



🌸 *Smoke Signals* 🌸 **The Calusa Garden Club Newsletter**

March, 2023

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Letter from Our President

Ladies,

March has arrived and with it unusually warm weather! But there is no reason not to get out your Gardening Guide and review what can be planted and how to take care of our gardens and yards. You can plant heat tolerant plants, but it is the last month to plant tomatoes. (Tomato plants I received from Maureen McFarland have given me loads of tomatoes in the past few weeks!) For those members who miss their northern gardens, now is the time to plant bulbs such as gladiola and caladium, along with perennials such as pentas, salvia, lantana, and gaillardia. I hope some of you are as lucky as I am with blooming orchids hanging from trees and showy red flowers on hydrangeas! If you don't have one, ask any of the officers to purchase a Gardening Guide.

Remember upcoming events where we need your participation such as the Naples Garden Club Flower Show Booth, the March 20th City Proclamation of our 40th Anniversary, our Home Garden tour at the end of the month, and members needed on the committee to plan our 40th Anniversary Celebration this fall.

See you on the 13th!

Susan

MARCH PROGRAM

The Monday, March 13 program will be Calusa Garden Club members Sue Oldershaw and Donna Kay presenting their program, "Gardening on Marco Island and the effects of Hurricane Ian when making new landscaping plans featuring salt tolerant plants."



Sue Oldershaw and Donna Kay

GARDEN TOUR UPDATE *Submitted by Sara Wolf*

Calusa Garden Club will repeat its successful Marco Island Home Garden Tour on Friday, March 31. The tour will be staged twice, once in the morning and once in the afternoon. It will include four beautiful home gardens owned by Susan and Victor LaGrotta, Maria and Charlie Lamb, Jen Ferrier and Cathy and Doug Williford. The gardens vary in size and types of plants as well as location. Only 50 tickets will be sold. The price is \$63, and tickets are available on our website.

Committee members are busy working on their assignments – and would love any assistance you can give. Contact these members to offer your skills:

- Sara Wolf: Event Chairman plus Program (writing and production) plus Publicity
- Sue Oldershaw: Drivers
- Laura Furlong and Margie Bramel: Registration and Welcome – x2
- Rhonda Gloodt: Closing Reception - x2
- Sharon Lewis: Demonstrations
- Janet Watson: Home Tour Highlights and Routes
- Janice Engel: Homeowner Assistance prior to Tour
- Eva Kubinsky: Advertising Design
- Donna Kay: general advice to home garden owners

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MEMBERSHIP UPDATE *from Monique Doyle*

YTD, we have 57 Active members and 6 Associate members.

Average attendance is 33 members per meeting this season.

Active members are required to attend at least 4 meetings to retain their membership. This allows us to continue our community service, friendships, and our island projects with everyone's participation.

We welcomed 10 new members this season. Please introduce yourself and invite them to attend a workshop with you.

I look forward to seeing more of you at the March meeting and the April luncheon, where the induction of our new Board will take place.

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Ahoy!



'High Tea at the Boathouse'

Join us for the Calusa Garden Club
spring event.

Thursday, April 13, 11:30-2:00 pm

at Marco Island Yacht Club

Dress: smart casual, nautical

****Polish up your teacup & saucer and
bring it with to use - if you wish!**

Menu: Gem salad, variety of four tea
sandwiches, as well as scones, pastries,
and decadent desserts.

A selection of teas

Cost is \$45

Please register & pay via the Calusa
Garden Club website by March 31

IT'S ANNUAL DUES TIME!

Calusa Garden Club 2023-24 dues
must be paid by April 1, 2023.

**MARCH FLORAL DESIGN
WORKSHOP**

Lindy Kowalczyk will lead a floral
design workshop on March 20
from 10 am to 1 pm at Rose Hall
at the library. Sign up on our
website!

PHOTOS FROM FEBRUARY GADABOUT AT CYPRUS COVE



CALUSA BUTTERFLY GARDEN UPDATE *from Susan La Grotta and photos by Rhonda Gloodt*

Spring has sprung in the butterfly garden!

During maintenance member Rhonda Gloodt noticed milkweed volunteers showing up within the garden. She surrounded them with a small fence and mulch to protect them. The plants are growing! See the photos taken by Rhonda of monarchs making their home in the garden. We are so happy to see the butterflies spending time again in the garden. Rhonda has generously donated and placed drip hoses and a hose on wheels as well as watering continually during this dry season.

We have hungry butterflies! Butterflies require host plants to lay their eggs and nectar plants to feed on as caterpillars and then as butterflies. The storm did extensive damage to the garden and we are working on a plan to design and enhance the garden for our pollinators. Just some of the plants that need to be replaced include:

Plumbago

Blue Daze

Pentas

Passion vine

Porterweed

Cassia/senna shrub

Vinca

Tea Bush

Firebush



Please consider donating a plant to be placed in the garden as we prepare for the CGC 40th anniversary celebration and Butterfly Release later in the year. Contact Susan LaGrotta at susanlagrotta54@gmail.com to donate a plant or to volunteer in the garden. The committee meets at the garden on the last Saturday of each month. For exact times, check out the CGC events calendar.

Thank you to committee members Rhonda Gloodt, Susan LaGrotta, Nancy Adams, Maureen McFarland, Debbie Kuhlman, Laura and Steve Furlong , Kathy McNabb, Linda Ariel for working to get the garden ready for the pollinators and the public !

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February 27 Floral Design Workshop: Tropical Flowers with Lindy Kowalczyk *submitted by Sara Wolf*

On Monday, February 27, Calusa Garden Club members were delighted with the bold colors and shapes of tropical flowers as Lindy Kowalczyk instructed a class of 6 on designing with tropical flowers. Lindy told the group that designs featuring tropical flowers may be traditional designs or creative designs, but that since tropical flowers are usually very bold, the designer must keep in mind the scale of the design, and make sure the design has a focal point.

Lindy was assisted by Sue Oldershaw who demonstrated using birds of paradise and hibiscus in two different containers. As the members began to work on their designs, Lindy, Sue and Marianne Foley and Bonnie Colman assisted them. One outstanding feature was Sharon Lewis's bent and shaped areca palm leaf that formed a backdrop for her floral design that included white stargazer lilies as a focal point. Another interesting design by Carol Donegan featured a bold white and blue container that was complemented by dark red flowers with a pink lily focal point. Kathy Stark designed with large ginger blossoms and tied in her white vase with a monstera leaf. Monique Doyle's container in chartreuse and white had a clear glass stripe that she tied into her design with seagrape leaves that echoed the leaves in her design. Linda Ariel's design featuring red anthurium also draped pink chenille flowers and dark green foliage over her white container. Bonnie Colman's design featured bright green pom-pom mums that popped against dark red and green manipulated leaves and foxtail ferns. Kathy Hershberger's design featuring birds of paradise and red ginger flowers was completed by filling the space with bright green foliage striped with pale yellow.



Bonnie Colman



Kathy Stark



Kathy Hershberger

BROMELIAD HORTICULTURAL WORKSHOP IN LEIGH PLUMMER PARK ON FEB 1 *submitted by Sara Wolf*

On Wednesday, February 1, CGC members met at Leigh Plummer Park in our newly established garden that features bromeliads, orchids, and tillandsia among other plants. Marianne Foley and Sue Oldershaw, horticulture experts and founders of the Leigh Plummer Park Bromeliad Garden, conducted a workshop on types of bromeliads, different sun requirements, how to separate pups from the “mother” plant, how to plant bromeliads, and how to water them.

After the informational and demonstration workshop, the hands-on work began! Workshop attendees got their gloves on and worked in the garden with bromeliads. The members enhanced the already striking garden with their efforts.

The picture shows the members attending the workshop, left to right: Jane Robinson, Janet Watson, Margie Bramel, Kathy Stark, Nanette Baumgardner, Donna Kay, Sue Oldershaw, Ellen Norton, Marianne Foley, and Joan Husband.

