

***CLIPPINGS***

**GCPC Monthly Bulletin**

**FEBRUARY, 2017**

**WHAT TO DO IN YOUR GARDEN - February**

**Roses**: February is the month to prune your fortuniana roses. Prune back about 1/3 of the plant and remove all suckers and leaves. Removing the leaves creates a dormancy as they do not go dormant in FL. Remove all fallen leaves from underneath the plant and be sure and keep mulch away from the plant’s base. This reduces fungal diseases.

You should also prune about 1/3 of your Knock Out and Drift roses now if they look thin and fertilize with a 8-4-12 palm fertilizer like Nurseryman Sure Gro or Nurseryman Sure Gro 6-8-10 Bloomer. You do not need to remove the leaves as trimming stimulates growth.

**Pruning**: If it looks like no more freezing weather is predicted, by February 15 you can begin cleaning up any winter damaged plants. Any plants with brown tips should be trimmed back until you see green stems. You can rim most trees and shrubs, except spring bloomers like azaleas, gardenias and hydrangeas.

**Fertilizing**: Wait until the end of February or early March before fertilizing your plants, palms and trees.

**Vegetable Gardening**: You can still plant broccoli, cabbage, collars, cauliflower, carrots, lettuce and cold hardy herbs like parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme. By March you can plant tomatoes and peppers.

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The February birth flower is the iris, which is Greek for rainbow. This perennial plant expresses peace of mind, friendship, faith, hope, and wisdom. The iris has been valued since ancient times. There is a flower on the sphinx in Egypt believed to be an iris. Another iris appears on a bas-relief from the 28th Egyptian Dynasty. In ancient times iris roots were used in perfume and medicine. The fleur-de-lis is a stylized iris, which was used much in heraldry. This genus, widely distributed throughtout the north temperate zone, has showy flowers and has been hybridized extensively.

**Places to Go...Things to Do**

**Feb. 18   “Sisterhood of the Travelling Plants”** presented by Cathy Snyder and Marilyn Smith at the St. Augustine Beach Library (124 Seagrove Main St.). Sign-in at 12:30pm, program at 1:00pm. Demonstration of flower arranging and table settings with a western theme using cactus, cowboy boots and more. Light refreshments.

**February 24-26** **16th Annual Florida Gourd Society Show and Sale**, Azan Shrine Center, 1591 West Eau Gallie Blvd., Melbourne. FREE. Fri. & Sat. 9 – 6; Sun. 9 – 4. Arts and crafts, demonstrations, sales exhibits. <http://www.flgourdsoc.org>

**March 1-31** Garden Month at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, Jacksonville.

**March 4** plant sale - free admission. Public tours of gardens every Tues and Thurs. in March. Admission: Adults: $10; seniors (62+): $6. [www.cummer.org](http://www.cummer.org)

**March 1 -May 29** Epcot International Flower and Garden Festival. 100 topiaries, bonsai, butterfly house, vendors, much more. Admission to Epcot. [www.disneyworld.com/flower](http://www.disneyworld.com/flower)

**March 4-5** Florida Azalea Festival, Downtown Palatka. 9 – 5. [www.flazaleafest.com](http://www.flazaleafest.com/)

**March 11-12** Annual Plant Sale, Leu Gardens, Orlando. 9 – 5. Bamboo, bromeliads, butterfly plants, citrus, ferns, bromeliads, heliconias, herbs, orchids, palms, roses, much more. [www.leugardens.org](http://www.leugardens.org)

**Thanks to Jane Villa-Lobos for the above information.**

**Garden Tip**: Why do you cut a stem at a 45 degree angle? To prevent pooling of water at the site of the cut which can become a breeding ground for bacteria and fungi. If you flat cut a branch on a tree or on a cutting, any moisture would sit on the cut surface & rot sets in easily. It also increases the capillary action to uptake water for cut flowers.

**The Selection of the Month for February** has been awarded to

**Barbara Ahlers** of **16 Fleetwood Drive, Palm Coast.**

A Garden Club sign will be displayed at her home for the month. See a slide show of the garden at our February Meeting*. If you own or know of a garden deserving recognition for design, features, attractive or unusual plantings or Florida Friendly Landscaping, please contact us.*

***CALENDAR OF EVENTS***

**2/13 GCPC General Meeting Ag Center ~ 1:00 pm**

**2/14 Bob Evans Fundraiser Palm Coast**

**3/6 Board Meeting Ag Center ~ 1:00 pm (Members Welcome)**

**3/18 Treasures from the Attic Shepherd of the Coast Church**

**101 Pine Lakes Parkway ~ 7 am – 4 pm**

**4/8 Spring Festival City Center**

**and Plant Sale**

**MARK YOUR CALENDERS NOW**

**Gardening Study School**

**Course 1 November 7 - 8, 2017**

Location: New Smyrna Beach, FL

Chairperson: Sally Flanagan, 386-428-3170; email: sfflan@aol.com

The NGC Gardening Study Courses are designed to provide information on topics of interest to those especially interested in gardening, horticulture and related topics. The program consists of a series of four courses, held about six months apart, scheduled usually for two days of instruction, followed by a general examination on the morning of the third day. Courses cover all aspects of growing from understanding soil structure to pruning techniques, plant identification, etc. Topics include basic botany, soils, growing annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs, fruits and vegetables, lawns, pests and diseases of plants, pruning and selected topics of local interest.

Garden Club members completing the series of four courses are awarded the designation of Gardening Consultant. Course 2 will be held on February 20 & 21, 2018. More information as it becomes available

**NEW GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS, RENEWALS AND CORRECTIONS.**

**PLEASE Add to your Yearbook.**

September, 2016

Dorothy Himmelstein CORRECTIONS

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November 2016 New Members

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JANUARY 2017 NEW MEMBERS & CORRECTION 133

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**RENEWAL**

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 ***The Garden Club at Palm Coast***

***P.O. Box 352153***

***Palm Coast, FL 32135-2153*** [***www.gcpcinc.org***](http://www.gcpcinc.org)

*****The Garden Club at Palm Coast is again awarding a one-week*****

*****FREE SCHOLARSHIP PLUS EXPENSES to a*****

*****Flagler County child to attend Camp Wekiva*****

*****Every year, over 600 young campers throughout Florida enjoy a*****

*****fun-filled educational camping experience in*****

*****Wekiwa Springs State Park, a superb setting in Apopka, operated by*****

*****The Florida Federation Garden Clubs*****

*****Instructors and counselors with a love for nature, the environment, conservation, wildlife, crafts and hiking work with*****

*****over 100 young campers a week with similar interests*****

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*****Do you have or know of a boy or girl in grade 6, 7 or 8 who loves wildlife, gardening, the outdoors and the environment?*****

*****You can give them an unforgettable special experience*****

*****Check the Camp Wekiva website for photos and more information ([www.wekivayouthcamp.org](http://www.wekivayouthcamp.org))*****

*****Contact our Garden Club NOW for application information Enrollment starts in January and classes fill up fast*****