



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

MARCH 2021

MONTHLY MEETING (ONLINE)

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

Free and open to all.

• **Zoom:** Register with the link below before 7 pm the night of the meeting. You will receive a confirmation email with information to join the meeting. **You MUST save and use your personal link in the confirmation email to join by Zoom!**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrdOGuqTorG9PV M6XrOTfYT6ISW7dLY6PO](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrdOGuqTorG9PV M6XrOTfYT6ISW7dLY6PO)

(This link to register is also at dade.fnpschapters.org/events/ and in other emails sent in the days before the meeting).

• **YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmassuC5-OsAX2KsRYQ6X5A> (No registration; view only, no chat)

Please join early to allow for addressing access issues.

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

"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

Have you ever been curious about a caterpillar you found on a lawn weed at a local park? Or a cute little mushroom that appeared after some heavy rain? As humans, we tend to have a natural thirst to put a name on the discoveries we make, though we often don't have the time to learn more. This presentation will describe how iNaturalist and its community of experts and enthusiasts can help you satisfy your curiosity about that beautiful wildflower you saw blooming in the Everglades! The bigger focus, however, will be on the picture you are helping to paint each time you post an observation. We will learn how to navigate the public database using various search filters and even how to use the database as an at-a-glance field guide for any type of organism.



Joe is a lifelong nature lover who has become more and more interested in learning about the seemingly infinite number of organisms of South Florida. Although he

Calendar

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

Mar. 27-28 (Sat.-Sun.): Native Plant Field Day

See the [calendar](#) at DadeFNPS.org ("Field trips and Events tab) for updates on Dade and Broward Chapter and FNPS events.

Apr. 17 (Sat.): Field trip to Mahogany Hammock (ENP)

Apr. 27 (Tue.): Dade Chapter meeting (online)

Other events of interest coming up soon

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

Apr. 17: Everglades National Park free entrance day (First Day of National Park Week)

Ongoing through June 6: Tropical Botanic Artists exhibit, Biscayne National Park. Virtual reception **April 18.**

teaches Italian and Portuguese as a profession, his students are constantly hearing about *uccelli* (birds), *fiori* (flowers) and *maravilhas da natureza* (wonders of nature). In the fall of 2019, he was lucky enough to pick up a weekend gig working as a field tech in the Hole-in-the-Donut with Steve Woodmansee, learning about one of South Florida's most impressive restoration projects. He spends most of his free time exploring the trails of the Everglades and Big Cypress but also the local parks and vacant lots of Miami, documenting his finds on iNaturalist.org, a growing citizen science website.

April 27: How to build a backyard paradise using natives and other species that behave like natives - **Jeff Wasielewski**, Commercial Tropical Fruit Extension Agent for UF/IFAS Extension Miami-Dade County

Watch past programs on the DCFNPS [YouTube channel](#) (or at dedefnps.org click the YouTube button at the bottom). Last month's charming presentation was "Pollination in the urban environment - public spaces and our own gardens!" by Dr. Suzanne Koptur.



NATIVE PLANT FIELD DAY

March 27-28, 2021

Fifteen field trips to some of Southeast Florida's most interesting habitats and gardens!

Registration opens for members on March 10th and for **everyone on March 17th**, and **closes March 25th.**

Check your email for an earlier message sent to current members with trip and registration information.

Register now before your preferred trips are filled!

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

Welcome new members! Erika Bonnema (student), Alex Crow, Curtis + Rogers Design Studio In, Jhoanna Farray (student), Maria Furey, Albert Gomez, Edelman Lopez, Barbara McAdam, Ian Mcnamara, Christine Pardo (student), Melissa Ptomey, Marlise Urscheler.

• In addition, welcome to **NaMa native landscapes** as a business membership, upgraded by Natalia Manrique and Mauricio Gonzalez from their personal membership. Thank you for your additional support!

• 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!*

FNPS.

♦ **The March-April 2021 *Sabal minor* FNPS newsletter** sent to members recently is also at FNPS.org under **Resources**.

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

If you missed the recent *Palmetto* (Volume 37: Number 1 > 2021) in early March 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 the cover photo by Roger Hammer of the pretty, yellow Narrowpod sensitive pea).

♦ **40th FNPS Annual Conference May 14-16, 2021** is virtual this year, but still packed with information - and very affordable.

Thank you to our Business/Nonprofit members

for their added financial support and contributions of expertise to FNPS, the Dade Chapter, and our community.

- [Curtis + Rogers Design Studio](#) (Aida Curtis)
- [Greenscape Landscape Maintenance Corp](#) (Jacqueline Rodriguez)
- [Institute for Regional Conservation](#) (George Gann, Cara Abbott)
- [Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Gardens](#) (Karen Frank-Knoll, Mary Nelson)
- [LandscapeDE, LLC](#) (Douglas Thompson, Ebru Ozer)
- [Miami Beach Botanical Garden](#) (Sanna O'Sullivan)
- [NaMa native landscapes](#) (Natalia Manrique, Mauricio Gonzalez)
- [Native Tree Nursery](#) (Leonard Abess)
- [Phyla Landscape Studio LLC](#) (Malone Matson)
- [Raymond Jungles Inc.](#)

See the Lunch and Learn archives for "How to Measure the Performance of Public Landscapes - Case Studies from Miami-Dade" with Ebru Özer (LandscapeDE) on February 5, 2021.

MORE NEWS and THINGS TO DO

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

Enchanted Forest Elaine Gordon Park - Volunteer Invasive Plant Removal Workdays. 1725 NE 135 Street North Miami, 33181. Sundays March 14, April 11, May 9, from 9 am to noon. Pre-registration online is required.

See <https://www.northmiamifl.gov/855/Volunteers-Needed>.

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 March 16, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.** Topic TBA. For email notification, questions or suggestions, please email FKNPW@outlook.com. Notices may also be posted on the Dade NPW site (above).

The Delicate Balance of Nature 2021.

The 30th Annual Lecture Series goes virtual. Presented by Friends of John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park and Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park. 7-8:30 p.m. Register in advance and sign on to Zoom before 7 p.m.

For additional info, email info@pennekampparkfriends.org

♦ **March 31: The Biology and Ecology of Mangroves.** Janice Duquesnel, Florida Park Service Biologist, discusses the critical role of mangrove ecosystems to marine and upland habitats, animals supported by mangrove habitats, and identification of the three native and two non-native mangrove species.

<https://biologyofmangroves.eventbrite.com>

♦ **April 28; The Florida Panther - Dr. Frank Ridgley DVM,** head of Zoo Miami's Conservation and Research Department and a research associate at FIU, will focus on techniques used by state and federal agencies to unlock the secrets of this endangered big cat so that it can be better protected. He will also address some of the continued risks to its future survival.

<https://flpanther.eventbrite.com>

Fruition: Botanical Illustrations of Native Fruits, Nuts and Seeds. The newest exhibit in **Biscayne National Park's Dante Fascell Visitor Center Gallery** features 26 detailed botanical illustrations by the [Tropical Botanic Artists](#). **9am-5pm through June 6.** On Sunday, **April 18, the park will host a virtual reception** featuring a gallery walk-through, a few words from the artists along with a little about the plants, a demonstration of the painstaking techniques the artists use and a short talk by Fairchild Tropic Botanic Garden Conservation Program Manager Jennifer Possley. (See the April *Tillandsia* for more information.)

Paid advertising



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NATIVES IN THE LANDSCAPE

By Roger L. Hammer

Christmas Berry *Lycium carolinianum*

There is hardly a more attractive shrub than Christmas berry when it is in flower and fruit. Small, 4-lobed, violet flowers are followed by cherry-red fruits that appear sporadically throughout the year, including around Christmastime. This is a salt-tolerant, semi-woody and somewhat thorny shrub to about 6' tall with long, flexible, arching branches bearing spatulate, succulent leaves averaging ½"–1" long and about ¼" wide. It occurs in coastal habitats from South Carolina through Florida and west into Texas. Other common names within its range are Carolina desert-thorn and wolfberry. The related *Lycium barbarum* and *L. chinense* produce the nutritional goji berries sold in marketplaces.



Lycium is a name used by Dioscorides (AD 40–80) and Pliny (AD 23–79) for a prickly shrub that grew around a region of Asia Minor called Lycia. The name *carolinianum* means “of Carolina,” where it was first described in 1788 as *Evoista caroliniana* by British-born American botanist Thomas Walter (1740–1789).

In the landscape, Christmas berry is suitable for any sunny location. The fruits are eaten by birds and the flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds, so give it a prominent place in your landscape. You will need to seek out nurseries that specialize in native plants to find this species in cultivation, but it is worth the effort. There are several nurseries in southern Miami-Dade County that sell it.

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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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

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