



The News Vine

January 2024 Newsletter

Denise Bozeman, Corresponding Secretary

BOARD MEETING

1:00 PM – Monday, January 8th

At the Home of Lynda Gilbert

3073 Rio Baya North, Indialantic

If you are unable to attend, please contact Lynda at 321.777.3927 or wayx52@gmail.com

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

9:30 AM – Wednesday, January 17th

At the Home of Lynda Gilbert

3073 Rio Baya North, Indialantic

Program: Vegetable Gardening

Presented By: Brock Hall, Florida Field to Folks

Hostesses: *Dory Fredrickson, Nancy Marshall and Pat Bonn

If you are unable to attend the above scheduled meeting contact Angie at 321.917.6787 or aleeney13@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jeri Ronaldson

Dear Garden Club Members,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a delightful holiday season filled with joy and relaxation. As we step into 2024, it's time to buckle up for an action-packed winter/spring for our club!

Friday January 19th at 11am, we will participate in the centennial celebration of the National Garden Club, by joining hundreds of other clubs in planting a tree. Our chosen tree is a Wild Tamarind (*lysiloma latisiliquum*) that will be planted in Lily Park and dedicated to the memory of our precious friend and longtime member, Gloria Mandel. You will also see the attached invitation to Gloria's celebration of life at Temple Beth Shalom on Sunday, January 21st. The good Dr. Mandel and family are hoping we all attend and share our memories of Gloria and enjoy some of her recipes at the following collation. Please mark your calendars and make every effort to attend.

Our scholarship candidate will be presented to the Board in February. Her story is both powerful and passionate and I'm sure we will proudly support this exceptionally motivated student in pursuing her academic dreams

We are swiftly approaching our long-anticipated Pollinator Fair, and now is the time for all members to step up with your time and talent to make this event a resounding success! So many hours of preparation will surely yield an event that will be a platform for education, inspiration, collaboration, and I'm sure, a little hilarity! You will receive weekly updates on the progress as an invitation for you to participate, so think about which role will give you the greatest joy.

I feel privileged to be among such a lovely and kind group of women, that each day make this world a brighter place. Thank you for your dedication to our joyful causes.

Bee Well,
Jeri

SERENE HARBOR FLORAL ASSIGNMENT

Susan Vallette and Beth DeStefano

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 Marianne Brillante

The Garden Club award this month goes to 200 North Palm Avenue, Indialantic which is the location of the Indialantic Post Office. The Post Office has been at that location since November 9, 1969.

Stephanie Moss Dandridge is the property owner. Her parents moved to Indialantic in 1963 when she was a newborn.

Brandon Shaw, who owns Turf and Bloom did the landscaping design and work. Stephanie says, "They are the very best!"

The design includes: Christmas Palms, Clusia, Blue Daze and pink Muhly grass. Most of the plants in the beds are Florida native plants for low maintenance.

Stephanie's father, Joel Moss, was an attorney and local developer for 50 years. The post office was his very favorite property of all that he owned. Stephanie and her brother vowed to keep it in the family in honor of their father's legacy.



HOLIDAY PARTY AT BETH'S



JANUARY IN THE SEASIDE GARDEN

By Jenifer Marx

CELEBRATING FLORIDA ARBOR DAY
Tree Planting Ceremony at Lily Park
11 am on Friday, January 19th



False Tamarind Tree — photo credit Jim Conrad

Garden clubs across Florida will plant more than 400 trees on January 19th to celebrate Florida Arbor Day and the 100th anniversary of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC). The Duke Energy Foundation is supporting this project with a \$20,000 grant to FFGC. The grant will help garden clubs buy sizable native trees. To be reimbursed up to \$100, a club need only plant a native tree. Priority is given to large, hurricane-resistant, shade trees in keystone genera that feed more caterpillars and baby birds. This will achieve the grant's aim to increase climate resiliency and support biodiversity.

The tree planting ceremony for Garden Club by the Sea will take place at **Lily Park on Friday morning, January 19th at 11 o'clock**. A false tamarind tree will be planted in honor of our beloved member Gloria Mandel. Her family will attend and simple refreshments will be served. Every member of garden club is asked to attend. Here's some information about the tree.

False tamarind (*Lysiloma latisiliquum*) also known as wild tamarind and Bahama lysiloma is native to Florida, the West Indies, southern Mexico and Central America. It is an attractive tree with lacy foliage. Growing moderately fast, up to 30 to 60 feet tall and 50 feet wide, its slender, short trunk topped with long, somewhat arching branches forming an umbrella-like silhouette. The dark green, pinnately compound, fern-like leaves are a showy red when young and make a striking contrast, the new and older growth appearing together. Developing into a more open tree with age, false tamarind makes an ideal shade, park, or seaside planting. It is deciduous and blooms in the spring. The pod-like fruits are not edible. It's a legume, so nitrogen fixation may help it survive in low nutrient soils. In the past leaves were roasted and pounded into a powder to apply to sores and wounds. The tree also furnished traditional medicine for treating asthma and coughs.

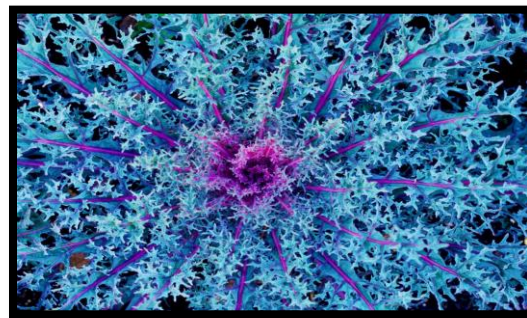


Mimosa Yellow Butterfly

Environmental Aspects:

Wildlife: Attracts birds especially gnatcatchers, vireos, flycatchers, and migrating warblers (many eat the insects that are attracted to the flowers and leaves). Important habitat for native tree snails (*Liguus fasciatus*).
(IRC)

Insects: Larval host for Large Orange Sulfur (*Phoebis agarithe*), Mimosa Yellow (*Eurema nise*), amethyst hairstreak, and Cassius Blue (*Leptotes cassius*). Used by a variety of butterfly species for nectar.



Peacock Red Kale photo credit Peter Krumhardt (Proven Winners)

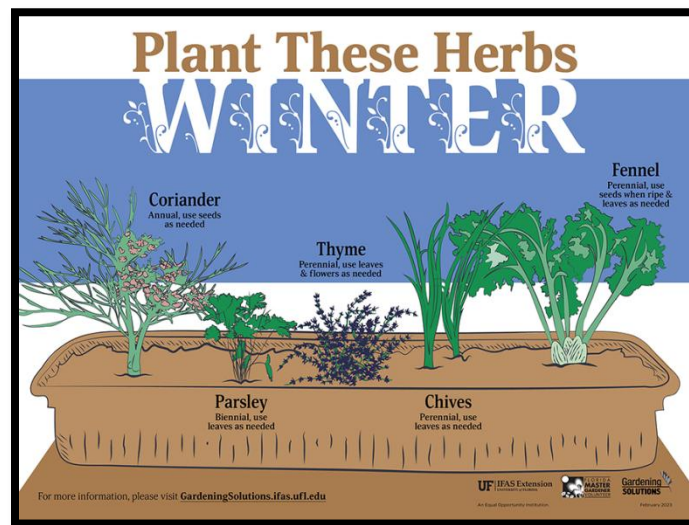
What to Plant

Bedding Plants - Plants to add to the garden during the coolest months include alyssum, dianthus, begonia, calendula, pansy, petunia, viola, lobelia, dusty miller, flowering kale and snapdragon. See Gardening With Annuals in Florida: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg319>

Bulbs – So many choices! Plant Amaryllis (leaving tops of “shoulders” out of the soil), crinum lilies, agapanthus, clivia, crocosmia, gloriosa lily, society garlic, spider lilies, rain lilies, day lilies, African iris, bulbine and gladiola bulbs. Provide a layer of mulch for protection from cold temperatures.

<http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/bulbs-for-florida.html>

Herbs - Many herbs thrive now that temperatures are cooler, including arugula, catnip, garlic chives, chives, lemon grass (plant this aggressive grower in a large pot), parsley, dill, sage, rosemary, Mexican tarragon, fennel, all of the mints, thyme, lemon balm, Greek oregano, salad burnet, chervil and lavenders. See Herbs: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs



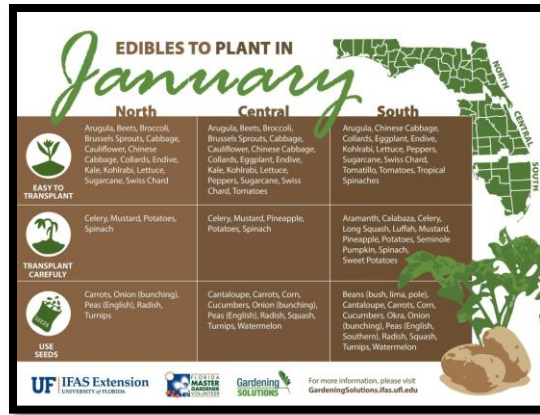
Vegetables - Vegetables that can be planted in January include beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cantaloupe, Chinese cabbage, cabbage, cucumbers, endive/escarole, eggplant, peppers, tomatoes, watermelon, carrots, cauliflower, collards, lettuce, mustard, English or snow peas, Irish potatoes, radishes, celery, kale, kohlrabi, spinach, squash, sweet corn, Swiss chard, and turnips. Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide:

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/VH021>

Sow the following for transplanting in February: arugula, beans, beet, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cantaloupe, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, collards, cucumber, eggplant, endive/escarole, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard, okra, peas (English, snow, Southern), peppers, spinach, squash, sweet corn, Swiss chard, tomatoes, turnips, and watermelon.

Nine Tips For Better Seed Germination <https://www.epicgardening.com/seed-germination-tips/>

Guide to which varieties of vegetables do well here: Central Florida’s Winter Guide to Edible Gardening <https://fleetfarming.org/central-floridas-winter-guide-to-edible-gardening/>



Tips – Keep tomato and pepper plants separate because they are susceptible to many of the same diseases. And, don't plant hot peppers close to sweet peppers because they will hybridize and you will have a not-so-sweet pepper and a not-so-hot pepper.

If you are planting peas and/or beans, be sure to get a pea and bean inoculant containing the correct beneficial bacteria so the plants can fix atmospheric nitrogen in their roots.

To save space when seeding carrots and radishes, sow them in the same row because carrots are slower to germinate. The radishes will be harvested before the carrots need the space. Also, cover the seeds with some vermiculite to help mark the row.



WHAT TO DO - Biodiversity Is Counting On You!

Get ready for our Pollinator Fair. Educate yourself so you can encourage others understand the urgency to tackle the biodiversity crisis. <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/whats-the-rush/>

This is the ideal month to plan your spring garden and design new layouts for existing borders that foster biodiversity. Take advantage of the cold weather to get cozy, put on your favorite music and settle down with a mug of steaming tea or coffee and pour over alluring websites and seed catalogues. Learn more about the Keystone Species we need to plant now. Take time to learn more about Doug Tallamy's Homegrown National Park project. <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/tallamys-hub/>

If you plan on fertilizing your yard this spring, send in a soil sample this month so you will know what nutrients need to be applied and how much. The application form has instruction on how to collect a soil sample. Be sure to pay for the \$10 test B, which measures the soil pH and the water-soluble nutrient levels for phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, copper, manganese, and zinc. If the fertilizer recommendation calls for phosphorus application, skip that and inoculate your lawn, trees, shrubs, etc., with mycorrhizae. Your plants will grow better, and the presence of the soil food web can create healthy soil that will protect water quality. The soil testing form is available at <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/SS187?downloadOpen=true>

51 Plants Native to Florida: Trees, Flowers and Shrubs

Curious which plants are native to the great state of Florida? In this article, we look at some of the most common plants that you'll find in the sunshine state. You'll learn about trees that are native to the area, as well as shrubs, and flowers that will do well in a similar hardiness zone.

<https://www.epicgardening.com/florida-plants/>



Native Sweat Bee

Non Native Green Orchid Bee Approaching Firebush

<https://www.flawildflowers.org/know-your-native-pollinators-sweat-bees/>

Learn about Florida's Native Bees

Of the 4,000 bee species that occur in North America, more than 300 are native to Florida, including 29 endemic species. They range in size from smaller than a grain of rice to the width of a quarter coin; from smooth to fuzzy, streamlined to rotund and display colors from dull and dark to iridescently brilliant.

Because Florida has a relatively mild and short winter, native bees can be observed even in the chilliest months throughout much of the state. In this webinar Laura Langlois Zurro, founder of the Florida Native Bees Facebook group, takes you on a photographic journey of some of the bees that can be observed in Florida between November and March, as well as the plants they need to survive. You'll also learn how to make your garden bee-friendly for both winter and early spring bees. <https://www.flawildflowers.org/221214-webinar-floridas-native-bees-in-winter/>

The Case for Weeds, Our Unsung Florida Native Plants

<https://blog.wfsu.org/blog-coastal-health/2021/01/the-case-for-weeds-our-unsung-florida-native-plants/>

I leave you with warmest wishes for a New Year blessed with health, love and laughter and one of my favorite poems.

The Peace of Wild Things by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives might be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

