



THE HIBISCUS LEAFLET

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

A proud member of the National Garden Club, Inc. and the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

April 2021

Spring is in the air... Flowers everywhere



I can't get these lyrics from an old song out of my head, and no wonder, when I'm surprised by the beautiful, blush-pink blooms of the *Cassia bakeriana* everywhere. They are the tropical version of the Japanese Cherry trees lining the Tidal Basin in Washington, DC, whose blooms are celebrated every spring. We are so lucky to have our own pink beauties here in Miami. (They are non-native, but non-invasive.) The *Tabebuia chrysotrichas*, now known as *Handroanthus chrysanthus*, are also blooming along US 1 and Red Road in a stunning yellow, and in June, the Royal Poincianas will burst into flame-red, orange and gold. We live in a lovely, technicolor world!

This past month, we continued to be busy, sponsoring the planting of a second garden at Carver Middle School by TREEmendous Miami and granting four generous scholarships to deserving college and graduate students. I received the Arbor Day 2020 Proclamation from Mayor Valdes-Fauli and I presented him with our check for \$1,000, which will be used to purchase a *Lignum vitae* to be planted at Sunset Elementary School on May 3rd. We are awaiting the approval by the City of our permit to paint the exterior of the Garden Center, and soon we will install botanical markers on the trees at the Merrick House garden.

By far the most exciting project is our upcoming Photography Competition, “**As I See It**”, set to start on April 15th and end on May 31st. This is an online fundraiser which will be widely publicized and promises to be an annual event. Check out the details by scanning the QR code (the square with the black squiggles on it) on the poster in this Leaflet with your smartphone. It will take you to the contest page on our website, or go there directly on your computer at www.coralgablesgardenclub.org. No password needed. We are sure to have gorgeous photos submitted which will be judged by renowned photographers and awarded prizes in five categories, with one overall \$1,000 winner. Enter your own photos taken by camera or smartphone, and you might just win!

April will be the last full month of our 2020-2021 club year, complete with a fascinating program at our Zoom meeting. In May, everyone will be receiving a goodie box to use during the virtual “May Celebration” on May 5th, thanks to Betsy Tilghman and her imaginative committee. At that celebration, our newly elected Officers will be installed, and the year will begin again. It promises to be an exciting one! Don’t forget to send in your dues so you don’t miss a minute of the fun. Until then, enjoy the flowers!

~ With love from my blooming garden, Judy

Mark your calendars:

General Meeting: April 26, 2021 - via Zoom

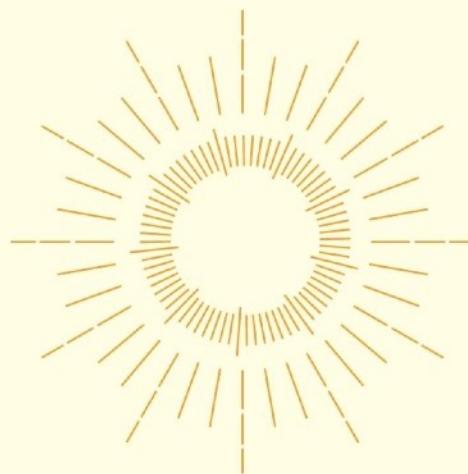
Zoom Doors open 9:30 am ~ Come and chat with our members

10:00: Program: Why do Tropical plants need animals. Reflections of a Naturalist in the Anthropocene. Dr. Mauro Galetti, Director of Gifford Arboretum and Professor of Biology, University of Miami

Website: Visit us at www.coralgablesgardenclub.org for all the latest and greatest happenings.



here comes the sun



Our end of year May Celebration
Wednesday, May 5th at 11:00am on Zoom

*Join us as we welcome our new Board,
Provisional and Legacy members, and thank
Judy Mangasarian for leading us through
two years like none other.*

Look for your invitation in the mail
and follow the instructions.

On Saturday, May 1st you will pick up your
gift bag at the First United
Methodist Church of Coral Gables.

This bag is a vital and integral part of your
May Celebration experience on the 5th.

Think pop corn, cookies, game cards, gifts
and more! Out of town bags will be mailed.

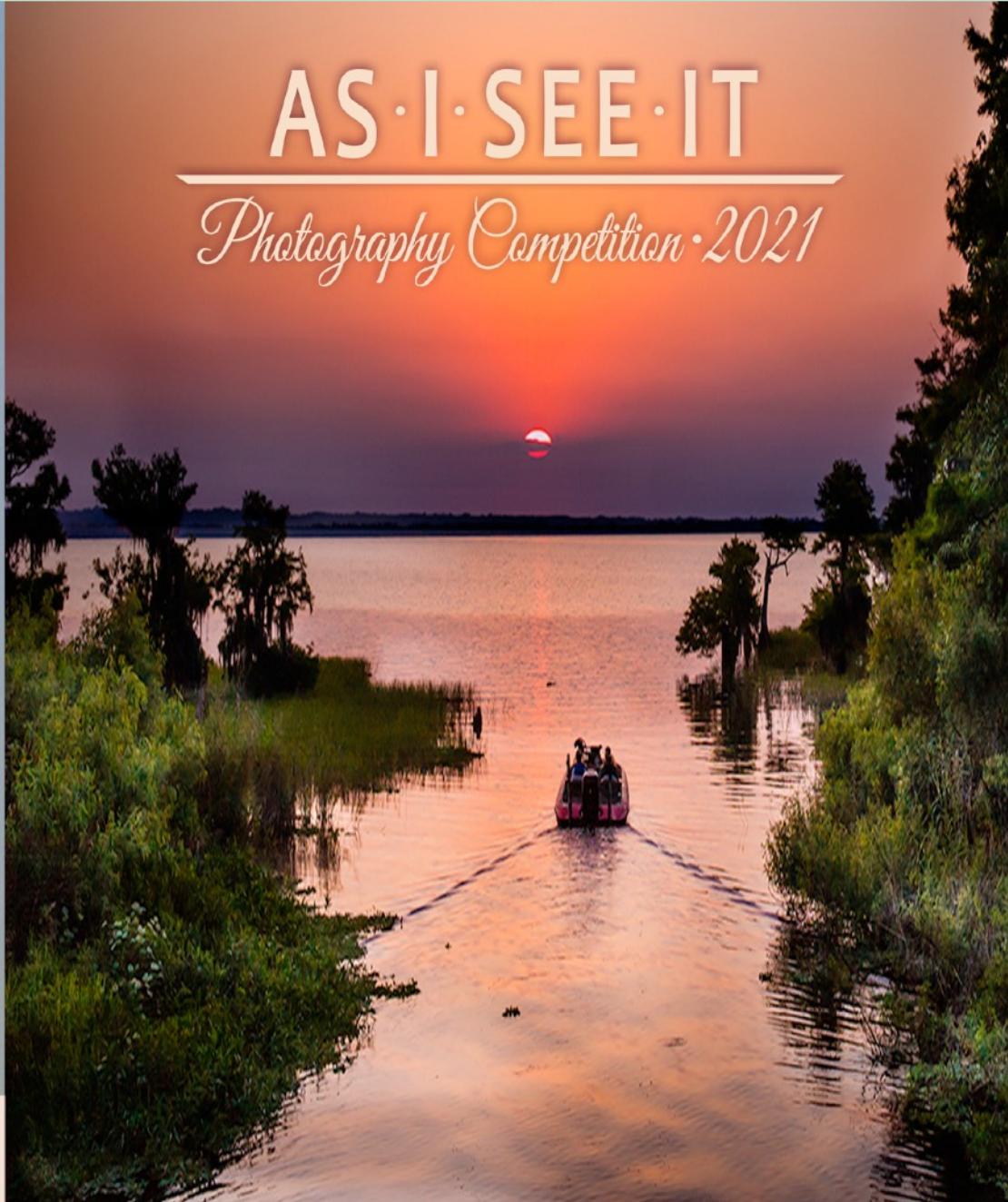


Questions?
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AS·I·SEE·IT

Photography Competition·2021



GRAND PRIZE \$1000 / OVER \$2500 IN CATEGORY PRIZES!

Submissions Open April 15th - May 31st

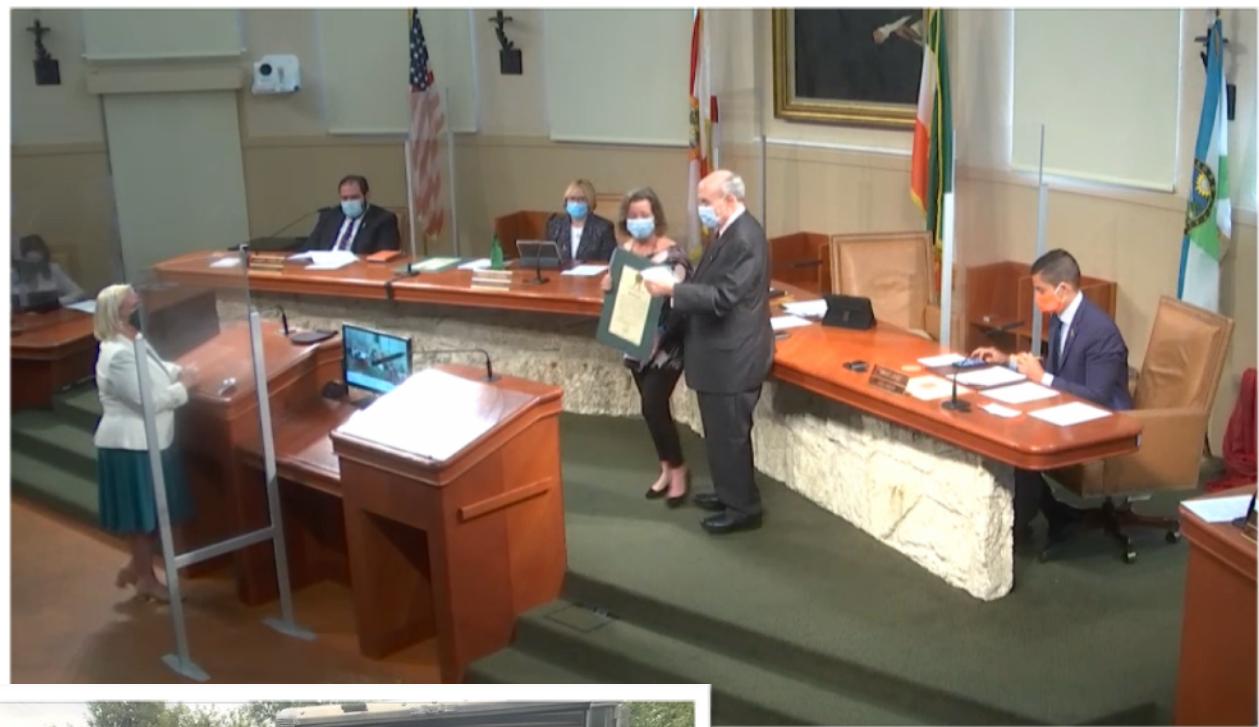
This juried competition aims to find the best photos that represent Florida's natural beauty, diversity, and our community, Coral Gables. All cameras may be used, including Smartphones.

For Details...Scan The QR Code. Go Online. Or email.

www.coralgablesgardenclub.org/photocontest
asiseeit@coralgablesgardenclub.org

Sponsored By The Coral Gables Garden Club, Inc. Proceeds support CGGC's programs And projects.

In spite of Covid restrictions, we are making impact



*Top Photo: It was at the Arbor Day Proclamation at the City Commission Meeting that Judy Mangasarian spoke about our partnership with the City and the Landscape Beautification Advisory Board (LBAB) for Arbor Day, the history of Arbor Day, that we will be planting a *Lignum vitae* tree at Sunset Elementary School on May 3rd with Katy Sobrado speaking to the children virtually.*

Bottom photos: It was Rockaway's 11th birthday and Grace Carricarte, one of our new members last year, had made him a cake - complete with carrot "candles", apples and mush - and he loved it! She contacted a few of us to join in the fun.

Members: Ana Collonette, Mari Arnold (with his birthday "cake"), Rhonda Anderson, Judy Mangasarian, Grace Carricarte, Cathy Zuckerman, Jeannett Slesnick, Officer Ashley Sheran, and Rockaway were among the well wishers.

Officer Ashley Sheran rescued Rockaway after he had been malnourished by a former owner. He was originally a racehorse and now, after lots of TLC, is back in fine shape. He is trailered down from Officer Sheran's home in Broward on Fridays to patrol the neighborhoods and then go downtown later in the day when the asphalt is cooler. According to Ofcr. Sheran, he loves to work and is a great community outreach animal, though they can be crime fighters if the need arises. BTW, he is the first horse for mounted patrol in Coral Gables in 100 years!

Chief Hudak at the Commission meeting talked about Rockaway, and he said they were hoping to add another horse soon.

Progress at the Heritage Garden...new markers in



Top Photos: Judy Mangasarian presented Colette Worm, the Head Docent of the Merrick House with the special markers recently. It was Colette's idea to have markers, because so many of the visitors come from far away and kept asking what various trees are. She even suggested we could offer horticultural tours there.

Judy got an email from her recently...

“WOW! The markers are fantastic! Craig said that in just 2 days, he has already had a couple of visitors comment that the new markers are so helpful & such a great idea! And the fish guy thanked me for the classy & new fish sign--I told him that it was the Garden Club's gift.

Today, I invited a docent to help me map out the markers. She marked each marker on the map, & I took a photo, so we'd have a photo record of exactly the wording on the markers. I only moved one marker (ginger), & certainly move it back if you don't like it! I had no idea there were trees from Africa, Malaysia, India, Caribbean, & many more places. It was a wonderful experience to learn about the trees, & you had markers in every part of the yards! It turned out even better than I imagined. And your marker in the center of the Heritage Garden to honor the Garden Club was a great way to highlight such a fantastic project!"

Photo right: Originally for the March General Meeting, Carmen Cason had volunteered to make the floral centerpiece. But in spite of Covid restrictions, our wonderful Designing Diva did a floral arrangement for Easter and wanted to share with us. Thank you Carmen!



February flowers at the other Biltmore...in Asheville



While on a recent house-hunting trip to Asheville, North Carolina, Suzuyo Fox, had an opportunity to visit the Conservatory at the Biltmore Estate in Asheville. With the upcoming photography contest, As I See it, in mind, she took these photos. Our hope is that others will start snapping photos to participate in our first photo contest. For more information, see our website: www.coralgablesgardenclub.org. Share information with your friends and on your social media.