



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

FEBRUARY 2021

MONTHLY MEETING (ONLINE)

Tuesday, February 23, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

Free and open to all.

● **Zoom:** Register with the link below. *Registration closes at 7 pm the night of the meeting.* You will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/91051481331?pwd=Zk9uZWpScU9kdz09d0Zkdz09d0Zkdz09>

(This link is also at dade.fnpschapters.org/events/ and in a reminder email a few days before the meeting).

Or with no registration, view only (no chat):

● **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/dadefnps>

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

Please join early to allow for addressing access issues.

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

"Pollination in the urban environment - public spaces and our own gardens!" – Dr. Suzanne Koptur, Professor of Biological Sciences, Florida International University

While conserving natural areas and wild places should be at the top of our agenda, most of us live in cities where there are paved roads, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots and loads of other human-made structures. Fortunately most buildings are surrounded by some green space, often just turf grass, but the potential is there to have so much more, especially in Florida, the Land of Flowers! The greater the variety of flowering plants, the more kinds of animals your yard can attract, and it is very enjoyable to watch different flowers being visited by bees, butterflies, other insects, and birds. Gardening with native plants can provide a wealth of rewards for flower visitors, and also serve to connect remaining natural areas with stepping stones of welcoming habitat. By observing, recording, and sharing your

observations, we can all contribute to documenting (using i-Naturalist) plant/animal interactions in the south Florida urban environment.

Suzanne Koptur is Professor of Biological Sciences at Florida International University. A plant ecologist with interests in plant/animal interactions, she and her



Calendar

Feb. 14 (Sun.): Dade Chapter field trip (Camp Matecumbe)

Feb. 23 (Tue.): Dade Chapter meeting (online)

Mar. 23 (Tue.): Dade Chapter meeting (online)

Mar. 27-28: Native Plant Field Day

See our [calendar](https://dadefnps.org) at dadefnps.org ("Field trips and Events tab") for updates on Dade and Broward Chapter and FNPS events.

Other events of interest coming up soon

Feb. 7: Miami Blue NABA meeting (online)

Feb. 16: Florida Keys Native Plant Workshop (online)

Mar. 14: *Eco-Printing with Plants* (Cuplet Fern Chap. see p. 3)

students focus on species interactions in natural and disturbed habitats. A member of the Pine Rockland Working Group and the Connect to Protect Network, she is involved in conservation of rare plants and animals, and habitat restoration. She has worked with FIU students and others to create ecological schoolyard and neighborhood habitats in the urban landscape of southern Florida to promote conservation as well as public education.

March 23: "Appreciating and protecting biodiversity - An overview of how to use iNaturalist to document biodiversity and learn about nature in your neighborhood and beyond" - Joe Montes de Oca, nature enthusiast

Watch past programs on the DCFNPS [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmassuC5-OsAX2KsRYQ6X5A) (or at dadefnps.org click the YouTube button).



NATIVE PLANT FIELD DAY!

As an adaptation to our annual Native Plant Day, we will instead host Native Plant Field Day on March 27-28 with a **series of field trips** to some unique habitats. This event will be open to the public. Stay tuned for more details!

FIELD TRIP

**Camp Matecumbe/Boystown Pineland County Preserve
Sunday, February 14, 2021**

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, February 12.**

This Miami-Dade Environmentally Endangered Land (EEL) site is 76 acres and consists of the critically imperiled plant community Pine Rockland. A prescribed fire was conducted on March 11, 2019, on the northwest portion of the preserve.

Leader: Miami-Dade County Biologist Tiffany Melvin

Difficulty: Easy to moderate. There are grassy and dirt trails.

Bring/wear: Face mask, water, sun protection, closed-toed shoes, and long pants for walking through palmettos and over rocky ground. A walking stick could prove useful.

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 and FNPS NEWS

Welcome new members! Ruben Asencio, Gina Cuba.

Thank you to all who renewed, rejoined, donated or attended a virtual or in-person activity in the past month. Your support and interest are greatly appreciated.

Everglades Workdays: Dates TBA / 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 should contact Patty (pharespl@gmail.com) for information and to arrange for one-time paperwork now required by ENP *in advance*. *We'd love to have you!*

Donate for FNPS Conservation Grants in memory of Don and Joyce Gann. Our chapter has contributed annually since 2013 in honor of these Dade Chapter and FNPS founders, who both died in 2020. **You may donate to the chapter's fund by check** to DCFNPS at Dade Chapter FNPS, 6619 S. Dixie Hwy, #181, Miami FL 33143-7919 (note "Gann fund" in memo). Or donate online directly to the FNPS grants in their honor at <https://forms.fnps.org/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=32>

FNPS. See [FNPS.org](https://fnps.org) for news, Lunch & Learn, and lots more.

♦ **The January-February 2021 *Sabal minor* FNPS newsletter** (emailed on January 1) is also at [FNPS.org](https://fnps.org) under **Resources**.

If you have no internet access, you might ask a friend to print or show it to you on their device, but if you need assistance please leave a message for DCFNPS at 305-985-3677.

♦ **You can now receive the *Palmetto* magazine by email.** Let FNPS know your preference at communications@fnpr.org.

If you missed the last *Palmetto* (Volume 36: Number 3 > 2020) in early January because of the timing of your joining or rejoining, you can receive that issue by email. Contact Patty (*Tillandsia* editor) at pharespl@gmail.com. (It's the one with pretty wildflowers and critters on the cover.)

♦ **Grant/award applications are due March 5, 2021** for FNPS Endowment Research Grants, Conservation Grants, Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany, and Landscape Awards. See <https://www.fnps.org/what-we-do/awards>

♦ **40th FNPS Annual Conference May 14-16**, virtual this year, but still packed with information. Stay tuned for details.

MORE NEWS and THINGS TO DO

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

Native Plant Workshops

♦ **Dade NPW.** See nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/ for current activities. **Join on the website** (free!) to post photos for identification, share or comment.

♦ **Florida Keys NPW virtual meeting February 16, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.** Jim Duquesnel will present, topic TBA. For email notification, questions or suggestions, please email FKNPW@outlook.com.

Notices are also posted on the Dade NPW site (above).

Miami-Dade County Parks and EcoAdventures.

The nature centers are full of activities - and nature. See what's happening at miamidadeparks.com. Click on Ecoadventures for in-person or virtual activities. At Castellow Hammock in Redland enjoy campfires with owl or bat walks, beginning birding, free nature walks, Sunset Folk Night (2/27), and more. Plus, the nature center is open inside and features a new traveling exhibit on the Miami Blue butterfly (with free coloring books!) Outside see birds at the feeder or hummingbirds and butterflies feeding at plants in the garden. Also look for nature activities at Bill Sadowski, A.D. Barnes, Arch Creek and other parks.

• Sign up for "**Tropical Trails**" the digital magazine (pdf file) featuring a calendar, articles, kids' corner and "Ask a Naturalist." <http://linktr.ee/miamiecoadventures>.

Miami Blue Chapter, North American Butterfly Association - Virtual meeting, Sunday, Feb. 7, 2021, 1 p.m. View by Facebook (no registration) or Zoom (advance registration required). See miamiblue@bellsouth.net. Dr. Tyson Wepprich, Research Associate at Oregon State University: "**Insect Declines Make Headlines, but What Do We Really Know?**"

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NEWSLETTER TIPS

Did you miss a *Tillandsia* newsletter?

If you didn't read or save the pdf file from the website before it was replaced by the next month's issue, see past newsletters at <https://dade.fnpschapters.org/> > Newsletters and articles

Can't find a *Tillandsia* newsletter in your email - no matter how you search? Try this:

Add Dade.Chapter.Florida.Native.Plan@mail.vresp.com to your contacts. Then search for "Dade_". (Please remember that address is "noreply.")

NATIVES IN THE LANDSCAPE

By Roger L. Hammer

EVERGLADES KEY PENCILFLOWER

Stylosanthes calcicole

An overlooked species in the native-plant nursery trade is Everglades Key pencilflower. In the landscape this charming plant could be used as a groundcover, a border plant along the edge of a deck, walkway, or building, or even grown in a hanging basket for those who live in condos or apartments. It is a low-growing, spreading species with small, yellow, pealike flowers that are most present from October through January but may bloom periodically all year. Leaves are divided into 3 lanceolate leaflets.



In nature, look for it in pine rocklands and rocky flats in Miami-Dade County and the Monroe County Keys. It also ranges into the Bahamas, Cuba, Mexico, and Guatemala. A bonus is that it's a larval host plant of the barred yellow, a small butterfly found statewide. Look for larvae to be present from February through November.

Stylosanthes is Greek for "column-flower," alluding to the columnlike calyx tube, and the name *calcicole* relates to it growing on limestone.

The more common Pencilflower or Cheesytoes (*Stylosanthes hamata*) is found in disturbed sites such as roadsides and lawns. They differ in the shape of the seed pod.

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 "Complete Guide to Florida Wildflowers." He lives in Homestead with his wife, Michelle.

Membership and email

- FNPS now sends printed membership renewal notices (postal mail) only to members with no email address on file.
 - If your membership lapses, you will receive one printed notice and monthly email reminders for up to a year until you renew.
 - Help ensure that you receive email from FNPS and the Dade Chapter by moving any FNPS or DCFNPS email junk/spam/promotions folder to your inbox, and adding those sender addresses to your email contacts.
- Think you are missing email (FNPS or Dade)? Let us know!

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

Chapter communication: 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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Something different to do...

"Eco-Printing with Plants."

The Cuplet Fern Chapter (Seminole County) invites you to an exciting on-line event by noted artist and gardener, Mary Kathryn Kraemer, on **Sunday, March 14, from 11:00am to 12:15pm**. This easy class takes advantage of plants and materials found around your home. Learn and create a fun product while enjoying a soothing experience taught by a wonderful eco-artist hailing from Austin, Texas.

Complete information is on Eventbrite:

[Eco-Printing with Plants: A special class with Mary Kathryn Kraemer](#)

The class is by Zoom and the cost is \$20 (NOT refundable).

What we were reading in February 2015

dade.fnpschapters.org/data/uploads/newsletters/2015/02.pdf

INDIAN PIPES AND THE BLUSTERY DAY

By Chuck McCartney

It was a blustery day on Nov. 22, 2014, when a few hardy souls gathered for the Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society's long-distance field trip to Palm Beach County's Juno Dunes Natural Area. As near-gale force winds (according to our own accompanying meteorologist, Jim Gross) whipped up tall waves on the Atlantic ...