

The July 2018 Newsletter Gardens Gate



Port St. Lucie
Botanical Gardens

Happy
Independence
Day



PREPARING FOR HURRICANE SEASON



Is your yard ready for hurricane season? June was just past us and is the official start of hurricane season.

One of the best preparations is to inspect your trees in your yard. What kind of condition are they in? Are there any limbs that are too close to your home or are weak and could act as a projectile, causing damage, should a storm hit?

This is the time to take action and prepare your trees for the storm season. It is always best to call a licensed tree service with adequate liability insurance. Get written estimates from two or more companies and a detailed description in writing before you hire anyone to do the work. Remember to include cleanup and debris removal.

Paying attention to trees before there is a potential problem can save you hundreds of dollars in the long run and stress from cleanup and recovery.

[Continued on Pg 3](#)

Contents

President's Message
Board & Committees
Video Of The Month
Pre & Post Hurricane Preparations

[Pg2](#)
[Pg2](#)
[Pg2](#)
[Pg4](#)

Out & About with The Gardens
July Calendar
July Planting Calendar
What's Flowering & Edibles to Plant
Gift Shop & Garden Center Plant Sale
Propagation Thank You
Get Your Park On!!!
Upcoming Events

[Pg7](#)
[Pg19](#)
[Pg20](#)
[Pg21](#)
[Pg23](#)
[Pg24](#)
[Pg26](#)
[Pg29](#)

RemindeR **NO BOARD MEETING IN JULY**



2410 SE Westmoreland Blvd.
 Port St. Lucie, FL 34952
 Phone: 772.337.1959
 Fax: 772.237.5952
 E-mail: info@pslbotanicalgardens.org
 Web: 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:	Brenda Gustafson
Secretary:	Judy Nash-Wade
Treasurer:	Claire Clark
Directors:	Mike Alexander
	Jeff Chambers
	Melinda DeMarco
	Jeffrey Policar
	Glenn Ryals
	Tim Sutton
	Joe Wojcik

Standing Committee Chairs . . .

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Gift Shop Committee:	Mike Alexander
Horticulture Committee:	Brenda Gustafson
Membership & Volunteer Committee:	Jeff Chambers
Resource Development Committee:	Melinda DeMarco
Strategic Planning Committee:	Glenn Ryals

Newsletter...

Editor:	Judy Nash-Wade
Design:	Mark Barnes

The Gardens is managed and operated by Friends of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) public charity organization, that was founded to help support the daily operations of The Gardens. Friends volunteers provide hands-on daily oversight of the facility, including staffing to handle the many visitors year round. Please consider becoming a member of Friends. Friends' is a 100% volunteer organization. In all cases, donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

Greetings to everyone as we bring you up to date on July activities at the Port St Lucie Botanical Gardens. As the temperatures assume their typical summer sizzle, indoor activities take on importance. If you've visited recently, you've noticed that the City is busily improving the Westmoreland project adjacent to the Gardens. While under construction, please know that the Gardens remain open and available to visitors. You just have to deal with negotiating the construction. Please plan a visit soon.



We appreciate each and every member and visitor.

Joleen King
President

VIDEO OF THE MONTH

**TAKE A STROLL
THROUGH THE PSL
BOTANICAL GARDENS**

Faced with the threat of a storm, gardeners who have kept their trees thinned and with a canopy in proportion to the trunk and branches have little extra to do. The overgrown, neglected tree, however, is another matter. It may be necessary to reduce the size of the tree, which will be a minor operation and hardly noticeable for a tree which has been well maintained. For a neglected tree it will mean severe surgery and a tree that will be ugly for a few months whether or not the storm hits.

The order of pruning is always the same:

- Cut out dead, diseased, and damaged wood.
- Take out watersprouts.
- Cut out crossing branches and those growing into the center of the tree.
- Clean off small branches that clutter the center of the tree.
- Select a well spaced framework of branches and cut all others out completely.
- Shorten branches to give a balanced head.

Whenever possible, this shortening should be done to a bud that has already started to grow out as a sidebranch. Cutting to an upward pointing branch or one leading to one side or the other will determine the direction in which new growth occurs for a time. If the tree has been well managed, pruning in this way (drop crotch pruning) will mean that the cuts scarcely show since a lot of foliage will remain to disguise them. In cutting back a neglected tree, many of the cuts will have to be made to a part of the branch with no leaves or side branches. Even when the cut can be made to a fork, the remaining branch may also need to be shortened so that the cuts have very little foliage to hide them.

Heading back (cutting branches severely to a bare stump) should be avoided unless absolutely necessary. Not only does this risk sunburn for all the trunk suddenly exposed to the light, but it also means that a tuft of twigs will grow from each stump which will have to be thinned later. All cutting should be done so as to avoid damage to the parts of the tree that are to remain. Cuts should be finished close to the trunk or remaining branch and at the angle shown in Figure 7 so that they will heal well. Painting the cuts is not recommended. It is of no value in promoting healing, although it may help to disguise the cut.

If you have coconut palms, preparing for storms includes harvesting all nuts that are of any size. Coconuts and most other large palms should have dead leaves removed. The nuts and the leaves can act as missiles if the wind catches them right. Do not, however, cut off all leaves except the central upright tuft, since this removes the protection for the bud. Last minute prunings can also blow around dangerously and should thus be disposed of for safety.

Windstorms are always a matter of concern, but trees that have been selected properly, sited with care, and maintained so as to have a sturdy form and an open canopy stand the best chance of surviving intact and not adding to the damage in the area.

For additional information: http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu/master_gardener_disaster_resources.html.

Learn how to properly prune your Palm trees, and AVOID "hurricane pruning," which can actually cause more damage to the Palm! Go to: <http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/pruning/pruning-palms.html>

Furthermore, residents are reminded to trim trees now and not wait until a storm is threatening our area. Once St. Lucie County is in a storm's projected path, vegetative debris might not be picked up before the storm impacts our area, causing more damage and debris to be pickup during the post-storm recovery.

(SEASONAL REPEAT)



HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS...

Friends of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens

Horticulture Class Series 2016

Pre- and Post-Hurricane • Landscape Preparations

1. Basic safety first: wear real shoes, no flip flops, preferably work boots, work gloves, eye protection. Training in the use of power tools, especially chain saws. Watch for power lines. Watch for sharp debris - metal, glass, etc. Most people get hurt by hurricanes after the hurricane, not during it.
2. Pre-Hurricane: most important issue is plant, especially, tree health. Properly selected and cared for trees survive hurricanes and do not add to the damage being caused. Consider what type of damage your property is subject to when you are selecting plants: wind, salt spray, fresh water flooding, salt water flooding, and damage from windblown debris. Select your trees to survive storm damage.
3. Selection and location: trees that are from hurricane prone areas, i.e. natives, will survive storms better than others. Also trees from areas that traditionally have cyclones. Generally, short trunks, short round or oval canopies, low center of gravity, strong branches and trunk. Natives



especially are well adapted. Plant location can limit health by limiting the size of the root ball. Most uprooted trees have damaged roots or very limited root balls. Do not plant large trees where the branches will over top or rub against your roof.

4. Healthy plants survive better and recover faster than other plants. Generally and always true. Check your plants for general health. Dead limbs, damaged trunks, damaged roots from excavations, paving, etc. Poor pruning leads to "witches broom growth" and often breaking limbs.
5. Palms: Do not 'hurricane prune' palms. In a storm the loose material will fall to the ground quite early and will stay where put. Neither fronds nor fruit (except for coconuts, which should be removed) will become a damage issue

in a storm. So called "hurricane pruning" leads to pencil pointing with a resulting weak trunk that may break off during a storm.

6. Container plants: my storage policy is to lay them down on the ground in sheltered locations – shrub borders, fenced vegetable areas, etc. I have never lost a plant doing this - Andrew, Frances, Jean.
7. Post- hurricane: remember the safety issue. Also think about heat and how much work you can do comfortably. Pick up the debris. Cut off any seriously wind damaged materials, especially materials that are hanging free. If it looks likely to survive leave it on. Wash off salt. Otherwise do nothing.
8. Downed trees: if you have down trees or shrubs that will take a while to get raised, protect the root ball. Cover the root ball with anything except plastic; cloth, palm fronds, branches, etc. Keep the root ball moist. Keep in mind that you can do as much damage to the roots raising the tree as the wind did taking it down. You only want to raise a tree once. Be prepared with stakes, ties, help, etc. Pick it up, stake and tie it, water well, trim off any obvious dying materials but do not prune until you see new growth which may take a while. Pruning of any plants tends to encourage new growth and should be left till later if the roots have been damaged.
9. What trees to choose: native live oaks, gumbo limbo, native figs, sea grapes, pigeon plum, capers, coconut palms, sabal palms. Drive around the old residential areas and look at the big trees - they survived the storms and hurricanes.





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Out & About



With The Gardens

Seen Around The Gardens





Books for sale in the Gift Shop



Succulents in The Gardens

Tourism Showcase at the Civic Center



Judy, Mark & Illona at the Tourism Showcase

Taste of the Tropics Plant Sale





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PORT ST. LUCIE
PARKS &
RECREATION



Welcome to All Garden Goers...

This month our
Jazz Jams will be held on
June 13th
& **June 27th**
starting at 6:30 pm

JAZZ JAMS

At The Gardens

Donation \$6 per person.
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Calendar Of Events



2 nd	Newsletter Committee Meeting	3:30 - 4:30 pm	All Welcome
2 nd	River Vista HOA Board Meeting	7:00 - 9:00 pm	HOA Members Only
5 th	Volunteer Review Committee	12:00 - 12:30 pm	Members Welcome
10 th	Master Naturalists Meeting	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Members Welcome
11 th	Master Gardener General Meeting	10:30 am - 1:00 pm	Master Gardeners Welcome
11 th	Intermediate Spanish Class	10:00 - 11:30 am	All Welcome
11 th	Ft. Pierce Jazz & Blues Jazz Jams	6:30 - 9:30 pm	\$6 Donation, \$5 Members
12 th	Volunteer Review Committee	12:00 - 12:30 pm	Members Welcome
12 th	PSL Angler's Meeting	5:30 - 9:30 pm	All Welcome
18 th	Intermediate Spanish Classes	10:00 - 11:30 am	All welcome
19 th	Volunteer Review Committee	12:00 - 12:30 pm	Members Welcome
19 th	TC Rare Fruit Club Meeting.	7:00 - 9:00 pm	All welcome
25 th	Intermediate Spanish Classes	10:00 - 11:30 am	All Welcome
25 th	German American Board Meeting	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Members Welcome
25 th	Ft. Pierce Jazz & Blues Jazz Jams	6:30 - 9:30 pm	\$6 Donation, \$5 Members
26 th	Volunteer Review Committee	12:00 - 12:30 pm	Members Welcome
28 th	TC Bonsai Society Meeting	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	All Welcome
30 th	Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society	5:30 pm - 9:00 pm	All Welcome



www.PSLBG.org • The Gardens is closed Mondays & Tuesdays
For more information on events, please call 772.337.1959

UF | IFAS Extension

UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

University of Florida IFAS Extension Central Florida Gardening Calendar - July

What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: Summer annuals to plant now include celosia, coleus, torenia, and ornamental pepper. **See Annuals:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

Bulbs: Butterfly lily and gladiolus are bulbs that can be planted during the middle of summer. **See Bulbs for Florida:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers

Herbs: While summer is too hot to start herbs from seeds, many, such as oregano and mint, do well if started from small plants. **See Herbs:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: Plant tropical vegetables, such as boniato, calabaza, and chayote this month. **See South Florida Tropicals:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_series_south_florida_tropicals and Chayote: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_chayote

Palms: Continue planting palms while the rainy season is in full swing. Support large palms with braces for 6–8 months after planting. Do not drive nails directly into a palm trunk. **See Palms:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palms

What to Do

Trees: Prepare for hurricane season by checking trees for damaged or weak branches and pruning if needed. Hire an ISA-certified arborist. **See International Society of Arboriculture:** <http://isa-arbor.com/> and *Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs:* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning

Lawns: Determine the cause of any lawn problems before taking action. If an insect is the culprit, treat only the affected area. Rule out disease or sprinkler malfunction. **See Turfgrass Pest Insects:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_turf_pest_insects

Fertilizer Bans: Numerous municipalities in south Florida prohibit the application of fertilizer to lawns and/or landscape plants during the summer rainy season (June–September). See if such an ordinance exists in your area.

Vegetable garden: Use summer heat to solarize the vegetable garden for fall planting. It takes 4–6 weeks to kill weeds, disease, and nematodes, so start now. **See Soil Solarization:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_soil_solarization

Irrigation: Install an inexpensive rain shutoff device to save money by overriding an irrigation system when it rains. If one is already installed, check that it is operating properly. **See Landscape Irrigation:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation

Pests on ornamental plants: Inspect the leaves of ornamental plants for small white dots that may indicate lace bugs at work. Spray forcefully with water to help control this pest. **See Landscape Pest Management:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests and *Landscape Lace Bug Pests:* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_lace_bug_pests

Tropical fruit trees: Check for damage to fruit or leaves and take action to minimize the effect of insects and/or disease on developing fruit or the overall health of the tree. **See Tropical Fruit:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tropical_fruit

WHAT'S FLOWERING in Florida?

NORTH/ CENTRAL

- Firebush* 
Native, evergreen (*Hamelia patens*)
- Crapemyrtle 
Non-native, deciduous (*Lagerstroemia* spp.)
- Hibiscus 
Native & Non-native, evergreen (*Hibiscus* spp.)
- Southern Magnolia 
Native, evergreen (*Magnolia grandiflora*)

* In both North and South.



Bird of Paradise

Non-native, evergreen (*Strelitzia reginae*)

 Firebush*

 Frangipani

Non-native, deciduous (*Plumeria rubra*)

 Orange Geiger Tree

Native, evergreen (*Cordia sebestena*)

 Royal Poinciana

Non-native, semi-evergreen (*Delonix regia*)

 Wild Olive

Native, evergreen (*Cordia boissieri*)




SOUTH

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EDIBLES TO PLANT IN JULY

	North	Central	South
 Survives Transplanting	Peppers Tomatoes		Sweet Potatoes
 Transplant With Care			
 Use Seeds	Cucumbers Okra Peas (southern) Pumpkin	Okra Peas (southern) Pumpkin	

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at the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens

JULY & AUGUST SUMMER SALES

Join us at the Garden Center Propagation area
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Wednesday - Sunday from 10AM - 1PM.

If we are working in the gardens, please bring your plant up to the Gift Shop.

You'll find: Copper Leaf - Poinciana Trees • Cactus • Succulents • Crotons •
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Thank You!

Deepest thanks go out to our St. Lucie County Community for all the wonderful donations we are receiving. This really helps our propagation garden grow and provide plants at very reasonable prices. If you drop off a plant, please be sure to leave the name of the plant and your name so we can include you in the Newsletter. Call me if you want to make a plant donation.

Keep the plants coming!
Brenda Gustafson, Horticulture Chair
772-337-1959



Our volunteers are the core of our Gardens! Not only do they work in the Garden Center in this Summer heat they share their plants with the propagation area. A Big Thank you to Laura Mehr, for the donation of Water Plants and the pond to hold them. We now offer water plants in the Garden Center at very reasonable prices.



A Big Thank You to Nancy Hart for the perfect donation of three raised beds. They will be used for our Veterans Victory Corps. A horticulture program for Veterans and Family Members through a collaboration of the American Red Cross: Service to the Armed Forces, St. Lucie County Master Gardeners, and the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens.



Thank you to Mark at Peters Crotons Nursery for the generous donation of plants. They are now open the 1st Saturday of every month 9AM-3PM and by appointment – phone or text 772-240-2811. If you haven't experienced the quality and unusual variety of Peters Crotons, you're in for a real treat.

St. Lucie West Garden Club

ATTENTION:

Nature Lovers, Butterfly Gardeners,
Bird Watchers, Conservationists, and
Those Who Enjoy Flowers and Plants.



The St. Lucie West Garden Club (established 1991)
meets at PGA Legacy Golf & Tennis Club
the 4th Monday of each month.

Call President, **Pam Allen (561) 891-2959** or
Membership Chairman, **Darlene Berube**
(508) 415-7345 for more information.

See our Facebook page
St. Lucie West Garden Club.



To help at the Propagation Garden Center and many other areas throughout the Garden!

If you enjoy gardening and want to learn more about propagating your Florida plants, increase your plant knowledge and other gardening techniques join our team at the Propagation Garden Center. We're there to work and learn together. We're a friendly group who would like you to join us even if it's for only a couple of hours a week. Call Jeff Chambers at 772-337-1959 or visit The Gardens during our normal business hours.

GET YOUR PARK ON: VISIT 6 PSL PARKS THIS SUMMER, WIN PRIZE!!!

The City's of Port St. Lucie's Parks & Recreation Department has come up with a fun, new way residents and visitors can explore the City this summer: Visit six eligible Parks & Recreation locations in one week and earn a prize.

Those who accept the challenge to "get your park on" can scan a QR code at each of the eligible locations and upload a photo by the park or facility sign of each location. Participants must do this at six separate locations within one week to earn a prize. The City's Get Your Park On Challenge will run until Aug. 10. for more information visit: www.cityofpsl.com/Home/Components/News/News/3353/2030

PARTICIPATING PARKS:

- G **The PSL Botanical Gardens, 2410 SE Westmoreland Blvd.**
- G **The PSL Community Center, 2195 SE Airoso Blvd.**
- G **PSL Civic Center, 9221 SE Civic Center Place**
- G **Lyngate Park, 1301 SE Lyngate Dr.**
- G **Sandhill Crane Park, 2355 SE Scenic Park Dr.**
- G **Whispering Pines Park, 800 SW Darwin Blvd.**
- G **Jessica Clinton Park, 3200 SE Southbend Blvd.**
- G **Charles E. Ray Park, 5626 NW Manville Dr.**
- G **Sportsman's Park, 201 NW Prima Vista Blvd.**
- G **McCarty Ranch Preserve, 12525 Range Line Rd.**

A map of these, and all the City's Parks and Recreation parks and facilities, along with the amenities at each location can be found at: www.cityofpsl.com/government/departments/parks-recreation/facilities-map and www.cityofpsl.com/government/departments/parks-recreation/parks-map.

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JAZZ JAMS

AT THE GARDENS



Wednesday
July 11th & 25th
6:30 - 9:30 pm

Presented By





Got Junk In Your Trunk?

sell it at the

GARDENS COMMUNITY TRUNK SALE

Saturday • October 6, 2018 • 8am - 1pm

Looking to get rid of that extra stuff cluttering your home, garage, or storage area? Then join us at the Gardens Community Trunk Sale. Your accepted contract entitles you to 2 parking spaces in the sales area 18x18 feet. One space is for your vehicle (load it up - trailers welcome) and the 2nd for your sales area (tent, tables, whatever).

- Space is limited - Contracted Vendors, accepted by the committee, only.
- No Day-of, walk up vendors will be allowed.
- Arrive late, you'll be sent home. All vehicles must be in place before sales open at 8am. No Exceptions!

Contracts must be received by committee by October 3, 2018

Carry in, carry out policy. Didn't sell everything? All unsold merchandise Must be removed and taken with you: not left, donated or put in our dumpster.



PORT ST. LUCIE BOTANICAL GARDENS
2410 SE WESTMORELAND BLVD.
PORT ST. LUCIE, FL 34952
772-337-1959 • WWW.PSLBG.ORG





2410 SE Westmoreland Boulevard
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34952
772.337.1959

www.PSLBG.org
info@pslbotanicalgardens.org

Attention: all Civic groups, garden societies, homeowners associations, local businesses, et al. Join the Friends of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens this Halloween for a public "Trick or Treat" among the trees. We need your organization to join us in this fun two (2) hours of welcoming the Ghouls and Goblins of Port St Lucie for our Trick or Treat Ramble and Haunted Hayrides* at The Gardens in a safe, controlled, no-cars atmosphere.

*Scary for young children, parental discretion advised.

Who's invited? Children, ages 0-13, in costume and their parents. **No admission - this is a free event.**

What does your group have to do? Claim your assigned "fright Site" in the Gardens, set up a table, decorate as much as you'd like, staff your location with costumed volunteers who enjoy (and perhaps miss) the joy of Halloween and the costume parade we all remember from Halloweens past. And bring lots of candy! Your organization will be responsible for having sufficient candy, snacks or treats for up to 4000 little ghouls and goblins.

Your area in the Garden is **FREE**. Your group must supply their own table and decorations.

Are you an HOA, 55 and older? Miss seeing the children? Are you a City Department that would like to adopt a site to be manned by co-workers? A garden society of retired grandparents whose grandchildren are miles away, and are missed? Are you a local business that recognizes an opportunity for team building and community outreach? A civic group or club, looking for a fun, simple new event on your Fall calendar? This is an event for you!

Trick or treating will begin at 5:00 and end at 7:00 pm. Parents, accompanying their children will be required. No children without parents will be allowed on Garden property. Sunset on October 31st is 6:38 pm in Port St Lucie FYI. This is designed to be an evening/twilight event.



Please give this opportunity your attention; talk with friends and neighbors, decide to commit to this new Community event, and send us your commitment via email. Event will be advertised through the Gardens website & newsletter, on-line calendars, community radio and more.

**For more Information or to register,
please call Heather Furnari at 772.337.1959.**



Trick or Treat Ramble in The Gardens

WEDNESDAY • OCTOBER 31, 2018