



TILLANDSIA

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

MARCH 2022

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 7:30 p.m.
Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57 Ave. (Red Road), Miami
(Also live-streamed on YouTube)
Free and open to all

Last month's in-person meeting was a very welcome change from two years of virtual presentations. Although special procedures are not currently required, we will follow whatever CDC and county COVID guidelines are in effect at the time. We encourage you to do what you can to make yourself and others in the room feel safe.

Our raffle returns following the program. Contributions of native plants and non-plant items related to native plants, such as books, etc. are appreciated. **Please label plants** (at least the common name, but more info is very welcome).

We'll also have the **merchandise sale**; refreshments are on hold.

Online viewing: Live-streamed on YouTube and recorded for later viewing. No registration is needed.

www.youtube.com/channel/UCmassuC5-OsAX2KsRYO6X5A

Note: You will see only the computer-based portions of the meeting (on-screen announcements and presentation), not the raffle and other input from the room. Chat will be enabled.

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

“Water Issues in Our Landscapes, Gardens, and Parks” - Dalton Goolsby - UF/IFAS Extension, Miami-Dade County

Along with Sea Level Rise, increased rainfall events coupled with



paved and non-porous surfaces challenge our daily lives and pose additional threats to our South Florida Environment. This presentation will look at increasing

rainfall trends and explore solutions already in play around the world from China's Sponge Cities to our own Miami Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Bioswale Remediation grant funded project at Arcola Lakes Park. Expanding your plant knowledge benefits the environment and brings new beauty and wildlife to the garden for all to enjoy. This is the heart of Florida-Friendly Landscaping.

Calendar

<https://dade.fnpschapters.org/events/>

- Mar. 23 (Wed.): Native Plant Field Day registration closes
- Mar. 26-27 (Sat.-Sun.): NATIVE PLANT FIELD DAY
- Apr. 6 (Wed.): Deadline for DCFNPS board nominations
- Apr. 16 (Sat): Field trip, Everglades National Park
- Apr. 26 (Tue.): Chapter meeting
- May 20-22: FNPS 41st Annual Conference (virtual only)

Other events of interest

- Mar. 15: • Dade Native Plant Workshop (in-person)
• Florida Keys Native Plant Workshop (on-line)
- Mar. 19: EEL workday (Larry & Penny Thompson pineland)
- Mar. 30: The Delicate Balance of Nature Lectures (on-line)

Inside this issue

- ♦ Native Plant Field Day
- ♦ Call for Dade Chapter board nominations
- ♦ April field trip
- ♦ FNPS Conference: Update & virtual silent auction donations
- ♦ More news, announcements, things to do
- ♦ “Consider the locustberry plant” by Lydia Cuni

Dalton Goolsby is the supervisor of the Urban Horticulture Program at the UF/IFAS Extension Miami-Dade County Office. He is a recent Botanical Research graduate from the University of Florida. He serves as a Florida-Friendly Certified Professional and educator, with a passion for sharing his knowledge and love of our South Florida environment. Mr. Goolsby oversees a variety of environmental programs including the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program, Landscape Irrigation Rebate Program, Rain Barrel Water Conservation Workshop Program, and more - which were responsible for saving Miami-Dade County almost 65 million gallons of water in 2020!

Upcoming and past programs:

- **April 26:** "Conservation of the Miami Blue Butterfly in Florida" - **Sarah Steele Cabrera**, Graduate Research Assistant, Univ. of Florida. This presentation will be virtual, but the meeting might be in-person and virtual (TBA).
- **Past presentations:** See the DCFNPS [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmassuC5-OsAX2KsRYO6X5A) (or at DadeFNPS.org, see links to YouTube). **Click the Videos tab** to see the entire history of 14 recordings since June 2020, including:
 - Feb. 2022:** “Butterfly Gardening 2.0” – Steve Woodmansee
 - Jan. 2022:** “The Nature Under Our Noses; Bound by Beauty – Connecting People with the Beauty, Importance and Diversity of Nature” - Gwen Burzycki

Call for DCFNPS Board Nominations

DCFNPS is accepting nominations for the chapter board of directors as our May Annual General Members Meeting approaches. Open positions are President, Vice President, and three Directors At-Large for 2-year terms, and one Director-at-Large for a 1-year term. The nominating committee will present a proposed slate.

Nominate yourself or someone else (*with their permission*) to one of these positions. Botanical expertise is not a prerequisite for serving on the board. **Anyone with enthusiasm for native plants and skills that would help the chapter thrive is encouraged to consider serving on the board.** To submit your nominations or for more information, please contact the chapter at DadeFNPS@gmail.com by April 6.

APRIL 16 FIELD TRIP

Osteen Hammock trail (Pineland, prairie and hammock) in Everglades National Park, led by Lydia Cuni.

This is an **entrance fee free day** at ENP (the first day of National Park Week), a great opportunity if you don't have a pass. Osteen Hammock is in the Long Pine Key area, near the road to the Research Center. The trail passes through beautiful prairie, hammock and pineland. These pinelands have many unique species not found in other areas of ENP.

This is a holiday weekend: Good Friday, Passover, Easter, full moon, National Park Week. So come celebrate something! **Details will be in the April newsletter, and also on the chapter calendar at dade.fnpschapters.org/events/.**

FNPS 41st Annual Conference

May 20-22, 2022

“Gateway to Florida’s Biodiversity”

(Virtual only)

Registration and details:

www.fnps.org/conference/2022



Conference Virtual Silent Auction – donations welcome

- Gift certificates are especially good- easy to mail. Nursery, attraction, restaurant, retailer, etc., in Miami or the Keys.
- Other small items you can easily mail or offer for pick up.
- Plants or other large or fragile items for pick up only.

Contact Jenny Welch, FNPS silent auction chair.

407-319-2488, flnaturegirl@yahoo.com

MORE NEWS and THINGS TO DO

Dade Native Plant Workshop - at the MDC Kendall Campus, See nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/.

- Mar. 15, 5:00 PM: Araceae (Palm family)

Florida Keys Native Plant Workshop virtual meeting.

- Mar. 15, 5:30 PM: Susan Kolterman discusses identifying trees by looking at bark. For info, email: FKNPW@outlook.com.

Miami-Dade Environmentally Endangered Lands workdays. www.miamidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands.asp or email eel@miamidade.gov. Mar. 19: Larry & Penny Pineland Preserve

The Delicate Balance of Nature Annual Lecture Series (Zoom presentations, 7 p.m.). See pennekampparkfriends.org – Events.

For additional information: info@pennekampparkfriends.org

March 30 - Lobsters: South Florida's Spiny Super Bug

Paid advertising

By Appointment Only
24605 SW 197 Avenue
Homestead, FL 33031
305-242-9500
www.vebersjungle.com
Retail • Wholesale Nursery
Landscape Design and Installation
Natives • Wildflowers • Bamboo • Palms • Bird and Butterfly Plants



NATIVE PLANT FIELD DAY

March 26-27, 2022

Two days of field trips to unique habitats and gardens in Miami-Dade and the Keys featuring native plants

Free (except for any entrance/parking fees), open to the public.

Most are easy morning trips to natural areas, but others include: children's walk; afternoon walk in an empty lot with lawn weeds (butterfly plants!); nursery tour; garden tour plus bee keeping. Two are in the Keys. Something for everyone!

Members will receive an email with details around March 11. See the [chapter calendar](#) now for a trip list. The registration link (with trip details) will be added when registration opens.

Let your friends and students know, share on social media!

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

Welcome new members! In Miami-Dade: Tamme Flood and Katelyn Flood-Reiss, Nan Imbesi, Ian Mcnamara and Avra Ackerman, Mix'd Greens, Inc. (business level), Scott Sutherland. In Key Largo: Laura Wells

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 paperwork for ENP.

Next workday: April, date TBA (Saturday 9 a.m. –noon)

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

Find the Jan.-Feb. *Sabal minor* (FNPS bimonthly newsletter) in your email (March 2) or at www.fnps.org/resources/sabalminor. **The most recent *Palmetto* magazine** (Vol 26, No.3) was mailed recently (by USPS or email, as you requested). Past issues can be accessed as pdf files by current members via a Google drive link provided at the end of each *Sabal minor*. **If you did not receive these publications, please contact FNPS.**

CONSIDER THE LOCUSTBERRY PLANT: Benefactor to wildlife

By Lydia Cuni

Do you have at least one locustberry shrub in your yard yet? Well, what are you waiting for? There are a variety of reasons why locustberry (*Byrsonima lucida*) is gaining popularity in landscaping and becoming more available in the nursery trade. Interestingly, the distinguished horticulturalist and cofounder of the American Horticultural Society Liberty Hyde Bailey reports in 1929 that the species was not yet in the trade, so we should capitalize on its growing availability today!

What this plant can bring to your yard is multitudinous, with its bountiful blooms in a range of colors, white to deep pink, and an assortment of beneficial insect pollinators visiting the flowers seeking nectar and oil rewards. Yes, I said oil! Look closely at the locustberry's flowers and behind the gracefully stalked petals you'll see a ring of glossy yellow-green bumps; these are specialized oil-producing floral glands called elaiophores. It is this oil that the also specialized oil-collecting bees, like those in the genus *Centris*, use to feed their young. Plants in this genus *Byrsonima* (and plant family Malpighiaceae) have evolved these oil glands in a mutualistic relationship with these types of bees. The resulting interaction benefits both species, with the oil from the flowers helping to feed the larva of the bees, while the oil-collecting visit from the bee aids the pollination and seed production of the plant. Here in South Florida there are two species of *Centris* bees: *Centris errans*, a native bee known as the wandering *Centris* with slow-moving flight and a brown colored abdomen, and an introduced exotic species from South America, *Centris nitida*, which has a more rapid flight and a black colored abdomen (pictured right). Keep your eyes peeled for these bees around blooming locustberry plants. Both of the oil-collecting bees measure no more than ½ inch.

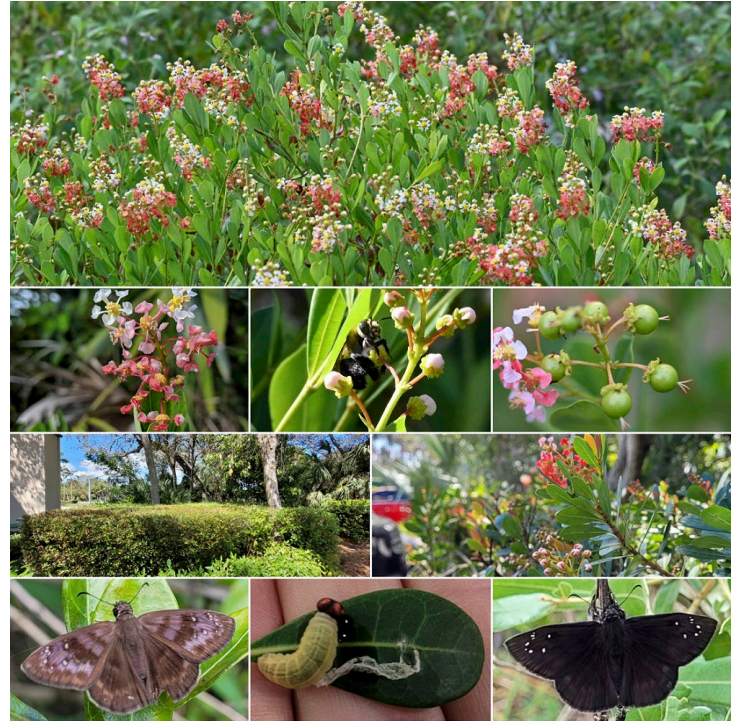
Locustberry is also notably the larval host plant for an imperiled butterfly, the Florida duskywing (*Ephyriades brunnea floridensis*). This quick-flying butterfly is largely only found in pine rockland habitat in Miami-Dade and Monroe County and is an imperiled butterfly because its populations are widely fragmented and far and few between. Like so many other organisms, the Florida duskywing larval stage is dependent on and requires its host plant, locustberry, to maintain its life cycle. The caterpillars of the Florida duskywing fold together locustberry leaves into shelters from where they come out to eat.

Besides pine rockland, locustberry shrubs can also be found in coastal berm, marl prairie, and rockland hammock habitats. It is one of those plants native only to extreme south Florida whose range is expanding north because of humans, only to be limited by its tropical trepidation to the cold. So now that you know even people outside of south Florida are planting locustberries, plus the bees and butterflies it supports, aren't you going to try to get some of your own?

For a Spanish translation of this article, email DadeFNPS@gmail.com.

Lydia Cuni spends a lot of time outdoors as a Field Biologist with Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Conservation Team where she works to map and monitor rare plants and insects of South Florida. She is secretary of the Dade Chapter Florida Native

Plant Society and of the Miami Blue Chapter, North American Butterfly Association with whom she also spends time outdoors, attending or leading field trips and conducting butterfly surveys.



An illustration of the locustberry plant in the landscape and its wildlife benefactors, exotic oil-collecting bee and Florida duskywing butterfly (left: female and right: male). Photos: L. Cuni and S. Sutherland.

Membership and email

• **FNPS sends printed membership renewal notices only to members with no email address on file. Renew at www.fnps.org/home or call FNPS at 321-271-6702 (the easiest way!).**

• **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.

► **Please add DadeFNPS@gmail.com to your contacts list.** ◀

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

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, 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>

© 2022 Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society, Inc.