



Dade Chapter

# TILLANDSIA

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

MAY 2020

## MAY MEETING ONLINE – We’re back!

Tuesday, May 26, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

We’re excited to again experience an activity together, even if virtually. This meeting will be a live presentation online. Details to access the program will be sent before the meeting.

The presentation will be by Everglades Fire Management members **Michael Gue, Prescribed Fire Specialist**, and **Maya Tupaj, Fire Ecologist**. They will discuss the important role fire plays in ecosystems like Everglades National Park and across the world, and give us a look into a new way of managing fire that can meet the challenges of the next century.

**Get a head start beforehand** by reading about prescribed fire on the National Park Service (NPS) website, and **follow the link to the 2012 film "River of Fire" on YouTube** by NPS producer Jen Brown. Funded by Everglades Fire Management, this film depicts a large-scale prescribed burn conducted for hazardous fuel reduction and exotic vegetation management. <https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/management/prescribedfire.htm>

**Michael Gue** coordinates and oversees prescribed fire operations within Everglades and Biscayne National Park.



Michael started his career in fire in 2000 in Montana where he spent 16 years working on Engine Modules, Hotshot Crews, and Helicopters travelling the country suppressing wildfires. In 2016 he accepted a job in

Everglades National Park where instead of suppressing wildfires he found more flexibility to fulfill his dream of allowing fire to play a natural role within fire dependent ecosystems.

**Maya Tupaj** oversees the fire effects monitoring program and coordinates environmental planning and compliance for fire management activities. Maya started working in the Everglades in 2006 in fire management as a field technician. Before that she worked at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park in native plant restoration.



**June 23 presentation online:** “Pollinator Networks in Pine Rocklands of the Lower Florida Keys” - Brittany Harris, Ph.D. candidate, Florida International University.

## 2020 Calendar

**May 26 (Tue.): Monthly meeting** – 7:30 p.m. ONLINE  
**May 31 (Sun.): Election of DCFNPS 2020-21 board** by ONLINE poll

**June 23 (Tue.): Monthly meeting** – 7:30 p.m. ONLINE  
**June 27 (Sat.): Field trip** (Deering Estate). See announcement for registration information.

Please check our online [calendar](#) for updates as more in-person and online activities are scheduled.

## DCFNPS BOARD ELECTION

**Sunday, May 31, 7-8 pm by Zoom (or by text if you can’t use Zoom)**

We are continuing our tradition of voting in a new board in May, with a few changes due to the necessity for social distancing. As we were not able to put out a call for nominations in April, that process is now open. **Please contact Brian Diaz ([briandiaz1210@gmail.com](mailto:briandiaz1210@gmail.com)) if you are interested in serving on the board or have someone to suggest. All nominations MUST be received by May 26, 2020.** 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!

On **Sunday, May 31st, from 7-8pm**, we will have an online meeting via Zoom, with the main purpose being to vote in new president, vice president, and directors at large. **The current proposed slate, pending any new nominations, is:**  
**President:** Brian Diaz, **Vice President:** Steve Woodmansee, **Directors at large:** Jeanne Rothchild, Joey Basna, and Sanna O'Sullivan. (See bios for Joey and Sanna below. The others are current board members.)

The link to the Zoom meeting will be emailed after May 26th, and a few days before the vote. Please check your email for the link to join the Zoom call and vote. During this meeting, voting will be conducted via a Zoom poll, from 7 to 8 p.m., and close at 8 p.m. with votes tallied at that time. Please be sure to sign into Zoom with your full name (used in your membership) so your vote can be recorded.

**If you have accessibility issues, or cannot use Zoom, but would like to vote, you may text Gita Ramsay.** Please be sure to text your full name (used in your membership), and whether you vote to approve the slate as proposed, or if you vote to reject the slate as proposed.

### Sanna O'Sullivan:

I'm the Head Gardener at Miami Beach Botanical Garden. I oversee plant maintenance, additions to our collection, volunteer staffing and our nursery. My focus is on gardening with native plants for wildlife in the urban setting. I am a Florida Master Naturalist and Land Steward. When not in the garden, you can find me surfing or exploring our state's wild areas!

### Joey Basna, enthusiast and landscaper:

Over the last decade I have nurtured and grown a love for native plants and habitats. What started as a hobby has turned into my livelihood. During the summer heat of 2013 as I was standing under the blistering sun on the shadeless lawn that occupied all of my yard, I realized what was missing! A bit of 'real Miami', as I step out the door. Since that moment, my passion for nature became a part of my daily life. The Dade Chapter FNPS and the Institute for Regional Conservation play a significant role in my proper development of native plant knowledge and have provided valuable experience.

## FIELD TRIP

### Deering Estate at Cutler – Saturday, June 27, 2020 (and possibly later dates!)

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

The number of participants must be capped by the limit imposed by Miami-Dade County at the time. Thus **only current DCFNPS members may register**. Additional trips may be scheduled for later dates if needed to accommodate more people.

**Registration:** Contact Steve Woodmansee ([steve@pronative.com](mailto:steve@pronative.com)). After the trip fills up, you can be added to a wait list or for a later date.

**Fee:** \$5 (to Steve at the trip). This is a park fee and covers the field trip only, not general entrance to tour the grounds.

**Bring/wear:** Mask, water, mosquito protection, sturdy closed shoes.

**Difficulty:** Easy to moderate (could be slippery and slightly wet in some places depending on weather).

**Dallas Hazelton** of Miami-Dade County Parks will lead us through Addison Hammock on a broad trail (the original Old Cutler Road) about a mile to the burial mound, and back by the same route. The trail allows space for social distancing. We will also walk through portions of the Cutler Creek Wetland Restoration Site which runs through Addison Hammock.



### Welcome new members!

In Miami-Dade: Dania Otero-Perez, Jennifer Swallow, and Karmi Van Wyk  
In the Keys: Vincent Zito

## MORE NEWS and THINGS TO DO

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

**Rain Barrel Workshop - May 23:** Free virtual presentation by UF/IFAS/Extension Miami Dade County. Schedule a barrel pick up if desired - \$40. They will also share plants at pick up. Check [Eventbrite Page](#) often for details. 305-248-3311.

 **The Institute for Regional Conservation**

### "Weekly Conservation Conversations" – free webinars

Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m. led by Chief Conservation Strategist, George Gann and Education & Outreach Coordinator, Cara Abbott. See <https://www.regionalconservation.org/> and [Facebook](#).

- **May 19: IRC's new Biodiversity Starter Plant Kits.**

Residents of barrier islands in Palm Beach to Miami-Dade counties can expand on biodiversity hotspots being created.

- **May 26: Restoring the Gold Coast program update - restoring native coastal biodiversity while cultivating a community of coastal advocates.**

- **June 2: Pine Rockland Initiative.** The goal is to help protect, restore, and manage the remnant pine rockland habitats.

- See [News](#) for links to past webinars including "Natives For Your Neighborhood" and "Floristic Inventory of South Florida".

**"Tropical Trails" is back!** Do you remember this popular print publication by the Miami-Dade Naturalist Services from 1974 to 2000? **It now returns as a digital magazine (pdf file) from Miami-Dade EcoAdventures thanks to Eric King**, Interpretive Programs Supervisor at Castellow Hammock Preserve and Nature Center, and son of the late naturalist Jim King who started the magazine. It features a calendar, articles, kids' corner and the old-time favorite, "Ask a Naturalist." **To be added to the email distribution**, contact Eric ([eric.king@miamidadegov](mailto:eric.king@miamidadegov) or 305-242-7688). April and May editions are already out.

## FEDERAL-LISTED ENDANGERED PLANTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

*By Roger L. Hammer*

In order for a plant to receive federal protection it must either be endemic, or near-endemic, and also be rare and have an identifiable threat, which is typically habitat loss from development. There are currently 14 plant species on the federal endangered list recorded for Miami-Dade County, and this includes **Carter's pinelandcress or Carter's mustard (*Warea carteri*)**, which is endemic to Lake, Polk, and Highlands Counties, but was historically present in Brevard, Broward, Glades, and Miami-Dade Counties, where it is presumed extirpated.

So, here are the 13 federal-listed endangered species that still reside in Miami-Dade County (federal-listed species are automatically state-listed as well):

**Crenulate leadplant (*Amorpha herbacea* var. *crenulata*)** once had species status as *Amorpha crenulata*, but has since been relegated to being a distinct variety of the widespread *Amorpha herbacea*. The crenulate leadplant is endemic to Miami-Dade County where it is found in parks and preserves between SW 32 Street south to SW 168 Street. Early reports of its presence in Everglades National Park were from introduced, cultivated specimens.



**Florida brickellbush or Mosier's false boneset (*Brickellia mosieri*)** is endemic to Miami-Dade County and occurs in parks and preserves scattered between SW 109 Street south to SW 328 Street. It was first collected and described by botanist John Kunkel Small from plants he found at "Costello Hammock" in 1915. It is not known if it still occurs at Castellow Hammock because the pine rockland habitat has long ago undergone natural succession to hardwood hammock through fire suppression.



**Deltoid spurge or wedge sandmat (*Euphorbia deltoidea* subsp. *deltoida*)** is endemic to remnant pine rockland preserves in Miami-Dade County from SW 75 Terrace south to SW 264 Street. It is absent from Everglades National Park. This species, and the federal-endangered *Brickellia mosieri*, were present in the pine rockland tract adjacent to Zoo Miami that was sold to a developer by the University of Miami and bulldozed for commercial retail stores and 900 apartments. Besides habitat destruction, its biggest threat is fire suppression.



**Cape Sable thoroughwort (*Chromolaena frustrata*)** is endemic



to Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties (both mainland and Florida Keys). Although it is not known to occur on Cape Sable, the entire region between Flamingo in Everglades National Park west to the Gulf of Mexico was once referred to as Cape Sable. It is currently known from Everglades National Park in the Snake Bight/Rowdy Bend and Flamingo regions, as well as Long Key and Lignumvitae Key State Parks in the middle Florida Keys, and the Key Deer National Wildlife Refuge on Big Pine Key. The species

name came about when botanist Benjamin Lincoln Robinson became frustrated while attempting to describe this species in 1911 because it closely resembled a related Jamaican species.

**Semaphore cactus (*Consolea corallicola*)** is endemic to the Florida Keys. The Florida Plant Atlas shows its range as Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties but this is because the place in Biscayne National Park where it is found is in Miami-Dade County. It is critically imperiled, not only due to its vulnerability to hurricanes and the presence of an imported moth (*Cactoblastis cactorum*) with larvae that kill cactus by boring through their pads, but also because all of the flowers are functionally males, so it can only spread vegetatively when the pads fall to the ground and root, forming clonal populations.



**Garber's spurge (*Euphorbia garberi*)** is endemic to Miami-Dade County and the Florida Keys (Monroe County). In Miami-Dade County it is present at the Deering Estate at Cutler and on Long Pine Key in Everglades National Park. In the Florida Keys it occurs in nine state and federal parks and preserves from Key Largo west to Big Pine Key and the Coupon Bight Preserve.

**Small's milkpea (*Galactia smallii*)** is endemic to pine rockland habitat in Miami-Dade County, and is either present or reported from the Deering Estate at Cutler south to the Palm Drive Pineland Preserve in Florida City, and also on Long Pine Key in Everglades National Park. Some taxonomists relegate this species as a synonym of *Galactia volubilis*, a common and widespread species in Florida, but *Galactia smallii* is non-twining, lacks raised venation, and has larger flowers.

**Johnson's seagrass (*Halophila johnsonii*)** is endemic to shallow lagoons, rivers, and bays from the Indian and Banana Rivers of Brevard County south through the coastal counties to Biscayne Bay and Florida Bay in Miami-Dade County. It is threatened by hypersaline water created by cutting off the freshwater flow from Lake Okeechobee for sugarcane production, and from die-offs due to algal blooms from fertilizer run-off into coastal waters.

**Caribbean applecactus (*Harrisia fragrans*)** is also called Indian River prickly-apple and Simpson's applecactus, and is endemic to coastal habitats from Volusia County south along the east coast to mainland Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties and into the Florida Keys (Monroe County). On the Monroe County mainland it is found in the coastal mangrove and buttonwood forests of Everglades National Park. The reference to an apple in its common name relates to the bright-red fruits. It is replaced on the west coast of Florida by *Harrisia aboriginum*, an endemic, endangered relative with yellow fruits. The showy flowers



open a few hours before midnight and are closed long before sunrise. The flowers are pollinated by nocturnal beetles.

**Beach clustervine**  
(*Jacquemontia reclinata*)

is endemic to coastal habitats of southeastern Florida from Palm Beach County south to Key Biscayne in Miami-Dade County (historically present in Martin County but apparently extirpated). Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden has reintroduced it to coastal habitats where it was historically present, such as Crandon Park on Key Biscayne.



**Small's milkwort** (*Polygala smallii*) is endemic to sandy habitats from St. Lucie County south to Miami-Dade County. North of Miami-Dade County it is mostly found in coastal sandhills and scrubby flatwoods but in Miami-Dade County it occurs in sandy pockets within pine rockland habitat. It is currently known from Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Martin County south to the Deering Estate at Cutler in Miami-Dade County. It very closely resembles candyroot (*Polygala nana*).

**Florida bully or Everglades bully** (*Sideroxylon reclinatum* subsp. *austrifloridense*) is a shrubby species endemic to Collier County, Miami-Dade County, and the Monroe County mainland. It is present in the Big Cypress National Preserve, Everglades National Park, and from Larry & Penny Thompson Park south to the Florida City Pineland Preserve. The Florida Plant Atlas does not show it vouchered from Collier County but the author has seen it along the Florida National Scenic Trail in the Big Cypress National Preserve.

**Florida bristle fern** (*Trichomanes punctatum* subsp. *floridanum*) is endemic to Miami-Dade County, where it grows as a lithophyte on the walls of limestone solution holes in shady tropical hardwood hammocks. It was historically present from Matheson Hammock in Coral Gables south to Fuchs Hammock in Homestead, but is currently known only from four South Dade hammocks.

*Roger L. Hammer is a professional naturalist, author, photographer, and survivalist instructor for the Discovery Channel's reality TV show, Naked and Afraid. He has received numerous awards from the Florida Native Plant Society, Tropical Audubon Society, and the North American Butterfly Association, and was honored by the FNPS Dade Chapter with the first Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award. In 2012 he received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Florida International University. His most recent book (2018) is titled Complete Guide to Florida Wildflowers, and includes more than 670 native wildflowers of the Sunshine State. He lives in Homestead with his wife, Michelle.*

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## DEADWOOD: TO PRUNE OR NOT TO PRUNE?

by Steve Woodmansee

It is the time of year when we should evaluate our yards with the onset of hurricane season. I can attest that trees which are properly pruned do indeed perform better in hurricanes. But sometimes I wonder, are our landscapes are too clean?

In general, arborists recommend that deadwood be removed from trees. I have gotten into birding lately, and have noticed that woodpeckers often go to these dead limbs, as they are a source of food, being filled with insects. Dead limbs are also a place for woodpeckers to build cavity nests, which can also be used by other native birds including screech owls.

I have generally recommended that we mimic nature in our yards. Forests and woodlands are always full of dead twigs, dead wood, rotting logs, and dead trees. Our instinct though is to remove these from our yards and send to the landfill, as they are not considered landscape features. We are also taught that dead wood on living plants promotes disease. And yet, many insects, important members of the food web, develop in dead and rotten wood.

Just something to think about as you clean up your yard and prune things before hurricane season begins.

*Steve Woodmansee is the biologist and owner of Pro Native Consulting (www.pronative.com), native plant expert, chair of the Dade Native Plant Workshop, and former president of FNPS. He is a board member of the Dade Chapter, field trip coordinator, a frequent contributor to Tillandsia and a speaker.*

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

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**DCFNPS website & social media:** [www.DadeFNPS.org/](http://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  
**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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