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

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

Title:  The Florida Native Plant Society – our mission and organization.

Presenter:  Susan Carr Ph.D.

Florida Native Plant Society:
Conradina Chapter

Abstract

The Florida Native Plant Society is a Statewide organization of diverse members and chapters — how do we fulfill our mission of conservation, preservation and restoration of Florida native plants and plant communities? What is the role of the Society as an advocate for Florida land and resource conservation? I will discuss current Society happenings and topics and ask for input and ideas about how we grow as an organization and advocate for native plants.

Susan Carr - Bio

Susan is a native of Gainesville Florida, where her interest in the natural world began as a child exploring the wild lands of Alachua County. After receiving a B.S. in Botany from the University of Florida, Susan worked as an ecologist before returning to graduate school to earn a master’s degree in plant biology from Louisiana State University. After returning to Florida, Susan finished her Ph.D. at the University of Florida. Her graduate research centered on the ecology and diversity of fire-maintained pinelands in Florida, and it was from this work that she developed an appreciation for Florida’s wildlands and an avid interest in land conservation. Currently, Susan contributes her time and energies toward protecting natural Florida as an advocate, and as a consultant to non-profit land trusts. Susan joined the Board of the Florida Native Plant Society in 2017 and is currently serving a one year term as President elect.

www.conradina.fnpschapters.org
Transforming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future Conference - Jan 19-20, 2018

What a great conference! The speakers did a wonderful job of sharing the importance of using native plants and eliminating grass culminating with a lawyer discussing the rights of homeowners in HOAs and cities to empower people to do it.

The overall theme of the conference seemed to be supporting insects and caterpillars as the beginning of the food chain and without them, there will be no other wildlife, especially birds. While adult birds can eat birdseed, baby birds cannot and need the protein of caterpillars – yum! Dr. Tallamy’s presentation Friday evening was inspirational rating plants on the variety of caterpillars they can support. Did you know the quercus family of oak trees is at the top of the list by a long distance?! So please plant oak trees!

If you weren’t able to attend, please check out the following websites showing local native plants specific to your zipcode:

https://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/
https://www.audubon.org/native-plants

Thank you to the more than 13 Conradina members who attended! We would like to think about doing a conference like this in Brevard County. Please contact Jane at janehiggins2016@gmail.com if you’re interested in helping organize this.

How You Can Help?

Volunteers Needed to Restore the Melbourne Band Garden at 1024 Melody Lane, Melbourne

Please join us Saturday, February 10th for a workday starting work at 9am and to be done by noon.

The native plant volunteers will be working alongside band volunteers providing them with information and instruction on maintenance (weeding, trimming, staking and watering) of the garden.

Please bring your hat, gardening gloves, tools and water to stay hydrated.

For additional information please contact Lynda Geraci at slgeraci@att.net

Thank you for volunteering!
Melbourne Botanical Festival Saturday March 3, 2018 from 8 am – 5 pm. Volunteers needed! Contact Carol Hebert if you can help at carol.hebert@gmail.com

How You Can Help Conradina Raise Money

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

Shop on GoodShop with their amazing coupons and pick us: Conradina Florida Native Plant Society - Brevard County
https://www.goodsearch.com/about
Use GoodSearch for your search engine and pick us to donate $.01 for each search: Conradina Florida Native Plant Society

How Can You Help Conradina Raise Money? Use your shopping and searching to help us please!

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

Shop on GoodShop with their amazing coupons and pick us: Conradina Florida Native Plant Society - Brevard County
https://www.goodsearch.com/about
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/about

IT ALL ADDS UP!!!  THANK YOU!
If you love Brevard's roadside wildflowers and want to see them preserved, please save 10 a.m.-noon Friday, Feb. 23, on your calendars. We'll be holding a meeting at the Florida Department of Transportation's Brevard Operations center, 555 Camp Road, Cocoa, FL 32927-4738 to discuss how to identify and nominate Brevard roadsides as Wildflower Areas.

Studies have shown that the preservation of roadside vegetation can contribute to the slowing of global warming through carbon sequestration, CO2 capture and reduced emissions from mowing machinery. Roadside wildflowers cleanse water runoff, conserve soil and reduce erosion. They also beautify our communities while providing habitat for valuable insect pollinators, which is paramount as we lose agricultural and natural lands to development.

Please invite anyone who would be interested in this effort. Together we can preserve native, natural Florida by saving wildflowers on roadsides through management that keeps them flourishing.

For our wildflowers, wildlife and wild places,

Lisa Roberts
Executive Director
Florida Wildflower Foundation
225 S. Swoope Ave., Suite 110
Maitland, FL 32751
407-622-1606
Nurturing the awareness, understanding and enjoyment of Florida's native wildflowers.

Get wildflowers news in your email box – Join our list now!

Check out our new website -www.FlaWildflowers.org
Carol’s Corner: Is there really a plant called Spiderwort

Yes there is! It is a strange common name for this plant. Spiderwort (Tradescantia ohiensis) is a great plant for yard landscape. I attended the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival 1/24-28 and saw Spiderwort in a variety of habitats. This plant grows in moist and dry sites. Can even grow in part shade, but the blooms may be less profuse. It is a perennial with beautiful blue flowers that open in the morning and often wilt by afternoon. It blooms from about February through November and sometimes longer. Spiderwort grows in zones 5-10. It is a low maintenance drought tolerant pretty plant. Spiderwort does spread by underground rhizomes so it is the perfect plant to fill in parts of your garden that may seem bare. Tradescantia ohiensis has exotic-looking flowers and is one of nine species of Spiderwort in Florida. "Spider" in the common name may be from the mucilaginous sap which strings out like a spider's web when a leaf is torn. The genus name honors John Tradescant (1570-1638) and his son John Tradescant (1608-1662), botanists and successive gardeners to Charles I of England. The word "wort" is derived from "wyrt" which is an Old English word for "plant". It is also said that the plants jointed stems appear to look like giant spider legs.
And on that note.....plant native!

Up Coming Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Feb. 12 5:30/6 p.m.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., March 3</td>
<td>Melbourne Botanical Festival downtown Melbourne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., March 3</td>
<td>Pelican Island Wildlife Festival at Riverview Park in Sebastian, 10 am - 4 pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon., Mar. 12, 5:30/6 p.m.</td>
<td>Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. Florida Rain Gardens presented by Robin Pelensky, landscaper from Vero Beach. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon., April 9 5:30/6 p.m.</td>
<td>Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. Back Ten Feet: Landscaping for Wildlife presented by Sue Scott, Conradina member. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 27-28</td>
<td>Florida Wildflower Symposium at Orange County UF/FAS Extension, Orlando. See page 6 for information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon., May 14 5:30/6 p.m.</td>
<td>Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. Wildflowers in Landscape and Wildflowers Natural Progress presented by Stacey Matrazzo, Florida Wildflower Foundation. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., June 10 11 a.m./Noon</td>
<td>Conradina Chapter FNPS Board Meeting (11 a.m.) and member potluck lunch (noon). Erna Nixon Park.</td>
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Greetings

Coastal Dunes Tour

Searching for the ideal holiday gift for friends, family or even yourself? Rather than an object, give enlightenment!

Travel to one of Florida’s most unique geographical features and one of the rarest in the world. The coastal dune lakes are found in New Zealand, Australia, Madagascar, and the Florida panhandle.

Come explore with us March 9-12, 2018. Open your eyes to a whole new world. Visit indigotravelcompany.com or call Devon at 813-478-1183 or email indigotravelcompany@gmail.com.

Indigotravelcompany.com
Registration is now open for the Florida Wildflower Symposium (rescheduled from September due to Hurricane Irma). Join us on April 27–28, 2018 at the Orange County UF/IFAS Extension on South Conway Road in Orlando for two days of field trips, hands-on workshops, educational presentations and more!

The schedule has been reconfirmed and is posted on our website. Click here for details as well sponsorship, volunteer and scholarship opportunities, lodging discounts and event updates. Or go directly to the event registration.

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!
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Chapter News

The Tijuana Flats fundraiser was so much fun getting to see everyone – thanks for coming out! We made $81.76 thanks to all the great food consumed. Thank you Tijuana Flats!!

More great news

We Won the KBB Grants!!!

We are very excited that Conradina won the grants for Ballard Park in Melbourne and the West Melbourne Post Office! We're in the planning stages and will be sending out updates for you to signup and join us – stay tuned!