

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Florida Wildflower Foundation welcomes
2 new members to board of directors**

The Florida Wildflower Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of Michael A. Gilkey Jr., Sarasota, and Donna Torrey, Pompano Beach, to its board of directors.

Mr. Gilkey is a landscape architect at Michael A. Gilkey Inc. He will represent the Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects on the 10-member board. He brings to the Foundation a depth of knowledge in appropriate design applications for wildflowers and native flowering plants. "I look forward to learning more about Florida's wildflowers, and helping to suggest ways they might be used more prolifically," Gilkey said. "Most of us are familiar with the Foundation's highway beautification efforts, but there are many ways we can use wildflowers and other natives in everyday projects that will benefit Florida's residents, visitors, wildlife and ecosystems."

Ms. Torrey joins the board to represent the University of Florida/IFAS' Florida Master Gardener program. She owns The Garden Gate shop in Pompano Beach, which emphasizes Florida native plants and wildflowers, and is an active member of the Association of Florida Native Nurseries. Additionally, she serves on Broward County's Naturescape Task Force and the City of Pompano Beach's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. She is also a National Wildlife Federation Habitat Steward and writes a monthly column for three local newspapers.

"Michael and Donna bring valuable expertise and ideas to the board. Their guidance will help steer the Foundation's future success as the state and nation begin to focus on the *La Florida - Land of Flowers* quincentennial celebration in 2013," said board chairman Jeff Caster.

The Foundation's mission is to enrich lives with Florida's native wildflowers. It receives the \$15 donation made with each sale of the State Wildflower license tag and disperses the funds statewide to support research, education and planting projects.

Among the other agencies and organizations represented on its board are the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Florida Department of Transportation, Association of Florida Native Nurseries, Florida League of Cities, University of Florida's Institute of

Food and Agricultural Sciences, Florida Wildflower Seed and Plant Growers Association and the Florida Native Plant Society.

For more information about the Foundation and its work, visit www.FloridaWildflowerFoundation.org.

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