



May 2015

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

Photos by Bob Peterson



Conradina NEWS

Conradina Chapter Meeting: May 11, 2015

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

Speaker: Roger Hammer, award-winning professional naturalist, author, botanist, and photographer

Roger will be highlighting his just released 2nd edition of *Everglades Wildflowers*. He has improved this edition by the inclusion of about 100 new species, including most of the extirpated native orchids. Practically all of the photographs are new and improved. Botanical nomenclature has been brought up to date; and there is more mention of which species attract butterflies, moths,

and birds. He is always an informational and humorous speaker. Not one to miss!

Before our main speaker, we will have a mini-presentation by Tim Harrison. Tim is our liaison with the Brevard Schools Business Partners program. He will show before and after photos of his first planting project at Turner Elementary School in Palm Bay.



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Conradina Chapter Potluck

June 7, 2015 ☞ Erna Nixon Park

11 A.M.: Board meeting, members welcome
12 noon: Potluck lunch

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, led by our own Carol Hebert, following lunch.

Volunteer Opportunities

Coastal Strand Restoration

May 9, 2015 ☞ 8:45 A.M.



This restoration will take place on property owned by USFWS in the Archie Carr Refuge. The home on the property was used for years by the UCF turtle researchers and was

recently demolished. Surfriders is helping USFWS restore the now-vacant land to native coastal strand. Plants are coming from Maple Street Natives. You probably recognize Bill DeLuccia in the flyer image, so the whole project is “in the family.” The property is on the ocean almost right across from Driftwood Plaza (the shopping center with the Publix in south Melbourne Beach).

Park and meet-up at 8:45 A.M. in southeast corner of the Driftwood Plaza parking lot. We’ll cross A1A at 9 A.M. and start the work. There are considerable shaded areas on the property (big seagrapes) so people won’t have to bake all the time. BYOS (bring your own shovel). Plants include sand live oaks, golden creeper, beautyberry, wild coffee, privets, saw palmettos, and lots more.

Mike Daniel
Chair, Sebastian Inlet Chapter, Surfrider Foundation

Plant Identification

Help is needed with Plant Identification in the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) properties in the South Region. To refresh your memory, Brevard citizens twice voted (1990 and 2004) to tax ourselves in order to purchase lands important to preserving biodiversity. The properties also support passive recreation and environmental education.

Chris O’Hara, the Land Manager for the South Region, is asking Conradina volunteers to help update the plant inventory on all of the sanctuaries in the South Region. Chris has the old plant inventories if those would help. As you can see from the listing of the properties below, this will be a huge undertaking. Chris says “We can either ask to do one at a time or just let the person helping choose the site they want to work at.”

- Crane Creek Sanctuary, 22 acres
- Malabar Scrub Sanctuary, 577 acres
- Jordan Scrub Sanctuary, 750 acres
- Micco Scrub Sanctuary, 1724 acres
- Grant Flatwoods sanctuary, 2425 acres

Please let me know if you can help and maybe together we can work out a strategy. suzmvalencia@gmail.com

Suzanne Valencia
President, Conradina Chapter FNPS

Carol’s Corner: Wild Coffee

By Carol Hebert



Photo by Carol Hebert

Do you have an area of your yard that has partial shade but needs some pizzazz? You must try Wild Coffee! Not to drink—only to grow. *Psychotria nervosa* is now in full bloom and looking wonderful. The blooms in my yard are loaded with bees, Zebra longwing, Gulf

fritillary, and other bugs. The foliage is so pretty with strong lines in the leaves and quite shiny. Over the years of having them outside my front window, I have seen Catbirds and a Brown Thrasher or two eating the berries. Wild Coffee can grow up to 8-10 feet tall

so a little trimming back after blooming lets me still see out my window that is framed with beautiful Wild Coffee.

BORN TO BURN

FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

35TH
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

MAY 28-31, 2015

Challenger Learning Center
Tallahassee, Florida

CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION &
RESTORATION ON PUBLIC & PRIVATE LAND



Preliminary Schedule

- All Fired Up About Pollinators
- Conversion of a Turf Grass Lawn into a Native Plant Landscape
- How to Create and Manage a Mostly Native Landscape
- The Wild, Wild World of the Florida Panhandle: An Amazing Cradle of Life
- Herbert Stoddard & Beginnings of Fire Ecology
- Red-cockaded Woodpecker Habitate and Fire
- Establishment of Sustainable Wildflower Plantings
- More Wildflowers on FDOT Roadsides
- The Natural and Unnatural History of Fire in Florida
- And many more!

Field Trips

- Kayak on the Wakulla River
- Native yard tours
- St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge
- Seepage Bog Restoration in Apalachicola National Forest
- Tate's Hell State Forest
- Elinor Klapp-Phipps Park Butterfly Field Trip
- And many more!

Make your hotel reservations now. The FNPS Conference rate is \$94 per night. **You must book by May 6 to get this price.** Call the hotel directly and ask for the FNPS rate. Book now by calling 877-GO-ALOFT. Pet friendly!

Conference information and registration:


<http://fnps.org/conference/2015>

Upcoming Events & Meetings


May	Sams House at Pine Island. Various programs and events. See flyer below or go to http://www.brevardcounty.us/EELProgram/Areas/SamsHouseSanctuary .
May 9 8:45 A.M.	Coastal Strand Restoration led by Surfriders Foundation. For more information, see page 2 .
May 9 9 A.M. to 12 noon	Sea Rocket Chapter field trip to South Lake Conservation Area led by Dr. Paul Schmalzer. Directions: I-95, exit 220 (SR 406), west for 0.6 miles, north on No. Carpenter Road for 1.5 miles, west on Dairy Road for 1.1 miles, north on unpaved Lancaster Lane. Park at gate.
May 11	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. Roger Hammer, an award-winning professional naturalist, author, botanist, and photographer will highlight his just released 2nd edition of <i>Everglades Wildflowers</i> . Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting
May 28-31	Annual statewide conference of the Florida Native Plant Society. Born to Burn, Conservation, Preservation & Restoration on Public and Private Land. On the web: http://www.fnps.org/conference .
June 7	Conradina Chapter FNPS Board Meeting. Potluck to follow for general membership. Erna Nixon Park: Board Meeting at 11 a.m.; Potluck at noon. See page 1 for more information.

Sams House at Pine Island

May Events - Endangered Species Month, "All About the Animals"



6195 N Tropical Trail Merritt Island, FL 32953 321-449-4720
www.facebook.com/samshousepineisland & www.eelbrevard.com
 Open Thursday to Sunday 9 am to 5 pm--All events are free unless denoted by *



***Basket Class~Make a Gift for Mom!**
Saturday, May 2nd, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
 Join master basket maker Becky Selman and Jennifer Horton on our screen porch for a day of crafting your own work of art using natural materials. A \$30 materials charge will be collected and please reserve your spot at 449-4720! Wear old clothes, bring clippers and a towel, and bring snacks and a picnic lunch!

Bats in My Backyard
Saturday, May 9th 10:00 am to 12:30 pm
 Did you know that Florida Bats love to eat mosquitoes? Come and learn all of the benefits of Bats as Shari Blissett-Clark introduces us to the facts on Bats and lets us view a few of the Bat species that she works with through the Bat Conservancy!

Everything you Ever Wanted to Know about the Florida Black Bear
Saturday, May 16th, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
 We welcome Tom Shupe, District Wildlife Biologist, of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for an informative talk on the Florida Black Bear including the history, biology, human interaction, and importance of our Black Bears. There will be ecofacts for viewing to help us understand the species and Tom will hold a question and answer session following the presentation.

The Secretive Life of the Florida Scrub Jay
Saturday, May 23rd, 10:30 am to noon
 Scrub Jays inhabit our Cruickshank sanctuary and historically lived throughout our scrub areas. Join Bob Montanaro of the Pelican Island Audubon Society as we view beautiful photographs of the species and discover facts about the often elusive behavior of the Scrub Jay and their very unique habitat.

Dolphins of the Indian River Lagoon
Saturday, May 30th, 10:30 am to 11:30 am
 Megan Stolen, Research Scientist at Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute, will be discussing their work on dolphins and whales off the coast of central east Florida and dolphins of the Indian River Lagoon. Megan will also highlight some of the less common species that occasionally beach themselves along our coast and discover some of the fun facts about whale and dolphin life history.

Sams House and Cabin Tour
Every Thursday & Saturday at 3:00 pm
 Tour the inside of Brevard County's oldest standing home (Sams Cabin, 1875) and the adjacent 1888 Florida vernacular-style home and learn about the Sams Family.

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

Parks and Recreation Department

Conradina Chapter

Potluck Lunch

June 7

Erna Nixon Park

See [page 1](#) for information.



Officers and Directors

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Carol Hebert

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Florida Native Plant Society
www.fnps.org



Chapter News

April 10 and 11. The Conradina chapter did another outstanding job coordinating the 3rd Annual Central Florida Native Plant Sale in partnership with three other chapters (Pine Lily, Cuplet Fern, and Tarflower) and the Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN) at Osceola Heritage Park in Kissimmee.

We sold hundreds of plants, including native Milkweed for Monarch Butterflies, educated dozens of Central Florida residents eager to use native plants in their yard, and got some great promotion for native plants on regional radio and in the Florida Today newspaper.

This annual fundraiser enables Conradina to support the planting of natives at public schools and parks. Thanks to Martha Steuart, Kathryn Merry, Sharon Dolan, Brent Dolan, Chris Waltz, Tim and Anna Harrison and their youngsters, Jane Higgins, Will Comment, Cammie Donaldson, Spence Guerin, and Suzanne Valencia.

A warm welcome to our newest members!

- Pamela Kelly
- Lisa and Rob Longacre
- Sara Morrison
- Peter Rogers
- Mary Lou Stallard
- Hedy Vonachen

A huge thanks to the following Conradina members who assisted in these events:

- April 18: WFIT's 40th anniversary celebration: Martha Steuart, Kathryn Merry, Eric Anderson, John Boltz, and Suzanne Valencia.
- April 23: Earth Day celebration at Northrup Gruman: Martha Steuart.
- April 24: Earth Day celebration at Florida Air Academy: Suzanne Valencia.



Martha Steuart
Photo by Vince Lamb

The Green Trail

To all you organic and natural products lovers out there!

There is a new store called **The Green Trail** that has organic, vegan, kosher, non-GMO, gluten free, and natural products. This is truly a Mom and Pop store run by a nice young couple. Check it out!

3002 W. New Haven Avenue
Metro West Plaza
(corner of Wickham & New Haven)

(321) 312-4589

www.the-green-trail.com