



# The News Vine

**September 2023 Newsletter**

Denise Bozeman, Corresponding Secretary

## SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

1:00 PM – September 11th

At the Home of Angie Leeney

841 Peregrine Drive, Indialantic

If you are unable to attend, please contact Angie at 321.917.6787 or [aleeney13@gmail.com](mailto:aleeney13@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.

## SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

9:30 AM – September 20th

At the Home of Julie McKnight

607 South Riverside Drive, Indialantic

**Program:** Rain Barrels

**Presented By:** Vinnie Taranto

**Hostesses:** \*Bridget Perers, Bambi Moletteire, Casie Garrett and Sophie Bryan

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jeri Ronaldson

Welcome back, Garden Club members!

Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Garden Club by the Sea. How many times in this precious life do we get to celebrate such milestones? It is a testament to the grace and grit of our beautiful founding predecessors and an inspiration to honor our culture and love for each other. We are reminded to not only respect from whence we came, but to carefully continue our mission to beautify, educate and promote conservation as best we can.

First, let us concentrate beautifying Lily Park in preparation for our heartwarming Veteran's Day celebration. It is a time to be both humbled and proud to honor our venerable sisters and brothers who have so nobly served our country.

We will continue our mission to educate as we personally enjoy an interesting slate of monthly program speakers. Plans for replanting our D.O.C.K vegetable garden are underway, and I invite you all to join in any way you choose. We reap more than we sow as we plant, educate and play with these beautiful children. They deserve a beautiful garden to nurture their souls.

Our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary coincides with the National Garden Club's 110<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary. On January 19<sup>th</sup>, many of the Garden Clubs of America will honor this anniversary and Arbor Day by simultaneously planting a tree. Let's start thinking of a native tree and perfect location to honor this landmark event.

And how thrilling is it to launch our first Pollinator Fair on March 3rd? This event will focus on conservation and raising awareness about the importance of pollinators. We will have interactive exhibits, educational workshops, and expert speakers to shed light on this crucial topic. It will be a fun-filled day celebrating the wonders of nature and its delicate balance.

Finally, let us enjoy every precious moment we have together. Our time is fleeting, so let us happily sow seeds of love and laughter together.

I am here to serve you, so please let me know what I can do to enhance your time in our esteemed club.

As always, our Garden Club is a place where friendship and camaraderie thrive. We look forward to meeting each other, sharing our gardening experiences and knowledge, and creating lasting memories together. So, mark your calendars and get ready for a season filled with blossoming gardens, educational programs, and good times.

See you at the next meeting!

Love,  
Jeri

PS: In these mercurial weather months ahead, if anyone needs help moving pots or furniture in preparation for bad weather, please call me. We have a list of volunteers ready to help move outdoor pots or furniture.

## SERENE HARBOR FLORAL ASSIGNMENT

Angie Leeney and Judy Davis

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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

This month's award goes to Katherine and Keith Wassmer of 406 Ormond Drive, Indialantic located across from Orlando Park.

The Wassmer's have lived in their home for three years but have always lived in Florida. Keith removed all of the sod and created new landscaping with tropical and native plants: including many varieties of stone and Pine Bark Mulch. Keith loves working outside and did all the work himself in both the front and back yards.



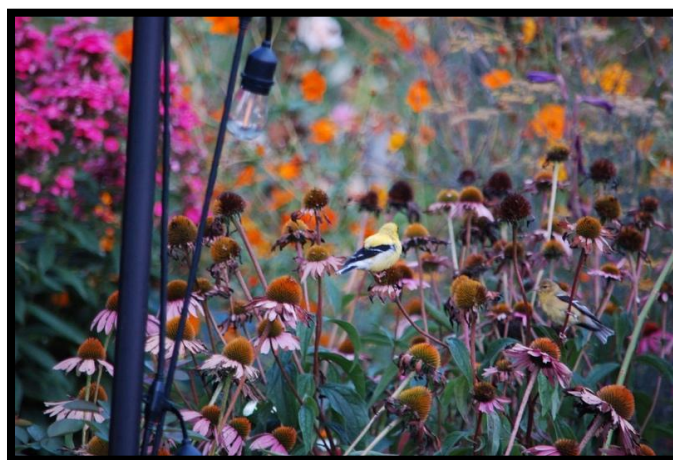
## A PHOTO AND NOTE FROM MARY DEFFEBACH



A covey of dahlias with delightful contours and shades of color. Several of our members have grown them or lived in areas where they're plentiful.

## SEPTEMBER IN THE SEASIDE GARDEN

By Jenifer Marx



Goldfinch on Coneflower (Echinacea). Photo|India Frazier



## PLAN AND PLANT

As torrid as it is right now, September is the month to prepare for your cool weather garden. Decide what you want to grow; balancing desired plant's requirements with the conditions you can provide. You can enjoy a rewarding garden using containers, raised beds, direct planting in the ground, or a combination of methods. Take into account each plant's needs for light, water, nutrition, temperature, humidity, and pH preference. The Internet makes it easy and fun to do garden research on everything from plant profiles to landscape design.

**Florida-Friendly Landscaping Guide** to plant selection and design provides information about soil pH tolerance of many landscape plants suited to Florida growing conditions:

[https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN\\_Plant\\_Selection\\_Guide\\_2015.pdf](https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_2015.pdf)

**Florida-Friendly Landscaping Pattern Book** publication has sample plant lists and designs for our beachside area, recently designated zone 10-A: <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FFL-Pattern-Book-Zone10-11.pdf>



## WHAT TO PLANT IN THE SEASIDE GARDEN

Growing and pruning never ends in Florida gardens. This summer, even more torrid and wet than last year's, has seen phenomenal growth of all plants. Conditions have favored increased populations of pests and diseases. And, of course, it has been less than pleasant to deal with all of this except early mornings or late evening when the sea breeze cools one's sweaty brow. However, now is the time to prepare for fall vegetable growing even though more hot weather and the peak of hurricane season lie ahead of us. I'm including planting suggestions for both August and September. Beachside gardens can refer to both Central and South Florida guides. This is also a good time of year to refresh your flower beds, containers and plant trees and most shrubs.



Bee on Gaillardia. Photo|Sally Scalera

**Support Native Bees:** In addition to supporting migratory birds, Brevard County Horticulture Agent Sally Scalera urges us to support our native solitary bees, which are needed to ensure our native flowering plants continue producing seeds. Choose a variety of flowers so nectar and pollen will be available throughout the year, and plant them together in clumps or drifts. Leave the soil bare throughout the center so the ground-dwelling bees can dig their burrows and raise their young. The best flowers to plant include goldenrod, *Solidago* spp. (five native species); sunflower, *Helianthus* spp. (three native species); false goldenaster, *Heterotheca subaxillaris*; goldenaster, *Chrysopsis* spp. (six native species); tickseed, *Coreopsis* spp. (two native species); silkgrass, *Pityopsis graminifolia*; coneflower, *Rudbeckia hirta*; and old field aster, *Symphotrichum* spp. (three native species).

**Outstanding Resource for Information on Pollinator Plants for Florida - Xerxes Society:**



[https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/17-046\\_03\\_XerxesSoc\\_Pollinator-Plants\\_Florida\\_web-3page.pdf](https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/17-046_03_XerxesSoc_Pollinator-Plants_Florida_web-3page.pdf)

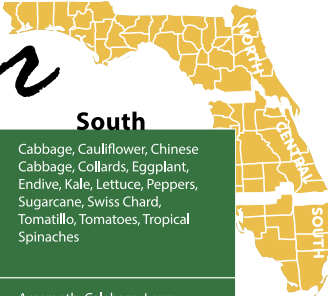
**Welcome Florida’s Native Bees to Your Yard:**

<https://baysoundings.com/welcome-floridas-native-bees-into-your-yard/>

**EDIBLES TO PLANT IN**

# September

|  | North   | Central   | South  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <br><b>EASY TO TRANSPLANT</b>   | Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Strawberry, Swiss Chard | Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kale, Lettuce, Peppers, Sugarcane, Strawberry, Swiss Chard, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches | Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kale, Lettuce, Peppers, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches |
| <br><b>TRANSPLANT CAREFULLY</b> | Celery, Mustard, Spinach  | Celery, Mustard, Pineapple, Spinach   | Amaranth, Calabaza, Long Squash, Luffa, Mustard, Papaya, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes   |
| <br><b>USE SEEDS</b>            | Beans (bush, pole), Carrots, Onions (bulbing, bunching), Radish, Squashes, Turnips  | Beans (bush, lima, pole), Carrots, Cucumbers, Onions (bunching), Radish, Squashes, Turnips  | Beans (bush, lima, pole), Carrots, Cucumbers, Okra, Onions (bunching), Peas (southern), Squashes, Turnips  |







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

**Annuals/Bedding Plants:** Brighten your borders and planters with ageratum, coleus, celosia, zinnia, wax begonia, alyssum, calendula, cleome, cornflower, dianthus, gaillardia, hollyhock, nasturtium, pentas, periwinkle, phlox, salvia, scarlet sage, snap- dragon verbena, vinca & wax begonia. Wait until October to plant petunias and pansies.

**Gardening with Annuals in Florida:** <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/MG319>

**Flowers for a Sunny Spot:** Coleus, impatiens, marigolds, celosia, Melampodium, gazania, gaillardia, cosmos, purslane, sunflower and salvia.

**Blooms for partial shade** include impatiens, crossandra, coleus and angelwing begonias.

**Bulbs for sunny areas** include some caladium cultivars, African iris (*Morea spp.*), Aztec lily (*Sprekelia formosissima*), snowflake (*Leucojum spp.*), spider lily (*Hymenocallis spp.*) and Watsonia.

**Bulbs for partial shade** include our native rain lily (*Zephyranthes spp.*), amaryllis, white butterfly ginger (*Hedychium coronarium*), caladiums (many cultivars), calla (*Zantedeschia spp.*), Narcissus and shell ginger (*Alpinia zerumbet*).



Gladioli Espresso | India Frazier

**Plant gladiolus bulbs** every two weeks to stagger blooming and stake each plant. *Bulbs for Florida:* [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/bulbous\\_flowers](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/bulbous_flowers)

**Crinums** make excellent specimen plants. Crinum lilies are well-suited as underplantings for palms or other coarsely textured landscape plants. They thrive in hot, dry locations, and grow from what are among the largest true bulbs, some weighing over 40-pounds. Planting and care:

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

**Strawberries** have to be planted in September and October. Prepare planting areas for strawberries by adding organic matter.

**Herbs:** Enjoy growing herbs while saving money. You've probably noticed that the price of plants, including herbs, has skyrocketed lately. Last week at Lowes I saw Bonnie Plants Italian parsley in medium size pots marked \$9.98. That's for one pot that previously sold for \$5. Plant herbs that tolerate early autumn's warm temperatures such as Mexican tarragon, mint, rosemary, garlic chives, sage, thyme, sweet marjoram, and basil. Note that bees are especially drawn to broccoli and arugula blossoms.

**Herbs for Florida Gardens:** <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/MV062>

**Growing Herbs in Florida:** <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/vh020>

**Propagate:** Have fun creating your own propagation stations or purchase online from a wide variety like those below from Etsy.

**Containers for Plant Propagation - Cuttings and Seedlings:**

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/propagation/propgen/containers-for-propagating.htm>



Photos | Etsy

### WHAT TO DO IN THE SEASIDE GARDEN

Some of the following items are suggested by Sally Scalera, Brevard County Horticulture Agent.

**Tend your Vegetable Garden:** Remove all spent vegetable plants by cutting them off at ground level. This will protect the soil from disturbance and leave the root system in the ground for the soil microbes to feed on. If needed, add some worm castings over the entire garden area to enrich and cover the soil. When planting, inoculate the hole with earthworm castings and a granular mycorrhizal mixture.

**Feed your Lawn:** To help the lawn tolerate the weather extremes of flood and drought, spray it weekly (or as often as possible) with liquid seaweed or kelp. Both seaweed and kelp supply trace elements and growth hormones, which research has shown help plants handle environmental stresses. For the lawn, apply the liquid seaweed using a hose-end sprayer. For edible (and ornamental plants experiencing insect pest and/or disease problems), a hand pump-up sprayer works well to apply a fine mist to both sides of the foliage. To benefit the lawn and the entire yard, inoculate the lawn with beneficial bacteria and mycorrhizae.

**Don't Mow too Short:** A common practice that can be harmful to both St. Augustine and Bahia is to mow the grass too short. The recommended height to mow both St. Augustine and Bahia is at a height of 3 to 4 inches. That does not mean mowing the grass when it is three to four inches tall, but having the grass blades measure 3 to 4 inches after mowing. Taller blades are much better for the turf, so four inches is a great height to aim for so there is more foliage to carry on photosynthesis.





Goldfinch with Bachelor Button. Photo|India Frazier

**Plant a Hedge:** If you want to add a hedge to your yard, *consider planting one of our keystone species to support migratory birds. Hedges that are 3 to 8 feet tall* provide cover and nesting locations, and they can be pruned by hand (once a year) if you prefer a more natural look than a formal look (pruned two to three times a year). Here are some native keystone shrubs to consider for creating a new hedge, including highbush blueberry, *Vaccinium corymbosum*; Walter’s viburnum, *Viburnum obovatum* ; false willow, *Baccharis halimifolia*; and false indigo, *Amorpha fruticosa*, which is a legume that can fix atmospheric nitrogen, eliminating the need for nitrogen fertilizer to be applied, and foliage can be cut and used as a mulch around other plants to provide them with nitrogen.

**Shrubs:** Consider placing native shrubs, like beautyberry, marlberry, firebush, and dahoon holly, where you can view the birds that enjoy them. *More on native and exotic shrubs, shrub selection and care:*  
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/shrubs>

**Identify Plant Pests Before Spraying – Spare the Beneficial:** Inspect plants and spray as needed for aphids, mites, mildew and blackspot. Use products that won’t harm beneficial insects.  
<https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/pests-and-diseases/pests/>

**Beneficial Insects:** <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/EP450>  
 Learn to recognize beneficial insects in all their life stages. Adult lacewings and ladybug beetles are easy to identify, but their immature forms look entirely different.

**Love Those Lacewings:**  
<https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/florida-friendly-landscapes/beneficial-insects.html>

**Lady Bugs are Actually Beetles:** <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/in327>



Lacewing. 1. Adult. 2. Egg on Stalk. 3. Larva Feeding on Aphid. 4. Cocoon.  
 Photos|Jack Clark, University of California IPM



**Did you Know?** Foliar application of plant nutrients provides a poor 5% efficiency of use compared to 10% from soil application? Foliar nutrients are rapidly absorbed and used immediately.

Spray and prune roses, removing old flowers, hips and dead, damaged or spindly growth. Fertilize container-grown roses to encourage fall blooming.

Feed blooming plants with 10-30-20 or similar high phosphate fertilizer until color shows in the buds. Feed hanging baskets and orchids every two weeks.

Give poinsettias and mums their final pruning in September, pinching the tip of each shoot to encourage branching. Move potted poinsettias to a sunny location.

Give Christmas cactus a last feeding this month. Move into partial sunshine and reduce watering until buds appear. Move potted poinsettias to a sunny location. Give poinsettias and mums their final pruning in September, pinching the tip of each shoot to encourage branching.



Tomatoes Arcylic. Photo|Susan Martin (Brevard Artist), Vero Beach Museum of Art

**Tomatoes:** Many gardeners' favorite plants merit special mention. Growing them here can be tricky but by following a few rules you can enjoy delicious, vine-ripened varieties throughout the winter. By now you should have started seeds and by mid-September you should have nursery-grown seedling set out. You can continue planting from now until about mid-March when it becomes too hot for fruit to set. Grow tomatoes in containers or raised beds for nematode avoidance. Fertilize monthly with a complete organic, water as needed, and you should have a good crop.

**Tomatoes in the Florida Garden:** <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh028>

**Twelve Evidence-Based Companion Plants for Tomatoes:**

<https://growfully.com/companion-plants-for-tomatoes/>

**Companion Plantings to Avoid with Tomatoes:**

<https://www.southernliving.com/garden/edible/tomato-companion-plants>

The University of Florida has tested a wide variety of tomatoes for pest and disease resistance and fruiting potential, with kudos going to Better Boy, Bragger, Celebrity, Duke, Floradel, Flora-Dade, Floramerica, Manalucie, Solar Set, Sun Coast and Walter large-fruit varieties. UF/IFAS found the best small fruit varieties to be Cherry, Chelsea, Florida Basket, Micro Tom and Sweet 100. Retired horticulturist Allen Cordell, who has grown countless tomatoes at the Florida Botanical Gardens and Pinellas County 4-H gardens, swears by Celebrity, Better Bush and Sweet 100.



The Cloudless Sulphur Butterfly

**Provide for Pollinators:** The cloudless sulphur butterfly (*Phoebis sennae*) is one of our most beautiful and most common butterflies. Learn more about these beautiful creatures:

<https://www.flawildflowers.org/know-your-native-pollinators-cloudless-sulphur/>

<https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/browardco/2022/02/24/provide-for-wildlife-the-cloudless-sulphur-butterfly/>

**Watch a fascinating video of the complete life cycle of the cloudless sulphur butterfly:**

<https://youtu.be/I3yhwdYrI3c>

**Fun Fact:** A male cloudless sulphur in search of a mate employs rapid flight darting from flower to flower. When he spots an attractive female, he initiates the courting ritual by touching her wings. If she is receptive she flicks and then folds them. Open wings and a raised abdomen signify “not today”.



**BREVARD COUNTY FARMERS MARKET**  
Inside Wickham Park at the Regional Pavilion  
2500 Parkway Dr, Melbourne, FL 32935  
Every Thursday from 3 pm - 6 pm

The Brevard County Farmers Market is operated through a joint partnership with Brevard County Parks & Recreation and the University of Florida/IFAS Brevard County Extension Service. It is a producer-only market that specializes in local, seasonal produce, eggs, baked goods, cheese, salsa, pasta, and more.



Bumble Bee on Veronica (Speedwell). Photo|India Frazier

**HAPPY GARDENING**