



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

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

FEBRUARY 2023

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, February 28, 2023, 7:30 PM
Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57 Ave. (Red Road), Miami
Free and open to all!

*Special Flora, Fauna and Places
Seen on Recent Chapter Field Trips*
- Lydia Cuni

(Rescheduled from September, 2022, due to Hurricane Ian)

Chapter field trips give us the opportunity to experience natural areas first hand, examine rare or cool plants up close, catch glimpses of wildlife not seen at home, share information, and enjoy the company of fellow plant lovers. But it's also informative to look back and examine photos, recounting the story and potentially seeing more than the first time. Lydia Cuni will share our finds from some trips she led or attended over the past years and discuss some of these treasures. Plus, just



recently, chapter member Joe Montes de Oca created an iNaturalist project to collect/organize the observations seen while on Dade Chapter field trips. This presentation will also draw upon that iNaturalist project.

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

• **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, plant-related books, etc.)! **Please (please please!) label each plant with at least the common name on paper or tape** (more info is welcome).

Calendar

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

Feb. 11 (Sat.): Chapter workday at Everglades National Park
Feb. 15 (Wed.): FNPS Annual Conference registration opens
Feb. 18 (Sat.): Field trip – Big Cypress **** please RSVP ****
Feb. 28 (Tue.): Monthly meeting

Other events of interest

Feb. 18: Tropical Audubon Society Bird Day
Feb. 21: Native Plant Workshops in Dade and the Keys
Feb. 22: Delicate Balance of Nature lecture, Key Largo

Also in this issue

- ◆ **Native Plant Day, March 25, 2023**
- ◆ **FNPS 42nd Annual Conference**
- ◆ **“Seven Sisters” by Roger L. Hammer**
- ◆ **More announcements, things to do and read**

• **Online viewing: Live-streamed and recorded on YouTube.**
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.**

• **Questions?** Email DadeFNPS@gmail.com, text 305-985-3677

- **March 28:** “Florida’s Endemic Plants” – Roger Hammer.
- **Past presentations:** Use the YouTube link above or from DadeFNPS.org. **Click Videos** or **Live** for available recordings.

FIELD TRIP: Big Cypress National Preserve Saturday, February 18, 2023

The Broward Chapter invites us to join this trip.

Please RSVP to BrowardchapterFNPS@gmail.com
so there is a count of anticipated attendees.

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

The Broward Chapter February 8 speaker, Logan Crees, will lead this trip. We hope to find some orchid species featured in his presentation “A Seasonal Guide to the Orchids of South Florida.” **Bring** water, snacks, sun protection, a sturdy hiking stick, and wear sturdy, closed footwear to possibly walk in mud and knee deep water. *Best for those with moderate experience on uneven terrain.* See more information at broward.fnpschapters.org/ or broward.fnpschapters.org/calendar/.



25th ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT DAY
March 25, 2023

Elaine Gordon Enchanted Forest Park in North Miami.
Co-sponsored by:
The Dade Chapter FNPS
and the City of North Miami Parks and Recreation

Our chapter's annual outreach event is back after a 3-year hiatus. It rotates among locations in north, central and south Miami-Dade and features a full day of programs, nature walks, tables by organizations and agencies, plant and merchandise sales, raffles, activities for all ages, and plenty of networking and socializing.

Of course we need your help. But it's also fun.
We hope you'll plan to be there!

Please be on the lookout for a separate email soon with more specific information, including a schedule of programs and activities, a sign-up for volunteers, how to get donated items to us if you can't come, and more.

In the meantime, please ...

- **Continue to gather and groom native plants in 4" to 3-gal pots to donate for our sale and raffle.** They don't have to be perfect, but we need plants that are in good shape. Everything from small herbaceous plants to trees is good. If you are uncertain about the species, have numerous large (3-gal) plants you can't transport, or have any questions, please contact us now to make sure we will be able to use them.
- **Also gather up non-plant raffle items** (e.g. books, artwork, garden tools, gift certificates – things that could be of interest to native plant fans).
- **Let friends, family, colleagues know!** We will be sending details to share by email and social media.
- **Plan to help at the event or at setup the day before.** You can also recruit other volunteers.
- **Questions or last-minute suggestions for participating organizations, vendors, etc.?** Contact DadeFNPS@gmail.com or 305-985-3677 or Brian Diaz at briandiaz1210@gmail.com.

2023 FNPS Awards and Grants – Apply by March 3, 2023. Research Grants, Conservation Grants, Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany, Cornelia McNamara Grant to fund applied research. **These grants are open to FNPS members and non-members, so spread the word now to others who may be interested!** See info at <https://www.fnps.org/what-we-do/awards>.

FNPS 42nd Annual Conference: "Adaptations"

April 28-30, 2023 - Registration opens February 15.

www.fnps.org/conference/2023

Game Night on April 28, **presentations** April 29-30 (all virtual).

In-person Field Days hosted by local chapters:

- Naples (May 6-7) by the Naples Chapter
- Tallahassee (May 14-15) by Magnolia and Sarracenia Chapters
- Sanford (May 19-21) by the Cuplet Fern Chapter

MORE NEWS and THINGS TO DO

Dade Native Plant Workshop - at the MDC Kendall Campus. nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/. A free public workshop every 3rd Tuesday, led by Steve Woodmansee. Novices and experts alike are welcome! **Feb. 21, 5 PM.** Topic: Cannabaceae (Cannabis family), including South Florida genera *Celtis* and *Trema*. (Please do not bring in anything illegal, e.g. any member of the genus *Cannabis*.)

Florida Keys Native Plant Workshop (virtual meeting).
Feb. 21, 5:30 PM: For more info: FKNPW@outlook.com.

Tropical Audubon Society Bird Day. Saturday, February 18, 12-4 PM. Free nature festival for children and families, students, scouts and naturalists of every age. Details and registration: tropicalaudubon.org/calendar/rrip7grhrjnd9kfwl58bl7s2atx9jp

The Delicate Balance of Nature Lecture Series at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park. In-person and on Zoom. See <https://pennekampparkfriends.org/events>. **Feb. 22:** "Closing the Loop: The Science Behind Restoring Our Coral Reefs"; **Mar. 22:** "Effects of Climate Change on Tropical Storm and Lower-End Hurricane Impacts in the Florida Keys"; **Apr. 26:** "Plants of the Florida Keys: Native or Non-Native?"

Paid advertising

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DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS



DCFNPS Everglades National Park workday.
Saturday February 11, 9 AM–noon. Help enhance the entrance to ENP with maintenance of the native habitat surrounding the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center, a project we began 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! See more in our online [calendar](#).

Welcome new members! Kristin Cadavieco, Anne Haywood, Rebecca Peralta, Michael Stark

A postscript to our January program on drawing: Margie Bauer recommends the "bible" on leaf drawing, "an oldie, but goodie." *How to Draw Plants. The techniques of botanical illustration.* Keith West, 1987.

SEVEN SISTERS, *Crinum americanum* By Roger L. Hammer

While driving down the main park road in Everglades National Park recently I was treated to many dozens of flowering plants of *Crinum americanum*, looking like clusters of white stars dotting the open prairies on both sides of the road. Although a common name is string-lily, it's actually a member of the Amaryllis Family, or Amaryllidaceae, and is not a lily at all. However, in parts of its range it is commonly known as "seven sisters."

If you are familiar with constellations then you've probably heard of the Pleiades, or Seven Sisters. This cluster of seven stars, is famous in Greek mythology because it was believed to represent the seven daughters of Atlas, named Maia, Electra, Taygete, Celeno, Alcyone, Sterope, and Merope, who all bore children from mythological gods.

Someone apparently looked at the flowers of *Crinum americanum* and thought they resembled the Pleiades, so hence the common name seven sisters. Maybe alcohol was involved! It is the most common member of the genus in the United States, with a range that stretches from South Carolina to Texas, south through mainland Florida, but absent from the Florida Keys.



It is frequently cultivated and the only horticultural issue it has might be flightless lubber grasshoppers eating the plants down to the ground. So, either allow nature to take its course, or cover your plants with a screen enclosure during lubber grasshopper season.

It flowers periodically all year, so the next time you're driving through Everglades National Park, look for it gracing the watery prairies and pretend you're looking at star clusters. I even chose my photo of *Crinum americanum* to grace the cover of the second edition of *Everglades Wildflowers*, figuring it's a wildflower people can see from their car windows while driving through the Everglades and Big Cypress.

Roger Hammer is a professional naturalist and was the manager of Castellow Hammock Nature Center for Miami-Dade County Parks for 30 years. He has authored numerous books and countless articles on Florida native plants featuring his outstanding photos (with many articles appearing in Tillandsia and Palmetto), and has received numerous awards, including from FNPS. He is a longtime member of the Dade Chapter and lives in Homestead, Florida with his wife, Michelle.

Help ensure that you're in the loop!
Move DadeFNPS@gmail.com and @FNPS.org email out of junk/spam/promotions and into your inbox, and add those senders 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
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 (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

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