



Smoke Signals

November 2025

www.calusa.org
calusagardenclubcommunication@gmail.com
 Barbara Perez - Editor



LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hi Calusa Members.

I do hope you have been enjoying the cooler weather that we have all been wishing for. It is time to clean up the gardens and do a light pruning before much cooler weather is upon us. I, for one, keep filling up the trash pails till I must stop pruning. Check your Calusa Gardening Guide for hints.

The October meeting was well-received by all. There were several guests who stayed to enjoy Rhonda's program on our local butterflies. Liz Clancy and Debbie Kuhlman had a nice assortment of goodies to offer. Thanks to all who contributed to the table. Remember to contact Liz or Debbie for the upcoming meetings.

"All hands-on deck" please! Our **only** fund raiser for 2025 is our Plant Sale and Fall Festival. Calusa and its committee projects are counting on its success. We are all gearing up for the Plant Sale, Floral Arrangements and our new Fall Festival. November 22 will no doubt be here before we know it. Rhonda and Diane need many more volunteers to assist that day. Please join other members for a fun day.

Again, remember to check the Calusa website's calendar for event news.

Cheers,
Linda Colombo, President

- LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT
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- FLORAL DESIGN WORKSHOPS
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Program after the November General Membership Meeting

Raised Gardens and Edible Flowers is the program which follows our November GMM, presented by Marisa Iwicki.

Note the change in schedule: Brunch at the library will be available from 10:30 till noon during the meeting.

The program will be held at Watermark courtyard at 12:30. Following the program we are invited to a tour of Watermark facilities.

If you'd like to donate food items for the brunch, call or text Liz Clancy (518-369-7184).

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 1 – 8:30 am – Maintenance at Leigh-Plummer Park
November 10 – 10:30 am– General Membership Meeting, Rose Auditorium
Nov 13 – 2:00-3:00 - <u>Learn how to make Floral Crowns</u> ; Watermark Art Room
November 14 - 8:00 am – EcoTots at Tommie Barfield Elementary Sc hool
November 18 – 8:30 am – Maintenance at Leigh-Plummer Park
November 21 – 9:00 am-12:00 - Floral Design Workshop – New Life Community Church
November 22 – 9:00 – 3:00 – PLANT SALE AND FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL !!
November 25 – 8:30 am – Maintenance at the Butterfly Garden

Plant raffle at the Membership Meetings

- Jen Ferrier, chairperson of the Meeting Raffles, reports a successful round of the Plant Raffle at the October GMM, with sales of tickets amounting to \$99!
- It was nice to see that several of the visitors/prospective members took home plants.
- In the upcoming months, plants will be donated by the membership, so please be in touch if you want to donate.
- See the plant [information sheet](#) you should fill out, for the benefit of the winner of your plant. (Jen - call or text: 609-576-0694)

Fall Family Festival needs

Sign up with Diane Chestnut (diane4calusa@gmail.com) if you can contribute any of these items (and manpower)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ON LOAN: coolers, tents, clothes drying rack, large clay pots, • Sturdy cardboard boxes to transport purchased items • Thin plastic bags to protect vehicle from dirt and water spillage • Paper towels, wet wipes • Hot-glue sticks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rubber gloves • Acrylic paint, art paper • 16 or 32 oz. jars with tops • Extra-long exterior heavy duty extension cord • Husbands or other volunteers between the hours of 8 am and 4 pm, any shift is appreciated. |
|---|---|

Register for the Flower Crown workshop at Watermark, Nov. 13 at 2:00

We should all wear lovely silk flower crowns to the Plant Sale and Fall Family Festival event.

Here is the [list of materials](#) you should bring to the workshop to make yours. At the Fall Family Festival there will be a table where attendees will make their own.

FLORAL DESIGN WORKSHOP – TABLE DESIGNS

There are eight Floral Design Workshops programmed for the 2025-2026 season. The first is the special workshop on Nov. 21 to create Traditional and Creative Table Designs for our annual Plant Sale the following day. The Workshop is held from 9:00 to 12:00 at the New Life Church.

Bring your own vase, flowers and leaves and share with others.

You can see the future workshops on the Event Calendar on our website.

The FNGC [Floral Design Handbook](#) is available on line. Download your copy for a wealth of information.

FLOWERS IN PUBLIC PLACES

Garden Club is resurrecting flowers in public places. Four times this month flower arrangements were placed in different locales around the island.

Breast Cancer Awareness is the theme we focused on in October, with messages and reminders about mammogram screening.

NCH Urgent Care is having their grand opening. If you would like to volunteer a design for this, or for any other event, contact Marianne at jmfoley@aol.com or 508-479-7550 .



AT THE NCH REHAB UNIT



JANET WATSON AT THE BARGAIN BASKET.



LIZ PAPAGIANNIS' DESIGN



SUE OLDERSHAW AT NCH

SEA TURTLE UPDATE - A TERRIFIC YEAR FOR THE LOGGERHEAD POPULATION

Collier County has updated their turtle nesting information.

- Collier County recorded 24% more total nests than last year. Marco Island's beach was up by 22%.
- Hatched nests for the county were up by 132%, while Marco's beach recorded 108% more hatched nests.
- Marco's beach supported 118 nests compared to last year's 97. This year we had 77 hatched nests as opposed to 37 hatched nests in 2024.

Nancy Reynolds Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Environment

Tis the Season



Holiday Luncheon
Calusa Garden Club

Friday, December 12, 2025
Players Club & Spa @ Lely Grand Resort
8060 Grand Lely Drive, Naples, Florida
11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Buffet

Mixed Green Salad
Caesar Salad
Baked Chicken
Grilled Salmon with Lemon Caper Sauce
Roasted Red Skin Potatoes with Onions
Vegetable Medley
Warm Rolls w/Whipped Butter
Assorted Freshly Baked Cookies & Brownies
Iced Tea, Soft Drinks, Freshly Brewed Coffee
Cash Bar with \$5.00 Mimosas and Bloody Marys



\$38.00 cash/check
\$39.50 online with credit card
cash/check at General Meeting or Mail check to:
Margaret Bramel, 1192 Bond Ct., Marco Island, FL 34145
Make checks payable to Calusa Garden Club

R.S.V.P.
www.calusa.org/event-calendar
by December 5th

RAFFLE **50/50 RAFFLE**
IN LIEU OF A GIFT EXCHANGE....

The MIPD and Al's Pal's are collecting gifts for kids in our community to give to their parents. Please donate thoughtful items a child would enjoy giving to their mom or dad – helping them learn that giving is just as special as receiving.
Bring your unwrapped items to the luncheon.



BUTTERFLY GARDEN COMMITTEE

Susan LaGrotta and the members of her committee are working hard with several extra meetings this month, to get the garden in shape after our abundant rains this summer. Check out her [report](#) with upcoming plans and information about the different nectar and host plants.

GADABOUT TO PEPPER RANCH PRESERVE

On October 10, a group of eight members of the CGC traveled to Pepper Ranch Preserve to view the sunflower fields, have lunch at Lozano's in Immokalee and shop for plants at Sanctuary Nursery. Read in more detail about the [enjoyable day](#) and see some more great pictures.



Debbie Kuhlman, Marianne Foley, Sue Oldershaw, Sara Wolf, Diane Chestnut, Nanette Baumbardner, Kimberly Porter, Kathy McNabb.

FLORAL DESIGN HINTS

An informative addition to our General Membership Meeting is a three- to five- minute presentation on National Garden Club Flower Shows, including tips for creating entries, both floral designs and botanical specimens.

The first presentation, offered on Oct. 13, showed essential materials for our "toolbox." November's presentation is how to prepare your flowers for a design.

These presentations will support us in Art in Bloom in 2026 (in conjunction with the Marco Island Center for the Arts) and in the flower show in 2027. Our last flower show was in 2019, so this is a highly anticipated event. Sara Wolf is curating.

As members of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs
 all of us should receive their notifications.
 Or go to FFGC.org to sign up for free.
 Click on the link
 Don't miss the **Webinar** on November 6, on the FLORIDA PANTHER.



FLORIDA PANTHERS
 "A BETTER UNDERSTANDING"
Carol Rizkalla, PhD
 Florida Panther Management
 Program Coordinator

 **FFGC WEBINAR**
 No Charge
NOVEMBER 6, 2025
TIME: 1:00 EST

SAVE THE DATES
Get involved with the Annual Plant Sale and Fall Family Festival, Nov. 22, 2025
Save the Date for the Holiday Luncheon, Dec. 12, 2025
Register for the field trip to Fairchild Nursery, Feb. 17, 2026
Save the Date for Art in Bloom, April 9, 2026

SHORT TAKES
MEMBERSHIP reports that we have 72 members: 56 members, eight associate members, four honorary members and four applicants.
See the list of PROGRAMS for the 2025-2026 season, which follow our General Membership meetings on the second Monday of each Month, as reported by 2 nd Vice President Diane Chestnut.
Remember to sign up for Nov. GADABOUT on Nov. 13, Tour the Butterfly Garden at Vi at Bentley Village, Lunch, and Tour at Naples Airport. You can Register on the Events Calendar.
A committee has been formed to review and renew the Standing Rules for the Calusa Garden Club. Linda Colombo, Margie Bramel and Kimberly Korb-Porter will be working on this. They plan to be finished by January.
The Marco Island branch of the Collier County Library is being very supportive of the Calusa Garden Club, moving the American flag into Rose Auditorium, and providing us with extra tables, now that the season is getting underway.
To keep us all abreast of the range of good works we are involved in, committee chairpersons should report current activities to the Smoke Signals editor, Barbara Perez (blyons1248@gmail.com).