



# THE HIBISCUS LEAFLET

Coral Gables Garden Club, Coral Gables, Florida

May 2018

## Beyond the Enchanted Garden

Two glorious events have taken place since our March newsletter and their photos grace the pages here. Arbor Day at Coral Gables Preparatory Academy on April 27<sup>th</sup> was, by many accounts, the best one ever. Thanks go out to Katy Sobrado for organizing our club and creating the Jr. Children's Program. Thanks also to Denise West for speaking in my absence and to Nita Norman and Lucy Reinhardt, members on the city's Landscape Beautification Advisory Board, who helped facilitate the event. Thank you Olga Lazo, our cookie captain, Derita Downey, our Johnny Appleseed of the Everglades Tomato, and all of you who volunteered and supported this important partnering event with the City of Coral Gables. City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark, presented Betsy Adams with the city's Landscape Beautification Award plaque for the new park honoring Betsy and the garden club. What a day!!

And the Enchanted Garden we entered at the Riviera Country Club for our May 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Luncheon was a splendor to behold. The committee transformed the ballroom into a blooming garden, replete with trees, flowers, garden benches, baskets of hydrangeas gracing our tables, and festoons of flowers adorning the chandelier. Thank you, Barbara Reese and Marie Vacca for a beautiful ending to a fun and busy year. And thank you Nadima and Abe Chamoun for underwriting the champagne reception.

And so, as we close behind us the gates of our Enchanted Garden, a new year begins. As I reflect back on this year I am reminded of my hope I spoke of in the Yearbook - that you would end the year seeing "*a dynamic club which you personally helped blossom and grow.*" I know that many of you can answer that wish with a resounding yes! Thank You!

Sixteen new members have joined our club. We welcomed them at the May Luncheon, and Connie Cabeza lead an informative and fun new member orientation at the lovely home of Fran Reid on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure to warmly and often welcome our new friends, which will help to speed their enjoyment of and participation with us.

A little rest is in order! Maybe a few days as a slugabed. What a great word – I happened upon it in Allen Lacy's *The Gardener's Eye*, while he was writing about *Claytonia virginica*, a native American wildflower which lazily opens up mid-morning. So, I'm wishing you a little slugabed time, maybe some travels and a little a change in scenery. (Send us photos for the Leaflet of your travels!) I might order some *Claytonia virginica*, plant it in my mountain garden, and chill with it – at least for a couple of days.

Thank you for a bountiful year!

- Betsy Tilghman, President

### See you in September...

As you enjoy your Slugabed time, take photos of your "Summer Vacation" so that we can publish them in the late August edition of The Leaflet. And if you haven't signed up for committees, this is a good time to go Beyond the Enchanted Garden.

Keep up to date with us this summer through our website, [coralgablesgardenclub.org](http://coralgablesgardenclub.org) or our Facebook site Coral Gables Garden Club. Thank you Cari Gardner! - [carigardner@bellsouth.net](mailto:carigardner@bellsouth.net) - if you have content you think would be interesting to add to the sites.



## Arbor Day 2018 a resounding success

The Coral Gables Garden Club joined the Coral Gables Landscape Beautification Advisory Board (LBAB) and the City of Coral Gables in presenting Arbor Day 2018 at Coral Gables Preparatory Academy, formerly known as Coral Gables Elementary School. This site was chosen because it's landscape sustained considerable hurricane damage during Hurricane Irma. With the help of a donation from the Garden Club, the city planted over 20 trees on the school grounds. Additionally, the city gave each of the 300 students participating in the program a tree to take home and plant in their yard.

The school safety patrol joined the Coral Gables Honor Guard in leading the crowd through the Pledge of Allegiance. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Graders entertained the crowd with several songs, skits, and performances related to Arbor Day. They eagerly helped the principal, in addition to several members of the LBAB and CGGC, plant the ceremonial Arbor Day Tree, a *Tabebuia chrysotricha*. Afterwards, Arbor Day Chair Katy Sobrado presented Principal Jeanette Sierra-Funcia and Assistant Principal Andrea Abrantes with several books to add to the school's library, including two published by National Garden Clubs, 'The Saved Seed' and 'The Frightened Frog.'

CGGC member Denise West spoke on behalf of the Club, and shared, "The very first Garden club project was the landscaping of the patio of the Coral Gables Elementary School in 1927. The garden club also sponsored a junior gardeners program for almost a decade at this Elementary School." She continued, "How fitting we are celebrating once again Arbor Day at this special school! We have returned to inspire our children to appreciate the natural environment, the wonder of growing plants, and the importance of trees and other vegetation for the nourishment and health of our earth and all living creatures."

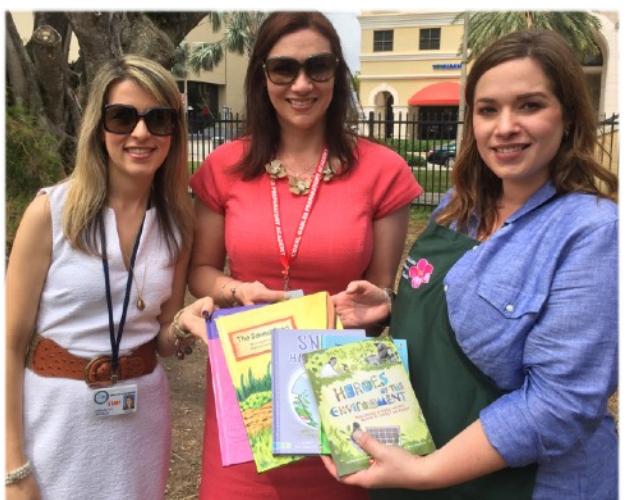
Katy Sobrado, the CGGC Arbor Day Committee Chair, a Florida Master Gardener and Clinical Psychologist, presented the children's program to over 140 kindergarteners. The enthusiasm the children have for trees and the natural world was palpable. They readily answered questions about how they connect with nature and why that connection is so important. At the conclusion of her program, Katy remarked to the children, "We still have a lot of work to do when it comes to educating adults about caring for the environment. However, every time I have the opportunity to speak to children about nature, it gives me great hope. Your enthusiasm and love for trees and the natural world is inspiring. Thank you for giving us all hope."

The LBAB awarded beautification awards to several homeowners in the community for their outstanding landscapes. In addition, for the first time the LBAB honored an organization with a beautification award. The CGGC was given an award to acknowledge the efforts that went in to making one of the city's newest parks, The Betsy Adams and Coral Gables Garden Club Park. CGGC member and park namesake Betsy Adams accepted the award on behalf of the club.

Katy Sobrado further noted, "The success of the Arbor Day celebration is an example of what can be accomplished when nonprofit groups like ours work with public entities like the City of Coral Gables, the LBAB, and our schools to enhance our community. We thank them for their hard work and collaboration." Katy also thanked all of the CGGC members who contributed to the Arbor Day celebration by baking cookies, making prizes for the children, saving Everglades Tomato Seeds and making seed packets for 140 kindergarteners, purchasing books for the school's library, assisting with the Children's Presentation, serving on the LBAB, and finally representing the Club at the awards ceremony and the subsequent tree planting. The combined efforts of the CGGC, the LBAB and the City of Coral Gables and the enthusiasm of the students at the Coral Gables Preparatory Academy made Arbor Day a resounding success.



## Arbor Day 2018: CGGC wins Beautification Award



It was a full day for Garden Club members. From planting a *Tabebuia chrysotricha* with 3rd and 4th grade students, distributing signature cookies to children and adults; Betsy Adams accepting Beautification Award on behalf of CGGC from City Manager Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark. Arbor Day Chairman, Katy Sobrado with club members coordinated a wonderful day with Coral Gables Preparatory Academy.



## Magical Year End with *The Enchanted Garden Luncheon*



Many thanks to Luncheon chairpersons, Barbara Reese, Marie Vacca and the hardworking committee. Special thanks to Nadmima and Abe Chamoun for their generous sponsorship. It truly was an Enchanted Garden enjoyed by all attendees. Beautiful finale of a busy, fulfilling and enchanting year.







## Planning ahead ...

### MEMBERSHIP:

- Connie Cabeza

A record year for new members (16). A special thank you to all the members who encouraged their friends to consider membership in the Coral Gables Garden Club. The roster of new members is phenomenal and it is now the responsibility of the sponsors and members to encourage the new members to participate. Each new member has a special talent and can make a significant contribution to developing new ideas and expanding the wonderful programs we have in place.



Our April 23rd meeting was all about orchids. The informative workshop from Fairchild's StemLab was about native orchid propagation.

Many thanks to program Chair, Judy Mangasarian for our outstanding April Workshop and Program; the Lunch Committee: Nadima Chamoun, Gail Mase, Sherry Jordan, Ana Lam, Haydee Pichardo and Nancy Gray. Beautiful centerpiece done by Carmen Cason.

Now is time to consider Coral Gables residents to bring to next year's meetings. Next year's applicants must attend two meetings to be considered for membership. The applicants need time to meet the members and become familiar with the clubs vision and purpose.

### HORTICULTURE:

- Susan Thomas

For all of you that got native orchids at our April workshop please be sure that they have enough water! The Encyclia Tampensis could be watered daily if you do it in the morning. And it's always a good idea to water in the morning. Even with the recent rain, I've found mine to be quite dry as the tree branches can keep water from getting to them. The ground orchid, Bletia Purpurea needs additional water also. Both plants should be established in a few months and then nature will take over, but it's always good to keep an eye on them. They appreciate it!



### HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR:

- Teresa Zohn/Lucy Reinhardt

The date for next year's house and garden tour will be March 16, 2019.

Over the summer while you are selling ads for the yearbook, please also sell ads and or sponsorships for the tour program. There are discounts and benefits if people advertise in both.

Also, if you know of any great houses or gardens or if your house or garden would be terrific for the tour, contact Teresa Zohn 305-773-0262 or Lucy Reinhardt 203-610-7926

### HONE YOUR FLOWER DESIGN SKILLS:

Attend a NGC Flower Show School in November in Ft. Lauderdale. Course 1 – Nov. 12-14, 2018

Sponsored by the Ft. Lauderdale Garden Club, Birch State Park, 2109 E. Sunrise Blvd. To sign up email respectively [darlenenewell@suddenlink.net](mailto:darlenenewell@suddenlink.net) and [parterre1@aol.com](mailto:parterre1@aol.com)



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