



Miami Blue Chapter, NABA January 2014 E-news

Above: A Ceraunus Blue, shown here, is occasionally mistaken for a Miami Blue. Blues often team up with ants; come to the quarterly meeting to learn more. Photo courtesy of Becky Smith.

Read on to find out more about these coming events:

- Field Trip to Possum Trot
Saturday, February 1, 2014
- Miami Blue quarterly meeting
Sunday, February 2
- Native Plant Day
Saturday, March 22
- Butterfly Festival
Saturday-Sunday, April 21-22



The gang at the January field trip to FIU. Photo courtesy of Linda Evans.

Possum Trot Field Trip Saturday, February 1, 10-11:30 am

14955 SW 214 Street
in the Redlands

Possum Trot (the place, not the animal) is a private, 30-acre tropical grove in South Miami-Dade County. Possum Trot practices organic agriculture, and has kept a sizable part of the property as a hardwood hammock. This field trip will take us to the site before it is restored, and will be led by an FIU representative..

Florida International University proposes to restore habitats for several endangered butterflies in South Miami-Dade County, such as Possum Trot. The Miami Blue Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association plans to provide guidance and advice during the project. Invasive weeds will be removed from 14 acres, and almost 3,000 shrubs and trees on which butterflies thrive will be planted. The project will begin in June 2014, and will provide opportunities for volunteers from the community to participate in its implementation. The project will include an educational component to provide awareness and information to the public about natural forest hammocks, vulnerable species, native plants, and butterfly conservation in South Florida.



Virginia Opossum,
by John James Audubon.
Photo courtesy of
Portsmouth Art & Cultural Center.



An Ant's View
Photo by, and courtesy of,
Jorge Zamanillo.
Learn about ants and butterflies at the
quarterly meeting.

Miami Blue Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, February 2, 1-3 pm Castellow Hammock

22301 SW 162 Avenue
In the Redlands

Jaeson Clayborn will speak on "Ants: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly." He will focus on ants and their relationships with butterflies. Jaeson is a PhD candidate at the Department of Biology, Florida International University, and is working with Dr. Suzanne Koptur..

Dr. Mike Maunder, FIU, will be on hand to explain a joint habitat restoration plan for Possum Trot.

During the business part of the meeting, **we will elect officers for the coming year.** (Apologies for jumping the gun in the last e-news. We elect officers in February, not November) The following slate of officers have been nominated:

President - Linda Evans
Vice-President, Miami-Dade - Kitty Suarez
Vice-President, Monroe County - Shelby Heeter
Secretary - Patty Phares
Treasurer - Ron Nuehring

Come early and stay late, to visit with fellow butterflyers, nibble on the refreshments, and search for butterflies, ants and hummingbirds in the butterfly garden.

The public is welcome.

The 19th Annual Native Plant Day Saturday, March 22 9 am - 4 pm

Enchanted Forest Elaine Gordon Park
1725 NE 135 Street, North Miami

Sponsored by the Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society
and the City of North Miami Parks

Come for the programs, nature walks, educational displays, activities



An Atala at Fairchild.

See the exhibit, "Butterflies of Subtropical South Florida"



Michelle Wisniewski's Ceraunus Blue male is one of several of her images included in the "Butterflies of Subtropical South Florida."

The photo exhibit, "Butterflies of Subtropical South Florida," presents fine quality images, professionally displayed, of butterflies known to occur in southernmost Florida. It also includes interpretive materials about butterflies. The South Florida National Parks Trust provided initial grant support for this exhibit. [Learn more.](#)

Long Key Nature Center

3501 Southwest 130th Avenue
Davie, FL 33330, (954) 357-8797
www.broward.org/PARKS/LONGKEYNATURALAREA

If you have good, sharp images of the Miami Blue or Nickerbean (Acacia) Blue in your photo files, consider sending them to us for our masthead.

for all ages, native plant vendors, books and other merchandise, and raffles! A schedule will be available in March at <http://dade.fnpschapters.org>. It's free, good for the whole family, and easy to reach via I-95.

Enchanted Forest Elaine Gordon Park is a 22-acre oasis on North Miami's Arch Creek. Learn more at <http://www.northmiamifl.gov>.

Miami Blue will have a table as usual, and we need your help to staff it. Take a turn at the table and then enjoy the activities and shop for native butterfly plants.

If you might have caterpillars, eggs or chrysalises (for species with native plant larval hosts) to use in the display, please contact Patty Phares (pphares@mindspring.com, 305-255-6404).

Butterfly Festival Saturday-Sunday, April 12-13

Plans are underway for our annual Butterfly Days, with coastal butterflies as the center of attention.

Jaret Daniels, the keynote speaker, will talk Saturday on "Coastal Butterflies and Their Habitats: A Virtual Tour" and Sunday on "Butterfly Conservation Initiatives: Efforts to Help Protect our Charismatic Microfauna." Other speakers will include Roger Hammer. "Stay tuned" for more details as they develop, by checking the Miami Blue and Fairchild web sites.

NABA Biennial Meeting Thursday, June 12 - Sunday, June 15

Chattanooga, Tennessee

NABA's national meeting is loaded with field trips, lectures, and butterfly watchers. Details will be posted in a few months at <http://naba.org/meeting.html>.

Butterfly Walks at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden by

Don't forget: when you shop at Amazon, first go our web, www.MiamiBlue.org, and click on Amazon at the bottom of our home page. We make a little money, thanks to your shopping. ...

Apologies: Due to periodic problems with our PO Box (# 141667, Coral Gables FL 33114) we recommend that renewals and new memberships be sent directly to **NABA, 4 Delaware Road, Morristown, New Jersey, 07960.**

JOIN NABA and the Miami Blue Chapter; membership information is at: www.miamiblue.org.

Check the full year calendar for the chapter at: www.miamiblue.org.

Check us out on Facebook and have your say:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Northern-American-Butterfly-Assn-MIAMI-CHAPTER/325985851002>

Don't forget to save your unwanted copies of *American Butterflies* and the *Butterfly Gardener*; we have many uses for extra copies.

Contact us at miamiblue@bellsouth.net

our MBC-NABA Chapter members

Saturdays and Sundays, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Meet at the Visitor's Center and join an expert for a guided Butterfly and Plant Walk through beautiful Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. Learn about the butterflies of South Florida and the plants on which they depend. Get to know the one acre Lisa D. Anness Butterfly Garden for your personal butterfly garden inspiration. The Garden is located at: 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables Florida, 305 667-1651; www.fairchildgarden.org. Walks are free after garden admission.
