



Smoke Signals

The Calusa Garden Club Newsletter

January, 2023

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Letter from Our President

Hello 2023! Happy New Year to you all! We have a lot to look forward to. During the next few months, you can participate in monthly horticulture and floral design workshops, sign up for Gadabouts, help with the Butterfly Garden and Markers maintenance, attend our Florida Arbor Day Celebration this month, support our club during a Sip & Shop Fundraiser in February and attend the Naples Flower Show in March. So much to do every month!

By now you have become familiar with our web site, and the feedback I have received on the ease of use is very positive. Make sure you check the Events Calendar frequently as events and meetings times and dates may change.

This month we honor Calusa Garden Club founders and members who have passed with a Florida Arbor Day Celebration. New member, Nanette Baumbardner, along with advice from Linda Colombo, has worked with the town to select a tree and its perfect location for planting. Join us at 10:00 a.m. at Leigh Plummer Park on January 20; afterwards join us for lunch.

Season is in full swing, as we all can see by our crowded roads and stores – but this is to our advantage as we are participating in Marco Nature Night in February. This event attracts many visitors and new residents to Marco where they can learn about our environment, landscaping techniques and island activities. Please contact me to volunteer as we welcome guests and talk up our club!

January Program

Our Speaker for the January 9, 2023 General Member Meeting is 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. Connie will present a program on making fabulous 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.

Business Meeting from 10:30 to 11:30 AM

Social Time from 11:30 to Noon

Presentation will start promptly at Noon

Raffle for a design will be about 1:45 PM



IMPORTANT DATES!**January**

Wednesday January 4	9:30 am	Maintenance at Leigh Plummer Park
Wednesday January 4	1:00 pm to 2:30 pm	Horticulture Workshop: Herb and Vegetable Container Gardening
Saturday January 7	9:00 am	Leigh Plummer Park Garden Maintenance
Monday January 9	10:30 am to 2:00 pm	General Club Meeting
Wednesday January 11	9:30 am	Pineapple Marker Maintenance
Thursday January 19	8:15 am	Gadabouts: Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
Friday January 20	10:00 am	Tree Planting at Leigh Plummer Park
Saturday January 21	9:00 am	Leigh Plummer Park Garden Maintenance
Monday January 23	10:00 am to 12:30pm	Floral Design Lesson and Workshop
Saturday January 28	9:00 am	Butterfly Garden Work Group

IMPORTANT DATES!**February**

Wednesday February 1	1:00 pm to 2:30 pm	Horticulture Workshop – All about bromeliads
Saturday February 4	9:00 am	Leigh Plummer Park Garden Maintenance
Monday February 6	10:00 am to noon	Board Meeting
Thursday February 9	11:00 am to 3:00 pm	J. McLaughlin Sip & Shop with CGC Fundraiser
Monday February 13	10:30 am to 2:00 pm	General Club Meeting
Saturday February 18	9:00 am	Leigh Plummer Park Maintenance
Saturday February 25	8:30 am to 2:00 pm	Gadabouts: Cypress Grove Landkeepers (formerly New Gore Nature Center)
Saturday February 25	9:00 am	Butterfly Garden Work Group

CALENDAR CHANGES:

Days and times can change. For the most current information plus more details on the events above, please check the Events Schedule at calusa.org.

Please also note that this is the last month that the event schedule will be published in Smoke Signals. Instead, please refer to the Events Schedule at calusa.org.

WHAT SURVIVED THE FLOODS IN YOUR YARD *from Sue Oldershaw*

I am compiling a list of plants that survived saltwater flooding! All club members that experienced saltwater flooding with Hurricane Ian, please send Sue O. list of native and Florida friendly plants that showed no damage from saltwater flooding and list of ones that dropped leaves but re-leafed within three months. Please indicate if plant is a palm, tree, shrub, ground cover or grass. I will compile list and Linda Colombo will type up and send out for you to print out. We have also been asked to make this list available at Marco Nature Night for new residents on Marco Island. Send list to nfn21976@naples.net by Jan. 5. Thank you!

DEC CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT *from Joan Husband*

A sympathy card was sent to the family of Judy Kouhi. Get Well notes were sent to Linda Chute and Linda Turner. A thank you note was sent to Steve Davis and Nikki Dvorchak from the Everglades Foundation for our November program. Additional thank you notes were sent to John Costin, artist, Hyla Crane, Marco Center for the Arts and Jean Feehan, La Tavola, for helping make our December luncheon a success.

From Your Ways & Means Committee . . . \$\$\$ from Sara Wolf

Your Ways & Means committee thanks all CGC members for their hard work and fantastic results for our November 22 Plant Sale. We contributed a profit of \$3,873.50 to our club's bottom line from our sale.

Next Up: Thursday, February 9: J.McLaughlin "Shop for a Purpose." Please go online to calusa.org to volunteer, and please invite your friends and family to "Shop for a Purpose" to benefit our nonprofit. See more information in this *Smoke Signals*.

Friday, March 17 – Saturday, March 18: Volunteer to sell Gardening Guides at the Naples Garden Club Flower Show, held at Naples Botanical Garden. Volunteer for a 3-hour shift to spread the word about our Calusa Garden Club, sell our Gardening Guide, and advertise our March 30 Home Garden Tour. Go online to Calusa.org, on the Event List for March 17, to sign up for your shift. Receive free admission to the Naples Botanical Garden as a worker.

Thursday, March 30. Marco Island Home Garden Tour. We are forming a committee to plan a Home Garden Tour, following the pattern of the tour we presented so successfully last year. Please sign up to work with us on the event at the Club meeting on January 9, or contact Sara Wolf, Ways & Means Chairperson, sarawolf617@gmail.com or 513.706.8681.

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Shop for a Purpose: J.McLaughlin SIP AND SHOP from Sara Wolf

Your Ways & Means Committee has a new fundraiser that will be fun for all! What could be better than shopping while raising money for our Club?

On Thursday, February 9, 2023, Calusa Garden Club will be sponsoring a day of shopping at J.McLaughlin store in the Marco Town Center, 1017 N. Collier Boulevard, near West Marine store. This beautiful retail clothing and accessories store works with local nonprofits to promote the mission of the nonprofit organization and to attract shoppers who want to "shop for a purpose." J.McLaughlin will donate a percentage of the day's sales (including online or catalog sales made in the store on February 9) to Calusa Garden Club. From 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., J.McLaughlin will provide refreshments. In addition, CGC will place a table outside the store to sell our CGC Gardening Guides, provide information about Calusa Garden Club, and have a floral design demonstration or sell small bouquets.

We need help from members to make this fundraiser a success! Forward the "Shop for a Purpose" invitation you will receive by email in late January-early February to your friends, family, and neighbors! And VOLUNTEER to work at our information/sales table from 11:00-1:00 or 1:00-3:00 on Thursday, February 9. And SHOP on Thursday, February 9.

Go to our Calusa.org website to volunteer to (1) make small floral bouquets at a workshop or (2) work our CGC information/sales table from 11:00 -1:00 or 1:00 -3:00.

Contact Ways & Means chairperson Sara Wolf at 513.706.8681 or sarawolf617@gmail.com if you have any questions or need more information.

NEED HELP TO ACCESS OUR NEW WEBSITE *from Sara Wolf*



Calusa.org – It's our new communication tool! Let's get on board!

CGC Members --- *do you like the beautiful new website, calusa.org, but do not know how to register and how to take advantage of this fantastic new club tool?*

Member Assistance for New Website Onboarding --- Sara Wolf and Sharon Lewis will be available after the January 9 meeting to assist any and all members with *calusa.org* registration, adding your photo, and answering all your questions.

Date and Time: Monday, January 9, at 2:00 after the CGC Meeting

Place: Marco Island Library

Equipment: We can use the library's public computers, you can bring your own laptop, or we can use your cell phone!

UPCOMING HORTICULTURE PROGRAMS *from Maureen McFarland*

February 1 at 1pm - All About Bromeliads! Get your hands dirty.

If you're a fan of tropical plants, then the Bromeliad may be a good choice for your home or garden. Join Marianne Foley and Barbara Messner as they discuss how to grow, divide, and care for this unique and diverse group of plants. Bring your gardening gloves! This hands-on workshop will conclude with bromeliad maintenance in the park.

Location: Leigh Plummer Park

March 1 at 1pm - Interactive Landscape Design

Join Designer Leslie Landert from Landert Landscape Design as we stroll through a CGC member's property. Known for sustainable landscape design using Florida Friendly and Native plants, her landscapes are aesthetically rich and incorporate best practices. This is an interactive session for all participants. Come with your questions, ideas, and creativity!

Location: Debbie Kuhlman's home

1219 Mariana Ct

MARKER MAINTENANCE **DATE CHANGES** from Linda Colombo

Dear Members, after viewing the markers this past Tuesday I realize some changes need to be made in our dates for maintenance.

January 4 Leigh Plummer Marker 930. If anyone has colorful bromeliads to donate, please let me know. We will then continue to Sand Hill. Please wear long sleeves and bring bags to put large dead bromeliads in from Sand Hill.

Pineapple Marker on Barfield – January 11 at 930 AM If anyone has any ornamental pineapple plants, please let me know.

Pineapple Marker - Mar. 8 cancelled

Sand Hill Marker is located between Winterberry and Sandhill Feb. 15.

Thank you in advance for saving the date and joining me and fellow members.

Building our Butterfly Garden back after Hurricane Ian from Rhonda Gloodt



Our garden was left with only 30 percent of our plants recovering. The butterflies had no nectar or host plants left to return to. We did see a few butterflies fly through the yard in search of something! We quickly purchased a couple of flats of flowering Milkweed and a Balloon Milkweed and planted them. We have a Giant Milkweed that is recovering. Now the Monarch, Queen, and Soldier butterflies would have host and nectar plants to help them survive!

We have seen one White Peacock. Its host plants Water Hassop and Frog Fruit are doing OK but are not blooming. We have seen one Gulf Fritillary. Its' host plant is the Passion Vine which is doing well but is not currently in bloom. We have also seen a large Orange Barred Sulfur looking for its host and nectar plant the Popcorn Plant, unfortunately our plants were destroyed. And the ones we have planted from seed are very small. The butterflies that are here love the nectar from the Panama Rose and the beautiful blue flowers on the Golden Dewdrop, which now that it is the end of December, are full of flowers. We keep planting and are hoping for the return of the Zebra, Gold Rim Swallowtail, Giant Swallowtail and the Atala!

We also have seen an adorable hummingbird moth on the Panama Rose and have two outstandingly beautiful male Painted Buntings visiting our yard a couple of times a day!

USE AMAZON SMILE AND DONATE TO CGC from Annette Kuhn



AmazonSmile is a way for members to support the Calusa Garden Club. Every time you shop, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to our club. Especially for frequent Amazon users (and who isn't?), it's an effortless way to give back to our club! Signing up is easy!

PLEASE NOTE: When making purchases on your laptop/computer, you must start from the smile.amazon.com page for the donation to be made.

Here's how to sign up for AmazonSmile:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com.
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials.
3. Click on the "Get Started" button.
4. Search for our club "Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island" and click on the "Select" button to choose the club as your charity.
5. Start shopping!
6. Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Turn on AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app on your phone:

1. Make sure you're signed up for AmazonSmile (use your web browser to visit smile.amazon.com).
2. Download or update to the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app for IOS or Android.
3. Open the app and find "Settings" in the main menu (☰).
4. Tap on "AmazonSmile" and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile in the app.

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SAVE THE DATE: JOHN COSTIN EXHIBITION *from Kimberly Porter*



John Costin, the artist at the December meeting at La Tavola has an exhibition opening on Saturday, March 4, at the Tampa History Museum. While the invitations are not available quite yet, we will also be invited to a studio tour on Sunday, March 5th mid-day. Time TBD. Please get in touch with Kimberly if you are interested in attending.

December 8 Holiday Party from Sara Wolf

Club members had a great afternoon at the CGC Holiday Party at La Tavola. The Member Events Committee chaired by Kathy McNabb presented a lovely event that included socializing prior to lunch, a delicious luncheon and dessert, a "split-the-pot" raffle, plus the Club's traditional gift exchange. Janice Engel sold split-the-pot tickets during the social hour. The committee gave members participating in the gift exchange a pretty shell ornament that contained a number, and the numbers were used to determine the order of picking gifts from the gift exchange. Joan Husband served as official photographer and took all the photos accompanying this article. Other photos are on our website, Calusa.org.



First Vice President Kimberly Korb Porter conducted a brief business meeting, and one item of business was recognition of Dale DeFeo as an Honorary Member of Calusa Garden Club. Pictured is Kimberly awarding the Honorary Member Certificate designed by Eva Kubinsky to past CGC president and current District IX chairman Dale DeFeo. Kimberly thanked Dale for her years of service to CGC and for giving us the benefit of her experience in years of membership in NGC garden clubs and continuing her work with FFGC. Then Kimberly recognized all the past presidents of the club and presented roses to each of them.

After the brief meeting, Kimberly introduced the speaker, Florida nature artist John Costin. Mr. Costin presented his beautiful life-like prints of birds of Florida and discussed the way he portrays them in their natural habitat. He also

explained intaglio printmaking, the method he uses for his artwork. Mr. Costin displayed his large format book of bird prints, which was breathtaking! After his presentation, members could purchase small reprints of his work, and many of us took home beautiful bird prints.



Nanette Baumgardner, Linda Colombo, Margie Bramel, Linda Walker and Kathy Stark

Thank you to Kathy McNabb, Maura Kelley, Claudia Bruni, Joan Husband, Janice Engel, and Kimberly Korb Porter for a memorable event.

Friends of the Library – CGC Workshop December 14 from Sara Wolf



On December 14, Chairperson Bonnie Colman and assistants Marianne Foley, Sue Oldershaw, Liz Papagiannis, Nanette Baumgardner, Debbie Kuhlman, Sharon Lewis, Sara Wolf, Linda Ariel, Marsha Riss and Charlette Roman worked with 25 Marco Island community members at Marco Island branch of the Collier County Library to make their own beautiful miniature Christmas trees of fresh foliage decorated with red and white flowers and shining glass ornaments.

Bonnie Colman and Marianne Foley instructed the participants before permitting them to begin and illustrated the lesson with a tree in the framework stage next to a finished tree. The workshop participants had a blast and learned how to trim foliage and flower stems correctly before inserting them into wet floral foam. The assistants circulated and assisted the participants by helping them insert stems in a pretty cone shape for their trees.

