



The Mounts Botanical Garden of Palm Beach County To Host 11 Fun, Informative & Family-Friendly Events in April & May 2016

- **Weeds: Pesky Plants of Lawns & Gardens – April 4**
 - **Stories in the Garden – April 8**
 - **Orchid Care 101: Repotting – April 10**
 - **Book Discussion Series – April 12 & May 10**
 - **Spring Plant Sale – April 23-24**
- **Urban Farming: Sustainable Backyard Vegetable Growing – April 30**
 - **Connoisseurs Garden Tour – May 7-8**
 - **Creative Vertical Gardening: Growing Up – May 19**
- **Beautiful Your Yard with South Florida Native Plants – May 22**
 - **Introduction to Jewelry Making 3D Pen – May 22**

(West Palm Beach, FL – March 9, 2016) **The Friends of Mounts Botanical Garden** will be hosting 11 fun, horticulturally informative and family friendly public events in March and April, including the very popular **Spring Plant Sale** on April 23-24 and a Mother's Day weekend tradition, the **Connoisseurs Garden Tour** on May 7-8.

APRIL

Weeds:

Pesky Plants of Lawns & Gardens

Monday, April 4 – 10 am to 1 pm

Mounts Auditorium

\$25 for members; \$30 for nonmembers

Speaker: George Rogers, Ph.D., Palm Beach State College

Attendees will walk the grounds with Dr. Rogers, a local garden guru who will identify common weeds of lawns and gardens and share

fascinating facts about their biology. Price includes a South Florida weed book. Attendees can bring weeds in *sealed plastic bags* for identification.

Stories in the Garden:
Our Beautiful Butterflies

Friday, April 8 – 10 to 11:30 am

Mounts – The Pavilion

FREE

Speaker: Stacey Burford, Youth Services Librarian

Celebrate the 12th year of Stories in the Garden by bringing young ones (ages 2-6) to these FREE nature-themed programs co-sponsored by the Palm Beach Library System. They'll love the interactive stories, songs and learning activities in the Garden. Programs are held rain or shine in the sheltered Pavilion. No reservations required, except for parties of six or more. A craft activity to culminate each day will be reserved for the first 30 registrants.

Orchid Care 101:
Repotting Orchids

Sunday, April 10 – 10 am to 1 pm

Mounts – The Pavilion

\$30 for members; \$40 for nonmembers

Speaker: Sandi Jones, Broward Orchid Supply and Bonnet House Museum & Gardens

This hands-on workshop, with Orchid Curator Sandi Jones, will explain what orchids need—water, light, fertilizer, temperature. Attendees are encouraged to bring an orchid (up to 6") to be evaluated and repotted or mounted. This is a hands-on interactive class, in which participants will repot their own plant with guidance from Ms. Jones. Additionally, demonstrations of various potting and mounting such as using tree fern and cork bark will be shown. Orchid supplies will be available for purchase. *(Note: This class is limited to 25 participants.)*

Mounts Botanical Garden Book Discussion Series

Tuesday, April 12 – 7 to 8:30 pm

Mounts Exhibit Hall A

FREE

In partnership with the Palm Beach County Library System, this new

series provides an opportunity for book and garden enthusiasts to meet together to experience exciting fiction and non-fiction titles related to all aspects of gardening and horticulture. The featured book in April will be ***The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating*** by Elisabeth Tova Bailey.

Spring Plant Sale

+ Saturday, April 23 – 9 am to 4 pm

+ Sunday, April 24 – 9 am to 3 pm

Throughout the Garden

FREE for members; \$10 for nonmembers

This annual two-day event will feature more than 80 vendors with an amazing assortment of quality plants and goods. This is a great opportunity to learn about the plants that grow well in South Florida and find something new for the garden. The **Conrad-Sunrise Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society** will hold their annual judging and show featuring many of the state's best blooms. Rare and hard-to-find palms, orchids, bamboo, begonias, bromeliads, fruit trees will be available for purchase at various booths. By popular demand, the PBC Wood turners will be selling a large selection of beautiful woodturnings. *(Note: Mounts members can enjoy a continental breakfast and pre-sale on Saturday from 8 to 9 am.)*

Urban Farming:

Sustainable Backyard Vegetable Growing

Saturday, April 30 – 9 to 11 am

Mounts Auditorium & Vegetable Garden

\$20 for members; \$25 for nonmembers

Speakers: Raina & Paul O'Connor, Master Gardeners

Questions about getting ready for Fall Planting will be answered in this popular and *back-by-demand* session, such as: Do you want to raise vegetables in a typical quarter-acre block in suburbia? Which garden beds are attractive and easy to build? Two Master Gardeners will offer tips and techniques on site preparation, seedling establishment, planting, maintenance, pest and disease control, watering efficiently, and harvesting. Attendees will learn the best way and time to start planting vegetables that grow in South Florida. This class is suited for both the garden novice and the seasoned enthusiast. Participants will receive a free packet of seeds to begin their own garden.

May

Connoisseurs Garden Tour

Saturday, May 7 – 10 am to 4 pm

Sunday, May 8 – 11 am to 4 pm

\$20 for members; \$25 for nonmembers

Spend Mother's day weekend with your family and friends touring a half dozen beautiful private gardens in Palm Beach County. The owners of each individual garden are giving people a unique opportunity to visit at their own pace and sequence, so take one day or two for this memorable self-guided tour.

Mounts Botanical Garden Book Discussion Series

Tuesday, May 10 – 7 to 8:30 pm

Mounts Exhibit Hall A

FREE

In partnership with the Palm Beach County Library System, this new series provides an opportunity for book and garden enthusiasts to meet together to experience exciting fiction and non-fiction titles related to all aspects of gardening and horticulture. The featured book in May will be *The Orchid Thief* by Susan Orlean.

Creative Vertical Gardening: Growing Up

Thursday, May 19 – 5 to 6:30 pm

Mounts Garden & Pavilion

\$20 for members; \$25 for nonmembers

Speaker: Joel Crippen, Mounts Horticulturalist and Garden Writer

Want to add space for plants? Create privacy? Beautify a boring wall? Decorate trees with hanging orchids, bromeliads or ferns? This hands-on workshop will offer creative ideas for "growing vertical."

Beautiful Your Yard with South Florida Native Plants

Sunday, May 22 – 10 to 11:30 am

Mounts Exhibit Hall A

\$20 for members; \$25 for nonmembers

Speaker: Jeff Nurge, Florida Native Gardening & Native Choice Nursery

Learn about the selection and placement of Florida native plants to *maximize* their beauty using the principles of texture, color and

hardscape and also to *minimize* the use of water and pesticides. In addition, review best practices for maintaining native.

Introduction to Jewelry Making 3D Pen

Sunday, May 22 – 10 am to 4 pm

Mounts Auditorium

\$225 for members; \$250 for nonmembers

Speakers: Joseph Ciardullo & Jeff Kingan, Renaissance Gems Design Studio

Back by popular demand – this fun and creative jewelry making class that utilizes the latest modern technology. Participants will learn the basics of creating jewelry using the 3D Scribbles pen that they get to keep along with two pieces of artwork, which will be casted in sterling silver, finished and polished. The 3D pen is a great tool for anyone interested in 3D modeling-from the newest beginner to the expert.

Note:

To register for any of the events and workshops at The Mounts Botanical Garden of Palm Beach County, please call **561.233.1730**. Events at Mounts are accessible to people with disabilities.

About The Mounts Botanical Garden of Palm Beach County:

With a mission to inspire the public, Mounts Botanical Garden is Palm Beach County's oldest and largest botanical garden, offering gorgeous displays of tropical and sub-tropical plants, plus informative classes, workshops, and other fun-filled events. The Garden contains more than 2,000 species of plants, including Florida native plants, exotic and tropical fruit trees, herbs, palms, bromeliads and more. Mounts Botanical Garden is a facility of the Palm Beach County Extension Service, which is in partnership with the University of Florida and the Friends of Mounts Botanical Garden. Mounts is located at 531 North Military Trail in West Palm Beach.

Mounts Botanical Garden is open everyday (except Palm Beach County recognized holidays) from 10 am to 4 pm. The suggested donation for entry to the Garden is \$5 per person. For more information, please call **561.233.1757** or visit www.mounts.org.

**Attached Jpeg:
Mounts Botanical Garden**

**Available for Interview:
Allen Sistrunk, Garden Director
Mounts Botanical Garden
561.233.1757
asistrun@pbcgov.org**

**Media Contact:
Gary Schweikhart
PR-BS, Inc.
561.756.4298
gary@pr-bs.net**