a chapter.

MORE NEWS and THINGS TO DO

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

Native plant gardening workshop at the Coral Gables Farmers Market. Chapter member **Henry Block** will make a presentation on "Small Lot Landscaping with Native Plants." **Saturday, February 29, 9:00-9:45 a.m.**, 405 Biltmore Way (behind City Hall). Come cheer him on and learn about his landscaping experiences.

“Native Palms of Florida: Identification and Regulation”

Here’s an informative new (Dec. 2019) native palm circular from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Thanks to Steve Woodmansee for the heads-up. https://www.fdacs.gov/ezs3download/download/89912/2571089/Media/Files/Plant-Industry-Files/CIRCULAR-Native-Palms-of-Florida_BH.pdf



Enjoy a Florida Panthers hockey game and help the Everglades! Saturday, February 29 at 7:00 PM, BB&T Center. [Ticket sales through the link below](#) support the **Everglades Cooperative Invasive**

Species Management Area (ECISMA). There will be an educational table featuring invasive species topics throughout the game. ECISMA works with many agencies and partners to better understand and manage invasive plants and wildlife that threaten restoration of the Everglades. **Your ticket purchase could help stop the next big invader!**

TICKETS: <https://groupmatics.events/event/Friendsecisma7>

Dade Native Plant Workshop. MDC Kendall Campus Landscape Technology Center, third Tuesdays, **5 pm.** nativeplantworkshop.ning.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!**

Feb. 18 topic: Celastraceae (Stafftree Family), with six native species in South Florida. Go to the [Institute for Regional Conservation's](#) FISF Online Database Advanced Search tab and select "Celastraceae" under the Plant Family look-up for a list.

Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) workdays: www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands-volunteer.asp for information. Register at eel@miamidade.gov or 305-372-6611. **March 7:** Florida City Pineland Preserve (SW 344 St. & SW 6th Ave.)

Kenwoods Outdoor Learning Center monthly workdays - the award-winning **native hammock** at Kenwood K-8, 9300 SW 79 Ave. **Upcoming dates: 2/8, 3/14, 4/11 – 9 a.m. to 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. Thursday February 20, 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 (jduquesn@fiu.edu, 305-304-4445).

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. See www.floridastateparks.org/sites/default/files/media/file/2020-DBN-Agenda.pdf or 305-676-3786.

Feb. 12: The Geologic History of the Florida Keys
Feb. 19: The Endangered Sawfish of the Florida Keys
Feb. 26: Marrying Beauty & Sustainability in Creating a Garden

FIU Plant Talks. Many Wednesdays, noon-1p.m. Fun and informative. See faculty.fiu.edu/~kopturs/planttalk19.html for the most up-to-date info. All welcome – feel free to bring lunch!

Tropical Audubon Society. Check the [website](#) for **Bird Day (Feb 15, noon-4 pm)** with activities for children and junior naturalists as well as other activities for all including tours of the

historic house. And many other events and activities, of course.

Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society
For Miami-Dade and the Florida Keys

Chapter information: DadeFNPS@gmail.com, 305-985-3677
DCFNPS website & social media: www.DadeFNPS.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
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, 321-271-6702
FNPS website, blog, social media: <http://www.fnps.org>
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DID YOU KNOW?

Butterfly facts from Sandy Koi:

- The Zebra Heliconian is one of the few butterflies that eats pollen and well as nectar.
www.butterfliesandmoths.org/species/Heliconius-charithonia
- Florida's smallest butterfly is an Eastern Pygmy Blue, which lives in the salt marsh
(www.butterfliesandmoths.org/species/Brephidium-pseudofea) and our largest Florida butterfly is the Giant Swallowtail
(www.butterfliesandmoths.org/species/Papilio-cresphontes).
- The Red-banded Hairstreak caterpillar eats detritus in the leaf litter: an important reason to leave the leaves for the butterfly!
entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/bfly/redbanded_hairstreak.htm
- Butterflies are uniquely tied to their host plants, so plant native vegetation to provide them with what they need.

From Steve Woodmansee:

Did you know that fig trees (*Ficus* spp.) produce figs year 'round?

This is because they coevolved with a short-lived wasp which lays its eggs in the tree's flowers (which are inside the fig) and pollinates the trees at the same time. Each species of fig has its own species of pollinating wasp.

What this means for us is that native fig trees are always sought out by both residential and migratory birds, as they are almost always in fruit, making them one of the best wildlife attractors to our yards.

In addition, the native Strangler and Shortleaf figs (*Ficus aurea* and *F. citrifolia*) are host plants to the ruddy daggerwing butterfly (bugguide.net/node/view/3480) and several species of moths, making them a great tree for attracting insect eating and nesting birds which feed their young caterpillars.