



Conradina NEWS

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October 2026

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Next Chapter Meeting

October 12, 2026

Conradina Chapter Meeting Monday, October 12, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Meet us at the First Church of the Nazarene
2745 S Babcock Street, Melbourne FL 32901

Dr. Craig Huegel is widely recognized as one of Florida's leading advocates for using native plants to create ecologically productive home landscapes. Formally trained as a wildlife biologist, earning a B.A. in Zoology and an M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Wisconsin, and his Ph.D. in Animal Ecology from Iowa State University.



His professional career has centered on the relationship between plants, wildlife, and people—especially at the urban and suburban edge, where residential landscaping can either diminish or restore habitat. Dr. Huegel serves in a leadership role at the University of South Florida Botanical Gardens, where he helps direct plant acquisition, maintenance, propagation, staff support, collections planning, and the strategic direction of the gardens. The USF Botanical Gardens maintain extensive natural and cultivated areas, with a major focus on Florida-native plant collections and public education. Dr. Huegel is the author of several books on Florida native plants, gardening, wildlife habitat, and plant biology. His works include:

*Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife, Native Wildflowers and Other Ground Covers for Florida Landscapes, Native Florida Plants for Shady Landscapes, The Nature of Plants: An Introduction to How Plants Work, Butterfly Gardening with Florida's Native Plants*floridapress.

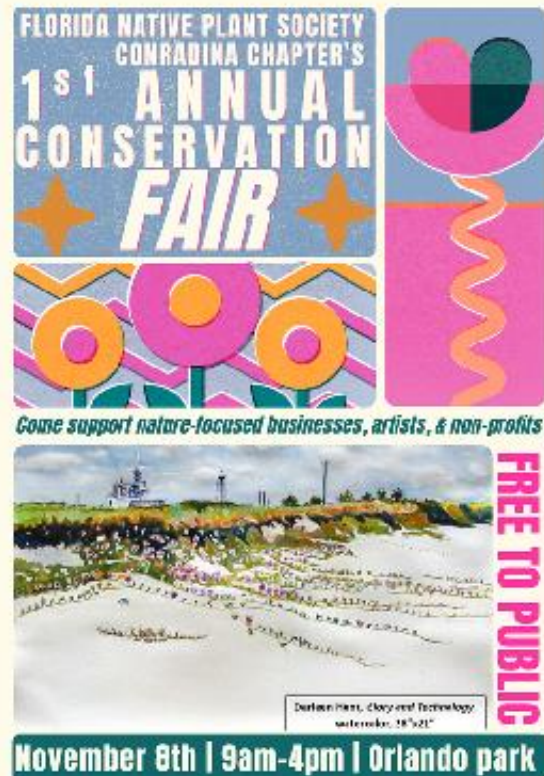
His writing is valued for translating ecological science into practical guidance for Florida gardeners. Rather than treating landscaping as decoration alone, he emphasizes that gardens can function as living habitat systems—supporting native insects, pollinators, birds, and other wildlife while remaining attractive and manageable for homeowners.

www.Conradina.FNPSCChapter.org



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

Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour



Only ONE Month Left!

We are seeking enthusiastic volunteers to help support our upcoming 17th annual Landscape Tour and 1st Conservation Fair, both occurring on Sunday November 8th. If you are interested in volunteering, please email tour@conradinaFNPS.org. Your time and support will help make the landscape tour and conservation fair a successful and engaging experience for everyone!

Also, please feel free to share our flyers with your friends and family. We'd like to make sure we reach the audience and greatly appreciate anything you can do for us.

Artist of the Month

The Conradina Chapter of FNPS
17th Annual Native Gardens Tour
is proud to present our
"Artist of the Month"

C Rose Allan



Rose Allan has been loving painting outdoors since joining Brevard Watercolor Society and The Art Student Guild of Brevard paint out groups. She has shown her work at the Pelican Island Conservation Society, Merritt Island Wildlife, Splash of Watercolor, and Indian River Art Club juried art shows. Her work can be found in local collections.

Carol's Corner: It's a purple season!

My yard has a wonderful variety of purple and blue wildflowers. I have the Dotted Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*). The “flower” is actually an inflorescence composed of lavender bracts surrounding small, spotted flowers clustered around the square stem. The leaves have a subtle mint smell. Dotted Horsemint is an herbaceous perennial in the mint family (*Lamiaceae*). It has a big range of growing from New York to central Florida and along the Gulf Coast to Texas. The bees love their flowers so don't plant it too close to the front door.



Hard to get a good picture of Blue Curls (*Trichostema dichotomum*) but it is very pretty and delicate.

This is a picture from Bob Peterson, a North Carolina Extension Gardener. Its range is the whole southeastern U.S. and into the Bahamas in range 7-11. The hairy, square stems identify as a member of the mint family. Absolutely gorgeous!



The best right now is the Calamints (*C. georgiana*). Also called Georgia calamint. It just explodes into these wonderful purple lavender flowers. Again, in the mint family so all the plants I mentioned today are mints. This one likes it dry and full sun. What could be easier to grow?



Plant native!

Carol Hebert

Upcoming Events

Date	Event
2nd Monday of the Month	General Meetings are held at Melbourne First Church of the Nazarene 2745 S. Babcock Street, Melbourne FL, 32901
First Tuesday of every month at 12pm	MRC's Lagoon at Noon Seminars are held at the Ted Moorhead Lagoon House with limited seating OR via Zoom. Registration is required. https://lovetheirl.org/events/
Saturday, Oct 3 from 10am to 5pm	The Ocean Reef Beach Festival at Pelican Beach Park, 1495 N. Hwy A1A, Satellite Beach, FL 32937. Attendance is FREE
Sunday, Oct 4 from 10am to 4pm	Lagoon Family Fun Day, Goode Park, Palm Bay This city park will be alive with family fun activities, food, music, and stories of the Lagoon. www.HelpTheLagoon.org
Saturday, Oct 10 from 9am	Join the Flotilla, Cocoa Beach Pavilion, Cocoa Beach Big Fun. Big Message. Join old friends and new – kayaks, canoes and SUPs as we spell out V-O-T-E-Y-E-S-! www.FriendsOfTheThousandIslands.org
Monday, Oct 12 5:30	General Meeting, Speaker Craig Huegel, Topic: Effects of Native Plants on the Environment
Saturday, Oct 17 from 9am to 2pm	The 2026 Indian River Lagoon Fest at 2210 Front Street, Melbourne FL
Sunday, Nov 8	The 17th Annual Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour
Monday, Nov 9 5:30	General Mtg, Speaker: Mark Prynosi of the FL Master Naturalist Program. Topic: Dune-to-Lagoon: Plant Communities of a Barrier Island
Sunday, Nov 1 Starting at 9am	Meet at 8:45am at 282 Nemo Circle NE Palm Bay, FL 32907
Sunday, Nov 15 9:30am to 11:30am	Guided hike through the Doc Ehrhart Sanctuary, an EEL property in South Melbourne Beach, with Mark Prynosi from the FL Master Naturalist Program.

See Conradina web page for additional events: <https://conradina.fnpschapters.org/events/>

Native Plant Nurseries and Service Providers

Have you planned on, or have you already started planting new native plants in your garden and yard? Have you had trouble finding the native plants and wildflowers you want? Well here are a few links to help you locate what you are looking for. Please call or check websites for hours, services and plant availability.

Company / Web link	Name / email	Telephone	Comments
Change of Greenery	Brendan Healy	321-536-0655	Native and edible plants, landscape design, installation & maintenance
Four C's Nursery		321-729-0351	Native plants, landscape design & installation
Florida Native Wildflowers	Sharon Dolan		Purchase pots, seeds and Florida Native Plants online
Go Native Landscaping	Nichole Perma	321-795-3111	Native landscape design, installation, consultation and maintenance
			
Newsletter Sponsor			
	Tim / Anna	321-626-7386	Native plants and landscape design
Rockledge Gardens	General Information	321-636-7662	Expanding native plant selection
Fox & Fern Native Landscapes	Alyssa Sferrazza and Cedar Smith https://foxandfern natives.com/ ,	321-474-6334	Planting with Purpose.
Rosemallow Farms	Tim & Ivoriann Wooley	321-236-1741	Native and Florida-friendly plants for sale to the public
Wild Wet N Wacky	Kiela Frank	321-417-2218	Expanding native plant selection

Additional local sources of plants and services may be found at our FANN partner site at www.PlantRealFlorida.org

Shopping elsewhere? Please always ask for Florida native plants – especially when you see none on the shelf. Popular demand drives availability and can change our community for the better.

Brevard Discovery Garden Self-Guided Tour



Brevard Discovery Garden

NEW!

SELF-GUIDED TOUR

Explore Brevard
Discovery Garden
≡ At Your Own Pace. ≡



Follow the numbered tour stops and discover sustainable gardening ideas, pollinator habitats, native plants, and more.



WEDNESDAYS &
FRIDAYS
9:00 – 11:00 AM



UF/IFAS Brevard
County Extension Office
3695 Lake Drive
Cocoa, FL 32926



FREE ADMISSION

All are welcome!



The Ocean Reef Beach Festival

Ocean Reef Beach Festival

October 3 @ 10:00 am - 5:00 pm



Event : Ocean Reef Beach Festival

Date : October 3, 2026

Location : Pelican Beach Park, 1495 N. Hwy A1A , Satellite Beach, FL 32937

Time : 10am – 5pm

Attendance/Cost : Free

Support by attending this one-of-a-kind community event that brings together environmental organizations, local artists, live music, food and family activities set against the stunning Pelican Beach Park oceanfront backdrop. This vibrant one day festival plans to feature more than 100 vendors throughout the clubhouse, parking area and the greenspace of the park itself.

Attendees will have the unique opportunity to meet, learn from and engage directly with partner groups who protect, preserve and regulate the natural environment we all live and play in.

Event Highlights:

Marine education provided by federal, state, educational, and non-profit organizations

Local and beyond arts and crafts vendors

Live music

Food vendors

Craft beer

Hands on activities for children

Parking is limited so attendees are encouraged to carpool, walk, bike or use alternative transportation if possible.

For more info : <https://www.facebook.com/ORBfest>

Instagram: [ocean_reef_beach_festival](#)

Facebook: [Ocean Reef Beach Festival](#)

The 2026 Indian River Lagoon Fest

JOIN US FOR THE
2026 Indian River
**Lagoon
Fest**
9 AM-2 PM

FRONT STREET PARK
2210 FRONT ST. MELBOURNE, FL

SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 17



City of
Melbourne
The Harbor City



Florida Master Naturalist Program Scholarship

Florida Master Naturalist Program Scholarship

Scholarship applications to cover the cost of one module of the Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) are due by 11/1/2026 to be used in 2027. Scholarship applicants must:

1. Be a Conradina chapter member. (Applicants may become chapter members at the time of application.)
2. Reside in Brevard County
3. Submit a recommendation letter and a 250-word or less essay describing:
 - a. Why you want to participate in the FMNP?
 - b. Your expectations of the FMNP.
 - c. How you plan to use the knowledge gained to benefit the Conradina Chapter.
1. Applicants must agree to fulfill one of the following commitments within 6 months of completion of the FMNP module:
 - a. Choose and guide a FNPS field trip.
 - b. Present the FMNP project at a general Conradina FNPS meeting.
 - c. Submit three short articles for the Conradina Chapter newsletter related to the FMNP project.

The Conradina scholarship committee will review, evaluate and notify the applicants of the results by 12/1/2026. Maximum scholarship award is \$350 for the year 2027. To apply, email the completed Scholarship Application Form, the essay and the letter of recommendation to Joann Gulliver pgulliver@cfl.rr.com and Richard Blackford svslowdancing@hotmail.com.

Follow link on the Conradina FNPS chapter website to find the application form: <https://conradina.fnpschapters.org/fmnp-scholarship/>

News from your Chapter Representative

Beth Blackford, 321-622-2633-m, Beth@ConradinaFNPS.org

October is Florida Native Plant Month. Most of your Chapter's efforts are focused on celebrating Florida's native plants on Sunday, Nov 8 during the 17th Annual Native Plants Tour, but it's important to remember that the Society was started in the summer of 1980 in Winter Park by a group of scientists, educators, and conservationists concerned about the loss of Florida's native plants, and the introduction of non-native species that overtake natural areas. Florida has two world renowned 'hotspots' for plant diversity: the Lake Wales Ridge region of Central Florida, and the Apalachicola River Valley. Florida is also a part of the world's 36th biodiversity hotspot: the North American Coastal Plain. More than 3,000 native plant species inhabit Florida and at least 256 species are "endemic" to Florida, as they do not occur anywhere else in the world. You live in a very special place!

Share Your Awesome Talents! As FNPS members, we share a passion for *conserving, protecting, and restoring* (CPR!) Florida's native plants and habitats. Our diverse talents, experience, and perspectives are among FNPS' greatest strengths and a key reason we are celebrating 46 successful years as a nonprofit.

FNPS wants volunteering to be enjoyable and fulfilling. A survey, emailed to members in the coming weeks, will match talents and interests with volunteer needs. Multiple-choice questions allow quick responses, while short answers let you explain how you would like to contribute. You can also indicate interest in learning something new.

IMPORTANT: RESPONDING TO THIS TALENT SURVEY IN NO WAY OBLIGATES YOU TO VOLUNTEER. It simply helps identify members' talents and the areas where they may enjoy volunteering when time allows.

FNPS values *every hour* volunteers give to Florida's native plants and habitats. Their efforts benefit the environment, advance the FNPS mission, and support grant and funding opportunities. Thank you for participating in the survey!

A final reminder about two critical issues on your November 3rd ballot.

Please take a moment to read why FNPS urges a "NO" vote on Amendment 3, the Homestead Tax Exemptions, Property Assessments, and Spending Restrictions Amendment [here](#).

Your "YES" vote to *renew* the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) half-cent sales tax will ensure continued funding for another 10 years of successful clean-up projects.

Sustainably yours, Beth

Get Involved with Your Local Sustainability Advisory Board!

You can get involved by either being on a Board or attending the meetings to voice your opinion and get involved with local events.

Some cities call it an Environmental Board and some use the term Sustainability – whatever it's called, there's an opportunity for native plants and landscapes to preserve our native wildlife. Please check out the listing below or send your city information to us at ConradinachapterFNPS@gmail.com to include on the list.

Indialantic: Call the Town Hall at 321-723-2242 prior to the meeting to make ensure there is a quorum and the meeting is still a Go.

Palm Bay: Check out the Palm Bay website for agenda information and to make sure the meeting is still a Go. (palmbayflorida.org)

City	Meeting Time & Place	Website
Indialantic	5:30pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month in Council Chambers, Indialantic Town Hall	Boards & Committees The Town of Indialantic Florida Official WebSite
Indian Harbour Beach	7 pm on 3rd Wednesday of the month in City Hall Council Chambers 2055 S Patrick Drive	Tree Preservation Board https://indianharbourbeach.org/
Melbourne	2 pm on 3rd Friday of the month in City Hall Council Chamber	Beautification & Energy Efficiency Board City of Melbourne, FL (melbourneflorida.org)
Melbourne Beach	Melbourne Beach Environmental Advisory Board - Home Facebook	Sustainability Melbourne Beach FL https://www.melbournebeachfl.org/sustainability
Rockledge	6 pm on 2nd Thursday - February, June, and Oct. in Council Chamber at City Hall	The Rockledge Environmental Enhancement Board Rockledge, FL - Official Website (cityofrockledge.org)
Palm Bay	6 pm on 4th Wednesday of the month in Council Chambers, Palm Bay City Hall	Sustainability Advisory Board City of Palm Bay, FL (palmbayflorida.org)
Satellite Beach	6 pm on 4th Wednesday of the month in Council Chambers	Satellite Beach, FL
www.Conradina.FNPSCchapter.org		

Church of Nazarene Food Forest & Native Garden Project

Church of Nazarene and Conradina Chapter FNPS Food Forest & Native Garden Project – Phase 2

The Food Forest is looking great – check it out!

Rain barrels are getting installed!

Thanks for all your help to make this project successful!



Guided Walk at Nemo Gardens

Guided Walk on Sunday, November 1, 2026, at Nemo Gardens

Doug Hook, the recipient of the Conradina's 2026 Florida Master Naturalist scholarship, will lead a walk through Nemo Gardens on Sunday, November 1, 2026. The walk will start at 9:00am. Meet at 8:45am at 282 Nemo Circle NE in Palm Bay. Participants must sign a waiver, as per FNPS. Park on the grass near the entrance.

Nemo Gardens has several paths and some uneven terrain. Doug will stop and talk at different locations about the history and the effects of development on the plant ecosystem. He'll also point out a section where fire has helped change the ecosystem. There are picnic tables in the main area of the Gardens, but there are no bathrooms or running water at the site. Bring your own water. Hope you can make it!

Officers and Directors

President

Sara Morrison 2026-2028

Secretary

Christine Ryba 2026-2028

Treasurer

Mary Murphy .. 2025-2027

Chapter Representative

Beth Blackford 2026-2028

Board of Directors At Large

Anastasia Doshna 2026-2028

Richard Blackford 2026-2028

Martha Steuart 2026-2028

Christine Bamberger 2026-2028

Terry LaPlant 2026-2028

Luke Blanchard 2025-2027

Joann Gulliver 2025-2027

Lynda Geracu 2026-2028

Carl Winebarger 2026-2028

Marilyn Peio 2026-2028

Saumya Vanderwyst 2026-2028

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Lynda Greraci 2024-2026

Membership Coordinator

Joann Gulliver

Newsletter Editor

Marilyn Peio

Volunteer Coordinator

Christine Bamberger

Webmaster Jamie Snider

Conradina Chapter Florida

Native Plant Society

www.conradina.fnpschapters.org

[YouTube](#) - Conradina Chapter
FNPS

Florida Native Plant Society

www.fnps.org

Chapter Board and News

The Florida Native Plant Society is registered as a charitable organization in Florida (Reg No. CH3021). A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (800-435-7352) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state. EIN: 59-3251333 Donors should consult their financial or tax advisors to understand the full tax implications of their donations.

Important Parking Notice

The Nazarene Church has leased a portion of its parking lot to the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) for the next two semesters while FIT's new parking lot is under construction. Please follow these parking guidelines: **Park in spaces marked with white lines whenever possible. Leave the orange-lined spaces available for FIT students and staff. Handicap parking spaces remain available for those displaying the proper permit or tag.**

If the white-lined spaces become full, additional parking is available in the **orange-lined spaces on the north end of the property, behind the Pastor's house.**

We appreciate your cooperation and consideration

