



# Tillandsia

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

MAY 2024

---

## Chapter calendar:

See <https://dade.fnpschapters.org/events/> for Dade and Broward Chapter activities

**May 28:** DCFNPS meeting with Annual Members Meeting, Pinecrest Gardens

**June 1:** Chapter workday at Everglades National Park

**June 2:** Field trip to TREC (Homestead)

**June 25:** DCFNPS meeting, Pinecrest Gardens

**Online chapter plant store:** <https://store.dade.fnpschapters.org/>

---

## DADE CHAPTER MONTHLY MEETING and ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

**Tuesday, May 28, 2024, 7:30 PM**

**Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57 Ave. (Red Road), Miami**

**Free and open to all**

*A short Annual Members Meeting will be held before the program to elect certain Dade Chapter Board of Directors positions.  
The slate of nominees and bios for new nominees are included later in this newsletter.*

### ***Homestead's multi-functional Tropical Research and Education Center (TREC)***

***hosts a fascinating assortment of native plants***

**– Cliff G. Martin and Zachary Brym (Department of Agronomy, UF/IFAS, TREC)**

The University of Florida Tropical Research and Education Center (TREC) in Homestead covers 160 acres on rocky, high pH, non-flooded soils. These include landscape areas, tilled fields, and hammocks and pine rocklands. There are diverse weedy, ornamental, vegetable, fruit, and native plant species in many different environments. This mélange of land use resulted from over 90 years of plant introduction, research, teaching, and extension in various agriculture and conservation subjects. TREC therefore hosts an incredibly diverse 838 plant species, with at least 289 native--and the numbers keep growing! TREC native plants include 45 rare species, with 22 of them "rare or imperiled" (Florida Natural Areas Inventory 2023). Of the 45 species, 10 are growing only as cultivated plants, 34 occur within native habitats in pine rockland and hammock, 5 are endemic, and 1 was re-introduced into its native habitat. (Come to our June 2 field trip to TREC to see many of these natives.)

TREC also has at least 507 non-native plant species including 291 established and 216 only found in cultivation. The latter group includes two palms that are extremely rare and endangered in Haiti, where they are native. Our Agroecology lab documents plant diversity, develops outreach programs for public education, sells and exchanges plant seeds, and improves rockland habitats for native plants by management, increasing acreage, and re-introduction.



Cliff G. Martin received his BS degree in ornamental horticulture in 1979 from FSU, MS in entomology from the University of Arizona in 1996, and MS in entomology at the UF in 2001. He worked at the Plant Variety Protection Office in Maryland before returning to Florida, and earned an MS in entomology at UF in 2001. He came to TREC to work on a Ph.D. in entomology, and finished in 2009. Although his graduate degrees were all in entomology, this course topic offered the flexibility to also study botany, a major hobby of Dr. Martin, and both topics were possible career aspirations. In 2017, he was hired as a curator in Zack Brym's agroecology lab at TREC, and has since become more specialized in local botany than in entomology.

- **Come early or stay late** to socialize and browse the **merchandise** and **raffle**. The raffle follows the program.
- **Thank you for your raffle contributions** (native plants, plant-related books, etc.)! ***Please label each plant*** with at least the **common name on paper, tape or stake** (more info welcome).
- **Online viewing:** **Live-streamed** and **recorded on YouTube**. [www.youtube.com/channel/UCmassuC5-OsAX2KsRYQ6X5A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmassuC5-OsAX2KsRYQ6X5A)  
You will see only the computer-based portions of the meeting. Chat will be enabled.
- **Past presentations:** Use the **YouTube** link above or from [DadeFNPS.org](https://www.dadefnps.org). **Click Videos** or **Live** for available recordings including

the April program, “Prioritizing native Florida plants in the urban food forest: Expanding the concept of resilient food systems” – Dr. Cara Rockwell, Department of Earth and Environment, FIU.

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

**June 25 program:** “From Bunkers to Butterflies – Zoo Miami’s Role in Invertebrate Conservation”- Tiffany Moore, Zoo Miami Conservation and Research Department (in belated celebration of National Pollinator Week)

---

### July Evening Yard Visit and Social: Can you host?

The chapter traditionally kicks back in July to enjoy a social evening instead of a program. We gather at a home (or other urban site) to admire native plants, enjoy visiting and a potluck dinner or refreshments, and have the usual plant raffle. The homeowner typically gives a short tour of the yard. Family and friends are invited, but we do not announce this to the general public.

If you would you consider hosting this year, please email [DadeFNPS@gmail.com](mailto:DadeFNPS@gmail.com) or call/text the chapter at 305-985-3677 as soon as possible for more information. The garden does not need to be totally native or a well-groomed showcase. We do need to have some shelter in case of rain, and access to a restroom is nice. Parking within a few blocks for up to about 25 cars would be needed. The chapter provides drinks, plates, etc., serving tables as needed; guests can bring folding chairs. **An optimal date on a Saturday would be worked out.**



---

### Welcome new Dade Chapter members!

Ryan Hess (Keys member), Magda Jakubowska, Jill Martin, Kristal Meyer, Patrick and Haychel Melli, Alexandra Page, Sarah Tingle

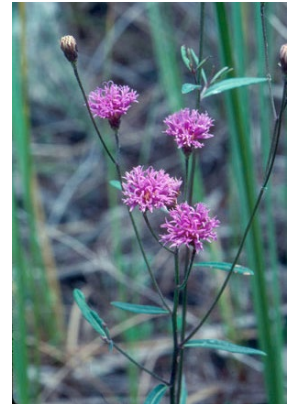
---

## CHAPTER WORKDAY at EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

**June 1, 9 a.m. - noon (and usually every other month)**

Help with our native landscape maintenance at the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center, the first habitat many visitors encounter up close in the park. Non-members and students can help, too. We weed, prune, clean up, and answer questions from visitors. The work is not difficult but is greatly appreciated by ENP! This workday is about 3 months post-burn. Shrubs and herbaceous plants are resprouting and some are flowering, including lots of **Florida ironweed, *Vernonia blodgettii*** (photo by Roger Hammer). We provide hand tools and gloves, but bring your own if you prefer. Wear sun protection, hat, long pants and sleeves, closed shoes, bring a water bottle. Have bug spray just in case. You can enter the park free (including everyone in the car) afterwards.

**New volunteers:** Please contact Patty ([pharespl@gmail.com](mailto:pharespl@gmail.com)) for more details. **We'd love to have you join us even if you only come occasionally, or come late!**



---

## FIELD TRIP: Tropical Research and Education Center (TREC) in Homestead

**Sunday, June 2, 2024**

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

We will visit the UF/IFAS TREC grounds, the subject of our May program. TREC covers 160 acres on rocky, high pH, non-flooded soils. These can be amended (landscape areas), plowed (tilled fields), or unplowed (hammocks and pine rocklands). There are diverse weedy, ornamental, vegetable, fruit, and native plant species in lawns, beds, orchards, fields, dumps, pots, epiphytic environments, reclaimed from cultivation (3 acres), in hammocks (5 acres), and in pine rocklands (3 acres). We will tour the native rockland areas (pineland and hammock). The hammock includes one acre that is very old with many rare native plants (*Cupania glabra*, *Prunus myrtifolia*, etc). A newly opened Agro-Eco demonstration garden nearby showcases different ways native and other plants can be used to be harmonious with nature (“sustainable”) and interesting. Various fruit orchards next to the rocklands are visible but they are experimental and picking fruit is not allowed.

**Leaders:** Cliff Martin and Zachary Brym (Dept. of Agronomy, UF/IFAS, TREC)

**Difficulty:** Easy-moderate. Good unpaved trails throughout. Terrain can be moderately uneven and is very rocky. Poisonwood is very common but it is mostly cleared away from trails.

**Bring/wear:** Wearing long pants, long sleeves and closed shoes is always recommended in a habitat that has uneven footing and poisonwood! Always bring drinking water and sun protection. A walking stick can be useful if you need extra stability or for pushing away branches.

**Notes:** Restrooms will be available a little distance away (good bushes are close). Pets are not allowed on our field trips. Check the calendar at <https://dade.fnpschapters.org/events/> if the weather might be bad enough to warrant cancellation.

---

## DADE CHAPTER'S ONLINE PLANT STORE

Our chapter's budding online plant store at [store.dade.fnpschapters.org/](https://store.dade.fnpschapters.org/) is growing with new inventory. Purchase small hard-to-find native plants online. The store was created by board member Charlie Reverte and long-time member Raul Moas. All plants are grown and donated by Raul and all proceeds benefit the chapter. Plants are mostly in pint pots and can be picked up at the nursery site in Pinecrest, at the monthly DCFNPS meeting, or be delivered (for a fee).



**Plant inventory changes weekly, so check the site for up-to-date information. You can only purchase plants that are currently available. Plants available as of mid May:**

**Grasses:** Arrowfeather Threeawn, Broomsedge Bluestem, Gulfdune Paspalum, Pan-American Balsamscale, Wire Bluestem

**Wildflowers/shrubs:** Common Partridgepea, Eastern Silver Aster, Florida prairieclover, Pencilflower (Chessytoes), Pineland Blackanthers, Scaleleaf or Claspig Aster, Sensitive Partridgepea, Simmond's aster, Smooth small-leaved ticktrefoil, St. Andrew's Cross, Swamp Milkweed, Tea-Blinkum (Cinchweed).

---

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING: May 28, 2024

A short Annual Members Meeting will be held prior to the May program to elect the positions listed below for the 2024-2025 Board of Directors and to conduct other chapter business as needed. Only those members present in person will be able to vote.

The slate presented by the nominating committee is:

President, **Steve Woodmansee** (2-year term)

Vice President **Karina Gomez** (2-year)\*

Director at Large **Joey Basna** (2-year)

Director at Large **Jeanne Rothchild** (2-year)

Director at Large **Riki Bonemma** (2-year)

Director at Large **Raul Moas** (1-year) \*

Director at Large **Gwen Burzycki** (1-year)

(Other positions continue until May 2025 as the second year of 2-year terms.)

### Bios for new nominees to the board (\*):

#### **Karina Michelle Gomez (nominee for Vice President)**

As a native of South Florida, I've always felt a responsibility to preserve the Florida I remember growing up. I spent most of my childhood outdoors exploring nature, fishing in the Everglades with my father, camping at Florida national parks, and horseback riding through natural landscapes, mesmerized by the synchronicity of water and land. Now as an adult and an enthusiast and lifelong student of nature, my longing is to bring Florida's native landscape back. I started taking classes and joining local organizations to educate myself about Florida's one-of-a-kind ecosystems and found my passion for native plants. Last year, I unraveled that zeal by launching a community plant stand, where neighbors near and far voyage to sow and share their seedlings and stories.



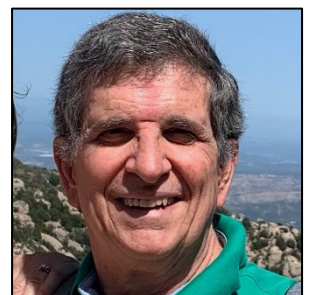
As an active member of FNPS, Florida Wildflower Foundation, Fairchild's Native Plant Network and other organizations, the wealth of knowledge within these groups and their effort to enact change has inspired me to do more to protect, conserve, and restore Florida's native plants and plant communities.

I am excited about the opportunity to serve on the Dade Chapter board and hope to inspire others to embrace a "Think Native" mindset. Through improving our social media presence, we can engage with local communities and encourage people of all ages to appreciate the significance of native plants. I believe it's essential to build meaningful relationships with others who share our passion and commitment to this cause.

When I'm not out saving or sharing a plant, you can find me in the garden, planting, propagating, and photographing the amazing life within.

#### **Raul Moas (nominee for Director at Large)**

I have been involved with native plants since returning to Miami in the mid-1980's, and with pineland habitat since the early 1990's after moving to a home with a small relict pine understory. I have been growing natives since the early 2000's. Last year, as part of the Dade Chapter's Online Store, I began growing larger numbers of hard-to find natives for sale to the public. My goal with the store is to help raise community awareness of our native plants and facilitate access to them.





---

## OTHER EVENTS and NEWS

**Dade Native Plant Workshop, May 20, 5 p.m.** See <https://nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/> for details. **Topic:** Leaf terminology. Bring in plants with different kinds of leaves. You will find it more interesting than you thought. Old hands and new learners are encouraged to come.

**Miami Beach Botanical Garden's "native pollinator pathway" – volunteers are invited.** As announced in the January *Tillandsia*, the MBBG was awarded a grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust to establish a native pollinator pathway. Beds have now been redesigned with native pollinator plants to enhance the aesthetics of high-visibility areas and provide additional resources for native wildlife. **This project will also serve to demonstrate how native plants can be used to create beautiful landscapes in South Florida yards.** Garden volunteers will help staff prepare and plant garden beds and maintain the pathway throughout the year. MBBG hopes to use this opportunity to establish some wild sourced plants, adding more value to their living collection and allowing them to get more involved in local ex situ conservation efforts. **Plant procurement is now beginning. To become involved in this interesting project or learn more, please contact [riki@mbgarden.org](mailto:riki@mbgarden.org).**

**Tropical Audubon Society's Go-Native Plant Sale, June 1, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.** 5530 Sunset Drive, Miami. Limited onsite parking via the SW 55 Avenue gate. Nurture and shelter birds, bees, butterflies, bats and beetles! Presented by Galloway Farm Nursery, net proceeds help support TAS's bird-friendly gardens and grounds. The conservation organization's knowledgeable Master Gardeners will suggest the best plant types for your landscape and provide cultivation tips. Pick up a FREE "Bird-friendly Gardening Guide" tailored to our region. More details on the TAS [website calendar](#).

**Compost your food waste.** The Village of Pinecrest is providing a free composting program. Drop off food waste, food-soiled papers, and plant debris every day at bins between the Community Center and Pinecrest Gardens near the cottage. **Read details of exactly what can and cannot be brought** and why you should compost on the Village website [here](#). By combining composting efforts with enjoyable community activities like the Sunday farmers market, Pinecrest is fostering a culture of sustainability and environmental consciousness among its residents. Miami-Dade County is funding this pilot program.

---

## THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS AND NON-PROFIT MEMBERS and other businesses who support FNPS and DCFNPS at a higher level.

Their interest in native plants and extra financial support are much appreciated and helpful to the mission of FNPS and the chapter. They also promote FNPS and may contribute in other ways through event participation, presentations, articles, field trips, donations and more. Thank you from all of us!

**Curtis & Rogers Design Studio, Inc.** [www.curtisrogers.com/](http://www.curtisrogers.com/)  
**Everglades Nursery** [www.plantant.com/nursery-availability/1010497/everglades-nursery-brokers-inc](http://www.plantant.com/nursery-availability/1010497/everglades-nursery-brokers-inc)  
**The Institute for Regional Conservation** [www.regionalconservation.org/](http://www.regionalconservation.org/)  
**Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Gardens** [www.keywest.garden/](http://www.keywest.garden/)  
**LandscapeDE** [www.landscapede.com/](http://www.landscapede.com/)  
**NaMa Native Landscapes** [www.namaprojects.com/](http://www.namaprojects.com/)  
**Native Tree Nursery** [www.nativetreenursery.com/](http://www.nativetreenursery.com/)  
**Santos Padron Group, Pond & Gardening** [pondandgardening.odoo.com/](http://pondandgardening.odoo.com/)  
**Smarty Plants Nursery** [smartyplantsnursery.com/](http://smartyplantsnursery.com/)  
**Susan Casey (Casey's Corner Nursery)** [www.plantrealflorida.org/professionals/detail/16](http://www.plantrealflorida.org/professionals/detail/16)  
**Green Explorers Academy** [greenexplorersacademy.com/](http://greenexplorersacademy.com/)

**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, [www.DadeFNPS.org/](http://www.DadeFNPS.org/)  
**Mail:** Dade Chapter FNPS, 6619 S. Dixie Hwy, #181, Miami FL 33143-7919

### **Board members and team members:**

**President:** Brian Diaz    **Vice-President:** Steve Woodmansee    **Secretary:** Lydia Cuni    **Treasurer:** Susan Walcutt  
**At Large:** Joey Basna, Riki Bonnema, Gwen Burzycki, Charlie Reverte, Jeanne Rothchild, Jennifer Stine  
**FNPS Council of Chapters representative:** Lydia Cuni

**Newsletter editor:** Patty Phares    **Mail Chimp communications:** Lydia Cuni    **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 communication: [info@fnps.org](mailto:info@fnps.org), 321-271-6702, <http://www.fnps.org>

© 2024 Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society, Inc.