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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.
JULY - AUGUST 2025

Chapter calendar.

See https://dade.fnpschapters.org/events/ for activities of the Dade Chapter (and all FNPS)
July 19: DCFNPS social/picnic at Larry & Penny Thompson Park
July 26: FNPS Annual Meeting by zoom
Aug. 2: Chapter workday at Everglades National Park Coe Visitor Center
Aug. 5: Deadline for FNPS Landscape awards applications
(No meetings at Pinecrest Gardens or field trips in July or August)

• **Dade Chapter and FNPS News:** President's message
• **Other News and Activities:** Native Plant Workshop; Florida Python Challenge at Everglades National Park
• **"Summer in the Everglades" – by Roger L. Hammer**
• **Thank You to Our Business and Non-Profit members**

DADE CHAPTER SUMMER SOCIAL
Saturday, July 19, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Larry and Penny Thompson Memorial Park

12451 SW 184th St, Miami, FL 33177 (1 mile west of the Florida Turnpike)
Shelter #8 (farthest west shelter, past the water slide). See the map below.
Rain or shine!

All FNPS members are invited to attend with their families and guests.
Please RSVP by July 17 (much appreciated even if you're a "maybe") at
https://forms.gle/mXUwaxZWfhtEtuy7A

Questions, or to volunteer to help (e.g., setup, clean up):
Contact the chapter at 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 "branching out" with a mid-afternoon social/picnic at a nature-filled park! This large Miami-Dade County park contains a botanically rich piece of the **Richmond Pine Rockland tract** and a man-made lake. (https://www.miamidade.gov/parks/larry-penny.asp)
Please join us to socialize with fellow plant lovers and enjoy food and activities for adults and kids. We'll also have our usual raffle of plants and nature-related items. **We hope to have some lawn games – please bring any you think others might enjoy**, like Cornhole, Bocce Ball, Ring Toss, etc. And we'll have a mini-field trip with a guided walk in the pineland.

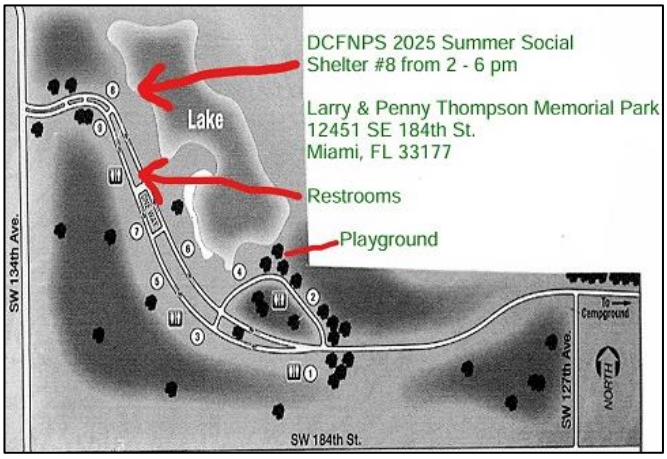
Other things to pursue all day include strolling around the lake, exploring the pineland trails, a nearby playground for the kidos, plus the beach and water slide (but no fishing). **(Water activities are on your own as they are not covered by FNPS insurance)**.
► **Please note: Pets are not allowed in the park.**

Schedule:
• 2:00 - Meet & greet**. (Please sign in on the FNPS Liability waiver and pick up a free raffle ticket for each person.)**
• 2:30 - Enjoy shared light foods and beverages, visiting, lawn games.
• 3:30 - Description of raffle plants/items
• 4:00 - Raffle drawing
• 4:45 to 5:30 - Pineland nature walk
• 6:00 - We must clean up and vacate the shelter by 6:00

Food and drink:
• **Bring light fare.** This is more of a social gathering than a full meal. However, feel free to bring a more substantial meal for yourself.
• **Grill and hotdogs provided!** President Steve says, "A picnic needs hotdogs" so he will set up a portable grill, and hotdogs, buns and fixings will be provided. **You are welcome to bring other items for the grill.**
• **If you're bringing food to share, items that hold up in the heat and are easy to serve are encouraged** - a modest amount of savory or sweet small bites, snacks, fruits/veggies, etc. **Please provide serving utensils if needed.**

• **We'll provide a variety of beverages, water and ice.** Feel free to bring your own drinks or some to share. Beer in cans or box wine are allowed in the park.
• **We encourage bringing your own reusable plates, utensils and drink containers.**
► **Glass bottles/containers and Styrofoam containers/plates/cups are not allowed in county parks.**

Raffle:
• Donations of native plants, nature-related non-plant items and **things for kids** are welcome.
• Plants should be weed free, in good condition and well established, and nothing larger than 1 gallon size!
• **Please limit raffle plant donations to only three**.
• **It's very important to label your plants** with at least the common or scientific name **(on tape, or tape a slip of paper to the pot to keep it from blowing away)**. A few words of description are greatly appreciated.
• **You can buy raffle tickets as usual** (bring cash).



Etc.:
• **Chapter t-shirts, totes and mugs** will be available for pre-paid pickup (store.dade.fnpschapters.org/).
• If desired, bring **lawn chairs** to set up in the shade or breeze. Both the serving area and picnic tables are underneath the shelter.
• It's always good to have **sun protection**, and be **prepared for rain and insects, just in case**.
• Restrooms are nearby and Accessible. The shelter has running water for cleaning purposes.
• **Tip:** When you leave, exit on Burr Road/SW 127 Ave to take advantage of the traffic light on 184th St.

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

Message from the Dade Chapter President

I am sneaking in this quick note to inform you of your Board of Directors' strategic planning session held in person on June 14, 2025, and a tidbit from our Board of Directors meeting held online on June 23, 2025. Along with fomenting camaraderie, my intent in holding this Strategic Planning Meeting was to have us focus on what we deem as most important and yet missing in our programs. Many ideas were bandied about, however in the end, your directors agreed unanimously that Education and Outreach was the main priority for this year. We already do this pretty well with our monthly meetings and Native Plant Day, but we could do more. So we will attend more events representing Dade FNPS, develop programming for outreach activities and talks outside our Chapter, increase use of Social Media for public outreach, and more.

Fortunately, new board member **Harley Guerra** has agreed to chair the Education and Outreach Committee, and his appointment was made official at our board meeting. Also at the board meeting, the appointment of new board director **Daniela Champney** as Native Plant Day 2026 Committee chair was made. Native Plant Day is planned once again for Enchanted Forest Elaine Gordon Park. We are lucky to have Harley and Daniela.

It's an honor to serve.
Steve Woodmansee

Chapter Workday at Everglades National Park. August 2, 2025, 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! **Afterwards you can enter the park free. New volunteers:** Please contact Patty (pharespl@gmail.com) for date, details and questions.

Welcome new Dade Chapter members! Jennifer Durden, Andee Einbinder Weiner, Dharma Coletti (student), Kristina Casas, Kaitlyn Vargas, Derek Snyder, Natalie Salman, Nathan Renouf. **Thank you to all who renewed recently** for your ongoing support, interest and participation.

Watch past meeting presentations: Use the **YouTube** link (also at DadeFNPS.org at bottom of home page), **Click Videos** or **Live** for all available recordings. See the June program "Natural Darkness: Essential to Our Native Plants and Nocturnal Ecology" by Diana Umpierre.

September 23 program: Eric Suarez, Invasive Species Research Program Coordinator, University of Florida, IFAS – Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center, presents on **Invasive Wildlife in Florida.**

Our plant store (https://store.dade.fnpschapters.org/) **is constantly expanding and replenishing out-of-stock species.** Check the site often for new species from more habitats. Pick up plants at the nursery in Pinecrest or at a meeting, or arrange delivery.

FNPS Landscape awards: Applications are being accepted through August 5.
https://www.fnps.org/what-we-do/landscaping/landscape-awards-information. **Categories:** Residential, Commercial & Institutional Landscaping, Habitat Restoration & Conservation, and Pollinator & Wildlife Demonstration & Community Gardens. **This is a chance not only to enjoy an honor, but also to inspire others.** See some award recipients in the recent *Palmetto* magazine. **Everyone is encouraged to apply - including non-FNPS members.**

FNPS *Palmetto* magazine is now digital only and can be accessed at https://issuu.com/fnps**,** but you can pay $5 per issue to receive a print copy. Contact info@fnps.org for information about adding print copies to your membership, or sign up when you renew.

FNPS Annual meeting, July 26, 10 AM – noon via Zoom. If you are a member and did not receive an e-mail invitation to register, please contact info@fnps.org. All FNPS members are invited to participate. FNPS will provide a year in review, announce grant awards, Palmetto Awards for members and then we will vote on new officers and directors.

OTHER NEWS and ACTIVITIES

Dade Native Plant Workshop. July 15 6:00 p.m. No meeting at Miami-Dade College. Instead we visit Pinewoods Park in Kendall for a **summer evening field trip workshop** where you will learn the importance of "mowed pine rocklands". Details at https://nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/. **Park along SW 102 Avenue south of 131 Terr.** Free and open to anyone.
** See the website for the **August 19** workshop.

Keys Native Plant Workshop is on hiatus until fall.

Everglades National Park − Join the Florida Python Challenge, July 11-20!
Do you need a summer adventure? This is an annual 10-day competition led by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) encouraging participants to help remove Burmese pythons from designated locations. This is the first year ENP will be participating. There are daytime and nighttime searches. You must attend a one-time orientation on your first day of participation. Read more and sign up at https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/nature/florida-python-challenge-in-everglades-national-park.htm.

Everglades National Park free entrance day: Monday, August 4 − Anniversary of the Great American Outdoors Act

SUMMER IN THE EVERGLADES
by Roger L. Hammer

Unlike most people, especially tourists, I like to be in the Everglades in the summer months. Summer is called the Wet Season because of frequent rainstorms that flood the prairies, sloughs, marshes, and cypress domes after being dry throughout the winter months. In fact, I think it's sad that most visitors in Everglades National Park see the Everglades during the winter dry season when the cypress trees (*Taxodium* spp.) are leafless, and many plants are showing signs of stress from lack of rain, or are dormant until spring rains arrive. In the summer months the Everglades are vibrant and full of life, but I will admit that mosquitoes, deer flies, horse flies, and sand flies (no-see-ums), coupled with sweltering heat and high humidity can make you wonder about your sanity for being out there. But, for me anyway, the lure of beautiful and sometimes rare summertime wildflowers makes the misery and sweating much more tolerable.

One other thing about summertime is that thunderstorms bring lightning that can cause natural fires in fire-dependent plant communities like pinelands and prairies, and just weeks after fire has burned through these habitats, wildflowers erupt in profusion.

This past summer there was a fire that burned through a block of pine rockland on Long Pine Key in Everglades National Park that was bisected by a firebreak road, where one side was burned and the other side was not. Exactly four weeks after the fire, I hiked down the firebreak and the difference between the burned and unburned areas was stark. In the burned area were literally hundreds of flowering plants of a native wildflower called the **pineland pinklet (*Stenandrium dulce*)** with small rosettes of leaves and cute little pink flowers. By comparison, not a single one could be found in the unburned side. Also, natural summertime fires created by lightning are far better for the plant communities that are often targeted in the wintertime for prescribed burns. But winter burns are foreign to these plant communities because there's seldom any lightning storms in the winter months, plus with natural fires in the summer, rain will arrive within days or a

few weeks after a burn, whereas areas burned in the winter may languish for months without much, if any, rain.

Wildflowers in the flooded Everglades prairies in the summer that I enjoy seeing include:

glades lobelia (*Lobelia glandulosa*), **prairie milkweed** (*Asclepias lanceolata*), **lanceleaf arrowhead** (*Sagittaria lancifolia*),

stringlily (*Crinum americanum*), **alligatorlily** (*Hymenocallis palmeri*), **wood sage** (*Teucrium canadense*),

In the deeper pockets, you can find **pickerelweed** (*Pontederia cordata*) along with **southern fogfruit** (*Lippia stoechadifolia*).

In the hammocks, look for the epiphytic **butterfly orchid** (*Encyclia tampensis*) to be blooming, and if you're really hardcore, paddle out the Hells Bay Canoe Trail to admire the **wormvine orchid** *(Vanilla barbellata*) blooming. Bring a basketball to throw through the mosquitoes and take your photos through the hole!

And if your friends tell you you're insane for being in the Everglades in the summer months, tell them I sent you.

Roger Hammer is a professional naturalist, an avid long-distance solo canoeist, kayak-fishing enthusiast, photographer, and the author of nine books on Florida nature (www.rogerlhammer.com/index.html). His articles and photos appear frequently in the FNPS magazine, Palmetto. *He is a longtime member of FNPS and lives in Homestead.*

Follow us on **Facebook**, **Instagram**, **YouTube**, and **X**.
Check out the **DadeFNPS** website and our **Native Plant Online Store**.
Linktree/dcfnps for DCFNPS has all our links (plus some for FNPS) in one place.

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!

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***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, https://www.fnps.org
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The Florida Native Plant Society's mission is to champion Florida's native plants and their habitats through conservation, preservation, restoration, education, and advocacy.