



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

SEPTEMBER 2020

MONTHLY MEETING ONLINE

Tuesday, September 22, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Details to access this live presentation will be sent to members by email before the meeting. Or see dadefnps.org events tab for the [calendar](#) or contact DCFNPS (see info box). The meeting is free and open to all. Please join us!

Conservation Actions for Five South Florida Endemic Plants: The "Fab 5" Project

– Lydia Cuni, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

The Big Pine partridge pea (*Chamaecrista lineata* var. *keyensis*), Keys wedge spurge (*Chamaesyce deltoidea* ssp. *serpyllum*), sand flax (*Linum arenicola*), Carter's small-flowered flax (*Linum carteri* var. *carteri*), and Florida Brickell-bush (*Brickellia mosieri*) are five plant taxa endemic to south Florida pine rocklands which were federally designated as endangered between 2014 and 2016. The conservation of these taxa was vital as they all either have fewer than five populations, face immediate threats, and/or face population losses due to sea level rise. In 2018, Fairchild's Conservation Team began to safeguard these taxa by collecting and banking their seeds, and performed translocation actions for each taxa. To date the team has preserved a total of over 22,500 seeds for these taxa at nearly all of their known locations, and have monitored thirteen translocations steadfastly during the first year. Throughout this effort, they also discovered new information about each plant's biology and how they could be cultivated at the Fairchild nursery.

Lydia will also give a project update on the FNPS Conservation Grant recently awarded to Fairchild's Conservation Team to work with Miami's native and rare *Asclepias* species (milkweeds).

Lydia is a native of Miami-Dade County, born and raised in Hialeah. She followed her interests in nature and biology, graduating from FIU in 2014 and later returning in 2016 for her M.S. on the topic of pine rockland-hardwood hammock ecotones. Between degrees, she refined her plant ID skills and gained further field experience as a pine rockland intern with Zoo Miami's Conservation and Research Dept., and with the South Florida / Caribbean Network, an Inventory and Monitoring Division of the National Park



2020 Calendar

Sept. 20 (Sun.): Field trip (Rockdale Pineland) - *Please register, space is limited due to current restrictions.*

Sept. 22 (Tue.): Monthly meeting online

Sept. 26 (Sat.): Chapter workday, Everglades National Park

Oct. 27 (Tue.): Monthly meeting online (TBA)

Please check our online [calendar](#) at dadefnps.org for updated information as activities are finalized or added.

Other events of interest coming up soon

Sept. 12: "Save the Planet with Your Yard: Gardening with South Florida Native Plants" - virtual class by FTBG

Sept. 17: Florida Keys Native Plant Workshop (online)

Sept. 26: Free Entrance Day, Everglades National Park

Oct. 3: South Miami Adopt-A-Pine event

Service, wherein she helped monitor exotic plant occurrences, mangrove soil surface elevation tables, and colonial bird nesting. She is currently a field biologist with the Conservation Team at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

FIELD TRIP

Rockdale Pineland Preserve. Sunday, Sept. 20, 2020, 9 AM

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

Registration is required as space is limited due to county guidelines on group size. Thus only current DCFNPS members may register. **Please contact Steve Woodmansee** (steve@pronative.com) by **Friday, September 18.**

Leader: Lydia Cuni, Conservation Field Biologist, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Difficulty: Easy, walking mostly on open trails. Plan to keep a six foot distance from other participants.

Bring: Facemask, drinks, insect and sun protection.

Description: Rockdale is a 35+ acre pine rockland preserve along U.S. 1 from Coral Reef Drive (SW 152nd St) to Mitchell Drive (SW 144th St). We will visit to observe interesting pineland species and wildflowers. Specific areas have been restored and are now translocation sites for some of Miami's most endangered pine rockland plants. We will tour these outplanting and seed introduction areas. Lydia will further discuss these translocation efforts during the following Tuesday's virtual meeting program on September 22.

Rockdale is a gem among our few remnant pine rocklands, and is important habitat for these rare plants. The preserve was spared

from being bisected by the South Dade Busway, and instead continues to harbor special pine rockland species including the endangered deltoid spurge. Read more about pine rocklands: www.miamidade.gov/environment/pine-rocklands.asp# and www.miamidade.gov/environment/library/flyers/rockdale-pineland.pdf

Chapter workday, Everglades National Park Saturday, September 26, 9 a.m. - noon

Help with maintenance of our habitat restoration and native landscaping project at the **Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center**, begun in 2001. Our workdays are generally every other month.

If you are not one of our regulars and are considering joining us (even if at a later date), please contact Patty (pharespl@gmail.com) as soon as possible. There is new advance paperwork for volunteers required by ENP.

We will be pruning and weeding in our effort to catch up after missing several workdays during the shutdown. Water, hand tools, and gloves (and head nets if needed!) will be available, but bring your own if you prefer. It is not back-breaking work.

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

● **Welcome new members!** Lewis Aquí, Donna Coker, Molly Gibson, Ivy Hernandez, Grant Kunkel, Katie McCarver, Laura White – all from Miami-Dade.

● **Our YouTube channel will offer past programs and other video.** Currently May's presentation (the importance of fire to ecosystems) is available. More will be added. Go to dadefnps.org/ for "Connect With Us" links.



● **Plant sale to benefit DCFNPS.**

When: By appointment (ongoing)

Where: Home of DCFNPS member Raul Moas in Pinecrest

Contact: rmoas63675@aol.com

Raul has propagated hundreds of native plants to donate to DCFNPS events and important projects by others. Now his greenhouse needs free space to continue these efforts. You can add to your own landscape by adopting some of his excess plants for a suggested donation of \$3 each for most, generally in 4" pots, with **proceeds to DCFNPS**. Most are wildflowers and shrubs from his own beautiful pineland. The inventory is constantly changing, and he might even propagate specific species by request. Please contact Raul for more info and to arrange a visit.

● **Please help ensure that you receive email from FNPS (state, not the Dade Chapter).**

✓ **Check for misdirected FNPS email.**

Please continue to check your junk/spam/promotions folder; **move all email from "@fnps.org"** addresses to your inbox.

✓ **Add fnps.org addresses to your email contacts.**

(info@fnps.org - or communications, president)

If you have taken these steps but think you are still having problems, please contact FNPS at 321-271-6702. FNPS email will include renewal notices, the *Sabal Minor* bimonthly newsletter, announcements of FNPS activities (e.g., the current ongoing Lunch and Learn series) and other messages.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dade Chapter FNPS - Year Ending June 30, 2020

We finished this very unusual year with a modest profit. We continue to maintain a healthy bank balance thanks to the bequest from the estate of longtime member Dr. Robert Kelley received in 2008. These funds are used for special expenses rather than ongoing needs and are not listed with our regular income. This year we were again able to donate \$1500 to FNPS for a Conservation Grant honoring chapter founders Don and Joyce Gann. Funds for this grant come from DCFNPS members' donations with the balance from the Robert Kelley Fund.

Because we missed our annual opportunity to engage with the public with the cancellation of Native Plant Day in March, and monthly meetings became virtual, we missed some income from those activities.

Our main source of income continues to be membership dues. We greatly appreciate your membership not merely for financial reasons, but first and foremost to spread the good word about native plants. Please consider increasing your membership level (which supports both the chapter and FNPS) or making a donation directly to DCFNPS (both are 100% tax deductible if you still itemize).

Give Miami Day (every November) and Amazon Smile are other ways to donate to DCFNPS. If you use Amazon, register with Amazon Smile and indicate DCFNPS as the company to receive the Amazon Smile donation.

Stay safe as we look forward to getting back to our meetings at Pinecrest Gardens and those great plant raffles!

Please feel free to contact me if you are interested in more detail.
Susan Walcutt, Treasurer
walcutts@bellsouth.net

DCFNPS Profit & Loss July 2019-June 2020

Income	
Donations	867
Educational	1,054
Dues	<u>2,974</u>
Total Income	4,895
Expense	
Administration	504
Conservation & Education	3,593
Merchandise	<u>430</u>
Total Expense	<u>4,528</u>
NET PROFIT (LOSS)	367

MORE NEWS and THINGS TO DO

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

● **Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden class:**

Occasional native plant-themed, fun, semi-interactive virtual classes are being taught by Fairchild conservation biologists. Registration is \$25.

Saturday, September 12, 2020, 1-3 p.m.

[Save the Planet with Your Yard: Gardening with South Florida Native Plants.](#) Instructor: Jennifer Possley. Learn

about the importance of native plant diversity for our urban wildlife, with an emphasis on great plant choices for South Florida yards and a closer look at some attractive plantings.

● **Florida Keys Native Plant Workshop - Virtual meeting Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.**

Jim Duquesnel will present on orchids and epiphytes. For the Zoom link or any questions workshop-related, please contact Jim at james.duquesnel@fiu.edu.

● **Free entrance day, Everglades National Park: September 26, 2020 - [National Public Lands Day](#).** This day celebrates the connection between people and green space in their community, inspires environmental stewardship, and encourages use of open space for education, recreation, and health benefits.

● **South Miami pine tree give away, Oct. 3, 2020, 8 a.m.-noon**
The City of South Miami is hosting a (socially distanced) Adopt-a-Pine event with 250 3-gallon Dade County Pine trees (*Pinus elliottii* var. *densa*), available first-come, first-served at the South Miami City Hall parking lot at 6100 Sunset Drive. The trees were grown with TLC by City of South Miami Commissioner Bob Welsh. Bob says: NO MASK, NO TREE!
<https://www.southmiamifl.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=262>

Is your garden a good place for a pine tree? See information about pine trees and restoring Pine Rockland habitat on The Institute for Regional Conservation website:
regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/plantdetail.asp?tx=Pinuellidens
www.regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/habitatInfo.asp?hab=PIR

And, of course, look into Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's [Connect To Protect Network](#) for even more discussion about pineland topics. You might like to sign up your own garden as a "stepping stone" between Pine Rockland remnants.

● **"Tropical Trails" – Sign up for this digital magazine (pdf file) from Miami-Dade EcoAdventures** featuring a calendar, articles, kids' corner, and "Ask a Naturalist."
See linktr.ee/miamiecoadventures

AMERICA'S NEW ORCHID STAMPS

by Chuck McCartney

On February 21, 2020, the U.S. Postal Service issued a series of 10 first-class "Forever" postage stamps depicting close-ups of the flowers of orchids found in the United States. The first-day-of-issue ceremony for this series, called "Wild Orchids," took place at the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, which is now the home of the American Orchid Society. U.S. Postal Service



The beautiful photographs on the stamps are by Jim Fowler, a top-flight orchid and wildflower photographer from Greenville, S.C., and author of the excellent book *Wild Orchids of South Carolina*, as well as *Orchids, Carnivorous Plants and Other Wildflowers of the Green Swamp of North Carolina*.

The stamps are aesthetically pleasing. However, unlike other countries issuing orchid stamps, the U.S. Postal Service missed the educational potential of the stamps by failing to identify the species depicted on them, even by common name.

Of the stamps in the series, five are found in Florida. *Hexalectris spicata*, called the **Crested Coralroot**, is a terrestrial mycotrophic species (what we used to call a saprophyte) that lacks chlorophyll. It is found in scattered locations throughout the northern part of the state, with specimens having been reported as far south as Indian River County on the east coast and Lee County on the Gulf side.

The pretty little pinkish **Three-Birds Orchid** (*Triphora trianthophoros*) is depicted on two of the stamps in the series. This raises the question why two photos of this species, although admittedly beautiful, when there are so many other attractive native species that could have filled that second slot? The *Triphora* exhibits what has been called "gregarious flowering," where all the flowers in a given vicinity open on the same day, apparently responding to some environmental stimulus, thus, making a maximum number of flowers available for pollination. This species is widespread in eastern North America and in Florida occurs in the northwestern part of the peninsula, with a disjunct population reported for Highlands County.

Another stamp is purported to be the **Fragrant Ladies'-Tresses Orchid** (*Spiranthes odorata*). In photographs, though, all white-flowered "true" *Spiranthes* species tend to look alike, and this



could well be a photo of *S. odorata*'s more widespread cousin, the Nodding Ladies'-Tresses (*Spiranthes cernua*). Nevertheless, this is the least aesthetically pleasing photo in the series, not doing justice to this, our largest (and tallest!) white-flowered *Spiranthes*. The species occurs throughout Florida, even as far south as Everglades National Park, where it easily can be seen in bloom in the fall where the main park road crosses the Taylor Slough marsh.

Fragrant Ladies'-Tresses (*Spiranthes odorata*)
Photo by Chuck McCartney

