New FNPS Officers
Officers and directors at large are elected during the general membership meeting held at the annual conference. Our officers are as follows:

**FNPS 2001-2002 Officers**
Ray Miller, President
Lea Brennan, Vice President, Administration
Travis MacClendon, Vice President, Finance*
Debbie Butts, Secretary
Candace Weller, Treasurer

**Directors at Large**
Mike Bodle (2001-02)*
Amy Ferriter (2000-02)
Sharon LaPlante (2000-02)
Jeff Norcini (2001-03)
Tony Pernas (2001-03)*
Dick Wunderlin (2001-03)

*New to the board.

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 the contributions to conservation of natural areas and native plants, and educating to these objectives. The following are the awards presented this year:

**Green Palmetto Awards**
**Sally Black,** Palm Beach Chapter, Green Palmetto for Service, for her long-term service to the environment and environmental community of South Florida.

**Jean Daubenniere,** Lake Beautyberry Chapter, Green Palmetto for Science, for her research contributions in the area of natural plant communities of Florida. (See member profile by Nadine Foley, page 9.)

**Dr. Craig Huegel,** Green Palmetto for Education, for his many contributions over the years, including authoring two popular FNPS books that teach and promote the native plant-animal connection, *Butterfly Gardening with Florida's Native Plants and Florida Plants for Wildlife, a Selection Guide to Native Trees and Shrubs.* See photo of Craig, above right.

Silver Palmetto Award
The FNPS President awards the Silver Palmetto to the FNPS board member who has been the most help and the greatest asset during the year. Ray Miller proudly presented Dr. Richard (Dick) Wunderlin with the Silver Palmetto for his tireless efforts on behalf of the FNPS Endowment Fund research awards and FNPS publications. All board members and contract staffers are grateful for Dr. Wunderlin's generous and ever-humble contributions of time and talent.

Mentor Awards
Created in 1995, the Mentor Award recognizes distinguished individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the science and practice of native plant conservation, preservation, and restoration. This award is the highest honor the society can bestow, and is reserved for lifelong or career-long contributions. The 2001 Mentor Awardees are Dan Austin and Grace Iverson, both of the Palm Beach Chapter. (Please refer to member profiles published in the spring and summer issues of *The Palmetto*, Vol. 20, Numbers 1 and 2, for more information on our mentors).

Program speakers included new and old favorites, such as Eliane Norman, Tarflower Chapter member and past winner of the FNPS Mentor Award.

Attendees packed the banquet hall to hear keynote speaker, Stuart Pimm (see details of talk on page 8.)
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. Grants are made with monies from the FNPS Endowment Fund, to which members make contributions. This year’s Research Endowment Committee consisted of Dick Wunderlin (Chair), Shirley Denton, Keith Bradley, and Jeff Nocini. The 2001 grantees each received $500 toward their research as follows:

Gantt Boswell, Tulane University, “Nitrogen economy of the pitcher plant Sarracenia rosea.” The research goal is to determine the quantitative contributions of three potential sources of nitrogen (soil-derived, prey-derived, and bacterially-fixed) to the total nitrogen budget of the recently described pitcher plant, Sarracenia rosea (SARRACENIACEAE), a species endemic to the Florida panhandle and adjacent Alabama. Like other pitcher plants, S. rosea is believed to obtain nutrients from both soil and captured prey. However, S. purpurea has nitrogen-fixing bacteria in the pitcher cavity. Preliminary evidence for a similar source of nitrogen has been detected in S. rosea. The primary study site is the Tarklin Bayou State Park near Perdido Key with other sites in the Blackwater River State Forest and Eglin Air Force Base, all in the western panhandle. The research is significant in that it addresses basic questions in ecology and will impact decisions relating to the conservation of endangered pitcher plant habitats.

Elena Pinto-Torres, Florida International University/Fairchild Tropical Garden, “Pollination and conservation of an endangered coastal endemic plant: Jacquetonia reclinata.” The study will involve field and laboratory experiments on the South Florida endemic, Jacquetonia reclinata (CONVOLVULACEAE), to establish flowering phenology, breeding system, and pollination relationships of the species. To determine how plant population size, density, and spatial isolation affects reproductive success, data will be collected on pollinator visitation rates, pollinator species diversity, pollinator constancy, pollen deposition, and fruit and seed set. Plants will be monitored in the field for pollinator activity and flowering and fruit set. Hand-pollination experiments will be conducted on plants in the laboratory at Fairchild Tropical Garden Research Center. The research is significant in that it will provide information essential for the conservation and management of the species.

Hannah Thornton, Florida International University/Fairchild Tropical Garden, “Investigating molecular and quantitative variation within populations of an endangered endemic plant: application for conservation.” Molecular and quantitative techniques will be used to study the genetic structure of the seven known remaining populations of Jacquetonia reclinata (CONVOLVULACEAE), a South Florida endemic. Random Amplified Polymorphic DNAs (RAPDs) and allozyme analysis will be used to determine the levels of molecular genetic variability within and among the populations, and quantitative genetic techniques will be used to determine levels of genetic variability of ecologically significant traits. The data will be combined with the results of other researchers studying pollination biology of the species to make inferences about the amount of gene flow and the degree of isolation between the populations. The research is significant in that it will provide information permitting conservation biologists to better understand and to actively respond to the re-establishment and management of the species.

FOR QUESTIONS regarding these projects, please contact Dick Wunderlin. See FNPS Officers and Others, page 21, for contact information.