

The Quarterly Journal of the Florida Native Plant Society

Palmetto



Conference 2008— Highlights and Parting Shots



Bill Bilodeau, Shirley Denton and Cathy Quindiagan enjoy the conference festivities. Photo by Jan Allyn.



Musicians in the courtyard of the South Florida Museum. Photo by Joan Bausch.



Mary Echols (Naples Chapter) creating environmental art in the "Green Art" Workshop. Photo by Peg Lindsay.



Chamber ensemble serenading guests at the Gala Dinner. Photo by Jan Allyn.



The 2008 FNPS Conference Committee: Kneeling in front (left to right): Nancy West, Karen Fraley, Cathy Quindiagan. Standing (left to right): Al Squires, Bob Egolf, John Holyland, Debbie Chayet, Martha Horton, Christine Holyland, Harriett Wright, Lisa Curry, Denny Girard, Tom Heitzman, Ray Wunderlich, Mary Miller, Bill Bilodeau. Photo by Jan Allyn.

Conference Highlights

by Linda J. Wilson

This year's conference was very interesting. Our Chapter was one of the co-hosts, so most of my time was spent volunteering – at the chapter booth which offered shirts, stationery, photographs, and DVDs for sale, and at the silent auction, which was a huge success.

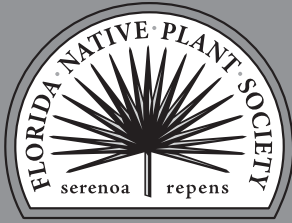
I enjoyed visiting the plant and book sales, and there were also many vendor and informational booths to see.

The social on Friday night was held at the South Florida Museum, where we were treated to a private tour. We saw Snooty the manatee, who has lived at the Museum's Parker Aquarium for many years. How wonderful to watch Snooty and his three water-mates up close as they munched on lettuce, snoozed and swam.

The Gala dinner at the Manatee Convention Center had great food and live music, and the awards program inspired me to apply for the home landscape awards next year.

In between volunteering, I was able to attend some of the presentations. Programs of interest to me included *Dragonflies and Butterflies in Pine Flatwoods*, *Ancient Native Americans in Florida*, *Native Plant Maintenance*, and *Climate Change and its Effects*. A fascinating program called *The Case of the Cannibal Cypress* looked at cypress root loops. Looped cypress knees have been observed wrapping themselves around old stumps and possibly getting nutrients from this action. Other programs included *Is Bigger Really Better?* which compared how planting different sized potted plants effected their long term growth success; *Recovery Developments of the Endangered Ziziphus*, *Wild Flower Seed Production*, and *Grass, Sedge and Rush Identification* rounded out my program choices at the conference.

The 2008 conference was a great opportunity for learning and also for meeting new friends.



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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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