



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2020

MONTHLY MEETING (ONLINE)

Tuesday, November 24, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Free and open to all.

We expect to again offer this on both **YouTube live** and **Facebook**. An email with links will be sent to chapter members.

You can also see dadefnps.org events tab for the [calendar](#).

Problems? Contact DadeFNPS@gmail.com, 305-985-3677

“All About Fairchild’s Native Plant Conservation Program”

– Jennifer Possley, FTBG Conservation Program Manager

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's native plant conservation program got its start in the 1980s and has been incredibly busy from Day 1, working to safeguard South Florida's rarest native plant species. At any given time, we have dozens of ongoing projects. This presentation will focus on the Big Picture, with a look at what makes Miami-Dade County so botanically special (and our region *truly is* special!), plus an overview of the techniques we use to conserve our native plant heritage. You can expect to learn how off-site plant conservation techniques combined with on-site monitoring, research, and reintroductions to improve the outlook for many South Florida species, and you will see behind-the-scenes into Fairchild's nursery, seed lab, as well as behind the fences around some of our local natural wonders.



Jennifer Possley began work as a field biologist at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in 2001. She has been the Garden's Conservation Program Manager since 2016. She has special interests in the pine rocklands and ferns of South Florida. Prior to joining Fairchild's staff, she received a B.A. in biology from Kalamazoo College and a M.S. in agronomy from the University of Florida. She is originally from the village of Dexter, Michigan.

January 26: “*Mathematical Patterns in Botany and the Importance of Variation in Plant Species*” – Dr. Chad Husby, botanical horticulturalist at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

Watch October's program “*Ecology and Diversity of Fungi in South Florida*” by Dr. Alan Franck on the DCFNPS [YouTube channel](#) (or find from dadefnps.org via the YouTube button).

Calendar

Nov. 15 (Sun.): Field trip (Matheson Hammock)

– *Please register, space is limited.*

Nov. 19 (Thur.): Give Miami Dade (all day)

– *Support DCFNPS!*

Nov. 24 (Tue.): Monthly meeting (online)

TBA - Chapter workdays, Everglades National Park

Please check our [calendar](#) at dadefnps.org for updated info.

There is no meeting or newsletter in December.

Other events of interest coming up soon

Nov. 11, Dec. 9: Broward Chapter FNPS meeting (online)

see coontie.fnpschapters.org/

Nov. 11: Free entrance day, Everglades National Park

Nov. 17, Dec 15: Florida Keys Native Plant Workshop (online)

In this issue

- Remembering Chuck McCartney
- Give Miami Day
- News and Things To Do
- “Guidelines for Planting a Pine Rockland in Miami-Dade County, Florida” new version released

FIELD TRIP

Matheson Hammock Park - Sunday, Nov. 15, 2020.

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.

To register, please contact Steve Woodmansee (steve@pronative.com) **by Friday, November 13.**

Leader: Steve Woodmansee, Pro Native Consulting

Difficulty: Easy to moderate, walking mostly on trails, some areas bumpy. Plan to keep a six foot distance from participants.

Bring/wear: Facemask, drinks, insect & sun protection, closed shoes

This conservation land is part of the Miami-Dade Park system. Matheson Hammock is one of the largest rockland hammocks in the county. It is also one of the most botanically diverse, with rare trees and ferns and lots of solution holes.

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

- **Welcome new members!** Mariana Hernandez, Benjamin Machado, Leslie McConachie, Mary Munkholm, Victor Robles
- **Ongoing plant sale to benefit DCFNPS in Pinecrest.** Contact member Raul Moas (rmoas63675@aol.com) for info and to arrange a visit. \$3 donation for most plants, usually 4" pots. **Changing inventory of mostly pineland wildflowers and shrubs.** Some available now include *Asclepias verticillata*, *Amorpha crenulata*, Spiderwort, Bahama senna, Chapman's goldenrod, a few asters. (See [IRC](#) for descriptions.)
- **Everglades Workdays:** Dates TBA (Saturdays 9 AM-noon). Help with maintenance of our habitat restoration/landscaping project at the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center. Our regular volunteers will be notified of dates. *New volunteers: please contact Patty ASAP* (305-878-5705, pharespl@gmail.com) about advance paperwork for ENP. We'd love to have you!
- **FNPS.** See the website fnps.org/ News section for news, alerts and a list of future (very interesting!) **"Lunch and Learn"** presentations or how to see those already past. And much more.
 - **The November-December Sabal minor FNPS newsletter** will be emailed shortly. See past issues online under Resources.
 - **Applications are due March 5, 2021** for FNPS Endowment **Research Grant Awards, Conservation Grant Awards, and Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany.** Applications for **Landscape Awards** are due on the same date. See <https://www.fnps.org/what-we-do/awards>

Why donate to DCFNPS on Give Miami Day? November 19, 2020 - beginning at 12:00 a.m. givemiamiday.org/

Give Miami Day is a community-wide day of online giving. What is special is that the Miami Foundation and partners make a bonus gift for donations of \$25 to \$10,000!

Our board and volunteers give many hundreds of hours every year to keep our organization running with as little expense as possible. You also generously donate supplies, plants, refreshments, transportation costs and more. (*Thanks, everyone!*)

Our goal is to have income from dues, sales, raffles and other donations cover our regular expenses - and hopefully do more, once we can congregate again!

This is a challenge for a small organization, and we still have expenses even without many in-person activities. Your extra donation will help us provide a **free Native Plant Day** (when again possible), **meetings, field trips, newsletter, Website, social media, support for conservation activities**, and more.

Thank you!

MORE NEWS and THINGS TO DO

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

- **Pine Rockland Working Group 2020 Virtual Symposium recordings.** You can see recordings or pdf images of many of the excellent **webinars** and **virtual field trips** from October's symposium. At sites.google.com/view/prwg2020/home, click the menu at top left. It's for anyone who loves pine rocklands in Miami-Dade, the Florida Keys, Bahamas or Turks and Caicos!

"Guidelines for Planting a Pine Rockland in Miami-Dade County, Florida"

by George D. Gann, Jennifer Possley,
Steven W. Woodmansee (Version 2.0, October 2020)

The Institute for Regional Conservation and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's Connect to Protect Network have released **updated guidelines** for pine rockland plantings small and large, including your urban garden or large rural property. <https://www.regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/pdfs/PIR.pdf> (Or www.regionalconservation.org > Online Resources > Natives For Your Neighborhood > NFYN Home > Habitats > Pine Rockland)

● **Native Plant Workshops and other info sources.**

- **Dade NPW** is not yet back to meeting. **Join on the website** (free!) to post photos for identification, share or comment. See nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/
- **Florida Keys NPW** virtual meetings on **Nov. 17 & Dec. 15, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.** For email notification, questions or suggestions, please email FKNPW@outlook.com. Notices are also posted on the Dade NPW site (above).
- **Treasure Coast Natives blog.** Steve Woodmansee deems this one of the best blogs on native plants in Florida! treasurecoastnatives.wordpress.com/

● **Everglades National Park free entrance day, Veterans Day, November 11, 2020.** Includes missile base activities (open house, tour may be possible – call 305-242-7700 for info). (*Editor's note: The missile base activities are not plant-oriented, but mowed and un-mowed lawns and sides of paths and roadways along the way can be great places to see many plants up close.*)

● **Biscayne National Park now offers "Heritage of Biscayne" tours.** The boat travels along the northernmost islands of the Florida Keys, with a stop at Boca Chita and maybe Elliot or Adams, depending on weather conditions. Hear about history and stories of people who influenced BNC and surrounding areas. It's an opportunity to see the landscape even if not a botanical tour. <https://www.biscaynenationalparkinstitute.org/heritage-of-biscayne-cruise/>

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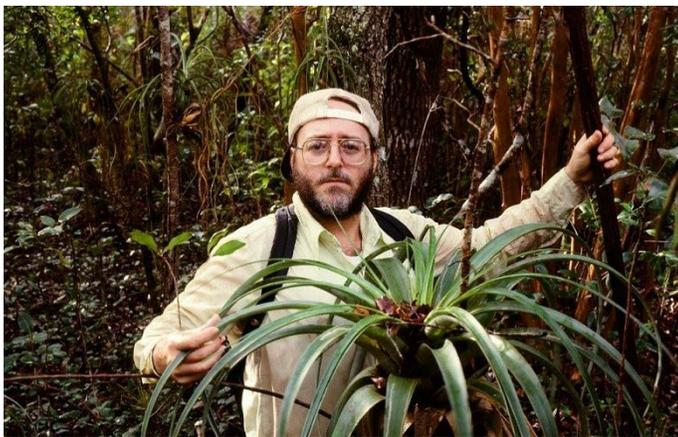
Leslie will be selling plants at wholesale or reduced prices – by appointment (cash/check) until she sells her property (probably many months away). Peperomia (1-gal), and 3-25 gallon goldenrod, salvia, Bahama strongback, black ironwood, paradise tree, slash pine, coontie, firebush, saw palmetto, wild coffee, marlberry, dahoon holly, pigeon plum, gumbo limbo, green buttonwood, Simpson's/red/redberry stoppers ... etc!

REMEMBERING CHUCK McCARTNEY 1947-2020

Chuck McCartney, longtime FNPS member and friend, died October 11, 2020. He was a fourth-generation South Floridian and life-long orchid enthusiast. Through his participation in the Dade Native Plant Workshop and FNPS Dade and Broward chapters, he also became interested in Florida's wildflowers.

Chuck earned a bachelor's degree in English education from Florida State University. However, except for a short stint as a high school English teacher in Miami, he was a journalist and editor, working for newspapers in his native Homestead as well as in Hollywood, Florida, where he lived. He retired in 2009 after nearly 19 years as a copy editor with The Miami Herald's Broward Edition serving the Fort Lauderdale area. In the mid-1980s, he worked as an editor for the American Orchid Society and wrote numerous articles on orchids for AOS publications as well as for California's *Orchid Digest*, England's *Orchid Review* and publications of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and the FNPS *Palmetto* magazine and chapter newsletters.

His special interest was the wild orchids and other wildflowers of his native South Florida as well as the Southern Appalachians, and he spoke on these subjects to native plant groups, orchid societies, garden clubs and natural history organizations. Chuck led many chapter field trips, freely sharing his considerable knowledge and love of wildflowers with all of us.



A "selfie", December 27, 1986, in a hammock on the north rim of Long Pine Key in Everglades National Park.

Tributes from friends:

I've eaten my share of cheap cookies with Chuck - but one of my most memorable experiences with him was taking him out to photograph Mrs. Britton's shadow witch (*Ponthieva brittoniae*). I had recently found a small population of plants in Long Pine Key around where Chuck had last seen them in the late 1980s. He wanted a better photo and I was excited to be able to show him something as payback for graciously sharing many of his cherished spots with me. The plants were in some pretty treacherous pine rocklands - but I was pretty field hardened from working in that area under IRC, so I wasn't thinking much of it.

Chuck diligently and quietly followed along through potholes, pinnacle rock, poisonwood and the full array of other maladies that come with that territory without registering a single complaint. We found some plants, Chuck took his photographs

and we crashed our way through some even worse pinelands in a straight shot toward a nearby finger glade to escape the torment. We finally got out into the open flat ground and Chuck just stopped, laid on his back in the marl and groaned for about 15 minutes. I truly think I almost accidentally killed him that day - some payback, huh? I know he liked hammocks and swamps and other places where orchids hide out, but that day I have no doubt that marl prairie was his favorite place to be.

Chuck passed his deep reverence for flowers to many folks in South Florida. He was an excellent botanist, a fine photographer, an accomplished writer, a fantastic editor and an exceptionally kind person. I carry him with me.



Mistletoe Swamp, Big Cypress National Preserve, June 21, 2008. It is located in the northeastern part of the preserve near Rabenu Camp and was a very dear location to him. He wrote a series of articles for the American Orchid Society Bulletin about the orchids found in that region.

Jimi Sadle

Over the course of nearly 30 years I had the pleasure of experiencing Florida's natural wonders in the company of Chuck McCartney. During field trips with the Broward and Dade FNPS chapters I was among the many that benefited from his knowledge of wildflowers in particular. As most know, there are few that had the grasp of orchids that Chuck possessed. I was very privileged to have been invited to accompany him in small groups and often one on one to hunt down some elusive orchid in the Fakahatchee Strand or Big Cypress Preserve.

One trip to the middle of the Fakahatchee to verify a reported sighting of *Bulbophyllum pachyrachis* was forever after referred to, at least by Chuck, as "hell hike." To get to the purported location of the sighting of the Rat-tailed Orchid, a motley group of us loaded in a couple of pickups around day break. We drove to a long unused tram road and proceeded to hack our way to the point we would venture out into the swamp. Chuck, who never (and I mean *never*) went out not being loaded down with all kinds of camera gear and even books was not a happy camper. He kept getting hung up on the bushes and vines along the narrow track through the green wall. Near as I can get to what we hearing from Chuck over the very long hike was an X-rated version of



Gimli the dwarf. Crossing some ditches at the edge of tram roads I was up to my chin. I am 6' 2", Chuck was not. We got back to the Fakahatchee Ranger Station soggy and exhausted well after dark, not having located our quarry.

Jack Lange

My first love affair with Florida native plants came about when Carlyle Luer's 1972 book, *The Native Orchids of Florida*, was published. I grew up in Florida and was vaguely familiar with the butterfly orchid (*Encyclia tampensis*) but was astonished to learn that Florida harbored more than 100 species of wild orchids, so that led me on an obsession to photograph as many wild orchids as I could find. As fate would have it, I was hired as the park manager of Castellow Hammock Nature Center, and on the third Tuesday of each month, a group called the Native Plant Workshop met there to discuss Florida native plants and help in their identification. One of the members of that group was Chuck McCartney, and it was our mutual love of native orchids that brought us together as friends for more than three decades. Chuck had a wry sense of humor and I cherished every moment spent with him in the field.

Chuck had been the editor for the American Orchid Society and copyeditor for the Miami Herald, and I remember him chastising me once for saying "in close proximity," while he explained that "close" and "proximity" are redundant. I also once noted that zebra longwing butterflies congregate at roost sites at night, and Chuck said they were aggregating, not congregating! I will truly miss his valued friendship, which will linger in my mind and spirit each and every day.

Roger Hammer



I met Chuck at a field trip to Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park in January 2018. I was still beginning to learn about our plants and ecosystems. Pointing at a poisonwood, I'd ask "What's this tree?" to which he'd cheerfully reply "You should touch it and find out!" Or, observing a deep burrow on the edge of the sand dune and wondering what creature dug it out, he would advise "Hmm maybe if you stick your hand in you'll know!" I know Chuck would not have let me do those things had I tried, but he had a particular way of teaching that employed a good helping of jovial mischievousness. Thanks to him, I will never forget what poisonwood and iguana burrows look like. Chuck was a pleasure to be around and I will deeply miss his one-of-a-kind humor.

Brian Diaz

My first field trip with the chapter was to the Fakahatchee Strand. Given the abundance of orchids there, Chuck was delighted. That was many years ago, but since that first trip, I was always astonished at Chuck's depth of knowledge. In a very shallow world, it's nice to come across such an expert.

Charles Bowden



"I don't do graminoids." (followed by a grumble)
Chuck imparting knowledge on everything else. Field trip to Chekika, Everglades Nat. Park, March 2020 (Photo - Eddie Yi)



Chuck would say "I may as well be useful, I'm certainly not decorative!" And useful he was. He shared his encyclopedic knowledge through chapter newsletter articles, photos, programs and field trips. His editing skills often rescued the *Tillandsia* editor (usually on paper marked up with his "chicken scratch").

We remember his sense of humor, cheap cookies he shared after field trips, and unleashed grumpiness (or sheer fury!) when nature or modern life tripped him up.

His native plant photos from Florida and North Carolina graced his (much-anticipated) Christmas cards and notecards for old-fashioned kindnesses.

He threw himself into being a mentor, ushering one youthful orchid enthusiast into adulthood as an orchid expert in his own right, and kindly taking stray adult friends under his wing, too.

Patty Phares

Chuck was an unapologetic punster. Over any length of time, he would bring forth at least one groan from whomever was sharing the conversation, and he never failed to slip at least one joke slide into his presentations. He was my favorite curmudgeon, with a heart of gold covered by a gruff exterior.

Gwen Burzycki

At this point Chuck would say "Thistle do!"

Some of Chuck's articles at DadeFNPS.org:

[4/2014](#) Book Review of "Native Florida Plants for Drought- and Salt-Tolerant Landscaping" -Richard Wunderlin and George Kish

[11/2014](#) Fun with Phytogeography: The Best of Two Worlds

[3/2015](#) Book Review- "Everglades Wildflowers" -Roger Hammer

[6/2016](#) The Odd Fruits of the Arthritis-Vine

[10/2016](#) What's Old Is New Again

[1/2017](#) Pretty Little Fanpetals

[2/2018](#) Common Purslane: Native? Non-native?

[10/2019](#) The Overlooked *Chamaecrista Nictitans*

[9/2020](#) America's New Orchid Stamps

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