



# 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

March 2022

## President's Message: Springtime is Party Time



Above: Promoting the Club, our photo contest and selling caladiums at the Coral Gables farmer's market, (l to r) Betsy Tilghman, Susan Rodriguez, Ana Lam, Jo Wanda Peterson

reception while shopping the beautiful clothes and accessories Lilly Pulitzer has to offer. As you turn these pages, please check out all our photos.

I'm sure you have already decided what to wear for our Fashions and Florals event on March 18th. I can't wait to see you looking gorgeous in your spring outfits to support our club's primary fundraiser. Barbara and Jo Wanda have been working so hard planning this event. The Divas' floral arrangements will be the stars, with their individual styles showcasing their talents. Members will be modeling fashions by Lilly, so don't miss this fundraiser. We need to come together and help with whatever is required to ensure a successful event. I will see you there!

Important note: It looks like the Biltmore Hotel will begin charging for parking before our March 18th fundraiser. Please make sure you send the tag number of your car—and the state, if it is not a Florida plate—to [Denise@macdonaldwest.com](mailto:Denise@macdonaldwest.com). We will be submitting a list to the City to be exempt from any parking charges. Also, be sure to read about our recent changes to the bylaws below or on the following page.

—Susan Rodriguez, President



Above: March 4 Kickoff Party at Lilly Pulitzer (l to r) Jo Anne Mathews, Jo Wanda Peterson, Barbara Reese, Carmen Cason, Sherry Jordan

Robin Williams once quipped: "Spring is nature's way of saying "Let's party!" That light-hearted quote made me think of all the chirping birds, fluttering butterflies, and beautiful blooms that have decided to attend my backyard garden party to kick off the Spring season.

Spring was also in the air with the joyful optimism of our 71 attendees at our February General Meeting. It was evident that the Garden Club is willing and able to get back to normal and accomplish the tasks ahead that will support the club's mission.

The Tour of Kitchens plant sale was a huge success, thanks to our Chair, Betsy Tilghman; herbs, heirloom tomatoes, corn and fabulous orchids were sold, delighting the many tour goers. Many thanks go out to Marlin Ebbert for letting the garden club set up leisurely throughout the week at her lovely home.

Our Kick-off Party for the Fashions & Florals event at the Lilly Pulitzer shop in Merrick Park was another successful event, thanks to our Co-chairs, Barbara Reese and Jo Wanda Peterson and our host Lilly Pulitzer. Many members attended and enjoyed a sparkling

### March 28th Program News

by Teresa Zohn

**Where:** Carol Gables Art Cinema, 260 Aragon Ave

**When:**

10:00 AM - Business meeting only; no workshop

Following the meeting, thanks to Marlin Ebbert, we will show a short film "Graceful Voices" — a film about some of the ladies of the MacFarlane Homestead Historic District of Coral Gables.

We will not be serving food, but we encourage you to make arrangements for lunch in the Gables with your friends to support our local restaurants. Please note that parking is available in the adjacent garage or on local streets, but you will need to pay.

## Bylaws Changes Plus Thank You, Villagers

### Bylaws Changes:

Please be aware of the changes in our bylaws that were approved at our February 28th General meeting. The following Bylaw addition was approved by the membership last year, but inadvertently omitted from the written Bylaws and the yearbook. Please make a note of this in your yearbook.

### Article IV Section 1 Item G.

Members wishing to change their status shall submit a request in writing to the membership chairman, no later than one week prior to the March Board of Managers Meeting.

The addition of the following standing rule was voted on at the February 28th general meeting and unanimously approved.

### Standing rule 14

An expenditure greater than \$500 shall need a 2/3 vote of the members present, without previous notice, or a majority vote of two weeks' notice of such vote.

### BIG THANKS GO OUT TO THE VILLAGERS

Last week the Villagers came to the Garden Center to present a \$3,000 check to the garden club to help with new air conditioner expenses. Pictured are Susan Rodriguez, CGGC President (l), Sandy Milledge CGGC treasurer (r).

We are so grateful to have an organization like the Villagers continue to help with our restoration projects of the garden center.



Above, l to r: Villager Assistant Treasurer Julie Dow, Treasurer Beverly Loftus, Susan Rodriguez, Sandy Milledge



## Field Trip — Miami Beach Botanical Garden Mar 31

Greetings, Sophisticated Ladies of the Garden Club!! We are organizing a field trip to the beautiful Miami Beach Botanical Garden, with lunch afterwards on Lincoln Road. How much more fun does it get?! Please RSVP to me (305-461-6076 or [jmango15@gmail.com](mailto:jmango15@gmail.com)) if you are interested in joining us for this delightful day in Miami Beach. Location is 2000 Convention Center Dr, Miami Beach FL 33139. Take a look at the visitor's info page for more details (<https://www.mbgarden.org/visit/>) and reach out to me regarding car pool opportunities. Hope to see you there! —Judy Mangasarian

## Centerpiece Raffle at Fashions & Florals

The Garden Club's Designing Divas are back! They are designing the centerpieces to be raffled at the spring Fashions & Florals event. You will be able to bid for any centerpiece, not just the one at your table. Purchase your tickets and place them in the small container next to the centerpiece you would like to bid on. This event is our major fundraiser of the year, so we hope you will enjoy a beautiful arrangement and support our Club.

*At right: What beautiful centerpiece can our Divas make from these? Just wait and see!*



## Butterfly of the Month: Baracoa Skipper

by Linda Waldron

This is a tiny butterfly with a wing span of 7/8's of an inch to 1 and 1/8 inches. It is a native of Florida, and there are approximately 3,000 species of Skippers worldwide.

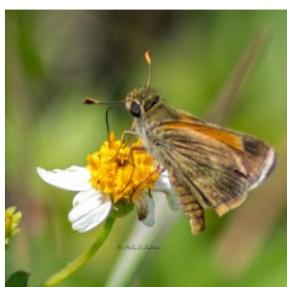


Photo by Holly Salvato

These tiny butterflies "skip" along to top of the grass. The butterfly is brown with orange on the forewing. It likes open areas and is widespread along roadsides and gardens. Skippers have proportionally larger bodies and smaller wings than other butterflies. This butterfly's host plants are tiny grasses and nectar plants, including lantana, Spanish needle and certain crotos. Can you imagine how small the caterpillar will be if the host plant is grass?

Until I started reading about them, I didn't realize that the little insects I saw "skipping" around my yard were tiny butterflies! Of course, my yard is the opposite of a perfect lawn although it is green. As a result, a lot of tiny nectar plants and host plants live in my "lawn," which is why I have these little wonders. Isn't this a simple way to help nature? Quit fertilizing, watering and using pesticides on your lawn, and these little volunteer nectar and host plants will arrive!! What an easy way to become more attuned to our natural world...

## Resort wear, bubbly and laughter—Having a ball with Lilly P.



Above: Commissioner Anderson models a Lilly ensemble

The Kick-off Party held on Friday, March 4th at the Lilly Pulitzer store at Merrick Park was a huge success that drew many Garden Club members. We shopped, drank sparkling wine and helped our friends choose just the right look for the upcoming luncheon—what's not to love? Not only did we have a good time, but importantly for our Club, ten percent of Friday night's sales went to the Garden Club. And there is more good news: for members who were not able to attend but wanted to, Lilly Pulitzer has made plans for a pop-up store at the March 18th, luncheon. Don't miss it!

Speaking of our Spring Fashions & Florals Luncheon, we've had a room change for this exciting event: it will be held in the Country Club Ballroom at the Biltmore. This space should work out perfectly. It is a beautiful venue that will accommodate a champagne reception, a Step and Repeat backdrop for photography, a DJ and a fashion show.

Sharon Trbovich and the talented Divas will provide beautiful flower arrangements that guests may bid on. Additionally, there will be an opportunity to travel by sea onboard the Royal Caribbean. A cruise for two, valued at \$2,000.00, will be auctioned off during the event—so some lucky winner will be spending six-to-eight nights sailing in the Caribbean while enjoying an Oceanview Stateroom! Bidding starts at \$750.00. The luncheon is an important fundraiser, so please plan to attend. Tickets may be purchased on Eventbrite. Remember to include your email in case we need to contact you. Also, please RSVP to France Ingraham by March 11th.

Hope to see you all at the luncheon.

—Jo Wanda



Above, l to r: Margaret Seroppian, Fran Reid, Carolyn Durham



At right: Co-Chairs Jo Wanda Peterson and Barbara Reese



At left, l to r: Teresa Zohn and daughters with Commissioner Anderson



Above, l to r: Event Co-Chair Jo Wanda Peterson, Laurel Auerbacher, Debbie Magenheimer

## Scholarship News

Meet Our Scholarship Winner: Fabio Tarazona, Candidate for a Phd in Biology from the University of Miami

On a beautiful February afternoon, members of the Scholarship Committee, Sharon Trbovich, Glenda Haley, Beth Werner, Ruth Markham and Treasurer, Sandy Millage, met with the garden club's scholarship winner at The Gifford Arboretum for a chat and a chance to present him with a check.

We learned that he had first achieved his scientific focus at the age of 12, when his father took him to meet an Ornithologist in the Biology Department of the local university. The professor introduced the idea of using research to guide management and conservation in wildlife. By obtaining a doctorate in Biology, Fabio aspires to conduct sound, clean research and use it as a tool that benefits the community. He plans to evaluate the role of non-native Macaws in creating more resilient ecosystems in the Miami area.

Fabio will be a guest at the Garden Club May Luncheon.

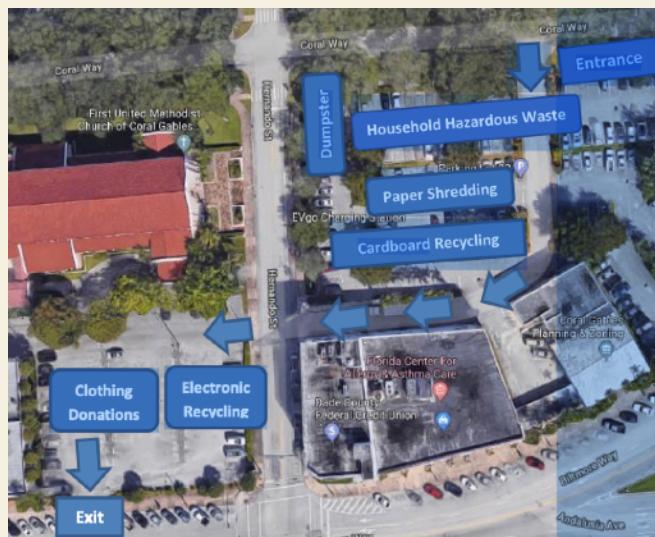
—Ruth Markham

Scholarship Co-Chair

[rhmarkham@hotmail.com](mailto:rhmarkham@hotmail.com)



Above, l to r: Sharon Trbovich, Fabio Tarazona, Glenda Haley  
Left: l to r: Sharon Trbovich, Ruth Markham, Fabio Tarazona, Sandy Milledge



## Green Tip: Coral Gables Recycling Sat April 23rd

by Marlin Ebbert

Save the date for this important semi-annual chance to offload hazardous electronics waste and shred papers you no longer need. From 9-noon at the CG City Hall parking lot. Also, please bring any clean, gently used clothing (men, women's and children's) you would like to contribute for the Camillus House Homeless Shelter. At our fall event, we gathered 4,400 pounds!

## Fun With Flowers — March 26 “THE MAGIC OF SPRING IN A WREATH FOR YOUR GARDEN DOOR”

It is time to hone your design skills again with our March Fun with Flowers workshop. To greet Spring, we will have fun creating a beautiful grapevine wreath, featuring silk flowers, gingham ribbon and small gardening accessories. The session will be “live” at our lovely, newly redone Garden Center. Sandy Milledge will guide you in creating a magical wreath that can beckon friends through your garden door, garden gate or even your front door. The workshop will be Saturday, March 26 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

The deadline to sign up is Saturday, March 19. You can sign up any time between now and then. All materials will be supplied; bring your own scissors and wire cutters. The cost is \$20 to cover the cost of the wreath and trim, and payment is due when you sign up. To enroll, contact Sandy Milledge at 305-546-6896 or [sandymilledge@mac.com](mailto:sandymilledge@mac.com).



## Tour of Kitchens 2022

by Betsy Tilghman

They came in stretch limos, small busses, by bike and by car for the CGCF's Tour of Kitchens last week. We enjoyed people-watching and all the action from our Plant Sale tables at the tour home of Marlin Ebbert. Thank you to volunteers Connie Cabeza, Carmen Cason, Ana Collonette, Julie Connor, Judy Mangasarian, Jo Anne Matthews, Beth Werner, Cathy Zuckerman, and our President, Susan Rodriguez! This year, our helpers also included several charming and enthusiastic school volunteers. How fortunate we were to be at Marlin's lovely home and able to wander over to chef Rita Tennyson's table for some delicious conch fritters.

We sold herbs grown in Florida, unusual orchids from Homestead, fresh tomatoes and corn from the Redlands, and starter plants and orchid kikis from our own yards. These free plants donated by Club members are a big boost to our bottom line and fun to share. Let's think ahead and start our cuttings now—they will have a year to grow!

—Betsy Tilghman, Plant Sale Chair



*l to r: Carmen Cason, Mayor Lago, Commissioner Fors and Susan Rodriguez*



*l to r: Mariana Kellogg, Tripp Beardslee, Susan Rodriguez and Marina Devine*



*l to r: Marina Devine and Tripp Beardslee from CGHS with Carmen Cason*



*l to r: Carmen Cason, Judy Mangasarian, Bonnie Cabesa, Ana Collonette, Betsy Tilghman. back row: Susan Rodriguez*



# Club Happenings and Volunteer Opportunities 2022\*

## 2022

Mar 23 (Wed) **Garden Therapy — 2:00 PM** Riviera Health Center, 6901 Yumuri St, Coral Gables To volunteer, please email [carmencason@yahoo.com](mailto:carmencason@yahoo.com) or call Carmen Cason at 305-409-3986

Mar 18 (Fri) **Spring Floral and Fashion Show — 11:00 AM** Biltmore Hotel Country Club Ballroom (Park in west parking lot/ carpools encouraged)  
A very special Floral and Fashion Show luncheon chaired by Barbara Reese and Jo Wanda Peterson, this will be our main fundraiser and open to the public. Plan now to bring your friends, as this promises to be a fabulous event! It will be held Friday, March 18th at the Biltmore Hotel, where models will walk the runway at the Alhambra Ballroom, wearing the latest Lilly Pulitzer fashions. Beautiful floral arrangements designed by the Garden Club Divas will make the theme of Fashions and Florals come alive.

Mar 26 (Sat) **Fun with Flowers — 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**, March Madness (Signup deadline is Saturday, March 19).

Mar 31 (Thu) **Field Trip — Miami Beach Botanical Garden, South Miami Beach — 9:00 AM**, lunch afterwards on Lincoln Road. Contact Judy Mangasarian, [jmango15@gmail.com](mailto:jmango15@gmail.com) for details.

April 1 (Fri) **CGGC "As I See It" Photo Contest**  
April 1st - April 30th, 2022—Our 2nd annual Photography Competition. Participate in this virtual fundraiser from the convenience of your home. Volunteers with web, Excel and/or social media experience are needed. We will distribute 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](mailto:susan56athome@gmail.com). An exhibition after the results is being discussed; we would need a Chair to plan this event. Please contact Susan Rodriguez.

April 23 (Sat) Fun with Flowers — 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Springtime Designs (Sign-up deadline Saturday, April 16)

April 29 (Fri) Arbor Day — **Henry S West Laboratory School**

May 4th **Luncheon and Installation of CGGC Officers, Merrick House:** Contact Liz Parnes at [ecparnes1@aol.com](mailto:ecparnes1@aol.com) to sign up for that committee.

\*2022 club happenings subject to change based on COVID Guidelines

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

**Website updates**—Check out the latest for a full-color experience

- AS I SEE IT photography competition <https://www.coralgablesgardenclub.org/photocontest/>
- The new hothouse blog from Dalton Helsey on Citizen Science <https://www.coralgablesgardenclub.org/the-hothouse-blog/>
- Linda Waldron's latest Green Gables blog post <https://www.coralgablesgardenclub.org/green-gables/>
- The updated Pollinator Patch page <https://www.coralgablesgardenclub.org/pollinator-patches/>
- The Merrick House holiday décor and event <https://www.coralgablesgardenclub.org/merrick-house-holiday/>
- The 2022 Red mangrove project <https://www.coralgablesgardenclub.org/red-mangrove/>

