



# *Smoke Signals*

## The Calusa Garden Club Newsletter

May, 2022

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### *Letter from Our President*

Dear Calusa Garden Club Members,

You're probably wondering, as you read this, why you received the newsletter even though our club year ended April 30<sup>th</sup>. It was decided to keep you informed of the club's activities during the summer months. Board meetings will be held to review our budget, plan next year's calendar, and discuss improvements to the club based on the Membership survey results. For those of you year-round members, some of us will make plans to meet for outings or lunches.

Most importantly, the club needs volunteers for the next year as follows:

Two volunteers are needed to plan our annual holiday party in December (event responsibilities can be found in the Standing Rules).

Tommie Barfield Elementary School (details on this committee can be found in the Standing Rules under the Community Education and Outreach Committee).

Please contact me, no later than June 1, if you would like to fulfill any of these vacancies via phone (609) 618-7357 or email at sneustad@icloud.com.

Enjoy your summer!

### *Thanksgiving Floral Design and Plant Sale Tuesday November 22, 2022*



**Let's Get Excited!** for another fun and exciting plant sale!

Once again on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, 2022, we will gather to show Marco Island our skill in growing plants, making home or lanai planters, designing Thanksgiving arrangements and succulent dish gardens --- or whatever you Club Members decide!

Over the summer is a great time to begin collecting a few plants to sell, to start planning a striking lanai planter, to divide some succulents, or to set aside some lightly used containers you want to donate to sell to a new owner.

**CONTACT:** Sara Wolf, Ways and Means chairman, at 513.706.8681 or sarawolf617@gmail.com to work on the planning committee. We need you!

## *GADABOUT NEWS FROM SUE OLDERSHAW*

A great time was had by all at Colusa Farms hydroponics wholesale farm. Jennifer and I are open for suggestions on potential gadabouts for next season. Please call me at 290 0612. As a reminder, all gadabout trips must be related to environment, floral design, or horticulture. May's trip has been cancelled because the event is not being held.

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## *APRIL IN PARIS LUNCHEON FROM SARA WOLF and SHARON LEWIS*

Our Spring Meeting traditionally is a festive luncheon with a speaker or floral demonstration as we close out our Garden Club year. On April 7, Member Events Chairmen Janice Engel and Terri Pike, and their committee, along with Second Vice-President and Program Chair Kimberly Korb Porter, changed it up a little! The luncheon had a theme of "April in Paris" plus a photo booth with props!

Bella Florals owner Denise Jefferies did a floral design demonstration using beautiful flowers accented with blue thistles, and each Calusa Garden Club member who attended made a flower arrangement to take home. President Susan Neustadt conducted a brief business meeting at which Second Vice President and Membership Chairman Monique Doyle installed new member Sharon Sutton. Then members enjoyed delicious lunch of chicken cordon bleu by the Yacht Club, and afterwards enjoyed posing in the photo booth. Turns out we all enjoy hamming it up a little!



Jo-Ann Carroll, Janice Engel, Terri Pike, Sharon Lewis, Claudia Bruni and Connie Lowery enjoying the luncheon.

Donna Kay showing off her joie de vie spirit.



### Program Ideas Wanted!

I will be Planning for 2022-2023 programs this summer! Your suggestions are most welcome!



Please send your ideas to:

Kimberly Porter  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Program Chair

[K.korbporter58@gmail.com](mailto:K.korbporter58@gmail.com)

Have a wonderful summer!

### Membership Survey Results Overview

43 members completed the survey.

We will take all your feedback to improve in the following areas:

More diverse programs with more hands-on member participation

Member lunches reintroduced

Explore venues for winter and spring events

Have more FUN

Look for changes to happen this coming season.

Monique Doyle

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Membership Chair

### *CGA WINNER IN MARCO IN BLOOM FROM SHARON LEWIS*



Eva Kubinsky and John Johnson's home won second place in the Professionally Landscaped category of the contest. The article was in the Coastal Breeze. Congratulations to Eva!

# WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER: SHARON SUTTON



Here is her information for updating your yearbooks.

Address: 1405 Athol Way, Naples, FL 34104

email: [smsutton2@gmail.com](mailto:smsutton2@gmail.com)



## HOME GARDEN TOUR SUCCESS FROM SARA WOLF



The Home Garden Tour held on April 9, 2022 was a great success! We educated and entertained 50 enthusiastic guests! The committee worked very well together and designed a good tour and reception. Our host gardeners' hard work was very evident! They showed beautiful gardens, and the Butterfly Garden Tour and Reception were positively received. From a financial standpoint, the income was \$3,010.00, the expenses were \$861.54, with a profit to the club of \$2,148.46. We did a follow-up survey for the ticket purchasers, and we received 22 responses, all of which were positive with good suggestions.

Thanks to everyone who worked to help make the Home Garden Tour a success! We thank all the workers: reception team, driver/tour guides, home demonstrators, home tour assistants, and especially the four home garden owners who were so very positive and exhibited such passion for their gardens.



## ***J. McLAUGHLIN FUNDRAISER FROM KIMBERLY PORTER***



JMcLaughlin Boutique hosted a fundraiser for Calusa Garden Club on April 11, 2022.

Calusa Garden Club members shopped from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Monday before Easter weekend. Refreshments were generously provided by the caring and helpful staff. We received a donation of 15% of total sales on the day of the promotion totaling \$530.54. The boutique also donated a purse for the Spring Luncheon 50/50 raffle, valued at \$200.

Please watch for our second “Sip and Shop” event in November 2022!

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## ***REPORT ON FFGC CONVENTION FROM SARA WOLF***



Past President Sara Wolf and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Kimberly Porter attended the Annual Convention of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs in Kissimmee, Florida on April 13-14. We were proud to represent Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island at the convention. The agenda included a business meeting where there were discussions of Camp Wekiva, SEEK, and reports from each of the 12 District Directors. The Convention also included a fantastic standard Flower Show organized by the convention committee, and a vendors room where gardening-related items as well as clothing, jewelry and accessories were sold.

The speakers were Dr. David Clark, who spoke on basil plants and its use in cooking; Reina Snyder who spoke on the medical effects of spending time in nature; Patrick Andrews, President of the American Camellia Society who spoke on camellia plants and showed slides of the huge variety of camellias in his garden; and at the final evening dinner, three acclaimed Flower Show judges gave demonstrations of floral designs while a commentator interviewed them.

Workshops at the convention included Floral Design (mechanics), Horticulture (coleus plants) on Wednesday, and on Thursday: Session 1: Money Making, Butterfly Gardens, Photography, and Session 2: Membership, Botanical Arts, and Nuts & Bolts behind FFGC. In addition to visiting the Flower Show, attending workshops and the business meeting, Kimberly and Sara attended 2 receptions: one by the FFGC President for convention attendees who were attending for the first time, and one by our District IX Director Dale DeFeo for our district attendees. Kimberly and Sara will distribute their notes from workshops they attended to the respective Calusa Garden Club committee chairmen.

