



TILLANDSIA

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

SEPTEMBER 2021

MONTHLY MEETING (ONLINE)
Tuesday, September 28, 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/zoom/register/tZ0tde2pqTlOHTa7TplzXOOxcO_yUSn9lnpz

(This registration link is also at dade.fnpschapters.org/events/).

• **YouTube:** 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

"Understanding the Geology Underlying Miami and What it Tells Us About the Past and Future Sea Level"
- Dr. Sam Purkis, University of Miami

Dr. Sam Purkis is a Professor in the Department of Marine Geosciences and Department Chair at the University of Miami. He received his B.Sc. (Hons.) degree in oceanography and marine biology from Southampton University, U.K., M.Sc. degree in geology, and Ph.D. from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The



Netherlands. His work stretches from field monitoring, GIS, to software development and mathematical simulation. Sam has authored more than one hundred scientific publications including several books. Well

versed in state-of-the-art technological solutions for mapping flood risks, his expertise is relevant to a broad spectrum of marine and coastal applications. His recent publication, "*Quantitative interrogation of a fossilized carbonate sand body – The Pleistocene Miami oolite of South Florida*" (Purkis and Harris, *Sedimentology* (2017) 64, 1439–1464) presents "a detailed analysis of the morphologies and dimensions of the different portions of the Miami oolite," and has advanced local understanding of the highly differentiated elements of the topography of Miami, as well as relationships between historic neighborhood boundaries and the shoals and channels that Purkis and Harris have delineated occurring across the Atlantic Coastal Ridge.

Calendar

<http://www.dadefnps.org/events>

- Sept. 25 (Sat.): Field trip – Camp Owaissa Bauer Park
- Sept. 28 (Tues.): Chapter meeting (online – topic is geology)
- Oct. TBA (Sat.): Chapter workday at Everglades Nat. Park
- Oct. 26 (Tue.): Chapter meeting (topic is bats)
- Oct. 30 (Sat.): Field trip – Concho Billy Trail, Big Cypress

Other events of interest

- Sept. 18: Broward Chapter field trip, North Jupiter Flatwoods
- Sept. 21: • Dade Native Plant Workshop (**now in-person**)
 - Florida Keys Native Plant Workshop (online)
- Sept. 25: National Public Lands Day - free entrance to Everglades National Park

In this issue

- September meeting and field trip
- Dade Chapter and FNPS News
- More News and Things to Do
- Climbing Hempvine (*Mikania scandens*) by Roger Hammer
- Blanketflower – native or not?

The October 26 program will be on bats. [National Bat Week](#) is October 24-31, 2021.

Watch past programs on the DCFNPS [YouTube channel](#) (or at dadefnps.org, click the YouTube button at the bottom).

FIELD TRIP

Camp Owaissa Bauer Park
Saturday September 25th, 2021

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

Camp OB is a Miami-Dade County park on a 110 acre tract with pine rockland and rockland hammock and has been around since at least the 1950s. It is one of the county's highest spots, over 20 feet above sea level. Soils have clay components along with limestone typical of the Redland area. We will first walk along the firebreaks in the pine rockland and then visit Timm's Hammock. We should see some fall wildflowers, a few federally endangered species plant species (Mexican alvaradoa, deltoid spurge, goatwing passionvine), and much more!

Leader: Steve Woodmansee, the current 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.

Difficulty: Easy to moderate, generally along trails.
Bring/wear: Sturdy shoes, insect repellent (just in case), sun protection, and water for drinking. A walking stick may be helpful to some for extra stability. Binoculars are handy for viewing wildlife. Bring lunch if you'd like to picnic afterward.

COVID safety: As always, even in the open air, please take precautions with mask wearing if unvaccinated and allowing space as we gather around interesting plants.

Notes: Free; no registration. Restrooms are available. Field trips are for the study of plants and enjoyment of nature - collecting is not permitted. Children are welcome to attend with a parent. **Pets are not allowed on field trips.**

Questions? Please email DadeFNPS@gmail.com (but not last-minute)

BONUS! Continue going south to visit **Everglades National Park with free entrance on September 25, National Public Lands Day** ([more info](#)).

October 30 Dade & Broward Chapter joint field trip: Concho Billy Trail in Big Cypress National Preserve. This trail off Turner River Road is great for seeing fall flowers while cooling your feet in the water washing over the trail this time of year. Details in the October newsletter and the [calendar](#).

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

Welcome new members!

In Miami-Dade: Lynn Audie, Kevin Chandler, Brittany Harris, Karen Kohler, Marlene Krantz, Andrea Lira, Tamara McIntyre, Antonio Muina, Melissa Petruzzello, Sasha Shirazi, Alisa Smith, Maria Vasquez

In the Keys: Robert Gale

Volunteer opportunities

• **Everglades National Park workdays.** Help with our habitat restoration/landscaping project maintenance at the **Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center. Workdays will be held in October and December, 9 a.m. -noon.** Workday team members will be notified of dates when scheduled. **New volunteers** should contact Patty (pharespl@gmail.com) for details and one-time advance paperwork required by ENP. *Please join our team!*

• **DCFNPS is collaborating with the Connect To Protect Network (CTPN) at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden for occasional projects relevant to pine rocklands.** These efforts are led by Daniela Champney, CTPN manager. Currently volunteers are working at Larry and Penny Thompson Park (near MetroZoo) but future workdays could be elsewhere.

Would you like to receive occasional emails about future joint CTPN+DCFNPS pineland project volunteer opportunities?

Please send a message to ConnectToProtect@FairchildGarden.org to be added to the distribution list. Let Daniela know you are with DCFNPS. (Of course, you may ask to be removed from the list at any time, and there's no obligation!) Patty Phares (pharespl@gmail.com) is the liaison on the DCFNPS side.

The Broward Chapter FNPS is meeting again in person at Secret Woods Nature Center. The September 8 meeting is already past, but see the website for details of their **September 18**

field trip to North Jupiter Flatwoods Natural Area. Check broward.fnpschapters.org/ next month for the **October 13 and later meetings.** Note that Broward and Dade Chapter activities appear on both chapters' calendars (see links on both websites).

See the September-October 2021 *Sabal minor* FNPS newsletter (Volume 23, Number 5) in your email (Sept. 3) or at <https://www.fnps.org/resources/sabalminor>

If you are not receiving FNPS email like this (or others, like membership reminders, Lunch and Learn announcements, etc.), be sure to check your spam/junk folder, move those email to your inbox, and add the sender to your contacts. (communications@fnps.org, info@fnpr.org, executivedirector@fnps.org).

MORE NEWS and THINGS TO DO

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

Dade Native Plant Workshop. Sept. 21, 5 p.m., now back at the MDC Kendall Campus! See nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/. All are welcome. **Join on the website** (free!) to post photos for ID, share, and receive email reminders. Topic: Borage family.

Florida Keys Native Plant Workshop virtual meeting. Sept. 21, 5:30 - topic TBA. For email notification with the Zoom link, questions: FKNPW@outlook.com.

CLIMBING HEMPVINE (*Mikania scandens*)

By Roger L. Hammer

Mikania honors Austrian-Czech botanist and professor Joseph Gottfried Mikan (1743–1814), and the name *scandens* means “climbing,” alluding to its growth habit. You will find climbing hempvine in a variety of open, sunny habitats, including hammock margins, pinelands, scrub, sandhills, prairies, and edges of mangroves. The seeds are wind-dispersed but are also eaten by finches, sparrows, and other birds.



Climbing hempvine has an extensive range across southern Canada and the eastern half of the United States through the West Indies and from Mexico south into South America. In Florida it is found in every county from the far western Panhandle to the Monroe County Keys. A flowering plant will be surrounded by pollinators, ranging from bees, wasps, and a plethora of butterflies and day-flying moths, plus it serves as larval food for the little metalmark butterfly and the scarlet-bodied wasp moth. Yet, even with all of those bragging rights, it is hardly ever seen in cultivation. Another plus for gardeners is that it is a rather petite vine that can be grown on a fence, a small trellis, arbor, or allowed to scramble around on shrubs as it does in nature. Although it will likely spread from seed on its own in your landscape, it is not as aggressive as many other vines, especially some of the passionflowers and most of the morning-glory vines.

It has been used medicinally by the Seminole in Florida to treat “snake sickness” and is also used throughout the Caribbean to treat venomous snakebite, diarrhea, rheumatism, and stomach problems.

So, if you’re looking for a pretty vine with many positive attributes, seek out climbing hempvine. You can thank me later, especially if you’re able to cure your snake sickness.

Roger L. Hammer is a professional naturalist, author, photographer, and survivalist instructor for the Discovery Channel’s reality TV show, *Naked and Afraid*. His most recent book (2018) is “*Complete Guide to Florida Wildflowers*.” He lives in Homestead with his wife, Michelle.

“BLANKETFLOWER – NATIVE OR NOT?”

This article by Laura Bennett-Kimble was posted on the **Florida Wildflower Foundation** website (<https://flawildflowers.org/>) on August 5, 2021. While you may have heard earlier argument that the colorful and very popular *Gaillardia pulchella* is not native to South Florida, **this article discusses recent research by Dr. Alan Franck finding that it is not native anywhere in Florida.** FWF says, “The news sparked many different reactions across the state. Experts weigh in on what this means for Florida gardeners.”



Shirley Denton

You can still enjoy this blanketflower in your garden. As the article states:

“I have plenty of nonnative plants that I value in my planting in

my yard. I don’t like to make things so black and white that nonnatives [are considered] evil and natives are all good. It’s all context,” Franck said.

There’s a difference between planting for restoration and planting for wildlife, Franck pointed out. With restoration plantings, it’s very clear that you want native plants, he said, but if it’s your garden, G. pulchella has value.

The description of Franck’s research is quite interesting. Read the complete article at <https://flawildflowers.org/blanketflower-native-or-not/> (also find from the home page by scrolling down to the “Read more news” button).

Then explore the whole site! Don’t miss “Flower Friday” under the “In Bloom” tab. The Florida Wildflower Foundation website covers the whole state of Florida, so note the native range (not just Hardiness zone) of species featured. More detail on where south Florida plants are native can be found at [The Institute for Regional Conservation’s](#) Online Resources: Natives For Your Neighborhood, Floristic Inventory of South Florida, and Floristic Inventory of the Florida Keys.

The less showy *Gaillardia aestivalis* (Lanceleaf blanketflower) is native to Sandhill plant communities in central and north Florida, and is the only native species of *Gaillardia* in Florida.

<https://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/Plant.aspx?id=3295>

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

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 (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

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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