



TILLANDSIA

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

NOVEMBER 2021

MONTHLY MEETING (ONLINE)
Tuesday, November 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. **Be sure to save and use your personal link in the confirmation email to join by Zoom.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZlIfu2hrD4jH9cMYlrQOftF49XIOu7TN05b>

(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

“Restoration of spoil lands in Biscayne National Park” – Dr. Amanda Bourque, Supervisory Ecologist, BNP

The landscape of Miami-Dade County and adjacent coastal waters has been substantially altered by the course of development throughout the 20th century. Extensive dredging of canals, harbors, and channels has resulted in the creation of numerous spoil lands formed by placement of dredged materials in the coastal waters of Biscayne Bay. Spoil lands are problematic because of coastal erosion and exotic vegetation concerns, and these areas provide low quality habitat to coastal wildlife. Coastal development in the county has also dramatically reduced the historic extent of coastal wetlands, transitional ecotones, and hardwood hammock habitat available to wildlife. Dr. Bourque will discuss leading a decade of efforts to restore spoil lands at the mouths of the Princeton (C-102) and Mowry (C-103) canals, within the park boundary. As some of the last remaining unrestored spoil areas in the county, the park has replaced mature exotic forest communities with diverse native salt tolerant species, with the goal that the areas will flourish and expand the mosaic of coastal wetlands and forests in south Florida.

Dr. Amanda Bourque is a Supervisory Ecologist at Biscayne National Park, where she has led the Habitat Restoration Program since 2003. Amanda's expertise lies in marine and restoration ecology, and she has completed dozens of ecological restoration projects in the park's coral reefs, seagrass meadows, and coastal forests. She has also forged strong partnerships with organizations that share a common goal of conservation and stewardship of the park's resources. Originally from Maine, Amanda lives in Redland where she enjoys spending time with her son and husband, and training wild mustang horses.

Calendar

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

Nov. 18 (Thur.): Give Miami Day (Early Giving 11/15-17)
Nov. 23 (Tues.): Chapter meeting (online)
Dec. 11 (Sat.): Field trip – Simpson Park (City of Miami)
Dec. 18 (Sat.): Chapter workday, Everglades National Park

(No November field trip; no December meeting or newsletter)

Happy Holidays full of sun and nature!

Other events of interest

Nov. 16: • Dade Native Plant Workshop (in-person)

• Florida Keys Native Plant Workshop (online)

Dec. 21: Dade Native Plant Workshop

Ongoing: EEL and FTBG workdays – see announcements

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◆ “Pineland Snowberry” by Roger Hammer

◆ Decorating for the Holidays

Missed some past Zoom presentations?

You can still see the recent fascinating programs on **geology (September)** or **bats (October)** and **more than a year's worth before that**. Go to the DCFNPS [YouTube channel](#) (or at DadeFNPS.org, click links to YouTube).

***** CHANGE IS COMING! *****

We will soon (January or even December) be sending email (newsletter and announcements) to you by Mailchimp instead of Vertical Response, which we have used since 2013.

Please prepare now by adding DadeFNPS@gmail.com to your contacts list to help keep these emails out of your spam folder.

(If you need assistance with that, please contact us!)

This is our regular chapter email address.

In-person meetings should resume soon (hopefully in January) if COVID cases stay low. Our aim will be to host “hybrid” meetings, meaning that you would be able to attend in person, live stream, or watch a recording later. But there are no plant raffles or refreshments online!



Why support DCFNPS on Give Miami Day?

► **November 18, 2021 - beginning at 12:00 a.m.**

[GiveMiamiDay.org/DCFNPS](https://www.givemiamiday.org/DCFNPS)

Give Miami Day is a community-wide day of online giving. It's extra-special because the Miami Foundation and partners make bonus gifts for donations of \$25 to \$10,000!

► **Early Giving begins November 15.**

► **“Power Hour” 6:00-6:59 p.m. on Nov. 18:**

Donations to [Environmental and Urban Resilience](#) organizations qualify for an additional bonus.

Donate to DCFNPS – and to others who collaborate in support our mission (scroll through the list).

► **Learn more at <https://www.givemiamiday.org/FAQ>**

Our board and other members generously provide hundreds of volunteer hours, plus expertise, plants, supplies, refreshments, and more to keep DCFNPS running with as little expense as possible. *(Thanks, everyone!)*

Our goal is to have income from membership dues, sales, raffles and other donations cover our regular expenses, including in-person meetings and events again in 2022.

This can be a challenge for a small organization. **Your extra donation will help us provide a free Native Plant Day, meetings, field trips, newsletter, Website, social media, support for conservation activities, and more.**

Thank you!

FIELD TRIP

**Simpson Park, City of Miami
December 11, 2021**

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

Description: Simpson Park is a remnant of the once enormous 1000 acre Brickell Hammock. Historically Dade County’s largest rockland hammock, Brickell Hammock has been reduced to about 20 acres including Simpson Park, Alice Wainwright Park, Vizcaya, and a few private parcels. Simpson Park possesses 8 acres of recently designated old growth natural community, forested hammock, with almost 100 native plant species. It is the last known location of a wild population of Gulf Licaria (*Licaria triandra*) in the U.S. (see [IRC species account](#).) It also possesses some of the largest redberry stoppers in the U.S. There are 24 Florida Endangered or Threatened species at Simpson Park. Parts of the park were set aside by the City of Miami in 1913, then called Jungle Park. In 1927 it was named in honor of Miami Naturalist Charles Torrey Simpson. It is still managed and owned by the City of Miami.

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.

Difficulty: Easy, along unpaved trails

Bring/wear: Sturdy shoes, repellent (just in case), water for drinking. Binoculars may be handy for viewing wildlife.

Notes: Restrooms available. Field trips are for the study of plants and enjoyment of nature - collecting is not permitted. Children are welcome with a parent. **Pets are not allowed on field trips.**

COVID safety: As always, even in the open air, please take appropriate precautions when gathering in groups or if inside.

Questions? Contact DCFNPS at DadeFNPS@gmail.com or 305-985-3677 cell (but not last-minute).



DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

Welcome new members! Noah Frade, Leslie McKinley, Daniela Menendez (student), James Ortiz-Lane and Diana Lane, Christina Peterson, Robert and Peck Pope, Veronique Tessier

The Broward Chapter FNPS meets in person at Secret Woods Nature Center. See broward.fnpschapters.org/. Broward and Dade Chapter activities appear on both online [calendars](#).

Look for the November-December 2021 Sabal minor FNPS newsletter (Volume 23, Number 6) in your email soon or at <https://www.fnps.org/resources/sabalminor>

If you are not receiving email from the state FNPS, be sure to check your spam/junk folder, move those emails to your inbox, and add these senders to your contacts: info@fnps.org, communications@fnps.org, executivedirector@fnps.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Learn about natural areas and native plants as you help them.

DCFNPS Everglades National Park workdays. Help with our habitat restoration/landscape maintenance at the **Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center**. **New volunteers:** please contact Patty (pharespl@gmail.com) for details and advance paperwork required by ENP. **Next workday: Dec. 18, 9 a.m. -noon.**

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Conservation Team Volunteer workdays through Dec. 20 to remove oyster plants, air potato bulbils and air potato subterranean tubers from the **Four Fillies Hammock**, between Old Cutler and Red Road. Email 4fillieshammock@gmail.com for information and to register.

DCFNPS is collaborating with the Connect To Protect Network (CTPN) at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden for projects relevant to pine rocklands. For notices of future CTPN+DCFNPS pineland project volunteer opportunities, contact ConnectToProtect@FairchildGarden.org. Tell the CTPN leader Daniela Champney you are with DCFNPS.

Miami-Dade Environmentally Endangered Lands workdays. Dates/details at www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands.asp or email eel@miamidade.gov. Registration is required.



Nov 13: Navy Wells Pineland
Dec. 11: Florida City Pineland
(and more in 2022!)



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FNPS AWARDS AND GRANTS IN 2022

Endowment Research Grants fund research on native plants. **Conservation Grants** support applied native plant conservation projects.

The Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany goes to graduate or undergraduate students who are studying Florida ethnobotany.

The Cornelia McNamara Grant funds applied research on native plants and habitats, particularly rare or imperiled, and is intended to support research that will yield data to inform the management for or restoration of native species and habitats.

See <https://www.fnps.org/what-we-do/awards> for details. Send questions to info@fnps.org.

Application deadlines are March 4, 2022. Awards will be announced at the May 2022 Annual Conference. Awardees do not have to be present to receive the award.

Also, see the website for **Landscape Awards** given for high quality landscapes primarily with native plants in categories of residential, commercial, institutional, transportation, restoration, mitigation and wildflower/butterfly garden.

MORE NEWS and THINGS TO DO

Dade Native Plant Workshop - at the MDC Kendall Campus, 5 PM on 3rd Wednesdays. See nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/. All are welcome. **Join on the website** (free) to post photos for ID, share, and receive email reminders. Also follow Steve @HoboBotanist on Twitter for announcements.

• **Nov. 16:** The genus *Nephrolepis* (**Sword ferns**), led by Jennifer Possley of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. Follow her on Twitter @JennPossley

• **Dec. 21: Workshop and annual holiday party.** Bring food/drink to share if you'd like. **Topic: plants with red berries.**

Florida Keys Native Plant Workshop virtual meeting.

• **Nov. 16:** Jim Duquesnel will be presents on vines (part 2)
For notifications, Zoom link, questions: FKNPW@outlook.com.

CAN YOU BARE IT?

By Steve Woodmansee

Has part of your yard begun to become bare? The rainy season is ending, and we don't water our landscapes or lawns as that could be considered a waste of resources. You may have noticed that the soil has become exposed in some areas of your landscape. Our instinct is to correct this, and fill it with plants, turf, or

perhaps mulch. However, a goal of native plant landscaping is to mimic what we see in nature.

When you go into our natural areas such as pine rocklands and coastal strands, you will see quite a bit of bare soil. You may also notice all sorts of organisms using it. In my own yard, which in some places may look a bit patchy and derelict, I notice birds taking dust baths, mourning doves foraging for seeds, and bees building underground nests. On a recent day I counted ten bee burrows in my yard (mostly sand wasp). These places are also important for pollinators such as mud daubers and potter's wasps, who gather material to build nests along the walls of my house.

So this winter, let's consider resisting this instinct to cover every square inch with plants and landscape material, and instead enjoy these open sandy areas.



Bee hole (l), likely by a sweat bee (Halictidae family). This article from IFAS on Halictid bees notes that the preferred habitat for these bees is one with wildflowers above bare ground. edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/5CIN/5CIN89700.pdf

Sand wasp hole (r) is likely a species of Gorytin. Joe Montes de Oca posted a photo of it in my yard on INaturalist: www.inaturalist.org/observations/40801316

Here's a page on bee burrows with cute video: onehoneybee.com/do-bees-burrow-in-the-ground/. My bees that nest underground are green or blue and shiny, perhaps a sweat bee.

This coincidental article extolling the virtues of bare soil notes that **70% of bee species nest underground.** blog.nature.org/science/2015/07/20/5-simple-tips-your-yard-pollinator-paradise-bees-butterflies-decline/.

Steve Woodmansee is a botanist and owner of Pro Native Consulting (www.pronative.com), native plant expert, chair of the Dade Native Plant Workshop, and former president of FNPS and the Dade Chapter. He is the chapter's Vice President and Field Trip Coordinator.

DECORATING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

[First published in Tillandsia, November, 1986]

You might like to have a real Florida touch when you decorate for your holiday party -- or anytime. Instead of flamingos and coconut palms, picture casual or formal arrangements of cuttings of native plants (and maybe some exotics) from your own yard. A little judicious trimming or some much-needed pruning could provide you with adequate materials. Jonathan Foote has compiled a few tips on constructing arrangements and a list of good materials (mostly native) to use.

[Read the complete article, reprinted in 2019: dade.fnpschapters.org/data/uploads/newsletters/2019/11.pdf]

PINELAND SNOWBERRY – AN UNDERUSED LANDSCAPE PLANT

By Roger L. Hammer



Pineland snowberry (*Chiococca pinetorum*) is typically a low-spreading and somewhat mounding, shrubby species found in pine rocklands or along hammock margins of Miami-Dade County and the Monroe County Keys. Two other species call South Florida home as well, and those are the much larger hammock snowberry (*Chiococca alba*) and small-leaf snowberry (*Chiococca parvifolia*). The name milkberry is sometimes used as well, and both names relate to the

round, ¼”, white fruits that adorn the plants. All three species have pendent, bell-like, yellow flowers to ½” long.

Pineland snowberry could be used as a border plant, a sprawling groundcover, or even in a hanging basket in full sun or shifting shade. As an added bonus, birds eat the fruits.

Silent Native Nursery in southern Miami-Dade County grows pineland snowberry, and perhaps other nurseries that specialize in native plants carry it as well. It is a worthwhile addition to any landscape that features native plants.

The genus and species name of pineland snowberry is descriptive of the fruits and habitat, with *Chiococca* being Greek for “snow berry” and *pinetorum* relating to its pineland habitat.

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

Editor’s notes:

See <https://dade.fnpschapters.org/nativeplants/obtainnatives/> for where to obtain native plants.

For more information on *Chiococca*, watch:

“1...2...3...! species of *Chiococca* (Rubiaceae) in Florida” with Dr. Alan Franck.

This recording of the FNPS Lunch & Learn episode from July 2, 2021 is # 48 in the YouTube list. See information below on how to find past Lunch & Learns.

And, of course, more information on plants is provided by The Institute for Regional Conservation (<https://www.regionalconservation.org/>) > Online Resources > Floristic Inventory of South Florida and Natives For Your Neighborhood.

Watching Past and Future FNPS “Lunch and Learn” Presentations

If you missed or would like to revisit any Lunch and Learn presentations or would like to know what’s coming up, see announcements in the FNPS bimonthly *Sabal Minor* newsletter (<https://www.fnps.org/resources/sabalminor>) at the end under *Et cetera*.

There is also information for watching recordings of the occasional evening programs “FNPS After Hours” (public), and seeing some back issues of the *Palmetto* magazine as well as some individual articles.

Most of the Lunch and Learn presentations are for members (a member benefit!) but those in the public archive (available to all) are also listed. They are live on some Fridays at noon.

Membership and email

- FNPS sends printed membership renewal notices (postal mail) only to members with no email address on file. The easiest way to renew is to call FNPS at 321-271-6702!
- 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 see email from FNPS and the Dade Chapter: move FNPS or DCFNPS email out of junk/spam/promotions and into your inbox, and add those sender addresses to your email contacts. **Think you are missing email (from FNPS or Dade)? Let us know!**

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

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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
Secretary: Lydia Cuni
Vice-President: Steve Woodmansee
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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