



June 2017

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

Photos by Bob Peterson



Conradina NEWS

Conradina Chapter Potluck Sunday, June 11, 2017

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11 a.m.: Board Meeting (Members Welcome)

Noon: Potluck Lunch

Location: Erna Nixon Park, 1200 Evans Rd, West Melbourne, FL 32904

Be kind to the environment by bringing your own dishes, drinking cups, eating utensils, and napkins as well as a dish to share. Conradina will provide the drinks.

This is our time to relax, celebrate our accomplishments, and get to know one another.

We will have a guided tour of the park following lunch led by Carol Hebert, a former ranger at the park.



Next Chapter Meeting

September 11, 2017

Presentation TBD



Enjoy the summer as the newsletter takes a break and we'll be putting another together for September. Please feel free to forward articles to janehiggins2016@gmail.com for publication.

Plant native!

Florida Treasures: Flamingo Gardens



Flamingo Gardens is a 60-acre Botanical Garden and Everglade Wildlife Sanctuary located in Fort Lauderdale (Davie), Florida, and features over 3000 species of rare and exotic, tropical, subtropical, and native plants and trees. Flamingo Gardens wildlife sanctuary is home to the largest collection of Florida native wildlife including alligators, bobcats, eagles, otters, panthers, peacocks, and of course, flamingos!

Established in 1927, Flamingo Gardens is one of the oldest botanical gardens and attractions in South Florida. Originally founded by Floyd L. and Jane Wray as an orange grove, the nonprofit botanical gardens is home to 18 “Champion” trees—the largest trees of their species—including the largest tree in Florida. Accessible only by the Narrated Tram Tour, the back 50 acres feature some of the last natural jungle growth in South Florida, untouched since it was once settled by the Seminole Indians. The tour also includes a tropical rainforest area, native hardwood hammock, wetlands area, and the tropical fruit tree groves.

The centerpiece of the gardens is a natural hammock of 200 year-old Live Oaks dripping with species orchids and epiphytes. As a result, there is a lot of shade to make walking around very comfortable. I especially liked all the native plants in the half-acre aviary that provide lots of berries for the many species living and breeding there. Enjoy this amazing Florida treasure!

For more information, check out their website at www.flamingogardens.org/home.html.

Submitted by Jane Higgins



Carol's Corner: Up in the Live Oaks

By Carol Hebert

Wow! The Live Oaks (*Quercus virginiana*) were tall and bold on our walk in the Kicco Trail at the FNPS State Conference at River Ranch. It always seems amazing what you see growing in the oaks. Yes, we did see Butterfly orchid (*Encyclia tampensis*) yet not in bloom. Tons of air plants or Tillandsia! Ball Moss (*Tillandsia recurvata*), loads of Spanish Moss (*T. usneoides*) and big Cardinal Airplant (*T. fasciculata*). That's the plant in the picture. I learned so much at the FNPS State Conference and encourage you to attend the next one at the beautiful panhandle of our state. It was such a charge of excitement to go “glamping” with Jane and Karen. It was also such a treat to see SO many Conradina members there! Jo, Bev, Kathryn, Paul M., Martha and Paul A., Vince, and Kim Z. were there. A super surprise to see Peter R. there also. Terrific memories.



Cardinal Airplant (*T. fasciculata*)
Photo by Carol Hebert

We will also see these trees at the oaks hammock in Erna Nixon Park on our walk on the boardwalk after a wonderful lunch under the pavilion. Please join the Conradina Chapter on Sunday, June 11, 2017, at the park. Lunch starts at noon. Please feel free to attend the Board meeting starting at 11 a.m. and see what we do. We do need new board members to join us and get involved. Plant native!

Book Review

Sea Level Rise in Florida

By Albert C. Hine, Don P. Chambers, Tonya D. Clayton, Mark R. Hafen, and Gary T. Mitchum

Tonya Clayton was the featured speaker on the first day of the FNPS Conference and was amazing so I bought the book! There are also two copies available in the Brevard County Public Library system. The comments below are from the publisher University Press of Florida where it sells for \$34.95.

“A scientifically credible and highly readable account of what is likely the greatest threat to Florida’s environment, economy, and culture over the coming decades.”--Reed F. Noss, author of *Forgotten Grasslands of the South*

“Every Floridian should read this book. It is the clearest and most readable description of how and why the sea level changes and what the future has in store for us.”--Orrin H. Pilkey, coauthor of *Global Climate Change: A Primer*

Sea levels are rising—globally and in Florida. Climatologists, geologists, oceanographers, and the overwhelming majority of the scientific community expect a continuation of this trend for centuries to come due to climate change, ocean warming, and ice mass loss.



While Florida’s natural history indicates that there is nothing new about the changing elevation of the sea, what *is* new is its accelerating pace. Also new—and alarming—is the ever-growing, immobile human infrastructure near the coasts: high-rise condos, suburban developments, tourist meccas, and international metropolises. In a state where

much of the landscape is topographically low and underlain by permeable limestone, the stakes are particularly high. Modern-day sea-level rise, with potential impacts to large land areas and populations, poses unprecedented challenges for sustainability, urban planning, and political action.

This book offers an in-depth examination of the cycle of sea levels in the past and the science behind the current measurements and the future projections. The authors assess the most likely range of sea level rise in Florida based on a synthesis of projections for the

next hundred years. They also discuss ongoing and potential consequences for natural marine and coastal systems and how we can begin to plan strategically for the inevitable changes.

Reviewed by Jane Higgins

2017 FNPS Conference

Wow! The conference was amazing and absolutely filled with inspirational information, great food and lots of wonderful people to share it with. Start making plans to attend next year up in Tallahassee and the following year in Dade County!

Tiny people, humongous oak tree! Pictured are Carol Hebert, Conradina President, and Karen Moser, Conradina Board Member, hiking in the Kicco Wildlife Management Area near the FNPS Conference at Westgate River Ranch.



Upcoming Events & Meetings

	Sams House at Pine Island Conservation Area. June is The Great Outdoors Month. For a list of events: Sams House June Events .
	Barrier Island Center. For the event calendar: BIC June Events .
June 11 11 a.m./Noon	Conradina Chapter FNPS Board Meeting (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.
Sept. 11 5:30/6 p.m.	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting.
Oct. 9 5:30/6 p.m.	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting.
Oct. 14 10 a.m.—4 p.m.	Landscaping With Native Plants Tour. Public tour on October 14 and volunteer tour on October 15. See below for information. We need volunteers for the 14th!

Chapter News

Conradina Donates \$50 Toward a Pollinator Garden at Odyssey Charter School

‘Looking better and better as the plants get established. Thank you for your help and please send my thanks to the native plant society and remind them that we’d love to put up a banner or have some of their fliers around for interested parents.’

-Ian

Conradina Donates Plants to the St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park Visitors Center

After an amazing field trip and nature walk to this wonderful state park last year, the Conradina Board wanted to say a huge thank you and help the park out, especially the visitors center that is the first impression. The Board voted to help improve the visitors center with approximately \$200 worth of plants, which goes a long way at Maple Street Natives.

Samantha from the Sebastian River Preserve State Park is shown here selecting the 85 plants in April so if you get a chance, head down to this amazing park and see the new planting! For more info on the park, check out their website at: www.floridastateparks.org/park/St-Sebastian-River.



Conradina Native Plant Tour Is Coming Up!

Mark your calendars! Conradina Chapter of FNPS will be hosting its 8th annual “Landscaping With Native Plants Tour.” The tour will take place on Saturday, October 14, 2017. Be sure to come observe and explore some wonderful native plant landscapes at a variety of locations. Often there are full-sun beachside locations and partial-shade mainland landscapes. The tour is a fabulous look at what homeowners have done by using native plants in different situations. The best part is how it always suggests new ideas and new appreciation for native plants.

There will also be a information session at the Maple Street Natives nursery on the morning of the tour. BUT THERE'S MORE! On the following Saturday, October 21, 2017, there will be a native plant sale at Maple Street Natives that will benefit Conradina Chapter of FNPS. Be sure to take notes on the garden tour so you can come by and stock up on native plants the following weekend. Aside from the wonderful amount of native plants for sale at Maple Street Natives nursery, the Conradina Chapter will be selling plant information books and FNPS t-shirts. See you at these events!

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Chapter News

FNPS Green Palmetto Award for Service and Education

Congratulations to Sharon Dolan of the Conradina Chapter for receiving the FNPS Green Palmetto Award for Service and Education!

This is the winning submission submitted by Suzanne Valencia, Past President, Conradina Chapter:

“Sharon and her husband Brent are the owners of Maple Street Natives, the only native plant nursery in south Brevard County. As such, they have been promoting the use of native plants for more than a quarter of a century. Sharon has guided many members and other native plant enthusiasts in converting their lawns to native yards and helped them in their battles with HOAs. She even spent a day in court to testify on behalf of a homeowner who was being sued by his HOA. Thanks in a large part to Sharon’s expert testimony, the homeowner won the case.

She freely gives advice for homeowners who want to convert even small areas of their properties, selecting the right plant for the right place and educating them on proper care of the plants. She always gives a discount to NPS members. For our monthly meetings, she contributes plants for our free drawings. Several of us (including Sharon) give programs on native plants to garden clubs, homeowners associations, and volunteer groups. She provides free plants for us to give out to those participants.

Sharon helped coordinate the annual Central Florida Native Plant Sale for three years. This event was a very successful fund raiser for the four FNPS Chapters involved. This was held in conjunction with the Florida Association of Native Nurseries trade show. She arranges for the purchase of plants for us to sell from other native plant nurseries around the region as well as encouraging vendors to donate plants. Sadly, this has moved out of our region and is being conducted by other FNPS groups.

Along with several members, Sharon worked diligently on Conradina’s Florida Certified Native Plant Landscape program and has vetted a number of the yards. To my knowledge, this program is a first for the state.

Conradina has hosted an annual Native Yard Tour for the past seven years and Sharon has been instrumental in organizing homes for the tour, securing newspaper coverage to promote the event, and hosting a workshop on native plants prior to the tour.

Sharon has been a past president of the Conradina Chapter for several terms and is currently a chapter board member.

I can think of no one who is more deserving of this award.”

