Gardening for the Birds • 2010 Landscape Awards • 2010 Palmetto Awards
Call for Scientific Papers and Poster Presentations

The Florida Native Plant Society annual conference will be held at the Sheraton Orlando North, Maitland, Florida, May 19-22, 2011. The Conference Research Track will include presented papers on Friday, May 20 and Saturday, May 21. Posters will be on display on Friday and Saturday and the poster session will be held Saturday afternoon.

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts on research related to native plants and plant communities of Florida including preservation, conservation, and restoration. Presentations are 20 minutes (15 minutes for presentation, 5 minutes for questions). Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted as a MS Word file by e-mail to Paul A. Schmalzer paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov Deadline is February 1, 2011. Include title, affiliation, and address and indicate whether you will present a paper or poster.

Apply for FNPS 2011 Endowment Grant Research Awards and Conservation Grant Awards

FNPS maintains an Endowment Grant program for the purpose of funding research on native plants. These are small grants ($1500 or less), awarded for a 1-year period, and intended to support research that forwards the FNPS mission to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the Florida’s native plants and native plant communities.

FNPS Conservation Grants support applied native plant conservation projects in Florida. These are small grants ($1500 or less) awarded for a 1-year period. On-the-ground native plant community restoration, land acquisition, and habitat enhancement projects are examples of projects that this grant is intended to assist. To qualify for a Conservation Grant, the proposed project must be sponsored by an FNPS Chapter.

Application guidelines are online at www.fnps.org. Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to info@fnps.org Application deadline is March 4, 2011. Awards will be announced at the 2011 Annual Conference in Maitland.

Take the Annie Schmidt Challenge!

Four FNPS Board members challenge you to help fund our 2011 grants programs. Three are donating $225, $225, and $150 respectively to fund the FNPS Research and Conservation grants for 2011. The fourth is donating $250 to fund Landscape awards for 2011. They challenge you to meet their donations!

To participate, please send your check to FNPS Administrative Services, and indicate which grant or award you would like to contribute to. Mail your contribution to FNPS Administrative Services, PO Box 278, Melbourne FL 32902-0278.

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

Participate in the Florida Native Plant Society Estate Giving Program

Please contact Steve Woodmansee, Vice President for Finance
786-488-3101
stevewoodmansee@bellsouth.net
8025 SW 102 Avenue, Miami, FL 33173-3937
Make a difference with FNPS
Your membership supports the preservation and restoration of wildlife habitats and biological diversity through the conservation of native plants. It also funds awards for leaders in native plant education, preservation and research.

- Individual $35
- Family or household $50
- Contributing $75
  (with $25 going to the Endowment)
- Not-for-profit organization $50
- Business or corporate $125
- Supporting $100
- Donor $250
- Lifetime $1,000
- Full time student $15

Please consider upgrading your membership level when you renew.

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Meet the winners of the 2010 Palmetto Awards.

Palmetto seeks 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 at pucpuggy@bellsouth.net, or visit www.fnps.org and follow the links to Publications/Palmetto.

ON THE COVER:
A selection of winners of the 2010 FNPS Landscape Awards. Clockwise from top: Highland Oaks Mitigation Project; Peck Lake Mitigation Project; Cummings Residence; Calhoun Meadows. See story on page 8.
In my previous article*, I discussed some of the most important considerations in selecting plants for a wildlife landscape. Remember, our goal is to provide habitat for birds (and other animals as well) and the habitat approach requires us to provide year-round food, water and cover that meets the needs of each species that we are designing for. It is not enough to simply follow some generic landscape plan provided to you by one of the many wildlife experts or organizations. Although many of these have some merit as a starting point, none of them will allow you to reach the full potential possible. To do that, you need to learn the habitat requirements of each species you wish to target, evaluate the current condition of your landscape, and devise a landscape plan that will then augment or fill in the gaps that currently exist.

*See Palmetto; Volume 25, Number 1 – Winter 2008

Plants relate to each other in a landscape. It is one situation where the sum is greater than the parts; one plus one does not equal two, but something greater.

Above left: Rouge plant can be an effective cover and food plant for birds when planted in mass beneath taller woody species. Photo by Craig Huegel.
Plant selection is extremely important to reaching your goal. The way you place these plants within your landscape is equally important. Landscape design is the one element of this equation that often gets short shrift, but understanding it is vital to success. It is not enough to simply put a plant into the ground. It needs to be placed into the overall community. Plants relate to each other in a landscape. It is one situation where the sum is greater than the parts; one plus one does not equal two, but something greater.

As an example, even the best bird bath becomes useless (or dangerous) to birds when placed in the wrong context. A bird bath placed in the open yard becomes a hawk feeder that calls attention to any songbird considering the option of suicide. No bird will last very long, even in a suburban setting, if crazy enough to bathe or drink in the wide open spaces where everything else will notice it. Similarly, a bird bath placed in dense vegetation also will likely not get used, as it too is dangerous. Thick foliage can hide potential predators, such as cats. Birds learn this or they die. Therefore, the best location is one that provides good cover near the bath so that birds can sneak up close and evaluate the risk. From this vantage point they can get comfortable, dart out to get their bath or drink, and then escape back to the safety of the nearby cover. Bird baths are simple structures, but their value is dictated by their location in the landscape.

I use this example to make clear the point that context is just as important as the item (be it bird bath or individual plant) itself. Landscape design influences the role of each individual plant that you decide to incorporate. While one rouge plant (*Rivina humilis*) will provide some food value with its small red berries, it will provide no measurable cover. When planted in mass, however, in the understory of taller shrubs or trees, it creates an excellent place for ground-feeding songbirds to forage in relative secrecy. And, it provides food for birds that feed on small fruit. Often, plants that are wonderful food plants, but lacking in cover value,
Gardening for the Birds: Part II

Landscape Design

can be very effectively used if planted in mass or in the community of other plants that can make up for their individual deficiencies. Species such as marlberry (Ardisia escallonioides), myrsine (Rapanea punctata), and coffees (Psychotria spp.) are good examples of wonderful wildlife plants that need to be carefully placed within the landscape to get their full value.

In the many years that I have been speaking to groups about wildlife gardening, the one statement that gets repeated most regularly is that “I wish I could landscape my yard for wildlife, but I live in a deed-restricted community and my neighbors would object” – or something very similar. The idea that a wildlife landscape be “wild” is not valid when translated as “dense” and “like a jungle.” Neither is the idea that you should let your yard be “natural” – translated as let it develop in whatever direction it wants to take. The former idea seems to come from our societal notion that the “jungle” is where wildlife thrive and that anything else is less. The latter idea seems often to stem from those that desperately wish to believe that any landscape of small scale (such as those around our homes) can exist in peak condition without constant weeding and fussing. We need to accept that wildlife landscapes can come in a wide variety of “looks” and that all of them will require regular maintenance. Nature’s landscapes use a variety of natural forces for maintenance. Our’s will require forces that we provide – pruning, weeding and sometimes watering.

Florida has the third richest diversity of wildlife in the nation because it has the third greatest diversity of native plants. Our diversity of native plants is the direct result of the diversity of growing conditions, microclimates, and geology within our state. We have a wealth of plant communities and each of them has its own plant-species components and wildlife that are adapted. We can use this diversity to our advantage by copying the general style of each plant community to meet our personal aesthetic of design and meet the needs of the wildlife adapted to it.

At nearly polar extremes, take the general design of a longleaf pine sandhill community and contrast it with that of an oak hammock. The sandhill has few widely spaced canopy trees that let light into the understory and a diverse understory of grasses and wildflowers. The hammock is comprised of a diversity of canopy trees and an understory that is often poor in grasses and wildflowers (at least until you get to north Florida where most of the trees are deciduous for several months) and often rich in vines. The former is not all that different in structure from what is often seen in suburban Florida while the latter is not that far from what we think of as the “jungle” we envision as necessary for a wildlife-friendly landscape.

The truth is, both styles have their own wildlife that depend on that structure and neither approach is better than the other. Which approach we choose will depend on our goals and the aesthetic we are most comfortable with.

When a more formal look is required or desired, it can be done with great wildlife results if our choice of plants is made with wildlife in mind. Select the “widely spaced” trees from a list of native species that will provide the food and cover values that you need and replace the turf grasses with a diversity of native grasses and forbs. Such an approach will take work, but it can have enormous aesthetic appeal once your grasses and wildflowers are thriving and the weeds are a minor component. The key is adding a diverse understory of plants with common growing requirements. And, when it is done correctly, there is no homeowner association covenant that I am aware of that you would violate. You can meet your need for “grass” and your requirement to maintain it within a height restriction if you select wisely.

You can make a more “normal” suburban landscape better for wildlife also – by selecting species that are better at providing food and cover than those typically used and by increasing diversity. Replace the formal hedge of nearly useless non-natives with a mixed hedge of natives such as Walter’s viburnum (Viburnum obovatum), Florida privet (Forestiera segregata), and Simpson’s stopper (Myrcianthes fragrans), for example. All of these species can be pruned, if desired, have great value as a hedge and provide food and cover for birds and other wildlife. By mixing them, you get the different values of each species in the same landscape model.

You can beat some of the various landscape ordinances that I have witnessed over the years by simply defining areas for wildlife within a more formal boundary. In my first Florida neighborhood, I did this by keeping some of my turfgrass and using landscape timbers to separate it from other areas of my yard that were far less formal. My trees and shrubs were all selected for their wildlife value and my natural understory areas were well defined – making them look more like a “garden” than an unkempt area that I was too lazy to mow. It worked, as the lawn police visited me only once and then left me in peace.

Landscape planning requires some creativity in meeting both your aesthetic needs and the needs of the wildlife you most desire. It requires knowledge of those species you are designing for and it requires knowledge of the growing requirements of the plants you will ultimately select so that they will grow together as a community within your landscape. Your landscape will require maintenance over the years, but this should be relatively minimal if you have chosen plants adapted to your growing conditions and to each other. Realize that if you use species that are aggressive, either by suckering or seeding, they may out-compete those that are less so. Using dotted horsemint (Monarda punctata), for example,
in a wildflower “meadow” will someday mean that your meadow will be nearly all this species or you will forever be weeding seedlings out of it to make room for things such as butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) that will not spread and require some open space around them. Many vines, such as Carolina yellow jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*), will sucker profusely once they are well established. This can be fine in parts of your landscape that are less formal, but it can be impossible to deal with in other areas where the suckers cannot be effectively controlled. Your plants will have to work together, regardless of which approach you use.

Finally, you can use different landscaping approaches in different parts of your yard. There is nothing that prevents you from making a hammock in one area and a pineland in another. In fact, by doing so, you can provide for different wildlife species and create a greater diversity of niches that can then be exploited. My wife and I have taken this approach in our yard. We used the many live oaks left on our lot in the backyard as the backbone of a mesic hammock – and we added a number of other canopy and understory trees and shrubs to increase structure and species diversity. In the front yard where no trees were left and a cluster of saw palmetto remained, we planted longleaf pine, slowly eliminated the grass and have been adding wildflowers and native grasses adapted to xeric, well-drained soils. We built a pond and a marsh along the side yard in an area where there once was an above-ground pool and all that remained was a depression of well-drained sands. On the other side of the yard, we will someday finish our vegetable garden. That part will mostly be for us, but it will include a great many larval food plants for butterflies.

Although this approach may not be your aesthetic, we have had a lot of fun working on it and we have begun to see the results in wildlife use that we were striving for. Your approach should be different because it is your landscape. Make it a part of nature and you too will see birds and other wildlife become a part of it. In the final analysis, your landscape will be rewarding in far more ways and you will look forward to spending time in it – even if some of that time is spent weeding and pruning. Best of luck in your wildlife gardening endeavors.

**About the Author**

Dr. Craig Huegel is a naturalist and ecologist. He helped establish the Urban Wildlife Cooperative Extension Program at the University of Florida, and was administrator of Pinellas County’s Environmental Lands Division. His newest book, *Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife* was recently published (review on page 11).
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
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 & Webel
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, Vanasse, Bay, Long Construction
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.
Review by Steve Bass

Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife

Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife, By Craig N. Huegel
$24.95. ISBN-10: 0813034949

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.
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 as 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 grassroots 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

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.

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.
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 her 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 Management 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.

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.”
Visit [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org) to:

- Find more information on Chapters and meeting locations. Use the Chapters drop down box.
- Join or renew your membership online. Click Join/Renew.