

The Quarterly Journal of the Florida Native Plant Society

Palmetto



Two FNPS Conservation Grants Awarded at 2008 Conference

Each year, FNPS awards grants for applied native plant conservation work. On-the-ground native plant community restoration, acquisition, habitat and native plant biodiversity enhancement projects are examples of the types of projects that have been awarded grants. The awards assist small organizations that need seed money to get a project off the ground. Grant recipients need not be members of FNPS but they must have a liaison with a recognized FNPS Chapter.

This year's Conservation Grants were awarded for the restoration of an Ormond Beach Maritime Hammock, and for the establishment of an experimental hammock community in South Florida.

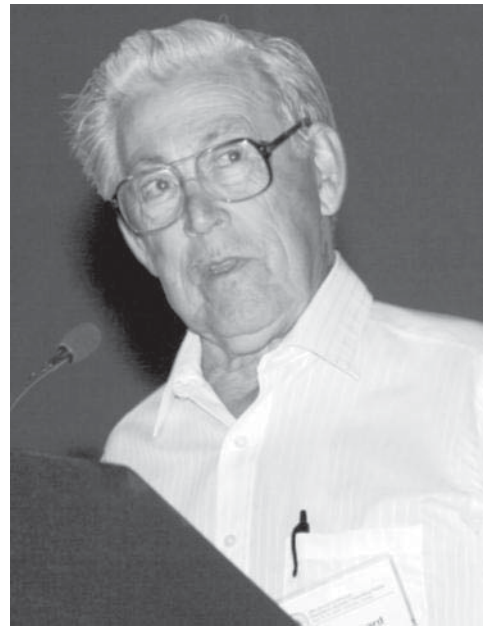
Restoration of an Ormond Beach Maritime Hammock – \$2,500 Grant

Sponsored by the Paw Paw Chapter of Volusia County, this project initiates the restoration of a maritime hammock in Ormond Beach. The site is just under one acre in size and is located on the grounds of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Daytona Beach (UUSDB). The hammock site also contains a small wetland, and is located in the flyway for neotropical migratory birds that move through the area seasonally.

Restoration will begin with the removal of invasive plant species, followed by reintroduction of native species to the site. Species to be planted on the site include wild olive, red cedar, marlberry and rouge plant. Paw Paw Chapter members will work cooperatively with the UUSDB to install interpretive signs and conduct guided tours of the site, which adjoins an area where a native plant National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitat is currently being created, using funds from another source.

Establishing an Experimental Hammock Community in South Florida – \$2,500 Grant

This project is sponsored by the Dade Chapter and will be conducted by Wes Brooks as part of research for a Ph.D. in Ecology from Rutgers University. A 4-acre rockland hammock that is owned by the county and is adjacent to the county's 110-acre Kendall Indian Hammocks Park has been heavily invaded by exotic species. Exotic species will be removed, native rockland hammock species will be installed, and permanent study plots will be established and monitored monthly to assess the results of various treatment methods to determine if such factors as species richness and plant density affect recruitment and growth of invasive exotic species. The project will include a floristic survey, removal of non-natives from the permanent study plots, planting of native shrubs and trees according to the experimental protocols, continuing control of exotics, and the erection of a display board at the adjoining park. The county has already issued a permit to allow the research and will assist in the eradication and control of exotic species.



Denny Girard (Mangrove Chapter) giving a poetry reading at the FNPS Gala Dinner. Photo by Jan Allyn.

Flowers Underfoot

By Denny Girard

A world of rainbow colors grow
beneath our feet, unseen
by those who hurry by;
a world of beauty invisible
to eyes that do not look.
We seldom see these tiny plants
that grow in jagged lawns
and carpet berms along the way.
They sprout along dusty trails
and live to paint the soggy swales.

We must look down
to see these living greens
with their pretty, pastel petals
that smile back at the few who see
the glory in their artistry.
Still their beauty spreads wide
with every color since time began,
bright hues seldom seen by man.
But first we must pause... Stop!
And look at flowers underfoot.



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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.

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Editorial Content

We welcome articles on native plant species and related conservation topics, as well as high-quality botanical illustrations and photographs. Contact the editor for guidelines, deadlines and other information.

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