

# THE GARDEN GATE



Lemon Bay Garden Club 480 Yale Street, Englewood, Florida

[www.lemonbaygardenclub.org](http://www.lemonbaygardenclub.org)

January 2018

## Addendum

### JANUARY HORTICULTURE NOTES

The club recently had a local resident call to graciously offer her triple stag-horn fern which was growing into an orange tree, if we were willing to remove the fern and the tree. Once it was determined that we could do this with the help of some husbands and a few members of the Family Garden Club, we took on the task of cutting the ferns off the tree. They filled the beds of two pick-up trucks. The large fern went to the Rexers, who took some of it and brought some nicely cut paddles back to us. Another fern was delivered to the club, where it was also cut apart, and the remainder went to the Family Garden Club. Thanks to Robert Hannula, who then came up with a great idea to make holders to mount the paddles out of used fence boards. He cut the wood, drilled the holes and brought them to the club to be assembled by some of the Friday garden workers. (See pictures of the work in progress on our Facebook page!) This proved to be very successful, as many of the members who made one, then bought one, and a shopper who happened by bought two. There are many more paddles available, and more boards to make holders, so there will be another Friday workshop in the near future (Friday, Jan 12, weather permitting) to assemble and mount the ferns. If you know anyone who is interested in staghorn ferns, "we got 'em"!



### TIPS ON JANUARY GARDENING

Herbs thrive in South Florida during the winter months. Two flowering herbs to consider growing from seed this month are *Calendula*, also known as pot marigold, and *Borage*. *Calendula* seeds can be planted now, and in about 40-45 days, will produce a "daisy" type flower in shades of bright yellow and orange. *Borage*, also easily grown from seed, will produce beautiful clusters of bright blue edible flowers which will attract pollinators. The leaves can be used sparingly for cucumber like flavor in salads. Both *Calendula* and *Borage* should be grown in full sun, require little care, and seeds should be readily available at large garden centers. *Celery* is another plant that does well here in the winter. It is very easy to take the bottom 3" off a stalk of celery purchased at the grocery store, make a fresh cut off the bottom, and suspend the cut end in water. (Many of you may have done this as a kid, or with your children.) Within a couple of weeks, you should see roots starting to sprout. At this point you can transfer it to a pot for another few weeks, and then either move it to a larger pot, or plant it directly in the ground. Fresh celery leaves are a wonderful addition to soups and salads.