



VISTA MATTERS

-February 2025 Edition-

VISTA Thanks YOU!

Among the many worthy causes to support, you continued to appreciate VISTA Gardens in 2024 with your financial contributions. Together, we are cultivating a vibrant and sustainable community for generations to come and we thank you for your ongoing support!

As we enjoy the wonderful success we have experienced, we look forward in 2025 to how we can continue to thrive. Everything that is special about VISTA is due to you, our members, our volunteer Board members, and our volunteer Committee Chairs who dedicate time and energy and enthusiasm to help make VISTA such a happy place.

Did You Know That VISTA Gardens...

- ...Is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors with a set of official Bylaws that spell out when we have meetings, how our Directors are appointed, and what the various Committee functions are.
- ...Publishes a Board meeting Agenda before and Minutes after every Board meeting. These are available for your review by contacting our Board secretary.
- ...Is on Hillsborough County land and that requires us to meet all the County requirements of annual reports, meetings with County staff, and fiscal and insurance and regulatory compliance.
- ...Has no paid employees. Your membership includes a commitment to volunteer a minimum of 2 hours monthly, although many VISTA members donate more time to committee work as well as garden upkeep.

We encourage you to check out our [Board and Committee Chairs page](#) on our website as well as the *More Information* link at the bottom of that page. We'd love to hear about your special interests, talents and skills!

VISTA's sign will BRB!



Hurricanes Helene and Milton destroyed our lovely entrance sign. VISTA members Terrisa and Dan Bernard are once again donating their time, talent and energy to building us a new sign. They are again using the original logo developed by VISTA member Barb Mahlmeister. Look for the new sign soon welcoming all to VISTA Gardens.

Succession Planting!

Do you find yourself harvesting large amounts of any given vegetable from your garden all at once? There is a solution! The practice of succession planting, or planting in segments over a period of time, allows you to harvest root vegetables, leafy greens, brassica vegetables, and more for fresh use throughout the season. By sowing a few carrots, radishes, broccoli, etc., over several days to weeks, you can enjoy a fresh harvest over the course of the growing season. Gardening is a season-long adventure. Enjoy the entire process of planting, harvesting, and tending to your garden throughout our Florida growing months.

This information comes from [True Leaf Market's website](#), where you can find more info on succession planting.



Plant Feature

Keys Mistflower (*Ageratum maritimum*), also known as Seashore ageratum, Beach mistflower or Cape Sable whiteweed, grows 10 to 20 inches tall and can sprawl 3 feet in width. The delicate lavender flowers are highly attractive to butterflies, and this is a wildflower that can be planted singularly or in mass to add beautiful year-round color to your landscape. It also grows well



in containers, as it is quite drought tolerant. This photo



in containers, as it is quite drought tolerant. This photo shows a Monarch butterfly nectaring. Keys Mistflower will self-seed! Enjoy watching it multiply in VISTA's Wildflower Garden.

Meet Our Gardeners

Kemi Akintewe gardens in CW6-N and volunteers with the House of the Rising Seeds Committee

[Read More](#)



Events and VISTA Committee Updates

Mark Your Calendars

February Calendar of Events

Sat Feb 1 10a

New Member Orientation - Reserve with [Beverly S.](#)

Sat Feb 1 10a-4p

One of VISTA's Community Partners and valued supporters presents:



Sun Feb 2 9-11a

Volunteer to work alongside USF Rotaract members as they complete planned projects at VISTA.

Fri Feb 7 10a

Join volunteers maintaining the Florida Native Plant garden at Carrollwood Village Park.

Sat Feb 8 and 22 8-11a

Volunteer to work alongside Sickles HS National Honor Society members as they complete planned projects at VISTA.

Sun Feb 16 8:30a-12:30p

Join USF Rotaract members volunteering in the Woodland alongside [Oyster River Ecology](#).



Tue Feb 18 5:30-6:30p at the Carrollwood Cultural Center

Join fellow VISTA gardeners and bring along friends and neighbors for a visually delightful, fun, and educational presentation about the relationship between bugs and blooms!



John Lampkin, shown here in VISTA's Woodland, is an avid naturalist and nature photographer. Hear him share how insects and plants co-evolved and survived.

Wed Feb 19 4p

New Member Orientation - Reserve with [Beverly S.](#)

Wed Feb 19 11a-11p

VISTA Gardens Day at Thomas P's Sports Bar and Patio on Henderson just off Gunn Hwy.

VISTA receives a percentage of every purchase, all day.

Save these dates in March

Sun March 2 9-11

Volunteer to work alongside USF Rotaract members as they complete planned projects at VISTA.

Sat March 8 VISTA Gardens Spring Festival.

Sat March 8 9-noon

VISTA Gardens Spring Festival!



Nicole Jagusztyn is more than a gardening enthusiast—she's a key VISTA leader, dedicated to helping members succeed. Through her role as VISTA's **Education Committee** Chair, Nicole creates resources like the [Intro to VISTA Gardens video](#) that makes the transition into membership seamless and informative. In addition to providing valuable information for new gardeners, this video offers important reminders for experienced gardeners.



Bonnie Eaton, Coordinator of [Roots & Shoots](#) of The Jane Goodall Institute, joined other members of VISTA's **Wildflower Committee** to support the start-up of a raised bed pollinator garden at Sickles High School in December. Watch for Bonnie's blog (soon to be published on VISTA's website) featuring the work of Sickles HS Junior, Sophie Farnan.

A shout out to Elizabeth Warner, Chair, **Woodland Committee** and active members Vicki Kuse, Gail Myers, Ann Wallace, Liz Vicario, as well as many, many student and Master Gardener volunteers. In 2024 they planted 550 trees, shrubs, grasses, vines and wildflowers, a whopping 93 native species, as they tirelessly removed hundreds of invasive plant species. Curious about what's next in the Woodland?

[Read about their ambitious goal for 2025!](#)



VISTA Question & Answer

Q: My cucumber and squash and bean leaves have Powdery Mildew! What should I do to treat that?

A: Powdery mildew appears as white, powdery spots on leaves and stems.

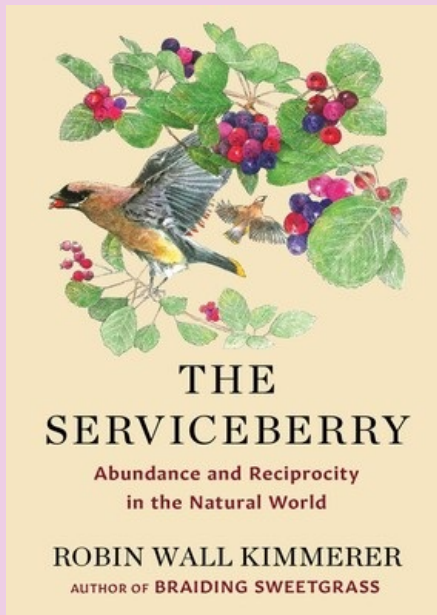
- Early intervention is key: Treat the mildew as soon as you notice it to prevent further spread.
- Remove infected leaves: Prune off any leaves that are heavily infected with mildew and take them home. Don't leave them at VISTA.
- Natural remedies:
 - Milk spray: Mix one part milk with two parts water and spray onto affected areas.
 - Baking soda solution: Mix one tablespoon of baking soda per gallon of water.
- Preventive measures:
 - Proper spacing: Ensure good air circulation between plants.
 - Watering practices: Water at the base of the plant in the morning to allow foliage to dry quickly.
 - Resistant varieties: Choose varieties known to be more resistant to powdery mildew.



Some VISTA gardeners use Banish, a fungicide that uses the power of Geraniol, a natural geranium oil plant extract, to control common mildews in plants.

New in the Little Free Library

VISTA and our community appreciate Forever Friends for the grant to purchase books for the Little Free Library



A bold and inspiring vision for how to orient our lives around gratitude, reciprocity, and community, based on the lessons of the natural world. [Read More](#)



Readers ages 7-10 meet Marta and The Hotel Balzaar. Book two in a trio of novellas — with elegant line art by Júlia Sardà — *The Hotel Balzaar* masterfully juggles yearning and belief, shining light into every dark corner. [Read More](#)

What if our metrics for well-being included birdsong, the crescendo of crickets on a summer evening, and neighbors calling to each other across the road?

-Robin Wall Kimmerer, *The Serviceberry*

Click here to submit your photos and stories for

future editions of VISTA Matters.

VISTA Gardens

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