

# The Conch Call



THIRD QUARTER 2012

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

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Garden Friends,

*As we continue to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the St. George Village Botanical Garden in 2012, we also celebrate the skills, artistry, and hard work of the countless people who have been a part of the almost 2,000 year human history of this special property.*

*We took an opportunity to honor some of the many donors, volunteers and founding members of the Botanical Garden this past March at the 40th Anniversary Garden Party. In July, we celebrated the skills and creativity of our local farmers, artisans and culinary artists during Mango Melee and Tropical Fruit Festival.*

*Coming up in October, we will continue to highlight the important people/plant interaction throughout the history of the property with our 3rd Annual Heritage Festival. This event features the extensive human history of the property that is now the St. George Village Botanical Garden and is meant to remind visitors that the traditions, culture, and heritage of the Virgin Islands are a unique result of the combinations of the people and the natural resources of the region.*

*Beginning with the first Amerindian settlers that arrived on the site around 100 AD, the plants they found growing here, as well as the plants they brought with them, played significant roles in the daily lives of the cultures that developed here. Plants supplied food, medicine, clothing, shelter, and a myriad of other uses, including tree trunks used for the canoes that made inter-island travel possible.*

*Continued on Page 2*

## Fall Heritage Festival

On October 7th St. George Village Botanical Garden will present its 3rd annual Fall Heritage Festival. This event recognizes the history of St. George and pays tribute to those individuals who lived and worked here.

***Experience history through all your senses:***

### See

Crucian crafts: Furniture caning by **Lavonne Wise**; the art of blacksmithing with **Rich Waugh**; basket weaving with **Judy Bain**

### Hear

**Junie Bomba** Blowing the Tutu

**Dimitri "Pikey" Copemann & Friends**

### Taste

Crucian Bush Seafood Kalaloo by **Veronica Gordon**

Local juices by **Hazel Smith St-Ange**

Desserts by **Laverne Bates**

Lunch made by the **students of CTEC**

### Feel

Your emotions stirred by the stories of enslaved individuals who lived on St. George, their true histories enacted by

**Per Ankh troupe.**

### Smell

The enticing fragrances of the garden during your tour with

**Olasee Davis**

Do not miss this very special event remembering the people who lived and worked here. Admission (\$5 for adults and \$2 for children) includes the opportunity to enjoy the event and explore the beauty of the Garden from noon until 4pm.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Continued From Page 1

*During the colonial period, it was the plants that were growing here and the plants that could be grown here that made these islands valuable enough to for countries to go to war, buy, sell, and trade. On St. Croix, and in particular on Estate St. George, it was a plant – sugar cane – that shaped the economics, land use, ownership and a role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade. The colonial-era structures on this property are all a testament to the power and wealth provided by sugar cane as well as the labor and skills of the people that were forced to grow this crop. While this one plant dominated all aspects of life for both the land owners and the enslaved, other plants continued in vital roles for the materials of everyday life.*

*With this rich and well-documented human and ethno-botanical history, the St. George Village Botanical Garden has the unique opportunity to remind all visitors of the importance of plants in the development of the traditions and cultures of the past and present.*

*I invite everyone to visit the St. George Village Botanical Garden and experience the 3rd Annual Heritage Festival on Sunday, October 7 and learn how the music, crafts, food and many other traditions of the Virgin Islands were shaped by the combination of the plants growing here, the plants brought here and the knowledge, skills, and artistry of the many different people who have called these islands their home.*

*It is our hope that all our visitors better understand that the conservation, education, and preservation of the ethno-botanical history of the U.S. Virgin Islands is vital to the preservation of the unique heritage and culture of the region.*

Sincerely,

David M. Hamada

## SPECIAL ADVANCE SALE - SAVE \$25 ON COMBO TICKETS



*Save the Dates!*

**Saturday Evening  
November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Private showing of the Classic Movie  
"Somewhere in Time"  
at Government House, Christiansted  
Hosted by  
First Lady Cecile de Jongh  
and on

**Friday Evening  
December 7<sup>th</sup>**

"Somewhere in Time Gala"  
at St. George Village Botanical Garden  
Hosted by  
First Lady Cecile de Jongh

"Somewhere in Time" November 3<sup>rd</sup> movie night and December 7<sup>th</sup> Gala combination tickets are now available. Movie night hosted by First Lady Cecile deJongh at Government House will be \$30 per person and the gala which includes a sit down dinner will be \$125. ONLY Combination tickets for both events are now available. Individual tickets will be available at a future date.

\$130 per person for both events or \$1,000 for both events for eight individuals, which will include a reserved table at the gala.

## 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 **DONATED**
- 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)
- Split unit air conditioner for Administrative office used A/C units **DONATED BY HOVENSА AND INSTALLED**
- 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.



### *Yoga at the Garden*

Join Registered Yoga Teacher Sarah Stamper for yoga classes in the East Gallery of the Great Hall every Wednesday at 9am and Saturday at 10:30am. Sarah teaches beginner to intermediate level classes. One hour classes are only \$7 for Garden members and \$10 for non-members. No need to pre-register, just come on down!

### *Lunch at the Garden*

Finally, the students are back in school and the ever popular lunches will resume. Friday, September 21st is the inaugural lunch of the season prepared and served by the culinary students from St. Croix Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC). Your participation helps to support the efforts of these students, and your reward is an amazing lunch. Reservations are essential!

## LOOK AT US NOW

Come and see the new and improved administrative office. The blueprint done by Renee D'Adamo in 2011 of "what we would like to do with the admin offices in the future, if we had the money" came in very handy. David Roznowski of Hovensa who had already facilitated the donation of 2 air conditioners for the office then invited us to go "shopping" at Hovensa. David and Holly brought Renee's blueprint and proceeded to choose desks, filing cabinets, bookshelves etc based on her design. We even got a water cooler and a variety of office supplies at no cost. Lindsey & Michael Graci of Brandon Transfer donated moving services.

**DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER THE GARDEN**



## EDUCATION: THE COLORS OF SUMMER

It is back to school time again, but there is always time to take the learning outdoors. Spend the morning of the first Saturday or third Wednesday of every month at StoryHour under the kapok tree on the front lawn. The cool morning breezes help make StoryHour is a great way to instill a love of the outdoors and books in our youngest garden enthusiasts. StoryHour takes place at 10 in the morning, and features a botanically themed story from a guest reader or storyteller. Afterwards, feel free to explore the garden and take in the sights, smells, and sounds of summer.

With rainy season soon upon us, there will be lots more insects around. Not everyone likes these bugs and crawly critters. Some are slimy, others can be annoying, and some you never want to cross paths with. Although many of them can be considered pests, sometimes, insects are very valuable to the ecosystems and our gardens as well.

If you go outside and look around, you are bound to see at least one species of insect either scurrying through the grass or flying through the air. Insects are everywhere; with over a million known species, the members of the Class Insecta make up more than half of all the living things in the world! Insects belong to a group of animals called Arthropods, that also includes lobsters, crabs, scorpions, centipedes, and spiders. An arthropod is an animal without a backbone—an invertebrate; they are also characterized by having jointed appendages, segmented body, and a rigid skin called an exoskeleton that provides protection and support. Due to their jointed limbs and segmented bodies, arthropods can be very flexible making many of them easily capable of finding food, a place to live, or escaping our human wrath.

Many of the arthropod species are sometimes mistaken for insects. Spiders and ticks have been commonly referred to as such but when you know what to look for you can tell they're very different. The legs have it! Different types of arthropods are designated by the number of their segmented leg pairs, only insects have three of them. Spiders are characterized by eight legs, and different species of millipedes, contrary to the name, can have 30 to 400 legs! The bodies of insects are divided into three parts—the head, the thorax, and the abdomen. Other defining characteristics include compound eyes and one pair of antennae. So, if there are six legs, you've more than likely got an insect. Insects can have specialized mouth parts to ingest their food, like the coiled proboscis of the butterfly or the ragged rippers of an ant. Many insects also have

wings. Some ants, for example, have wings for a certain part of their life, other insects such as butterflies, mosquitoes, and ladybugs develop wings in their mature states. Butterflies can have very beautiful and prismatic wings, and are very enjoyable to see flitting from flower to flower. On the other hand the buzzing sound of the bumblebee or housefly can be very annoying to many people. Although many insects share the same body composition, their physical looks can be extremely different from one species to another.

Insects constitute one of the greatest examples of biodiversity on the planet. They are found in every corner of the globe, from mountains to the ocean and the spaces in between. Insects have evolved with their environments and have found niches that helped to further their species. Many plants and insects coevolved together, as did insects and their predators, which results in beneficial interactions such as pollination or detrimental behaviors like parasitism. Insects are valuable members of the ecosystem and many of them perform jobs that we humans find valuable: silkworm larvae create strong, resilient fibers used to make silk fabric; ants and termites are valuable recyclers; dung beetles compost; and honeybees provide us with honey and beeswax.

Learning more about insects can help us to gain a deeper understanding between the plants and our environment. As much as they can be pests, insects can be very valuable economically and aesthetically. October's Second Saturday will teach kids more about these unique organisms. Always a fun activity for the kid, join us on the 13th of October from 9 to noon at the Garden's monthly Second Saturday to investigate these abundant creatures. It's what the buzz is about, so please don't miss out! Garden members enjoy a reduced fee for these programs. Call the office at 692-2874 to reserve your space!

If you are interested in a private workshop in the Garden for adults, students, or children, the Education program still 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.

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](mailto:sgvbg.edu@gmail.com).

### Christie Warren Bartle

August 3, 1942 – July 30, 2012

On July 30, 2012, the St. George Village Botanical Garden lost a valued friend with the passing of Christie Warren Bartle. Christie and her husband, Robert (Bob), were actively involved with SGVVBG in many ways over the past years, with Christie serving as President of the Board of Governors from 1997-99. SGVVBG offers our most sincere condolences to her family and many friends.

### ARE YOU GETTING THE MESSAGE?



Are you receiving emails from the Garden? If you have an email address and are not hearing from us, please let us know! We have over 700 email addresses and we want to be sure we

have your correct information so you don't miss out on the latest goings-on at the Garden.

We are stretching your membership dollars by sending fewer items via the post office and more by email. Our lunch menus are typically only available a couple of days before the luncheon and we like to send updates on scheduled programs and event details. Help us be good stewards of your donations and save money by limiting postage expense.



### THE MUSEUM STORE



Don't forget the Museum Store when you need a treat for yourself or a gift for a friend.

Come and browse through the local cookbooks, garden books, our new children's books and educational toys. Check out Moko Jumbies by Sandra Michael and the large selection of individual or boxed sets of botanical themed gift cards. Don't miss our expanding selection of locally made jewelry, and remember members receive a 10% discount.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MANGO MELEE SPONSORS:

**VI DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, UVI COOPERATIVE EXTENTION SERVICE,  
VI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, UVI AGRICULTURAL STATION**

### HOVENSA

**A Better Copy \* A Friend \* Cruzan Rum, Gary M. Lalor  
JKC Communications \* A Garden Volunteer \* Tropical Shipping**

**Caribbean Country 93.5 \* Diamond Industrial \* Innovative  
Marshall & Sterling \* Sandi Savage**



St. George Village  
Botanical Garden

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

127 Estate St. George, Frederiksted, VI 00840

### *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:**

By appointment. Call 340-718-4729

**NURSERY HOURS:**

Tuesday & Friday; 9 am-11am  
2nd Saturdays 9am-noon

**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](mailto:infoatthegarden@gmail.com)

[www.sgvbg.org](http://www.sgvbg.org)

### *Upcoming Garden Events*

SEPTEMBER

21	Lunch at the Garden	11:30am
22	Grow & Learn	10am-noon

OCTOBER

2	Lunch at the Garden	11:30am
6	StoryHour	10am
7	Fall Heritage Festival	Noon-4pm
13	Second Saturday	9am-noon
19	Lunch at the Garden	11:30am
17	StoryHour	10am
27	Grow & Learn	10am-noon
29	Gardens by Moonlight	7-10pm
30	Lunch at the Garden	11:30am

NOVEMBER

3	Movie Night at Government House	6:30pm
3	StoryHour	10am
9	Lunch at the Garden	11:30
10	2nd Saturday	9am-noon
20	Lunch at the Garden	11:30
21	StoryHour	10am
24	Grow & Learn	10am-noon