



# TILLANDSIA

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

## OCTOBER 2022

### MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, October 25, 2022, 7:30 PM  
Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57 Ave. (Red Road), Miami  
(Also live-streamed on YouTube)  
Free and open to all!

#### “Diagnosing Your Landscape Problems”

Adrian Hunsberger, Miami-Dade Extension Agent Emerita

Diagnosing plant problems can be one of the most challenging areas of gardening and landscape care. There are few resources for SE Florida landscapes. Many people have a lack of awareness of research-based information that is available. This presentation will give you some tools to help you distinguish different symptoms and what the possible causes could be. Once the cause is diagnosed, then you will know what can be done to correct the issue. You will learn how to "read" your plants!



Adrian is an Extension Agent Emerita, formerly with the University of Florida/IFAS Extension in Miami-Dade County.

Come early or stay late to socialize and browse the merchandise and raffle. The raffle follows the program. (Refreshments are still on hold.) **Thank you for your raffle contributions** (native plants, non-plant items such as books, etc.)! **Please label each plant with at least the common name on paper or tape** (more info is welcome, including your name).

**Online viewing:** Live-streamed and recorded on YouTube.  
[www.youtube.com/channel/UCmassuC5-OsAX2KsRYQ6X5A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmassuC5-OsAX2KsRYQ6X5A)

**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.**

**Questions?** Email [DadeFNPS@gmail.com](mailto:DadeFNPS@gmail.com), text 305-985-3677

● **November 22: “Pine rocklands and the Connect to Protect Network” – Daniela Champney, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden**

● **To be rescheduled: “Special Flora, Fauna and Places Seen on Recent Chapter Field Trips” - Lydia Cuni.** Hurricane Ian cancelled September’s meeting, but Lydia’s program is not lost.

● **Past presentations:** Use the YouTube link above or from [DadeFNPS.org](https://DadeFNPS.org). Click the **Videos** tab for available recordings.

### Calendar

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

Please mark your calendars now for October and early November dates.

- Oct. 23 (Sun.): **Field trip** – Nixon Smiley Pineland re-visit
- Oct. 25 (Tue.): **Monthly meeting**
- Oct. 29 (Sat.): **Workday** at Everglades National Park
- Nov. 12 (Sat.): **Field trip** – Black Creek Forest & Black Point Wetlands
- Nov. 17 (Thur.): **Give Miami Day** - Support DCFNPS!
- Nov. 22: (Tue.): **Monthly meeting**

#### Other fall events of interest

- Oct. 12, Nov. 9: Broward Chapter FNPS [meetings](#)
- Oct. 15-16: [Grow Fest](#) at the Fruit and Spice Park
- Oct. 18: Native Plant Workshops in [Dade](#) and the Keys
- Oct. 20: [Fall Home Landscape series](#) program in Broward
- Oct. 31–Nov. 5: Pine Rockland Working Group [Conference](#) (virtual presentations, in-person field trips)
- Nov. 5: PRWG [Field trip](#) to Calderon Pineland restoration
- Nov. 6: Miami Blue NABA [meeting](#) (in-person & virtual)
- Nov. 11: Everglades National Park [free entrance day](#)

#### Inside this issue

- ◆ Message from the president
- ◆ Native Plant Day returns
- ◆ Field trips and workdays
- ◆ Pine Rockland for sale
- ◆ Pine Rockland Working Group Symposium and Field Trips
- ◆ More news and things to do
- ◆ Don’t Tidy Up Your Garden!

### FIELD TRIPS – October and November

● **Sunday, October 23, 2022**

**Re-visit Nixon Smiley Pineland Preserve**

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

We visited this 120-acre Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands preserve on August 13 to see the initial regrowth three months after an expansive wildfire. **Now we’ll go back to see fall-blooming flowers in their full glory.** This is one of the largest expanses of natural area left in suburban Miami and presents the opportunity to observe the area’s landscape heterogeneity prior to widespread human development. This preserve is uniquely characterized by expanses of sandy soil and limestone outcroppings, with the ecotone between pineland and prairie present here. It is one of the most biodiverse sites in the county with at least 275 plant species. It is habitat for

endangered, rare and interesting native plants and animals.

**Leader: Lydia Cuni**, Field Biologist, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

**Difficulty:** Moderate. Unpaved paths. Some areas are very rocky but we will mostly stay on a less rocky trail.

**Bring/wear:** Water, sun protection, long pants. Sturdy, closed shoes or boots are important in this rocky pineland. A walking stick might be helpful to some people where rocks occur. A bag to collect trash?

**Notes:** No restrooms. **Pets are not allowed in the preserve.**

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● **Saturday, November 12, 2022**

**Black Creek Forest and Black Point Wetlands.**

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

**Black Creek Forest** is an Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) acquisition from the early 1990s. It is 7 acres, mostly Pine rockland, and is quite diverse with 193 native plant species. We should see the tail end of the fall wildflower season, a population of Gulf Gray twig, and the rarest subspecies of Deltoid Spurge.

**Black Point Wetlands**, also known as “Dump Marsh”, is about 80 acres of formerly freshwater marsh, likely brackish now due to saltwater intrusion. This is a known favorite spot for birders. It has been some time since Steve has been here, so there may be some surprise plants. IRC’s [plant list](#) has fewer than 50 species, and likely needs further inventory.

**Leaders: Tiffany Melvin** and **Steve Woodmansee**. Tiffany is a Biologist for Miami-Dade County, and oversees the management of Black Creek Forest (and many other EEL properties). Steve is the current DCFNPS Vice President and Field Trip Coordinator.

**Difficulty:** Moderate. At Black Creek Forest there may be some “trails” used by crews, and we will be walking in open areas next to the canal. At Black Point Wetlands, we may poke into the wetlands (optional), and other ground may be squishy.

**Bring/wear:** Sturdy shoes (ones that can get muddy or rubber boots for the wetlands part), bug protection (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 birds. *A small bag for trash pickup is handy, too!* Some of us may head to Black Point Marina for a beer and fish sandwich, otherwise, bring lunch if you’d like to picnic nearby afterward.

**Notes:** No restrooms at either location. Stop at businesses along the way to the second stop or at Black Point Park (east of the wetlands). **Pets are not allowed on our field trips.**

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## WORKDAY OPPORTUNITIES

● **DCFNPS Everglades National Park workday. Saturday October 29, 9 AM–noon, and every other month (dates TBA).** Help us enhance the entrance to ENP with restoration and maintenance of the native habitat at the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center, begun in 2001. We will be pruning and weeding. **Potential new volunteers:** Please contact Patty (pharespl@gmail.com) in advance for more details and so the

park can prepare required paperwork. Non-members and students can help, too! Read more in our online [calendar](#).

● **DCFNPS volunteers are invited to collaborate with the Connect To Protect Network (CTPN) at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden on occasional pineland projects.**

At upcoming workdays (weekday mornings), we will maintain pineland plantings at the entrance to Larry and Penny Thompson Park (SW 184 St. at 125 Ave.). It’s a learning opportunity and easy. **For more information or notices** about these or other future CTPN+DCFNPS volunteer opportunities, contact [ConnectToProtect@FairchildGarden.org](mailto:ConnectToProtect@FairchildGarden.org). Tell the CTPN leader Daniela Champney you are with DCFNPS.

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**July yard visit and social at the home of Mary and John Rose**

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings, DCFNPS Members:

I hope that everyone thoroughly enjoyed their summer. Our July yard visit was kindly hosted by long-time member Mary Rose, and we were glad to see many familiar faces. We now look forward to our regular programming after the interruption from Hurricane Ian. In addition to our monthly programs and field trips, we are most excited to bring back Native Plant Day after a three year hiatus, to be held on March 25th, 2023.

We hope you fared well in the hurricane. It’s heartbreaking to see the amount of damage to people’s homes, the severe flooding, the number of fallen trees, and the damage to natural areas.

As rebuilding commences, it’s important that full advantage be taken of nature’s resilience. We must make use of the fortifying effects afforded by urban trees (and particularly native trees) when planted in sufficient densities and increase the extent of our protected natural areas such as mangrove forests to reap their buffering qualities. Communities that incorporate nature in this way become better equipped against strong storms, and it is something that everyone can help take part in. To that end, DCFNPS will continue to encourage the increase of our local tree canopy and educate the community about the importance of our native flora. When we protect nature, nature will protect us.

**Brian Diaz, DCFNPS President**



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Simpson stoppers, Red stoppers, Spanish stoppers, Paradise trees, Black Ironwood trees Coontie, Mastic, Blolly, Saw Palmetto, Marlberry Myrsine, *Thrinax radiata*, White Indigoberry and Shortleaf/soft-leaf wild coffee (*Psychotria tenuifolia*)

**MORE NEWS and THINGS TO DO**

**Pine Rockland Working Group Symposium  
 October 31-November 5, 2022**

**Virtual symposium, in-person field trips – open to all interested in pine rocklands.** Click [here](#) for registration (FREE and open now), schedule and abstracts. The theme is “Wildlife”, with 1-hour talks plus 15-minute “lightning talks”. You can virtually attend whatever you have time for.

**Of special interest on Saturday November 5 is the field trip to Calderon Pineland, a recent EEL acquisition being restored in a joint effort.** The tour will be of a restoration site and will coincide with a planting of islands. *“The exciting experience is to see first hand world class restoration techniques, interact with volunteers, gain exposure to environmental education process and participate in multi-stakeholder restoration and collaboration.”*

**Pre-registration is not required for this trip** (SW 192 Street & SW 140 Ave). See the symposium [website](#) for complete info.

 **DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS** 

**Welcome new members!** Katherine Boronat, Alex Crow, Liza Kindred, Mo Morrow, Lydia Quintero, Frances Smith and Terry Heaps, Audrey Valhuerdi

**Give Miami Day.** Please plan to support DCFNPS (and your other favorite local causes) on **November 17, 2022 (or in early giving beginning Nov. 14)**. This event is extra-special because the Miami Foundation and partners make bonus gifts for donations of \$25 to \$10,000! See [www.givemiamiday.org/](http://www.givemiamiday.org/).

**FNPS publications**

- **Sabal Minor newsletter.** Find the **March-September** and earlier issues at <https://www.fnps.org/home> under [resources](#).
- **Past issues of the Palmetto magazine** are [here](#).

**The Broward Chapter FNPS** meets at Secret Woods Nature Center, second Wednesdays. See the [calendar](#) for details and [broward.fnpschapters.org/](http://broward.fnpschapters.org/) to sign up for the chapter newsletter. **Also: Fall Home Landscape Series** presented by Secret Woods. **October 20:** “Landscaping Your Home”, with Janine Griffiths



Thanks to John Shaffer for his generous donation of a used hardcover edition of *A Flora of Tropical Florida* by Robert Lang. **It will be for sale for \$50 at our October 25 meeting.** Amazon has the same book listed at \$147 (hardcover) and used at \$75.

**Dade Native Plant Workshop** - at the MDC Kendall Campus. [nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/](http://nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/). This free public workshop meets every 3rd Tuesday, led by Steve Woodmansee. Novices and experts alike are welcome! Follow Steve on Twitter to receive workshop reminders (<https://twitter.com/hobobotanist>). **Oct. 18, 5:00 PM:** Topic is fall blooming Asters (Goldenrods, Blazingstars, Palafoxias, and more), *just in time for the October 23 DCFNPS field trip.*

**Florida Keys Native Plant Workshop (virtual meeting).** **Oct. 18, 5:30 PM:** Burseraceae & Anacardiaceae with Duane Kolterman and Susan Kolterman. For more info, email: [FKNPW@outlook.com](mailto:FKNPW@outlook.com).

**Redland GrowFest, Oct. 15-16**, at the Fruit and Spice Park. Theme: The Hidden Life of Soil. See details at <https://RedlandGrowFest.com>

**Miami Blue Chapter, North American Butterfly Association meeting, Sunday, November 6, 2022, 1:00 PM** at the Padron Campus of Miami-Dade College (in Little Havana) **or by Zoom.** **Paola Olaya Arenas presents on “Consequences of field-realistic pesticide exposure for Monarch development.”** Join a guided walk around the campus to see urban wildlife habitats. Open to all! Details at <https://miamiblue.org/>



**Pine hyacinth (*Clematis baldwinii*) in fruit – photo by Jennifer Stine.**

DCFNPS field trip to Nixon Smiley Pineland Preserve, August 13, 2022.

*Very happy and robust three months post-fire. Maybe we’ll see some more on our October 23 field trip.*

**Save the date!**

**25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT DAY - March 25, 2023  
 Elaine Gordon Enchanted Forest Park in North Miami.**

The Dade Chapter’s signature event has been missing for three years, but now we’re back. The event features programs, nature walks, educational tables by organizations and agencies, plant and merchandise sales, raffles, activities for all ages, and plenty of networking and socializing. **If you have suggestions for presenters, organizations, vendors, etc., or could help with the preparation, please contact DadeFNPS@gmail.com.**

## DON'T TIDY UP YOUR GARDEN

by Patty Phares

Our guru of sage gardening advice, Steve Woodmansee, often advises leaving lawn weeds, insect “pests” and bare ground to benefit wildlife in our gardens. Leaving piles of dead twigs and dead pine tree “snags” is also suggested.

I was recently considering removing a small tree trunk cut down a few months ago (why rush into anything?). But I was glad I hadn't done it. The appearance of this beautiful fungus on the decaying wood coincided with soggy days around Hurricane Ian.

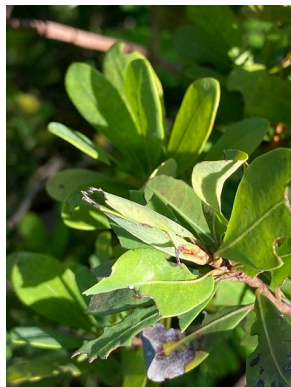


Snow fungus (or white jelly fungus, etc.), *Tremella fuciformis*, is widespread and can be found on the dead branches of broadleaf trees, especially after heavy rains. You can read about its life cycle and structure in many sources. E.g., from ([https://www.mushroomexpert.com/tremella\\_fuciformis.html](https://www.mushroomexpert.com/tremella_fuciformis.html)). “...whitish or nearly transparent, and fairly large (up to about 7 cm across) -- and it features graceful gelatinous lobes ...”

Parts of my locustberry (*Byrsonima lucida*) shrub looked ragged in August and I had considered pruning it back to reduce the size anyway. Again, glad I didn't! The Connect to Protect Network newsletter arrived from Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden asking:

“If you have locustberries in your yard, please keep watch for the rare **Florida duskywing butterfly**. Send us a photo if you find one! If you don't feel like chasing butterflies, you can make a definitive identification if you find the caterpillar feeding on new leaves, or hiding in its leaf shelter...”

So I examined some scruffy-looking and folded up leaves, and to my surprise, I immediately found numerous Florida duskywing butterfly larvae. I'm still finding them two months later.



In the process of examining leaves, I accidentally broke off the stems of two shelters, so I had to raise the caterpillars in a container. It worked out okay, but now I'm careful not to break them off again, and definitely not inclined to “tidy up” the shrub.



Florida duskywing,  
*Ephyriades brunnea*

### PINE ROCKLAND FOR SALE

#### Amazing opportunity to save a pine rockland!

Total of 10 acres (can be divided into two 5 acre lots), located in Redland. On half of the property is the rare “Old Florida vibe” 3/2 home (ca. 1950's, needs TLC) plus huge workshop. Yard with many Dade-County pines, lots of native plants, fruit and flowering trees, and a palm garden.

**The other 5 acres are pine rockland with an NFC designation.**

Mostly well-maintained, outstanding ecological value due to completely undisturbed substrate, incredible plant diversity (including a federally listed and many state listed species).

For serious inquiries please contact Daniela at  
[d\\_champnax@yahoo.com](mailto:d_champnax@yahoo.com)

**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.  
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#### Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society

For Miami-Dade and the Florida Keys

Chapter communication: [DadeFNPS@gmail.com](mailto:DadeFNPS@gmail.com), 305-985-3677

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 (2022-2023):

President: Brian Diaz

Vice-President: Steve Woodmansee

Secretary: Lydia Cuni

Treasurer: Susan Walcutt

At Large: Joey Basna, Riki Bonnema, Gwen Burzycki, Janeen Feiger, Jeanne Rothchild, Jennifer Stine

FNPS Council of Chapters representative: (open)

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

FNPS office: [info@fnps.org](mailto:info@fnps.org), 321-271-6702

FNPS website, blog, social media: <http://www.fnps.org>

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