

# 1992 TWELFTH ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Twelfth Annual Florida Native Plant Society Conference in St. Petersburg Beach opened its workshop sessions with a slide presentation by James Valentine, whose photographs of Florida are striking.

His opening comments began with quotes from a news headline in the *Tallahassee Democrat*: "Polluters help pay for Earth Day celebration," and an advertisement for Ortho products: "Beware of the earth. It's a dangerous place!"

Valentine said that problems exist in the philosophy of big companies. New directions are needed for industry. "I'm appalled at our looking to Big Brother for everything. We need to look in our hearts."

"The sun is not an 'alternative' energy source," he said. "There is enough solar energy in Florida to power every car."



Jim Valentine, photographer

Valentine emphasized that "Light is life." The beauty of light underscored his photographs—misty early morning light, bright noonday light, muted purple evening light, moonlight, highlights and shadows.

In his photographs, water was also thematic—clouds, oceans, springs, rivers, lakes, dew, mist.

Valentine's slide show was accompanied by tapes of songs and music by Dale and Linda Crider. The Crider's songs of Florida's environment are touchingly beautiful: "It's Raining", "Under the Southern Bald Eagle", "Solar in Leaves", "Loxahatchee", "Wild and Free"—a fitting accompaniment to Jim Valentine's photographs.



Hamburgers and hotdogs, charcoal grilled by the beach, were enjoyed by conferees. Paul Cummings (with patches all over his jacket) waits for his hamburger, while Travetta Wunderlin waits in line.

**"The swamp is a natural systems machine,  
Receiving the runoff after the rain,  
Filtering minerals for wilderness gain,  
Recycling the water after it's clean."**

•Dale Crider

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Field trippers at Brooker Creek Preserve.

**"Solar in leaves, solar in  
branches,  
solar in twigs, solar enhances  
the chances of life."**

• Dale Crider



Sam Mickler's table of plant books was always surrounded by people browsing and buying. That's Sam in the hat.

# SPRING CONFERENCE— AND QUOTES



The plant raffle is always noisy and fun. Greg Howe, Pinellas Chapter, holds the basket of tickets, and Ann Williams, Paynes Prairie Chapter, holds her winning tickets and plant.



Children from Bear Creek Elementary School, St. Petersburg, read their charming compositions about their nature trail.

## QUOTABLE COMMENTS

"We're in this business because we enjoy the beauty and variety of the natural world. We don't want to live in a world of concrete and petunias."

Jora Young

"Natural systems exist because of certain stresses put upon them. Water is a stress. Light is a stress. Remove a stress, let in weeds."

Bill Bissett

"When changing the landscape, don't remove the grass. Kill it with a plastic cover or Roundup and leave it there. The dead grass provides a weed barrier, prevents erosion, cools the soil, retains water."

Bill Bissett

"You don't think of *opuntia* cactus as a ground cover, but it can be. Hard to weed, though."

David Drylie

"There's an incredible amount of energy generated at these FNPS conferences!"

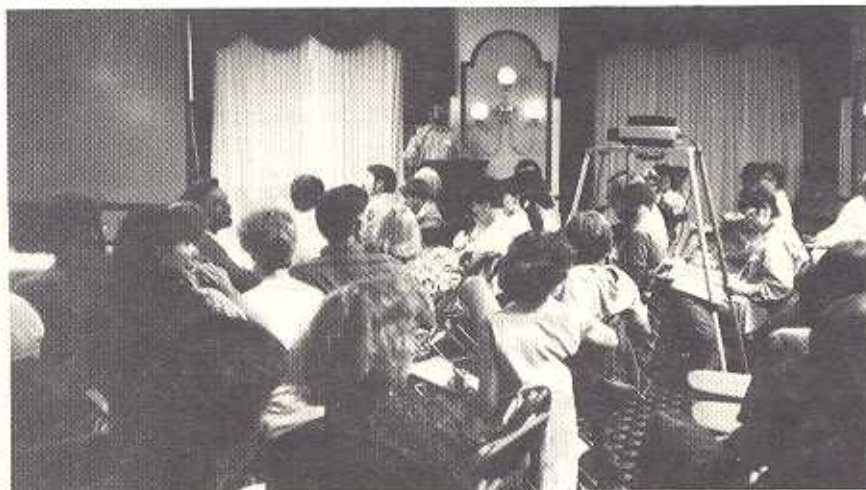
Dick Workman

"What is a weed? Is it a plant out of place? Is it a plant that's more competitive than the ones we want to grow? I define a weed as an organism that is structurally and physiologically adapted to take advantage of short-term resource abundances rather than periodic or long-term stresses."

Steve Riefler

"If children can see nature, even in a small place, throughout all the seasons, they change."

Virginia McKinley



Workshop sessions were filled with people eager to learn more about native plants.



Photos by Peggy Lantz

The Volleyball Chapter Challenge Tournament at the conference was entered by four teams: Coccoloba, Palm Beach, a combined team made up of Tarflower, Pinellas, and Suncoast, and a combined team of Ixia and Pinellas. Individuals and teams gained skills and improved teamwork as the games went on. Some good plays were made. After elimination games left Palm Beach Chapter and the Tarflower/Pinellas/Suncoast Chapter in the playoff, T/P/S beat Palm Beach 15-13 for first place!