

Royal Palm FNGLA Chapter Supports Hendry County Horticulture Team



Pictured (L to R): Debbie Perkins, Royal Palm FNGLA board member, 4-H Horticultural Team members: Stephen Woosley, Wolfgang Lynn, Harry Plamondon, Andrew McAvoy, and Cathy Strickland, Royal Palm FNGLA board member.

The Royal Palm chapter of the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA), recently donated \$1,000 to support Hendry County's state winning 4-H Horticulture Identification and Judging team as the team competes in the National contest October 7-10 in San Diego, California.

Comprised of, Wolfgang Lynn, Andrew McAvoy, Harry Plamondon, and Stephen Woosley, the team is tested on their knowledge of plants in the categories of: Fruit and Nuts, Vegetables, Ornamentals, and Flowers. Contestants must be able to identify plants by seeing a sample part of the plant such as the fruit, root, blossom, leaf, or piece of bark.

Winning the State Congress in July, the team was tested on over 200 plants found in Florida. Harry Plamondon earned the First Place Award Overall. In San Diego, the team will be tested on 180 plants

found in all 50 states. In addition to identifying samples, contestants must complete a written test which will factor into their overall score. 4-H science based programs such as the horticulture competition provide added value to both schools and communities and increase the number of students pursuing science, engineering, technology and applied math careers. These young adults represent our future.

FNGLA represents professionals across the state involved in the nursery, landscape and horticultural industry. This not-for-profit association takes a stand on behalf of members representing its motto: "In Unity There is Strength" In Southwest Florida, the Royal Palm FNGLA chapter stays involved in the community by raising funds for charitable organizations, offering scholarships, and providing a common voice for the areas horticulture industry. In 2010, Lee and Collier Counties benefited by having more than 14,000 full or part time employees in the horticultural industry.

Florida's horticulture ("Green") industry encompasses wholesale nursery and greenhouse producers, lawn and garden supplies, landscape design, installation and maintenance services as well as retail/garden centers. Florida is a leader in the industry, second only to California in the United States. Nursery plants are one of the largest agricultural commodity groups in Florida, along with fruits, vegetables and forest products.

The Royal Palm FNGLA chapter congratulates these young men and their coaches on their success and wishes them well in their future endeavors. To learn more about Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA), visit: www.fngla.org. To learn more about 4-H, visit: www.4-h.org.

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