

NURSERIES

noted at the conference that South Florida was well represented with native nurseries, Central Florida is greatly lacking and North Florida has several active nurseries. South Florida has been impacted most dramatically by the introduction of exotic plants and the loss of natural areas by development. There the need for production of native plants became obvious. Let's not use South Florida as a model of how far to go before taking positive action. Grow Native!

HOW PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS SAVE NATIVE PLANT SITES

by

Carolyn Ruesch and Michael Green

Michael Green of The Nature Conservancy and Carolyn Ruesch of The Trust for Public Land conducted a workshop at the Conference on how private non-profit organizations preserve sensitive natural areas and native plant communities.

Of the various methods available, acquisition by the organization (either by gift or purchase) provides the most comprehensive protection. Notification of landowners that they have something important, registration of sites, acquisition of development rights, fee simple acquisition, dedication of sites as Ecological Reserves, Nature Preserves, or Natural Areas, and conservation easements were discussed.

The federal tax laws on conservation easements have changed in recent months, but preservation of native plant resources is still eligible for tax deductions. Conservation easements can be very effective, especially if there is a local community group with

long term stability to manage them. Regulation is probably the least effective tool in dealing with preservation issues. Most regulatory and permitting jurisdictions, including zoning, transferable development rights, developments of regional impact, areas of critical state concern, dredge-and-fill, etc., simply are neither consistent enough nor comprehensive enough to adequately protect fragile systems.

There is no statute in Florida which provides for dedication of property. Statutes in other states provide that qualifying lands can be protected under articles of dedication that provide a high standard of protection from encroachments of private interests or the demands of other state agencies. The desirability of Natural Dedication Statutes was also discussed in the Legislative and Ordinances Workshop.

Both the Trust for Public Land and The Nature Conservancy have programs which can assist local communities in preserving native plant sites.

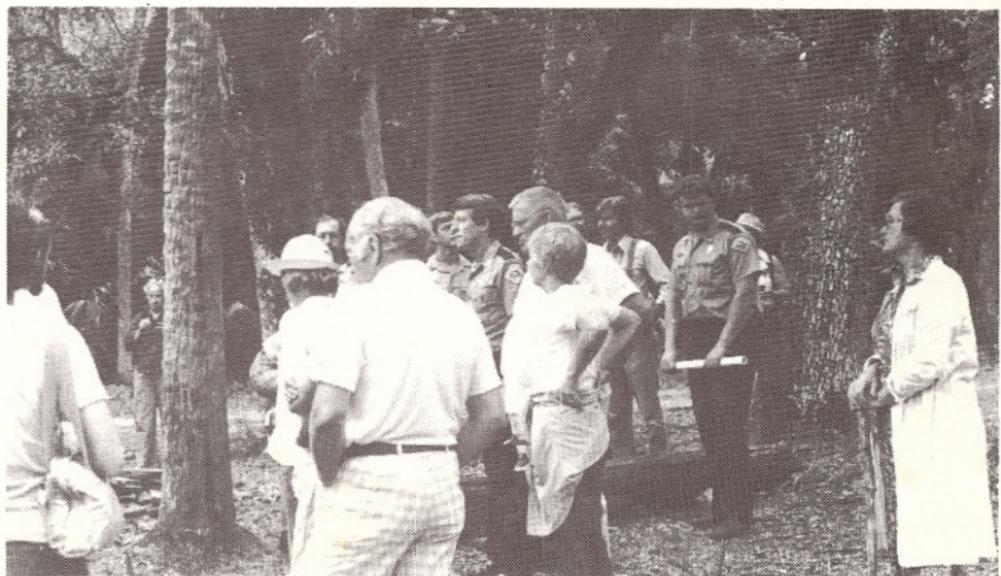
THE RETAIL STORE

by **Donna Legare**

I would like to share some of my thoughts on marketing native plants based on my first two years of operating a retail nursery that specializes in native plants.

There are two misconceptions that we've had to deal with repeatedly. First, many people do not know what a native plant is, and secondly, if they do know, many think that we uprooted the plants from the woods and threw them into pots. They ask us

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Those visiting the Tosohatchee Preserve during the Conference found trees, ferns, grasses, and flowers.