cuttings, spider lily seeds, and oxeye daisies.

A group of interested members have volunteered on a fairly regular basis to work at Bahia Honda State Park planting natives under the direction of the park ranger.

Plans are under way to extend our boundaries and collect marine sea-weeds and grasses for a craft project.

Dedication of the
George Avery Memorial

The Botanical Society, joined by a group from the Dade County Native Plant Society, met at 12:00 noon on Sunday, March 25, at the Big Pine Key Chamber of Commerce to dedicate a memorial planting to George Avery, the well-known botanist and master scholar of native plants of the Florida Keys. The plaque of native mahogany was carved by Bill Ford.

An Opuntia spinosissima was planted. It is an endangered prickly pear cactus originally found on Big Pine Key and Little Torch Key. It was endangered and George Avery rescued seven plants from a clearing project on Little Torch. On one of his last visits here, he brought a leaf to Stan Becker. One of the cactus plants came from that leaf of three years ago. In addition, a satinwood, Zanthoxylum flavium; a red stopper, Eugenia rhomba; and a jumping cactus, Opuntia tricantha, were planted.

Kathrine Woolf

MAGNOLIA

The Magnolia Chapter is just a year old but is growing rapidly. We now have a seven-member Board of Directors (Sydney Brinson, Chair; Wilson Baker, Peggy Carr, Suzanne Cooper, Pat Elliott, Melanie Darst, and Donna Legare) who provide backgrounds and/or advanced degrees in botany, landscaping design, nursery production, wildlife management and art.

One of our new members, Ila Hernandez, moved to Tallahassee from Atlanta where she foraged along the countryside with the Incredible Edibles. Ila is now sharing her knowledge with our chapter, leading monthly field trips to collect edible wild plants.

We are grateful to Red Gidden, Refuge Biologist, and Joe White, Refuge Manager at the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, for granting permission to relocate aquatic plants of several species from well-populated sites for transplanting at the San Luis City Park pond site.

Phase I of this project was completed on July 7.

Pat Elliott was recently selected to prepare a set of water color illustrations for DOT to portray segments of natural areas along the old St. Marks Rail Corridor from Tallahassee to the St. Marks River. This stretch of track, like several throughout the state, has been abandoned by Seaboard Railroad and purchased by the state to be converted into a “linear transportation park.” The dedication ceremony was held on July 13 at the DOT Auditorium in Tallahassee with Linda Crider, one of the instigators of the project, many dignitaries, and representatives of community organizations present to applaud Pat’s renderings and to applaud the State’s action in acquiring this land.

Al Tompkins, Manager of the DOT Rail Planning Program, has enthusiastically welcomed input from our FNPS chapter and our plan to revegetate disturbed areas along the line with native flora and to provide management information to stimulate native wildflowers. The “park” will be utilized by bicyclists, hikers, runners and horsemen.

Wilson Baker is reviewing slides of native plants and communities which various people have taken to prepare an extensive slide file of native flora of north Florida. Peggy Carr is coordinating the design of a native botanical garden with Jim Stevenson of DNR. The garden will complement existing natural and horticultural species at Maclay Gardens State Park.

Sydney Brinson is coordinating Arbor Day ‘85 activities with Arbor Green president, Dave Krause, and DOT landscape architect, Gary Henry. An exciting transformation of the U.S. 27 approach to the Capitol is planned. Native flora will be used almost exclusively in this impressive community project.

Mary Davis, one of North Florida’s FNPS directors, is preparing to describe the native flora along some of our hiking trails.

Our next formal gathering will be an “eat & meet” covered dish dinner (wild edible dishes are encouraged) on Thursday, September 20, 7:00 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 2810 N. Meridian, Tallahassee. We will select a native species to be used as the design for our 1985 T-shirts.

Steve Farnsworth

Exotic Control Program

Brazilian pepper and melaleuca have been ecological disasters in south and central Florida and are a major threat to many native plant communities.

The FNPS Board of Directors, at its July meeting, decided to support an effort to persuade the U.S. Department of Agriculture to begin research on biological control of melaleuca and Brazilian pepper. Biological control is the use of one organism to suppress population levels of the target organism. If a successful control agent can be found, it would be a cheap and effective way to bring these two pests to heel.

If you want to help in this effort, write to: Ernest L. Corley, Jr., Director, South Atlantic Area, Russell Research Center, P.O. Box 5677, Athens, GA 30613; or to Dr. Warren Shaw, National Research Program Leader, USDA/ARS BARC - West N. 8ldg., Beltsville, MA 20705.

USDA bases its decisions on research projects largely on economic losses caused by the pest species. The most useful letters are those with financial figures such as: “My company spends $xxx a year to remove Brazilian peppers,” or “An allergic reaction to melaleuca blooms caused me (or someone you know) to be hospitalized for five days at a cost of $xxx,” etc.

Steve Farnsworth

MEMBERSHIP LIST

The Board Members of FNPS have decided that the membership list for the Society will be traded with other non-profit groups having similar objectives. If you do not wish your name included in any trade, please notify FNPS, 1203 Orange Ave., Winter Park 32789, to delete your name. A postcard that says: “I do not wish to have my name given to any other organization,” with your signature and address and zip code, will do the job.

SEEDS AND LISTS

Lists and seed collections of roadside herbaceous plants are wanted by Gary Henry of the Dept. of Transportation in Tallahassee for roadside plantings. Send information about your lists or your seeds to David Drylie, 8100 E. Curry Ford Rd., Orlando 32807, or call 305/282-1469. David will send it on.