

# HOLLYWOOD GARDEN CLUB

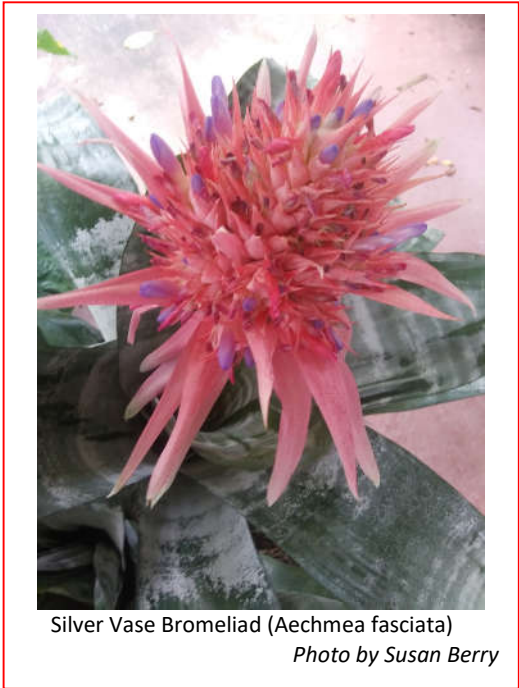
MAKING HOLLYWOOD MORE BEAUTIFUL ONE GARDEN AT A TIME!

MAY 2024

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



**Field Trip to Sunshine Bromeliads**  
**May 18, 2024, 11:00 a.m.**  
**Those interested can join is for lunch at a local eatery.**



Silver Vase Bromeliad (*Aechmea fasciata*)  
*Photo by Susan Berry*

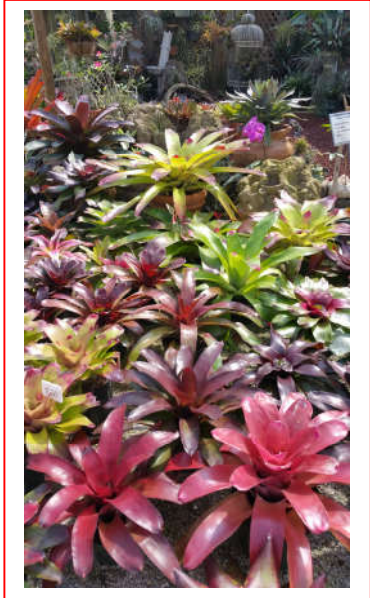
Since we are going on a field trip this month to Sunshine Bromeliads it seems appropriate to talk a little about their ease of care and growing needs. Many bromeliads are epiphytic and in nature do not need to be planted in soil. They do well when planted in shallow pots in an orchid mix, attached to a tree or fence, or planted in the ground. They get their nutrients from rain and the elements in the air. Some take full sun which affects the color of the leaves. An example of this is the “Fireball” bromeliad. In the sun it is bright red and, in the shade, all green. Propagation is by pups that develop at the base of the mother plant, which will slowly die once it blooms. The pups can be separated once they reach about 1/3 the size of the mother plant. Properly cared for bromeliads will produce an endless supply of plants.

Sunshine Bromeliads will have varieties grouped by their sun/shade needs. There is more information available on the UFAS website.

[Bromeliads - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences \(ufl.edu\)](http://www.ufas.ufl.edu)

**SCHEDULE FOR 2024**  
June 22 Home of Seth Shealer  
July 27 - Home of Mary Tabela

“The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies.”



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
**Felix Izquierdo, Fernando Lievano, Susan Ostheim**

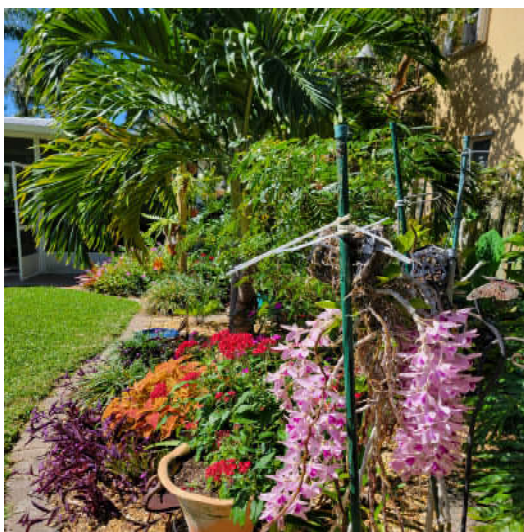
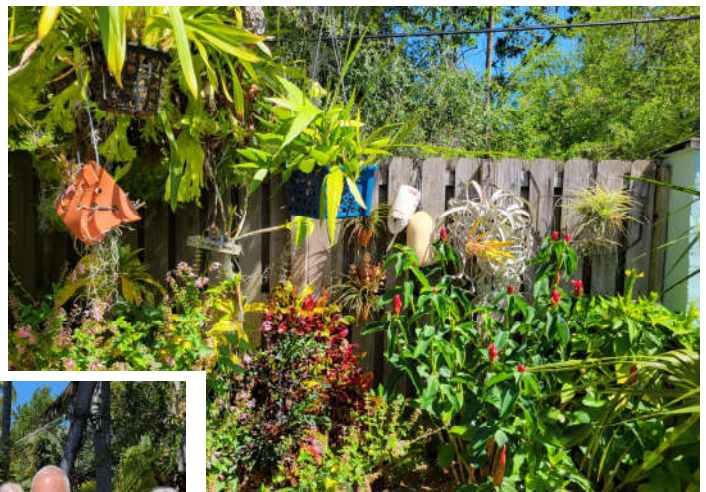
VISIT OUR WEBSITE - [Hollywood Garden Club](http://hollywoodgardenclub.com) <http://hollywoodgardenclub.com>  
Email pictures from your garden or other suggestions to [mtabela@comcast.net](mailto:mtabela@comcast.net)  
Membership in Florida Federation of Garden Clubs is open to all regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity or religious affiliation.

**Steve & Olivia Turowski's garden** shows what the love of gardens can create. Wherever you turn a beautiful tableau greets the eyes. There are several colorful plants that are nectar and host plants for butterflies. Several varieties flitted about the garden. The new orchid shade structures show off the orchids to advantage. Steve provided the following to give us their gardening strategy. "When we retired and moved to South Florida, it gave us an opportunity to create a garden that made us feel happy, relaxed, and energized about nature and the beautiful environment we are trying to create. Our initial attempt was to create a "tropical" oasis, now that we lived in a tropical environment. Tried to plant as many palm trees as we could safely fit on the property, as well as all kinds of big, leafy green plants. Once we became more in touch with nature, our focus began to shift to begin to create an environment that could be beneficial to birds and pollinators.



As our focus changes, the garden evolves. If something doesn't work, we change it. Life is too short to spend a year nursing a sick box-store plant back to health.

Nothing makes me happier than enjoying a cup of coffee in the garden as I do my chores in the morning. Or enjoying a beer in the garden in the afternoon as we figure out what needs to be moved, replaced, cut back, etc., to make the garden better for us and our nature friends. To quote Judith Bostwick, "It's not work, if you love it". How true!



HGC Members



## THINGS TO DO LIST FOR MAY 2024

**PRUNING** – Now is a good time to prune. When you trim a hedge, always keep it wider at the bottom than it is at the top, so that sunlight can reach the lowest branches. Fruiting or flowering trees and plants should be pruned after they have produced fruit or flowers. For hurricane preparation, hire an arborist to trim plants and trees away from power lines and your house. Remove all dead, diseased and weak branches. Heavy pruning on trees can be done in stages with a three-year program, between each trimming. I pinch the tops out of plants to make them fuller. Garden tools can be disinfected by using 70% alcohol in a spray bottle. See IFAS Pruning.

**PLANTING** The plants that are listed are just a few examples of what to plant now. Peppers, sweet potatoes, southern peas and okra. Flowers are wax begonia, balsam, bromeliad, cosmos, coleus, cockscomb, crossandra, four-o'clocks, heliconia, sunflower, gaillardia, hollyhock, lantana, marigold, milk weed, portulaca, purslane, vinca, melapodium, pinta, porterweed, salvia, torenia, verbena, zinnia, ornamental sweet potato and pepper. Everglades tomato. Herbs are Mexican tarragon, basil, onions, and rosemary. Bulbs are amaryllis, caladium, crinum and zephyranthes. Move a potted plant around in your garden until you see where it grows the best. I do not place my plants directly on the ground, I put them on a paver, steppingstone or on top of an inverted pot. When planting plants or trees in the ground, soak them for 10 minutes first in water. Fill the hole with water and let it soak in first. Place the plant in the hole and fill in with soil. Add mulch around the top keeping it away from the base of the plant.

**BLOOMING** – Many butterfly plants will be blooming in May. Blooming too are dragon fruit, bromeliad, African tulip tree, geiger tree, crown of thorns, gardenia, jacaranda, tabebuia, royal poinciana, Texas wild olive, lignum vitae, ragoon creeper, forest bell, allamanda, angel's trumpet, crown of thorns, jatropha, gardenia, bougainvillea, daylily, begonia, chenille, firespike, firebush, hibiscus, ixora, lady of the night, lantana, orchid, mussaenda, penta, plumbago, porterweed, queen crape myrtle, queen's wreath, ruellia, shrimp plant, sweet almond, star jasmine, thryallis, ground orchid, and several varieties of cassia. Visit your favorite garden center for new plants.

**PLANT ADVICE** - Get information at AskIFAS or on U-Tube about the plant you are planting or planning to buy. Make sure the area is for South Florida. Monitor the garden for pests and diseases. Adjust the irrigation based on the amount of rainfall. One inch of water wets a sandy soil to a depth of 12 inches. Use a tuna can for measuring. Now is the time to plant seeds and propagate new plants by cuttings and air-layering. Start your cuttings in soil mix and a little perlite added to start. Place the pot in filtered, morning sun, keep moist and out of the wind. Mulch plant beds to reduce evaporation from the soil and cut down on weeds. The depth should be 3" after settling. Put down cardboard or 8 to 12 layers of newspaper under the mulch, this will help keep the weeds down for a season. Put pulled weeds in the garbage, not the compost pile. Coleus cuttings can be rooted in a glass of clean water in about 3 weeks. Change the water often. Plant 5 rooted cuttings in a 4-inch pot. Let it grow for several months in moist soil until the roots come out the bottom. Then put it in the ground or several pots in a larger pot. Cuttings can be started in the ground next to the AC drip. Start enough to share.

**LAWNS** – Mow St Augustine grass 3 inches high in the summer. It shades and cools the soil, making it harder for weed seeds to get a toehold. It allows the roots to grow deeper. If you fertilize now, you will be mowing every week. See IFAS Lawn Pests.

**FRUIT RIPENING** – Banana, calamondin, fig, gumichama, jaboticaba, jack fruit, lychee, lemon, mango, miracle fruit, mulberry, natal plum, papaya, passion fruit and red raspberry.

Susan Berry,  
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Certified Advanced Master Naturalist, Certified Garden Consultant and Certified Landscape Designer  
FNMP Land Steward, FFGC Earth Steward.