



CONRADINA
CHAPTER

September
2015

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

Photos by Bob Peterson



Conradina NEWS

Conradina Chapter Meeting: September 14, 2015

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

The Kissimmee Prairie: A Land of Fire and Water

Speaker: Tim Kozusko

Tim Kozusko is the President of the Friends of Kissimmee Prairie Preserve, which was formed in 2011 to work for the preservation, protection, interpretation and promotion of, and in the best interest of, the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park (KPPSP). Tim will show many images of the KPPSP while discussing the geological background, acquisition, and ecology of the KPPSP.

This landscape protects the largest remaining tract of the unique Florida dry prairie ecosystem, one of the biologically richest grasslands in the world. Its 54,000 acres contain a mosaic of dry prairie, wet prairie, marshes, sloughs, cabbage palm and oak hammocks—more than 14 distinct natural communities—which support a vast and diverse array of flora and fauna, including a number of endangered or

threatened species. It is one of the last places to find the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow. This is the land made famous by author Patrick Smith in *A Land Remembered*.

Before our main speaker, we will have a mini-presentation by **Carol Hebert** regarding her achieving certification in Coastal Habitats in the Master Naturalist program.

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Photos by Tim Kozusko



Volunteer Opportunities

Need Volunteers

- Saturday, September 19**
9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
Satellite Beach
National Drive Electric Week 2015
Volunteers need to set up, staff, and dismantle the booth.
Contact Carol Hebert at carol.hebert@gmail.com.
- Saturday, September 26**
5-8:30 P.M.
Cocoa Beach
Keep Brevard Beautiful's 4th Annual River Fest
Volunteers need to set up, staff, and dismantle the booth.
Contact Carol Hebert at carol.hebert@gmail.com.
- Saturday, October 10**
10 A.M. to 4 P.M.
Melbourne, Palm Bay, Beachside
Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour
Volunteers needed to greet and guide visitors around the homeowner's yard.
Contact Sharon Dolan at sharon@maplestreetnatives.com

Volunteering for Conradina

In an effort to keep emails to our membership at a minimum, we decided to collect names and email addresses of those members who might occasionally wish to help with staffing an events booth or helping with butterfly garden planting. If you are able to do that, please email Sharon Dolan at sharon@maplestreetnatives.com.

I know that some of you are out there just waiting to be asked! Thanks!

Suzanne Valencia

President, Conradina Chapter FNPS

Carol's Corner: Beautyberry

By Carol Hebert

Here is a beautiful shrub that is interesting all year long! It is called Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*). I have several in my yard because I find them so attractive.

They take part sun and semi-moist soil. Be sure to give them enough room because they are multi-stem and grow 4-6 feet high and also 4-6 feet wide. It starts in spring (which is often about February) and begins developing its wide leaves that have a semi-rough texture. After leaves are developed, small clusters of tiny pink flowers form around the stem. The flowers

develop into fuchsia colored berries that a variety of birds love. I see Catbirds, Cardinals, Mockingbirds, and an occasional Brown Thrasher in the Beautyberry bushes.

As all the berries mature and are left on the branches, I tend to start cutting branches off and putting them in other trees or bushes. Then before it starts back in spring, I give them all a nice trim. They sure look great all year long. Plant one and you'll see.

Photo by Carol Hebert

Our 5th Native Plant Garden Tour is October 10 so buy your ticket soon and take a look at how native plant gardens share their beauty.



Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour



Saturday, October 10, 2015
10 AM - 4 PM

Conradina Chapter - South Brevard
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour

Saturday, October 10, 2015

10 A.M. to 4 P.M. (visit at your leisure)

\$6.00 per person

Visit six yards with predominantly native Florida landscaping. Talk to the homeowners and Conradina FNPS volunteers about selecting and caring for native plants. Ask about watering, fertilizer, and pesticide usage.

The yards on this tour are considered to contain at least 75 percent Florida native plants. In many cases, the homeowners made a gradual change from non-natives to Florida natives. Every yard has plenty of stories—like the frequent visits by birds and butterflies.

Yard tour booklets will be provided to registered guests. A list of the yard addresses will be provided to you by email well before the event.

Two of the yards are located in Palm Bay, one is in Melbourne, and three are beachside ranging from Melbourne Beach to Satellite Beach. You are welcome to start your tour at any of the yards.

Tickets available at:

- **Maple Street Natives**
7619 Henry Avenue
West Melbourne, FL 32904
321-729-6857
- **Naturewise Plants**
3910 N. Cocoa Boulevard (U.S. 1)
Cocoa, FL 32926
321-536-1410
- **Online**
<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/2015-landscaping-with-florida-natives-yard-tour-tickets-18296824294?aff=es2>

Maple Street Natives will hold a free workshop from 9-10 A.M. on October 10 before the tour. Seating is limited.

Learn about the importance of native plants. Attract butterflies and beneficial pollinators along with other wildlife and birds to your home landscape.

Sign up at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/native-plants-in-the-landscape-save-our-pollinators-plant-habitat-tickets-18040559800>.

**Tickets available at the
September 14 Conradina
Chapter Meeting.**

Upcoming Events & Meetings

September 19 10 AM to 4 PM	National Drive Electric Week 2015 Learn about and test drive electric vehicles. See page 5 for information. Volunteers needed to staff Conradina Chapter booth (see page 2).
September 25 & 26	Florida Wildflower Symposium 2015. Pollinators: Connecting the Dots Leu Gardens, 1920 North Forest Avenue, Orlando. See page 5 and http://flawildflowers.org/events/2015-wildflower-symposium.html .
September 26 9 AM to Noon	Helen and Allan Cruickshank Sanctuary Field Trip See page 7 for information.
September 26 5-8:30 PM	4th Annual River Fest and Sustainability Awards sponsored by Keep Brevard Beautiful. Cocoa Riverfront Park, Historic Cocoa Village. See page 5. Volunteers needed to staff Conradina Chapter booth (see page 2).
October 6 9 AM	Florida Native Plant Month Proclamation by Brevard County Commission See below for information.
October 10 10 AM to 4 PM	Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour sponsored by Conradina Chapter. See page 3 for information.
October 12	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. Christopher Comoletti reports on his Eagle Scout project, "Go Native Brevard 500 Project," Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting
November 9	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. Tracey Wright—an ecologist, naturalist, and environmental educator—will give a presentation titled "A Brief History of the Turpentine Industry in Florida." Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. meeting
December 14	Conradina Chapter FNPS Annual Holiday Wreath Making Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library. 5:30 P.M. refreshments, 6:00 P.M. wreath making

Celebrate FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT MONTH October 2015

Florida Native Plant Month Proclamation

Brevard County Commissioner Curt Smith will issue a proclamation supporting Florida Native Plant Month.

Please attend the County Commission meeting and wear your native plant shirt.

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

9 A.M.

Government Center, Building C, Viera

Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour

Visit six yards with predominantly native Florida landscaping. See page 3 for more information.

Saturday, October 10, 2015

10 A.M. to 4 P.M.



2015
Florida
Wildflower
Symposium



**POLLINATORS:
CONNECTING THE DOTS**
Sept. 25 & 26

Leu Gardens

1920 North Forest Avenue | Orlando, FL

The 2015 Wildflower Symposium offers reduced registration rates for Florida Wildflower Foundation members.

[Become a FWF member now!](#)

<http://flawildflowers.org/events/2015-wildflower-symposium.html>

The 4th Annual
River Fest

Join us for the
4th Annual River Fest & Sustainability Awards

Cocoa Riverfront Park
Historic Cocoa Village

Saturday, September 26, 2015

5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.



National Drive Electric Week 2015



Saturday, September 19, 2015

10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

This event is being sponsored by Space Coast EV Drivers, a local club, that can give you a true education about electric vehicles and will also allow you to test drive their vehicles. They will have many makes and models including trucks and motorcycles on display. They are fun to drive, better for the environment, promote local jobs, and reduce our dependence on oil. It will be held at the David R. Schechter Community Center, 1089 S. Patrick Drive, Satellite Beach.

Conradina will have a booth, and we need volunteers from 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Email Carol Hebert at carol.hebert@gmail.com.

Pollinator Appreciation week at



Bee loaded with pollen



We will have hundreds of species of Native plants wildflowers, ground covers, shrubs, and trees, (including limited numbers of 3 species of asclepias) that are used by thousands of pollinators in Florida
We love our native Bees!



Butterfly on Blazing Star



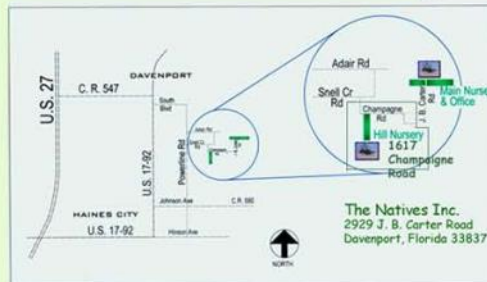
Metallic bee on Lakeside sunflower

We will try to ration out the most desirable plants through the week so as to have some of everything for Saturday Oct. 3rd. But it will be first come first served!

Come join us Monday Sept 28 through Saturday October 3 2015. We will be up at our "Hill Nursery" 1617 Champaigne Road, Davenport, Florida 33837.

We will have plenty of water to hand out and Chef Willy's Chocolates for sale.

Checks and cash are appreciated. Master Card and Visa are accepted but are difficult for us to use in the field. We aren't quite up to date!



Asclepias Incarnata with butterfly



White Peacock on Frogfruit

For more information go to:

www.thenatives.net

Email to: natives@gate.net

Or call: (863) 422-6664
(863) 287-3903

Officers and Directors

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Suzanne Valencia

Vice President

Carol Hebert

Secretary

Jane Higgins

Treasurer

Kathryn Merry

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Martha Stewart

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Karen Melcher

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www.conradina.fnpschapters.org

Florida Native Plant Society
www.fnps.org



**CONRADINA
CHAPTER**

Chapter News

A warm welcome to our newest members!

- Bev Allen
- Eric Anderson
- Roland Brueckner
- Kaycee Cook
- Kenneth Copeland
- Anne Mayer
- Terry Mott
- Karen Rann
- Jo Sarmiento

Teaching Students About Butterfly Gardening

Tim Harrison has had a few surprises pop up during the discussion when he helped Brevard school kids plant butterfly gardens before school ended for the summer. "Some kids told me they had never seen the roots of plants," said Harrison, on a mission to introduce kids to the benefits of native plants and the pollinators they attract.

FNPS member Tim Harrison, working with FNPS members Anna Iacona and Debby Jeffries and supported by the **Conradina Chapter** of FNPS, has undertaken the task of teaching kids the importance of gardening for butterflies.

[Click here to read this Florida Today article.](#)

Helen and Allan Cruickshank Sanctuary Field Trip

**Saturday, September 26, 2015
9 A.M. to Noon**

This Environmentally Endangered Land was acquired in 1995. Through management including prescribed burning, mechanical treatment of fire fuels, and thinning of pines, this property has been restored to the habitat favored by scrub jays.

Directions: Central Rockledge just west of U.S. Highway 1, 360 Barnes Boulevard.

From I-95: Take Fiske Boulevard. Exit 195. At the intersection just north of I-95, go east on Barnes Boulevard 2.4 miles to the Sanctuary entrance and small parking area.

From US-1: Turn west onto Barnes Boulevard and travel 0.5 miles. The Sanctuary entrance is on the north side of the road.

Bring hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent.

