



The News Vine

October 2023 Newsletter

Denise Bozeman, Corresponding Secretary

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

1:00 PM – October 9th

At the Home of Susan Vallette

400 Normandy Drive, Indialantic

Executive Committee, if you are unable to attend, please contact Susan at 321.544.2907 or netgal3@aol.com

Please wear your name badges to our meetings.

OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

9:30 AM – October 18th

At the Home of Judy Davis

851 Peregrine Drive, Indialantic

Program: Backyard Bat Conservancy

Presented By: Ariel Horner

Hostesses: *Vicky Mitterling, Linda Sheedy & Cathy Berkman

If you are unable to attend the above scheduled meeting, please contact Angie at aleeney13@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jeri Ronaldson

Have you heard the expression “cramscaping?” It is otherwise known as “maximalist gardening.” I’ve heard the term used when discussing companion planting, a technique used to grow two types of plants near each other for the benefit of one or both plants. So, I visited Beth Evander’s home to see how she has removed her energy wasting St. Augustine lawn and has lovingly cramscaped pollinator plants throughout her property. She has skillfully interwoven companion plants of all species so that her flowers are perennially blooming and the buzzing bees are flitting happily amongst the blooms. It’s no wonder she and Alice are so successfully navigating the Pollinator Fair! Well done Beth! Your carbon footprint is that much lighter!



POLLINATOR FAIR UPDATE

Currently we have identified and contacted 30+ vendors. Kudos to Carolyn Crist, Julie McKnight, Mariane Brillante, and Denise Landis, for your energy is bringing us great success. Way to go, Ladies: this might be fun.

But, the end result depends on YOU!! We need everyone to step up and help identify sponsors and vendors. Please commit to identifying a vendor or a sponsor. Contact Alice with vendors and Beth with sponsors. Your ideas and enthusiasm are much needed and appreciated!

Rock City Gardens – Orchid Workshop

October 21st, 10 AM – 12 PM

Orchid and foliage arrangement includes a 12 inch wooden bowl, Phalaenopsis orchid and assorted foliage planted in sphagnum moss with green sheet moss as a decorative accent.

For more information: admin@rockcitygardens.com and 772.589.5835

SERENE HARBOR FLORAL ASSIGNMENT

Cassie Garrett & Dory Fredrickson

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Serene Harbor is in great need of pantry item such as; cereal, flour, canned goods, paper products. Please feel it in your heart to bring a donation to the next meeting. Thank you for caring!

GARDEN OF THE MONTH AWARD

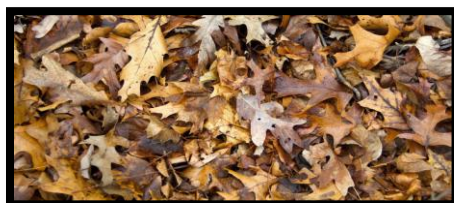
By Cathy Berkman and Mariane Brillante

This month's award goes to Jeffrey Miller & Aileen Fischer of Oliphant Circle in N. Indialantic. They have lived there six years and were inspired by their neighbor Carrie Black and the Indian River Lagoon project to re-landscape with mostly natives. They have a variety which includes; gaillardia, dune sunflowers, porter weed and native grasses bedded in pine mulch. They buy most of the plants from Native Butterfly Flowers and Maple St Natives.



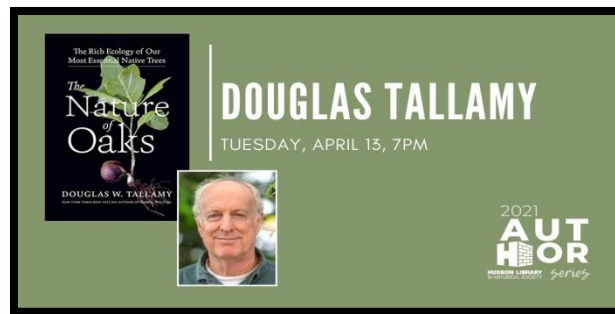
OCTOBER IN THE SEASIDE GARDEN

By Jenifer Marx



Fall is here...sort of. The autumn equinox was September 25th so technically its fall. In Florida we know because everything is pumpkin spiced, it's football season and license plates start changing colors as snowbirds arrive. While we don't have the resplendent displays of autumn foliage in cooler parts of the country, many Florida trees, including cypress, maple, sweetgum and crape myrtle do change color and shed their leaves. Quite a few of Florida's nineteen native oaks also lose their foliage in late fall. Live oaks, while considered evergreen, shed their leaves in late winter and early spring. This means masses of fallen oak leaves.

In his book "The Nature of Oaks", Doug Tallamy explains that because they contain concentrations of lignins and tannins, natural chemicals that retard breakdown, oak leaves decompose slower than most tree leaves. "The diversity and abundance of the little creatures that reside in the leaf litter that accumulates beneath an oak is astounding," he writes, "and easily exceeds counts in the millions." He wants gardeners see them as "priceless litter," not debris to dispose of. Mr. Tallamy also wants us to grow oaks from acorns because oaks are the most important keystone species in the environment, supporting more life-forms than any other North American tree genus. Keystone species are the 5% of native plants that provide 75% of the food that drives the terrestrial food web. In Brevard County we have ten native keystone oak species.



The single best insect-friendly species to plant in 84% of U.S. counties are white oaks and their relatives. They support some 934 caterpillar (butterfly and moth) species nation-wide. Compare with tuliptree (21 caterpillar species), black gum (26), Sweetgum (35), persimmon (46), and hemlock (92). A single oak can play host to thousands of caterpillars. Oak acorns are a preferred food source for many mammals and larger birds. The trees provide good cover for birds and mammals. The twigs are used as nesting materials by both birds and mammals.

Florida has 19 native oaks. They are either white or red oaks. White oaks have soft rounded edges on their leaves, and red oaks have a jagged, pointy leaf shape. White oaks grow much larger, reaching up to 80 feet. The white oaks best suited to our area are the live oak and dwarf live oak. The laurel oak and water oak are the best red oak species.

Enjoy Doug Tallamy's fascinating and motivating discussion about why "keystone" species are crucial to any ecosystem and why oak trees spectacularly fill that niche in so many places.

I hope it will inspire you to plant an oak tree in your yard. On January 19, 2024 our garden club is going to plant a tree in Lily Park on Florida Arbor Day as part of FFGC's 100th anniversary celebration. Let's make it an oak!

[Doug Tallamy: The Nature of Oaks - YouTube](#)



Credit UF/IFAS

WHAT TO PLANT

Keeping pollinators in mind, select a wide diversity of species with at least three of each plant. Design clusters incorporating plants of varying height. Consider bloom times to ensure there are flowering plants year-round.

Native blueberry shrubs, for example, can grow into small trees if not pruned. They blossom earlier than many native species, providing nectar and then fruit for a variety of wildlife. There is actually a specialized bee, the Southeastern blueberry bee (*Habropoda labriosa*) that only frequents blueberry bushes. They are solitary bees, living most of their short lives underground, emerging when the blueberry bushes are in flower and living only long enough to pollinate the plants.

Blueberry pollen is heavy and sticky, so it is not dispersed by the wind, and the flower's anatomy prevents pollen from the male anther from naturally falling onto the female stigma. Blueberry bees must instead attach themselves to the flower and rapidly vibrate their flight muscles, shaking the pollen out. Moving to the next flower, the bee's vibrations will drop pollen from the first flower onto the next one. This phenomenon is called "sonicating" or "buzz pollination" and is the most effective method of creating a prolific blueberry crop. Blueberries are a \$70 million crop in Florida and UF/IFAS has a blueberry plant breeding program to develop disease resistant, more productive plants.



"Gulf fritillary on native lantana" Credit: UF/IFAS

Plant Real Florida: Brevard County Profile with local resources

<https://www.plantrealflorida.org/county/brevard>

30 Best Native Plants: <https://lawnlove.com/blog/native-plants-florida/>

Annuals/Bedding Plants: Even though temperatures are still warm, begin planting for the cooler months ahead. Impatiens, alyssum, dianthus, calendula, petunia, snapdragon, pansy, nicotiana (flowering tobacco), stock and ornamental kale are good additions to the fall/winter garden. See Gardening With Annuals:

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/MG319>

Gardening With Perennials in Florida: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/MG319>

Perennials for Zone 10a:

<https://www.south-florida-plant-guide.com/florida-perennials.html>

Florida butterfly plants include native yellow Lantana (*Lantana depressa* var. *depressa*), Penta, Buddleia, Firebush, Salvia, Porterweed, Sweet Almond Bush, Firespike (*Odontonema cuspidatum*), Jatropha, Milkweed host plant, Giant Milkweed host plant, White Balloon Plant Milkweed (*Gomphocarpus physocarpus*) host plant, Passion Flower host plant, Coontie host plant, Dill host plant, Parsley host plant, Common Rue/Ruda host plant, Dutchman's Pipevine host plant, Cestrum, plant (night blooming jessamine and other varieties) host plant.

Comprehensive list of butterfly flowers for Brevard County:

<https://nativebutterflyflowers.com/native-plants/>



Credit: UF/IFAS

Florida hummingbird plants include Pagoda Flower aka Glory Bower (*Clerodendrum paniculatum*), Fiddlewood, Firebush, Butterfly Bush (*buddleia*), Firespike, Rose Mallow, Aloe, Butterfly Milkweed, Swamp Milkweed, Firecracker Plant (*Russelia equisetiformis*), Blue Sage, Florida Azalea.

Bulbs: Plant agapanthus, rain lily, and Clivia lily now for blooms next spring or summer. Add organic matter to the planting bed for best results.

See Bulbs for Florida: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers

Herbs: A wide range of herbs can be planted from seed or transplants this month. Some to try include dill, fennel, parsley, and cilantro.

See Herbs: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/herbs>



Credit: UF/IFAS

Vegetables: Easy crops that can be grown now include beans, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, collards, kale, lettuce, green onions, mustard greens, onions, peppers, radishes, sorrel, spinach, and tomatoes and turnips. See Vegetable Gardening in Florida: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening
The bulletin below has comprehensive information on organic vegetable gardening in Florida: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HS1215?downloadOpen=true>

Tomatoes: Learn which varieties are most likely to do well. It's all about right plant, right place and – especially here in Florida –right time.

<https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/edibles/vegetables/tomatoes.html#:~:text=Some%20recommended%20varieties%20include%20%27Better%20Boy%27%2C%20%27Celebrity%27%2C%20and,pick%20a%20heat-tolerant%20cultivar%20like%20%27Heat%20Wave%20II%27>

Tomato Varieties Chart from UF/IFAS:

https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/tomato_varieties_chart.pdf

Top Cherry Tomatoes - A few good disease-resistant varieties to try are:

- Sakura
- Camelia
- Shiren
- Sweeties

Best Berry Tomatoes for Florida

Also called “grape tomatoes,” depending on the size, berry tomatoes do quite well in Florida with good disease resistance and a better tolerance for higher temps. If you can find them, try:

- Amai
- Jolly Girls
- Sweet Hearts

Everglades Tomato – The champ for surviving summer heat and drought conditions. Get seeds from friends, toss them in a corner of your yard and forget them. You'll be amazed.

Good heirloom slicing Tomatoes for a Southern Garden

- Brandywine
- Big Zebra
- Cherokee Purple
- Homestead
- Pruden's Purple
- Striped German

Good Tomatoes for the Florida Garden. IFAS Bulletin:

https://discover.pbcgov.org/coextension/horticulture/pdf/residential/Tomatoes_in_the_FL_garden.pdf



WHAT TO DO

Sustainable Gardening: Don't rush to remove leaf litter, dead, dying, and hollow trees, as well as logs on the ground. They are valuable for many forms of wildlife. Dead trees provide homes to over 400 species of birds, mammals, and amphibians. Plants and fungi also benefit from dead or dying trees. Consider leaving standing dead and dying trees in your yard unless they pose a safety or property hazard, and incorporate downed woody materials in your landscape. Even hollow stems of flowers and shrub branches are used as homes by a variety of insects.

Garden Design Begins with Dreaming: ornamentals for your seaside garden:

<https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/>

Designing for Texture: a PowerPoint:

http://www.usbg.gov/sites/default/files/attachments/designing_for_texture_lecture_powerpoint.pdf

Waterwise Florida - Xeriscape Landscaping to Promote Water Conservation:

<https://www.calameo.com/read/001590741dc3f0d69e063>

Twenty-Two Ideas for a Low Cost, Low-Care Landscape:

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/ep442>

Butterfly Garden Design: <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/resources/apps/butterfly-gardens/>



Enjoy a \$50 rebate on a rain barrel if you live in Melbourne or Indialantic: See your town's website for the rebate form. Purchase a rain barrel for \$65 from the Marine Resources Council. I tried to order online but ran into a glitch, which they are working on. You can call the office at 321-725-7775, pay over the phone and arrange to pick up your barrel at the Lagoon House, 3275 Dixie Hwy, NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905. They are also selling their rain barrels at Rockledge Gardens for \$70.

Installing a rain barrel now also earns you 30 Lagoon Loyal Points: Swap your Lagoon Loyal Points for local business rewards! Learn more about the Brevard County Lagoon Loyal program at

<https://lagoonloyal.com/actions/install-rain-barrel/>.



Participate in the Lagoon Friendly Yard Program:

<https://keepbrevardbeautiful.org/our-programs/lagoon-friendly-lawns>

JOIN the Cloud Appreciation Society. It's free, fun and fascinating:

<https://cloudappreciationsociety.org/gallery/>

Marvel at the stunning photographs on the International Garden Photographer of the Year website. IGPTY is one of the world's most respected photography competitions and exhibitions, particularly within the genres of garden, plant, flower and botanical photography. It is wholly owned and organized by Mirror Plate Media Ltd. and is supported by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London. The main exhibition is usually held annually at Kew, with a rolling program of touring exhibitions in the UK and all over the world. There are hundreds of breathtaking photos to see by clicking on the various categories and years.

<https://igpoty.com/garden-photography-winners/>

The macro photo below "Stardust" by Polish photographer Magdalena Wasiczek was the overall winner in Competition 15. She has won top prize in three IGPTY competitions and her work has been exhibited in many countries.



Credit: IGPTY\Magdalena Wasiczek

Did you know that pumpkin is a fruit? A member of the squash family, pumpkins are thought of as vegetables but because pumpkins develop from a flower and contain seeds, botanists classify them as a fruit. The Celtic-speaking regions of Ireland and Scotland are believed to have popularized the practice of hollowing out a turnip, then adding a grotesque carved face and candle to create a lantern to deter harmful spirits. Irish and Scottish immigrants brought the tradition to America where they discovered the native pumpkin which was much larger, softer and easier to carve.

A Green Thought:

The best fertilizer is the gardener's shadow.

Anonymous



**Landscaping with
Florida Natives Tour**

Saturday October 14, 2023
9 am – 4 pm



**Conradina Chapter – South
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

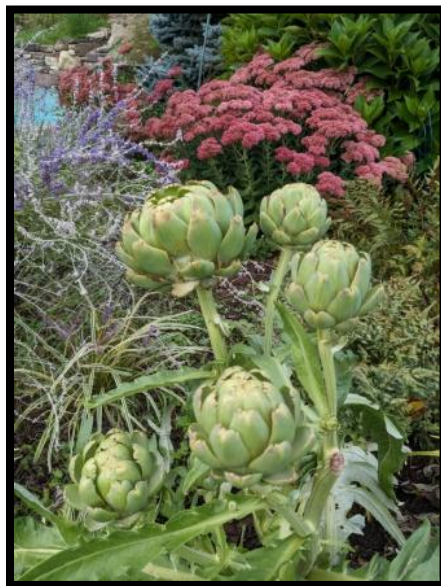
The website for the Conradina Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society has many wonderful photos of prior tours as well as inspiring photos of this year's public and private properties.

Preview the 2023 Florida Natives Tour: <https://brevardlandscapetour.org>

An interactive listing allows you to find landscapes of interest based on a variety of features:
<https://brevardlandscapetour.org/yard-tours/>

Purchase Tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-landscaping-with-florida-natives-tour-tickets-670952566187>



Credit: India Frazier

This photo of artichokes from my daughter India's Bucks County, Pennsylvania garden makes me wish we could grow tender, delicious artichokes. She, on the other hand, wishes she could grow the juicy, sweet mangoes she so misses.