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7NJ1302A0225 NT COAST PHOTO PAGE 7NJ1302A0225 ZALLCALL 15 20:16:47 02/22/07 B

KLY SITUATION Dune plants are uniquely adapted to the harsh environment, providing food and shelter for animals and support for the dune itself. Such coastal communities once stretched along Florida's entire eastern seashore.

Untamed Melody



SEE A SAW The symmetrical lines formed by its large fan-shaped leaves seem to illuminate a saw palmetto at North Peninsula State Park. It is an important plant in honey production and a variety of snakes, some poisonous, hunt the small rodents living in palmetto thickets.

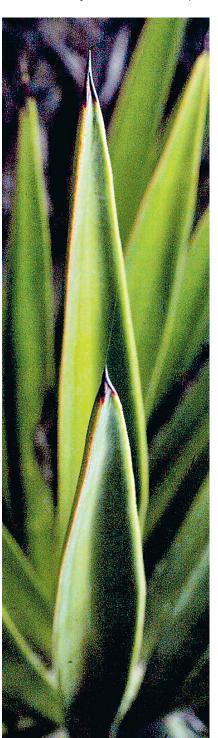
Sing the praises of some of our coast's naturally wild wonders.

ake a good look at North Peninsula State Park, north of Ormond-by-the-Sea. There are more than two protected miles of Florida's native coastal habitat.

Besides Canaveral National Seashore, it's the largest remaining tract of undeveloped dunes and coastal hammocks in Volusia and Flagler counties.

A walk along the seashore reveals the beauty of the unique plants that play integral roles in this coastal community, providing support for the dunes, and shelter and food for many animals.

> PHOTOS & TEXT **BY STAFF** PHOTOJOURNALIST JESSICA WEBB SIBLEY



TO THE POINT The common name for the yucca plant, Spanish bayonet, comes from its knife-like leaf tips. Be careful if you go in for a close look.



HERE COMES THE SUN A gaillardia, also known as a blanket flower, reaches toward the sun. It is one of the many bright flowers found along the dunes.



PLITTING PEARS The flowers on the prickly pear cactus turn into edible red fruit.



Yellow Black

