



**September
2021**

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



Photos by Bob Peterson

Conradina NEWS

Conradina Chapter Meeting Monday, September 13, 2021

5:30 - 6:00 pm socialization, Meeting will begin at 6:00pm.

Wearing of masks are recommended!

[West Melbourne Library](#) Meeting Room
2755 Wingate Blvd.
West Melbourne, FL 32904

'Native Plants in the Landscape at Bok Tower Gardens' by Kari Ruder

Kari's professional background started in environmental science and in 2006 she earned her Masters of Science Degree in Environmental Horticulture from the University of Florida. She started Naturewise native plant nursery in 2007 and partnered other local, sustainable growers to start The Green Marketplace in Cocoa.



In 2015 she was offered an opportunity managing the plant nursery at Bok Tower Gardens as they were expanding with new gardens planted primarily with Florida native plants.

Kari left her position with Bok Tower Gardens in June of 2021 to spend more time with her family in Wisconsin and to focus on growing their nature-based vacation rentals. She also continues her job of 11 years as Faculty with the University of Phoenix, teaching online courses in environmental science. Kari and her husband Sam are originally from Wisconsin and have lived here in Florida for 20 years. They enjoy traveling and exploring the outdoors.

Please join us!

Next Chapter Meeting

September 13, 2021



Find us on:
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Carol's Corner: Fakahatchee Grass

By Carol Hebert

This is the big one! Not the dwarf kind. Fakahatchee grass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*) is also called Eastern gamagrass. It is a great accent plant or good for corners of landscape. Be sure to give it enough room because it can grow 4-6 feet tall and wide. I was glad I researched that and gave it that much space and it has started to fill the area where it was planted. That's a good tip to remember because plants grow so give it enough room to grow. Fakahatchee grass is the larval food plant for the Byssus Skipper butterfly. It has subtle but intricate blooms. They are spiral swirls of burnt red color that are really detailed and attractive. There is a smaller version of Fakahatchee grass and it is called Dwarf Fakahatchee grass (*Tripsacum floridanum*), it only grows to two to three feet. Plan ahead and plant native!

Plant Native!



Upcoming Events & Meetings

Date	Event
Monday Sep 13, 2021	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. ‘Native Plants That Birds Love’ by Kari Ruder West Melbourne Library. 5:30 P.M. socialization, 6:00 P.M. meeting.
Monday Oct 11, 2021	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. ‘Urban Greenways – The Florida Yard as Part of a Wildlife Migratory Network ’ by Marc Spiess, Naturalist and Nature Guide at Environmental Learning Center in Sebastian West Melbourne Library. 5:30 P.M. socialization, 6:00 P.M. meeting.
Saturday Oct 16, 2021	2021 Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour — Purchase tickets on Eventbrite
Monday Nov 8, 2021	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. Sally Scalara/UF/IFAS Extension West Melbourne Library
Saturday Dec 4, 2021	Ocean Reef Beach Festival Pelican Beach Park, Satellite Beach, FL West Melbourne Library
Monday Dec 13, 2021	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. ‘Wreath Making’
Monday Jan 10, 2022	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. Stacey Matrazzo/Florida Wildflower Foundation
Feb 2022	Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival
Monday Feb 14, 2022	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. TBD
Monday Mar 14, 2022	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. Brendan “Skip” Healy\Change of Greenery
Monday Apr 11, 2022	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. TBD
Monday May 9, 2022	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. TBD
Sunday Jun 12, 2022	Conradina Board meeting (11:00) and Member Potluck Brunch (Noon) at Erna Nixon Park

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

Conradina Chapter FNPS Welcomes new members!

Julie Geisler, Beth Ann Neis, Claire & Bill Parros, Thompson Wylder

Thank you for your membership and supporting Florida Native Plant Society.

Cheers-

Lynda Geraci

Membership Chair

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

Company / Web link	Name / email	Telephone	Comments
4C's Nursery		321-586-0019	Native plants, landscape design & installation
Change of Greenery	Brendan Healy	321-536-0655	Native and edible plants, landscape design, installation & maintenance
Florida Native Wildflowers			Purchase seeds and plants online
Go Native Landscaping	Nichole Perma	321-795-3111	Native landscape design, installation, consultation and maintenance
Maple Street Natives / NatScape LLC Native Landscapes	Drew Dolan	321-223-6147	Native plants
Native Butterfly Flowers, LLC	Tim / Anna	321-626-7386	Native plants and landscape design

Additional local sources of plants and services may be found at our FANN partner site: 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.



Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour



FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
serenoa repens

October 16,
2021

**Landscaping with
Florida Natives Tour**

Tickets soon to be on Eventbrite or Visit
conradina.fnpschapters.org

Our 12th annual "Landscaping With Fl. Natives" garden tour will be on Saturday October 16th from 9am-3pm.

Feel free to buy your ticket now on [Eventbrite](#).

Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers to help at each home-site. Shifts are 8:30am-12:30pm or 11:30am-3:30pm.

Please contact Carol Hebert (carol.hebert@gmail.com) to volunteer for the garden tour.. THANK YOU!

The BEST part of volunteering is that on Sunday October 17th we - homeowners and volunteers - get a free visit to each location!

Thank you and plant native!

Florida Native Plant Give-Away!

Florida Native Plant Give-Away will be held during the "Landscaping With Florida Natives" garden tour on **Saturday, October 16th** 9:30am to 2:30pm.

This will be at the Barrier Island Center ([8385 S. Hwy A1A, Melbourne Beach](http://8385.S.Hwy.A1A.Melbourne.Beach)) and **free to event ticket holders**.

As a member of Conradina Chapter, we need your help in propagating Florida native plants from your yard. Please:

- use pot size either 4-6" or 1 gal sizes
- mark each plant with common name and botanical name
- deliver plants to the Barrier Island Center on Friday, Oct. 15th after 1 pm

For questions or donations, please contact Kathryn Merry at 321.537.8806.
THANK YOU!

Officers and Directors

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Kathryn Merry / Leonard McCray

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Conradina Chapter

Florida Native Plant Society

www.conradina.fnpschapters.org

[YouTube](#) - Conradina Chapter

FNPS

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www.fnps.org



Chapter News

Florida Native license plate!

Show your pride for Florida's unique and beautiful native plants today by purchasing a Florida Native License Plate! This official state of Florida license plate was designed in a distinctive camouflage pattern using all native species.



Revenue from the sale of the plates will go directly to the Florida Native Plant Society to fund our work, grants and scholarships to protect and restore Florida's native plant communities. We must presell 3,000 plates via a voucher system before the state will start printing our specialty license plate, so buy your voucher now for you or a loved one. They make for one-of-a-kind gifts, and help spread the message and appreciation for Florida Natives!

Visit <https://www.fnps.org/support/license>

or <https://services.flhsmv.gov/VirtualOffice/> to buy a voucher now for your new Florida Native License Plate!

OPPORTUNITY TO MENTOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Would you like to spend some time helping college and high school students learn about native plants? We need members who know and love our plants and can spend a few hours here and there, one-on-one or in small groups, talking to young people about the plants and helping them learn how to promote these plants to the public. For our 2021 Garden Tour, we're hoping to pair young volunteer assistants with chapter volunteers who will show them the ropes of native plant promotion. At this time, we envision that volunteers will be needed for 4 hours on tour day, Saturday, Oct. 16, and for 1-2 two-hour training sessions in September. Additional information and instructions to be provided. If you're interested, please email Cammie Donaldson at executive@nativeplanthort.org or call 321-917-1960 (text first or leave a message).

Blanketflower – native or not?

Florida Wildflower Foundation recent article, by Laura Bennett-Kimble, commented on the research paper that stated that the plant was not a native Florida species. See entire article: <https://flawildflowers.org/blanketflower-native-or-not/>



Blanketflower (*Gaillardia pulchella*) photo by Jeff Norcini