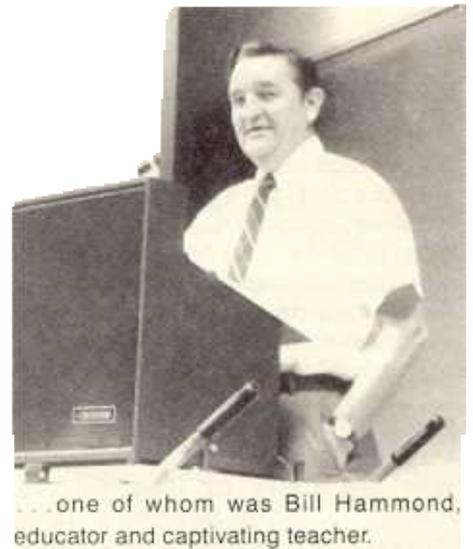


NINTH ANNUAL SPRING



The auditorium was full for the presentations of the major speakers. .



...one of whom was Bill Hammond, educator and captivating teacher.

Photos by Peggy Lantz



The raffle of native plants always draws a crowd.



Conference attendees look over the displays of native plants.



On a field trip to Pine Island, hikers examined every growing thing.

CONFERENCE WRAP-UP



Donated trees and shrubs were planted to landscape the lake edge at Edison Community College.

ABSTRACTS from SCIENCE PAPERS

Education: the Nongame Program's Synapse between Information and Implementation,

by Erik Lovestrand, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

What is the role of education in preserving biodiversity in Florida's natural plant communities? Or does it even have a role?

One of the primary tools that educators have is *information*. And a desired end for the educational process is *implementing* that information. That is why education (the process) may be referred to as "The synapse between information and implementation." A synapse is simply the point at which a nerve impulse passes between neurons. Education is the connection whereby information is translated into implementation, or action. The Nongame Wildlife Program's Education Section is working toward maintaining biodiversity in Florida through projects targeted at endangered habitats which house many unique plants and animals. Educational projects for Scrub and Tropical Hardwood Hammock habitats have been initiated. Projects will target very specific groups of people in a very specific order to be most effective in saving these valuable habitats. Primary target groups include

policy makers, conservation-oriented people, media, and civic groups. Methods will include use of printed materials, audio-visuals, and personal contacts in an organized plan of action. The people who currently understand the value of these habitats cannot afford to purchase them, but we do have some powerful tools to influence those that can.

Barrier Island Restoration, Blowing Rocks Preserve, 1985 to Present,

by Freda R. Posin, The Nature Conservancy, Tequesta, Florida.

Blowing Rocks Preserve is a 73-acre nature sanctuary located on Jupiter Island, a barrier island 20 miles north of West Palm Beach, Florida. When it was donated to The Nature Conservancy in 1969, it was heavily invaded by Australian pine (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) and Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*). From 1985 to 1988, The Nature Conservancy undertook a project to remove the weed trees and restore the coastal strand, mangrove wetland, and tropical hammock on the east side of the preserve. Over 8,000 mature saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) were transplanted with a front-end loader from a local donor site, with a resulting survival rate of better than 85%. The pathway hammock and man-

grove wetland had next to no mortality. Most planted areas were irrigated for slightly over one year, after which they were well established and required no more attention other than removal of seedling volunteers of exotic species.

Coastal stabilization,

by Fritz Wettstein, Bureau of Planning and Design, Div. of Recreation and Parks, Florida Dept. of Natural Resources.

The coincidental effects of rising sea levels and increasing population growth are accelerating the need to protect Florida's coastal resources. Florida's human ecology, in terms of both the tourist economy and the resident population's environmental health, is linked to the accessibility of recreation on sandy beaches and lagoon banks. This paper contends that the recreational quality of the beach environment is best sustained by the emulation of natural processes, forms, and vegetation patterns. Such soft methods of coastal stabilization as beach renourishment and sediment stabilization with vegetation provide limited but adequate protection while most importantly protecting recreational benefits and natural resources. Building dunes with vegetation both stabilizes sand and creates the aesthetic features of the beach at little cost.

FNPS PRESENTS LANDSCAPE AWARDS

by William F. Bissett

All good ideas need time to mature. New York Central Park, from the original idea of Olmsted and Vaux to the reality, took 70 years.

The FNPS Landscape Awards were also a long time advancing from the idea to the presentation. But the first annual presentations of the awards were made at the Ninth Annual Conference in May. Thanks to Dick Workman and others who planted the seeds some seven years ago, and all those who pulled the weeds from time to time so that the young idea could mature.

The goal of the Landscape Enhancement Awards program is to recognize those projects exemplary in the preservation and use of native plants. Projects were entered by FNPS chapters in

residential, commercial, or institutional categories.

Judging criteria were:

- compatibility of plant species to site
- preservation or creation of habitat
- completeness of preservation
- natural balance of species mix
- aesthetics and creativity

Because of the diversity of project types from almost total preservation to the re-landscaping of disturbed sites, not all of the criteria applied to all projects. Judging was done by chapter directors who, after picking first, second, and third place in each category, selected an overall winner. The institutional category, though represented by a single entrant, took overall honors.

Starting with the residential category here is a brief description of the award winning projects.

Residential, first place: The most remarkable thing about this project, the home of Dr. Robert H. Gore in Naples, is that only a 50x50-foot area was cleared for construction of the house on a ten-acre mixed cypress-hardwood hydric forest site. All building materials were hand carried to the house site to minimize impact to the forest floor. There is no air conditioning in the house, a testament to the cooling effect of building a house on stilts and retaining forest shade. Those areas damaged during construction were replanted with indigenous ferns and understory shrubs.

Residential, second place, was awarded to the garden of Eugenie and Jonathan Shaw of Lake Wales, submitted by Heartland Chapter. Their half-acre homesite represents both preservation of the existing ecosystem and reintroduction of native plant communities in a disturbed area. Roughly 50% of the lot is left in the original sandhill or scrub vegetation in a development where typically all vegetation other than a few trees is replaced with turf grass. A very successful scrub restoration containing a number of endangered species replaces lawn in front of the house.

Residential, third place, was presented to another Naples Chapter entrant, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Long. Starting with a totally disturbed site, the Longs naturalized their yard with native plants, most of which they grew themselves from seeds or cuttings. *Lippia*, *Phyla nodiflora*, was used as a ground cover in place of turf grass.

All of the residential projects were

designed and installed by the owners.

Commercial, first place: Polos of Brandon, entered by Suncoast Chapter, is an apartment complex with landscape designed by Fred Clark of the firm of Herbert and Halback. Although zoning for this project was "grandfathered in", which placed no requirements on the owner to do any replacement or additional planting by the wetland areas, the owner and landscape architect did what was necessary to make this landscape blend with the surrounding area. In addition to keeping the wax myrtle and palmetto clumps that were left on this improved pasture site, 1381 new trees were planted.

Commercial, second place, was awarded to Holbrook Travel Agency in Gainesville. Entered by Paynes Prairie Chapter and designed by David Pais, Holbrook employed both landscape construction and planting to preserve and enhance the site. What had been the estate of the late Dr. Al Laslae, a University of Florida ecology professor and horticulturist, contained extensive collections of native plant species and exotics, and existing mesic and hydric hammock ecosystems surrounding a spring head that forms a small pond with outflow into a stream. Railroad tie walls, rip-rap stone, and wooden walks were used to stabilize the construction disturbance, and predominantly native plants were used to re-landscape from the mesic area around the building down to the wetlands.

Commercial, third place, went to River Park at Tampa Palms, submitted by Suncoast Chapter and designed by Brightman Logan, owner of Central Florida Native Flora. Tampa Palms is a large development north of Tampa whose roadsides and common areas are landscaped with mostly exotics and turf. After Brightman became a resident, he was able to get natives planted in several areas, mostly around the preserves. The park is located near the Hillsborough River and was designed to use native plants as wildlife attractors. All the natives planted were labeled with signs to make the park an educational experience for the users.

The Institutional entry, Lake Parker Park in Lakeland, Florida, became the overall winner. Lake Parker Park was developed in the mid-1970s as a free-play picnic area. An aerial photo from 1980 shows a treeless grass plain subdivided by asphalt roads and parking lots.

The city soon realized that boat

ramps and picnic sheds alone did not provide the psychological recreation that lures people to parks. A planned program of reforestation was initiated using native trees to recreate specific forest communities. It then became apparent that by adding the rest of the community plants (understory, shrub mass, and ground cover), maintenance would be considerably lessened and the park would be an educational exhibit in natural systems for the residents of the city and the maintenance staff. Under the supervision of Chuck Vilushis of the Parks and Recreation Department, trees and understory are being added every year in the ongoing construction of natural communities. The project has been very successful from the floodplain/wetland forest up through the upland hardwood forest.

Because of the park's success in natural restoration and environmental education, Lake Parker Park deserves to be the Florida Native Plant Society Landscape Enhancement Awards overall winner.

GETTING RID OF YOUR LAWN

A conference on environmentally sound techniques for landscaping with conservation will be sponsored by Bok Tower Gardens.

November 3-5, 1989

River Ranch, Lake Wales

The conference is subtitled, "Getting rid of your lawn". The keynote address, entitled "Conservation in Landscaping" will be presented by George Briggs, director of Western North Carolina Arboretum. Other topics and presentations will include:

- Trees and Other Tall Green Things
- Native Color
- Fruit gardening
- Gardening for Critters
- Places for People
- Cutting Energy Costs with Trees
- Landscape Management
- Everything but Grass
- How to Dig a Hole and other Dirty Subjects
- Xeriscape
- and more.

Field trips on Sunday include tours of Bok Tower Gardens, Grenelefe Resort, and Country Oaks Subdivision.

For more information, contact Martha Geils-Smith, Conference Coordinator, Bok Tower Gardens, P.O. Box 3810, Lake Wales, FL 33859-3810, 813/676-1408.