

Photos by Bob Peterson



Conradina NEWS

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[Native Butterfly Flowers](#)



MARCH 2025

Inside this issue:

[Page 2. Carol's Corner](#)

[Page 3. Upcoming Events](#)

[Page 4. Native Plant Nurseries](#)

[Page 5. UF IFAS South Florida Arboriculture](#)

[Page 6. Church of Nazarene Native Garden Project](#)

[Page 7. Spring Fling Plant Sale](#)

[Page 8. Florida Native Plant Society 43rd Conference](#)

[Page 9. Invitation to Participate in a Research Project](#)

[Page 10. Your Local Sustainability Advisory Board](#)

[Page 11. Palm Bay Sustainability Board Needs You!](#)

[Page 12. Conradina News](#)

[Page 13. Pollinator Fair Pictures](#)

[Page 14. Chapter Board & News](#)

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

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

Tree ID Game by Mark Kateli



Mark Kateli is celebrating his 15th year as a Florida Native Plant Society member! He served as President from 2022-2024, and is currently the President of Cuplet Fern chapter, serving Seminole and West Volusia.

Mark has his BA in Business Administration from the University of Florida. He is an advanced master naturalist, master gardener, and certified prescribed burn manager..

Mark's favorite way to learn is through game-based learning.

This program will involve live results and prizes! We hope you can join this fun program while discovering more about Florida's beautiful native plants.

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, March 10, 2025



www.conradina.fnpschapters.org



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

Spring has Sprung!

By Carol Hebert

In Florida you can see most of the plants have moved into spring! The Oak trees (*Quercus sp.*) are the trees turning a pretty dirty-gold color with its catkins hanging down spreading pollen. (Aaah-chew!) A catkin is the name of the blooming device for the oak. Have you noticed any yellow on your car? Before too long we will see acorns sprouting in to oak trees so oaks can reproduce. In addition to feeding so many critters with acorns a few will sprout up and grow into oak tree. Squirrels love acorns! They also “plant” a few themselves by trying to hide them to eat them to eat later. A few acorns sprout before they are remembered to be eaten.



There is also the Walter's Viburnum (*Viburnum obovatum*) is in full bloom right now. It has vibrant white flowers. It is about 5-6 feet in size and planted like a hedge is a great option because it is evergreen. It will develop some fruit by summer.



My highlight is the Florida Privet plant. (*Forestiera segregata*).

It is a shrub and grows to 10-15 feet tall and is multi stemmed. I'm glad I planted in my yard about 6 years in the perfect spot to screen the neighbors. It is so low maintenance and when it blooms it is so subtle. However the insects and bees find it!



Plant natives in your yard!

Carol Hebert

Upcoming Events

Date	Event
Wednesday Work Days March 5, 12 and 26 10am to 12 noon	Wednesday Work Days at Erna Nixon Park . Type of work depends on Park needs.
Saturday Mar 8 1pm to 3pm	Invasive Species Removal Workday at Erna Nixon Park
Monday, Mar 10	General Meeting: Speaker Mark Kateli Topic: Tree ID Game
Saturday Mar 22 9am to 1pm	Florida Friendly Landscaping Seminar from at the Melbourne Auditorium on Hibiscus Ave/
Wednesday Mar 26 at 6pm	Palm Bay Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting
Friday Mar 28 and Sat- urday Mar 29 9am to 12pm	Native Graden Project, First Church of the Nazarene
Saturday Mar 29 9am to 1pm	Spring Fling Plant Sale and More at the Brevard County Extention Office, 3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa FL 32936
Apr 2 thru 6 2025	FNPS 43rd Conference https://www.fnps.org/conference/2025
Saturday, Apr 5 2025	Melbourne Beach Sustainability Day 10am to 3pm
Saturday, Apr 5 2025 10am to 1pm	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, Uncommitted	Turkey Creek Day at 1518 Port Malabar Blvd NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905
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 Lisa Frazier, Palm Bay Growth Management Director. Her Topic : Low Impact Developement

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.

UF IFAS South Florida Arboriculture



SOUTH FLORIDA ARBORICULTURE AND LANDSCAPE

PROFESSIONAL WEBINAR SERIES



General attendance is **free** through the registration of any given zoom webinar at this [Link](#) if CEU's are needed, please use the appropriate Eventbrite link on the right hand column to make selections.

DATE	PRESENTER	TOPIC	CEU LINKS
January 16, 2025	Dr. John Roberts and Yvette Goodiel	Native Trees of South Florida: Part II	January Eventbrite Registration Link
February 20, 2025	Dr. Andrew Koeser	Restoration Pruning for Hurricane and Storm Damage	February Eventbrite Registration Link
March 20, 2025	Todd Little	Bolstering Urban Tree Canopy in South Florida	March Eventbrite Registration Link
April 17, 2025	Dr. Braham Dhillon	Fungal Diseases of Palms	April Eventbrite Registration Link
May 15, 2025	Dr. Adam Dale	IPM of Insects on Trees and Palms in the Landscape	May Eventbrite Registration Link
June 19, 2025	Dr. Marco Schiavon	Turf Nutrition and What to do Facing Summer Fertilizer Blackout Periods	June Eventbrite Registration Link
July 17, 2025	Brooke Moffis	Using Native Plants in Landscapes	July Eventbrite Registration Link
August 21, 2025	Alyssa Vinson	Demystifying Mangrove Management	August Eventbrite Registration Link
September 18, 2025	Dr. John Roberts and Henry Mayer	Getting the Most Service from Your Trees: Ecosystem Services in the Urban Landscape	September Eventbrite Registration Link
October 16, 2025	Dr. Ashley Smyth	We All Live Downstream: Nutrients in Coastal and Aquatic Ecosystems	October Eventbrite Registration Link
November 20, 2025	Dr. Ryan Klein	Protecting Landscape Trees During Construction - A BMP Crash Course	November Eventbrite Registration Link
December 18, 2025	Kara Krueger and Yvette Goodiel	Native Shrubs and Small Tree Species for Tight Spaces in the South Florida Landscape	December Eventbrite Registration Link



Cost: FREE for general attendance. However, there is a \$10 processing fee per CEU.

* Note: Tickets for each session and type of CEU must be procured individually via Eventbrite. Availability of CEU's for FDACS, FNGLA, ISA & LIAF will vary based on specific Webinar. Check each eventbrite link for ticket availability.

If you are a person with a disability who needs an accommodation to participate in this event, please contact John Roberts, 531 N Military Trl, West Palm Beach, FL 33415, Telephone: (561) 233-1713, Email: JWR09@ufl.edu, at least ten (10) days before the event.

Church of Nazarene Native Garden Project

Florida Native Plant Society
Conradina Chapter

Native GARDEN Project

FRIDAY, MARCH 28
SATURDAY, MARCH 29
from 9am to 12pm (both days)

Melbourne First Church of the Nazarene
2745 South Babcock Street - Melbourne
(just north of FL Tech campus)

FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER,
SCAN QR CODE BELOW!

A project sponsored by: Community Foundation of Brevard, the Florida Native Plant Society - Conradina Chapter, & Mosaic Compassion



Spring Fling Plant Sale



UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
Brevard COUNTY

Brevard Discovery Garden

3RD ANNUAL SPRING FLING

Saturday, March 29, 2025 - 9am-1pm

- **Master Gardener**-grown **Native** and **Florida Friendly** plants, beautiful **Louisiana Irises** and a variety of vegetables & herbs ready to plant in your garden
- Tour the gardens & chat with local Master Gardeners
- Get your **tools sharpened**, attend a Master Gardener **Q&A session**, and visit the **Kids Activity Tables**
- All donations for plants are used to maintain and improve the non-profit **Brevard Discovery Garden** (cash or check only)

Brevard County Extension Office
3695 Lake Drive, Coca FL 32926



Click on QR Code for more information or go to Brevard Discovery Garden Facebook Page

The University of Florida is committed to providing universal access to all of our events. For disability accommodations such as sign language interpreters & 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



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>



Invitation to Participate in a Research Project

My name is Sonia Stephens, and I am an Associate Professor of English at the University of Central Florida. I'm writing to invite you to participate in a research project that I'm conducting to study how people use nature identification apps, which are tools whose main purpose is to help people identify species of plants, animals, or fungi. For example, this includes Audubon Bird Guide, iNaturalist, Merlin Bird ID, PlantSnap, and ShroomID, among others. I am looking for people to interview about how they use these apps to identify species, what role apps play in their nature observations, and what they like and dislike about these apps.

If you are interested in participating, the interview will take between 45-60 minutes, and it will be conducted using Zoom web conferencing software. You will be asked questions about your experiences using nature identification apps, how frequently you use them, what role they play in your nature observations, and what you like and dislike about these apps.

In order to participate, you will need to have access to a computer or tablet that can download Zoom.

If you are interested in participating, please reply to sonia.stephens@ucf.edu with the following information. I will follow up with a link to an online appointment calendar for scheduling an interview.

- Your name and preferred email address.
- What types of nature observations do you usually make? This could include birding/birdwatching, plant identification, herping, mushroom identification, or something else.
- Which nature identification apps do you use? Examples include Audubon Bird Guide, iNaturalist, Merlin Bird ID, PlantSnap, or ShroomID, but there are many others.

You must be 18 years of age or older and able to speak and read English to take part in this research study. You must also be someone who uses plant or animal identification apps when observing nature.

This study has been approved by the UCF Institutional Review Board. If you have questions or concerns about this study, or want to participate, please contact me at sonia.stephens@ucf.edu.

Thank you.
Sonia Stephens

Dr. Sonia Stephens (she/her)
Associate Professor, English Department
Interim Associate Chair, English Department
University of Central Florida
sonia.stephens@ucf.edu

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 \(palmbayflorida.org\)](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

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!!



Conradina News

Palm Bay City Hall Expansion Project – Sustainability Initiatives

Palm Bay Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday March 26 at 6 pm Palm Bay City Hall

120 Malabar Rd, Palm Bay, FL 32909

Please join us at the March Palm Bay Sustainability Advisory Board when the architects for the new City Hall project share the Low Impact Development concepts incorporated into the design of this building.

Designed by Silling Architects from Orlando, Florida, the new city building features tilt wall construction, expanded parking, and new landscaping to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the surrounding area. Moreover, sustainability initiatives such as LED lighting with occupancy sensors, a roof prepped for future solar installations, and sub-surface water retention under new parking lots highlight the City's dedication to environmental responsibility.



Thank you to our hard working volunteers for a great morning of removing lots of *Ardisia* plants and berries that is so prolific!

If you'd like to help out Erna Nixon Park more during these cooler months, here's their schedule of workdays:

- Invasive Species Removal Workday, **Saturday, March 8, from 1-3 PM**
- Wednesday Workdays (these may or may not be invasive workdays depending on park needs) from 10 AM to 12 PM on Wednesdays, March 5, March 12, and March 26.

Pollinator Fair Pictures

On Sunday February 23rd Conradina attended the 2nd Annual Pollinator Fair at Nance Park. The weather was great with sunny skies. It was a well attended event with a lot of visitors to our booth. We were able to interact with a variety of people about native plants and the benefits in their landscape.



Officers and Directors

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Lynda Geraci 2024-2026

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Conradina Chapter

Florida Native Plant Society

www.conradina.fnpschapters.org

[YouTube](#) - Conradina Chapter

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www.fnps.org



**CONRADINA
CHAPTER**

Chapter Board and 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

