



# The News Vine

## February 2024 Newsletter

Denise Bozeman, Corresponding Secretary



### BOARD MEETING

1:00 PM – Monday, February 12th

At Jutta De Laet's Home

871 Peregrine Drive, Indialantic

If you are unable to attend, please contact Jutta at 321.271.0434 or [JDeLaet@att.net](mailto:JDeLaet@att.net)

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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, February 21st

At Nance Park

201 North Miramar Avenue, Indialantic

**Program:** Upcoming Pollinator Fair, March 3rd

**Hostesses:** \*Valerie Karas, Cassie Garrett and Kathleen Gillin

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

Dear Members,

I hope this letter finds you in vibrant health and high spirits. The new year promises to be a tremendous year filled with new adventures mingled with poignant reflections on the past. Did you know our Garden Club was born in August 1954? Seventy years ago, we were the Sea Grape Circle of the Melbourne Garden Club. Rapidly we grew, and ten years later on May 11, 1964 Garden Club by the Sea was federated. Pam Dunn's mother-in-law, Hazel Dunn, was President and first club recipient of the State Life Membership.

I thought about these past reflections and new adventures on Arbor Day, the centennial anniversary of the Garden Club of America. Somewhere, Mrs. Hazel Dunn must be blooming with pride, as she witnesses our beautiful friend Pam immersing herself in all garden club activities with the same enthusiasm and grace as her founding predecessor!

It was gratifying to join with hundreds of other garden clubs in planting our Wild Tamarind tree simultaneously with garden clubs across our state. I think Gloria intervened on the weather because the clouds broke and the day bloomed sunshine! Thank you and big hugs to all the members that attended and worked hard to make the tribute a beautiful success. It was a morning of love and laughter because you were all there.

We are now weeks away from the Pollinator Fair, and all our planning is about to bear fruit. Please, wholeheartedly spread the word, invite friends, and be ready to help where needed. There will be more frequent texts and newflashes so keep your eyes peeled for updates!

Thank you all for your dedication to our beautiful club. We honor our legacy by our enthusiasm, love and commitment to our future plans.

Happy Valentine's Day!

With Love,  
Jeri

## A NEW GRANDMA IN THE CLUB – Alice Williams



Carter Stephen - January 22<sup>nd</sup>

## INDIALANTIC PARKING PERMITS

Did you know members may go to Town Hall and purchase a parking permit for \$40? It lasts a year and can be used in all the Indialantic meter parking spots.

## SERENE HARBOR FLORAL ASSIGNMENT

Denise Bozeman and Jutta De Laet

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Serene Harbor is in great need of pantry item such as: cereal, flour, canned goods and 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 Marianne Brillante

February's award goes to John & Lynn Jansen at 511 Hibiscus Trail, Melbourne Beach. They are from Virginia Beach and have lived in the home for four years. They have spent those years enhancing the homes landscape beautifully in the front and the back which includes a pool/spa and mature lush privacy landscaping. It includes, foxtail ferns, double peach hibiscus, dwarf ixora, beautiful Sylvester and Alexander palms, a Clusia hedge, and a very cool unique Buddha belly bamboo palm at the front entrance just to name a few.



# FEBRUARY IN THE SEASIDE GARDEN

By Jenifer Marx

**Climate Change is in Our Hands**  
Little Things Matter

Climate change is in our hands, and the little things you do each day can make a difference in the health of pollinators, people, and the planet.  
[www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org)

El cambio climático está en nuestras manos, las pequeñas cosas que hacemos todos los días pueden hacer la diferencia para los polinizadores, las personas y el planeta.

Le changement climatique est entre nos mains, et les petites choses que vous faites au quotidien peuvent faire la différence pour la santé des pollinisateurs, des personnes et de la Planète

Illustration and design by Carol Schwartz

**Logos at the bottom of the poster include:** POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP, NISSEI CHEMICALS CROP & LIFE SOLUTIONS, EPR2, CropLife, USDA, BASF, E.I., VALENT, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, NAPPQ, sUNDAY, TOYOTA, MONSIEUR MARCH, SIMPLE GRAPE, syngenta, USGS, EARTH'S ALLY, NATIONAL SYSTEMS OF NATURAL HISTORY, almonds, Project Apis m, UAS, VESTIAREN, HABITAT COUNCIL.

## WHAT TO PLANT

**EDIBLES TO PLANT IN**  
*February*

	North	Central	South
 <b>EASY TO TRANSPLANT</b>	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Ginger, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Sugar cane, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes	Arugula, Chinese Cabbage, Eggplant, Endive, Ginger, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Sugar cane, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches
 <b>TRANSPLANT WITH CARE</b>	Celery, Mustard, Potatoes, Spinach	Boniato, Celery, Mustard, Pineapple, Potatoes, Spinach, Sweet Potatoes	Amaranth, Calabaza, Celery, Long Squashes, Luffa, Papaya, Passionfruit, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Spinach, Sweet Potatoes
 <b>USE SEEDS</b>	Cantaloupe, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Onions (bunching), Peas (English), Radish, Squashes, Turnips, Watermelon	Beans (bush, pole, lima), Cantaloupe, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Okra, Onion (bunching), Peas (English, Southern), Radish, Squashes, Turnips, Watermelon	Beans (bush, pole, lima), Cantaloupe, Carrots, Corn, Chayote, Cucumbers, Okra, Onions (bunching), Peas (English, Southern), Radish, Squashes, Watermelon






**Annuals/Bedding plants:** Good performers in south Florida's mild winter include impatiens, verbena, dianthus, strawflower, lobelia, pansy, viola, penta. **See Annuals:** <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/flowers>

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



Daylilies can be found in a multitude of forms and colors.

**Groundcovers:** Consider replacing areas of grass with drought-tolerant, low-maintenance groundcovers. **See *The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design:*** [https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN\\_Plant\\_Selection\\_Guide\\_2015.pdf](https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_2015.pdf) and **Ground Covers:** [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/ground\\_covers](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/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:*** [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_vegetable\\_gardening](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening)



## Start Seeds for March Planting

**Vegetable Companion Planting Chart:** Some vegetables seem to grow better when planted together and planting certain vegetables next to each other can deter insects. For instance, many gardeners find that beans like to be near celery, carrots, corn, potatoes, strawberries and cucumbers but dislike onions and fennel. Cabbage likes dill, beetroot, celery, garlic, nasturtium, onion, peas & potatoes. Carrots like chives, garlic, leeks, lettuce, onions, peas & tomatoes. And fennel only likes dill. Or so they say. It's actually not so simple. Here's a link to an overview of the topic: Companion Planting: Truth or Myth?

<https://www.gardenmyths.com/companion-planting-truth-myth/>

Consult this vegetable companion chart for plant compatibility as well as plantings to avoid:

<https://www.ufseeds.com/learning/companion-planting/>



Cat Gardeners

## WHAT TO DO

**Lawns:** Fertilize lawn grasses to improve color or coverage. Choose a fertilizer (not a "weed and feed") with 0% 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* <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/turfgrasses>

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*: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawns>

**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*

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/palms>

And *Landscape Fertilization*: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-fertilization>

**Avocados and Mangoes:** Disease-susceptible varieties of avocado and mango may require applications of copper fungicide. See *Avocado*: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/avocado> and *Mango*: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/mango>

**Citrus** – For those few who are fortunate enough to still have healthy citrus trees Rockledge Gardens recommends using [Sunniland Citrus Fertilizer](#) toward the end of the month. Frequency and amount of fertilizer depend on the age of the tree. They recommend spraying foliage with [Genisys](#), [Citrus Scripts Nutritional Spray](#), and [Liquid Copper Fungicide](#) before blossoms appear to provide essential minor elements, boost the immune system, and keep fungal problems from developing (all can be sprayed together).

Home Citrus Culture Information - <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HS132>

**Trees:** Don't wait until hurricane season to check your trees. Hire an ISA-certified arborist to do an inspection. See International Society of Arboriculture: <http://isa-arbor.com/> and *Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs*: [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic tree pruning](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning)

**Pruning** - February is normally the coldest month and one of the driest . A frost is possible and days typically vary between 40 and 80 degrees. Hold off pruning, which stimulates new growth.

It's fine to prune dormant plants like roses and crape myrtles but hold off pruning other plants until next month.

### **Six Ways to Grow Edibles in Small Places**

No big backyard? Join in the grow-your-own fun with these small-space ideas for planting vegetables, fruits and herbs. [https://www.houzz.com/magazine/6-ways-to-grow-edibles-in-small-places-stsetivw-vs~9984993?utm\\_source=Houzz&utm\\_campaign=u268&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=gallery14](https://www.houzz.com/magazine/6-ways-to-grow-edibles-in-small-places-stsetivw-vs~9984993?utm_source=Houzz&utm_campaign=u268&utm_medium=email&utm_content=gallery14)

**Maxicrop** or other seaweed or fish emulsion can be sprayed on all landscape plants you value, to strengthen them against disease, pests and environmental stress.

**Compost Tea:** A Compost tea increase root mass and improves the overall health of plants. It contains beneficial bacteria and enzymes, helping produce lush, deep green plants. Formerly a free gallon of compost tea was available each Tuesday at High Tech Garden Supply on 192 in Melbourne. The store recently closed but Doug, one of the managers has opened a business, Space Coast Garden Supply, at 7615 Ellis Road, Unit 101, in Melbourne. Each Wednesday he is selling stump tea for a dollar a gallon, with no limit per customer.

## Watering Parched Containers

When container plantings get too dry, the soil shrinks away from the sides of the planter; then, when you water, the water runs down the inside of the pot instead of soaking into the soil where the plant's roots can take it in. One way to fix this problem is to poke small holes in the soil around the plant with a pencil, then slowly pour water directly into the holes. The water will soak into the soil, and the roots will get what they need.



Mahogany Fruit

Our Lily Park mahogany tree is fruiting. Cathy Beam and recently I found two capsules on the ground. With time and care our tree should thrive and become a truly beautiful shade tree.

There is the danger that if left unpruned, a mahogany tree will develop many large upright branches growing close together that are subject to splitting apart during storms. We need to make sure to train our young tree to have a central leader to protect it from storm damage.



Winged Mahogany Seeds

**To attract butterflies**, remember that plant type and color are important - Adult butterflies are attracted to red, yellow, orange, pink and purple blossoms that are flat-topped or clustered and have short flower tubes. Plant good nectar sources in the sun - Your key butterfly nectar source plants should receive full sun from mid-morning to mid-afternoon.



### **What is butterfly vision like?**

Some species of butterflies, like the empress Leilia (*Asterocampa leilia*), have a visual field of about 344 degrees on the horizontal plane--only 16 degrees short of seeing all the way around its body. And vertically it is almost a full 360 degrees. The average human has a visual field of only 190 degrees.

Bees can't see red and are attracted to blue and shades of purple. It is thought that some red flowers produce copious yellow pollen to lure pollinating bees.



Bees, unable to see red, are attracted to blue and purple blossoms.

**Mark your calendar** for two outstanding opportunities:

The annual Florida-Friendly Landscaping Seminar offered by the Brevard Extension Service will take place Saturday, March 23rd, at the Melbourne Auditorium on Hibiscus Ave. The event, with Sally Scalera as Master of Ceremonies, will begin at 9 am and end around 1 pm. It is always super informative and entertaining with vendors on hand with native plants for sale.

The Florida-Friendly Landscaping class series is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, April 2nd, with no class held on the 9th, but will be held on the next seven consecutive Tuesday mornings from 9 am until noon. Two topics will be covered each day. The class cost is \$90, which covers the notebook and additional printed material. For details check out the Eventbrite page <https://2024FFLcllasSeries.eventbrite.com>.

Participate in this 8-week class series and learn how to grow plants while protecting water quality. Below is the class schedule:



April 2nd - All About Botany & Our Dirt Needs LIFE

April 16th - Hands-on Gardening (learn how to start seeds, transplant seeds, start plants from cuttings, and how to divide plants) & Intro to landscape design, FFL principles + Plant nutrition & Lawn Care

April 23rd - All About Trees & Native Plant WALK - Hands-on Gardening (learn how to start seeds, transplant seeds, start plants from cuttings, and how to divide plants) & Intro. to landscape design

April 30th - All About Trees & Native Plant WALK

May 7th - Edible Gardening (Vegetables, Herbs & Fruit crops) & Attracting Wildlife

May 14th – All about palms and Palm nutrition and growth

May 21st – Plant Diseases and IPM (Integrated Pest Management)

May 28th - Pesticide Safety and Synthesis (putting it all together)

Attend the class in person or on Zoom. For those attending by Zoom, you can come to the office and pick up your class notebook before the class begins Mon-Fri, between 8 am and 5 pm. Call first to make sure the books are available.

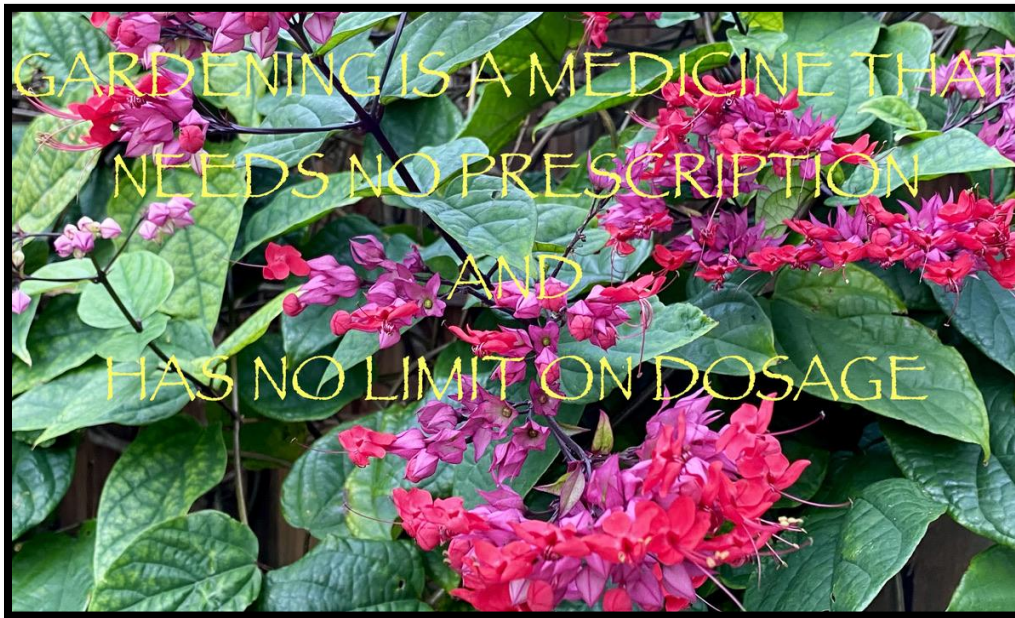


1950 Florida visitors sampling some Florida orange juice at the Highlands Hotel- Ocala, Florida.  
(Florida Memory Archives)

**Not Good News** – Did you know that Christopher Columbus first brought citrus to the New World in 1493, and that Ponce de León was a member of his crew? When he sailed to Florida in 1513, he was probably one of the first to plant orange trees here.

Florida may boast a cluster of oranges and orange blossoms on its license plates, but these days it's hard to find a backyard orange tree and the price of oranges has skyrocketed. Fresh juice, once an American breakfast staple, is out of reach for most people. The 2023 orange crop was the smallest in a century. Not only are there fewer oranges but most commercial groves focus on juice oranges. Unfortunately, the citrus greening disease, which has infected almost all groves, causes fruit to be bitter and less juicy.

**However, a glimmer of hope** - A report from a team of U.S. Department of Agriculture and University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences researchers offers encouraging news. Scientists explain are speeding up the process of finding effective HLB (citrus greening disease) treatments. Their grove-first approach skips the traditional laboratory phase of research. The scientists are testing more than 80 different molecules by injecting them into trees in the field. Eighteen molecules are already showing equal to or greater effectiveness in reducing HLB disease when compared to oxytetracycline. Many more molecules are in the pipeline for grove-testing.



## YEARBOOK UPDATES

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