

A Remarkable New Book on Florida Plants by FNPS Member

A Review by Dr. Walter S. Judd

Zomlefer, Wendy B. 1994. *Guide to Flowering Plant Families*. University of North Carolina Press. 430 Pages, 165 plates of illustrations + 23 comparison charts, illustrated glossary. Softbound, \$27.50; hardbound, \$55.00.

Many Florida Native Plant Society members are familiar with Wendy Zomlefer's previous books on Florida plants: *Common Florida Angiosperm Families, Parts 1* (1983) and *2* (1986) and *Flowering Plants of Florida: A Guide to Common Families* (1989). Her remarkable new volume, however, is a great expansion, not a second edition, of these earlier works. This large-format (8.5 by 11 inches), inexpensive book includes 130 flowering plant families with 158 plates of intricate and accurate line drawings of dissections of 312 plant species. Almost all of the illustrated species occur in Florida, mostly as familiar natives (e.g., *Acer rubrum*, *Asclepias humistrata*, *Canna flaccida*, *Encyclia tampensis*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Rhexia mariana*, *Thalia geniculata*) and exotics (e.g., *Begonia cucullata*, *Catharanthus roseus*, *Eichhornia crassipes*, *Lantana camara*, *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, *Raphanus raphanistrum*); a few ornamentals are also included.

Enhancing the beautiful plates are family discussions that include a description and summary of family characteristics, distribution data (U.S. and worldwide), important economic members, evolutionary relationships,

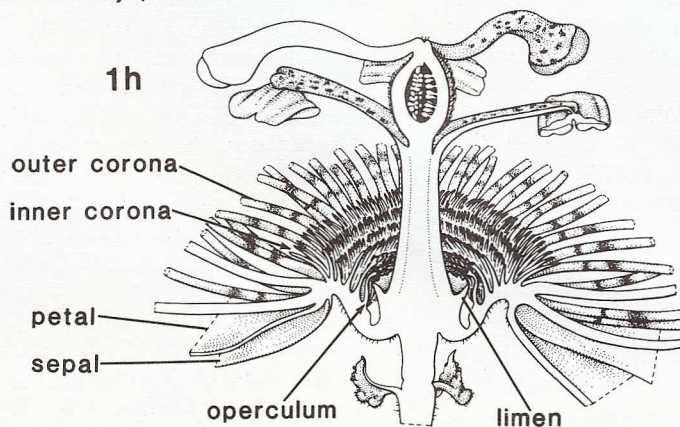
and aspects of pollination biology and fruit or seed dispersal. The family discussions are up-to-date and illustrate a high level of scholarship. All of the text is referenced for those interested in further reading. Scattered throughout the book are 22 comparative charts highlighting salient characters of related plant families or subfamilies. A large appendix succinctly compares parallel features of all families included in the book, and the wonderfully illustrated glossary includes 551 terms and 302 drawings. Each term is carefully defined and consistently used in the text. FNPS members with an artistic

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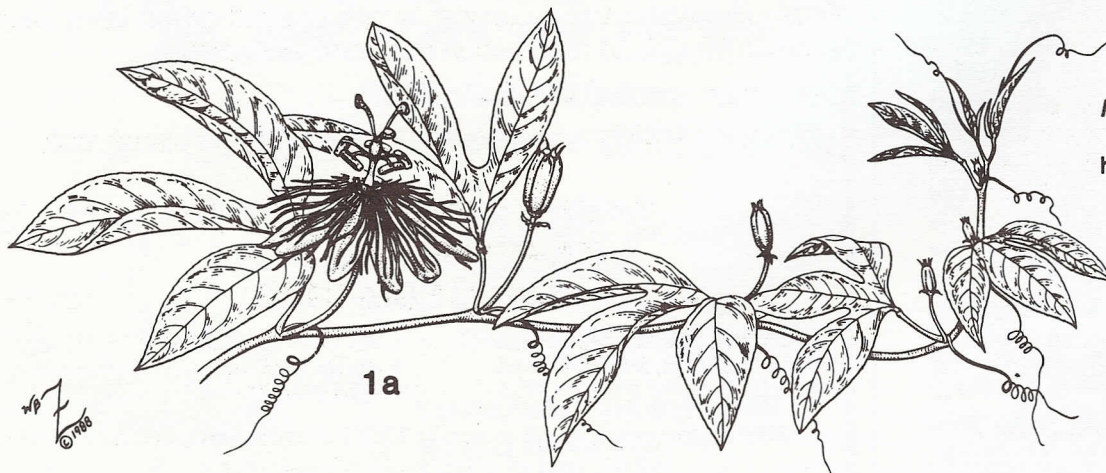
will especially enjoy the expanded chapter on botanical illustration, which outlines the basic steps in producing these high quality plates. This beautiful new book is an essential library addition for everyone in FNPS — whether a weekend plant enthusiast, student, or professional botanist/biologist/horticulturist.

Dr. Walter S. Judd is a Professor of Botany at the University of Florida.

Guide to Flowering Plant Families may be ordered from Univ. of N.C. Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27515-2288; 800/848-6224, Fax: 800/272-6817.



longitudinal section of flower, x 2 1/2



Passiflora incarnata

habit, x 2/5

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