## <u>HOLLYWOOD GARDEN CLUB</u>

Making Hollywood more beautiful one garden at a time!

January 2017



# HOLLYWOOD GARDEN CLUB MEETINGS 3<sup>RD</sup> TUESDAY of the MONTH

Fred Lippman Multi-Purpose Center 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. -- 2030 Polk Street, Hollywood, FL 33023



### Field trip

#### **Alexander Landscaping & Plant Farm**

830 S. Flamingo Road Davie, FL

Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017

A NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

**Tour of the Native Plants and** 



We're pictured some of the native plants available at Alexander's on page 3. We will also stop at Flamingo Road Nursery for lunch and shopping.

website: <a href="http://alexfarm.com">http://alexfarm.com</a>



Jamaican Caper

## Down Home Bar-B-Que

Sunday, January 29, 2017 1-4 p.m.

**Home of Susan Berry** 



HGC will be providing the Barbeque

Bring a chair and a covered dish to share.

Members may bring a guest

Auctioning off an **EARTH BOX** and a **RAIN BARRELL** at the Bar-B-Que

Please rsvp by Monday, 1/23/17 if you are coming and bringing a guest.

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

What would you like to see in our newsletter?? Email pictures from your garden or other suggestions to mtabela@comcast.net LIKE US on FaceBook

#### Native Plants and why we should plant more of them

Native plants are being displaced by non-natives, which are more readily available at the large commercial nurseries. Native plants frequently have limited availability from small commercial nurseries. Non-natives or exotics are frequently more eye-catching in the landscape garden and because of large commercial production can be less expensive than their native cousins.

What is a native? According to the Florida Statute, "a plant species that is presumed to have been present in Florida before European contact." The native plant issue is still widely debated but for our use in our Hollywood gardens, rely on local experts. The IFAS publication "Native Plants: an Overview" gives a detailed look at what is considered a native and many other articles on this website on the types of native plants available in Florida. This article brings to our attention that natives may not always perform at their best in nature but can reach their full potential beauty in our gardens. The information below are excerpts from the IFAS website and we cannot stress the valuable information available to us on this website: <a href="http://ifas.ufl.edu/">http://ifas.ufl.edu/</a>

**SCARLET HIBISCUS:** (*Hibiscus coccineus*). The flowers are what makes this plant so incredible. Each is a deep scarlet red, saucer shaped, and 8-12 inches across. The flowers are visited by all kinds of pollinators, including hummingbirds. Scarlet hibiscus dies back to the ground each winter and emerges in early spring to a height of 6-8 feet. Scarlet hibiscus has tolerance for short-term drought, but it will die if not provided wet conditions for much of the year making it an ideal plant for ponds or water features.





FIREBUSH (*Hamelia patens*) This Florida native with beautiful orange-red flowers throughout most of the year. Firebush is a large, soft-stemmed shrub that reaches a height and width of 8 to 12 feet tall. The slender flowers are tubular and reach a length of 1 to 1 ½ inches. It prefers sun for best flowering although tolerant of shade.

**BLUE FLAG IRIS** (*Iris virginica*) Blue flag iris is an aquatic plant with light-green foliage emerging directly from the ground in dense clumps. It grows 12 to 18 inches tall, producing lavender-blue flowers about 4 inches across in the spring. They are native to boggy areas where water stands all year long. They will grow in standing water in part shade/part sun.



**SCARLET SALVIA** (*Salvia Coccinea*) Native to SE United States it grows to 3-4 feet. it can be planted as a tall ground cover or grown in a perennial border in full sun. Salvia will perform well in full sun, partial shade, or full shade:



or grown in a perennial border in full sun. Salvia will perform well in full sun, partial shade, or full shade; however, flowering is reduced in partial shade. It prefers a moist, well-drained soil and is very drought tolerant. Native salvia is at its best during the hottest summer months when other flowering plants may suffer from the heat. To maintain a neat-looking landscape, cut it back at the end of the year after it finishes flowering and foliage begins to die. Propagation of the native salvia is by seed or cuttings.

RAIN LILY (Zephyranthes spp.)



In cultivation, rain lily bulbs will flower throughout the year if kept alternately wet and dry. The narrow, grass-like foliage blends in well in rock gardens, borders, or in containers. Growing in full sun or partial shade, rain lily is tolerant of various soils and is moderately salt-tolerant. They put on a display when planted on mass.

YELLOW MANDEVILLA (Pentalinon Luteum) Wild allamanda grows as a vine-like shrub and left to its own it develops into a sprawling vine climbing over nearby shrubs, trees, and other structures. In this manner, it is not unlike the non-native allamanda. Yellow flowers about 2 ½ inches across are produced year-round on stem tips. Although the plant is not covered with flowers like the non-native allamanda, there are usually some flowers on the plant all year long.



The next page pictures some of the native plants currently available at Alexander's but unless we know the growing characteristics of a plant it is difficult to know what to plant in our garden. Some great choices are: Milkweed, Desert cassia, Goldenrod, Wild Lime, Jamaican Caper, Minosa, Fire Spike, Firebush, Florida Thatch Palm, Stoppers, to name a few.

We're always on the lookout for sources of information on native plants that grow well in Florida. The **Atlas of Florida Plants** website is another recommend source of information on native and naturalized ferns and bryophythes (e.g. mosses) that grow and thrive in Broward County. Visit their website: <a href="http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/">http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/</a>

This is only a sampling of the native plants and shrubs available at ALEXANDER NURSERY in Davie, FL. Most of these will attract butterflies, bees and hummingbirds to your garden.

Visit their website for full list of natives in stock: <a href="http://alexfarm.com">http://alexfarm.com</a>

Petunia



Golden Rod

Necklace Pod

Coral Honeysuckle