Each year at the FNPS Annual Conference, the Landscape Awards Committee presents “Design with Natives,” a program that salutes the use of native plants in both restorative and traditional landscapes. Projects from around the state are submitted in a variety of categories, and the best are chosen to receive an award. Both professionals and non-professionals are invited to enter their work for consideration.

From complete site restorations to tiny butterfly gardens in a local schoolyard, “Design with Natives” provides everyone an opportunity to be honored for their native planting efforts. Additional photos of this year’s winners and an application for the 2008 awards may be found on www.fnps.org. Go to “Programs” and follow the link to “Awards and Grants.”

Ecosystem Restoration Landscape – First Place

Coe Visitor Center, Everglades National Park
West of Homestead and Florida City.

Plantings were selected to mimic the nearby Everglades hammock ecosystem of pine rocklands and wetland habitats, and to enhance the views from the Coe Visitor Center.
Many challenges and site constraints were overcome to create the wildflower and butterfly garden at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary environmental center. The primary goal of the design was to provide the maximum number and variety of pollinator plants (including both host and nectar plants) while demonstrating a holistic approach to gardening.

A diverse range of habitat was created, including space for wetland species such as the beautiful purple pickerelweed (Pontederia cordata).

The walking path narrows periodically to let visitors experience plants such as the coneflower (Echinacea purpurea) up close. Plants immediately adjacent to the pathways were specifically chosen for one or more of the following qualities: height, scent, color, texture, and durability.
Before designing their landscape, Eugene and Cathy Stoccardo studied historical records to find the soil type and habitat that originally occurred on their home site. Two years after installation, birds, butterflies, and insects visit this well-planned landscape, showing that even an urban, residential yard can be transformed into a native plant oasis.

Homeowner Landscape – First Place

Eugene & Catherine Stoccardo Residence, Orlando, Florida.
Eugene Stoccardo, Catherine Stoccardo, Designer, Owner & Contractor.

Professional Residential Landscape – First Place

Ticknor Residence
Santa Rosa Beach, Florida.
David A. Ilfrey, Jr. NativeDave.com, Designer.
Angie & Steve Ticknor, Owner.

An example was set for responsible land stewardship while appealing to traditional community standards. This sustainable landscape design conserves water, energy, time and money and restores eco-regional identity.
This beautiful use of native plant color and texture has set a precedent in the area and others have inquired about converting their traditional lawn oriented landscapes to natives.

Additional FNPS 2007 Landscape Awards

Ecosystem Restoration Landscape – Second Place
Felts Audubon Preserve Restoration
Palmetto, Florida.
Manatee County Audubon Society and Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Designer, Contractor & Maintenance.
Manatee County Audubon Society, Owner.

Homeowner Landscape – Second Place
Marilyn Smullen Residence
New Port Richey, Florida.
Marilyn Smullen, Designer, Owner.

Ecosystem Restoration Landscape – Third Place
Circle B-Bar Reserve
Polk County Environmental Lands Program, Polk County.
Water & Air Research, Contractor.
Polk County Board of County Commissioners, Owner.
Polk County Environmental Lands Program, Maintenance.

Homeowner Landscape – Third Place
Sharon Holding Residence
New Port Richey, Florida.
Sharon Holding, Designer, Owner.