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WEB SITES OF INTEREST

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• BUBL Link - Botany
  http://bubl.ac.uk/link/b/botany.htm

• EcoPort
  http://ecoport.org/

• Florida Plants Online
  http://www.floridaplants.com/

• Florida Gardener.Com
  http://www.floridagardener.com

• Floridata Marketplace (hundreds of plant profiles)
  http://www.floridata.com/

• Meet the Plants: National Tropical Botanical Garden
  http://ntbg.org/plants/index.php
The Florida Tech “Botanical Garden” is not your typical botanical garden in that it does not showcase hundreds of colorful flowering plants. The garden was developed by then-Florida Tech President and Founder, Dr. Jerome Keuper, in collaboration with Dent Smith (founder of the Palm Society, a worldwide organization focusing on the study of palms). Many of the plants growing on this 20 acres do flower, but most of this natural garden has been devoted to approximately 200 different species of palm trees. Many are very rare and have been donated by distinguished experts in the world of palms. In addition to the palms, visitors to this calming oasis can view such flora delights as colorful crotons, Swiss cheese philodendrons, mulberry trees, orchid trees, saw palmettos, white sapotes, bo trees, elephant ears, bromeliads, ferns, bamboos, and many other plants.

Restoration of the gardens started this past year and visitors can enjoy the surrounding natural beauty as they stroll along newly paved paths or relax under gazebos on large stone patios sheltered from the sun.

In addition to the flora, the “jungle”, as it is affectionately called by campus affiliates, is home to a multitude of fauna as well. Birds of prey and birds of song, raccoons, snakes, frogs, turtles, fish, and insects make this Florida hammock their home.

**Codiaeum Variegatum** (Rheedii), commonly referred to as crotons, provide a vivid display of colors ranging from bright yellows to dark reds. 

*Photo credit: Bud Whitehead, www.crotons.net*

**White Sapote** (Casimiroa edulis) “Apple sized fruit with white or yellow creamy, custardy pulp that has an excellent sweet banana flavor. White sapote’s are well known throughout much of Central America and Mexico.”

*Source: http://www.tradewindsfruit.com/white_sapote.htm*

**Barred Owl** (*Strix varia*) “...a medium-sized gray-brown owl streaked with white horizontal barring on the chest and vertical barring on the belly...Length averages 16-25 inches and wingspan averages 38-50 inches...a nocturnal bird that hides in dense foliage during the day; highly vocal giving a loud and resounding ‘Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?’ Calls often heard in a series of eight, then silence, when the owl listens for a rely from other owls...eats small fish, turtles, frogs, snakes, lizards as well as rats, squirrels, young rabbits, bats, etc...known to live up to 23 years in captivity and 10 years in the wild.”

*Source: http://www.owlpages.com. Photo credit: Janice Laurencelle*

**Southern Black Racer** (*Coluber constrictor priapus*), Average size of this common snake is 20-56 inches. It’s diet consists of lizards, other snakes, frogs, insects, rodents, and small birds. It is non-venomous.

*Source: http://www.floridabackyardsnakes.com/SouthernBlackRacer.htm. Photo credit: Celeste Thomas*

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