



Smoke Signals

The Calusa Garden Club Newsletter

June, 2022

Editor: Nancy Adams

Website: Calusa.org

calusagardenclub@yahoo.com

Letter from Our President

Hello,

The month of May has gone by quickly, but club members have been busy. Many of us enjoyed a great lunch get together at Cocomo's that was coordinated by Linda Colombo and she has planned another one for July. We enjoy seeing each other to catch up on what we're up to, what is growing well, and perhaps not so well, in our gardens. Marco Island received about eight inches of rain due to Tropical Storm Alex but not much since and this heat has been unbearable and it's only June! There was a meeting to develop next year's budget and it is ready for Board Review. The club obtained a storage unit on the island and after some sweat, we were able to consolidate all CGC related items into one space! J2Golf has been working hard on the web site redesign and we are looking forward to a preview of it in August! Several club members participated in National Garden Week and arrangements were placed throughout our town. For those members not on Marco, please send me a photo or two of what is doing well in your garden, and it will be part of next month's newsletter.

Keep cool!

Thanksgiving Floral Design and Plant Sale

Tuesday November 22, 2022



Let's Get Excited! for another fun,
profitable, educational plant sale!

Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2022

Place: Marco Lutheran Church Parking Lot

- Thanksgiving Floral Designs
- Plants for your landscape - limit 4 per grower
- Outdoor Planters – thrill, fill and spill
- Indoor décor plants – one or several - in ceramic pots or terra cotta pots
- Succulent Dish Gardens

TO DO:

- **VOLUNTEER** for the committee
- **LOOK FOR CONTAINERS**, outdoor or indoor
- **DIVIDE YOUR PLANTS** in preparation for the sale

CONTACT: Sara Wolf, Ways and Means chairman,
at 513.706.8681 or sarawolf617@gmail.com.

HAPPENINGS AT THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN by Susan La Grotta

New Member Maureen McFarland donated and planted frogfruit (Phyla nodiflora) aka turkey tangle creeping charley or carpetweed in the garden. It's an evergreen perennial that is low growing creeping ground cover with small white or pink flowers and a purple center. It is also a nectar source for hairstreaks and hosts for white peacock butterflies.

Friend of the garden Rhonda Gloom planted native blue spiderwort (Tradescantia ohiensis) ground cover that is a perennial wildflower and edible! It also attracts pollinators to your garden. We also planted propagated native passion vine (maypop/Passiflora incarnata) from my garden. It's a host for the gulf fritillary, zebra longwing and julia butterflies.

Lots of butterflies have been observed in the garden recently including Gold Rim/Polydamas Swallowtails, Cloudless Sulphurs, Gulf Fritillaries, Ceranus Blue (tiny!) Monarchs and Skippers. Butterflies take flight as the day heats up so plan a visit and be amazed.

Our next maintenance meeting in the garden will be Saturday July 2, 2022.

Like to propagate plants or start plants from seeds or donate a native plant? Please contact Susan LaGrotta susanlagrotta54@gmail.com

=====

GARDEN CLUB SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS by Sara Wolf

Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island awarded two college scholarships to 2022 high school graduates who live on Marco Island. The recipients of the \$1,175 scholarship awards were Mia Witthoff, from Lely High School, and Nick Vergo, from Marco Island Academy. Marianne Foley, Calusa Garden Club Scholarship Chairperson, gave the award to Vergo at the MIA Awards Night and gave the award to Witthoff at Marco Island Historical Society in a ceremony with Calusa Garden Club President Susan Neustadt and Witthoff's parents Stacy and Curt Witthoff.

Susan Neustadt, Stacy, Mia and Curt
Whitthoff and Marianne Foley.



Nick Vergo and Marianne Foley

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK ON MARCO by Opi DeFalco and Sara Wolf

Many thanks to the volunteers that created beautiful arrangements and plantings for NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK, June 5-11, 2022.

Connie Lowery, Barbara Messner, Sara Wolf, Marianne Foley, Sue Neustadt and Opi DeFalco placed designs at Mackle Park, MI Historical Society, MI Library, City Hall, Collier Tax Office, YMCA, and Cache Cleaners.

Marianne Foley at City Hall with Mike Scheffield, City Clerk.



Opi DeFalco donating her design to the Collier County Tax Office

Barbara Messner created a succulent garden for the Marco Island Historical Museum



UPDATE ON LEIGH PLUMMER PARK *by Marianne Foley*

We are having great fun creating a garden to commemorate our garden club's 40th anniversary at Leigh Plummer Park. We have plants installed from Eva Schliesser's garden who is our founding member. We also have donations installed from the gardens of Syd Mellinger member 1991, Lori Fredericks member 1995 and Virginia Read member 1989. We are still in need of red or bright pink neoregelia if you would like to contribute. We are also in need of nylon stockings including knee highs. We have received very positive feedback from the park walkers including donations. Please contact Marianne if you can donate JJMFOLEY@AOL.COM.

CALUSA GARDEN CLUB RENTS STORAGE UNIT *by Sara Wolf*

As CGC members know from emails sent this May, we recently moved most of our rarely used, but essential, items the Club had stored at Liz Haines Papagiannis' condominium storage cage to a storage unit CGC has rented at Prime Storage. Most of the items moved are used for flower shows, but there are also our boxes of archives, banners for events, and signs for the plant sale, among other items. Assistant Treasurer Margie Bramel is in charge of the storage unit and has the key and is keeping the CGC equipment inventory. President Susan Neustadt also has a key to the storage unit.

Hospitality items remain stored on our shelf at Wesley United Methodist Church. If members are storing items belonging to the Garden Club, please contact Margie Bramel so she can add those items to our equipment inventory.

A BIG THANK YOU -

to Elizabeth Haines Papagiannis, who stored our items for many years.

Also big "thank yous" to Sandy Wallen, who stored our bamboo fencing, to Lindy Kowalczyk, who stored our black panels on wheels, and to many others who have stored items for the Club. And thanks to members Sue Oldershaw, Sara Wolf, Kimberly Porter, and Margie Bramel who managed the transfer of items.



Kim Porter, Margie Bramel and Sara Wolf looking happy with their efforts on moving into the new storage unit.

The new super tidy unit!



BLUE ZONE LUNCH by Susan Neustadt



Our hostess made bruschetta, tomato pasta salad, and a lovely arugula, Belgian endive, and radicchio salad on June 14 at the Marco Island Library. At least 30 members of the public attended.

+++++

FIRST SUMMER LUNCHEON by Linda Colombo



Thirteen Calusa members enjoyed a delightful lunch at Cocomos in May. It is always so nice to connect during the off-season months contact the president for a prize when things slow down. If you have not received email on the lunches, please contact me to investigate. lindadeec@comcast.net

=====

EXTRA THANKS by Kim Porter

An extra round of thanks to the following Garden Club Members:

- Linda Columbo for organizing the summer luncheon get-together...
- Liz Paggiannis for storing the bulk of our CGC physical inventory for years.
- Margie Bramel for agreeing to be the monitor of the new storage unit; along with information and guidelines as to its complete contents and "borrowing" procedures.

MEMBER JANET LEVINE HAS A NEW BOOK by Sue Neustadt

Congratulations to Janet Levine on her newly published book from Armin Lear Press "Reading Matters-How Literature Influences Life". She can be reached at janet@janetlevine.com. Her website is janetlevine.com.

=====

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SALE – ACT FAST by Susan LaGrotta

Purchase your

Wax Myrtle and American Beautyberry

From the Naples Chapter

of the Florida Native Plant Society. These plants are from a local native plant nursery and all proceeds go to the FNPS/Naples Chapter.

Visit Florida Native Plant Society/ Naples Chapter <https://fnpsnaples.org>

Visit Florida Native Plant Society : <https://www.fnps.org>

For Educational Links, events, resources for native plants and membership.

All orders should be pre-ordered by Friday, June 17th.

Simply email your order to NaplesNativePlantSales@gmail.com

Call or text any questions: 239.250.6500

Wax Myrtle: \$12 per plant

American Beautyberry: \$15 per plant

Convenient pickup locations and times (cash or checks, please):

- **Thursday, June 16th** at the UF/IFAS Campus - Native Plant Garden. 14700 Immokalee Road, Naples. 9:30am- Noon
- **Friday, June 17th** at 6041 Copper Leaf Lane, near Golden Gate Parkway and Rt 75. 11am-1pm.
- **Saturday, June 18th** at 1648 Barbarosa Court, Marco Island. 10am-noon.

