### The May 2016 Newsletter Gardens Gate



Botanical Gardens



#### **SPRING IS IN FULL BLOOM AT THE GARDENS**

The propagation area is ready! Drop by and view our wonderful plants at very reasonable prices. What a perfect time to take Mom for a visit to the Gardens and let her choose her own plants.

There's lots to see throughout the Gardens. We not only have the propagation area, but we have many Garden Rooms waiting for you. A leisurely stroll will take you through ten Garden Rooms. The Butterfly Garden is always a favorite as well as the Orchid Garden. You can also visit the Hibiscus, Bromeliad, Palm Walk, Cactus, Native Plant, Bamboo and the Rose Garden. Bring a picnic and enjoy the afternoon in our Secret Garden or other favorite area.

Remember, we have a fabulous Gift Shop that has many gardening items as well as jewelry, book and gift items.



Continued on Pg 3

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TROPICAL TREASURES PLANT SALE MAY 28TH • 9AM - 4PM



2410 SE Westmoreland Blvd. Port St. Lucie, FL 34952 Phone: 772.337.1959 Fax: 772.237.5952

E-mail: info@pslbotanicalgardens.org Web: www.pslbotanicalgardens.org Hours: Wednesday - Saturday 10am - 4pm

Sunday Noon - 4pm

Closed Monday, Tuesday & Holidays

Suggested Donations: Adults \$5

Students \$2

Children 12 & Under Welcome Members and Active Military (with family) Welcome (IDs required)

#### Mission Statement . . .

Friends' mission is to create and maintain a beautiful, serene sanctuary in the center of Port St. Lucie that is environmentally sound and naturally diverse and to provide educational, cultural and recreational opportunities for all who visit.

#### Officers & Directors . . .

President: Joleen King
Vice President: Illona Christie
Secretary: Claire Clark
Treasurer: Cheri Mabry
Directors: Brenda Gustafson
Jeffrey Policar
Bill Neinast

Gloria "Gigi" Norelli Kate O'Neill Jennifer Scee Tim Sutton

#### Standing Committee Chairs . . .

Strategic Planning Committee: Joleen King Horticulture Committee: Bill Neinast Finance Committee: Cheri Mabry

Membership & Volunteer

Committee: Illona Christie
Gift Shop Committee: Jennifer Scee

Resource Development

Committee: Claire Clark Election Committee: TBD

#### Newsletter...

Editor: Judy Nash-Wade Design: Mark Barnes

The Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens is managed and operated by Friends of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens, Inc. The Friends of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens, Inc. receives no funding from any government agency. Your admission donations help us maintain and grow The Gardens.

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

Volunteers are the heart and of our Botanical soul Visitors express Gardens. surprise that our Gardens are maintained and supported by a totally volunteer crew. The "ownership" sense of palatable throughout the and various departments areas: the Garden Societies who maintain their areas, our Propagation team. busv 'potting up', shifting merchandise, interacting with the public as they ask about

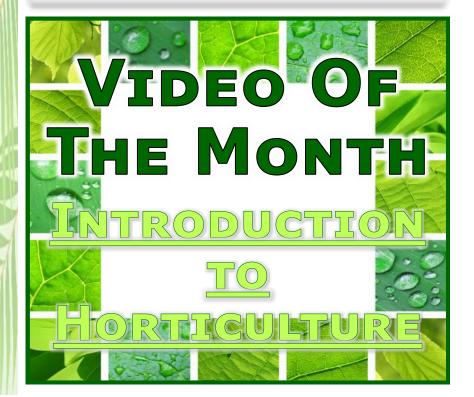


potential purchases. The Pavilion greeters and gift shop volunteers, who have the privilege of being the "first contact" for our visitors, take their responsibilities seriously. And of course, the elected Board of Directors whose responsibility is the long term guidance and day-to-day running of the Gardens.

And who are our visitors? While we certainly see our local PSL neighbors, we have had people walk through the doors from England, France, Canada, the West Indies, Wales, Italy, etc. Visitors arrive on a daily basis from Miami, Vero Beach, Tampa – all over the state.

If you haven't visited The Gardens lately, plan to stop by. Take a look around. I'm confident you'll be pleased. And say 'hello' to our volunteers!

Joleen King President



There is something for everyone at the PSL Botanical Gardens. See you there and Happy Mother's Day!

On Page 14 we have included the Central Florida Gardening Calendar for May. This is provided by the University of Florida IFAS Extension (Master Gardeners) and has many links on the topics listed. This handy calendar will guide you with; What to Plant, Bulbs, Herbs, Vegetables. What to do with Pests, Gardenias, Oleanders, Lawns, Tomatoes and Trees.

Brenda Gustafson Propagation Chair



## PORT ST. LUCIE ORCHID SOCIETY: ORCHIDS IN PARADISE, MARCH, 2016

"Our Orchid Show was a great success. The exhibits were spectacular, and many people had nice comments about the beautiful flowers with their fragrances, turning the showroom into a magical place that reflects our theme, "Orchids in Paradise". This was all possible because of Show Chairwoman Hellen Wagner, co-chair Laurie Wade and their team, and many volunteers. Thanks to all who cooperated with table tops, niches, hats, and photography exhibits. This is an example of how working as a team can create a friendly atmosphere where everyone feels part of a group. The show helps let the community know who we are and what we do.

We should be very proud to belong to what I consider the best Orchid Society on the Treasury Coast. "
-Sonia Manning, President, Port St. Lucie Orchid Society



#### HANDS ACROSS THE GARDEN

The Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens was honored to be the location of a special event to benefit Hands Clinic of St. Lucie County. The evening included a large variety of Hors d'oeuvres from local health care & assisted living facilities, a special punch for the evening, the Ladies of Jewelia and a concert by International Award Winning Musician Mark Barnes. The evening was a brilliant success and a good time was had by all who attended.

Editor.











### GIRL SCOUTS EARN BUTTERFLY BADGES AT THE GARDENS!

44 Girl Scouts visited the Gardens on April 23rd to attend a Butterfly Program run by Chris MacMullen, Girl Scout Leader of Troop 40331 and 40332. The Scouts learned about the growth stages of a Butterfly, the parts of the body and had an awesome hands-on experience going through the Gardens seeing nature at its finest. Their experiences earned each of them a Butterfly Badge. The girls then had a Butterfly snack (butterfly cookie decorating) and ended their day with the fabulous Ladybug release led by the Friends of the St. Lucie Botanical Gardens. The Scout leaders reported that the visit to the Gardens was a great nature program for the girls and are sure they will all be coming back again to visit soon.

Editor.











# For Our Gift Shop / Welcome Center & Tour Guide / Docent



**St. Lucie West Garden Club**: \$2,000 donation for shade house, holiday lights, and Botanica.

**Rio Lindo Garden Club**: \$300 donation for purchase of mulch.

"Snow Bird" volunteers - come back soon!

- Debbie Cooper
- Barbra Brisky











# Are you a Member of Friends? Friends Membership is...



Become a Member of a Growing Community... Friends of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens, Inc.



Click Here to Join or Renew Your Membership Today



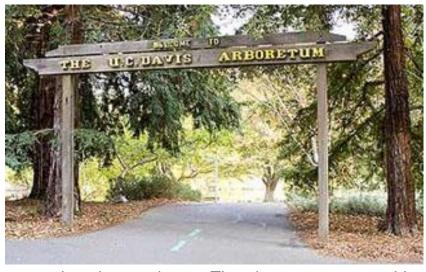
1 <sup>st</sup>	Appletree Academy Field Trip	10:30 am – 1:00 pm	Field Trip members
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Board of Directors Meeting</b>	5:00 – 7:00 pm	Members Welcome
4 <sup>th</sup>	Advanced Beginner Spanish Classes	10:00 - 11:30 am	Fee info. call 772.924.1002
4 <sup>th</sup>	German American Club Board Mtg.	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Members Welcome
4 <sup>th</sup>	Ft Pierce Jazz & Blues Concert	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$ 5 Donation, Members \$4
5 <sup>th</sup>	German American Chorus Rehearsal	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Members Welcome
6 <sup>th</sup>	National Public Gardens Day	10:00 am – 4:00 pm	All Welcome – Free Admission
8 <sup>th</sup>	Crosstown Chapel Service	8:00 -11:30 am	All Welcome
9 <sup>th</sup>	Rio Lindo Board Meeting	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Rio Lindo Board Members
10 <sup>th</sup>	Orchid Society Meeting	11:00 am – 3:00 pm	Members Welcome
11 <sup>th</sup>	Advanced Beginner Spanish Classes	10:00 - 11:30 am	Fee info. call 772.924.1002
12 <sup>th</sup>	St. Lucie West Garden Club Meeting	12:00 – 2:00 pm	Members Welcome
12 <sup>th</sup>	PSL Anglers Club Meeting	6:30 – 9:00 pm	All Welcome
16 <sup>th</sup>	Strategic Planning Committee	4:00 – 5:00 pm	Members Welcome
18 <sup>th</sup>	Advanced Beginner Spanish Classes	10:00 am- 11:30 am	Fee info. call 772.924.1002
18 <sup>th</sup>	Ft Pierce Jazz & Blues Concert	6:30 - 9:30 pm	\$5 Donation, Members \$4
19 <sup>th</sup>	Treasure Coast Hibiscus Society Mtg.	10:30 am – 1:00 pm	All Welcome
19 <sup>th</sup>	German American Chorus Rehearsal	2:00 – 4:00 PM	Members Only
23 <sup>r</sup>	Rio Lindo Garden Club Meeting	12:45 – 4:00 pm	Members Welcome
25 <sup>th</sup>	Advanced Beginner Spanish Classes	10:00 - 11:30 am	Fee info. call 772.924.1002
28 <sup>th</sup>	Children's Event: Florida Gopher Tortoise Day	11:00 am – 12:00 noon	All Welcome
28 <sup>th</sup>	Tropical Treasures Plant Sale	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	All Welcome
28 <sup>th</sup>	How-To Series: Propagation & Garden Tool Maintenance	10:00 – 11:30 am	Registration Required: Free to Members \$10 Non-Members

For more information on these & other events, please call 772.337.1959

# Can You Dig It?

#### **UC DAVIS ARBORETUM**

The UC Davis Arboretum was founded in 1936 to support teaching and research at the University of California. The Arboretum is unlike any other. Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, all year long, visitors can enjoy the 100 acres along the banks of the old north channel of Putah Creek featuring stunning plant life and gardens whenever the mood strikes. Just don't forget to take a serene stroll on this pathway, which replicates an Australian Their collections include landscape. 22,000 trees and plants adapted to a



Mediterranean climate, with hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters. The plants are arranged in a series of gardens that represent different geographic areas, plant groups, or horticultural themes.

Unlike the Pacific coast, which has a very mild climate where most plants flourish, California's Central Valley has a climate of extremes. Temperatures in Davis range from 14°F to 118°F, and



average rainfall is only 19 inches per year. The Arboretum is the main source of horticultural information for inland California.

The Arboretum site was previously home to the Patwin people, and includes an ancient oak that was a boundary marker on an early Mexican land grant, remnants of the original wagon trail between the eastern United States and San Francisco, a Pony Express stop, and the oldest reservoir in the Central Valley, built by Chinese workers in the 1860s.

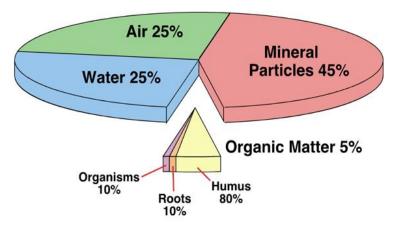
**UC Davis Arboretum** 



#### **HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS...**

#### Friends of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens Horticulture Class Series 2016 Soils - Florida State Soil - Myakka Fine Sand

1. What is soil? 25% air; 25% water; 45% minerals; 5% organic matter (1/2 alive and 1/2 dead). It is alive and is the largest living organism on the earth.



- 2. What Is the function of soil (from a plants point of view?) Holds up the plant; stores water and nutrients; provides habitat for soil micro and macro organisms. Moderates climate. Serves as a plant communication system. All activity takes place in the soil spaces air and water. Almost all plant roots are In the top 9 to 12 inches of soil. Deep fertilization is a waste. Few plants have "tap roots" and they rarely are nutrient absorbing.
- 3. Soil texture. Determined primarily by size of



- soil particles, activity of soil microorganisms and humic components (gels). Determines the size of the soil spaces; speed of drainage; depth of drainage.
- 4. Mineral components from degraded rock or from other deposition of minerals. Largely determines pH greatly varying sizes. Size and shape Impact the size and shape of the soil spaces which determines how fast air and water move in the soil. Clay, silt, sand, gravel. Decay provides some nutrients.
- 5. Soil organic matter. Decay provides most nutrients. Provides protective chemicals. Live fraction Is both positive and negative. Generally soil has 2-3% dead organic matter. Live fraction can benefit plants and can be a pest or carry diseases.



- 6. Soil water. Stored in the spaces and on mineral fragment surfaces. Carries nutrients and dissolved chemicals. Moves down through the soil column due to gravity and up due to capillary forces. Much soil water is not available to plants as It is "stuck" to rock fragements.
- 7. South Florida was under water 5,000 to 10,000 years ago. Soil base Is primarily sand from the Appalachian Mountains brought down by erosion and the coastal counter current. Some lime rock sand

- and high organic matter soils (peats). Very well drained; very low organic matter; moderate pH.
- 8. Homeowner soils. Post construction compaction. Poor quality fill. Trash and chemical debris from construction. Past occupant practices salt from softeners, pool chemicals, lawn chemicals, hobby chemicals, amateur dumping, etc.
- 9. What can you do to help your soil? Add organic matter. Add compost. More is better. Cheaper is better. Get to know your local tree trimming service. Stay away from general chemical applications. Do not till or plow. Keep ail soil covered at all times with live material or organic mulch. Do not allow parking, driving, heavy equipment on your soli. Do not walk on Improved planting beds.
- 10. Chemicals. We know little to nothing about the Impact of chemicals on soil health. We know almost nothing about the impact of chemical combinations and the combinations of the products of chemical decay. Example, recent data which shows that Roundup Is stored In the soil and absorbed by tree roots.





\*The content of this lesson plan was provided by a Master Gardener with accents by The Gardens Gate. It should be noted that Master Gardeners have a variety of views and it is up to the individual to determine what information best fits one's own needs.



#### University of Florida IFAS Extension Central Florida Gardening Calendar — May

#### What to Plant

**Annuals**: Plants that can take summer heat include salvia, torenia, wax begonia, coleus, and ornamental pepper. **See** *Annuals*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic annual landscape plants

**Bulbs**: Some lilies do better when their roots are crowded. Try planting Amazon, Aztec, and Clivia lilies in containers to increase blooming.

See Bulbs for Florida: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic bulbous flowers

**Herbs**: Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. **See** *Herbs*: <a href="http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic">http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic</a> herbs

**Vegetables**: Southern favorites to plant now are okra, southern peas, and sweet potato. **See** *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: <a href="http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic vegetable gardening">http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic vegetable gardening</a>

#### What to Do

**Pests**: Watch for thrips, scale, and mites on ornamental plants because they become more active in warm weather. **See** *Landscape Pest Management*: <a href="http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic landscape pests">http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic landscape pests</a>

**Gardenias**: Distinguish between the normal yellowing of older leaves and the yellowing of new growth, which usually indicates a micronutrient deficiency.

See Gardenias at a Glance: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep338

**Oleanders**: Inspect chewed or ragged leaves for oleander caterpillars at work. **See** *Oleander Pest Management*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\_oleander\_ipm

**Lawns**: Watch for damage from chinch bugs in St. Augustine grass and begin scouting for newly hatched mole crickets in Bahia grass lawns.

See Turf grass Pest Insects: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic turf pest insects

May is usually a dry month; do not mistake irrigation problems with a pest infestation.

See Lawns and Drought: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic lawns and drought

**Lawns**: Prevent or minimize disease by following proper cultural practices.

See Turf Diseases: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\_turf\_diseases

**Tomatoes**: Watch for pests, disease, and nutritional disorders on tomato plants. **See** *Home Tomato Gardening*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\_tomato\_gardening

**Trees**: Prepare for hurricane season by checking trees for damaged or weak branches and pruning if needed. Hire an ISA-certified arborist.

See International Society of Arboriculture: http://isa-arbor.com/ and

Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\_tree\_pruning

Helpful Hings (tips) from Hortense

#### Interesting Factoids...

If you get into the bottom of a well or a tall chimney and look up, you can see stars, even in the middle of the day.

When a person dies, hearing is the last sense to go. The first sense lost is sight.

In ancient times strangers shook hands to show that they were unarmed.

Strawberries are the only fruits whose seeds grow on the outside.

Avocados have the highest calories of any fruit at 167 calories per hundred grams.

The moon moves about two inches away from the Earth each year.

The Earth gets 100 tons heavier every day due to falling space dust.

Due to earth's gravity it is impossible for mountains to be higher than 15,000 meters.

Mickey Mouse is known as "Topolino" in Italy.

\*HORTense takes no responsibility for her claims. And furthermore, she is penniless so don't try suing her...









#### NATIONAL PUBLIC GARDENS DAY



#### May 6th, 2016 • 10am to 4pm

National Public Gardens Day is Friday May 6, 2016 and our Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens will be celebrating. On this day, Public Gardens across the United States have special activities to celebrate their existence. Admission is Free. We hope you will join us, tour The Gardens and get advice from the Experts in our various Garden Rooms. Our Propagation area will have beautiful plants on sale for you to take home as well as our gift shop will entice you with a selection of hand picked Garden related crafts and jewelry. We look forward to seeing you there.

#### **Spring Into Gardening Festival**



#### Saturday May 14, 2016

8a.m. to 2p.m.

At

St. Lucie County Extension 8400 Picos Road, Fort Pierce 772-462-1660 or http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu





**Plant Vendors** 

**Horticulture Merchants** 

**Plant Fashion Show** 

**Taste of the Tropics** 

**Garden Tours** 

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#### **PSLBG Propagation**



We have an overstock of plants and we'll be offering discounted prices for the month of May on the following plants:

- Copper Leaf—many varieties https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fp006
- Bromeliad—many varieties https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep337
- Fire Spike—https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fp445
- Hibiscus—https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep245

Stop by propagation and take advantage of our specials! Check it out!

<u>PSLBG Members & Volunteers:</u> Gardeners, we're looking for cuttings from your yard. Bring in your unique plants for us to propagate. We will be there every Friday & Saturday starting at 8:30AM. You can join us or just drop off the plants. <u>NO</u> invasive plants, please.





Come visit our resident Gopher Tortoises as we increase awareness and appreciation for these long lived, gentle and magnificent reptiles.

Free for Children Ages 5 - 12 & families





Registration Required - Please Call 772.337.1959
Sponsored/organized by the Friends of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens











# TREASURES' Plant Sale

Free admission to the Botanical Gardens

Annuals, perennials and
Florida-friendly plants
Fruit trees and shrubs
Native plants
Orchids and exotics
Bamboo
Garden related crafts
And All Things Tropical

Find what you need to make your Garden grow.

Talk with the experts and tour the Gardens.

Free parking

Botanical Gardens
Mini Plant Sale Series

Florida

2410 SE Westmoreland Blvd, Port St Lucie - 772.337.1959

#### Horticulture How-To Series:

# PROPAGATION & GARDEN TOOL MAINTENANCE

#### Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens

Friends of the Port St Lucie Botanical Gardens Horticulture Committee present our continuing 'How -To' series of hands-on workshops

This Propagation Event will be held in the Gardens Propagation Area

## Saturday, May 28, 2016 from 10:00 - 11:30 am What You'll Learn:

Multiple types of propagation
Garden tool maintenance
How to – Sharpen and clean tools
How to – Practice propagation
Take home your newly potted plant

Includes plant cuttings, soil and pot. *Bring your gloves!* (This workshop will be held in conjunction with the Tropical Treasures Plant Sale)

Cost: PSLBG Members - NO CHARGE • Non-Members - \$10

Become an individual FPSLBG member for \$25 and you can attend the event FREE!!



June Beers has been a Master Gardener since 2009 and has volunteered over 2400 hours to the master gardener program. She volunteers at the plant clinic booth as well as the Master Gardener office answering all types of Horticulture questions. She has worked on special events, training and created educational displays. June is active in the Garden Club of Fort Pierce. June says, "There is just nothing finer than tackling your spring pruning and cleanup chores than beginning the task with good, clean tools sharpened to perfection". Check out products and techniques at this workshop that will improve your results as well as preserve the lifetime of those expensive tools with June and Bob Beers.





Since, 1997, <u>Dale Galiano</u> has volunteered over 5300 hours as a St. Lucie County Master Gardener and has participated in all of the community projects and educational programs available – from County Fairs, to Farmer's Market to Speakers Bureaus, to Homeowner Retrofits and recognitions. As an artist, Dale enjoys creating interest and surprises in the garden. She is a past Master Gardener of the Year. Dale always brings fun and enthusiasm to her demonstrations. She will be demonstrating multiple types of propagation techniques and practice.

**Ben Woodruff**, IT Professional by trade, former Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens Board Member and former Chair of the Propagation committee. Ben is an avid gardener since the age of 12 with a garden that is 80% planted, mulched and watered with drip irrigation. His favorite plants are Copperleaf, Bismarck Palms and Penta's. Ben has a passionate love of plants and gardening!



#### **CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP**

# Horticulture How-To Series: UPCOMING PROGRAMS

#### Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens

Held in the Propagation Area

#### Saturday, April 30, 2016 10:00AM - 11:30AM

Proper Pruning of your Trees Demonstration – by Jamey Liddell, owner of Southern Branch, Inc. Jamey is an arborist and Master Gardener. **SOLD OUT** – Sign up for a future demonstration to be held in the Fall.

The following workshops will be held in conjunction with our Summer Plant Sales.

#### Saturday, May 28, 2016 10:00AM - 11:30AM

A Hands-on How-to Propagation and Garden Tool Maintenance Demonstration – with June & Bob Beers, Dale Galiano and Ben Woodruff. June and Dale are long time Master Gardeners and all 3 are exceptional presenters on all aspects of Horticulture. (Tropical Treasures Plant Sale)

#### Saturday, July 2, 2016 - 9:30AM - 11:00AM

Everything you ever wanted to know about Air Layering & Grafting – Mike Luciano, Trees N MORE specializes in fruit trees. Mike is an expert in air layering and grafting. Don't miss their tasting at the plant sale. (Taste of the Tropics Plant Sale)

#### Saturday, July 30, 2016 - 10:00AM - 11:30AM

Using Bromeliads and Tillandsias in your landscape and in your home with designer, artist and Master Gardener, Carolyn Luxion. Don't miss Carolyn's unique and unusual designs. (Bromeliads and More Plant Sale)

#### <u> Saturday, August 27, 2016 10:00AM – 11:30AM</u>

Hands on Demonstration on Orchid Care – TBD (Orchids, Orchids and More Plant Sale)

#### <u> Saturday, September 24, 2016 10:00AM – 11:30AM</u>

Growing Vegetables in your Garden – 10:00AM-11:30AM – TBD (Vegetables, Herbs & More Plant Sale)



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Mark@MarkBarnesMusic.com

#### Welcome to All Garden Goers...

This month our Jazz Jams will be held on May 4<sup>th</sup> & May 18<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 pm

## JA77

#### At The Gardens

Donation \$5 per person. Gardens & Jazz Society Members \$4 per person.

Sponsored by the Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society

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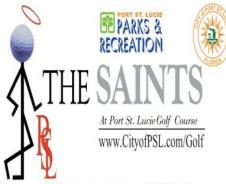
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**Contact Mark Barnes** at 772.801.8800 or e-mail

NEWS@

PSLBOTANICALGARDENS.ORG