



**November  
2016**

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



Photos by Bob Peterson

# Conradina NEWS

## Conradina Chapter Meeting: Monday, November 14, 2016

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

### Sea-Beans and Beachcombing

**Speaker: Ed Perry**

*Sea-Beans and Beachcombing* is a neatly packaged slide presentation that shares a lifetime of information gleaned from beachcombing Florida's shores. In this presentation, sea-beans, or driftseeds, are center interest and explained in detail. What are they, where do they come from, and why are they here? Also highlighted are their histories and identifications. Connections with other beach treasures are shared including the mermaids' purses, spirula, and pumice stones. Ocean currents, rainforest plants, and history and folklore also play an important part in this interesting presentation that's sure to pique the curiosity of anyone that has visited a coastal beach.



### Next Chapter Meeting

**December 12, 2016**

***Holiday Wreath Making***

Ed Perry is in his 28th year as a Ranger at Sebastian Inlet State Park. He enjoys fishing, butterfly gardening, beachcombing, tropical fish aquaria, and sharing life with his eighteen-year-old daughter Gayle. He is a Florida native who graduated from the University of Florida in 1988 and has been working at the Sebastian Inlet State Park nearly ever-since. Today Ed operates the McLarty State Treasure Museum and helps to organize the large volunteer base at the park, as well as helping to protect, interpret, and share all of the beautiful natural resources that are Sebastian Inlet State Park.

## Keep Brevard Beautiful's Lagoon Friendly Lawns Gold Award

Suzanne Valencia has just received the Gold Award through the Keep Brevard Beautiful's Lagoon Friendly Lawns program. There are three categories: general, silver, and gold. The Gold Award means that the homeowner has met all four criteria to:

- Minimize Nutrient Pollution
- Reduce Turf Area
- Reduce Stormwater Runoff
- Restore Ecosystem Benefits



*Suzanne Valencia. Photo by Cyndi Johnsrud*

The application is free and simple to use and can be found at [keepbrevardbeautiful.org/our-programs/lagoon-friendly-lawns](http://keepbrevardbeautiful.org/our-programs/lagoon-friendly-lawns). The beautiful sign is made with recycled wood and is also free. However, donations are gladly accepted.

Conradina Chapter needs to spread the word and help promote the program. Many of our members would easily qualify.

**OCEAN REEF BEACH FEST**  
 OCEAN REEF BEACH FESTIVAL®  
**FREE ADMISSION**

**DEC 3 • 10AM TO 5PM**  
 PELICAN BEACH PARK, SATELLITE BEACH

Celebrate the ocean lifestyle

[OceanReefBeachFestival.com](http://OceanReefBeachFestival.com)

Come experience the Ocean-Reef-Beach Festival! Local art vendors, marine education, live music, chowder cook-off, food vendors, beverages, sea turtle obstacle course, and more.

It is suggested that locals walk or ride their bikes due to the limited on-site event parking. Additional parking and shuttle transportation will be made available at the overflow parking field across from CVS on North A1A/Desota Parkway (NE corner).

[OceanReefBeachFestival.com](http://OceanReefBeachFestival.com)

## Carol's Corner: Vibrant Muhly Grass

*By Carol Hebert*

It is great to see a grass highlighted as a showy plant! It is also so good to see it used in commercial landscape. Grasses are so easy to grow and maintain. They just grow out wider from the center and stay right where they are planted.

Muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*) needs full sunshine and once established it is drought tolerant. Also be sure to give them about 3 feet between plants.

I always enjoy the information about each plant in Roger Hammer's variety of plant books. *Muhlenbergia* commemorates the German-American botanist, Gotthilf Henry Ernest Muhlenberg (1753-1815). The name *capillaris* relates to "hairlike." When it is in full bloom, it a real eye-catcher. I also see Goldenrod (*Solidago sp.*), Broomsedge (*Andropogon glomeratus*), StarRush (*Dichromena spp.*) and even Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) changing color.

Fall is coming, and it is great to feel the temperature cooling. I do still have a few Stokes Aster (*Stokesia laevis*), Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), and Dotted Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*) in my yard that are still blooming and showing great color. Plant native!



*Photo by Carol Hebert*

# Upcoming Events & Meetings

<b>November 12</b> 10 a.m.—2 p.m.	<b>Indian River Lagoon Day.</b> Front Street Park, Melbourne. See page <a href="#">4</a> for information.
<b>November 14</b> 5:30/6 p.m.	<b>Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting.</b> <i>Sea-Beans and Beachcombing</i> presented by Ed Perry from Sebastian Inlet State Park. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting.
<b>November 16</b> Noon—1 p.m.	<b>Lunch With Nature:</b> <i>Saving Florida's Right Whales.</i> Presented by Julie Albert, Marine Resource Council. Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. 444 Columbia Blvd., Titusville, (321) 264-5185. <a href="http://www.brevardcounty.us/EELProgram/Sanctuaries/EnchantedForestSanctuary/Calendar">http://www.brevardcounty.us/EELProgram/Sanctuaries/EnchantedForestSanctuary/Calendar</a>
<b>November 27</b> 10 a.m.—Noon	Malabar Scrub Sanctuary Field Trip. Led by Carol Hebert. See page <a href="#">4</a> for information.
<b>December 3</b> 10 a.m.—5 p.m.	<b>Ocean Reef Beach Festival.</b> Celebrate the ocean lifestyle. Free admission. Pelican Beach Park, Satellite Beach. For more information: <a href="http://OceanReefBeachFestival.com">OceanReefBeachFestival.com</a>
<b>December 12</b> 5:30/6 p.m.	<b>Conradina Chapter FNPS Annual Holiday Wreath Making.</b> All wreaths and materials provided. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. wreath making.
<b>January 9, 2017</b> 5:30/6 p.m.	<b>Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting.</b> Ray Mojica from the Barrier Island Center. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting.
<b>February 13</b> 5:30/6 p.m.	<b>Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting.</b> <i>History of the South Beaches of Brevard County</i> presented by Barbara Arthur. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting.
<b>March 13</b> 5:30/6 p.m.	<b>Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting.</b> <i>Indian River Lagoon Update</i> presented by Dr. Duane DeFreese. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting.
<b>April 10</b> 5:30/6 p.m.	<b>Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting.</b> <i>Florida Sandhills</i> presented by Walter Taylor. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting.
<b>May 8</b> 5:30/6 p.m.	<b>Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting.</b> <i>Drive By Botany Or Nature As Seen From a Moving Vehicle</i> presented by Dr. Jay Barnhart. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting.
<b>June 11</b> 11 a.m./Noon	<b>Conradina Chapter FNPS Board Meeting</b> (11 a.m.). <b>Potluck to follow for general membership</b> (noon). Erna Nixon Park.

## December 12: Holiday Wreath Making With Natives and Natural Materials

Join us for an evening of celebrating the holiday season creating decorations made from native plants and other natural treasures. Supplies will be available but you are welcome to bring in some materials to share. **NO GLUE GUNS ALLOWED.** More details in the December newsletter.



2015 Holiday Wreath Making, Photo by Vince Lamb

## Indian River Lagoon Day

Saturday, November 12 • 10 a.m.—2 p.m.  
Front Street Park, Melbourne

Conradina Chapter will have a booth at this event to promote native plants. Activities for children will include bounce houses, face painting, a sea turtle obstacle course designed by Brevard County Parks staff, and other games and crafts.

Also planned throughout the day's activities are a "Meet the Experts" tent and a series of brief, informative presentations focused on the lagoon and the many projects and programs that are under way to improve its health. Those planned presentations include:

- Discussions about the recent algal blooms that have impacted the lagoon's sea grasses
- Overview of the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary

Program and the projects that it funds

- A talk about storm water and the ways it harms the lagoon ecosystem
- An explanation of the Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) for the lagoon from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Update on the lionfish invasion of the lagoon
- Several other talks from local agencies and organizations about their programs and available volunteer opportunities that help improve the lagoon's water quality and habitats

## Field Trip

### Malabar Scrub Sanctuary

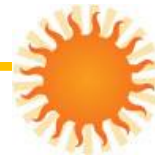
Sunday, November 27 • 10 a.m. to Noon

Walk off the Thanksgiving stuffings and join a field trip at Malabar Scrub Sanctuary led by Carol Hebert.

Please wear a hat, sunscreen, hiking shoes and bring water. Feel free to also bring plant ID books and binoculars.



For more information: [loveourlagoon.com](http://loveourlagoon.com)



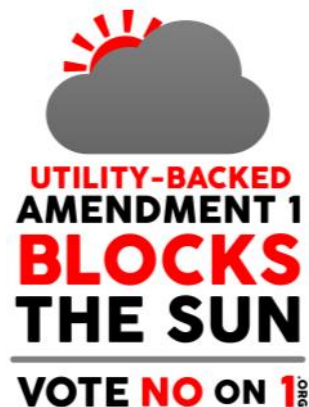
## Floridians for Solar Choice

**WANT MORE SOLAR IN THE SUNSHINE STATE?  
VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 1**

Amendment 1 is funded by Florida's big utilities to protect their monopoly markets and limit customer-owned solar.

Amendment 1 paves the way for barriers that would penalize solar customers.

Amendment 1 misleads voters by promising rights and protections that Florida citizens already have.



For more information: [www.flsolarchoice.org](http://www.flsolarchoice.org)

## Officers and Directors

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Cyndi Johnsrud

Conradina Chapter  
Florida Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 1543

Melbourne, FL 32902-1543

[www.conradina.fnpschapters.org](http://www.conradina.fnpschapters.org)

Florida Native Plant Society  
[www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)



## Chapter News

Kudos to Bo Platt and Sharon Dolan for stepping up to the plate when our October speaker cancelled due to Hurricane Matthew. Bo offered an excellent update on the status of the Indian River Lagoon and the program that proposes to begin the healing of our imperiled waterway. Sharon shared her knowledge of landscaping with native plants with a special emphasis on native pollinators.

## Another Successful Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour

Conradina Chapter's 7th Annual Landscaping with Florida Native Tour was a great success just a week after a visit from Hurricane Matthew. Home and business owners picked up and showed off their native landscapes. Over 140 tickets were sold with 75 to 100 visitors at six different sites from Central to South Brevard. It was a great tour of coastal, HOA, and natural settings.

Visitors were educated on how to remove sod and plant habitat. The day started with a crowd of visitors at Maple Street Natives for a pre-tour discussion on the process of transforming their yards with a palate of plants discussed in detail by Nicole Perna. Sunday's tour of the homes with the volunteers was well-organized by Carol Hebert (big thanks) and was a beautiful, enjoyable day.

Thank you to the following volunteers who made this a success: Pastor Debbie Vann, Debbie and Marc Grenier, Trevor Nimmons, Judith Kaiser, Martha Steuart, John Henkelman, Cammie Donaldson, Vince Lamb, Sharon and Brent Dolan, Nicole Perna, Kathryn Merry, Carol Hebert, Jo Sarmiento, Bev Allen, Jim Baldwin, Jane Higgins,



John Boltz, and Lynda Geraci. Hope we didn't miss anyone!

*The Sunshine mimosa (Mimosa strigillosa) in full bloom in front of Trevor's house as we enjoyed the homeowner and volunteer tour on Sunday, October 16.*

