



# *Smoke Signals*

## The Calusa Garden Club Newsletter

July, 2022

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### *Letter from Our President*

Dear Club Members,

I hope you enjoyed the Fourth of July and celebrated with family and friends! Rainy season has arrived, with strong showers almost every day. This in turn keeps us busy in our gardens, while maintaining and weeding at the Butterfly Garden and the Memorial Markers. As a member of the Blue Zones Project, we enjoyed delicious food prepared in a Cooking Class and a plant sale, coordinated with the Naples Native Plant Society, was a great success as members were able to purchase plants locally instead of traveling off island. We are still planning club activities for next year and meet socially to catch up. Thanks for your pictures of what you're growing up North! I previously mentioned the Board would review the new budget, and as it turns out, there was not a quorum, so no vote was taken nor were May's Board Meeting minutes approved so they are not part of this newsletter. To conduct business and move forward as a club, a quorum is required for all meetings.

Happy Gardening!

### *Thanksgiving Floral Design and Plant Sale*

*Tuesday, November 22*



**Let's Get Organized!** We need to form a committee and select Section Chairs for the Plant Sale. Suggested Sections:

- Thanksgiving Floral Designs
- Plants
- Outdoor and Indoor Planters
- Succulent Dish Gardens
- Cashiers
- Holding Table
- Logistics/Assignments

**PLEASE VOLUNTEER! 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting August 10!**

**CONTACT:**

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# NOVEMBER PLANT SALE SUGGESTIONS AND PLANS

*from Sara Wolf, Ways and Means Chair*

After the successful Plant Sale in November of 2021, the Plant Sale Committee met to review the event and make suggestions for an even more successful sale in 2022. The Committee agreed that the Thanksgiving Arrangements, Succulent Dish Gardens, and plants in ceramic or terra cotta containers were big sellers and those items sold first. The garden plants in plastic growers' pots sold more slowly, for several reasons. First, we had over 100 plants and that's a lot of plants to sell! Second, many of our buyers were not gardeners searching for "just the right bromeliad" – they were condo dwellers, vacationers, and seasonal residents who leave the landscaping up to their lawn crews and condo association contractors.



Therefore, we ask members to put more energy into collecting planters that will show off our pampered plants – plants that can be put on a lanai, balcony, front porch, or that can enhance a living room coffee table. Examples of some containers recently purchased for \$2 each at Bargain Basket are shown in the photo at left. A spider plant or Christmas cactus in the white ruffled ceramic container will be valued by a buyer more than the same spider plant in a black plastic growers' pot.

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## CALLING ALL BIRTHDAYS! *From Monique Doyle, Membership Chair*



Our club will be celebrating monthly birthdays. Please let Monique know your birthday month via 708-378-9921. Just your name and the month of your birthday. We are all perpetually 39 forever!

**\*\*\* FOR SALE! \*\*\* \$10 EACH \*\*\***

**2 EARTHBOXES AND 2 PATIO PICKERS PLANTING BOXES**

The Club will not be using the Earth box and Patio Picker planting boxes we formerly used for Junior Gardeners. We are selling the used planting boxes to members for \$10 each. The Emsco Patio Picker is no longer sold, but as a comparison, the Emsco City Picker currently sells from \$29.99 to \$45.00. The Earth boxes currently sell for \$38.00. If members do not purchase these 4 boxes, they will be sold to the public.

# LEIGH PLUMMER PARK MEMORIAL REFRESH

*from Linda Columbo, Memorial Markers Chair*

The committee thought you'd like to see what we have accomplished recently. Here is a picture of our Leigh Plummer Park Memorial Marker which was installed by the club in 2017 to commemorate Calusa's planting of native trees in 1986-89. If you have not visited Leigh Plummer Park, it is on Barfield and Piedmont Circle, north of San Marco Road. Margie Bramel, Claudia Bruni, and I renovated the site a couple of weeks ago.

We first met early June to consider all available options before we made a plan. The pavers were reset and reconfigured, so the inside pavers are now in a rectangular shape that mimics the shape of the marker. The outside pavers were straightened and extended to the walkway. Margie did this work all alone, by choice. Thanks Margie. She accomplished it over a span of several days.

In keeping with the new design, the three of us removed and cleaned up all the plants consisting of aloe and bromeliads. You can see that the aloe is on the four corners, the bromeliads are in the center back and along the sides.



I donated native porter weed from my garden which is planted in the front of the marker. The porter weed has a tiny blue flower on it which is great for pollinators and some butterflies. It will fill in gradually.

Our next job is to add crushed shell rock over the white rock that is there now. It should look very natural.

We hope you will stop by to view it.

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## MONNA HORMEL'S GORGEOUS DECK POTS IN GEORGIA

*Submitted to Susan Neustadt, President*



Monna Hormel has been busy this summer. Feast your eyes on these gorgeous pots. Here's her recipe: sage, thyme, catnip, purple basil, rosemary, tarragon. In the other pot, pink pentas, white wave petunias, and ivy.



## PRESS RELEASE ON 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY GARDEN IN LEIGH PLUMMER PARK *from Sara Wolf, Publicity and Archives chair*

Next year, in 2023, Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island will celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. The club was founded in 1982 and became affiliated with Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and National Garden Clubs, Inc. in 1983. In preparation for the celebration of this 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Calusa Garden Club has begun installing a beautiful garden in Leigh Plummer Memorial Park, located on Barfield Drive. The club worked with the City of Marco Island to locate a space for the garden, which will feature a variety of Florida friendly plants. Chairpersons of the endeavor are Marianne Foley and Susan Oldershaw.

The club chose Leigh Plummer Memorial Park as the location for its latest project due to the long history of collaboration between the club and Collier County (now the city of Marco Island). In 1982, Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island contacted Collier County to propose establishing the park as a native plant educational area. The area located at 400 North Barfield Drive, and surrounded by Piedmont Circle, had been set aside by the Deltona Corporation developers as a park, and the Garden Club members wanted it to display plants native to Southwest Florida. Under these joint efforts, Leigh Plummer Memorial Park was established in 1984 and named for Mr. Leigh Plummer, a Marco Island resident and longtime Board Member and President of Marco Island Civic Association. Mr. Plummer's wife, Nell, was a Calusa Garden Club member. At the 1984 dedication of Leigh Plummer Memorial Park, the county announced that the pond would be named Calusa Lake, after the first Native American settlers of Marco Island.

Marianne Foley and Sue Oldershaw presented the idea of the anniversary garden in the park, and the club members enthusiastically agreed to donate plants from their collections and to volunteer their time to make the garden a reality. Foley and Oldershaw recruited members to work on fastening orchids and bromeliads to trees and planting bromeliads under the trees. The photo shows the work group posing in their "Calusa Garden Club at Work" t-shirts before getting their hands dirty in the soil. From left to right, they are Marianne Foley, Jen Ferrier, Sue Oldershaw, Linda Ariel, Maria Bachich, Nancy Adams, and Kathy McNabb.



In addition to collecting plants donated by garden club current members, Foley and Oldershaw contacted the family of the late Eva Schliesser, a founder of Calusa Garden Club, and asked permission to transfer some of Schliesser's tree-mounted orchids to the new garden. The results are spectacular! Two extremely large orchids made the transfer and are mounted in the seagrape trees in the garden. Foley and Oldershaw plan to populate the garden with as many plants from Calusa Garden Club founders' gardens as possible. The photo shows Foley and Oldershaw fastening a large orchid from Schliesser's collection to one of the seagrape trees.

Charlette Roman and Linda Shockley, friends of Calusa Garden Club, have been Marco Island orchid growers for over 20 years. They recently donated some of their collection of orchids to the garden, and Roman is pictured with Foley mounting orchids in the trees in the new garden. In addition to orchids, the garden has a huge variety of bromeliads, some hanging from trees, and some planted in the ground, many tillandsias, and a staghorn fern. The Calusa Garden Club's plan for the new garden is to plant it now during our Marco Island rainy season, and to nurture it and improve it this coming year for it to be ready for the club's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in the fall of 2023.

## SUMMER CGC LUNCHES *from Linda Columbo*

Once again, members were able to joined together for a lunch. This one was at Joey Ds. Another luncheon is planned for July 14 at Cocomo's.



Marge Bramel, Claudia Bruni, Pres. Susan, Linda Turner



Kathy Hershberger, Janet Levine, Rhonda (guesst) Barbara Messner, Susan LaGrot



Barbara Messner, Connie Lowery, Opi DeFalco, Kathy McTabb, Agie



Linda Colombo with Linda Chute