



The Gardens Gate

January 2017 Newsletter



THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN ARBOR DAY

Among the pioneers moving into the Nebraska Territory in 1854 was J. Sterling Morton from Detroit. He and his wife were lovers of nature, and the home they established in Nebraska was quickly planted with trees, shrubs and flowers.

Morton was a journalist and soon became editor of Nebraska's finest newspaper. Given that forum, he spread agricultural information and his enthusiasm for trees to an equally enthusiastic audience.

His fellow pioneers missed their trees. But, more importantly, trees were needed as windbreaks to keep soil in place, for fuel and building materials, and for shade from the hot sun.



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**FRIENDS' ANNUAL MEETING
AND ELECTION
MONDAY • JANUARY 30 • 5:30PM**



Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens

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:	Mike Alexander
	Brenda Gustafson
	Jeffrey Policar
	Gloria "Gigi" Norelli
	Kate O'Neill
	Jennifer Scee
	Tim Sutton

Standing Committee Chairs . . .

Strategic Planning Committee:	Joleen King
Horticulture Committee:	TBD
Finance Committee:	Cheri Mabry
Membership & Volunteer Committee:	Illona Christie
Gift Shop Committee:	TBD
Resource Development Committee:	Claire Clark
Election Committee:	Debby Augst

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...

Welcome to January at the Botanical Gardens! We will once again be celebrating Arbor Day with a tree planting on Friday, January 20. Florida is the first state in the US to celebrate Arbor Day each year because of our tropical growing season. Why celebrate Arbor Day? Many of us are of an age to remember Arbor Days of our youth, outside an elementary school on a cold spring morning, watching the annual tree planting and the reciting of the poem, 'Trees' by Joyce Kilmer. The Arbor Days of our youth preceded our current Earth Day. It was a day to celebrate nature and our responsibility to it.



Arbor Day at the PSL Botanical Gardens is an opportunity for members and the public to celebrate and memorialize family and friends; those we've lost and wish to commemorate, or those still with us who we wish to celebrate and honor. This newsletter contains more information about being part of our Arbor Day celebration, which is marked with a short ceremony at 11 am on Friday, January 20. Consider joining us!

Again, we welcome January and the start of what promises to be an interesting and exciting new year at the Gardens. Visit soon!

Joleen King
President

VIDEO OF THE MONTH

**ARBOR DAY
FOUNDATION**

GROW VEGETABLES

ORGANICALLY



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22027

Port St. Lucie



Botanical Gardens

**BECOME A MEMBER
TODAY**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New ☐ Renew ☐ Gift ☐

Type: ☐ Student (18-22) - \$15
☐ Individual - \$25
☐ Family & Friends* - \$50
☐ Business/Corporate* - \$75

Primary Member Name / Business Name

* Secondary Member Name / Business Contact Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Email

Gift From

Please make checks payable to :
Friends of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens
2410 SE Westmoreland Blvd.
Port St. Lucie, FL 34952



Morton not only advocated tree planting by individuals in his articles and editorials, but he also encouraged civic organizations and groups to join in. His prominence in the area increased, and he became secretary of the Nebraska Territory, which provided another opportunity to stress the value of trees.



On January 4, 1872, Morton first proposed a tree-planting holiday to be called "Arbor Day" at a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture. The date was set for April 10, 1872. Prizes were offered to counties and individuals for planting properly the largest number of trees on that day. It was estimated that more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day.



Arbor Day was officially proclaimed by the young state's Governor Robert W. Furnas on March 12, 1874, and the day itself was observed April 10, 1874. In 1885, Arbor Day was named a legal holiday in Nebraska and April 22, Morton's birthday, was selected as the date for its permanent observance.

According to accounts from the Nebraska City News, April 1885, the city celebrated Arbor Day with a grand parade and a speech by J. Sterling Morton. Students of different grades met at their respective school rooms in the morning for the purpose of planting at least one tree. Each tree that was planted was labeled with the grade, the time planted, and was to be specially cared for by that grade.

When the plantings were completed, 1,000 students formed a line to begin the parade from the various schools to Nebraska City's opera house.

In the parade, each class carried colorful banners made of satin with silk lining and trimmed with gold fringe. The letters on the banner were painted in oil colors. By the time the parade reached the opera house, the throng numbered well over 1,000 as townspeople joined the march. Every available foot of space in the opera house was occupied, the students having the front seats and

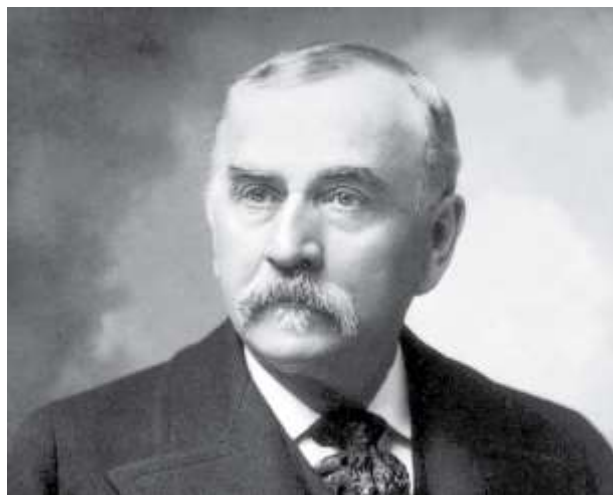


gallery, while the older persons stood. In the parade, each class carried colorful banners made of satin with silk lining and trimmed with gold fringe. The letters on the banner were painted in oil colors. By the time the parade reached the opera house, the throng numbered well over 1,000 as townspeople joined the march. Every available foot of space in the opera house was occupied, the students having the front seats and gallery, while the older persons stood.

At 11:00, the throng of celebrants was addressed by J. Sterling Morton. Mr. Morton was listened to with much attention, and loudly applauded at the close of his address. (Hear his speech.) At the conclusion of the ceremonies, the

students sang "America," and the large audience was dismissed.

This ended the first celebration of Arbor Day as a legal holiday, and, as reported by the newspaper, "To say that it was a complete success but faintly expresses it. A celebration of this kind results in good to all, and is worthy of imitation by every school in the state."



During the 1870s, other states passed legislation to observe Arbor Day, and the tradition began in schools nationwide in 1882.

Today the most common date for the state observance is the last Friday in April, and several U.S. presidents have proclaimed a national Arbor Day on that date. But a number of state Arbor Days are at other times to coincide with the best tree planting weather, from January and February in the south to May in the far north.

**"Each generation takes
the earth as trustees."
—J. Sterling Morton**

FLORIDA



BY THE NUMBERS

173

Tree City USA communities
2 new



48.20% of FL
lives in a Tree City USA community

100%
Recertification Rate

Largest

Jacksonville

POPULATION 861,252

Smallest

Town of McIntosh

POPULATION 500



Florida's
longest-running active
Tree City USA
community:

Orlando

39 YEARS

\$75,968,646.16

spent on urban
forestry management



\$7.93

average per capita

Tree City USA Summary 2015

Growth Award

25

Growth Award recipients

2

NEW

Growth Award recipient

Longest Active Growth Award

Orlando · 25 years

Beyond Tree City USA

91.33% of communities completed
online applications

14 Florida Tree Campus Schools

2 New Tree Campus School

10 Tree Line Utilities

Longest Running Active Tree Line USA Utility:
Orlando Utilities Commission (17 years)



Arbor Day Foundation®



Friends of the Port St. Lucie

Botanical Gardens

Florida

2017 Memorial Request

Memorial Requested by:

Name (please print)

Relationship to person being remembered

Telephone #

Email

\$ _____

Donation Amount

Check #

Date

PLEASE PRINT CAREFULLY

Person being remembered

By ? .. Your name, family group, etc.

**Donations welcome. Minimum of \$25.00
donation per Memorial. Please use
separate form for each memorial.**

**Please review the information given very carefully.
Friends of the PSLBG make every effort to
ensure accuracy. Please help us by making
sure all fields are filled out completely and
legibly for your request to be processed.**

Contact 772.337.1959 for information

Arbor Day 01.20.17

Out & About



With The Gardens

Children's Event: Fun At The Gardens With Santa





Shade House Ribbon Cutting







Bok Tower Tour







Wacky Weeders



How-To Series: Making Holiday Wreaths



Look For Me In The Gardens



Seen Around The Gardens



The 19th Hole at the Saints
Restaurant & Banquet Hall
772-337-0180
Carl Bussett/Rick Aslin
Proprietors
& Sandpiper Room
2601 SE Morningside Blvd.
Port St. Lucie, FL 34952



The 19th Hole at the Saints

Restaurant & Banquet Hall

772-337-0180

Carl Bussett/Rick Aslin

Proprietors

& Sandpiper Room

2601 SE Morningside Blvd.

Port St. Lucie, FL 34952

ENLIST: Join the Saturday Wacky Weeders'



When: January 21, 2017
Where: PSL Botanical Gardens
Time: 8:30AM - 12:00PM

Lunch Served

Earn Double volunteer hours (Core & School Students)

The Gardens need your help! The Weeds are winning the war! And the vines are strategizing for a world take-over! Let's show 'em who's boss. They've had all summer to strengthen their ranks, but enough is enough! It's time to spruce up the Gardens for the New Year!



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.

PSLBG Propagation

Our PSLBG Propagation Center has a large variety of plants starting at \$2. Our prices are very reasonable. We have the largest variety of copper leaf plants in the area.

January
SPECIALS

We're Open:

Sunday • 12pm - 4pm & Wednesday - Saturday • 10am - 4pm

January

Calendar of Events

2 nd	Landscape Advisory Committee	10 - 11:30 am	Members Welcome
4 th	PGA Garden Club	1:30 - 4:30 pm	Members Welcome
9 th	Rio Lindo Board Meeting	10:00 am – Noon	Rio Lindo Board Members
9 th	Botanica Meeting	3:30 - 4:30 pm	Committee Members
9 th	Board of Directors Meeting	4:30 - 6:00 pm	Members Welcome
11 th	Ft Pierce Jazz & Blues Jazz Jams	6:30 - 9:30 pm	\$6 Donation, Members \$5
12 th	PSL Anglers Club Meeting	6:30 - 9:00 pm	All Welcome
14 th	PSL Angler's Nautical Flea Market	8:00 am - 2:00 pm	All Welcome
15 th	Leader Cheer Volunteer session	9:00 - 11:00 am	School volunteers
15 th	South FL Daylily Society Mtg.	2:00 - 4:00 pm	Members Welcome
18 th	Intermediate Spanish Class	10:00 - 11:30 am	All Welcome
18 th	Bobbies Jewelry Making & Repair Class	1:00 - 4:00 pm	All Welcome \$25 per Class
19 th	Treasure Coast Hibiscus Society Mtg.	10:30 am - 1:00 pm	All Welcome
20 th	Florida Arbor Day Ceremony	11:00 am – Noon	All Welcome
21 st	Wacky Weeders	8:00 am – Noon	All Welcome
23 rd	Rio Lindo Garden Club Meeting	12:45 - 4:00 pm	Members Welcome
25 th	Intermediate Spanish Class	10:00 - 11:30 am	All Welcome
25 th	Ft. Pierce Jazz & Blues Jazz Jams	6:30 - 9:30 pm	\$6 Donation, Members \$5
30 th	Annual Meeting Friends' of PSLBG	5:30 - 8:00 pm	Members Welcome



University of Florida IFAS Extension Central Florida Gardening Calendar — January

What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: Plants that can be added to the garden during the coolest months include begonia, browallia, lobelia, dianthus, dusty miller, and nicotiana. **See Annuals:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

Bulbs: Winter is a great time to plant bulbs that will bloom in the spring. Some examples include Clivia lily, crinum, and agapanthus. **See Bulbs for Florida:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers

Herbs: Many herbs will thrive now that temperatures are cooler, including tarragon, thyme, dill, fennel, and any of the mints. **See Herbs:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: Many vegetables can be planted this time of year. This the last month to plant Irish potatoes, beets, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, kale, mustard, and turnips. **See Vegetable Gardening in Florida:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

What to Do

Landscape: It is a good time to plant woody shrubs. Water frequently to get new plantings off to a good start. **See The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design:** http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_v090110.pdf and **Shrubs:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_shrubs

Irrigation: Water plants if temperatures remain higher than normal and rainfall is scarce. **See Landscape Irrigation:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation

Shrubs and trees: Prune non-spring flowering shrubs and trees this month to improve form. **See Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning

Arbor Day: Celebrate Florida Arbor Day (the 3rd Friday of January) by planting a tree in your yard or community. **See Arbor Day in Florida:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_arbor_day

Crapemyrtle: Remove seed pods, crossing branches, and small twiggy growth to improve the appearance and form of the plant, if desired. Hard pruning is not required. **See Crapemyrtle:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_crapemyrtle

Cold protection: Bring sensitive plants like orchids inside if a frost or freeze is predicted. Thoroughly water and cover sensitive plants in the landscape 12–24 hours before a freeze. **See Cold Protection and Chilling Damage of Landscape Plants:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscapes_and_cold

Pests: Apply horticultural oil to citrus, shrubs, and deciduous fruit trees while plants are dormant to control scale. Apply copper spray to mangos after bloom. **See Landscape Pest Management:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests

WHAT'S FLOWERING in Florida?

JANUARY

NORTH/
CENTRAL

Camellia

Non-native, evergreen (*Camellia spp.*)

Red Maple

Native, deciduous (*Acer rubrum*)

Hong Kong Orchid Tree

Non-native, evergreen (*Bauhinia blakeana*)

White Frangipani

Non-native, deciduous (*Plumeria alba*)

SOUTH

UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



Gardening
SOLUTIONS

For more information, please visit
GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu

EDIBLES TO PLANT IN JANUARY

	North	Central	South
Easily Survives Transplanting	Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Kale, Kohlrabi	Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive/Escarole, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Pepper, Tomatoes	Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive/Escarole, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Pepper, Tomatoes
Survives Careful Transplanting	Carrots, Celery, Mustard, Potatoes	Carrots, Celery, Mustard, Potatoes	Carrots, Celery, Mustard, Potatoes, Spinach
Use Seeds	Onion (bunching, shallot), Peas (English), Radish, Turnip	Onion (bunching, shallot), Peas (English, Southern), Radish, Turnip, Watermelon	Beans (bush, pole, lima), Corn, Cucumbers, Onion (bunching, shallot), Peas (English, Southern), Pumpkin, Radish, Squash (summer, winter), Turnip, Watermelon

UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



Gardening
SOLUTIONS

GARDEN OF THE MONTH: PROPAGATION CENTER

MAINTAINED BY FRIENDS OF THE
PORT SAINT LUCIE BOTANICAL GARDENS

The propagation area started in 2010 with just 3 pots and a bag of potting soil, per Laurie Hart, Master Gardener and the first Chair of Propagation. According to Laurie, there wasn't even a table to be used! Laurie envisioned an area for propagating cuttings and growing all sorts of plants that would become a profit center for the Gardens. She worked with the Orchid Garden members and many other talented volunteers to get it started.

Laurie was with Propagation for close to 4 years. Through her hard work and dedication, many volunteers were led to double our propagation space and plants. We are thankful for her many efforts!

Jacques Burrell and Mike Bond were instrumental in expanding Propagation and the overall upkeep from the beginning. Mike worked with the City to install an irrigation system and he constructed many of the tables that you still see in the Garden today.

Jacques Burrell became our 2nd Chair of Propagation in the Fall of 2013 and continued with the many challenges of advancing the propagation program to the next level. He saw the future of propagation as unlimited with a wonderful facility and incredible volunteers.

Jacques "passed the wand" to Josephine Telenko, Master Gardener, in 2014. Josephine also served as Horticulture Chair. Luckily, she had the assistance of her partner Don Wysong and Ben Woodward, who agreed to assist her as Chair of Propagation. With her great "selling ability" and enormous drive to "get things done", Josephine was able to increase sales at the plant events. Ben is our "Propagating Whiz" and because of his efforts we now have the largest variety of copper leaf plants in the area. Ben will continue his wonders in our new shade house.

Our misting table arrived in April, 2015 from a generous donation by member Dolores J.



Thomas in memory of her parents. We will be using the misting table in our new shade house for many more years.

Two 10'x12' utility Storage Sheds were installed in February, 2015. They are slowly being filled to the brim.

Brenda Gustafson, Board Member and Master Gardener stepped in as Propagation Chair when Josephine resigned after years of working both in propagation and the entire garden - a feat that most people would have quickly buckled under. Brenda is bringing her marketing and organizational skills to Propagation along with talented volunteers Jack Kelly, Paul Renwick and Maureen Reilly to guide her along the way. Brenda initiated our first successful fund appeal and thanks to donors, we achieved our \$5000 goal to purchase a Shade House. Curtis Clark headed up the entire installation project of the Shade House and with the help of Glenn Ryals of GL Homes we cut the ribbon to our new 20 x 24 shade house in December, 2016. Look for new and unusual plants soon.

In 2016, we added more plant sale days and additional workshops that have been very well attended making Propagation a very busy place. With the shade house addition, plant sales will become more profitable in the future.

Big thanks go to Laura, Jacques, Josephine Ben, Brenda, Curtis and all the many volunteers for their hard work, determination and dedication that has created such a success in Propagation in a short period of time. The propagation space has tripled and we have gone from 2 plants to close to 1000 plants!

GARDEN OF THE MONTH: PROPAGATION CENTER

If you like 'digging in the dirt' and love gardening, we'd love you to join our team! Please Volunteer!



GARDEN OF THE MONTH: PROPAGATION CENTER



Josephine Telenko



Don Wysong



Josephine Telenko, Jacques Burrell, Laurie Hart



Josephine Telenko



RECREATION: (772) 807-4499 HOSPITALITY: (772) 807-4488

HUMANA FITNESS & WELLNESS CENTER: (772) 204-7101

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Port St. Lucie

Civic Center

Where the Research Coast Meets

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PORT ST. LUCIE, FL 34952

Welcome to All Garden Goers...

This month our
Jazz Jams will be held on
**January 11th,
& January 25th**
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 best time to plant a tree
Was 20 years ago.
The next best time is today.”**

~Chinese proverb



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HEARD AROUND THE GARDENS

**A new year –
and a blank page
of opportunity ...
Look ahead and
write your story!**

Wishing Our
Members &
Volunteers all
the best for
a successful
2017





Volunteer at the Friends of the Port St Lucie Botanical Gardens

Propagation

Assist with propagation, plant sales and all areas of propagation techniques.

No experience needed. Bring gloves and clippers.

Thursday – Saturday 8:30AM – 12PM in the Propagation Area.

Please call Brenda Gustafson at 772-678-8523.



Center & Gift



If you enjoy greeting and meeting 'The Gardens' guests, handing out informational materials, answering the telephone and assisting with questions and requests this is the place for you. Assist in the selection and sales of books, gifts and other merchandise. Capable of handling money and accountable for gift shop receipts. Ability to work well with other volunteers and the public. Open Wednesday – Saturday – 10AM-4PM, Sunday 12AM-4PM. No experience needed. Pick a day or more to volunteer on a schedule that works for you. Retail experience in a Gift Shop a plus. **Please Call Illona Christie at 772-337-1959**



Please contact Brenda Gustafson (772-678-8523) or Illona Christie (772-337-1959) for more information or to arrange for item drop off.



Can You Dig It?



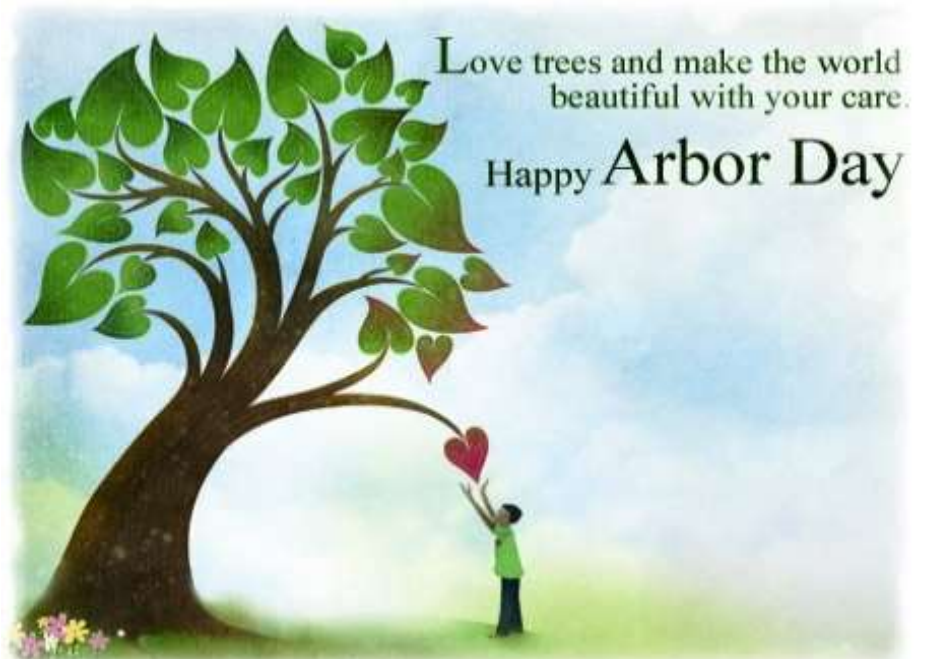
THE FIRST ARBOR DAY IN THE WORLD

Arbor Day (or Arbour; from the Latin arbor, meaning tree) is a holiday in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees. Today, many countries observe such a holiday. Though usually observed in the spring, the date varies, depending on climate and suitable planting season.

FIRST ARBOR DAY IN THE WORLD

The Spanish village of Mondoñedo held the first documented arbor plantation festival in the world organized by its mayor in 1594. The place remains as Alameda de los Remedios and it is still planted with lime and horse-chestnut trees. A humble granite marker and a bronze plate recall the event. Additionally, the small Spanish village of Villanueva de la Sierra held the first modern Arbor Day, an initiative launched in 1805 by the local priest with the enthusiastic support of the entire population.

While Napoleon was ravaging Europe with his ambition in this village in the Sierra de Gata lived a priest, don Ramón Vacas Roxo, which, according to the chronicles, "convinced of the importance of trees for health, hygiene, decoration, nature, environment and customs, decides to plant trees and give a festive air. The festival began on Carnival Tuesday with the ringing of two bells of the church, and the Middle and the Big. After the Mass, and even coated with church ornaments, don Ramón, accompanied by clergies, teachers and a large number of neighbours, planted the first tree, a poplar, in the place known as Valley of the Ejido. Tree plantations continued by Arroyada and Fuente de la Mora. Afterwards, there was a feast, and did not miss the dance. The party and plantations lasted three days. He drafted a manifesto in defence of the trees that was sent to surrounding towns to spread the love and respect for nature, and also he advised to make tree plantations in their localities.





HORTICULTURE KNOW HOW...

Friends of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens
Horticulture Class Series 2016

TREES IN SOUTH FLORIDA

Small Flowering Trees

Small flowering trees bring exciting color to any South Florida yard, large or small. Their smaller height - less than 20 feet tall - means you get to see more of the blooms since they're closer to eye-level. Low growing trees can be used as a full-fledged tree in a small yard, or as more of an accent in larger one. Smaller Florida flowering trees can include shrubs trained to a single-trunk (called "standards") or those with multiple trunks.

Plan for seasonal color...or bare branches

A few trees are deciduous, like the gorgeous Tuscarora pink crape myrtle pictured above. But trees that lose their leaves for the winter months will still be surrounded by greenery and other color, since our growing season is basically all year long. And winters here are short-lived. The majority of our small flowering trees will blossom on and off all year, though we'll see more blooms in warmer months. Some, like desert cassia and parkinsonia, bloom in spring and fall. Others have a heavy spring flowering with some blooms then throughout the year.

Ways to use a low height flowering tree in your landscape

- as a focal point near the entry
- at the corner of the house as a large accent
- to anchor a garden bed that needs some height
- several grouped close together as a small "stand" of trees on one side of the yard to balance a larger landscape element (such as a large shade tree) on the opposite side
- as an "understory" planting around or between tall pines or palms to soften the vertical effect of the tall trunks. Pines and palms let plenty of sunlight shine through and the flowering trees will draw the eye down toward the house and yard.
- lining a long driveway
- flanking a walkway to create a natural arbor and create a space for a focal point (your front door?) seen under their canopies

Generally, anything that flowers shouldn't be used to "hide" something. Colorful blossoms

draw attention to the spot you're trying to camouflage. An all green plant is a better choice. Many flowering trees of Florida have more benefits than just beautiful color...some attract butterflies and make a perfect specimen to



anchor a butterfly garden. Others like Little Gem magnolia have sweet-scented flowers - a single blossom can send its perfume throughout your home.

What color flowers should I choose?

Use a color to complement or contrast with other colors in your landscaping. Avoid blooms the same color as your home's paint color so they don't "wash out" against a similar backdrop.

Large Flowering Trees

The large flowering trees of South Florida provide shade and outstanding beauty for larger landscapes.

Choose with proportion in mind

Large house and plenty of room - large tree. Two story house and a good-size yard - large tree. Tiny cottage or mobile home - forget the large tree. Stick with a small flowering tree that grows 20 feet or less. A tree should complement your home...not overwhelm it. But what if you fall in love with a big tree variety and only have an average-size yard? Perhaps your tree can be kept in line with trimming...or use it as a single yard specimen. Some tabebuias are terrific trees



of 20 to 30 feet that can work for you. Some trees will get very wide as well as tall - make sure you have the space to handle it.

Where to plant

As with all big trees, plant well away from your house, approximately half the width of your tree's mature canopy. The plant pages (in progress now!) will help you with spacing info. Remember the view from indoors...some years down the road your golf course or water view may be obstructed by a big tree trunk. If you plant too close to the end of the driveway you may not be able to get a clear view of the street around the trunk and/or lower branches of a mature tree. Consider power lines when you choose the placement of a big tree. If the power company trims your tree, it won't be pretty. A common landscaping mistake: Planting a big tree in the middle of your yard visually cuts your house in half and makes it seem smaller.

The Pros (and one Con) of large flowering trees

- Gorgeous colorful flowers (that one is pretty obvious!)
- Privacy from second story neighbors
- Less street noise
- Welcome shade and lower utility bills in summer
- Interesting trunk colors, shapes and textures. Tree trunks are landscape elements too and are more noticeable on bigger specimens. Example: the floss silk's giant medieval spikes.
- Wind tolerance can be an issue with larger trees, especially when strong summer storms fling your flowers away. Fast growers also have less dense wood which means limbs may be more prone to breakage than those of a slower growing tree.
- Some large flowering trees have fragrance, too - D.D. Blanchard magnolia, one of the most beautiful southern trees, has flowers with the strongest fragrance in nature. And the ylang ylang tree's flowers are used in perfumes.

Are you a neat freak?

Trees are generally the lowest maintenance plant of all - except for falling blossoms (and some leaf drop even on non-deciduous trees of Florida). If you think flower petals on the ground are messy, don't plant a flowering tree. Placement may solve the issue for you. Flowers on the lawn can be picturesque - but on the drive or walk? Not so much.

Continued on Page 28

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Bloom time tips

Some South Florida trees are deciduous - they lose their leaves in winter - but the payoff in warmer weather is worth it. The tabebuia ipe is one of the first trees to burst into bloom in early spring, before its leaves begin to show. If you're a Snowbird, Hong Kong orchid flowers all winter long. If you have a really large property, plant look-alikes royal poinciana, jacaranda and peltophorum...you'll get a succession of stunning spring purple, summer red and early fall yellow blossoms.

Shade Trees

Shade trees are a welcome addition to most South Florida yards. They not only make beautiful landscape specimens, they also help cut down on high summer power bills.

How large a tree should you grow?

A tree is generally the lowest-maintenance plant there is...unless it's badly placed. Plenty of room to grow means avoiding problems later. Ideally, a tree should be planted a distance from your home that's half the width of the mature canopy. The Plant Pages for each tree make it easy...we tell you how far away to plant from a house.

Tree shapes help you choose the right tree.

Shapes of trees range from broad-spreading to spreading, oval to rounded canopies.

- Small yards are best with rounded or oval shaped canopies.
- Large yards can handle spreading or broad-spreading forms.

Of course, flowering trees and even palms can provide shade as well...giving you many options for large or small shade trees. What if you want a certain big tree and only have room for a mid-size one? Large trees can often be trimmed to keep their height in check, though it will require professional trimming experts to do the work.

Plant for energy-savings!

Planting a tree on the South or West side of your property helps keep the hottest sun off the house. Some of South Florida's most beautiful shade trees are deciduous - they lose their leaves in winter. If you're planting a shade tree for energy-saving, a deciduous tree is a good choice. The leaves in warm weather protect your home from blazing sun. In winter, when the tree is bare, sunlight can get through the branches to help heat your home. It's a win-win...unless you just can't stand the look of bare branches for a few months. You can also grow a large shrub, small flowering tree, or certain accent trees and palms to protect one or two windows that get



blasted with sun.

Evergreen trees offer winter protection for your plants.

Trees that keep their leaves year round can provide a sheltering canopy to protect plants below from frost. They also act as a natural covering to keep winter temperatures a few degrees warmer in the area below them.

Need shade fast?

The Plant Pages explain the growth rate for each tree - a fast-grower will give you shade sooner. If you find a tree you like but it's a moderate or slow grower, purchase a larger size to get shade faster. Regular fertilization will help speed up the growth.

Worried about tree roots under your house?

AMAZING FACT: Roots of all plants in South Florida - even mature live oaks - go down in the soil no more than about 4 feet! Why? Because there's nothing there for them to hold onto, and no nutrients to make it worth their while. Most houses already have lots of roots under them...and roots won't do any damage growing under a house provided the tree is placed well away.

Accent Trees

Accent trees are an added touch in landscape areas that need an anchor plant or focal point to complete the overall design. Many are small trees but mid-size or even large ones can work well for some spaces. Accents have a distinguishing characteristic - often flowers - that makes them stand out. But they can also feature unique leaf color or shape, unusual texture or growth direction, as well as form. In this section we highlight non-flowering Florida landscape trees and plants that add the finishing touch to your landscape.



Columnar trees

Tall and narrow landscape trees that make an elegant statement...often used against the side of a house. South Florida columnar trees include stately Italian cypress and the beautiful false ashoka tree.

Pyramid-shaped trees

Teardrop shape, larger at the base and smaller toward the top. Like the East Palatka hollies pictured above, these often have that "up North" look, with a sturdy, compact, "Christmas tree" form. These trees work well singly near the corner of the house, since most grow slowly and don't take up a lot of space. Also great as a garden bed anchor or a stand-alone yard specimen. Group planting uses include flanking the driveway entrance, a backdrop for flowers, creating a privacy hedge and/or acting as windbreak trees. Some can be shaped with regular trimming to keep the pyramid form, keeping them fairly full to the ground or cleaning up the trunk. Pyramidal trees include hollies such as Nellie Stevens, Dahoon and East Palatka. Also in this group is the striking silvery Arizona cypress. Other lovely pyramid

form trees are Japanese blueberry and southern red cedar.

Globe-shape

Arborvitae can be used as a large, rounded bush or tree for privacy and shade.

Unusual accents

Plants with unique appeal...unusual form, foliage color or texture. Kopsia and yaupon holly (see Holly Tree link above) can be grown as small shade trees. Clusia rosea and fiddle leaf fig are sometimes grown as larger trees. Other unusual accents include Australian tree fern, dwarf black olive, and screw pine.

Tree-like shrubs

Large shrubs can be used as accent trees as well...flowering ones (see Small Flowering Trees for these) or those that don't have showy blooms - such as ligustrum and silver buttonwood.



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at the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens *Leave a Legacy*



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