



May 2023

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Next Chapter Meeting

May 8, 2023



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

Photos by Bob Peterson



# Conradina NEWS

## Conradina Chapter Meeting Monday, May 8, 2023

5:30 - 6:00 pm socialization, Meeting will begin at 6:00pm.  
Melbourne Library, 540 E Fee Avenue, Melbourne Florida, 32901

### Allen Broussard and Forever Florida by Margaret Broussard

Forever Florida began in the mind of a boy. Our son, Allen, had loved roaming the woods on and around the Crescent J Ranch, and fishing. It was in the Bull Creek woods that he saw a Florida panther one day, and from then on, those woods were a favorite secret of his – secret because he knew he was trespassing when he climbed through a fence. Years later, while in the hospital waiting for a new heart, he thought a lot about all the wild places he had enjoyed visiting and expressed a wish to his dad that the area around Bull Creek, his old secret, could be preserved. When his dad



thought it might be possible, Allen got all excited about the idea, calling friends to tell them about it. When Allen died of complications of the heart transplant, my husband, Dr. Bill Broussard, and I decided we would do our best to save what is now Forever Florida. At least half of Forever Florida is swamp, cypress dome, slough, creek, wet prairie or marsh. The Nature Conservancy advised us to set up our own conservancy. Our children and grandchildren are on board now, so they will finish the job after I'm gone.

Can't make the meeting at the library? Good news! Join in on our Youtube page.

<https://www.youtube.com/@conradinachapterfnps5627/streams>

## Carol's Corner: White flowers are so cute!

By Carol Hebert

What are the cute little white flowers along the side of the road? Actually, there are several kinds of cute little white flowers along the roadside and the one I like the most is the Southern Fleabane (*Erigeron quercifolius*). It has such tiny petals that start out looking a little bit purple before they open in to white petals. Also called a Daisy fleabane, it has composite flowers and is made up of at least forty rayless flowers. Its leaves are mostly basal and grow lowest on the stem of the plant. The leaves resemble the shape of some oak species hence another common name is Oakleaf fleabane. The scientific name *quercifolius*, which is Latin for “oak-like foliage”. *Quercus* is a genus of oaks. It is always good to enjoy the little things in our lives.



Plant native!

## Upcoming Events & Meetings

Date	Event
Friday Apr 28 to Monday Apr 30, 2023	Florida Native Plant Society's Virtual Conference <a href="https://www.fnps.org/conference/2023">https://www.fnps.org/conference/2023</a> <a href="https://www.fnps.org/conference/2023">https://www.fnps.org/conference/2023</a>
Monday May 1, 2023	Meeting at 10am to determine if County will continue to manage the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary for Florida Scrub-Jays, First Baptist Church of Malabar, 1665 Malabar Rd, Malabar FL 32950
Monday May 8, 2023	Conradina Chapter FNPS General Meeting. 6pm at Melbourne library on Fee Ave Speaker Margaret Broussard will highlight the Forever Florida site.
Saturday May 13, 2023	Keep Brevard Beautiful Secret Garden Tour from 10am to 3pm.
Wednesday, May 24, 2023	Floating Wetland Beemats, Speaker Steve Beeman at the Palm Bay City Council Chambers at 6pm
Sunday June 11, 2023	Conradina Board Meeting (11am) Member Potluck Brunch (Noon) Erna Nixon Park
Saturday Oct 14, 2023	The 2023 Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour from 9am to 4pm

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.

## Florida Native Plant Society 42nd Annual Conference



Join us for Florida's premier event focusing on the preservation, conservation and restoration of our natural lands, ecosystems, and local communities.

### **Virtual Conference - April 28th to 30th**

Join us to experience expert speakers, panel discussions, games, silent auction and more!

### **Silent Auction**

Native Plant Nursery Gift Cards / Restaurant Gift Cards / Artwork / Books / Attractions Tickets / Kayak Trips / Jewelry / Mystery Boxes! Almost \$5000 of items, thanks to our generous supporters. Grab yourself something special and support the FNPS Conference!

### **Field Days**

As part of our Conference Program, we are offering 3 Field Day weekends, hosted by Chapters, in the Naples, Tallahassee, and Sanford areas of Florida. Each Field Day weekend is unique, with botanical field trips, socials, and workshops around the state. Explore native plant communities, learn about native plants, socialize with fellow plant folks, and get to know the local area. Tickets are limited, so we encourage you to plan early to ensure you get a space. Choose to attend one, two, or all three weekends – it's up to you!

[Click here for more information and registration](https://www.conradina.fnpschapters.org)

## Keep Brevard Beautiful Secret Garden Tour 2023

Keep Brevard Beautiful (KBB) is having its Secret Garden Tour on Saturday May 13th  
10am to 3pm (no sign-up needed!)

We have 9 gardens across Melbourne, West Melbourne, Melbourne Beach, and Indialantic. We have a few homes with natives, but mostly we went for Florida-friendly gardens in HOAs or smaller lots to showcase what people can do in a small space.

# KBB South Action Team Secret Garden Tour



**Purchase your \$10 booklet (used as your ticket) at these locations:**

- City of Melbourne City Hall
- Ace Hardware of Cocoa Beach
- City of Satellite Beach City Hall
- Keep Brevard Beautiful Office in Cocoa
- Sun Harbor Nursery in Indian Harbour Beach
- Vision 43 in Palm Bay
- Ace Hardware of Merritt Island

**Make checks payable to:**  
**Keep Brevard Beautiful, Inc.**  
Put "Secret Garden Tour" in Memoline

**If paying in cash, please leave exact change.**

**Saturday  
May 13, 2023  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**More information :**

Email Jennifer Wilster at  
Jennifer.Wilster@mlbfl.org



## We need your Voice to Protect the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary

Tell the Town Council to protect the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary for Florida Scrub-Jays!

Malabar Scrub Sanctuary in Brevard County provides critical habitat for federally Threatened Florida Scrub-Jays, which depend on regular prescribed fire to maintain their open, treeless habitat. Increasingly threatened, they are Florida's only endemic bird species, but their populations have declined by 90%.

A portion of Malabar Scrub's habitat needs to be restored, with the removal of trees that are encroaching on the rare scrub habitat. This restoration is key to the long-term survival of scrub-jays on these conservation lands.



### We Need You Monday Morning in Malabar

On Monday, May 1, the Town of Malabar and Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program, which manages the Malabar Scrub Sanctuary, are meeting to determine if the county will be able to continue to manage the Sanctuary for the purpose it was purchased – as habitat for Florida Scrub-Jays.

A group of off-road bicyclists, concerned about losing shade, have objected to the removal of trees. With many options for cycling in the area, the property is critical habitat for the Florida Scrub-Jay and should be managed accordingly. The meeting is expected to be attended by four Brevard County Commissioners and the entire Town Council.

We need you to attend and wear blue to show your support for Florida Scrub-Jay protection.

### When and Where

May 1, 2023. 10:00 a.m.

First Baptist Church of Malabar

1665 Malabar Rd

Malabar, FL 32950

Email Audrey DeRose-Wilson, Director of Bird Conservation, (Audrey.derosewilson@autobon.org) to coordinate your attendance. If you wish to speak (it is not required), members of the public will have three minutes each.

### Work with us to attend the meeting, and Thank You!

Florida Scrub-Jay. Photo: Terry Godbey/Audubon Photography Awards.

## News from the Palm Bay Sustainability Board

### Speaker on Wednesday May 24, 2023 at 6 pm at Palm Bay City Counsel Chambers is Steve Beeman from Beemats!

Ideally suited for retention ponds, Beemats are islands of plants, floating on mats, built to any size and shape.

As the plants on Beemats Floating Treatment Wetlands grow, the bio-available nutrients in the water are taken up by roots and stored in the growing plant tissues. Periodic harvesting of the mature plants prevents the stored nitrogen and phosphorus from entering the water when the plants die and decompose. The drivers of aquatic nutrient removal are actively growing plants. The patented floating wetland system optimizes nutrient harvesting through efficient biomass removal and rapid regrowth of established plants.



The floating platforms are constructed of closed cell, cross-linked polyethylene foam. The plants are encased in reusable polypropylene or biodegradable Danimer plastic aerated pots that are locked into the foam mats and allow root development to extend into the water column. Stainless steel grommets, embedded in Permalon plastic, create connection points for anchoring and for fabricating the components into islands.

For more info, check out [Home \(beemats.com\)](http://beemats.com) We hope other cities, HOAs, and homeowners will attend to learn about this valuable environmental opportunity!

### First Annual Palm Bay Sustainability Fair on Saturday April 15

Thank you to everyone who came out to make this a big success the first year with over 300 attendees, mostly children who had a great time! Check out this 1.2 minute video and shout out to native plants. Thanks again for supporting this important partnership with the City of Palm Bay! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xgI1xatgo3k&authuser=0>

### Other Events in Partnership with the Palm Bay Sustainability Board

Conradina also attended the following events in collaboration with the Palm Bay Sustainability Board:

- Florida Institute of Technology Sustainability Action Fair on April 17. Did you know there is now a college major for Sustainability?
- Make a Green Noise Environmental Justice Forum hosted by the South Brevard NAACP, Little Growers, and the City of Melbourne on April 22

## Get Ready for the 2023 Landscaping Florida Natives Tour!



**When:** Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 9 am – 4 pm

**Where:** Landscaping sites primarily in Satellite Beach

**What's Different this Year:** There will be special presentations for the Sept. and Oct. general meetings leading up to the tour **in a different location (not the Melbourne Library)** and open to the public. This will help tour attendees get a solid background in native plants and why they're important before the tour to maximize their experience.

**Location:** Satellite Beach Civic Center, 565 Cassia, Satellite Beach

**Sept Presentation:** Sharing Dr. Doug Tallamy's "Why Native Plants are important"

**September Dates & Times:** Sunday, Sep. 10: 2 - 4pm and Tuesday, Sep 12: 6 - 8pm

**October Presentation:** "Native Plants 101"

**October Dates & Times:** Sunday, Oct. 8: 2 - 4pm and Monday, Oct. 9: 6 - 8pm

**STAY TUNED FOR EVENTBRITE REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND LINK**

**What Can You Do to Help?**

We're looking for sponsors to help with the cost of putting on the tour. If you know someone or a business, please have them check out sponsorship levels at

[Sponsorship Opportunities - Conradina Chapter FNPS \(brevardlandscapetour.org\)](https://www.brevardlandscapetour.org)

# Sponsorship Opportunities for the 2023 Landscaping Tour

## 2023 Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour



Hosted By Conradina Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

October 14, 2023

### Sponsorship Opportunities

Please come support us for the 14th Annual Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour to observe and explore wonderful native plant landscapes at a variety of locations in South Brevard. The tour is a fabulous look at what homeowners and public spaces have done using native plants in different situations. Native plants are important to preserve our wildlife, pollinators and local heritage as well as requiring much less maintenance, water, and fertilizer, which benefits our local environment and the Indian River Lagoon. Sponsorship funds will be used to provide plant markers, volunteer t-shirts, and marketing media.

#### Sponsor Levels

**Oak tree *Quercus* Sponsor – the most powerful Brevard County keystone plant supports 395 species of insects**

- \$1,000**
- Photo advertisement with link on Landscaping Tour website for 1 year
  - Top placement of company logo/link on Sponsors page on Landscaping Tour website
  - Company logo on event t-shirts, postcards, flyers, social media, and posters
  - Full-page, color advertisement in the front of the Landscaping Tour Guidebook
  - Display of company marketing materials at Tour registration sites
  - 10 complimentary Landscaping Tour tickets



**Pine Tree *Pinus* Sponsor – supports 171 species of butterflies and moths**

- \$500**
- Captioned photo advertisement with link on Landscaping Tour website for 1 year
  - Company logo on event t-shirts, postcards, flyers, social media, and posters
  - Half-page, full-color advertisement inside Landscaping Tour Guidebook
  - Display of company marketing materials at Tour registration sites
  - 7 complimentary Landscaping Tour tickets



**Walter's viburnum *Viburnum* Sponsor – supports 75 species of butterflies and moths**

- \$250**
- Captioned photo advertisement with link on Landscaping Tour website for 1 year
  - Company logo on event t-shirts, postcards, flyers, social media, and posters
  - Quarter-page, full-color advertisement inside Landscaping Tour Guidebook
  - Display of company marketing materials at Tour registration sites
  - 4 complimentary Landscaping Tour tickets



**Goldenrod flowers *Solidago* Sponsor - supports 82 species of caterpillars and 12 species of native bees**

- \$100**
- Sponsor recognition (company logo/link) on Landscaping Tour website for 1 year
  - Business card, black & white advertisement in Landscaping Tour Guidebook
  - Display of company marketing materials at Tour registration sites
  - 2 complimentary Landscaping Tour tickets



The Conradina Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit.

Please check out our website at <https://conradina.fnpschapters.org>

Email [janehiggins2016@gmail.com](mailto:janehiggins2016@gmail.com) to inquire about becoming a sponsor.

## Chapter Projects

### Turkey Creek Day

On Saturday April 15th the Turkey Creek Sanctuary held its annual Turkey Creek Day.

Conradina had a booth where we had native plants for sale along with books and literature about native plants. The volunteers were Carol Hebert, Sara Morrison, Martha Steuart, Frank Sullivan, Karen Moser, Leonard McCray, Stewart Weimer, Lynne Mayer, and Carl Winebarger



## 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 SustainabilityAdvisory 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!**

## Officers and Directors

### President

Carl Winebarger 2022-2024

### Vice President

Lynda Geraci 2021-2023

### Secretary

Terry LaPlant 2022-2024

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### 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)

## Chapter News

**Florida Native Plant Society 42nd Annual (Virtual) Conference**  
Experience expert speakers, panel discussions, games, silent auction and more! For more information, Click here:

<https://www.fnps.org/conference/2023>

### 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 and 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 [janehiggins2016@gmail.com](mailto:janehiggins2016@gmail.com)



**CONRADINA  
CHAPTER**