



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

Newsletter of the Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, Inc.
- For Miami-Dade County and the Florida Keys -

JULY – AUGUST 2020

JULY GARDEN VISIT

After Hours at Miami Beach Botanical Garden

Thursday, July 16, 2020, 6 – 8 p.m.

Address: 2000 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, 33139

Registration required, space is limited

Miami Beach Botanical Garden is a 3 acre, subtropical oasis in the heart of Miami Beach. Designed by Raymond Jungles, the garden has a large collection of native plants that attract wildlife, multiple ponds and meandering pathways throughout lush foliage. Enjoy a tour by Head Gardener, Sanna O'Sullivan and time to explore on your own. Light refreshments will be provided. (Sanna is a new board member of DCFNPS.)

Registration: Space is limited, thus for now, only current DCFNPS members may register. You must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Contact Sanna O'Sullivan (sannairja@gmail.com). You will receive directions to enter the garden. If the list fills up, you can be added to a wait list. **If space is still available that afternoon, you may be able to invite a guest.**

Visit the [Dade Chapter website](#) to watch recordings of past meetings on our YouTube channel. Click on "Meetings" + "Online Meetings". The May program (the importance of fire to ecosystems) is available now, but look for more in the fall!

FIELD TRIP

FDOT Restoration site on Lower Matecumbe Key – Saturday, July 25, 2020

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

Registration: Contact Steve Woodmansee steve@pronative.com to make a reservation. **Space is limited.**

Be prepared for: Mosquitoes, getting your feet wet, hot sun, rain (bring water), and thorny vegetation (wear closed shoes).

Steve Woodmansee will lead us through this site, which contains Coastal Rock Barren, Coastal Berm, Mangrove, and Interdunal Swale type plant communities. It once was dominated by the invasive non-native Brazilian Pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), but has been successfully restored by the Florida Department of Transportation. Many rare or uncommon plants occur here including Poepigg's Rosemallow (*Hibiscus poepiggii*), Yucatan Flymallow (*Cienfuegosia yucatanensis*), and Sea lavender (*Argusia gnaphalodes*), and many more.

2020 Calendar

July 16 (Thurs.): Miami Beach Botanical Garden after-hours visit *

July 25 (Sat.): Field trip (Lower Matecumbe Key) *

* Please see announcements for registration information. Space is limited due to current restrictions.

Information is also found our online [calendar](#) at dadefnps.org.

There are no DCFNPS activities or newsletter in August. See you in September (virtually and/or in person)!

Inside this newsletter:

- News, announcements, things to do - from the Dade Chapter, FNPS and other organizations
- New book by Roger Hammer
- "Dawn" – An essay by Don Gann, Photos by Marilyn Baggett
- How to sprout coontie seeds – for the lazy and curious gardener (tips from Sandy Koi)
- Highlights of the June field trip to the Deering Estate

Please help ensure that you receive FNPS & Chapter email!

- ▶ Check your email Junk/Spam/Promotions folder(s).
- ▶ Move email **from the addresses listed below** out of the folder(s) and into your inbox.
- ▶ Add these same addresses to your email contacts.

These steps can help ensure that you receive FNPS email (renewal notices, *Sabal Minor* newsletter, activity notices, environmental news, etc.), and Dade Chapter email (*Tillandsia* newsletter, event notices and other special news).

- info@fnps.org (FNPS Administrative Services)
- communications@fnps.org (FNPS Communications Director)
- Dade_Chapter_Florida_Native_Plan@mail.vresp.com (Vertical Response, the email marketing service for the Dade newsletter and event notices - sender name appears as "Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society". It only sends group email, and does not receive email.)
- DadeFNPS@gmail.com (the chapter's general email, rarely used for sending messages to members)

Support the Dade Chapter FNPS by using Amazon Smile!

Register for Amazon Smile and then always start at smile.amazon.com. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases. *Little bits add up!*

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS


- **Welcome new member!** Noreen Hancock
- **Can you suggest presenters for upcoming chapter meetings?** Whether virtual or in-person, our meetings feature local experts about conservation, botany, landscaping and other topics related to native plants or local nature. **Please contact Jeanne Rothchild** at jmrothchild9446@gmail.com.
- **Did you receive your print *Palmetto* magazine in June?** This issue features “Native Passionvines” by naturalist and DCFNPS member **Roger Hammer**, with his cover photo of *Passiflora pallens*. **If your membership was not current at the time the mailing, you can find it [here](#) as a pdf file.**
- **FNPS communications and membership:**
 - **Sabal Minor** (bimonthly newsletter of FNPS). See your email inbox in mid/late July for the **July-August 2020** issue. Past issues will be posted at FNPS.org under Resources.
 - **FNPS Lunch and Learn Webinars - Fridays noon -1 p.m.** Available to FNPS members, so **check your email for the links** to upcoming and past presentations (or the FNPS Members Only Facebook Group). **Like virtual field trips all over the state!**

If you haven't received the above/other FNPS email, please read the info in the box on the front page of this newsletter and take the steps recommended.
Still no email? Contact FNPS (info@fnps.org, 321-271-6702)

If your membership is about to lapse (or has already) please renew/rejoin (or print a form to mail) at fnps.org.
Questions/problems? Please call FNPS – the easy way!

FNPS now sends printed renewal notices (postal mail) only to members without email addresses on record.
If your membership lapses, you will receive one printed notice and monthly email reminders for up to a year.

MORE NEWS and THINGS TO DO

 **Miami Blue Chapter, North American Butterfly Association.** Learn more at <http://miamiblue.org/>

- **July 18 - Shark Valley Count.** Experts and beginners are welcome to participate in this butterfly survey.
- **August 2 – Quarterly meeting (live online presentation).** 1 p.m. (join as early as 12:30). **“Pollinators in Pine Rocklands”** - **Suzanne Koptur, PhD**, Professor of Biological Sciences, FIU

“How birds can save the world: lessons from eBird, the world’s largest citizen science project” - [Archbold Biological Station](#) lecture in June by John W. Fitzpatrick, Director, Cornell Lab of Ornithology. “eBird generates remarkable data about bird populations and individual species across their entire range.” See the video at [Archbold's Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

National Moth week, July 18-26, 2020. On Wednesday, July 22 at 10 a.m. meet the moths that fly at night and might just be hanging out at your backdoor! [Miami-Dade Extension](https://bit.ly/31P9J3K) virtual event. <https://bit.ly/31P9J3K>

Paddling Everglades and Biscayne National Parks by Roger Hammer (May 2020) in paperback and eBook. Details of the very best paddles throughout these parks for every type of paddler. You'll even find photos of some native plants.

DAWN - By Don Gann, Photos by Marilyn Baggett

This morning I awoke to a day that was not day or night, a time when everything was changing. We were at our condo on Sanibel Island, so I walked onto the porch to watch the transformation from night to morning. Looking toward the saltwater I could see the lawn, the area of the beach that has shrubs and grasses, the beach, and the shoreline. The darkness was beginning to fade slightly. Everything I could see or hear was very quiet, nothing moving. Very gradually things began to happen.



The sky began to develop a grey tint, and I could see a little



moisture on some of the foliage as everything nearby began to develop some of its own color. The air started to stir just a little, moving a leaf, then shortly another leaf joined in, the light began to be a little brighter and a single bird sailed along the shoreline in search of its first food of the day. Things started to form their individual shapes and colors. As the sun continued to get brighter other birds began to stir. Overhead a flock of shorebirds flew by in search

of a good place to land. The wind increased just a bit, and the waves started to form just a ripple. The air felt less moist. Over to the left a couple strolled along the beach from the direction of the lighthouse on the east end of the island, enjoying their time alone, for the new day had begun.

Don Gann is a founder of FNPS and DCFNPS, along with his late wife Joyce. He has always been a keen observer of nature in person, and now on these pages. Their daughter Marilyn Baggett is just as keen an observer through a lens. (Photo captions on next page)



Photos in "Dawn" – top to bottom

"Driftwood" (sea grape driftwood; saltgrass, *Distichlis spicata*)

"Kissed by the Morning Dew" (*Portulaca* sp.)

"Stepping Out" (endangered Snowy Plover chick)

HOW TO SPROUT COONTIE SEEDS

(For the lazy and curious gardener)

Tips from Sandy Koi

Editor's note: Our presenter in June, Sandy Koi, discussed pollination of cycads, but in the post-presentation Q&A, she was asked about propagating our native cycad, coontie or Florida arrowroot (Zamia integrifolia). It is popular in landscapes because it is the larval food for Atala butterflies and is very handsome, but it's also very slow to grow from seed. The following are more detailed notes Sandy provided later.

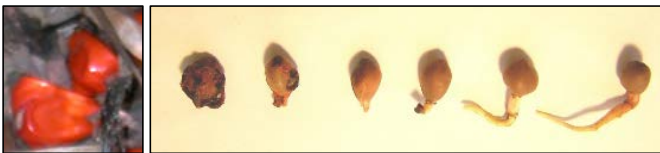
I am an *extremely* lazy gardener and have always trusted Nature to do what she does, and all we humans have to do is get out of the way so she can work!

I do not want to mess with a highly toxic bunch of seeds. So I just throw uncleaned **ripe seeds** (which have fallen off the cone) into a plastic grocery bag with enough **soil** to cover the seeds by a few inches, then add a bunch of the **local invertebrates**.

Compost piles or under leaf litter are super sources for the invertebrates. (Please keep leaf litter under the trees where it belongs...not in trash bags! So many animals live there, from Red-Banded Hairstreak butterfly larvae to firefly larvae.)

Place the bag in a shady area, **loosely tied open to preserve the moisture content, but also so things can decide for themselves where they want to be** (allow the invertebrates free movement). Every few weeks or so, check to see that the soil is still moist and the crawly things are happily crawling about. Add soil if you feel that would help the insects be happier. You want to make a temporary home for the sowbugs, earwigs, various worms, tiny beetles, millipedes, centipedes and ants, making a little microcosm ... you know, for the foundational species on the planet that few realize the importance of.

Then in about a YEAR, you're likely to see some sprouts. Reminiscent of watching paint dry?



Or just throw seeds around the wild areas of your garden and let them fend for themselves, often setting root and sprouting just fine, but again, months to a year later. You can transplant the little fingerlings, which are highly resilient.

I suggest wearing gloves and washing hands well after handling the toxic seeds. The ripe seeds and even wounded leaves will stain your clothes, by the way!

Also see "**Never Throw Away a Cycad**" by Tom Broome from the Cycad Society newsletter.

<http://www.cycad.org/newsletter/newsletter.htm>

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

Chapter information: DadeFNPS@gmail.com, 305-985-3677

DCFNPS website & social media: www.DadeFNPS.org/

Mail: Dade Chapter FNPS, 6619 S. Dixie Hwy, #181, Miami FL 33143-7919

Board members (2019-2020):

President: Brian Diaz

Vice-President: Steve Woodmansee

Secretary: Gita Ramsay

Treasurer: Susan Walcutt

At Large: Joey Basna, Janeen Feiger, Amy Leonard, Sanna O'Sullivan, Jeanne Rothchild, Jennifer Stine

FNPS Council of Chapters representative: Kurt Birchenough

Newsletter editor: Patty Phares

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

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 office: info@fnps.org, 321-271-6702

FNPS website, blog, social media: <http://www.fnps.org>

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JUNE FIELD TRIP – Deering Estate at Cutler

Photos by Joe Montes de Oca



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. Thanks to Dallas Hazelton (Miami-Dade Parks) for a great walk!