

The February 2016 Newsletter Gardens Gate



Port St. Lucie
Botanical Gardens
Florida



DON'T MISS FRIENDS' 7TH ANNUAL BOTANICA GARDEN FESTIVAL & PLANT SALE...

Friends' 7th Annual Botanica Garden Festival & Plant Sale is shaping up to be another big, successful event! This two day extravaganza always draws big crowds to The Gardens, all looking for the "right plant – right place" while selecting from the many plant and accessory exhibitors and garden club displays. The event planning began back in August and comes to fruition on Saturday & Sunday, February 13 & 14, 2016. It is Friends' largest fundraising undertaking of the year, made possible by our many wonderful Volunteers. *Editor*

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL AT BOTANICA 2016!!!

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R e m i n d e r

**BOTANICA GARDEN FESTIVAL
& PLANT SALE
FEBRUARY 13TH & 14TH • 9AM - 4PM**



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)

Officers & Directors . . .

President:	Bill Manning
Vice President:	Pat Armstrong
Secretary:	Josephine Telenko
Treasurer	
& Asst Secretary:	Richard McAfoos
Directors:	Illona Christie
	Joleen King
	Ben Woodruff

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Strategic Planning Committee:	Bill Manning
Horticulture Committee:	Josephine Telenko
Finance Committee:	Richard McAfoos
Membership & Volunteer Committee:	Illona Christie
Gift Shop Committee:	TBD
Resource Development Committee:	Pat Armstrong
Election Committee:	Brenda Gustafson

Newsletter...

Editor:	Richard McAfoos
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.

FRIENDS' GIFT TO THE GARDENS...

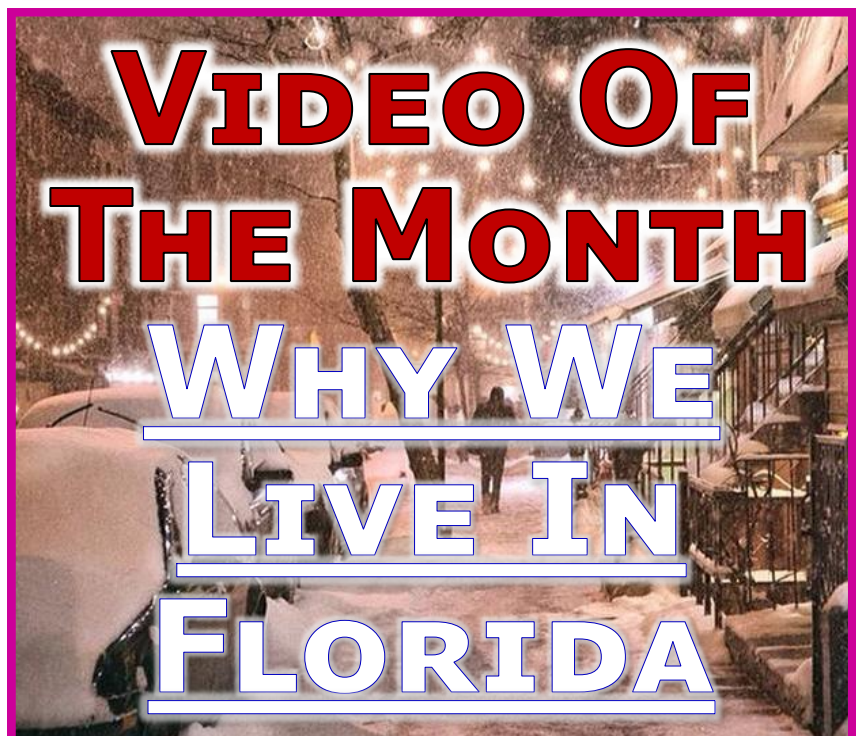
In January of 2015 Friends of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens generously conveyed a \$30,000 grant to the Foundation for an art enhancement at The Gardens. This project took a year to complete with the recent installation outside of the Armillary Sphere,



Armillary Sphere

adjacent the Bamboo and Secret gardens, and, installation inside The Pavilion of the suspended bronze Leaf Quill, both stunningly beautiful pieces. This is a brief story about the artist, the sculptures' concept and their new home. *Editor*

Continued on Pg 3



THE ARTIST...

David Harber: After being educated at Dartington Hall School, one of the most respected artistic schools of the time, David Harber worked as a potter and also trained as an apprentice thatcher before embarking on a professional mountaineering career; often guiding nature film crews on expeditions all over the world. Soon after hanging up his crampons and ice picks, David converted a Dutch barge into a travelling theatre and arts centre and took it touring around the waterways of Europe. Through his experiences of converting and maintaining the barge, David honed his metalworking skills and quickly developed a passion for creating outdoor sculptures. His first sculpture client was Jeremy Irons who bought an armillary sundial and subsequently, over the past 20 years, David has built up an enviable reputation and successful business producing the highest quality sundials, sculptures and water features. His works are rooted in art, science and ancient ideas, designed and built in a contemporary manner with simple elegant forms and beautiful high-grade materials. David's achievements include a long list of large scale public and corporate artworks, celebrity clients including George Michael & Dame Judi Dench and **the distinct honor of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II** unveiling David's work on three occasions. David lives in Oxfordshire and is married to Sophie. He has four children: Celeste, Maya, Freya and Romany. When not pursuing another passion – aviation – he is to be found at the family's renovated lemon farm in Sicily.

THE PORT ST LUCIE ARMILLARY SPHERE CONCEPT BY DAVID HARBER - THE GARDEN PIECE...

"The Armillary Sphere is one of David's signature pieces which has a history almost lost in the mists of time. Evolved approximately 2,000 years ago it rapidly became a vital scientific instrument for the terrestrial studying of the heavens, but perhaps more importantly in this context, it is an early and essential navigational instrument, which would have been used by early intrepid explorers who by their very activities were the first plant hunters and botanists. David is a direct descendant of John Blagrave, the 17th century mathematician and dialist and a contemporary and friend of perhaps the most famous plant hunter of all time, John Tradescant, the Younger. Tradescant visited the United States (New World) and brought back to the English garden great American trees such as the Magnolias and Tulip Tree.

The Port St Lucie Armillary Sphere is David's contemporary interpretation of the sun dial which has always been seen as the perfect marriage of art and science. Designed to tell the time to within a few minutes of accuracy, the Armillary Sphere would be made of highly polished stainless steel which will both glint and glisten and all importantly, reflect the greenery of its immediate environment along with the blue of the Florida sky. It will be created for the spot where the paths of the Rose Garden,

Secret Garden and Bamboo Garden converge. It is elemental in its simplicity yet represents the pinnacle of man's understanding of the heavens and navigation in its day. It has a universal appeal which is easily 'read' by the untrained observer whilst giving up more and more intriguing information as time is spent engaging with it. Throughout history the sun dial and particularly the armillary have been seen as Oracles, ' the voice of the heavens', imparting ethereal wisdom with the reassuring regularity of the days and seasons they serve to convey. It is an educational sculpture showing minute by minute movement of time telling shadows.

Paying homage to its Oracle status the piece is traditionally engraved with quotations, mottos or sayings. This serves to engage, educate and edify the passing visitor. All the elements of importance are engraved with their correct names. The mottos/quotes are placed on the horizon ring (parallel to the earth's surface) and at a perfect position to be read by visitors of all heights. The piece would be appropriately signed by the artist David Harber. The material used would be polished stainless steel."



Armillary Sphere Site - By Bamboo & Secret Gardens...



Armillary Sphere Site Preparation By Parks...



Armillary Sphere Viewing By President Manning & Vice President Armstrong...



Armillary Sphere by Day



Armillary Sphere by Night



Armillary Sphere Dedication Inscription

LEAF QUILL CONCEPT BY DAVID HARBER - THE PAVILION PIECE ...

“The Pavilion is a manmade structure within a lush verdant environment. The concept for the piece was to bring the natural gardens into The Pavilion by placing a stylised organic plant/seed pod into the centre of the formal building. This would link the exterior to the interior and show the relationship between earth bound plant growth and its relentless search upwards for the life giving and energising light.

The Leaf Quill symbolises a seed pod and the bud-like fresh shoots of a plant, delicate in its appearance and cell-like in its structure. The piece consists of hundreds of individual bronze leaves of five or more different species in different sizes and forms, all randomly coming together to form the overall shape with a ratio of metal to void of approximately 60/40. This gives the piece a sense of longevity and chandelier-like qualities. It is naturally coloured with the Verdigris finish both inside and out, but with the outer finish being waxed giving it a different/darker more mature green hue. The piece is intended to be suspended by a single strand of stainless steel wire from the centre of the light well.

It would greatly benefit from a discreet spot light as this would throw beguiling shadows onto the floor and surrounding walls.

The piece would be signed by the artist David Harber, and dated in Roman Numerals. The material used would be bronze.”





Leaf Quill Installation In The Pavilion...



Leaf Quill by Day



Leaf Quill by Night

February

Calendar of Events



1 st	Board of Directors Meeting	4 - 5 pm	Members Welcome
3 rd	Beginning Spanish Classes	10 - 11:30 am	Fee info. call 772.924.1002
3 rd	Tai Chi for Health Classes	10:30 - 11:30 am	Fee Info. call 772.408.6008
9 th	PSL Orchid Society	11 am - 3 pm	All Welcome
10 th	Beginning Spanish Classes	10 - 11:30 am	Fee Info. call 772.924.1002
10 th	Tai Chi for Health Classes	10:30 - 11:30 am	Fee Info. call 772.408.6008
10 th	Ft Pierce Jazz & Blues Jazz Jams	6:30 - 9:30 pm	\$5 Donation, Members \$4
11 th	PSL Anglers Club Meeting	6:30 - 9 pm	All Welcome
13 th	BOTANICA 2016 PLANT SALE	9 am - 4 pm	ALL WELCOME
14 th	BOTANICA 2016 PLANT SALE	9 am - 4 pm	ALL WELCOME
17 th	Beginning Spanish Classes	10 - 11:30 am	Fee info. call 772.924.1002
17 th	Tai Chi for Health Classes	10:30 – 11:30 pm	Fee info. call 772.408-6008
17 th	Bobbie's Jewelry Making Class	12:30 – 3:30 pm	Fee info. call 772.475.5593
18 th	Treasure Coast Hibiscus Society Mtg.	10:30 am – 1 pm	All Welcome
22 nd	Rio Lindo Garden Club Meeting	12:45 - 4 pm	Members Welcome
24 th	Beginning Spanish Classes	10 - 11:30 am	Fee info. call 772.924.1002
24 th	Tai Chi for Health Classes	10:30 - 11:30 am	Fee info. call 772.408.6008
24 th	Bobbie's Jewelry Making Class	12:30 – 3:30 pm	Fee info. call 772.475.5593
24 th	Ft Pierce Jazz & Blues Jazz Jams	6:30 - 9:30 pm	\$5 Donation, Members \$4
27 th	Children's Event: Bees (Ages 5-12)	11 am - Noon	Call 772.337.1959 to Register

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

PSL ANGLERS CLUB' ANNUAL FLEA MARKET A BIG SUCCESS ...

The Port St. Lucie Anglers Club held their Annual Nautical Flea Market at The Gardens on Saturday, January 9, 2016, from 8 AM - 3 PM, with close to 2,000 people visiting during the 7 hour event. This free flea market featured fishing and boating gear for sale to the public. The PSL Anglers Club is a Gardens' partner holding its two major events at The Gardens each year in exchange for overseeing the parking concession for our annual Botanica Garden Festival each February. *Editor*







BUTTERFLY GARDEN GETS NEW FENCE...

Recently, Parks began the long awaited Butterfly Garden fence replacement project. The original wood picket fence, which lasted almost six years, was ready for retirement (Indeed!). The new vinyl replacement fence is expected to last much longer while maintaining a good appearance. Although the installation is basically complete, additional work is underway to secure pickets and caps, stabilize posts and strengthen all of the gates. Funding for this project, estimated at \$10,000 (+/-), came from Parks' operating budget. We thank them profusely for the new fence! *Editor*







Can You Dig It?



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM AND BOTANIC GARDEN

The Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden is a unique 127-acre botanical garden and historical site nestled into hills near the San Gabriel Mountains in the city of Arcadia, California.

The Arboretum is sited on a remaining portion of the Rancho Santa Anita, one of the Mexican land grants of Southern California. Rancho Santa Anita was unusual in that it was located above a large part of the Raymond Basin aquifer. Three sag ponds and numerous springs were found in the area and the only remaining one is now called Baldwin Lake. Lacy Park in the city of San Marino once was another sag pond and the precise location of the third is not known but may have been on the grounds of the Huntington Library and Botanic Garden. As a consequence of the relative abundance of water, it was important area in prehistory as a year round source of water, the body of water known as Baldwin Lake and the other sag ponds attracted both waterfowl and other animals as well as Native Americans. Not surprisingly the presence of water and game created a permanent Native American habitation in the area and is believed to have been the location of the Tongva village of Aleupkigna. The exact location of the village is unknown. The close proximity to the nearby San Gabriel Mission may have led to the construction of a small seasonal dwelling at the Arboretum site for shepherds or hunters which ultimately led to the construction of a modest adobe structure.

In 1839 the grant to Rancho Santa Anita was awarded to Hugo Reid (1809–1852) and his Tongva wife, Victoria Bartolomea Comicrabit. Reid was an educated Scotsman known for a series of letters describing Tongva culture. Otherwise Reid was probably best known for his role in the 1849 California Constitutional Convention. Afflicted with tuberculosis, he died at the age of 43. A series of short term owners of the property, Rancho Santa Anita, followed.

Subsequent owners of Rancho Santa Anita were; in sequence, Henry Dalton, Joseph A. Rowe, Albert Dibblee in partnership with William Corbett and a Mr. Barker, Leonard Rose and William Wolfskill, Alfred Chapman with Harris Newmark until finally the property was sold to Elias Jackson Baldwin. With each transition, beginning with the sale to Rose and Wolfskill, a portion of the ranch was sold off. Every owner in some ways typifies the history of southern California during the period. Agricultural innovation is a feature which persisted taking advantage of the climate and the new crops that it made possible as well as a growing body of consumers and new markets opened by transportation innovations.

(continued on Pg 12)



See More at: <http://www.arboretum.org>



The site's modern history began in 1875 when Elias Jackson "Lucky" Baldwin purchased Rancho Santa Anita and constructed its buildings and grounds. Baldwin's influence was a strong presence on the site. A certain flamboyance was evident in the creation of a showcase at Santa Anita. Baldwin in some ways anticipated the development of Las Vegas creating Arcadia as a kind of prototype destination resort. The Oakwood Hotel, the Santa Anita racetrack and the creation of Arcadia as an independent city made it possible for Baldwin to become its first Mayor. The first liquor license was issued to his oldest daughter Clara Baldwin. This becomes more significant when one understands that Pasadena, which borders Arcadia, was dry from its founding in 1886. A major motivation for incorporation being the banning of liquor in the city. Although many towns in southern California were dry, commercial viticulture flourished around the San Gabriel Mission since mission days. Baldwin started an award winning winery to supply the thirsty tourists, sold land to settlers as well as running a private water company and brick works. A partnership with Henry Huntington and the Santa Fe Railroad insured that passengers could arrive by rail from Los Angeles and other locations as well as bringing freight, such as building supplies and taking away ranch produce for sale.

The arboretum itself began in 1947 with California and Los Angeles jointly purchasing 111 acres (44.9 ha) to create an arboretum around the Baldwin site. By 1949, the first greenhouse had been constructed and the site's plants inventoried. In 1951, the first 1,000 trees were planted, and in 1956 the arboretum was

opened to the public. Ongoing construction of gardens and greenhouses took place during the 1950s and 1960s, and in 1975-1976 the Tropical Greenhouse was opened and the Prehistoric and Jungle Garden completed. Construction and renovation of both greenhouses and gardens has continued to this day.

In 1994, the original name of the garden was changed from Los Angeles State and County Arboretum to The Arboretum of Los Angeles County.

The arboretum's plants are grouped by geography with gardens for South American, Mediterranean, South African, Australian and Asiatic-North American plants. Other displays include the Aquatic Garden, Meadowbrook, Demonstration Home Gardens, Garden for All Seasons, Prehistoric and Jungle Garden, Native Oaks, Herb Garden, and the Palm and Bamboo collection. The gardens also serve as the home for summer concerts featuring the Pasadena POPS.

In addition, the arboretum is home to a flock of some 200 peafowl which is a symbol of the city of Arcadia. Peafowl can also be found throughout neighborhoods surrounding the arboretum.

Fun Fact: The arboretum is widely reported to be haunted, particularly the Queen Anne Cottage. Some have claimed to see the ghost of Lucky Baldwin (founder) or one of his wives. Visitors have claimed hearing moaning coming from the house, where Lucky Baldwin's wife also died of cancer, odd cooking smells, and seeing various strange anomalies walk the gardens at night.



HELPFUL Hints (tips) FROM HORTENSE...

"Lexophile" is a word used to describe those that have a love for words, such as "you can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish", or "to write with a broken pencil is pointless." A competition to see who can come up with the best lexophiles is held every year in an undisclosed location. This year's winning submission is posted at the very end.



- ... When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.
- ... A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- ... When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.
- ... The batteries were given out free of charge.
- ... A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
- ... A will is a dead giveaway.
- ... With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- ... A boiled egg is hard to beat.
- ... When you've seen one shopping center you've seen a mall.
- ... Police were summoned to a daycare center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
- ... Did you hear about the fellow whose entire left side was cut off? He's all right now.
- ... A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tired.
- ... When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
- ... The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.
- ... He had a photographic memory which was never developed.
- ... When she saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she'd dye.
- ... Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.
- And the cream of the twisted crop:
- ... Those who get too big for their pants will be totally exposed in the end.

ALWAYS LAUGH WHEN YOU CAN; IT'S CHEAP MEDICINE!

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

HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS...

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



Right Plant; Right Place. You have all heard this motto. Nothing really beats it for describing the issues related to plant selection. It covers most topics. Luckily for us plant labels seem to be getting better and the Internet offers a wide variety of good information.

1. Plant origin: Is this a plant that will become a problem in your yard? One way to find out is to research the origins of plants. If they are very similar to our climate / rainfall / soils and the plant grows easily from seed or cuttings, we need to look carefully at the plant before we import it. The other aspect is use of natives. Nothing beats native plants for their adaptation

to our environment and growing conditions.

2. Climate, microclimate: Is the plant you have selected well adapted to the microclimate that you are offering? This includes a wide variety of issues: sun, shade, wind, salt, rainfall patterns, cold, etc. Also consider the specific location and any changes that result from the time of day. Could you move the plant to a slightly different location and provide a modified microclimate? Does the microclimate change with the seasons?
3. Soils, texture, organic matter, pH, fertility: What soil does the plant require? In reality it is extremely difficult to change basic soil characteristics. Our soils are generally well drained, low in organic matter, low in fertility,



Choosing the Right Plant

for the Right Conditions
including Drought



and with a pH of 5 to 7. It is easier to change these characteristics in a container and that is usually the best place to grow plants with specialty soil characteristics. If you need to modify the soil for a group of plants it is easier to modify a bed, but still difficult to change the basic characteristics.

4. Soil moisture; irrigation: Select plants that are adaptable to our rainfall patterns. South Florida receives about 54 inches of rain per year but most of that falls in the late spring, summer, and early fall; during the hurricane season. Due to the nature of our soils, most rainfall moves deep into the soil column. Plants that require continued irrigation are at risk from mistakes, system failures, and simple lack of care. Again, this is an issue that is best solved by the use of native plant materials which once established will thrive without additional irrigation. If you are going to use an irrigation system be sure that the system characteristics are matched to the plants: how much water, how often, how delivered. Mulch can help with this issue.
5. Size; speed of growth; room for roots: Check the available information. Nothing is a more common problem with shrubs and trees then the tendency for that cute 18" tall plant to become a 10' pest. Poor plant material selection results in the need for continuous trimming / clipping to
- keep plants within bounds. Better to select something smaller even if it takes additional time to fill the space offered. Consider the area available for the roots. Large plants are held up by their roots and if a tiny space is all that is available a large tree may be less stable than you think. Also think about overhead wires, pipes, septic systems, etc. Often large, inexpensive plants are inexpensive because they are fast growing. And will keep right on being fast growing.
6. Hazards: Thorns, squishy fruit, slippery fruit, falling branches, big heavy plant parts - coconuts, palm fronds: Pay attention to the special characteristics of plants. Often one sees thorny plants in narrow spaces next to walks, plants with large heavy fruit over patios, plants with squishy fruits where they will make a mess, etc. Many of these plants would be fine if they were somewhere else but we put them where their inherent characteristics become an issue.
7. Special needs; diseases; insects; soil; micronutrients: Many plants have special needs which can either be a minor issue or a major problem. Try to select plants that will not require a continuous diet of toxins, special nutrients, etc.

*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.





Port St. Lucie

Botanical Gardens
Florida

2410 SE Westmoreland Blvd.
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February 13th & 14th, 2016
9 am - 4 pm • Saturday & Sunday



BOTANICA



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& Plant Sale



FREE Parking • Plant carry out service available

FREE admission to the park & plant sale

**A \$1 donation or more will help our Gardens
to grow and is always gratefully appreciated.**

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Call 772.475.5593 to register or for further information.

**Wednesday
February 17, 2016
& Wednesday**

**February 24, 2016
12:30 - 3:30 pm**



BEEES

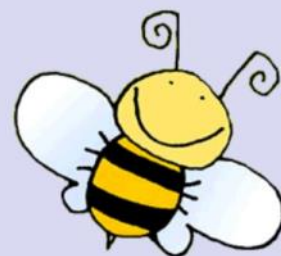
**Saturday
February 27, 2016
11am - Noon**

Join us for a morning of Educational fun learning all about Bees. Have fun making a Bee Nest Project and enjoying a light snack.

*Free for Children
Ages 5-12 & families*



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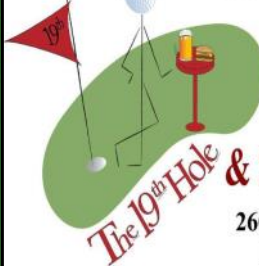
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Welcome to All Garden Goers...

This month our
Jazz Jams will be held on
February 10th
& February 24th
starting at 6:30 pm



At The Gardens

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

Sponsored by the
Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society

PUT YOUR AD HERE

Contact Mark Barnes
at 772.801.8800

or e-mail [NEWS@](mailto:NEWS@PSLBOTANICALGARDENS.ORG)

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