CONFERECE THEME

Gardening in Harmony with Nature

May 4-7, 1999, Palm Coast, Florida

This year’s conference was beautifully kicked-off with keynote speeches by Sara Stein, author (see article on page 5), Bret Rappaport, president of Wild Ones Ltd., and George Gann, President of the Institute for Regional Conservation. Two days of field trips plus two days of concurrent sessions covered topics such as gardening, home landscaping and fire, environmental education, fire ecology and land management, plant-insect relationships, and a host of scientific papers. This year’s conference was organized by the FNPS Executive Committee, under the leadership of Katherine Pordeli and Kim Zarillo, Conference Co-Chairs.

Lots of native plants were sold and raffled at the conference.

1999 Palmetto Awards

Claudia Larsen – Green Palmetto Award for Service. Claudia is a founding member of the Paynes Prairie Chapter formed in 1986, and has served in a leading role ever since. She organizes plant rescues, has helped the Florida Dept. of Transportation create a reasonable policy for native wildflowers on roadsides, and has worked with others to create native plant demonstration sites. Claudia was the backbone of the 1996 conference in Gainesville and currently does all the secretarial work for the chapter. Claudia works full time for the Univ. of Florida Environmental Horticulture Department and runs her own native plant nursery, Micanopy Wildflowers.

Eric S. Menges – Green Palmetto Award for Science. Eric Menges is a research scientist in the area of plant ecology and conservation at Archbold Biological Station. He has established long-term studies on most of the Lake Wales ridge endemic plants and regularly reports his findings in peer-reviewed journals. Eric was the first person to apply population viability analyses to rare plants. He has recently completed a study of the genetics and ecology of the Lake Wales Ridge endemic plants to determine the most favorable preserve design to maintain these species.

Coccoloba Chapter – Green Palmetto Chapter Award. In 1996, the Coccoloba Chapter decided to undertake a native habitat project at Lee County’s...
Manatee Park, and allocated most of three years of fundraising to creating and restoring the park's native plant communities. Within two years the area has become an environmental education site, thanks to the enthusiasm, dedication and hard work of the Coccoloba Chapter and all the organizations they infused with their vision along the way.

Kim Zarillo – Silver Palmetto Award. The President grants the Silver Palmetto Award to the member of the board who has been the greatest asset throughout the year. Kim, Vice president of Finance, worked tirelessly as Conference Co-chair. Kim has been the FNPS representative of the Brevard County Comprehensive Plan wetland lawsuit since its in-

FNPS Green & Silver Palmetto Awards

The Florida Native Plant Society annually honors members and chapters of the society for their contributions to our mission. The society generally awards one Green Palmetto award for service or mentorship, one for science, and one to the outstanding chapter of the year. Green Palmetto awards are not given to board members. Contributions can be of regional or statewide significance. Any member can make Green Palmetto award nominations (provide your input in writing to your Chapter Director, or to Candy Weller, FNPS President, no later than March 1st, 2000). The Silver Palmetto award is made by the president to the board member who has been of the greatest assistance during the past year. Awards are presented at the annual conference.
ception three years ago and her work on the 1999 budget was invaluable.

1999 Endowment Awards

The Endowment Fund is a restricted fund, funded by member donations. Each year, the interest from this fund is made available for research grants. Proposals are forwarded to the Research Endowment Grants Committee Chair and evaluated by the committee. Chairman Richard Wunderlin (Suncoast Chapter) and committee members Keith Bradley (Dade), Gil Nelson (Magnolia), Craig Huegel (Pinellas), and Richard Moyroud (Palm Beach), evaluated eight proposals and recommended five proposals, which were approved by the board for funding for 1999 for a total of $2,300. These proposals are described in the following paragraphs.

John Hays, Northeast Louisiana University, Monroe, Louisiana, "A survey of the Florida Keys for the rare species Agalinis keyensis Pennell (Scrophulariaceae)." Mr. Hays proposes to locate A. keyensis and identify it as a distinct species from A. oligophylla. Detailed habitat information, including a list of associate species, and legal information will be obtained. The results will include a listing of all sites visited. If found and proven to be a distinct taxon, it will be another plant species endemic to Florida. Amount requested: $300; funded: $300.

Hong Liu, Florida International University, Miami, Florida, "Population dynamics and viability of Chamaecrista keyensis (Caesalpinioideae), an endemic herb of the Lower Florida Keys." Hong Lui will study the effects of summer versus winter fire on demography of C. keyensis. Results of this study will provide crucial information to determine the proper management strategy for conserving this rare species and many other endemic herbs with similar ecological requirements in the pine rockland ecosystem. Amount requested: $500; funded: $500.

Christine Lockhart, Habitat Specialists, Inc., Boynton Beach, Florida, "A study of Polygala smallii in Palm Beach County." Once thought to persist only in the pine rocklands of Miami-Dade County and southeastern Broward County (now extirpated from Broward), a small population of the federally endangered P. smallii has been found in the Jupiter Ridge Natural Area in Palm Beach County. As there appear to be discrepancies in the blooming time of the plant, this aspect will be of particular interest. Principal investigator Christine Lockhart’s project budget is $976 with funds from Habitat Specialists in the amount of $476. Amount requested: $500; funded: $500.

Laurie Walker Markham, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, "Use of molecular markers for determining the geographic range of Chrysopsis floridana and distinguishing between Chrysopsis floridana and Chrysopsis scabrella." Determinations of the occurrence of C. floridana in Hardee, Polk and Highlands counties will determine the geographic range and needed information for inclusion in a recovery plan for the South Florida ecosystem. Amount requested: $500; funded: $500.

Elizabeth R. Mayo, Florida International University, Miami, Florida, "Reforestation of Pinus elliottii var. densa in the pine rocklands of South Florida." Elizabeth Mayo focuses on the difficulties of reforestation on oolitic rock. She expects to find that direct seeding will be more economical. She will also study the difference in establishment rates of appropriate seed sources (sandy or rocky soil habitat) and how fire affects the survivability of three-year-old seedlings. Amount requested: $704; funded: $500.

FNPS Endowment Awards

The Endowment Fund was established by FNPS several years ago as a restricted fund to support research on native plants, particularly those which are endemic, rare, or threatened or endangered. Funds are contributed by members (as part of the "Contributing Member" category or as separate contributions). The fund continues to grow as the interest is used each year to fund a select group of projects. This year, 1999, a record number of projects (five) were funded thanks to the generosity of members. You can make a contribution to the Endowment Fund at anytime, simply by designating that your payment is for this purpose and sending it along to FNPS administration.

Conference 2000
in Miami
May 4-7, 2000

Mark your calendar now for the 2000 FNPS Conference, hosted by our Dade Chapter, May 4-7 at the Radisson Mart Plaza Hotel in Miami, a multicultural metropolis at the edge of the tropics and gateway to the Florida Keys, sandwiched between the Atlantic Ocean and the Everglades, on the cusp of a new century.

The Twentieth Annual FNPS Conference will focus on "Living with Nature in the 21st Century", a theme first explored at the 1990 conference in Miami. What is the future of our natural areas and native plant species? How can we live with nature in the face of the ever-increasing urbanization of Florida? What can we do as individuals, concerned citizens, environmental resource managers or government officials to keep "nature in our surroundings?"

Keynote speakers will include Colonel Terrence ("Rock") Salt, Executive Director of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force. The restoration effort in South Florida has become an issue of national importance, not only because of concern for the fate of the Everglades, but also as an unprecedented example of a multi-agency effort to accomplish a massive restoration. This timely topic will be a highlight of the conference.

Many other issues and topics of interest to all Floridians will be covered in programs and field trips. Learning about the unique subtropical plants and natural areas of South Florida will be among them. Don’t miss this opportunity to experience the unique plants and geological features of the Keys; the beauty and diversity of the Everglades, Big Cypress and Fakahatchee Strand; the maritime hammocks and historic sites preserved in our urban parks. Another feature of this conference will be an enhanced science track: more speakers, selected for quality and rel-

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