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Sensitive Pitcher Plant Populations

Dona Bentzien

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April 14, 1999

TO: Joe Noll, Construction Manager
Facilities Planning

FROM: Dona Bentzien, Natural Resource Manager
Golf Management & Learning Center (Athletics)

SUBJECT: Sensitive Pitcher Plant Populations

As discussed with you and Spyros Drivas, I would like to relay concern for the impacts of construction activities associated with the Golf Management & Learning Center (GMLC) and the adjacent road on the Hooded Pitcher Plant (Sarracenia minor), a Threatened species in Florida.

The pitcher plants prompting immediate concern are on the edge of a jurisdictional wetland just north of the road now in development north of the GMLC site (as indicated on the attached map). Not only are these plants currently the subject of research under Dr. Anthony Rossi of the Department of Natural Sciences; these plants—in addition to plants within a separate population on a northwest site on the campus—are also the subject of a substantial ($250,000) research proposal to the National Science Foundation involving two other faculty members. (Attached are pages from a listing of Florida's Threatened and Endangered Plants, giving information about the Hooded Pitcher Plant, bottom of p. 77.). Dr. Rossi will directly provide you with a map of the second population site (northwestern campus) in the near future.

During our visit with Dr. "Bud" Smart of the Audubon Signature Program, through which we are committed to stringent environmental planning standards for our golf site, he advised us to screen and mark this sensitive population (as well as another area which I will advise you of by separate memo) to avoid any impacts. Regrettably, Dr. Rossi advises me that debris from road construction has already been accidentally pushed on to several of these plants, including a rare specimen containing more than 200 pitchers.

We will be grateful for your help in calling attention to this important issue to ensure that no accidental catastrophe befalls these plants while moving forward with development of the road and eventually the golf center. Should you have any specific questions about the plants, please contact Dr. Rossi directly at 620-2830.

Attachments
cc: R. Fagin
S. Drivas
J. Brooks
K. Venkatasubban
A. Rossi
J. Golden