

# The December 2017 Newsletter Gardens Gate



Port St. Lucie  
Botanical Gardens



## JINGLE & MINGLE AT THE GARDENS FOR MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS



Members & Volunteers come celebrate the Holidays with your Friends at the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens on **Friday, December 15, 2017** starting at **6pm**.

A selection of appetizers, entrees, and desserts for your culinary pleasure as well as beer, wine and soda will be provided. Don't forget to bring your favorite Wine Glass.

If you would like to participate in our Gift Grab, please bring a wrapped gift (up to a \$10 value) to join in the frivolity and hilarity of gift stealing and more. It's always the funny or weird ones that get stolen the most.

Not a member, this is the perfect time to become one and join us at this Fun Holiday Event!

**RSVP is required at [www.pslbg.org/jingleandmingle](http://www.pslbg.org/jingleandmingle).**

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## RemindeR

**DELIGHTS OF DECEMBER  
PLANT & GIFT SHOP SALE  
DECEMBER 9TH • 9:00AM - 1:00PM**





2410 SE Westmoreland Blvd.

Port St. Lucie, FL 34952

Phone: 772.337.1959

Fax: 772.237.5952

E-mail: [info@pslbotanicalgardens.org](mailto:info@pslbotanicalgardens.org)

Web: [www.pslbg.org](http://www.pslbg.org)

Hours: Wednesday - Saturday 10am - 4pm

Sunday Noon - 4pm

Closed Monday, Tuesday & Holidays

Suggested Donations:

Adults \$5

Students \$2

Children 12 & Under Welcome

Free for FPSLBG Members and

Active Military with family (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:	Melinda DeMarco
Treasurer:	Cheri Mabry
Directors:	Mike Alexander
	Heather Furnari
	Brenda Gustafson
	Judy Nash-Wade
	Jeffrey Policar
	Glenn Ryals
	Tim Sutton

### Standing Committee Chairs . . .

Election Committee:	Stephanie Alessandrini-Giarraffa
Finance Committee:	Cheri Mabry
Gift Shop Committee:	Mike Alexander
Horticulture Committee:	Brenda Gustafson
Membership & Volunteer Committee:	Illona Christie
Resource Development Committee:	Melinda DeMarco
Strategic Planning Committee:	Glenn Ryals

### 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...

Time.. Simply stated, there isn't enough of it and what we have appears to be moving faster. Our PSL Botanical Gardens is looking at another year end in a few short weeks.

One reality of December 31 each of us experiences is reviewing our personal position with taxes and giving. I ask that you might consider the PSL Botanical Gardens when you review your gift-giving program this year. The Friends of the PSL Botanical Gardens, it's volunteers and members, are committed to continuing the mandate given us by the City and its residents – to provide an enjoyable, relaxed and educational experience to all who visit. To provide a beautiful venue for family celebrations, holiday picture taking, workshops and continuing education; increasing the quality of life here in Port St. Lucie.

Please visit our website for additional information. And Happy Holidays, everyone!

**Joleen King**  
**President**



## VIDEO OF THE MONTH

**CARE & CULTURE**  
**OF CHRISTMAS**  
**CACTUS**





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PARKS &  
RECREATION



## THE SAINTS

At Port St. Lucie Golf Course  
[www.CityofPSL.com/Golf](http://www.CityofPSL.com/Golf)

2601 SE Morningside Blvd. • (772) 398-2901  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34952 • Fax: (772) 398-2778

## Welcome to All Garden Goers...

This month our  
Jazz Jams will be held on  
**December 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**& December 27<sup>th</sup>**  
starting at 6:30 pm

## JAZZ JAMS

At The Gardens

Donation \$6 per person.  
Gardens & Jazz Society  
Members \$5 per person.

Sponsored by the  
Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society

## The 19th Hole at the Saints

Restaurant & Banquet Hall

**772-337-0180**

Carl Bussett/Rick Aslin  
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**& Sandpiper Room**

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# ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS CANDIDATES NEEDED FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE PSL BOTANICAL GARDENS 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Please consider running for Board of Directors of the  
Friends of the Port St Lucie Botanical Gardens

Click the link below to download the Intent to be a Candidate form, qualifications to run and BIO info. Forms will also be available at the office or contact Stephanie Alessandrini-Giarraffa , Election Committee Chair at [info@pslbotanicalgardens.org](mailto:info@pslbotanicalgardens.org)

**\*\*Deadline to file Notice of Intent to be a Candidate is 12/31/2016\*\***

**[CLICK HERE FOR THE INTENT TO BE A CANDIDATE FORM](#)**





# Holiday Plant Sales

**Super Saturday Sales**

**December 2, 9, 16, & 23**

**10:00 – 12:00 p.m. at the Garden Center  
Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens**

*Lots of Plants for Sale*

*Purchase 2 plants get one free*

*Most Plants from \$1.00 - \$5.00*

*10% Off to all Members*

*Our plant selection includes lots of plants  
for your garden or for a Special Holiday Gift.*



## South Florida Daylily Society

Club meetings are October to May at 2pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at the PSL Botanical Gardens. Meetings are free and open to the public.

Bring a friend and attend the next meeting, **December 17<sup>th</sup>** for a bit of food, fun and frolic and we discover more about growing daylilies.

The Society is a local non-profit organization affiliated with the Region 12 of the American Hemerocallis Society. Our mission is to educate, grow, and share information concerning the daylily (*Hemerocallis spp.*)

throughout south Florida. Our goal is to bring the versatile, hardy and beautiful modern daylily to the forefront of local gardens, and encourage new generations of gardeners to grow, enjoy, and experience it. We do this by:

- sharing our knowledge, enthusiasm and appreciation for the daylily with each other and the general public.
- programs for our club and the general public, to teach people how to successfully grow daylilies in our area.
- hosting knowledgeable hybridizer, horticulturalist, other experts
- daylily shows and sales that are open to our members and the public.
- visiting gardens featuring daylilies, and opening our gardens to others.

Visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthFloridaDaylilies/>





# The Gift Shop

at the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens



We are all dressed up and ready for the holidays, so come visit the gift shop for that special and unique gift. We carry legendary names like Woodstock, Caswell- Massey, The Naked Bee, Iris & Orchid's flowers of light along with beautiful jewelry, and nature themed artisan woodworking. We are offering free gift wrapping for the holiday season.





# BOOTANICAL HALLOWEEN



We want to **THANK** all our volunteers who helped make Bootanical Halloween 2017 a complete success!!!!

## Special Thanks to the following for their donations

Walmart Inc. • SLW Lowe's • Jensen Home Depot • Mary Moore • Pat Duzan • Celeste Marsh

## Our Creative Staff

Carol Jons • Linda Giddens • Maria Voulo • Sequoia Alexander  
Celeste Marsh • Carol Briganti • Nicholas Voulo • Marisa Ingram • Mike Alexander  
Dominic Voulo • Meagan Roge • Lian Janasky • Jordan Glings • Claire Clark • Jeff Policar  
Marisa Wienck • Port St. Lucie Parks and Rec - Suppling the trucks and beds for haunted hayride

## Set up and Cleanup

Claire Clarke • Treasure Coast H.S. Key Club • Elaine Pribish • Melinda De Marco • Linda Giddens  
Angie Reese • Connie Burke • Celeste Marsh • Slyvia Nines • Gladys Velez • Joleen King  
Jeff Policar • Terri Walden • Angela Vanella • Summerset Prep. Academy

## Event Day Volunteers

Edie De Leon • Brenda Gustafson • Jeff Policar • Curtis Clarke • Celest Marsh • Alice Jorda  
Joleen King • Mark Barnes • Claire Clarke • Sequoia Alexander • Mike Alexander  
Illona Christie • Judy Nash-Wade • Melinda DeMarco • Vincent Furnari  
TC H.S. JR.O.T.C. • Somersset Prep. Academy • Centennial H.S. Band

If I have forgotten anyone, I am sorry,  
and I thank you all... *Heather*



# Out & About



## With The Gardens

BOOtanical Halloween



Where's Waldo?  
He's at the PSL Botanical Gardens.

































## November 'How to Series' – Thanksgiving Centerpieces Including Some Of The Lucky Winners





## Propagation Training & Volunteers





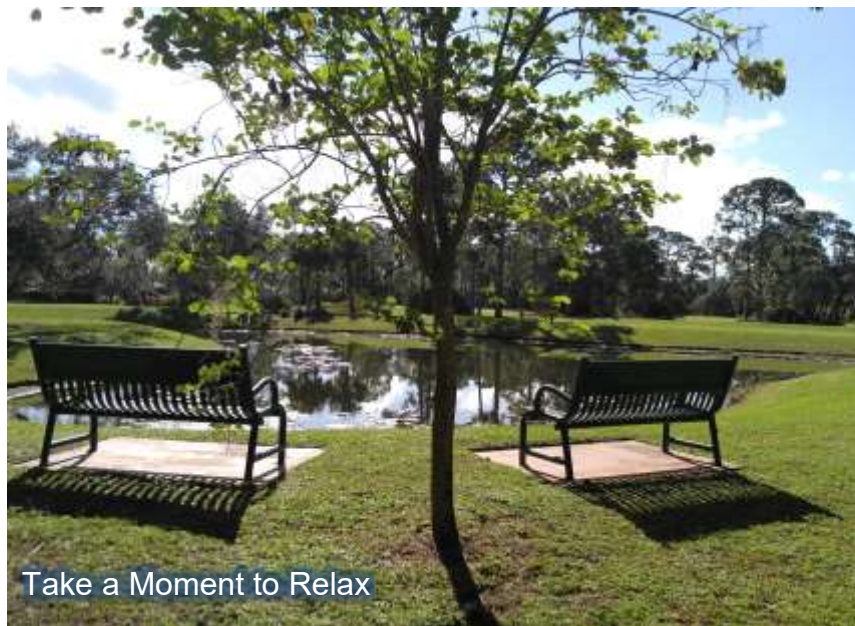


**Shade House Completion**





## Seen Around The Gardens



Take a Moment to Relax



Christmas Palm



Coral Porterweed for Sale in Garden Center



Jazz Jams at The Gardens



Paul Renwick



PSL Rocks





Stained Glass Window



Pic by Wayne Goldenberg



Arrangement by Paul Renwick



Rainbow Eucalyptus



Pretty as a bouquet!







## Visitor Photos



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# Veteran Victory Corps

a horticulture program for Veterans and their family members!

Comradery, hands-on workshops, opportunities for providing service to your community!

Saturdays: 09 and 30 December, 2017

0900 – 1100

New!

Veteran Victory Corps area in the Garden Center

Contact Judy, American Red Cross – Service to the Armed Forces at [judy.nash-wade@redcross.org](mailto:judy.nash-wade@redcross.org) or Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens 772.337.1959.



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# JAZZ JAMS

AT THE GARDENS



Wednesday

December 13th & 27th

6:30 - 9:30 pm

Presented By





# December

## Calendar of Events

2 <sup>nd</sup>	FFGC Flower Show	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	All Welcome
3 <sup>rd</sup>	FFGC Flower Show	12:00 - 4:00 pm	All Welcome
5 <sup>th</sup>	Crosstown Chapel Rehearsal	6:00 - 9:00 pm	Church Members Welcome
6 <sup>th</sup>	Intermediate Spanish Classes	10:00 - 11:30 am	All welcome
6 <sup>th</sup>	German American Club Board Mtg.	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Members Welcome
7 <sup>th</sup>	German American Chorus Rehearsal	2:00 - 4:00 pm	Members only
8 <sup>th</sup>	Keiser University Pinning Ceremony	5:00 - 9:00 pm	Students & Guests Welcome
9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>How-To Seminar: Unique &amp; Delightful Holiday Wreaths</b>	<b>10:00 - 11:30 am</b>	<b>Members Free Non-Members \$25</b>
9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Delights of December Propagation Center Plant &amp; Gift Shop Sale</b>	<b>9:00 am - 1:00 pm</b>	<b>All Welcome</b>
11 <sup>th</sup>	Rio Lindo Board Meeting	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Members Only
11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>FPSLBG Board of Directors Meeting</b>	<b>4:30 pm - 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Members Welcome</b>
12 <sup>th</sup>	PSL Orchid Society Meeting	11:00 am - 3:00 pm	All Welcome
12 <sup>th</sup>	Crosstown Chapel Rehearsal	6:00 - 9:00 pm	Church Members Welcome
13 <sup>th</sup>	Intermediate Spanish Classes	10:00 - 11:30 am	All Welcome
13 <sup>th</sup>	Ft. Pierce Jazz & Blues Jazz Jams	6:30 - 9:30 pm	\$6 Donation, \$5 Members
14 <sup>th</sup>	PSL Angler's Meeting	5:30 - 9:30 pm	All invited
15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Jingle &amp; Mingle Holiday Gathering</b>	<b>6:00 - 9:00 pm</b>	<b>FPSLBG Members &amp; Volunteers *RSVP Required*</b>
16 <sup>th</sup>	Wacky Weeders	8:00 am - 12:00 pm	All welcome
17 <sup>th</sup>	South Fla Daylily Society Meeting	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	All welcome
19 <sup>th</sup>	Crosstown Chapel Rehearsal	6:00 - 9:00 pm	Church Members Welcome
20 <sup>th</sup>	Intermediate Spanish Classes	10:00 - 11:30 am	All welcome
21 <sup>st</sup>	German American Chorus Rehearsal	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Members Only
21 <sup>st</sup>	TC Rare Fruit Club Meeting.	6:00 - 9:30 pm	All welcome
24 <sup>th</sup>	Crosstown Capel Christmas Eve Midnight Worship Service	7:00 pm - 1:00 am	All Welcome
25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>	
27 <sup>th</sup>	Intermediate Spanish Classes	10:00 - 11:30 am	All welcome
27 <sup>th</sup>	Ft. Pierce Jazz & Blues Jazz Jams	6:30 - 9:30 pm	\$6.00 Donation, Members \$5
30 <sup>th</sup>	Partners in Horticulture Education: Hands on Vegetable Gardening	9:30 am - 12:30 pm	Veterans & Students Welcome



[www.PSLBG.org](http://www.PSLBG.org) • The Gardens is closed Monday's & Tuesday's  
For more information on events, please call 772.337.1959





# Can You Dig It?



## BOTANICAL GARDENS AND THE HOLIDAYS

Botanical Gardens around the United States love to celebrate the Holiday in full fashion. For your enjoyment we present snapshots from Gardens around our wonderful country and their lovely holiday displays and annual traditions.



Cleveland Botanical Garden, Cleveland, OH



Bellagio's Conservatory & Botanical Gardens,  
Las Vegas, NV



Bellevue Botanical Garden, Seattle, WA



Botanischer Garten Christmas Garden, Berlin





Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Atlanta, GA



Dallas Arboretum, Dallas, TX



Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, Belmont, NC



Green Bay Botanical Garden, Green Bay, WI



Heathcote Botanical Gardens, Fort Pierce, FL





Longwood Gardens, Philadelphia, PA



Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens,  
Pittsburg, PA



Rotary Botanical Gardens, Janesville, WI



VanDusen Botanical Garden, Vancouver



Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, UK



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



Horticulture



Education



Preservation



Community



**Become a Member of a Growing Community...**  
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## University of Florida IFAS Extension Central Florida Gardening Calendar — December

### What to Plant

#### What to Plant

**Annuals/Bedding plants:** To add color to the winter garden, plant masses of begonia, impatiens, and geranium. **See Annuals:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_annual\\_landscape\\_plants](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants)

**Bulbs:** Amaryllis is a popular plant for the holiday season. It can be forced to bloom now or planted outdoors for spring blooms. **See Bulbs for Florida:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_bulbous\\_flowers](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers)

**Herbs:** Plant herbs that thrive in cool weather. Some examples include parsley, thyme, sage, dill, fennel, and cilantro. **See Herbs:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_herbs](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs)

**Vegetables:** Reliable cool-season vegetables to plant this month include broccoli, carrots, kale, green onions, and others. **See Vegetable Gardening in Florida:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_vegetable\\_gardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening)  
tomatoes. **See Vegetable Gardening in Florida:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_vegetable\\_gardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening)

### What to Do

**Poinsettias:** Enjoy one of the most popular holiday plants. Protect it from cold until spring, and then plant it in the garden for next year. **See Poinsettias:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_poinsettia](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_poinsettia)

**Irrigation:** Irrigate if the weather has been warm and dry. Monitor plants for signs of stress and water only as needed. **See Landscape Irrigation:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_irrigation](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation)

**Lawns:** Continue monitoring for brown patch and large patch fungal disease until May. Proper cultural practices are key for control. **See Turf Diseases:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_turf\\_diseases](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_turf_diseases)

**Houseplants:** Inspect regularly for pests on indoor plants. Keep in mind that plant-specific temperature, light, and humidity are key to ensuring that indoor plants thrive. **See Houseplants:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_house\\_plants](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_house_plants)

**Soil test:** Consider performing a soil test if plants do not perform as desired or if new plantings are planned. **See Soil Testing:** [http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot\\_topics/agriculture/soil\\_testing.html](http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot_topics/agriculture/soil_testing.html) and Landscape and Soil Test (Home Lawn and Garden): [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_home\\_soil\\_testing](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_home_soil_testing)

**Compost/mulch:** Use fallen leaves and other plant debris to provide the carbon ingredient needed for successful composting and also to make a good mulch. **See Backyard Composting:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_home\\_composting](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_home_composting) and Landscape Mulches: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_mulch](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_mulch)

**Landscape and garden pests:** Continue monitoring and treat as needed. While cooler weather generally means fewer pests, some populations actually increase at this time of year. **See Landscape Pest Management:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_pests](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests)

**Holiday trees:** Consider enjoying a live southern red cedar and then plant it in the landscape when the holidays are over. **See Christmas Tree Selection and Care:** [http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/giam/potpourri/holiday/xmastree\\_care.html](http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/giam/potpourri/holiday/xmastree_care.html)

**Protect:** Protect tender orchid, impatiens, and tomato from falling temperatures. **See Cold Protection and Chilling Damage of Landscape Plants:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscapes\\_and\\_cold](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscapes_and_cold)



# WHAT'S FLOWERING in Florida? DECEMBER



## NORTH/ CENTRAL

- Beauty Berry Native, deciduous (*Callicarpa americana*)
- Camellia Japonica Non-native, evergreen (*Camellia japonica*)
- Camellia Sasanqua Non-native, evergreen (*Camellia sasanqua*)
- Poinsettia\*** Non-native, tender-evergreen (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*)
- Powderpuff\* Non-native, tender-evergreen (*Calliandra haematocephala*)
- Tea Olive Non-native, evergreen (*Osmanthus fragrans*)

\* In both North and South.

- Beautyberry\*
- Pinkball Tree
- Non-native, evergreen (*Dombeya wallichii*)
- Poinsettia\*
- Powderpuff\*
- Orchid Tree
- Non-native, semi-deciduous (*Bauhinia* spp.)

## SOUTH

For more information, please visit  
[GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu](http://GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu)

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Gardening  
SOLUTIONS

# EDIBLES TO PLANT IN DECEMBER

	North	Central	South
Easily Survives Transplanting	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi, Swiss Chard	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Endive/Escarole, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Swiss Chard	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive/Escarole, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Pepper, Sweet Potato, Swiss Chard, Tomatoes
Survives Careful Transplanting	Carrots, Celery, Mustard, Spinach	Carrots, Celery, Mustard, Potatoes, Spinach	Carrots, Celery, Mustard, Potatoes, Spinach
Use Seeds	Onions (green, shallots), Radish, Turnips	Onions (green, shallots), Peas (English), Radish, Turnips	Beans (bush, pole, lima), Cantaloupes, Corn (sweet), Cucumbers, Onions (greens, shallots), Peas (English, southern), Radish, Squash (summer, winter), Turnips, Watermelon



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SOLUTIONS





## HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS...

The Propagation Garden Center is back to normal since the hurricane. Looking super and lots of plants to sell thanks to our team of dedicated volunteers.

We continue to receive generous donations of plants and seeds and very thankful for them. Thanks for the donation of the amaryllis and the banana trees. Please leave your name and phone number with the plants so we can properly thank you and Keep them coming! We have increased our mother plants and we are always looking for unusual plants to include in our collection.

The GL Homes Shade House is completed (YAHOO!). We have propagated plants in place and will be starting seedlings this month. Look for our Super December Sales and Botanica in February.

Our How-to-Series was a great success November 11th with Paul Renwick creating 6 Thanksgiving Centerpieces that were raffled to some lucky winners. On December 9th we will have our 2nd - How-to Christmas Wreaths Workshop. Paul does very unusual Wreaths for the Holiday Season and you won't want to miss this great workshop. Registration is required, and we are filling up quickly. Members Free – Non-Members - \$25.00. Our How-to-Series is one of the many benefits we offer to our members and a great reason to join the Port St Lucie Botanical Gardens.

**EVERYDAY IS A SALE DAY AT THE GARDEN CENTER:** Most plants are \$4.00 to \$5.00 and we have a \$1.00 table too. **If you are a member you will receive a 10% discount.** We receive many comments on the quality and variety of plants. December 9th is our Delights of December Propagation Plant & Pavilion Gift Shop Sale and our other Saturday sales throughout December.

We are at the Garden Center Thursday – Saturday from 10AM-1:00PM. If you see a plant you want, feel free to bring it up to the gift shop.

I especially want to thank our Propagation Garden Center Team for making the Garden Center a profit center this year. Thanks to Paul Renwick, Ben Woodruff, Maureen Reilly, Merv Yearwood and Terri Walden, our lead Propagation volunteers and Curtis Clark, Glenn Ryals (and Ben) for their boundless efforts with the installation of the GL Homes Shade House and the Gardens irrigation system. I also want to include the Parks and Recreation team and the many volunteers that spend time with us whether for an hour a day or a week. Thank you all for your hard work, your talents, and your dedication.

**Have a wonderful Christmas season,  
Brenda Gustafson, Horticulture Chair**





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Lets  
grow  
together





# HORTICULTURE KNOW HOW...

## Friends of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens Horticulture Class Series 2017 Annual Poinsettia Handout

1. Poinsettia's are cultivars of *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, a shrub or small tree native to Mexico and Central America. It was introduced to the US by Joel Poinsett who was the US Minister to Mexico in 1825. It is a member of the spurge family. It is a shrub or small tree growing in seasonal dry forests as understory and grows from 2 to 16 ft. tall. The ones I have seen blooming naturally in the islands and in Mexico were 8 to 10 ft. tall, with long flexible stems with the bracts at the ends. They were in their dry cycle and so had no leaves just bracts. They sort of looked like flying red flowers.



2. Plant care - These are tropical plants. They do not like conditions below 60 degrees, wind, salt, or high variations in soil moisture. They wilt easily and will drop their leaves if subject to high soil moisture variability and hot or cold drafts. They do best in a house if they can get some sunlight every day.





3. If given somewhat protected conditions the red bracts can last for weeks. The bracts are actually colored leaves; the flowers are the small yellow or green tufts in the center of the bracts.
4. To re-flower or reuse your poinsettia follow these directions: Throughout the winter, keep the plant somewhat dry and do not fertilize until the weather warms in spring. After the weather has begun to warm, cut off the fading bracts, leaving 4-6 inches of the stem on each branch. When new growth begins fertilize lightly, repot if necessary to a slightly larger container. Be sure and use potting mix which drains well. Poinsettias dislike soggy mix. Move the plant to an area with partial shade.
5. To use in a shrub border, select a location that is well drained, receives partial sun, and has some wind protection. In addition, if you want consistent flowering, you need to select a location that does not have outside night lighting.
6. To encourage re-flowering - In July cut the plant back to about 1/2 the height you want for your holiday decorations. On October 1st, begin 14 hours of uninterrupted darkness each night, every night without interruption, and continue this until the holidays arrive. Even a flash of light for a few seconds will interrupt the cycle and delay flowering. Your re-flowered bracts will probably not be as large or as perfect as the commercial ones because you will probably not be providing perfect fertilizer applications nor applying a variety of pesticides.
7. Toxicity - Despite the rumors, these are not terribly toxic plants. Recent research indicates that it would require the consumption of many pounds of plant materials to produce more than an upset stomach. However, members of the





spurge family have white sticky sap which a small percentage of the population finds to be irritating. So don't eat your poinsettias and when you are working with them keep the sap off of your skin.

*Merry Christmas,  
Happy Hanukkah  
& Happy Holidays!*

\*The content of this lesson plan was provided by Propagation Resource an on-line service.

It should be noted that varying propagation resources have a variety of views and it is up to the individual to determine what information best fits one's own needs.

UF IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

# POINSETTIA

## Pointers



### Did you know?

The poinsettia is native to Mexico. The ancient Aztecs used poinsettias in their fall celebrations.

Named for Joel Poinsett, the botanist and U.S. Ambassador to Mexico who introduced the plant to the U.S. in 1825.

The colorful and showy "flower" is actually a cluster of modified leaves called bracts. The true flowers are small and clustered in the center of the bracts.

As a result of intensive breeding, there are more than 150 varieties of poinsettias to choose from.

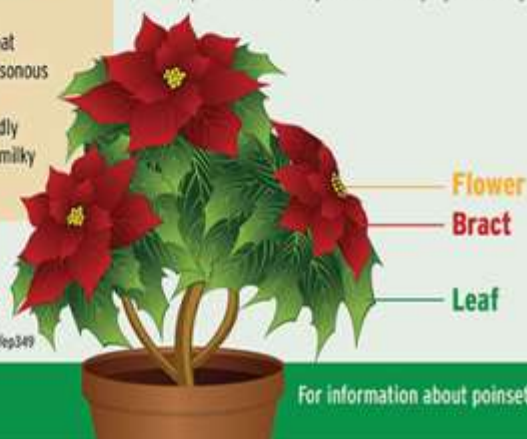
Research has shown that poinsettias are not poisonous to people or pets, although some are mildly allergic to their white, milky sap.

### Caring for Potted Poinsettias

- 1 They do best on a porch or in a window with indirect sunlight for at least 6 hours per day.
- 2 If indoors, room temperatures of 65° - 70°F are best; keep them away from cold drafts and excessive heat.
- 3 Water thoroughly only when the surface of the soil is dry to the touch; do not water too frequently.
- 4 Indoors, fertilize lightly only every 4-6 weeks.
- 5 In April, when the leaves and bracts begin to deteriorate and fall off, cut the plant back and give it sun, water and fertilizer regularly.
- 6 A real challenge is to reflower plants indoors the next year. In October, start keeping the plant in complete darkness for at least 13-14 hours each day and in bright light the rest of the day. After about 2 months, your plants will develop a colorful display of holiday blooms.

### Poinsettias in the Landscape

- 1 Varieties that naturally bloom in early to mid-November are the best for central and north Florida's landscapes.
- 2 It is best to keep these plants in brighter light during the winter, rather than indoors.
- 3 Plant in early spring as soon as the danger of frost is past. Choose a sunny spot (3-6 hours of sun) that will not receive artificial light at night.
- 4 Cut off fading bracts, leaving 4-6" of the stem on each branch.
- 5 Poinsettias prefer moist, well-drained soils with a pH between 5.5 and 6.5.
- 6 Keep mulched and well-watered until established; fertilize monthly with balanced amounts of nitrogen and potassium, and low phosphorus. Controlled release fertilizers are good.
- 7 Cut back once a month if needed, leaving 4 leaves on shoots; stop pruning in early September.
- 8 Poinsettias are nice in landscape containers, but proper watering is more critical.



References:  
Brown, S.P. 2013. Poinsettias at a Glance. UF/IFAS EDIS publication ENH1083. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep349>

For information about poinsettias, go to [solutionsforyourlife.com](http://solutionsforyourlife.com), or visit your local UF/IFAS Extension office.



# *Propagation* **Garden Center** *at the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens*

## ***Horticulture How-To Series:*** **Unique & Delightful** **Holiday Wreaths**

**Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens Propagation Center**

*Presented In the Propagation Garden Center*

### **UNIQUE & DELIGHTFUL HOLIDAY WREATHS**



*Back by Popular Demand*

**Saturday, December 9th, 10:00am – 11:30am**

This Workshop will teach you how to  
create unique and unusual wreaths  
for the Holiday's.

Cost: **FREE for Members**, Non-Members: \$25.00  
Become a member and attend Free.

**You will have a chance to Win an arrangement**

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

If you have enjoyed the stunning flower arrangements displayed in our pavilion, then you will not want to miss the three educational workshops planned for this upcoming Holiday Season presented by Paul Renwick. Paul, a long time floral designer, event planner, and owner of a Floral Design Shop in Alameda, California, worked with many of the Hollywood stars planning and designing their weddings and special events. He was chosen to create the Presentation Bouquets, flower arrangements and decorations for the 1992 World Skating Championships, held in Oakland, California. His special gardening talents have added to the ambience of the Friends of the Port St Lucie Botanical Gardens. As a member and volunteer, he is responsible for the Seasonal Walkway and Co-Chairs the Propagation/Garden Center as well as Chair of our Landscaping Committee. **Be sure to sign up early!**







# *'Twas The Night Before...*

NGC STANDARD FLOWER SHOW  
SMALL - STANDARD  
HOLIDAY FLOWER SHOW

*Presented by*

DISTRICT X JUDGES COUNCIL

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Deep South Region  
Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

**Port St Lucie Botanical Gardens**  
2410 SE Westmoreland Blvd.  
Pt. St. Lucie, FL 34952

December 2, Saturday 10am - 4pm  
December 3, Sunday 12 noon - 4pm

*Admission Free*







# Delights of December

## Plant & Gift Sale

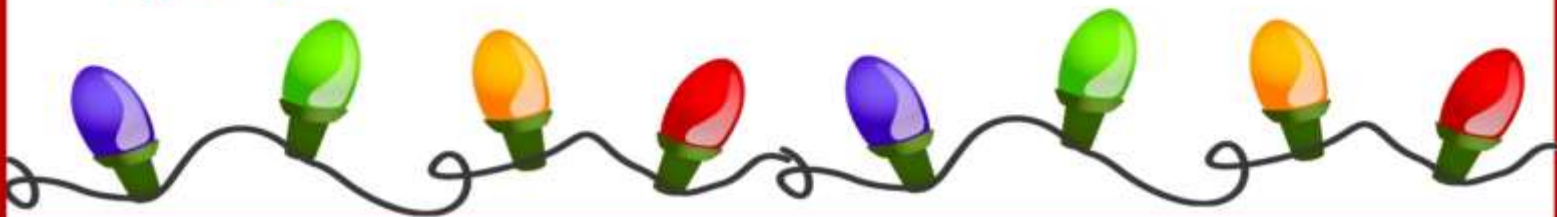
**Saturday • December 9, 2017**  
**9am to 1pm**

**Plants Galore & Unique Gifts For Sale**

**Join Us for this festive event in the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens expanded Propagation Center and our freshly stocked Holiday Center Gift Shop. Enjoy the Holiday music, Christmas cookies and cheer while you're shopping for that special gift or plant for your home.**



**A Holiday Wreath demonstration by Paul Renwick, Floral Specialist and FPSLBG volunteers will be held in the Pavillion from 10 - 11:30AM. Members can attend for Free. \$25 per person for non-members. Become a Member and attend for free. Register at: [www.pslbg.org/how-to](http://www.pslbg.org/how-to)**







**Saturday**  
**December 9th**  
**2:00 - 4:00 pm**

# **Fun at The Gardens With Santa**

**Come celebrate the holiday season with us.  
Bring your camera, take a picture with  
Santa and enjoy an afternoon of Holiday  
Fun. Free for children and families.**

**Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens**  
**2410 SE Westmoreland Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34952**





# MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS



SPONSORED BY

**GLHOMES**

## DECEMBER 15, 2017 • 6PM

Members & Volunteers come celebrate the Holidays with your Friends at the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens. A selection of appetizers, entrees, and desserts for your culinary pleasure as well as beer, wine and soda will be provided.

**RSVP REQUIRED**

If you would like to participate in our GIFT GRAB, please bring a wrapped gift (up to a \$10 value) to join in the frivolity and hilarity of gift stealing and more.

It's always the funny or weird ones that get stolen the most.



**Bring your favorite Wine Glass.**

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)**



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# ENLIST: JOIN the Saturday Wacky Weeders'

**When:** December 16, 2017  
**Where:** PSL Botanical Gardens  
**Time:** 8:30AM - 12:00PM

## LUNCH Served

Earn Double volunteer hours (Core & School Students)

The Gardens need your help to continue getting your beautiful Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens in perfect shape for the New Year and all the events we have planned for our wonderful members and guests!



## Join US For a FUN MORNING – ALL VOLUNTEERS INVITED

Consider yourself less than able-bodied? There are jobs for everyone, no matter age or ability. Bring gloves, clippers and any personal tools you prefer.





Date: Friday, January 19, 2018

Time: 11a.m.

**Public is Invited! Join us in celebrating Florida Arbor Day at the Port St Lucie Botanical Gardens with the planting of our 2017 Arbor Day tree**

**2410 SE Westmoreland Blvd,  
south of PSL Blvd.**

Donations are welcome. Please mail to 2410 SE Westmoreland Blvd, PSL 34952. Minimum donation is \$25, please. Forms are available at the Port St Lucie Botanical Gardens Office. The Book of Remembrance is located in the Gardens' Pavilion for public review.

**Contact 772.337.1959 for information**

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**Arbor Day**





# Annual Treasure Coast NAUTICAL FLEA MARKET

Sponsored by Port St. Lucie Angler's Club  
and the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens

\*\*\*\*\* FREE ADMISSION \*\*\*\*\*

BOATING, FISHING GEAR & FOOD FOR SALE  
For information call Frank Gamber 772.237.2238

Vendor Application on club's website [WWW.PSLANGLERS.COM](http://WWW.PSLANGLERS.COM)

January 13th, 2018  
Saturday • 8am - 3pm



# SAVE THE DATE

Event Dates: Saturday • February 10, 2018 & Sunday • February 11, 2018  
9 am to 4 pm Each Day

