

HOLLYWOOD GARDEN CLUB

MAKING HOLLYWOOD MORE BEAUTIFUL ONE GARDEN AT A TIME!

MARCH 2025

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,



Meeting at Home of Steve Tognoli

March 22, 2025 at 11:00 am

A Raffle and Potluck Lunch will be held

PLEASE BRING A CHAIR



Staghorn Fern (*Platycerium bifurcatum*)

This month we are featuring Susan Berry's garden. We put 2 of the best on page 1. It is a learning experience to tour her garden and a feast for the senses.

This **staghorn fern** was given to Susan over 50 years ago. These are epiphytes and feed from rains that wash nutrients into the center roots of the plant. Place in shade to part shade. Once they are as big as this one, they must be hung with heavy duty chains.

The photo on the right has 2 colors that are opposite each other on the color wheel. they are called complementary.



Heliconia w/ Hawaiian Ti in background

The **heliconia** is a fast-growing plant that can reach a height of 12 feet. It one shown grows best in partial shade. The colored bracts are waxy and long lasting. They like fertile and moist soil. They can be propagated by dividing the rhizomes. The **heliconia rostrata**, which is our club flower, is the exception and can be grown in full sun.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

April 26, 2024

Field Trip to Jesse Durko's Nursery

May 2024

To be Decided

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Melissa Garvey and Steve Tognoli

"Those who find beauty in all of nature will find themselves at one with the secrets of life itself."

By L. Wolfe Gilbert

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.

Fire Spike (*Odontonema cuspidatum*) This plant grows to about 4 feet tall and has foot long spikes of showy tubular flowers year-round. Its height makes it a good plant for the back of the garden. This shrub comes in red, lavender and deep purple. For the best blooming, plant it in full sun. It tolerates almost any soil condition and can be kept to size with periodic pruning throughout the year. They are easy to propagate with cuttings. An added benefit is that they attract hummingbirds and butterflies.



Firespike

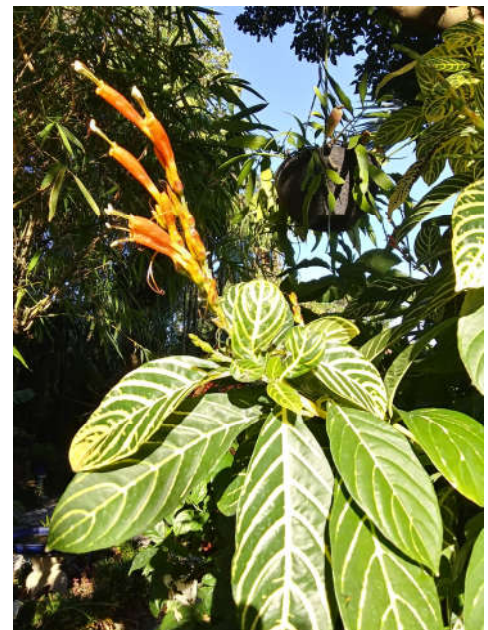


Cardinal Airplant (*Tillandsia*)

Who wants a easy care plant? Try a tillandsia. They need no care & they bloom. The perfect plant for the lazy gardener.

The **Cardinal Airplant** (*Tillandsia fasciculata*) It is an endangered native plant and illegal to collect. It grows in the hammocks, cypress swamp and pinelands. They flower all year but mostly in early spring and summer.

We love variegated plants this one adds color to a shady spot. The **Sanchezia** (*Sanchezia speciosa*) is a low maintenance shrub that can grow to 8 feet tall. It is best used as a background in mass plantings in the shade. In the summer it blooms with red & yellow tubular flowers.



Sanchezia

Pruning Tips: Do structural pruning on fruit trees after fruiting, so during a hurricane the air goes through them. (Trim branches facing in and down first.) Trees can be topped so you can reach the fruit with a picker. Cut back hedges and shrubs - if needed. Do not remove more than 1/3 of the total green growth. A tree or shrub can be enjoyed in its natural shape and beauty; it doesn't have to be pruned in a geometric shape like a rectangle, circle, triangle or square, at a certain time of the years, unless it fruits or flowers.

We would love to hear from our members. What information would you like to see in our monthly newsletter. Send a suggestion or a photo of a special plant in bloom. Tell us about yourself, your garden, or a special plant you have.

Email: mary.tabela@gmail.com or Whitedawn45@comcast.net



One of our new members, Lisa Gangadeen, shared her amaryllis in bloom.

THINGS TO DO LIST FOR MARCH 2025

PRUNING – Poinsettias can be pruned back now. Prune fruit tree branches that are pointing toward the ground or crossing each other. Never prune a flush cut at the trunk. Always cut to the outside of the branch collar. Cut dead limbs back to good wood. Prune spring flowering trees and shrubs after they bloom and hedges that are overgrown. IFAS pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs.

PLANTING –Herbs, onion sets, collards, cowpeas, cucumbers, mustard, okra, peanuts, peppers, pole beans, radish, spinach, squash, broccoli, eggplant, and tomatoes. Flowers to plant currently are ageratum, begonia, cosmos, cockscomb, marigold, gaillardia, portulaca, periwinkle, sweet alyssum, pentas, salvia, impatiens and zinnia. Bulbs to plant currently are amaryllis, caladiums, crinum, zephyranthes and lilies. Plant caladiums in amended soil, with peat, cow manure and compost. Ground covers - Joseph's coat, ferns and artillery ferns.

BLOOMING - The tabebuia tree announces spring with its showy, yellow blossoms now. Brazilian red cloak, chalice vine, queen's wreath, cassias, bromeliads, begonias, avocado trees, citrus trees, mango trees, lobster claw heliconias, chenille, hibiscus, bougainvillea, yesterday, today and tomorrow, orchids, ixoras, kalanchoes, pentas, crinum lily, plumbago, thryallis, firebush, firespike, Amazon lily, amaryllis, begonias, verbena, torenia, salvia, portulaca, marigold, impatiens, geranium, dianthus, passion vine, peace lily, candlestick, blue sage, blue days, and roses are just a few. Create your potted plants and hanging baskets for summer color now.

PLANT ADVICE –

- March is a good time to start new plants from cuttings. Purchase coleus in all colors to propagate now.
- Mulching plants is especially important for the dry months of March & April. Mulch mimics the forest floor and holds moisture in the soil. It protects it from the intense heat of the sun. When decayed it adds needed organic humus to our poor sandy soil and improves plant growth. Most any kind of organic matter can be used, including grass clippings, kitchen scraps, cardboard, coffee grounds, leaves, wood chips, sawdust and peat moss. The value of mulch cannot be over-emphasized. However, don't expect decayed mulch to supply all plant nutrients needs. Regular fertilizing, using a plant food that includes minor elements is essential here. Throw weeds away in the garbage. Keep containers for weeds hidden in the garden to save steps. Drill holes in the bottom of them, so they don't collect water.
- Water fruit trees. Water lawns every 7 to 10 days and feed two times a year, spring and fall, if needed. Use bagged fertilizer 6-6-6 or 10-10-10 with minor nutrients or turf builder, then water in after. Never use turf fertilizer on palms. St. Augustine grass should be mowed three inches in height. (Tell that to your lawn man). Shorter mowing causes more weeds to grow and your grass to be in stress. Mowing high makes the grass take nutrients from the air and soil along with the process of photosynthesis, making new growth. Fertilize lawns, palms, trees and shrubs now. Read the instructions. Plant those seeds you have been saving. Use organic manure and compost when you can. Water your fruit trees.
- Control black leaf spot on roses by keeping the foliage dry. Pick up and throw away the diseased leaves.
- Place orchids back in a place with more sun as the intensity increases. Apply time release fertilizer or mix water soluble fertilizer ½ strength, weekly. Orchids that have outgrown their pots can be repotted after they bloom now. When orchids are mounted on trees, they require less care.
- Plant fruit trees now so they can be well rooted by winter. IFAS Home Citrus Culture

INSECTS – I have found carpenter ants and eggs in my pots on the ground and ant hills along my walkways.

Place bait out for the ants to eat. Look for Insects on the new growth of plants. Curling and unsightly leaves are visual signs of aphids, leaf miners and the green horn worms on tomatoes. Eaten leaves on citrus are caused by the caterpillar of the black swallowtail butterfly. Do not kill them. Watch for lubber grasshoppers, they grow three to four inches long and hatch out in March, April and May. When young they are black and orange and about one inch long. Look over crotons now for green scale. Learn who the good bugs are. IFAS Landscape Pests

Susan Berry, President of Hollywood Garden Club

<http://www.hollywoodgardenclub.com>

Florida Master Gardener, Advanced Florida Master Naturalist, FMNP Land Steward,
Certified Landscape Designer, Certified Gardening Consultant and FFGC Earth Steward.