



**March 2017**

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

*Photos by Bob Peterson*



# Conradina NEWS

## Conradina Chapter Meeting: Monday, March 13, 2017

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

### Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program: Looking Beyond the Year 1 Reorganization

**Speaker: Duane De Freese, Ph.D.**

Dr. De Freese will provide a brief review of Year 1 progress of the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program and share the program's vision for the pathway forward to restore health to the IRL.

If you look deep enough into some of Florida's most innovative conservation initiatives, you will eventually run across Duane's name. For over three decades, Dr. De Freese has been a champion of science-based, common-sense ocean and coastal conservation in Florida. He is recognized for his ability to "see and communicate the big picture" by integrating environmental, economic, and social considerations into a vision for Florida's future. Duane has been one of Florida's leading advocates for greater leadership and participation from the business community in ecosystem conservation and community development.



Duane helped to secure U.S. EPA National Estuary Program designation for the IRL in 1990. In September 2015, his career came full circle when he was named Executive Director of a new special district of the State of Florida (IRL Council) that now serves as the host of a reorganized IRL National Estuary Program. In this role, Duane is working with federal, state, and local government agencies, scientific research organizations, academic institutions, elected officials, industry, and the general public. The goal is to develop a restoration strategy for one of the nation's most threatened coastal ecosystems.

Duane holds a B.S. degree in Zoology and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Marine Biology. In his spare time, Duane is an avid surfer, traveler, and waterman.

### Next Chapter Meeting

**April 10, 2017**

**Florida Sandhills**

**Walter Taylor**

## Field Trip to Jordan Scrub Sanctuary on Sunday, March 5

Join us for an informative hike with Rob and Lisa Longacre at this Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) property. A variety of habitat types are found in this 354-acre sanctuary including scenic lakes, seasonal marshes, and scrubby flatwoods. While hiking through the diverse habitats, bald eagles can be spotted fishing for meals in the lake and local scrub-jays seen foraging in the scrubby flatwoods.



When: 9 a.m. to noon, Sunday, March 5, 2017

Address: 2425 Marie Street, Malabar, FL 32950

Bring: Water, hat, sunscreen, closed toe shoes are recommended

More Info: <http://www.brevardfl.gov/EELProgram/Sanctuaries/JordanScrubSanctuary>

## Carol's Corner: *Quercus Amongus?*

By Carol Hebert

*Quercus* comes from the Latin name for “oak” and is formed from two Celtic words: *quer* meaning “beautiful” and *cuez* meaning “tree.”

I am highlighting the wide variety of oak trees that are native to Florida. There are nineteen species of oaks native to Florida including many of our most common and attractive trees like Laurel and Live Oaks. All oaks are in the “large tree” category and grow to 50-60 feet tall. This includes the Live Oak (*Q. virginiana*) and Water Oak (*Q. nigra*) that can reach 80 feet.

Here in Brevard, we have a wonderful amount of scrub habitat; and a dominant oak in scrub is Sand Live Oak (*Q. geminata*) that often grows slow and not as tall due to the sandy soil and full sun. Another common name for this one is Scrub Oak and it tends to grow about 15-20 feet but can reach 50 feet tall. The species name *geminata* stems from the Latin term *gemin*, meaning “united in pairs, twins, double,” and probably refers to the fact that acorns often occur in pairs. Historically, scrub areas and pine flatwood habitats were maintained by fires normally started by lightning strikes. Florida gets the most lightning strikes in the United States. Now most areas are maintained carefully with prescribed burns by employees trained for different habitats.

The picture featured this month is the common Laurel Oak (*Q. laurifolia*), which is a fast-growing oak but weaker and doesn't live as long as a Live Oak. Currently, blooms are appearing on most oaks—ahh, the pollen. The picture shows the male catkins dangling from the branches. All oaks are monoecious species meaning there is not a male and female tree. The yellow-green male flowers are long catkins, while the green to reddish female flowers are very small spikes located in leaf axils.

We have another work day at Turkey Creek Sanctuary on March 12, 9 a.m.—noon. There we can see the Turkey Oak (*Q. laevis*), which is another small oak reaching about 15-30 feet tall. The leaf simulates a turkey foot. Turkey oaks produce a lot of acorns each year and I've heard lots of turkeys have been seen historically in the Turkey Creek area thus the name.

I will leave you with some thoughtful facts from Doug Tallamy's book *Bringing Nature Home*. “So many animals depend on insects for food (e.g., spiders, reptiles and amphibians, rodents, 96% of all terrestrial birds) that removing insects from an ecosystem spells its doom.” One of the main plants he mentioned to restore insect population are oaks. Plant native!



Photo by Carol Hebert

# Upcoming Events & Meetings

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
|                                   | <b>Sams House at Pine Island Conservation Area.</b> March is Archaeology Month. For a list of events: <a href="#">Sams House March Events</a> .  |
|                                   | <b>Barrier Island Center.</b> For the event calendar: <a href="#">BIC March Events</a> .   |
| <b>March 4<br/>8 a.m.—4 p.m.</b>  | <b>Downtown Melbourne Botanical Festival.</b> Downtown Melbourne. See below for information.   |
| <b>March 5<br/>9 a.m.—Noon</b>    | <b>Jordan Scrub Sanctuary Field Trip.</b> Meet at 9 a.m. at 2425 Marie Street, Malabar. Bring water, hat, sunscreen, etc. See page <a href="#">2</a> for information.  |
| <b>March 12<br/>9 a.m.-Noon</b>   | <b>Workday at Turkey Creek Sanctuary.</b> Please join us in maintaining this beautiful property in need of our help. Tools and lunch will be provided. RSVP to Tracey Wright at (321) 676-6690. See page <a href="#">4</a> for information and a link to the volunteer application. 1518 Port Malabar Blvd. NE, Palm Bay 32905 |
| <b>March 13<br/>5:30/6 p.m.</b>   | <b>Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting.</b> <i>Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program: Looking Beyond the Year 1 Reorganization</i> presented by Dr. Duane De Freese. Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting.   |
| <b>March 18<br/>9 a.m.—2 p.m.</b> | <b>Satellite Beach Coastal Garden Fair.</b> David R. Schechter Community Center, 1089 S. Patrick Drive, Satellite Beach. See below for information. Volunteers needed to staff the Conradina booth. Look for the sign-up sheet at our March meeting.   |
| <b>April 10<br/>5:30/6 p.m.</b>   | <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<br/>5:30/6 p.m.</b>      | <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<br/>11 a.m./Noon</b>   | <b>Conradina Chapter FNPS Board Meeting</b> (11 a.m.). <b>Potluck to follow for general membership</b> (noon). Erna Nixon Park.  |



## Support the EEL Program



**Saturday, March 4, 2017 ● 8 a.m.—4 p.m.**

Melbourne Main Street is very excited to announce that they will be taking over hosting the Botanical Fest from Florida Institute of Technology. Melbourne Main Street is a non-profit organization that works to implement revitalization efforts in Downtown Melbourne.

Location: In the parking lot of the 1900 Building, Downtown Melbourne

Conradina will have two booths there. Please come visit us!

### Upcoming Keep Brevard Beautiful Event: Satellite Beach Coastal Garden Fair

**Saturday, March 18, 2017 ● 9 a.m.—2 p.m.**

Come out to the Satellite Beach Coastal Garden Fair at the David R. Schechter Community Center in Satellite Beach on March 18 from 9 a.m.—2 p.m. and swing by the Lagoon Friendly Lawns booth to get all the details on our new program that promotes positive changes in lawn care and landscaping practices to reduce nutrient pollution in the Indian River Lagoon.

There will be a Lagoon Friendly Lawns educational workshop, a plant sale, and a whole host of great gardening vendors to help you get started on your next Lagoon Friendly landscaping project.

Conradina will be there with two booths, and we need volunteers to help out! Look for the sign-up sheet at our March meeting. Plant native!

**Volunteers Needed!**

## 37th Annual Florida Native Plant Society Conference, May 18-21



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> as soon as possible and find more information. Rooms are filling up fast! And if anyone is interested in the glamping option (aka glamorous camping) at Westgate, please contact Jane at [janehiggins2016@gmail.com](mailto:janehiggins2016@gmail.com) to discuss sharing a tent.

## Workday at Turkey Creek Sanctuary, March 12

Please join us in maintaining this beautiful property in need of our help. As part of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) program and the East Florida section of the Great Florida Birding Trail, Turkey Creek Sanctuary is 130 acres of wonder, biodiversity, and natural resources. We need you!

- Time:** 9 a.m.—12 p.m., Sunday, March 12, 2017
- Location:** Turkey Creek Sanctuary, 1518 Port Malabar Blvd. NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905
- Work Duties:** We will be removing downed trees and branches that are fuel to unplanned fires.
- What to Bring:** Work gloves, sunscreen, and drinking water. Tools and lunch will be provided.

### How to Get Ready:

1. Print and fill out the volunteer application at [www.palmbayflorida.org/home/showdocument?id=1984](http://www.palmbayflorida.org/home/showdocument?id=1984) along with a copy of your driver's license or other photo ID. The application and ID **must** be submitted the Thursday prior to the workday. If you submitted an application previously, you don't need to submit one again.
2. Please RSVP to Tracey Wright, TCS Park Ranger, at (321) 676-6690.



## UF/IFAS Extension Workshop, April 26

### Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Legally Speaking:

FFL in the Planned Community  
April 26<sup>th</sup> 12:45 – 4:00 pm



This workshop will discuss current legal issues and HOA disputes regarding FFL implementation, and strategies that homeowners can use when working with HOA board members to install a Florida-Friendly landscape.

To register go to <https://legallyspeaking2017.eventbrite.com> or contact [clairelewis@ufl.edu](mailto:clairelewis@ufl.edu)

UF/IFAS Seminole County Extension  
250 County Home Rd  
Sanford, FL 32773

For more information contact:  
[clairelewis@ufl.edu](mailto:clairelewis@ufl.edu)  
(352) 273-4518

### Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Legally Speaking: FFL in the Planned Community

This workshop will focus on Florida Statute 373.185 and the implications of the law to Homeowner Associations (HOAs). It will be held April 26 at the Seminole County Extension Center for just \$5 per person. Register at <https://legallyspeaking2017.eventbrite.com> and spread the word!

Conradina is not 'endorsing' this event and hopes for an open forum at this workshop regarding the encouragement of native plants. Please let us know if you plan to attend by contacting Jane Higgins at [janehiggins2016@gmail.com](mailto:janehiggins2016@gmail.com) or (321) 258-4642. We would really like to hear your feedback!

## Support Conradina Chapter

### How can you help Conradina Chapter raise money? Use your shopping and searching to help us, please!

1. Shop on [AmazonSmile](https://smile.amazon.com) and pick us to donate 0.5% of your purchase: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-3251333>
2. Shop on [GoodShop](https://www.goodshop.com) with their amazing coupons and pick us: [Conradina Florida Native Plant Society - Brevard County](https://www.goodshop.com/conradina-florida-native-plant-society-brevard-county)
3. Use [GoodSearch](https://www.goodsearch.com) for your search engine and pick us to donate \$.01 for each search: [Conradina Florida Native Plant Society - Brevard County](https://www.goodsearch.com/conradina-florida-native-plant-society-brevard-county)

[About GoodShop and GoodSearch](https://www.goodshop.com/conradina-florida-native-plant-society-brevard-county)

**It all adds up. Thank you!**



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Conradina Chapter  
 Florida Native Plant Society  
[www.conradina.fnpschapters.org](http://www.conradina.fnpschapters.org)

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**Chapter News**

**Florida Friendly Landscaping Event, February 18**

Thank you to Karen, Cindy, and Sharon. The event was very busy with plant, book, and brochure sales. Member Bill Deluccia gave a great presentation along with Allison from KBB promoting no fertilizer and planting native habitat. Bill has a big heart for natives and after his talk we just about sold out. The weather was perfect. We had a bit of wind in the afternoon, which made for some excitement.



Pictured is Bill's landscape in Indialantic.

**Turkey Creek Sanctuary Workday, February 19**

What a great crew of FNPS members came out to help Turkey Creek Sanctuary clear downed trees and branches from the Hurricane Matthew storm. We took even more trailer loads than last month thanks to Dave's truck. However, there is still a lot more to be cleared. There will never be a prescribed burn at Turkey Creek Sanctuary due to the population community so close by. That is why it is necessary to remove the "fuel" to try to prevent an accidental fire.

Please join us on the next workday of Sunday, March 12, from 9 a.m. to noon. Also, be sure to fill out and turn in your [volunteer application form](#) along with a copy of your driver's license on a weekday prior to the work day. See page 4 for more information.



Left to right: Paul, Tracey, Kathryn, David, Karen, Jessica, Carol, Jane, Catherine and Bo

**Congratulations, Florida Native Plant Society!**

The Florida Native Plant Society has been chosen as the Florida Wildlife Federation's Conservation Organization of the Year. FNPS was chosen by the Federation's Board of Directors to receive this award because of the wonderful work being carried out by FNPS year in and year out to conserve natural Florida.



**Florida Wildlife Federation**

Keeping the Wild in Florida since 1936