



# Smoke Signals

## October 2025

[www.calusa.org](http://www.calusa.org)  
[calusagardenclubcommunication@gmail.com](mailto:calusagardenclubcommunication@gmail.com)  
 Barbara Perez – Editor



Linda's neighborhood visitor

### LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello, Calusa Garden Members,

It is so true what “they” say about growing older: time goes by quickly. I am sure you are saying to yourself right at this moment that you just read a Smoke Signals newsletter. Yes, you are correct. Last month’s issue was out less than two weeks ago. For the future, the newsletter will reach you prior to the Membership Meeting. Please send any news on your committee to Barbara in a timely manner. Anything that may require immediate attention should go out in the Friday Communication.

Unfortunately, many of you will still be up north for our first meeting. We will hopefully have most of you returning for November. Even if you are not here, it is important to stay up to date with Calusa’s events via the Events Calendar on the website and Friday Communications.

At the October meeting we will be voting on the 2025-2026 budget that the board approved at the September 15<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

I look forward to catching up with each of you as you return.

With kind regards,  
Linda Colombo

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### Hospitality for the Membership Meeting

The first Membership Meeting of the 2025-2026 season will be held on Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup> (the second Monday of the month) in the Rose Auditorium. The chairpersons of the Meeting Hospitality Committee are Liz Clancy and Debra Kuhlman.

If you have volunteered to bring a dish, thank you for your contribution. Liz will be in touch with you in a timely manner. If you would like to be part of this monthly activity, please be in touch with Liz (518-369-7184, call or by text).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

October 9 – 11:00 am – Walk the Grounds at Watermark, Rose Auditorium
October 10 – 9:00 am – Gadabout at Pepper Ranch Preserve, Lozano's, Sanctuary Nursery
October 13 – 10:30 am– General Membership Meeting, Rose Auditorium
October 18 – 8:30 am – Maintenance at Leigh-Plummer Park
October 21 – District IX Fall meeting – Winterhaven FL
October 24 - 8:00 am – EcoTots at Tommie Barfield Elementary School
October 25 – 8:30 am – Maintenance at the Butterfly Garden
October 27 – 9:00 am – 12:00 - Floral Design Workshop – New Life Community Church
October 28 – 2:00 pm – Horticulture Workshop "Terrariums" - Watermark Auditorium

### Terrarium Workshop – Horticulture Event October 28, 2:00 pm - At The Watermark

- At this Horticulture Event, we will learn how to make a "self-sustaining mini-ecosystem" – an air-tight vessel which re-cycles oxygen and water for the plants enclosed within.
- Space is limited, so be sure to sign up on the sheet at the Members Meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup>, or on line.
- Once you have registered you will receive a hand-out which describes in more detail the project, process and materials.
- You can bring your own materials, or purchase them at the workshop.
- Be in touch with Marisa Iwicki ([iwickim@comcast.net](mailto:iwickim@comcast.net)) or Diane Chestnut ([diane4calusa@icloud.com](mailto:diane4calusa@icloud.com)) for more information.

### Plant raffle at the Membership Meetings

Jen Ferrier, chairperson of the Meeting Raffles, has announced a new format for the plant raffles, as per the responses to our questionnaire earlier in the year. Instead of all of the tickets in one basket, you will deposit your ticket(s) in the basket of the plant you hope to win. The plants will be donated by the membership, so please be in touch if you want to donate. (Jen's phone or text: 609-576-0694)

### NEW MEMBERS AND SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES

It has been brought to the Board's attention that many new members are left not knowing what our club is all about and feel lost. In order to address that, 2nd Vice President Valerie Aguis has updated the responsibilities for member sponsors. If you choose to be a sponsor for a prospective member, please keep these guidelines in mind. During the first year of membership, a member is considered "New Member."

#### Updated Sponsor Responsibilities

- Sponsor shall remind New Member to attend upcoming General Meetings.
- Sponsor shall sit with and introduce New Member to Club Members at Monthly General Meeting Social Time.
- Sponsor shall explain the Website, Event Calendar and Event Registration to New Member
- Sponsor shall attend a number of Workshops and Gadabouts with New Member.
- Sponsor shall remind New Member to pay annual dues.

**PAINTING ACTIVITY AT THE WATERMARK**

Five members of the Calusa Garden Club got together to paint and adorn flower pots which will be sold at the Fun Family Festival. Clay flowers had been painted at another session, which will add color to outdoor gardens.



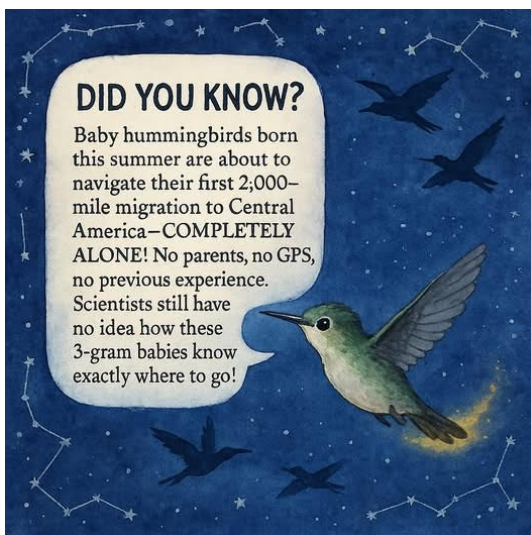
Margie Bramel, Diane Chestnut and flowers



Barbara Perez, Margie Bramel and Diane Chestnut



Dee Luccisano and Sara Wolf



PLEASE do not kill them by using sugar water feeders. FLORIDA is TOO HOT to use hummingbird feeders that breed bacteria and mold. Florida has ample flowers that feed hummingbirds! Try planting these that WILL attract/feed hummingbirds: Coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), Firebush, Scarlet sage (*Salvia coccinea*), Trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*), Coral bean (*Erythrina herbage*), Native Lantana (Shrub *verbena*), Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), Spotted beebalm (*Monarda punctata*), Carolina jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*).

Information from : [Wild Bird Scoop](#)

**REMINDERS ABOUT THE UPCOMING PLANT SALE AND FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL**

Fun Family Festival needs: toilet paper rolls, clay pots with saucers, acrylic paint, art paper, 16 or 32 oz. jars with tops, succulent cuttings. Please be collecting. Also needed: coolers on loan.

Plant Sale: Rhonda has plants still to be harvested. Be in touch with her to schedule a planting, bring 3 gal. pots, tools and \$3 per pot to cover the potting mixture. ([rhondamarco@gmail.com](mailto:rhondamarco@gmail.com))

Activities prior to the FFF, to be held at Watermark, all invited: Oct 28 at 2 pm for making terrariums; Nov. 13 (hour tbd) for practicing making flower crowns.



Maura Kelley

**SAVE THE DATE FOR  
ART IN BLOOM  
APRIL 9, 2026**

In collaboration with the Marco Island Center for the Arts, the Calusa Garden Club will participate in "Art in Bloom". On Thursday April 9, our members will choose an artwork from an exhibit at the Center for the Arts, and interpret that artwork through a floral design.

We will close the day with a reception to congratulate and honor our members who have participated. Look for more information on this fun event as the year progresses. These are photos from last year's event.



Sara Wolf



Linda Ariel



10901 Old Cutler Rd.  
Coral Gables, FL 33156 (Miami Area)  
**February 17, 2026 Field Trip**



Don't forget to register for the Calusa Garden Club bus trip

- **Tuesday, February 17, 2026** to Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens
- In the Miami/Coral Gables area.
- Registration is available online, and you can pay by card, check or cash.
- See the information in the September issue of Smoke Signals
- Please contact Susan Ridyard, Trip Coordinator, with questions ([susanridyard@gmail.com](mailto:susanridyard@gmail.com) or 239-571-2334)

**SHORT TAKES and SAVE THE DATES**

It's a good idea to check the Interactive Calendar online ([calusa.org](http://calusa.org)) for lots of information on upcoming events.

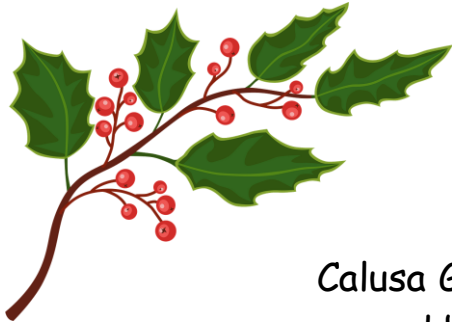
Get involved with the Annual Plant Sale and Fun Family Festival, Nov. 22, 2025

Save the Date for the Holiday Luncheon, Dec. 12, 2025

Register for the field trip to Fairchild Nursery

Save the Date for Art in Bloom, April 9, 2026

We all have membership in the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. Be sure to visit [FFGC.org](http://FFGC.org) for their wealth of information.



*save the date*

Calusa Garden Club of Marco Island  
Holiday Luncheon  
Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

*The Players Club & Spa*  
8060 Grand Lely Drive  
Naples, Florida 34145