

The Quarterly Journal of the Florida Native Plant Society

Palmetto



2010 Palmetto Awards

Each year at the annual conference,
The Florida Native Plant Society rewards the extraordinary effort
of those who have contributed to the advancement of the Society and its mission.



▲ Palmetto Award recipients Cindy Liberton; Vince Lamb; Sonia Guidry (with Gene Kelly); and Greg Jubinski.

Green Palmetto Awards

Green Palmetto Awards are given to members who have provided outstanding support in service, education, science or technical expertise.

Kathy Burks

Kathy gave much to Florida's conservation efforts during her years of scientific research and public service, which often focused on the management of invasive plants. Florida lost a great native plant person when she died in 2006 after a brief illness. Everyone remembers Kathy for her joyful personality, integrity, dedication to excellence, and her many contributions to botany and conservation in Florida and the Florida Native Plant Society.

Kathy earned a Master of Science degree in Biological Science from Florida State University in 1992 under the direction of Dr. Loran Anderson. Her master's project was a critical floristic study of Lake Miccosukee and environs in the Florida panhandle, where she developed an early expertise and interest in aquatic species, and endangered species such as the federally listed Miccosukee gooseberry (*Ribes echinellum*).

Kathy's first major project after graduating from FSU was a four-year study of plant diversity in wet savannas in the Apalachicola National Forest, which involved botanical inventory and monitoring of groundcover diversity in response to prescribed fire. She worked as a botanist for the Florida Department of

Environmental Protection Bureau of Invasive Species Management for ten years and then the Florida Natural Areas Inventory. Kathy researched and wrote for numerous publications, including *Florida Wetland Plants: An Identification Manual* (UF, 1998), and *Identification and Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas* (UF, 1998). Her characteristic wit and humor are apparent in many of her writings.

Kathy served the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) as Chair of the Invasive Species List Committee for many years, and was active in FLEPPC outreach activities. During her career, she also served as Chair of the Science Committee for the Florida Wildflower Advisory Council, and as a member of the Florida Endangered Plants Advisory Council. Kathy had also been appointed to be Plants Editor for the Florida Committee on Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals (FCREPA). She was known as one of the state's foremost experts on invasive plant species and provided expert plant identification services for biologists and public land managers throughout the state. She was a keynote speaker at the 2004 Florida Native Plant Society conference.

Whether it was invasive plants, rare plants, or roadside wildflowers, Kathy brought good science and a human touch to all of these important conservation issues.

She devoted herself as an advocate for the R. K. Godfrey Herbarium at FSU, and brought positive attention and critically needed financial resources to this important educational and research resource. In 2008, a memorial to Kathy Craddock Burks was placed on the campus of Florida State University, close to the herbarium. FLEPPC's Kathy Craddock Burks Education Grant was named for her, commemorating her achievements in non-native invasive plant education and outreach projects in Florida.

Trish Gramajo

Trish has been an active FNPS and Ixia Chapter member since 2005. As the Ixia Board's Conservation Chair, she helps build support for Florida's land buying program, *Florida Forever*, encouraging advocacy by Ixia members and other large grass-roots groups and working with the FNPS Executive Director to secure legislative support from Florida Representatives and Senators for continued funding of the program.

As Conservation Chair, she led the efforts to secure an FNPS Conservation Grant which enabled the Chapter to create and publish the *AlterNatives* poster featuring 15 Class I and II invasive species recommended for removal and more than 35 Florida friendly natives recommended to use in their place. The \$1,000 grant was augmented by a donation of graphic design services, enabling the Chapter to print 2,000 copies of the poster. The poster has been widely distributed and is also available through the FNPS web site.

Trish founded and has chaired the First Coast Invasive Working Group since its inception in 2006. The Group was established to work across federal, state, local and private lands for invasive species prevention and management efforts, and has over 40 partners including all the large public land managers, extension programs, universities, The Nature Conservancy, Audubon, Florida Native Plant Society, Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, Student Conservation Association, many private landowners and others.

The Group has developed a 5-Year Strategic Plan which includes the goal of establishing the Green Thumb Nursery Plan by 2011 and has submitted a proposal for funding. The Plan would certify nurseries in five Northeast Florida counties that adhere to practices that prevent the introduction and spread of invasive plants and help raise awareness of the environmental and financial advantages of using native plants.

In 2006, Trish launched the first local National Invasive Species Awareness Week and the inaugural Great Air Potato Roundup. The Roundup in Northeast Florida has been followed by three succeeding events to date. An estimated 10 tons of tubers have been removed from the region's natural areas with almost 1,000 volunteers participating over the three year period.

Trish is also a Board member of the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens, whose mission is to educate Northeast Florida and its regional communities about native and cultivated plants, improve its beauty and atmosphere, engage in and promote the

Continued on page 14

Mentor Award

The Mentor Award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the science and/or practice of native plant preservation, conservation and restoration. The Mentor Award is the highest honor FNPS can bestow.



◀ Mentor Award recipient Anne Cox

Anne Cox

Anne's long-term leadership role in FNPS continues with her guidance as Chair of the Public Lands Management Committee.

Responsibilities of the Committee include participation in the Florida Land Management Review process, an important program established by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to review management plans for all state conservation lands once every five years.

Land management review panels consist of five state employees from various organizations, such as the Division of Forestry and Florida Natural Area Inventory, a private land manager (often The Nature Conservancy) and a representative of an environmental organization. Anne's efforts have served to establish FNPS as the organization best able to provide knowledgeable representatives to fill the environmental organization position.

Numerous benefits result from participation in these reviews. State representatives become increasingly familiar with FNPS and respect our ability to contribute. Members are able to make meaningful suggestions regarding land management, and these suggestions are incorporated into review documents. Members also get acquainted with land managers and biologists and learn more about land management through field visits to conservation lands. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection benefits from the participation of FNPS members who understand the review process and are willing to share their positive views about state conservation land management.

Land management reviews are an extremely important outreach activity for FNPS, and Anne's leadership in developing FNPS as a partner in the process is invaluable.

Anne has been a leader at the state and chapter level, and is responsible for numerous achievements over the years. She has mentored many individuals with zest and a smile, and her professionalism has assisted decision making within our organization. Anne Cox is a tremendous asset to FNPS.

conservation and preservation of our natural resources, and provide public service.

Trish has nine years of conservation experience with The Nature Conservancy and is responsible for implementing its freshwater and land management projects in northeast Florida and southeast Georgia. She has assisted with statewide and local conservation campaigns to fund land management and willing seller acquisition programs in Florida. Trish's academic credentials include a political science and public administration degree from the University of North Florida.

Sonya Guidry

Sonya has immense knowledge, inexhaustible energy, selfless spirit, and a wholehearted desire to share with others.

When she joined the newly-formed Pawpaw Chapter in 1991, Sonya embraced the mission of FNPS. She served as the Chapter's president from 1993 to 1995, before finding her calling as Field Trip Chair, where she is the native plant ambassador for participants new to exploring central Florida's plant communities.

Sonya leads field trippers to meet native plants in their natural habitats – whether by foot, Eco-Buggy, canoe or pontoon boat. Equipped with her native plant books and a child's sense of wonder, every outing is lovingly planned as a great adventure. On a trip to Silver Glen State Park, Sonya compiled a list of native plants she hoped to see based on Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' mention of them in her book *The Yearling*. Under Sonya's direction, participants found the little stream that was the site of Jody's handmade water-wheel and they attempted to construct their own.

Her regard for native plants shines through as she speaks of them as old friends, complete with quirky personalities and idiosyncrasies. Participants agree Sonya makes outings thoroughly enjoyable, as well as educational, remarking that "She brings native plants alive for me on the many field trips" or "I've also been able to visit areas of Florida that I probably would have overlooked."

The past presidents and board members she has served with through the years agree that when volunteerism is at its lowest, Sonya can always be counted on to lend a hand – or hat! Donning an ostentatious flowery garden hat, she passed out fliers at a festival of 7,000 people to advertise a Chapter plant sale the following week. As a constant fixture at Pawpaw events – plant sales, book sales, demonstration gardens, cleanups, festivals, meetings and e-mail campaigns – she goes above and beyond to reach the public and educate them on native plants and environmental issues.

One member recounts that Sonya was instrumental in her joining the Society. At a festival where FNPS had a display, Sonya sold her an iris, and they talked at great length. "I found her to be a fountain of knowledge – I went to the next meeting, and joined." This member became the Chapter's president and remains active today. The iris Sonya sold her still grows in her yard.

Greg Jubinski

As Program Leader for the Upland Invasive Plant Manage-

ment Program, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Greg is at the helm of one of the most effective programs in the State, working to combat the invasive species that comprise one of the greatest threats to wildlife and plant habitat in Florida. He not only thinks out of the box, he creates new and innovative approaches.

Greg has no tolerance for wasting time or resources – as a result he is keenly focused on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of his program. He has made a huge difference in the way the state of Florida plans and implements the eradication of invasives. Greg is the "go to" person statewide and his professionalism and reputation are well known.

He has been a speaker at the FNPS conference on several occasions and is a long-time, dedicated FNPS member whose life and career embody and forward the mission of the Society.

One of Greg's colleagues says "What drives a man like Greg to invest his professional and personal time and energy to restore and protect native habitat in the State of Florida? My guess is that he has a personal connection to the nature around him." He has a stewardship ethic that fuels his leadership role in designing programs and leading the charge to make a measurable difference on the ground, and stay focused on the actions that truly matter.

Greg's many accomplishments include his efforts to educate state work forces in plant identification and control methods for invasive species. One example of this is his program's support in supplying the Florida Department of Transportation with customized weed decks for their field employees throughout the state. This is part of Greg's strength – recognizing the need to work on all types of lands and with all partners.

Greg Jubinski is a conservationist extraordinaire. In addition to his Green Palmetto Award, Greg was awarded this year's FNPS Service Award, for individuals working in the public sector that contribute to the FNPS mission.

Bobbi Rogers

When Bobbi Rodgers joined the Mangrove Chapter in 1997 she began a career of service that continues to this day. Her actions helped transform this once stagnant Chapter into the vibrant, growing group it is today.

Bobbi was a new member when she accepted the position of President and served two terms (1998-2002). She followed this with service as Immediate Past President and Chapter Representative (2003-04). She then assumed responsibility for arranging our busy program of speakers as Program Chair (2003-06). When both the Publicity Chair and Conservation/Education Chair asked to be relieved of their duties, Bobbi relinquished her program duties and assumed these roles (2007-present). She makes sure Mangrove Chapter activities are announced and reported in the press and maintains the Chapter web presence.

She has also authored an invasive plant booklet and produced a DVD titled *Lemon Bay, Past, Present and Future*, both encouraging the use of native plants.

Bobbi is the Resource Manager of Cedar Point Environmental Park and has offered this facility as the site of the Chapter's Annual Plant Native Day and the planned Chapter Garden.

Whether serving as an officer or board member, manning a booth, or setting up chairs for a meeting, Bobbi has set a high standard of service in the Mangrove Chapter for over a decade.

Palmetto Chapter Award

Congratulations to the Magnolia Chapter for being the recipient of the 2010 Chapter Award. Look for details in the next issue of Palmetto.

Silver Palmetto Awards

Silver Palmetto Awards reward members of The FNPS Board of Directors who have provided exemplary service.

Kari Ruder

As Chair of the Florida Native Plant Society's Education Committee and at local and regional levels, Kari Ruder has a hands-on approach to education.

She has held numerous workshops on propagating plants for native landscapes and home food gardens. She is actively involved in the community, giving presentations and leading educational sessions on a variety of sustainable home practices. She also works with local government agencies, facilitating projects and adding to local horticultural and native plant knowledge.

Kari is a former Brevard County natural resources employee. Her background, professionalism, and knowledge combined with patience, organizational skills, and sense of fun make her an outstanding communicator.

As FNPS Education Chair, Kari is a state leader in native plant and environmental education. When given the task of writing an action plan for the Education Committee, Kari produced a professional report and has used it as a tool to guide the progress of the Committee.

Kari is a powerhouse of energy and determination who uses her thoughtfulness, strength and commitment to forward the conservation of native plants and native plant communities. In addition to her contributions to FNPS, Kari is a member of the Association of Florida Native Nurseries (AFNN) and owns *Naturewise*, a native plant nursery.

Vince Lamb

Vince Lamb is an accomplished nature photographer. His knowledge of technology

and his successful business background make him a valuable addition to the Brevard County environmental community and to the Florida Native Plant Society's Board of Directors.

He is able to successfully engage with a variety of people, including politicians, to diplomatically advance FNPS's conservation mission.

Vince is a Master Naturalist, and a founding member of Friends of Ulamay, which partners with Brevard County to manage conservation land. He was the organizer of the Florida Naturalist training program in the Brevard area and has led many field trips. He is also active in Florida's Land Management Review program, representing FNPS.

He enjoys guiding people in natural areas so they can see firsthand the beauty of Florida and become impassioned to protect it. Vince gives all his talents and time generously and humbly, and is the first person to say "thank you" to anyone else who gives.

An FNPS member stated "If there is an issue, activity, or opportunity to be involved in, or to contribute to native plant or environmental activities, Vince will be there. He is also an effective contributor and steps up to take action."

An additional talent is his gift for public relations – from creating web sites to calling on reporters, seeking publicity for native plant conservation or land acquisition purchases. He routinely follows county commission decisions and comprehensive plan changes and gives comments on best conservation practices.

At recent Keep Brevard Beautiful meetings, Vince made a visually spectacular

slideshow for the xeriscape grant program showing the reasons why natives are the best choice for landscaping

His involvement in the Board of Directors has been an asset to the society, and his comments and guidance are always wise and thoughtful. Some people just manage to give more than is normally expected. Vince is one of them.

Cindy Liberton

Cindy became FNPS Communications Committee Chair in 2003, and in that role supported the Society's internal and external communications by bringing together people of many talents to serve the FNPS mission. She is a passionate conservation advocate and a tireless volunteer, and over the years, has provided much needed support and advice to the FNPS board of directors.

She is an accomplished communications professional, and despite the current economy, bravely started her own company that provides words, design and planning support to those working to preserve the planet and improve the well-being of people.

Cindy is a founding member of FNPS' Hernando Chapter and serves both as Vice President for Administration and its Public Relations officer.

Of FNPS, Cindy says, "FNPS membership makes you part of a Florida-wide family dedicated to understanding the natural world and sharing this knowledge to help protect it. Any contribution I've made as a member has been more than matched by what I've received: lasting friendships and limitless avenues for learning more about the Florida I love."



The Florida Native Plant Society
PO Box 278
Melbourne FL 32902-0278

The Palmetto

(ISSN 0276-4164) Copyright 2014, Florida Native Plant Society, all rights reserved. No part of the contents of this magazine may be reproduced by any means without written consent of the editor. *The Palmetto* is published four times a year by the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) as a benefit to members. The observations and opinions expressed in attributed columns and articles are those of the respective authors and should not be interpreted as representing the official views of the Florida Native Plant Society or the editor, except where otherwise stated.

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 • (772) 285-4286 • 1876 NW Fork Road, Stuart, FL 34994

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:

<http://fnps.org>

To become a member, contact your local Chapter Representative, call, write, or e-mail FNPS, or join online at www.fnps.org/join

Follow FNPS online:

Blog: <http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/FNPSfans

Twitter: twitter.com/FNPSonline

LinkedIn: Groups, Florida Native Plant Society