Inside this issue:

- Book Review 2
- Carol’s Corner 2
- Town Hall Meeting 3
- Volunteer Opportunities 3
- Events & Meetings 4
- Workshop: Florida-Friendly Landscaping Legally Speaking 4
- FNPS Annual Conference 5
- Turkey Creek Sanctuary Workday 5
- HOA vs Aurands 6
- IRL: Muck Removal 7
- Chapter News 8 / 9
- Officers & Directors 9

Conradina Chapter Meeting:
Monday, April 10, 2017

5:30 P.M. Refreshments  6:00 P.M. Meeting
Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library

Florida Sandhills
Speaker: Walter Taylor

Sandhills once covered 20 percent of Florida. This number is now reduced to about 3 percent. Come learn about the special plants that are found in sandhill ecosystems.

Walter K. Taylor, Ph.D., now serves as a Professor Emeritus at the University of Central Florida after a distinguished career as a biology professor. Many of his former students live in Brevard County. Walter has written three books on Florida wildflowers, a book on Florida grasses, and a biography of André Michaux, the French botanist. Walter has been active in the Florida Native Plant Society and the Florida Wildflower Foundation for many years.

Next Chapter Meeting
May 8, 2017
Drive By Botany Or Nature As Seen From a Moving Vehicle
Dr. Jay Barnhart

Door Prize Reminder
Please bring your extra native plants to our meetings for door prizes. It’s a great way to encourage new members and to exchange plants for everyone!
We had a wonderful day at the Jordan’s Scrub field trip. We saw so many flowers in bloom that we knew Spring had already started. It was hard to pick one flower out for this article so I picked out two!

Shiny Lyonia (*Lyonia lucida*), Rusty Lyonia (*L. ferruginea*) and Blueberry (*Vaccinium myrsinites*) were all in bloom. A variety of Hypericum was in bloom with pretty yellow flowers. They were *H. tetrapetalum, H. fasciculatum,* and I’m pretty sure it was *H. crux-andreae.*

We also saw a colorful variety of Polygala. One of the pictures has highlighted the attractive orange pom-pom flower and it is called Orange Milkwort (*P. lutea*). We saw a few Candyroot (*P. nana*) that are so small, yellow, and cute. We also saw Coastal Plain Milkwort (*P. setacea*). Along the trail we came across a pretty little yellow flower. I noticed Lisa had “done her homework” and checked her notebook because she had already looked it up and correctly identified Fringed Yellow Stargrass (*Hypoxis juncea*) and had a sticky note on page 129 in her wildflowers book. (Very impressive.) We saw Netted Pawpaw (*Asimina reticulata*) and Pennyroyal (*Piloblephis rigida*) blooming in dry areas and the very cute Pink Sundew (*Drosera capillaris*) in a few of the moist soils areas.

The other picture features Florida Sensitive Brier (*Mimosa quadrivalvis*). You can see in the picture this Mimosa has the thorny stems. I’m sure that’s why Sunshine Mimosa (*Mimosa strigillosa*) is preferred as ground cover. For some reason I can’t figure out why I didn’t take a picture of the fairly big amount of Clubmoss (*Lycopodiopsida cernua*) we saw at the end of the trail near the lake. What a display!

It is always good to go on an outing because you always see different plants in bloom. Plant native!

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**Book Review**

**Gardening for Butterflies: How You Can Attract and Protect Beautiful, Beneficial Insects**

By The Xerces Society

My favorite quote in the book is “Butterfly gardeners can change the world!” This book is designed to be a blueprint for that change utilizing native plants and includes specific how-to information and native plants by region and important information on providing brush piles and unkempt areas for shelter. In addition, it has a large section on gardening for moths, which are also beneficial to nature and often overlooked in the quest for butterflies. There is a great section on why buying native plants from big box stores may not be good and why you should seek out your local native plant nursery instead. Thank you Maple Street Natives for being ours!

For those unfamiliar with the Xerces Society, it was named after the Xerces blue butterfly (*Glaucopsyche xerces*) and was established in 1971 to focus on invertebrate protection “harnessing the knowledge of scientists and the enthusiasm of local citizens to implement conservation and education programs.”

There are six copies of this book available in the Brevard Public Library system as well as many other books on butterfly gardening in Florida. Retail price is $24.95. I give this book 4 stars out of 4. Enjoy!

*Reviewed by Jane Higgins*

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**Carol’s Corner: Spring Has Arrived!**

By Carol Hebert

We had a wonderful day at the Jordan’s Scrub field trip. We saw so many flowers in bloom that we knew Spring had already started. It was hard to pick one flower out for this article so I picked out two!

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It is always good to go on an outing because you always see different plants in bloom. Plant native!

*Photos by Carol Hebert*
Brevard County Commissioners Kristine Isnardi (District 5) and John Tobia (District 3) announced they will be hosting a general town hall at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4, at Palm Bay City Hall.

All Brevard residents are encouraged to attend this public event and let their voices be heard on the critical issues facing our county. This town hall will offer a unique opportunity for citizens to ask questions of their South Brevard County Commissioners and receive brief legislative updates on topics such as infrastructure, surplus county land, use of Indian River Lagoon tax proceeds, and community redevelopment agencies.

**District 5** includes the Town of Indialantic, Town of Melbourne Village, and portions of the City of Palm Bay, City of Melbourne, and the Town of West Melbourne.

**District 3** encompasses the City of Grant-Valkaria, City of Malabar, City of Melbourne Beach, and portions of the City of Melbourne, City of Palm Bay, and the Town of West Melbourne.

**Date:** Tuesday, April 4, 2017  
**Time:** 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
**Location:** Palm Bay City Hall, 120 Malabar Road, Palm Bay, Florida 32907

Commissioner Isnardi’s contact: Danielle Stern at Danielle.Stern@brevardfl.gov and 321-253-6611  
Commissioner Tobia’s contact: Christine Furru at Christine.Furru@brevardfl.gov and 321-633-2075

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**Volunteer Opportunities**

**Brevard Public Schools Business Partners** is a program linking area businesses and Brevard public schools. Business partners provide a wide array of services to schools. Monthly meetings are held to give the schools’ coordinators and business representatives a chance to mingle and find mutually beneficial projects.

In 2014, Conradina joined to help promote native plantings at schools. Tim Harrison agreed to be our liaison and has coordinated the planting of butterfly gardens at a number of schools. Conradina has supported this effort with the purchase of plants and help with planting. Part of the agreement signed by the schools is that they will maintain the gardens.

Tim is now too busy and is no longer able to be the coordinator. We are now looking for someone to take over this project.

Please contact Suzanne Valencia at 321-984-0604 or suzmvalencia@gmail.com if you are interested.

**Marine Resources Council (MRC) Summer Camp.** In 2014, Conradina agreed to provide “in-kind services” to MRC in its grant proposal to host a summer camp. The grant was received and is now scheduled for June 5-9 and June 12-16. The camps will be on-site at the Lagoon House for children 10-13 years of age and the overall theme is **Surviving.**

Suzanne Valencia has agreed to present a session each week on edible Florida native plants. She will focus on a sample of a plant and the edible fruit or seed from that plant. Examples of that could be a pine cone and toasted pine nuts; a blueberry bush and blueberry jam; branch of coco plum and fruit; etc.

We have just found out they have a 3-hour session planned and also want someone to do a session on butterflies and bees.

Please contact Suzanne at 321-984-0604 or suzmvalencia@gmail.com if you can help round up this information or maybe even help present. She would be so grateful!
# Upcoming Events & Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td><strong>General Town Hall Meeting.</strong> Commissioners Isnardi and Tobia to host meeting. Palm Bay City Hall, 120 Malabar Road, Palm Bay 32907. See page 3 for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 10</td>
<td><strong>Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting.</strong> Florida Sandhills presented by Walter Taylor. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 23</td>
<td><strong>Workday at Turkey Creek Sanctuary.</strong> Please join us for a restoration project at this beautiful property in need of our help. Tools and lunch will be provided. RSVP to Tracey Wright at (321) 676-6690. See page 5 for information and a link to the volunteer application. 1518 Port Malabar Blvd. NE, Palm Bay 32905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td><strong>UF/IFAS Extension Workshop.</strong> Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Legally Speaking: FFL in the Planned Community. See below for more information.</td>
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<td><strong>Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting.</strong> Drive By Botany Or Nature As Seen From a Moving Vehicle presented by Dr. Jay Barnhart. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting.</td>
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<td>May 18-21</td>
<td><strong>37th Annual Florida Native Plant Society Conference.</strong> See page 5 for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 11</td>
<td><strong>Conradina Chapter FNPS Board Meeting</strong> (11 a.m.). At noon, a Potluck lunch will be our general meeting celebration. Tour of Erna Nixon Park will be after lunch. Everyone is welcome. Erna Nixon Park.</td>
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## Support the EEL Program

**UF/IFAS Extension Workshop, April 26**

**Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Legally Speaking: FFL in the Planned Community**

This workshop will focus on Florida Statute 373.185 and the implications of the law to Homeowner Associations (HOAs). It will be held April 26 at the Seminole County Extension Center for just $5 per person. Register at [https://legallyspeaking2017.eventbrite.com](https://legallyspeaking2017.eventbrite.com) and spread the word!

Conradina is not ‘endorsing’ this event and hopes for an open forum at this workshop regarding the encouragement of native plants. Please let us know if you plan to attend by contacting Jane Higgins at janehiggins2016@gmail.com or (321) 258-4642. We would really like to hear your feedback!
The 37th Annual Conference of the Florida Native Plant Society will be held in the heart of Florida and central to the largest river restoration project in the world. The Kissimmee River restoration, a joint project by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District, is designed to restore the complex relationships between land, wildlife, water, and climate that were torn apart when the river was channelized in 1962.

Before channelization, the river was a haven for native plants and wildlife, but afterwards many species of birds, fish, and plants were lost, creating havoc on our economy and our environment. The restoration project to restore the river to its natural path is nearly half complete, and already much of the original flora and fauna have returned and the water quality is improving.

Register at http://www.fnps.org/conference as soon as possible and find more information. Rooms are filling up fast!

Workday at Turkey Creek Sanctuary, April 23

Please join us in maintaining this beautiful property in need of our help. As part of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) program and the East Florida section of the Great Florida Birding Trail, Turkey Creek Sanctuary is 130 acres of wonder, biodiversity, and natural resources. We need you!

Time/Date: 9 a.m.—12 p.m., Sunday, April 23, 2017
Location: Turkey Creek Sanctuary, 1518 Port Malabar Blvd. NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905
Work Duties: We will be working on restoring an area.
What to Bring: Work gloves, sunscreen, and drinking water. Tools and lunch will be provided.

How to Get Ready:
1. Print and fill out the volunteer application at www.palmbayflorida.org/home/showdocument?id=1984 along with a copy of your driver’s license or other photo ID. The application and ID must be submitted before the Thursday prior to the workday. If you submitted an application previously, you don’t need to submit one again.
2. Please RSVP to Tracey Wright, TCS Park Ranger, at (321) 676-6690.
Last year I mentioned that Maple Street Natives was a witness in a court case—Greystone HOA vs. Dr. James and Marcia Aurand. Judge Majeed ruled for the homeowners. NOTE: This article is actuate verbatim from a stenographer.

The ruling now provides precedent in Brevard County stating an HOA cannot stop a homeowner from taking out lawn and providing Florida-friendly native habitat. The following is part of the ruling and pictures of a home in an HOA also planting native habitat to support pollinators and not pollute. The wording is broken up and is read through stenographer notes.

The Defense counsel then called a witness, called Sharon Dolan. In Melbourne for 41 years. Said she is in business. She propagates 150 species in nature plants. She is in a consultant businesses. She implements over 30 years in Florida-native plants. Going back all the way, anything before 1815 (1513 was the date and needs correction in the ruling) is a Florida-native plant. The University of Florida, she had -- hear some of the things that are peculiar to Florida natives, including they need less water. They are environmental friendly. They are friendly to the fauna of Florida, birds, bees, butterflies, et cetera. She has done work for the homeowners at Greystone at the entrance. In 2012 she met with the Defendant. They drew up a landscape plan. The plan was exclusively Florida-friendly design. Cabbage Palms, Live Oak. She talked about the shade. She talked about the water, water favorable to the grass, et cetera. She gave the Court quite an education about the sod, the lawn, growing the Goldenrods, water conservation, no need for sprinklers, et cetera.

The plan was submitted and it was to be approved by the ARC on 8-27-2014. Spring 2015 approved. July 2015 is the date for installation assuming that there is a six-month requirement, which is highly questionable based on the facts presented in this case. We heard some testimony from her about Sunshine Mimosa instead of sod. It is good for the birds and good for the ground doves. One month old, it does not look as great as it should. It takes a while she said before it comes in. Now, she said actually there is a transition time, a period of gestation of about one year from planting for full bloom and for it to fill in. She was able to describe plants and the name of plants and Natural Wildlife Federation, et cetera. She talked about less water, less chemicals in terms of fertilizers, et cetera. It protects the aquifer, the waterways, the Indian River Lagoon, and the fauna of Florida.

These were some of the issues. These are some of the facts that she presented. I find that the Defendant has properly presented evidence to this Court of his willingness to comply within the time requirement but for his inability to get the parties who were skilled in laying and maintaining this type of lawn and this type of sod and this type of Florida-friendly lawn within this time. Counsel for the Defense has given us the definition, It says, "The Legislature finds that the use of Florida-friendly landscaping and other water use and pollution prevention measures to conserve or protect the state’s water resources serves a compelling public interest and that the participation of homeowners' associations and local government is essential to the state’s efforts in water conservation and water quality protection and restoration." There is also the homeowners’ association documents, including the Declarations of Covenant, Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws may not prohibit or be enforced so as to prohibit any property owner from implementing Florida-friendly landscaping. All defined in 371.185. The standard, it has to conform according to the statute here and according to the witness of the Defendant, Ms. Dolan. And one, it conserves water. Two, it reduces the number of -- the amount and quantity of fertilizers. Three, it encourages the birds and the bees. And four, it takes about one year to maturity. And I think it is that one-year period that you are having a hard tick with the homeowners.

These are small excerpts of the ruling. Judge Majeed sided with the environment!!! The HOA did not provide enough evidence for their case.

By Sharon Dolan
Indian River Lagoon

As a result of the great presentation by Dr. De Freese from the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program (IRLNEP) at our March meeting, we asked Kathy Hill from the IRLNEP to keep us updated on their progress with newsletter updates. For more information, check out their website at www.irlcouncil.com.

Muck Removal Begins on the Eau Gallie River

Muck—the sticky, black, mayonnaise-like goo that smothers about 10 percent of the bottom of the Indian River Lagoon—is being dredged out of the Eau Gallie River and the southern branch of Elbow Creek in Melbourne. Dredging began in February and is expected to be completed by the end of 2018. When this $24 million project is finished, it’s expected that at least 632,000 cubic yards of muck will be removed—a volume equivalent to approximately 42,000 dump truck loads.

Muck is a mix of fine-grained sand, silt, and clay that mixes with decaying organic matter such as leaves, grass clippings, and other materials that are carried on stormwater runoff into storm drains and canals that feed into the Indian River Lagoon and its tributaries. Once in the lagoon, muck settles into deposits that can be 10-feet deep in some areas. These deposits smother the bottom, killing or displacing the tiny animals that form the base of the lagoon food web and preventing the growth of seagrasses. Muck is also easily resuspended, clouding the water and releasing nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus each time.

Excess nutrients are major contributors to the massive algae blooms and fish kills the lagoon has experienced since 2011. The dredging project is expected to remove approximately 1,200 tons of nitrogen and 260 tons of phosphorus.

The dredging project was initiated in 2010 when residents of the area formed the Eau Gallie River Environment is Threatened (EGRET) group and brought their concerns to the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program and the St. Johns River Water Management District. Following initial discussions, the group tenaciously focused on moving the project forward, interacting with agencies and elected officials to secure support and the necessary funding.

It was a happy day for the group when the St. Johns River Water Management District invited EGRET, agency staffers, elected officials, and the public to a dredging kickoff event on February 16, 2017. As attendees looked on, muck flowed from a pipe into the Dredged Material Management Area (DMMA) that was recently completed adjacent to the Brevard County landfill in Melbourne—approximately 3.5 miles away from the dredge site. The plan is for the muck to remain contained in this area until it dries enough to be trucked to the landfill.

To be continued in the May newsletter.
Conradina Chapter News

Where Does Conradina Spend Its Money?

Do you wonder where your membership dues and our hard-earned fundraising money gets spent? And why it’s important to become a dues-paying member as Bo has been discussing at our meetings? To encourage the mission of Conradina to “Promote the preservation, conservation and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida,” the Conradina Board of Directors voted on the following expenditures during 2016.

Please join us in our mission by becoming a dues-paying member and joining our Board!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of FANN - Real Florida Gardeners Magazine</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation of Plants to Rychman Park</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships to Florida Master Naturalist Program</td>
<td>$480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation of Plants to Riverwalk Park</td>
<td>$400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brevard County School Partnership Expenses</td>
<td>$392</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purchase of FNPS Landscape Brochures</td>
<td>$300</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRC Lagoon Festival Sponsorship</td>
<td>$250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donation to Surfrider Foundation</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation to FWF Charlie Corbeil Fund</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,122</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How Can You Help Spread the Word About Native Plants?

Jane Higgins was recently asked to speak to the Greater Federation of Women’s Clubs, which has about 30 members in the local chapter. She put together a presentation primarily using the excellent presentation given by Bill Delucca at the Florida-Friendly Landscaping event last month. Please contact her at janehiggins2016@gmail.com for a copy of the presentation. You, too, can present; and it’s so easy to speak on a topic we are this passionate about! Stop by Maple Street Natives and pick up some handouts; and you’re good to go. Spread the word!

How can you help Conradina Chapter raise money? Use your shopping and searching to help us, please!

1. Shop on AmazonSmile and pick us to donate 0.5% of your purchase price: [https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-3251333](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-3251333)

2. Shop on GoodShop with their amazing coupons and pick us: [Conradina Florida Native Plant Society - Brevard County](https://goodshop.org/conradina-florida-native-plant-society-brevard-county)

3. Use GoodSearch for your search engine and pick us to donate $.01 for each search: [Conradina Florida Native Plant Society - Brevard County](https://www.goodsearch.com/search?q=Conradina+Florida+Native+Plant+Society+-+Brevard+County)

About GoodShop and GoodSearch

It all adds up. Thank you!

www.conradina.fnpschapters.org
Chapter News

Jordon Scrub Field Trip

What a wonderful day at Jordan Scrub! The weather was perfect, and we had a great turn out for the field trip. Rob and Lisa did a great job of leading the field trip. This is a 354-acre EEL property with Brevard County and is almost a hidden treasure of wonderful Pine Flatwoods and scrub. Dave, Karen, Chris, Cindy, Lisa, Catherine, Bo, Treavor, Mark, Rob, and Carol all had a great time.

Melbourne Botanical Festival

A big “THANK YOU “to the volunteers who helped at our Conradina booth at the Downtown Melbourne Botanical Festival. The festival was held on March 4th in Downtown Melbourne with a big turn out. We had wonderful weather and were very busy promoting native plants. The great pictures of the plants in bloom we used for display must have helped sales because we were close to sold out! Thank you to John, Jo, Martha, Cindy, Dave, Karen, Chris, Laura, Hugh, Kathryn, Jim and Carol. HUGE thanks to Sharon and Brent for supplying great native plants along with set up and take down.

1st Annual Satellite Beach Coastal Garden Fair

Conradina Chapter of FNPS participated in the 1st Annual Satellite Beach Coastal Garden Fair on March 18th. It was held at the DRS Community Center in Satellite Beach. The weather was perfect! Sharon Dolan from Maple Street Natives supplied us with a wonderful assortment of beach-friendly plants. We were able to educate a lot of people who showed up with lots of questions. Carol did a half-hour presentation, “Plant the Best—Plant Native,” to an interested audience. We love the volunteer members that help! Thank you to Martha, Dave, Karen, Chris, Carol, Bo, Karen and especially Sharon and Brent from Maple Street Natives.