Conradina NEWS

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NATIVE BUTTERFLY FLOWERS
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

November 2026

Inside this issue:

Page 2. Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour

Page 3. Artist of the Month

Page 4. Carol's Corner

Page 5. Upcoming Events

Page 6. Native Plant Nurseries

Page 7. Brevard Discovery Garden Self-Guided Tour

Page 8. Guided Walk at Nemo Gardens

Page 9. West Melbourne Post Office Weed & Mulch Party

Page 10. Florida Master Naturalist Program Scholarship

Page 11. News from your Chapter Representative

Page 12. Your Local Sustainability Advisory Board

Page 13. The Lagoon Fest at Front Street Park

Page 14. Church of Nazarene Food Forest & Native Garden Project

Page 15. Chapter Board and News

Next Chapter Meeting

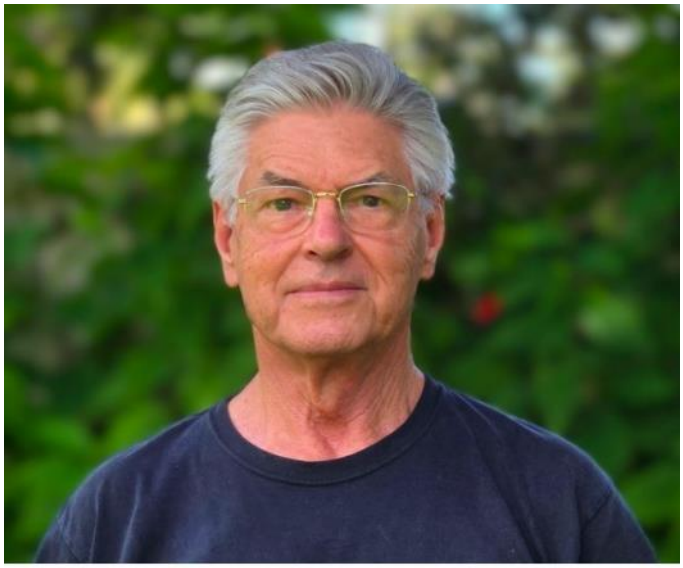
Monday November 9

Conradina Chapter Meeting

Monday, November 9, 2026 at 5:30 PM

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

Dune-to-Lagoon: Plant Communities of a Barrier Island



Mark grew up in Pennsylvania where he earned a BS in Mechanical Engineering at Penn State University.

After moving to Massachusetts he received his MBA at Clark University and spent most of his career working on the business side of engineering firms.

His love affair with Nature began in the North and he carried it with him to Florida nearly 40 years ago. After retiring, he was able to devote more time to natural history and discovered the Florida Master Naturalist Program. He quickly completed seven courses and earned the designation of Advanced Master Naturalist. Now an Associate Instructor in the Program, he helps teach aspiring naturalists. In addition, he leads guided walks at Brevard EEL sanctuaries and is active with the Space Coast Master Naturalist Friends Group.

Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour



Artist of the Month

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

Caren Keyser







Caren Keyser has enjoyed a long career as an artist after studying fine art at Florida Atlantic University where she first began painting with acrylics. Over the years, as she moved from photorealism of tropical plants to expressionism to abstract, she has been honored with many awards and participated in many juried exhibitions.

The current work focuses on abstract paintings filled with exciting brushstrokes, lines and color. Her recent expressionistic work has been intuitive, creating from her imagination and allowing the paint to guide her while she works. She loves when a hint of a story is revealed within the painting.

Caren Keyser's work is currently featured at the Strawbridge Art Gallery in Melbourne, Florida. She has previously been represented by galleries in Palm Beach and Coconut Grove. On the internet her paintings can be found on several art sites by searching for her name, Caren Keyser art.

Carol's Corner: Is it really Fall?





You really have to look hard to notice Fall's colors are out there. I like the way that it is in the 80 degrees these days. It seems wonderful that we are feeling the cooler weather. Mainly I am seeing yellow flowers. I just got back from Mead Gardens in Orlando this past Saturday. The Tarflower Chapter FNPS hosted a Backyard Biodiversity Festival there. It was a wonderful event and so many environmental groups were represented.

I also enjoyed the morning bird walk and saw American Redstart (both male and female), Black and White warblers and a good amount of Palm warblers to name a few. The most scenic part of the drive was on the way back going down the Beachline and 520. There were Red Maples (*Acer rubrum*) actually changing to red and yellow leaves!

There was also a sea of yellow flowers and most were Goldenrod (*Solidria spp.*)!



I did also see in the yellow flowers some I believe to be *Heliathus angustifolius.* It is also called a Swamp Sunflower or Narrow-leafed Sunflower and blooms in fall. It likes the swales and edges of wetlands and man! It is a beautiful color yellow. It also grows to 5-8 feet tall and fall is when it shows its colors.

Enjoy fall! !

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/
Sunday, Nov 1 Starting at 9am	Join us for a guided walk led by Doug Hook. Meet at 8:45am at 282 Nemo Circle NE Palm Bay, FL 32907
Sunday, Nov 8 from 9am to 4pm	The 17th Annual Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour
Monday, Nov 9 at 5:30pm	General Mtg, Speaker: Mark Prynoski of the Florida Master Naturalist Program. Topic: Dune-to-Lagoon: The Ecology of a Barrier Island. Learn about the Doc Ehrhart Sanctuary, an EEL property in S. Melbourne Beach.
Sunday, Nov 15 9:30am to 11:30am	Guided hike through the Doc Ehrhart Sanctuary, an EEL property in South Melbourne Beach, with Mark Prynoski from the FL Master Naturalist Program.
Sunday, Nov 22 9am to 10am	Weed and Mulch Party at the West Melbourne Post Office 2305 Minton Road, West Melbourne

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

Native Plant Nurseries and Service Providers

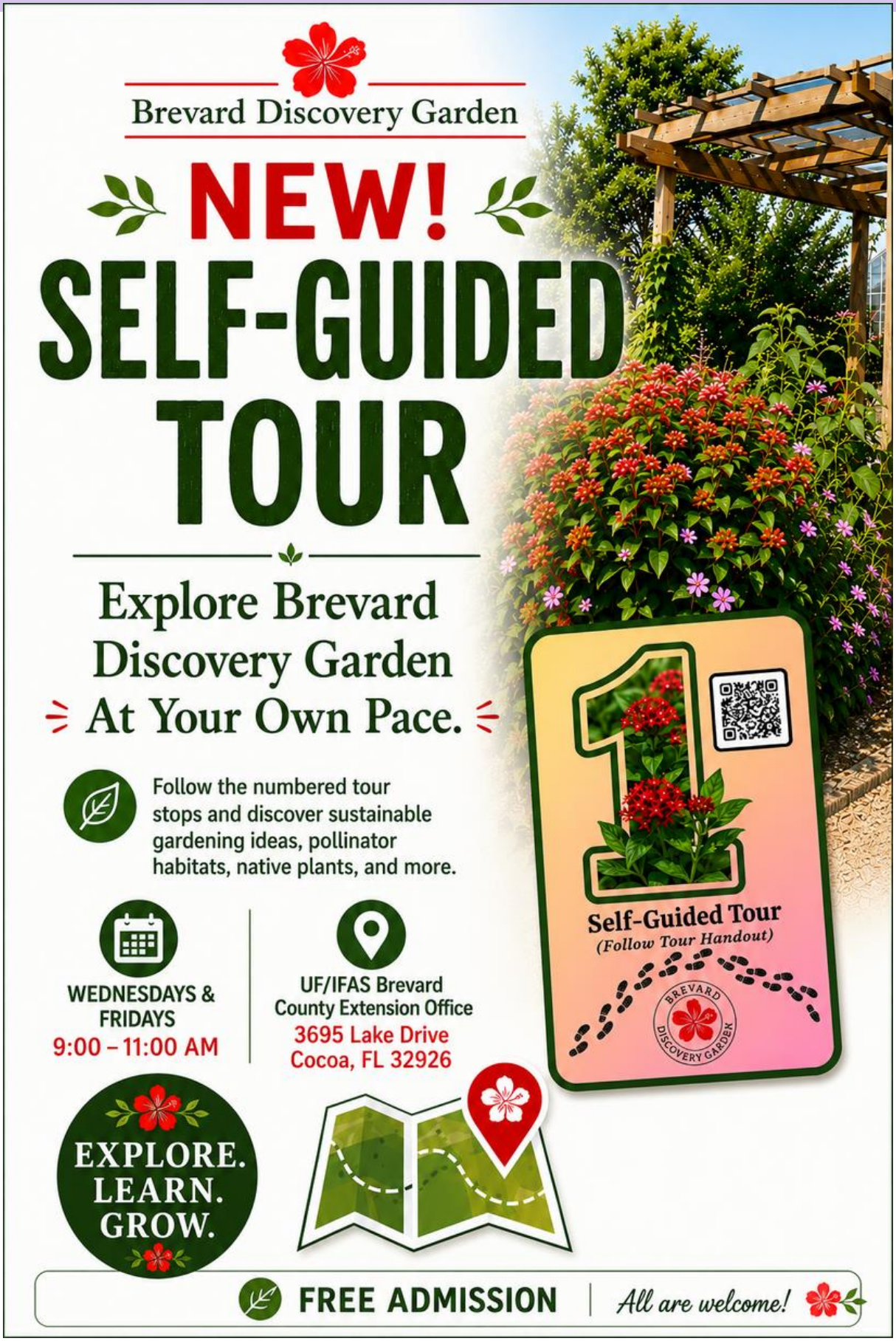
Have you planned on, or have you already started planting new native plants in your garden and yard? Have you had trouble finding the native plants and wildflowers you want? Well here are a few links to help you locate what you are looking for. Please call or check websites for hours, services and plant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



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!

West Melbourne Post Office Weed & Mulch Party

West Melbourne Post Office Weed & Mulch Party – Sunday, November 22, 2026

8:00 – 10:00 am, 2305 Minton Rd, West Melbourne

The West Melbourne PO is one of the largest native landscaping projects Conradina has tackled and is in need of refresh. Funded by Keep Brevard Beautiful in 2018-2019 and designed by Maple Street Natives, 8 tons of white lava rock were removed and over 100 native plants installed. The West Melbourne Post Office has the most traffic of any local Post Office and is a great opportunity to educate the public about how good native plants can look.

Our tasks on Nov. 22 will be:

- Weed 2-4 beds with well-established native plants
- Lay cardboard and mulch the beds

Please bring:

- Clean cardboard with all plastic taping and labels removed. Cardboard is a great natural weed barrier that will gradually decompose into organic matter.
- Cardboard cutter/razor knife
- Weeding tools
- Work gloves and water
- Please wear closed toes shoes

Supervised children are welcome and this is a great opportunity for teens needing community service hours! No experience needed! For questions, please contact mmurph05@outlook.com.





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. Scholarships 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 was 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 ***c***onserving, ***p***rotecting, and ***r***estoring (*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

The Lagoon Fest at Front Street Park

Conradina Attended the Lagoon Fest at Front Street Park Saturday 10/17/26

The weather was a bit iffy in the morning but the skies cleared up and it turned out to be a beautiful day for the festival.
We wish to thank our volunteers Martha Steuart, Carol Hebert, Frank Sullivan, Sara Morrison, Lori Stoen and Carl Winebarger







Nazarene /Conradina Food Forest & Native Garden Project

Many of our members may still be wondering exactly what the Nazarene Food Forest and Native Garden Project is and how it developed. I would like to take this opportunity to share a little of the project's history and the vision we hope to achieve.

When the Conradina Chapter relocated its meetings to the First Church of the Nazarene, we were searching for a permanent home. We had outgrown the library meeting space on Fee Avenue, and increasing interest in native plants, along with our growing membership, made a larger venue necessary. Fortunately, we were welcomed by this wonderful church community.

It did not take long for us to recognize an opportunity to enhance the church grounds with native landscaping. Since Conradina volunteers help create native demonstration gardens throughout the community, it seemed only natural to establish one at our new home as well.

Pastor Joel Tooley enthusiastically supported the idea, and Jane Higgins secured our first grant from the Community Foundation for Brevard. Phase 1 focused on planting Florida native species in front of the church and along the southern driveway.

As the project evolved, additional goals emerged and more grant opportunities became available. Phase 2 provided the infrastructure needed to establish a community food forest, anchored by native plants that attract pollinators around the sanctuary entrance. Phase 3 will expand the food forest toward the parking area. Phases 1 and 2 have been completed, and Phase 3 is currently underway with completion scheduled by August 2027. In future newsletters, I will share more details about the project's design, goals, and progress.

In the meantime, I need your help. We are looking for several volunteer leaders who would be willing to coordinate and oversee different aspects of the project. We have dedicated volunteers who are eager to help, but the scope of the project has grown beyond what one person can effectively manage. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact me. We plan to schedule an organizational meeting following the Native Landscape Tour on November 8.

Richard Blackford
SVSlowdancing@hotmail.com
321-480-3430

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 Geraci 2026-2028
Carl Winebarger 2026-2028
Marilyn Peio 2026-2028
Saumya Vanderwyst 2026-2028

Past President
Lynda Geraci 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
