

WELCOME

Mark Garland!

by Andrea Van Loan

In September, 2002, Mark Garland became the new Biological Administrator and Botanist for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry (DPI). In this position, Mark curates the Division of Plant Industry's herbarium, tracks the latest nomenclatural changes involving plants, and assists DPI personnel in field surveys for noxious weeds and prohibited aquatic plants. Mark also provides support to the Endangered Plant Advisory Council (EPAC), which recommends changes to Florida's list of endangered, threatened, and commercially exploited species of plants. Mark is looking forward to supporting and contributing to the new decision making process for listing plants as noxious weeds in Florida under FDACS Rule 5B-57.

An "Army brat" who grew up in Georgia, Mark earned a bachelor's degree in botany from the University of Georgia, attended graduate school at Georgia and at Florida State University, and is now pursuing a Ph. D. at the University of

Florida. Mark has been working with native and cultivated plants in Florida for 20 years. For 10 of those years, Mark worked for the Florida Department of Natural Resources and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, assessing the natural resources of lands proposed for purchase under the CARL program, and setting legal boundaries of wetlands throughout Florida. These years working with plants in natural areas in Florida, have reinforced to Mark the importance of both preventing the spread of invasive plants and controlling those plants in sensitive ecosystems.

When Mark visits a site, he focuses first on identifying the natural community and disturbance history, and then moves on to the question of "What are the species that are there?" As he says in the study and exploration of botany, "I like being mystified, because that's when you learn things."

Mark's particular interests include the taxonomy of the genus *Hieracium* (hawkweeds) in the family Asteraceae



(Compositae) and the genus *Hymenocallis* (spider-lilies) in the Amaryllidaceae. In his spare time he translates descriptions of new plant species into Latin, and enjoys drawing, hiking and exploring natural areas.

Please join us in welcoming Mark to his position and to continued exploration of the ever-changing and mystifying world of botanical Florida.