SERENOA

The Serenoa Chapter will host a full day symposium on Landscaping with Native Plants on October 5, 1991, at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota. Selby Gardens and the Sarasota County Cooperative Extension Service are cosponsors of this event.

The symposium will focus on residential landscaping. It will run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and will cost $15 for FNPS members and $20 for the general public, including lunch and refreshments.

The program features speakers from throughout the state:
- **Planting to Attract Wildlife**, Craig Huegel, Urban Wildlife Specialist, Florida Cooperative Extension Service
- **Simulating Natural Florida in Your Yard**, David Pais, Designer and Horticulturist, Gemini Botanical Gardens
- **Wildflowers and Other Colorful Natives**, Jojo Lindquist, Landscape Architect
- **Getting off to a Good Start: Selecting Quality Plants**, Brian Edmondson, Arborist and Landscaper
- **Panel Discussion: Maintaining Natural Gardens**, Larry Rabinowitz, Moderator, Brian Edmondson, Pat Garner, Annemarie Post
- **Putting It All Together: Successful Native Landscapes**, Dick Workman, Environmental Consultant and Author of *Growing Native*.

In addition, there will be posters and exhibits, books will be available for purchase, and people will be able to explore the beauty of the gardens.

Pre-registration is required. To register, send names and addresses, indicating whether or not FNPS members, with a check for the proper amount payable to the Extension Horticulture Advisory Committee, attention Native Plant Symposium, 2900 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34237. For registration forms or information, contact the Sarasota County Cooperative Extension Service, 813/951-4240.

Tarflower Chapter owes thanks to its many members who helped make the eleventh annual FNPS Spring Conference a success: Jack Stout for organizing the paper session; Hank Whittier for leading tours of the University of Central Florida Arboretum; David Drylie (who also presented a program), Mike Martin, and Devorah Levy for putting the program together; Steve Beidler for publicity; the Arboretum, Lotspeich & Associates, and Association of Florida Native Nurseries for sponsoring the barbecue, and Mike Mingea for serving as foodmaster; Dick ('Here, eat this!') Deuerling, who coordinated the Sunday morning field trips, as well as presenting his own wild edibles program.

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**BOYCOTT MULCH!**

by Ken Morrison

Until recent years, cypress mulch was a by-product of logging. Now the demand for mulch is so great that big cypress stands in the Green Swamp and elsewhere are being clear-cut just to be chipped for gardening and landscape use.

Clear-cutting is a bad practice. It devastates the wildlife community that lived there. Clear-cutting destroys the diversity and integrity of the living landscape. It encourages rapid runoff and erosion. It is awful to look at, resembling a scene from Desert Storm.

From a conservation standpoint, we should only use mulch that is truly a byproduct. As far as I know, pine bark falls in that category and is very satisfactory, but often not available.

A product called Florimulch is available at some Winn-Dixie stores and perhaps a few other locations. It is made from melaleuca trees, which are an exotic pest in south and central Florida. It is a public service to eradicate these "punk trees", so I encourage everyone to boycott cypress mulch and buy Florimulch or pine bark whenever possible. To help protect the Green Swamp, let's urge Wal-Mart, Scotty's, and all supermarkets to handle Florimulch or pine bark. Here is a good way for them to stress the commitment to the environment that some of them have made.

Florimulch is a product of Forestry Resources, Inc. of Ft. Myers. Their phone number is 813/332-3966.

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