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Photos by Bob Peterson



January
2016

Conradina NEWS

Conradina Chapter Meeting: January 11, 2016

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

Wildflowers of the Denali National Park Area

Speaker: Eileen McGurk

I grew up in a city so plants and animals were not a big part of my early environment. One time an owl was discovered roosting in a tree in a local churchyard and it resulted in a carnival-like atmosphere in the neighborhood. That's how rare it was to see wildlife. As a kid, I used to check out books from the local library that had to do with wildlife and nature. I remember reading about the procedure to follow if sprayed by a skunk—pour tomato juice on yourself and sit in the sun for a few hours. Skunks??!! I had never seen a skunk. The only wildlife we saw on a regular basis were pigeons and cockroaches. This is rather a long, drawn-out way of stating the fact that I was always drawn to nature and the living things in it.

When my husband and I moved to Florida in 1985, we wanted nature around us so we bought a house with a small piece of undeveloped land and a creek. Through the years, I spent much of my free time learning about native plants and using that information to

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Next Chapter Meeting

February 8, 2016

**Managing Sea Level Rise
in Florida**

Speaker: Dr. Randy Parkinson



Photos by Eileen McGurk

Upcoming Events & Meetings

January 11	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. <i>Wildflowers of the Denali National Park Area</i> presented by Eileen McGurk. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting.
January 17 9 A.M.—Noon	Conradina Chapter field trip to Malabar Scrub Sanctuary led by Carol Hebert. We will walk mostly in the scrub habitat and hope to see some jays. The plants are very diverse and this will be a fun event. Please bring a hat, sunscreen, and water. May need bug spray. Meet at Malabar Scrub, 1501 Malabar Woods Boulevard, Malabar, FL 32950 at 9 A.M.
January 20-25	Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival. For more information: www.spacecoastbirdingandwildlife festival.org .
February 8	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. <i>Managing Sea Level Rise in Florida</i> presented by Dr. Randy Parkinson. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting.
February 14	Conradina Chapter field trip to Cruickshank Sanctuary. Details to be announced. Located on Barnes Boulevard, half mile west of US 1.
March 5 8 A.M.—4 P.M.	Florida Institute of Technology's 10th Annual Botanical Fest Plant and Garden Sale. Crawford Green, FIT Campus, 150 W. University Boulevard, Melbourne. Volunteers needed to staff Conradina Chapter booth.
March 14	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. <i>Dendrochronology</i> by Jean Hoffman. American Homesteading Hall , Melbourne Village, 535 Hammock Road (next to the police station and town hall. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting. Note change in venue due to Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library being closed for early voting.
March 19 9 A.M.—2 P.M.	Viera Wetlands Festival. Volunteers needed to staff Conradina Chapter booth.

Carol's Corner: Winter Blooms

By Carol Hebert

December 21st was Winter Solstice and the beginning of the winter season. It's almost hard to believe we are in this season since we have hit (or close to) a record high temperature on each day. Plants are wonderful how they bloom in different seasons. Fall brings us so many colors such as yellow with Goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.), Coreopsis, and Silkgrass (*Pityopsis graminifolia*). A nice variety of purple blooms contrast beautifully such as Gayfeather (*Liatrix* sp.), Ironweed (*Vernonica gigantea*), and Stokes' Aster (*Stokesia laevis*).

Currently, my favorite fall blooming purple flower plant is Skyblue Clustervine (*Jacquemontia pentanthos*). This vine grows nicely on the north side of my house so it receives partial sun and shade all day. The flowers are small, about an inch wide and have the "morning glory" look. No fragrance but they are so pretty to see everyday because they open just for a day so flowers are in different places on the vine each day. Find a fence or trellis and decorate it with this evergreen vine named Skyblue Clustervine. This plant will give a wonderful display of lavender flowers at the end of each year. Plant native!



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Chapter News

A warm welcome to our newest member!

- Cindy Zaruba

Holiday Wreath Making 2015



Photo by Vince Lamb

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make the yard more native and more wildlife friendly. We've been richly rewarded with sightings of snakes, rabbits, box turtles, owls, song birds, and even a turkey.

Eleven years ago, we decided that we wanted even more nature around us so we bought an RV park in Alaska. We never had a business and my knowledge of recreational vehicles was minimal, but it did put us within walking distance to pristine wilderness. The RV park is situated in the Alaska mountain range near Denali National Park, and I regularly hike the nearby mountains. After a 30-minute climb up local Reindeer Mountain, I no longer hear traffic—that's how close the wilderness is. The views are stunning and there is a great variety of plants and flowers. Just like in Florida, I took on the "task" of learning about the native plants and flowers that grow in the area around our RV park. It has been a wonderful learning experience (still in progress) and I am delighted to have the opportunity of sharing some of this information with you.

Eileen McGurk



Photos by Eileen McGurk