



# ☞ *Smoke Signals* ☜

## The Calusa Garden Club Newsletter

**January, 2021**

Editor: Ami Ruiz

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Happy New Year! Calusa Garden Club members have a lot to look forward to in 2021—our Zoom Member Meetings and Floral Design Zoom Sessions have been fun and informative. And sometime this year, the corona virus vaccine will have been distributed to all of us in Florida, and we can resume our in-person activities, our Gadabouts, our workshops, and social times!

On December 7, about 25 of us were able to get together – in masks and practicing social distancing – at Sarazen Park for a short get together and plant exchange. We enjoyed seeing each other and posing in our photo booth. Thank you, Kimberly Porter and Janice Engel, for organizing this event.

In January, in addition to our member meeting on January 11 by Zoom, we will plant 2 trees in Leigh Plummer Park on Friday, January 15 on Florida Arbor Day. The trees are planted in honor of our Calusa Garden Club founders who began planting native trees in this park, and in memory of our Calusa Garden Club members who have passed away since January of 2020.

At our January meeting, Eric Jadaszewski, owner of the landscaping company Everglades Native Plant Designs, LLC, will speak to us on native plants. Eric is very knowledgeable and in addition, has been a good friend to Calusa Garden Club. Eric is donating his time and work to our Club by planting the two trees we will plant at Leigh Plummer Park on January 15. We appreciate Eric's generosity.

We look forward to a Floral Design Workshop on Monday, January 18 at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom, with instructors Connie Lowery and Jackie Purvis. These video workshops on Zoom have been so much fun – and the January 18 Zoom session will be just as educational and informative. The sessions are informal, and we stop the recordings at several points to point out techniques or problems or ask questions. Be sure to meet us on Zoom on January 18!

Please, stay safe. Happy New Year 2021! ...Sara Wolf

### Up Coming Events...

- |      |       |  |
|------|-------|--|
| 1/11 | 10:00 | Member Meeting and Horticulture Workshop                 |
|      | 11:00 | Speaker from Florida Native Plant Society on Propagation |
| 1/18 | 10:00 | Floral Design Workshop                                   |
| 2/1  | 10:00 | CGC Board Meeting  |
| 2/6  | 8:30  | Calusa Park Butterfly Garden Work Group                  |
| 2/8  | 10:00 | Member Meeting and Floral Design Workshop                |
|      | 11:00 | Speaker: Eric Jadaszewski on Native Plant Gardening      |
| 2/22 | 10:00 | Floral Design Workshop                                   |

### Red Tide...

Environmental news! Red Tide effecting Marco beach with dead fish and causing coughing; members, please do your part for our water quality and be sure your lawn care people not blowing grass clippings in canal; Ospreys nesting; burrowing owls showing up at nests; FWC working to protect the Kestrel hawks as they are declining. They like to nest in nesting box or dead trees., Try to provide on your landscapes. Our environment is an important part of Marco Island. Please do your part to help protect it. Sue Oldershaw and Maria Lamb

**Leigh Plummer Park...**



**Collier Master Gardeners...**

Title: Mina Edison's Moonlight Garden: A Retrospective

Debbie Hughes

Horticulture Director

Edison Ford Winter Estates

2350 McGregor Blvd.,

Fort Myers, FL 33901

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Debbie Hughes is Horticulture Director at Edison & Ford Winter Estates in Fort Myers for 14 years. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology from Augustana College, a physical therapy degree at Northwestern University and a master's in exercise physiology at Eastern Illinois University. She enjoys therapy using plants now instead of helping to heal people. She is a certified horticulture professional and recently a certified arborist. Her greatest enjoyment involves sharing her knowledge and love of gardening with others. She has answered garden questions on A local call-in radio garden program every Sunday with Stephen Brown, a horticulture agent with UF/IFAS Extension Lee County. She would end the garden show with the line: "So many plants, so little time." Debbie writes articles on gardening for several newspapers. Early in her career, Debbie said everyone should use their piece of land for what she called "useful gardens." Interestingly, many people have caught on to gardening again for various reasons, and our yards have become more than just a green lawn.

EGWS Lecture # 2 January 21

Title: Container Gardening – Grow a Masterpiece

Tom Becker

Extension Agent, Residential Horticulture

UF/IFAS Extension Collier County

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Naples, FL 34120

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Thomas Becker has served as residential horticulture agent for UF/IFAS Extension Collier County in Naples since 2019. He is responsible for coordinating horticultural educational outreach to the public and coordinates the Master Gardener Volunteer and Training Program. He also manages the display gardens at the Extension office. He also continues teaching Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ as he has done since 2003 when he started working for the University of Florida in Gainesville, in Lee County in 2004 and Charlotte County in 2014.

Tom completed Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Professional Certification in 2020 and accredited professional certification for the design and installation of Florida Water Star™ landscapes in 2017. He has been an Extension horticulture educator for 35 years. He

moved to Florida from Pennsylvania in 2003. In 2004, Tom briefly served as the Florida Yard and Neighborhoods Builder and Developer state coordinator in the UF/IFAS environmental horticulture department. Tom served as a food harvest ambassador with an international team of researchers and educators during the EPCOT Walt Disney World Flower and Garden Festival. He served as the Interim County Extension Director for Penn State Extension in York County, Pennsylvania, in 2001-2002. In 1994, he co-chaired the Northeast Regional Master Gardener Conference in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He founded the Master Gardener training program in York County, Pennsylvania in 1986.

Tom is a graduate of Penn State University, where he received his bachelor's degree in agronomy and his master's degree in training and development. A long-time resident of Cape Coral, he moved to Golden Gate Estates in Naples in 2020.

EGWS Lecture # 3 January 28

Title: Tree Selection, Installation & Maintenance Best Practices

Michael Orfanedes, Ph.D.

Commercial Horticulture Agent IV

& ISA-certified Arborist

UF/IFAS Broward County Extension

3245 College Ave., Davie, FL 33314

(954) 756-8524



Michael Orfanedes serves as the commercial horticulture agent for UF/IFAS Extension Broward County in Davie. He is responsible for coordinating educational outreach and continuing education unit programs for Broward's diverse nursery, landscape, and pest control industries. Mike has held this position since 2005 and received permanent status and promotion from UF/IFAS in 2011.

Mike has been a certified arborist with the International Society of Arborists for 19 years and directs the county's tree trimmer licensing, pesticide application and Green Industry Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) certification programs. In 2009, his Extension program received the Outstanding Public Educational Program award from the Florida Urban Forestry Council (FUFC). In 2011, Mike was named Florida Nursery Growers & Landscapers Association Outstanding Educator. In June of 2019 he received the Florida Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture's Award for Excellence in Education. Mike is also a long-term ISA exam proctor and is an active member of the Landscape Inspectors Association of Florida (LIAF).

Mike is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he earned his bachelor's in agronomy and his master's and Ph.D. degrees in weed science. Recently, Mike renewed his ISA tree hazard assessment qualification (TRAQ). Mike has three children and he and his family live in Weston, where he is president of his homeowners' association.



EGWS Lecture # 4 February 4

Title: Pesticides: Legal, Banned and Controversial

Bob Cook, FCHP

Weeds and Seeds LLC

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[fchpbob@gmail.com](mailto:fchpbob@gmail.com)



A certified horticulture professional, owner of Weeds and Seeds LLC and a member of the Florida Nurserymen, Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA).

FNGLA has awarded Bob the Wendell E. Butler Award in 2016, which recognizes an individual who serves FNGLA and the industry by providing leadership, service and sincere interest in the advancement of the association and the industry and Outstanding Educator in 2008. Bob has taught the FNGLA Horticulture Professional class twice yearly since 1999.

He also served as the president of the Landscape Maintenance Association (LMA) Gulf Coast chapter, appeared weekly on an hour-long, live radio show "Gardening in Paradise" and produced and hosted "Gardening in Paradise" on WB10 a Naples cable channel. This is a live, call-in format show for 1/2 hour on Wednesday nights.

Professionally, Bob works as a sales representative for Southern Agricultural Insecticides, Inc. He graduated from Michigan State University's Landscape and Nursery Management program in 1978.

EGWS Lecture # 5 February 11

Title: What's the Buzz About Pollinators? Attracting Butterflies, Birds and More Pollinators to Your Garden with Florida Native Plants

Andee Naccarato

President, Naples Chapter of the  
Florida Native Plant Society

5741 Star Grass Ln

Naples, FL, 34116

Cell: 239-218-0802

Website: <https://fnpsnaples.org/>



Wade Gurley

Treasurer, Naples Chapter of the  
Florida Native Plant Society

PO Box 9347

Naples, FL, 34101



Andee Naccarato grew up in Naples, exploring the slash pines and bald cypress around her childhood home. Andee received her master's in environmental science from Florida Gulf Coast University in 2011. She continued getting to know Florida's native plants by going on countless plant hikes and writing over 100 "Meet the Native" articles for the Fort Myers News-Press. Andee became further immersed in our local plant world by working at Naples Botanical Garden and Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve. Andee has been involved with the Naples Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society since 2013, most recently serving as president and programs chair. She is also a member of the North American Butterfly Association and regularly contributes to butterfly surveys throughout south Florida.

Wade Gurley is originally from northeast Texas. Wade received his bachelor's and master's degrees in wildlife biology from the Texas A&M University system. He moved to southwest Florida in 2010 and has worked since as a biologist in the region on projects involving sea turtles, mangrove cuckoos, rare orchids, prescribed fire, white tailed deer, Everglades mink, bonneted bats and red cockaded woodpeckers. He currently serves as treasurer for the Naples Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and in the past has helped with native restoration and habitat management projects.

EGWS Lecture # 6 February 18

Title: Landscape Palm Diseases: Palm diseases can occur anytime and anywhere

Stephen H. Brown

Horticulture Agent IV

UF/IFAS Extension Lee County Extension

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Fort Myers, FL 33916

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Stephen Brown is a faculty member and a horticulture agent for UF/IFAS Extension Lee County. He is responsible for taking university-based research on Florida Friendly Landscaping™ to both commercial and residential clientele. Stephen specializes in plant health, palms, flowering trees and native Florida plants. He holds a master's degree in soil fertility and plant nutrition from the University of Florida. For three years, he was an Extension agent in Jamaica, eight years in Los Angeles County, California, and has been in his current position since 1993. He became the garden columnist for the Fort Myers News-Press in 1996, a position he still holds. His columns can be found in Sunday's Tropicana section of the newspaper. Check YouTube for his many videos on Florida plants by going to "Stephen Brown Florida Landscape." You can also follow his "South Florida Blooming," and "South Florida Fruiting" posts on Instagram at lee ufifas.

EGWS Lecture # 7 February 25

Title: Orchids for Beginners

Chris Gilbert

Master Gardener

685 Bow Line Dr.

Naples, FL. 34103



Christopher Gilbert is a retired Emmy Award-Winning TV executive producer and director turned Master Gardener. His parents introduced him to vegetable gardening at the age of 8, and he's been gardening in one way or another ever since. He started his TV career as a production assistant for the public television gardening classic, "The Victory Garden." He went on to produce and direct the first commercially syndicated gardening series, "The Joy of Gardening." He has collaborated with Burpee Seeds on several broadcast projects. Throughout his career, he's worked with many well-known "How-To" personalities including Bob Vila and Martha Stewart. Today, he shares his passion for gardening and landscape design with anyone who will listen.

EGWS Lecture # 8 March 4

Title: Environmentally Friendly Management Practices for Turfgrass Areas

Marco Schiavon

3205 College Ave., Room 137

Davie, FL 33314

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Marco is an assistant professor, turfgrass research and Extension specialist in turfgrass, water conservation, drought and salinity management at the UF/IFAS Fort Lauderdale Research and Extension Center. He is in charge of the turfgrass science research and Extension programs. Other UF/IFAS research, Extension and teaching programs offered at the center: aquatic plant management, entomology and nematology, environmental horticulture, plant pathology, palm management and wildlife ecology and conservation. He had worked prior at the department of botany and plant sciences at the University of California at Riverside, conducting research in agronomy, horticulture, and environmental science.

EGWS Lecture # 9 March 11

Title: Latest Updates on Red Tide & Blue-Green Algae

Michael Parsons

Professor of Marine Science

Director of the Coastal Watershed Institute

and the Vester Marine & Environmental  
Science Research Field Station

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Michael Parsons is a professor of marine science at Florida Gulf Coast University and director of FGCU's Vester Marine and Environmental Science Research Field Station. He was appointed to the Blue-Green Algae Task Force by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in 2019. Michael has built a successful research career, receiving over \$20 million of extramural funding to study ciguatera fish poisoning, harmful algal blooms, coral reef ecology and phytoplankton ecology. His funding includes the recently funded Greater Caribbean Center for Ciguatera Research, funded through the Centers for Oceans and Human Health Program by the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health. He is also a collaborator in three Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Consortia, studying the impacts of the Macondo oil spill on coastal ecosystems in multiyear projects worth over \$30 million. At Florida Gulf Coast University, he teaches courses on marine ecology and data collection and analysis.

EGWS Lecture # 10 March 18

Title: Garden Tour

UF/IFAS Extension Collier County

14700 Immokalee Rd

Naples, FL 34120





Calusa Garden Club gives our special thanks to Gary Grisko, owner of Sandcastle Landscape Management, LLC for his donation of plants and planting services for the Pioneer Garden at Marco Island Historical Society. Thank you, Gary!



**THANK YOU!!**

Mike Kirby, Subtropical Trees, for donating a tree to Leigh Plummer Park for Arbor Day.

Subtropical Trees  
CEP and Certified Arborist  
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Mobile 239-271-0081

**THANK YOU!!**

Eric Jadazewski, Everglades Native Designs, LLC for planting the tree in Leigh Plummer Park for Arbor Day.

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239-300-8115  
[evergladesnativedesigns.com](http://evergladesnativedesigns.com)

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!