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.

APRIL 2025

Chapter and FNPS calendar. See https://dade.fnpschapters.org/events/ for activities of the Dade Chapter (and all FNPS)
Apr. 19: Chapter workday at Everglades National Park
Apr. 22: Chapter meeting at Pinecrest Gardens and online
May 3: Field trip to the Deering Estate (space is limited, register now!)

- **Native Plant Day recap**
- **Call for Dade Chapter Board Nominations:** *Is it time for you to serve DCFNPS and native plants in a new way?*
- **News from the Dade Chapter and FNPS**
- **Other activities of interest**
- **Plant of the Month** from our online plant and merchandise store: "Chapman's Blazing Star" by Raul Moas
- **Article:** "Help Out Native Plants by Helping Out Your Neighbors" - by Steve Woodmansee
- **Thank You to Our Business and Non-Profit members**

DADE CHAPTER MEETING
Tuesday, April 22, 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 (including our new shirts, mugs and tote bags)** and **raffle tables**. The raffle follows the program. The program is also live-streamed and recorded on YouTube**. Check out the new merchandise here and pick up pre-orders made from our online store.**

Saving seagrass to save the planet: Florida's seagrasses and blue carbon
- Jim Fourqurean, Distinguished University Professor of Biology
and Director of the Coastlines and Oceans Division of the Institute of Environment at FIU

Florida is home to around 10 species (depending whose phylogeny you believe) of native seagrasses and as of last fall, one invasive species. This talk will cover just what seagrasses are, why they are important, and how they may be an important tool in the arsenal to mitigate climate change.

Jim Fourqurean is a Distinguished University Professor of Biological Sciences and Director of the Coastlines and Oceans Division of the Institute of Environment at Florida International University, where he has been on the faculty since 1993. He is a marine and estuarine ecologist with a special interest in benthic plant communities and nutrient biogeochemistry. He and his students address many aspects of ecological and biogeochemical processes in coastal plant communities, including carbon and nutrient cycling, plant-plant interactions, plant-animal interactions and the structure of food webs. His laboratory has extensively used seagrass ecosystems as models for addressing general ecological questions. Over the last 10 years, Dr. Fourqurean has been helping translate the science of carbon dynamics in coastal ecosystems into actionable policy and climate change mitigation strategies. He is one of the lead scientists in the International Blue Carbon Working Group and he also serves as a scientific representative to the International Blue Carbon policy Working Group. These groups have been successful in bringing the importance of carbon cycling in coastal ecosystems for climate change mitigation into the spotlight and helped influence the inclusion of coastal ecosystems into national greenhouse gas inventories. Dr. Fourqurean received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Virginia and completed a postdoctoral fellowship working on the Tomales Bay LMER program at San Francisco State University. He stepped down from the office of president of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation, the world's largest association of scientists and resource managers whose work concentrates on the coastal environment.

- **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 March: "The Palmetto of Florida: A Living Legacy of Resilience and Adaptation" - Daniel A. Tucker
• **May 27 program:** Landscaping plant clinic with Natalia Manrique and Mauricio Gonzalez, owners of NaMa Native Landscapes and Flora of Miami Garden Center

FIELD TRIP: The Deering Estate

Saturday, May 3, 2025

Registration is required and space is limited. Register soon!

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

We will walk through Addison Hammock on a broad trail (the original Old Cutler Road) about a mile to the burial mound, and back by the same route. We will also visit portions of the Cutler Creek Wetland Restoration Site which runs through Addison Hammock. This is a Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Preserve. (Read about the history of Addison Hammock here.)

After we visited this site in June, 2020, Joe Montes de Oca gave this brief report:
The Cutler Slough Rehydration Project was evident as water flowed along the route of an historic slough, down crevices, through caves and bubbled up in springs. On our walk along the "old" Old Cutler Road, plant highlights included ferns and several orchid species in bloom. Wildlife included fish (grey snapper), butterflies, skippers, moths, beetles, spiders, birds.

Leader: Dallas Hazelton (Natural Areas Management, Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces).
Register here: https://forms.gle/A43bcY6JE9w6ujpm8
Members and non-members (including additional non-member family of DCFNPS members) may sign up now, but non-members will be on a wait list until May 1 and added in order of registration (until the limit is reached). Members will receive a reply (Confirmed or Wait list) after registering. **Complete details about registration are on the registration form.**
Fee: $5 (exact cash only, please)
Bring/wear: Water, mosquito protection (long pants/sleeves and/or repellent), sturdy closed shoes.
Difficulty: Easy to moderate (could be slippery and slightly wet in some places depending on weather).
Notes: Restrooms are at the Visitor Center. Pets are not allowed. Our field trips are for the study of plants and enjoyment of nature; collecting is not permitted.

May 31: Field trip to Crandon Park led by Riki Bonnema, chapter board member and botanist at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. We will visit an area of north Key Biscayne recently burned in a prescribed fire. Save the date! Complete info will be in the May *Tillandsia* and on the FNPS calendar. This trip will be open to all.

IT WAS A GREAT NATIVE PLANT DAY

By all accounts Native Plant Day 2025 was a perfect day to champion our SE Florida native plants and ecosystems. Along with nearly 500 attendees, contributing to the success of the day were fourteen environmentally friendly exhibitors, four native plant vendors, one watercolor artist (whose artwork graces our new merchandise), woodworking displays, and three authors. There was a variety of activities and programs, plus fun and lively music was provided by Grant Livingston, (he even wrote a special song for the day, "Plant Native"). Two food trucks provided terrific choices, including vegetarian and vegan.

Thank you to Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces and EcoAdventures for co-hosting our event at Castellow Hammock Preserve and Nature Center, with its beautiful Environmentally Endangered Lands preserve. The welcome and assistance by Eric King, Castellow's Lead Naturalist, and other park staff, and Vanessa Herrero of EcoAdventures, made the day special.

We also express our appreciation to the volunteers who helped us set up on Friday and assisted with Chapter tents on Saturday. Some were members, others were not.

Thanks to Board Member Karina Gomez, Communications Committee Chair, overseeing our Social Media posts, Chapter emails, and the driving force behind our new merchandise with artwork specifically designed for our Chapter; board member Riki Bonnema took on the role of Volunteer Coordinator; board members Raul Moas and Joey Basna for overseeing the Chapter Plant Sales; board member and Treasurer, Susan Walcutt, and chapter members Jim and Daniel Wheeler for managing the Merchandise sales; Past President Brian Diaz for running the Raffles; current President Steve Woodmansee who inadvertently helped us pick the perfect day; and lastly, an enormous amount of thanks to newsletter editor Patty Phares, who set up the Information tent, planned Hands-On activities, answered my questions, and provided valuable guidance and insight along the way.

With gratitude, Jeanne Rothchild, Board Member and Native Plant Day 2025 Committee Chair

Call for Dade Chapter Board Nominations

Is it time for you to serve DCFNPS and native plants in a new way?

With the Dade Chapter's recent new projects and initiatives, it's an exciting time to be on the board. If you have thought of joining the chapter leadership to apply your skills and enthusiasm in support of our mission to "champion Florida's native plants and their habitats", then now is the time! The Dade Chapter's board election will be held at the upcoming Annual General Members meeting on May 27. **Open positions are Secretary, Treasurer, and three Directors At-Large, all for 2-year terms. The nominating committee will present a proposed slate at the meeting.**

Nominate yourself or someone else (with their permission) to one of these positions. Botanical expertise is not a prerequisite for serving on the board. Anyone with enthusiasm for native plants and any skills that would help the chapter thrive is encouraged to consider serving. A "skill" could be a specific talent or knowledge, a general ability to pitch in to get things done, or offering new ideas. Currently, we are looking to appoint a chair for our **Education and Outreach Committee**, so if you have a penchant for sharing information with others (and learning!), please let us know. **Please send questions and nominations by May 1** to the chapter email at dadefnps@gmail.com or directly via text to our Nominating Committee chair, Brian Diaz, at 786-521-0843.

We look forward to hearing from you!

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

● **Chapter Workday at Everglades National Park. Saturday, April 19, 9 a.m. – noon (and more-less 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 are invited. We weed, prune, clean up, and answer questions from visitors. The work is not difficult but is greatly appreciated by ENP. 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. **Afterwards you can enter the park free to enjoy some National Parks Week activities (see announcement below). New volunteers:** Please contact Patty (pharespl@gmail.com) for details and questions.

● **Welcome new Dade Chapter members!** Rebecca Rojas, Kirk Haugen, Peter Cerda, Tanya Rosenblut, David Rosenfeld, Arezoo Dastpak, Muriel Olivares, all in Miami-Dade.
Thank you to all who renewed recently for your ongoing support, interest and participation.

OTHER NEWS and ACTIVITIES

● **Dade Native Plant Workshop.** See https://nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/. **Apr. 15, 5 p.m.** at Miami Dade College Kendall Campus. **Topic: Stoppers.** 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. **April is a busy month for EEL! Apr. 12:** Baynanza event at A.D.Barnes Park. **Apr. 19:** Earth Day Habitat cleanup at Castellow Hammock. **Apr. 25, 26, 27:** City Nature Challenge – Bioblitz at three South Miami-Dade Pinelands.

● **Plant Biologists of South Florida annual meeting, April 12, 2025**, 8:30 am – 2:00 pm – FIU International Center for Tropical Botany (ICTB) at the Kampong – National Tropical Botanical Garden in Coconut Grove. **Please email info@pbsf.org if you would like more information or wish to attend the meeting**.

● **Keys Native Plant Workshop, Apr. 15, 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!

● **Everglades National Park free entrance day on Saturday, April 19**, to celebrate the first day of **National Park Week**. Special activities that day include:

Wet Walk at 9:00 - Reservations required, call 305-242-7700
Anhinga Amble Walk at 10:30 - No Reservations Required
Nike Missile Program at 1:00 - No reservation required
Family Friendly Activities at Royal Palm 9:00-1:00
Volunteer Opportunity at Long Pine Key 9:00-11:00

DCFNPS Native Store "Plant of the Month"
Chapman's Blazing Star *(Liatris chapmanii)*
by Raul Moas

This *Liatris* species is a long-lived perennial wildflower of pinelands and dry grassland. In Miami-Dade it is found in pine rocklands and dry meadows. They have beautiful 3 to 4 foot erect or leaning spikes of autumn-blooming blue/purple flowers which support butterflies and other pollinators. The plant typically dies back to ground level after setting seed and resprouts from corms. They are drought-tolerant, and do well in poor-quality soil. They self-seed to form a small meadow if the ground is kept clear and tolerate plants in close proximity. The spikes stay erect if there are some supporting grasses or herbs are nearby.

Photo by Shirley Denton

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

Also check out and order the new chapter shirts, mugs and tote bags with artwork by Kim Heise!
You can also purchase or pick up pre-orders at meetings.
Thank you to board member Charlie Reverte and VP Karina Gomez for setting up our online merchandise purchasing!

Help Out Native Plants by Helping Out Your Neighbors
By Steve Woodmansee

From time to time, I get a call from a native plant enthusiast asking me if I would like to come over to dig up their seedlings of various native trees so that I can resell them. In general, I do not do this, as I have limited time, and also I do not grow the plants I sell. But it is a good idea, as in my own yard, I will pull up native seedlings in the wrong place and discard them. Many plants in our Plant Raffle at the monthly meetings are from folks who salvage their own seedlings. Most are great, some are large trees which most participants at the meeting can no longer fit in their yards. But there is a hidden source of folks who would love to have free plants for their barren yards, and they are your neighbors!

I recently visited friend and DCFNPS Vice President Karina Gomez's home. Karina had next to her driveway in front of her home a decorated Plant Swap station. The rest of this article is my interview of Karina about her Plant Swap Station.

What is the concept behind this?

I had extra plants and wanted to give them away to neighbors. I live on a fairly busy street as there is an elementary school across from my house, and Sunset High is also nearby. Folks are always coming and going along our sidewalk. So the plants are free, but others are encouraged to bring their own plants to share, and they do.

When did you first create this?

In 2018, we started with a four shelf bookcase, and we painted it green.

When did it gain in popularity?

Almost right away.

I see other things besides plants on your shelf. Yeah, people started bring other things. There are pots, coffee mugs, an outdoor thermometer, flower vases, and other knick-knacks to share.

I see there are more bookshelves. Someone dropped those off too, so we shellacked them so that they could withstand the weather.

Any tips for getting one started? Yes, be aware that lots of sun will make your potted plants thirsty, and could deteriorate pots and other things. I leave watering vessels with water nearby, and they get a daily watering.

Anyone ever damage your Swap collection? No, everyone has been friendly, on occasion someone will come and take a little bit more than they should, but the purpose is to give plants to those who need them and to create a shared community feel.

Your neighborhood maybe perfect for something like this. It will give you an excuse to make friends with your neighbors, and improve your community as a place where people help each other out, no strings attached. If you live near a school, or have folks who actively walk their dogs, exercise, or simply commute through you neighborhood, perhaps set up your own Plant Swap Station with native plants. Neighbors will grow to love them, and love to grow them.

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/
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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/
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Susan Casey (Casey's Corner Nursery) www.plantrealflorida.org/professionals/detail/16
Taylor Schwartz Design tylerschwartzdesign.com/

Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society - For Miami-Dade and the Florida Keys
Chapter communication: DadeFNPS@gmail.com, www.DadeFNPS.org/
Mail: Dade Chapter FNPS, 6619 S. Dixie Hwy, #181, Miami FL 33143-7919

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
Webmaster: Haniel Pulido Jr., dadefnpsweb@gmail.com

***Tillandsia* Newsletter**
Please contact the editor if you might like to join the *Tillandsia* staff or contribute an article.
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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