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# Palmetto



Restoring Mariposa Key • Building Partnerships • Palmetto Chapter Award



# 2010 Palmetto Awards

CHAPTER AWARD

## Magnolia Chapter

The Magnolia Chapter is blessed by its location in Florida's capitol, home to federal and state agencies with numerous foresters, botanists and ecologists, a university whose professors perform plant and ecosystem research, and local citizens who appreciate native plants.

Meetings are held at Florida State University's King Biological Science auditorium, which allows state-of-the-art viewing on two large screens. Locating Chapter meetings on the campus also makes it easy for students to participate.

In February, the Chapter helped sponsor author Doug Tallamy's visit to Tallahassee, where he spoke to the community about

his book *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*.

Chapter members work with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and surrounding county governments to time roadside mowing, permitting longer blooming periods and enabling the reseeding of native wildflowers. What began as concern over the widening of Highway 65 and its impact on pitcher plant and other native plant communities has slowly grown into an expanded and trusted relationship in several surrounding counties.

Last winter, the Chapter organized native tree planting at the Wakulla Station playground on the Tallahassee-St. Mark's Historic Railroad State Trail. The Chapter is also sponsoring future plantings along the trail after the widening project is complete.

The Chapter created a one-acre native plant area in Maclay Gardens State Park, where members have planted native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers over the last 20 years. Chapter members provide valuable volunteer hours adding new plants and maintaining the native plant display.

Members have provided help with workdays at Angus Gholson Nature Park in Chattahoochee and in some of the

city parks within Tallahassee for the identification and removal of exotic invasive plants.

A favorite quote of the Magnolia Chapter is "Plant communities do not recognize political boundaries, so why should we?". Crossing the border into Georgia, Chapter members took the lead in preserving land which contained one of the largest southern populations of trout lily, *Erythronium umbilicatum*. By teaming up with the citizens of Cairo, Georgia, and the Georgia Botanical Society, they successfully helped raise funds to purchase land and place this valued plant community into a conservation easement which will be managed and protected forever. This year, the Chapter's field trip was joined by seven other organizations from Florida and Georgia.

Members were also crucial in directing attention to the importance of the Lost Creek property, which was scheduled to be cleared and developed into an industrial park. This forested area, long a field trip favorite for fall leaf color, is instead being developed for community use as a natural area and park.

The Chapter's native plant calendar is a major fund raising project – upwards of 500 calendars are sold annually. Photos are submitted by members, and each year has a specific theme. The 2010 calendar featured photos depicting plant-insect or plant-animal interactions.

Continuing its outreach efforts, the Chapter has developed a traveling tri-fold poster to display at the many events they participate in annually.

In 2010, the Magnolia Chapter did an outstanding job producing and hosting the FNPS 30th anniversary annual conference. This required a major volunteer effort and Chapter members rose to the occasion.

Congratulations to members of the Magnolia Chapter for their continued success and for earning the 2010 FNPS Palmetto Chapter Award.



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#### **The Palmetto**

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#### **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.

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**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>

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