

Conradina NEWS

Photos by Bob Peterson



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MAY 2024

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Conradina Chapter Meeting Monday, May 13, 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**

Invasive Grasses in Florida presented by Marc Spiess

Marc Spiess is a book binder and studied philosophy at the University of Stuttgart, Germany, where he also worked as a landscaper and in habitat restoration before he and his family moved to Florida. He currently works as educator and the campus manager of the Environmental Learning Center in Vero Beach where he manages 64 acres of diverse upland and wetland with over 200 species of plants.



Among invasive species, grasses pose one of the greatest threats to biological diversity in Florida and make proper land management an increasing challenge as our climate continues to change. In this talk, we will take a closer look at the history and evolution of grasses to answer the question of what makes an exotic species invasive and how can we control them.

Can't make it to the meeting?

View prior meetings on our Youtube page

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

Next Chapter Meeting

Monday, May 13, 2024



www.conradina.fnpschapters.org



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

Carol's Corner: Natives Plant's Flowers Smell Delicious!

By Carol Hebert

So many native plants are in bloom right now! The Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) is gorgeous now. The large showy, lemon citronella-scented flowers are white and are about 10 to 11 inches wide. The leaves are dark green, stiff, and leathery, and often rough underneath. Magnolia can grow up to 100 feet tall! There is also Sweet-bay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*) which grows to about 35 - 50 feet and also has great smelling flowers.

In my yard are a few Simpson Stoppers (*Myrcianthes fragrans*) in bloom right now. Wow - they also smell wonderful! As I am looking at the plant to try to get the picture and begin seeing so many different insects all over the plant. I think I even got some kind of fly in the picture.

I have also enjoyed the blue colors of the Sky Cluster Vine (*Jacquemontia pentanthos*) growing on my metal plant stands. Enjoy all the colors of native plants!



Plant natives!
Carol Hebert



Upcoming Events

Date	Event
Sunday, May 5 at 10am	Volunteer Training. Help maintain Native Gardens at the West Melbourne Post Office. 2305 Minton Rd, Melbourne, FL 32904
Monday, May 13 at 5:30pm	Chapter Meeting. Our Speaker will be Marc Spiess, Naturalist at the Environmental Learning Center in Vero Beach. His topic is "Invasive Grasses in Florida".
Saturday, May 18 9am to noon	Plant Sale at the Brevard Discovery Garden (BDG). 3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa, FL 32926
Sunday, May 26 at 8:30am	Workday at the DeGroot Library
Sunday June 9 at noon	General Meeting at Erna Nixon Park followed by a Bring Your Own lunch social.
Sunday June 16 at 8:30am	Workday at the MLK Library
Sunday, Sept. 8 at 3pm	Info session on the HOA Journey to Native Landscape Approval More information soon!
Sunday, Sept. 9 at 6pm	Info session on the HOA Journey to Native Landscape Approval More information soon!
Sunday, Sept. 13 at 3pm	Info session on Alternatives to Invasive Plants - more info soon!
Sunday, Oct 14 at 6pm	Info session on Alternatives to Invasive Plants - more info soon!
Saturday, Oct 26	The 15th Annual Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour. All homes are in the Melbourne, Viera and Rockledge areas.

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.

Vote for Officers and Board Members at May's General Meeting

At our May's general meeting members of the Conradina Chapter of FNPS will vote for new officers and board members.

The candidates are:

President - Lynda Geraci 6/1/2024-5/31/2026

Vice President - Sara Morrison 6/1/2024-5/31/2026

Secretary (2nd term) - Terry LaPlante 6/1/2024-5/31/2026

Board Member (2nd term) Annie Doshna 6/1/2024-5/31/2026

Board Member - Richard Blackford 6/1/2024-5/31/2026

Board Member - Christine Ryba 6/1/2024-5/31/2026

Board Member - Christine Bamberger 6/1/2024-5/31/2026

We look forward to all members of the Conradina Chapter FNPS to vote at the May 13, 2024 meeting

Conradina was at the 2nd Annual Palm Bay Sustainability Fair!

It was a windy afternoon and we greatly appreciated all the other environmental non-profits that came out to the event! Lots of great connections were made!!!



Help Preserve Native Gardens

Volunteer Opportunity

Help maintain our vibrant native gardens at DeGroot Library, MLK Library, and West Melbourne Post Office. No experience needed!

Interested? Contact Jessica Paskert at jessicapaskert@gmail.com. Your help is appreciated!

Volunteer Training:

Sunday, May 5th

8:30AM

West Melbourne Post Office

Work Day:

Sunday, May 26th

8:30AM

DeGroot Library

Work Day

Sunday, June 16th

8:30AM

MLK Library

Please wear closed toed shoes and work gloves. Bring your own garden hand tools and shovels, bags to put the weeds in, kneeling pads, hats and WATER



Plant Sale at the Brevard Discovery Garden



Brevard Discovery Garden MAY MADNESS FUNDRAISER

Caladiums, Cannas, Berries & More !

**Saturday, May 18, 2024
9am to Noon**

- In exchange for a donation you can take home potted **Caladiums, Canna Lilies, and Raspberry** plants for your garden.
- Also available will be **Native and Florida Friendly Plants** as well as the largest inventory of **Louisiana Irises** you'll find anywhere in Florida!
- A limited supply of **heat-tolerant Tomato Plants, Vegetables & Herbs** will be available. Help us clear out our nursery before the Summer heat!
- Tour the **BDG Demonstration Gardens** to learn about environmentally friendly gardening practices. **Brevard County Master Gardeners** will be on hand to answer gardening and plant questions.
- Our **Sharpening Master** volunteers will be set-up to clean and sharpen your dull gardening tools (\$5 minimum donation - 2 tools per visitor)
- **Plant Prana Wellness** will be on-site with organic microgreens & growing kits.
- Attend a free **UF/IFAS Sally Scalera** gardening presentation and a **Master Gardener Discussion on Butterflies** held in the demonstration garden.
- All donations are Cash or Check only (payable to UF Foundation).

For More Information go to
[Facebook.com/BrevardDiscoveryGarden](https://www.facebook.com/BrevardDiscoveryGarden)

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Brevard
COUNTY



Brevard Discovery Garden



FLORIDA
MASTER
GARDENER
VOLUNTEER

3695 Lake Dr, Cocoa, FL 32926

The University of Florida is committed to providing universal access to all of our events. For disability accommodations such as sign language interpreters and listening devices, please contact the UF/IFAS Brevard County Extension Office at brevard@ifas.ufl.edu or (321) 633-1702 at least 2 weeks in advance. Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs. **Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution**

15th Annual Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour

Save the Date!

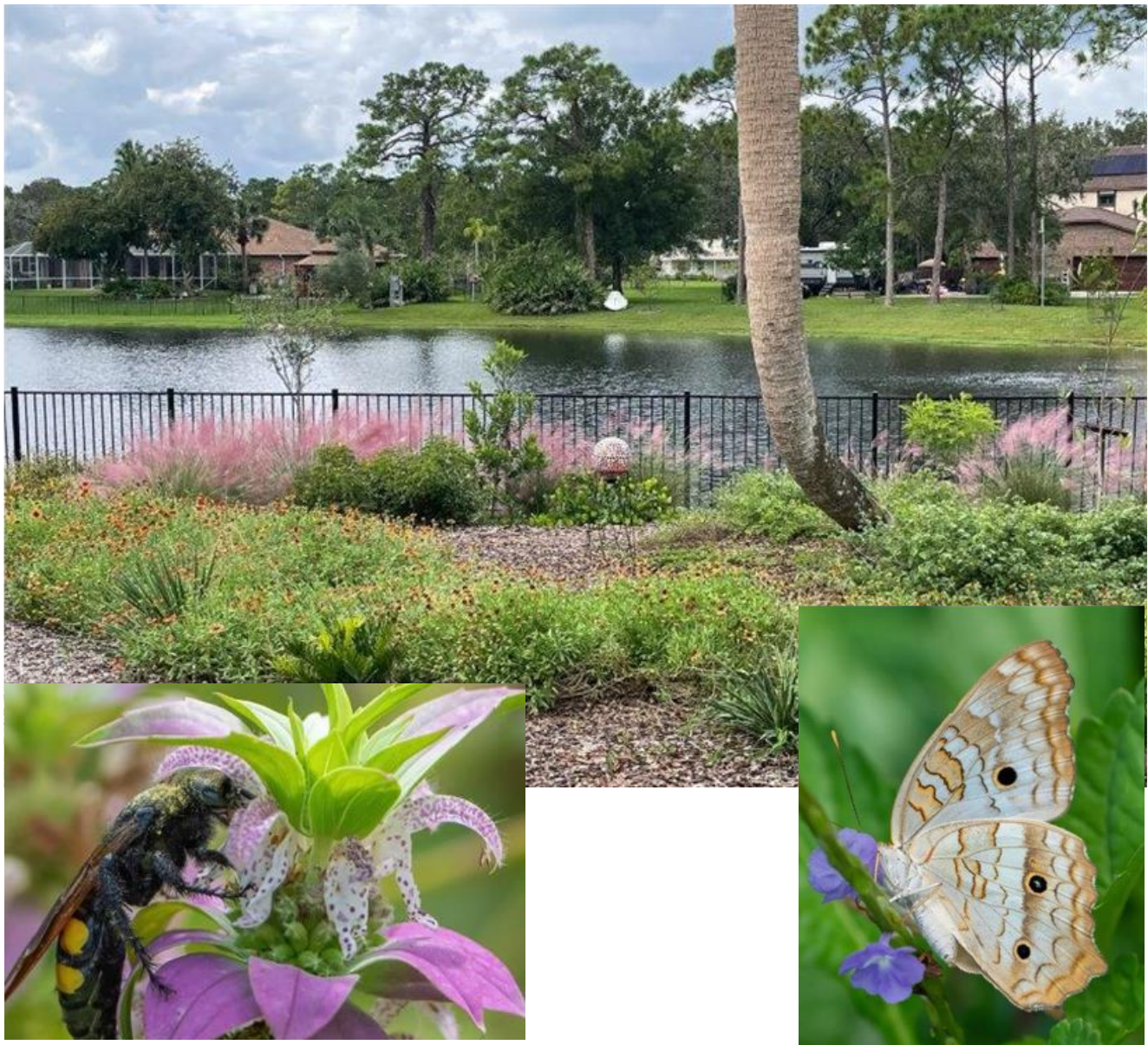
15th Annual Landscaping with Fl Natives Tour

Saturday Oct. 26, 2024

Please plan to join us this Oct. 26 as our emphasis this year is on HOA homes!

- Currently we have six homes scheduled on the tour and five of them are in HOAs.
- All homes are in the Melbourne, Viera, and Rockledge area.
- We're also working on a special presentation in either Sept. or Oct. addressing how to present your native landscape plan to an HOA.

Stay tuned for more info soon! It's going to be another awesome tour!



Funding for the FNPS

Ever Wonder Where Our Funding Goes and How You Make a Difference?

Here's a great example: On Superbowl Sunday of 2022, volunteers from L3Harris showed up at the Florida Wildlife Hospital to plant 80-100 plants and spread many bales of pine straw (both donated by Conradina) to create native landscape buffers for the wildlife during their rehabilitation. Two years later, these plants are looking good and also producing an abundance of beauty berries to feed some of the wildlife!

Thank you for supporting our projects with your paid membership! It's easy to join FNPS at <https://www.fnps.org/support/membership>

For more info about the Florida Wildlife Hospital, please go to [Rescue, Rehabilitate, & Release Animals – Florida Wildlife Hospital](#)



Why We Have Lawns

From the National Wildlife Federation

Please share with your friends, family and neighbors!!



Alison Pope – Flickr

Why We Have Lawns

Dive into the history of these grassy landscapes with us in the first blog in our new series all about lawns and their impact on wildlife. Filling our yards with perfectly trimmed turf grass has become an American standard, but where did that idea come from?

Discover the complex history behind lawns.

[Why We Have Lawns - The National Wildlife Federation Blog \(nwf.org\)](https://www.nwf.org/blog/why-we-have-lawns)

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 2nd Thursday 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

April Events - The Melbourne Botanical Fest

Thanks to all the volunteers that made it possible.

Martha Steuart, David Zeitz, Frank Sullivan, Richard Blackford, Elizabeth A. Blackford, Jamie Snider, Kathryn Merry, Paul Merry, Anne Crowley, Sara Morrison, Carl Winebarger, Amy Loucks, Lisa Alford, Jan Dearman, Barbara Branhan, and Carol Hebert



April Events - Satellite Beach Earth Day

Thanks to all the volunteers that made it possible.

Martha Stuart, David Zeitz, Carl Winebarger



April Events - Turkey Creek Day

Thanks to all the volunteers that made it possible.

Frank Sullivan, Martha Stewart, David Zeitz, Karen Moser, Paul Titus, Stewart Weimer, Leonard McCray, Carol Hebert and Carl Winebarger



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

David Zeitz 2022-2024

Past President

Carol Hebert 2022-2023

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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

Help Recycle & Reuse Nursery Pots

Members participating in providing native plants for the plant drawing for our monthly meetings are in need of small pots (1 gal or less).

Please bring your extra pots to the meeting.

We will collect and distribute.

All members are encouraged

- to bring native plants to share and
- to bring empty pots to pass along

Thanks!



We need a back-up tech person at our monthly meetings please!

This is an extremely important task to facilitate the awesome presenters coming to our meetings!

We now have documented instructions on how to use the equipment at First Church. If you're a techie and interested in helping us out at the monthly meetings, please contact Jane at janehiggins2016@gmail.com



**CONRADINA
CHAPTER**