

The Conch Call

FIRST QUARTER 2010

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

President's Message

Dear Members:

It is with a certain amount of sadness, a kind of bittersweet feeling, really that I write this last President's Message to you, the members of the St. George Village Botanical Garden of St. Croix.

The month of February will mark the end of my eight years as a member of your Board of Directors. I can't tell you that every aspect of every day as a board member has been filled with fun and pleasure. You wouldn't believe me anyway, and you know it's just not true. What I can tell you is that it I've found that it has been a rewarding experience, and looking back, I'm rather humbled to have been a part of such a great organization. I've come to realize over the years what a truly remarkable story the Garden has to tell and I realize now more than ever just how much of a good thing the Garden is for St. Croix. It can only stay a good thing through lots of hard work, dedication, determination and community support.

With the ability to speak only through my own experience, I feel the Garden right now is in a good place and I believe the worst of times are over. Cruise ships are returning, we have a strong staff in place, devoted volunteers, a growing membership and a board that is determined to work hard for the Garden's members. Please believe me when I say: We truly do get better and better each year.

I will as always finish by urging all of you reading this, on island or off island, to consider doing all you can to help your Botanical Garden flourish.

Sincerely,

Gary Bourdon

A CALENDAR FULL OF GARDEN EVENTS GETS THE YEAR OFF TO A GREAT START

by Nina York

There is a new spirit of excitement at the Garden these days, buoyed by the success of the wonderful December Gala and Christmas Spoken Here over the weekend of last December 4-6. The Gala drew a larger crowd than ever, and we thank event chair Laura Ballard and her volunteers for making it an unforgettable evening. With Holly Herold at the helm, David Hamada juggling his talents in multiple fields, from decoration to tours to plant erudition, Ken Silva's able bookkeeping, plus helping hands at the nursery and groundskeeping staff, the Garden is blessed and grateful. We also have a new, high energy Museum Store manager, Sue Bacallao.

Events start on February 13 with the morning's *Second Saturdays* and later that day an off-site event, a fund-raising *Art Exhibit Reception* at Maufé Gallery in Christiansted, repeated for Art Thursday on the 18th, offering a unique private art collection of Caribbean Classics by prominent island artists donated to us by the estate of the late Rosalind Denney. (See articles on both events inside for details.)

Our informative *Grow and Learn* educational workshop is on the 19th.

Two days later, on February 21, is our *Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Party*. As members you undoubtedly received your invitation and ballots. Send in your ballots but



also attend the meeting and greet our new staff members. We will be electing a new President. Gary Bourdon is owed many thanks for his years of dedicated service, crowned by the November opening of our Museum, to which he contributed greatly. The month's final event is the fabulous *Gardens by Moonlight* on the 28th.

Second Saturdays is on March 13th; *Grow and Learn* on the 19th.

And on March 27 and 28, we welcome again the *Palletteers*, who present *Art in the Garden* with an opening and reception Saturday from 6 to 9 pm (\$20 and cash bar) and open showing on Sunday from 11 to 4 pm (\$5). Included are exhibits by the Bonsai, Hibiscus and Orchid Societies. Last year's premiere proved so successful that the *Palletteers* were asked to return this year, to which they happily consented. You are sure to enjoy this showcase of island talent and might even take some of their art home with you.

Second Saturdays Carries On

Education Coordinator, Melanie Feltmate, has moved on as of December 2009. The Garden thanks her for her wonderful work on Second Saturdays and wishes her the best of luck in future. Melanie, we will miss you!

Luckily for us, Second Saturdays carried on in December and January 2010 as Board member and creator of the program, Marilyn Chakroff, returned to run those two workshops. And now we are pleased to announce that we have a new Education Coordinator, Ms. Jennifer Travis, who will pick up Second Saturdays beginning in February. Ms. Travis is ready to hit the ground running and is very excited to be coming on board at the Garden. Please help us welcome Jennifer when you see her!

We would also like to announce a new volunteer for Second Saturdays, Ms. Melissa Smith, who is a retired art teacher. She has already worked on several Second Saturdays, helping children paint hummingbirds and make leaf rubbings, and she has some great ideas for the future as well. Thanks, Melissa!

Bring a child or two and join us for February's Second Saturday, Rock Art, or March, Design with Nature. As always, these programs are held the Second Saturday of the month from 9 am until noon at the Bodine Center. Call 692-2874 to reserve your spot!



Having fun at a Second Saturdays session - a favorite family event.

F.Y.I.

Latest News from the Garden

Many people have dreamt of having a lunch at the Garden - what lovelier spot could you ask for? Well, it is happening! On weekdays by advance reservation, your group can now enjoy a delicious lunch at the Bodine Center, catered by Good to Chew students (who did a great job for our Christmas Gala.) Call Holly at 692-2874 for details and reservations.

Prepare for this year's Gala - carrying the theme "Baubles, Bangles and Beads", again to be chaired by Laura Ballard!

We are looking for adoptive parents for our Adopt-a-Spot sites around the Garden. Pick your favorite and let us hear from you.

Grow and Learn on February 18 will cover Agaves or century plants, and on March 19 the topic will be Bromeliads.

December brought 424 passengers from 11 cruise ships to the Garden. January brought 478 passengers from 9 cruise ship visits. We hear reports that the cruise ships calling here next year will increase to 120! Happy news for St. Croix!

Irene Carlson, the wife of the late Lawrence Carlson who is interred at the Garden, passed away January 9. Her ashes will be interred alongside her husband. We are grateful for her generosity to the Garden. May she rest in peace.

GET WELL: Virginia Stevens, our devoted Board member, slipped and broke her leg in three places during a tour of the Garden. She was operated on in the JFL hospital. We wish her a quick recovery and send our love. Staunch Garden volunteer **Bob Price** is also under the weather - best wishes for him, too..

SGVBG Museum & Library Grand Opening

November 14, a significant day in St. Croix history, marking the arrival in 1493 of Christopher Columbus and his fleet of 17 vessels at Salt River, was chosen by the Garden as opening day of the little museum of Garden history from prehistoric to present times. The museum features attractive exhibits and video show documenting the various periods of its history. It is definitely worth a visit, for adults as well as school children.

The opening early evening reception drew over 60 guests, who were treated to a few speeches and a buffet of delectable hors d'oeuvres supplied by the Good to Chew Catering from St. Croix Educational Complex, and musical entertainment by the Santa Cruz Brass.

Be sure to take time to enjoy the exhibits in the museum, which is located next to the Library and across from the Orchid House. The Library is also well worth a visit; our book and document collection is now beautifully housed on bookshelves donated by Hank Hunt and sorted, catalogued and arranged by Virginia and Stiles Stevens. We thank these willing and skilled volunteers for their contribution. Library hours are Tuesday and Friday 1-4 pm and by special prior (2 days) reservation. Call and leave message at 773-4729. Read the newsletter link on our website.

New Face at the Museum Store

Many of you may recognize Sue Bacallao as ably having served you at recently closed Quiet Storm clothing emporium in Christiansted. Some of you may know her from the many Crab Races she and husband Tito have conducted in St. Croix with much success and enthusiasm.

Now Sue has a new challenge - to succeed Rebekah Sabia, who returned to Colorado to assist her daughter in embarking on her college studies. We will miss Rebekah's artistic talent, but no one is irreplaceable, and we wish Sue lots of success in putting her own mark on the store, which has become extremely successful in the past year. Take a peek inside and meet Sue in her new venue.

Store Hours: Mon - Sat 10 - 4

Maufé Gallery Fundraiser Art Show

Opening Reception:

Saturday, February 13, 2010 5 – 8 PM

AND

Art Thursday: Thursday, February 18th 5 – 9 PM

A fundraiser for the St. George Village Botanical Garden featuring the collected artwork of the late Rosalind Denney.

Maufé Gallery in Christiansted is hosting an art benefit on behalf of the Garden on February 13th and again on February's Art Thursday. The show features pieces from the collection of the late Rosalind Denney as donated to the St. George Village Botanical Garden. Art pieces included in the group are works by Don Dahlke, Preston Doane, Fritz Henle, Toby Shoyer, Roy Lawaetz and others.

The artwork was donated to the Garden with the intention of making them available to the public and as a way to help support the Garden.

All are invited to visit the show during the opening reception on February 13 and during the February Art Thursday on February 18. The show will remain open, by appointment, through March 5th. Please call 340.332.4556 for appointments.

For further information contact Maufé Gallery at 340.332.4556 or the Botanical Garden at 340.692.2874.



“Christiansted Waterfront Scene” (1979) by Toby Shoyer is one of the fine works in the art fundraiser.



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*New and Renewing
 Members
 October - January*

SILVER PALM

Doug & Bunny Bewick*

BRONZE PALM

Helen Engelhardt*

Thomas Zimmerman*

COUPLE

Robert & Cynthia Goldberg*

Gerri Hanna & Bill Paxton*

Kimberly Japinga & Carl Hartman

Victor & Tina Roberge

Ken & Pat Schielke*

M/M Jim Simpson*

Bernard Thiel & Angela Hummel*

M/M Trent Waldo

Van & Kathryn Wood*

SENIOR COUPLE

Catherine Blakley & Owen Harper*

Alan & Dorothy Bronstein*

Louis & Betty Cambra*

John & Bonnie Clendenin

Denis & Carol Dickerson*

Gary & Linda Doty*

Joane & Robert Erzoznik*

Kelly Gloger & Bonnie Luria*

Richard Harris & John Connor*

Vern Lewis & Victor Jackson

Diane Moran & Dick LaRhetta*

Paul & Sandy Radczenko*

Jim & Kathy Thobe**

Barbara & Michael Walsh

Robert & Suzanne Winslow*

INDIVIDUAL

Jayne M. Edwards*

Althea Jacobs

Jami Janis*

Ian Lundgren*

Rebecca Merwin*

Linda Morland*

Erik Pedersen

Lea Ann Robson*

Anne Thurland

Catalina Torres

Trent Waldo

SENIOR INDIVIDUAL

Vilma Bigelow

Nancy Dawson*

Linda Finch*

Constance Hadala*

Patricia Huyett*

Michael Makedonsky*

Margaret Merrill*

Ilyn Musser

Joyce O'Reilly

Linda Perez*

Lorine Williams*

Myrna Wilson

**denotes renewing members*

Upcoming Events at the Garden

FEBRUARY 2010

Saturday, February 13, 9-noon *Second Saturdays*

5 - 8 pm Fundraising Art Show Reception, and

Thursday, February 18, 5 -9 pm (Art Walk) Maufé Gallery,
 Company St., Christiansted

Friday, February 19, 3-5 pm *Grow and Learn Workshop*

Sunday, February 21, 12 noon Volunteer Appreciation
 Party and Annual Meeting

Monday, February 28, 7-10 pm Gardens by Moonlight

MARCH 2010

Saturday, March 13 , 9-noon *Second Saturdays*

Friday, March 19, 3-5 pm *Grow and Learn Workshop*

Saturday, March 27, 7-9 pm *Art in the Garden- The
 Paletteers Reception & Sale*

Sunday, March 28 10 am-4 pm *Art in the Garden - Nursery
 Sale (11 am-3 pm)*

**Board of Governors
 2009-2010**

(WILL CHANGE 2/21/10)
 Gary M. Bourdon (President)

Susan J. Ladwig (Vice
 President)

Sandi Savage. (Interim
 Treasurer)

Marilyn Chakroff(Secretary)

Nathan Bishop

James Bland

Monette Booth

Brian Daley

James Kobak

Kate Lincoln

Max McIntosh

Virginia Stevens

Nina York

Horticultural Director:
 David Hamada

Executive Administrator:
 Holly Herold

Bookkeeper:
 Ken Silva