Creating a Guidelines Manual

by William Moriaty

A 212-page manual titled, Recommended Landscape Design Guidelines for the I-75 Bypass, has been created in a collaborative effort by the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT), the University of Florida (U of F), and the Tampa reforestation and Environmenta lEffort (T.R.E.E.). It is authored by FNPS and T.R.E.E. members William Moriaty, Karen Cashon, and Greg Howe, and features contributions by FNPS president Richard Wunderlin and members Sydney Park Brown, Debbie Butts, and David Hall, and former FNPS member John Beckner.

The manual is intended for the use of the Florida DOT, but also was a studio project for undergraduate students in the U of F Department of Landscape Architecture, and is being used by the Tampa Parkway Association in their beautification efforts on I-75 in Hillsborough County.

Two serendipitous events in the summer of 1987 led to the creation of Guidelines. First was a visit to the U of F Department of Landscape Architecture, where I was asked by the chairman of the department, Professor Herrick H. Smith, to consider doing a studio project based on T.R.E.E.'s modus operandi.

The second event was a simple inquiry about wildflower plantings from Tom Deal, landscape committee member for the Tampa Parkway Association. The Parkway Association, comprising developers, realtors, bankers, and engineers involved in developing the I-75 "Tampa Parkway", was impressed with T.R.E.E.'s reforestation projects and interested in how they were accomplished.

The answer to both queries seemed to be a design guidebook that would present T.R.E.E.'s philosophy on native plant restorations, reforestation, and xeriscaping, as well as practical suggestions on natural community replication.

Since I-75 is state land, approval of the project by the Florida DOT was required, and economic and personnel resources had to be considered.

By the end of the year of 1987, the process had begun.

Several FNPS and T.R.E.E. members and Professor Kay Williams from the U of F toured I-275 and the I-75 Bypass. I-275 is an urban artery with few natural plant communities left, but the 53-mile Bypass around Tampa and St. Petersburg traverses five ecological communities: Sand Pine Scrub, South Florida Pine Flatwoods, Oak Hardwood Hammock, Swamp Hardwood Hammock, and Longleaf Pine/Turkey Oak Hills.

FNPS participants compiled lists of recommended plants and selected "theme" trees, shrubs, palms, ferns, grasses, and wildflowers for each of the five communities.

The DOT plans for the Bypass filled about 2500 pages. Each page was evaluated and condensed, then compiled.

"Theme" plants for each of the five ecological communities were selected to reinforce regional character.

To aid in identifying and locating areas for design, Design Sections were laid out, running along the Bypass from north to south and interchange to interchange.

Recommended Landscape Design Guidelines for the I-75 Bypass is now being used as a basis for mitigating the problems caused by overwhelming development near Tampa's I-75 Bypass — through the planting of native plants.


PUBLICATIONS

Checklist of the Woody Cultivated Plants of Florida

by Derek Burch, Daniel B. Ward, and David W. Hall

Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), University of Florida, Gainesville

The common and scientific names of a total of 1,979 species of woody plants are listed in this 80-page book, intended to be a reference for horticulturists, commercial and amateur growers, or any who find it useful to know accurate and common plant names. Request Publication SP33 from your county extension agent.

Aquaphyte

Center for Aquatic Plants and Aquatic Plant Information Retrieval System (APIRS) Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)

University of Florida, Gainesville 32606

The Fall, 1988, issue of this 16-page black-and-white newsletter includes articles on restoration of aquatic habitats, and tissue culture of aquatic plants, as well as news items on studies, seminars, new development projects impacting wetlands, and a bibliographic sampling of recent research articles and books and reports. Twice a year; free.