The impacts of specimen collecting and exotic introductions (plants and animals). Water and its movement determines what habitats exist and what organisms live there, and non-native humans transformed much of Florida over the last century with canals and draining flooded areas for agriculture and habitation. The author discusses Everglades restoration in a way everyone can understand, especially after his earlier explanations of geology and the aquifer system underlying the state.

Tom Lodge confides to his readers that he can understand the urge that many people have to collect things from nature, but says that once he learned to photograph things in nature, that urge subsided. The book has beautiful photos, mostly of animals and landscapes, but there are some distinctive plants, and the beautiful diagrams and maps convey the orderly complexity of habitat differentiation based on elevational
The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society is to conserve, preserve, and restore the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

Official definition of native plant:
For most purposes, the phrase Florida native plant refers to those species occurring within the state boundaries prior to European contact, according to the best available scientific and historical documentation. More specifically, it includes those species understood as indigenous, occurring in natural associations in habitats that existed prior to significant human impacts and alterations of the landscape.