



Summer Means Mangos on St. Croix

Mangos are one of the most popular and nutritionally rich fruits in the world and are often referred to as “The King of the Fruits.” Mangos are an amazing source of vitamins A, C, E, and B-complex as well as health promoting flavonoids such as beta-carotene and alpha-carotene.

Mango Melee Soon Come!

July 12, a new date for this summer festival of tropical fruit, will delight visitors to the Botanical Garden with displays, contests and workshops.

The Great Hall will be filled with the colorful fruits and the scents of the season, and the grounds will host agricultural, horticultural and arts and crafts vendors. “Mango Dis, Mango Dat” will showcase the talents of chefs competing in creating culinary delights featuring mangos.

Many popular favorites like the Mango Eating Contest, the Dunk Tank, and children’s games will be held on the grounds and in the Visitors Pavilion. Music by local DJs will fill the air.

With the emphasis on organic and locally grown products this year there will be a greater number of farmers selling not only fruit but produce.

As always the volunteers in the Garden nursery will have a wide variety of plants for sale at reasonable prices.

Mark your calendar!
The 19th Annual
MANGO MELEE
and tropical fruit festival



July 12, 2015
12:00 - 6:00 PM

Admission: Adults \$6.00
Children: 6 - 12 \$2.00
Children 5 and under free

St. George Village Botanical Garden
127 Estate St. George, Frederiksted, VI 00840
(340) 692-2874 • www.sgvbg.org • infoatthegarden@gmail.com

A Message from the President

Volunteers are the backbone of St George Village Botanical Gardens of St Croix. They work on the grounds, provide great tours for thousands of visitors, keep the Botanical Garden nursery filled with plants for sale and provide carpentry, plumbing, painting and all types of mechanical services. Without the talented and energetic volunteer staff that has been assembled, the Garden would come to a standstill. Your Board of Governors is very aware of the services our volunteers provide and has established a program to recognize outstanding volunteer service by a individual or family three times each year. Each selected volunteer or family will be recognized in the Conch Call as selected by the Board of Governors and will receive a small token of our appreciation by providing them a one-year free family membership. Please help the Board of Governors by emailing or mailing your selected volunteer candidate or family that you feel has provided outstanding volunteer services during the current Summer Season. We will require a short description of the person’s contributions to the Garden.

Email your suggestions to
infoatthegarden@gmail.com

Robert J. Boyton

President, Board of Governors

The St. George Village Botanical Garden of St. Croix

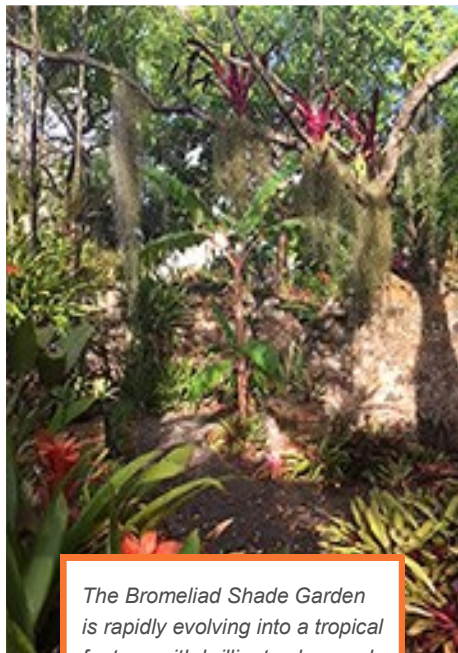
Winter Season ***Volunteers***

Gary and Linda Doty have been working in our nursery for more than 10 years. During their five-month stay this year, they provided hours and, in some cases, days of effort to fix, repair, rebuild, clear, paint, prepare, serve, sell and attend our luncheon programs. Even though they both work in the nursery, they always find time for other needed services at the Garden. Thank you both for your undivided time and service.

*May the island’s treasure,
Our Garden, continue
blossoming better than
ever. Linda Doty*

Renewing the Bromeliad Garden

Bromeliads are a family of flowering plants of around 3100 species, native mainly to the tropical Americas. The family includes both epiphytes such as Spanish Moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) and terrestrial species such as the pineapple (*Ananas comosus*).



The Bromeliad Shade Garden is rapidly evolving into a tropical fantasy with brilliant colors and exotic shapes filling the trees, the walls and the grounds.

The sun-loving bromeliads including native pineapples, achmeas, alcantareas and other newly acquired varieties will thrive in their new environment, and our historical ruins will not be further compromised .

Bromeliads are favorite plants of many St. Croix gardeners because they will grow in many environments, frequently under harsh conditions. You are invited to tour the Bromeliad Gardens not only to enjoy the rapid evolution of this very special collection, but also gather ideas for your own bromeliad garden.

The Bromeliad Garden Adopt a Spot is sponsored by Fran and Jerry Tobin. You are invited to Adopt a Spot at St. George Village Botanical Garden and enhance the beauty of our island treasure.



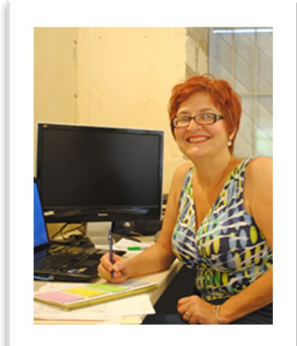
The entrance to the Bromeliad Garden features spectacular orchids and colorful shade loving bromeliads.

At St. George our bromeliads are concentrated in the ruins of the sugar factory.

Volunteers have begun the task of renewing the Bromeliad Garden by separating the shade-loving bromeliads from the sun-loving species and moving the latter to the area now occupied by the Sanseveria Collection.



Sanseveria have very invasive roots, are damaging the walls of the sugar factory around the fountain.



Meet Christine Thomas, Director of Administration and Development

Although Christine has been managing the busy Garden office since mid-April, many of our members may not have yet met her. A resident of St. Croix since 2001, she came to the job with a wide range of professional experiences and has demonstrated excellent skills in dealing with the variety of clients coming through the Garden's office door.

Christine graduated from Wesleyan University and has worked in the print and graphics industry, fundraising, customer relations, and communications. She also has an extensive background in event planning, particularly weddings.

All of her many skills were put to use immediately as she faced the daunting task of managing Mango Melee 2015.

Christine has eagerly embraced the Garden's goal of 2015: "To welcome all the diverse sections of our community to St. George Village Botanical Garden."

Renovation of Superintendent's House

St. George was one of the St. Croix plantations that had off-island owners. So instead of a Great House such as that at Whim, St. George had a cottage residence for the plantation superintendent.

Since the beginning of the Botanical Garden the Superintendent House has housed the Garden Horticulturist. It also contains the Garden Herbarium consisting of over 5,000 dried and pressed plant specimens which represent about 80% of the plant species known to be growing in the U.S. Virgin Islands.



No renovations have been done at the Superintendent's House since Hurricane Hugo almost 26 years ago.

After surveying the condition of the building the Board agreed to repair, repaint, and refurbish the building within the Garden's limited resources.

Improvements will include cleaning and sealing the outside of the building, painting the inside, a complete renovation of the bathroom and replacing the non-functioning stove, washing machine and dryer.

Many of the exterior shutters will be repaired or replaced.

The Garden would appreciate any donations of money, or appliances to defray expenses on this renovation.

The repairs will be completed before the arrival of the new Horticultural Director.

Garden Buzzzzzzz

Education Committee Report

By Chairman Michael Mongeau

The educational program(s) at St. George Village Botanical Gardens continues to serve St. Croix in a transition fashion. The basic educational functions of the garden, ideally provided by a paid staff person, have been covered through the efforts of Administrative Coordinator Christine Thomas and volunteers, primarily SGVBG board members.

Since the departure of a funded Educational Coordinator, the primary focus has been to fill the community requests for school tours and continued networking with existing community groups.

In the months February through May, 2015, the garden hosted visits from eight schools and one college, with a combined student visitor count of 220.

In April, the garden hosted the annual St. Croix Eco-Fair, when over 750 students participated in two days of activities and workshops; SGVBG employee Saieda Francis, conducted a hands' on garden workshop with over 150 students attending during eight sessions. On another occasion, Board President Bob Boyton led a garden tour for over 60 students visiting from Ricardo Richards.

With the end of the school year, there are no active plans for summer camp

With Mango Melee fast approaching, it was time to have the bees in a tree by the Orchid House removed. They have been a problem for vendors at Mango Melee for the last three years.

Grantley Samuel, one of our Farmer Vendors, removed the queen and the bees were safely relocated. The damaged, hollow tree was cut down, so that we will not have a recurring problem in that spot again.



Bees and combs inside hollow tree



Bees ready for relocation.

Mango Melee Nursery Sale

All plants in inventory

50% Off

As always, our knowledgeable staff will be available to answer your questions.

Membership Renewals

If you haven't yet renewed your annual membership at St. George, now is the time! Summer is a particularly crucial time for Garden finances, and your membership is particularly important now.

Donations

Diamond Palm

Monette (Simone) Booth

Silver Palm

Diamond Industrial Corp.

Bronze Palm

Artemis & Martha Joukowsky

Friends of the Garden

Rod & Janie Koopmans

Carol F. Smith

Jerry Tobin

Dedicated Donations:

Conservation Area

Tom Singleton, Denise Young

Library, Education

The Diamond Corporation

Contact Us!

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Email:

infoatthegarden@gmail.com

***Don't Forget -
Remember the Garden!***

Garden Hours

Monday through Sunday

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Nursery Hours

Tuesday & Friday

9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Museum Hours

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tuesday through Friday, and on weekend days when a cruise ship is in port.

Museum Store Hours

Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and during special events.

Open any day that a cruise ship is in port.

Library Hours

Available to researchers or members by appointment

Please check our website www.sgvbg.org and our Facebook page [St. George Village Botanical Garden](#). You will find our hours and contact information, and updated information about our garden events.

We Thank our New and Renewing Members!

Platinum Palm Member

Monette Booth

Gold Palm Members

Barbara Jeremiah

William & Helen Gilbert

Rupert & Kathryn Werner

Silver Palm Members

Michael & Ruth Whitner

Mark Schechter & Maria Simonsson

Miles Whitfield & Philip Green

Bronze Palm Members

Ted & Little Montigel, Trudy

Vicki Bandola

Francis & Gilda Hurite

Joan & Rodney Naro

Nina York

New Senior Members

Jane Bracy

Mary Jones

Renewing Senior Members

Douglas Jones

Carol F. Smith

Pam Pearson

Mary Ellen Connor

Priscilla Schneider

Lucy Bough

Cindy Dowgiewicz-Hordyk

Paul Voytershark

New Individual Members

Patricia Tullis-Conn

Dan Fowler

Laura Mujica-Crapanzano

Sarah Downs

Renewing Individual Members

Robert Prantis

Robert Quinn

Lyle Chriswell

Jerry Tobin

Nancy Young

Tracy Nixon

New Senior Couple Members

RR Evans

Sanda Welsh

Linda J & Miles McKernan

John and Gale Uhi

Renewing Senior Couple Members

R.L. & Chris Bucher

Rod and Janie Koopmans

Gary & Sherry Trommer

Robert and Georgene Schuster

Sara and Frank Kleinschrodt

Fred & Judy Huettig

Albert & Ann Lang

John & Teresa Sayre

Melinda & Bill Scott

W. Lee & Peggi Morris

Joanne & Robert Erznosnik

New Couples Members

David Hughes

Nathan & Michelle Mirocha