

HOLLYWOOD GARDEN CLUB

MAKING HOLLYWOOD MORE BEAUTIFUL ONE GARDEN AT A TIME!

FEBRUARY

2023

Member of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs – <http://ffgc.org> – Deep South Garden Club - www.dsgardenclubs.com
National Garden Clubs, Inc., www.gardenclub.org, and Deep South Region



Field Trip - February 18, 2023

Sunshine Bromeliads

With lecture on care of bromeliads

7100 Volunteer Road, Southwest Ranches, FL 33330

954-252-3330



Bromeliads in lots of colors
Sunshine Bromeliads



Painted Bunting Photo by Olivia Turowski



Olivia Tirrowski

CONGRATULATIONS Olivia!

Olivia Turowski's photo of Painted Bunting has won the Photo Contest for Cover of the Florida Gardener. It will be featured in the upcoming issue. This is such an incredible photo. We are all proud that this award was given to one of our members.

Giant Milkweed-(*Calotropis giganteana*)

Its flowers are purple or white and are pollinated by bees and butterflies. Grows in full sun to a height of 15 feet and wide. Prefers sandy soil and is moderately drought tolerant. Its name comes from its milky sap. It can irritate skin and is toxic if consumed. Keep pets and small children away.



Giant Milkweed



Giant Milkweed w/ butterfly
Photo by Susan Hirst

Happy Birthday – Georgina Figueira & Stephen Tognoli

VISIT OUR WEBSITE - **Hollywood Garden Club** <http://hollywoodgardenclub.com>

Email pictures from your garden or other suggestions to mtabela@comcast.net

Membership in Florida Federation of Garden Clubs is open to all regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity or religious affiliation.

Interesting Plants to add to your Garden



Swiss Cheese Plant

Swiss Cheese Plant – (*Monstera Adansonii*) A vine that can be grown indoors or out. It enjoys climbing until it is cut back and can make a perfect hanging basket.

Desert Fire – (*Russelia rotundifolia*) One of the ultimate hummingbird attractors, and butterflies find it irresistible as well. Thrives on heat and drought. Stems reach 3-4 ft. long and arch gracefully to form a mound. Flowers year round. One of the Iguana's favorite foods.



Desert Fire



Joseph's Coat

Joseph's Coat – (*Alternanthera- Purple Prince*) Great ground cover that comes in many colors and sizes. It is a fun plant to grow and easy to propagate from cuttings. Add these colorful plants out in the heat of the sun or partial shade. Grows 6-12 inches tall and can be grown as a border or bedding plant.

Tropical Sage – (*Salvia Coccinea*) – The hummingbirds and butterflies frequent the flowers, and painted buntings, indigo buntings and several kinds of finches' feast on the seeds. Flowers come in red, white and pink. Prefers full sun for maximum flowering. This is a "must have" plant that reseeds itself wherever it prefers.



Tropical sage



Cabada Palm

Cabada Palm – (*Dipsis Cabadae*) A clustering palm that is known for their unique ringed, green trunks. It has an upright habit and is one of the easiest palms to grow. Exotic and difficult to find.

Aralia *Balfouriana*, also known as *Polyscias Balf Variegated*. It is great for gardeners of all levels since it's easy to care for and makes an elegant addition to both indoor and outdoor spaces. Give this plant plenty of sunlight and room to grow. Height 7-12 feet, width 2-3 feet.



Aralia balfouriana

What have you done for Mother Nature today?

THINGS TO DO LIST FOR FEBRUARY 2023

PRUNING – Prune during a waxing moon to encourage growth. During a waning moon it discourages growth. Each plant has its own optimal trim time (Farmer's Almanac). Good rule of thumb, prune after flowering or fruiting. Deadhead flowers to encourage new blooms. Cut back wild, diseased, crossed and dead branches to good wood. Overgrown plants should be pruned back gradually one third each time. Plant some of the tip cuttings at the base of each plant you cut back, about 8 inches long with 4 inches in the ground, with 2 nodes in the soil. Cut the leaves off except for a few at the top and cut them in half. Cut the tops off some ferns, grasses, canna lilies and dead heliconias, they will come back. Do not cut back plants that bloom in the spring. The summer bloomers will be ok. Plants that bloom all the time, like shrimp plants, should be trimmed in the summer. Crape myrtle seed pods can be cut off now. Trim trees to improve their form after fruiting. Hard pruning can be done in the middle of next month. Never cut the top off a palm or it will die. IFAS Tree pruning.

PLANTING – Plant flowers, herbs, and vegetables that bear crops above ground from the day the moon is new until the day it is full. Plant flowering bulbs, annuals and perennial flowers, and vegetables that bear crops below ground from the day after the moon is full to the day before it is new (Farmer's Almanac). Begonias, caladiums, lantana, milkweed, impatiens, pentas, Joseph's coat and geraniums are just some that can be planted now. A great place to start cuttings is outside in the ground by the AC drip. For planting vegetables now, see IFAS Vegetable Gardening in Florida.

WATERING – Pentas do not require a lot of water. Turn off automatic watering systems and only water when the plants show you it's time to water. I'm watering almost 1" according to my water gauge, (tuna can), at least every 7 to 10 days, if it hasn't rained. Test potted plants for moisture with your finger.

BLOOMING – Some orchids in bloom now include phalaenopsis, nun's orchids, oncidiums and cattleyas. Some fruit trees in bloom are citrus, avocado, mulberry, mango, papaya and bananas. Other bloomers are flame vine, begonia, bromeliad, cassia, bougainvillea, clerodendrum, ixora, kalanchoe, penta, geranium, impatient, angel trumpet, blue daze, pansy, crown of thorn, ginger, desert rose, heliconia, hibiscus, firespike, salvia, Brazilian red cloak, crinum lily, chenille, gaillardia, lantana, marigold, milkweed, Panama rose, periwinkle, petunia, blue and white plumbago, shrimp, thryallis, white bird of paradise, canna, rose, amazon lily, and many more. Visit your local nurseries every month to see what is blooming.

INSECTS –Ants, caterpillars, croton scale, snails and whitefly are in my garden now. Cut off the leaves with bugs and put them in a plastic bag, place the bag in the sun for two days and then throw it away in the garbage. Do not recycle or place on the ground. I use a high-powered hose to spray some insects off plants and then wipe with my hands. Saturating plants with several drops of Ivory soap in a spray bottle, using Safer Soap or organic Neem oil, can help to control if you do it once a week for several weeks. To identify insects, go to, [IFAS Insect ID Lab](#).

What Susan's doing now – Iguanas have been eating all the blossoms off my fruit trees and plants. I do not know what to do anymore about that. "Growing your own food is like printing your own money." I have been pressure cleaning the mildew off the walkways, weeding, trimming bushes using the chop and drop method, and mulching with pine bark. I have purchased new soil, plants, pots and fertilizer with minor elements, I need perlite. They will be harder to find in the Spring. Trees and plants are dropping their leaves because of the cold spells we just had, they will grow back. I will be shaping them up as soon as I see signs of growth. I mulched my citrus trees with oak leaves. I'm cutting back coleus and rooting the cuttings in water on the windowsill, propagating more artillery fern and Joseph's coat plants to replace the old ones, cutting off the old canna lilies, and pinching croton and coleus tops off. Some of my orchids have been fertilized with time released. I am planting new potted plants to place around the yard. Oiling and sharpening my tools. I have checked the sprinkler lines for leaks and clogs and cleaned them out. I've changed some heads, so they don't over spray the areas. I have planted bulbs cannas, crinum, rain, and caladiums. For info: [IFAS growing bulbs in South Florida](#).

Susan Berry, President of Hollywood Garden Club, Florida Master Gardener, Advanced Florida Master Naturalist, Certified Gardening Consultant, Certified Landscape Consultant, FMNP Land Stewart and FFGC Earth Steward
<http://www.HollywoodGardenClub.com>