



# TILLANDSIA

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

## JUNE 2021

### MONTHLY MEETING (ONLINE)

Tuesday, June 22, 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. **Be sure to save and use your personal link in the confirmation email to join by Zoom.**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZYrd--upjliHdB\\_Bcpnhee39c71EV06fE5j](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZYrd--upjliHdB_Bcpnhee39c71EV06fE5j)

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

• **YouTube:** [www.youtube.com/channel/UCmassuC5-OsAX2KsRYQ6X5A](http://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](mailto:DadeFNPS@gmail.com), text 305-985-3677

### *Pollinator networks in pine rocklands of the lower Florida Keys* - Brittany Harris, PhD Candidate, FIU

Pine rockland is a globally rare ecosystem unique to South Florida and the Bahamas. When burned regularly, pine rockland provides habitat for a high diversity of herbaceous flowering plants. Open sunny patches and large flowering events entice pollinators to forage. These pollinators in turn support future generations of flowering plants by increasing pollen movement and fruit set, and thus maintaining flowering plant diversity.

Fire suppression leaves a legacy on the landscape that influences which flowering plants and visiting pollinators thrive. Brittany aims to understand how these communities respond to fire



history. Studying networks of plant and pollinator communities can inform us about how resilient these communities are to variations in fire histories. Through studying the whole plant-pollinator community, we can further understand how management practices influence the long-term health of our native plants.

Britany Harris is a Biology PhD candidate at Florida International University in the Plant Ecology Lab with Dr. Suzanne Koptur. She is a Florida native plant enthusiast and ecologist. Outside of her primary research in plant-pollinator interactions and plant

### Calendar

**June 19 (Sat.):** Field trip (Loop Road, Big Cypress)

**June 22 (Tue.):** Dade Chapter monthly meeting (online)

**July:** Dade Chapter activities TBA

### Other events of interest coming up soon

**June 12:** Native plant sale at Tropical Audubon Society

**June 11 - Sept. 12:** "Diatomaceous Dream" art exhibit at BNP by Rick Cohen, **reception June 27**

**June 14:** "Why Diatoms Matter" - Dr. Evelyn Gaiser (online)

**June 15:** Florida Keys Native Plant Workshop (online)

**June 15:** Dade Native Plant Workshop (walk)

### Articles in this issue

- Dade Chapter meeting – Pollinator networks
  - Field Trip to Loop Road, Big Cypress
- Board election and new board members
  - Remembering Rob Campbell
- Dade Chapter and FNPS News
- More News and Things to Do
- Art exhibit: "Diatomaceous Dream"

reproduction in pine rocklands, she has worked in conservation research at botanic gardens, invasive plant bio-control research, and large-scale remote sensing projects of plant communities in the Everglades. She has a Master's degree from FIU and a Bachelor's in Biology from University of New Orleans. She enjoys botanizing, kayaking, hiking, and gardening.

**Watch past programs** on the DCFNPS [YouTube channel](http://www.dadefnps.org) (or at [dadefnps.org](http://dadefnps.org), click the YouTube button at the bottom).

### FIELD TRIP

**Saturday June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021- Pinecrest Area along Loop Road in Big Cypress National Preserve**

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

The wet season is upon us, why not visit a wetland. The Big Cypress National Preserve is owned by the National Park Service and is 800,000 acres. We will traverse the historic derelict village of Pinecrest, which is part of Monroe County. There are a few private inholdings, which we will not visit. We will start out in Tree Snail Hammock. The hammocks in this region are a bit weird with some plants disjunct from the coast (such as Fairy Hibiscus (*Hibiscus poepigii*) and Century Plant (*Agave decipens*)). We will likely visit prairies, strand swamp, and pineland habitats too. This area is also known for its wildlife, so

expect to see gators and snakes. You may wish to take the long way home and drive the rest of Loop Road yourself, enjoying the scenery on your way back to civilization.

**Leader: Steve Woodmansee**, Vice President and Field Trip Coordinator for DCFNPS. He is a botanist and owns Pro Native Consulting, which specializes in plant research, conservation and native plant horticulture.

#### Map of Loop Road:

<https://www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/upload/BICY-Loop-Road-Scenic-Road-FINAL-4.pdf>

#### Map of Big Cypress National Preserve:

<http://npsmaps.com/wp-content/uploads/big-cypress-national-preserve-map.jpg>

**Difficulty:** Moderate, some trails but we will poke into some cypress swamp and other wild areas. Prepare for knee deep water.

**Bring/wear:** Sturdy shoes that can get wet, bug spray (just in case), sun protection, **plenty of water**. A walking stick may help for extra stability and when wading. Binoculars are handy for viewing wildlife. Bring lunch if you'd like to picnic afterward. Masks are recommended for those without Covid vaccination.

**Notes:** • *Pets are not allowed on field trips.* • **Restrooms** - There are plenty of bushes, but maybe restrooms at Pinecrest Campground will be open! • **Registration** - no longer necessary. • **Field trips are for the study of plants and enjoyment of nature.** Collecting is not permitted. Children are welcome.

## DADE CHAPTER FNPS ANNUAL MEETING 2021-2022 Board of Directors Election

At the chapter's Annual Meeting on May 25, the proposed slate was approved unanimously, all for 2-year terms except as noted:  
Vice President: **Steve Woodmansee** (1-year term)

Secretary: **Lydia Cuni**

Treasurer: **Susan Walcutt**

Directors At-Large: **Jennifer Stine, Janeen Feiger, and Alan Franck**

Continuing in their 2-year terms are **Brian Diaz** (President), **Kurt Birchenough** (Past President), **Jeanne Rothchild**, **Sanna O'Sullivan**, and **Joey Basna**.

Welcome to Alan (new to the board) and welcome back to Lydia (rejoining the board after an absence)!

We would like to express our enormous gratitude to **Amy Leonard** and **Gita Ramsay**, who are retiring from the board. Gita has served for over 10 years, while Amy has served for 16. Both have been instrumental in making the chapter what it is now. Amy served in several board positions, including president, over the years and spearheaded the planning involved with Native Plant Day, ensuring it was a success year after year. As Secretary, Gita kept meticulous records of board and annual meetings while also actively working on the logistics behind many of our events. We thank them and wish them both the best!

– Brian Diaz, President, DCFNPS

#### Meet our new board members:

**Lydia Cuni** is a native of Miami-Dade County, born and raised in Hialeah. She has been studying and working with South Florida native plants for nearly 10 years, most recently graduating with a master's degree from Florida International University, and currently working as a field biologist with Fairchild's Conservation program. She served on the Dade Chapter board in 2017 as a Director at Large (and is excited to return!). She is also currently the Secretary of the Miami Blue Chapter of NABA.



**Alan Franck** grew up in Ohio and received his bachelor's degree from Ohio University. His next 14 years were spent at the University of South Florida in Tampa, earning his Ph.D. and becoming director of the USF Herbarium. Since 2018, he has been at Florida International University as the curator of the Wertheim Conservatory and greenhouse. He primarily works on the flora and funga of Florida.



See these presentations by our new board members

**"The Ecology and Diversity of Fungi in South Florida"** -- Dr. **Alan Franck**, at the October 27, 2020 DCFNPS meeting (on the chapter's YouTube channel)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNN4B2x3rQA&t=25s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNN4B2x3rQA&t=25s)

**"Cultivation and availability of South Florida's native milkweeds"** -- **Sabine Wintergerst and Lydia Cuni**, at the FNPS Annual Conference, May 16, 2021. (2020 FNPS Conservation Grant award recipients.)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ezZcC\\_wVbM&t=2s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ezZcC_wVbM&t=2s)

## DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

### Welcome new members!

**In Dade:** Rocco Ceo, Andrea England, Carolos Nunez & Helen Woodmansee. **In the Keys:** Kathleen Mechler

We appreciate the extra support of our newest Non-profit Organization member, **Tierra Buena Project**, in Miami-Dade. *"Offering regenerative pollinator habitats using plants native to S. Florida. Our mission is to restore native ecosystems while uplifting our community."* They are just getting started, but see Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/tierrabuenaproject/>, and contact them at [tierrabuenaproject@gmail.com](mailto:tierrabuenaproject@gmail.com), 305-763-1365.

**Everglades National Park workdays.** Help with our habitat restoration/landscaping project maintenance at the **Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center**. **Dates TBA (Saturdays, 9 a.m. -noon)**. Volunteers will be notified of dates. *New volunteers* should contact Patty ([pharespl@gmail.com](mailto:pharespl@gmail.com)) for details and one-time advance paperwork required by ENP. *Please join our team!*

## ROB LEE CAMPBELL 1957 – 2021

“*[T]he state of rare plant conservation in South Florida is better because of Rob.*” – Jennifer Possley, FTBG

Rob Campbell was a founding member of the Dade Chapter, joining FNPS in April, 1981, along with his parents Carl and Becky. Earlier, they were participants in the Dade Native Plant Workshop. Rob acquired a vast knowledge of native plants and wildlife as he grew up and worked in the Homestead area. He became widely respected as a skilled horticulturist and plant propagator, especially of native plants. (It was said that “he could root a mop handle!”) Many of us first met him at native nurseries where he worked, especially at Allen’s Hammock Nursery. Rob passed away in Homestead on April 24, 2021.

Rob was a major presence in the early years of Dade Chapter meetings, where he frequently gave presentations, usually including a funny story of adventures in the wilds and bringing plants. He also wrote numerous newsletter articles, sometimes illustrating with a sketch. Between interacting with him through DCFNPS and while shopping at native nurseries, some long-time members credit Rob with teaching them most of what they learned about natives. While he didn't participate as much in the chapter in recent years, his legacy is as present and durable as the native plants he loved. We will miss him and his kindness.

### Recollections from Rob’s brother, Richard Campbell:

“*My childhood was spent alongside Rob, hiking, fishing, and botanizing in the wilds of South Florida. For Rob, no day was too hot, no adventure too arduous, nor insects too annoying. He loved the out of doors, plants and nature. His passion was the native plants and landscapes of South Florida and he shared his knowledge with all.*” Richard adds that Rob valued his association with FNPS and was proud of his contributions to the chapter.



Photo by Carol Lippincott.

**Rob Campbell tags nursery-grown Sargent’s cherry palms for their return to Long Key, a century after their discovery and subsequent loss on the island.**

### From Jennifer Possley, South Florida Conservation Program Manager, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden:

“*Rob’s love of nature and Florida native plants in particular led to a decades-long association with Fairchild’s native plant conservation program. Over the years, he shared tips on propagating difficult species like little strongback, donated seeds of very rare species like gulf licaria and mahogany mistletoe, and assisted with field projects, most notably the ‘job from hell’ with Sargent’s Cherry palm on Elliott Key in the early 1990s. He made some important finds while out enjoying nature, including the only population of mistletoe cactus in the US, which he found while canoeing the inland lakes of Everglades National Park. He was proud of his conservation work, and in fact I recall him shouting “I found that!” at DCFNPS meeting when Roger Hammer mentioned the mistletoe cactus. Our conservation program, and indeed the state of rare plant conservation in South Florida, is better because of Rob.*”

(Photo from the Fairchild Tropical Garden Bulletin, January, 1992)

– Patty Phares

## NOTES FROM THE FNPS ANNUAL MEETING MAY 22, 2021

- **Research Grant awardees included a Miami-Dade recipient.** Maria Pimenta, Dept of Biological Sciences, FIU, for “*Diurnal and nocturnal pollination of Guettarda scabra (Rubiaceae) in the rocklands of South Florida.*” \$1500 award in honor of Sam Hopkins.
- **A \$5000 FNPS Conservation Grant** was awarded for “A Floristic survey of the Douglas property acquisition in central Pinellas County, Florida”, submitted by the Pinellas Chapter FNPS. **The Dade Chapter’s annual contribution to this grant program in honor of chapter founders Joyce and Don Gann was recognized in the list of donors.** Thank you to members, friends and speakers who donated their honorarium for helping fund the chapter’s donation!
- **Dade Chapter was recognized as an Outstanding Chapter** along with Lake Beautyberry (Lake County) and Mangrove (Charlotte County and southern Sarasota County) Chapters, all of whom “hit the ground running” to be active even with the pandemic.

## MORE NEWS and THINGS TO DO

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

### Native Plant Workshops

- ♦ **Dade NPW. June 15, 5 p.m.** Walk at Trinity Pineland. See details at [nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/](http://nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/). **Join on the website (free!)** to post photos for ID, share, and receive reminders.
- ♦ **Florida Keys NPW virtual meeting. June 15, 5:30 p.m.** (It’s back to third Tuesdays!) No July meeting. For email notification with the Zoom link, questions: [FKNPW@outlook.com](mailto:FKNPW@outlook.com). This month Jim Duquesnel will discuss more native species that can be confused for invasive-exotic species.

**Tropical Audubon Society. Native Plant sale: June 12, 9am-5pm.** [www.tropicalaudubon.org/](http://www.tropicalaudubon.org/).

**Field Trip/Bioblitz event, Saturday, June 12, 9am-noon.**  
Hosted by **The Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC)** and **Miami-Dade County EEL program** at Florida City Pineland. We'll take a walk through the preserve and discuss restoration activities over the years, and also document plants and animals we see! **The group will be kept small.** For info and RSVP, see <https://www.volunteermatch.org/search/opp3369486.jsp>. You can check the IRC's calendar under the home page for notices of future events. [regionalconservation.org/index.html](http://regionalconservation.org/index.html)

**National Pollinator Week, June 21-27, 2021**  
(<https://www.pollinator.org/>) Even without many known activities happening locally, you can still learn and support the cause. *"Pollinator Week raises awareness on the plight of pollinators and celebrates all of the benefits provided by the thousands of insect, bird, and small mammal pollinator species. As people learn more pollinators, they become advocates – indeed voices – for the pollinators they come to love and understand. We can all play our part to secure a healthier, more sustainable future for pollinators."*

**Pollinator resources from Barbara McAdam**, Urban Hort. Program Specialist, UF/IFAS/Extension Miami Dade County Office, Miami Dade County Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces (and DCFNPS member).

- **Butterfly Big Blog of Resources**  
<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/miamidadeco/2021/03/30/butterfly-big-blog-of-resources/>
- **Best Pollinator Plants for Miami Dade County**, December 2, 2020  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=90rYBYg9j5M&t=50s>

**ART EXHIBIT: *Diatomaceous Dreams***  
Biscayne National Park, Dante Fascell Visitor Center Gallery  
June 11-September 12, 2021, 9AM-5PM daily.



These found-object assemblage sculptures by Rick Cohen are inspired by **diatoms**, which are single-celled aquatic algae. Bottle caps, marbles, jewelry findings, plates and other objects are used in large and intricate patterns that are reminiscent of the diatoms that provide up to half of the oxygen we breathe. Rick is a longtime member and supporter of DCFNPS.

**Associated events:**

- **June 14, 6 p.m.** – “Why Diatoms Matter”, virtual presentation by **Dr. Evelyn Gaiser** of FIU. Presented with the assistance of the Biscayne National Park Institute, **pre-registration required by 4 p.m.**  
[www.BiscayneNationalParkInstitute.org/Diatoms/](http://www.BiscayneNationalParkInstitute.org/Diatoms/)  
(If you attended Dr. Gaiser's presentation to DCFNPS in November 2014, this will be a good refresher!)
- **June 27, 1-3 p.m.** – **Meet the artist and view actual diatoms** under a microscope at a timed-entry reception with social distancing.

**More information:**

[www.nps.gov/bisc/planyourvisit/the-dante-fascell-visitor-center-gallery.htm](http://www.nps.gov/bisc/planyourvisit/the-dante-fascell-visitor-center-gallery.htm)  
**Directions:** [www.nps.gov/bisc/planyourvisit/basicinfo.htm](http://www.nps.gov/bisc/planyourvisit/basicinfo.htm)

Paid advertising



**Selling plants at wholesale or reduced prices!**  
**By appointment ☀ Cash/check**

**Membership and email**

- **FNPS 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:** move FNPS or DCFNPS email from junk/spam/promotions to your inbox, and add those sender addresses to your email contacts.  
**Think you are missing email (FNPS or Dade)? Let us know!**

**Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society**  
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DCFNPS website & social media: [www.DadeFNPS.org/](http://www.DadeFNPS.org/)  
Mail: Dade Chapter FNPS, 6619 S. Dixie Hwy, #181, Miami FL 33143-7919

**Board members (2021-2022):**

**President:** Brian Diaz      **Vice-President:** Steve Woodmansee  
**Secretary:** Lydia Cuni      **Treasurer:** Susan Walcutt  
**At Large:** Joey Basna, Janeen Feiger, Alan Franck, 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](mailto: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**

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