



# THE HIBISCUS LEAFLET

September 2018

Coral Gables Garden Club, Coral Gables, Florida

## The Birds And The Bees, The Flowers And The Trees



It is never easy returning from the North Carolina mountains. One of the most worrisome things I must do is take down the bird feeder. All of those birds have depended on me, only me, I think, for their sustenance! The juncos, who know and trust me – waiting on the deck each morning for the sunflower seeds to come out. The cardinals, skittish creatures – does their color make them so? – perch on the far side of the feeder so they can peek around to watch me and fly away in an instant. The titmice – you don't have to see them, you can hear them as they leave – springing from the flexible perch with the noise of a high diver bouncing off of a diving board. The nuthatches, they grab a seed and run, preferring to knock them open on a tree instead of hanging with the crowd. Who will tend to these dear ones while I am away? I take a 20-pound bag of bird seed to my neighbor – feed with abandon I beg her!

I shouldn't worry - each year the birds are back. They have eaten my neighbor's seed, the holly berries and the bugs. They are nesting in my boxwood, confident that another good year is on the way. Thankfully, they are there and I am not indispensable.

And here at home – I planted a Dahoon Holly smack in the middle of my side yard last year – it is loaded with red berries - the mockingbirds, cat birds and cardinals are eating well. They do just fine in my absence too, and I am enjoying their presence as I settle into the end of summer and beginning of fall, and my second year as your garden club president.

Just as I have learned with the birds, one person is not indispensable - and I thank each one of you for the jobs you have chosen to take on this year. In many ways we are a small organization, yet we have so many things to do, ideas to share, fun and learning to be had and kindnesses to convey to our citizens and our city, that we are very busy! It takes so many of us, working together in fun and camaraderie to make a difference in our own lives and in the lives of others. Together we are all indispensable!

We have three important events occurring before December. First, we will be coming before the City Commission on Tuesday, **September 25<sup>th</sup>**, for the proposed naming of the Lamar Louise Curry Park in the triangle piece of land in front of Venetian Pool at De Soto, Toledo and Almeria. It is very important that the garden club represents itself with many members – this will be a signature project for our club for the coming year or more. (We will keep you informed as to the time of day we are on the agenda.) Then on Friday, **November 9<sup>th</sup>**, at 11 am we will dedicate the Blue Star Memorial Marker we are placing outside of the War Memorial Youth Center, in partnership with the City of Coral Gables. The Blue Star Memorial Project is one originating from our national organization, NGC, Inc. and we expect national garden club officials as well as city officials and the honor guard to be there for the dedication. And lastly, mark your calendars for our exciting Thursday, **November 29<sup>th</sup>** Floral Presentation and Book Signing Event with acclaimed southern floral artist Sybil Sylvester of Birmingham, Alabama. This welcoming and inspiring public event will take place at the Coral Gables Congregational Church Fellowship Hall. Sybil will be creating several designs – for the holidays, for a special place in your home and for using our sub-tropical flora. Bring your friends! The tickets will be \$25 each, with part of the proceeds going to our Lamar Louise Curry Park initiative.

And looking into the new year, we have our March 16<sup>th</sup> House and Garden Tour. This is a well-conceived departure from our December Holiday Home Tour - allowing us to highlight our beautifully blooming South Florida gardens as well as gracious homes.

Our first meeting of the year is Monday, **September 24<sup>th</sup>** in the Danielson Gallery at the Biltmore Hotel. We start with a workshop in the Garden Center on bats and bat houses, with Diana Jaramillo of the Miami Bat Squad, followed by lunch and our program, *The Edible Tropical Garden*, with Nora Ledsma, PhD, Curator of Tropical Fruit at Fairchild Tropical Garden. Please join us, and welcome many of our new 16 members!

Together, I hope our club will be indispensable in each of our lives and fundamental to a thriving City Beautiful. I look forward to a wonderful year!

- Betsy Tilghman, President

## PICK UP YOUR YEARBOOKS:

The Yearbooks are ready! Pick yours up at the Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting. Thank you Teresa Zohn!

## SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING CHANGE:

Change of date for the September Board Meeting – **Tuesday, Sept. 11 – 9:30AM at the home of Teresa Zohn, 9999 Fairchild Way.**

## REMEMBERING GOOD LIVES...

Janice Pryor, our long time member and friend  
Bill Reese, Barbara's beloved husband, and dancing partner

## WE ARE BLOOM! [WeAreBloom.org](http://WeAreBloom.org)

The National Garden Club is a proud member of this new website for youth about horticulture, "created to excite youth about the power of plants and ensure that horticulture – and the millions of people who depend on it - thrives into the future." Check out this colorful, interactive, resource filled site. Get the word out about it to teachers and parents!

## THANK YOU BLANCHE BROWNELL

When you put on your name tag at our meetings give a little thanks to our member, Blanche, who each year takes out the old tags and replaces them with new ones – our committee positions change with the years, and Blanche makes sure those changes are reflected on our tags.

## MORE HUGS AND THANK YOUS:

A big thank you to Judy Mangasarian for being as busy as a bee this summer, creating a wonderful line-up of programs and workshops for our enjoyment this year.

Other busy bees – Teresa Zohn and Lucy Reinhardt – our fearless House and Garden Co-Chairs. Thank you for lining up some outstanding homes and gardens over the summer!

Buzzzzz – Denise West has once again been the go-to gal for our

Yearbook and Tour Program ads. Thank you, Denise – great job!

A big Bumblebee thank you to our Advertisers – many of whom are you – our members!

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Our new members are Zascha Abbott, Mercy Arrieta, Rebecca Calvert, Julie Connor, Maria Garcia, Vicky Garrigo, Laura Green, Nina Jarp, Joan Johnson, Joanne Matthews, Maria More, Sally Morris, Eileen Plasky, Marlene Riesco, Cynthia Trescott and Cathy Zuckerman.. We welcome you and hope you will be an active member.

NOW is the time to start thinking about new prospective members to introduce next year. Encourage them to come to two meetings this year and learn about our wonderful garden club.

Remember that prospective members are required to attend two meetings before being considered for membership. Please see Connie Cabeza for applications.

## ALL DISTRICT MEETING

The Fall District Meeting will be 23 October, 2018, 9:30am - 3:00pm at the UM WATSCO Center

This will be your opportunity to meet your FFGC Officers, hear all about the organization we are part of and to hear accomplishments of other clubs in our District.

This meeting provides a wonderful opportunity for our new members to experience all that FFGC and our District has to offer.

Hope to see many of you in attendance!

Sharon Trbovich, District XII

## Help Needed with book storage...

Dolly MacIntyre has about two dozen gardening or flower arranging books that she would like to donate to the Club's library or to be sold for the Club's benefit. Because renovations of the club room are pending, we need someone to take the books now and keep them until the renovations are complete. Dolly is trying to downsize (it's not easy, ladies!) and would like to move the books now. If you can help, please call Dolly at 305-460-0157 or email: [macbirch@aol.com](mailto:macbirch@aol.com).



## And how does your garden grow?



Charlotte Smiley was kind enough to send us photos of her wonderful garden. These photos were taken in June and show Florida foliage at its prettiness.

Photo above: Yellow Oncidium Orchids, purple Spathoglottis ground orchids, red bromeliads. The other photo shows purple Phalaenopsis and Dendrobium Orchids, Bromiliads and Spathiphyllum.

## What I did on my 2018 Summer Vacation...



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1. MacDonald and Denise West visited Switzerland and a quick trip to Paris. They are shown at Lake Maggiore on the south side of the Alps. 2. Betsy and Jim Tilghman enjoyed a few days in Budapest, Hungary. 3. Judy Mangasarian and family hobnobbed in Rome. 4. New Member, Nina Jarp on the hanging bridge over the Costa Rican canopy. 5. Candice Cosmides had joyful July wedding of her daughter Nathalie in Asheville. 6. Jeannett Slesnick and Ginger Joachim spent a week in Chautauqua, NY attending classes and lectures..and enjoying the beautiful real estate. 7. Cari Gardner and family climbed Mt. St. Helens in Washington State. Her photo was taken at 8300 feet. 8. Lucy Reinhardt and friends were fortunate to attend the world famous Chelsea Flower Show. 9. Ann Goodman sponsored a Bridal/Bachelorette Party for a smart, beautiful young friend.

## Garden Club to host famous floral designer in November

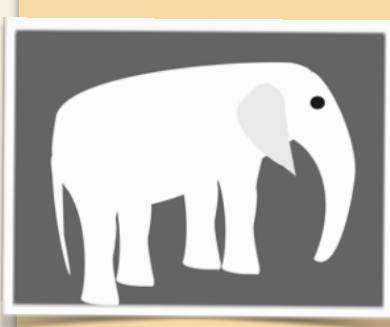
Nationally acclaimed floral designer, Sybil Sylvester, has been featured in many magazines, including Southern Accents, Coastal Living, Southern Living Weddings and Brides Magazine. She recently had a three- year column for Southern Accents Magazine entitled "flower show." She has crafted many beautiful pieces for Flower Magazine – see them online! We are pleased to introduce Sybil to Coral Gables and to watch her demonstrate the fine art of creating beautiful arrangements for our homes.

Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
 Coral Gables Congregational Church Fellowship Hall  
 3010 De Soto Blvd, Coral Gables  
 9:30 – Doors Open  
 10:00- 11:15 – Demonstration  
 11:15-11:30 – Raffle of Arrangements  
 11:30 – 12:30 – Book Signing



## National Disaster Grant replanted Bromeliads thriving.

In October, 2017, the Kampong received a \$4000 National Garden Club "Natural Disaster Grant" to help undo damage wrought by Hurricane Irma. Specifically, the Kampong requested the funds to restore the Bromeliad beds and orchids in trees that were devastated by the storm. Early this year, Judy Mangasarian and Kitty Winkler from our club went to the Kampong to help with planting the beautiful Bromeliads and orchids purchased with the grant. This summer, we received these photos showing how the replanted Bromeliad beds are thriving. You would never know that Hurricane Irma happened.



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS: WHITE ELEPHANT SALE COMING NOVEMBER 26

*This will be your big chance to buy items you have admired in the homes of Garden Club friends. First, we will be collecting donations in October; then the big sale will be before the November General meeting in the Garden Center at the Biltmore. Members and their guests are invited to shop the fabulous "finds" that will be on display from 9:30 to 11:30 that day. Start searching your attics and garages now for good things to donate. At our September General Meeting we will be publishing a full list of items needed for the sale – please help us with donations of lovely and intriguing items.*