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.

JULY-AUGUST 2026

Chapter calendar

See https://dade.fnpschapters.org/events/ for activities of the Dade Chapter (DCFNPS) and all FNPS
July 15 (Wed.): Online presentation: "South Florida's Endangered Plants and Lands"
July 18 (Sat.): Field trip to The Barnacle in Coconut Grove
July 18 (Sat.): FNPS Annual Meeting by zoom
July 25 (Sat.): Summer social (with pineland walk) at Larry and Penny Thompson Memorial Park
August 1 or 8 (Sat.) TBA: Chapter workday at Everglades National Park
There are no chapter meetings at Pinecrest Gardens in July or August.

In this issue:

July activities: ● Online presentation ● Summer social ● Field trip
Volunteer opportunities
More news from the Dade Chapter and our friends
Thank you to our Business and Organizational members
"**Poeppig's Rosemallow** - *Hibiscus poeppigii*" by Roger L. Hammer
National Key Deer Refuge: Photos of the June 20 field trip by Kristin Cadavieco and Beryn Harty

SPECIAL 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

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81058835953?pwd=ucrLjLQ5sXRPGfb2jrMWEpsoQw8hXG.1

Miami Dade County has a remarkable diversity of ecosystems and wildlife, but our development history has left these lands fragmented, disturbed, and imperiled. In this talk, Andrea Mirow will share some of the programs working to conserve Miami-Dade's endangered lands, the obstacles preventing protection, and the meaningful ways you can advocate for Miami nature in the coming months and beyond.

As a member of the FTBG Conservation Team, Andrea works to bring the public into the county's natural preserves. She leads educational programming, restoration field trips, and volunteer events. She is also involved in the efforts to monitor, reintroduce, and conserve the rare plants of South Florida.

FIELD TRIP
July 18, 2026, 8AM – 10AM
The Barnacle Historic State Park, Miami, FL

NOTE: Registration for this trip is already closed (with a wait list) in response to a special email sent earlier to members.
However, you can join the group at 9 AM (no registration, pay the entrance fee of $2).
You can still botanize and enjoy the site without the added pleasure of early admission. Steve will stay a little later to revisit the plants from earlier. You can also visit The Barnacle on your own another day!

Check out the website for history and activities/amenities including **house tours**.
https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/barnacle-historic-state-park

Registration is necessary for this trip; space is limited to 15 participants. Deadline for registration is July 11.
Register by email to DadeFNPS@gmail.com with "July Field Trip" in the subject heading.
Once registered you will be sent a volunteer agreement required by the park for signing.

We were last at The Barnacle in 2014. Located in Coconut Grove on Biscayne Bay, The Barnacle is a hidden gem in our state park system. It was once the residence of Commodore Ralph Middleton Munroe and possesses his cleverly designed home. It also has a small but high-quality Rockland Hammock, and some coastal species on the grounds. The Institute for Regional Conservation reports almost 100 native plants at this site. Rare plants we expect to see include Red Berry Stopper (*Eugenia confusa*), Guiana plum (*Drypetes lateriflora*), and Bitterbush (*Picramnia pentandra*).

Leader: Steve Woodmansee
Address: 3485 Main Hwy Coconut Grove, Miami, FL 33133. Parking will be tricky along the street. Garages are nearby and a bit pricy.
Difficulty: Easy. We'll stick to trails and the grounds.
Cost: No cost for this special trip which is before regular opening hours.
Notes: Park has restrooms. *Pets are not allowed on this trip.*
Bring/wear: Mosquitoes are expected, it will be hot and humid despite the early start. Bring water, bug spray (just in case), sun protection, and an umbrella in case of rain. Binoculars can be handy for viewing wildlife.

DADE CHAPTER SUMMER SOCIAL
Saturday, July 25, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Larry and Penny Thompson Memorial Park

Address: 12451 SW 184th St., Miami FL 33177
(1 mile west of the FL Turnpike) Shelter #8 (farthest west shelter. past water slides). See the map below.



All FNPS members are invited to attend with their families and guests. Please RSVP by July 23 (even if "maybe") at:
https://forms.gle/egbgGaoLqCJRSDt57
Traditionally we forego a program meeting in July and August and get together for a summer social / picnic. We'll go back to the same wonderful location as last year to enjoy good company in a relaxed atmosphere, food, and various activities for adults and kids - including a raffle of plants and nature-related items, lawn games, kids' activities, and a nature walk.

Other things to pursue include strolling around the lake, exploring the pineland trails, a nearby playground for the kids, plus the beach and water slide (but no fishing). Water activities are on your own as they are not covered by FNPS insurance.

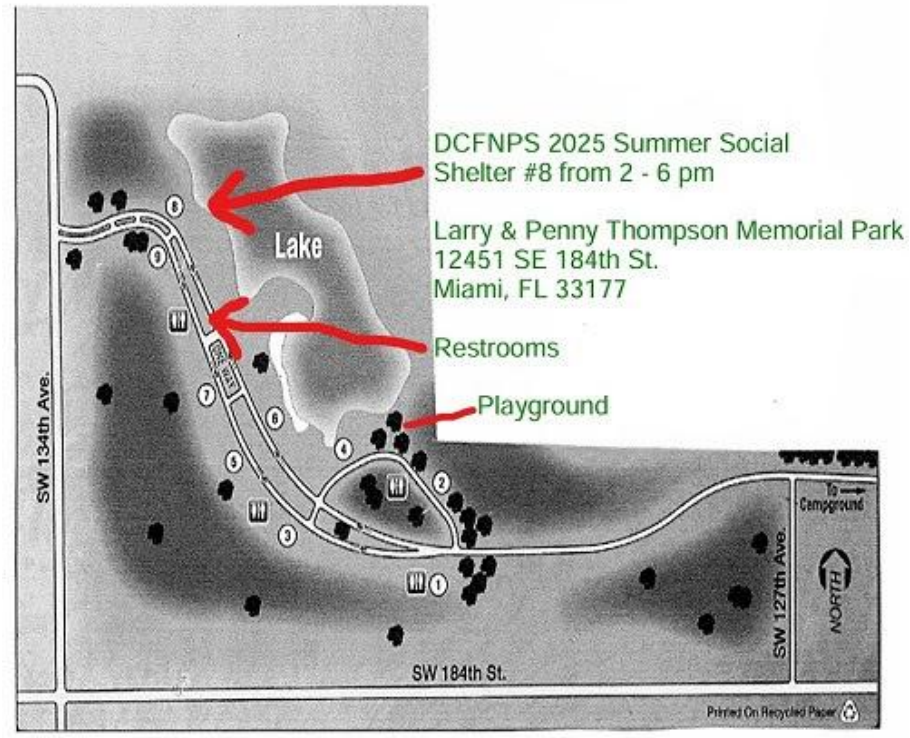
This large Miami-Dade County park contains a botanically rich piece of the **Richmond Pine Rockland tract** and a man-made lake. (https://www.miamidade.gov/parks/larry-penny.asp)
► **Please note: Pets are NOT ALLOWED in the park.**

Schedule:
• 2:00 - Arrive, mingle, chat with old and new friends
• 2:30 - Enjoy foods, drinks, lawn games and more
• 3:30 - Description of raffle plants/items
• 4:00 - Raffle drawing
• 4:45 to 5:30 – Pineland nature walk with Steve Woodmansee
• 6:00 - Clean up and vacate the shelter by 6:00

Food and drink:
• **Hotdogs, buns and fixings provided** by the chapter**.** Our past-president Steve will grill the hotdogs. You are welcome to bring other items for the grill.
• **Consider bringing food to share.** Salads / sides **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.
• Feel free to bring a more substantial meal for yourself.
• **A variety of beverages, water, and ice provided** by the chapter. Feel free to bring your own drinks or some to share (in a cooler). 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, or 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).
• You can buy **raffle tickets** as usual (bring cash). Each participant gets one free raffle ticket.

Questions: Contact the chapter at DadeFNPS@gmail.com



Etc.:
• **Chapter merchandise** (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.
• Feel free to bring **lawn games**.
• Remember **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.

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.

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 (attending community events to share information about FNPS and the Dade Chapter, native plants, etc.), public speaking, social media, newsletters, gardening….? Please contact Daniela Champney, our chapter president, to chat at DadeFNPS@gmail.com.

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. **To join the team or learn more**, please contact Scott Sutherland (scottsuth@aol.com) or Carmen Ferreiro (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 notified quickly if there is short notice. Most workdays have been on weekdays, but opportunities may arise on short notice on a date when you can attend.

August, 2026 (date TBA – Aug. 1 or 8): Everglades National Park Coe Visitor Center workday. Help weed, prune and clean up the landscape we began installing in 2001. We also answer questions from visitors and enjoy our fellow volunteers. Knowledge of native plants is not a prerequisite. The work is not difficult but is greatly appreciated by ENP! Afterwards you can enter the park for free.
If you are a potential new volunteer: Please contact Patty (pharespl@gmail.com) for details, questions and to be added to our volunteer list to receive email notifications. Non-members and students are also welcome and encouraged. Workdays are scheduled every other month on a Saturday morning.

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

Recording of our June Program.
There was great interest in our June program but unfortunately it wasn't recorded. Stephanie Dunn gave a very similar talk to the Florida Wildflower Foundation which was recorded. In this presentation, she also highlights specific plants (starts at 36:00 min). Check it out here: https://www.flawildflowers.org/240821-webinar-designing-landscapes-with-native-plants/.

Welcome new members − we're so glad to have you on board! Amy Kimball, George Diaz, Melissa Rosario, Viraj Wikramanayake, Layla Cavitt, Daniel John Mlodozeniec.
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 (including our Summer Social on July 25.**

OTHER NEWS and ACTIVITIES

Dade Native Plant Workshop. See https://nativeplantworkshop.ning.com/. ****NOTE** In June through August we botanize at outdoor locations starting at 6 PM.** See the website for more details. Friends and families are welcome (but not pets, please)! The workshop is free.
- **Tuesday, July 21:** We will return to Pineshore Pineland Preserve in Kendall at 11151 SW 128th St. As always, the workshop is free and open to all.
- **Tuesday, August 18:** Please check the website

Florida Python Challenge™. https://flpythonchallenge.org/, July 10-19. This python removal competition takes place in Everglades National Park and numerous other conservation areas. The invasive Burmese pythons pose a significant threat to native wildlife in the Everglades. This conservation effort is intended to raise awareness about invasive species while helping to protect the Everglades ecosystem and its wildlife. **Register now!**

Miami-Dade County Adopt-A-Tree. See details and pre-register here for **July 25** (FIU Biscayne Bay Campus) and **September 12** (Zoo Miami). This program provides single-family and duplex homeowners with up to two free trees every year. A selection of free native and fruit trees will be available.

POEPPIG'S ROSEMALLOW - *Hibiscus poeppigii*
By Roger L. Hammer



If you live in Miami-Dade or Monroe counties in South Florida, then perhaps you've seen the native shrub known as Poeppig's rosemallow or fairy hibiscus (*Hibiscus poeppigii*). Those are the only two Florida counties where this endangered species occurs, but its native range also includes the Caribbean islands and Mexico.

It typically grows to about 4' tall with small, pendent, red flowers that attract hummingbirds, although they must perform aerial acrobatics to acquire nectar and high-energy pollen from the downward-facing blossoms. Butterflies and bees also visit the flowers.

There are two differing opinions on the derivation of the genus name, *Hibiscus,* and one is that it is simply an ancient Greek name for mallow, while the other opinion has it that it relates to plants that live in flooded habitats where ibis occur, and some hibiscus species do just that. Plus, notice that the word 'ibis' is in the word 'hibiscus.' The name *poeppigi* honors Eduard Friedrich Poeppig (1798–1868), a noted German botanist, zoologist, and explorer.

It prefers full morning sun with high, shifting shade in the heat of the afternoon, and each flower lasts only a day. For availability, check your local South Florida nurseries that specialize in Florida native plants or perhaps the annual plant sales at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables.

Roger Hammer *is an award-winning professional naturalist, author, botanist and photographer. He has authored numerous books and countless articles on Florida native plants featuring his outstanding photos (with many articles appearing in* Tillandsia *and* Palmetto*). His awards from several organizations include the first Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award from the Dade Chapter. Roger was the manager of Castellow Hammock Nature Center for Miami-Dade County Parks for 30 years. He is a longtime member of FNPS and lives in Homestead with his wife, Michelle. Find him online at https://www.rogerlhammer.com/.*

Follow us on **Facebook**, **Instagram**, **YouTube**, and **X**.
Check out the **DadeFNPS** website and our **Online Plant & Merchandise Store**.
Linktree/dcfnps 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.

The interest of our Business and Organizational members in native plants and their extra financial support are much appreciated and very helpful to the mission of FNPS and the chapter. They may also promote FNPS and 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 Cen**ter 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)

Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society - For Miami-Dade and the Florida Keys
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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.

Field Trip Highlights: National Key Deer Refuge, Big Pine Key, June 20, 2026

Leader: Steve Woodmansee

Top L to R: 1) Hogplum (*Ximenia americana*)
2) Florida tree snail (*Liguus fasciatus*)
3) Smallflower lilythorn (*Catesbaea parviflora*)
Bottom L to R : 4) Florida Keys Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista lineata* var. *keyensis* *)
5) Pitted stripeseed (*Piriqueta cistoides*)
6) Small butterwort (*Pinguicula pumila*)
7) Grisebach's dwarf morning glory (*Evolvulus grisebachii* *)
8) Florida Keys wedge sandmat (*Euphorbia deltoidea* ssp *serphyllum*)
*** Endemic**

Photo credits: 1-2: Beryn Harty 3: Steve Woodmansee 4-8: Kristin Cadavieco





