



THE HIBISCUS LEAFLET

Coral Gables Garden Club, Coral Gables, Florida ~ Celebrating our 96th Year

February 2021

Everything Coming Up Roses in February For Members

Welcome to February, the month of love, when valentines appear and roses are everywhere. Thanks to the wonderful presentation by Barbara Lapradd at our meeting, we now know the difference between China and Tea roses, Noisettes and Bourbons, and even Bermuda Mystery and Earthkind roses, just in time for Valentine's Day. Why not give your loved one a rose bush perfect for their South Florida garden, instead of a dozen long stemmed roses, destined to fade. Or imagine gathering your own fragrant blossoms for a beautiful bouquet. Thanks go to Barbara for a great program and also to Victor Lazzari for his blog posted on our website about choosing and growing roses.

I hope each of you sent Suzuyo a photo of your gorgeous arrangements of roses for this issue of the Leaflet. Even I, of limited floral arranging talents, managed to fill a vase with lush, peachy roses and spiky blue teasels, and then realized they perfectly reflected our current situation. With apologies to Gabriel Garcia Marquez, I called it "Love in the Time of Covid" as I placed it next to my putto lamp. To see how a real pro does it, watch Sharon Trbovich's workshop video on "Inspiring Tabletop Floral Design with Roses" to be posted soon on our website.



And speaking of Covid, did you realize that St. Valentine of Rome, who was beheaded for marrying Christian couples in the 3rd Century and canonized in 496 AD, is not only the patron saint of courtly love, but also of plague victims? How perfectly he is suited to our time!

Our club is continuing to be active with efforts to plant trees and a native garden at Coral Gables' public schools, to donate a bench to the UM's Gifford Arboretum, and to refresh the Merrick House Heritage Garden with lovely flowers and herbs. We hope to man a booth at the Coral Gables Farmers' Market in February to tell visitors about the club and our Red Mangrove Project, and we are planning to collect food to give to a local food bank.

We have decided to cancel our Spring Garden Tour, but our imaginative fund-raising committee is hard at work brainstorming ways to make up for that lost income. And likewise, the May Luncheon has been cancelled, but another event outdoors may be planned for the spring or fall. After all, we should celebrate the end of a tough year.

In fact, let's celebrate right now! Here's to love, and roses, and our garden club spirit. Happy Valentine's Day! Happy February!

~ With love to you all, Judy

Grateful Thanks to the Villagers:

I have been remiss in mentioning something of great importance. I wanted you all to know about the incredible generosity of The Villagers in giving us a grant of \$4,000 toward the rebuilding of the historic front door of our Garden Center. You may have already known about this, but it bears repeating. We should all give thanks to the group as a whole, and to any individual Villager you know. Let them know how much we appreciate their help. The door is a beautiful example of how wonderful it is when community groups help each other.

With love and thanks to The Villagers.

~ Judy and the Coral Gables Garden Club

Come along with us as we take a photo tour of our City Beautiful

The response from members with photos and write-ups of favorite walking spots was great. In this time of Covid-19, walking in beautiful Coral Gables is not only needed for exercise, it is also a boost to our mental health and brings us joy. Pick one of these routes for yourself and see why the member who submitted it loves her walk. Or, create your own favorite walking path, inspired by what these members have written.

Cristina Soler's Sunsets

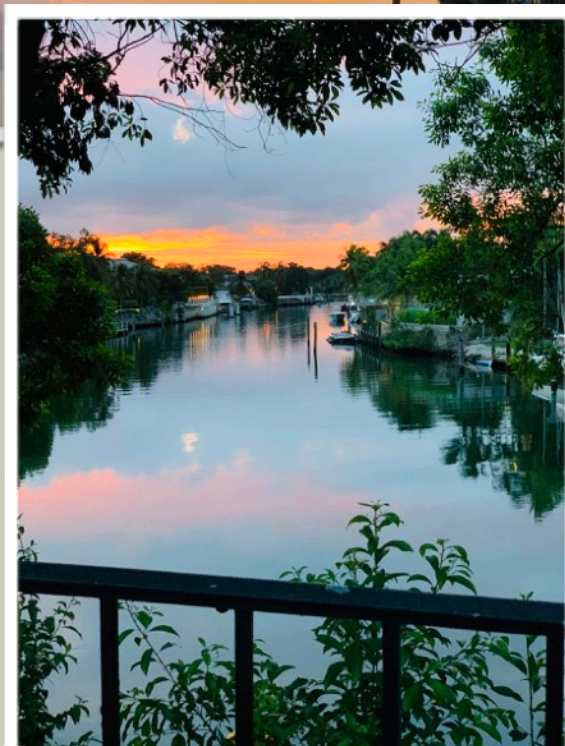
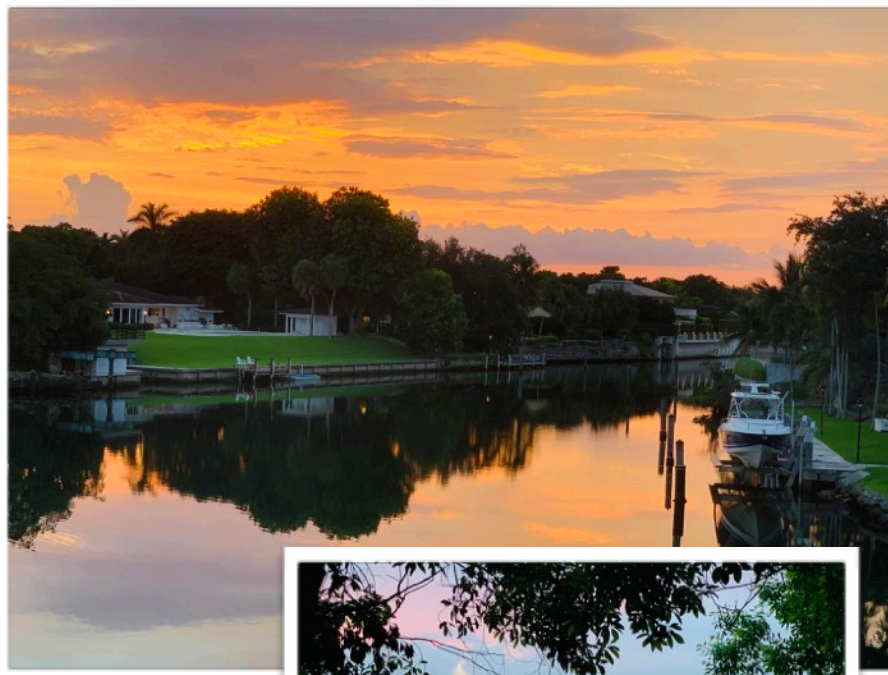
Dear members, I want to share a quick note on my passion for sunsets. The Covid confinement gave me time to enjoy more sunsets than ever before and cherish the beauty of the Gables Waterway that is east of the highway. The way the sun shines on the water an hour before sunset is so different from how it shines and reflects its abundant colors once the sun starts to set. The transition of light is what I enjoy most; it motivates me to repeat these walks as often as I can.

My routes include Riviera Drive and Granada Boulevard from Cocoplum Circle almost to U.S. 1 and back, stopping at the Hardee Bridge, the Granada Bridge, and with the best views of the sunset at the Circle Bridge, to admire the different scenes and occasional return of boaters to their homes. You can take the scenic walk 3 or 4 different ways. The result is always magnificent, and you can walk from 1.5 to 3.5 miles in an hour or hour and a half, depending on your speed. There is plenty of parking in Cartagena Circle (Cocoplum Circle). I recommend arriving at 4:30 PM and planning to return from your walk by 5:30 PM before it gets dark. Don't be surprised if you park next to another sunset admirer who wants to capture those special moments when nature transforms. Enjoy!

Suzuyo Fox's Step-Counting Surprise

I got an Apple Watch for Christmas and the feature I am enjoying the most is the ability to know how many steps I take each day. So, 2792 steps from my house, I came across this mailbox. Obviously, we have a John Deere relative in the neighborhood.

(Suzuyo's neighborhood walk includes Schoolhouse Road, Hammock Lake Drive, Lake Drive and Lake Drive Lane.)



Judy Mangasarian's Finds on Country Club Prado

One of my favorite walks is along Country Club Prado at the northwest corner of Coral Gables. This grand avenue is split down the middle with a parklike median planted with beautiful flowering and native trees and lined with handsome homes on both sides. The walk north from South



Greenway Drive to 8th Street is approximately a mile on shady double-wide sidewalks, and at the north end you can enjoy a classic fountain and water steps feeding into a long shallow channel between pergolas covered in bougainvillea. Just to the northeast is a lush and shady park with huge oaks, and to the northwest is a beautiful Pine Rockland area. Coming back down the Prado along the west side, you will see oaks along the swale decorated with hundreds of orchids tied to their branches. Many of the homeowners between Cadiz and South Greenway have added them; and in the spring, they are gorgeous! But the



most fun is to look up high in the last oak on the northwest corner of Country Club Prado and South Greenway and spy a squirrel's picnic table. It always makes me smile.

Joanne Matthews' Walks with Lily

Due to transitions, changes, and the pandemic, we were privileged to have my son, daughter-in-law, and 2-year-old granddaughter live with us from May to October. Lily, my toddler granddaughter, LOVES to be outdoors; so I got plenty of exercise and personal connection. We live a stone's-throw from the library, and more often than not, our favorite walk was to the butterfly garden, a Coral Gables Garden Club project. If there were not other neighbors seeking serenity there, we could sit on the benches for long stretches – just chatting and watching the butterflies flutter by.

Joanne didn't have a photo of her walks to the butterfly garden with Lily, but she did have this charming photo of herself with her beloved granddaughter and the family's dog, Lady.

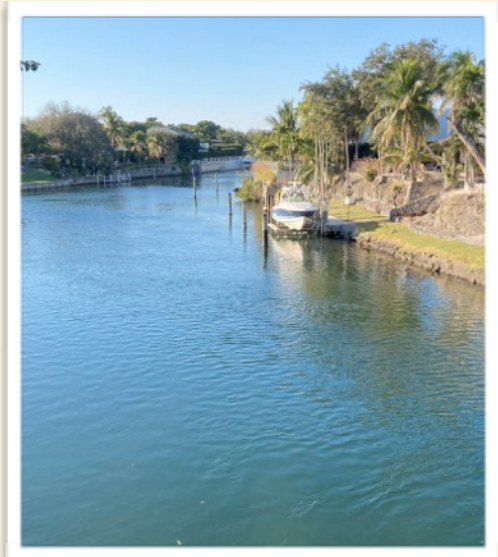


Denise West's Waterway Walk

A favorite walk is to circle the Coral Gables Waterway east of U.S. 1. Start anywhere along the loop encompassing Granada Boulevard, to Cocoplum Circle, to Riviera Drive, across the short waterway bridge along U.S. 1, to Orduna Drive, to Granada Boulevard. The full circle is 3 miles, but for a shorter walk, cross the waterway halfway at the Hardee Road Bridge and complete the loop in either direction.



This tree-canopied route passes attractive homes, lush landscaping, and provides beautiful waterway views from the 4 bridges. The walk never fails to deliver a variety of ever-changing seasonal flowers and trees in bloom. Take time at the bridges – you might see a manatee!



Ann Goodman's Delight in Roses and Orchids

My walks often include North and South Greenway around the golf course. I especially enjoy walking by the home of Dr. and Mrs. Felix Ramirez. Their lovely home is located at 1300 South Greenway at the corner of Madrid Street. Mrs. Ramirez, Conchi, says that her husband loves to cultivate his roses and orchids. According to Conchi, they have over 1000 orchids in the garden including: cattleyas, vandas, cymbidiums, and others. They also have more than 100 roses. Varieties include old garden, hybrid teas, and floribundas. The Ramirez's house and garden are my favorites, but there are many other beautiful homes and gardens to see walking the Greenways.



Nita Norman's Love of Mediterranean Architecture

Walking in Coral Gables is a study in history, architecture, and beauty. George Merrick found the Mediterranean style to be inspiring, when he creatively classified the types of homes that would showcase and codify his "City Beautiful". Although Merrick originally envisioned many "Villages" themed around architectural styles, such as Chinese, Dutch South African, French Normandy, French Country, Italian (Mediterranean), and Pioneer Villages, the dominant style of original homes built in Coral Gables reflect Mediterranean architecture, much like Palm Beach's homes that were built earlier than those in Coral Gables.



Some of the paths or streets I choose to walk, looking for Mediterranean-style homes, are around the Biltmore, Venetian Pool, St. Phillips Church, Congregational Church, Church of the Little Flower, Coral Way, Coral Gable Country Club (often too

crowded), and Santa Maria. You will discover that there are many more! CAUTION: Always look for sidewalks, walk with a friend (distancing), avoid groups and wear a mask.

~ Written and compiled by Kitty Winkler

A Month of Roses...Enjoying and flourishing in January



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We started the month of January with the wonderful blog about South Florida roses from Victor Lazarri and then our January program featured Barbara LaPradd's presentation. Members sent in photos of their rose arrangements. Photos 1, 4, 5: Sandy Milledge. Photo 2: Judy Mangasarian. Photo 3: Olga Lazo belongs to the Flower of the Month Club and the flowers, not roses, but instead were Hawaii Tropicals and still gorgeous. Photo 6: Suzuyo Fox

Thank you Treemendous Miami for your hard work



On Saturday, January 16th, Treemendous Miami's crew of ten volunteers planted a beautiful native and pollinator garden at G.W. Carver Middle School for Project Canopy. Susan Rodriguez and I arrived just as they finished jack-hammering holes into the oolitic limestone bedrock and planting 47 small trees, bushes, and plants. It was an impressive effort and the garden is lovely. It will be used to educate the students in the benefits of using native plants and especially those which aid pollinators. Many thanks go to Steve Pearson for organizing this on our behalf.

Note: The mahogany trees are being planted at the Coral Gables High School on February 9.



Mark your calendars:

General Meeting: February 22, 2021 - via Zoom

Doors open 9:30 am ~ Come and chat with our members

10:00: Program: Everglades Restoration Update, with Shannon A. Estenoz, Everglades Foundation COO and VP of Policy and Programs.

Website News: Sharon Trbovich will be doing a workshop on terrariums soon. Don't forget to check out our website for new happenings each month. www.coralgablesgardenclub.org



The Coral Gables Garden Club, Inc. is a proud member of the National Garden Club, Inc. and the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs