Special Thanks to Special People

Thanks to you — the members and the attendees — who made the Thirteenth Annual Conference of the FNPS quite successful. You traveled from near and far, took time away from work and family, and focused your energy on the Society’s growth and well-being. You devoted yourselves to learning more about Florida’s land and plants and animals, her environmental issues, and re-committed yourselves to the effort of preserving our natural heritage. For all the work that went into planning this Conference, it wouldn’t have happened without you.

We thank you!
Orrinna Speese and Bill Bissett ’93 Conference Co-Chairs

Florida Native Plant Society’s
1994 ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE
April 29, 30, May 1, 1994
Cocoa Beach
Host: Sea Rocket Chapter

Conference attendees enjoyed the barbecue in the setting sun at the Future Farmers of Florida Training Center.

Phosphate Mines Field Trip

The group on the conference field trip to the reclaimed phosphate lands saw mining and reclamation from beginning to end. Some highlights included a tour through the cockpit of a dragline, walking through an excellent scrub reclamation project by IMC, feeding peanuts to scrub jays, watching an eagle use a planted snag, and getting a close look at some award winning wetland reclamation projects by Agrico. A barbecue lunch was served and a representative of Agrico presented a detailed narrative of mine reclamation.

FNPS members were gratified to see the large-scale planning, effort, and use of native plants in reclaiming these disturbed lands. The mining personnel were receptive to ideas and suggestions from FNPS members who had special knowledge in using particular plants.

• Kevin Ruesch

(l-r) Dick Deuerling and Peggy Lantz autograph FNPS’s newest book, Florida’s Incredible Wild Edibles, and Andy Wasowski signs Requiem for a Lawnmower...

Conference field trip group looks over the created wetland reclamation project.

The dragline is enormous...

... and the bucket can shovel up the entire group.
HIGHLIGHTS

Thank You, Sponsors!

These companies gave generously to promote the educational ideals of this Conference and FNPS:

Agrico Chemical Company  
IMC Fertilizer, Inc.
Florida Institute of Phosphate Research (FIPR)  
Florida Power Corporation  
Grenelefe Golf and Tennis Resort
Cargill Fertilizer, Inc.  
Association of Florida Native Nurseries (AFNN)
Central Florida Native Flora, Inc.  
Coastplan, Inc.
Cromer Printing, Inc.  
Terra Systems Environmental Consultants, Inc.
Mail Boxes, Etc.  
Haven Engraving & Awards
The George W. Jenkins Foundation, Inc.  
City of Lakeland
Ruesch Environmental Services, Inc.  
Florida Division of Forestry
Highland Park Dental Lab  
Dunn Groves, Inc.
Chellman Landscaping Services  
Holly Marsh Farm
The Natives  
Cool & Easy Garden Design

Orrinna Speese and Bill Bissett  
’93 Conference Co-Chairs

Allen David Broussard  
Catfish Creek State Preserve

by Nancy Bissett

A few years ago the owner of the property, a Venezuelan investor living in Miami, had ended the hunting lease with the family of a former county commissioner, Ernie Caldwell, and began bulldozing the scrub to create new pasture he needed for some of his extra cattle. Mr. Caldwell called The Nature Conservancy, which had already purchased a half section to the south, since this land was high on the state’s Conservation and Recreational Lands (CARL) list (a list of lands to be purchased by the state when money becomes available). The Nature Conservancy immediately went to Miami to try to convince the owner of other options, explaining that this scrub land would make poor pasture, and a land swap was proposed. The owner phoned the fellow operating the bulldozer and asked him to stop. The Nature Conservancy, however, needed money quickly, since it could not afford long-term interest rates until it would be purchased by the CARL program, and it looked as if this proposal would fail.

About the same time, the Dr. William and Margaret Broussard family.

On Friday evening of the Florida Native Plant Society Conference, over 200 people hiked in the Allen David Broussard Catfish Creek Scrub, or Allen’s Scrub, for short. The scrub jays were calling; the oaks and lyonias wore their brightest spring green and rusty foliage; and the sand sinks and ponds were filled with water. Everyone had a chance to unwind from a full day of lectures and to experience the scrub at leisure, but few knew the story of how this scrub was almost ‘rubbed’.