

# The March 2017 Newsletter Gardens Gate



Port St. Lucie  
Botanical Gardens

Happy

St. Patrick's Day



## THE GARDENS 7TH ANNIVERSARY

On March 4, 2009, under mostly sunny skies, some 100 plus people gathered at the former Moonraker Bay property on Westmoreland Blvd. for the groundbreaking ceremony of the future Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens. The event was marked with opening remarks from Parks and Recreation Department's Brad Keen, former Mayor Christensen and former City Councilman and then President of the Friends of the Port St Lucie Botanical Gardens, Christopher Cooper. The Parks staff and Friends staff, hosted the one hour event with questions and answers, music, drinks and snacks, including a walk of the property.



One year later on Saturday, March 6, 2010, the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens officially opened with a splash hosting over 800 attendees. The festivities began at 11:00am with a

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# Reminder

## MARCH IS MEMBERSHIP MONTH GET 15 MONTHS WITH YOUR PAID MEMBERSHIP!



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  
 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  
 Gloria "Gigi" Norelli  
 Jeffrey Policar  
 Glenn Ryals  
 Jennifer Scee  
 Tim Sutton

### Standing Committee Chairs . . .

Election Committee: TBD  
 Finance Committee: Cheri Mabry  
 Gift Shop Committee: Mike Aleander  
 Horticulture Committee: Brenda Gustafson  
 Membership & Volunteer Committee: Illona Christie  
 Resource Development Committee: Claire Clark  
 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...

March 6, 2010 was the ribbon cutting and Grand Opening of our Port St Lucie Botanical Gardens. Rather than a traditional ribbon, the "cutting" was of a grapevine garland, created by members of the Parks & Recreation staff from Muscadine grape vines culled from the Gardens property. How simple a change, but how appropriate. As we mark our seventh year in existence, it's fun to look back on the progress made; the growth the Gardens has experienced. But we are also looking forward. During March, we're focusing on membership. Currently, we are 377 members strong – some are founding members who participated monetarily back when the Gardens were a dream and an idea, and our thanks always to our Founding members. But the bulk of our membership are annual members, individuals and families who, through their continued support, confirm that the Gardens represent something wonderful in Port St Lucie.



Are you a member? Could we ask you to become a member? Information on membership is contained in this newsletter. Let me add my sincere invitation: please consider becoming a member of our Friends of the PSL Botanical Gardens during March. Thank You!

**Joleen King**  
**President**



**Picture by photographer and Friends Member Wayne Goldenberg**

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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

**15  
MONTH  
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\* Secondary Member Name / Business Contact Name

Address

City State Zip

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*Friends of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens*  
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ceremony at the front entrance to the Promenade Nature Center. Including a presentation of the colors by the Treasure Coast High Schools US Air Force ROTC which ran the National and State flags up the pole for the very first time, the ceremony included guest speakers which gave a background on the project, acknowledgement of the Friends, contractors and finishing with Mayor Christensen presenting the keys to Christopher Cooper.

Visitors were presented with the opportunity to walk and observe the property for the very first time and see the potential for weddings, private party's and special events. Food and entertainment, along with a plant sale, were provided by the Friends and several sponsors. The new Promenade Gift Shop was open and stocked for visitors to make purchases. Visitors also had an opportunity to stroll the gardens and sit and listen to a live country band, Thunder Road, that played on the Marsh Amphitheater.

This March, The Gardens celebrates our 7th Anniversary, especially due to our wonderful core of Volunteers, Friends and Supporters. It is through this relationship that we have grown and thrived and continue to do so.

With no paid staff, we rely entirely on volunteers to give tours, run the Gift Shop, pull weeds, propagate plants and do a myriad of other things. So, if you enjoy digging in the dirt, greeting folks with a friendly smile or putting your talents to work...We Need You! The



Gardens is always in need of volunteers to assist throughout The Gardens and we make the call to you, to consider becoming a volunteer today and help our Gardens to grow.

March is our Membership Month and as such, we are offering a special 15 Month Membership for all those who sign up during the month. Membership to The Gardens includes the special members only benefits:

- Free admission to the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens
- 10% off most Gift Shop purchases
- Reciprocal Admission and/or Discounts to over 270 American Horticultural Society Member Gardens
- Members Only Events & Socials
- Members Access or Discounts on Selected
- Classes, Seminars & Events
- One vote in elections and matters requiring passage by the membership

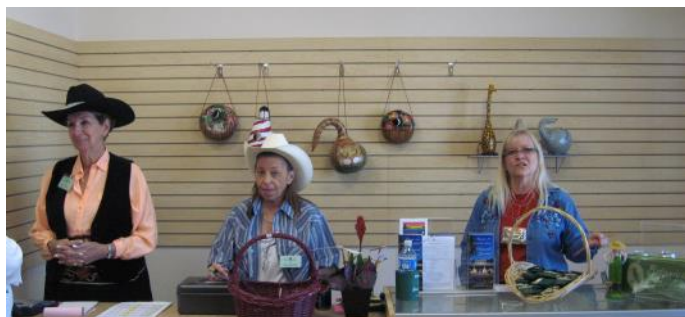
There are several levels of membership to the Friends of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens which include: Individual, Family & Friends, Student or Business & Corporate. Gardens Memberships also makes the perfect gift!

Help us celebrate our 7th Anniversary by becoming a member or volunteer today. Investing in our community is what we do and every little bit will help your Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens to grow.

**\*\*Enjoy our retrospective photograph look back at The Gardens construction and opening ceremony\*\***







# Out & About



## With The Gardens

Conference Room Gets A New Floor





## New Daylily Gardens and Workshop



### Lobby Arrangement



### Joleen Presentation at Rotary



### Weddings at The Gardens



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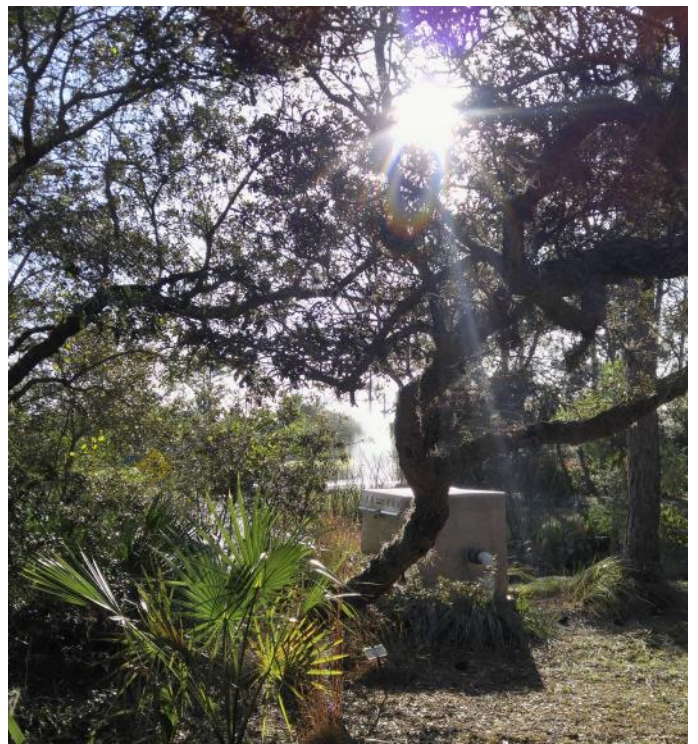
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# BOTANICA 2017















## Wacky Weeders



### Crosstown Chapel



### New Propagation Tables



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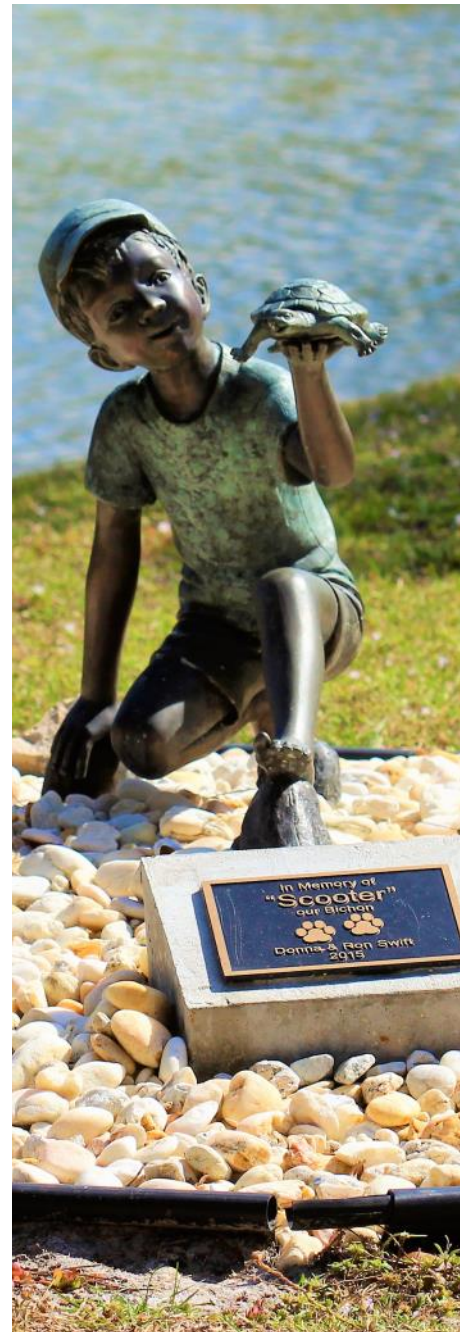
To learn more please contact:

**Daniel Pimpo**  
**772-402-4878**

[daniel.pimpo@tbs.toshiba.com](mailto:daniel.pimpo@tbs.toshiba.com)

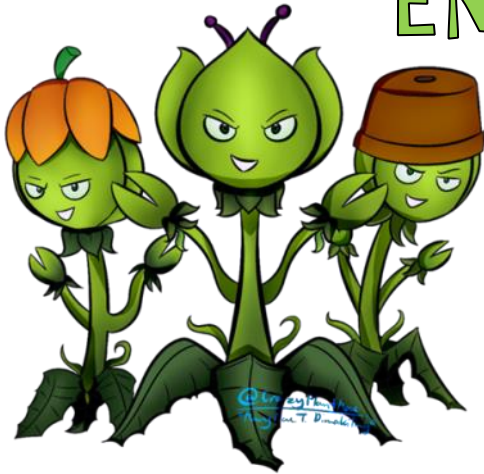


Lets  
grow  
together





1 <sup>st</sup>	Intermediate Spanish Class	10:00 - 11:30 am	All Welcome
1 <sup>st</sup>	Bayshore Elementary School Visitation	10:00 am - 12:00 Noon	Private Event
1 <sup>st</sup>	German American Club Board Mtg.	2:00 - 4:00 pm	Members Only
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Somerset Academy Art Class	9:00 - 11:00 am	Private Event
2 <sup>nd</sup>	German American Chorus	2:00 - 4:00 pm	Members Only
8 <sup>th</sup>	Intermediate Spanish Class	10:00 - 11:30 am	All Welcome
8 <sup>th</sup>	Ft. Pierce Jazz & Blues Jazz Jams	6:30 - 9:30 pm	\$5 Members \$6 Non Members
9 <sup>th</sup>	PSL Angler's Meeting	6:00 - 9:30 pm	All Welcome
10 <sup>th</sup>	City Manager's Workshop	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	All Welcome
11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>PSLBG Community Trunk Sale</b>	<b>8:00 am - 1:00 pm</b>	<b>All Welcome</b>
13 <sup>th</sup>	Rio Lindo Board Meeting	10:00 am - 12:00 Noon	Members Only
13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Board of Director's Meeting</b>	<b>4:30 - 6:00 pm</b>	<b>Members Welcome</b>
14 <sup>th</sup>	PSL Orchid Society Mtg.	12:00 - 3:00 pm	All Welcome
15 <sup>th</sup>	Intermediate Spanish Class	10:30 - 11:30 am	All Welcome
15 <sup>th</sup>	Vitalia Red Hat Tour	11:00 am - 12:00 Noon	Private Event
16 <sup>th</sup>	German American Chorus	2:00 - 4:00 pm	Members Only
18 <sup>th</sup>	Wacky Weeders	8:00 am - 12:00 Noon	All Welcome
19 <sup>th</sup>	So Florida Daylily Society	2:00 - 4:00 pm	Members Welcome
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Intermediate Spanish Class	10:30 - 11:30 am	All Welcome
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ft Pierce Jazz & Blues Jazz Jams	6:30 - 9:30 pm	\$5 Members \$6 Non Members
25 <sup>th</sup>	TC Bonsai Society Meeting	10:00 am - 12:00 Noon	Members Welcome
27 <sup>th</sup>	Rio Lindo Garden Club Meeting	12:30 - 3:30 pm	Members Welcome
29 <sup>th</sup>	Intermediate Spanish Class	10:30 - 11:30 am	All Welcome
30 <sup>th</sup>	German American Chorus	2:00 - 4:00 pm	Members Only



# ENLIST: JOIN THE Saturday Wacky Weeders'

**When:** March 18, 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 holidays!

**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.

**MARCH**  
**Plant**  
**SPECIALS**

## Propagation Center

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.



## We're Open

**Sunday • 12pm – 4pm**

**Wednesday-Saturday • 10am – 4pm**

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

### What to Plant

**Annuals/Bedding Plants:** Plant heat-tolerant annuals, such as crossandra, gazania, melampodium, and zinnia that will last into fall. **See** *Annuals*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_annual\\_landscape\\_plants](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants)

**Bulbs:** Plant gladiola corms 6 inches apart and 4 inches deep; stake as they grow. Plant caladium for a showy tropical display all summer. **See** *Bulbs for Florida*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_bulbous\\_flowers](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers)

**Herbs:** In addition to their culinary value, many herbs are ornamental and attract butterflies to the garden. **See** *Herbs*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_herbs](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs)

**Vegetables:** This is the last month to plant arugula, beans, cantaloupe, carrots, celery sweet corn, endive, okra, radish, squashes, Swiss chard, and watermelon. **See** *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_vegetable\\_gardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening)

### What to Do

**Shrubs and trees:** Prune when new growth begins after the end of the dormant season. To guard next season's blooms, begin pruning after the last flowers fade but before the new buds set. **See** *Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_tree\\_pruning](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning)

**Mulch:** Add mulch to minimize weeds and conserve moisture during dry weather. **See** *Landscape Mulches*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_mulch](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_mulch)

**Lawns:** Fertilize lawns this month if not done in February. **See** *Lawn Fertilizer*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_lawn\\_fertilization](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_fertilization)

**Pests:** Monitor landscape plants for insects, especially for the presence of aphids on tender new growth. Insects become more active during warm weather. **See** *Landscape Pest Management*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_pests](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests)

**Fertilize:** Fertilize palms and ornamental shrubs if not done last month. **See** *Palm Nutrition and Fertilization*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_palm\\_nutrition](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_nutrition) and *Landscape Fertilization*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_fertilization](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_fertilization)

**Lawns:** Identify damaging insects and spot treat early to prevent widespread damage. **See** *Turfgrass Pest Insects*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_turf\\_pest\\_insects](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_turf_pest_insects)

**Tropical and subtropical fruits:** Add variety and interest to the landscape and table with exotic fruits. **See** *Tropical Fruit for the Home Landscape*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_home\\_tropical\\_fruit](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_home_tropical_fruit)

# WHAT'S FLOWERING in Florida?

## MARCH



NORTH/  
CENTRAL

- Azalea**  
Native & non-native, deciduous & evergreen (*Rhododendron spp.*)
- Eastern Redbud**  
Native, deciduous (*Cercis canadensis*)
- Sweet Acacia**  
Native, evergreen (*Acacia farnesiana*)

SOUTH

- Bougainvillea**  
Non-native, evergreen (*Bougainvillea spp.*)
- Frangipani**  
Non-native, deciduous (*Plumeria rubra*)
- Golden Trumpet Tree**  
Non-native, deciduous (*Tabebuia chrysostricha*)
- Hong Kong Orchid Tree**  
Non-native, evergreen (*Bauhinia blakeana*)
- Pink Trumpet Tree**  
Non-native, deciduous (*Tabebuia heterophylla*)



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

# EDIBLES TO PLANT IN MARCH



	North	Central	South
Survives Transplanting	Beets, Collards, Eggplant, Endive/ Escarole, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatoes	Beets, Collards, Eggplant, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatoes	Peppers, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatoes
Transplant With Care	Carrots, Celery, Mustard, Potatoes	Carrots, Mustard	Mustard
Use Seeds	Beans (bush, pole, lima), Cantaloupe, Corn (sweet), Cucumbers, Okra, Onions (green, shallots), Peas (English, Southern), Pumpkin, Radish, Squash (summer, winter), Turnips, Watermelon	Beans (bush, pole, lima), Cantaloupes, Corn (sweet), Cucumbers, Okra, Onions (green, shallots), (Peas, English, Southern), Pumpkin, Radish, Squash (summer, winter), Turnips, Watermelon	Beans (bush, pole, lima), Cantaloupes, Corn (sweet), Cucumbers, Onions (green, shallot), Peas (Southern), Radish, Squash (summer), Watermelon



**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS, VENDORS & RAFFLE DONORS FOR MAKING BOTANICA 2017 THE BEST YET!!!**



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& PLANT SALE**

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Treasure Coast Rare Fruit Club  
Rio Lindo Garden Club  
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FPSL BG Raffle

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Mad Plants  
Ric's Gardens  
Nature's Canvas-Gourds  
FPSL BG Media Booth  
Rosie's Gourmet Kettle Corn  
Joey's Kitchen  
Fort Pierce Jazz Society  
Port St Lucie High Army JROTC  
Somerset Academy  
Odom's Orchids  
Lipsense by Senegence  
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JP Nursery

**And a Special Thank You to Curtis Clark  
for all of your hard work and fabulous commitment!!!**

## 2017 FRIENDS' ELECTION RESULTS

The Friends of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens held their annual election on January 31, 2017. Your 2017 elected board is as follows:



President  
Joleen King



Vice President  
Illona Christie



Secretary  
Claire Clark



Treasurer  
Cheri Mabry



Direct  
Mike Alexander



Director  
Brenda Gustafson



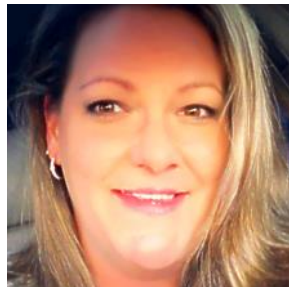
Director  
Gigi Norelli



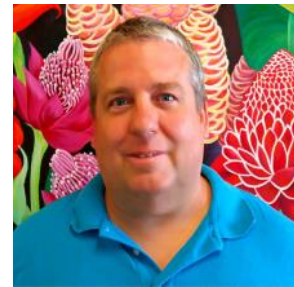
Director  
Jeffrey Policar



Director  
Glenn Ryals



Director  
Jennifer Scee



Director  
Tim Sutton

### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS . . .

Election Committee:	TBD
Finance Committee:	Cheri Mabry
Gift Shop Committee:	Mike Alexander
Horticulture Committee:	Brenda Gustafson
Membership & Volunteer Committee:	Illona Christie
Resource Development Committee:	Claire Clark
Strategic Planning Committee:	Glenn Ryals

**A BIG Thank You**  
to Debby Augst  
and her Election  
Committee for a  
job well done.



## **A NEW HIGH SCHOOL HORTICULTURE GARDEN CLUB HAS BEEN SEEDED! NOW WATCH IT GROW!**

Somerset College Preparatory Academy in Port St Lucie and the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens have cooperatively initiated a High School Horticulture Garden Club to provide a venue for high school students to learn horticulture practices in a public garden setting utilizing hands-on learning activities.

The first club meeting was held in February with 11 high school students. The program will consist of six workshops conducted by Master Gardeners and other skilled volunteers. Students will receive community service hours as they learn and work in the garden and will be assigned their own garden area to tend.

Through hands-on activities, fun group projects, meaningful community service—and, yes, work in the garden—the program will help students to develop an awareness of horticulture and associated career options, respect for the environment, and a passion for giving back to the community in which they live.

Friends of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens, along with Principal Erika Rains and Science teachers Abby O'Connor and Dr. Lori McGowan at the Somerset College Preparatory Academy are excited and committed to seeing this pilot program grow to success.

*Editor*



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## **HELP PROTECT FLORIDA'S NATURAL AREAS FROM NON-NATIVE INVASIVE PLANTS!**

### ***The Problem***

#### **The Need for Natural Areas**

More than one-half of Florida's land area is in agricultural or urban land uses, and native habitats are continually being lost. Continued urbanization is an inevitable consequence of increasing population, and food production by agriculture is essential. However, preserving and protecting Florida's native habitats for historical significance and to protect native species, water quality, and water quantity is also essential. Natural areas have been designated on federal, state, county, city, and private lands

#### **Weeds in Natural Areas**

Weeds are undesirable plants. Homeowners battle weeds in their lawns, gardens, and ponds. Weeds are considered unsightly in parks and playgrounds. Weeds interfere with transportation and can cause hazardous conditions along highways, railroads, and waterways. Foresters control weeds to enhance the growth of commercial forests. Billions of dollars are spent annually to manage weeds. Non-native plants are those that are introduced to a region outside of their range of natural dispersal. Naturalized non-native plants are those that reproduce and sustain populations outside of cultivation in the region where they were introduced. Non-native invasive plants are those that form self-sustaining and expanding populations within plant communities with which they were not previously associated and have ecological impacts. Non-native invasive plants are weeds in natural areas because they displace native plants and associated wildlife, including endangered species, and can alter natural processes such as fire and water flow.

Naturalists recognized potential problems with non-native plants many years ago. In 1920 Charles Torrey Simpson, Florida's pioneer naturalist, wrote, "There are the adventive plants, the wanderers, of which we have, as yet, comparatively few species; but later, when the country is older and more generally cultivated, there will surely be an army of them." As predicted, problems associated with non-native plants have increased through the years and non-native invasive plants are now a growing concern to scientists and land managers. Thirty three percent (about 1,455) of the plant species growing on their own without cultivation in Florida are non-native (Wunderlin and Hansen 2008), and some of these have become serious problems for land managers. For example, from 1997 to 2014, over \$129 million was spent by State of Florida agencies to control invasive plant species in upland habitats alone.

### Regulated Plants

Federal and state laws were passed beginning in the 1970s to prevent further spread or importation of weeds that pose an economic threat to agriculture and navigation. These laws now restrict possession, transport, or sale of certain plants known to interfere with agroecosystems, native ecosystems, the management of ecosystems, or cause injury to public health. Weeds are listed in the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Federal Noxious Weed List and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' (FDACS) Florida Noxious Weed List. Plants that occur on these lists and may occur on private property in Florida include cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*, Figure 2), Brazilian pepper tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*, Figure 3), Australian pine (*Casuarina* spp., Figure 4), tropical soda apple (*Solanum viarum*, Figure 5), catclaw mimosa (*Mimosa pigra*, Figure 6), Australian paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquinervia*, Figure 7), Chinese tallow (*Sapium sebiferum*, Figure 8), Old World climbing fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*, Figure 9), carrotwood (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*, Figure 10), air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*, Figure 11), and skunk vine (*Paederia foetida*, Figure 12). In addition to plants that are regulated at the federal and state levels, many Florida counties and cities have ordinances that prohibit planting or require removal of non-native plant species.

Figure 2. Cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*) has invaded many habitats such as sandhills, flatwoods, grasslands, swamps, river margins, and dry sand dunes throughout Florida and other southeastern states. It is listed as a noxious weed by FDACS and USDA.



Figure 3. Brazilian pepper tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) was introduced to Florida in the 1840s as a cultivated ornamental. It is an extremely invasive plant that invades fallow farmland, pinelands, and hardwood hammocks of south and central Florida, and mangrove forests as far north as Levy and Duval Counties. It is listed as a noxious weed by FDACS.

Figure 4.

Australian pine (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) was introduced to Florida in the late 1800s and planted extensively in the southern half of the state. It is salt-tolerant and invades pinelands, sandy shores, and front-line dunes where it produces dense shade, litter accumulation, and displaces native vegetation. It is listed as a noxious weed by FDACS.



Figure 5.

Tropical soda apple (*Solanum viarum*), first collected from Florida in 1988, is now a common weed on 500,000 acres of pastures, roadsides, ditchbanks, cultivated land, and natural areas. It is listed as a noxious weed by FDACS and USDA. Credit: Jeff Mullahey



Figure 6.

Catclaw mimosa (*Mimosa pigra*) is a sprawling, prickly shrub that was first identified in Florida in 1953 and now occurs on 1,000 acres of river floodplain, swamp forest, and lake margins in Broward, Palm Beach, Marin, St. Lucie, and Highlands counties. It is listed as a noxious weed by FDACS and USDA.



Figure 7.

Melaleuca, or Australian paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*), once widely planted in Florida, now forms dense thickets and displaces native vegetation on 391,000 acres of wet pine flatwoods, sawgrass marshes, and cypress swamps in the southern part of the state. It is listed as a noxious weed by FDACS.



Figure 8.

Chinese tallow (*Sapium sebiferum*), sometimes called popcorn tree, has been considered an invasive pest plant in the Carolinas since the 1970s and is expanding its range on the US Gulf Coast through Florida. It is widely dispersed by birds and thrives in undisturbed areas such as closed canopy forests, bottomland hardwood forests, shores of water bodies, and sometimes on floating islands. It is listed as a noxious weed by FDACS.

Figure 9. Old World climbing fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*) aggressively invades cypress swamps and tree islands in south Florida and carries both wildfires and prescribed burns through natural barriers. It is listed as a noxious weed by FDACS.



Figure 10. Carrotwood (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*) is a popular landscape tree throughout southern Florida. It produces large crops of seed, which are eaten and transported by birds. It is now naturalized on spoil islands and in tropical hammocks, pinelands, mangrove swamps, cypress domes, scrub, and coastal strand communities. It is listed as a noxious weed by FDACS.

Figure 11. Air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*) can climb high into tree canopies and engulf surrounding vegetation. It is listed as a noxious weed by FDACS.



Figure 12. Skunk vine (*Paederia foetida*) invades native plant communities in Florida and can create dense canopies leading to the death of native vegetation. The plant emits a foul odor, especially when the leaves are crushed. It is listed as a noxious weed by FDACS.

## EPPC List of Non-native Invasive Species

The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) has listed species considered to be most invasive or potentially invasive in Florida. Category I plants on this list are considered to be non-native invasive plants that are currently disrupting native plant communities in certain areas or throughout the state. Category II plants have the potential to disrupt native plant communities. While many plants on this

list are also included on prohibited lists, the FLEPPC list itself does not carry statutory authority. Examples of FLEPPC Category I plants (in addition to the ones already listed as prohibited) include earleaf acacia (*Acacia auriculiformis*, Figure 13), bischofia (*Bischofia javanica*, Figure 14), and Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*, Figure 15). The FLEPPC list is modified as merited by new observations. Current and past FLEPPC Invasive Plant Lists are available on the FLEPPC website (<http://www.fleppc.org>).

Figure 13. Earleaf acacia (*Acacia auriculiformis*), a messy tree in landscapes, invades disturbed areas as well as pinelands, scrub, hammocks, and pine rocklands in south Florida. It is listed as a FLEPPC Category I species.



Figure 14. Bischofia (*Bischofia javanica*) is a weedy tree in landscapes. It is common in old fields and disturbed wetland sites and also invades intact cypress domes and tropical hardwood hammocks of south Florida. It is listed as FLEPPC Category I species and its use has been discouraged by the FNGLA.



Figure 15. Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*) occurs primarily in disturbed areas such as rights-of-way and fencerows and has begun invading floodplain hammocks, marshes, and upland woods, particularly in north Florida. It is listed as FLEPPC Category I and its use has been discouraged by the FNGLA.



## In Our Own Back Yards

Non-native plants have been introduced as landscape ornamentals, aquarium plantings, agricultural crops, and by accident (Figure 16). They now exist in our landscapes, and some are still sold commercially. Invasive non-native plants growing in proximity to natural areas are a source of invasion. Seeds and spores can be spread by birds, animals, wind, and yard trimmings. The IFAS Assessment of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas was developed by a sub-committee of the interdepartmental UF IFAS Invasive Plants Working Group. The purpose of the IFAS assessment is to determine the invasiveness (or potential) of plant species that are recommended for uses such as landscaping and to provide IFAS personnel with guidelines when making recommendations for the use of non-native plants species. Conclusions of the IFAS Assessment for many species can be found at: <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment>. These conclusions can be used as guidelines by homeowners when selecting plants for landscaping.

## What Can We Do?

### Learn to Recognize Florida's Non-native Invasive Plants

Not everyone will want to learn to identify the entire list of invasive plants in Florida—at least not right away. A good start is to identify plants on your own property or plants sold in local nurseries, and determine if any are considered invasive. Most non-native invasive plants are included in various plant identification field guides, horticultural books, and botanical keys. Your County Cooperative Extension Office can assist with plant identification. A handbook, SP 257 Identification and Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas Second Edition, is available for sale from the IFAS Extension Bookstore at <http://ifasbooks.ufl.edu> [Ph: (352) 392-1764].

### Prevention

When landscaping, do not use plants that have potential to be invasive in natural areas. Local land managers, park biologists, and county governments can provide information on invasive plants that are the greatest problem locally. At the University of Florida, long-range planning policy prohibits the use of many invasive species for future landscaping of its properties, and the University of Florida uses the EPPC "Category I" plant list as a guideline.

### Remove Non-native Invasive Plants from Your Property

Removing non-native invasive plants from private property can eliminate a major source of invasion into natural areas. Many invasive plants, such as skunk vine, are also weeds in private landscapes. Others, such as carrotwood, may serve a function in the private landscape (as a shade tree, for example). Removal of these plants may seem like a sacrifice for the property owner, but this loss can be a short-term problem. The plant removal will be of long-term, far-reaching benefit to Florida's natural areas.

Stumps of trees that are cut down should always be treated with an appropriate herbicide to prevent regrowth. After removal, invasive non-native plants can be replaced with native plants or with non-native plants that are not invasive. Information on how to control specific non-native invasive plants and suggestions for non-invasive plants to replace them with can be obtained from County Cooperative Extension offices.

Non-native invasive plants that are not removed from private property should be contained as carefully as possible, especially if the land is in proximity to sensitive natural areas. Carefully dispose of trimmed material from invasive plants, especially material with attached seeds or spores, or plant parts capable of vegetative reproduction, such as stems of oyster plant (*Rhoeo spathacea*). Volunteer to remove invasive plants from local natural areas under the guidance of the natural area manager. Activities such as Pepper Busting and Air Potato Roundups are often conducted for this purpose.



Figure 16. The origins of some non-native plants transported to Florida, either by accident or intentionally.



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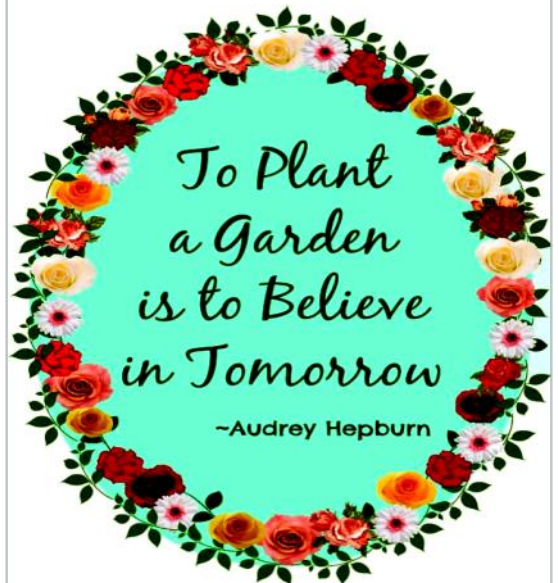


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Please call Brenda Gustafson at 772-678-8523.

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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. Retail experience in Gift Shop a plus.

Please Call Illona Christie at 772-337-1959



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# got junk in your trunk?



sell it at the

## GARDENS COMMUNITY TRUNK SALE

Saturday • March 11, 2017 • 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 - Contractor 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 March 6, 2017

*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.*

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