

VISTA Matters is the weekly community newsletter for garden members. Included are key dates and communications necessary for all members to know and be involved.



## VISTA Gardens News - March 9, 2017

**Thank you to all who brought in their leaves for compost.  
Given the great turn out, we no longer need leaves this  
season. Thank you!**



### Want to get away? Plant a flag.

Community members, Dan and Phoebe, are going vacation and are the first to use the **yellow flag "on vacation" notice** to ask members to water their plot while they are away.

Dan has kindly provided additional flags, located in the shed (back wall shelf, bottom row, to the right). Please plant them in your garden when you are away so your mates can help your plot continue to thrive.

### What to do?

Many community members have asked how they can learn about current garden needs.

"To Do" lists are now posted on the side of the shed. Please check the list and see if you can help with any of the needed tasks.

Thank you for your support.



**VISTA Open House feat. Seedling Swap & Insect Control**

When: Saturday, March 18  
Time: 10AM - 12PM

VISTA Gardens will again open its gates to the greater Carrollwood community on Saturday, March 18. Bill West will reprise his talk from the 'Urban Roots Customer Appreciation Day' on garden insects and organic control methods.

There also will be a seedling swap. This is an excellent opportunity for you to **bring your surplus seedlings and trade them** with someone for a different type of plant. It's a great way to expand your garden variety.



## NEW: VISTA Kids Playgroup

When: Monday, March 13

Time; 10:00 a.m.

Where: Shaded area with the large oak stump seating

VISTA member, Lori Vella, mother of 2 year old Johnny, is starting a VISTA Kids garden-based playgroup. Please bring your children or grandchildren to enjoy a morning outing.

**Note to all garden members:** Large cones will be placed on the driveway by the oak tree to avoid cars entering the play area.

Lori is working on a variety of garden activities. As we do more playgroups and get feedback from Lori and other parents we will develop the play area.

So excited to get the future generation connected to gardening. As the saying goes: "Gardening is Caught, Not Taught!"

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## Member Spotlight: Ann Wallace

### 1. What is your/family member name(s), your garden bed address, the date you joined Vista Garden?

Ann Wallace. One half of 4 Berry Boulevard. I've been a member of VISTA Gardens since the beginning, at the current location.

### 2. What interested you in starting your garden?

I live in a condominium and don't have a place for gardening. VISTA has allowed me to spend more time outdoors and get to participate in gardening, enjoy the fruits of my labor and, most of all, meet this wonderful group of people, all of which were my goals in joining the garden.



### 3. What do you like to grow? What are your "go to" plants?

I love growing all types of tomatoes but I think my favorite is growing flowers amongst the vegetables. They feed my soul and everyone can join them.

### 4. What's your favorite activity/time of day at the garden?

I love the garden in the morning or late in the afternoon. It has a quietness about it then that is so peaceful.

### 5. What is one thing you'd like us to know about you?

That even though I'm not there as often as I used to be, VISTA is still one of my favorite places to be.

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## Spring Sale: Kessler's Cacti & Things

When: Saturday & Sunday, April 1- 2

Time: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Where: BEARSS GROVES

14316 Lake Magdalene Blvd, Tampa, FL 33618



We're back from Arizona with TONS of great plants just in time for our two-day plant sale.

- Hundreds of varieties of cactus and succulents, including rare collector specimens
- Desert roses, including specimen plants, herbs, orchids, bromeliads and many other cool plants
- Cactus soil, pots, fertilizer and decorative gravel.

- "Ask a Botanist" - Bring your cactus and succulent questions.

Questions or Directions: (813) 751-9409

Under The BIG TENT - Rain or Shine!

**USF** Botanical Gardens  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA  
presents the  
**2017 Spring Plant Festival**

**April 8 & 9**  
**Saturday 10:00-4:00**  
**Sunday 10:00-3:00**  
**\$5 admission; children under 12 & USF Botanical Garden members are admitted free.**

**Free Parking**

This event supports  
USF Botanical Gardens,  
a nonprofit facility

2210 USF Pine Drive  
Tampa, FL 33612  
Website:  
<http://gardens.usf.edu>  
(813) 974-2329

**Sunday Beekeeping  
Talk at Noon**  
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**Talks every hour on  
Saturday**

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**Organic Vegetable Gardening  
Workshop, Saturday at 11:00**  
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**"Native Plants in your Landscape"  
Saturday at Noon**

**Find orchids, begonias, bonsai, cactus,  
Crotons, butterfly plants, camellias, bamboo,  
tropical fruit, citrus, gingers,  
Plumeria, palms, bromeliads, carnivorous plants, African  
violets, native plants, herbs, ferns, & lots more.**

## Ongoing Activities

### Saturday Work Parties

Fulfill your community volunteer requirement by joining fellow gardeners on Saturday mornings to tackle the maintenance needs of the garden at large. It's a fun time and you get some exercise and the garden stays looking great. Keeping the garden regularly maintained prevents us from major intermittent workload. The party starts at 9 a.m. every weekend, weather permitting.

### Compost Thursdays

Committee members meet at the garden Thursday's at 8 a.m. to turn the compost. Please join the team if you would like to learn more about composting.

### **Compost Materials Needed**

General reminder: To produce high quality input the community needs to provide a steady supply of material. This includes shredded paper and vegetable waste (garden or kitchen). Please bring your waste to the garden, don't let it go to the landfill!

### **Keep in touch with VISTA**

We are working hard to streamline communications to ensure you receive the right content in the right place when you need it.

1. Facebook: Like "VISTA Gardens" to receive updates on key activities throughout the week

If you do NOT use Facebook please reply to this email and you will be added to a separate email distribution list. The team will do its best to email any time sensitive updates requiring community attention to this list when a post is made to Facebook.

2. Tuesday email: Summarizes key activity and news for the upcoming week

3. Monthly newsletter: More detail into topics of interest and education (see link above!)

4. Web site: Our address is [vistagardentampa.org](http://vistagardentampa.org) (note: no 's' in garden). A repository of membership information, detailed education, links to articles on shared topics of interest. Plus much, much more.

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VISTA Gardens | [comms@vistagarden.org](mailto:comms@vistagarden.org) | [vistagardentampa.org](http://vistagardentampa.org)

STAY CONNECTED:

