



**December
2020**

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

Photos by Bob Peterson



Conradina NEWS

Conradina Chapter Meeting Monday, December 14, 2020 6:00 PM

To attend online meetings log on to

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQPCjDvXqQLEgzCYqc0EZ5A?view_as=subscriber

‘Going Native in Melbourne Beach’ by Nicole Perna.

My husband and I purchased our home in 2011 and I knew the first thing I wanted to do was tackle the landscaping. The 1/3 acre lot had a huge yard of struggling St Augustine grass. The only tree was a small lemon tree in the corner of the back yard. We planted so many native plants in the front yard. This area has become beautiful and is always blooming and full of life.

As we transformed our yard we got lots of questions from our neighbors and happily gave lots of advice, and plants. Eventually one neighbor convinced us to help them transform their yard. After witnessing the fish kills and the decline of our lagoon we couldn't say no. That is how our business “Go Native Landscaping” began. Since then we have transformed several landscapes on our street and countless yards throughout Brevard. It is hot, hard and dirty work but I really enjoy getting to know our clients and helping them transform their yards into beautiful, beneficial landscapes.

Everyone can join us for free at Conradina FNPS general meeting on Monday December 14, 2020. We start at 6 pm so tune in to the meeting on Conradina Grandiflora [youtube](#).

Plant Native!

Next Chapter Meeting

December 14, 2020



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Carol's Corner: Christmas Highlights Pine Trees!

By Carol Hebert

Hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and the holiday season is just around the corner. Pine trees are always highlighted to use as a Christmas Tree. Many pine trees are shipped down from northern states such as Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*) which is native to the northeastern United States and Canada and noted as the most fragrant tree. For thousands of years Native Americans used Balsam Fir for medicinal and therapeutic purposes. The needles are digested directly off the tree by many animals and humans.



Balsam Fir contains vitamin C, which has been studied for its effects on bacterial and viral infections. Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) is another popular tree for the holidays. It is native to central California and north to Oregon and Washington. The common name honors David Douglas, a Scottish botanist and collector who first reported the extraordinary nature and potential of the species. Douglas Fir was used by Native American groups in the northwest part of the US. They mainly used the bark, resin, and pine needles to make herbal treatments for various diseases.

In Florida, Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), Sand Pine (*Pinus clausa*), Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*) and Slash Pine (*Pinus elliotii*) are grown specifically for use as Christmas trees. Check this site for Christmas tree farms <https://www.fdacs.gov/Consumer-Resources/Buy-Fresh-From-Florida/Christmas-Tree-Farms>. I have five Slash Pines in my backyard. The pictures show how these beautiful tall pine trees reproduce. The pinecones dry off and the seeds in their tips are released and they get into the soil. It is so cute how they develop from small pine saplings and then into a wonderful large pine tree.

If you are celebrating Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, or any other holiday during this time of year please consider planting a new tree in your yard for 2021.

Plant native!



Upcoming Events & Meetings

2020	
<u>Monday Dec 14, 2020</u>	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. 'Going Native in Melbourne Beach' by Nicole Perna. A virtual tour of Nicole's yard. Online meeting.
2021	
<u>Monday Jan 11, 2021</u>	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. 'Landscaping for the IRL' by Robin Pelensky Online meeting.
<u>Monday Feb 8, 2021</u>	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. 'Native plants' by Jennifer Mitchell Ph.D. SJRWM Online meeting.
<u>Monday Apr 12, 2021</u>	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. 'Declare an Invasive and Eradicate' by Carey Minter, EPPEC Online meeting.
<u>Monday May 10, 2021</u>	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. Tim and Anna, Native Butterfly Nursery Online meeting.
<u>Sunday Jun 13, 2021</u>	Conradina Board meeting (11:00) and Member Potluck Brunch (Noon) at Erna Nixon Park

Hyperlinks go to Conradina web calendar. You can share the calendar events with your calendar by clicking on then and selecting Share and the calendar type.

To attend online meetings log on to

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQPCjDvXqQLEgzCYqc0EZ5A?view_as=subscriber

Native Plant Nurseries and Service Providers

Hey everybody! 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.

Company / Web link	Name / email	Telephone	Comments
<u>Maple Street Natives / NatScape LLC Native Landscapes</u>	<u>Drew Dolan</u>	321-223-6147	Native plants
<u>Go Native Landscaping</u>	<u>Nichole Perma</u>	321-795-3111	Native landscape design, installation, consultation and maintenance
<u>Native Butterfly Flowers, LLC</u>	<u>Tim / Anna</u>	321-626-7386	Native plants and landscape design
<u>Change of Greenery</u>	<u>Brendan Healy</u>	321-536-0655	Lagoon friendly landscape designs and installations
<u>Florida Native Wildflowers</u>			Purchase seeds and plants online

Ask about gift certificates! Happy gardening.



Indian River Lagoon Health Update Webinar: Seagrass

The Marine Resources Council is excited to release the 2020 Indian River Lagoon Report Card. MRC is hosting 2 webinars on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 (at 12 & 6:30 p.m.).

For more info and to register for the webinar please visit:

<https://irlreportcard2020.eventbrite.com/?aff=pr>

Assistance in promoting this event is greatly needed.

The more community involvement we have the louder our voice is for the well-being of the lagoon.

PRESS RELEASE 11.11.2020

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IRL #3
Report Card



Tuesday, December 8, 2020, Dr. Leesa Souto, Executive Director of the Marine Resources Council, Presents the 3rd IRL Report Card: Results of 2020's Indian River Lagoon Health Update. Communities Must Act. Sea Grasses & Habitat Are In Peril.

Live Webinars at 12 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. - 12/8/20

- Attendees are asked to donate & help fund this vital lagoon health report.

Presentation: Lagoon Areas of Concern

- Volusia County
- Brevard County
- Indian River County
- Saint Lucie County
- Martin County
 - Including 13 Tributaries

Only 40 In-person Viewing Spaces Available

- Donor Luncheon at 11 a.m.
- Donor Diner at 5:30 p.m.
 - \$50 per attendee
 - Includes seafood boil
 - Includes adult beverage service
 - Temperatures will be taken
 - Social distancing & masks required
 - Location:** MRC Lagoon Learning Center
 - 3275 Dixie Hwy NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905

Register at SaveTheIRL.org or Call 321.725.7775

To sponsor or donate in support of the IRL Report Card please call 321.978.8862 or email SharkeyMRC@gmail.com

Marine Resources Council of East Florida
SaveTheIRL.org

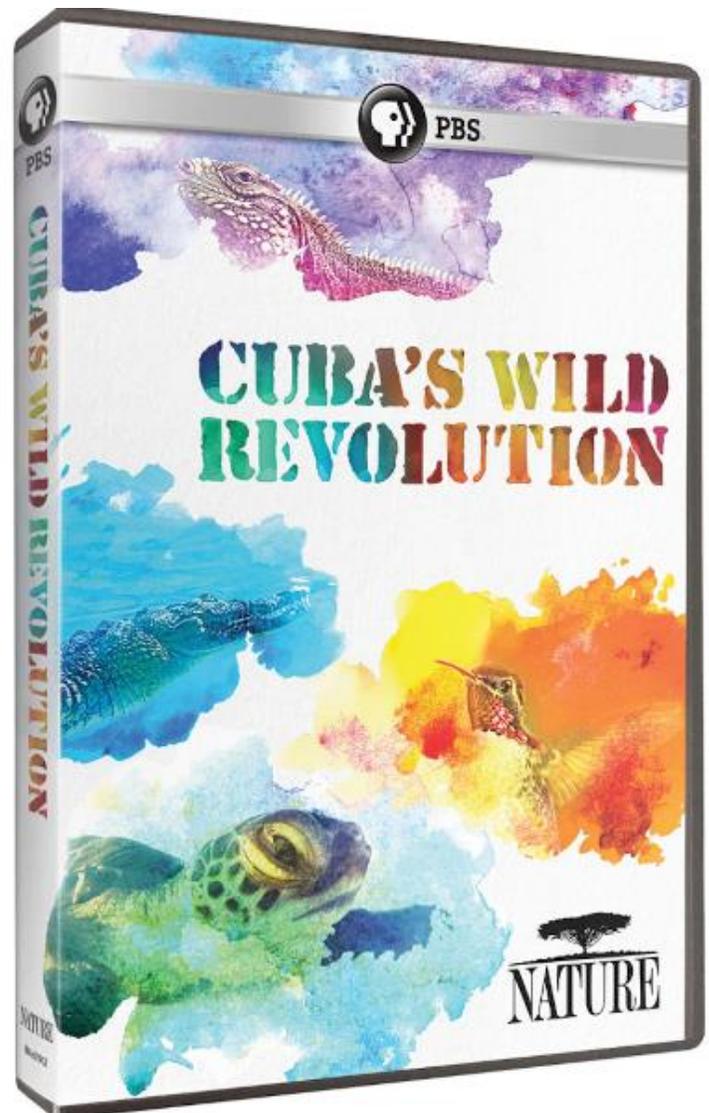
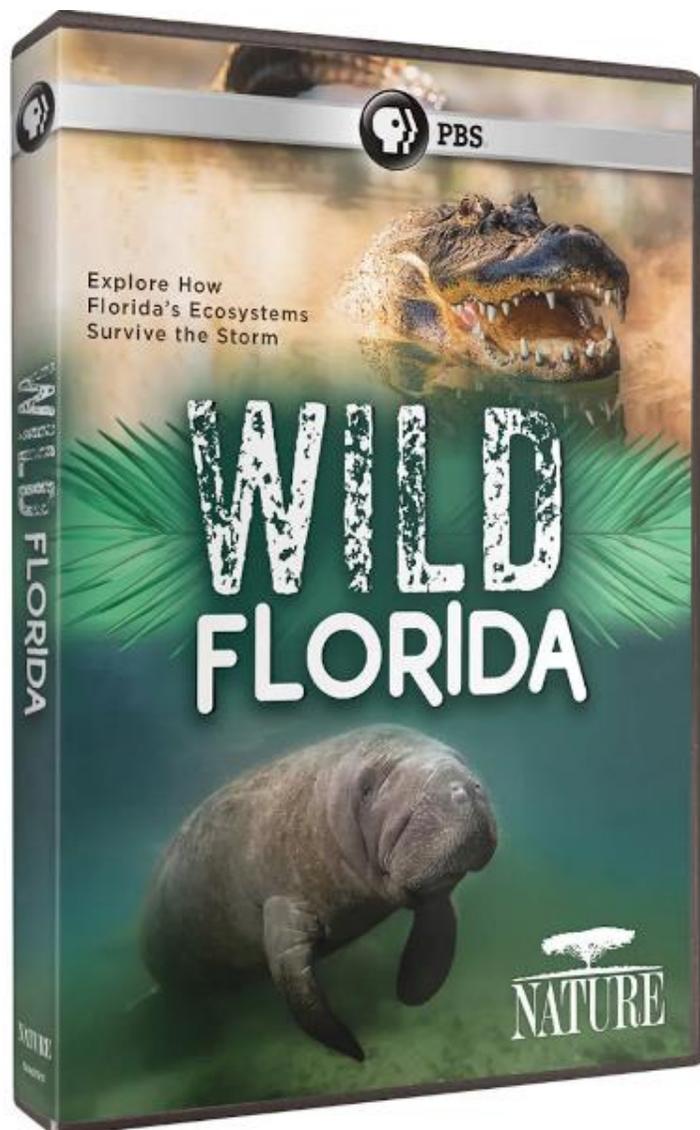
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Library Documentaries

This PBS documentary "Wild Florida" is a wonderful update on different ecosystems that are in Florida and how they are doing right now. Discover the wildlife of the Sunshine State and how experts are battling threats to its ecosystems. Florida is home to pine forests, coral reefs and the famous Everglades wetlands which is the largest subtropical wilderness in the United States. This movie shows how the state faces the full force of nature from wildfires and powerful hurricanes. The movie also highlights some great endangered species like the Key Deer and the exotic pests like the Burmese python that eats alligators. It does highlight how the pioneering scientists are doing so many action projects to protect Florida's environment. My favorite part is showing how scientists have discovered how to grow coral that will help renourish the coral reefs. This documentary has been so beautiful to watch and learn about what important actions are being taken to preserve Florida's nature areas.

Another one that is out now is "Cuba's Wild Revolution". It is a new update about Cuba and how it is being impacted by tourism. This video also has some amazing pictures in Cuba and how it has so many beautiful and endemic flora and fauna. My favorite was seeing pictures of the smallest hummingbird in the world. The Bee Hummingbird is only two and a quarter inches long and is often mistaken as a bee. Cuba is sure on my bucket list. Enjoy these nature movies!

Both of these movies are available at Melbourne Library and Dr. Martin L. King libraries.



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Conradina Chapter

Florida Native Plant Society

www.conradina.fnpschapters.org

Florida Native Plant Society

www.fnps.org



Chapter News

Ballard Park - Keep Brevard Beautiful Planting

Get A New Look!

Conradina Chapter FNPS board member Bo Platt had received a Keep Brevard Beautiful grant to rejuvenate this garden at Ballard Park. Ballard Park is located at 924 Thomas Barbour Dr. in Melbourne. The park is maintained by the city of Melbourne. The Conradina Chapter of FNPS just did a few maintenance days and it looks great! We weeded, added a few new native plants, added cardboard and a huge amount of mulch. I wish I had taken better pictures but we (and the plants) sure benefitted from rain! We had several people stop and give compliments to our efforts. A person that lives in the neighborhood (Martin) donated some coonties from his yard and we added them to the landscape. Our biggest surprise was when a gentleman pulled in and said we were "doing a good job" and handed us a \$50 bill! Wow! We all yelled out "Thank you" as he drove off. That money helped with our cost for mulch. Thank you to everyone that helped! Bo Platt, Carol Hebert, Kathryn and Paul Merry, Stewart Weimer, Leonard McCray Jr., Rebecca Ziegler, Sara Morrison, Jane Higgins, Eileen McGurk, Martin Weilhamer and the generous person who donated money to our native landscaping at Ballard Park.

Please be sure to go visit Ballard Park.

Thank you and PLANT NATIVE!

