



**December
2017**

Preserving, Conserving, and Restoring the Real Florida Since 1980.

Photos by Bob Peterson



Conradina NEWS

Conradina Chapter Meeting Monday, December 11, 2017

Inside this issue:

Transforming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future Conference 2
 Carol's Corner 2
 Field Trips 3
 Events & Meetings 4
 Chapter News 5
 Officers & Directors 5

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

Holiday Wreath Making With Natives and Natural Materials

Join us for an evening of celebrating the holiday season creating decorations made from native plants and other natural treasures. Supplies will be available but you are welcome to bring in some materials to share.

PROVIDED:

- Grapevine wreaths
- Pinecones
- Pinecone cores ("squirrel drumsticks")
- Magnolia pods
- Sweetgum balls
- Cedar foliage
- Simpson's stopper foliage
- Seagrape leaves
- Coontie fronds
- Winged elm twigs
- American elm twigs
- Palmetto leaves
- Bay leaves
- Rayless sunflower seed heads
- Shells
- Ribbon
- Wire
- Florist tape
- Other materials as collected by the meeting

- Dried or fresh herbs
- Cinnamon sticks
- Large seeds or pods
- Paper wasp nests (empty!)
- Feathers

DON'T BRING:

- Glue guns (use at home)
- Messy berries
- Fragile materials
- Exotic pest plant materials

Be creative, look around your yard and see what might work in a wreath. Don't be limited to traditional materials. If it dries sturdy, it can be used.



Next Chapter Meeting

January 8, 2018

*Landscaping With
Wildflowers*

By Craig Huegal

BRING:

- Personal items to decorate your wreath
- Grasses
- Magnolia leaves
- Other thick & durable leaves
- Flowers, preferably dried

Conference: Transforming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future

Presented by Pelican Island Audubon Society

January 19 and 20, 2018

The Emerson Center, 1590 27th Ave, Vero Beach, FL 32960

Pelican Island Audubon Society is proud to present the Transforming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future Conference. The conference starts Friday evening, January 19, 2018, and runs through 5 p.m. on Saturday, January 20, 2018. There will be a reception Friday night along with a box lunch Saturday afternoon.

The goal of the conference is to provide knowledgeable insight into the pressing need to reverse course on how communities, developments, and homes in counties along the Indian River Lagoon develop their outdoor landscapes. While Lake Okeechobee discharges and septic system pollutants have been the main focus for improving the water in our region, transforming landscapes can play just as much of a vital role in protecting water quality, preserving water quantity, and providing habitats for plants and animals.

The conference will feature keynote speaker Dr. Douglas Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home and How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*. Speakers will also include Steve Turnipseed, author of *Transformation of a Turfgrass Lawn into a Native Plant Landscape*, and Dr. Zak Gezon, Conservation Program Manager for Disney. Other speakers will touch on various topics pertinent to transforming landscapes for a sustainable future in our region.

Our target audience for this conference is broad; it includes local governments, homeowner's associations, developers, landscape architects, consulting engineers, concerned residents, and members like you.

For conference schedule and to register online: www.pelicanislandaudubon.org.

Carol's Corner: The Prettiest Flower in the Ditch!

By Carol Hebert

Well, that pretty plant with purple flowers grows in more than just a ditch. Pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*) is a plant that identifies the area as a wetland. Once you see Pickerelweeds, you are usually looking at pond and river edges, shallow wet areas or.....ditches. They bloom spring, summer, and fall—which is almost all year long. It is noted the aggressive habit of these plants helps stabilize the banks of natural water bodies and retention ponds.

The submerged portion, as with all aquatic plants, provides a habitat for the micro- and macro-invertebrates that will become a food source for fish, amphibians, ducks, and reptiles. Additionally, as aquatic plants die and decompose, bacteria and fungi break down the plant matter and the resulting detritus is food for many aquatic invertebrates. Detritus, in biology, is defined as dead organic material. On top of that, the flowers are known to attract butterflies and bees; and the plant is a tasty treat for ducks and deer.

I found out another fun fact about Pickerelweed. It is an edible plant and the leaves can be eaten as greens and the seeds can be roasted and eaten as nuts. Also, the common name refers to the pickerel, a fish that sometimes used this plant for cover when the fish were young.

So take some time and check out the ditches for very pretty, useful, and edible native plants. Plant native!



Pickerelweed (Pontederia cordata)
Photo by Carol Hebert

Field Trips

Celebrate the new year with native plant field trips in Florida!

With this beautiful winter weather, what better way to enjoy Florida than a field trip to see some amazing native plants and wildlife in action. Here are two for your consideration:

Spanish Point

Venice, Florida

At Historic Spanish Point, you can explore 30 incredibly beautiful acres of history, natural splendor, and archaeological mystery. Many visitors at Historic Spanish Point love to experience the gardens throughout the grounds. Mrs. Potter Palmer's Jungle Walk, the beautiful and lush Sunken Garden, and the Butterfly Garden, which is one of the largest on the Gulf Coast, are all very popular attractions.



At Historic Spanish Point, you'll see how Florida's intrepid pioneer homesteaders built and ran Sarasota's first produce packing house, encounter a charming chapel, pioneer cemetery, and the beautifully preserved Guptill House, which was built in 1901.

Historic Spanish Point provides an opportunity to learn about the prehistory of Southwest Florida. "A Window to the Past," is the only archaeological exhibition in the United States that is built inside of an ancient shell mound.

It's always fun to bring your dogs with you when you come to Historic Spanish Point. The 30 acres of shaded walkways and trails abound with native plants and wildlife!

Check out more info at www.historicspanishpoint.org/visit-us.

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

Naples, Florida

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary occupies approximately 13,000 acres in the heart of the Corkscrew Watershed in Southwest Florida, part of the Western Everglades. It is primarily composed of wetlands. These include the largest remaining virgin bald cypress forest in the world (approximately 700 acres), which is the site of the largest nesting colony of Federally Endangered Wood Storks in the nation. In addition to the wood stork, Corkscrew provides important habitat for numerous other Federal and State listed species, including the Florida Panther, American Alligator, Gopher Tortoise, Florida Sandhill Crane, Limpkin, Roseate Spoonbill, Snowy Egret, Tricolored Heron, White Ibis, Big Cypress Fox Squirrel, and the Florida Black Bear. Several rare plants are also found here, most notably the Ghost Orchid.

We saw a painted bunting and many other birds and birders as well as this rare orchid!



Check out more info at corkscrew.audubon.org/about/sanctuary.

Submitted by Jane Higgins who went on these wonderful trips.

Upcoming Events & Meetings

Sat., Dec. 2	Ocean-Reef-Beach Festival. See below for information.
Mon., Dec. 11 5:30/6 p.m.	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. Create a Wreath With Native Plant Cuttings. Martha Steuart and helpers provide a wonderful amount of native plant cuttings for decorating a wreath to take home and display in your home for the holidays. Wreaths made from native grape vines are provided or bring your own. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting.
2018	
Mon., Jan. 8 5:30/6 p.m.	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. <i>Landscaping With Wildflowers</i> presented by author Craig Huegal. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting.
Sat., Jan. 13 9 a.m.—11 a.m.	Helen & Allan Cruickshank Sanctuary Field Trip. Conducted by Vince Lamb.
Jan. 19-20	Transforming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future Conference. Presented by Pelican Island Audubon Society. See page 2 for information.
Mon., Feb. 12 5:30/6 p.m.	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. Featured speaker Suzanne Carr, President-elect of FNPS. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting.
Mon., Mar. 12, 5:30/6 p.m.	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. <i>Florida Rain Gardens</i> presented by Robin Pelensky, landscaper from Vero Beach. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting.
Mon., April 9 5:30/6 p.m.	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. <i>Back Ten Feet: Landscaping for Wildlife</i> presented by Sue Scott, Conradina member. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting.
April 27-28	Florida Wildflower Symposium at Orange County UF/FAS Extension, Orlando. For information and to register: flawildflowers.org/florida-wildflower-symposium-registration-reopens .
Mon., May 14 5:30/6 p.m.	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. <i>Wildflowers in Landscape and Wildflowers Natural Progress</i> presented by Stacey Matrazzo, Florida Wildflower Foundation. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting.
Sun., June 10 11 a.m./Noon	Conradina Chapter FNPS Board Meeting (11 a.m.) and member potluck lunch (noon). Erna Nixon Park.



HOME
ABOUT
SPONSORS
VENDORS
CHOWDER LOOK-OFF
GALLERY
FAQ

OCEAN - REEF - BEACH Festival - Celebrate the Ocean Lifestyle!

PRESENTED BY:
PUREOCEAN.TV.COM

OCEAN REEF-BEACH FESTIVAL

SLOW DOWN, CHOW DOWN
CHOWDER COOK-OFF

BENEFITING:
ANGLERS FOR CONSERVATION
Protect Our Waters™
Surfrider Foundation

DEC. 2nd 2017 - Pelican Beach Park - Satellite Beach, FL

For more information, go to oceanreefbeachfestival.com. See you there!

Officers and Directors

President

Carol Hebert

Vice President

Jo Sarmiento

Secretary

Catherine Haynes

Treasurer

Jane Higgins

Chapter Representative

Martha Steuart

Board of Directors At Large

Jim Baldwin

Sharon Dolan

Cammie Donaldson

Vince Lamb

Karen Moser

Bo Platt

Suzanne Valencia

David Zeitz

Membership Chair

Linda Mongioi

Webmaster

Open

Newsletter Editor

Cyndi Johnsrud

Conradina Chapter

Florida Native Plant Society

www.conradina.fnpschapters.org

Florida Native Plant Society

www.fnps.org



Chapter News

Kudos to Bo Platt and Vince Lamb!

I'm sure you know that these fine gentlemen are very active in our Conradina Chapter. What you may not know is that they volunteer for several other organizations. On Saturday, November 11, they were honored at the Marine Resources Council's Annual Awards dinner. Bo received the Albert Tuttle Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to the Indian River Lagoon. The Indian River Lagoon Project of the Year Award went to the Save Our Lagoon Political Action Committee. When the half cent sales tax was placed on the ballot to fund \$300 million in Lagoon projects, a citizens group was needed to run the "vote yes" campaign. Vince Lamb filed the proper paperwork to form a PAC, became the treasurer, and launched the campaign. The PAC raised over \$50,000 to buy yard signs, send out persuasive mail, produce videos, and create a web site.

Submitted by Suzanne Valencia

Get Ready to Help Us Plant In February!



We are very excited that Conradina has submitted two grant requests for Keep Brevard Beautiful Florida Friendly Landscape grants! The Florida Friendly Landscape Grant awards local non-profits with funding to undertake beautification projects on public land that showcase creative landscaping with native plants and feature minimal supplementary irrigation and other required maintenance. Conradina has selected Ballard Park in Melbourne and the West Melbourne Post Office for our grants. If awarded, work will begin in mid-February so stay tuned for more information and sign-ups to help us beautify these two areas with native plants!

Melbourne Library Display Highlights Native Plants!

The Melbourne Library on Fee Avenue allowed Conradina Chapter FNPS to have a display inside the library promoting native plants. Even though October has been declared "Native Plant Month" by Brevard County, our display was on show for the whole month of November. It was a wonderful display and received many compliments.



Several library books are also on display but the main part of the display came from Jane Higgins with help from Lynda Geraci. Hopefully, the display encouraged everyone to plant native!