



## MIAMI BLUE CHAPTER, NABA FEBRUARY 2017 E-NEWS

Above: Ceranus Blue at Castellow Hammock. Courtesy of Becky Smith

### **GARDEN TOUR**

Sunday, January 29, 2017  
11 am – 1 pm  
14740 SW 155th Terrace

Bill Shores' unusual yard attracts birds and butterflies with mostly natives plants. Right now he is seeing zebras, gulf frits, pipevine swallowtails, cassius blues, and atalas. Hairstreaks are also possible.

This 1/2 acre home was purchased after Hurricane Andrew devastated the area near Country Walk. The yard now includes over 20 years of growing trees, shrubs, orchids, and wildflowers native to South Florida and the Keys. While the outer lot line is planted with a living fence line of mostly native shrubs and trees, the inside area includes native and non-native plants, smaller rare native bird and butterfly attracting trees, and various native shrubs



### **Upcoming Events**

**1/29**

Garden tour

**2/5**

Quarterly chapter meeting and election of officers

**3/5**

Pot luck picnic

**3/7**

Big Pine Key butterfly walk

Above:

Ruddy Daggerwing at

and wildflowers. Much of their neighborhood contains St. Augustine grass yards; however, some of Bill's immediate neighbors have also started replacing grass with native trees and shrubs.

Directions: Take the FL Turnpike to SW 152nd Street (Coral Reef Drive). Go west on Coral Reef for approximately three miles. One block past the 147th Avenue light, turn left onto 147th Ct. Turn right at the second street, which is 155th Terrace. It's the third house (light green with white trim) on your left - inside the trees and shrubs.

Parking: Park in the driveway, along the front yard along the street or in the grass of the house next door (brown wood siding house). Car pool if you can, to relieve congestion.

## **QUARTERLY CHAPTER MEETING**

Sunday, February 5

1 pm

Castellow Hammock

Business: election of officers

Program: Zoo Miami Imperiled Butterfly Programs

Speaker: Frank Ridgley, Zoo Miami Conservation and Reserch Department

Dr. Frank Ridgley's childhood received his B.S. in Animal Science from Purdue University and then continued on there to earn his D.V.M. in 2001. In 2007, Dr. Ridgley accepted a position at Zoo Miami as an Associate Veterinarian in the animal clinic. In 2011, Dr. Ridgley shifted his focus to field conservation and research efforts and became the Director of Conservation and Research at Zoo Miami. He is currently graduate faculty at Florida International University, the Chair of the Zoo Miami Animal Care and Use Committee, the Chair of the Zoo Miami Conservation Committee, on the Steering Committee of the Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, on the Steering Committee of the Florida Imperiled Butterfly Working Group, on the Conservation Committee of the Florida Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and a member of

the Florida Bonneted Bat Working Group.

## **POT LUCK PICNIC**

Virginia Key Beach Park - orange pavilion  
March 5, 3 - 6 pm

Sponsored by:

TREEmendous Miami

Dade Chapter Florida Native Plant Society

Miami Blue Chapter, North American Butterfly  
Association

Tropical Audubon Society

Bring family, nature-loving friends and your favorite pot-luck dish! We will once again share our love of nature and tasty food after a 2-year hiatus from what was formerly a holiday picnic in December.

This year's host, **TREEmendous Miami**, has planted over 11,000 trees and shrubs to reestablish a maritime hammock at the park! This area is now habitat for local wildlife, and as part of the Atlantic Flyway, it provides food and shelter for migratory birds. TREEmendous Miami is also working to remove invasive exotic plants to make the entire park a pristine, native habitat.

**3 pm: Maritime hammock tour led by Gary Hunt**, TREEmendous Miami's Vice President of Tree Planting and the leader of their work on Virginia Key. Bring binoculars to better see the wildlife - maybe even crocodiles! Long pants and closed shoes are recommended (you can change to beach wear afterwards, if desired).

**4:30 pm: Potluck picnic.** Enjoy tasty dishes, good company, impromptu recreation (bring Frisbees, footballs, etc.) or the wading beach. See <http://virginiakeybeachpark.net/parkinfo/> for information about park facilities. **Please RSVP and bring a main dish, side dish or dessert to share.** TREEmendous Miami will provide drinks and items from the grill. If you come earlier for the hammock tour, please plan to keep your dish cool or warm as needed.

(Note: Cash donations are also possible. Please RSVP and bring your donation to the picnic.)

**Driving directions:**

\* Take the Rickenbacker Causeway (toll by Sunpass or Toll-by-Plate) to the last traffic light before the bridge to Key Biscayne. U.M.'s Rosenstiel School will be on the right. Turn left.

\* Tell the entrance booth attendant you are there for the TREEmendous Miami event (don't pay entrance fee).

\* Drive along the left side of the parking lot to the pink park office building. Bear left.

\* The road turns to gravel and curves clockwise along the small railroad track and around the mangrove fringed lake. Continue to the large cleared area where the orange pavilion can be clearly seen near the beach. Park north of the pavilion.

**Questions & RSVP:** Patty Phares, [305-255-6404](tel:305-255-6404), [pharespl@gmail.com](mailto:pharespl@gmail.com)

*Oops ... it's [March 5](#) and you didn't RSVP? Come anyway – you shouldn't miss the fun!*

**BUTTERFLY WALKS IN THE KEYS**

Big Pine Key  
March 7, 1:30 pm  
An event during  
The Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges Outdoor  
Fest  
March 11-18

Leigh Williams will lead a short butterfly walk (open to general public) on Big Pine Key on that Friday, March 17 at 1:30.

Go to the Fest's website for a schedule of events in both upper and lower keys at [favorfloridakeys.org/outdoorfest](http://favorfloridakeys.org/outdoorfest), or on their Facebook page Florida Keys NWR Outdoor Fest

The lower keys NABA group schedules a butterfly walk on the first Saturday each month - usually to sites around Key West. We meet at 10:00 or 10:30

at Sonny McCoy Indigenous Park on White  
Street. Anyone can join in!

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