

NATIVE & UNCOMMON PLANTS

February 2012 News

www.nativeanduncommonplants.com

Leslie Pierpont

Remember, if you have a topic you want covered or specific questions, please email me.

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or phone 904.388.9851



Darrows Blueberry



Cardinal Flower



Fringe Tree

Upcoming Events

The Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens First Saturday Garden Tour

February 4 Landscaping ideas (part 1)-The Green of the Garden

Spring is just around the corner, perfect time to start working on those landscape changes you have been wanting. Making sure the right plant is in the right place is necessary to a low maintenance healthy yard but sometimes it is hard to visualize the mature size when buying baby plants at a nursery. Join us as we walk thru the Gardens pointing out our hardy mature evergreens for your landscape backdrop.



March 3 - Vegetable Gardening 101

Vegetables...the latest trend in gardening. Come check out our animal enrichment vegetable garden and talk to our veggie garden guru. Learn the basics to growing your own little produce patch and discover the secret to a happy healthy vegetable garden.



Registration information: Meet outside the ticket booths @ 8:45 tour starts at 9:00. Cost is \$10 for members~ \$20 for nonmembers. Size of tour is limited to 30. You can register online at http://www.jacksonvillezoo.org/botanical/garden_tours/ For more information, call (904) 757-4463 ext. 153

Middleburg Garden Club Winter Seminar

February 18th from 9 am to 2:30 pm at the Middleburg United Methodist Church Family Life Center, 3925 Main Street, 32068. \$10 pre registration due by February 13.

Bring a bag lunch and enjoy the speakers: *Vegetable Gardening* with Jim DeValerio; *Orchids*, John VanBroeklin; *Iris*, Joyce Thrift and *Native Plants*, Leslie Pierpont.

More information contact Art Burnett at 904.282.4981

The North Florida Trailblazers are sponsoring a fund-raising hike to support the trail activities of the Florida Trail and our local chapter.

<http://www.meetup.com/NorthFloridaTrailBlazers/>

February 11, 2012

Get outside and hike on the Florida National Scenic Trail along one of Florida's most beautiful sandhill communities.

Bring comfortable shoes, water and snacks. Food will be available for purchase after the hike at the recreation building located in front of the picnic area, provided by Gold Head Associates (Friends of the park). Enjoy the great outdoors for just \$20! Reservations requested:

ididahike@gmail.com or call 352-258-3058 for more information. Ticket does not include park entrance fee of \$5 per car.



Pronunciation Guide: *Cercis canadensis* or Redbud which has started to bloom at our house. Ser'-siss which means it's seedpod resembles the fruit of a Judas tree and kan-a-den'-sis meaning of Canada. This tree is native from Florida to Canada!

February News & Notes



Blooming

Sages, Shrimp Plant, Walter's Viburnum, a wonderful native is a cloud of white flowers right now. Camellias are beautiful, the native Redbud are glorious, the Azaleas are all screwed up with this warmth, Blueberries are keeping my bees busy, Daphne is about the burst open with its honey fragrance, Columbine, Loropetalums, Firespike, the Sunsatia Nemesias are cooking in their bright yellow & red colors and Blanketflower has been blooming all winter.

Chores: There's lots to be done! .

Fertilize:



- ❖ Camellias 1-2# Greensand (nitrogen) -- you have through March to fertilize all shrubs with Espoma's organic fertilizers. You can use Plantone or Hollytone or a chemical fertilizer with 12-4-8 (except don't do spring-flowering shrubs like azaleas until after they flower).
- ❖ Fertilize Citrus 1# per tree 8-8-8 or Sunniland citrus fertilizer. I remember by thinking Valentine's Day start fertilizing Citrus & stop after Labor Day.

Grab your pruners, get set, GO! I keep an old glass peanut butter jar of 1:10 bleach:water on my garage bench. If I'm pruning something that is or might be diseased, I dip the shears to disinfect before pruning another plant.



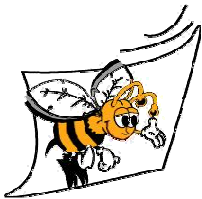
Prune dead stems off shrubs, trees and perennials. You can prune any damaged growth from the few freezes we had. What a mild winter - my electric bill was half of last year's. I hope my husband is wrong when he says we'll pay for this nice winter weather next hurricane season!

- ❖ The Mexican Sage and all the other Sages are putting out new growth, so the old stalks can be removed down to the ground.
- ❖ If you have dead looking native lantana depressa, wait until it starts to leaf out again. If you have the nonnative invasive lantana - now is a good time to dig it up & throw it away. If you bring it to the nursery, you'll get \$5 off a new plant.
- ❖ The marguerite daisies that have been blooming for months should get a haircut.

Plant new trees & shrubs now so their roots can get established before that hot weather gets here again. Cold weather annuals, if planted now, will last into June. You can plant alyssum, petunias, violas, nemesia, diascia and more.

If you are getting or giving flowers for Valentine's Day, please order organically and responsibly grown flowers from <http://www.organicbouquet.com>

If you need help with weeding, replanting, raking Marcellus Turnipseed is ready to help: cell 444-4542



Good Bugs: There are many more beneficial insect species than harmful ones. Many of these "good bugs" in fact feed on the pests, and keep them in check naturally. A link to identifying the good bugs and more info is at <http://sarasota.ifas.ufl.edu/IPM/goodbugs.shtml>

In our efforts to eradicate pests in our yards we need to do more to protect these beneficials. Set schedule spraying of pesticide poisons can be wasteful and the worst thing we can do to upset the natural balance. Many pesticides do not discriminate but kill beneficials as well as pests. Pest populations can rebound faster than beneficials compounding landscape problems. Spot treatment of verified pest infestations is the preferred control method. Using least-toxic pesticides is recommended. These include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils and formulations containing Bt, a biological control agent.

Roasted Veggies

Recipe

- 1 fennel bulb cut into 8 wedges
- 1# small or fingerling potatoes, cut in half
- 1/3 c olive oil
- kosher salt & fresh ground pepper
- 1 bunch thin asparagus cut diagonally into 3" pieces
- 1/4 c freshly grated parmesan cheese

Preheat oven 425, on a cookie sheet lined with tin foil (I use the new Reynolds nonstick foil) place fennel, potatoes, drizzle with olive oil, sprinkle with 2 tsp salt & 1 tsp pepper. Toss with your hands. Roast 25-30 minutes, tossing once during the 30 mins. Toss asparagus with the veggies & roast for another 10-15 mins. til tender. Sprinkle with parm cheese & roast 1-2 mins til melted. Add more salt & pepper.

