

HOLLYWOOD GARDEN CLUB

MAKING HOLLYWOOD MORE BEAUTIFUL ONE GARDEN AT A TIME!

OCTOBER 2024

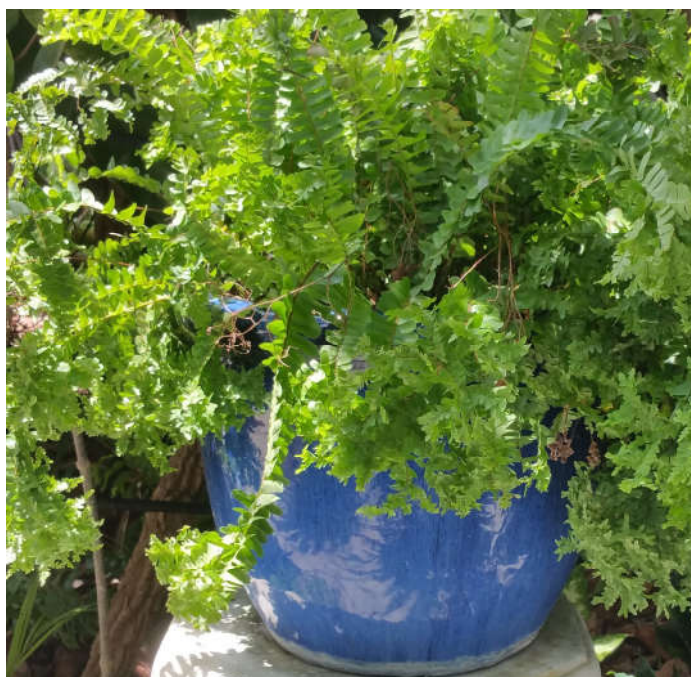
Member of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs – <http://ffgc.org> – Deep South Garden Club - www.dsgardenclubs.com
National Garden Clubs, Inc., www.gardenclub.org, and Deep South Region



Field Trip – Rare Plant Festival October 19, 2024 This replaces our October meeting



We all have special memories associate with our plants, here is one that has special meaning to Susan Berry. The petticoat fern (*Nephrolepis*) was a gift from Vera Johnson, who was the first secretary of the Hollywood Garden Club. This will always be remembered as Vera's fern and Susan has shared this plant with our members. This is easy to grow and can last for years. It grows from rhizomes and is propagated by division. It likes part to full shade. Place it in a hanging baskets or pot to show off its unique form. The tips of each frond fan out to mimic the appearance of a petticoat.



Petticoat fern (Affectionately "Vera's fern")



Rabbit Foot's Fern



Rabbit's foot fern's hairy feet overflowing a pot.

Another of Susan's unusual ferns: the **Rabbit's foot fern** (*Davallia solida* var. *fejeensis*) has lacy fronds and roots covered with a fine mat of hairs. These can be grown in hanging baskets or pots. Rabbit's foot likes high humidity, slightly acidic soil and grows best in part to full shade. They spread by rhizomes.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Judith Bostwick and Anna Fraker

"Flowers are like friends that bring color to the world."

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.

SUSAN'S GARDEN - The Joy of Gardening and My Lifelong Love of Plants

Playing in my garden makes me feel sensitive to nature and it is very healing to my mind and body. I love watering with the hose. In my garden I have created paths and places to sit for working, observation and contemplation. When I am there, I feel a part of it, as if I have gone somewhere to another destination. The health club.

I am a native of Hollywood and raised in east Hollywood, just 13 blocks away. It would flood there after the hurricanes, fish swam down the street, and I played in the swamps. When I was a child the area where I played was full of palmetto and pine trees with white sand roads, high and dry. The land was eventually filled around us and homes were built on settling land. I moved across town when I was married in 1971. I have lived here now for 53 years and love it. My hobby became collecting plants that were hardy, easy to propagate, ever changing, blooming, and fruiting so every month I have a different looking garden. I am a collector of plants and I can't find a place to plant another, so I have gone arial. I prune only for the beauty of each individual plant or tree, not for everything to be the same shape or size. I recycle all my plant trimmings back into my garden. I rarely add fertilizers or pesticides. It doesn't hurt anymore when one plant or tree dies there is always another that I propagated waiting to go in its place.



Dread locks croton

I have a bird bath which is extremely important in supporting wildlife. Watching its visitors have made my Certified Wildlife Garden their home. Many of my plants and trees have a history. Some take on the name of the person who gave it to me along with fond memories. I love to give plants to others, so there are many "Susans" that have been shared through the years. Please give your neighbors butterfly plants.

In 1998 I became a Master Gardener, and it changed my life. I federated Hollywood Garden Club on September 26th, 2007. In 2013 I became a Master Naturalist. It gave me a direction to follow, and I have met plenty of like-minded people.



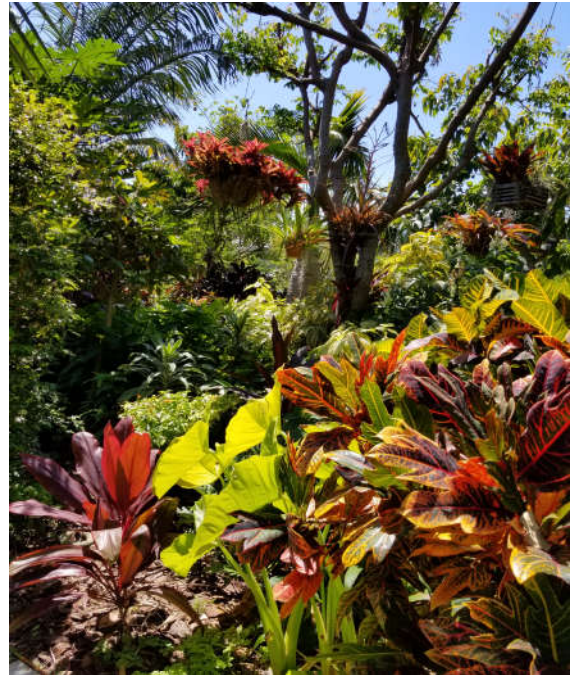
A quiet corner in Susan's garden

In 1976 I remember what it was like moving to a second home, a 104-acre, tobacco/cattle farm in Mountain City, Tn. They called it rocky top, and it had red clay soil. Unlimited places to plant. I was in heaven. I joined the Garden Club there, and those country gals helped me with their gardening and farming knowledge. They were strangers who made me feel welcome and were eager to help. They would let me pick their fruit off the ground, vegetables when they were finished canning, and tour their homes and flower gardens. They set an example of what a garden club should do for their members. That is where I learned how important a garden club is to people who move here from another place. I treasure those days gardening with my father and canning with my elders.

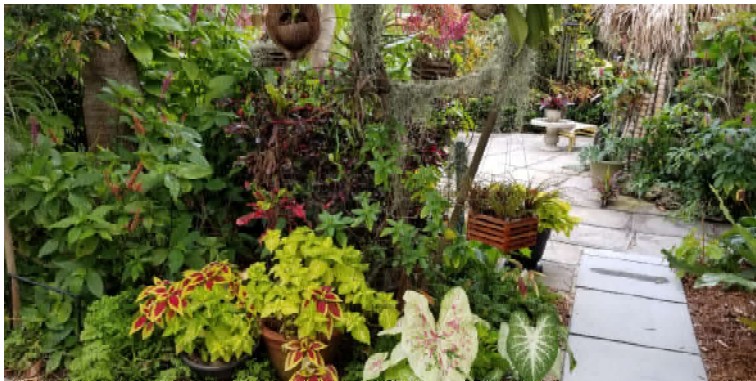
Susan's garden is a treat for the senses with color & texture. This is just a glimpse of her beautiful garden.



This is one of many groupings that Susan has created. Showing crotons, bromeliads and other hearty plants



Susan has over 50 varieties of crotons



Susan has created an oasis of beauty for relaxation & contemplation



A view of Sweet Almond in the foreground with Zerographica air plant hanging in center and crotons in the background.



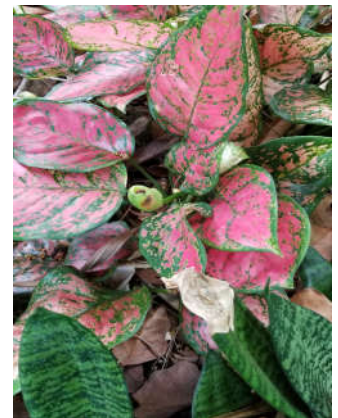
New Guinea Impatiens centerpiece for a table



Pink Croton



Talandsia in bloom



Aglomena in full shade

THINGS TO DO OCTOBER 2024

PRUNING –Create a wind block on your perimeter with plants and trees for hurricane protection. You can trim them after hurricane season. They will protect your interior plants and give wildlife a safe place to stay in high winds. The first cuts for trimming a tree are to cut out the tree branches that are pointing straight down, and then remove all dead wood, and the limbs that are crossing and rubbing. Next should be to start shaping the tree by taking off some of the lower limbs. For hurricane protection make sure trees and shrubs do not touch your house. Tree limbs can break your roof tiles in high winds and give animals a way on top of your roof.

PLANTING – Now is a good time to take out or replace a particular bush or tree that isn't doing well. Get all your potted trees and landscape plants into the ground before the cool weather. Before planting, soak them in a bucket of water until they are saturated, then place them in the hole and "mud them in." For your potted plants use potting mix with a little more perlite, or sand, for drainage depending on the plant's requirements. Plant different textures and different colors next to each other to create a contrast. Purchase plants that do something like flower, fruit, change color or attract wildlife. Some good choices are crotons, canna, mussaenda, Hawaiian ti, chenille plant, coleus, banana, mango, avocado, and natives for the wildlife. Bulbs that can be planted now are onion, African lily, amaryllis, Aztec lily, calla, crinum, elephant ear, gladiolus, gloriosa, iris, kaffir lily, walking iris, society garlic, spider lily, rain lily. Some flowering plants to plant now are kalanchoe, crown of thorns, daisy, marigold, lobelia, impatiens, geranium, dusty miller, dianthus, crossandra, browallia, begonia, aster, amaranthus, alyssum, gaillardia, salvia, torenia, periwinkles and pentas. Herbs can be grown in containers outdoors or on a porch or balcony. They can be planted in hanging baskets, so they are out of the way of crawling insects that are in the ground. That way can easily be brought in under a shelter from the rain, cold or storms if needed. Start cuttings where your AC drips outside on the ground or next to the plant you cut them from. See: Florida Gardening Calendar, South.

FEEDING –Fertilize with less nitrogen now. It's the last month to fertilize ornamentals, palms and fruit trees until February or March. Use before your plants and trees show poor nutrition. I bury in the soil the water that vegetables were cooked in, kitchen scraps, old coffee grounds, and tea bags. I mix water with pickle juice and pour it on acid loving plants. I use time release fertilizer, water soluble, Lesco Palm food, and Black Kow manure. For poor soil, spread compost, Black Kow manure, garden soil, and mulch around plants. For mulch use pine bark, eucalyptus, or melaleuca. Melaleuca has chemicals that inhibit seed germination; Eucalyptus mulch repels many insects. Do not use cypress. It repels water when dry and is depleting our forests of the trees. No float mulch is good to use where rain washes it into the walkways or street.

WEEDS –Nutgrass, also called nutsedge, grows in lawns and soil that are wet over a long period of time. Control the water and mow high every three weeks to help choke out the weeds. I drop my cuttings and leave the leaves at the base of the plant or tree I am cutting, and I hardly ever fertilize or weed. Never put weeds back on the ground. Throw them in the garbage. To discourage weeds longer, before you cover the soil with mulch; lay down cardboard or newspaper first. The soft tips of palm fronds make a mat mulch that weeds or palm seeds cannot penetrate. Throw away the shafts and the hard part of the stems.

BLOOMING – Some plants that are blooming now are: crossandra, pentas, plumbago, mussaenda, brunfelsia, chenille, cassia, begonia, blue daze, portulaca, purslane, frangipani, crown of thorns, periwinkle, marigold, impatiens, buttercup, orchid, rose, ixora, royal poinciana, dwarf poinciana, bougainvillea, allamanda, thryallis, zinnia, sweet almond, brugmansia, torenia, garlic vine, silk floss tree, Jamaican lilac, orchid tree and carambola tree. Visit your favorite nurseries monthly.

INSECTS –Check your plants regularly and tend to your problems early. Cut off the branches with the insects on them and throw them away. Use a high-powered water hose and wipe the bugs off with your hands. If that doesn't work, then spray with natural products like Neam Oil or Insecticidal Soap. Try to keep a chemical free garden and "choose disease-resistant plants." Invite birds into your garden by planting plants that produce seeds and berries, and they will raise their young there and eat your insects. Dragonfly ancestors are among the earth's oldest insects. Their eggs turn into aquatic nymphs that feed on mosquito larvae, while as adults they catch mosquitoes in flight.

Susan Berry - President of the Hollywood Garden Club, Florida Master Gardener, Advanced Master Naturalist, Certified Gardening Consultant and Certified Landscape Designer. FMNP Land Steward and FFGC Earth Steward