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Landscape design award presented to Archbold

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Courtesy photo Dr. Mark Deyrup, Nancy Bissett, and Dr. Eric Menges receive the FNPS 2015 Excellence in Landscape Design award from Karina Veaudry from FNPS.

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VENUS — The Florida Native Plant Society has presented its Excellence in Landscape Design Award to Archbold Biological Station for incorporating native grasses, plants, and trees at its Learning Center and Lodge facilities. The honor came in the Institutional category of judging.

Dr. Eric Menges and Dr. Mark Deyrup from Archbold, and landscape contractor

Nancy Bissett from The Natives, Inc. of Davenport, were on hand in Tallahassee on May 30 to accept the award.

The landscaping at Archbold's Learning Center and Lodge was described by FNPS as, "beautiful and harmonious as well as functional and above all inspirational. This exemplary project combines an aesthetic landscape with needed and functional habitat. It adds to the ecology of the region and we hope to see this type of unique and beneficial ecological landscape on other buildings and campuses. It is truly a wonderful, educational and beneficial project."

Qualifications for the award are stringent. The landscaping must have been established for two years before applications may be submitted. The planting plan must contain 60 percent or more of diverse native plants with no exotic (non-native) species. Archbold's planting are 100 percent native.

When planning the Learning Center and Lodge, Archbold executives turned to the expertise of landscape architect and designer Nancy Bissett from The Natives, Inc.

"It was very rewarding to be able to create a landscape that fit the right native palette to the site and to work with people who understood this so well," Bissett said. "We are so glad it is appreciated by people and wildlife. It is especially great to see plants regenerating; then you know it is successful."

"Archbold is proud of being an award recipient and we are always ready to work with the FNPS to promote the benefits of native plants," said Hilary Swain, executive director at Archbold. "We are also indebted to Nancy Bissett and her entire team from The Natives; their inspired and talented green thumbs made this all possible."

Archbold Biological Station is an independent, not-for-profit research facility with the mission to build and share the scientific knowledge needed to understand and protect the life, lands, and waters of Florida and beyond. Visit www.archbold-station.org or find it on Facebook.

For more information call 863-465-2571 during business hours.

Photos:

Courtesy photo

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