

## **For Immediate Release**

March 9, 2023

**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 ? It's a critical habitat. It is the last state last "springboard habitat" 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 23'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 beginning in Crestview, FL. Her talk also includes an art installation of native Florida landscapes.

Tricia Keffer, FNGLA Horticulture Certificate, MLA Landscape Architecture, BA Art & Psychology, and Portrait and Figurative Art Academy Certificate from Professor David Chang. She 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 spring migration is happening right now! The timing is perfect for her first *Food Trucks For Birds Tour '23* at libraries in the Florida.

Tour dates:

Crestview Library: Two talks on March 2, 2023 at 10:30am and 3:30pm

and March 30, 2023 at 10:30 am

Media Please Note: There is a press kit on the [FoodTrucksForBirds.com](http://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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