

EDITORIAL

Acknowledgments—It was a little more than four years ago when I spoke with Bud Owre and he recommended that I accept the editorship of the *Florida Field Naturalist*. At the time I did not realize that this would be the last time I would ever speak to him. Nor did I realize the amount of time that I would spend as editor.

This is my last issue as editor of the *Florida Field Naturalist*. I have enjoyed serving as editor for the past four years. One of the benefits of being editor has been frequent interaction with many FOS members and some of the state's leading naturalists and scientists. I am grateful to the FOS for giving me this opportunity.

The most rewarding part of being editor has been in assisting others to bring to press a number of manuscripts that required a great deal of work. I have always thought of writing to be like working with modeling clay; some manuscripts required shaping or sculpting more than others. I hope that my efforts will make future publications easier for some authors.

The editorial duties that I enjoyed the least were related to rejecting manuscripts. In working as an assistant editor with a former mentor, Richard Brewer, I learned a long time ago that an editor can make two types of errors in considering a manuscript. One can accept an undesirable manuscript or reject a desirable manuscript. Of these possibilities, it is better to err on the side of rejecting a desirable manuscript. A dedicated and persistent author eventually will be able to publish a worthy manuscript. Indeed, I have noted that modified versions of papers rejected by the *Florida Field Naturalist* have appeared in other journals. Similarly, the *Florida Field Naturalist* has published several manuscripts that were originally rejected by other journals. The rigors of the review process helped to bring out the best in all of these papers.

I thank Associate Editors Reed Bowman, Howard P. Langridge, and Richard T. Paul for their assistance during my time as editor. I am indebted to Victoria L. Merritt for help in proofreading every issue of the *Florida Field Naturalist* during the past four years. The journal has benefited from her critical eye and attention to detail. Finally, I thank the individuals listed below for serving as referees during the past year. Their efforts have contributed to improving the quality of the journal. An asterisk indicates the individual reviewed more than one manuscript.

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