



Smoke Signals

The Calusa Garden Club Newsletter

April 2023

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Letter from Our President

To All Calusa Garden Club Members,

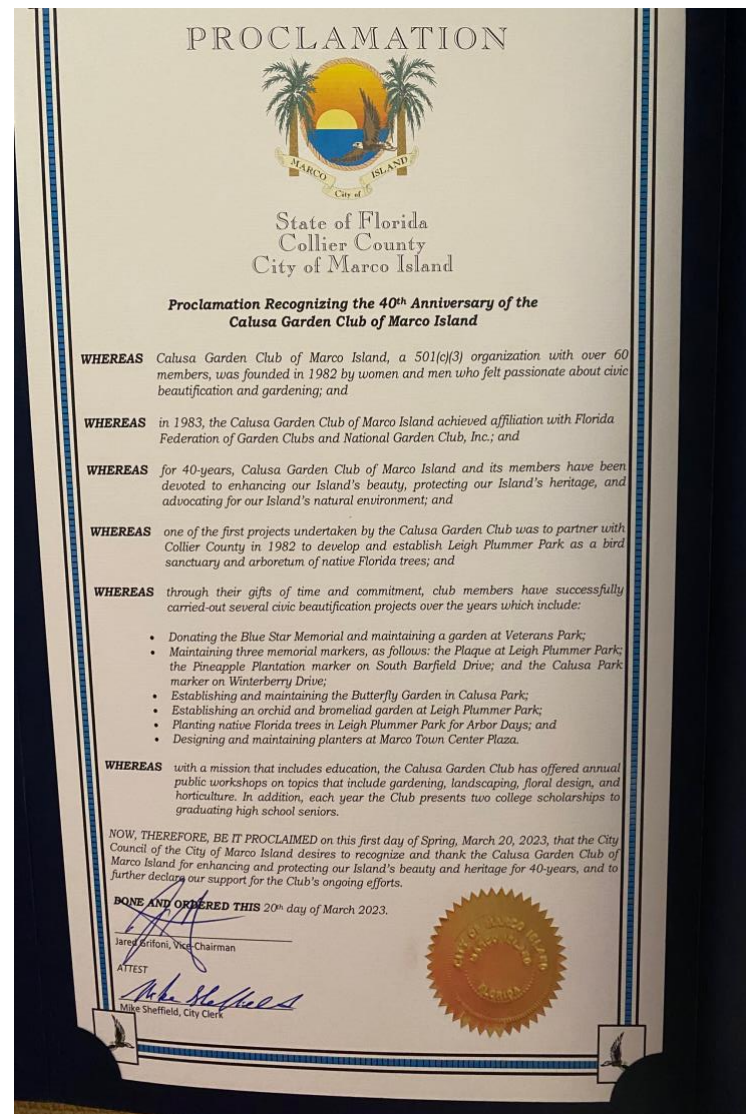
As my term as President comes to an end, I think back on all the activities and events the club held. I thank all of you for your hard work and dedication to meeting our goals as a club. The club held events which enabled scholarships to be given to local high school seniors and maintained our gardens and markers. I appreciate your attending our meetings, being witness to the city proclamation of our 40 years of service (see right), volunteering for the home garden tours, and marketing our club at Marco Nature Night and Naples Flower Show among other events.

One last note of business, for those members holding Office, being a Committee Chairman, or a Subcommittee Chairman, an end of year report must be made and submitted to me by April 30, 2023. You should also have in your possession a file folder. The subcommittee Chairmen must give their file folder to their Committee Chairman, who will then hand all file folders to the new Committee Chairman along with the ex-Officers giving a file folder to the new Officers, which will occur at the Joint Board Meeting.

Thank you for supporting the club these past two years!

Susan

Below is the Proclamation from the City recognizing our 40 years of being a club and our accomplishments on Marco Island.



March 31 Home Garden Tour

Submitted by Sara Wolf

On March 31, our Club hosted 53 guests for the Second Home Garden Tour. Thank you to members Jen Ferrier and Susan La Grotta and former member Maria Lamb and to Cathy Williford for participating as host gardens and, in addition, for leading the attendees on the tours and providing comments to the guests as they toured. Over 31 CGC members participated in the preparations, including assisting the host home gardeners, preparing for, and giving demonstrations, preparing door prizes, organizing the registration, organizing, and presenting the reception, and being Tour Guides/Drivers. What a fantastic group!



Hosts Susan La Grotta, Cathy Williford, Jen Ferrier and Maria Lamb



This tiny gopher tortoise made a special guest appearance during a tour of Maria Lamb's garden.



Home Garden Tour Reception Committee Chair Rhonda Gloodt and President Susan Neustadt awaiting guests at the morning reception.



Marianne Foley, Sharon Lewis, Connie Lowery, Lindy Kowalczyk and Sara Wolf were our fabulous demonstrators for the event and are standing in front of some of their creations made during the tour.



President Susan Neustadt and Horticulture Chairman Maureen McFarland relaxing at the afternoon reception.

Butterfly Garden Update

Submitted by Susan La Grotta

Due to the overwhelming response from CGC members, neighbors and friends of the garden, the donations for the Butterfly Garden totaled \$5,000!

I am at a loss for words, as the success of this fundraiser will provide the monies required to update, enhance, and restore the butterfly garden, and I am truly humbled by the outcome.

A Big heartfelt Thank You to member Maureen McFarland and her mother Sheila McFarland (at right). Their initial donations totaled \$1600. This donation became the catalyst for the fundraiser as well as the additional matching money!



Thank you to all the Members, Neighbors and Friends of the Garden who donated to the cause of the Butterfly Garden.

🦋🦋🦋🦋🦋 will thank you as well as the other pollinators that make this garden habitat their home.
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Our committee will meet sometime in April to discuss the new plantings and signage; date and time to be announced.

Thank you to club members who have donated their time, their plants, their enthusiasm, their expertise, their love, and appreciation for the Calusa Park Butterfly Garden. Without your support this garden would not thrive! 🌻🌻🌻

Our committee works almost weekly in the garden, preparing for the new plantings.

April Gadabout Reminder

Submitted by Sue Oldershaw

If you signed up for the April Gadabout to visit the butterfly gardens at Village Walk, we will depart from the little Publix parking lot at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday April 5. Meet near the Collier Blvd entranceway. Lunch will be at Village Walk. We should return by 3:00 p.m. Please bring enough money to cover the \$10 donation to the butterfly garden, a \$5 contribution to your driver to cover gas and the cost of your lunch.

APRIL PROGRAM

Ahoy! High Tea at the Boathouse



Join us for the Calusa Garden Club spring event.

Thursday, April 13, 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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

Reservations are now closed.

Congratulations to Our Master Gardeners

Submitted by Susan La Grotta

The 50th anniversary of the National Extension Master Gardener Week was celebrated March 20 through March 26. There are several Master Gardeners in our group: Donna Kay, Maureen McFarland, Laura Furlong, and Sharon Sutton.

Memorial Marker Update

Submitted by Linda Colombo

Greetings members. President Susan Neustadt and I spent one morning enhancing the Blue Star Memorial Marker in Veterans Community Park. Due to damage most likely caused by hurricane Ian the paint was peeling and the marker needed to be touched up. We hope to return and repaint the gold and blue paint as well.



The Calusa Garden Club purchased the Blue Star Memorial in 2013 and donated it to the City of Marco Island, where it was appropriately installed in Veterans Park. The Blue Star Memorial honors our United States service men and women who gave their lives fighting for our freedom. The Calusa Garden Club purchased the memorial through a program established by its umbrella organization National Garden Clubs, Inc. The program enlists local garden clubs to purchase, install and maintain Blue Star Memorials in parks and other public spaces around the

United States. The Garden Club planted and maintained a beautiful garden around the Blue Star Memorial in 2013 and was first refurbished in 2017. It was put into storage in 2021 and in 2023 moved to its new location within the park. It will probably need to be returned to its manufacturer within five or seven years from now to be refurbished again.



President Susan Neustadt, Incoming Memorial Markers Committee Chair Nanette Baumgardner and Outgoing Memorial Markers Committee Chair Linda Colombo working at the Sand Hill Marker.

Our last maintenance for this season was Tuesday April 4. Members Nanette Baumgarden, Margie Bramel, Linda Colombo, Ellen van Nagell and Sue Neustadt met at Leigh Plummer Park Marker and then proceeded to the Pineapple Marker on South Barfield and on to the Sand Hill marker. We weeded, pruned and water all the plants.

Thank you to those who have helped in the past. This will be my last marker duty as Committee Chair of the markers. I have resigned from this committee. It has been enjoyable working with many of you.
