Conradina Chapter Meeting
Monday, January 8, 2018

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

Why Native Plants?
Speaker: Craig Huegel

Florida has more species of native plants than all but 2 other states in the nation, but relatively few are used with any regularity in developed landscapes. There are a great many reasons, however, why they should be a significant addition. In this talk, Craig Huegel, PhD discusses what native plants are and the significant reasons why we should incorporate them in the landscapes in urban and suburban developments.
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
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, scheduled for January 19 and 20, 2018, at The Emerson Center, 1590 27th Ave, Vero Beach, FL 32960. 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. For more information, check out our website at pelicanislandaudubon.org.

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.

Registration $25 per person. $35 after January 5
Conradina has provided a $250 sponsorship toward this important event.

How You Can Help Conradina Raise Money

Come have some wonderful food at Tijuana Flats at 705 Palm Bay Road NE on the east side of I95 near LA Fitness on Monday January 15, 2018!

Please RSVP before January 12 and come and enjoy some good food! Support Conradina Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society!
Carol’s Corner: Happy Yellow Flowers
By Carol Hebert

Wishes for a Happy New Year filled with native yellow flowers! On a recent field trip with the Space Coast Audubon Society to the Blue Heron Water Reclamation Facility on SR50 in Titusville, the wetlands were so full of these yellow flowers. Bur-marinold (Bidens laevis) was filling the edges of the wetlands and as we stood close and observed there were many bees on the flowers. It was quite a show. It was a sunny day and the yellow flowers sure matched that.

It is interesting how many species we see from the genus Bidens. Most common is Spanish Needles (Bidens alba). Spanish Needles has pretty white flowers that don't grow higher than like 2-3 feet and wow - do butterflies love this plant! They have that pronged seed that sticks to fur and socks equally well. Bidens mitis is the one we see in the wetlands at Erna Nixon Park. They stand taller and have narrower leaves. They have a common name of Begger-ticks.

There are still a few touches of Autumn left. Broomsedge (Andropogon glomeratus) is along the roadside in tall bushy clumps. Virginia creeper vine (Parthenocissus quinquefolia) is turning red and so is Red Maple (Acer rubrum). Even Bald Cypress (Taxodium distichum) is getting rusty in color and will soon drop its needles.

Enjoy the cool weather and plant native!

Upcoming Events & Meetings

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Jan. 8 5:30/6 p.m.</td>
<td>Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. Landscaping With Wildflowers presented by author Craig Huegal. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting.</td>
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<td>Sat., Jan. 13 9 a.m.</td>
<td>Helen &amp; Allan Cruickshank Sanctuary Field Trip. Conducted by Vince Lamb.</td>
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<td>Mon., Jan. 15 5-8 p.m.</td>
<td>Tijuana Flats Fundraiser, 705 Palm Bay Road, West Melbourne, Fl. See page 3 for information.</td>
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<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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<td>Sat., March 3</td>
<td>Melbourne Botanical Festival downtown Melbourne</td>
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<td>Sat., March 3</td>
<td>Pelican Island Wildlife Festival at Riverview Park in Sebastian, 10 am - 4 pm.</td>
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<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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<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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<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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<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 as 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!
Chapter News

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ONE AND ALL!

Another wonderful wreath-making event! Thank you Martha for all your hard work in making this event a super success!

Ocean Reef Beach Festival

Thank you to Karen Moser, Dave Keitz, Martha Steuart, Frank Sullivan (in picture), Lynda Geraci, Beth Blackford, Carl Winebarger, Suzanne Valencia, Jim Baldwin, Anne Mayer and Carol Hebert for volunteering at the Ocean Reef Beach Festival on December 3rd 2017. It was a fun event!