



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.



JUNE 2026

Chapter calendar

See <https://dade.fnpschapters.org/events/> for activities of the Dade Chapter (and all FNPS)

June 11 (Thur.): Conservation & Restoration Team workday at Ron Ehmann Park

June 12 (Fri.): Conservation & Restoration Team workday at Camp Matecumbe

June 20 (Sat.): Field trip to National Key Deer Refuge, Big Pine Key

June 23 (Tues.): Monthly Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens and online

July 15 (Wed.): Online presentation: South Florida's Endangered Plants and Lands

July 18 (Sat.): Field trip to The Barnacle in Coconut Grove

July 25 (Sat.): Summer social at Larry and Penny Thompson Memorial Park

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June meeting / Field trip

Volunteer opportunities: Conservation & Restoration Team, Chapter Nursery & Plant Store

More news from the Dade Chapter and our friends

Message from the new Chapter President

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award and Silver Tillandsia Award

Thank you to our Business and Organizational members



DADE CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 7:30 – 9:00 PM

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

Free – all are invited

We will meet in the room across from our usual location.

Come early or stay late to enjoy refreshments, socialize and browse the merchandise and raffle tables. Plants for sale might also be available. The raffle follows the program. The program is also [live-streamed](#) and recorded on YouTube. Check out our [online store](#) in advance for plants, shirts, mugs and tote bags, and pick up pre-orders at the meeting.

“Designing Landscapes with Native Plants: An in-depth look into the landscape design process and the opportunities and challenges of using native plants” – Stephanie Dunn, Associate, Affiliate ASLA

This presentation will offer an in-depth exploration of the design process of Cadence, a South Florida-based landscape architecture firm, with a focus on incorporating native plants into small-scale landscapes. Stephanie will share examples of native planting design projects from Cadence's portfolio and discuss the opportunities and challenges involved in implementing designs that feature native plants. The aim of the presentation is to inspire others to convert small-scale landscapes with the power of native plants to positively benefit all living beings.



Stephanie Dunn is an Associate with Cadence, knowledgeable of Florida's ecosystems and native plants, and lectures throughout Florida on native planting design and regional-specific approaches that enhance landscape resilience. She holds a B.A. in Architecture from Florida Atlantic University and is a Florida Master Naturalist. She has served as President of the Broward Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society since 2020 and as Vice President for the Friends of Kissimmee Prairie since 2023.

- **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 encouraged).

• **Online viewing:** www.youtube.com/channel/UCmassuC5-OsAX2KsRYQ6X5A. You will see only the computer-based portions of the meeting, with the presentation starting about 8:00, after announcements and plant raffle discussion. Chat will be enabled. We regret that circumstances sometimes arise that prevent online viewing and thus recording.

• **Watch past presentations:** Use the **YouTube** link above or at DadeFNPS.org (at bottom of home page), **Click Videos** or **Live** for all available recordings.

• **Questions:** DadeFNPS@gmail.com

No meeting at Pinecrest Gardens in July. Instead, save these dates:

• **Online presentation, Wednesday, July 15, 7:00 PM:**

"South Florida's Endangered Plants and Lands"

- Andrea Mirow, Environmentally Endangered Lands Outreach Coordinator, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

• **Dade Chapter Summer Social, Saturday, July 25, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

at Larry and Penny Thompson Memorial Park

FIELD TRIP

National Key Deer Refuge, Big Pine Key (Monroe County)

Saturday, June 20, 2026, 9:30AM – 12:30PM

**** PLEASE NOTE ****

Registration is requested in case we need to contact you.

Email to dadefnps@gmail.com with "June Field Trip" in the subject heading.

We were last on Big Pine Key in 2019 when Chris Bergh from TNC led a trip. This is a high-quality, high-diversity pine rockland with plants unique to the Keys. Rare plants we expect to see include, Keys Deltoid Spurge (*Euphorbia deltoidea* ssp. *serphyllum*), Keys Partridge-pea (*Chamaecrista lineata* var. *keyensis*), Grisebach's dwarf morningglory (*Evolvulus grisebachii*), Ogden's sandmat (*Euphorbia ogdenii*), Smallflower lilythorn (*Catesbaea parviflora*), and more. We'll likely see Key Deer and rare insects such as the Florida duskywing as well.

It is worth the relaxing, albeit long, drive for folks from Miami-Dade. You may want to come down early and stay nearby overnight on Friday. The National Key Deer Refuge encompasses several islands with [420 native plant species](#) recorded by the Institute for Regional Conservation.

Leader: Steve Woodmansee

Address: [Watson and Manillo Trails](#). From Florida City, take US1 south to Key Deer Blvd on Big Pine Key (stop light), and travel north (right hand turn) a little over 3 miles, passing the Blue Hole. Park next to trailhead. Roughly 100 miles (2 hours and 15 minutes) south of Florida City.

Difficulty: Easy to moderate. We'll stick to trails and firebreaks, some uneven ground along firebreaks. Poisonwood is present.

Cost: No cost

Notes: **No restrooms - stop at the shopping center** as you turn off US 1. *Pets are not allowed on this trip.*

Bring/wear: long pants and sleeves, sturdy shoes with thick soles for jagged rock, water, bug spray (just in case), sun protection, and an umbrella in case of rain. A walking stick may be helpful to some for extra stability. Binoculars can be handy for viewing wildlife. Possible lunch afterwards at the No Name Pub, or bring your own for a picnic.

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](#).

July 18: Field trip to The Barnacle in Coconut Grove (details TBA). This trip will start at 8 AM and has limited space for members only.

CHAPTER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

DCFNPS Nursery and Online Plant Store assistance

In just over two years, the DCFNPS Online Plant Store has provided thousands of difficult to find native plants to the community. As demand increases, we are looking at ways to expand our footprint. **We could use more hands to help in all the steps needed grow and distribute plants.** This could include growing plants at your own home, helping care for plants at the nursery, assisting in managing orders, and more – **any involvement that you might care to offer.** To find out more about participating in this worthwhile effort, please email Raul Moas at moara.crot@gmail.com, or text to 305-812-6999.

DCFNPS Native Plant Conservation & Restoration Team

Assist in local native plant restoration and maintenance projects at some interesting sites you might not otherwise be able to access. **If you would like to join the team or learn more about it,** please contact Scott Sutherland (scottstuth@aol.com) or Carmen Ferreira

(info@carmenferreiro.com), co-chairs of the team. The entire chapter membership will be notified of activities known far enough in advance, but team members will be the first to be notified when/if there is short notice. Most workdays have been on weekdays, but sign up for notifications in case an opportunity arises on short notice on a date when you can attend.

Upcoming workdays:

- **Ron Ehmman Park, Thursday June 11, 9-11 AM.** Pine Rockland Restoration/Protection - remove invasive plant species and other debris. Riki Bonnema from the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Conservation Team (and DCFNPS board member) will be there to work with the volunteers. Address: 10995 SW 97 Ave. Registration: <https://miamidadeparks.com/FL/miami-dade-county-parks-recreation/catalog?filter=c2VhcmNoPTEzMdc4NTY=> or email Riki (ebonnema@fairchildgarden.org) to tell her you're coming.
- **Camp Matecumbe, Friday, June 12, 8-10 AM.** Plant native grasses in the pine rockland. SW 120 Street at 138 Ave. Please contact Scott (scottsuth@aol.com) for details.

“Before” and “after” photos from a recent workday removing air potato vines at South Miami’s Little House Reserve Park
Your help can make an amazing difference!



DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

Welcome new members – we’re so glad to have you on board! Matthew Witherow, Nassa Clagett, Nathan Osborne, Jansin Street, Natalie Fundora, Michael Noppen, Sarah Noppen, Veronica Alvarez, Margo Adam.

Thank you to all who renewed recently. We greatly appreciate your continued support, interest and participation.

If your membership is due for renewal, go to your membership portal at <https://fnps.app.neoncrm.com/login>. You can also update your contact information. **Alternatively, you can email FNPS** at info@fnps.org to pay by check or over the phone.

Dade Chapter Plant Store at <https://store.dade.fnpschapters.org/>) is constantly expanding and replenishing out-of-stock species. Check the site often for new species from more varied habitats! Pick up plants at the nursery in Pinecrest or at a meeting, or arrange delivery. You can also return the square pots from past purchases. We will have a small selection of plants available for purchase at most upcoming meetings.

Merchandise: Don't forget to check out and order **chapter shirts, mugs, and tote bags with artwork by Kim Heise to pick up at meetings.**

OTHER NEWS and ACTIVITIES

Dade Native Plant Workshop. See <https://nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/>. **Tuesday, June 16, 6 PM.** ****NOTE** In the summer we botanize at outdoor locations and begin later.** This month we will check out **Kendall Indian Hammocks Park**. Old hands and new learners are encouraged to come – and it’s free! See details on the website.

Bonus: While you’re at the park, check out the **nature-based playground** by our Business member [LandscapeDE](#). “*The design is set within an existing hammock of live oaks and all existing trees were preserved for the new design. Extensive landscaping throughout the site emphasizes native trees and plants. The design also incorporates logs as seating and play elements from invasive Australian Pine trees removed from another park site.*”

Everglades National Park. Upcoming **free entrance days** (available to US residents only) are **June 14** (Flag Day) and **July 3–5** (Independence Day weekend).

Also check out this year’s **Python Challenge** at <https://flpythonchallenge.org/>, which takes place in ENP and numerous other conservation areas from July 10 to July 19.

NEWS FROM THE DADE CHAPTER BOARD

After joining the board in 2018, **Jeanne Rothchild** (Director at Large) and **Brian Diaz** (Past President) have left our board of directors. As our new Past President, Steve Woodmansee, mentioned at the May meeting, they both made significant and impactful contributions during their many years on the board.

Jeanne and Brian, THANK YOU from all of us for your service! We will miss you on the board, but we are lucky that you will still be around as active members of the society.

Mission of the Florida Native Plant Society: “To champion Florida’s native plants and their habitats”

Are you interested in getting involved, maybe dedicating a few hours per month to this cause? We have a diverse membership and are looking for talented volunteers to help us do more to further our mission. The more involvement we get from members, the more we can achieve together, far beyond just gathering at the monthly meetings. How about advocacy, outreach (tabling), public speaking, social media, newsletters, gardening....? Please contact me to chat at DadeFNPS@gmail.com.

Next time you step outside, take a moment to appreciate the natural world around you – admire the beauty of a flower, butterfly or bird, look at the clouds, enjoy the sun on your face, or the sound of rain. And then, onwards!

Daniela Champney
President, DCFNPS

Meet the new Dade Chapter Board members



Sebastian Fernandez

I am a Field Technician with the Institute of Regional Conservation specializing in invasive plant removal and the restoration of native ecosystems. Recently, I received my Bachelor’s degree in Botany at the University of Florida where I researched the impacts of climate change on different native plant species. Typically, most of my free time has been spent volunteering with local herbaria, conservation teams, and prescribed burners across the state. The way I see it, only by educating myself on the natural world, can I truly appreciate its beauty. My main goal as a board member is to attract new faces to the society by finding those hungry to learn more about native plants and offer them a home for likeminded individuals.

Dania Otero-Perez

I have called South Florida home for more than 30 years. Originally from Barcelona, Spain, I discovered my passion for native plants about 12 years ago while planning the landscaping for my home. Since then, I have come to value the beauty and community impact of native gardens and the way they can transform neighborhoods and invite connections. I would like to see native landscapes become the norm rather than the exception. I have been a chapter member for the past six years and have enjoyed participating in DCFNPS events and field trips whenever possible. I am looking to deepen my involvement by serving on the board, where I hope to apply my past professional experience in support of the chapter’s needs and mission.



CHAPTER AWARDS PRESENTATIONS by Steve Woodmansee

2026 Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award: Jennifer Possley

In August 2025, your Dade FNPS board of directors (BOD) resurrected the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award (MSDA), a prestigious merit given out annually by the Dade FNPS to the person (or entity) which deserves recognition for its native plant conservation and/or education, essentially a native plant champion! Marjory Stoneman Douglas was a long-lived Everglades activist and reporter, renowned for her book *Everglades: River of Grass* first published in 1947, the year Everglades National Park was formed. Marjory passed away at the age of 108 in 1998. Any member of our chapter may submit a MSDA nomination, and the winner of the award is decided upon by the chapter’s BOD. The first MSDA award was presented to Roger L. Hammer by Marjory herself in 1982. Subsequently, awards were given to Dr. Taylor Alexander, George Avery (posthumously), Drs. Donovan & Helen Correll, Governor Bob Graham, Don & Joyce Gann, and Henry Block. The last MSDA was given to Rick & Jean Seavey in 1989, and the chapter ceased giving awards until 2026. In February 2026, your Dade FNPS BOD approved the nomination of **Jennifer Possley as this year’s Marjory Stoneman Douglas Awardee**. We hoped to honor Marjory by making it beautiful, so we contracted local artist Kim Heise to paint an original watercolor of

one of Ms. Possley's favorite ferns she helps conserve, the endangered modest spleenwort (*Asplenium verecundum*). The presentation of this award was slated for the May 2026 Annual Meeting, however the unsuspecting Ms. Possley could not attend. So, on May 20, 2026, I and Dade FNPS leaders Karina Gomez, Susan Walcutt, and Daniela Champney surprised Ms. Possley with the MSDA in person at her office at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens.

Jennifer Possley has worked in South Florida native plant conservation for 25 years at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden (FTBG), a job which brought her to Miami. While there Ms. Possley worked alongside several NGOs and government institutions including the Institute for Regional Conservation, Center for Plant Diversity, Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation, Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands, Florida State parks, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to name a few. For the past ten years or so she has led FTBG's South Florida Conservation program, and *some* of her (and her colleagues') accomplishments are outlined below.

- [Native Plant Network \(Formerly Connect To Protect\)](#) – Originally created by FTBG Conservation Botanist Joyce Maschinski, this is an interactive program with Miami-Dade and Monroe counties home owners, businesses, and schools where native plant gardens are supported with free plants in an effort to fill in the gaps of natural areas with native plant gardens. There were close to 2000 members in 2024.
- Rare Plant Reintroductions – 88 reintroductions of 26 species in Florida since 1991, with special focus on Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.
- Seed research – Conservation seed bank research to aid in seed germination and storage. Research in plant introductions using seeds rather than containerized plants.
- Pine Rockland Working Group, co-leader for conserving this Globally Imperiled Plant Community which meets at least annually.
- Rare Plant Taskforce, co-leader with Bok Tower Botanical Gardens meeting annually.
- Management Planning – aids land managers and conservationists with management plans for both species and properties. The FTBG Conservation Team is sought after by other land managers for their expertise.
- Field Biology – Botanical and wildlife research at several parks and preserves in Miami-Dade, Monroe, Broward counties and beyond.
- Native Plant Horticulture – Originally for restoration purposes, now the Conservation Team is expanding to grow additional hard to find native plants to disperse and/or sell to the public. Including hard-to-germinate plants such as orchids and ferns.
- Ms. Possley is the go-to fern expert in our area. She has also authored and co-authored several publications and research papers including management plans, Pine Rockland research, [Ferns of Miami-Dade](#) and much more.
- Ms. Possley has been a member of the Dade Chapter of FNPS since 2001, and served on its board as treasurer 2004-2007
- <https://fairchildgarden.org/science-and-education/science/native-plant-conservation/>



Jennifer and Steve

Photos by Karina Gomez



Plaque with *Asplenium verecundum*



Marjory Stoneman Douglas

2026 Silver Tillandsia Award: Karina Gomez

In August 2025, your Dade FNPS BOD also decided to create an award modeled after the FNPS Silver Palmetto Award, which is chosen and presented by the chapter President to the board member whom has most greatly assisted him/her with implementing our mission, to champion native plants and their habitats. This achievement is entitled the Silver Tillandsia Award.

Karina Gomez was presented the first ever Silver Tillandsia Award on May 26, 2026, during the Dade Chapter FNPS's Annual Meeting. Karina has been our most active board member, accepting many roles and duties in addition to serving as Vice President. Duties Karina has excelled in accomplishing during the 2025-2026 year include:

- Communications and Social Media Committee chair, oversees and participates in our Instagram, X, Facebook, and YouTube with beautiful professional graphics (she is our chief graphic designer)
- Formats and sends the chapter newsletter *Tillandsia* and other chapter announcements/reminders
- Nominating Committee Chair 2026 responsible for finding future Dade FNPS leaders.
- Regularly monitors chapter email account and forwards messages to the President and board members as appropriate
- Oversees and handles production and sales of chapter T-shirts, mugs, and tote bags.
- Along with her husband Sergio, manages the refreshments table at the chapter's monthly meetings
- Played a major role in assisting 2026 Native Plant Day Committee Chair Daniela Champney and attended preliminary meetings
- Attended outreach events including Miami-Dade's Adopt-a-Tree program.
- Submitted reports on time and attended all board meetings

Thank you Karina for all of your help!



Photos by Carmen Ferreiro

It's an honor to serve.
Steve Woodmansee, Past President



Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [X](#).
 Check out the [DadeFNPS](#) website and our [Online Plant & Merchandise Store](#).
[Linktree/dcfnp](#)s for DCFNPS has all our links (plus some for FNPS) in one place.



THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATIONAL 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 very helpful to the mission of FNPS and the chapter. They may 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/

Florida Butterfly Botanicals floridabutterflybotanicals.com/

Institute for Regional Conservation www.regionalconservation.org/

Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Gardens www.keywest.garden/

LandscapedE www.landscapede.com/

Miami Native Plants

NaMa Native Landscapes www.namaprojects.com/ and **Flora of Miami Garden Center** floraofmiami.com/

Native Tree Nursery www.nativetreenursery.com/

Susan Casey (Casey's Corner Nursery) www.plantrealflorida.org/professionals/detail/16

The Invoka Group (website in progress)

3o5Gardens www.3o5gardens.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: Daniela Champney **Vice-President:** Karina Gomez **Secretary:** Carmen Ferreiro **Treasurer:** Susan Walcutt

At Large: Joey Basna, Riki Bonnema, Sebastian Fernandez, Harley Guerra, Dania Otero-Perez, Charlie Reverte

Past President: Steve Woodmansee

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 or news item.

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.

June 22-28, 2026, is Pollinator Week!

We don't have a new article to celebrate our pollinators, but you can enjoy revisiting an article in the [June 2022 *Tillandsia*](#) with great photos and descriptions by Joe Montes de Oca of two bees and a bug.