



THE HIBISCUS LEAFLET

Coral Gables Garden Club Coral Gables, Florida ~ Celebrating our 97th Year

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

October 2021

Pollinator Palooza and Gardens Gone Wild

President's Message by Susan Rodriguez

When two or more people or entities work together to achieve an outcome, wonderful things can happen. We certainly started off our new year with a lovely collaborative effort, Saturday, September 25th, by participating in the Pollinator Palooza at the Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center. The Garden Club partnered with the City and supplied all the plant material for this event. Rains had persisted all week, but subsided for the morning, which allowed many young families to come and plant pollinator plants in the beds near the giant snail sculpture on the east side of the youth center. Dr. Jaeson Clayburn gave a terrific presentation on butterflies, skippers and moths, showing how to differentiate and identify them. Children who attended were captivated and of course loved digging in the dirt to plant their flowers and participate in other fun activities. Mayor Vince Lago, Commissioners Rhonda Anderson and Kirk Menendez, along with many garden club members attended and participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony. Thanks to club member Linda Waldron for initiating the conversation about pollinators with city officials and making this event happen.

Our September 27th general meeting featured a wonderful program, thanks to Teresa Zohn, who invited Dennis Olle of the Miami Blue Chapter to speak. He shared information about South Florida butterflies, with photographs in living color. As part of his talk, we were asked to help the local butterfly population by not spraying our yards for pests, to consider native species in our plantings and, if possible, to leave a little patch of grass un-mowed, so native weeds will spring up and attract more butterflies. I have identified my patch and am happy to do my part!

President's Message continues on page 2



*Pollinator Palooza day
at the Coral Gables
Youth Center*



October Program News

by Teresa Zohn

This year, we are trying some new things and will evaluate them at the end of the year before planning for next year. The next two meetings will be on Zoom. We have not decided about the December meeting, but will let you know.

Two evening meetings have been planned this year, and the first one will be the **October 25th meeting on Zoom**. The room will open at **5:00PM**, with the meeting starting promptly at **5:30PM**.

Our speaker will be **Cristina Favretto Librarian Professor, and Head of the Special Collections at the University of Miami Library**. We are archiving all of the Garden Club documents at the UM Library and thought everyone would like to hear about this important resource. Her talk will be: **"Discover Our Treasures: An Introduction to the Special Collections at the University of Miami."** We hope everyone will join us.

President's Message, continued from pg. 1

As the fall season continues, we have much to look forward to. Once again, the city has collaborated with the Garden Club—in this instance to clear, plant and accessorize a pollinator patch in the Macfarlane district, located at the corner of Jefferson Street and Florida Avenue. This project involves community residents as well as students from Coral Gables High School. The city contributed garden mulch, a picnic table, a bench and some welcome help with preparing the soil for planting, which took place on October 16. I would like to recognize Kenny Larkin from the Parks and Recreation Department and Valeria Quintanilla from the City's Public Works department, Greenspace division, for helping us with this project.

Soon we will be collecting mangrove pups off of Old Cutler and Matheson Hammock under the direction of Commissioner Rhonda Anderson, as Mayor Cava has identified areas in Dade County that could use mangroves to restore the coastline. Hopefully you will join us in this adventure. Pickup dates are Saturday November 6th at 2:00 PM and December 4th at 10:00 AM, so mark your calendars. Also, as you are gardening and planting your garden beds this fall, please save any one-gallon containers so they can be used for planting mangroves. You can find many in trash piles that residents have discarded, so keep a look out. We will keep you posted with more information and meeting spot.

We have wonderful programs planned this fall, and our first Fun with Flowers is scheduled for November 20th, location TBD. It has been my fervent wish to meet in person as soon as possible. After our October board meeting, we will determine if we can meet in person for the December general meeting. The health and safety of our members is of the utmost importance. I appreciate your understanding and hope you will join us on our Zoom meetings. If you do not feel comfortable Zooming, try to meet up with a friend who is and share the meeting together.

Looking forward to the weeks ahead. —Susan Rodriguez, President

Announcements

• CELEBRATE RECYCLING

Bring out your dead batteries and more—the City of Coral Gables Biannual Electronic and Hazardous Waste Collection Day is almost here!

Saturday, November 6th 9am – noon City Hall Parking Lot

Electronics – any device that has a plug or uses batteries

Hazardous Waste – old paint cans, pool chemicals, motor oils, etc.

Paper Shredding – sponsored by the Coral Gables Police Department - limit 5 boxes

Recycling large pieces of cardboard

*** "Gently used" clothing (men's, women's, children's) collected for Camillus House, a downtown Miami homeless shelter***

According to "The National Geographic," Americans send 64 tons of waste to landfills during their lifetime! Let's do our part to reverse this number. For more information, contact Marlin Ebbert (h) 305-665-5701, (m) 305-778-4928.

• GRANT WRITER NEEDED

We have several opportunities to apply for grants. If anyone has experience with grant writing, let Susan Rodriguez know; the club could use your help. Email: susan56athome@gmail.com

• MANGROVE PUP PICKUP DATES

A volunteer opportunity in the great outdoors...under the direction of club member and Commissioner Rhonda Anderson, we will be collecting mangrove pups to help restore the local coastline. Dates are November 6th at 2:00 PM (note: same day as the city recycling event, but in the afternoon) and December 4th at 10:00 AM.

To sign up, please contact Grace Carricarte at gcarricarte@hotmail.com

• YEARBOOK CORRECTIONS

Please make the following updates and corrections to your 2021-2022 Yearbook:

Frances Reid — Correct email to: fyreid@aol.com

Betsy Adams — Change home address to 2220 East Ridge Village Dr.



Spade Brigade to the Rescue

by Paula Biehler

Thanks go out to the volunteers who came together on Saturday October 9th to give the herb garden at Merrick House a replenishing spa day. Our team spent the morning cleaning, mulching, soil amending, and planting the beautiful beds located at the front of the historic residence. We enjoyed each other's company in the quiet garden as we took stock of prior efforts—assessing what had done well in each bed, what plants had overgrown and needed to be trimmed back and which areas needed replacements or additions. The end result as you can see was spectacular!



Above—Spade Brigaders: (l to r) Sherri Puerto, Maria Gonzalez, Marci Montgomery, Victoria Cabeza, Jodi Zaban, Maria Teofilo, Paula Biehler

During our heritage garden planting day, we had a visitor land on the Natchitoches noisette antique rose given to the garden by Barbara Lapradd. This rose is medium sized, cupped with light pink flowers. The myrrh fragrance is outstanding.

We even met some local residents, who stopped by chance and said they came regularly to check the beds and do a bit of unofficial maintenance while lingering in this peaceful spot.

If you would like to be part of the Spade Brigade for future events, contact Paula Biehler at 305-669-9844 (home), 305-606-1903 (cell), or miamicook835@yahoo.com



Left—Visiting pollinator taking advantage of a rose



Right—Maria Gonzalez (l) and Victoria Cabeza with roses.



Pollinator Focus: Meet the Giant Swallowtail

by Linda Waldron



Adult giant swallowtail, *Papilio cresphontes* Cramer, dorsal view. Photograph by Donald W. Hall, University of Florida.

The Giant Swallowtail butterfly is one of five Swallowtail butterflies. All have noticeable tails on their hind wings. The Giant Swallowtail is a black and yellow native of Miami Dade and the Florida Keys. Its wingspan can be 6," and it is the largest butterfly in the wild.

Giant Swallowtails prefer to live in open sunny fields and meadows, and are attracted to gardens for their nectar. Some of the adults' favorite nectar plants are milkweed, lantana and bougainvillea. Adults have a short life span, living only 6-14 days. I see them in my garden.

Host plants include wild lime or other plants in the citrus family.

Caterpillars are black and white and look like bird droppings so predators tend to leave them alone.

Pollinator Plant of the Month: Jamaican Caper, aka: *Capparis cynophallophora*

by Betsy Tilghman, Horticulture Chair



Jamaican Caper. Photograph courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Do you know this native? It is an amazing plant, and one that we don't often see. There is one at the Merrick House close to the parking area. While walking around the garden last month, I saw some bright red, twisted pods, hanging from what I thought was a Jamaican Caper. I looked up, sure that these strange pods had fallen from an overstory plant. I was familiar with the Jamaican Caper flower, a very pretty, airy and showy thing, with white and pale pink flowers. But I had never happened upon the pods, which open to a vibrant red, spilling shiny brown seeds. How fascinating nature is—a pink ballerina and a hot salsa dancer on the same plant!

There is nothing not to love about this native to our coastal hammocks. It is both salt- and draught-tolerant, wind resistant and can be trimmed into a privacy hedge or grown as a specimen or small tree. This is a spring and summer bloomer, the flowers emitting a sweet fragrance in the evening hours. The caper's leaves are a lovely light green on the top and brown on the underside. Developing leaves add another fascinating feature to behold: they begin closed together and open up like unfolding hands. The caper may be planted in areas of full sun or light shade.



Jamaican Caper. Photograph copyright © 2014 Bill Buckley, Copyright © 2021 South Florida Trees

Our native caper is a pollinator plant and is the larval host to our Florida white (Appias drusilla) butterfly. And yes, if you are wondering, it is related to the capers we love to eat; however, this caper does not provide us with edible additions to our Caesar salads. Nonetheless, it is a worthy native to plant in our gardens. That is well and good enough!



Scholarship News

by Sharon Trbovich

We love to hear from our scholarship recipients, and below is a nice note to share with you from one of our students—Juliana Grillo, who, as you'll see from her letter and photos, is doing some very interesting work on coral reefs. Congratulations, Juliana, and keep up the great work!

Dear Sharon,

I just wanted to provide an update on my work and how the Coral Gables Garden Club scholarship has supported me and my work! I started my graduate school classes in August, and they are going really well. I am taking classes in marine conservation, education and citizen science, as well as continuing my work in the coral restoration and gardening lab.

I have been helping other graduate students with their projects and am working on designing a coral gardening project of my own for my internship in the lab. When I am not in the field supporting our coral gardening and research efforts, I have been working on creating a short documentary and video series on the work being done in the lab.

Being granted the scholarship has helped me continue to do what I love! I am so grateful for the support of the CGGC and I hope that when Covid subsides, your members are able to resume field trips and take a tour of our lab to learn more about what we do.

Thank you so much.

Regards,

Juliana Grilo

PS: I got to join the team on a dive filming the “100 Yards of Hope” movie, and I had the opportunity to create a promotional video for the movie with my own footage, which we shared through Rescue a Reef: <https://www.facebook.com/rescueareef/videos/747566822614627>. Attached are two photos of me from a citizen science expedition on Women's Dive Day 2021, where I got to give the informational talk at the beginning of the expedition (for the first time!) and then guide divers through the process of coral gardening.



Above: Juliana gives her opening talk.

At left, coral gardening in progress.



Green Tip

by Marlin Ebbert

Water is our theme for this month as we slowly edge into South Florida's dry season. So here is your green tip: "Turn off the Tap" while brushing your teeth or sudsing your hair in the shower. Most of us use between 80-100 gallons of water per day for indoor home uses!

Photo courtesy of Miguel Andrade, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons



October Flower Show

by Donna Box



October's meeting is on Zoom, so we would like to encourage virtual participation in this month's flower show. To be part of the show, read over the guidelines below and send a picture of plant material you have had in your procession for 90 days to Susan Rodriguez at susan56athome@gmail.com. We will post the pictures on our website and share at our meeting.

The rules outlined here explain how your submission would be judged in the flower show, Horticulture Division, Class 5, container grown plants (foliage). For more detail, please see this topic in the new Yearbook.

Photo Credit Severin Candrian



Guests and Prospective Members

If you would like to bring a prospective member to our next Monday, October 25th, meeting, at 5:30 PM, please send their name and email address to Sally Morris, our Membership Chair, at morris.sally@comcast.net. We need your guest's email in order to extend an invitation and a Zoom link. Remember that prospective members need to be Coral Gables residents. For more details about membership, check the bylaws in our yearbook.

Medinilla magnifica in a Coral Gables home



Club Happenings and Volunteer Opportunities 2021/22*

2021

- Nov 20 (Sat) **Fun with Flowers 10:00-12:00 Thanksgiving and Fall Designs** (Sign-up deadline is Thursday, November 18)
- Dec 6 (Mon) **Merrick House Christmas Decorating 9:00 am.** Our traditional holiday decorating of the Merrick House is back. Please contact Alexis Ehrenhaft at aje47@hotmail.com or (305) 606-5054
- Dec 7 (Tue) **Fun with Flowers 10:00-12:00 Holiday Designs** (Sign-up deadline is Sunday, December 5)

2022

- Feb (TBD) **Tour of Kitchens:** The Coral Gables Community Foundation's annual event is scheduled to return in February. To chair this event, please contact Susan Rodriguez at susan56athome@gmail.com.
- Feb 16 (Wed) **Field Trip: Casey's Corner Natives Nursery**, Homestead, FL
- Feb 26 (Sat) **Fun with Flowers 10:00 AM-12:00 PM** – Winter Wonderland Designs (Sign-up deadline is Thursday, February 24).
- Mar (TBD) **Garden Therapy** - COVID -19 permitting
- Mar 18 (Fri) **Spring Floral and Fashion Show**
A very special Floral and Fashion Show chaired by Barbara Reese and Jowanda Peterson, this will be our main Fundraiser and open to the public. The show will be held at the Biltmore Hotel, Alhambra Room, starting at 11:00 AM. Plan now to bring your friends, as this promises to be a fabulous event! Please sign up for a committee by contacting Barbara Reese: barbarareese1@aol.com, (305)-445-2258 or Jowanda Peterson: jogpeterson@gmail.com, (305)-669-3140.
- April 1 (Fri) **CGGC Photo Contest**
April 1st - April 31st, 2022—Our 2nd annual Photography Competition that reaches all photographers in the State of Florida. Participate in this virtual fundraiser from the convenience of your home. Volunteers who have website, Excel and/or social media experience are needed. We will be distributing promotional materials at our Farmers markets, so we need volunteers to participate in the setup and the day's events. Contact Susan Rodriguez at susan56athome@gmail.com. An exhibition after the results is being discussed; we would need a Chair to plan this event. Please contact Sherry Jordan or Susan Rodriguez. To become a sponsor of this event, contact Margaret (Peggy) Groves, our new member at mmgrovesint@gmail.com or (305)-804-6751.
- April 23 (Sat) **Fun with Flowers 10:00-12:00 – Springtime Designs** (Sign-up deadline is Thursday, April 21)
- April (TBD) **Arbor Day To be arranged with the City of Coral Gables**
- May (TBD) **Luncheon and Installation of CGGC Officers:** Contact Liz Parnes at ecparnes1@aol.com to sign up for that committee.

*2021-2022 club happenings subject to change based on COVID Guidelines

Feb, 2022 note: The Lamar Louise Curry Park, a collaboration between the Garden Club and the city of Coral Gables, is beginning construction and scheduled to open in February 2022. The triangular plot of city land in front of Venetian Pool at 2701 De Soto Boulevard was chosen by our club and the city to turn into a flowering park and was officially named the Lamar Louise Curry Park on October 9, 2018 by the city commission. The ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled to be in February, so if you would like to be involved in the planning, contact Audrey Ross at aross@miamirealestate.com or Sharon Trbovich skyyeterriers1@gmail.com.

There are many opportunities to volunteer; please review our committees on the website and in your Yearbooks, and contact the appropriate Chair to volunteer.

