



MIAMI BLUE CHAPTER, NABA MARCH 2017 E-NEWS

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

POT LUCK PICNIC THIS WEEKEND

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



Upcoming Events

3/5

Pot luck picnic

3/7

Big Pine Key butterfly walk

3/25

Native Plant Day

Above:

Ruddy Daggerwing at
Castellow Hammock

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

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, 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!

NATIVE PLANT DAY

Saturday, March 25

9 am - 4 pm

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

Miami Blue needs volunteers to set up and man its table. To volunteer, contact Linda at lmemia@aol.com.

To learn more about this delightful event, go to <http://www.dade.fnpschapters.org>.