



# The News Vine

## March 2024 Newsletter

Denise Bozeman, Corresponding Secretary



## BOARD MEETING

1:00 PM – Monday, March 11th

At Jeri Ronaldson's Home

410 Riverside Drive, Melbourne Beach

If you are unable to attend, please contact Jeri at 321.536.3183 or [jerironaldon@gmail.com](mailto:jerironaldon@gmail.com)

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We are implementing our new protocol. While all are welcome, only members of the Executive Committee are obliged to attend. If you would like to attend, kindly RSVP the above hostess so she may plan accordingly. If you have something to discuss, please contact Jeri Ronaldson so you may be placed on the agenda.

*Please wear your name badges to our meetings.*

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Note:** New Location and Program

9:30 AM – Wednesday, March 20th

At Nance Park Picnic Area

201 North Miramar Avenue, Indialantic

**Program:** Orchid Potting

**Presenter:** Dave Riches

**Hostesses:** \*Charlotte Underwood, Carolyn Crist & Marianne Brillante

If you are unable to attend the above scheduled meeting contact Angie at 321.917.6787 or [aleeney13@gmail.com](mailto:aleeney13@gmail.com)

*Arrive by 9:15 for setup. Lunch will be after meeting.*

## SBGCA MEETING

10 AM – Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>

At Melbourne Public Library

540 E. Fee Avenue, Melbourne

**Program:** Medicinal Use of Herbs

**Presenter:** Joanna Helms, Mama Jo's Sunshine Herbals

**Hostesses:** All Club Members

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jeri Ronaldson

Happy Spring Dear Garden Club Members!

Can you think of a better way to welcome this season of renewal and growth than by celebrating pollinators and their crucial role in our environment? The buzz around the fair continues to grow and as we come together on Sunday, I am reminded of the power of unity.

Louisa May Alcott said, "Nothing is impossible to a determined woman". We are actively demonstrating such core values of garden clubs everywhere; that when women come together with a shared purpose, there is nothing we cannot accomplish!

It is in this spirit I express my heartfelt gratitude for all the herculean work and steadfast dedication that the Pollinator Fair Committee has spent developing and organizing this event. These lovely gardeners have been working diligently for the past ten months transforming ideas into reality, challenges into possibilities. While everyone supported and helped whenever needed, there would be no pollinator without Alice, Beth, Pam, Barb, Carolyn, Vickie, Julie Susan, Donna, Marianne, Denise, Valerie and Joan. Thank you all for your positive energy, happy attitudes, generosity of time and talents, and willingness to take on difficult challenges for the good of the group.

Through the generosity of our club sponsors, Lynda Gilbert, June Sims, and Jenifer Marx, it is possible for us to provide a wide range of resources as a gift to our community. And, how exciting it will be for us all, when this gift is returned to us by way of positive feedback, raised awareness, and stories of enjoyment? Our Pollinator Fair, our labor of love, will be the gift that continues to give back to our community.

So let's welcome spring with open arms and embrace the Pollinator Fair as a joyful experience because Garden Club by the Sea, once again, is touching lives far beyond our membership. The work is done and it's time to enjoy ourselves. Come support our vendors and make new friends

With love and gratitude, I'll see you at the Fair!

## SERENE HARBOR FLORAL ASSIGNMENT

Mariane Brillante & Lindy Sheedy

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Serene Harbor is in great need of pantry items such as children's snacks.  
Please feel it in your heart to bring a donation to the next meeting. Thank you for caring!

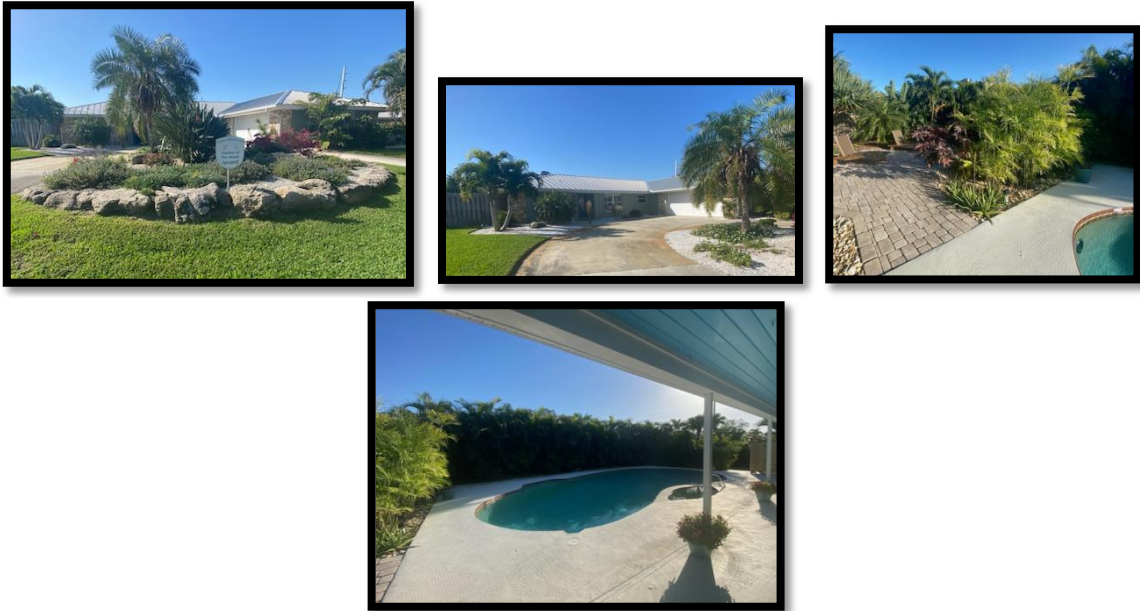
## GARDEN OF THE MONTH AWARD

By Cathy Berkman & Mariane Brillante

This month's award goes to Pete and Downey Harwood of 553 Coconut Drive, Indialantic which is in the River Shores East subdivision. The Harwood's retired and moved here 10 years ago from eastern Long Island, NY. Pete enjoyed surfing and that is what brought them to this area. Their property is beautifully landscaped with many tropical plants in their front and backyards.

The front property has a nice landscape berm with large rocks. Their landscaping includes fruit trees, Screw Pine Pandanus Utilis trees, Bougainvillea, Bird of Paradise, Aloe Vera, and a variety of palms which include: Areca, Christmas, Bamboo, Cardboard, Dwarf Date, and Fishtail Palms. White seashell mulch was used in all their gardens. Their back yard has many tall palms lining their fence for privacy.

Downey enjoys knitting and gardening. Pete creates model surfboards and surf art which is his hobby and passion.



## MARCH IN THE SEASIDE GARDEN

By Jenifer Marx



March 19<sup>th</sup> marks the official start of spring and time to get out and enjoy hands-on gardening. Why not invite a friend or, better yet, a youngster to join you in doing some of the more pleasant garden tasks. We are fortunate here on the barrier island that the climate allows us to grow many plants that in Central Florida as well as those suited to South Florida. Happy Planting!

# FLOWERS TO PLANT IN *March*



	North	Central	South
 <b>FULL SUN</b>	Ageratum, Amaranthus, Angelonia, Bacopa, Balsam, Begonia (Wax), Calibrachoa, Celosia, Cosmos, Gaillardia, Gazania, Geranium, Gomphrena, Impatiens, Lobelia, Marigold, Melampodium, Moss Rose, Pentas, Periwinkle, Phlox, Rudbeckia, Salvia, Scarlet Sage, Strawflower, Sunflower, Torenia, Tropical Milkweed, Zinnia	Ageratum, Amaranthus, Angelonia, Balsam, Begonia (Wax), Celosia, Cosmos, Gaillardia, Gazania, Geranium, Gomphrena, Impatiens, Lobelia, Marigold, Melampodium, Moss Rose, Pentas, Phlox, Rudbeckia, Salvia, Scarlet Sage, Sunflower, Torenia, Tropical Milkweed, Tropical Sage, Zinnia	Ageratum, Amaranthus, Begonia (Wax), Celosia, Cosmos, Crossandra, Gaillardia, Gazania, Geranium, Gomphrena, Lobelia, Marigold, Melampodium, Moss Rose, Pentas, Periwinkle, Phlox, Rudbeckia, Scarlet Sage, Sunflower, Torenia, Tropical Milkweed, Zinnia
 <b>PARTIAL SUN</b>	Ageratum, Amaranthus, Angelonia, Bacopa, Balsam, Begonia (Wax), Calibrachoa, Celosia, Cosmos, Gaillardia, Geranium, Gomphrena, Impatiens, Lobelia, Marigold, Melampodium, New Guinea Impatiens, Pentas, Periwinkle, Salvia, Scarlet Sage, Torenia, Tropical Milkweed, Tropical Sage, Zinnia	Ageratum, Amaranthus, Angelonia, Balsam, Begonia (Wax), Celosia, Cosmos, Gaillardia, Geranium, Gomphrena, Impatiens, Lobelia, Marigold, Melampodium, New Guinea Impatiens, Pentas, Salvia, Scarlet Sage, Torenia, Tropical Milkweed, Tropical Sage, Zinnia	Ageratum, Amaranthus, Begonia (Wax), Celosia, Cosmos, Crossandra, Gaillardia, Geranium, Gomphrena, Impatiens, Lobelia, Marigold, Melampodium, Pentas, Periwinkle, Scarlet Sage, Torenia, Tropical Milkweed, Zinnia







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



### Top 30 Plants That Attract Pollinators

<https://www.saferbrand.com/articles/top-plants-that-attract-pollinators>

### Easy-to-grow Native Plants That Work Well in Containers – Florida Wildflower Foundation

Use as single specimens or mix with other wildflowers:

- False rosemary (*Conradina canescens*, *C. grandiflora*)
- Tickseed (*Coreopsis floridana*, *C. leavenworthii*)
- Verbena (*Glandularia maritima*, *G.tampensis*)
- Blazing star (*Liatris spicata*)
- Silver-leaved aster (*Pityopsis graminifolia*)
- Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
- Tropical sage (*Salvia coccinea*)
- Goldenrod (*Solidago sp.*)
- Blue porterweed (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*)
- Stokes' aster (*Stokesia laevis*)
- Common blue violet (*Viola sororia*)
- Bog white violet (*V. lanceolata*)
- Primroseleaf violet (*V. primulifolia*)





Stokes' Asters | Photo by: Wasowski, Sally and Andy

For hanging baskets, or regular containers as single specimens or mixed with other wildflowers:

Twinflower (*Dyschoriste humistrata*, *D. oblongifolia*)

Frogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*) – also makes a good groundcover

Wild petunia (*Ruellia caroliniensis*)

Southern river sage (*Salvia misella*)

These species require consistent soil moisture and are good for containers without drainage:

Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias perennis*, *A. incarnata*)

Herb-of-grace (*Bacopa monnieri*)

Browne's savory (*Clinopodium brownei*)

Scarlet rosemallow (*Hibiscus coccineus*) also good in shallow ponds

Prairie iris (*Iris savannarum*) also good in shallow ponds



**Bulbs:** See *Bulbs for Florida*: [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/bulbous\\_flowers](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/bulbous_flowers)

Plant gladiolus corms six inches apart and four inches deep; stake as they grow.

Plant caladiums this month. Eden Brothers has many beautiful varieties including the breathtaking "Florida Moonlight" caladium.

<https://www.edenbrothers.com/search?q=caladiums&options%5Bprefix%5D=last>

Plant caladium tubers in soil that is at least 60-70°F. Cooler soil will result in tuber rot and slow growth. In North and Central Florida, plant caladium tubers in the ground between April and September. In South Florida tubers can be planted between March and September. When planting tubers place them "eye side" up (the puckered, knobby side).

**Herbs for Florida:** This is a good month to plant all herbs <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/herbs>  
Why not try something new, lovage perhaps or shiso?



Shiso (*Perillafrutescens* var. *crispa*) is a heart-shaped aromatic herb notably beloved by the Japanese. Often known as Perilla or Japanese mint, it is a close relative of basil and mint. You know the little piece of green saw-toothed plastic that separate items with an order from Publix of sashimi or sushi and in bento boxes? Sometimes you may encounter a Japanese restaurant that uses fresh shiso (*oba* in Japanese). That's a good thing because the leaves contain phytoncides; compounds with antibacterial and antifungal properties, which retard spoilage. Shiso leaves are also widely used in the preparation of many dishes and drinks.

There are two main varieties of shiso leaves: one is green and the other has a red or reddish-purple hue. While both red and green shiso have astringency and bitterness to them, the leaves differ in terms of their overall flavor which subsequently affects how they are cooked and eaten. The green has a milder, slightly lemony flavor and is the one most commonly used.

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Read More - <https://www.foodrepublic.com/1295540/what-is-shiso-and-how-is-it-used/>

Lovage (*Lecisticum Officinale*) is a member of the parsley/carrot/celery families. The Greeks and Romans employed it both as food and medicine. It is still used today to treat urinary tract infections; kidney stones and indigestion. The stalks and roots can be cooked and eaten but it is the leaves that are most often used. It also used to scent soaps and cosmetics. Lovage is grown widely in Europe, and used most frequently in the cuisines of Southern Europe, Germany, England, and in some Eastern European countries.

Lovage looks like very thin, dark green celery, with serrated leaves resembling a combination of both celery leaves and giant parsley leaves. It has a strong taste; predominantly celery with parsley and even a hint of citrus. The leaves can be used in soups, salads and with poultry and strongly flavored fish. But a word of caution: lovage is bold. One or two minced leaves is usually enough to add a tantalizing flavor to a dish or salad. One plant is sufficient. Grow it in a pot where you can keep it from too much direct sun exposure, since it prefers cooler weather.



**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*: [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_vegetable\\_gardening](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening)

### What to Do In the March Garden

**Get Soil Tested Every Few Years:** <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/SS187>

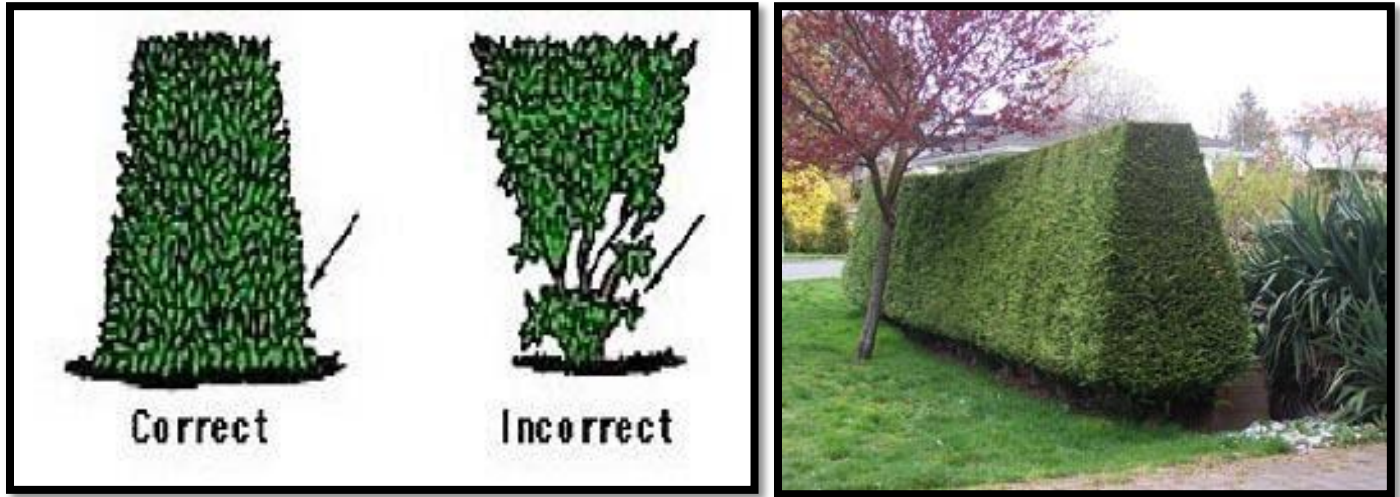
Follow instructions for preparing soil sample, choose Test B and include a check for \$10 when mailing it off. You will receive the results with a couple of weeks. They may seem confusing to you but, don't worry, call Sally Scalera at the Brevard Extension Office and she will interpret them for you. (321) 633-1702.

Fertilize only what's necessary, using organic fertilizers and soil amendments. Check your irrigation system for efficient water use.

[https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/landscape\\_irrigation\\_and\\_fertilization](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/landscape_irrigation_and_fertilization)



Prune trees and shrubs 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 new buds set.



Pruning Shrubs and Hedges Leave the Bottom Broader than the Top:  
<https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/pruning/pruning-shrubs-and-hedges.html>

Prune poinsettias back when blooms begin to fade. Cut the stems to about two feet above the soil and fertilize with 1/2 to 1 cup of 6-6-6. Also, apply one to two teaspoons of Epsom salts to supply magnesium. However, in my experience the poinsettias sold these days won't turn into the large plants we used to enjoy.

Irrigation: Check sprinkler systems for efficient water use. See *Landscape Irrigation*:  
[https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/landscape\\_irrigation](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/landscape_irrigation)

Revive your Lawn: Excellent information on St- Augustine; the turf grass most of us have:  
<https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/lawns/turf-types/st-augustinegrass.html>

What is wrong with my lawn?  
<https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/indianriverco/2020/08/24/what-is-ailing-my-st-augustine-grass/>

Remineralize Soil with a Product Like Azomite: <https://www.growertoday.com/what-is-azomite/>

Consider replacing an area of lawn, especially a shady area where the grass doesn't flourish, with a groundcover: <https://is.gd/gfLdqq>

Early spring is when fungal diseases show up on lawns. With damp weather and moderate temperatures turf is particularly susceptible. In summer the surrounding lawn may grow, filling in the dead patches, but if the disease isn't controlled, the problem will return again in fall. The best way to prevent fungal disease is to care for your lawn properly, since incorrect watering, mowing, or fertilizing practices all make turf more susceptible to disease.

Lawn Diseases Guide: <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/lawns/problems-and-solutions/lawn-diseases.html>





Fertilize shrubs and palms needing fertilization. Caution, never put Weed and Feed near palms. Also, don't let your lawn care people apply a herbicides containing MSM (metsulfuron-methyl), which can badly damage ornamentals near sprayed turf. <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FR400>

**Florida's Palm Trees:** When and How to Fertilize for Lush Growth:

<https://terragardensolutions.com/floridas-palm-trees-when-and-how-to-fertilize-for-lush-growth/#:~:text=For%20lush%20growth%2C%20gardeners%20should,100%20square%20feet%20needing%20treatment.>

**Fertilization of Landscape Palms in Florida:** <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/EP261>

**Citrus:** For the few of you who still have citrus trees, fertilize starting this month. Use an 8-8-8 citrus fertilizer with minor elements. These days very few fertilizers contain the essential minor elements. Your best bet is to use a really good palm fertilizer such as a Lesco product. Mature trees can have up to about six pounds of fertilizer broadcast under the branches and out about ten feet or so. Remember, for citrus to produce excellent fruit, they must be regularly fertilized and deeply watered every 7-10 days (with one inch of water) in the event of no rain.



**A Green Thought** – “No occupation is as delightful to me as the culture of the earth; no culture comparable to that of the garden.” Thomas Jefferson

### NOT TO BE MISSED

This year's annual popular and free Florida-Friendly Landscaping Seminar will be held on March 23, 2024, at the Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E. Hibiscus Boulevard, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., with check-in starting at 8:15 a.m.

Besides numerous vendors, there will be four engaging presentations:

9:15 – 10 a.m.: “IRL Update and Work of the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program (IRLNEP)” by Kathy Hill, IRLNEP

10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.: “Love Your Soil, Love the IRL” by Sally Scalera, UF/IFAS Extension, Brevard County

11:15 – 12 p.m.: “What You Plant Matters” by Tim and Anna Harrison, Native Butterfly Flowers

12:15 p.m. – 1 p.m.: “Nurturing Your Native Landscapes: Tips and ‘Tricks’” by Skip Healy, Change of Greenery

After the speakers conclude, door prizes will be given out to winning ticket holders. All participants who complete the surveys will receive goodie bags that include hose nozzles, gardening gloves and native plant seeds.

Registration is not mandatory but is encouraged. To register, go <https://2024FFLSeminar.eventbrite.com>. You can also call 321-633-1702, press 0, to register.

This free seminar also includes free donuts, pastries, mini bagels, fruit and coffee. City Bistro will also be selling breakfast sandwiches, along with lunch sandwiches, salads, soups, snacks and drinks. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own reusable water bottles. To fill them, water in large jugs will be provided. There will also be a free rain barrel workshop at 1:30 p.m. Registration is open to the first 30 and is available through EventBrite.

The event is planned and organized by the City of Melbourne, Brevard County Natural Resources Management, Brevard County Solid Waste, the University of Florida/IFAS Brevard Extension and the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program/Indian River Lagoon Council.

WISHING YOU ALL HAPPY SPRING AND JOYOUS EASTER

