



# SMOKE SIGNALS

August 2025

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<http://calusa.org>

Barbara Perez - Editor

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## LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello Calusa Members. August has been a quiet month. Yet there are committee chairs working on future events. This issue does include some "save the dates" so you can mark your calendars well in advance. I think I have three extra 2026 calendar if anyone needs one. You can see in this issue that there was a luncheon held on August . Even though it was only nine ladies attending there was never a lull in the conversations. The next one will be September 17th.

We have not received any mail from members telling of any summer excursions yet I know there are many of you who have been traveling. How about sharing what you are up to with your fellow gardeners?

As for myself, it has been too, too hot for me to be outside gardening. I guess I am a fair-weather gardener.

My husband and I did take a cruise on the American Cruise Line up in the northeast on the Long Island Sound. We stopped at ports that we had sailed to while living on Long Island. It was a very nostalgic and enjoyable trip.

Enjoy September!

Linda Colombo



UPCOMING EVENTS
August 16– 8:00 am – Leigh Plummer Park Maintenance
August 22 – 9:30 am – Butterfly Garden Pollinator count
August 30 – 8:30 am – Butterfly Garden Maintenance
September 8 – 1:00 pm – Planning meeting for the Fall Festival (see notice below)
September 6– 8:00 am – Leigh Plummer Park Maintenance
September 17 – September luncheon (At Cav's, formerly Joey D's)
September 27– 8:30 am – Butterfly Garden Maintenance

## MEETING NOTICE

### PLANT AND FLORAL DESIGN SALE & FALL FESTIVAL

Rhonda Glodt and Diane Chestnut invite you to join the planning meeting for the Plant and Floral Design Sale and Fall Festival which will take place on Nov 22, 2025.

We will discuss event logistics, volunteer roles, publicity and creative activities for the event. Your input and enthusiasm are essential to making the event a success!

- Monday September 8, 2025
- 1:00 pm
- Home of Sara Wolf
- 1710 Macao Court, Marco Island
- Parking at 1700, 1710, 1711, 1720 and 1721 Macao Court

RSVP by text if you can join us:

- Rhonda Glodt: 239-450-7089 or
- Diane Chestnut: 239-285-2972

## July and August Luncheons

The Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island held its July informal luncheon on July 14 at Kretch's, where fourteen enthusiastic attendees gathered to share their love for gardening and nature. Members not only exchanged updates about their summer plans and events on Marco Island, but also engaged in discussions regarding upcoming Gadabouts activities. Additional topics included the challenges associated with cultivating vegetables during the summer, tips for successfully growing Everglades Tomatoes, and the successful completion of a seawall alongside a 80 foot native garden. Diane Chestnut gave an update on the Fall Festival and Garden sale. Nanette Baumgardner has Birds of Paradise cuttings available due to an unexpected plant removal.



Claudia Bruni, Diane Chestnut, Susan Oldershaw



Guest Austine Frawley, Susan Neustadt, Nanette Baumgardner



Linda Schwinger, Ellen Van Nagell, Donna Kay



Rhonda Gloodt, Gloria Fabijanic, Kathey McNabb and Monna Hornel

**At the August luncheon on August 12 at Stonewalls, the nine attendees caught up with each other and had a very nice time. These ladies are keeping busy this summer preparing for the upcoming programs, meetings and events**



Susan Neustadt, Monna Hornell, Gloria Fabijanic, Rhonda Gloodt



Master Gardener Donna Kay, Marianne Foley, Sue Olershaw, Linda Colombo



## **The Clay Painting Workshop at Watermark**

**The Watermark at Marco Island is a recently-opened senior living community, which offers assisted living and memory care. Last week it partnered with the Calusa Garden Club for a hands-on Clay Painting Workshop — and what a success it was!**

**With a full house of enthusiastic participants, the room was buzzing with creativity, color, and community spirit. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect through art and nature.**



**Diane Chestnut and Sue Oldershaw interact with a group of residents in the first of what will be many creative collaborations.**

## **Butterfly Garden Enthusiasts**

**The Great South-east Pollinator Census, organized by the UFL/IFAS Extension Center, takes place this month. Susan LaGrotta invites us to the Marco Island Butterfly Garden, to do a “head-count” of the pollinators there, Aug. 22 at 9:30 am. Contact Susan for more information.**



## MAINTENANCE OF MARKERS ON MARCO ISLAND

Gloria and Monna performed weed-removal and cleaning up of the Sandhill Marker. The Calusa Garden Club is responsible for the beautification of these civic monuments.

These fun photos show Gloria Fabijanec and Monna Hormel, members of the Marker Maintenance committee, doing their civic duty. Volunteers are always welcome.



## SUMMER GARDENS

Our president has asked us to share photos of our summer gardens as we travel away from Naples. I'll be the first to post a few photos of my home in Oaxaca, Mexico. Please send me three or four of your own summer paradise for the next newsletter edition..



My Cactus Garden





### District IX of the FFGC is on Facebook

The Calusa Garden Club is part of District IX of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. Become a “friend” on activities.

### Garden Organizations we can Subscribe to

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

[WWW.FFGC.ORG](http://WWW.FFGC.ORG)

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS INC

[WWW.GARDENCLUB.ORG](http://WWW.GARDENCLUB.ORG)

This is in case your inbox isn't clogged up enough, but these organizations are well-worth it !! 😊