



**February  
2023**

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**February 13, 2023**



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



*Photos by Bob Peterson*

# Conradina NEWS

## Conradina Chapter Meeting Monday, February 13, 2023

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

Melbourne Library Meeting Room

540 E Fee Avenue

### Turkey Creek Sanctuary by Tracey Wright

Tracey has been a resident of Palm Bay since 1993 and has been the Park Ranger at Palm Bay's Turkey Creek Sanctuary since June of 2016.

Tracey holds Master's degrees in Environmental Education and Conservation Science from Florida Tech. Tracey is Lead instructor for the Florida Master Naturalist Program.

Turkey Creek Sanctuary is 130 acres of wonder, biodiversity and natural resources.

The Sanctuary is located off Port Malabar Blvd. at Santiago Drive next to the Palm Bay library.

Open 7 days a week from 7 AM until sunset.

Admission is FREE.

Call 321-676-6690 for more information.



## Carol's Corner: Silver Saw Palmetto

If you are looking for a durable, slow growing plant - look no further than a Silver Saw Palmetto!

Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens* "Silver") is an interesting plant with a lot of history.

First the "Silver" in its name comes from the ones that occur naturally along Florida's east coast and is very salt and drought tolerant. It has become very popular in nurseries because of the desire for the pretty silvery leaves. It has a range from North Carolina, throughout Florida and west to Louisiana. Pretty small flowers occur in summer and they have a sweet smell. Bumblebees love them and produce wonderful honey from them. In fall the flowers develop into fruit. Native Americans have used the fruit for food and discovered medical uses. Saw palmetto fruit promotes good health in several categories. An easy plant to establish in your landscape but beware of where you plant it due to its tough sawlike teeth along the branches.

If you feel like you do not have a "green thumb" give Saw Palmetto a try.

Plant native!



## Upcoming Events & Meetings

Date	Event
Monday Feb 13, 2023	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. 6pm at Melbourne library on Fee Ave
Friday Feb 17, 2023	Invasive plant removal at Turkey Creek Sanctuary, 9 am to 3 pm. Bring lunch.
Sunday Feb 26, 2023	Invasive plant removal at Erna Nixon Park, 9am to 12pm. Bring lunch if you stay longer.
Saturday Mar 4, 2023	Melbourne Botanical Fest, 8 am to 5 pm on East New Haven Ave, Melbourne FL 32901
Saturday Mar 11, 2023	Town of Melbourne Beach Open House at the Old Town Hall History Center featuring native plants added at the Center. 2373 Oak Street, Melbourne Beach FL 32951
Monday Mar 13, 2023	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. 6pm at Melbourne library on Fee Ave
Saturday Mar 25, 2023	The Florida-Friendly Landscaping Seminar March 25th @ EauGallie Civic Center 1551 Highland Ave. Melbourne FL 32935
Saturday Mar 25, 2023	Invasive plant removal at Erna Nixon Park, 9am to 12pm. Bring lunch if you stay longer.
Saturday Apr 1, 2023	Moonlight Stroll in Erna Nixon Park 6pm to 10pm
Monday Apr 10, 2023	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. 6pm at Melbourne library on Fee Ave
Saturday, Apr 22, 2023	Earth Day! Stay tuned for upcoming events in the works
Monday, May 8, 2023	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. 6pm at Melbourne library on Fee Ave

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

## 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 websites for hours, services and plant availability.

Company / Web link	Name / email	Telephone	Comments
<a href="#">4C's Nursery</a>		321-586-0019	Native plants, landscape design & installation
<a href="#">Change of Greenery</a>	<a href="#">Brendan Healy</a>	321-536-0655	Native and edible plants, landscape design, installation & maintenance
<a href="#">Florida Native Wildflowers</a>	Sharon Dolan		Purchase pots, seeds and Florida Native Plants online
<a href="#">Go Native Landscaping</a>	<a href="#">Nichole Perma</a>	321-795-3111	Native landscape design, installation, consultation and maintenance
<a href="#">Native Butterfly Flowers, LLC</a>	<a href="#">Tim / Anna</a>	321-626-7386	Native plants and landscape design
<a href="#">Rockledge Gardens</a>	<a href="#">General Information</a>	321-636-7662	Expanding native plant selection
<a href="#">Wild Wet N Wacky</a>	<a href="#">Kiela Frank</a>	321-417-2218	Expanding native plant selection

Additional local sources of plants and services may be found at our FANN partner site: [www.PlantRealFlorida.org](http://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.

## Help Us Tackle Invasive Plants at Two Locations

### Please Help Us Tackle Invasive Plants at Two Locations

Remember that awesome talk by Skip Healy last March on ‘Invasive Species in the Landscape?’ Invasive plant species crowd out the beneficial native plants and damage local wildlife. This is an on-going challenge in Florida and other tropical climates where plants rapidly multiple without cold weather to keep them in check.

Conradina has organized the following invasive plant removal projects for you to bring family and friends to lend a hand to these local beautiful habitats:

**Friday, Feb. 17, 2023**

**Invasive plant removal at Turkey Creek Sanctuary, 9 am to 3 pm. Bring lunch.**

**Sunday, Feb. 26, 2023**

**Invasive plant removal at Erna Nixon Park, 9 am to 12 pm. Bring lunch if you'd like to work longer**

**Saturday, March 25, 2023**

**Invasive plant removal at Erna Nixon Park, 9 am to 12 pm. Bring lunch if you'd like to work longer**

**Please wear closed toes shoes and work gloves, bring water, snacks and lunch. Supervised children are welcome and this is a great opportunity for teens needing community service hours! No experience needed! For questions, please contact [janehiggins2016@gmail.com](mailto:janehiggins2016@gmail.com)**

**If those dates aren't convenient for you, both locations are open to scheduling your group!**

**For more information on invasive plants, please check out the following websites:**

**[Florida Invasive Species Council](#)**

**[FLIP: Florida Invasive Plants \(usf.edu\)](#)**

## The Downtown Melbourne Botanical Fest



**March 4, 2023 @ 8:00 am - 4:00 pm at  
1900 South Harbour City Blvd.  
Melbourne, FL 32901**

**Visit Downtown Melbourne this spring for a FREE family-friendly event that attracts visitors from the region and features lavish landscape designs, garden sculptures, flowers and plants, trees and shrubs, unique gifts, garden-themed art, great food, and much more!**

**Conradina Chapter will have a booth at this event and we need your HELP!  
We will need volunteers to help with setting up on Fri March 3rd from 3pm till 6pm.  
We will need volunteers on Saturday March 4th: 7:30am-11:30am, 11:30am-2:30pm,  
and 2pm-5pm to help with take down.**

**There will be a sign-up sheet at at our general meeting on February 13th. If you are able to help Conradina at this event please contact Carol Hebert, [carol.hebert@gmail.com](mailto:carol.hebert@gmail.com) or 321-480-9723.**

**Help promote native plants! THANK YOU!**

## Moonlight Strolls in Erna Nixon Park

# Moonlight Stroll at Erna Nixon Park

1200 Evans Road, West Melbourne, FL 32904

**NO Parking at/in Erna Nixon**  
**FREE Shuttles from Melbourne Square Mall**  
**Handicap parking available at Park**  
**Must check in at parking lot first**

**Where: 1200 Evans Rd. W. Melbourne, 32904**

**Parking: Melbourne Square Mall-JCPenney parking lot**

**When: January 28th and April 1st, 2023- 6:00PM-10:00PM**

**Cost: \$4 per person-Pre-registration: <https://bit.ly/ENP-Moonlight-Stroll>**

Cash will be accepted at door. Join us once again for some wonderful evenings with friends and family by viewing celestial bodies in the night sky through Brevard Astronomical Society telescopes.

Listen to live music throughout the park and along the boardwalk provided by several different bands and solo artists.

You'll also be able to please your taste buds by enjoying food from gourmet food trucks. We'll also have a variety of local vendors under the pavilion for your shopping pleasure.

Dates and times are subject to change, weather permitting.

Follow us on Facebook @BrevardParks to stay up to date on all event changes.

Call 321-952-4525 with any questions.

# The Large Native Landscape at the West Melbourne Post Office

On Sunday, January 8th 2023, Conradina did a refresh to the West Melbourne Post Office. Conradina purchased two dozen plants including Coonties and Muhly grass with Post Office approval that were planted. Several beds had cardboard put down and then re-mulched with over 80 bags of mulch provided by the Post Office. This project was originally planted in 2018 and added to in 2019 with funding provided by Keep Brevard Beautiful.

Conradina greatly appreciates the partnership with the West Melbourne Post Office to provide this native landscape to so many post office patrons who frequently stop us and ask about the native plants. The West Melbourne Post Office supports the largest volume of activity in Brevard County. Keep up the great work there!

If you'd like to support this native planting, weeding is always needed to keep it looking nice. From the photos below, you can see how much the plants have grown.



Before: Pine tree  
Planted 3/10/2018

After: Pine tree, Photo taken 1/8/23



The volunteers were:  
Stewart Weimer, Lenard McCray,  
Rebecca Ziegler,  
Jane Higgins, Annie Doshna  
and  
Carl Winebarger



Before:  
Planted 3/10/2018



After:  
Photo taken 1/08/2023

**Get Involved with Your Local Sustainability Advisory Board!**

You can get involved by either being on a Board or attending the meetings to voice your opinion and get involved with local events.

Some cities call it an Environmental Board and some use the term Sustainability – whatever it’s called, there’s an opportunity for native plants and landscapes to preserve our native wildlife. Please check out the listing below or send your city information to us at [ConradinachapterFNPS@gmail.com](mailto:ConradinachapterFNPS@gmail.com) to include on the list.

**Indialantic:** Call the Town Hall at 321-723-2242 prior to the meeting to make ensure there is a quorum and the meeting is still a Go.

**Palm Bay:** Check out the Palm Bay website for agenda information and to make sure the meeting is still a Go.

NOTE: Palm Bay Sustainability Advisory Board website is currently unavailable.

City	Meeting Time & Place	Website
Indialantic	5:30 pm on 4th Wednesday of the month in Council Chamber	<a href="#">Boards &amp; Committees   The Town of Indialantic Florida   Official WebSite</a>
Melbourne	2 pm on 3rd Friday of the month in City Hall Council Chamber	<a href="#">Beautification &amp; Energy Efficiency Board   City of Melbourne, FL (melbourneflorida.org)</a>
Melbourne Beach	Melbourne Beach Environmental Advisory Board - Home   Facebook	<a href="#">Sustainability   Melbourne Beach FL</a> <a href="https://www.melbournebeachfl.org/sustainability">https://www.melbournebeachfl.org/sustainability</a>
Rockledge	6 pm on 2nd Thursday - February, June, and Oct. in Council Chamber at City Hall	<a href="#">The Rockledge Environmental Enhancement Board   Rockledge, FL - Official Website (cityofrockledge.org)</a>
Palm Bay	6 pm on 4th Wednesday of the month in Council Chambers, Palm Bay City Hall	Sustainability Advisory Board   City of Palm Bay, FL ( <a href="#">palmbayflorida.org</a> )
Satellite Beach	6 pm on 4th Wednesday of the month in Council Chambers	<a href="#">Satellite Beach, FL</a>





## Your Right to Clean & Healthy Waters

Florida Needs Your Help For Our Right to Clean & Healthy Water



**Did you know that we the people are not guaranteed a right to clean and healthy water? Yes, that's right. The very laws that are written to keep our air and waters clean actually do the opposite and allow pollution through the permitting process.**

**In this sense, for the past 50-60 years society has allotted businesses and governments a pass to pollute. The time has come to change the way the law is written.**

**Please join the Clean and Healthy Waters movement and be one of the 900,000 to sign a petition in support of putting an amendment on the 2024 ballot here: [Petitions | Florida's Right to Clean Water \(floridarighttocleanwater.org\)](https://www.floridarighttocleanwater.org) .**

**The deadline is November 30, 2023, practically a whole year before the actual vote will take place.**

**If you sign and get 20 of your friends to sign we can reach this extraordinary goal in time. Check out the easy to navigate website, print, sign, and mail in your petition, and signup to be an ambassador!**

**[https://initiativepetitions.elections.myflorida.com/InitiativeForms/Volunteer/DSDE155A\\_999\\_2202\\_EN.PDF](https://initiativepetitions.elections.myflorida.com/InitiativeForms/Volunteer/DSDE155A_999_2202_EN.PDF)**

**Time is ticking to save Florida's waters...Please be part of the solution!**

## We Need Your Help!

### We Need Your Help to Find a New Location for the Conradina Meetings!

Our membership is growing which is wonderful! If you've been to one of our meetings lately, you'll notice it's getting a bit crowded and we need to find a bigger space. The January meeting had 70 attendees! Do you know of anyplace with a bigger space we could use please? Here are our criteria:

- Very low cost or free to a non-profit
- Able to hold 70 to 100 people comfortably with check-in tables, book sales and snack tables at the back. Tables and chairs need to be included please.
- Has internet/WIFI capability
- Either a projection screen or a blank wall to project upon - we have a projector
- Available the 2nd Monday evening of the month from 5 to 8 pm
- Ideally located in Melbourne as being central to the South end of Brevard County

We are thinking a church or a small auditorium would be awesome.

If you know of anyplace, please let Jane know at [janehiggins216@gmail.com](mailto:janehiggins216@gmail.com)

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### We Need Someone to Assist with the Conradina Newsletter

The Conradina newsletter is an important communication vehicle for our chapter and goes out to over 800 people each month! We currently have one person putting it all together and she needs help and a back-up! Total time to perform all tasks can take from about 20 to 40 hours a month depending on the size of the newsletter. However; the tasks involved can be accomplished by 2 different people with most of the activity occurring the second half of the month. Please see the job description below:

Candidate must be computer literate. This includes experience with and access to the following software: Email, Mailchimp, Microsoft Office tools (Word, Excel, Photo-Draw), and Publisher. Experience with Mailchimp is a huge plus, or the ability to quickly learn different software tools.

Candidate must be:

- Organized and detail oriented
- Able to follow up with multiple parties to achieve a deadline
- Responsive to email with good communications skills
- Able to meet deadlines (very important) with desire to get things done.

Since we rely heavily on email, candidate must maintain a secure environment so as not to spread viruses or malware.

If you're interested in helping out, please contact Marilyn at [marilyn@isiusa.com](mailto:marilyn@isiusa.com)

## Officers and Directors

### President

Carl Winebarger 2022-2024

### Vice President

Lynda Geraci 2021-2023

### Secretary

Tracy LaPlant 2022-2024

### Treasurer

Jane Higgins 2022-2024

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Martha Steuart 2022-2024

### Board of Directors At Large

Anastasis Doshna 2022-2024

Skip Healy 2022-2024

Kathryn Merry 2021-2023

Sara Morrison 2022-2024

Karen Moser 2022-2024

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### Newsletter Editor

Marilyn Peio

### Conradina Chapter

Florida Native Plant Society

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

[YouTube](#) - Conradina Chapter

FNPS

Florida Native Plant Society

[www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)



**CONRADINA  
CHAPTER**

## Chapter News

### Legislative Advocacy

**President Carl Winebarger spoke at the 2023 Brevard County Legislative Delegation meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 11 to share our**



**support for Low Impact Development and our request for more legislation mandating the use of Florida native plants and against the sale of invasive plants. Way to go Carl! Thanks also to the Conradina members who came to show their support for these important issues and others!**

### Educating the Public

Sara Morrison and Jane Higgins presented 'Dr. Tallamy in 20 minutes' to the Melbourne Rotary on Thursday Jan. 5 to a group of very interested folks.

Congratulations to the Willows subdivision in Melbourne for considering going to all native plants – awesome!

If you'd like a copy of 'Dr. Tallamy in 20 minutes' or the full hour Dr. Tallamy presentation, please contact Jane Higgins at [janehiggins2016@gmail.com](mailto:janehiggins2016@gmail.com) It's a very easy presentation to give with notes in the slides.

Or if you'd like someone to present to your group, please let Jane know as well and we'll make it happen!

### Transforming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future

On January 21st 2023, the 4th Annual Transforming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future was held at the Emerson Center in Vero Beach Florida.

The conference had six speakers from around the state on a variety of subjects.

Conradina had a table where we provided information on native plants and sold books. The event was well attended

