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# Palmetto



Rosebud Continuum • *Canna flaccida* • Garden Revolution • *Nelumbo lutea*





**Above:** A great diversity of volunteers participate in projects at the Rosebud Continuum, such as planting portions of the wildflower meadow.

# Native Plants, Sustainability and Rosebud Continuum

Craig N. Huegel, Ph.D. with Lisa Hoefler-Boing

For the past year, I have been intimately involved with designing the native plant landscape at the Rosebud Continuum in Land O'Lakes, Pasco County. It is a project near and dear to my heart as it encompasses all of the values I've espoused these past 30 years with the Florida Native Plant Society through my writing and lecturing about the value of native plants to a living landscape. As this project unfolds, I want to share its vision with you and encourage you to get involved on some level. This is a community project, and we can use everyone who wishes to be a part of our growing community.

As stated on the website, <http://rosebudcontinuum.org>: "The Rosebud Continuum is a dynamic, ever-evolving nexus between the best practices of our many pasts and traditional wisdoms, and the exciting synergies that are emerging as we apply our dedication to sustainability and education to the creation of a desirable future. At Rosebud, we seek to demonstrate and inspire so that visitors and volunteers can contribute to the widening solution space that can realistically tackle our individual and environmental health and



**Above:** Lisa Hoefler-Boing and one of the many loads of native plants purchased for the project. **Below:** Queen butterfly caterpillar feeding on a native milkweed planted in the wildflower meadow.





**Above:** Native wildflowers and grasses destined for the developing wildflower meadow.  
**Below:** The south woodland with some of the newly installed native plants.

**Above:** The wildflower meadow nearest the lake edge becomes seasonally flooded. These are ideal conditions for many of the wildflowers we've chosen to add.  
**Below:** A newly hatched white peacock butterfly in the wildflower meadow.





**Above:** Project owner Maryann Bishop with Lisa Hoefler-Boing at the trail entrance into the south woodland.

biodiversity conservation challenges. Rosebud is a place where ordinary folks and families can feel empowered to “try this at home.” It serves as a resource for communities, neighborhoods and individual households seeking to wean themselves off dysfunctional systems and instead learn “systems thinking in the human food/energy/water nexus and wildlife preservation that resolve conflicts and lead to harmonious outcomes.”

This honest mission began as the dream of Sonny and Maryann Bishop to transform their nearly 20-acre lakefront property into a model of how Floridians can live sustainably and to use it as a public educational center. It is not simply a native plant demonstration area – there are a great many other parts as well. My role is a piece of the overall puzzle; helping to transform a part of their property into a living landscape with native plants and then to showcase them in such a way as to encourage their use by others. Along the way, I have picked up the assistance of fellow Pinellas Chapter FNPS member Lisa Hoefler-Boing. She has provided a mind to bounce ideas off of, a yin to my yang, and more sweat equity than I can adequately measure. In all aspects, this has become our joint project.

The property that the Bishops purchased has a history of disturbance and was far from pristine. Once a citrus grove with a residence, part of the property was converted to improved pasture when the citrus failed and the remaining land was allowed to go fallow. The fallow land became dominated by invasive species. Right after the Bishops purchased the property, Maryann read that Pasco County officials were looking for a newly arrived invasive species that they were trying to track, so she invited one of their employees to look for it. Though she doesn't remember which species it was, she was told by the employee that much of their thriving vegetation was composed of invasive non-natives. Maryann decided to learn more about the problem and then do something to correct it.

Well before Lisa and I became involved, the Bishops had made significant progress in tackling the very significant problems they had from Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), and they had begun to clear some of the other major offenders. Since then, we have worked together to eradicate the major

invasive species still present. The list is long and the battle is far from over, but we've reached the stage where we can begin replanting the fallow portions of their property with appropriate native species. There are other planned uses for the converted pasture areas and the residential portions of the overall Rosebud Continuum project.

The native plantings essentially occur in four major units of the property. Two are mesic woodlands with a relatively open canopy dominated by water oak (*Quercus nigra*). How water oak became the dominant canopy species still baffles me a bit, but many of these trees are decades old. Also naturally present in this canopy is sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*). The understory contains some native elements such as lyre-leaved sage (*Salvia lyrata*) and toothpetal false rein orchid (*Habenaria floribunda*), but we've had to battle a great many non-natives to get to the point we are today. Camphor tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*) was the worst offender remaining in the canopy, but we've also had to address areas of wedelia (*Sphagnetocola trilobata*), caesarweed (*Urena lobata*), and skunkvine (*Paederia foetida*).

The southern woodlot occurs at the entrance to the property and lies on an east-west slope that ends at the edge of an undeveloped lake. This will serve perfectly as the trailhead to a self-guided nature trail and be one of the most visible aspects of Rosebud's many public programs. Here, we've maximized color in the palette of plants we've chosen. We want to demonstrate to the public both the beauty and utility of Florida native plants, and we've done this by adding a diversity of flowering subcanopy trees and shrubs to this area.

The nature trail leaves the canopy of the woodlot about 100 yards from the lake edge and enters a sunny open area of mowed “lawn” that continues sloping to the edge of the lake. This area is being planted as a wildflower meadow for the area's many pollinators. Before we could do this, the ubiquitous carpet of grasses, sedges, and invasive species had to be treated. We accomplished this over many weeks by using appropriate herbicides and then covering the area with thick plastic sheeting for more than a month. By our first planting day, most of the future meadow was bare soil. Our plant palette includes host plants for nearly every butterfly likely to occur in this region of Florida and it also includes a great many nectar plants for the area's diversity of pollinators.

From here, the trail will take visitors along the lake edge just upland of the wetland boundary. Over the past months, we've eradicated the many Chinese tallow (*Triadica sebifera*) that grew interspersed with bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and Carolina willow (*Salix caroliniana*). We've also hand-pulled a thicket of submerged-rooted Peruvian primrose willow (*Ludwigia peruviana*) and persistent caesarweed along this edge in preparation for our native plantings. We hope to get aquatic natives installed by late spring of 2018, and they will include a wide variety of native wildflowers and woody species for pollinators and birds.

A second and larger woodland lies at the northern portion of the property. It, too, slopes upland of the lake edge, but it

rises to a higher elevation than the southern woodland and contains specimens of black cherry (*Prunus serotina*). We've had to eradicate the same invasive plants present in the southern woodland before we could start our replanting efforts. To provide a buffer between this project and the neighbor to the north, we've planted various species of woody shrubs that will provide habitat for birds and a screening hedge – Walter's and arrowwood viburnum (*Viburnum obovatum* and *V. dentatum*, respectively) and yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*). We've also added more diversity to the canopy, planting less for aesthetics and more for wildlife habitat. The pignut hickories (*Carya glabra*), for example, should one day help feed the caterpillars of luna moths, and the sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*) will provide food for birds and nectar for pollinators.

Throughout the past year, Lisa and I have been blessed to work with a huge diversity of enthusiastic volunteers, Rosebud Continuum board members, and the Bishop family. Janice Puta of Ocala heard about this project and donated several hundred plants, including a great many Cooley's justicia (*Justicia pringlei*). Members of the Nature Coast Chapter of FNPS came out and supported our first public open house this past summer. Much more remains to be done before the Rosebud Continuum reaches its full mission goals, and we hope to be a part of it all throughout the years ahead. We could use your help in whatever form you have to give it. Over the next 12 months, we intend to complete the plantings and eradicate the remaining invasives. We will be managing the weeds, in some form or other, for the duration of the project. Please contact Lisa through the Pinellas Chapter FNPS or myself if you are interested.

**End Note:** The Rosebud Continuum is a public exhibition of sustainable living practices. It will serve as a classroom and a model for a wide variety of methods designed to reduce our footprint and make space for other living creatures. The following plant list was chosen to maximize habitat diversity, demonstrate to the public the best plants for aesthetics and wildlife value, and help the Bishops choose plants in harmony with site conditions. These plants will exist with no additional fertilizer and will not require supplemental irrigation.

#### About the Authors:

Craig N. Huegel, Ph.D. is a wildlife biologist, educator, consultant, and founding member of the Pinellas Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. He has written five books on landscaping with Florida's native plants. His sixth book, *A Plant Lover's Guide to How Plants Work*, will be published by the University Press of Florida in 2018.

Lisa Boing's love of plants, gardening and landscaping drew her to get certified through Pinellas County's Master Gardener program in 2012. She coordinates volunteer work at the Native Plant Demonstration Area at the Florida Botanical Gardens and serves on the Board of the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation. Lisa also has a business maintaining native plant landscapes.

## Rosebud Continuum – Plant List (To Date)

### Woodlands

<i>Callicarpa americana</i> .....	American beautyberry
<i>Carya glabra</i> .....	Pignut hickory
<i>Cercis canadensis</i> .....	Redbud
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> .....	Fringetree
<i>Cornus florida</i> .....	Flowering dogwood
<i>Halesia diptera</i> .....	Two-winged silverbell
<i>Ilex opaca</i> .....	American holly
<i>Ilex vomitoria</i> .....	Yaupon holly
<i>Justicia pringlei</i> .....	Cooley's waterwillow
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> .....	Tulip poplar
<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> .....	Coral honeysuckle
<i>Quercus alba</i> .....	White oak
<i>Quercus michauxii</i> .....	Swamp chestnut oak
<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i> .....	Chinkapin oak
<i>Quercus shumardii</i> .....	Shumard oak
<i>Psychotria nervosa</i> .....	Wild coffee (dwarf)
<i>Sabal minor</i> .....	Dwarf palm
<i>Salvia lyrata</i> .....	Lyre-leaved sage
<i>Vaccinium arboreum</i> .....	Sparkleberry
<i>Verbesina virginica</i> .....	Frostweed
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i> .....	Arrowwood viburnum
<i>Viburnum obovatum</i> .....	Walter's viburnum
<i>Viola sororia</i> .....	Common blue violet
<i>Zamia integrifolia</i> .....	Florida coontie
<i>Zephyranthes atamasca</i> .....	Rain lily

### Wildflower Meadow

<i>Aristida stricta</i> .....	Wiregrass
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i> .....	Swamp pink milkweed
<i>Asclepias perennis</i> .....	Swamp white milkweed
<i>Bacopa monnieri</i> .....	Water hyssop
<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i> .....	False nettle
<i>Carphephorus corymbosus</i> .....	Florida paintbrush
<i>Carphephorus odoratissimus</i> .....	Vanilla plant
<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i> .....	Partridge pea
<i>Coreopsis floridana</i> .....	Florida tickseed
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i> .....	Lance-leaved tickseed
<i>Coreopsis leavenworthii</i> .....	Leavenworth's tickseed
<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i> .....	Purple lovegrass
<i>Eryngium aquaticum</i> .....	Blue-flowered rattlesnake master
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i> .....	Rattlesnake master
<i>Helianthus angustifolius</i> .....	Narrow-leaved sunflower
<i>Liatris gracilis</i> .....	Graceful blazing star
<i>Liatris savannensis</i> .....	Savanna blazing star
<i>Liatris spicata</i> .....	Dense blazing star
<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i> .....	Gulf muhly grass
<i>Phyla nodiflora</i> .....	Fogfruit
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> .....	Black-eyed Susan
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i> .....	Cutleaf coneflower (planned)
<i>Ruellia caroliniensis</i> .....	Wild petunia
<i>Salvia coccinea</i> .....	Red salvia
<i>Scutellaria integrifolia</i> .....	Skullcap
<i>Silphium asteriscus</i> .....	Starry rosinweed
<i>Solidago fistulosa</i> .....	Pinebarren goldenrod
<i>Solidago odora</i> var. <i>chapmanii</i> .....	Chapman's goldenrod
<i>Solidago stricta</i> .....	Wand goldenrod
<i>Spartina bakeri</i> .....	Sand cordgrass
<i>Symphoricarpon elliotii</i> .....	Elliott's aster
<i>Tiedemannia filiformis</i> .....	Water dropwort
<i>Vernonia angustifolia</i> .....	Narrow-leaved ironweed