

The Conch Call



FOURTH QUARTER 2011

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Garden Friends,

As we head into the time of year that colder weather in the northern parts of the world remind us of the distinct advantage that Tropical living provides, we have much to look forward to here at the St.

George Village Botanical Garden besides great weather!

With December approaching, this means that we are busily preparing for events like the Holiday Gala and Auction as well as Christmas Spoken Here. These signature events kick off the holiday season here in St. Croix and are our most important fundraising weekend all year long.

The Gala on Friday, December 2 will, of course, feature the live auction of 10 lavishly decorated Christmas Trees, many of which are then donated to other local charities or organizations like the Women's Coalition, Queen Louise Home for Children, the Juan F. Luis Hospital, or the Herbert Grigg Home for the Aged. So in the spirit of the season, participants have an opportunity to generously support two very worthy organizations – SGVBG AND the recipient of the beautiful Christmas Tree! There will also a chance to bid on vacation get-aways and other exciting items. The silent auction always features a dazzling array of jewelry, art and other great gifts from the many businesses and individuals that support SGVBG. Continued on Page 2

Glamour at the Garden

Glamour at the Garden will be the event of the season. This elegant evening should not be missed. The Great Hall will be framed in one-of-a-kind designer decorated trees which will be auctioned to the highest bidder. Many winning bidders double the impact of their purchase by donating the tree to another agency.

You will be able to plan your perfect purchases using preview emails and/or the entire catalog which will be sent via email and will also be posted on our web site. Just one tantalizing new item to look forward to is a trip to Nevis including air fare.



It's Official:

St. George Village Botanical Garden is the Best



St. Croix Chamber of Commerce recently honored St. George Village Botanical Garden as the best Non-Profit Organization of the Year. Thank you to the Board of Governors, countless volunteers and staff who made this happen.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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The buffet-style fare will be prepared by the culinary students of the St. Croix Career and Technical Education Center, who always do a fantastic job of creating a delicious and exciting menu.

Then on Sunday, December 4, Christmas Spoken Here is a fun day for the whole family to enjoy a decidedly tropical holiday experience. Vendors will be selling local foods, drinks, crafts and gifts. Local choirs will be creating a holiday ambiance with traditional Christmas music and songs. Families will have a chance to take pictures with Santa. Our volunteer plant nursery and Museum Store will have many great gift ideas. And the whole community will have a chance to view the 10 decorated Christmas Trees that were auctioned of at the Gala, before they get delivered to their respective homes for the holidays.

In addition to these events, there are other ways to support the conservation, education, and preservation programs of the St. George Village Botanical

Garden this holiday season. Please consider giving gifts like Garden memberships (membership also allows free admission to over 250 public gardens across the US and Canada!), engraved memorial bricks for our Visitors' Center Courtyard, or gift certificates to the Museum Store or Volunteer Plant Nursery to friends and family this Christmas. Also, take a look at our "Wish List" and see the many ways that you can offer generous support for our activities and operations.

During this season of giving, there are many ways to show friends and family that you care while also supporting St. Croix's most beautiful 16 acres of history and flora, the St. George Village Botanical Garden. If nothing else, treat yourself and/or a loved one to a visit and enjoy the balmy winter weather and spectacular landscape at the St. George Village Botanical Garden.

Thank you,
David M. Hamada



DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER THE GARDEN

There are many ways to invest in St George Village Botanical Garden. One of the most important and least utilized is a planned gift. Your attorney can show you how easy it is to ensure that we continue to grow in the future.

If your family doesn't know what to get for your CHRISTMAS
How do you expect them to know how to handle your ESTATE?

We have a very special place available for a few of our friends. Under the spreading branches (and exploding seed pods) of a magnificent sand-box tree are a limited number of plots for the interment of ashes. Call for more information



Sip and Shop

Sunday, December 11, 10am-4pm

Sip a glass of wine, sample goodies and check out the special sales at our Museum Store!

WISH LIST

Play Santa this year and 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 during Christmas Spoken Here, December 4, 2011!

12 Golf Umbrellas for our Visitors to use on rainy days (\$25 each)

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.



SGVBG Showcases Local History and Beauty for Danish Visitors and Cruise Ship Passengers

In October we started receiving visitors from the new weekly charter flight from Denmark. Our Danish visitors are fascinated by the rich history of the property here at Estate St. George, especially, of course, the history of the sugar cane plantation that operated here when these islands were known as the Danish West Indies.

We have been receiving between 100 – 150 Danish visitors each week since the beginning of these weekly flights.

October is also the beginning of the new cruise ship season. Starting in November there will be an increase in visits from cruise ships from the Celebrity and Royal Caribbean International lines, as well as a few other smaller lines.

In preparation for these visits we have trained over a dozen new tour guides. We have been very fortunate to have a very diverse group of people who are willing and able to share the exciting history and flora of our beautiful 16 acre property. Our guides act as perfect ambassadors not only for SGVBG, but also for our beautiful island home, as the visit to the Garden is often a highlight and sig-

nificant portion of the cruise passengers' very short day on St. Croix. SGVBG is very fortunate to have these individuals who are enthusiastic about sharing information about SGVBG as well as positive outlooks on life in our chosen home, St. Croix. It is very rewarding to always be receiving very positive feedback from our visitors regarding their experience at SGVBG.

Because we feel that this positive visitors experience is essential for all our guests, both residents and tourists, we are always seeking volunteers who are willing and able to share their experience and enthusiasm for our beautiful island home, St. Croix. If you can offer 2-3 hours of your time during the mornings of any day of the week to assist in our beautiful Museum Store, or as a "greeter", or are interested in becoming a tour guide, please contact the Garden office (692-2874). We are in particular need of anyone who has any knowledge (at any level) of the Danish language on Monday and Friday mornings!

Gifts Ideas from the Garden

Gift membership

Courtyard Brick

Ticket to Gardens by Moonlight

Ticket to Glamour at the Garden

Adopt a Spot

Museum Store Gift Certificate

Nursery Plants and/or Gift Certificate

CHRISTMAS SPOKEN HERE



Christmas Spoken Here is everyone's favorite family friendly holiday season kick-off. The Great Hall will be transformed into a fairyland of sparkling, fully decorated Christmas trees. The air will be filled with the sounds of the season with performances from local choirs. You will not be able to resist the tantalizing fragrances emanating from the food vendor booths.

Be sure to bring your holiday gift list. The driveway will be lined with all types of vendors, the White Reindeer tables will be filled with goodies and both the Nursery and Museum Store will be holding special sales.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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GOT STUFF OR TIME?

Do you have some items that need a new home after fall cleaning? Please consider donating them for our ever-popular White Reindeer Sale. Items may be dropped off at the Museum Store Monday - Saturday between the hours of 9 and 4.

Would you like to help out with any of our upcoming events? We need volunteers for everything from pricing and organizing donated items to welcoming guests at Christmas Spoken Here. Please call the office and let us know when you are available and how you would like to help.

BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RICHARD & PEGGY BODINE

MONETTE BOOTH

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FALL HERITAGE FESTIVAL SPONSORS:

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St. George Village
Botanical Garden

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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:

Tuesday & Friday 1pm-4pm
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

NOVEMBER

24 Grow & Learn 10am-Noon

DECEMBER

2 Glamour at the Garden 6pm

4 Christmas Spoken Here 11am-4pm

10 2nd Saturday 9am-noon

11 Sip & Shop 10am-4pm

17 Grow & Learn 10am-noon

JANUARY

14 2nd Saturday 9am-Noon

28 Grow & Learn 10am-noon



Lunch at the Garden

dates not available at press time. Watch
for emails or call the office for updates.