



**November
2017**

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

Photos by Bob Peterson



Conradina NEWS

Conradina Chapter Meeting Monday, November 13, 2017

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

Native Alternatives to Ornamental Invasives in Florida

Speaker: Sandra Wilson

Dr. Sandra Wilson's presentation will focus on native alternatives to ornamental invasives with discussion about the UF-IFAS assessment of non-native plants in Florida and selecting native plants that are beautiful, functional, and sustainable.

Dr. Wilson is a Professor of Environmental Horticulture at the University of Florida's main campus in Gainesville. She received B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Delaware and a Ph.D. in Plant Physiology from Clemson University. Dr. Wilson completed postdoctoral studies at both Clemson University and Chiba University, Japan.



Dr. Wilson teaches courses on Native Florida Landscaping, Plant Propagation, and Annual and Perennial Gardening. She has been recognized nationally for her scholarship in teaching and development of interactive online materials on plant propagation, plant family classification, and greenhouse education. Dr. Wilson's research focuses on (1) propagation and evaluation of native plants and (2) characterizing the invasive potential of ornamental plants in Florida. Her training and expertise encompass numerous aspects of plant production including techniques to overcome seed dormancy, evaluation of containerized media, optimizing plant growth under varying environmental conditions, and trialing of new plants in the landscape. Her teaching and research programs have generated some \$1.76 million dollars in extramural grant funding and authorship of more than 140 refereed publications and proceedings. Recently, she has become the newest co-author of the 9th edition world premier textbook, Hartmann and Kester's *Plant Propagation: Principles and Practices*.

Next Chapter Meeting

December 11, 2017

Create a Wreath With Native Plant Cuttings

Conradina Chapter 2017 Landscaping With Florida Natives Tour

Thank you for making our 2017 Yard Tour a great success! We sold over 200 tickets and so enjoyed sharing and learning about native plants. Special thanks to the homeowners who shared their yards and the many volunteers who assisted.



Carol's Corner: Groundcover With Color

By Carol Hebert

Twinflower (*Dyschoriste oblongifolia*) got a lot of attention during the garden tour. I saw it in two to three yards and it looked a little different when in full sun compared to shade. It is a beautiful groundcover with fairly low maintenance. It has pretty flowers that are quite striking when closely observed. It is best to let Twinflower get dense because that helps keep “weeds” out. Twinflower is also good in a butterfly garden—not so much for its nectar production but as a larval food plant for the common buckeye. There are several native plants used for groundcover. In a sunny spot, Sunshine Mimosa (*Mimosa strigillosa*) is so pretty with the purple pom-poms that only stay open for 1-2 days. But it blooms for months, and it makes the look of your landscape change every day.

If you have more of a moist area, you can have Blue Hyssop (*Bacopa caroliniana*). This one also likes moist soil and has very pretty blue flowers with ovate leaves. I have to sound professional in my knowledge of botany but I had to get the correct word to describe Blue Hyssops leaves correctly. (By the way ovate means having an oval outline or ovoid shape, like an egg.)



Twinflower (Dyschoriste oblongifolia)
Photo by Carol Hebert

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Florida Wildflower Symposium Rescheduled



Event rescheduled due to hurricane aftermath.

Due to Hurricane Irma damage and complications, the Florida Wildflower Foundation is moving the date of its Florida Wildflower Symposium, which was to take place Sept. 22 and 23 in Orlando. **The new date for the event is April 27 and 28, 2018.**

If you have registered for the symposium, please let us know what you'd like to do by sending an email to Stacey Matrazzo at smatrazzo@flawildflowers.org.

You can ask us to do one of the following:

- Provide a refund. At your request, your registration fee, lunch, and field trip fee will be reimbursed, either by check or through PayPal, depending on your original method of payment. Please allow 30 days for your refund to be processed.
- Apply your registration and other fees to the rescheduled spring event.
- Make a donation. Have the Florida Wildflower Foundation retain some or all of your fee as a donation to the Florida Wildflower Foundation. If you select this option, you will receive a letter for tax purposes noting the amount of your donation.

If you joined the Florida Wildflower Foundation as member in order to attend the symposium, we are grateful for your support through membership. Be assured that you will be able to attend the rescheduled event at the member rate. We must hear from you as soon as possible no matter which of these options you choose.

If you have questions or concerns, you may contact us at Info@FlaWildflowers.org or 407-622-1606.

East Coast Greenway Alliance

What's 3,000 miles long, extends through 15 states and 450 communities, is used by 25 million people, and costs about \$1 million per mile? It's the East Coast Greenway. Haven't heard of that? Well, you will. A non-profit organization called the East Coast Greenway Alliance (ECGA) has been working hard over the last few years to make the East Coast Greenway a reality.

The concept has been discussed since the early 1990s: creating the Appalachian Trail of cycling, a 3,000-mile paved bike trail that extends the entire east coast of the United States, from Calais, Maine through Key West, Florida. The idea behind the Greenway is to allow people to safely commute, recreate, and travel. Whether it's used for a simple commute to work or a multi-state biking and camping trek, the Greenway is an investment in a healthy and sustainable future. With 850 miles of the trail completed, when fully constructed, the Greenway will be the nation's longest continuous biking and walking path. It is expected to have an additional 1,000 miles of complementary routes feeding off the main trail and will host upwards of 25 million people each year.

Communities throughout the route have joined on as partners, expecting the Greenway to be a great investment

in community health, tourism, transportation, and infrastructure. From the very beginning, the Greenway was designed to flow through urban corridors, uniting cities and suburbs, and connecting locals and visitors.



In Florida, the Greenway will extend primarily along the coast for about 600 miles. Much of the Florida portion of the trail runs along Highway A1A, entering Florida from Georgia at Fernandina Beach, and winding through 13

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Upcoming Events & Meetings

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Mon., Nov. 13 5:30/6 p.m. | Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. <i>Using Native Plants Instead of Invasive or Potentially-Invasive Non-Natives</i> presented by Dr. Sandy Wilson, University of Florida. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting. |
| Sat., Dec. 2 | Ocean-Reef-Beach Festival. See below for information. |
| Mon., Dec. 11 5:30/6 p.m. | Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. Create a Wreath With Native Plant Cuttings. Martha Steuart and helpers provide a wonderful amount of native plant cuttings for decorating a wreath to take home and display in your home for the holidays. Wreaths made from native grape vines are provided or bring your own. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting. |
| 2018 | |
| Mon., Jan. 8 5:30/6 p.m. | Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. <i>Landscaping With Wildflowers</i> presented by author Craig Huegal. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting. |
| Sat., Jan. 13 9 a.m. | Helen & Allan Cruickshank Sanctuary Field Trip. Conducted by Vince Lamb. |
| Jan. 19-20 | Transforming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future Conference. Presented by Pelican Island Audubon Society. See page 5 for information. |
| Mon., Feb. 12 5:30/6 p.m. | 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. |
| Mon., Mar. 12, 5:30/6 p.m. | Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. <i>Florida Rain Gardens</i> presented by Robin Pelensky, landscaper from Vero Beach. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting. |
| Mon., April 9 5:30/6 p.m. | Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. <i>Back Ten Feet: Landscaping for Wildlife</i> presented by Sue Scott, Conradina member. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting. |
| April 27-28 | Florida Wildflower Symposium at Orange County UF/FAS Extension, Orlando. See page 3 for information. |
| Mon., May 14 5:30/6 p.m. | Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. <i>Wildflowers in Landscape and Wildflowers Natural Progress</i> presented by Stacey Matrazzo, Florida Wildflower Foundation. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting. |
| Sun., June 10 11 a.m./Noon | Conradina Chapter FNPS Board Meeting (11 a.m.) and member potluck lunch (noon). Erna Nixon Park. |



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For more information, go to oceanreefbeachfestival.com. See you there!

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

The rate of development in the Indian River Lagoon region has reached pre-recession levels, and now is the time to discuss transforming landscapes so that our residentially and commercially developed lands are part of the solution to a healthy environment, not a detriment.

The Pelican Island Audubon Society realizes the enormous undertaking required to change course. However, the health of the Indian River Lagoon makes it clear that time is not on our side. We must ALL act now or potentially lose what has made our region so attractive to people and businesses.

Are you willing to be a substantial sponsor for our trail-blazing conference?

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, animals, and our own health.

The conference will feature keynote speaker Dr. Douglas Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home, How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*. Speakers will also include Steve Turnipseed, author of *Transformation of a Turf grass 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.

Our target audience for this conference is broad; it includes local governments, homeowner's associations, developers, landscape architects, consulting engineers, new homeowners, future home buyers, and concerned residents.

If you believe that we must act now regarding this important topic, please consider being a sponsor for the conference. Despite the cost, this conference will be worthwhile if we all come together to work on solutions for transforming landscapes for a sustainable future. If you are unable to sponsor, we hope that you will plan on attending or have individuals from your organization attend this important event. Admission tickets will go on sale in October at \$25 per person and \$35 after January 5, 2018.

For conference schedule and to register online:

www.pelicanislandaudubon.org.

Native Plant Sale



The Natives Inc. will be open for retail sales the week of Monday, November 20th through Saturday, November 25th. No appointment needed!

All sales will be at our "Hill" Nursery at 1617 Champagne Road, Davenport, FL 33837. Please give us a call at 863-287-3903 when you are leaving and/or when you are getting close to us so that we can be there to help you.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please email natives@gate.net or call 863-422-6664 or 863-287-3903.

Phone: 863-287-3903 ☎ Email: natives@gate.net or patty@thenatives.net

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Florida Paintbrush
Sandhill native

Keep Brevard Beautiful's Lagoon Friendly Lawns Program



Protecting the Indian River Lagoon starts right in your backyard! Keep Brevard Beautiful's new Lagoon Friendly Lawns program, in partnership with the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program, is recognizing local residents who are helping to prevent algal blooms and fish kills by minimizing nutrient pollution and storm-water runoff from their yards and restoring ecosystem functions with native plants.

The Indian River Lagoon is one of the most biologically diverse estuaries in North America, providing a home for more than 4,000 species and contributing \$3.7 billion per year to local economies. But nutrient pollution from sources like lawn fertilizer and runoff from residential areas fuels large-scale algal blooms that can smother critical seagrass beds and cause massive fish kills. This ecosystem collapse impacts both people and wildlife.

The four core concepts:

1. Minimize Nutrient Pollution

Make sure you follow all local fertilizer ordinances, including the rainy season fertilizer ban from June to September, and during the rest of the year, apply phosphorous only if a soil test shows it's needed. Use a fertilizer with at least 50% slow release nitrogen fertilizer and don't apply more than one pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet.

Also be sure to keep lawn clippings off of impervious surfaces like cement and out of water bodies and storm drains. Other nutrient sources include pet waste, pesticides and herbicides, and soaps like those used to wash cars.

2. Reduce Turf Area

Garden beds are a great alternative and can easily be maintained with either no irrigation or drip irrigation, a more efficient and minimal approach where water is delivered directly to plants beneath the ground.

Mulching flower beds minimizes maintenance, and there are a wide variety of sustainable mulch types that don't contribute to deforestation.

3. Reduce Storm-water Runoff

Minimizing or replacing impervious surfaces (like poured concrete) with surfaces that allow water to flow through into the ground (pavers, crushed concrete, and mulched beds) can reduce the amount of storm-water runoff flowing into the lagoon from your property that carries nutrients with it.

Storm-water-capture landscape elements like rain barrels, swales, and rain gardens take this initiative one step further. Rain barrels can provide you with water to maintain your gardens, and swales, rain gardens, and other water penetrable surfaces contribute to important aquifer recharge.

4. Restore Ecosystem Benefits

Basing your landscaping on native plant communities provides food and habitat for wildlife, plus native plants are perfectly adapted to our area, meaning they largely don't require watering or fertilizer.

Removing exotic invasive plants from your property also helps to keep our ecosystems healthy, and for waterfront residents, incorporating a "living shoreline" community of plants and animals like mangroves, spartina grass and oysters can help to prevent erosion and naturally filter lagoon water.

Lagoon Friendly Lawns also offers a county-wide certification system for lawn-care contractors, developed in partnership with the City of Satellite Beach Sustainability Board. Any homeowner who utilizes a Lagoon Friendly Lawns contractor is automatically qualified for the member level of lawn certification in the areas of service provided by that contractor. Contractor certification applications and any violation reports are handled by a review board of



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Carol's Corner (Continued from page 2)

One more groundcover that always steals my attention is *Micromeria browneri*. It doesn't even need a common name because *Micromeria* is a graceful name for a plant with 2-lipped pale lavender flowers. This one also likes moist soil. I don't always go walking through the moist areas of my garden so I have often used it by planting it in a container. It is always in bloom—I mean all year! It drapes over the edge of my container and gets a nice trim every two to three months to keep it tidy. The best part? It is in the mint family so I can always crumble up a few leaves and enjoy the wonderful fragrance.

There are other groundcovers to try out so maybe remove some grass and replace it with your choice of a native plant. Once established the native groundcover becomes low maintenance and adds beauty to your landscape. Feel free to donate your mower to a good cause. Plant native!

East Coast Greenway Alliance (Continued from page 3)

counties before terminating at Key West. The Keys portion of the trail is approximately 106 miles, about half of which is complete. Also included along the route are nature preserves, large cities like Jacksonville and Miami, smaller seaside towns, historic sites, and other points of interest.

To call attention to the project, volunteers from ECGA have been biking the trail this summer in the East Coast

River Relay. Riders have been visiting cities and towns where the Greenway will be located to call attention to the Greenway while also celebrating active lifestyles, local culture and healthy watersheds. The trip began in Calais, Maine on August 24 and will end in Miami, Florida, on October 28.

To learn more about the East Coast Greenway, visit www.greenway.org.

Kathy Hill

Lagoon Friendly Lawns Program (Continued from page 6)

scientists, business owners and municipal officials.

Eligible applicants get a beautiful lawn sign to showcase their efforts! Silver and Gold Award winners also get a special plaque and will be featured on our website, social media, and even in magazine articles! Donations for signs are appreciated.

We are also hosting Lagoon Friendly

Lawn Video Tours all year long! This special tour includes a walk through your yard and a small interview so people can get to know you and your lawn. These videos will be uploaded to our social media sites and our website. Our first video has been posted to our Facebook site, www.facebook.com/KBBBrevard/?ref=br_rs, go check it out!

Through the Lagoon Friendly Lawns program, we can all be part of a community-level solution by making positive behavior changes when it

comes to the care and keeping of our lawns. Contact Kaylyn Palmer at kaylynpalmerkbb@gmail.com or 321-631-0501 ext. 212, to learn how to become a certified member today!



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Chapter News

October Native Plant Proclamation Month!

Carol Hebert, President of Conradina Chapter FNPS, and Suzanne Valencia, Past President of Conradina Chapter, accepted a proclamation for October being "Native Plant Month" from County Commissioner Curt Smith. We are honored that this is the third year of the proclamation. Each County Commissioner was given a garden tour booklet to invite them on our "Landscaping With Native Plants" garden tour. Hopefully it encouraged each Commissioner and the audience to plant native plants!



Conradina President Carol Hebert, County Commissioner Curt Smith, Past President Suzanne Valencia

Tribute to Paulie Campbell

We have lost another wonderful person. Paulie Campbell was a big help in maintaining and updating the Conradina Website. It was out of the blue that Paulie offered his services because he didn't live in Brevard County but loved native plants. Paulie Campbell was 58 and mainly cared for his mother. He did come to a meeting earlier this year, and it was a treat to introduce him. Also, I had the pleasure of meeting him earlier at the turtle walk for FNPS last summer. Paulie was a beautiful person to help Conradina Chapter and will be missed. *Carol Hebert*

