

Smoke Signals

The Calusa Garden Club Newsletter

July 2025
Editor: Barbara Perez

calusagardenclubcommunication@gmail.com
www.calusa.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Calusa Garden Club members,

I hope you are each having a wonderful and memorable summer. Marco is now officially into its rainy season. Many thunder and lightning storms have taken to being the norm of our week. However, the best part of that is that our gardens are thriving with the water from above. Thank you, Mother Nature.

Many of our board members have been busy since April. Margie, our treasurer, has held the budget meeting, Kathy McNabb and her crew have planted the pioneer garden, Diane is busy organizing our recent affiliation with Watermark, and maintenance continues with Leigh Plummer Park and the Calusa Butterfly Garden.

This newsletter is the first in several years. Thank you to new member Barbara Perez for taking on the job of editor. If you have any news you feel should be shared with members, please pass it on to her. All photos are appreciated.

Smoke Signals had been published each month with lots of news and photos. It is my hope that it will be a welcome addition to other news outlets that are available to you. For example: the Events Calendar on the website, our Facebook presence, the Friday news blast, as well as additional e-blasts when necessary. Each e-blast will have a subject line for you to view. In order to keep our business meetings to a reasonable length of time, e-blasts will be sent with detailed information of topics that may be discussed. Please check your emails for any new events.

Now sit back with a cup of herbal tea and enjoy this brand-new issue of Smoke Signals.

UPCOMING EVENTS
June 21 – 8:00 am – Leigh Plummer Park Maintenance
June 28 – 8:30 am – Butterfly Garden Maintenance
July 5 – 8:00 am – Leigh Plummer Park Maintenance
July 14 – Noon – Monthly Luncheon at Kretch's Restaurant
July 19 – 8:00 am – Leigh Plummer Park Maintenance
July 26 – 8:30 am – Butterfly Garden Maintenance

MONTHLY LUNCHEON – JUNE 9

The Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island held its June informal luncheon on Monday, June 9, 2025, at Margarita's, where fifteen enthusiastic attendees gathered to share their love for gardening and nature. At the luncheon, in addition to talking about their summer plans and Marco Island happenings, the gardeners discussed pollinator plants for bees and butterflies, which will be a focus at the garden club's Fall Festival & Plant Sale.

Stay tuned for more information. Don't miss the July Luncheon at Kretch's Restaurant on Monday July 14.





LITTLE PINK HOUSES OF HOPE

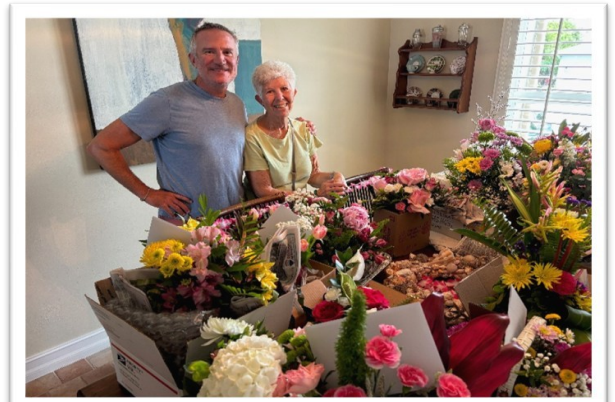


The Little Pink Houses of Hope is a national organization whose mission is embracing families as they traverse the difficult breast cancer journey. The retreat in Marco Island offers these families a week-long vacation, helping them focus on celebrating life and empowering them to live each day to the fullest. The Marco Island retreat is chaired by Retreat Coordinator Brad Shaw and directed by Jeanine Patten-Coble.



Club members created over 20 floral designs and also made monetary donations to support the week's activities. Calusa Garden Club member Marianne Foley chairs the efforts of the Garden Club in donating the floral designs for each home or condominium that welcomes the breast cancer patients and their families.

After delivering the arrangements to Brad Shaw's home for final distribution, Sara Wolf, Kathy McNabb, and Marianne Foley placed cards made by club member Claudia Bruni in the arrangements to welcome the retreat families. Many other members of the Club participated with their time, expertise and contributions to this worthy charity. On Friday, June 6, 2025, the final event was a luncheon aboard the Marco Island Princess. Club



members made sea-themed table centerpieces featuring pink carnations along with shells and greenery. Nanette, Jenn, Marianne, Maura and Sara.

GADABOUTS

The final Gadabout for the 2024-2025 season took place on March 31. Seventeen garden club members carpoled to Fort Myers to enjoy Lyle Bowen's beautiful bromeliad garden. There were plants for sale, large and small "pups," of which the members took full advantage. Our trunks were overflowing!

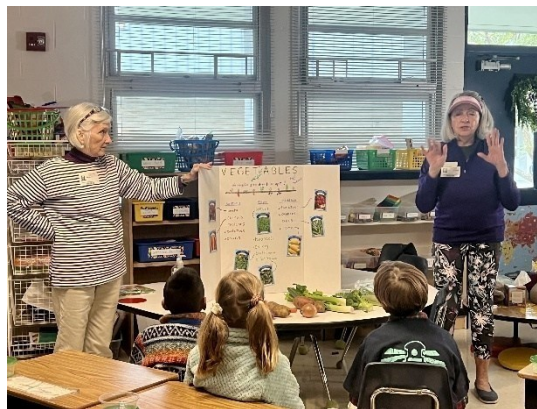
Lyle's artwork was on display, paintings of bromeliads with jigsaw puzzle motifs within the gorgeous colors. He spoke about the fascinating world of bromeliad culture, propagation and cross pollination to create new varieties. Lunch at a nearby restaurant ended the enjoyable event.



ECO TOTS

Three members of the Calusa Garden Club participated in the once-per-month Friday Club Day at Tommie Barfield Elementary School on Marco Island, forming the EcoTots brigade. Kathy McNabb, Susie Baker and Barbara Perez worked with about 20 first-graders in the raised-bed gardens the school provided for the project. They read stories, planted vegetable and flower plants, seeds and succulents, pulled weeds and learned about seeds, flowers and vegetables.

The excitement was high when the milkweed plants became overrun with Monarch caterpillars, when the chrysalises were spotted around the walls of the school, and finally when the Monarchs returned to the garden. During one session, when the students filled containers with dirt, planted the seed and then watered, one little boy smiled and said, "I could do this all day long!" There goes a future gardener.



**Much more to follow, updates on local activities and
UPCOMING EVENTS.**

**It's not too early to start gearing up for the
FALL FESTIVAL & PLANT SALE on Nov. 22.
Keep checking your E-BLASTS and FACEBOOK !**