

For Immediate Release

October 10, 2022

Local Landscape Designers launches non-profit *Food Trucks for Birds: On the Migration Highway.*

Tricia Keffer's award winning graduate thesis *Hammock Bird* took flight into a non-profit (*Food Trucks for Birds*) to share her love of teaching about migrating birds and native plants. What began as a research project became a labor of love to reconnect people to the natural world.

At FIU, her professor Juan Bueno guided her independent study of the Neotropical Migrating Birds through the Tropical Hardwood Hammocks in the Florida Keys. Tricia's passions for teaching and research aim to take educational materials to the next level on the website.

Ms. Keffer's project earned an ASLA Award of Merit from the Society of Landscape Architects Florida Chapter in 2019.

Most birds require almost 40 years to change their diets. Our increasing urban environment has changed from the native trees and shrubs to urban green lawns. They can not change their diets this fast. And, the migrating birds do not have a "branded coffee chain or cafe" to stop off on their journey to recharge their reserves on their "migration highway in the sky".

Tricia's answer came to her driving home one evening on the 18 mile stretch. "I can stop off anywhere for food. But these birds have no coffee shops to recharge on the 1000s mile journey. They need a food truck on the migration highway in the sky" !

How do we create a food truck for birds? Start this year by planting three native trees or shrubs in the Florida Keys. Landscape designer Tricia Keffer's talk will help you get started. Then register your "food truck" on her website. For more information, come hear her speak.

Why the Florida Keys? It's a critical habitat. The Keys are the last springboard for their island hopping to South America. They require one last "coffee" to make their longest flights over open water. If the birds are weak, they may not make it.

The Food Trucks for Birds Tour 22's aim is to introduce the public to the plight of the birds and their connection to native plants. Tricia will present her graduate project research and introduce the Bird Truck website program at the local libraries from Homestead, Key Largo, Islamorada, Morada Art Walk, Marathon, to Key West. It will be a 20 minute talk with questions at the end for attendees to get excited and started.

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Tricia Keffer, FNGLA Horticulture Certificate, MLA Landscape Architecture, founded *Food Trucks For Birds* in 2022 as her pandemic idea. Her creative career began with her photography studio and transitioned into designing the landscapes after her European tour and education at Florida International University.

The fall migration is happening right now! The timing is perfect for her first *Food Trucks For Birds Tour '22* at libraries in the Florida Keys and Homestead.

Tour dates:

Homestead Library : Monday October 17, 2022 at 4:30 pm

Key Largo Library: Tuesday October 18, 2022 at 4:30 pm

Islamorada Library: Tuesday October 18, 2022 at 10:00 am

Morada Art Walk: Thursday October 20, 2022 at 6:00pm

Marathon Library: Friday October 21, 2022 at 3:00pm

Key West Library: Saturday October 22, 2022 at 10:30am

Media Please Note: There is a press kit on the FoodTrucksForBirds.com website. There is media for usage on the social media listed below. The ASLA Award is posted to the recognition page on the website.

For more information, contact:

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