**Conradina Chapter Meeting:**
**Monday, May 8, 2017**

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

**Drive by Botany Or**
**Nature As Seen From a Moving Vehicle**

**Speaker: Jay S. Barnhart, Jr., M.D.**

Enjoy a narrated visual presentation about a variety of attractive and interesting looking plants that are frequently observed while traveling in a moving vehicle in and around East Central Florida. See what these curious specimens look like from a subsequent close-up inspection and analysis. Gain appreciation of beauty and utility of a number of both native and exotic plants; and enjoy a nature tour without enduring cold, rain, or mosquitoes.

Dr. Barnhart is retired from his second career as Dade County Medical Examiner (Miami CSI), and his favorite activities are fishing, playing the piano, and giving interpretive presentations showcasing Florida’s natural treasures.

*Rescheduled from the September 2016 meeting.*

**Door Prize Reminder**

Please bring your extra native plants to our meetings for door prizes. It’s a great way to encourage new members and to exchange plants for everyone!
The 37th Annual Conference of the Florida Native Plant Society will be held in the heart of Florida and central to the largest river restoration project in the world. The Kissimmee River restoration, a joint project by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District, is designed to restore the complex relationships between land, wildlife, water, and climate that were torn apart when the river was channelized in 1962.

Before channelization, the river was a haven for native plants and wildlife, but afterwards many species of birds, fish, and plants were lost, creating havoc on our economy and our environment. The restoration project to restore the river to its natural path is nearly half complete, and already much of the original flora and fauna have returned and the water quality is improving.

Register at [http://www.fnps.org/conference](http://www.fnps.org/conference) as soon as possible and find more information. Rooms are filling up fast!

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**Carol’s Corner: “What—No Flamingos?”**

*By Carol Hebert*

Nope, did not see a one. My friend and I went to the Everglades with the Orange Co. Audubon Society on a trip called “Flamingo Quest II.” Our second time looking for some Flamingos. Biggest sighting was 140 in 2014. It is fun being a “birder” in addition to enjoying native plants because thankfully native plants stay in the spot to see them! I did see a lot of wonderful native plants in south Florida. Cocoplum (*Chrysobalanus icaco*) was full of fruit already. Yes, we did taste a few; and yes, it is delicious. Fiddlewood (*Cithareylum fruticosum*) had sweet smelling flowers and pretty glossy leaves. The species is dioecious having male and female plants. There were already large amounts of fruits forming on the female Fiddlewood. Wild coffee (*Psychotria nervosa*), Simpson Stopper (*Myrcianthes frangrans*) and Geiger Tree (*Cordia sebestena*) all had pretty flowers. Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*) had tasty fruit. Large colorful clumps of Lantana (*Lantana involucrata*) were amazing! We even came across a bunch of shrubs in a light rain called Florida Keys Blackbeard (*Pithecellobium keyense*) with their swirling bean pods dangling from their branches. Very interesting!

In the wet areas there was Duck Potato (*Sagittaria lancifolia*), Pickerelweed (*Pontederia lanceolata*), Alligator Flag (*Thalia geniculata*), Spatterdock (*Nuphar luteum*) and Saltmarsh Mallow (*Kosteletzkya virginica*) all in bloom. When I saw Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) with shiny green foliage and adorable sweet-smelling white flowers about the size of a golf ball I thought of home! I mean Erna Nixon Park, which is a park near my home that features this plant. Hope to see you Sunday, June 11, at Erna Nixon Park to see Buttonbush in bloom. Plant native!

*Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
Photo by Carol Hebert*
Keep Brevard Beautiful: Secret Garden Tour, May 20

Date:  May 20, 2017
Time:  9 a.m.—4 p.m.

This year KBB’s Central Chapter welcomes you. Gardens north of the Pineda Causeway and south of 528 will be featured. This year we will again be featuring Lagoon Friendly (Florida native) gardens. We hope you will take home lots of ideas that may work in your yard and be motivated to get your yard featured in an upcoming tour! Tickets are $10 and can be bought beginning April 20 at:

- Growing Crazy Nursery, 1510 Old Dixie Hwy, Titusville
- Brevard Botanical Gardens, 3695 Lake Dr, Cocoa
- Ace Hardware, 1005 N. Courtenay Pkwy, Merritt Island
- Ace Hardware, 705 N. Atlantic Blvd, Cocoa Beach
- Ace Hardware, 8300 Astronaut Blvd, Cape Canaveral
- Rockledge Gardens, 2153 US 1, Rockledge
- Maple Street Natives, 7619 Henry Ave, Melbourne
- Meehan’s Office Supply, 900 E. New Haven Ave, Melbourne
- New Visions Landscaping, 590 Montreal Ave, Melbourne
- The Green Marketplace; 3910 N. Cocoa Blvd, Cocoa
- Viera Wildlife Conservancy. Call Terry Mott at 321-338-5030
- Keep Brevard Beautiful office; 1620 Adamson Rd, Cocoa

We hope you enjoy this annual tour and note the many ideas you will receive. Landscaping using edible and medicinal plants is a great way to have the plants work for you! Florida native plants are an easy way to landscape using less water and fertilizers. Perhaps you will try a rain barrel or composting. Perhaps a maintenance-free section of your yard would be to your liking. And, of course, attracting birds and butterflies is an important feature for many of us. As most of us living in Brevard County realize, when it rains it drains and pollutes our waterways. Landscaping with storm water in mind is one more idea to consider. We appreciate the kindness when these homeowners open their gardens for us and know you will also be in awe of their beautiful gardens. Many thanks to the Master Gardeners that will be on hand to answer questions.

Please contact Tammie Lizon at 321-631-0501 if you have questions.

Conradina Native Plant Tour, October 14

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!
Upcoming Events & Meetings

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<td>Keep Brevard Beautiful Secret Garden Tour</td>
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<td>Conradina Chapter FNPS Board Meeting (11 a.m.)</td>
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<td>Landscaping With Native Plants Tour</td>
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<td>37th Annual Florida Native Plant Society Conference</td>
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**Support the EEL Program**

**Brevard Public Schools Business Partners** is a program linking area businesses and Brevard public schools. Business partners provide a wide array of services to schools. Monthly meetings are held to give the schools’ coordinators and business representatives a chance to mingle and find mutually beneficial projects.

In 2014, Conradina joined to help promote native plantings at schools. Tim Harrison agreed to be our liaison and has coordinated the planting of butterfly gardens at a number of schools. Conradina has supported this effort with the purchase of plants and help with planting. Part of the agreement signed by the schools is that they will maintain the gardens.

Tim is now too busy and is no longer able to be the coordinator. We are now looking for someone to take over this project.

Please contact Suzanne Valencia at 321-984-0604 or suzmvvalencia@gmail.com if you are interested.
Indian River Lagoon

Part 2 of Kathy Hill’s article from the IRL National Estuary Program. See part 1 in the April 2017 newsletter. For more information, check out their website at www.irlcouncil.com.

Preventing Lagoon Pollution is Everybody’s Responsibility

While large dredging projects are highly effective at removing pollution from the lagoon, preventing pollution before it enters our waterways and becomes a problem is the most cost effective, long-term solution. There are a few simple changes in personal behaviors and household habits that everyone can make that will prevent stormwater pollution in the lagoon:

Reduce the amounts of fertilizers and pesticides you use around your home. When you fertilize, follow manufacturer’s instructions about how much to use and consider slow-release options that are kinder to the environment. When using pesticides, spot treat problem areas instead of broadcasting pesticides over your entire property. You may also consider natural remedies that are less toxic.

Use native and Florida-friendly plants in your landscape. Once established, these plants generally don’t require either fertilizers or pesticides and they don’t need extra watering. By incorporating some natives into your landscape, you’ll save money while having lots of time to simply enjoy your yard rather than pampering it.

Pay attention to summer fertilizer bans in every lagoon county. During the rainy season, excess fertilizers are easily washed off properties and are carried on stormwater runoff to canals and storm drains where they enter the lagoon and help fuel algae blooms. Fertilize wisely in the spring and give the lagoon a break over the summer by skipping the fertilizer.

Sweep up dirt on your driveway or sidewalk and put it back onto your lawn rather than hosing it off into the street.

Never blow grass clippings off your yard into the street. Instead, reap the benefits of free fertilizer by composting them or blowing them back up onto your lawn and allowing them to decay.

Remember that storm drains are only for rain. Help keep your neighborhood storm drain free of debris, and never dump any unwanted materials into a storm drain or canal. This includes things like paint, motor and cooking oils, lawn clippings, trash, household chemicals, detergents, and pet wastes.

We are all responsible for the condition of the Indian River Lagoon and it’s important that we all be part of the solution in repairing it.

Members of EGRET (Eau Gallie River Environment is Threatened) pose for a photo with Former Rep. Steve Crisafulli, Melbourne Mayor Kathy Meehan, and Florida Inland Navigation District Commissioner Jerry Sansom.
Letters to Conradina

Another Wonderful Use of Conradina Funding!

Thank you to Maple Street Natives and the Native Plant Society for their sponsorship of the Nature Explore Classroom. We were excited to be preparing for our ribbon cutting on April 28 at 2:00 pm. We’ve already had a lot of great feedback from parents and kids enjoying the area since the soft opening in December. Here are just two of many quotes we’ve received from parents, “We love this park! It’s so nice to have a place where children can get messy exploring the great outdoors. It just keeps getting better too! It’s our favorite Brevard County Park.” and “My boys were immediately captivated by this park. Now they ask to come back every day. There’s something for both ages (3 & 6).” If you haven’t come out to see it for yourself, please feel free to stop by any time to explore and enjoy what you helped to make a reality.

Maple Street Natives and Conradina Chapter of FNPS donated $200 to create this park in addition to Riverwalk Nature Center winning the “Meet Me At The Park” award in 2016.

Thank you,
Brandon Smith, Environmental Program Supervisor
Riverwalk Nature Center
Central Area Parks Operations
Brevard County Parks & Recreation
5355 US Hwy 1, Rockledge, FL 32955

Native Plants Are Making a Difference!

Carol and Martha,

I thought you might like this. I haven’t been to a meeting for a while, but I made this for Earth Day to educate my neighborhood about Native Plants, particularly on the dune. It’s glued to a large wooden outdoor table and is located right next to the sidewalk of a busy street, on Wavecrest, oceanfront in Indialantic, on my property. So it gets a lot of “views” the old-fashioned way. I’ve already had a lot of positive feedback from some of my neighbors.

Thanks for the education that the two of you have given me in the last few years. I hope you know that it pays off. My entire dune is now covered with native plants. It was all dead grass when I moved here. Plus I donate plants to the city to help with their dune restoration projects.

Hope life is treating you both well,
Melanie Rotenberg
Chapter News

Floridana Beach Native Plant Demonstration Garden Dedication
On a recent windy, sunny evening, Floridana Beach Garden Club and Community hosted a celebration and dedication of their Native Plant Demonstration Garden. Several Conradina members attended the event. In fact, our president, Carol Hebert, spoke on behalf of our chapter congratulating the Garden Club on their efforts promoting native plants. Beth Glover, president of the Garden Club and Conradina member, lead the effort of creating the garden and Nicole Perna, Barrier Island Nature Park Naturalist and Conradina member designed the garden. What a wonderful example of how a community comes together to preserve our environment, conserve our natural resources, and create habitat for our native wildlife!

Turkey Creek Sanctuary Workday, April 23, 2017
Another great workday and crew of FNPS members came out to help Turkey Creek Sanctuary blaze a new trail and pull up young pine trees in areas to be open. As an added bonus, we saw the native paw paw in bloom and pictured here. A lot of progress has been made on removing the dead wood from the Hurricane Matthew destruction as Ranger Tracey applied for and received a grant to get extra heavy equipment assistance. You will really notice a difference now from our efforts and those of the grant team! Please join us for future workdays starting again in the fall or feel free to contact Ranger Tracey at 321-676-6690 to go help out in the interim. They always need help!