

The February 2017 Newsletter Gardens Gate



Port St. Lucie
Botanical Gardens

BOTANICA GARDEN FESTIVAL & PLANT SALE

Feb 11th & 12th

BOTANICA: IT'S A DREAM COME TRUE

The Friends of the Port St. Lucie Gardens proudly showcased their ambitious efforts to the community at the Grand Opening in March, 2010. A variety of successful small plants sales before the Opening and after led to the germination of what we know today as Botanica.

The sprouting of Botanica occurred on a single day in February, 2011 - just one year after the park opened. 40 vendors participated, complimented by organized discussions on pruning, fertilizer, and what is new in the gardening market thrilled the



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Reminder

BOTANICA GARDEN FESTIVAL PLANT SALE
FEBRUARY 11TH & FEBRUARY 12TH
9AM TO 4PM EACH DAY



Port St. Lucie *Botanical Gardens*

2410 SE Westmoreland Blvd.

Port St. Lucie, FL 34952

Phone: 772.337.1959

Fax: 772.237.5952

E-mail: info@pslbotanicalgardens.org

Web: www.pslbotanicalgardens.org

Hours: Wednesday - Saturday 10am - 4pm

Sunday Noon - 4pm

Closed Monday, Tuesday & Holidays

Suggested Donations:

Adults \$5

Students \$2

Children 12 & Under Welcome

Members and Active Military

(with family) Welcome (IDs required)

Mission Statement . . .

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

Officers & Directors . . .

President:	Joleen King
Vice President:	Illona Christie
Secretary:	Claire Clark
Treasurer:	Cheri Mabry
Directors:	Mike Alexander
	Brenda Gustafson
	Jeffrey Policar
	Gloria "Gigi" Norelli
	Kate O'Neill
	Jennifer Scee
	Tim Sutton

Standing Committee Chairs . . .

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

Newsletter...

Editor:	Judy Nash-Wade
Design:	Mark Barnes

The Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens is managed and operated by Friends of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens, Inc. The Friends of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens, Inc. receives no funding from any government agency. Your admission donations help us maintain and grow The Gardens.

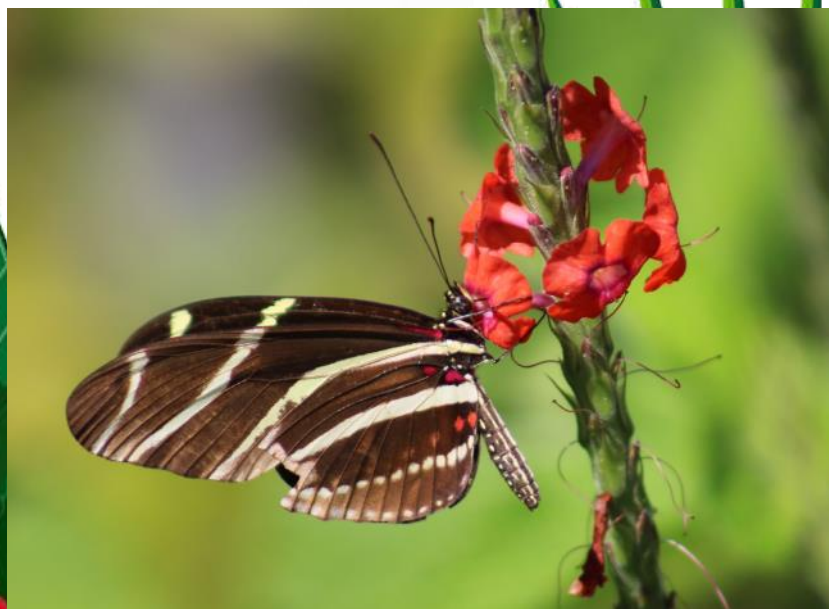
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

Let me take one last opportunity to remind our members... the Annual meeting of the Friends of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens is Monday, January 30 at 6:00 pm. Our all-important election of the Board of Directors for 2017 is held just before the meeting is called to order. If you're a member of the Friends, please cast your vote. If you've sent in your ballot or proxy, we thank you!



The high point of February at the Gardens is Botanica, our two-day plant sale and garden festival. If you've attended past Botanica's, you already know what a not-to-be-missed event it is! Fifty-plus vendors of wonderful plants and garden related products, and thousands of visitors, shopping, learning from the vendor-experts, and enjoying a beautiful February weekend at the PSL Botanical Gardens. There is more in this newsletter about Botanica. Circle Feb 11th & 12th on your personal calendar now and join us at the Gardens for Botanica.

Joleen King
President



**Zebra Heliconian by photographer and
Friends Member Wayne Goldenberg**

GROW VEGETABLES

ORGANICALLY



**Pinder's
Nursery**
Palm City, Florida



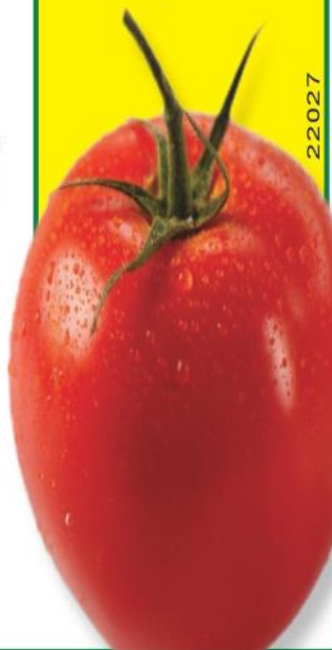
...growing flowers, food and friendships!

Mon-Sat 9am - 5pm
Sun 10am - 4pm

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22027

Port St. Lucie



Botanical Gardens

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New ☐ Renew ☐ Gift ☐

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

Primary Member Name / Business Name

* Secondary Member Name / Business Contact Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Email

Gift From

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

attendees and the growth spurt began. Susan Feldman, co-chairman of the first event along with Joleen King, said at the time: "It's a dream come true. It's the first time many of the elite vendors have come to Port St. Lucie".

Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens received its license to sell its own plants shortly thereafter which further enhanced the Propagation program with sales that would nearly sustain its growing presence and value to The Gardens.

2012 welcomed more than 50 vendors and The Gardens had more garden rooms to share during Botanica, including the certified butterfly garden. The goal at that time was to raise funds to install additional irrigation.

Today, Botanica is a largely attended two-day event with plant and other garden related vendors, food, music, on-site media and lots of Friends gathering together to give the community an opportunity to learn about and take home new garden treasures. It is truly a garden party where you can enjoy the company of friends and neighbors.



Out & About



With The Gardens

Appletree Academy Class with Joleen, Illona & Gigi



Wacky Weeders at The Gardens



Weddings at The Gardens



TV20 Arbor Day Show Filming



Port St. Lucie City Council Arbor Day Proclamation

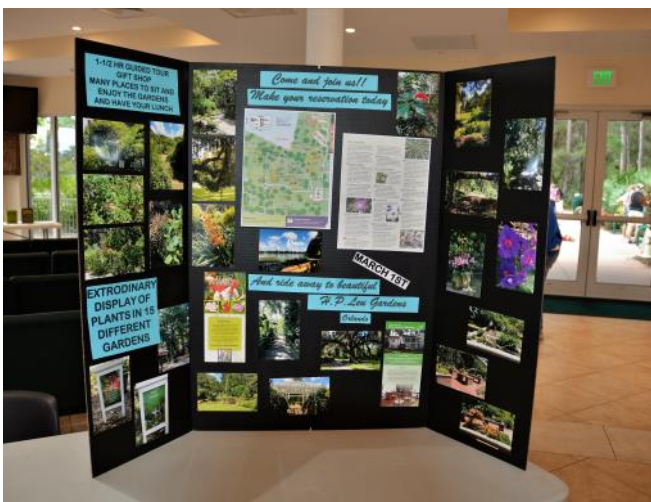


Taking Arbor Day to the 4th Grade





PGA Garden Club Visits The Gardens



Arbor Day Celebration at The Gardens

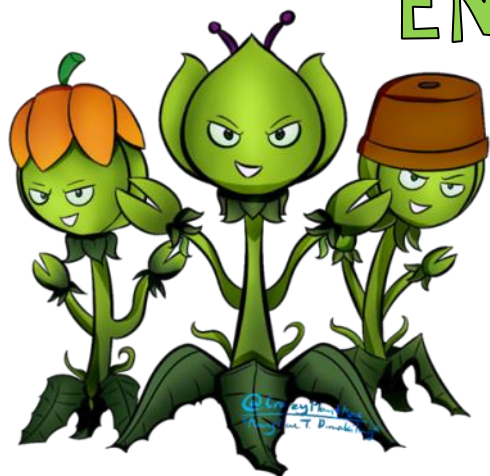






New Feature Into Propagation





ENLIST: JOIN THE Saturday Wacky Weeders'

When: February 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.



**STOP BY THE PROPAGATION CENTER DURING THE
BOTANICA GARDEN FESTIVAL PLANT SALE
FEBRUARY 11TH & 12TH.**

We will be offering a large variety of plants starting at \$2.
Highlighted will be Florida Roses, Crotons, Copper Leaf plants
along with a variety of propagated plants for your home garden.



BRING YOUR SWEETHEART HOME A ROSE FOR VALENTINE'S DAY.



We're open:

Sunday • 12pm – 4pm

Wednesday-Saturday • 10am – 4pm

All sales from the Propagation Center benefit the Port St Lucie Botanical Garden.



February

Calendar of Events

1 st	Intermediate Spanish Class	10:00 - 11:30 am	All Welcome
8 th	Intermediate Spanish Class	10:00 - 11:30 am	All Welcome
8 th	Ft. Pierce Jazz & Blues Jazz Jams	6:30 - 9:30 pm	\$5 Members \$6 Non Members
9 th	PSL Angler's Meeting	6:00 - 9:30 pm	All Welcome
10 th	Botanica Set Up	10:00 - 4:00 pm	All Volunteers Welcome
11 th	BOTANICA 2016 PLANT SALE	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	ALL WELCOME
12 th	BOTANICA 2016 PLANT SALE	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	ALL WELCOME
13 th	Rio Lindo Board Meeting	10:00 am - 12:00 Noon	Board Members Only
13 th	Board of Director's Meeting	4:30 - 6:00 pm	Members Welcome
15 th	Intermediate Spanish Class	10:30 - 11:30 am	All Welcome
18 th	Wacky Weeders	8:00 am - 12:00 Noon	All Welcome
19 th	So Florida Daylily Society	2:00 - 4:00 pm	Members Welcome
20 th	Landscape Advisory Committee	10:00 - 11:30 am	All Welcome
22 nd	Bayshore Elementary School Tour	9:30 am - 12:00 Noon	School Event
22 nd	Intermediate Spanish Class	10:30 - 11:30 am	All Welcome
22 nd	Ft Pierce Jazz & Blues Jazz Jams	6:30 - 9:30 pm	\$5 Members \$6 Non Members
23 rd	Bayshore Elementary School Tour	9:30 am - 12:00 pm	School Event
24 th	Bayshore Elementary School Tour	9:30 am - 12:00 pm	School Event
25 th	Children's Event - TBA	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	All Welcome Subject To Change
25 th	Treasure Coast Bonsai Society	10:00 am - 12:00 Noon	All Welcome
27 th	Rio Lindo Garden Club Meeting	12:30 - 3:30 pm	Members Welcome

University of Florida IFAS Extension Central Florida Gardening Calendar — February

What to Plant

Annuals/Bedding plants: Good performers in South Florida's mild winter include impatiens, verbena, dianthus, strawflower, and lobelia. **See Annuals:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

Bulbs: Many bulbs can be planted now. Divide large, crowded clumps. Provide adequate water for establishment. Some examples include Amazon lily, crinum, and agapanthus. **See Bulbs for Florida:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers

Groundcovers: Consider replacing areas of grass with drought-tolerant, low-maintenance groundcovers. **See The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design:** http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_v090110.pdf and **Ground Covers:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_ground_covers

Vegetables: Winter vegetable gardening is in full swing. Last month to plant cantaloupes, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, peppers, spinach, and tomatoes for a late spring harvest. Protect crops in the unlikely event of a frost or freeze. **See Vegetable Gardening in Florida:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

What to Do

Lawns: Fertilize lawn grasses to improve color or coverage. Choose a fertilizer (not a "weed and feed") with no or very little phosphorus unless a soil test indicates the need for it. A fertilizer with controlled-release nitrogen provides longer-lasting results. **See Lawn Fertilizer:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_fertilization

Roses: Prune roses this month to remove damaged canes and improve the overall form. After pruning, fertilize and apply a fresh layer of mulch. Blooming will begin 8–9 weeks after pruning. **See Roses:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_rose


Shrubs and palms: Fertilize shrubs and palms by spreading fertilizer evenly over the soil surface and watering it in. Follow with a fresh layer of mulch to conserve moisture and reduce weeds. Delay pruning any cold-damaged branches until new growth starts. **See Palm Nutrition and Fertilization:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_nutrition and **Landscape Fertilization:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_fertilization

Lawns: Apply a preemergence weed killer (not a "weed and feed") to lawns late this month to prevent germination of warm-season weed seeds. Apply when temperatures rise to 65°F for 4–5 days. Timing is important for good control. **See Lawn Weeds:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_weeds

Avocados and mangos: Disease-susceptible varieties of avocado and mango may require applications of copper fungicide. **See Avocado:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_avocado and **Mango:** http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_mango

WHAT'S FLOWERING FEBRUARY *in Florida?*

**NORTH/
CENTRAL**

Chickasaw Plum 

Native, deciduous (*Prunus angustifolia*)

Eastern Redbud 


Native, deciduous (*Cercis Canadensis*)

Eastern Dogwood 

Native, deciduous (*Cornus florida*)

Fringetree 

Native, deciduous (*Chionanthus virginicus*)

Japanese Magnolia 

Not-native, deciduous (*Magnolia x soulangiana*)

Taiwan Cherry 

Not-native, deciduous (*Prunus campanulata*)

 **Bougainvillea**

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

 **Hong Kong Orchid Tree**

Non-native, evergreen (*Bauhinia blakeana*)

SOUTH




UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



**Gardening
SOLUTIONS**

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

EDIBLES TO PLANT IN FEBRUARY

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

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**Gardening
SOLUTIONS**

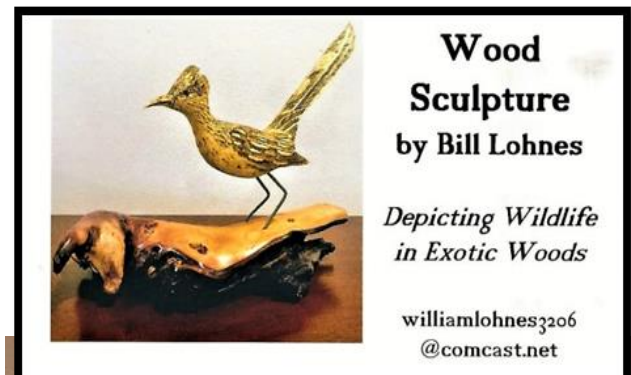
WOOD SCULPTOR BILL LOHNES BRINGS NEW LIFE TO FORGOTTEN WOOD

The Port St. Lucie Gardens is pleased to accept a donation of wood sculptures created by artist Bill Lohnes.

While backpacking, Bill discovered pine knots had faces and personalities waiting to be released. Bill, who is self-taught, evolved his carvings from wood "spirits" to animals, birds and fish.

Each carving is a unique, one-of-a-kind piece of art. Most are left unpainted, and some he details using the art of Pyrography (wood burning). The carvings are accentuated by the bases. He spends many hours combing the beaches, streams and riverbanks to find unusual pieces of driftwood.

Bill has been invited to participate in fine art shows including: "Affaire in the Garden" in Beverly Hills, CA; Northwest Artisans' Show in Seattle, WA; and the Grand Opening of the Florida Festival at Orlando's Sea World.



NEW DAYLILY CLUB IS STARTING TO BLOOM!

January 15th saw a room full of enthusiastic prospective club members who were welcomed to the South Florida Daylily Society, affiliated with Region 12 of the American Hemerocallis Society (AHS). Michelle Peterson, Master Gardener and a member of AHS, is organizing the new club. Her promotions teased the gardening public with questions like: do you miss seeing lush, colorful mounds of daylilies in landscapes and gardens? And "it can be challenging to grow daylilies here ... unless you know how!"



CALLING ALL DAYLILY LOVERS!

Join us for the continuing launch of
The South Florida Daylily Society
Sunday, February 19 @ 2pm
Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens
Program – Refreshments – FUN!



The first meeting included an informative overview presentation about what's needed to grow daylilies here (MG's - think Continuing Ed Credits!) plus refreshments, and great conversation and camaraderie!

Our Rose Garden area will now have a new space sharing partner – club members will plant and maintain Daylilies to compliment and highlight the Rose Garden by outlining and creatively spreading their whimsical color throughout. Be sure to stop and watch it grow!

The new club will have a booth at Botanica and will have Daylilies for sale! Stop by, welcome them to The Gardens, and pick out your favorite Daylily to jumpstart your own new garden.

The next meeting will be Sunday, February 19th at 2pm.

All are welcome!

HISTORY OF TREASURE COAST BONSAI SOCIETY

By Noreen S. Sherman President of TCBS

Treasure Coast Bonsai Society(TCBS) was founded in 1975. Its roots go back to 1950, when a young man from Indiana, Jim Smith, read an article about bonsai in a magazine. He "noticed a lot of stuff coming out of Japan," so he sent away \$10 for a kit containing a package of seeds, a picture and information. Jim Smith was inspired. He started working on trees and when the family moved to Vero Beach in 1956, Jim swapped his temperate climate trees for tropical ones. At the time, there was little experience with tropical trees anywhere in the bonsai world.

The BSF (Bonsai Society of Florida) was founded in 1973. In 1975 the internationally famous John Naka was having a workshop in Tampa. Jim packed up his two junipers and a portulacaria and went to Tampa to take John Naka's workshop. John encouraged Jim to take the Portulacaria afra (dwarf jade) to the The International Bonsai Convention, that year being held in Miami. From there the tree graced the cover of "International Bonsai" magazine and was in their calendar. Tropical trees were now recognized throughout the world.

Jim placed an ad in the local paper, inviting people interested in bonsai to form a club and meet regularly. Together with Gloria Moore and Bud Adams, these three considered the founders, they met with about 25 others to form what became to be known as TCBS.

Jim Smith passed this year, beloved all over the Bonsai world and a teacher and friend to countless bonsai artists, especially here in Florida. Jim was especially pleased to donate in 2009 a substantial number of bonsai trees to Heathcote Botanical

Gardens in Fort Pierce – one of the largest public displays of tropical bonsai in the United States.

Along with Jim Smith's ongoing Dura Stone Bonsai, other bonsai nurseries operating in the area include Old Florida Bonsai in Vero, owned by J.J. and Richard Turner and Dragon Tree Bonsai in Palm City owned by Robert Pinder; they offer free workshops, regular classes and are great sources for pre-bonsai materials and pots. All are longstanding members of TCBS.

Today, the TCBS meets monthly on the fourth Saturday, 10 AM to 12 noon, at The Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens. Once membership is established your name is added to the email list, you receive monthly newsletters filled with information on visiting artists for the upcoming meeting, what is going on in Bonsai throughout Florida and the nation and minutes from the previous meeting. For more information call Barbara, 772-287-5356.

A tradition, each year in January, the membership is invited as guests of the Adams Family to their cattle ranch in Fort Pierce for a "Dig" – the opportunity to collect in the wild a specimen tree to bonsai. In May, the TCBS annually supports the BSF state convention. This year, The American Bonsai Society (our national society) is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in Orlando jointly sponsored with BSF. TCBS and the curator for the JJ. Smith Bonsai Collection at Heathcote Botanical Gardens have been invited to display their Bonsai at an exhibit on April 7th- 8th of 2017 at The ARTS Council of Martin County this will be an opportunity to share the beauty of the art of bonsai with the public.

Bonsai is the only living art form known to man. It is an art of illusion, in which the artist is challenged to create the impression of age, mass and weight of the elements in a miniature replica of a natural tree.

Treasure Coast Bonsai Society



GARDEN OF THE MONTH: BAMBOO GARDEN

MAINTAINED BY FRIENDS OF THE
PORT ST. LUCIE BOTANICAL GARDENS

Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens appreciates the efforts of local Boy Scout, Tyler Hundley, who chose our Gardens to be the beneficiary of his Eagle Scout project. The Life Scout program guides members to plan, develop, and give leadership in a service project helpful to and religious institution, school or community. Tyler, a local High School senior, submitted and completed his project "Decorative Screening at the Botanical Gardens" for our Bamboo Garden in November, 2016. Tyler and his team documented 47 hours on this project and spent over \$500 of funding he had procured through donations.

Tyler's project included the clearing of grounds under and around the bamboo, building a new decorative screen fence and constructing an informational kiosk to educate the public on the various types of Bamboo in the garden. Tyler also installed plant identification signs next to each bamboo plant with common name, Latin name and origin. To accomplish project, Tyler had to create a detailed project plan including participants, materials and supplies, cost estimates, logistics and project phase plans.

Boy Scouts of America sends this message to project beneficiaries: "Congratulations on your selection as an Eagle Scout service project beneficiary, and thank you for the opportunity you are making available to an Eagle Scout candidate. Support from community organizations is important to Scouting—just as important as Scouting's contributions are to the community. Scouts provide important services, and benefiting organizations such as yours provides a vehicle for personal growth. Service to others is an important part of the Scout Oath: ".... to help other people at all times."

The congratulations goes to Tyler!





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HEARD AROUND THE GARDENS

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and updated
website.**

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Welcome to All Garden Goers...

This month our
Jazz Jams will be held on

**January 8th,
& January 22nd**
starting at 6:30 pm

JAZZ JAMS

At The Gardens

Donation \$6 per person.

Gardens & Jazz Society

Members \$5 per person.

**Sponsored by the
Fort Pierce Jazz & Blues Society**





Volunteer at the Friends of the Port St Lucie Botanical Gardens

PROPAGATION

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

No experience needed. Bring gloves and clippers.

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

Please call Brenda Gustafson at 772-678-8523.



Center & Gift



If you enjoy greeting and meeting 'The Gardens' guests, handing out informational materials, answering the telephone and assisting with questions and requests this is the place for you. Assist in the selection and sales of books, gifts and other merchandise. Capable of handling money and accountable for gift shop receipts. Ability to work well with other volunteers and the public. Open Wednesday – Saturday – 10AM-4PM, Sunday 12AM-4PM. No experience needed. Retail experience in Gift Shop a plus.

Please Call Illona Christie at 772-337-1959



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



Can You Dig It?



THE HISTORY OF VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is an annual holiday celebrated on February 14. It originated as a Western Christian liturgical feast day honoring one or more early saints named Valentinus, and is recognized as a significant cultural and commercial celebration in many regions around the world, although it is not a public holiday in any country.

Several martyrdom stories associated with the various Valentines that were connected to February 14 were added to later martyrologies, including a popular hagiographical account of Saint Valentine of Rome which indicated he was imprisoned for performing weddings for soldiers who were forbidden to marry and for ministering to Christians, who were persecuted under the Roman Empire. According to legend, during his imprisonment, Saint Valentine healed the daughter of his jailer, Asterius, and before his execution, he wrote her a letter signed "Your Valentine" as a farewell.

The day first became associated with romantic love within the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the 14th century, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. In 18th-century England, it evolved into an occasion in which lovers expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "valentines"). In Europe, Saint Valentine's Keys are given to lovers "as a romantic symbol and an invitation to unlock the giver's heart", as well as to children, in order to ward off epilepsy (called Saint Valentine's Malady). [6] Valentine's Day symbols that are used today include the heart-shaped outline, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid. Since the 19th century, handwritten valentines have given way to mass-produced greeting cards.

Saint Valentine's Day is an official feast day in the Anglican Communion, as well as in the Lutheran Church. Many parts of the Eastern Orthodox Church also celebrate Saint Valentine's Day, albeit on July 6 and July 30, the former date in honor of the Roman presbyter Saint Valentine, and

Antique Valentine Day Card circa 1909



READ MORE AT: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentine's_Day

Are you a Member of Friends? Friends Membership is...



Horticulture



Education



Preservation



Community



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Friends of the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens, Inc.



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Membership Today**



HORTICULTURE KNOW HOW...

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

GROWING ROSES IN FLORIDA

Roses are prized around the world for their beautiful flowers. Here in Florida, they grow and bloom year-round in the southern and central parts of the state and for at least nine months of the year in the northern part. Roses can be mixed into plant beds, featured as a specimen plant, or placed in a garden solely devoted to roses.

Success with Roses

Success with roses depends upon selecting varieties that perform well in Florida and conform to your lifestyle. Roses can be generally divided into two types: low- or high-maintenance. Low-maintenance roses thrive with minimal care and include the "old garden roses" (OGRs) and shrub roses such as David Austin Roses® and the "Knock-out®" series. These easier-to-grow types produce more open and informal blooms compared to the "florist type" flowers of hybrid tea, grandiflora, floribunda, and polyantha roses. These latter demand frequent grooming, fertilizing, watering, and spraying. For more in-depth information on selecting roses see: www.deepsouthdistrict.org/dsdshares/DSDVP/DSD%20Shares%20WEBSITE/5-DSD%20Library/Selecting%20Roses%2011-1-11.pdf.

Research in Florida has shown that roses grafted on 'Fortuniana' rootstock (*Rosa fortuniana*, 'Double White Cherokee') grow larger, are more vigorous, produce more flowers, and live much longer than plants grown on any other rootstock. 'Dr. Huey' rootstock is a distant second-best, and 'Multiflora' (*Rosa multiflora*) is the shortest-lived and least satisfactory rootstock under Florida conditions. Many "old" roses and dwarf cultivars perform well on their own roots, but often do better when grafted.

Beyond the choices of high- or low-maintenance and types of rootstock, selecting roses depends on your preference for flower color, fragrance, and shape as well as plant form. Some roses make attractive landscape plants; others have poor landscape appeal, but produce beautiful cut



flowers. Some, like the miniatures, mini-floras, and patio roses, readily adapt to small spaces or containers. Local rose societies can also provide you a wealth of information on which roses perform best in your area of the state. For more information, visit the American Rose Society's website: www.ars.org/ and consider joining a local rose society: www.deepsouthdistrict.org/Societylist.htm.

Site Selection and Soil Preparation

Roses need direct sunlight for at least six hours a day. If some shade cannot be avoided, a location that supplies morning sunlight is best. Morning sun dries the dew and decreases the chance of fungal disease. Select roses that produce flowers with a single row of petals – many rose growers claim that the fewer the petals the more shade tolerant the rose is likely to be. Open locations are preferred where the roots of nearby plants will not compete for nutrients and moisture. Roses can be grown satisfactorily near the coast with adequate soil preparation and maintenance and protection from salt spray. Most roses are not tolerant of irrigation water (reclaimed or well water) with more than 1,800 ppm salts.

The best soil for growing roses is one that is well-drained but, at the same time, holds an adequate supply of moisture and nutrients. Most Florida



soils do not have all these desirable properties and therefore should be amended. All roses benefit from amended soil, but it is a requirement for modern roses. Adding organic material such as compost, manure, or peat will increase the water- and nutrient-holding capacity and the overall health of the soil and the plants growing in it. Soil amendments should be added to the entire bed not just to the planting hole because

roots quickly grow beyond the amended hole. Add 2-4 inches of organic material and mix amendments thoroughly and evenly to a depth of 12 inches. These materials are especially beneficial when added to light, sandy soils and to soils that compact easily. Where soils are poorly drained, it will be necessary to create raised beds.

Nutrients are most readily available to the roots in a moderately acid to slightly acid soil (pH 5.5 to 6.5). Your county Extension office can provide you information on having your soil tested for pH: <http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map/>.

Planting and Early Care

Local nurseries typically have containerized roses for sale year-round, whereas dormant, bare-root plants are usually available from October to March. Be aware that bare-root plants are seldom grafted on 'Fortuniana' rootstock and therefore may not thrive. Roses can be planted year-round except in north Florida, where planting is best delayed until early spring. Repeated freeze injury to new shoots exhausts stored food and can kill plants that lack well-established root systems.

Compared to other regions of the U.S., roses in Florida grow larger and require more space than is recommended in other states. The space allowed for different plant growth habits ranges from a circle of one foot diameter for the smallest shrubs, to a circle eight feet in diameter for the largest. Old Garden Roses, like Chinas and Teas, are slow to establish and typically "sleep, creep, and leap" over the course of several years.

Dig a hole as deep as the root ball or slightly shallower. Remove the root ball from the container and gently loosen circling roots. Plant the rose at the same depth that it was growing in the container. This ensures that the graft union (if it is grafted) remains well above the soil. Fill the hole with soil, build a water basin with the remaining soil, and water thoroughly. Apply a 2- to 3-inch layer of mulch (compost, wood chips, pine needles, etc.) around each plant keeping

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the mulch an inch or so away from the main stem. Irrigate frequently for 6-8 weeks to establish.

Larger roses should be tied to a well-anchored stake or trellis for support. Metal stakes made from pipe sections, electrical conduit or reinforcing rods (rebar) are quite satisfactory. Cover the metal stake with clear plumbing tubing so that it will not scrape and injure the plant and use durable, soft material for ties.

Maintenance

Roses grow year-round in Florida and therefore some maintenance is required throughout the



year. Again, the type of rose you choose will dictate the maintenance level needed. Most modern roses, hybrid tea, and grandiflora roses need weekly watering and spraying, frequent grooming to remove old flowers, fertilizing after each flush of bloom, and pruning and mulching in early spring. Low-maintenance roses such as 'Bourbon', 'China', 'Bermuda', 'Tea' (not hybrid

tea), and "shrub" roses typically require minimal amounts of care.

Cold-protection methods commonly used in colder climes are unnecessary in Florida since winter injury to mature wood of established rose bushes rarely occurs. More flowers are produced during summer than during cooler seasons, but flowers are larger, more intense in color, and have more petals during cooler periods of the year.

Irrigation

Frequent applications of water are necessary for modern roses and even low-maintenance roses



will benefit from an occasional irrigation during drought periods. Micro-irrigation systems such as drip tubing or micro-sprayers are ideal since the foliage stays dry and less prone to disease. When overhead sprinkling must be used, water early enough for the leaves to dry before sundown.

Fertilization

Fertilizing varies depending on the season, the location, and the size of plants. Select a fertilizer formulated for roses, preferably one containing micronutrients and controlled-release nitrogen. There is little research on growing roses in Florida, but rose growers usually recommend that roses should be fertilized once a month from mid-February to mid-November except in south Florida where monthly applications can be made year-round. Apply one cup of fertilizer per plant per application or ½ cup bi-monthly. Reduce this amount and frequency for small plants, old garden roses, and shrub roses.

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Mulching and Weeding

An organic mulch around roses will hold moisture in the soil, reduce weed growth, and provide some nutrients to the plants. Replenish mulch as it decomposes. Remove weeds in rose beds by pulling them or by shallowly cutting them with a hoe.

Grooming

Grooming is a regular feature of rose culture and the frequency will depend on the type of rose and your expectations. Grooming consists of selectively trimming plants to keep them healthy, well-shaped, and productive. Dead-head (remove faded flowers) after each flush of bloom to improve plant appearance and prevent the development of fruit (i.e., rose hips). This directs plant energy into new growth and blooms.

Remove suckers (leafy shoots) that grow from the rootstock by breaking them off rather than by cutting in order to remove all basal buds. Rootstock suckers can be recognized by their location below the graft union and their different leaf appearance. "Blind" shoots – shoots that fail to set a flower bud – are occasionally produced by roses and should also be removed as soon as they are detected.

Remove dead wood and canes showing stem disease symptoms as soon as you notice them. Cut the affected part back to healthy wood and remove it from the garden area. To avoid dieback and encourage rapid repair, pruning cuts should be made just above a dormant bud (eye). When an entire branch is removed, make a smooth cut at the point of juncture.



Pruning

In central and north Florida, hybrid teas, grandifloras, and floribundas should receive a major pruning in mid-February/early March. In south Florida, many rose growers prune these types in early December. Major yearly pruning consists of shortening main canes and lateral branches, and removing twigs and canes that are dead, diseased, injured, or spindly. This improves form, regulates height and improves air circulation and light penetration within the

plant. Leave at least half the length of each main cane that is one to three years old. The first flowers can be expected eight to nine weeks after pruning. Most gardeners prune again in August, but this is a lighter pruning of ¼ to 1/3 of the growth. Other types of roses, particularly OGRs like the Chinas and Teas, are lightly pruned only as needed.

Cut Flowers



When cutting flowers, consider the arrangement in which they are to be used. Larger, more open flowers to be used low in the container need less stem length than tighter buds to be used for height.

Cut buds after the green sepals fold back toward the stem and the outside petals loosen and start to unfurl. Blooms cut in tighter bud will fail to open. Use a sharp knife or pruning shears for cutting flowers and make a clean cut just above a well-developed, five-leaflet leaf. Dieback may result from leaving a ragged cut or a long stub above the dormant bud.

To produce single-stemmed, exhibition flowers, remove the lateral flower buds as they form, allowing one bud to mature on each stem. To regulate the time of bloom for a particular variety, pinch out all flower buds as they form until 28 to 34 days before flowering is desired.

Pest Management

Certain roses require weekly sprays of fungicides and insecticides to maintain their quality. The most serious problem with roses in Florida are two fungal diseases called black spot and Cercospora leafspot. These leaf spot diseases thrive in humid, wet weather and must be managed preventatively or infected plants will lose leaves, decline and possibly die. Sanitation plays a major role in managing infections on susceptible varieties. After the winter pruning, remove all leaves from the plants, and rake the area beneath the bush to remove dead and diseased leaves that have fallen during the year. Re-mulch immediately to create a physical barrier between the plant and the fungal spores on the ground, which otherwise will splash onto the plant and re-infect it. Begin spraying as new growth emerges and continue throughout the

growing season. Most low-maintenance roses are resistant to this disease to a greater or lesser degree and will survive with few to no sprays. Research has shown that black spot resistant varieties are more susceptible to *Cercospora* leafspot and vice versa. Both diseases can also be managed by irrigating with drip irrigation, which helps keep the foliage dry and less susceptible to fungal infection. For more information on these leafspots see: (edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp268) and *Cercospora* leafspot (edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp267).

Cut buds after the green sepals fold back toward the stem and the outside petals loosen and start to unfurl. Blooms cut in tighter bud will fail to open. Use a sharp knife or pruning shears for cutting flowers and make a clean cut just above a well-developed, five-leaflet leaf. Dieback may result from leaving a ragged cut or a long stub above the dormant bud.

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Powdery mildew is another fungus disease that attacks roses during spring or late fall when the days are warm and nights are cool. The disease covers new leaves and flower buds with a distinctive white, powder-like growth. Although leaves and blooms are damaged by powdery mildew, the disease rarely kills the plant. Again,



many low-maintenance roses exhibit resistance to this disease as well.

Other common pests of roses include aphids, spider mites, caterpillars, and flower thrips. Chilli thrips attack the flowers and the foliage and are a serious pest in central and south Florida (mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/iso/thripslinks.htm). For more information on these and other rose pests see: edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep371. Frequently monitoring your rose(s) will help you detect early infestations. Your county's Extension office can provide you the safest and most effective strategies for managing insect and disease problems: solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map/.

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Footnotes

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