



**The Deering Estate at
Cutler Ecosystem Restoration, Miami**

Above: Burma reed and other nonnative pest plants, Hurricane Andrew, and a massive invasion of pine bark beetles had nearly eliminated the pine rockland habitat at the Deering Estate in Miami. **Top right:** Restoration efforts have eliminated nonnative plants and begun to restore the lush pine canopy with over 21,000 pine seedlings.



Ecosystem Restoration Professional, 1st Place
Miami-Dade County Park & Recreation Department, Natural Areas Management (NAM)

**Lake Louisa State Park, near
Clermont, Lake County**

This park has the best of friends—volunteers young and old updated a tired, traditional garden with bird- and insect-friendly native plants.



Institutional Nonprofessional, 1st Place
Friends of Lake Louisa State Park

**Chiappini Farm Native Nursery,
Melrose, Putnam County**

Woodland garden? Just a turn in the access road at a native nursery, where thoughtful plantings provide customers with a wealth of ideas.



Commercial nonprofessional, 1st Place
Andrew Chiappini, Florida Restorations



Schoolyard Professional, 1st Place
Florida Native Plants, Inc.

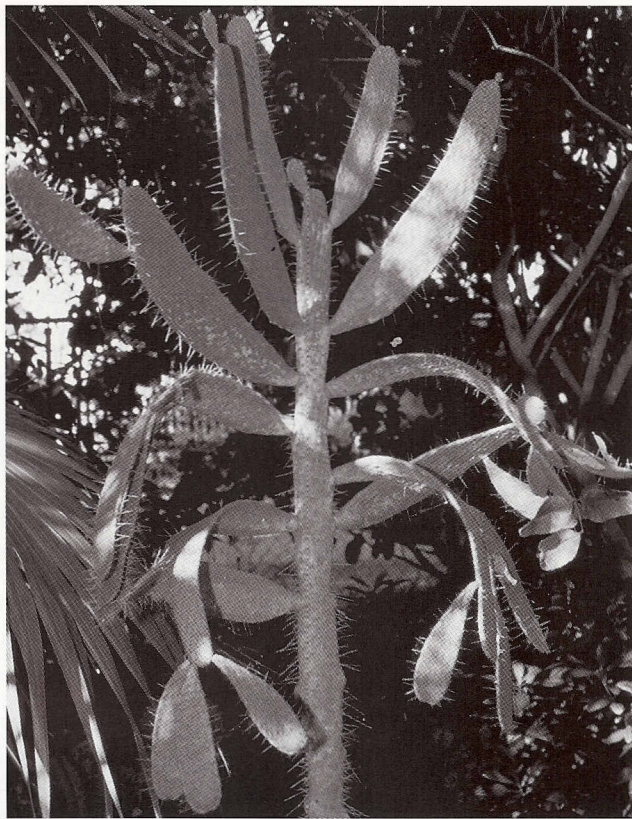
Lemon Bay High School Auditorium, Charlotte County

This schoolyard environment presented a variety of tough design problems—all solved by Florida native plants.

Design with Natives 2002 Landscape Awards



Historic Landscape Nonprofessional, 2nd Place
David Lysinger, Tropical Audubon Society



Botanical Garden at Tropical Audubon Society, Miami.

Left: Rescued vintage native trees and thousands of volunteer hours have created a vital oasis of tropical hardwood hammock and pine rockland at the Tropical Audubon Society headquarters in urban Miami. **Above:** Florida's endangered semaphore cactus, also known as semaphore pricklypear, is an erect tree cactus and one of the most imperiled plants in the United States, found only in Biscayne National Park and the Keys. Threats to the species have included habitat loss, over-collection, vandalism, and predation by the South American phycitine moth. The Blue Hills of south coastal Jamaica were long considered the primary location for this cactus, but recent research suggests that our Florida cacti may be sufficiently different to be considered an endemic species. The plant's current botanical name, *Opuntia spinosissima*, is derived in part from its especially long spines. Conservation botanists are supervising controlled reintroduction of the species. The specimen shown is planted in the Tropical Audubon Society's Botanical Garden in Miami.

FNPS 2002 Landscape Awards

Each year, at the FNPS conference, the Landscape Awards Committee presents "Design with Natives," a program which salutes the use of native plants in both restorative and traditional landscape projects. Projects from around the state are submitted by their designers and owners, in a variety of categories from residential to commercial, restoration to schoolyard. The designation "professional" refers to projects designed by landscape architects or firms concentrating on landscape architecture, design, and installation; "nonprofessional" refers to projects designed by individuals not possessing these formal qualifications. The 2002 winners are listed on following pages, with photos provided on outside and inside front and back covers of this magazine. For information on entering the 2003 awards program, please see application form inserted in this magazine or visit the FNPS website (www.fnps.org).

RESIDENTIAL NONPROFESSIONAL, 1ST PLACE *Photos front & back covers.***Martha W. Stuart****Austin-Steuart Residence, Palm Bay, Brevard County.**

The Austin-Steuart residence is a perfect example of how evolving knowledge and aesthetics can transform the typically monotonous home landscape into a life-filled and enchanting habitat for humans and wildlife. Owner Martha Stuart has incrementally changed a traditional lawn-dominated landscape into one which features well over 100 species of native plants and is host to many resident and migrating birds, butterflies, moths, frogs, and other creatures. Martha has taken excellent advantage of lower moist areas in the backyard as well as higher sloped areas in the front. Just 15 years ago, Florida natives Martha and her husband, Paul Austin, had never heard of FNPS, but they have since become very active and supportive members (Martha has served in a variety of positions including president of the Conrodina Chapter). In addition to having become quite expert at native plant identification, Martha is an accomplished nature photographer who generously shares her work with FNPS and many other organizations.

RESIDENTIAL NONPROFESSIONAL, 2ND PLACE**Maria & Donald M. Cox****Cox Residence, Ponte Vedra, Duval County.**

Starting with the good fortune of majestic live oaks, magnolias, and cabbage palms, Maria Cox created a 130 x 75 foot native garden park in the backyard of her golf-community home. Armed with horticultural and design skills obtained at the New York Botanical Garden, and the intrepid confidence of an enthusiastic gardener, Cox convinced her landscape architect and planting contractor to "experiment" with natives she selected (many sight unseen). A great variety of understory trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and wildflowers have been planted and the garden continues to evolve. The experience has been very educational for Cox, her architect and the landscape contractor (who had never heard of many of the plants). Cox notes that the garden's loose design is a peaceful and relaxing contrast to the more formal house and other garden areas. No sculpture or outdoor furniture is used, but a couple of logs provide informal seats (and these are returned to the land once they rot).

RESIDENTIAL PROFESSIONAL**None submitted in 2002.****COMMERCIAL PROFESSIONAL, 1ST PLACE** *Photos back cover.***George E. Fogg, FASLA, & Signature Communities, Inc.****Dune Restoration, The Dunes Planned Unit Development, Northwest corner of Bluebill Ave and Vanderbilt Beach Rd, Collier County.**

Many housing developments are named for the natural habitat destroyed during construction, but few replace what is taken. The Dunes, a planned unit development in Collier County, has made an effort in the right direction. A long abused sugar sand dune, remnant of ancient Florida beach, existed on a corner of the development. All-terrain vehicle and other traffic had stripped the dune of most of its vegetation. Arrangements were made to allow the developer, Signature Communities Inc., to remove the dune during initial construction, with the understanding that it would be replaced and that an existing area of native vegetation north of the dune would be preserved. The dune was recreated and a predominantly xeric landscape planted with about 4100 plants.* Forty sand live oaks were transplanted from construction areas, with 36 surviving to form one large and three small hammocks. The preserve area's "plant palette" guided the selection of additional species for the dune. The area facing the development is mulched and bordered

with a more typical landscaped berm to act as a transition to the traditional housing landscape. The south side, facing a public park, has been left "natural," featuring white sand and scrub plantings. The public's reaction? Many positive comments and no negatives, according to George Fogg, the landscape architect. A complete management plan was given to the condominium association responsible for maintaining the area.

**What happened to the dune's soil? Well, it's not clear. Some of it may have been used to "top dress" the dune. Hopefully future projects will include soil preservation among their goals.*

COMMERCIAL PROFESSIONAL, 2ND PLACE**Urban Design Studio****Marina Gardens luxury town home project, Palm Beach Gardens, Palm Beach County. Off Idlewild Rd, one block north of PGA Blvd., overlooking Soverel Marina.**

Located in the coastal overlay zone of Palm Beach Gardens, this 7.5 acre, 65-unit development was required to have 90% native plants in its landscaping. Over 5800 native plants were installed, most in larger sizes (three- to seven-gallon containers and up for shrubs and grasses), quickly creating a lush, established look for this very upscale development. Ten large live oaks were preserved onsite, either remaining in place or transplanted to the entryway, and several large seagrapes were preserved as well. Because of the site's proximity to the Intracoastal Waterway, an irrigation well could not be dug; only metered water could be used. This made the native plants even more attractive, as they were able to thrive with minimal irrigation once established.

COMMERCIAL PROFESSIONAL, 3RD PLACE**VanasseDaylor (design firm)****Crown Colony Golf & Country Club, Winkler Rd, Fort Myers**

This project combined mitigation, preservation, and the integration of native plants into golf course landscaping. Mitigation and preserve areas adjacent to the Estero Bay State Buffer Preserve contained varying amounts of pest species (such as Brazilian pepper and melaleuca) which were removed, both mechanically and by hand, and replaced with native plantings. The golf course design needed to enhance the openness of a tight course layout and blend well with surrounding preserve lands and mitigation areas. Low-growing native ornamental grasses such as spartina, gamagrass, and muhly grass were planted in abundant sweeps and edged with cabbage palm and live oaks providing vertical definition. Nearly 24,000 native plants were planted in the golf hole landscape areas alone.

COMMERCIAL NONPROFESSIONAL, 1ST PLACE *Photo inside front cover.***Andrew Chiappini, Florida Restorations****Chiappini Farm Native Nursery, Off SR 21, 220 Chiappini Farm Rd, Melrose, Putnam County**

Chiappini Farm Native Nursery is a 30-acre native nursery supplying container-grown native landscape plants. Owners David and Marilyn Chiappini are well-known for both their beautiful plants and their longtime support of many conservation organizations including FNPS. David is co-president of the Association of Florida Native Nurseries, the nation's largest such organization. Son Andrew Chiappini, who with his wife, Stephanie, operates Florida Restorations, designed a series of planting areas which provide demonstration/educational opportunities for customers and visitors, increase the biodiversity of the nursery's landscape (with a special focus on cover and nesting space for wildlife), support collection of seeds and cuttings, and provide an attractive, integrated look for the entire operation. Plantings were designed to eliminate previous

ly mowed areas, complement existing trees, and require no additional irrigation. The nursery is frequently visited by landscape architects, college landscape students, and public schools.

SCHOOLYARD PROFESSIONAL, 1ST PLACE Photo page 2 (Inside Front cover)

Florida Native Plants, Inc.

Lemon Bay High School Auditorium, Charlotte County

Nonnative landscaping just ten years old was already showing a variety of problems outside the Lemon Bay high school auditorium, used by over 1300 students as well as the general community for cultural, service, and civic activities. The site presented a number of challenges: limited staff to weed and prune, no irrigation and hand watering available only for establishing plants, soil composed of highly alkaline elevated fill dirt, a series of concrete planters with western exposure and poor drainage, extensive concrete sidewalks and asphalt pavement creating heat islands in the summer, and

Jury Award

Eglin Air Force Base and Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership



Various base facilities, Eglin Air Force Base, northwest Florida

A military “change of merit” contributes to the distribution of more than 11,000 native plants for on-base beautification and ecological enhancement. Make a Difference Day brought out 150 volunteers to plant natives around base facilities and housing.

downspouts from the roof eroding artificially elevated “hillsides.” Enter Florida Native Plants (the nursery and the solution). Holly, red cedar, silver buttonwood, Simpson stopper, Fakahatchee grass, firebush, coonties, and silver buttonwood were selected for color, texture, and durability. Pine straw raked from school property flatwoods was used to mulch sloped areas and the entrance way was dressed with melaleuca mulch (providing a more finished appearance).* Because of the district’s extremely limited budget, small plants were used. One year after planting, all plants, with the exception of coontie (which did not survive drought conditions in concrete planters), were well established and surviving on natural rainfall. The landscape was remulched only once and received a beautification award from the Englewood Chamber of Commerce, demonstrating that tough, low-maintenance landscapes can still be attractive to the lay public.

**As a result of this project, the Charlotte County School District is now using pine straw and melaleuca mulches on all school sites.*

INSTITUTIONAL PROFESSIONAL, 1ST PLACE Photo page 23

Robert Parsley, ASLA, Geomatic Designs Inc.

Florida Keys Arboretum, Southern end of Lake Osceola at University of Miami, Coral Gables

In 1996, as part of a major campus planning effort, the University of Miami adopted a “campus in a garden” theme and designated a series of sites for eventual garden development. The “Florida Keys

Arboretum” was the first of these gardens planted in the summer of 1997. The lakeside location features brackish water spray from a floating fountain, a key factor in locating the “native” garden at this spot. Because the garden is in the center of the campus and very visible to passersby, a “display” approach (vs. wild habitat) was selected for the design, using curved display islands on raised beds, with grass pathways and prominent labels on coral rock boulders salvaged from campus construction projects. Raised beds were a solution to the site’s poorly drained soils (a result of original lake dredging and/or building construction). Fifty-six species native to the Florida Keys, Everglades, and lower reaches of Miami-Dade County were planted in groupings associated with ecosystems (e.g., South Florida pineland). Irrigation was designed to accommodate both the sod (which will always need irrigation) and the native plants, which needed only to be established. Irrigation was gradually reduced and removed over a two-year timeframe. The natives now receive only rainfall. The arboretum has been a big hit with faculty, students, and a variety of wild creatures, including the atala butterfly, which lays its eggs on coontie.

INSTITUTIONAL PROFESSIONAL, 2ND PLACE

University of Florida Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) and Tom Heitzman, Sweet Bay Nursery

UF IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, 5007 60th ST E, Bradenton, Manatee County

To showcase state-of-the-art drought-tolerant landscaping, more than two dozen native tree, shrub, and ornamental grass species were used to liven up and refresh the landscaping at the center. New roads had required the installation of retention ponds. Planted with wildlife-attracting natives such as pickerel weed, duck potato, cannula lily, leather fern, cypress, maple, and sweet bay magnolia, the ponds became an instant hit with herons, egrets, and even an alligator who showed up two months later. Soil dug from the pond areas was used to create roadside berms planted with a variety of native trees and shrubs. Many of the plants have been labeled and tours are provided to educate the public.

INSTITUTIONAL PROFESSIONAL, 3RD PLACE

Edlund & Dritenbas and St. Lucie County

Smithsonian Marine Ecosystem Exhibit, Seaway Dr, Fort Pierce, southeast of causeway bridge

On reviewing the planned landscape design, Dr. Mary Rice, Director of the Smithsonian Institution in St. Lucie County, proclaimed the design fine but the plant list unacceptable. With the assistance of St. Lucie County staff, including FNPS member Amy Mott, Lakela’s Mint Chapter, the plant list was revised so that “the learning experience begins immediately, when visitors get out of their cars, before they even enter the Marine Exhibit.” Plantings were based on the surrounding coastal ecosystem and emphasized commonsense approaches to habitat enhancement, such as leaving the “boots” on the cabbage palms.

INSTITUTIONAL NONPROFESSIONAL, 1ST PLACE Photo inside front cover

Friends of Lake Louisa State Park

Florida-Friendly Native Garden at the administration buildings, Lake Louisa State Park, Lake Louisa State Park, US Hwy 27, seven miles south of SR 50, near Clermont, Lake County, in the northeast corner of the Green Swamp

To demonstrate a more environmentally friendly, contemporary approach to landscaping, the Friends of Lake Louisa State Park decided to revamp the traditional garden in front of the park’s

continued on page 22

Landscape Awards

continued from page 9

administration buildings. Cadette Girl Scouts were enlisted to redo planters to make them more appealing to butterflies and other insects. New access road construction resulted in a native plant rescue project, with salvaged plants relocated to the updated garden. Staff, volunteers, and business partners worked to finish the initial garden and volunteers continue maintenance once a month. A curving pathway, plant labels, and pine straw mulch make the area accessible and attractive to visitors seeking better ideas for their own landscapes.

INSTITUTIONAL NONPROFESSIONAL, 2ND PLACE

David K. Goodin, City of South Miami

Fuchs Park Ecological Enhancement Project, Fuchs Park, 6420 SW 80th ST, South Miami

Nonnative pest species were removed and 159 native trees and plants of 44 different species (including ten endangered and threatened species) were planted at the park. Careful planting resulted in the re-creation of native plant communities such as tropical hardwood hammock, freshwater wetland, and transitional maritime woodland. The park is not only more beautiful, but more life-filled. Great blue herons and anhingas, rare but delightful sights in urban Miami, are now frequent visitors.

INSTITUTIONAL NONPROFESSIONAL, 3RD PLACE

Pinellas County Parks Department Staff

Philippe Park Ceremonial Indian Mound, Philippe Park, 2525 Philippe Parkway, Safety Harbor, Pinellas County

St. Augustine sod planted on the steep slopes of a preserved Indian mound required too much maintenance and resources (irrigation, fertilization, pesticides, and mowing). Andrea Sadler, the park's "spray tech," came up with the idea of reducing maintenance and enhancing the area by replacing much of the sod with native plants and seashore paspalum, a sodgrass that thrives in brackish water and coastal areas.

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE NONPROFESSIONAL, 1ST PLACE *Photo page 23*

Seminole County Master Gardeners

Florida & Southeast Natives Demonstration Garden, Student Museum, 301 W Seventh St, Sanford, Seminole County

Approximately 6000 public, private, and home-school students visit the Student Museum each year, and the gardens are open to the public on afternoons and weekends. One of 15 specialty gardens, the Natives Demonstration Garden emphasizes native plants suitable for urban and suburban landscapes. Thirty-one species, most native to Florida, complement the historic 1902 former school building. Volunteer Master Gardeners designed and planted the garden with consultation from the Tarflower Chapter FNPS.

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE NONPROFESSIONAL, 2ND PLACE *Photo page 7*

David Lysinger, Tropical Audubon Society

Botanical Garden at Tropical Audubon Society, 5530 Sunset Dr, Miami

This garden had its beginning shortly after Hurricane Andrew swiped the area clean in 1992. Thousands of volunteer hours have been spent removing nonnative plants and creating a natural landscape of tropical hardwood hammock and pine rockland. Rescued vintage trees from Native Tree Nursery give the relatively young garden a mature ambiance and approximately 50 threatened or endangered species provide visitors with both a beautiful and powerful message of preservation. All plants are labeled, the garden is self-mulching, and irrigation is not needed. An oasis for wildlife trying

to pass over or through Miami, the garden has been visited by at least 115 bird species and 25 butterfly species.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROFESSIONAL, 1ST PLACE

Miami-Dade County Park & Recreation Department, Natural Areas Management (NAM)

The Deering Estate at Cutler Ecosystem Restoration, 16701 SW 72nd Ave, Miami

The Deering Estate preserves 458 acres of pine rockland, rockland hammock, bottomland forest, marine tidal swamp and marsh, barrier island with beach dune, and submerged benthic communities (soft bottom, hard bottom, and sea grass beds). One of the few remaining significant natural areas in Miami-Dade County with ecotone connections between the various plant communities, the park is home to a variety of endangered and threatened plants and animals, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1992, Hurricane Andrew sheared off the park's forest canopy, allowing a pulse of light and nutrients to reach the forest floor. Aggressive nonnative vines including air potato and jasmine quickly enveloped struggling natives. In the pine rockland, nonnative Burma reed was crowding out the natives and adding to wildfire risks. Coastal areas had become overrun with a variety of nonnative plants, including seaside mahoe, sea hibiscus, earleaf acacia, Brazilian pepper, Australian pine, latherleaf, and beach naupaka/scaevola. Several years of intensive restoration efforts were undertaken by the county, including systematic labor-intensive physical, manual, and chemical means of nonnative pest plant removal. By eliminating the competition from nonnative plants, the park's natural areas have been able to recover and resume their ecological functions. Aside from portions of the pine rocklands, the intact native seed bank allowed regeneration, so supplemental planting was not needed.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROFESSIONAL, 2ND PLACE

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center

Bear Cut Preserve, Crandon Park, Key Biscayne

Bear Cut Preserve had been degraded by human-caused fires, invasive nonnative plants, and hurricanes which, through natural phenomena, damaged an already weakened ecosystem. The hammock canopy had almost vanished, allowing light to penetrate and support many aggressive non-natives. Over the period of a year, existing trails were improved and interpreted, a new trail installed, invasive exotics removed and new native plantings installed with thousands of volunteer hours. The success and educational value of the project was demonstrated by that ever-so-typical native planting experience: Wild lime, a plant historically present in the preserve but absent until the restoration, is a host plant for the giant swallowtail butterfly. This butterfly is uncommon in the preserve today. Restoration volunteers planted a wild lime and only minutes later, observed a giant swallowtail butterfly fluttering around and laying eggs on it.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROFESSIONAL, 3RD PLACE

Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership and Eglin Air Force Base Okaloosa Darter Native Plant Community Enhancement, Okaloosa darter streams on base

Eglin Air Force Base is a member of the Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership (GCPEP), a coalition of large public and private land owners who work together to sustain the ecological integrity of the longleaf pine ecosystem in their region of northwest Florida. With the assistance of GCPEP staff and volunteers, Eglin has initiated restoration of critical habitat for the Okaloosa darter, a federally listed endangered species found nowhere else in the world

(approximately 90% of the darter's habitat is under Eglin AFB management). Found in the edges of clear, flowing streams among vegetation, root mats, and decaying material, the Okaloosa darter's greatest threat is the erosion and sedimentation of its streams from borrow pits and roads. Base land managers had already completed and maintained erosion control projects using grass and fabric. This effort was extended with the reintroduction of native trees, shrubs, perennials, and grasses that would provide long-term stabilization of streamside areas. In addition to these plantings, Eglin collected and planted 178 pounds of *Aristida beyrichiana* (wiregrass) and *Schizachyrium scoparium* (little bluestem) seed, and experienced an excellent germination and survival rate. Extensive records are being maintained to assess both the resources required for such projects as well as the survivability of the various species.

MITIGATION PROFESSIONAL, 1ST PLACE *Photo this page, top*
City of Hollywood (Design by Calvin Giordano & Associates)
Mapleridge Tree Protective Area, Estate Area at Mapleridge, 3502 Griffin Rd, Hollywood (Broward County)

After a contractor mistakenly cleared the wrong parcel of land, resulting in the destruction of 273 trees in a to-be-constructed housing development, the developer, Westbrook Inc., was asked by the City of Hollywood to replace what was destroyed and maintain it with oversight provided by the city. The resulting Tree Protective Area was planted with 582 trees and 7418 shrubs, all native species. The planting includes 22 different species, many chosen for their ability to tolerate periodic wet conditions. One large live oak untouched by the clearing was situated in the footprint of a home and relocated so that it could be saved (the lots are very narrow and do not permit realignment of homes). Both the City and Westbrook take pride in the project, which has already begun to grow in and provides a welcome natural native beltway around the development. The city inspects the site once a month.

JURY AWARD *Photo page 9*
Eglin Air Force Base and Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership
Various base facility landscapes, Eglin Air Force Base, northwest Florida

Beginning in 2000, Eglin Air Force Base staff began a series of projects to display and offer more native plant species for base landscaping. Native plant gardens and landscaping were designed and installed with the assistance of a few professional staff and numerous volunteers. Facilities landscaped with more than 1000 native plants include Jackson Guard Natural Resources Branch Office, Eglin Self-Help Center, Base Library, Base Housing Office, the Environmental Management Office, and several sample yards in military housing units. To improve government facilities and help military housing residents, the Eglin Self-Help Center distributes native plants, mulch material (pine bark, chips, and straw), compost, and landscaping tools/equipment to base residents and selected business facilities. In 2001 alone, 11,282 regionally native plants were distributed for beautifying Eglin business and housing units. Visited by thousands of military members and their families throughout the year, as well as the general public, the Self-Help Center's store offers brochures, planting guides, helpful staff, and native plants.



Mitigation Professional, 1st Place
City of Hollywood, Design by Calvin Giordano & Associates



Institutional Professional, 1st Place
Robert Parsley, ASLA, Geomatic Designs Inc.



Historic Landscape Nonprofessional, 1st Place
Seminole County Master Gardeners

Top: Mapleridge Tree Protective Area, Hollywood, Broward County
 Strict, enforced regulations helped this community begin to regain some of its natural heritage when 273 trees were illegally cleared. The city required the planting of 8000 native trees and shrubs in a green beltway around the affected area's homes.

Middle: Florida Keys Arboretum, University of Miami, Coral Gables
 Carefully designed plantings that echo south Miami-Dade and Keys native landscapes help students and visitors strolling this college campus enjoy a touch of the naturally tropical.

Bottom: Student Museum, Sanford, Seminole County
 This native garden complements its historical setting and provides practical landscape instruction for 6000 Central Florida students each year.

Design with Natives 2002 Landscape Awards



Commercial Professional

1st Place: George E. Fogg, FASLA, & Signature Communities, Inc.

Dune Restoration, The Dunes Planned Unit Development, Collier County.

Top: Appropriately, scrub plants dominate this newly created "ancient beach dune," well inland from the contemporary coastline. **Above:**

A bikeway runs along the south side of the scrubby dune, which has received rave reviews from the passing public.



Yes, you can do this in YOUR yard!

Not so long ago, this award-winning native plants yard was a common sod lawn! Now it's alive with birds and butterflies. This is the view from the front doorway of the Austin-Steuart home in Palm Bay, pictured on the front cover.

Photo by Martha Steuart