

South Dade Garden Club

JANUARY 2023
NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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This month we will have a wonderful presentation by Dr. Jeffrey Block AKA The Doc Block. He will be bringing us a wide variety of topics including his work in developing specialty varieties of Anthuriums.

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We're planning for the 2nd half of the year and you can be a big part of making things happen! Find out what lies ahead, who won our Luck of the Draw Fundraiser and who we have to thank!

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Here's how you can find us and your options for paying your dues.



*Join Us for
An Evening with
Dr. Block!*

ENJOY AN EVENING WITH DR. JEFF BLOCK



Dr. Jeffrey Block AKA the Doc Block is a trusted professional physician-botanist and subject matter expert. As an established medical doctor he combines 25 years of broad-based clinical healthcare experience with internationally recognized horticultural expertise including botanical medicines and tropical ornamental plants. He's an articulate and impactful communicator who has presented live and virtually to diverse audiences in multiple settings including teaching hospitals, academic institution education & research facilities, legislative & regulatory bodies, and community forums.

Dr. Block is the Founder of Nurturing Nature Group Consultants – an independent agriculture, healthcare, and economic science consultancy specializing in botanical medicine industry development. His combination of clinical educator and healthcare science backgrounds include agricultural science expertise as an internationally awarded horticulturist and owner of **Block Botanical Gardens in Miami, Florida**. He additionally serves the **Florida Department of Agriculture Extension Offices'** programming as a **Certified Master Gardener**, and as a **Florida Master Gardener educator for the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences** that includes hemp research programs.

This will be a very special presentation like no other the **South Dade Garden Club** has ever had. It will be a hybrid meeting with both a live and virtual presentation via Zoom.

Dr. Block will bring to us an interesting combination of topics. He will briefly introduce us to the early formation of garden clubs in South Florida and his unexpected tie to our clubs' beginnings. He will introduce us to the **amazing world of Anthuriums** and tell us how he developed new varieties of these plants. He will show us all types of very different varieties of these plants and tell us about their needs to stay happy, healthy and thriving. He will also talk about **how plants have been used for many years to help heal our ailments** and what is involved in stabilizing a species, so that it can reliably be used in medicines.





WE HAVE A LOT OF IMPORTANT THINGS PLANNED

We also need volunteers this month to help out for a few hours at the Addison Clearing Nursery at the Deering Estate. So if you can help out, Please let us know. **All volunteers get free entry.** We missed our volunteer day last month and need to make up for it as part of our commitment to have meetings there. We will let you know which days we can volunteer, so that you will have your opportunity to help support our club.

We'd like to start having field trips again. If you'd like to help plan some of these outings, join the **Field Trip committee!**

We will be reaching out to members this month who have expressed an interest in helping out on some of the committees we have. So expect a call soon, so that we can let you know how you can get started and who you'll be working with.

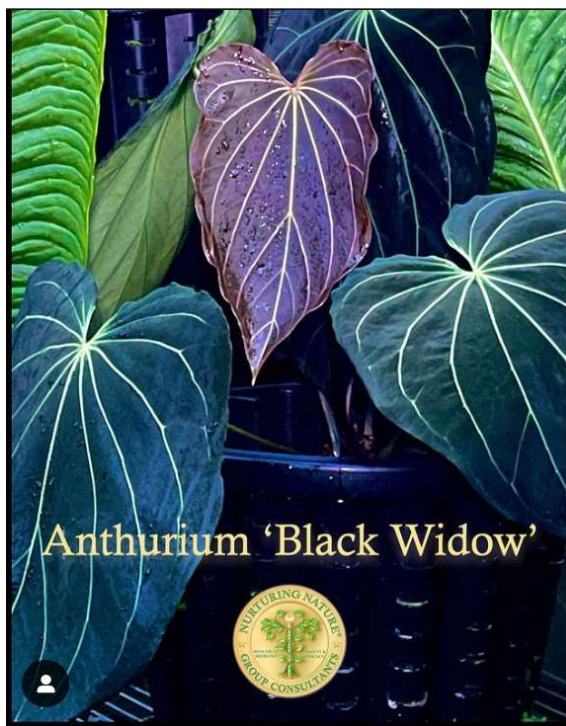
We also will have a new **Nominating Committee** who will be looking for people to act as officers for our club next year. If you are interested in helping out or know of someone you think would make a great officer, please let us know by sending us an email to sdgc100@gmail.com.

We had our drawing in our Luck of the Drawer Fundraiser and here are the lucky Winners:

- ◆ Annmarie Sosnoff- \$ 4,000 Custom Closet
- ◆ Jeanine Diaz- \$ 500 Polycarbonate Vented Greenhouse
- ◆ Naoko Arriola- \$ 250 Nursery Gift certificate
- ◆ Anita Grossman- \$ 250 Nursery Gift certificate
- ◆ Terri Rudolph- \$ 250 Nursery Gift certificate
- ◆ Devin Oliver- \$ 250 Nursery Gift certificate
- ◆ Cynthia Steen- \$ 75 The Tea Room Restaurant Gift certificate
- ◆ Gita Ramsay- \$ 975 Dale Carnegie Teen Leadership Program Scholarship

Our special thanks go to those who donated to our Fundraiser:

- ◆ Hector Cardona of Sunshine State Custom Closets
- ◆ Loretta Alvarez
- ◆ Louis Davis of The Nature Touch Inc. Nursery
- ◆ Veronica Rojas of the Tea Room Restaurant at Cauley Square
- ◆ Joan Ramirez with Dale Carnegie Training



HERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT THINGS ABOUT OUR NEXT MEETING THIS THURSDAY

- ◆ Because of our special speaker this month, **we will be holding our meeting in the auditorium across the hallway from our regular meeting room.** We are expecting a lot of guests for this meeting. The auditorium seats about 90 people. Therefore, **it is very important that you RSVP to the Evite** you will be sent, so that we have a good idea of how many people to expect. **Please feel free to invite your friends whether they come in person or virtually through Zoom.** There will be some special perks to being there in person. Besides the fellowship, good food and raffle, you'll have an opportunity to ask questions and you will probably have a better view of the plants.
- ◆ Because we are expecting a lot of outside interest, **we will also be holding the presentation portion of the meeting via Zoom.** The link will be provided.
- ◆ Because we are hoping for a big crowd, **we are not going to have our usual dinner. Instead, we will have appetizers, finger foods, chips & dips, fruit salads, vegetable and dip platters, deserts, drinks and ice.** We are going to have our members bring these things, **potluck style.** Remember, we will be hosting guests from other clubs and the community. So let's make sure we serve some very nice option and not just 10 bowls of chips.
- ◆ **Our speaker is going to be bringing in something for us to give away in our raffle.** This might be a nice opportunity to make some money raffling off nice plants, books or other things you think people might want to win. **Let's make sure we shine by bringing in whatever special plants we can. Start getting them ready now!**

We have a lot more coming up! Here's a peek into what you can expect:

- ◆ **February:** Christina Stocking with the Tree Dept. at Miami-Dade County will talk about **Tree Pruning.** When is the right time to prune your trees, how you should prune your trees, what are the benefits of pruning your trees, how you should prune different types of trees differently, etc. We will again have a **volunteer day** at the Deering Estate this month.
- ◆ **March:** Our own **Master Gardener** and friend, **Maria Ewald,** will speak to us about **Fertilizers.** She will help us to figure out how to use the right fertilizers for the right task. Why some fertilizers are needed for certain plants and not others. This promises to be a



very educational presentation that we can all benefit from, even those of us who have small container gardens. We will also be having one of our **free Painting Classes** this month. The classes will be taught by one of **Deering's Artists in Residence**. Even if you don't think you can draw a stick man, you will be amazed at the piece of art you will create and be going home with! We will also have one of our biggest fundraisers of the season, the **SDGC's Garden Tour!** (March 18th) You will have the opportunity while helping out to view some truly showcase gardens for free! You'll be amazed and inspired!

- ◆ **April: Ernesto Clark, a Master Gardener,** will be teaching us about **Plant Propagation**. You will learn how you can grow many plants for free from cuttings, air layering and divisions. I've heard from many people that he stands out on the topic of Plant Propagations. This is a presentation that all gardeners should experience! We will also have another Painting class this month.
- ◆ **May:** We will have our **End of the Year Party!** This will be a fun event, with some special surprises for our members!

Many of the items describe above would normally be experienced for a cost of anywhere from \$ 20-\$ 50 per person per event, but they are free to our members. So your membership in our club really is a bargain! Of course, we are planning to have other fundraisers, classes, workshops and field trips throughout the year, so keep an eye out for all the details in future newsletters.



Don't forget where we will be meeting. Here's a map of the Deering Estate.

You will want to make sure you know to go to the parking lot on SW 168 Street, about a block east of Old Cutler Road. We will be meeting in the Gallery Room at the large Visitor's Center Building (see lower left hand corner of map). Address: 16701 SW 72 Avenue in Palmetto Bay.



Remember to check your email for your Evite & be sure to reply as soon as possible, so that we know how many people to plan for. There is no cost to attend and dinner will be provided. Hope to see you there!!!

Membership Dues Payment Options



YOUR EASY OPTIONS TO PAY YOUR DUES:

Please feel free to bring your dues to a meeting or send a check or money order made out to the **South Dade Garden Club** for **\$ 20.00 for a single member** or **\$ 30.00 for a married couple** to:

South Dade Garden Club
16701 SW 72 Ave.
Miami, Florida 33157

Now you can send your payment through Zelle! If your bank uses Zelle and you are enrolled to use it, you can simply send your dues payment through Zelle by using our email address: sdgc100@gmail.com.

If Paypal is your only option, please contact Loretta about how to pay that way. Paypal charges fees that either you or the club will need to pay, so it's not our preferred form of payment.

We have some of the lowest dues in the state and yet we offer much more than most clubs. Our yearly fee pays for your dues to the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, the District XII dues and the Metropolitan Miami Flower Show. Once those dues are paid, the club has been left with \$ 1.00. When you factor in the name tags, we have usually been out almost as much as you were charged for yearly dues. We recently raised our dues by \$ 5.00 after not raising them for decades.

All dues for next year need to be paid by May 31st, 2023 to remain a member in good standing. New members will be getting the remainder of this Garden Club year for free when they pay next year's dues BEFORE June 1st, 2023. Anyway to look at it, this is one of the best deals around!