

Photos by Bob Peterson



Conradina NEWS

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[Native Butterfly Flowers](#)



February 2025

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Conradina Chapter Meeting Monday, February 10, 2025 at 6:00 PM

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

Protect the Lagoon by Organic Care of Native Trees by Katherine Booth

Katherine has lived in the South and mainly Florida since graduating with her master's degree as a nurse practitioner. After retirement, she started a Conservation Club at her condominium association that has outreach into other homeowner associations, educating owners about Florida native plants and wildlife and innovations in technology to restore water quality. Since 2019, she has served on the City of Vero Beach Tree Protection and Beautification Commission, and most recently as Chairperson, she led the effort that improved the City's Landscape and Tree Protection ordinances to help restore the water quality of the Lagoon. Most recently she is working with the City of Palm Bay Sustainability Advisory Board to revise their landscaping codes. Katherine has also founded a nonprofit environmental organization, *Let's Be a Good Neighbor to the Lagoon*, to share the message that native plant landscaping and organic care of native trees are a "solution to pollution" and critical to clean air and clean water for human health.



Let's Be a Good Neighbor to the Lagoon offers presentations of varied lengths to interested audiences.

Can't make it to the meeting?

Good news! Join in on our Youtube page.

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

Next Chapter Meeting

Monday, February 10, 2025



www.conradina.fnpschapters.org



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

Carol's Corner: String Lily

By Carol Hebert

Happy February! Glad we did not get snow like Pensacola did but it sure was cold here!

I am featuring String Lily or Swamp Lily. It is named *Crinum americanum*. I like String Lily as a common name because the flower's petals are long and string-like. The flowers also smell so wonderful! The books say that String Lily likes it in moist areas and in my yard the plants grow under several Slash Pines (*Pinus elliottii*) and they look beautiful.

The flowers start out in big buds and open into outrageous flowers!

After it is done blooming it forms buds on the stem and with the weight will bend it over and often break off to fall on the ground. Then right next to the plant the bulb sprouts and starts a new one.

The only problem is that *Crinum* lily is host to the Lubber Grasshopper (*Romalea microptera*). The Lubber Grasshopper is named that way because "lubber" is derived from an old English word "lobre" which means lazy or clumsy.

The Lubber grasshopper is a big and lazy grasshopper but I have lived here for 8 years and haven't encountered any lubbers on my Sting lilies.

Try new native plants for your yard.

Plant natives!

Carol Hebert



Upcoming Events

Date	Event
Monday, Feb 10 2025	General Meeting: Speaker Katherine Booth Topic: Protect the Lagoon by Organic Care of Native Trees
Saturday, Feb 15 2025	Invasive Plant Removal at Erna Nixon Park from 9am to 12pm
Friday Feb 21 and Saturday Feb 22	Church of Nazarene—Native Garden Project. Volunteers, please sign up by February 1st
Saturday, Feb 22 2025	Orlando Wetlands Festival from 9am to 3pm at 25115 Wheeler Road, Christmas Florida 32709
Sunday, Feb 23 2025	Pollinator Fair at Nance Park, 201 N. Miramar Ave., Indialantic 32903
Monday, Mar 10 2025	General Meeting: Speaker Mark Kiteli Topic: Tree ID Game
Saturday Mar 22 2025	Florida Friendly Landscaping Seminar from 9am to 1pm at the Melbourne Auditorium on Hibiscus Ave/
Apr 2 thru 6 2025	FNPS Conference https://www.fnps.org/conference/2025
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
Saturday, May 3 2025	City of Palm Bay Third Annual Sustainability Fair at Fred Poppe Regional Park , 325 Championship Circle NW, Palm Bay, FL 32907 4pm to 7pm
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
Change of Greenery	Brendan Healy	321-536-0655	Native and edible plants, landscape design, installation & maintenance
Four C's Nursery		321-729-0351	Native plants, landscape design & installation
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.

Invasive Plant Removal at Erna Nixon Park

Please Help Us Tackle Invasive Plants at Erna Nixon Park

Saturday, Feb. 15 from 9-12

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.



Shoebuttles ardisia
Ardisia elliptica
Photo by Ann Murray
© 2009 University of Florida

Please join us at Erna Nixon Park to remove invasive plants and bring family and friends to lend a hand to this local beautiful habitat:

Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025	Invasive plant removal at Erna Nixon Park, 9 am to 12 pm. Bring lunch if you'd like to work longer
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Please wear closed toes shoes and work gloves, bring water, snacks and lunch. Supervised children are welcome. This is a great opportunity for teens needing community service hours! No experience needed!

For questions, please contact janehiggins2016@gmail.com

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

[Florida Invasive Species Council](#)

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

Church of Nazarene Native Garden Project Phase 1

Church of Nazarene and Conradina Chapter FNPS Native Garden Project – Phase 1 Feb. 21-22



Join us to install native plants for Phase 1 of this project!

Volunteers are needed:
12 on Friday for planting area preparation.
30 on Saturday to plant, mulch and water.

Please sign up on our spreadsheet here:

[Nazarene Native Garden Project - Feb 21-22 - Google Sheets](#) OR

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14vFl71KzVqA7yDVk-RABY1GA8_9na_zU6EygSvoyd3Q/edit?gid=0#gid=0



Orlando Wetlands Festival

Orlando Wetlands Festival

February 22, 2025 @ 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

<https://www.orlando.gov/Events/Orlando-Wetlands-Festival-2025>

The Orlando Wetlands Festival is a biennial event (every other year). This is a free event for all ages! Join us Saturday, February 22, 2025, from 9 am until 3 pm, to explore exhibits, guided hikes and tours, presentations, games, live animals, native plant giveaway, and more!

Bring the whole family for a day of outdoor fun and learning

Since 2001, the Orlando Wetlands Festival has promoted community awareness of the Orlando Wetlands and the importance of Florida's ecological and water resources.

The Orlando Wetlands is a manmade wetland designed to provide advanced treatment for reclaimed water from the City of Orlando and other local cities. The Wetlands consist of 1,650 acres in size and located in Christmas, Florida.

Visitors can visit the Wetlands on Tuesdays through Sundays, between sunrise and sunset, to enjoy primitive and passive activities including photography, wildlife viewing, hiking, biking (non-motorized), horseback riding, and guided tours.

Visit our [website](#) for more details about the Orlando Wetlands Festival!

Contact

Orlando Wetlands

407-568-1706

[View Organizer Website](#)

wetlandsfestival@orlando.gov

Location

Orlando Wetlands

25155 Wheeler Road

Christmas, FL 32709 United States [Get Directions from Google Maps](#)

407-568-1706

[View Venue Website](#)

Polanator Fair at Nance Park



Florida Native Plant Society 43rd Conference

FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
43RD CONFERENCE
GAINESVILLE | APRIL 2-6, 2025



Registration is now open!
Early bird discount through Jan 31st

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



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

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 \(palmbayflorida.org\)](http://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

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 \(palmbayflorida.org\)](http://palmbayflorida.org/application-for-membership-city-boards-or-committees-for-the-city-of-palm-bay-florida).

Thank you!!



Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival

The Space Coast Birding Festival took place January 22 thru 26 at the Radison Resort in Cape Canaveral

A huge thank you to the Space Coast Birding Festival for their support of non-profits at this important event and to the Sea Rocket Chapter of FNPS for collaborating with us.



Here's a pic of our very professional table and volunteers to the left and on top is a pic of the winners of the Conradina silent auction items. It was great talking to so many birders from other states and hearing their stories.

Thank you to the Conradina Board volunteers that came out We look forward to doing this event next year!

Officers and Directors

President

Lynda Geraci 2024-2026

Vice President

Sara Morrison 2024-2026

Secretary

Terry LaPlant 2024-2026

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Jane Higgins 2022-2025

Chapter Representative

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Conradina Chapter

Florida Native Plant Society

www.conradina.fnpschapters.org

[YouTube](#) - Conradina Chapter

FNPS

Florida Native Plant Society

www.fnps.org



**CONRADINA
CHAPTER**

Chapter News

Events Back-up Cashier Needed

Have you noticed Conradina is attending a lot of events to educate people about native plants? Our cashier Martha does a phenomenal job but can't be at every event, especially when events overlap. If you're good with money and available on some weekends, we need to develop a back-up. Here are our suggested qualifications:

- Comfortable handling money and putting a summary report together
- Experience using credit cards and willing to learn the seller side
- Availability to attend events as needed

We'll provide training! If you're interested, please contact Jane, Treasurer at janehiggins2016@gmail.com to discuss further. Thank you!!!

Prior Plant Signs Available for Sale

We have moved to new and improved plant signs at our landscape tour thanks to our Master Gardener friends. Hopefully you saw them! We're looking to sell the old ones shown here and we have about 300 of them sorted and ready to go with the metal stakes pictured. If you have a use for many of these, please let us know! They cost \$5 each with sign and stake but we're willing to make a volume deal. They have a special coating and should last a long time outside.

Current pricing is \$3 each or 2 for \$5



Did you enjoy the beautyberry jelly at the January meeting?

If you are interested in trying to make your own, here is the recipe that Leonard used. The only difference is that he used 2 envelopes of pectin because otherwise it was not thickening.

<https://tableandhearth.com/wp-json/mv-create/v1/creations/33/print>