Tillandsia

Newsletter of the Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society
For Miami-Dade County and the Florida Keys
Mission: To champion Florida's native plants and their habitats.

FEBRUARY 2025

Chapter and FNPS calendar. See https://dade.fnpschapters.org/events/ for activities of the Dade Chapter (and all FNPS)
Feb. 8: Deadline for FNPS Conservation Grant applications to DCFNPS for sponsorship consideration
Feb. 15: Landscape tour – Camp Matecumbe Playground
Feb. 16: Chapter table at Castellow Hammock Open House (volunteers needed)
Feb. 23: Field trip to Navy Wells Pineland (in conjunction with Palm Beach Chapter Native Plant Expo on Feb. 22)
Feb. 25: Chapter meeting, Pinecrest Gardens
Mar. 9: Yard visit in the Redland
Mar. 22: DCFNPS 27th Annual Native Plant Day
Apr. 2-6: FNPS 43rd Conference in Gainesville. Register soon!

- **Native Plant Day needs:** plants, publicity, volunteers
- **News from the Dade Chapter and FNPS**
- **Other activities of interest**
- **Plant of the Month** from our online plant store: "Keys Ageratum, *Ageratum maritimum*" by Raul Moas

DADE CHAPTER MEETING
Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 7:30 PM
Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57 Ave. (Red Road), Miami
Free - all are invited

Come early or stay late to enjoy refreshments, **socialize** and browse the **merchandise** and **raffle tables**. The raffle follows the program. The program is also live-streamed and recorded on YouTube.

"Growing young minds through Native Plant Restoration Gardens at Biotech High school 2015-2024" – Jolynne Woodmansee

Since 2014 students at Biotech High School in Miami-Dade have shared a vision and desire to make a change in conservation by contributing to a school habitat restoration project. This talk follows the journey of Biotech High School students and their stewardship in conservation as they work towards re-establishing at the schools' Richmond campus one of the rarest habitats in the country, Dade County Pine Rockland. The talk highlights the steps taken and innovations of seven distinct teams of students over the last decade, starting with a simple idea from a single student and evolving into a legacy school restoration site. Students will attend and be available for questions.

Born and raised in South Miami, Jolynne Woodmansee has been involved in Science education for the last 30 years at both the collegiate and high school level. She has taught a wide range of subjects including biology, marine science, botany, and research in classroom, laboratory, and field settings. For the last ten years she has worked at Biotech High School @ Richmond 9-12 , a Conservation Biology Magnet High School for MDCPS as a teacher in plant science, with emphasis on project-based learning for a variety of classes grades 10-12. Knowing and growing plants is fundamental to what she and her students do!

- **Refreshments***:* You are invited to bring light finger foods and to help set up and clean up afterwards. Questions? Contact Karina, 305-490-1677 or kmgxoxo@me.com).
- **Raffle contributions**: Thank you for your native plants or plant-related items! ***PLEASE LABEL EACH PLANT* with at least the common name written on paper, tape or stake** (more info is welcome).
- **Online viewing:** www.youtube.com/channel/UCmassuC5-OsAX2KsRYQ6X5A**.** You will see only the computer-based portions of the meeting. Chat will be enabled.
- **Questions:** DadeFNPS@gmail.com
- **Past presentations:** Use the **YouTube** link above or from DadeFNPS.org (at bottom of home page), **Click Videos** or **Live** for all available recordings including January's program "The Mystery of Plant Names" by Roger Hammer.
- **March 25 program:** "The Palmetto of Florida: A Living Legacy of Resilience and Adaptation" - Daniel A. Tucker, FIU Doctoral Student & Montgomery Botanical Graduate Fellow

FIELD TRIP: NAVY WELLS PINELAND PRESERVE
Sunday, February 23, 2025

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

Join us for an interesting field trip to Navy Wells Pineland Preserve led by Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden biologist Noah Frade. This **Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program** preserve is one of the largest remaining fragments of pine rockland forest outside of the Everglades and is home to a diverse array of plants and wildlife, including the endangered Bartram's scrub hairstreak butterfly. We will walk along a grassy trail adjacent to a recently burned unit of the preserve and may briefly travel off trail to observe wildflowers resprouting in this area. We will also look at the EEL Program's recent restoration area where they removed 11 acres of invasive Brazilian pepper.
Non-members are invited but we encourage joining FNPS to support FNPS and the Dade Chapter (or your chapter)!

Difficulty: Easy on trail, moderate off trail. (A walking stick can add stability if needed on uneven rocky ground).
Bring/wear: Water, long pants/sleeves, close-toed shoes, hat, sun protection, bug repellant just in case. Binoculars are optional for spotting birds and butterflies.
Notes: Leave valuables at home and lock car doors at the parking area. Restrooms are not available. ***Please do not bring pets.***

Dade Chapter's iNaturalist project. Add your DCFNPS field trip nature photos to iNaturalist for inclusion in our project to help us showcase the amazing biodiversity we find! Upload your photos via the iNaturalist website (www.inaturalist.org) or app. Then you can add them to "**Florida Native Plant Society- Dade Chapter Field Trips**". See how here.

LANDSCAPE TOURS

CAMP MATECUMBE PLAYGROUND TOUR in Kendall. **Saturday, February 15, 3 p.m.**

This project designed by **LandscapeDE** (a Dade Chapter business member) was awarded a **Native Garden of Excellence** by FNPS in 2023. Camp Matecumbe Park is adjacent to the 76-acre Camp Matecumbe Boystown Pineland Preserve. The park housed young Cuban refugees who escaped the Castro regime in the 1960s. The design and the weaving together of the historic, the natural, and the physical activity elements impressed the judges. The park is under the Department of **Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces**, and the preserve is under the county's **Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL)** program. Landscape Architect **Douglas Thompson** will lead our tour. Feel free to bring your kids!
There is no registration for this activity. All are welcome.
Address: 13841 SW 120th Street, Miami, 33186. Meet near the large *Ficus* tree.

YARD VISIT IN THE REDLAND. Sunday, March 9, 2025, at 10:00 AM. (Remember on Saturday night to turn your clocks forward an hour.) The owner will give a guided tour of about 60 to 75 minutes. Staying longer and enjoying the yard is encouraged!
Join us to see the amazing property of a DCFNPS member in the Redland, west of the Fruit & Spice Park. This large yard is full of mature native plants. There is a hammock with an elevated walkway, a driveway lined with coonties, many fruit trees, a water feature, and more. This property also was an FNPS Landscape Award recipient years ago!
Afterwards, you might want to continue to Everglades National Park or visit one of the many attractions in the Redland, like the Fruit & Spice Park or stop at Robert Is Here for local produce and a milkshake.
• **Who is invited:** This is strictly for DCFNPS members only (and their spouse/children). **The number of participants is limited.**
• **Registration:** Email d_champney@yahoo.com **BEFORE March 6**. Please include the name of each person registering and write "Yard visit" in the subject line.
• **More info:** A few days before the event, you will receive the address and parking info.

27th ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT DAY
Saturday, March 22, 2025

Castellow Hammock Preserve and Nature Center (22301 SW 162 Ave.)
Sponsored by the Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society & Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces

Enjoy programs, nature walks (including an early birding walk), educational tables by organizations and agencies, plant sales (nursery vendors and chapter), book/merchandise sales, raffles, hands-on activities for all ages, networking and socializing.
Also **food trucks** and **live music** by folk artist Grant Livingston. The activity schedule will be posted online before the event.

Experience nature in the park, including the nature center displays, butterfly and bird garden, and the beautiful tropical hardwood hammock, a **Miami Dade Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program preserve**.

We need your help - here's how!

● **Volunteer for the event or for setup the day before. Please sign up now using this form**, but if needed you can use email (below). If you are not yet certain of what hours (too early to know your exact availability?), just add a note to the comment section. We're flexible - you won't need to miss all your favorite activities. **Non-member friends and family are also invited to volunteer.**

● **Hands-on activities for kids (and even some adults).** If you are interested in contributing to planning this, please email us now.

● **Donate plants or other items.** *If you can't bring your donations that day or the day before, we can try to arrange an alternate time or place for delivery, but please contact us to describe what size and quantity you expect to have.*

▪ **Plants for chapter plant sale or raffles:** 4" to 3-gallon pots. **Please prep your plants now so they are well-established and looking healthy.** Wildflowers and other small species and shrubs are especially desirable. **Need pots or have questions?** Please contact us.

(Note: We also give away plants! Most native "lawn weeds" and small plants that are healthy but not quite ready for sale can be used for educational purposes or given away. But we can't use plants that are in serious need of rehab.)

▪ **Other items for raffles, merchandise sales, or to give away:** Useful/decorative items or books related to native plants, nature, gardening.

▪ **Seeds of SE Florida native species to give away.** *Please let us know in advance what species you have.*

▪ **Past copies of the FNPS *Palmetto* magazine to give away.** *Bring on the day or to an earlier activity.*

● **Spread the word to save the date!** Details will be on our website at https://dade.fnpschapters.org/events/nativeplantday/ and on the events calendar https://www.dadefnps.org/events/ and social media. Or share **Linktree** (https://linktr.ee/dcfnps) to find everything in one place, including social media. The schedule of programs, walks and other activities will be posted before the event.

● **Suggest presenters, organizations to participate, youth groups to volunteer.**

● **Like to camp out?** We welcome a small group to stay on Friday night to discourage curiosity about the tents and plants already set up. Park security patrol checks in during the night, but you know … those frisky teenage raccoons!

● **Questions or input?** Contact us at DadeFNPS@gmail.com, or **Jeanne Rothchild at** jmrothchild9446@gmail.com**.**

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

Welcome new Dade Chapter members! Scott and Denise Graham, Alexandra Ramos, Pedro Rivera (all in Miami-Dade).
Thank you to all who renewed recently for your ongoing support, interest and participation!

Castellow Hammock Open House. February 16. DCFNPS will be there **noon-3:30** to promote Native Plant Day (at this same park!),

native plants and the chapter. ► **Can you help at our table a little while?** ◄ Please email Patty at DadeFNPS@gmail.com.
To learn more about the event (you can attend just for fun), see details here. The event is 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. with a morning bird walk (pre-registration required) and EcoAction volunteer event, plus afternoon activities along with vendor/info tables (including ours).

Palm Beach Chapter FNPS Native Plant Expo. February 22. See the extensive agenda including Keynote Address by George Gann: "What You Do Matters! From Native Gardening to Restoration". **Registration required, space is limited**. **February 23: Field trips** by partnering organizations (including the Dade Chapter) across South Florida. Details **here**.

Linktree for DCFNPS. This new, handy compilation of links takes the work out of finding our chapter website, calendar, store, social media, YouTube and more, including some links to FNPS (https://linktr.ee/dcfnps). Thanks to Communications Chair Karina Gomez!

FNPS Research, Conservation and Ethnobotany Grants. See https://www.fnps.org/what-we-do/awards/. Non-members may apply! Applications are due to FNPS on March 1, 2025. **For a Conservation project to be considered by the chapter board for sponsorship by DCFNPS, please email your application to dadefnps@gmail.com by February 8th**.

Remembering Josephine (Jo) Woodmansee

FNPS membership has long been a family thing in the Woodmansee family. Jo and Ralph were longtime members (since 2003), as are some of their children (who you know). Jo passed away in January at age 90, still an enthusiastic supporter of FNPS, the Dade Chapter and native plants. She was a faithful contributor to our chapter's "Gann Fund" to benefit FNPS Conservation Grants, and a warm and cheerful regular at all activities until recent years. But in a way she still greets you at every meeting, as our nifty name tag binders were designed many years ago by Jo and constructed with the help of Ralph.
You are invited to a "Celebration of Life" for Jo at 11 a.m. on February 22, 2025, at Crossbridge Church Pinecrest, 6691 N. Kendall Dr., Pinecrest, 33156.

OTHER NEWS and ACTIVITIES

Dade Native Plant Workshop. See https://nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/. **Feb. 18, 5 p.m.** at Miami Dade College Kendall Campus. **Topic:** Hemp family, Cannabaceae (which includes *Trema* and *Celtis*). Please do not bring anything illegal. Old hands and new learners are encouraged to come!

Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program Volunteer days. 9 a.m.-noon. https://mdc-eel-program-mdc.hub.arcgis.com/ Questions: 305-372-6687, eel@miamidade.gov. **Feb. 12: East Greynolds,** Tree Care Day (Tu BiShvat)**; Mar. 22: Dolphin Center Addition** (habitat restoration).

Tropical Audubon Society's Bird Day, Feb. 15. Miami youth and their parents are invited to attend this free annual festival. Details here.

Biscayne Nature Center (Key Biscayne). Naturalist-led Seagrass Adventure, Hardwood Hammock Hike, or Weeding Warriors group. Details here.

Plant Biologists of South Florida annual meeting, April 12, 2025. 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Attendees at this informal meeting will meet others with similar interests in botany and share knowledge with 12-minute talks. Presentations on plants will be accepted from scientists, students, and others who love plants. You don't have to be a professional botanist to attend. This event will be at the FIU International Center for Tropical Botany (ICTB) at the Kampong - National Tropical Botanical Garden in Miami. To submit a talk or poster, please send your TITLE (no abstract) and your name and affiliation to info@pbsf.org. Contact Phil Busey (phil@philbusey.com) or Suzanne Koptur (kopturs@fiu.edu) for more information. More details will be announced in March.

In the Keys:

Keys Native Plant Workshop, Feb. 18, 5:30 PM, by Zoom. Presenters are needed to continue these monthly learning opportunities. For more information or to be added to the email list, or if you would like to lead a workshop, please email FKNPW@outlook.com. Presenting is a great way to learn!

The 34th Annual Lecture Series: "The Delicate Balance of Nature 2025". Wednesday**s**, 7:30 PM, through March 5, at **John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.** Admission is free. Seating is limited. Complete schedule and details **here** or call Elena Muratori at 305-676-3786.

DCFNPS Native Plant Store "Plant of the Month": Keys Ageratum, *Ageratum maritimum*

By Raul Moas

Appearance/Growth habit: Herbaceous wildflower to 1+ ft, often spreading wider than tall with glossy and semi-succulent leaves.
Lifespan: Short-lived perennial.
Flowers: Almost continuous clusters of pastel blue rayless aster flowers. Flowers resemble Blue Mistflower, but usually more abundant.

Behavior: Spreads out in full sun, with fairly rapid growth, and can be used as a ground cover.
Other characteristics: Vigorous grower in most soils types.
Natural range: Florida Keys to just south of Key Largo, along edges of coastal hammocks and open rocky coastal areas.
Ecology: Flowers attract numerous butterflies and other pollinators.
Preferred substrate: Tolerates rocky limestone, does well in all but very wet soils.
Drought-tolerance: excellent.
Salt tolerance: Good. Excellent for coastal areas.
Shade tolerance: fair, flowers best in partial or full sun.
Planting and initial care: no special care.
Recruitment: will recruit if soil is free of duff and sun-exposed, as seeds are tiny.
Pros: Very attractive abundant blue flowers, rapid growth with spreading habit. Hardy.
Cons: Not much, flowers best in full sun.
Comments: A beautiful wildflower, and well suited for most flower gardens. An ideal plant for coastal and inland areas.

Our online store (https://store.dade.fnpschapters.org/) is constantly expanding.
Check the site often for new and replenished species from more habitats!

Follow us on **Facebook**, **Instagram**, **YouTube**, and **X**.
Don't forget to check out the **DadeFNPS** website and our **Native Plant Online Store**!

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!

Casaplanta Garden Center www.casaplantamiami.com/
Curtis & Rogers Design Studio, Inc. www.curtisrogers.com/
Everglades Nursery www.plantant.com/nursery-availability/1010497/everglades-nursery-brokers-inc
Green Explorers Academy greenexplorersacademy.com/
Institute for Regional Conservation www.regionalconservation.org/
Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Gardens www.keywest.garden/
LandscapeDE www.landscapede.com/
Leafwing (native container gardens) info@leafwing.com
NaMa Native Landscapes www.namaprojects.com/ and **Flora of Miami Garden Cen**ter floraofmiami.com/
Native Tree Nursery www.nativetreenursery.com/
Santos Padron Group, **Pond & Gardening** pondandgardening.odoo.com/
Smarty Plants Nursery smartyplantsnursery.com/
Susan Casey (Casey's Corner Nursery) www.plantrealflorida.org/professionals/detail/16
Taylor Schwartz Design tylerschwartzdesign.com/

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Board members and team members:
President: Steve Woodmansee **Vice-President:** Karina Gomez **Secretary:** Carmen Ferreiro **Treasurer:** Susan Walcutt
At Large: Joey Basna, Riki Bonnema, Raul Moas, Charlie Reverte, Jeanne Rothchild **Past President:** Brian Diaz
FNPS Council of Chapters representative and volunteer hours reporting: Riki Bonnema

Newsletter editor: Patty Phares **Mail Chimp and Social Media:** Karina Gomez
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***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, 321-271-6702, http://www.fnps.org

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