2020 Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour

A Virtual Tour This Year

Conradina Chapter – South Brevard
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Welcome to the 2020
Landscaping with Florida Natives Yard Tour

Four residential yards and one public space are available for you to tour and learn about Florida native plants:

Laura
Melbourne 32901
Wayne and Emmie
Melbourne 32924
Jane
Palm Bay 32907
Viki
Palm Bay 32905

Barrier Island Sanctuary
8385 S Highway A1A
Melbourne Beach 3951

Each Florida native yard and space has a story, and this booklet contains six stories. The yards on this tour are considered to contain at least 75% Florida native plants. In many cases, homeowners made a gradual transition from non-natives to Florida natives.

Please enjoy their stories and be inspired to create change in your yard for our environment!

Check out lots of resources to help you plant native at www.fnps.org

Our Mission is to promote the preservation, conservation and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.
Laura
Melbourne 32901

We bought our home in February. I knew I was going to buy it before I even stepped inside. I was lucky enough to have bought the house from a professional native gardener, Drew Dolan. Most of you will be familiar with Drew and his parents, Sharon and Brent Dolan of Maple Street Natives.

Drew had owned the home for ten years and spent that time making the garden beautiful. Rarely do I not see butterflies, bees, birds and lizards. I am still discovering plants I didn’t know were there. I am looking forward to adding to the garden, eventually, but for now, I am just enjoying it.
Loving the outdoors, Wayne and Emmie wanted a yard that would embrace Florida’s natural environment, while attracting butterflies and birds to their yard. In 2002, they purchased an undeveloped lot covered with native trees and shrubs. It is a small lot, so in order to save as much of the native vegetation outside the house pad as possible, they worked with their builder to have the house built using stem wall construction, instead of simply building on a slab which requires the clear cutting of a lot. Their efforts to save the natural environment included hiring an arborist to root prune and water the oaks and maples on the site during construction.

Over the years the original native vegetation at the back of the house and sides has been preserved, and additional native plants have been added. Most of the front of the lot had to be cleared during construction but has been replanted, primarily with native trees, shrubs and flowers.

Please join us at our monthly meetings to learn more about native plants! Check out our meeting information and keep up with all we have going on plus check out our cool newsletter at http://conradina.fnpschapters.org/
Jane
Palm Bay 32907

My motivation to go native started when I realized my youngest son would soon be leaving for college and I would have to learn how to use a lawnmower to mow a lawn that didn’t look very good to begin with. I didn’t want to use poisons in the yard or fertilizers and although I had made a few attempts at landscaping, they weren’t usually successful.

So hearing about Maple Street Natives, they did a landscape plan for my yard and I tackled it in sections which worked out well for the budget and for sporadic time commitments. Thank you Sharon and Brent! I did get a little overly ambitious in the front yard and tackled that all at once covering it with black plastic to kill the grass. Thank goodness my neighbors have been tolerant and patient!

The benefits of using natives are numerous including the ever changing landscape of what is blooming, viewing the wildlife, and a lot less work. We’ve noticed a dramatic increase in the amount of wildlife, specifically different species of birds and butterflies and even bunnies. Now my weeding is to help control the overgrowth and for therapy. What you will see is a yard that looks more like a natural habitat – kind of wild and chaotic and not perfectly manicured.

We’re very proud of our piece of wildlife corridor and hoping it sets a great example for others. My goals now are to plant more edibles wherever I can fit them in, keep learning, and maintain the yard as a learning opportunity to share. Enjoy!
We are new – and not new – to Brevard County. I originally moved here in 1968 when my mother bought this house – and yard. I attended college and “visited” here until graduation but after my husband and I married we lived in Brevard County for five years. In 1977 we moved to Tallahassee but continued to feel a tug to return. In 2014 I inherited my mother’s property and we began renovations to the house and yard. We repatriated ourselves permanently on the last day in January of 2019.

During our 40 year absence Palm Bay grew from a town of several thousand to the largest community in Brevard. There were more people, more buildings, more roads, and less natural greenery. We knew the plight of the Florida landscape and the Indian River Lagoon and we wanted to contribute in a personal way to its healing.

We met Tim and Anna from Native Butterfly Flowers who helped us develop a plan. The yard was razed with only a few plants and trees retained in memory of my mother. Tim and Anna drew up a garden blueprint with an eye to diversity and especially with the propagation of various butterfly species in mind. This year I felt privileged to watch Atala butterflies flutter around the coontie ferns and lay their eggs. Then excitement erupted when multiple red-with-yellow-dots caterpillars began crawling up and down the fern stems. Now those caterpillars are dissolving into suspended cocoons. Amazing!

The “native plant life” is just beginning for us. From Tim and Anna we are learning names and identifications as well as which type of soil and light is good for which plant. We watch the magical self-propagation of blanket flowers, partridge pea, and horsemint as they seem to move across the ground. Their flowers are as interesting as their plant names, especially the purple pagoda like tips of blooming horsemint.

Right now, we have settled on the goal of making the front yard look “landscaped” with several sections of defined native plantings interspersed with stretches of grass mixed with frogfruit and other spreading cover. In contrast, little “manicuring” takes place in the back yard. Here, the space is much smaller but hearty in its contained wildness. For me, the back yard offers a little patch of Florida paradise.
The Barrier Island Sanctuary is 34 acres of coastal habitat in the heart of the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge in Melbourne Beach, FL. The Sanctuary is owned and managed by Brevard County's Environmentally Endangered Lands Program. It spans from ocean to lagoon and has undergone more than a decade of extensive restoration projects removing invasive plants and restoring hydrology.

The Island Garden Club based in Melbourne Beach, FL formed a partnership with the Barrier Island Sanctuary in 2018 providing dedicated volunteers and resources on an ongoing basis, to further the advancement of Sanctuary preservation. The club's efforts center on key areas outside of the “building” and can expand as necessary or requested to meet volunteer demands within the Barrier Island Center.

In 2019, Conradina FNPS partnered with the Island Garden Club and Barrier Island Sanctuary to underwrite funding for the KBB Florida Friendly Grant for the Barrier Island Center. This partnership has successfully funded two of the KBB Florida Friendly Grants. Phase one is a meadow located on the Northeast side of the main parking area and Phase two is located Southeast of the main building in a dry retention area. Both areas were disturbed during the construction of the Barrier Island Center and restoration of these areas provided essential habitat for many threatened and endangered species. Hardy coastal species were selected for the sites and include; cordgrass, muhly grass, beach panicum, beach elder, sea-oxeye daisy, dune sunflower, blanket flower, coastal love grass, dotted horsemint, blue curls, golden creeper, beach verbena, horizontal cocoplum, coontie, blue porterweed, spiderlily, inkberry and seaside goldenrod.

Submitted by: Nichole Perna, Assistant Land Manager, EELS Program; Julia Hill, President, Island Garden Club and Kathryn Merry, Project Lead, Conradina FNPS.
## Florida Native Plantings at Public Locations

**Thank You KBB and Check Them Out!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Zip</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lagoon Park</td>
<td>227 Crescent Drive</td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>32901</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Melbourne Post Office</td>
<td>2305 Minton Road</td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>32904</td>
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<td>Ballard Park</td>
<td>924 Thomas Barbour Drive</td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>32935</td>
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<td>Barrier Island Sanctuary Visitor Center</td>
<td>8385 S Hight A1A</td>
<td>Melbourne Beach</td>
<td>32951</td>
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<td>Sebastian Inlet State Park Entrance Shack</td>
<td>9700 S Hwy A1A</td>
<td>Melbourne Beach</td>
<td>32951</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melbourne Village City Hall</td>
<td>555 Hammock Road</td>
<td>Melbourne Village</td>
<td>32904</td>
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<td>Franklin DeGroodt Library</td>
<td>6475 Minton Rd SE</td>
<td>Palm Bay</td>
<td>32909</td>
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### Future Sites

| Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Library                  | 955 E. University Blvd.     | Melbourne        | 32920|
| Melbourne Village Entrance                          | Intersection of Dayton Blvd & South Dr | Melbourne Village | 32904|

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A special thanks to the homeowners, Duncan at 142Producitons, and the Conradina Yard Tour Committee for making this our first virtual yard tour. Even in these crazy COVID-19 times, please enjoy and preserve nature – it’s good for you!

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Cover Photo: Zebra Longwing Butterfly on Firebush (Hamelia patens) Image by Carl Winebarger
Hey everybody! 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company / Web link</th>
<th>Name / email</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maple Street Natives / NatScape LLC Native Landscapes</td>
<td>Drew Dolan</td>
<td>321-223-6147</td>
<td>Native plants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go Native Landscaping</td>
<td>Nichole Perna</td>
<td>321-795-3111</td>
<td>Native landscape design, installation, consultation and maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Butterfly Flowers, LLC</td>
<td>Tim / Anna</td>
<td>321-626-7386</td>
<td>Native plants and landscape design</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change of Greenery</td>
<td>Brendan Healy</td>
<td>321-536-0655</td>
<td>Lagoon friendly landscape designs and installations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida Native Wildflowers</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Purchase seeds and plants online</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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