

Photos by Bob Peterson



Conradina NEWS

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[Native Butterfly Flowers](#)



APRIL 2025

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Conradina Chapter Meeting Monday, April 14, 2025 at 6:00 PM

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

What You Plant Matters by Tim and Anna Harrison

Tim and Anna Harrison created “Native Butterfly Flowers Nursery” in 2015. They grow and sell Florida Native wildflowers, shrubs, grasses and trees. With a focus on biological diversity, they design landscapes to create habitat for the birds, bees, butterflies and other wildlife.

Their mission is to provide a diverse selection of Florida native plants to homeowners, businesses and public facilities in order to create habitats that are useful for wildlife, environmentally friendly and sustainable without the use of fertilizers or chemicals



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, April 14, 2025



www.conradina.fnpschapters.org



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

Church of Nazarene and Conradina Chapter FNPS Native Garden Project—Phase 1

Thanks to everyone who came out March 28-29 – it looks awesome!!!
Check out the amazing video here: [Facebook](#)

We need people to water!!! Please contact
janehiggins2016@gmail.com to volunteer – it's very relaxing!!



Silk Grass

By Carol Hebert



Isn't that a wonderful name?

It has several common names such as Silver-leaved aster, Grass-leaved golden-aster, Silky golden-aster and Narrowleaf silkgrass. The plant's scientific name is (*Pityopsis graminifolia*). This plant is a robust perennial wildflower found in scrub, scrubby flatwoods and pine flatwoods throughout the state.



My front yard is in full sun and I just planted a few in the area. One is already started to bloom in pretty yellow flowers. The family part of the plant's name is *Asteraceae*, which is a large family of flowering plants that consists of over 32,000 known species. The family is commonly known as the aster, daisy, composite, or sunflower family. The leaves are so silky and shiny they almost look like grass. The leaves are covered in fine hairs, giving the leaves a silvery hue. The species *graminifolia* is from the Latin *gramen*, or "grass," and *folius*, or "leaf."

I do have a non-native plant growing in my garden that I love to eat! I mostly eat them in salads or straight off the plant. It is the wonderful cherry tomatoes! Currently they are blooming with pretty yellow flowers. The tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*), is a plant whose fruit is an edible berry that is eaten as a vegetable.



The tomato is a member of the nightshade family that includes tobacco, potato, and chili peppers. It originated from and was domesticated in western South America. It was introduced to the Old World by the Spanish in the Columbian exchange in the 16th century.

Plants always have a wonderful history.

Plant Native!

Carol Hebert

Upcoming Events

Date	Event
Apr 2 thru 6 2025	FNPS 43rd Conference https://www.fnps.org/conference/2025
Saturday, Apr 5 2025 9am to 2pm	Melbourne Beach Sustainability Day at 509 Ocean Ave., Melbourne Beach FL 32951
Saturday, Apr 5 2025 10am to 1pm	Indian Harbour Beach Arbor Day at Gleason Park, 1233 Yacht Club Blvd, Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937
Saturday, Apr.12 2025 8am to 4pm	The Downtown Melbourne Botanical Festival at the 1900 Building, 1900 S Harbor City Blvd, Melbourne FL
Monday, Apr 14 2025	General Meeting: Speakers: Tim and Anna from Native Butterfly Flowers. Topic will be What You Plant Matters
Saturday, Apr 19 2025 9am to 4pm	Turkey Creek Day at 1518 Port Malabar Blvd NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905
Monday, May 12 2025	General Meeting: Speaker Lisa Frazier, Palm Bay Growth Management Director. Her Topic : Low Impact Development

See Conradina web page for additional events: <https://conradina.fnpschapters.org/events/>



Join us on Saturday April 5th st Gleason Park. 1233 Yacht Club Blvd, Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937

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.

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>



Melbourne Beach Nature Day

The Melbourne Beach Environmental Advisory Board is proud to host the 2nd Annual Nature Day, an educational, family-friendly event dedicated to spreading awareness and sharing progress on local environmental efforts.

WHEN: Saturday, April 5th, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

WHERE: Community Center at Ryckman Park
509 Ocean Avenue, Melbourne Beach

- WHAT:**
- 🗣️ Environmental Speakers & Tables
 - 🌿 Native Plant Giveaway
 - 🎵 Food Vendors & Entertainment
 - 🦋 Kids Activities

The Downtown Melbourne Botanical Fest



DOWNTOWN MELBOURNE BOTANICAL FEST 2025

April 12, 2025 @ 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Step into spring at the 2025 Downtown Melbourne Botanical Fest April 12th, 2025, a vibrant celebration of nature's beauty! Bursting with color and fragrance, as you browse over 30 unique vendors showcasing the wonders of botanical diversity.

This free, family-friendly event is the perfect way to welcome the season. Enjoy local art, shop downtown for distinctive treasures, and indulge in delicious cuisine—all while soaking in the fresh, lively spirit of spring.

This FREE family-friendly event attracts visitors from the region and features lavish landscape designs, garden sculptures, flowers and plants, trees and shrubs, unique gifts, garden-themed art and much more

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

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

Conradina Chapter FNPS will be there!

Turkey Creek Day



TURKEY CREEK DAY
A FREE FAMILY FUN DAY
SATURDAY, APRIL 19 • 9:30 TO 3PM

Local craft vendors
Environmental Groups
Childrens storytime with a special guest
Games for the kids
Scavenger Hunt • Nature Tours

TURKEY CREEK'S FAMOUS HOT DOG LUNCH



Join us Saturday April 19th at 1518 Port Malabar Blvd NE, Palm Bay FL 32905

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!!



The Florida Friendly Landscape Seminar

The Florida Friendly Landscape Seminar held on the March 22nd in the Melbourne Auditorium was a very well attended event. featuring four speakers:

Kathy Hill from the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program, Sally Scalera “Love your soil – Love the IRL”, followed by Tim Harrison of Native Butterfly Flowers “What you plant matters!, and Skip Healy “Nurturing Native Landscapes: Tips and Tricks”.

There were a variety of vendors and environmental groups.

Conradina had lots of interested people asking questions and buying plants and books.



Native Seeds and Flip My Florida HOA Entrance

Native Seeds Wanted for Earth Day at Erna Nixon Park

Got extra native plant seeds? If so, please drop them off with Susan Skinner for her visitors and children's programs.

Susan is also looking for pollinator plants this summer for their Pollinator Garden if you'd like to also share extras you have..

Let's spread those natives!

For questions, contact Susan at Susan.Skinner@brevardfl.gov

Susan Skinner

Environmental Program Supervisor

Erna Nixon Park

1200 Evans Road
West Melbourne, FL 32904

P: (321) 952-4525

<http://www.BrevardParks.com>



Flip My Florida HOA Entrance



Recently Conradina was contacted by the Flip My Florida Yard PBS TV crew and a few of us participated in this awesome project.

Stay tuned for the episode this summer!

Officers and Directors

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Lynda Geraci 2024-2026

Vice President

Sara Morrison 2024-2026

Secretary

Terry LaPlante 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

