



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

JUNE 2020

Please Check Your Email Junk Folders!

It's important to check your junk/spam/promotions folder and **move email from the addresses listed below out of that folder and into your inbox.**

It's also important to add these same addresses to your email contacts. These steps can help ensure that you receive important email from FNPS (renewal notices, the *Sabal Minor* newsletter, news of FNPS activities, and more), and from the Dade Chapter (*Tillandsia* newsletter and event or special notices)

From FNPS:

- info@fnps.org (FNPS Administrative Services)
- communications@fnps.org (FNPS Communications Director)

From the Dade Chapter:

- [Dade Chapter Florida Native Plan@mail.vresp.com](mailto:DadeChapterFloridaNativePlan@mail.vresp.com) - the email marketing service Vertical Response for newsletter and event notices. (The sender name appears as Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society. It only sends group email, and does not receive email).
- DadeFNPS@gmail.com - the chapter's general email (rarely used for sending messages to members)

FNPS protocol for membership renewal reminders

In an effort to accommodate member requests that we reduce our use of printed mailings, FNPS **now sends printed renewal notices (postal mail) only to members without email addresses on record.**

If your membership lapses, you will receive one printed notice and monthly email reminders for up to a year until you renew.

Did you receive your *Palmetto* magazine (Vol. 36: Number 1 > 2020) early in June?

This issue features "Native Passionvines" by well-known naturalist and DCFNPS member Roger Hammer, with his cover photo of *Passiflora pallens*.

If your membership was not current at the time the mailing was prepared, you may have missed it. But FNPS has kindly offered to share this issue as a pdf file with you. Please contact Patty (pharespl@gmail.com) for this file.

And please don't forget to rejoin FNPS at fnps.org if you haven't already! (Contact FNPS if you need assistance: info@fnps.org, 321-271-6702)

2020 Calendar

June 23 (Tue): Monthly meeting – 7:30 p.m. ONLINE

June 27 (Sat.): Field trip (Deering Estate)*.

July 16 (Thurs.): Miami Beach Botanical Garden
after-hours visit *

July 25 (Sat.): Field trip (Lower Matecumbe Key) +

* Please see announcements for registration information.
Space is limited due to current restrictions.

JUNE MEETING ONLINE

Tuesday, June 23, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

This will be a live presentation online. Details to access the meeting will be sent to members by email before the meeting.

Or at dadefnps.org, see the events tab for the [calendar](#).
It's easy, open to all and free. Please join us!

**“Multi-tasking Insects:
the Obligate-Specialist-Herbivore-Pollinator Weevils
of Cycads” - Sandy Koi**
(and celebrate *National Pollinator Week, June 22 - 28, 2020!*)
<https://www.fws.gov/pollinators/>

Cycads are one of the oldest seed plants living today. These ancient plants are highly endangered, rare and threatened across their worldwide range. The manner in which they are pollinated was a source of intense controversy among botanists---are these ancient dioecious plants pollinated by the wind or by insects? Because of the increasingly endangered status of cycads worldwide, determining successful pollination protocol in gardens, as well as in the wild, has been gaining importance in the scientific community. Close observation of some of the cycads at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden indicated that regardless of available wind currents, or the fact that the cycads produced numerous seeds, some of the species had to be hand-pollinated or they would not set viable seed.

In 1980, the role of insects in the pollination biology was questioned for one cycad species. An obligate-specialist-herbivore-pollinator snout weevil was found to be responsible for pollinating *Zamia furfuracea*, and that it had an extremely complex and partially hidden life cycle. Continued studies confirm that weevils are intricately involved in the reproductive cycles of most, if not all, cycads worldwide. The decreasing fertility and distribution of cycads worldwide may be partially

explained by the missing insect pollinators as well as habitat destruction and illegal collection.

Sandy Koi is a doctoral student at Florida International University under Dr. Hong Liu, where she also teaches Everglades Ecology. She is studying the at-risk butterflies and other pollinators in pine rockland ecosystem fragments beside Miami-Dade County schools. She was an adjunct biology professor at Nova Southeastern University, as well as an entomologist for the Institute for Regional Conservation and other NGOs. She earned an MS in Entomology from the University of Florida and has a BS in Environmental Science and Biology from Nova Southeastern University; her scientific publications include current research on the Atala butterfly, an imperiled South Florida species she has studied since 2001, as well as other endangered and threatened invertebrate biota. She is an active member of the Pine Rockland Work Group and the Imperiled Butterfly Work Group.

* **You can watch a recording of our May online program** (the importance of fire to ecosystems) **on the Dade Chapter's YouTube channel. This is available at fnps.org/home** (click on **Videos** in the home page sidebar menu, enter the **Channels** menu, and find the Dade Chapter channel), or go directly to the channel with this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmassuC5-OsAX2KsRYQ6X5A>

FIELD TRIPS

Space is limited due to Covid-19 guidelines. Please register!

- **Deering Estate at Cutler – Saturday, June 27, 2020 (and possibly later dates!), 8:30 a.m. – noon (may end earlier).**

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

Due to space limitation 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). **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.

- **FDOT Restoration site on Lower Matecumbe Key – Saturday, July 25, 2020, 9:30 – noon**

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

Registration: Contact Steve Woodmansee steve@pronative.com to make a reservation. Space is limited.

Be prepared for: Mosquitoes, getting your feet wet, hot sun, rain (bring water), and thorny vegetation (wear closed shoes).

Steve Woodmansee will lead us through this site, which contains Coastal Rock Barren, Coastal Berm, Mangrove, and Interdunal Swale type plant communities. It once was dominated by the invasive non-native Brazilian Pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), but has been successfully restored by the Florida Department of Transportation. Many rare or uncommon plants occur here including Poepigg's Rosemallow (*Hibiscus poepiggii*), Yucatan Flymallow (*Cienfuegosia yucatanensis*), and Sea lavender (*Argusia gnaphalodes*), and many more.

JULY GARDEN VISIT

After Hours at Miami Beach Botanical Garden

Thursday, July 16, 2020, 6 – 8 p.m.

Address: 2000 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, 33139

Registration required, space is limited

Miami Beach Botanical Garden is a 3 acre, subtropical oasis in the heart of Miami Beach. Designed by Raymond Jungles, the garden has a large collection of native plants that attract wildlife, multiple ponds and meandering pathways throughout lush foliage. Enjoy a tour by Head Gardener, Sanna O'Sullivan and time to explore on your own. Light refreshments will be provided. (Sanna is a new board member of DCFNPS.)

Registration: Space is limited by the number of participants allowed at the time. Thus for now, only current DCFNPS members may register. You must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Contact Sanna O'Sullivan (sannairja@gmail.com). You will receive directions to enter the garden. After the list fills up, you can be added to a wait list.

Message from Brian Diaz, DCFNPS President

Greetings everyone! It is with great honor and pleasure that I accept the position of president of the Dade Chapter FNPS. After serving as vice president of the chapter for the past two years, I am ready and eager to assume the responsibilities of this new role. In that time, I have learned many leadership lessons from our now past president, Kurt Birchenough, and the other members of the board. I am grateful for those lessons and will carry them forward as president. Once it is safe to do so, I look forward to facilitating our in-person programs, running the raffle table, and listening to all your stories and experiences with native plants face to face.

Florida, and especially Miami-Dade County, has rapidly changed over the decades. This change has often spelled the demise of natural areas and pushed so many species of plants to threatened

and endangered status. Those plants and the wildlife they support hold our history and legacy as well as the promise for a brighter future. We need the native wildflowers to support our pollinators, the mangroves to protect our coasts, the Everglades to bring fresh water, and the forests to replenish our spirits. As native plant enthusiasts, we all have a shared responsibility to speak and act for their conservation and restoration. The lessons we learn, the plants we grow, and the passions we possess are the refuges of hope and the keys for positive change. To that end, I encourage your continued active participation within the chapter.



If you have any thoughts or ideas, native plants that need a home, or knowledge of a project that we may be able to lend an arm of support to, I want to hear it!

Let's continue to build and maintain an inclusive and thought-provoking environment for the betterment of the nature that we all love and need.

Until we can all meet again, stay safe!

Brian (briandiaz1210@gmail.com)

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

● **Welcome new members!** Brenda Archer, Jason Biondi, Michael David, Andrew Geist (along with Benjamin and Nicholas), Mauricio Gonzalez and Natalia Manrique, Sean Herman and Mary Block, Theodora Long, Susan Reutling, William Sanchez, Alyssa Smith

● **Chapter board election**

At the Annual Meeting of the Dade Chapter FNPS held online on May 31, 2020, the proposed slate was approved unanimously, all for 2-year terms except as noted:

President: **Brian Diaz**

Vice president: **Steve Woodmansee**

Directors-at-large: **Joey Basna, Sanna O'Sullivan, and Jeanne Rothchild;** and **Amy Leonard** for a 1-year term.

Continuing for the second year of their terms are **Gita Ramsay** (secretary), **Susan Walcutt** (treasurer), and Directors **Janeen Feiger** and **Jennifer Stine**. Past-President **Kurt Birchenough** is now Past-President and the chapter's FNPS Council of Chapters of representative.

Many thanks to Kurt for his multiple terms as president and to **Joey** and **Sanna** coming on as new board members! (See bios for Joey and Sanna in the May newsletter.)

MORE NEWS and THINGS TO DO

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



The Institute for Regional Conservation. If you missed the "Weekly Conservation Conversations" or would like to see any again, you can still watch them. These free webinars will help you use IRC's online resources, learn about ongoing programs, and if you live on a barrier island, learn about

"plant kits" for your garden. See Current News for links.

<https://www.regionalconservation.org/ircs/news.asp>

- **Natives For Your Neighborhood**
- **Floristic Inventory of South Florida**
- **IRC's new Biodiversity Starter Plant Kits**
- **Restoring the Gold Coast program update**
- **Pine Rockland Initiative**

"Tropical Trails" - The popular print publication by the Miami-Dade Naturalist Services from 1974 to 2000 **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. It features a calendar, articles, kids' corner and "Ask a Naturalist." **To be added to the email distribution:** <http://linktr.ee/miamiecoadventures>



North American Butterfly Association

Every summer NABA chapters conduct **butterfly surveys** throughout North America. This citizen science project tracks species variety and numbers useful for scientists and naturalists, especially since counters revisit the places each year. The **Miami Blue chapter** runs three surveys, one in the suburbs and two in the wild. **Experts and beginners are welcome to participate.** Learn more at <http://miamiblue.org/>

June 20 - Loop Road Count

June 27 - Coral Gables Count

July 18 - Shark Valley Count

LAUREL WILT DISEASE FOUND IN GULF LICARIA (*LICARIA TRIANDRA*)

By Dave King

Twenty years ago we won two Gulf licaria trees in one-gallon pots in a drawing at a DCFNPS monthly meeting. Gulf licaria is a rare Florida native and a member of the Laurel plant family (Lauraceae). Gulf licaria can be found in the Caribbean, however in the U.S. wild trees are known only from remnant portions of Brickell Hammock in Miami-Dade County. Over the years our two Gulf licaria trees grew to briefly become the national champions of their species until a larger one was found and reported in 2014. One of our trees sadly died last year—we *thought* because it had been so badly damaged by hurricane Irma.

Then, last winter, we noticed that all the leaves on a peripheral branch on our healthy tree had turned brown. Again we thought it was likely caused by damage to that branch. But then over the course of several weeks, a nearby branch died, and then another, and another; eventually consuming the entire tree. We suspected that it might be laurel wilt disease, although we knew that when avocado trees are infected the progression of the disease through entire trees happens in just days.

I asked Dr. Jonathan Crane at the University of Florida's Tropical Research and Education Center (who researches laurel wilt in the South Florida avocado industry) about that possibility. Dr. Crane came over, made observations, took samples, and confirmed that our trees did indeed have laurel wilt.

Laurel wilt, which has virtually eliminated native redbay trees and is devastating many avocado groves, is a vascular disease caused by a fungus (*Raffaelea lauricola*) which restricts the flow

of water through many members of the Laurel plant family. This fungal pathogen is transmitted by the non-native invasive redbay ambrosia beetle (*Xyleborus glabratus*). This beetle typically attacks the trunks of trees causing the entire tree to die very quickly. Dr. Crane advised that there are now native species of ambrosia beetles that carry the fungus, and that they have more of a tendency to attack peripheral limbs. This may explain the progression that we observed in our tree.

Field occurrences of laurel wilt have been documented in several native tree species, but I could not find any report of a field occurrence for *Licaria triandra*. I did, however, find that the disease has been *induced* through inoculation (experimentally) in both Gulf licaria and its native Lauraceae cousin, lancewood (*Nectandra coriacea*). Apparently not all species are equally vulnerable to the disease, or equally attractive to the redbay ambrosia beetle. A bit scary is that more native species of trees may be more attractive to native ambrosia beetles. More hopeful is that new growth has sprouted from the trunk of our first tree that “died,” and there are several volunteers coming up around both trees.

Perspective on this disease has changed enormously now that we humans are dealing with a similarly tragic situation. Let’s all hope that our rare native trees (and ourselves) will get through our troubled times.



Dave King is a member of FNPS and retired National Park ranger. He and his wife Louise manage their four acres of fruit grove and acre of native garden surrounding their home in Redland (recipient of an FNPS landscape award). Dave occasionally contributes to the Tillandsia newsletter and often provides butterfly larvae for our chapter’s event displays.

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!*

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: Brian Diaz **Vice-President:** Steve Woodmansee
Secretary: Gita Ramsay **Treasurer:** Susan Walcutt
At Large: Joey Basna, Janeen Feiger, Amy Leonard, Sanna O’Sullivan,
Jeanne Rothchild, Jennifer Stine
FNPS Council of Chapters representative: Kurt Birchenough

Newsletter editor: Patty Phares
Webmaster: Haniel Pulido Jr., dadefnpsweb@gmail.com

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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NATIVE PLANT HAPPENINGS AT FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN

● **Help pine rocklands and their flora and fauna**
[From the website] *Fairchild’s [Connect to Protect Network](#) enlists South Florida residents ... to plant native plants in order to connect the few remaining isolated fragments of pine rockland - a globally critically imperiled plant community. Planted areas can include private yards, rights-of-way, and public lands such as schools or community parks. Installing native pine rockland plants increases the probability that bees, butterflies and birds can find and transport seeds and pollen across developed areas that separate pine rockland fragments, improving gene flow and genetic health of native plant species. Joining Connect to Protect is easy!*

Membership is free, and members receive free plants when they join. Check it out at <https://www.fairchildgarden.org/Science-Conservation/Connect-To-Protect-Network>

● **Online class at Fairchild**
“Bromeliad Basics: The Biology and Beauty of *Tillandsias*”
Saturday, June 20, 2020 - 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Learn about Florida’s native *Tillandsia* and their adaptations to grow in trees.
<https://www.fairchildgarden.org/Education/Classes-at-Fairchild>