



**March 2021**

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

*Photos by Bob Peterson*



# Conradina NEWS

## Conradina Chapter Meeting Monday, March 8, 2021 6:00 PM

To attend online meetings log on to

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQPCjDvXqQLEgzCYqc0EZ5A?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQPCjDvXqQLEgzCYqc0EZ5A?view_as=subscriber)



'Florida Native Plants and Water Quality: How You Can Make a Difference by What You Plant at Home' by Marjorie Shropshire, Editor of Palmetto FNPS newsletter Native

Everyone can join us for free at Conradina FNPS general meeting on Monday March 8, 2021. We start at 6 pm so tune in to the meeting on Conradina Chapter FNPS [youtube](#).

Marjorie Shropshire was born in Miami, Florida and grew up making regular forays into the Everglades, Biscayne Bay, Florida Keys, and the lower southwest Florida coast. As a youngster, she spent time snorkeling, fishing, exploring, boating, bird watching, beach combing, and painting natural history topics.

Her love of art led Marjorie to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida. After graduation she began working as a visual communicator. Marjorie has over two decades of experience in the design field, where she worked as an advertising agency creative director on a variety of regional and national accounts relating to the high-end travel, aviation and banking industries.

Later in her career she established her own design practice focusing on environmental non-profits. Marjorie has illustrated several books on sustainable and climate-wise gardening with botanist and garden writer Ginny Stibolt, who was her coauthor on the book *A Step-by-Step Guide to a Florida Native Yard*, published by the University Press of Florida in 2018. She also travels around the state facilitating workshops and lectures for homeowners on how to transition their yards to a native landscape. She has been the editor of *Palmetto*, the magazine of the Florida Native Plant Society since 2005.

Marjorie holds Florida Master Naturalist Certificates in Coastal Restoration, Habitat Evaluation, Coastal Systems, and Upland Systems. She is a member of

**Next Chapter Meeting**

**March 8, 2021**



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[www.conradina.fnpschapters.org](http://www.conradina.fnpschapters.org)

## Carol's Corner: A Screech Owl in the backyard!

By Carol Hebert

So excited to have a Screech Owl (*Megascops asio*) nesting in my backyard! The box was made by Brent Dolan from Maple Street Natives and it works like a charm. When I lived in West Melbourne my Screech Owl box was used for 7-8 years. The owl arrived in mid February to the first part of March. It was always so cute to see the baby Screech Owls peak out of the box with their gray fluffy feathers.

I have lived here in NW Palm Bay for two years and put the box up in off season. The Screech Owl arrived in late January and has continued to stay in the box. I always see it peeking out in the early morning looking sleepy. As the sun goes down she peeks out with eyes wide open. I had lucky timing recently to see the male visit at dusk. To me that is very exciting.



Just two weeks ago the oak trees looked light auburn because they were loaded with their catkins hanging from them. The "tassels" that drop from oak trees (*Quercus spp.*) are called catkins, and they are the male flowers whose purpose is to shed pollen that is carried by the wind to female flowers. If all goes well, the female flowers will then develop into the acorns that are the seeds of the oak tree. I even noticed my Florida Privet in bloom. This plant is extremely drought and salt tolerant and is easy to grow overall. Florida Privet (*Forestiera segregata*) gets small fragrant white flowers and tiny berries that birds love. Spring is here! Enjoy native plants!



## Upcoming Events & Meetings

2021	
<a href="#"><u>Monday Mar 8, 2021</u></a>	<b>Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting.</b> “Florida Native Plants and Water Quality: How You Can Make a Difference by What You Plant at Home” by Marjorie Shropshire, Editor of Palmetto FNPS newsletter
<a href="#"><u>Monday Apr 12, 2021</u></a>	<b>Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting.</b> ‘Declare an Invasive and Eradicate’ by Carey Minter, EPPEC Online meeting.
<a href="#"><u>Monday May 10, 2021</u></a>	<b>Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting.</b> Tim and Anna, Native Butterfly Nursery Online meeting.
<a href="#"><u>Sunday Jun 13, 2021</u></a>	<b>Conradina Board meeting (11:00) and Member Potluck Brunch (Noon)</b> 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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQPCjDvXqQLEgzCYqc0EZ5A?view_as=subscriber)

### Marjorie Shropshire biography continued:

the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators, and she leads nature drawing and field journaling workshops to teach others about how to look more deeply at nature through art practice.

Marjorie earned a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Design and Visual Communications from the University of Florida, where her research centered around issues relating to Florida’s water quality, and how design and science can collaborate. The outcome is a new project, titled WeShore, which connects homeowners to practitioners and explores how the installation of living shorelines can make waterfronts more resilient by maintaining or restoring land/water connectivity, reducing erosion, improving habitat, and filtering sediment and pollutants.

Contact:

Marjorie.shropshire@gmail.com

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

Ask about gift certificates! Happy gardening.



## Officers and Directors

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Carol Hebert

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### Secretary

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Stewart Weimer

### Conradina Chapter

Florida Native Plant Society

[www.conradina.fnpschapters.org](http://www.conradina.fnpschapters.org)

[YouTube](#) - Conradina Chapter  
FNPS

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## Chapter News

### Successful Weeding Day!

On February 14th - Valentine's Day - Ballard Park sadly had a bunch of Torpedograss (*Panicum repens*) starting to invade the native garden. A great group of volunteers came out to weed out the predator! Bo Platt, Christine Bamberger, Carl Winebarger, Carol Hebert, Megan Selva and Paul Ruben all attacked the weeds. Check out the great before and after pictures.

Torpedograss, the name comes from the hard, sharp point on the rhizome that runs horizontally underground, like a torpedo going through the water.

**Torpedograss** (*Panicum repens*) is native to Asia and Africa and was introduced to North America as a forage crop. Now **torpedograss** weeds are among the most common and annoying pest plants here.



### "Landscaping With Florida Natives" Garden Tour Saturday October 16th 2021

Conradina Chapter will be hosting their 12th annual native plant garden tour on Saturday October 16, 2021. We have not decided if it will be a "virtual" tour or an "in person" tour as of yet. But we need to start planning!

Please contact us if you would like to have your garden featured. Also let us know if you would like to assist with planning and the details of the event.

Contact Lynda Geraci [slgeraci@att.net](mailto:slgeraci@att.net) or Carol

Hebert [carol.hebert@gmail.com](mailto:carol.hebert@gmail.com). Thank you and we look forward to hearing from individuals who would like to show off their native plant garden!