

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

FNPS POLICY ON ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM

combined with brief but accurate texts. One book would be on native plant communities, their biological and physical features, and places to see them. The other would be on landscaping and horticulture using appropriate native plants. Dr. Dan Ward agreed to head up a task force to advise on production of the books, and funding for preparation will be sought from corporations and individuals.

Bill also reported that Dr. John DeGrove, Secretary of the Department of Community Affairs, has asked for an FNPS resolution on the use of native plants in landscaping Florida state properties. A draft resolution was offered which the board approved.

Sherry Cummings reported that the 1984 Conference will take place May 4-6, and is now planned for Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. It will feature papers on native plants, a panel on fire ecology, workshops, exhibits, a banquet, and field trips.

A conservation policy was presented by Jane Brooks, which the board had requested as a result of concern by some members that FNPS should be an educational group and not only another activist group. Jane's policy emphasizes that FNPS should primarily be educational, but recognized that Chapters in particular would want, on occasion, to take positions in their own names on local matters.

Three new chapters have been formed: Heartland (Polk, Hardee, and Highlands counties), Suncoast (Tampa Bay area), and North Florida (Tallahassee area). [See "Chapter News" for contacts.]

Joyce Gann presented a draft of a model ordinance for protecting native vegetation, including understory, on areas to be developed. [See Resolution.] Based on Sanibel's ordinance, Joyce's draft offers an opportunity for local areas to include provisions in local ordinances on specific plant communities or species of particular concern, as well as on noxious exotics whose elimination should be encouraged.

The next board meeting will take place on Saturday, January 14, at noon (bring your lunch), at Environmental Information Center, 1203 Orange Ave., Winter Park — the FNPS headquarters. All members are welcome to attend.

The conservation policy statement adopted by FNPS states, "It is the specific role of the FNPS to promote understanding of the dependency the people of Florida, the nation, and the world have on native plant communities" and, "the preservation and perpetuation of native plant communities is our highest priority."

One of the strengths of the FNPS is the diversity of its membership, but the variety of their interests can lead to differing perspectives on some issues. In an effort to accommodate the viewpoints of its membership and to build and maintain a reputation for credibility and effectiveness, the board has established this policy to guide the society and its chapters when controversial issues arise.

The society can have the greatest influence in behalf of the preservation and perpetuation of native plant communities by educating its members, other organizations, governmental agencies, developers, and the general public. The environmental consequences of various courses of action are poorly understood by the public, especially where plant communities are concerned. FNPS is the organization best equipped to explain these choices. FNPS members are also in a position to provide expertise to the environmental activist organizations to which they belong. They can also

provide factual input to governmental bodies as they formulate policies and laws concerning land use, acquisition, and management. Positive efforts such as education and persuasion should take precedence over confrontation in efforts to reach our goals.

However, there will be times when members of FNPS will want to take a public stand on some issues they consider vital to the future of Florida's native plant communities. FNPS members, as individuals, are encouraged to take an active role in environmental action, using knowledge and expertise gained through membership in the society. However, members and chapters are requested not to speak in the name of the Florida Native Plant Society unless authorized by the FNPS board. The board will carefully consider all such proposals in the light of the long-term well-being of the native plant communities of Florida and the best interests of the FNPS. In the interest of information and coordination, chapters are urged to furnish the board with regular reports of environmental issues on which they are taking action or planning to do so in the future.

Adopted by the FNPS board, October 22, 1983.

• Jane Brooks
Conservation Chairman

CHAPTER NEWS

Contacts for FNPS Chapters and Prospective Chapters

Big Pine Key: Ann Williams, Rt. 1, Box 440, Big Pine Key 33043; 305/872-2482.

Central Florida: David Drylie, 8100 Curry Ford Rd., Orlando 32822; 305/282-1469.

Coccoloba (N. Fort Myers): Jean Barnhart, 7730 Hart Dr., N.E., North Fort Myers 33903; 813/995-5172.

Dade: Joyce Gann, 22140 S.W. 152 Ave., Goulds 33170; 305/248-5529.

Heartland (Hardee, Polk, Highlands counties): Chuck Vilushis, 219 E. Hibiscus Dr., Lakeland 33803; 813/686-5610.

Naples: Dorie Karl, 1209 Ridge St., Naples 33940; 813/263-7236.

North Florida: Sydney I. Brinson, 939 E. Jefferson St., Tallahassee 32301; 904/224-0693.

Palm Beach: Richard Moyroud, 202 Grove Way, Delray Beach 33444; 305/278-5077.

South Brevard: Hester Wagner, 6885 Ward Pkwy., Melbourne 32901; 305/723-3219.

Suncoast (Tampa Bay): John Beckner, 739 Myrtle Way S., St. Petersburg 33705; 813/867-1919.

Martin County: Fred B. Stresau, Sr., 1263 S.W. ...

NAPLES

The Naples Chapter of FNPS will hold its Annual Native Plant Sale on Saturday, December 10, at the First Federal Bank of Fort Myers in Naples (3201 Tamiami Trail North). Sale hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Any growers wishing to sell plants on consignment should contact Dorie Karl, 1209 Ridge Street, Naples 33940, 813/263-7236, or Roger Shoemaker, 3210 15th Avenue S.W., Naples 33999, 813/455-3446, as soon as possible. Plants native to Florida will be the only types offered for sale and there is no limit on container size.

The Naples Chapter meets on the third Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at The Conservancy Nature Center in Naples. The following programs are scheduled:

Nov. 21 — Dr. Bernie Yokel, Director, Norris Marine Research Lab, Rookery

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