



# *Smoke Signals*

## The Calusa Garden Club Newsletter

**October, 2021**

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### *Letter from Our President*

Welcome to our Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island first official meeting of the 2021-2022 club year! Summer flew by and now we are into Fall, which means drier days, less rain, and cooler weather. Since we are meeting in person indoors, please be aware of your health risks and of others', and let's be safe. Our meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month, with the Board Meeting at 10:00 a.m. and the General Meeting following at 11:00 a.m. to streamline our gatherings. On the next Monday (the third Monday of each month), there will be a Floral Design Workshop at 10:00 a.m. and

Horticulture Workshop at 1:00 p.m., each with limited space. Sign up will be at the General Meeting.

Members have been busy these past few months: proposing the 2021-2022 budget; amending the Bylaws and Standing rules to feature a new restructure of Committees and a change in dues; holding meetings to review proposals to redesign our website; working to coordinate the Thanksgiving arrangement and plant sale logistics. Let's all look forward to this sale, a new fundraising and community activity that will be held on Tuesday, November 23 at the parking lot of Marco Lutheran Church on Collier Boulevard. This sale will be open to the public, and we will publicize our Garden Club, sell plants, succulent dish gardens, Thanksgiving centerpieces, and, of course, our Calusa Garden Club Gardening Guide.

We are planning a Holiday party in December to be held at the Marco Island Yacht Club, an evening event for members and spouse or significant other. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, Junior Gardeners will be cancelled this year but I'm happy to say there will be Gadabouts scheduled from October to May, and a wonderful Field Trip in addition to a Home Garden tour in 2022. Check our website, calusa.org for the 2021-2022 Month-by-Month Calendar.

We look forward for a great 2021-2022 year as we meet in person!

*Susan*

☆☆☆ **DISTRICT IX MEETING** ☆☆☆  
**OCT. 26, 9:30 -12:30**  
**Attend our District IX meeting on**  
**Tuesday, October 26, by Zoom. District**  
**Director Dale DeFeo has planned**  
**a great meeting!**

**COME ONE, COME ALL!**  
**CALUSA GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE!**

*Plants / Containers*  
*Succulent Dish Gardens*  
*Thanksgiving Floral Designs*



- November 23, 2021
- 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Marco Lutheran Church
- 515 N. Collier Boulevard

## IMPORTANT DATES: October - November

<b>Monday October 11</b>	10 a.m.	Board Meeting
	11 a.m.	Member Meeting
	12 p.m.	Member Social Time
	1 p.m.	Program
<b>Monday October 18</b>	10 a.m.	Floral Design Workshop- Mass Design Lindy Kowalczyk
	1 p.m.	Horticulture Workshop- Orchids 101 Linda Schwoeppe
<b>Tuesday October 26</b>	9:30 a.m.	District IX Meeting – Zoom
<b>Wednesday October 27</b>	9 a.m.- 4 p.m.	Gadabouts- Freedom Park: Nature Walk and Lunch
<b>Saturday October 30</b>	8:30 a.m.	Calusa Park Butterfly Garden Work Group
<b>Monday November 8</b>	10 a.m.	Board Meeting
	11 a.m.	Member Meeting
	12 p.m.	Member Social Time
	1 p.m.	Program
<b>Saturday November 13</b>	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Gadabouts- Naples Yard and Garden Show
<b>Monday November 15</b>	10 a.m.	Floral Design Workshop- Lindy Kowalczyk
	1 p.m.	Horticulture Workshop- Linda Schwoeppe
<b>Tuesday November 23</b>	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Plant and Thanksgiving Centerpiece Sale
<b>Saturday, November 27</b>	8:30 a.m.	Calusa Park Butterfly Garden Work Group



District Director Dale DeFeo Installs Calusa Garden Club 2021-2023 Officers on April 8, 2021



# *Happy Hallowe'en!*



# MEET YOUR CALUSA GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS!

New officers for Calusa Garden Club were installed on April 8, 2021. Since then, the new officers have been busy preparing for an activity-filled and educational year for our Club.

## ***President Susan Neustadt***



President Susan Neustadt has been active in Calusa Garden Club since joining in 2015. She worked with the Hospitality Committee, then served as Second Vice-President and Membership Chair, and also volunteered with Junior Gardeners. Susan and her husband Bruce have been Marco Island residents since August of 2015. Susan worked for 25 years at Ortho Pharmaceutical, Ortho Biotech, and The Pharmaceutical Research Institute, part of the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies. After ending her career at J&J, Susan switched gears and was employed as a Data Analyst for Water Island Capital, a Merger and Arbitrage Fund, based in New York City, for 10 years. Susan has lived in both Washington Township and Manahawkin, New Jersey. She was a member of a New Jersey Garden Club for 10 years while living there. Susan changed gears from being part of corporate America to becoming an entrepreneur when she moved to Marco Island. She purchased the Curves franchise on Marco Island in 2015 and she and Bruce also purchased the A-OK Transportation company and Caché Cleaners.

Susan and Bruce have 2 daughters: Sara, who is a sixth-grade science teacher at Marco Island Charter Middle School, and Hannah, who works in digital marketing in Scottsdale, Arizona. Susan is an avid gardener who has enhanced her yard with several new beds of Florida friendly plants since she and Bruce purchased their home. She also grows vegetables in Earth Boxes. Susan's positive contributions to Calusa Garden Club, her experience in her New Jersey garden club, and her great organization skills plus her warm personality provide a great foundation for her role as President as she guides our Club over the next two years.

## ***First Vice-President & Program Chair Kimberly Korb Porter***



Upon meeting First Vice-President Kimberly Korb Porter, you easily see how her actions embody her motto, "Be positive, not negative!" Her enthusiasm and positive attitude permeate all her interactions with others. Kimberly has been a resident of Marco Island since renting seasonally in 2004, then purchasing a home in 2012. She was born and raised in Denver, Colorado, and still has family in and strong ties to that city. She attended college at the University of Colorado in Boulder where she studied marketing and finance. Kimberly has two daughters with her former husband: Karaline who is 30 and Katharine who is 32. Kimberly is an avid sports fan and still supports the Denver Broncos! For 27 years she owned the Butler's Pantry in Denver, an event planning and floral design business, which she sold in 2012.

Since relocating to Marco Island, Kimberly has become very active in the community. She is on the Board of the Marco Island Center for the Arts, is a former officer in the Shell Club, and teaches water aerobics at the Marco Island Yacht Club. Kimberly also has her Florida real estate sales license and owns Accommodation Concierge Property Management, a business that provides services for absent Marco Island homeowners. Kimberly recently adopted two orange kittens, Mr. Darcy and Miss Elizabeth, who keep her busy. She has been active in the Garden Club as the Special Events Committee Chair, has participated in Gadabouts and volunteered for other activities. We look forward to the coming two years as Kimberly serves as Program Chair and presents our speakers for 2021-2023.

### ***Second Vice-President and Membership Chair Monique Doyle***



Second Vice-President Monique Doyle joined Calusa Garden Club in 2017, after purchasing a vacation home on Marco Island with her husband Patrick in 2015. She is an avid gardener and enjoyed working with native and Florida friendly plants as she re-landscaped their home. Although they sold that home in 2019, Monique and Patrick still reside part time in Collier County and the rest of the year they live in the southwest suburbs of Chicago. She enjoys “northern” gardening in Illinois and enjoys working on gardening projects in Florida with friends. Monique has 3 daughters and 5 grandchildren. Two of her daughters live in the Chicago area, while one has relocated to Utah.

Monique spent her working career in software sales with IBM and AT&T. After retiring from AT&T, she enjoyed pursuing her hobbies of tennis, pickleball, fishing, and of course spending time with her daughters’ families. Monique’s outgoing personality is an asset in her position of Membership Chair and she looks forward to recruiting new members by emphasizing the camaraderie enjoyed by our Club members, and the “can-do” attitude we adopt when taking on projects to benefit the community.

### ***Treasurer Annette Kuhn***



Treasurer Annette Kuhn joined Calusa Garden Club in 2019 and immediately began contributing to our meetings by taking on the role of Technology Chair. Then she agreed to fill the unexpired term of our Treasurer and accepted the nomination to serve as Treasurer for the 2021-2023 term. Annette and her husband Scott, a software developer, moved to Marco Island from New Hampshire on July 1, 2019. She obtained her Florida real estate license prior to their move so that she could continue her real estate sales career with Keller Williams, the firm she had worked with in New Hampshire. Annette has been active on Marco Island with Newcomers Club and other community activities. She and her husband own two Labrador Retrievers, Sonny and Bruno, and enjoy walking them all over Marco Island.

Annette graduated from college with a degree in civil engineering, but changed careers in 2006 and owned her own business. She then changed careers again, obtaining her NH real estate license in 2016. She was a member of the Dunbarton Garden Club in New Hampshire for many years, and enjoys the challenges of gardening in Southwest Florida as well as enjoys our long growing season! Annette is an outgoing person and looks forward to Calusa Garden Club members meeting in person this year. She enjoys cooking and entertaining, travel, pickleball, and if you see her Facebook posts, you know she is good at growing bananas! She has loved getting to know our Calusa Garden Club members and looks forward to expanding those relationships.

### ***Assistant Treasurer Margie Bramel***



Margaret (Margie) Bramel joined our Club in 2019 and served as Member Hospitality Committee Chair in 2019-2021. She volunteers her time in several Club projects including the maintenance of the markers and memorials. She has been coming to Marco Island for over 30 years, at first vacationing with her father and siblings, and then purchasing a condominium vacation home with her husband Larry in 2004. Margie grew up in Toledo, Ohio, and lived in Columbus, Ohio with her husband Larry. In 2019 they purchased a home on Marco Island making Marco their permanent residence. Margie received her M.A. in Education at The Ohio State University in 1980. Her education career of 32 years with South-Western City Schools, Grove City, Ohio included 9 years as a teacher, 5 years as

an assistant principal, 11 years as a principal and 7 years as the district’s Head Start Director. In 2005 she retired and worked part-time with the State of Ohio Department of Education as a Consultant until 2017. Her administrative positions afforded her the opportunity to utilize her skills in managing staffing, securing federal, state, and local funds, budgeting



and most importantly providing the best educational opportunities for children. Margie's demanding work life contributed to her love of gardening: after work, and on weekends while Larry played golf, Margie found her "heaven" in her terraced back yard that led down to a creek. There she could commune with nature and add beauty to her garden with new plants.

Margie is an avid pickleball player and has enjoyed decorating her new home. As is illustrated by her immediate involvement in Calusa Garden Club after first becoming a member, Margie likes to be involved and to contribute to projects and activities. Margie's skills at managing have been evident in her work as the Hospitality Committee Chair, and those skills have contributed greatly to our budgeting and financial review processes.

### ***Secretary Laura Furlong***



Secretary Laura Furlong joined Calusa Garden Club in 2020, and although we were meeting by Zoom in 2020, she volunteered immediately for projects such as surveying and identifying plants in the Marco Island Nature Preserve and Bird Sanctuary. Laura and her husband Steve have vacationed on Marco Island since 1996, when they first visited with their son Sam. Now, since moving permanently to Marco Island in March of 2020, Laura lives in a home where her back yard is contiguous to her parents' back yard, and she appreciates that closeness so that she can assist her parents with their daily activities. Laura grew up in southern Wisconsin, went to college at UW-Whitewater, and then pursued her MBA at Illinois State University in Bloomington, IL. Laura and Steve lived in Bloomington, IL with their son Sam until their retirement. In her work life, Laura was Chief Executive Officer of Marcfirst, a nonprofit with a mission to serve children, families and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Laura found her work very rewarding because she developed strong relationships with families and community members and community entities that supported that work. Her son Sam and his wife Cristina live in Columbia, Maryland where Sam works for Facebook and Cristina teaches 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

Laura's enthusiasm for nature and gardening shows in her signing up for the Collier County Master Gardener course with her husband Steve, and now that they have become Master Gardeners, they look forward to doing their ongoing volunteer and educational outreach support that is required of Master Gardeners in Collier County. Laura's father was a Master Gardener and encouraged her interest in gardening. She is also inspired to garden because she observed through her work how much people with disabilities enjoyed gardening. Laura loves travel, walking-hiking, cooking, golf (amateurs), and music. She is part of Newcomers and the AAUW Book Club on Marco Island. In Calusa Garden Club, Laura enjoys the Butterfly Garden, worked on the Marco Island Nature Preserve plant identification project, and enjoys floral arrangement seminars. Laura says, The garden club was the absolute best connection for me in getting established in Marco Island.....so much gardening experience and kindness in sharing was very welcoming to me during my unique first year on the island."

### ***Corresponding Secretary Joan Husband***



Corresponding Secretary Joan Husband has been a member of the Calusa Garden Club since 2019. She and her husband Dave have a home on Marco Island, where they moved from Wildwood, in southern New Jersey. Joan has been active in club activities since locating on Marco Island, although much of her time is taken up caring for Dave, who sustained a traumatic brain injury shortly after they moved to Marco Island. Joan is an active member of Just Friends and was previously active in and an officer of Newcomers Club. She always participates in activities such as the Holiday Dog Parade where she dresses her dog Pickles in a costume! Joan participates in water aerobics classes at the YMCA and enjoys the social activities that group has developed including a Book Club that Joan often hosts by Zoom. Joan is the mother of 3 daughters and has 4 grandchildren.

Joan and her husband Dave raised their children in Arlington, Virginia. Joan is a registered nurse, in in Arlington, Joan worked as a Lamaze childbirth instructor and a public health nurse. They moved to New Jersey in 2000, where Joan volunteered with the Wildwood Preservation Society for 10 years before moving to Marco Island in 2014. Joan's cheerful personality and her organizational and technical skills form a sound basis for her work in Calusa Garden Club as a member of the Board and Corresponding Secretary



## Blue Zones Project: October Member Profile

Chairperson: Sharon Lewis

October features Jennifer Ferrier, an avid gardner, a shell collecting enthusiast, and a walking, talking Blue Zones example of healthy living.



Jennifer loves her garden and also enjoys kayaking and walking on the beach to find shells with which she designs and creates beautiful shell flowers. On Mother's Day, Jen would give them to the women where her grandmother lived for many years. Jen's faith and support of her family is very strong.



### One of Jennifer's healthy recipes is Pineapple Salsa:

1. ½ large firm avocado, cut in chunks
2. 1-1/2 cups diced pineapple
3. 1 cup peeled and diced kiwifruit
4. 1 red pepper, diced
5. ¼ cup finely diced red onion
6. 1 jalapeno, seeded and minced
7. **Finish:** ¼ Cup fresh cilantro and zest of 1 small lime.

**Instructions:** Put all of the first 6 ingredients in a small bowl and combine. Finish with ¼ cup fresh cilantro and zest of 1 small lime. Salt & pepper to taste.

Excellent to serve with fish, chicken or with chips.



Jennifer's mantra is "Get out there and remember to eat healthy and exercise with friends. This will lead to a long life filled with health and happiness."

## What did we do this summer?

Take a look at Calusa Garden Club's activities from April through September.

### APRIL



Dale DeFeo, District Chairman, Sara Wolf, Past President, and Susan Neustadt, President, at the April Officer Installation with a beautiful floral design made by Jenn Ferrier.

### MAY

In May, a group of Calusa Garden Club members redesigned and planted new plants at the Veterans' Memorial located at Marco Island Cemetery. Sara Wolf, Maria Bachich, Monna Hormel, Sue Oldershaw, Janet Watson, and Nancy Adams worked on the project. A group of Club members is pictured at the dedication of the new landscaping where Theresa and Joe Giannone, who asked the Club to undertake the project, were pictured with Father Tim Navin of San Marco Catholic Church and our Club members. Left to right, Susan LaGrotta, Laura Furlong, Linda Turner, Father Tim





Navin, Theresa Giannone and Joe Giannone, Linda Colombo, Linda Chute, Susan Neustadt, Marianne Foley and Sara Wolf.

## JUNE: NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

In June, the Club celebrated National Garden Week with Flowers in Public Places and a visit to Linda Schwoeppe's Garden.



Bruce and Susan Neustadt at Caché Cleaners with a floral design by Susan.



Opi DeFalco at Marco Public Library with Brenda Rasch, librarian, with a floral design by Opi.



Marianne Foley and Marcia Pinter at City Hall with a floral design by Marianne.





Susan Neustadt visits Linda Schwoeppe's garden. Linda holds a variegated maho tree and Susan holds a geiger tree, both of which were cultivated by Linda. They are standing under a variegated maho tree.

## JUNE: ROBERTS RANCH TOUR AND JO-ANN SANBORN EXHIBIT



On June 15, Club members visited Roberts Ranch, a Collier County Museum in Immokalee. We had a look back in history with a tour by the Museum staff, and we enjoyed Jo-Ann Sanborn's exhibit of whimsical cow paintings. After visiting the Immokalee farmers' market, we ate lunch at a great Mexican restaurant.

One of the original buildings dating from the 1800's.







Club members listen to our tour guide under one of the very old trees at Roberts Ranch.

## JULY: TILLANDSIA WORKSHOP

In July, our new Horticulture Chair, Linda Schwoeppe, worked with Eva Kbuinsky to present a seminar on tillandsia. Club members attending enjoyed the educational presentation, and six members chose to purchase supplies to make a tillandsia decoration by gluing tillandsia to a piece of cork bark.

The photos show that a great time was had by all!







## SEPTEMBER: SUCCULENT DISH GARDEN WORKSHOP

In September, Linda Colombo held a succulent dish garden workshop for our November 23 Plant Sale, and several members attended to obtain new plants for the succulent dish gardens they had made for our 2020 Plant Sale and had maintained in order to sell them this year. Some of the succulent dish gardens needed to be refreshed. Some members brought some of their own succulents and containers, then chose a few of the new succulent plants Linda had purchased to make new dish gardens for sale in November.





## SEPTEMBER: SAVE THE PLANTS AT BLUE STAR MEMORIAL

Also in September, Linda Colombo, Susan Neustadt and Margie Bramel worked to save some of the plants in the garden we maintain around our Blue Star Memorial in Veterans' Park. The Blue Star Memorial was scheduled to be moved due to construction starting in Veterans Park to build the band shell and new restroom building.



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# CGC SALE!

- PLANTS
- THANKSGIVING CENTERPIECES
- SUCCULENT DISH GARDENS
- CONTAINERS
- SPECIALTY TABLE

## Tuesday November 23

- 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Marco Lutheran Church Parking Lot

### Plants

*Separate, nurture, trim and make your plant a WOW for the sale! Sue Oldershaw and Linda Schwoeppe can help you make the most of what you have!*

### Thanksgiving Centerpieces

*Pumpkin container or decorative container? Marianne Foley can assist you with your container and your design.*

### Succulent Dish Gardens

*Linda Colombo will assist you with plants, plant choices, planting and container advice.*

### Containers

*Have a little-used container someone might want? Laura Furlong can let you know what we think will sell.*

### Specialty Table

*Orchids and rare plants, extra-large plants, other unusual plants will be placed on the Specialty Table.*

### Member Participation

*We ask each member to donate at least 2 items and to work at least 1 shift. We look forward to this community event – and we will have fun together as we raise awareness of our Club and raise money.*

## THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS:

THANK YOU to Cache Cleaners for storing our 6 bins of archives. Cache Cleaners is offering Calusa Garden Club members a 10% discount on cleaning services, which you can obtain by showing your CGC Name Badge.  
Thank you, Bruce, and Susan Neustadt!

