

Photos by Bob Peterson



Conradina NEWS

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MAY 2025

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Conradina Chapter Meeting Monday, May 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM

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

Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development

Lisa Frazier, Palm Bay Growth Management
Director will be discussing Green
Infrastructure (GI) and Low Impact
Development (LID).

Lisa Frazier came to the City of Palm Bay in
2023 with over thirty years of experience,
specializing in land use, environmental
planning, infrastructure, and grant administration.



Lisa will be discussing Green Infrastructure and Low Impact
Development. These are related concepts focused on managing
stormwater and enhancing natural processes in urban
environments. The following is a good explanation of how the two terms
are integrated: “GI encompasses a broader range of practices, including
natural features and engineered systems, that mimic nature to provide
various ecosystem services. LID is a specific design approach within GI
that emphasizes preserving natural features and minimizing impervious
surfaces to manage stormwater on-site. Both aim to improve water
quality, reduce flooding, and create more sustainable urban
landscapes.”

Green infrastructure is a connection of LID's in a broader landscape
and encompasses more than just stormwater. I want to bring this
concept as a way of incorporating native plants and their preservation
as part of the system.

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, May 12, 2025



www.conradina.fnpschapters.org



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

Church of Nazarene and Conradina Chapter FNPS Native Garden Project Update

Thanks to everyone who has been watering during this drought we're in. Please sign up to water every few days [here](#).

Now we're ready to start funding the Phase 2 Food Forest!

This is the section between the two large buildings with a goal of providing food for those in need in the local community. And we need your help! Here's what you can do:

- Provide funding sources
- Research grant opportunities by googling food forest grants
- Identify partners/groups to collaborate with on this project.

We're shooting to plant this early 2026 and looking forward to your help. Please contact janehiggins2016@gmail.com to get involved!



Highlighting the Rouge Plant

By Carol Hebert

I am highlighting the Rouge Plant (*Rivina humilis*) this month.

It is classified as a shrub because it can grow to 3-5 feet tall. It is a wonderful plant that blooms almost all year. The best part about it blooms is that it has tiny white flowers and next develops showy red berries on the spikes borne throughout the year. In other words it always has some colors showing every time you look at it!



Rivina humilis is a species of the flowering plants in the family *Petiveriaceae*.

It was formerly placed in the pokeweed family, *Phytolaccaceae*. The juice made from the berries was used as a dye and ink at one time. The berries contain a pigment known as rivianin.

Ironically, Rouge Plant has been introduced to other areas of the world.

Rouge Plant is considered a "weed" in Queensland, Australia. Crazy right?

Evaluate what is native to Florida.

Plant Native!

Carol Hebert

Upcoming Events

Date	Event
Monday, May 12 2025	General Meeting Speaker: Lisa Frazier, Palm Bay Growth Management Director. Her Topic : Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development
Tuesday, May 20, 2025	Speak Up Brevard discussion meeting at Commision Chanbers, Bldg C, top floor. 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Melbourne, FL 32940
Monday, June 9, 2025	General Meeting NEW Venue for June is at Church of the Nazarene with a tour of the new native garden plantes. Speaker: Jane Higgins will present Dr.Tallamy’s ‘Why Native Plants Are Important.’

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

**The public is invited to all of the following Educational sessions.
Save Our Indian River Lagoon &
Florida Friendly Learning Series**

All Suntree Neighborhood Residents are invited to Suntree Library to participate in SOIRL Pond Watch Pilot Education for HOAs

When: Every 4th Tuesday in 2025

- o 12:00pm - Welcome, Set up & Light Refreshments
- o 12:30 to 1:30pm - Speaker Q&A
- o 1:30 to 2:00pm - Adjourn & Clean up

MAR 25 Florida Custom Aquatics: HOA Stormwater Best Management Practices

APR 22 SOIRL Stormwater Pond Watch: HOA Education Part 2

MAY 27 Brevard County Natural Resources: Mosquito Control

JUN 24 SOIRL Pond Watch Education Series Continues Part 3

JUL 22 Surfrider Ocean Friendly Gardens: Benefitting Water Quality and Wildlife

AUG 26 SOIRL Pond Watch Education Series Continues Part 4

SEP 23 Jane Higgins Conradina, Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society presents Doug Tallamy’s Homegrown Parks Initiative

OCT 28 SOIRL Pond Watch Education Series Continues Part 5

NOV 25 Rain Gardens and Green Stormwater Techniques for Suntree HOA

DEC 30 SOIRL Pond Watch Education Series Continues Part 6

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.

The 2024 Annual Report

2024 Annual Report

Conradina Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

182 Members
28 new!

2024 Landscape Tour
Focused on HOA homes
167 attendees
Sponsorships \$4,200

Chapter Volunteers
3,810 hours or
\$120,400 of economic impact!

Community Foundation FOR BREVARD
Received grant to create Nazarene Native Garden

Meetings Outreach
Total attendance of 450
Plants given away 800
Books sold \$2,948

Outreach Events
13 Events/Festivals
3 Invasive Plant Removal Projects

Advocacy
Mail list of 1,000+

FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
serenoa repens

Legislation Action You Can Take!

You've probably seen and heard all the uproar about saving the Florida State Parks from developers and it's so important that YOU let your local representative hear from you on this! Deadlines are often tight on these requests so the best way to stay up to date is to sign up for FNPS Action Alerts here: [Florida Native Plant Society \(FNPS\)](#)

Please sign up to receive the FNPS Action Alerts on how YOU can make a difference in our beautiful state. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A FNPS MEMBER TO SIGN UP!!**

The sign-up link will also show you all of the recent action alerts if you ever need to catch up.

Thank you for being a citizen taking action for our environment!



Native Plants Need a Voice!

Good environmental regulations lead to environmental planning and conservation. FNPS works with policy makers and policy implementers to support natural land conservation and protection of native plants.

Join us on Tuesday May 20 at 9am for the Speak Up Brevard discussion, Brevard County Commissioner meeting to be held at the Commission Chambers, Bldg C, top floor. 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Melbourne, FL 32940.

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 \(palmbayflorida.org\)](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!!



The Downtown Melbourne Botanical Fest

Conradina was at the 9th Annual Melbourne Botanical Fest on April 12th. It was a free event that was well attended. Our Conradina volunteers were able to answer questions about native plants and give information about them. Participants were able to purchase a wide variety of native plants and books.



Turkey Creek Day

Turkey Creek held it's annual "Family Fun Day" on April 19th. There were a variety of vendors and environmental groups along with games, scavenger hunts and nature tours. Conradina had a booth where we were handing out information about native plants along with plants and books for purchase



Officers and Directors

President

Lynda Geraci 2024-2026

Vice President

Sara Morrison 2024-2026

Secretary

Terry LaPlante 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

[YouTube](#) - Conradina Chapter

FNPS

Florida Native Plant Society

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!!!