



2007 Hoover Award

Lauren Brown is the 2007 recipient of the Hoover Award. She wasn't expecting the award because she felt she hadn't been involved in the Chapter long enough. However, it is true that the Hoover Award is for long term service, it is also for promise of continued commitment. It was the Hoover Committee's feeling that Lauren was great in both areas.

Before Lauren came to us, she had been and continues to be active in the Dune Center where she has contributed as a teacher about dune plants and as a field trip leader. She continues to be active in the Dune Center's annual symposium.

Lauren first came to notice of the chapter people when she consented to be our Chairperson of our newly formed committee on the control of aggressive exotics (weeds). This she did by becoming our liaison with several local governmental agencies responsible for weed control. She attended a number of conferences on weed control.

We soon notice that she was helping out all over the place. She would volunteer to help us man booths at Creek Day, Bob Jones Trail Day and Farmer's Markets. She worked at almost every Native Plant Sale. When John Chesnut and Malcolm McLeod began working on an update on the Chapter's rare plant CD, there was Lauren not only going on field trips but helping with the research. I, for one, couldn't help notice that by the time most of notice that Malcolm needed help, there was Lauren, with the help of Susie Bernstein, already helping him across fences creeks and up slippery slopes.

For the last two years Lauren has served as the Chapter President. She took on the role even though she was a relative new comer to the Chapter. She did a fantastic job. She could delegate when necessary and get required tasks done when needed. She masterminded the Chapter's hosting of the State Board Meeting last fall.

As President of the Chapter, Lauren was also our Chapter representative to the State CNPS Board. The State Board is large and most of the Chapter attendees attend and then go back to their chapters without much state involvement. The State Officials thought enough of Lauren's work on the Board that she was asked to run for state office.

Lauren remains the Chapter's Exotic plant Chair. In addition, she has taken on the very time consuming Field Trip Chair as well as consenting to help with finding programs for our general meeting.

- Dirk Walters (With help from Susie Bernstein, Jenny Langford, and Linda Chipping)