



(Saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*)) (Goldenrod (*Solidago fistulosa*) and Beautybush or French Mulberry (*Callicarpa americana*))

Tell why a particular Florida native plant is your favorite in 300 words or less to enter the Florida Native Plant Writing Contest sponsored by the DeSoto County Library and Association and the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP). Four prizes will be awarded. Each winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate for native plants and a \$30 gift certificate for a book about native plants.

The writing can be in any form, including poetry, essay, letter, narrative, or other. The judges will consider creativity, accurate facts about the plant, as well as correct grammar and spelling. Each entry must be accompanied by an entry form, available at the DeSoto County Library. The contest is open to residents of any age in DeSoto County. A class of students may enter a "group" effort, in which each student writes a sentence or phrase, and if the class wins, a weatherproof plaque for a school garden will be awarded to remember their efforts even after the school year ends. For more information about the writing contest, call the DeSoto County Library at 993-4851 or Carol Mahler at 491-0286.

The award ceremony will take place during the "Florida Friendly Yard" workshop, also sponsored CHNEP, on February 3 at the DeSoto Campus of South Florida Community College in Arcadia. The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program is a partnership that protects the estuaries from Venice to Estero Bay. More information is available online at www.CharlotteHarborNEP.org or by calling 239/338-2556 ext 240 and toll free 866/835-5785 ext 240.



FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT WRITING CONTEST

**Deadline: Entries must be received by 5 p.m.
on Friday, January 26, 2007, at the DeSoto County Library**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

My Favorite Florida Native Plant's Common Name:

My Favorite Florida Native Plant's Scientific Name:

(Feel free to copy this entry form)

SOME BOOKS ABOUT NATIVE PLANTS AT THE DESOTO COUNTY LIBRARY

- *The Ferns of Florida: A Reference and Field Guide*
- *Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants*
- *Florida Butterfly Gardening*
- *Florida Landscape Plants: Native and Exotic*
- *Florida Wildflowers in Their Natural Communities*
- *The Guide to Florida Wildflowers*
- *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants*
- *Landscaping for Florida's Wildlife*
- *The Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida*
- *Southern Gardening: An Environmentally Sensitive Approach*
- *The Trees of Florida: A Reference and Field Guide*
- *Wild Orchids of Florida*
- *Your Florida Guide to Butterfly Gardening*