

Conradina NEWS

Photos by Bob Peterson



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[Native Butterfly Flowers](#)

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January 2024

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Next Chapter Meeting

Monday, January 8, 2024

Conradina Chapter Meeting Monday, January 8, 2024

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

**Meet us at the First Church of the Nazarene
2745 S Babcock Street, Melbourne FL 32901**

The Brevard Zoo Aquarium Project Presented by Zach Marchetti

Zach Marchetti is the Community Engagement and Outreach Officer for Brevard Zoo. His experience includes two years leading a field research team in the Ecuadorian Amazon and over fifteen years in the zoo field as an educator, zookeeper, and spokesperson. In his current role, Zach works to connect internal and external audiences with Brevard Zoo's history, to create a future where wildlife and people can both thrive. Zach will discuss the past, present, and future of Brevard Zoo in Melbourne, FL. From the community volunteers who physically built the zoo in the early 90's to a recent ranking as one of the top three zoos in the country. Brevard Zoo's growth is an impressive story of collaboration, unexpected pathways, and tremendous community support. With special focus on the current \$100M, our Legacy Campaign to continue to grow the zoo and build a second campus at Port Canaveral: a World Class, 14-acre Aquarium and Conservation Center on the banks of the Banana River. Learn about the zoo's efforts to protect Florida's iconic waterways and how this project will help restore and protect the wild places we love.



Can't make it to the meeting?

Good news! Join in on our Youtube page.

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



www.conradina.fnpschapters.org



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

Carol's Corner: It is the night before Christmas..... and we are all hoping for peace in the world.

By Carol Hebert

Happy New Year!

Hopefully you were good this year and you earned what you received! Maybe something like a Simpson Stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans*), a beautiful evergreen with white flowers in springtime and wonderful reddish-brown bark? Or a few Stoke's Aster (*Stokesia laevis*) that is a wonderful wildflower with purple blooms for months in spring that will attract butterflies like Gulf Fritillary and Zebra Longwing?

Or what about a Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*)? This is the plant I selected to highlight. It is considered a shrub and can grow up to 20ft tall. It is another evergreen plant. Their leaves when crushed have a wonderful smell like Bay leaves and are said to naturally repel mosquitoes and fleas.



It has inconspicuous blooms in spring and fruits ripen in late summer to early fall. That is the best! As birds migrate south in winter months, Wax Myrtle offers plenty of nutrition. The fruit is formed along its stem and especially, Yellow-rumped warblers and Palm warblers love to eat the fruit! Wax Myrtle is such a great and easy to grow native shrub.

As a side note, on the day before Christmas Eve, I was looking out my front window and saw a Merlin on the light pole!

A Merlin is a beautiful yet small and stocky falcon bird. It has a sharp beak and was tearing apart a lizard and having a nice snack. The Wax Myrtle shrub was right below the light post.

Ahh, what inspiration. Cheers!



Plant Native!

Carol Hebert

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Date	Event
Monday, Jan 8, 2024	Chapter Meeting. Our Speaker will be Zach Marchetti, Community Engagement and Outreach Officer, Brevard Zoo. His topic will be The Aquarium Project.
Saturday, Jan 13, 2024, 6pm to 10pm	Moonlight Stroll at Erna Nixon Park, 1200 Evans Rd, W Melbourne FL 32904 No Parking at the Park (except Handicap Parking, Free shuttles from Melbourne Square Mall.
Monday, Jan 20, 2024, 8am to 5pm	The 2024 Transforming Landscapes Conference at the Emerson Center, 1590 27th Ave. Vero Beach, FL 32960
Monday, Feb 12, 2024	Chapter Meeting. Our Speaker will be Tim Kozusko, NASA Biologist. His topic will be Fire in the native landscape.
Saturday, Mar 2, 2024, 8am to 4pm	The Downtown Melbourne Botanical Fest
Sunday, Mar 3, 2024, 11am to 4pm	Pollinator Fair at Nance Park, 201 N Miramar Ave, Indialantic, FL 32903
Monday, Mar 11, 2024	Chapter Meeting. Our Speaker will be Heather Stapleton with One Lagoon Central IRL Community Engagement Coordinator. Her topic will be The Indian River Lagoon.
Saturday, Mar 16, 2024 and Saturday, Mar 23 Starting at 8am	Workday at Erna Nixon Park, 1200 Evans Rd, W Melbourne FL 32904 Help remove invasive species!
Saturday, Mar 23, 2024, Starting at 8am to 2pm	The 2024 Florida Friendly Landscaping Seminar at the Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E Hibiscus Blvd. Melbourne FL, 32901 There are no Vendor fees for this event.
Saturday, Mar 30, 2024, 4pm to 7pm	City of Palm Bay 2nd Annual Sustainability Fair at the Tony Rosa Community Center.
Monday, Apr 8, 2024	Chapter Meeting. Our Speaker will be Kenny Cogan. His topic will be Florida's Carnivorous Plants.
Friday, Apr 15, 2024	Turkey Creek Day. (Time to be announced)
Wednesday Apr 20 8am to 4pm	Satellite Beach Coastal Garden Fair

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
4C's Nursery		321-586-0019	Native plants, landscape design & installation
	Newsletter Sponsor		
	Brendan Healy	321-536-0655	Native and edible plants, landscape design, installation & maintenance
Florida Native Wildflowers	Sharon Dolan		Purchase pots, seeds and Florida Native Plants online
Go Native Landscaping	Nichole Perma	321-795-3111	Native landscape design, installation, consultation and maintenance
	Newsletter Sponsor		
	Tim / Anna	321-626-7386	Native plants and landscape design
Rockledge Gardens	General Information	321-636-7662	Expanding native plant selection
Rosemallow Farms	Tim & Ivoriann Wooley	321-236-1741	Native and Florida-friendly plants for sale to the public
Wild Wet N Wacky	Kiela Frank	321-417-2218	Expanding native plant selection

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

Moonlight Stroll at Erna Nixon Park



Moonlight Stroll in 2024

Where: Erna Nixon Park, 1200 Evans Road, West Melbourne, FL, 32904

When: Saturday, January 13, 2024, 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Cost: \$5 per person; 3 and under FREE

Join us for a wonderful evening with friends and family by viewing celestial bodies in the night sky through the telescopes provided by the Brevard Astronomical Society. Treat your tastebuds to some good gourmet food provided by our food trucks. Enjoy listening to live music by several live bands and solo artists throughout the park and boardwalk. We will also have a variety of local vendors with tables under the pavilion for shopping pleasure.

Pre-registration is requested. To pre-register visit <https://bit.ly/ENP-Moonlight-Stroll>. If you have an existing account or need to create one, for instructions, visit <https://bit.ly/2024-MLS-Account>.

ALL event parking will occur at the parking lot of Melbourne Square Mall. Free shuttles will be provided and available from that location. There's absolutely **NO** public parking at Erna Nixon Park. Disabled parking passes can be obtained from staff at the Melbourne Square Mall (JC Penny's south parking lot). Dates and times are subject to change, weather permitting.

To stay up to date on all event changes, follow us at [Facebook@BrevardParks](https://www.facebook.com/BrevardParks).

Call Erna Nixon Park at (321) 952-4525 for questions or concerns.



Brevard County Parks and Recreation
South Area Parks Operations
1515 Sarno Road, Building A, Melbourne, FL 32935
www.BrevardParks.com



The 2024 landscape conference

LEARN TO ENHANCE YOUR YARD WITH NATIVE PLANTS
**5TH TRANSFORMING LANDSCAPES
 FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**



**JANUARY 20, 2024
 AT THE EMERSON CENTER
 1590 27TH AVENUE
 VERO BEACH, FL 32960**



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



SPONSORS

Become a conference sponsor and get your name or business listed here!

- \$2,500**
 - Dr. Albert & Virginia Alley
- \$1,500**
 - Archie S. Wingfield, Jr. Charitable Trust
- \$1,000**
 - Kay Gibson
 - Goff & Associates, LLC
 - George & Toni Hamner
 - Drs. Andrew Liu & Brenda Baker
 - Windsor Properties
- \$500**
 - Native Butterfly Flowers Nursery
- \$250**
 - Conradina Chapter - FNPS
 - Environmental Learning Center
 - Friends of St. Sebastian River
 - Garden Club of Indian River County
 - Gopher Tortoise Alliance
 - Indian River Land Trust
 - Ralph Johansen
 - Dr. John & Judy Orcutt
 - Pelican Island Conservation Society
 - Sierra Club Turtle Coast Group
 - St. Lucie Audubon Society

8:00AM	Online Registration-PelicanIslandAudubon.org-Tickets \$25 & includes box lunch. \$35 after Jan 17. Native plants on sale from Native Plant Nurseries
9:00-9:50	Dr. Craig N. Huegel , Director, University of South Florida Botanical Garden, <i>Sustainable Landscapes and the Concept of Reciprocity: Why is giving back to the natural world sustainable?</i>
10:00-10:50	Betty Osceola , Member of the Miccosukee Tribe, <i>Reclaiming and Healing Our Natural Landscapes</i>
10:50-11:10	Break
11:10-12:10PM	Dr. Basil V. Iannone, III , Associate Professor, School of Forest, Fisheries, & Geomatics Sciences, University of Florida, <i>Stormwater Ponds: assessing utility, impacts, & potential contribution to urban diversity</i>
12:10-1:00	Lunch with Box Lunches included in the \$25 admission ticket for those attending in person.
1:00-1:50	Maya Dutta , Asst. Director of Regenerative Projects, Biodiversity for a Livable Climate, Cambridge, MA, <i>Restoring Ecosystems to Address Global Warming: Pocket Rewilding Using the Miyawaki Method</i>
2:00-2:50	Dr. Jaret C. Daniels , Curator, McGuire Center for Lepidoptera & Biodiversity, UF Museum of Natural History, <i>Creating Pollinator Pathways in the Built Environment & the Importance of Insects Especially Florida Natives</i>
2:50-3:20	Break
3:20-4:10	Dr. Reed F. Noss , President, Florida Institute for Conservation Science, <i>Big Picture Ecology: How Deep History & Large Landscape Thinking Help Us Understand & Save Florida's Unique Biodiversity</i>
4:10-4:30	Dr. Richard Baker - Discussion and Summary

LEARN MORE ABOUT PELICAN ISLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY
WWW.PELICANISLANDAUDUBON.ORG

PHONE: 772-567-3520

EMAIL: PIAUDUBON@YAHOO.COM

The Downtown Melbourne Botanical Fest



March 2, 2024 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

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!

Bring your wagon and leave with new items for your yard.


Parking is available at the many City of Melbourne public parking lots including the free parking garage.

For information about Vendor Spots and Sponsorship Opportunities, contact events@DowntownMelbourne.com

The Pollinator Fair at Nance Park



@ Nance Park

Sunday, March 3, 2024  11am-4pm

**FREE • FUN
FAMILY FRIENDLY**

FOOD TRUCKS

VENDORS

LIVE MUSIC

CHILDREN'S CRAFTS

Learn how to grow and support our local pollinator ecosystem of birds, bees, butterflies, plants and bats.



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 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. (palmbayflorida.org)

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

Palm Bay Sustainability Board Needs You

Want to make a difference in the environment where you live in Palm Bay?

The Palm Bay Sustainability Board currently has **two openings** that we need to fill and it would be great to fill those spots with folks like you knowledgeable about native plants and the environment.

The primary requirements are:

- Must be a resident of the City of Palm Bay for at least one year OR be the owner of a business located within the City of Palm Bay for at least one year
- Able to attend monthly meetings at 6 pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month
- Willing to work on issues related to improving the sustainability and environment of Palm Bay

For more information, please check out their website here:

[Sustainability Advisory Board | City of Palm Bay, FL \(palmbayflorida.org\)](https://www.palmbayflorida.org/sustainability-advisory-board)

Also feel free to contact the three Conradina members already on the Palm Bay Sustainability Board for any questions you may have:

Susan Connolly at Sbconnolly@aol.com

Rebecca Ziegler at rebeccarelgeiz@gmail.com

Jane Higgins at janehiggins2016@gmail.com

If you're interested in this opportunity, please fill out the online application here:

[APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP City Boards or Committees for the City of Palm Bay Florida \(palmbayflorida.org\)](https://www.palmbayflorida.org/application-for-membership-city-boards-or-committees-for-the-city-of-palm-bay-florida).

Thank you!!

Katherine Booth's Presentations



Check out this new resource available to you!

Katherine Booth from Vero Beach created the non-profit organization Let's Be A Good Neighbor to the Indian River Lagoon and has shared her amazing presentations with us for your education and to share with HOA groups and anyone else.

There are two presentations posted here: Resources - Conradina Chapter FNPS (brevardlandscapetour.org) They are:

- [HOA 10 Minute](#)
- [Organic Tree Care Protects the Lagoon](#)

Both presentations contain extensive presentation notes and make an excellent case for the organic care of oak trees. Our hope is you will find many opportunities to share this information with your friends, families, and contacts to spread the word about how each of us can help the Lagoon.

For any questions and to obtain the Powerpoint version of the these, please contact Katherine at mprademacher@msn.com

Thank you Katherine!

Nazarene Native Garden Committee Members Needed

If you've been to our new meeting location, you may have noticed the big open field in front just begging for native plants to encourage more pollinators and wildlife!

Conradina is paying Change of Greenery to develop the landscape plans for this area and we need some talented committee members to help us develop a long range plan to make this happen. Specifically, we need people to head up the following areas:

- Funding Coordinator - Identifying funding sources such as grants, business donations, in-kind donations, etc.
- Volunteer Coordinator – Contacting and coordinating volunteer groups to do the planting and maintenance when it's time.
- Communications Coordinator - Developing communications and publicity

If you're experienced in these areas and interested in serving on this committee alongside First Church of the Nazarene,

please contact Jane Higgins at janehiggins2016@gmail.com

And if you'd like to help with the planting and future maintenance, we'll be asking for those volunteers in the future so hang on!

Thank you!!



Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

Conradina is now an Affiliate Member of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs!

Since joining the Conradina Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society in 2019, I have become more and more impressed by what the Chapter is able to accomplish. And their willingness to partner with other like-minded organizations to achieve their goals is also heartening. That is why I sponsored Conradina to become an Affiliate Member of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. That application has been accepted and now the partnerships that Conradina is forming with our local garden clubs has become a much larger partnership that will have additional benefits for Conradina.

Those benefits include:

- Having a listing on the FFGC website that provides a link for all FFGC members to the Conradina website.
Here is a link to the FFGC website Affiliate Page: <https://ffgc.org/Affiliates>
- Posting up to six events annually on the FFGC on-line calendar.
I have access to the Form we'll use to submit those events.
- Posting those events on FFGC's social media platform.
- A discounted rate to advertise in the FFGC quarterly online magazine, *The Florida Gardener*. Here's a link to a page on which all the issues are available: <https://ffgc.org/The-Florida-Gardener>
Select the Winter edition to see the most recent issue. Affiliates have a prominent place in this issue. We'll have to get the media kit..
- A Call, aka an invitation, to the Annual State Convention, at which we may have an educational information display space, at no cost, and honor seating and recognition at all meal functions.
- Opportunities for presentations and speaker engagements, in person or by Zoom.

I am so happy to have been able to offer these benefits to Conradina. Let's start using them!

Lydia

Lydia Barbour

Melbourne Garden Club President

Port Malabar Garden Club Parliamentarian

FFGC's NGC Environmental School State Chairman

Conradina Chapter, FNPS, Landscaping Tour Volunteer Coordinator



Recent Events: The Ocean Reef Beach Festival

Conradina at the Ocean Reef Beach Festival on December 2, 2023
In Satellite Beach at Paradise Beach Park.



Thank you to our volunteer's. From left: Karen Moser, David Zeitz, Martha Steuart, Sara Morrison and Terry LaPlant (below) conversing with a customer.



Making Wreaths in December



Officers and Directors

President

Carl Winebarger 2022-2024

Vice President

Lynda Geraci 2021-2023

Secretary

Terry LaPlant 2022-2024

Treasurer

Jane Higgins 2022-2024

Chapter Representative

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

Bo Platt 2021-2023

David Zeitz 2022-2024

Past President

Carol Hebert 2022-2023

Membership Chair

Lynda Geraci

Webmaster

Cammie Donaldson

Newsletter Editor

Marilyn Peio

Conradina Chapter

Florida Native Plant Society

www.conradina.fnpschapters.org

[YouTube](#) - Conradina Chapter

FNPS

Florida Native Plant Society

www.fnps.org

Chapter News

Volunteer Call: For Native Garden Care

Are you passionate about preserving our local ecosystem and promoting the splendor of native flora? The Conradina Chapter invites you to join hands in nurturing nature by volunteering for the maintenance of our three vibrant native gardens!

Our gardens are located at DeGroot Library, MLK Library, and the West Melbourne Post Office.

Tasks include:

- Weeding
- Planting
- Basic garden upkeep

No green thumb required!
We'll have a training day
(date TBD) to get everyone
up to speed.

Why get involved?

- Support local biodiversity
- Learn about native plants
- Connect with fellow nature enthusiasts



Interested? Reach out to Jessica Paskert
at jessicapaskert@gmail.com to sign up or for more details.

Stay tuned for the training day announcement. Let's keep our native gardens thriving together!

