

The Conch Call



FIRST QUARTER 2012

ST. GEORGE VILLAGE BOTANICAL GARDEN~CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & PRESERVATION

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Garden Friends,

In 1972, a dedicated group of members of the St. Croix Garden Club established the St. George Village Botanical Garden of St. Croix. The Garden Club had envisioned creating a site that would be dedicated to education and research regarding tropical botany and horticulture.

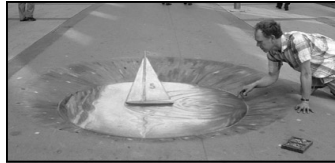
After exploring several possible sites, it was the property at Estate St. George offered by Robert Moon of Lakeside Manufacturing, Inc. that was finally selected. The decision to establish the Botanical Garden here was originally based on soil tests that deemed the land to be the best option, however the Garden Club members quickly discovered that the rich history of the property made it even more valuable. With a well researched and documented history dating back to almost 2,000 years ago, Estate St. George was not only the perfect site to interpret the complete human history of St. Croix, but also the vital role that plants have played throughout that history.

Additional gifts of land by the de Chabert family have resulted in the 16.5 acres of history and beauty that are cared for by the St. George Village Botanical Garden today.

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Art in the Garden

Saturday, March 24 1-4p



This sailboat looks like it just needs good breeze

Come and watch **chalk art** being created at the Garden for the first time. Talented artists and local students will be showing off their skills under the pergola near the Bodine Visitor's Center. The Blacksmith Shop will be open with smithy **Rich Waugh** demonstrating his talents with hot metal. Additional fun and different activities are being planned. If you would like to sponsor a chalk artist, please call for more information.

Admission is Adults \$5 children FREE

Tip Your Hat

40th Anniversary Garden Party

Sunday, March 25

3pm-6pm

An elegant afternoon Garden Party will be held to celebrate our 40th Anniversary. This is your chance to be daring and wear a beautiful, practical or outrageous chapeau. The Great Hall will feature **Art in Bloom** - original art by well known local artists, shown alongside floral interpretations. In addition the **Hibiscus, Orchid and Bonsai Society** members will show off their respective blooms and plants. Stroll in the Garden to show off your ensemble, view the completed chalk art and visit friends while sipping champagne and nibbling on hors d'oeuvres. The afternoon will conclude with the sale of the Art in Bloom works of art.

We will be tipping our hats (honoring) many of the individuals and groups that were instrumental in the creation of the Garden as we know it today. We will be looking for members from the original **Garden Club, donors, former Board Presidents, Board members and volunteers.**

Tickets are \$45 in advance or \$50 at the door.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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In the past 40 years there have been great challenges and struggles: taming the wild growth that had claimed the land, stabilizing ruins, renovating and building facilities, droughts, floods and hurricanes have all presented formidable obstacles. However, like St. Croix itself, the Garden has proven itself to be incredibly resilient in the face of so many challenges!

The dedication and support of the Garden members, volunteers and staff has resulted in the development of this beautiful property that is able to play a vital role in educating our island residents and visitors about the rich ethno-botanical heritage of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In 2012, please help us celebrate the great accomplishments of the many visitors, volunteers, sup-

porters, members and the St. Croix community that have all made it possible for the Garden to greet some 30,000 visitors annually (of which 2,500 are local students)!

On Saturday and Sunday, March 24th and 25th we will honor the vision and artistry of all who have been involved in shaping the history of the St. George Village Botanical Garden with a celebration of art and flowers. Please be sure to join us for a weekend of activities which celebrate the dedication, skills and creativity of our St. Croix community which has made it possible, for 40 years, for the St. George Village Botanical Garden to overcome all obstacles and fulfill the mission of Conservation, Education, and Preservation of the ethno-botanical heritage of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Sunday, March 25 Tip Your Hat to...

Look for **Jean Eastwood**, the first president of the Botanical Garden who will be one of our honored guests. Her wish to visit the Garden again was coordinated by *Jeremy Bloom's Wish of a Lifetime*. She currently lives in Arizona and is very excited about returning to the Garden and seeing the culmination of her dreams. Jean who is fondly remembered as the lady who always wore a hibiscus in her hair.

Representatives of the families that donated the property have been invited. Mary and Robert **Moon's** son **Larry** and daughter **Deborah** will arrive with their spouses **Judy** and **Daniel**. We will also look for members of the **deChabert family** to join our celebration.

Invited original Garden Club members include local residents **Helen Gilbert** and **Peyton Bryant**.

All current and former presidents, board members, donors & volunteers are encouraged to attend because they are responsible for what we are today!

Allow us to tip our hats to you!



President Jean Eastwood (center) with Mary & Robert Moon of Lakeside Manufacturing photo taken in 1972

WISH LIST

Help your Botanical Garden continue to offer residents and visitors a beautiful and educational experience! Here are some of the many ways you can help. Please consider donating the following items:

- ALL your gently-used household items for the "White Reindeer" rummage sale in December 2012
- 12 Golf Umbrellas for our Visitors to use on rainy days (\$25 each)
- Great Hall & Office Generator **INSTALLED AND OPERATIONAL** thanks to a generous donor
- Repair of gutters on Great Hall (\$25,000)
- Repair of Great Hall Doors and cane-bolts (\$12,000)
- Metal handrails for stairs in factory ruins (\$2,500)
- Replacement of exterior light fixtures in Great Hall (\$7,800)
- Leaf Rakes – both metal and plastic tines (\$20-25 each)
- New desktop computer for Administrative office (\$1,200)
- Digital projector (\$700)
- Repair of chain-link fence along east and south borders of the Garden (\$4,500)
- New Split unit air conditioner for Administrative office (\$3,000)
- 3 Energy Star rated refrigerators for Great Hall Kitchen, Manager's House, and Visitors' Center (\$750 each)
- 18" Chainsaw (\$900)
- 6 Round tables for Visitors' Center events (\$700)

YOUR time and talents as a volunteer at special events, as a tour guide, in the Museum Store on busy days, in the volunteer plant nursery, in the office, or maintaining the grounds! (PRICELESS!)

Please remember your donations to the St. George Village Botanical Garden are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please consult your tax advisor.

Gifts Ideas from the Garden

- Gift membership
- Courtyard Brick
- Ticket to Gardens by Moonlight
- Ticket to Anniversary Party
- Adopt a Spot
- Museum Store Gift Certificate
- Nursery Plants and/or Gift Certificate

NURSERY NOOK

The nursery is pleased to announce that we have expanded our hours to include the 2nd Saturday of each month. Our next Saturday to be open will be on February 11th from 9:00 am till 12:00 noon. We will continue to open the nursery every 2nd Saturday of each month to accommodate those who cannot visit the nursery on our regular schedule of Tuesday and Friday mornings.

Volunteer Bob Boyton has assembled a group of skilled nursery volunteers to assist people with their planting needs and to address any questions dealing with tropical gardening.

We have newly-grown desert roses (*Adenium obesum*) that are just starting to come into bloom being offered at a very fair price as well as several varieties of big heliconias that are grown on the SGVBG grounds.



Hope to see you at the nursery and thank you for

INVEST in your Garden

*Your Time, Talent & Treasure
are assets that keep the Garden growing.*

DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER THE GARDEN

EDUCATION: ON THE WINGS OF SPRING

SASKIA CORKE, EDUCATION COORDINATOR

With the beginning of its 40th year, the Garden is excited to resume its various education programs including StoryHour, Grow & Learn, and Second Saturday.

The BookMobile from the Florence Williams Public Library will return in March as part of our bimonthly StoryHour reading, every first Saturday and third Wednesday of the month. StoryHour strives to bring a new literary outlet for preschool aged children and introduce them to the natural world. The Garden's partnership with the BookMobile allows children and parents to peruse and check out books. Join us under the kapok tree as a guest reader shares a botanical themed story; participants pay only regular admission fees (members are free!).

This February, in our monthly Second Saturday workshop, our young participants discovered the sweet mysteries of chocolate: where it comes from to how it's made. The students were even able to make their own chocolate fudge to enjoy at home, as well as a chocolate concoction similar to the same drink enjoyed by the Spaniards centuries ago. Next month's Second Saturday will introduce our young participants to the "Power of Flowers." The Garden will be alight with various hues of reds, pinks, purples, yellow, and white as the flowering plants bud, blossom, and bloom.

If you are interested in a private workshop on the Garden for adults, students, or children, the Education program offers private workshop on various topics. Whether you want to learn more about soil, observe pollinators in action, or make your own soap, a private workshop or seminar is a great way to spend the day. Call or email if you would like more information.

And ladies don't forget your big hats and, good sirs, do not neglect your fine gentlemen's attire for our big birthday bash: the weekend of the 24th & 25th of March will be the 40th Anniversary of the St. George Village Botanical Garden, and the Education program announces its participation to provide fun and educational activities for the kids! Please join us to celebrate this significant milestone in the history of the Garden.

Do you have an idea for future workshops or programs? Or would you like to be a guest reader at a Story Hour? Email Saskia at sgvbg.edu@gmail.com.

Flowering plants comprise 90% of the Plant Kingdom, with over 250,000 known species on the planet. They have found their way to almost every conceivable corner of the world, producing flowers in the harsh desert, unsympathetic alpine reaches, aquatic environments and habitats with minimal sunlight.

The flower, or bloom, is the reproductive organ of the plant. The four basic parts of a flower: sepals, petals, stamens, and carpels allow the plant to produce seeds to proliferate the species.

Due to the flower's role as fruit and seed producer, many angiosperms play an important part in the diet of humans and other animals. Some flowers produce juicy fruits that supply us with valuable nutrients like the orange, avocado, pomegranate, and tomatoes. While other flowers give rise to beans and peas, a staple food for many cultures. Flowers strive to ensure the survival of the plant, which results in many strange and interesting floral adaptations unique to certain species.

Many of those floral adaptations fulfill a nutritional need. Carnivorous plants use their modified floral organs to ensnare unsuspecting animals, such as flies and ants, as a means to gather supplemental protein and nitrogen they cannot get from the soil alone.

There are some flowers that rely on foul smelling odors to get some love. The world's largest flower: *Rafflesia arnoldii*, has developed a noxious scent similar to decaying flesh that attracts animals, such as flies and beetles, which move between male and female plants and ultimately pollinate the flowers. Other plants have adapted to bloom at night to ensure pollination by nocturnal animals.

Flowering plants are an extremely diverse group, useful to millions of people in the world in different ways. Whether it is a dozen roses, potpourri and colognes, groceries, or late night strolls through a garden, flowers have found a way to enrich our lives. Join us in March, as we explore the beauty and vast diversity of Flowering Plants. Our young participants will get to learn about plant and flower classification in the Herbarium and "create" their own flowers. Participants will press flowers from around the Garden and use them to make a bookmark to enjoy at home or in school.

So don't be a late bloomer! Come out and explore the Garden and all its floral delights. Garden member enjoy a reduced fee for these programs. Call the office at 692-2874 to reserve your space! Saturday, March 10, 9 am to 12 noon. \$5/person for members; \$8/person for non-members.

COCONUT OIL

Grow and Learn, "Coconut Oil"

Saturday, February 25, 10 am to 12 noon

Grow and Learn returns on the 25th of February with an exciting presentation on the nutritional and cosmetic benefits of coconut oil. Although it is 95% saturated fat, this edible carrier oil, is one of the healthiest in the world boasting both internal and external gains. East Indian cultures have used coconut oil for their hair and skin to provide welcomed nourishment. A little goes a long way with this stuff. And like most everything moderation is key! If you would like to learn more about coconut oil and witness how it is extracted and refined from the actual nut, this **Grow & Learn** is just for you. Yoki Hanley, founder and creator of a local vegetable-based skin care line—Itiba Beauty—will demonstrate how to go from nut to nourish in this seminar. All guests leave with their own coconut oil sample to enjoy. The two-hour seminar starts at 10 am, and spaces are limited so be sure to voice your interest and reserve your space for an opportunity to grow and learn about coconut oil.

\$5/person for members; \$15/person for non-members

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Glamour at the Garden was an unqualified success, made memorable by a live auction conducted by candles, flashlight, auto headlights and cell phones. Guest responded cheerfully and quickly when the power went out a few minutes into the live auction. Auctioneer Bruce Wilson continued on amid the romantic light until the power was restored later in the evening.

The new generator made possible by a generous donor was ready to be installed, but due to island delays was not operational for the gala. It was completed the evening of December 22nd. At 7:30am on December 23rd the utility pole in the parking lot fell down, knocking out our power and taking the phone lines with it. The new generator was started and hummed along the next couple of days until WAPA was restored. What incredible timing!



Spread the word to potential renters that they no longer have to be concerned about losing power during rental events at the Garden!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GLAMOUR AT THE GARDEN SPONSORS:

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DENALI ASSET MANAGEMENT
HOVENSA

A Better Copy * A Friend * A Friend * Cane Bay Partners
JKC Communications * Gary M. Lalor * Sandi Savage
*** Capt. & Mrs. Stiles F. Stevens**

Caribbean Country 93.5 * Innovative * Marshall & Sterling
Owen Johnson Electric * Francie Whittenburg



St. George Village
Botanical Garden

127 Estate St. George, Frederiksted, VI 00840

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
KINGSHILL, VI
PERMIT NO.40

Hours

Open Every day except Christmas; 9 am—5 pm

1/2 Price Admission for St. Croix Residents every
Sunday; STX Children (Under 12) Free on Sunday

HERBARIUM HOURS:

By appointment. Call 340.692.2874

LIBRARY HOURS:

Tuesday & Friday 1pm-4pm

2nd Saturdays 9am-noon

Or by appointment. Call 340-718-4729

NURSERY HOURS:

Tuesday & Friday; 9 am-11am

MUSEUM HOURS:

Monday through Friday; 9 am – 5 pm, and on weekend
days when a cruise ship is in port.

MUSEUM STORE HOURS:

Monday through Saturday; 10 am – 4 pm,

And during special events.

Tel (340) 692-2874 Fax (340) 692-6154

infoatthegarden@gmail.com

www.sgvbg.org

Upcoming Garden Events

FEBRUARY

15	StoryHour	10am
25	Grow & Learn	10am-noon
26	Annual Meeting & Volunteer Party	Noon-3pm

MARCH

2	Lunch at the Garden	11:30am
3	StoryHour	10am
10	Second Saturday	9am-noon
13	Lunch at the Garden	11:30am
21	StoryHour	10am
24	Art in the Garden	1-4pm
25	40th Anniversary Party & Art in Bloom	3pm-6pm

APRIL

7	StoryHour	10am
14	2nd Saturday	9am-noon
28	Grow & Learn	10am-noon