

Photos by Bob Peterson



# Conradina NEWS

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[Native Butterfly Flowers](#)



## December 2024

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## Conradina Chapter Meeting Monday, December 9, 2024 at 6:00 PM

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

### Wreath Making in the Nazarene Gymnasium

Get ready for the annual wreath making event!! This year we'll be in the Nazarene gymnasium with lots of room to spread out. It's the large building on the left when you're heading toward the building, we usually meet in. We officially start at 6 pm but feel free to come early!

All materials are supplied and Conradina has 45 wreaths to give away for free at the meeting so if you have your own grapevine or natural wreath please bring it to the meeting. We're supplying and using all native materials so no glue guns or plastic please.

Also, if you're in the giving spirit, please bring a donation to the Nazarene Growing Hope Boutique that provides clothing and resources to local families in need. They're currently asking for:

- Diapers
- New children's socks and underwear (boxers for boys)
- New adult socks and underwear

For more info visit here: [Compassion & Outreach - Melbourne First Church Of The Nazarene - Melbourne Florida](#)



A big THANK YOU to Chris Waltz for Donating 15 wreaths for participants to use at our December meeting.

View prior meetings on our Youtube page

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

**Next Chapter Meeting**

**Monday, December 9, 2024**



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



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

## Carol's Corner: Holiday Colors!

By Carol Hebert

There are plants blooming during the holidays. They are in a variety of colors like red, blue, yellows and purple!

My Wild Coffee is looking great with its red berries! *Psychotria nervosa* has such beautiful textured leaves and after the white flowers it produces the red berries that are such a wonderful contrast. The genus *Psychotria* comes from the Greek *psyché*, which means "life" or "soul."

Another color of red in the garden is the Bird Pepper (*Capsicum annuum* var. *glabriusculum*) I added to my front garden.

It has red fruit all of the time! It comes from white flowers and it can be in part sun to part shade. It is from the *Solanaceae*, or the nightshades family of flowering plants that ranges from annual and perennial herbs. This family includes some of the world's most important food plants, such as the potato, tomato, all peppers, ground cherries (tomatillo), and eggplant. The fruit on the Bird Pepper is very hot!

Last but not least there are tons of yellow flowers in my yard! Goldenrod is in full bloom! I believe I have *Solidago leavenworthii* because my blooms grow up to 6 feet tall. What a display! I saw about six of these Oleander moths (*Syntomeida epilais*) on the goldenrod. Oleander moth is thought to be native to the Caribbean and it loves Oleander plants

Plant natives!  
Carol Hebert



## Upcoming Events

Date	Event
Monday, Dec 9 2024	General Meeting: Holiday Wreath Making with Natives and Natural Materials
Tuesday, Dec 10 2024	Lagoon Straight Talk and the Eau Gallie Civic Center. 5:30 to 8pm
Saturday, Dec 14 2024	Ocean Reef Beach Festival at Pelican Beach Park 1525 Hwy A1A 32937. Starts at 10am
Monday, Jan 13 2025	General Meeting: Speaker Lisa Ruckman. Topic: "How homeowners can transition to natives"
Saturday, Jan 18 2025	Transforming Landscapes Conference at the Emerson Center in Vero Beach 8am to 4pm
Saturday, Jan 18 2025	Florida Arbor Day, 499 Desoto Parkway, Satellite Beach FL 32937, 9am to 2pm
Friday, Jan 22 to Tuesday Jan 26 2025	Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival at Cape Canaveral
Monday, Feb 10 2025	General Meeting: Speaker Katherine Booth Topic: Protect the Lagoon by Organic Care of Native Trees
Saturday, Feb 23 2025	Polinator Fair at Nance Park, 201 N. Miramar Ave., Indialantic 32903
Monday, Mar 10 2025	General Meeting: Speaker TBD
March 2025	Florida Friendly Landscape Seminar Melbourne
Apr 2 thru 6 2025	FNPS Conference <a href="https://www.fnps.org/conference/2025">https://www.fnps.org/conference/2025</a>
Saturday, Apr 5 2025	Melbourne Beach Sustainability Day 10am to 3pm
Saturday, Apr 5 2025	Indian Harbour Beach Arbor Day
Saturday, Apr.12 2025	The Downtown Botanical Festival, 8am to 4pm
Monday, Apr 14 2025	General Meeting: Speakers: Tim and Anna from Native Butterfly Flowers
Saturday, Apr.26 2025	Turkey Creek Day
Monday, May 12 2025	General Meeting: Speaker TBD

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="#">Change of Greenery</a>	<a href="#">Brendan Healy</a>	321-536-0655	Native and edible plants, landscape design, installation & maintenance
<a href="#">Four C's Nursery</a>		321-729-0351	Native plants, landscape design & installation
<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
	<b>Newsletter Sponsor</b>		
	<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="#">Rosemallow Farms</a>	Tim & Ivoriann Wooley	321-236-1741	Native and Florida-friendly plants for sale to the public
<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 at [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.

# Lagoon Straight Talk

**December 10th**

**Lagoon STRAIGHT TALK**

## Lagoon Restoration Progress

**5:30-8:00pm**

**Eau Gallie Civic Center**  
1551 Highland Ave.  
Melbourne

Learn about progress on Lagoon Restoration projects and septic system upgrade funding opportunities

Sponsored by:



**BREVARD INDIAN RIVER LAGOON COALITION**  
HelpTheLagoon.org

Florida Arbor Day

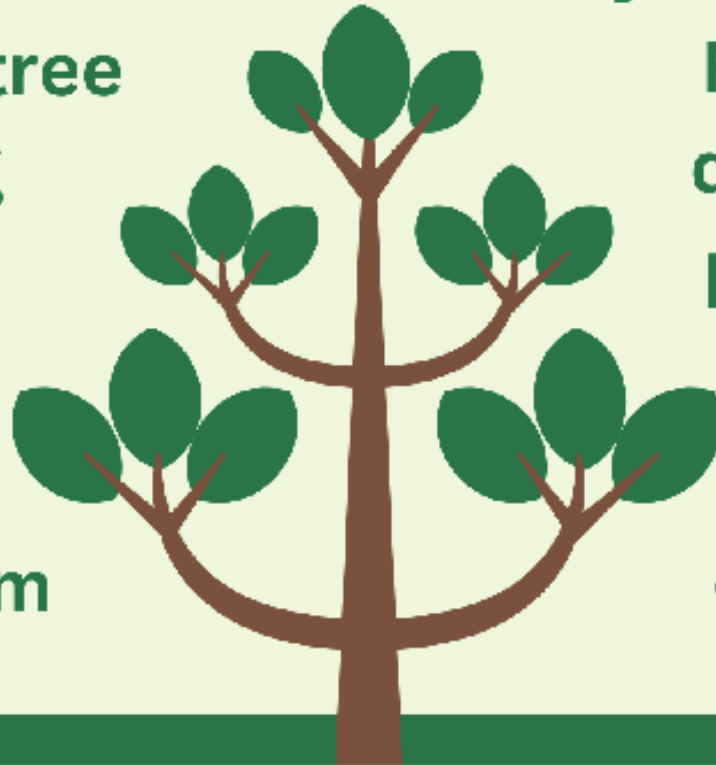
Save the Date  
January 18th 2025



FLORIDA  
**ARBOR DAY**

499 Desoto Pkwy

Annual tree  
planting  
Native  
plant  
sale  
9am-2pm



Food and  
drinks for  
purchase  
Plant  
vendors  
and alike

Funding for this project provided by the Inflation Reduction Act and the USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program in partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation.

The City of Satellite Beach and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service are equal opportunity providers and employers.

## Transforming Landscapes Conference Schedule

# 6TH TRANSFORMING LANDSCAPES FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

JANUARY 18, 2025

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**

**\$1,500**

**\$1,000**

**\$500**

**\$250**

Conradina Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society

8:00AM	<b>Online Registration-PelicanIslandAudubon.org-Tickets \$25 &amp; Includes box lunch. \$35 after Jan 12.</b> Native plants on sale from Native Plant Nurseries
9:00-9:50	<b>Dr. Craig N. Huegel</b> , Curator, University of South Florida Botanical Garden, owner and operator of Hawthorn Hill Native Wildflowers, and teaches biology at St. Petersburg College. <i>Native Trees for Birds</i>
10:00-10:50	<b>Troy Springer</b> , Founder & President, Springer Environmental Services, <i>Taking Green Landscaping to the Next Level</i>
10:50-11:10	Break   <b>Native plants on sale from Native Plant Nurseries</b>
11:10-12:00PM	<b>Emily Bell</b> , Communications Coordinator, Florida Wildflower Foundation. <i>Bring on the Butterflies</i>
12:00-1:00	<b>Lunch with Box Lunches included in the \$25 admission ticket for those attending in person.</b>
1:00-1:50	<b>Tia Silvasy</b> , University of Florida Residential Horticulture Extension Agent, Hillsborough County, <i>No Mow Lawns in Florida</i>
2:00-2:50	<b>Dr. Lyn Gettys</b> , Associate Professor of Agronomy (Aquatic and Wetland Plant Science) University of Florida/IFAS Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center in Davie, FL. <i>Healthy Ponds Using Native Plants for a Sustainable Future</i>
2:50-3:20	Break   <b>Native plants on sale from Native Plant Nurseries</b>
3:20-4:10	<b>Eric Draper</b> , Retired Florida Park Service Director & Former Audubon Florida Society Executive Director. <i>State Parks and Wildlife Corridors: Strategies for a Sustainable Future</i>
4:10-4:30	<b>Dr. Richard Baker</b> - Discussion and Summary

**LEARN MORE ABOUT PELICAN ISLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY**

**WWW.PELICANISLANDAUDUBON.ORG**

**PHONE: 772-567-3520**

**EMAIL: PIAUDUBON@YAHOO.COM**

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



**Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival**

# SPACE COAST BIRDING & WILDLIFE FESTIVAL

## CAPE CANAVERAL

Painted Bunting, Merritt Island  
National Wildlife Refuge.  
Photo: Marie-Josée D'Amour



## JANUARY 22-26, 2025

## [HTTPS://SCBWA.NET](https://scbwa.net)

Located at the Radisson Resort at the Port, Cape Canaveral.

Participate in one of the largest, most comprehensive birding and wildlife festivals in the country!

Check out the Field Trips tab and write down trips that interest you. See the other tabs, for the four wonderful keynotes and presentations (free, more to be added).

Here is [the link to start registration](https://scbwa.net).

# Indian River Lagoon Day



The Indian River Lagoon Day was held on November 9th at 2210 Front Street Park in Melbourne. Conradina along with other environmental exhibitors presented a variety of opportunities in restoration activities, educational efforts, and citizen-science projects. Our display had a variety of native plants and books for sale.



## Work Day at the MLK Library

What a wonderful group of volunteers helping to give the Dr. MLK Jr library a touch up! We used 12 bags of mulch and Carl led the cutting and attaching the wood borders to stay in place.

We were also lucky to have beautiful weather as we beautified the landscape!

It looks great!

BIG thank you to Carl for leading the way to getting the wooden borders lined up. That helped a lot.

We appreciate everyone's help to make the job go smoother and the landscape look better.



In the picture above from left to right are Connor, Carl, Carol, Stewart, Jessica and Paul.

Thank you all for helping with the garden at the Dr. MLK Library

On Thursday Nov 14 at 955 E University Blvd. Melbourne FL

## 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. ([palmbayflorida.org](http://palmbayflorida.org))

City	Meeting Time & Place	Website
Indialantic	5:30 pm on 2nd Thursday 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 (<a href="http://melbourneflorida.org">melbourneflorida.org</a>)</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 (<a href="http://cityofrockledge.org">cityofrockledge.org</a>)</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="http://palmbayflorida.org">palmbayflorida.org</a> )
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 Connally at [Sbconnolly@aol.com](mailto:Sbconnolly@aol.com)

Rebecca Ziegler at [rebeccarelgeiz@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccarelgeiz@gmail.com)

Jane Higgins at [janehiggins2016@gmail.com](mailto: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!!



## Officers and Directors

### President

Lynda Geraci 2024-2026

### Vice President

Sara Morrison 2024-2026

### Secretary

Terry LaPlant 2024-2026

### Treasurer

Jane Higgins 2022-2025

### Chapter Representative

Martha Steuart 2022-2025

### Board of Directors At Large

Anastasia Doshna 2024-2026

Richard Blackford 2024-2026

Carol Hebert 2022-2025

Christine Ryba 2024-2026

Christine Bamberger 2024-2026

Karen Moser 2022-2025

David Zeitz 2022-2025

### Past President

Carl Winebarger 2024-2026

### Membership Coordinator

Chris Ryba

### Newsletter Editor

Marilyn Peio

### Volunteer Coordinator

Christine Bamberger

### Webmaster

Jamie Snider

### 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

### 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!

### Looking to make a Required Minimum Distribution donation from your IRA?

The Conradina chapter of the FNPS is a register 501c3 non-profit and would be happy to accept any contributions you'd like to make to further our local efforts for native plant education and conservation.

**THANK YOU** to Heather Elko for recent making a RMD contribution to Conradina!

Please contact our Treasurer:

Jane Higgins at [janehiggins2016@gmail.com](mailto:janehiggins2016@gmail.com)

for any info you need about us or how to contribute.



### Turkey Creek After Dark on November 16th

This was the first time that Conradina attended the Turkey Creek After Dark Event. About 900 people were in attendance. One of the activities was a night time walk through the Turkey Creek Sanctuary along with entertainment and several food trucks.. We handed out a lot of literature and answered many questions about Conradina and using native plants in home owner's landscapes.