



Smoke Signals **The Calusa Garden Club Newsletter**

January, 2022

Editor: Nancy Adams

Website: Calusa.org

calusagardenclub@aol.com

Letter from Our President

Happy New Year to you and I hope you had a safe and healthy holiday! Many of us were fortunate to be with family this past Christmas and renew friendships that were put on hold due to the COVID-19 virus. We still need to be vigilant of our health and respectful of others as we go about our daily lives.

Season is upon us as you can tell by the crowds at the beaches, stores, restaurants and especially on the roads. I have found that many people have moved here permanently, leaving crowded cities up north to settle in our little bit of Paradise. If you have a new neighbor, invite them to our meetings - I'm sure they are eager to learn about gardening here on Marco. We need to educate them about native Florida plants and how to reduce their impact on the environment, especially reducing the need for water, fertilizer, and pesticides.

Every Wednesday, please visit the Farmer's Market at Mackle Park. Bring a reusable bag and enjoy the delicious food, fresh flowers, and produce. Other events at Mackle Park include exercise and yoga classes, dancing, knitting, bridge and more. Go have some fun!

It's a month away but it's not too soon to solicit volunteers to coordinate our Field Trip to Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, FL on February 1. Additional information can be found in this issue. Two other upcoming events for which we need volunteers are helping at our booth at the Naples Garden Club Flower Show Vendor Tent on March 18 and 19, and the Garden Tour on Tuesday, March 29, featuring gardens of homeowners on Marco.

The weather has been hotter than normal; hopefully we can have some cooler weather as we go into the winter - something we enjoy as we putter around in our gardens, weeding by hand, pruning, watching winter blooming plants, and getting our hands dirty. So much fun!

Susan

IMPORTANT DATES: January - February

Monday January 10	10 a.m.	Board Meeting
	11 a.m.	Member Meeting
	12 p.m.	Member lunch
	1 p.m.	Program – Care and Planting of Native Florida Trees
Monday January 17	10 a.m.	Floral Design Workshop – Designing with wool
	1 p.m.	Horticultural Workshop - Tillandsias
Friday January 21	TBD	FLORIDA ARBOR DAY
Wednesday January 26	9 a.m.	Gadabouts – Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary
Saturday January 29	8:30 a.m.	Butterfly Garden Work Group
Tuesday February 1	8 a.m.	Field Trip
Monday February 14	10 a.m.	Board Meeting
	11 a.m.	Member Meeting
	12 p.m.	Member lunch
	1 p.m.	Program – A Marco Landscape Transformation Project
Monday February 21	10 a.m.	Floral Design Workshop – Creative Greenery
	1 p.m.	Horticulture Workshop – Orchid workshop
Saturday February 26	8:30 a.m.	Butterfly Garden Work Group
Monday February 28	9 a.m.	Gadabout – Everglades Wonder Gardens

FEBRUARY 1, 2022 FIELD TRIP

SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS SARASOTA

Committee is forming now! Please lend your ideas and efforts to make our field trip for CGC and the public a huge success!

First Meeting: Wed. Jan. 5, 2022, 2:00 p.m.
Sara's home

Contact: Sara Wolf
sarawolf617@gmail.com
513.706.8681

January 21, 2022

ARBOR DAY INFORMATION

Chairperson: Linda Columbo

Once again, the club is looking forward to planting a native tree in Leigh Plummer Park for the community. At this point we have not received the go ahead from the city to plant. I am hopeful that we can plant. A notice will go out to the membership when I hear back from the department head who oversees this activity.

INFORMATION ON JANUARY GADABOUT TRIP:

Chairperson: Sue Oldershaw

GADABOUT TRIP- Wed., Jan.26,2022- Audubon Corkscrew Sanctuary. Cost- \$17 admission, \$5 to driver. I had to purchase tickets ahead, so pay me, Sue O.- Bring box lunch, water, hat, binoculars, comfortable walking shoes and mask. Mask required in cars, information center and gift shop. We will stop at Sanctuary Nursery after lunch. Meet at little Publix parking lot at 9am., Return by 4pm. Email Sue O. At nfn21976@naples.net to reserve your spot by Jan 11, 2022. There are 8 spots!

+++++

YEARBOOK UPDATE – or rather a correction of a correction:

Please disregard the updated address listed for Sharon Lewis in the December newsletter. The addresses listed in the yearbook are correct.

#####

BUTTERFLY GARDEN IS LOOKING FOR PROPAGATION VOLUNTEERS:

Chairperson: Susan LaGrotta

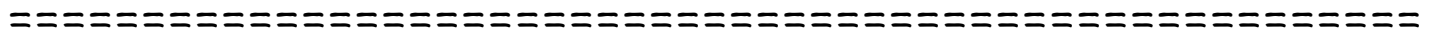


Thank you volunteers for your time and dedication to maintaining this gem of a garden on the island!

This year I would like to focus on plant propagation of native plants by gathering seeds (aka deadheading!) and taking cutting from established plants to propagate new plants for the garden.

If working in the garden isn't a possibility, please consider offering to propagate plants to be placed in the garden or donate seeds/cuttings to our committee (preferably from native plants)

Pots, seeds, cuttings, and soil will be provided! Contact me for more information: susanlagrotta54@gmail.com



THANK YOU FOR FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP

THANK YOU to all who worked at the Marco Library Flower Arranging Workshop! Your participation made it a fun event for all of us CGC members, and an educational event for all the participants! Thanks to Susan Neustadt, Laura Furlong, Opi DeFalco, Bernadette Longo, Maria Bachich, Marianne Foley, Jackie Purvis, Terri Pike, and Jo-Ann Carroll. And thanks to Lindy Kowalczyk for her behind-the-scenes instructions on how to organize this event, as well as Charlette Roman, Friend of Calusa, who attended to assist.

From Connie Lowery, Design Co-Chair and Sara Wolf, Logistics Co-Chair



THANK YOU FOR HOLIDAY GALA HELP!

Chairperson: Janice Engle

Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island members celebrated the holidays with a ***“Black and White” Gala*** at the Marco Island Yacht Club on Dec. 7 with the members dressing in festive black and white. The table décor carried thru the black and white theme with centerpieces in silver cubes underlaid with black glitter netting that showcased white spider mums among black and silver accents.

The evening began with a short business meeting at which new members Jo Ann Carroll, Claudia Bruni and Jeanne Schultz were introduced.

Garden Club members enjoyed dinner and dancing at the festive evening holiday party. DJ FARIS, the disc jockey, provided dance music – including lots of “oldies” that the members and guests danced to as they recalled their earlier years. Members held a raffle of holiday gift items, local business donations and the table centerpieces. Members and guests also brought unwrapped toys for the Marco Island Christmas Island Style and food items for Our Daily Bread Food Pantry.

The Special Events Chairpeople Janice Engel, Connie Lowery & Claudia Bruni would like to thank all involved that made this event a success: • Kimberly Porter for securing and going above and beyond negotiations with The Marco Island Yacht Club. • Sharon Lewis generously funded the DJ (DJ Faris) for music & dancing. • Janice Engel, Connie Lowery, Monique Doyle, Kimberly Porter, Sharon Lewis, Sara Wolf, Maura Kelley, Jeanne Schultz for designing and constructing the centerpieces and candy favors. • Jennifer Ferrier for getting the donations and running the very successful raffle.

MEET YOUR NEW CLUB OFFICERS:

In this January issue, we continue our committee chairman profiles with the Member Enrichment Committee chairpersons: Maria Bachich, Environment Chairman; Sue Oldershaw, Gadabouts Chairman; Jenn Ferrier, Gadabouts Co-Chairman; and Linda Schwoeppe, Horticulture Chairman. We will profile Lindy Kowalczyk, Floral Design Chairman, in the February newsletter, and Sharon Lewis, Member Enrichment Group Chairman and Blue Zones Chairman, was profiled previously in the November newsletter.

Maria Bachich, Environment Chairman



Maria Bachich is chair of the Environmental Committee. In that role, she alerts Garden Club members to events, policies or legislation regarding protecting the environment and preserving our natural habitat in Southwest Florida.

Maria was born in Philadelphia, and spent most of her life on a small farm in the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York. She owns a healthcare company and although she is retired, Maria still keeps her hand in the business because her son is her partner in that company and now

runs it. Maria has lived on Marco Island since 2012, and built a home in Hideaway Beach in 2013.

Maria has four sons, of whom three are living, and lovely daughters-in-law. Maria's children are parents of her eight grandchildren, two of whom are now married, and she has one great-grandchild.

Maria's passion is gardening. She gardened and farmed on her small farm in New York, and since building her home on Marco Island, she has landscaped, torn out everything, and re-landscaped. It is a learning curve to discover the plants that survive our poor soil, hot weather and alternating seasons of rain and no rain.

Maria is a new member of the Club, joining us in 2020 when we did not have in-person meetings. She has been a willing volunteer to our activities, including the plant sale, the plantings at Marco Island cemetery Veterans Memorial, and the Christmas Flower Arranging workshop at the Library. Maria asks members to contact her with their questions on environmental matters and suggestions for field trips or environmental topics on which they would like more information.

Sue Oldershaw, Gadabouts Chairman and Founder



Susan (Sue) Oldershaw is co-chair and founder of our Gadabouts program. She says she had a desire to visit many gardening and nature-related locations in our area, but her husband Lee wasn't always as interested in going, so she founded our Gadabouts program to find others to go with her and to provide the opportunity for all CGC members improve their knowledge of our environment, horticulture and floral design on trips within two hours of Marco. Sue was also co-chair of the plant section of our November Plant Sale, and previously served as chair of the Environmental avenue of our Club for the last two years.

Sue graduated from SUNY at Plattsburgh, New York, on the northwestern shore of Lake Champlain, with a BS. R.N. She moved to Marco Island 42 years ago in 1979 with her husband Lee, who was an Eastern Airline Captain. They have two children, Cheryl and Travis, whom they raised on Marco Island. Sue and Lee sailed with their family on "Enchantress," their 41' sailboat, for many years and took trips to the Bahamas, among other destinations. She also played USTA competitive tennis.

When Sue moved to Marco Island in 1979, the community had only 4000 residents and there was no Calusa Garden Club until 1982. Sue worked as an R.N. at The Willoughs, and she was a member of Marco Island's Beautification Committee (before the city was incorporated; the group is now called the Beautification Advisory Committee). On the committee she met Susan LaGrotta, and they worked to develop the Butterfly Garden at Calusa Park in partnership with Marco Island.

Sue joined Calusa Garden Club in 2000 and over the years has held many positions including serving as our President from 2006 to 2008. Sue loves gardening and has experimented with drought-tolerant Florida friendly plants for Zone 10A. She has developed a colorful garden around her Deltona cottage that attracts butterflies and birds, preserves water and uses little fertilizer and insecticides.

Sue loves all of our Garden Club's 3 areas: floral design, horticulture and environment and is happy to share her knowledge with others. She invites all CGC members to join her and Jennifer on their next trip in January!

Jennifer Ferrier, Gadabouts Co-Chairman and Chairman of Meeting Raffles



Jennifer Ferrier is Co-Chairman of Gadabouts. She enjoys travel and learning about her newly adopted home of Southwest Florida and was happy to co-chair Gadabouts with Sue Oldershaw. In addition, Jennifer is chairman of Meeting Raffles which give CGC members a marketplace for their “extra” plants and gardening supplies. She is an energetic and dependable volunteer who also works on our Club’s other activities wherever needed.

Jennifer has been living on Marco Island for three years. She was born in the southwestern suburbs of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and spent her teaching career of 28 years in Ocean City, New Jersey as a primary grade teacher and gifted class specialist. In Ocean City, Jen’s neighbor was an iris farm, and that is how she became an avid gardener. She became interested in irises and grew many varieties of exotic irises in her yard through the years.

Jen’s mother and brother live with her on Marco Island, and at her home Jen has added many beautiful and varied plants to beautify her yard. She thanks all the CGC members who have given her plants for her yard and invites us to stop by to see the amazing collection of bromeliads and orchids in addition to other plants that she has added to her landscape. She also has a bountiful avocado tree! And Jen reminds us to amend our poor sandy soil when adding plants to our landscapes – she uses 1/3 manure and 2/3 potting soil or garden soil to enrich her planting areas before adding new plants.

In addition to gardening Jennifer enjoys both of CGC’s other areas of concentration. She is interested in protecting the environment and has developed her floral design skills. Jennifer thanks members for the plants they have donated for our meeting raffles and asks us to contact her prior to bringing items to the meeting so she can plan the selection of items offered.

Linda Schwoeppe, Horticulture Chairman



Linda Schwoeppe is chairman of horticulture education for our club. Linda is an avid gardener and has brought a hands-on dimension to our horticulture education by presenting workshops including tillandsia, succulents, and orchid repotting. She also served as co-chair of the plant section for our November Plant Sale.

Linda is originally from Cincinnati, Ohio and has lived on Marco Island full time for three years. She has visited here since the 1970’s on vacations and relocated here with her husband Dave after retiring. She became interested in gardening through her family – her father had a big garden and enjoyed working with plants.

Linda’s early career was as a clothing designer for 15 years, and she lived in Greensboro, North Carolina. There she met her husband and they lived and worked in Greensboro for 30 years. Linda had a lifelong aspiration to own a restaurant, so she quit her clothing design career and opened a restaurant in Greensboro called Cincy’s – and then opened another one! The restaurants served Cincinnati-style chili, other lunch items, and desserts. She owned and operated the two restaurants for about 15 years. After retiring, Linda took on another avocation - making pottery. She enjoys anything hands-on: pottery making, sewing, beading, cooking and gardening! While building a new home in Greensboro, Linda met her neighbor who grew orchids. Soon Linda had built a 1500 square foot greenhouse on her property and began cultivating orchids. She brought many of these beautiful plants to Marco Island where they are thriving thanks to Linda’s attention and skill.

Linda is also interested in landscape design and designed the landscaping for her current home on Marco Island. In addition, Linda was the plant section co-chair for our November plant sale and has lots of ideas for us to implement for our 2022 sale. She was very pleased with all the plants our members donated to the sale. She asks club members to let her know what types of workshops and information they would like to see presented in the horticulture area. Linda's enjoyment of horticulture is summed up by this quote from her: "Growing things is good for the soul, good for the community, and good for the environment."



Blue Zones Project: January

Chairperson: Sharon Lewis

Laura and Steven Furlong are permanent residents of Marco Island since 2020. They live the blue zones life without really trying. Both are certified Master Gardeners' completing their certification in Collier County.

Both complement each other in the kitchen as well. Laura loves to cook and uses their herb garden to add flavor to her dishes and Steve loves to bake. Togetherness in the kitchen -how cool is this. Exercise is part of their life, walking 4-5 miles daily. They both give back to the community.

Laura volunteers at the Butterfly Garden and also did a volunteer lecture on container gardening at the library. Steven is a coach to senior softball players here on Marco and Laura is looking towards developing a succulent class for the elders in senior housing. In addition to the Calusa Garden Club, Laura belongs to the Newcomers Club and Steven is a member of the Marco Island Men's Club.



Here is one of their favorite recipes that they want to share

Roasted Crispy Brussels Sprouts 1 lb. of brussels sprouts, trimmed, sliced thinly 2Tbs of oil, 2-3 cloves garlic minced ¼ cup of parmesan cheese Juice of 1 lemon Salt & Pepper to taste Preheat oven 400. Place sliced sprouts on baking sheet. Add garlic, drizzle oil, S&P Roast 25 min, take out, cool, sprinkle with lemon juice and parmesan cheese

PHOTOS FROM THE DECEMBER FLORAL WORKSHOP



Gorgeous Christmas Arrangements!



And having lots of fun!

PHOTOS FROM THE DECEMBER HORTICULTURE WORKSHOP



And in the afternoon, there were Christmas succulent gardens!



Raffle Donations Needed

Members! Please donate for the January Meeting Raffle! Contact Jenn Ferrier before the January 10 meeting to let her know you will be donating a plant, container, or gardening related item. We hope to raffle 5 items per meeting. It's a great way to donate to the Club while receiving a chance to get a new plant you have been wanting! Tickets are only \$1.

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!

