

Palmettos and Plumes

Native Plant Floral Arrangements for Spring Conference

by Bill Bissett

When you walk through a field or wood, does a dislodged, contorted root or a lichen-covered, fallen branch, or the plume of an andropogon or the soft buttons of eriocalon catch your eye? Do they make you think you could make the perfect natural, native arrangement if you just had the patience and vision to combine the perfect ensemble of materials with just the right amount of flair and color and asymmetry?

If you were just June Munson!

June Munson's work will be on display at this year's FNPS Spring Conference at Grenelefe. Heartland Chapter is pleased to announce that over fifty of her individual and unique creations will be used as

table centerpieces, podium arrangements, and focal pieces.

June combines her expert knowledge of processing natural materials — drying, spraying, glycerine treatments, wiring, gluing, etc. — with her design talent to produce some truly spectacular pieces. The biggest is six feet tall — an assortment of tall grasses shooting out of a tall Ozark pot that June has repainted in marbled soft blues, beige, and lavenders. Among the grasses are tall sprigs of sandhill buckwheat, beargrass seed pods and leaves, penstemon and blazing star seed spikes, and blue climbing asters. June has preserved the color of these delicate plant parts by painstakingly

drying them in zero light and optimum moisture levels. June calls this piece, "Blue in Blue".

Two matched arrangements, approximately two feet tall, are grasses with palmetto fronds, cattail seed heads, rush seed heads, and dog-fennel blooms in wonderful sprays of contrasting form. These are in clay pots covered with stiffened burlap.

One of the most interesting works is a study in palmetto. Grouped in an octagonal Chinese reed basket are palmetto fronds that have been bleached, curled, shredded, glycerined, and singed. As the focal point in this piece, June has used palmetto fronds woven into fleur-de-lis and pine cone shapes by Abbey Wetzel. Several of Abbey's creations are used in June's arrangements. (Abbey and Bob Wetzel are site-coordinators for the Conference, in charge of spacial arrangements at Grenelefe.)

You will not only be able to admire the work of June Munson at the Conference, you may also be able to own one of them. Heartland Chapter will conduct a silent auction (written bid) all day Saturday, with the winning bid for each item announced at the end of the day. Part of the proceeds will go to June, part to FNPS, and part to a project planned by Heartland Chapter.

In addition to June's works, the Conference will also feature "The Giant Florida Scrub Flea" and "The I've-Seen-It-Through-the-Grape-Vine Florida Panther" by Charlie Cook. Charlie, besides being a native plant enthusiast and Conference speaker, is quite an artist.



Native Plant Nursery Internship

- **May-September 1993 position.**
- **Assist in all areas of a non-profit native plant nursery operation.**
- **Horticulture, Botany, or related field student preferred**
- **Learn about native plants communities and restoration.**
- **On-site housing and stipend provided.**
- **Send resume and two references to: Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, Native Plant Nursery, P.O. Box 839, Sanibel, FL 33957. (813) 472-1932.**
- **Closing Date: April 1, 1993.**



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