



For Immediate Release  
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**NATIVE PLANTS IN PERIL, ACCORDING TO  
DR. KATHRYN L. KENNEDY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
CENTER FOR PLANT CONSERVATION**

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (January 13, 2010) – Dr. Kathryn L. Kennedy, the president and executive director of the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC), spoke this week to Jupiter Island and Delray-area garden club members about the nation's at-risk flora and the imperiled plants of the state of Florida in particular. Dr. Kennedy, a noted conservation scientist, is a recent recipient of the Garden Club of America's Frances K. Hutchinson Medal for national service to conservation.

Dr. Kennedy shared CPC's deep concern that nearly one-third of America's native plants are at risk, but emphasized that important work is taking place to ensure their restoration and persistence for future generations. According to NatureServe, Florida is home to more than 600 plants that are either critically imperiled or vulnerable, and the state has more than 50 plants that are federally listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). These priceless species represent important natural resources, offering many known or potential gifts, such as food, fragrance, fuels, building materials and pharmaceuticals. Other species are of scientific interest or possess great natural beauty that might be lost forever.

The mission of the Center for Plant Conservation is to conserve and restore the imperiled native plants of the United States to secure them from extinction. CPC is a

nonprofit organization that works with 36 leading botanical institutions across the country to fulfill its mission. Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables and Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales are the two gardens in Florida that are part of the CPC network, and together these cooperative partners work with 75 species in CPC's National Collection of Endangered Plants. The member institutions in the CPC network maintain the National Collection, which contains plant material from more than 700 of America's most at-risk native plants. This material is used for research purposes and restoration work that would return these plants to their natural habitats in the future.

**About the Center for Plant Conservation:** CPC is dedicated solely to saving America's most at-risk plants. It is a 501(c)(3) conservation organization that is coordinated by a national office in St. Louis, Missouri, and guided by a volunteer board of trustees and the experts of the CPC Science Advisory Council. By developing standards and protocols, conducting conservation programs in horticulture, research and restoration, and raising awareness, CPC's network is striving to save America's rarest plants from being lost forever. For additional information about the Center for Plant Conservation, visit the CPC website at [www.centerforplantconservation.org](http://www.centerforplantconservation.org).