This year’s FNPS Landscape Awards presentation honored the owners, designers and contractors whose projects best showcased the use of native plants. Judging was conducted by a three member panel consisting of two Florida Registered Landscape Architects and one Florida Certified Horticulture Professional, all members of The Florida Native Plant Society’s Marion Big Scrub Chapter. Awards were presented in three categories – Transportation, Ecosystem Restoration and Residential.
1. Hickey Residence – Award of Honor
2. Cummings Residence – Award of Excellence
3. Highland Oaks Mitigation Project – Award of Excellence
4. Calhoun Meadows – Award of Merit
5. Kendallwood Park & Neighborhood Landscape Mitigation – Award of Honor
6. Periwinkle Way Restoration Project – Award of Merit
7. Peck Lake Park Mitigation Project – Award of Honor

Continued on page 10
The 2010 FNPS Conference was a great success, with a good number of attendees, interesting speakers and field trips. The gala and awards banquet featured a great band, great food and great company. This social event is also a time when guests have the opportunity to experience the annual FNPS Landscape Awards presentation and recognize the owners, designers and contractors who have created award-winning native landscapes that showcase the use of native plants. Besides being beautiful, these landscapes are truly functional and ecologically active and speak of a sense of place for each location.

The 2010 submittals ranged from Coral Gables up to Blountstown, from Sanibel to Hobe Sound and places in between. No specific region or category really jumped ahead of any other – it was a great potpourri of contestants. Only seven qualified to win awards. Judging was conducted by a three member panel consisting of two Florida Registered Landscape Architects and one Florida Certified Horticulture Professional, all of whom are members of the FNPS Marion Big Scrub Chapter. Winners were chosen in three categories – Transportation, Ecosystem Restoration and Residential.

It was a pleasure to judge and critique the projects, and after careful consideration and much double-checking, the panel was extremely satisfied with the results. To be able to recognize the efforts of the people who put their projects on the line to compete and to see the excitement of the winners was very rewarding.

The FNPS Landscape Awards program is an important part of the Society's public relations strategy. The awards presentation, the local recognition the winners receive in their hometowns and the instant promotion of what makes a native landscape qualify as a winner combine to prove that native landscapes should be held to a high standard of success and functionality. Winning landscapes all spoke of one of the most important aspects of landscape design – a sense of place – and that place is our beloved Florida, with its wonderful diversity and variety of plant communities.

It was a pleasure to serve as the Chairman of the 2010 Landscape Awards Committee and I look forward to serving again and recognizing more amazing landscapes.

Jim Couillard, ASLA
Chairman, Landscape Awards Committee
Florida Native Plant Society

**RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE**

**Award of Honor**

**Hickey Residence**
Owner, Mr. & Mrs. Edwin W. Hickey
Designer, Richard J. Rutledge,
Firm, Innocenti & Weibel
Contractor, Aiello Landscape

Highlights: This landscape incorporates a high level of native plant use. The plan responded well to the site's ecology and preserved existing native vegetation. Large specimen trees were relocated from adjoining properties.

**Award of Excellence**

**Cummings Residence**
Owner, James and Marilyn Cummings
Designer, William F. Bissett
Landscape Architect, The Natives, Inc.
Contractor, Barry Nichols, Trees of Righteousness

Highlights: A once-traditional lawn has been transformed into a haven for wildlife. Shoreline restoration buffers the water, and a diverse selection of native plants specific to the ecosystem has been planted.

**Award of Merit**

**Calhoun Meadows**
Owner, Karen and Travis MacClendon

Highlights: Barren farmland was transformed into a wildlife haven through the removal of large invasive exotics and installation of different native habitats. A one-way viewing window allows for wildlife observation. Tours and Master Gardener meetings add an excellent educational component.

**ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION**

**Award of Excellence**

**Highland Oaks Mitigation Project**
Owner, Miami-Dade Park & Recreation Department
Designer, Coastal Systems International, Inc.
Contractor, Mitigating Circumstances, Inc.

Highlights: This project began with the removal of invasive plant species and debris and restoration of the site's natural hydroperiod. The site was replanted with native freshwater wetland species, and the restored wetlands now interact naturally with the nearby Oleta River. A 10-week on-site program for children provides environmental education.

**Award of Honor**

**Peck Lake Park Mitigation Project**
Owner, Florida Inland Navigation District / Martin County Board of County Commissioners
Designer, Michael A. Yustin
Contractor, Habitat Restoration & Earth Balance

Highlights: High value was placed on use of native plants and their relationship to local native plant communities during the restoration of this disturbed area. Exotic species were so pervasive that clearing and burning was used prior to the installation of native plants. Trail signs aid protection of the restoration area and increase the public’s knowledge of plants and ecosystems.

**TRANSPORTATION**

**Award of Honor**

**Kendallwood Park & Neighborhood Landscape Mitigation**
Owner, Miami-Dade Expressway Authority
Designer, Leticia Fernandez-Beraud
Firm, Fernandez-Beraud, Inc.
Contractor, Arazoza Brothers Company

Highlights: The area along an unsightly highway was converted to a planted landscape buffer with walking trails. The project used varying heights and types of native plant materials to conceal an access ramp and sound barrier wall.

**Award of Merit**

**The Periwinkle Way Restoration Project**
Owner, City of Sanibel
Designer, Vanessa Daylor
Bob Mitchell, RLA, ASLA
Contractor, Various

Highlights: This roadway restoration project extends into a peaceful garden area. Good signage and the garden's availability for tours provide educational opportunities for visitors. The colorful and functional rest areas encourage high use along Sanibel's main roadway.
Craig Huegel's new book will be a handy reference for seasoned gardeners and those who are just beginning to plant their landscapes with natives and wildlife in mind. Craig's experience in the field and his keen observational skills are combined in an easy-to-use reference book that will be a good addition to any native plant library. The author shares his personal know-how and draws on the resources of many experts in the state's agencies and academia as well. What is not superficially apparent in a reading of the new book is that it is an extensive revision of a previous effort supported by our organization.

In 1995 FNPS published Craig's 118 page paperback, _Florida Plants for Wildlife_, listing about 280 wildlife-friendly trees and shrubs from 50 Florida native plant families. Each species entry was accompanied by a range map and icons which clued the reader in to its habit, ornamental value, growth needs and specific wildlife attractiveness. Some species were illustrated with line drawings. The 98 pages of species entries were preceded by a 10 page discussion of habitat and a briefing on how to plant for food and cover. The accounts were followed by a one page pep-talk on helping wildlife, 3 pages of region-specific recommended planting lists and an index. The book is out of print, but is available through Amazon, and other sources.

It's important to review a little something about _Florida Plants for Wildlife_, because the author tells us frankly that his new book is a direct descendant of that earlier effort. The earlier book contains so many more species, readers who don't have one may want to track down a copy to supplement the more streamlined species presentation in the new, improved version. The new book has been a long time coming and has, as Huegel notes, changed considerably in the process. These changes will perhaps appeal to a wider audience. Chances are, they will also appeal to the same folks who enjoyed the earlier volume.

_Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife_ is constructed with a core of native species accounts wrapped in advice on how to use the plants to create wildlife-friendly Florida yards. The number of species presented has shrunk to fewer than half those in the '95 book, but comprise a section with 40% more pages. This streamlined core is the result of both winnowing and expansion. The winnowing may simply reflect the practical matter of availability. Sure, you'd love to use _Trema micrantha_ in that mixed species hedge, but where do you get it? By contrast, most species in the new volume seem to be commercially available. Each account in the new book is longer, and includes Huegel's personal notes and other biological tidbits helpful to suburban wildlife managers. There is also at least one color photo, most by the author, illustrating each of the 53 families.

Readers may be disappointed to learn that, as in the original, only trees and shrubs are included. The vast world of native Florida herbaceous plants still awaits a similar treatment. Tantalizingly, Huegel suggests he may be considering one – he already has authored a volume on butterfly landscaping. More frustrating is the lack of concrete case studies of successful wildlife plantings. The archives of FNPS's annual competitions must contain dozens of good plans from all over Florida. Including few of those, complete with photos, would go far to inspire imitation.

Craig Huegel's expertise in wildlife-interactive native planting really shines in the sections leading up to and following the species accounts. Instead of producing a terse set of directions, the author has written a personal essay on wildlife landscaping. On most pages, there are thoughtful insights such as this commonsensical first sentence: “Florida wildlife species are not declining because of development, but because of the way we develop.” That becomes the starting point for his personal appeal to interested homeowners: build a landscape which will attract wildlife by using your eyes and head and by doing what they tell you. Through sections like “Plants and Food” Huegel weaves in the necessary ecological principles without making a big deal of it. For example, he introduces the concept of Limiting Factor by simply suggesting that gardeners figure out for themselves which of the “big three” – food, water and cover, are in shortest supply and work on providing it. The author's stated goal for the book is for it to be the resource which supports that process. Similarly, Huegel trusts us to consider which wildlife species we may want to plan for. He provides a short database of native vertebrates to aid in this.

Florida's latitudinal reach and its resultant biodiversity make writing a book with this one's goals a daunting, almost audacious undertaking. Craig Huegel pulls it off with a combination of evident expertise and a personal approach which is both charming and informative. Readers will find much to savor, and to reflect on in his thoughtful deliberation on landscaping for Florida wildlife.
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

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