

# The June 2018 Newsletter Gardens Gate



Port St. Lucie  
Botanical Gardens

# Happy Father's Day

## EXOTIC FRUITS

In the industry, they're known as exotic fruits or specialty produce, and some people might think of these fruits and vegetables as unusual, uncommon, or simply strange.

Although exotic fruits and vegetables still represent a small percentage of all produce sales, some things once introduced as specialty items are now mainstream and not considered exotic anymore. In fact, most exotic fruits can be grown right here.

### AVOCADOS

Although it might not seem like it would show up on a list of exotic fruits, avocados were, once upon a time, new to the average American consumer. But these days most everyone enjoys freshly made guacamole dip, and avocados are now commonplace in grocery stores.

These fruits have a smooth and delicious texture and flavor that makes them great on sandwiches and in salads, blended into sauces and dressings, and can even be used as an alternative to butter and oil to add healthy fat and flavor to things like pudding and cake.

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## Reminder

**TASTE OF THE TROPICS PLANT SALE**  
**SATURDAY • JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup>**  
**9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**





2410 SE Westmoreland Blvd.  
 Port St. Lucie, FL 34952  
 Phone: 772.337.1959  
 Fax: 772.237.5952  
 E-mail: [info@pslbotanicalgardens.org](mailto:info@pslbotanicalgardens.org)  
 Web: [www.pslbg.org](http://www.pslbg.org)  
 Hours: Wednesday - Saturday 10am - 4pm  
 Sunday Noon - 4pm  
 Closed Monday, Tuesday & Holidays  
 Suggested Donations:  
 Adults \$5  
 Students \$2  
 Children 12 & Under Welcome  
 Free for FPSLBG Members and  
 Active Military with family (IDs required)

### Mission Statement . . .

Friends' mission is to create and maintain a beautiful, serene sanctuary in the center of Port St. Lucie that is environmentally sound and naturally diverse and to provide educational, cultural and recreational opportunities for all who visit.

### Officers & Directors . . .

President:	Joleen King
Vice President:	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 . . .

Election Committee:	Stephanie Alessandrini-Giarraffa
Finance Committee:	Claire Clark
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...

June 21 this year marks the Summer Solstice and longest day of the year. At the Gardens, summer is a period of reduced visitor traffic, higher temperatures and humidity for working on hard labor projects outdoors, and a time when our volunteers look for creative ways to improve the Gardens without overtaxing anyone's ability to work. Some of the ambitious projects on the clipboard are: establishing a proper display for everyone's favorite Desert Roses (*Adenium Obesum*); construction of new and improved propagation benches and raised beds for the Veterans Victory Corps project; erection of the new ramada/pavilion in our Secret Garden, and more. All ambitious and worthy. Consider volunteering to assist!



If you've visited the Gardens recently, you've seen firsthand Phase I of the City's Westmoreland Project adjacent to the Gardens which will bring to reality a new traffic rotary and an expansion of our pond to meet the needs of the expanded irrigation requirements.

Plan to visit the Gardens during June. We can't promise low temperatures or humidity, but we can offer shade and A/C when you need it. Hope to see you soon!

**Joleen King**  
**President**

## VIDEO OF THE MONTH

**TOP 10 TROPICAL  
FRUITS YOU'VE PROBABLY  
NEVER HEARD OF**



Avocados grow on big trees in [US hardiness zones 8 -11](#). Some varieties of avocado are more tolerant of cold weather than others. While you can grow an avocado tree from the pit (seed) inside the fruit, you should know that it will be about 5 years before you get any fruit off of it.

If you want to grow your own avocados, you're better off buying a 2 or 3 year old avocado tree from a nursery. Plant your avocado tree in full sun, at least 6 hours per day, and give it plenty of space! Avocado trees can grow to 30 feet tall and 20 feet wide! These trees don't tolerate drought very well, so make sure to give it frequent deep watering.



### PINEAPPLES



Pineapples are another exotic fruit that we're all pretty familiar with, but you might not realize that you could grow a pineapple in your own yard!

Like many exotic fruits, pineapples prefer a tropical climate and will happily grow outdoors in zones 11-12. However, the plant also grows well in containers which makes growing pineapple as a houseplant a possibility for most of us. You can choose to purchase a pineapple plant, start your plant from seed, or grow a pineapple from the leafy portion on the top of the fruit. A pineapple

Continued on Pg 4

**Stop in to see the  
fun new items  
available in our  
Gift Shop as well  
as our very own  
Propagation Plants  
in our Garden Center.  
Remember...  
Father's Day is just  
around the corner.**

**THE** *gift*   
**SHOP**

Port St. Lucie *Botanical Gardens*

plant will only make one fruit at a time, and, however it is started, it will be at least 2 years before and between harvesting your fruit.

Pineapples like conditions similar to cacti, so plant it in acidic soil in full sun, allow the soil to dry between waterings and don't over water.

## DRAGON FRUIT

If you are an avid watcher of the wildly popular Food Network channel, then chances are you have seen the strange looking Dragon Fruit. Watching TV cooking shows helps introduce exotic fruits to us in useful ways like how to use them in our daily meals. For example, the dragon fruit is always delicious, but it is especially good when chilled in the refrigerator first. Cut it in half, and eat the magenta colored flesh using only a spoon. YUM!!

Dragon fruit is also used in smoothies, salad dressing, homemade wines, and as an additive in sauces. Depending on the variety of dragon fruit, the flesh may also be white. Both have a mild but satisfying sweetness and a smooth texture accented by a slight crunch from the tiny black seeds within it.



If it looks like a cactus, well that's because it is! The dragon fruit plant is a very cool vining cactus. They are often trained into cactus trees, will grow straight up a wall, and even grown in hanging baskets. The harvest season for dragon fruit begins in July and continues through November. The next time you're in the supermarket, check the produce section for this delicious fruit.

## FINGER LIMES



Also referred to as the caviar of limes, these finger-shaped limes have a green oily skin that's very fragrant. Previously only grown in Australia, this exotic fruit has only recently been grown in the United States.

Snap the finger lime in half and squeeze out the caviar-like, bright green, yellow, or pink citrus pearls that literally ooze from the fruit into the palm of your hand. The finger lime has a very tart lime flavor, but it's the little beads of juice that burst in your mouth that makes these fruit amazing!

In the US, finger limes are currently grown in California and in southern Florida. It can be hard to grow from seed, so purchasing grafted plants is the best way to grow these cool plants at home. They live in full to part sun in zones 10-11 and are grown in a manner similar to other citrus plants. And, like other citrus plants, the finger lime has sharp thorns.



## BANANAS

You might not consider it an exotic fruit since everyone is familiar with the banana, but they can be grown in mainland US. The plant is about twenty-five feet tall. It's very wide and the leaves are broad. The sweet banana that is sold in grocery stores is of the Cavendish group of bananas and only grows in tropical zones from cloned plants. However, there are many varieties of banana plants and plantains that can be grown up to zone 4 in the US.



The tropical Cavendish banana fruit grows best in very warm temps: about 60-80 degrees F. It loves water, rich soil, and takes up a lot of space. After the tree produces fruit, the mother plant dies and new trees grow up from the base of the parent tree.

Bananas do not grow from seed, but rather from suckers that sprout from the roots, or more accurately the rhizome, underground. To grow your own banana tree, you need to source a sucker from a friend or neighbor with a banana tree or a reputable nursery. There are many types of banana trees, so make sure that you know what kind you are getting. They are not all as sweet as what is sold in the grocery store.

## PASSION FRUIT

Most of us are familiar with the stunning passion flower, but did you know that the passion flower grows on a lovely vine and some will produce unique, edible exotic fruit? There are many types of passion fruit ranging in color from purple to yellow. Depending on the variety, it will grow in zones 6-11.

The fruit produces very crunchy seeds within sacs of sweet and tart juice. They are easy to grow, but the passion flower vines can easily become intrusive in your garden and will quickly take over! Wild passion fruit typically sprouts in early spring and the fruit ripens from August til frost. They require very little care and the usual maintenance consists of pulling unwanted sprouts as you would do any other weed. Growing passion fruit from seed can be difficult, so you might want to purchase plants.



Enjoy 😊



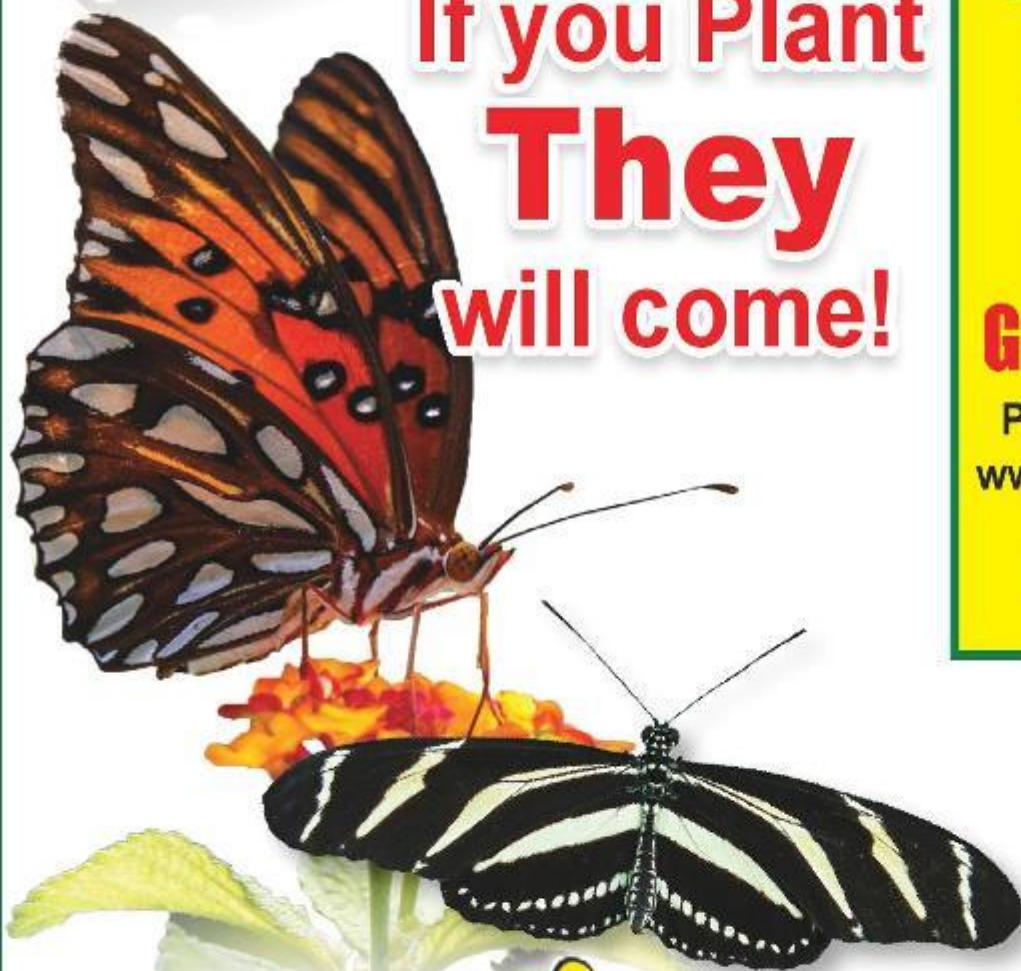
# Butterfly GARDENING

If you Plant  
**They**  
will come!

## UPCOMING CLASSES

**Butterfly  
Desert Rose  
Garden to Table**

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[www.pindersnursery.com](http://www.pindersnursery.com)



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# Out & About



## With The Gardens

Seen Around The Gardens



Find me in The Gardens.



Peek a Boo!





Love Pops



Girl Scout Brownie Thank You



IRSC Grads



Celeste Marsh Plant ID Chair



# Ladybug Launch







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PARKS &  
RECREATION



## THE SAINTS

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

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

## 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



## Welcome to All Garden Goers...

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

# JAZZ JAMS

**At The Gardens**

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

Sponsored by the  
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## Our Wonderful Volunteers





## Visitor's Pics



































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# Calendar Of Events



4 <sup>th</sup>	Newsletter Committee Meeting	4:00 - 5:00 pm	All Welcome
4 <sup>th</sup>	FPSLBG 2020 Meeting	5:00 - 6:00 pm	All welcome
4 <sup>th</sup>	River Vista HOA Board Meeting	7:00 - 9:00 pm	HOA Members Only
6 <sup>th</sup>	Intermediate Spanish Class	10:00 - 11:30 am	All Welcome
7 <sup>th</sup>	Volunteer Review Committee	12:00 - 12:30 pm	Members Welcome
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>FPSLBG Board of Directors Meeting</b>	<b>4:30 pm - 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Members Welcome</b>
12 <sup>th</sup>	PSL Orchid Society Meeting	12:00 - 3:00 pm	All Welcome
12 <sup>th</sup>	Master Naturalists Meeting	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Members Welcome
13 <sup>th</sup>	Intermediate Spanish Class	10:00 - 11:30 am	All Welcome
13 <sup>th</sup>	Ft. Pierce Jazz & Blues Jazz Jams	6:30 - 9:30 pm	\$6 Donation, \$5 Members
14 <sup>th</sup>	Volunteer Review Committee	12:00 - 12:30 pm	Members Welcome
14 <sup>th</sup>	PSL Angler's Meeting	5:30 - 9:30 pm	All Welcome
<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Taste of the Tropics Plant Sale</b>	<b>9:00 am - 1:00 pm</b>	<b>All Welcome</b>
20 <sup>th</sup>	Intermediate Spanish Classes	10:00 - 11:30 am	All welcome
21 <sup>st</sup>	Volunteer Review Committee	12:00 - 12:30 pm	Members Welcome
21 <sup>st</sup>	TC Rare Fruit Club Meeting.	7:00 - 9:00 pm	All welcome
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Veterans Victory Corps Meeting	9:00 - 9:30 am	Veterans Welcome
23 <sup>rd</sup>	TC Bonsai Society Meeting	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	All Welcome
25 <sup>th</sup>	Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society	5:30 pm - 9:00 pm	All Welcome
27 <sup>th</sup>	Intermediate Spanish Classes	10:00 - 11:30 am	All Welcome
27 <sup>th</sup>	German American Board Meeting	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Members Welcome
27 <sup>th</sup>	Ft. Pierce Jazz & Blues Jazz Jams	6:30 - 9:30 pm	\$6 Donation, \$5 Members
28 <sup>th</sup>	Volunteer Review Committee	12:00 - 12:30 pm	Members 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 - June

## What to Plant

**Annuals/Bedding Plants:** Annuals that can take full sun during the increasingly hot summer months include celosia, portulaca, vinca, and some coleus. **See Annuals:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_annual\\_landscape\\_plants](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants)

**Palms:** Summer's warm, rainy months are the perfect time to plant palms. Make sure not to cover the trunk with soil. **See Palms:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_palms](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palms)

**Herbs:** Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, ginger, summer savory, cumin, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. **See Herbs:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_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](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_series_south_florida_tropicals) and *Chayote*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_chayote](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_chayote)

## What to Do

**Pests:** Monitor the landscape and garden weekly for harmful insects. Knowing which insects attack a plant can aid in identification and treatment. **See Landscape Pest Management:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_pests](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests)

**Irrigation:** Watch for drought stress and water as needed if rainfall has been spotty. Focus on new plantings and follow watering restrictions. When rains begin, shut down the irrigation system. **See Landscape Irrigation:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_irrigation](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation)

**Propagation:** Produce more plants by air layering, grafting, division, or cuttings. **See Seeds and Propagation (Lawn and Garden):** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_garden\\_propagation](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_garden_propagation)

**Palms and cycads:** Watch for nutrient deficiencies or other problems and use an appropriate treatment. **See Palm Care:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_palm\\_care](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_care)

**Pruning:** Lightly prune summer-flowering shrubs, like hibiscus, oleander, and ixora, during the warmer months to increase blooming. **See Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_tree\\_pruning](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning)

**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.

**Lawns:** Check frequently for damaged areas and keep insects in check with early treatment. Determine whether yellow and brown lawn patches are caused by chinch bugs, disease, or lack of water. Take time to determine the cause so your remedy is effective. Rejuvenate areas where grass does not grow well by replacing it with versatile groundcovers. **See Garden Pest Insects:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_garden\\_pest\\_insects](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_garden_pest_insects), *The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design:* [http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN\\_Plant\\_Selection\\_Guide\\_v090110.pdf](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_v090110.pdf), and *Ground Covers:* [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_ground\\_covers](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_ground_covers). See *Lawn Fertilizer:* [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_lawn\\_fertilization](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_fertilization)

**Soil solarization:** Clean up your vegetable garden and solarize the soil for 4–6 weeks to kill pests and disease. **See Soil Solarization:** [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_soil\\_solarization](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_soil_solarization)

**Lightning safety:** Be safe outdoors during storm season.



# WHAT'S FLOWERING in Florida? JUNE

## NORTH/ CENTRAL

- Chaste Tree   
Non-native, deciduous (*Vitex agnus-castus*)
- Crapemyrtle   
Non-native, deciduous (*Lagerstroemia* spp.)
- Ixora\*   
Non-native, evergreen (*Ixora coccinea*)
- Jerusalem Thorn   
Non-native, deciduous (*Parkinsonia aculeata*)
- Oakleaf Hydrangea   
Native, deciduous (*Hydrangea quercifolia*)

\* In both North and South.

## Angel's Trumpet

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

## Jacaranda

Non-native, semi-deciduous (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*)

## Ixora\*

## Orange Geiger Tree

Non-native, evergreen (*Cordia sebestena*)

## Yellow Poinciana

Non-native, semi-deciduous (*Peltophorum dubium*)

## SOUTH




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For more information, please visit  
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# EDIBLES TO PLANT IN JUNE

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

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**"The better the outside looks, the worse the inside looks."**

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# Partners in Horticulture Education

With the assistance of the St. Lucie County Master Gardeners and PSLBG volunteers, students and Veterans learn basic Horticulture practices.

**UF** | **IFAS Extension**  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



## High School Horticulture Club

Learn and Earn Community Service hours!

**Note: formal activity for students is on break for the summer.**

**Students may still volunteer in the Gardens and attend workshops.**

Workshops and Garden Time hours count toward students' volunteer community service hours. Open to all High School students! Add your school logo to our growing Horticulture partnership.



Contact Jeffrey Policar or Heather Furnari at 772-337-1959 for more information.



## Veteran Victory Corps:

A horticulture program for Veterans and their family members! Enjoy comradery, hands-on workshops, and opportunities for providing service to your community!

VVC meets on the **4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month from 0900-0930** in the Veteran Victory Corps area near the GL Homes Green House in the Garden Center (**weather permitting – or check at the Welcome Center in the Pavilion**) Bring your own morning drink.

Contact: Judy, American Red Cross - Service to the Armed Forces at [judy.nash-wade@redcross.org](mailto:judy.nash-wade@redcross.org) or the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens office: 772-337-1959.



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

**JOIN US... July 16, 2018 - 9AM - 2PM**  
**at the Garden Center Propagation Area**  
**Lots of Plants & Specials!**

Many plants will be

**BOGO**

available

Buy 1, Get 1  
**FREE!**



# Thank You!

Deepest thanks go out to our St. Lucie County Community for all the wonderful plant donations we are receiving every week. 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**



Thank you to **Nilda Santos & her pup** for the generous donation of Fireball bromeliads and staghorns.



A Big Thank you to **Greg Fallin** for his generous donation of crotons and cuttings that we have added to our collection in the gardens.



Thanks to **Peggy Malathion & Margie Jones** for their generous donation of Bromeliads



# 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.



**HIGHLIGHT:**

# GARDEN CLUB

## TREASURE COAST RARE FRUIT CLUB

*A chapter of the Rare Fruit Council International*

The objective of the Treasure Coast Rare Fruit Club is to promote the cultivation, propagation and distribution of new edible species, improved varieties and the use of tropical, subtropical and rare fruits within the tri-county area.

Their mission is to educate our members and the public as to the merits of these plants and to encourage and extend their cultivation. Be it door yard or commercial use, they believe that tropical and rare fruits have a solid place and use in the community.

Members are a mix of amateur dooryard and professional horticulturists, who love to learn and share findings and expertise with everyone that will listen. These are the times that sustainable gardening is not only a true pleasure but essential.

Visit their website or visit their next meeting at 7 p.m. on June 21, 2018 here at the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens. They will be happy to invite you to join them and be a part of the tri-county experience in growing and harvesting the rare fruits of our area.

**7:00 PM 3rd Thursday every month  
at Port St Lucie Botanical Garden**



### **Treasure Coast Rare Fruit Club**

**Educating the community on cultivating  
and enjoying rare sub-tropical fruit.**

**772-261-4621**

**TCRFClub@gmail.com**

**www.facebook/tcrarefruit**

**www.TreasureCoastRareFruitClub.com**



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AT THE GARDENS



**Wednesday**  
**June 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:30 - 9:30 pm**

Presented By





**SATURDAY  
JUNE 16, 2018  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

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*Donations to the Friends of the PSL Botanical Gardens are always gratefully appreciated*

