and learn to use the community names correctly. Certainly, regional and disciplinary differences in the customary language will make some names seem awkward at first — and discerning field naturalists will immediately visualize a multitude of transitions and exceptions and be a bit bothered at the artificiality of cramming nature into such neat mental constructs. But, the advantages of having standard names and type localities for communities, as we do for species, should more than compensate for this discomfort. To make the sort of distinction between casual and precise usage we do when writing “magnolia” vs. “Magnolia grandiflora”, FNAl suggests capitalizing community names only when they are used strictly according to FNAl definitions and in reference to a site where the community type has been confirmed by a reliable field survey.

To make it easier to understand, The Palmetto will present a series of articles describing groups of related natural communities and the associated plant communities. Scrub, Sandhill, and Xeric Hammock will be discussed in the next issue.

Glossary
- hydroperiods: the cycling of the wet periods
- physiographic: pertaining to physical geography
- hydrological: concerning the occurrence and circulation of the waters of the earth and atmosphere
- substrates: the solid material upon which an organism lives or is attached
- fire regimes: the frequency of occurrence of fire pertaining to or growing on the land, not in water nor in air

A Native Garden

Joyce Gann, grower, and Joe Cascio, designer, collaborated last April on a large show garden built of natives, at the 31st Annual Metropolitan Miami Flower Show, the southeast's largest juried flower show. It was a minor triumph.

Joyce is convinced that the garden they did was unique to South Florida, and would herald a whole new trend in design and the use of native plant materials.

Joe said it was really no different than any other residential garden he had done, except for the plants, of course, most of which he had never seen before and knew nothing about.

Joyce explained to Joe that since people began settling in South Florida, the only plants available from nurseries have been exotics. In recent years, since native plants have been propagated, their major use has been to reconstruct natural associations.

But Joe came along, in his ignorance of the local biomes, and used the plants according to basic design principles laid down by Brown, Repton and Kemp, Hubbard and Kimball, and others whose gardens and books are studied on the path to professionalism.

Joyce is sure that the resulting garden was important.