

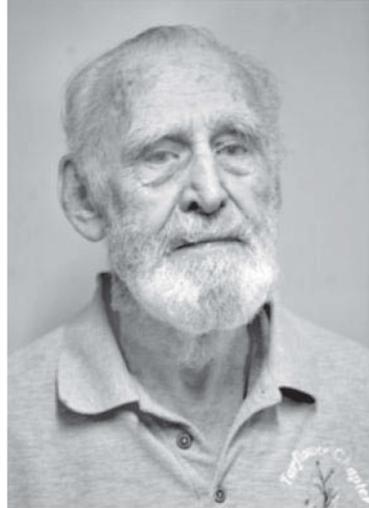
The Quarterly Journal of the Florida Native Plant Society



# Palmetto



# Dick Deuerling, Wild Food Specialist



Dick Deuerling, longtime FNPS friend and wild foods guru, passed away on July 18, 2013. He was 92 years old. A service was held in Orlando to honor his memory, with four generations of his family and many members of the FNPS Tarflower Chapter in attendance.

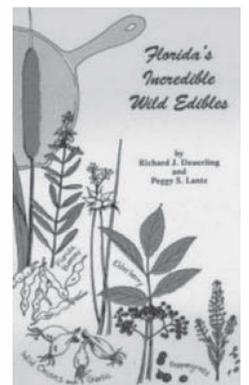
Dick was a self-taught naturalist who was interested in plants since he could crawl, and had eaten wild foods for fifty years. Teaching came naturally to him, and he shared his knowledge and experiences with many. He taught survival techniques to Boy Scout troops, and was proud that one of his proteges was the only scout to

gain weight on a 153-mile, thirteen day survival hike across Florida.

He gave programs on wild foods to garden clubs, college students, and public school children. One group of youngsters at the Orlando Science Center were served a porridge of Jerusalem artichokes and sandspurs. Although they were not told what it was until after dining on it, they agreed it was good.

In 1989, FNPS introduced readers to Dick via his regular column in *Palmetto*, "Native Wild Foods". Peggy Lantz, Editor of FNPS *Palmetto* from 1981 to 1995, wrote in her introduction to Dick's new column, "Every Florida Native Plant Society chapter needs somebody like Dick Deuerling with the ongoing enthusiasm and knowledge that keeps a chapter alive and growing. Every month, Dick is on the program of the Tarflower Chapter in central Florida, sharing his expertise, showing wild plants he has brought to the meeting, and providing refreshments in the form of teas, jellies, and syrups made from wild native plants."

The topic of Dick's first column was elderberry, and over the next four years, he wrote 16 more columns on wild foods. These popular wild food columns were gathered together into a small 72-page illustrated book, officially presented at the 1993 FNPS conference in Haines City. The book, *Florida's Incredible Wild Edibles*, has been reprinted numerous times, and is available online or from co-author Peggy Lantz.



## **Florida's Incredible Wild Edibles**

Richard Deuerling & Peggy Lantz

*Florida's varying habitats are blessed with a wide variety of native plant species, with roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruit, and seeds that provide good and interesting food for people. From "Dandelion Dip" to "Elderflower Champagne," the authors offer accurate descriptions and recipes for Florida's incredible wild edibles.*

Source: book description and ordering information at:  
[http://www.finneyco.com/GOP\\_products/FL\\_incredible\\_wild\\_edibles.htm](http://www.finneyco.com/GOP_products/FL_incredible_wild_edibles.htm)

*Thanks to Peggy Lantz for providing a biographical sketch of Dick Deuerling*



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](mailto: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](http://www.fnps.org/join)

#### **Follow FNPS online:**

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

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FNPSfans](http://www.facebook.com/FNPSfans)

Twitter: [twitter.com/FNPSonline](https://twitter.com/FNPSonline)

LinkedIn: Groups, Florida Native Plant Society