



# The News Vine

## November 2023 Newsletter

Denise Bozeman, Corresponding Secretary

### NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

1:00 PM – November 13th

At the Home of Rita Everett

6075 South Tropical Trail, Merritt Island

Executive Committee, if you are unable to attend please contact Jeri at [jerironaldson@gmail.com](mailto:jerironaldson@gmail.com) or 321.536.3183 and Rita at 321.626.9552 or [khbrackett@gmail.com](mailto:khbrackett@gmail.com)

Please wear your name badges to our meetings.

### NOVEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

9:30 AM – November 15th

At the Home of Charlotte Underwood

890 Peregrine Drive, Indialantic

**Program:** Organic Girly - Elderberries

**Presented By:** Dina Caballero

**Hostesses:** \*Beata Pezzeminti, Alice Williams and Shelley Johnson

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

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jeri Ronaldson

Are you enjoying this beautiful season of change and great weather? How fortunate are we to appreciate these cool morning breezes sans hurricane thoughts? Phew!!

We are buzzing with activities to keep us busy. Our Veteran's Day Celebration will take place on November 11, 2023 at 10 am. Please attend!

Our DOCK program added a rock garden and the kids and staff are enjoying moments of creativity under the oak trees. Thank you to all of you that so lovingly support the DOCK Garden Program. If you're not involved yet, there's always a need for your extra pots, plants, materials or inspiration. We are still a long way from the Eden we seek to create and can use your help. Currently, the vegetable, herb, and pollinator gardens are growing nicely.

Speaking of pollinators, we are right on schedule and vendors are beginning to refer their peers to join in! We are in the sponsor/donor phase, so please download a sponsor form and see who you may invite to participate as a sponsor. It could be You!!

Good news! We will be hosting the FFGC District Meeting on Wednesday October 23, 2024 at the newly renovated Eau Gallie Yacht Club. I'm looking forward to working together as a club to provide the perfect venue for us to meet and greet fellow gardeners from District 6.

Ayurvedic medicine states this is the dry season, and we need to include all types of hydration in our self-care, so we don't dry up like a little autumn leaf! So, take care of yourselves.

Yesterday, I visited Dory Frederickson to pick up amaryllis bulbs to plant at the DOCK. She has the most serene potting area that just bathes you in a moment of Zen. It's a beautiful reminder that gardening can be a beautiful moment to nurture ourselves as well as our soil and plants. So appreciate these precious moments and reach out to fellow members. See you soon!



A moment of Zen in Dory's tranquil potting space.

With Smiles,  
Jeri

### **Rock City Gardens – Orchid Wire Sphere Workshop**

November 4th, 10 AM – 12 PM

Decorate a 14" Wire Garden Sphere with a 3" Phalaenopsis orchid and associated foliage.

For more information: <https://www.rockcitygardens.com//> and 772-589-5835

## **SERENE HARBOR FLORAL ASSIGNMENT**

Joan Flavin and June Sims

## GARDEN OF THE MONTH AWARD

By Cathy Berkman and Mariane Brillante

The Garden Club of the month award for November goes to Mark and Patti Gonsalves at 401 6th Avenue, Indialantic. They have owned the home since 1978. The house was originally built as the Gardener's cottage for the Tradewinds Hotel 101 years ago. Mark owned Marks Landscaping from 1972-2001 and has designed and landscaped many properties in the area, as well as volunteering his expertise for improvement projects such as Orlando Park. They enjoy maintaining their landscape, which includes, Parotis, Bird of paradise, Spineless yucca, Jelly palm, Aztec grass and more. Jason's yardcare takes care of the lawn. For many years they have also spent time in the Bahamas where they had a business. Patti is a talented artist, she paints beautiful nature scenes of the places they spend time at, in recent years in the mountains of N.C. as well.



## NOVEMBER IN THE SEASIDE GARDEN

By Jenifer Marx



Last week I saw a flock of wild turkeys ambling through yards in downtown Melbourne.

### What to Plant

**Cool weather vegetables** to plant in November include; beets, broccoli, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, collards, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard, all types of onions: short-day bulbing varieties, bunching & multipliers, English peas, radish, spinach, and turnips.

**Vegetable seeds** that can be sown now for transplanting in December include; beets, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, Chinese cabbage, collards, and English peas.



**Vegetable Gardening in Florida:** [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/vegetable\\_gardening](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/vegetable_gardening)



**Continue planting herbs** from seeds or setting out purchased plants. For the cool weather herb garden include; chives, garlic chives, fennel, rosemary, sage, lemon grass, salad burnet, lavender, dill, Greek oregano, lemon balm, lavender, Mexican tarragon, chervil, cilantro and thyme. Tender- leafed herbs like dill, cilantro, chervil, mint and fennel that do much better in the cooler months. **Herbs:** <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/herbs>

This is the last month to set out strawberries.

**Flowers** to plant this month include: alyssum, calendula, dianthus, flowering tobacco, pansy, petunia, phlox, snapdragon, stock, viola, and verbena, nasturtium and flowering kale.

**Annuals:** <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/annual-flowers.html>

**Perennials:** <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/perennials.html>



**Many bulbs** do best when started in cool weather. Bulbs to consider planting now include; Agapanthus, African iris, amaryllis (these make great Christmas gifts), Aztec lily (*Sprekelia formosissima*), calla, crinum, Kaffir lily (*Clivia*), day lily (*Hemerocallis* spp.), narcissus, Elephant ears (*Acacia*, *Colocasia*, *Xanthosoma*), hurricane lily (*Lycos's*), society garlic (*Tulbaghia violata*), snowflake (*Leucojum* spp.), shell ginger (*Alpinia zerumbet*), walking iris (*Neomarcia gracilis*), *Watsonia Iris* (*Iris* spp.) Grow native iris or Louisiana iris and their hybrids because German or Japanese iris do not grow well here, rain lily (*Zephyranthes*) and spider lily (*Hymenocallis* spp). See Bulbs for Florida: [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/bulbous\\_flowers](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/bulbous_flowers)

## What To Do

November heralds the advent of cooler weather and you may enjoy making some changes in your landscaping. If annuals or vegetables are doing poorly, replant with some of the cool-season choices listed above. October's generous rainfall encouraged rampant growth of both desirable plants and weeds, so plan on some judicious pruning of shrubs, deadheading flowers and removing weeds or at least removing their blooms to keep them from going to seed.

**Perennials** – Divide and replant overgrown perennials and bulbous plants now so they are well established before possible damaging cold snaps.

**Dividing Perennials:** <http://www.finegardening.com/10-tips-dividing-perennial-plants>

**Plant Propagation:** <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/planting/propagation.html>

**Check** for dead or diseased branches in trees and shrubs and remove; but don't prune deciduous fruit trees until winter.

**Repot Orchids** - This is a good time to start repotting. Dr. Martin Motes has concise month-by-month notes on how to care for your orchid collection but don't let the information overwhelm you. I never fertilize my orchids and seldom water them. Most grow on trees and they seem to do fine and reward my neglect with beautiful blooms. Read about how to protect your orchids from potential cold and wind: <https://www.motesorchids.com>

The RePotMe people have good information at <https://www.repotme.com> with links to a wide variety of orchid culture topics at <https://www.repotme.com/pages/all-orchid-care>

Lowes and Home Depot carry some orchid supplies and there are countless online vendors.

An excellent YouTube video on repotting *Phalaenopsis* by a plant biologist at the Chicago Botanical Gardens at: [https://www.chicagobotanic.org/blog/how\\_to/repotting\\_orchids\\_phalaenopsis](https://www.chicagobotanic.org/blog/how_to/repotting_orchids_phalaenopsis)

YouTube also has a channel with comprehensive educational videos by MissOrchidGirl at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC84mfcCFGDPeBhKbG8dijQ>

**Poinsettias** - Watch for hornworms on poinsettias (and tomatoes) planted in the landscape. This pest can quickly defoliate the plant; handpick or treat only the infested area. See Poinsettias at: <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/poinsettia.html>

Remember - no nighttime light for poinsettias, Christmas cactus, and kalanchoe.

Try to check your vegetable plants daily to make sure they are healthy. Keep an eye out for caterpillars and pick them off as needed.

Give vegetable plants some organic granular fertilizer monthly. Once your vegetable plants are flowering and producing begin spraying fish emulsion & Maxicrop seaweed on the foliage (both sides until it drips) every week. Do the same thing to citrus, avocado and other fruit-bearing trees. Don't worry that you can't reach high branches. The tree will transport the sprayed solution throughout the tree.

**Lawns** - As days get shorter and the weather cools you may only need to mow every two weeks. Just make sure that you don't wait too long or remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade when you mow.

**Turf diseases** - Watch for brown patch and large patch. These fungal diseases cause areas of grass to turn brown. Since treatment is difficult, prevention with proper cultural practices is key. These diseases become active when the soil temperature, measured 2–4 in. deep, is between 65°F and 75°F and go dormant when the weather warms in May. See Turf Diseases: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/LH064>

**Winter Green for Your Lawn** - If you want to over-seed your lawn with rye wait until the end of the month. This is quite easy and a great way to add organic matter to the soil.

**Irrigation** - Turn off systems and water only if needed. Plants need less supplemental watering in cooler weather. Run through your system, turning off zones that don't need supplemental irrigation and adjusting nozzles to accommodate changes in plant height that may block water reaching lower plants. See Landscape Irrigation: <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn-and-garden/lawn-irrigation/> .

**Scale insects** - Take advantage of lower temperatures to apply horticultural oil sprays to control scale insects. Identify scale insects: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/CH195>



Birds rely heavily on the protein that insects found in trees provide.  
Photo by Ricky Layson, Bugwood

**Provide nourishment and water for migratory birds** that are still passing through on their way further south. Fill bird feeders to help them with their success and to catch a glimpse of these visitors. Orlando Park is a prime viewing spot. On many days this Fall, I've seen serious birders with binoculars trained overhead on the trees at the park.

Another idea for your fall garden is to attract hummingbirds. The hummingbirds migrate through Central/South Florida from November to April and love to nectar on sweet flowers like firebush, firespike and ruby red penta.

### Create a Fall Porch Planter



**36 Fall Planters** to Bring the Beauty of the Season to Your Doorstep

<https://www.bhg.com/gardening/container/plans-ideas/fall-container-garden-creations/#:~:text=Favorite%20Fall%20Planter%20Idea&text=Asters%20and%20kale%20are%20surefire,create%20a%20lush%20fall%20arrangement.>

**Florida Fall Planter Ideas**

<https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/design/outdoor-living/fall-planter.html>



Get your rain barrel rebate form from Indialantic Town Hall and order a rain barrel from the Marine Resources Council.

**Garden Myth – Poisonous Poinsettias?** False. Poinsettias are not poisonous, although some people are mildly allergic to their white, milky sap. Like most plants, poinsettias do contain toxins, but not in dangerously high concentrations. You'd have to eat a lot of poinsettias to receive a harmfully high dose. That said, keeping poinsettias out of reach is still a good idea. Sensitivity to chemicals varies by size, age, health, and other factors. Cats and dogs ingesting poinsettia may suffer mild side effects, like diarrhea and drooling. These symptoms are not usually severe enough for a trip to the vet. Poinsettia sap does contain latex, so those with latex allergies should avoid handling them. Otherwise, practice common sense and caution and enjoy your holiday poinsettias.

But while we're considering poisonous holiday plants, be aware that lilies, holly, and mistletoe are far more toxic than poinsettias. When in doubt, call Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222. For pets, call the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 1-888-426-4435. (IFAS)



Chinese Orchid Bulbous Growth



Chinese Crown Orchid

**Bad Orchid** - The Chinese crown orchid Sue Neville recently discovered in her yard has delicate miniature blooms on long stalks that make it hard to believe this plant is an exotic invasive that resists eradication once its dense pseudobulbs become established. Native to the tropical and subtropical regions of Asia, the Chinese crown orchid (*Eulophia graminea*) first appeared in a mulched landscape bed in South Miami. In a few years it has spread widely, invading many Florida systems, including piney flatwoods, maritime hammocks, cypress strands and the mainland.

It reproduces by multiplying the pseudobulb, root structures, and seeds. The seed capsules are filled with thousands of barely visible seeds. The orchid grows quickly forming dense single-species thickets and crowding other plant species, including natives.

The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) classifies the Chinese crown orchid as a Category II invasive exotic plant. Category II plants are defined as “Invasive exotics that have increased in abundance or frequency, but have not yet altered Florida plant communities to the extent shown by Category I species. These species may become ranked Category I, if ecological damage is demonstrated.” To view a list of both Category I and Category II invasive plants visit <https://floridainvasivespecies.org/index.cfm>

If you discover a Chinese crown orchid, remove the flowers first. Then, dig out and remove all visible portions of the plant, including the roots. Deposit all plant parts in your household waste container not in yard waste or your compost pile.





Florida Heirloom Pumpkins / IFAS

**For Your Thanksgiving table, a Nigerian pumpkin soup.** Courtesy New York Times

**Spicy Peanut & Pumpkin Soup** - Yield: 4 servings

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium onion, peeled & diced (about 1½ cups)
- 4 garlic cloves, smashed
- 1 (1-inch) piece ginger, peeled & chopped
- ½ habanero or bird's eye chile
- 1 (14-ounce) can pumpkin purée
- 3 cups water (or chicken or vegetable stock)
- 1 (13-ounce) can coconut milk
- 1 tablespoon agave or honey (optional)
- ¼ cup unsweetened natural peanut butter
- Salt
- 2 tablespoons sliced fresh chives
- ¼ cup crème fraîche or yogurt (optional)
- Fresh squeezed lime juice to add at the end

Method

Step 1- In a large stock pot, heat oil over medium heat. Add onion, garlic and ginger, and cook, stirring frequently until softened and just beginning to brown around the edges, about 4 minutes. Stir in the chile and pumpkin purée, and whisk in the water or stock. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat and allow to simmer on low, giving an occasional stir, for 20 minutes or until slightly reduced and thickened. Remove the chile after the soup simmers if you don't care for much spice.

Step 2- Add coconut milk, agave or honey (if using), and peanut butter to the pot. Using an immersion blender or working in batches in a standing blender, purée the soup until smooth. Season with salt and keep warm over low heat. Do not bring soup up to a simmer or boil at this point. (This reduces the risk of the oils in the peanut butter separating and breaking the soup's smooth texture.)

Step 3- Divide soup between bowls, sprinkle with the chives and a dollop of crème fraîche or yogurt, or a drizzle of olive oil to make it vegan. Squeeze lime juice into bowl to brighten flavors. Serve with a warm crusty baguette or chunks of warm sourdough for dipping. You might also garnish each bowl with toppings, such as toasted nuts, roasted chickpeas, chopped bacon, or freshly grated cheese.



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**