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GOING NATIVE

Society helps put Florida's own plants back into landscape

By Barbara DiObilda
Valuable native plants should be used in landscaping. The Florida Native Plant Society is helping to put Florida's own plants back into the landscape. The society is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1977. It has a membership of about 100 people. The society's goal is to promote the use of native plants in landscaping. It has a list of native plants that are suitable for landscaping. The society also has a newsletter and a website. The society is a great resource for anyone interested in native plants.



HOME & GARDEN The Palm Beach Post

DON'T KNOCK NATIVES

So you think native plants are out? Don't! And please, unless you're sure you know what you're doing, don't knock them out. They're a true part of the Florida culture, and they provide food and habitat for wildlife. They also look great in your garden. So why knock them out? They're a true part of the Florida culture, and they provide food and habitat for wildlife. They also look great in your garden. So why knock them out?

by Peggy Lantz

The faces of members of FNPS have been appearing in newspapers throughout the state from time to time, and clippings of the articles about them have been sent to the editor of *The Palmetto*. One of them I shared with you in the last issue, "Pesky Peppers Pickled", from the Stuart newspaper.

I have also received a clipping of an article by Thomas Becnel from the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* about Charlotte Harbor Chapter's Dave Wilson and his efforts to protect the trees from the developers. A big color picture shows Dave holding up a pine cone with a house in the background beautifully landscaped by nature.

The article quotes Dave as saying, "No, I can't say growth is good. I'm definitely not your Chamber of Commerce.' He cites studies. . . which show Port Charlotte has lost nearly 50% of its urban canopy of trees in the last seven years. 'Seven years!' he says. 'Seven years — can you appreciate that? The impact on wildlife is awesome.' " (Can't you just hear him?)

Another clipping came in of an article by Barbara DiObilda that appeared in the *Stuart News* with a big color picture of Eve Conlon of the Martin

County Chapter. Eve puts in the plug for native plants: "They're a true part of the whole culture of Florida, they provide food and habitat for wildlife, and they protect our soils and shores from erosion," Conlon said. 'Nothing grows better in our climate. It just makes sense to protect them and use them as much as possible.' "(Nicely said, Eve.)

Sally O'Connell was mentioned, and Fred Stresau and Bob Krauss were quoted in that same article, which goes on to expound the virtues of native plants, with suggestions of which ones to use where, and with frequent references to the Florida Native Plant Society. (Hear! Hear!)

The *Palm Beach Post* carried an article by Anne Kilmer about Paul and Past-FNPS President Sherry Cummings, members of the Palm Beach Chapter. The clipping included a color picture of Paul and eight color pictures of native species with descriptions. The text describes their place, where "well-kept trails wind through loose-knit clusters of wax myrtle and red bay. . . Birds and butterflies, attracted by the native plants, add color and liveliness to the Cummings' garden."

The article also talks about chapter member Cynthia Plockelman, who "has

created a tiny retreat in West Palm Beach on a quarter-acre lot with an ordinary house and a jungle of trees. It looks as if a coastal hammock — the beachside community of trees, vines, bushes, and birds — had been somehow swept from the shore and planted on this small, suburban lot. . . . She has a 10-year-old mahogany she raised from seed." (Don't tell 'em, show 'em!)

Sharron Richards, Morning Glory Chapter in Volusia-Flagler-St. Johns counties, was written up in an article by John Carter in the *Daytona Beach News-Journal*. "Miss Richards", reads the article, ". . . says she has ideas which can provide startling savings for public and private beautification projects. She has. . . projects. . . to show how native varieties of plants can hold down maintenance costs and be in total harmony with Florida's weather and soil types." (That's the message!)

And an article in the *New York Times* by Philip Shabecoff tells of the hundreds of native plants in the United States that are in danger of extinction, including *Dicerandra immaculata*, the scrub balm in the mint family found in central Florida's sandy central ridge.

We're beginning to get our message out there, folks! Keep up the good work!