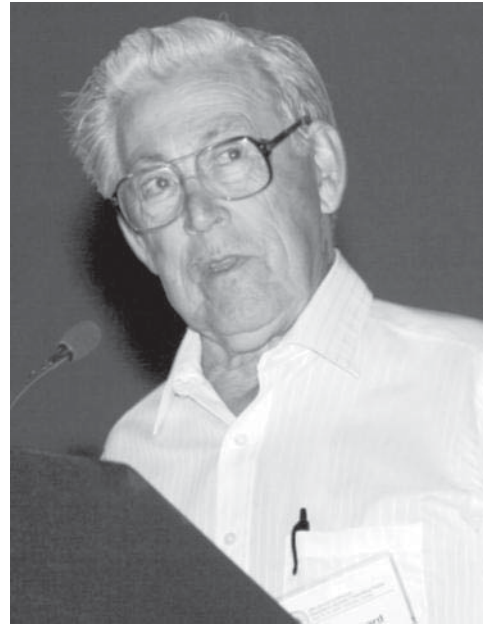


The Quarterly Journal of the Florida Native Plant Society

# Palmetto





*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.

### **For more Information:**

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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.

**Editor:** Marjorie Shropshire, Visual Key Creative, Inc. [palmetto@fnps.org](mailto:palmetto@fnps.org) • (772) 285-4286 • 1876 NW Fork Road, Stuart, FL 34994