

Tillandsia

Newsletter of the Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society
*Promoting the preservation, conservation, and restoration
of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.*

July-August 2023

Happy Summer!

This newsletter is relaxing, too: it is entirely in the email (not the usual newsletter format).

(See a tip at the end of this email if you need help in saving it to a PDF file and/or printing.)

***Tillandsia* will be on vacation in August. There will be no meeting, but read below for what is happening.**

Chapter Calendar

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

July 22 (Sat.): DCFNPS Afternoon in the Park

August 12 (Sat.): Field trip to “Steve’s Secret Garden”

**Dade Chapter FNPS Afternoon in the Park
Saturday, July 22, 2023 – 12:30 to 4:00 PM**

Bill Sadowski Park and Nature Center

17555 SW 79th Ave, Palmetto Bay, FL 33157

(1/2 mile west of Old Cutler Rd. on SW 176 St.)

Rain or shine!

All are invited - FNPS members, family, guests, other fans of native plants.

Please RSVP [here](#) by July 20 (*appreciated but not required*)

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfr0JONmQGVS2XPSuiMo3WSPZOjRdOW2c6vTUZKVeYb2tDqKA/viewform>

Plant donations for the park are invited (*details below*)

Questions: Contact the chapter at 305-985-3677 or DadeFNPS@gmail.com

Our July tradition has been to forego a program meeting and kick back with a yard visit and potluck. **This year we’re having an afternoon picnic at a nature-filled park instead!** This small Miami-Dade County park has only one picnic shelter but lots of natural area, so it’s peaceful and plant-filled. It is special in that it has 20 different kinds of native ferns and fern allies, if not the “fernliest” site in Miami-Dade, it certainly is one of them. <https://www.miamidade.gov/parks/bill-sadowski.asp>.

**Please join us with your family and friends to visit with fellow plant lovers
and enjoy (any or all) activities for adults and kids, including:**

- **Picnic lunch** (beginning about 12:45, see details below)
- **Raffle** – Donations of native plants, or nature-related non-plant items and things for kids are welcome. (*Free tickets for everyone, none for sale*) – following lunch. **Please label your plants with at least the common or scientific name.**
- **Nature walk** in Old Cutler Hammock with Steve Woodmansee – after the raffle (about 2:30)
- **Nature Center** – Native and exotic animals (freshwater fish, arthropods, reptiles, amphibians)
- **Native tree arboretum and other planted areas**
- **Lawn games** (bring your Corn Hole or other games)

You can come early for kayak and canoe rentals to use in the adjacent canal, 9 AM-1 PM (*call 305-255-4767 for details*). You can also fish. (Water activities are on your own, not covered by FNPS insurance).

For lunch:

- **Bring your own sandwich or preferred main item** (only for your party).
- **Bring to share, if you can: A modest size side dish (salad, veggie, fruit, etc.), snack or dessert.** Items that hold up in the heat are encouraged.
- **We encourage bringing reusable plates, utensils and cups/drink bottles.**
- **We’ll provide a variety of drinks (not soft drinks) and ice.** You can also bring your own (including beer in cans) and/or to add to the selection.
- **Glass bottles/containers and Styrofoam plates/cups are not allowed in the parks.**

Etc:

- **Bring lawn chairs or a blanket if you like to spread out under the trees.** (There are lots of picnic tables and benches, under shelter and in the open.)

- **Neighborhood peacocks may enjoy the picnic tables, too.** Tables and benches in the shelter will be cleaned, and tabletops covered. **But if you would also like to cover the seat you use, please bring a towel.**
- **Bring protection from sun or rain, as needed - and insects, just in case.**
- **Shelter, nature center and restrooms are all adjacent and Accessible.**
- **Pets are not allowed in the park.**

Native plant donations for Bill Sadowski Park are welcome

We'd like to help the park enhance plantings near the nature center. **Only specific plants native to the area of the park are requested for this project.** These are plants used by certain insects known to be food for local Florida Bonneted Bats, and also plants for butterflies.

- **Please use the form and species list [here](#) to tell us what species you can donate to the park.** (*Appreciated but not required.*) <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdIKuKmzTDtNAGJ6gHWOedmpMjgYqDUo07OG3adbGNA2eFcIQ/viewform?pli=1>
- **Do not include raffle plants in your response** - just bring those as usual.
- **Please donate plants that are healthy, pest-free, well-rooted, not pot-bound, in 1 to 3 gallon pots for shrubs and trees, or 4" to 1-gallon for smaller plants (wildflowers, grasses, etc.).** (We'd love to take anything, but aren't able to take care of plants that are too tiny or not in good shape to plant soon.)
- **Bring them to the picnic and/or make arrangements to drop off later.**
- **If you're not certain about the ID, it's ok** – if it's not used by this park, it will be used by another park or our raffle.

The species desired are also listed below, for your convenience.

Whether or not you have plants to donate, are you (or others you know) potentially interested in planting at a later date? If so please indicate this on the picnic registration form. (*Date(s) to be decided.*)

FIELD TRIP: "Steve's Secret Garden" Saturday, August 12, 2023

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

This is a location featured during Native Plant Field Day 2022. Steve discovered his "secret garden" ten years ago. What appears to be a brown mowed lawn is actually a repository for lots of cool pine rockland plants and native lawn weeds. Some species to be encountered are a secret, and you will just have to see them for yourself. However, Steve will also teach us to ID several native lawn weeds you may have in their yards and not even know it. As a bonus, there are plentiful small butterflies and other insects to see. This and other mowed meadows across Miami-Dade County go unnoticed, but are important refugia for plants and wildlife. At the end of the walk, Steve will teach you how to find your own "Secret Garden". Maybe we'll go for beers and wings afterward at Sports Grill on Sunset.

Leader: Steve Woodmansee, Owner and Botanist of Pro Native Consulting, Vice President DCFNPS (786-488-3101 if needed)

Difficulty: Easy, smooth ground throughout.

Notes: Restrooms not available.

Bring/wear: Water, sun/rain protection as needed. A hand lens to look at small wildflowers is good. Binoculars are useful for looking at butterflies and birds.

DADE CHAPTER AND FNPS NEWS

Welcome new members! Joanna Brown, Andee E. Weiner, Jorge Rodriguez, Regina Bailey, Katherine Hurtado Collado, Asa Kremmer

There is no meeting in August. We'll start the fall program lineup on **September 26 with "Cutler Slough Rehydration Project on Tree Species Within the Deering Estate Natural Areas"** by Katherine Castrillon (postponed from May).

Items from the FNPS Blog (<https://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/>)

• **FNPS Annual Meeting, June 17, 2023 - recording.** In you missed it or would like to watch again, see <https://m.youtube.com/live/G116GrQ9uBU>. (Content starts about 1.5 minutes in.)

• **Report on the conference [field days in Naples.](#)** You might spot a Dade Chapter member making a pine needle basket.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

- **July 15:** Miami-Dade Co. [Adopt-a-Tree](#), FIU Modesto Maidique Campus. Pre-registration is open.
- **July 15 & August 19, 10AM-noon:** Coastal habitat workday at Haulover Beach with Frost Museum to care for critical coastal habitat. Prune and remove trees that are outcompeting critical dune species. **Register in advance.** For info: Riki Bonnema, riki@mbgarden.org
- **Native Plant Workshop in Dade** (<https://nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/>). Everyone is invited.
Tuesday, July 18, 6PM: Walk at Ludlam Pineland
Saturday, Aug. 12 4:30PM: Join the DCFNPS field trip at "Steve's Secret Garden" (see announcement above). There is no Tuesday workshop this month.
- **Florida Keys Native Plant Workshop (virtual).** Email FKNPW@outlook.com.
July 18 & August 15, 5:30 PM: Susan and Duane Kolterman present on Malpighiales.
- **Aug 4: Everglades National Park free entrance** (anniversary of the [Great American Outdoors Act](#), which became law in 2020 to provide protection and sustainment of our public lands and Bureau of Indian Education-funded schools.)

PRUNING TIP

While I prune in my yard (or gather broken limbs after storms such as hurricanes), I've noticed that leafy limbs are often covered in native insects such as leaf hoppers, katydids and tree crickets. On occasion, there will be eggs of beneficial insects and spiders such as lacewings and southern orbweaver spiders who come out at night. Rather than sending them to the landfill, I now stage my prunings in part of my yard to give the insects a chance to escape elsewhere in my yard. I typically leave piles under some trees and I wait for the leaves to fall off before I decide whether to send anything off. These green leaves are filled with nitrogen and other nutrients that naturally fertilize my plants. Forests are filled with decomposing logs and twigs, which in turn are filled with cool fungi and wildlife like centipedes, millipedes, and pill bugs.

For those of you who know me, I always advocate that we replicate what we see in nature in our own yards; it just makes sense. No, I am not lazy at all! ☺

– *Steve Woodmansee, Owner and Botanist of Pro Native Consulting, DCFNPS Vice President*

Plant species requested for Bill Sadowski Park

Bahama senna, *Senna mexicana* var. *chapmanii*
Brace's aster, *Symphotrichum bahamense* or *concolor*
Butterflyweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*
Chapman's goldenrod, *Solidago odora* var. *chapmanii*
Cheesytoes, *Stylosanthes hamata*
Coastal plain willow, *Salix caroliniana*
Coontie, *Zamia integrifolia*
Corkystem passionflower, *Passiflora suberosa*
Crimson bluestem, *Schizachyrium sanguineum*
Fanpetals, *Sida acuta/ulmifolia/rhombifolia*
Florida fiddlewood, *Citharexylum spinosum*
Florida gamagrass, *Tripsacum floridanum*
Florida ironweed, *Vernonia blodgettii*
Florida silver palm, *Coccothrinax argentata*
Frogfruit, *Phyla nodiflora*
Leavenworth's or Giant goldenrod, *Solidago leavenworthii*
Lopsided Indiangrass, *Sorghastrum secundatum*
Narrowleaf silkgrass, *Pityopsis graminifolia*
Partridge pea, *Chamaecrista fasciculata*
Pineland blackanthers, *Melanthera parvifolia*
Pineland heliotrope, *Heliotropium polyphyllum*
Pineland passionflower, *Passiflora pallens*
Pineland petunia, *Ruellia succulenta*
Pitted stripeseed, *Piriqueta cistoides* subsp. *caroliniana*
Porterweed, *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*

Purple thistle, *Cirsium horridulum*
Quailberry, *Crossopetalum ilicifolium*
Seaside Goldenrod, *Solidago sempervirens*
Sensitive partridge pea, *Chamaecrista nictitans* var. *aspera*
Shiny Blueberry, *Vaccinium myrsinites*
Shortleaf wild coffee, *Psychotria tenuifolia*
Slender blazingstar, *Liatris gracilis*
Spurred butterfly pea, *Centrosema virginianum*
Sunflowers, *Helianthus annuus*
Wild sage, *Lantana involucrata*
Yellowtops, *Flaveria linearis*



Narrowleaf silkgrass, *Pityopsis graminifolia*



Quailberry, *Crossopetalum ilicifolium*

Tip: To print out or save the original email to a file, click on “View as Webpage”. Find a menu where you can select Print, from which you should be able to choose “Save as PDF”, or choose the printer. Otherwise, a PDF file with the text should be at the usual newsletter link in a few days (not in the usual newsletter format).