Design with Natives
1999 Landscape Award Winners
Report by Dorie Faulkner and Rob Hopper, 1999 Committee Co-Chairs

The Design with Natives Awards Committee (Co-chairs Dorie Faulkner and Rob Hopper, Nadja Chamberlain, Joanne Davis, Ray Miller, and Tammera Race) would like thank everyone who entered their design in the 1999 awards program. This year we had many truly inspiring projects, and we appreciate the extensive efforts and vision of everyone who helped create these beautiful landscapes. We also look forward to next year’s entries and our chance to showcase even more of the exciting projects happening around our state. Remember, it’s never too early to think about entering! (Watch for next year’s application in the winter issue of The Palmetto.)

The following awards were recognized at the 1999 FNPS Conference in Palm Coast, Florida.

Non-professional Residential Design, 1st Place: Eisenbarth Residence
The Harold and Patti Eisenbarth landscape was completed in the fall of 1998, but according to Mr. Eisenbarth it will never really be finished. The 80’ x 140’ residential lot uses no irrigation or fertilizer, and the Eisenbarths made clever use of existing site conditions to create both a diverse and beautiful landscape. The judges were impressed with the diversity of species assembled, and many of the plants were rescued from sites scheduled for development.

Non-professional Residential Design, 2nd Place: Miller Residence
The Ray and Janice Miller residence is next to one of Palm Beach County’s designated natural areas, and the homeowners have tried to incorporate as many of the local plant species as possible into their own yard. Unfortunately, this
incurred the wrath of a neighbor who started a personal campaign to bring the landscape up to more “acceptable standards”. Fortunately for everyone, a solution was reached and the design is now over two years old and continues to mature. It has been certified by the National Wildlife Federation – Backyard Wildlife Habitat, Florida Wildlife Habitat Program, and the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program.

**Professional Residential Design, 1st Place, The Sarah Abel Residence, The Natives**

The initial landscape at the Abel residence was filled with exotics and sod. It now hosts diverse collection of native plants in their appropriate communities, all installed by the owner with a little help from the family. Planting efforts even included the direct seeding of wiregrass and forbs in the understory. According to one judge. “The transformation from suburbia to habitat is marked and impressive!” The landscape is currently enjoyed by both the owner and all the local wildlife.

**Ecosystem Mitigation & Restoration, 1st Place: The Turnpike District, Pine Rocklands Restoration**

In the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew, the Turnpike District discovered two remnant fragments of imperiled pine rocklands along its roadways. The staff’s early challenges included persuading engineers to move an entire exit ramp and toll plaza to preserve the sites. The next formidable hurdle was to perform a proscribed burn in the midst of a residential neighborhood. An interagency agreement now keeps the rocklands pest free and available for research studies.

**Ecosystem Mitigation & Restoration, 2nd Place: C&N Environmental Consultants, Riverwalk**

The Riverwalk project included preservation of existing wetlands, removal of all exotics, restoration of site hydrology, and the replanting of native wetland species within a gated residential community. The designers used salvaged wetland soils as a seed bank with excellent results.
The project has also won the enthusiastic support of the local Home Owner's Association, who are very excited about their enhanced wetlands and sponsor interpretive wetland walks for the community.

**ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION & MITIGATION, 3RD PLACE: C&N ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS, SANCTUARY COVE**

The Sanctuary Cove project involved the preservation and enhancement of mangrove habitat within a residential community. All exotic species were removed, and the plant community's diversity enhanced through supplemental planting of native species. Excavation has also re-established tidal flushing to this formerly stagnant salt water system, and many new animal species are visiting and inhabiting the site.

**TRANSPORTATION, 1ST PLACE: KILDAY & ASSOCIATES, THE TOWN OF HYPOLUXO**

**DIXIE HIGHWAY STREETSCAPE**

The Dixie highway streetscape was inspired by Hypoluxo's 100% native town hall landscape, also a first place winner in last year's landscape awards. Kilday and Associates has successfully continued this theme along the town's main thoroughfare. Planting consists of coastal maritime forest and pine flatwoods species. (The judges can't wait for next year's entry!)

**TRANSPORTATION, 2ND PLACE: FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, DISTRICT #1, LAKELAND NORTH-SOUTH ROUTE**

The Lakeland North-South Route design consists of 10 separate wetlands, totaling 12 acres. Plantings have really taken off since installation, and the judges were impressed with their incredible rate of growth. The wetlands now serve as both an effective landscape buffer for humans while providing habitat for numerous wetland species.
INSTITUTIONAL, FIRST PLACE: RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT, THE HERITAGE NATURE CONSERVANCY

The Heritage Nature conservancy is an 11-acre track in urban Ocala. Exotics covered over 60% of the site, and were removed with the help of both volunteers and the Ocala Recreation and Parks staff. Though the native seed bank is regenerating, this process is being augmented through appropriate planting in each community. Originally an old homestead, the site is now being managed as a low impact environmental awareness center.

INSTITUTIONAL, 2ND PLACE: THE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION OF PALM BEACH, PAN’S GARDEN

Pan’s Garden serves as a native plant oasis in Palm Beach, and has been redeveloped in recent years in order to expand its role as a botanic garden. In just six tenths of an acre, species counts have risen from approximately one hundred to over three hundred through garden renovation and plant rescue work. The garden also practices community outreach. Among other efforts, the garden sponsors a program that educates the county’s school children about the traditional human uses of Florida’s plants.

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PROFESSIONALLY DESIGNED LANDSCAPE, 1ST PLACE: BROWN & CREBBIN DESIGN STUDIO, MARINERS HOSPITAL

During the earliest stages of site development, the landscape architect worked to preserve as much native vegetation as possible on site. The main entry road was moved to preserve the largest short leaf fig as an entry feature, and a total of over 110 trees were transplanted back onto the site after construction. Seedlings were rescued by a local nursery, and uncommon species were planted in the landscape to serve as a seed source in the future. The site is now frequented by joggers and walkers, is equipped with educational signage, and serves as an inspiring example of preserving, conserving, and reestablishing native vegetation in a setting open to the entire community.

PROFESSIONALLY DESIGNED LANDSCAPE, 2ND PLACE: EDSA, WEST LAKE PARK

West lake Park is a 1,400-acre nature center featuring extensive mangrove forests. Care was taken to site the park's nature center in areas dominated by exotics to minimize impacts to native plant communities. The park now serves a major role in the education of local residents of all ages in the importance of environmental preservation.

NOTE: Start planning now for the 2000 Design with Natives Landscape Awards Program. You'll need "before and after" slides of your project, as well as a written description. Watch for a complete application form in the next issue of The Palmetto.

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Our photo is Pan’s Garden, FNPS Second Place Institutional Category 1999 Landscape Award Winner. Nearly 300 species of native plants in little more than half an acre—an oasis created in the middle of busy Palm Beach.