Florida Native Plant Society 20th Annual Conference
Living with Nature in the 21st Century
May 4-7, 2000
Radisson Mart Plaza Hotel, Miami
Organized, hosted, and staffed by the Dade Chapter

Over 350 people participated in this year's conference to hear speakers on a range of topics from cyberbotany to ethnobotany, attend field trips throughout our beautiful and endangered Everglades, and be part of a fascinating clash of cultures, concrete, and ecological concern. Dade Chapter volunteers were out in force to make this conference one of the best run ever and we thank you, Dade, for a smashing success!

New FNPS Officers
Officers and directors at large are elected each year at the general membership meeting held at the conference. Our new officers are as follows.

FNPS 2000-2001 Officers
Ray Miller, President
Lea Brennan, Vice President, Admin.
Kim Zarillo, Vice President, Finance
Debbie Butts, Secretary
Judy Avril, Treasurer

Directors at Large
Amy Ferriter, 2000-2002
Sharon LaPlante, 2000-2002
Jeff Norcini, 2000-2001
Continuing until next year's elections (2001) are directors Dick Workman and Dick Wunderlin.

FNPS 2000 Palmetto and Mentor Awards
The Palmetto awards were established in 1984 by Sherry Cummings, Palm Beach Chapter (then FNPS President), to further the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society by encouraging and acknowledging contributions to the conservation of natural areas and native plants, and educating to these objectives. The following are the awards presented at the FNPS 20th Annual Conference in Miami, Florida, May 6, 2000.

Green Palmetto Awards
Joe Durando, Paynes Prairie Chapter, for Service. Presented and accepted by Maria Minno on Joe's behalf.
Patty Phares, Dade Chapter, for Service. Presented by Gwladys Scott.
Walter Kingsley Taylor, Tarflower Chapter, for Education. Presented and accepted by Jack Stout on Walter's behalf.

Silver Palmetto Award
Gil Nelson, Magnolia Chapter, for Service. President's Award, presented by Candace Weller, President (1999-2000).

Mentor Awards
Joyce and Don Gann, Dade Chapter, for Lifetime Achievement. Presented by Joy Klein.
Bill Partington, Tarflower Chapter, for Lifetime Achievement. Presented and accepted by Kim Zarillo, Vice President, Finance, on behalf of Bill.

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 the FNPS President no later than February 1st, 2001). 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.

FNPS Research Endowment Awards
Every year at the conference, FNPS grants funding to researchers for projects that will advance our understanding of important scientific questions regarding Florida native plants and native plant communities. Awards are made with monies from the Endowment Fund, made possible by contributing members of FNPS. The following are the 2000 Endowment Awards:
- Applying Seed Technology for the Conservation and Restoration of Several Florida Native Plants, $500 granted to Hector E. Perez, Department of Environmental Horticulture, University of Florida, Gainesville.
- Comparative Gas Exchange Patterns of Schinus terebinthifolius vs. Native Plant Species under Saline Conditions, $480 granted to Sharon Ewe, Department of Biology, University of Miami.
- Distinguishing among Chrysopsis Species along the Lake Wales Ridge and Central Peninsular Florida Using Molecular Genetic Methods, $500 granted to Laurie L. Walker, Department of Biology, University of South Florida.
- Groundwater Salinity and Leaf and Twig Carbon Storage in Native Tropical Trees of the Florida Keys, $500 granted to Douglas G. Scofield, Department of Biology, University of Miami.

Researchers! See Call for Proposals on page 11.
For Questions regarding these projects, or the endowment award program, please contact Dr. Richard P. Wunderlin, Chairman, FNPS Research Grants Committee (see Where to Find FNPS, Page 19, for contact information).
A hearty thank you to our generous supporters for contributions of funds, equipment, facilities, staff time, wares and moral support!

**SPONSORS**
The annual conference is the primary fundraising tool for FNPS. The organizations and individuals listed below donated the funds and in-kind services that made the conference a financial success for our organization, as well as a wonderful event for us all to attend. Sponsors are grouped in order by the relative size of their contribution. FNPS is very grateful to all of our sponsors for their support.

Florida International University, Miami Calvin, Giordano & Associates, Inc. - Engineers, Surveyors, Planners, Ft. Lauderdale The Institute for Regional Conservation, Miami Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) Fairchild Tropical Garden, Miami Broward County Chapter FNPS Bromeliad Society of South Florida Everglades Research Group, Inc., Homestead Association of Florida Native Nurseries for support of the Design with Natives Awards American Cyanamid Jack Thomas Realty, Miami Lisa H. Hammer, Homestead Atlantic - FEC Fertilizer & Chemical, Homestead Clyde Butcher’s Big Cypress Gallery, Collier County Raymond Jungles, Inc., Key West The Natives, Polk County Brooks Tropicals, Homestead Two on a Shelf, West Palm Beach University of Florida/Miami-Dade Extension

**VENDORS**
A percentage of vendor sales is paid to FNPS and thus constitutes an important part of the funds raised by the conference.

Nature Corner Books/Cardinal Enterprises, Miami University Press of Florida, Gainesville Two on a Shelf, West Palm Beach In-Cho Chung Traveler Clothing Pinellas Chapter FNPS Dade Chapter FNPS

A nd a whopping thank-you to the many raffle donors, anonymous sponsors, speakers, field trip leaders, and volunteers who made it all possible.

Sawgrass blooms were enjoyed by conference participants venturing on one of the many field trips to the Everglades. The Dade Chapter arranged 21 fabulous field trips throughout South Florida, including an overnight jaunt to the Keys, a trek through the Fakahatchee, a tram tour through Shark Valley, and a tour of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Seminole Museum.