



Smoke Signals The Calusa Garden Club Newsletter

December 2022

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Letter from Our President

I am amazed at how quickly this year has passed and 2023 is one short month away; from ending my first year as president in April 2022 to creating a budget, finding a new space for our monthly general meetings, revising bylaws and standing rules, and designing a new website, to my final year as President, we had a very busy summer. Then in late September, Hurricane Ian came roaring through, ruining gardens and landscapes here on Marco. Many members need to replant their gardens, but that may be a good time to get those new plants, or trees or shrubs you have been thinking about. Let's go native and Florida Friendly!

Even with plants destroyed we were able to hold a very successful plant sale that exceeded our expectations! It was a beautiful day and I was very pleased with the quality of plants and arrangements offered for sale. Congratulations to all!

Check out the calendar of events on the web site to make sure you are up to date on workshops, both floral and horticultural, etc.

In January the Board will appoint a Nominating Committee to propose candidates for the officers of the club. Please think about how you can contribute your talents to the club for years 2023-2025.

Have an enjoyable Holiday Season and see you in 2023!

Susan



IMPORTANT DATES: December-January

Date	Time	Description
Thursday December 1	6:00 p.m.	Gadabouts Night Lights at Naples Botanical Gardens
Monday December 5	10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting Library Rose Hall
Thursday December 7	1:00 p.m.	Horticulture Workshop Susan LaGrotta's home
Thursday December 8	11:30 a.m.	Holiday Luncheon La Tavola Restaurant
Tuesday December 13	10:00 a.m.	Floral Design Lesson and Workshop Library Rose Hall
Wednesday December 14	10:00 a.m. setup; 2:00 p.m. workshop	Friends of the Library Workshop given by CGC Library Rose Hall
Tuesday January 3	10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting Library Rose Hall
Monday January 9	10:30 a.m.	General Member Meeting Library Rose Hall
Thursday January 19	8:15 a.m.	Gadabouts Ah-Tha-Thi-Ki Museum
Friday January 20	10:00 a.m.	Leigh Plummer Park Tree Planting Florida Arbor Day

DECEMBER 8 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Our speaker for the December 8 Holiday Luncheon is renowned Florida Nature Artist, John Costin, who will present his work to us at La Tavola.

A resident of Ybor City (Tampa) FL, John Costin has been a professional artist since 1979. His primary subject matter is birds which he has been fascinated by since childhood. His medium is intaglio printmaking which is a very old and complex process that allows him to show the viewer the tremendous detail and color that avian creatures possess. Starting with a graphite drawing that is transferred to a series of copper plates he creates an image on fine rag paper. Everything is done by hand; no computers or photography is ever used. When the piece is nearly completed, each one is meticulously painted by hand. Many of his bird subjects are depicted life size.

His work can be found in many local and private collections including Raymond James Financial, The State Library of Florida and the University of Miami. He recently completed a book project, "*Large Florida Birds*" containing 20 etchings of life-size birds and their stories. The foreword for this book was written by Pulitzer Prize winning author Jack E. Davis.

Please Join Us!

Thursday, December 8, 2022

La Tavola Restaurant

961 Winterberry Drive

Marco Island , Florida 34145

Holiday gifts ----

and the artist's work is available for sale!



Holiday Luncheon Agenda

11:30 – noon: · Purchase 50/50 tickets!

- Place your Exchange Gifts by the tree!
- Take a numbered shell!
- View John Costin Art Display!
- Cash Bar!

Noon: · Short Business Meeting, then Lunch.

- Mr. Costin's presentation about his art and his research for his paintings.
- 50/50 Drawings, Gift Exchange, and more fun!

December 13 Floral Design Lesson and Workshop

Join Lindy Kowalczyk at 10:00 a.m. at Rose Hall of the Marco Library. Lindy asks that you bring flowers and greens (cut the stems of both and put in water the day before), soaked floral foam, your container, flower shears and your creativity! This is a good time to use festive holiday colors in your design. Practice follows the lesson, with gentle critique from Lindy to improve our skills.

REGISTER ONLINE AT CALUSA.ORG – click on December 13 on the Events List!
Or contact Lindy Kowalczyk at lkowalczyk@aol.com or 443-465-1079



November 22 Plant, Thanksgiving Arrangement, Succulent Dish Garden and Orchid Sale!

By Sara Wolf, Event Chairperson

Thank you to our great organizing committee for the November 22 sale, to all of Calusa Garden Club members who worked, and to all our members who attended and purchased items at the November 22, 2022 Plant, etc. Sale. Gross income was \$5,115 and profit was \$3,581. WOW – great effort!



Committee members who deserve credit: Laura Furlong and Donna Kay, Plants (183 sold); Monique Doyle, Mixed Planters and Herb Gardens (23 sold); Linda Colombo, Succulent Dish Gardens (28 sold); Marianne Foley, Thanksgiving Arrangements (32 sold); Charlette Roman, Orchids (59 sold), Kimberly Porter, Holding Table; Susan Neustadt, Cashiers.



And a big **THANK YOU** to these vendors who donated to our sale: Island Garden Center, Taylor Made Growers, American Farm Nursery, and Kitchen Gardens.

December 14 Library Floral Design Workshop

Volunteers needed! Register online at Calusa.org to volunteer to assist Chairman Bonnie Colman at the December 14 Friends of the Library Flower Arranging Workshop. There are 25 attendees who need your help! You can indicate your availability for Set-UP at 10:00 a.m., and for Workshop Assistance at 2:00 p.m.



GREENERY NEEDED!

Bonnie needs LOTS of stems of greens--- the design of the day is a Christmas tree! Bonnie will obtain the flowers, but she needs Calusa Garden Club members to bring stems of dark green shrubs, such as podocarpus, green island ficus, schefflera, and other shrubs.

Pictured to the left is member Marsha Riss's greenery Christmas tree made at a floral design workshop in 2021.

REGISTER ONLINE AT CALUSA.ORG, and go to EVENTS LIST – DECEMBER 14

Or contact Bonnie at bonnieanne234@gmail.com or 508-846-7424

Gadabouts –



Gadabouts in November was the UF/IFAS Plant and Garden show featuring Master Gardeners making presentations and vendors with beautiful plants. Members appreciated the opportunity to replenish their gardens that had been ruined by Hurricane Ian.

The December 1 Gadabouts was a visit to Naples Botanical Gardens for the Johnsonville Night Lights in the Garden. Members posed for a “lit up” photo prior to making their way through the beautifully lighted botanical gardens. Dinner at Taqueria San Julian preceded the garden visit.

January Gadabouts will go to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum of the Seminole people. This museum includes an indoor museum, living craft demonstrations, and an outdoor boardwalk. Join us for a fun day!

REGISTER ONLINE AT CALUSA.ORG -- GO TO *EVENTS LIST – JANUARY 19, 2023*. Or contact Sue Oldershaw at nfn21976@comcast.net or 239.290.0612





Corresponding Secretary Report by Joan Husband

In November, Calusa Garden Club sent cards to Jenn Ferrier, wishing her recovery from back problems, Annette Kuhn for recovery from knee surgery, and Margy Bruckman for recovery after a serious fall. In addition, I sent thank you notes to our donors for the November 22 Plant Sale: Island Garden Center, American Farms Nursery, Kitchen Gardens, and Taylor Made Growers.



Leigh Plummer Park – revitalization!

Marianne Foley and Sue Oldershaw, chairpersons of the new Calusa Garden Club Leigh Plummer Park garden, were dismayed that nearly all the bromeliads in the ground that they and their work groups had planted had rotted due to the storm surge saltwater covering them. Marianne and Sue and their CGC work groups have begun replanting. A great big thank you goes to Maria Bachich who purchased and donated a variety of beautiful bromeliads for the garden.



Pictured are Sue Oldershaw, Nanette Baumgartner and Marianne Foley working in the new garden at Leigh Plummer Park on December 3.



A Note from your President:

I will be appointing a Nominating Committee in January to nominate a slate of officers to serve from May 1, 2023-April 30, 2025. Are you available and interested in working on the committee, or in a particular office? I am happy to speak with you about the duties of Club officers. Remember, we need all of you to make our Club a success and to continue our robust programming offers. Contact me if you are considering volunteering for a particular office or committee chairmanship. We are happy to have you!

THANKS! Susan

Blue Zones Seminar -- December 7, 2022 --- Open to All!



December 7, 2022, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Marco Island Library
210 South Heathwood Drive
Marco Island, FL 34145

Learn the secrets of the world's longest living communities and how to apply them to your daily life.

REGISTER

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/defying-aging-the-blue-zones-story-tickets-466313816177>

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THE ABC's OF DESIGN IN A FLOWER SHOW

Our Speaker for the January 9, 2023 General Member Meeting: Our Own Connie Lowery!

Connie Lowery is a Flower Show Judge in FFGC, and also a member of Creative Flower Arrangers of the Americas (CFAA) in which she is serving as Program Chair for CFAA's meeting in February 2023. In January, Connie will present a program on making floral designs for a NGC Flower Show, and how floral designs are judged in an NGC Flower Show.



Connie will make 4 - 5 designs, incorporating a judge's perspective in her comments as she makes the designs. She will discuss the design container, or vessel, and the components of a floral design. Our former member Jackie Purvis, also an FFGC Flower Show judge, will assist Connie.

We look forward to this fantastic program!

The case of the missing white aprons . . . 🔍🔍🔍

The Club is missing 2 white aprons embroidered with our CGC logo. Please contact Sara Wolf if you have one of our embroidered aprons. Thanks! Sara

For Sale: 22 Beautiful Pastel Succulents \$2.00 each....

Contact Sara Wolf if you want to purchase one or more beautiful 2" succulents that we used as Spinner Prizes at the November 22 Plant Sale. These succulents are high quality and we are selling them at our cost.

Contact: Sara Wolf 513.706.8681



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!

