



# THE HIBISCUS

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

April 2022

## President's Message: A time to celebrate!!!

Greetings Garden Club Members: We have two significant club events scheduled in the next few weeks. Both are steeped in history and celebrations for the future.

First, April 28th we will be celebrating Arbor Day. While most holidays celebrate the past, Arbor Day celebrates the future by giving us hope that planting a tree will give us cooling shade, clean air and water, a natural habitat for our native wildlife and beautification, which represents a big part of the Garden Club's mission. It is also a chance to remember our members, Gayle Duncan and Mary Whitcomb, who passed away this club year, and is a fitting tribute to their lives.

Secondly, our annual May installation luncheon, coming up on May 4th, is a chance for us to celebrate this past year in a relaxed, casual atmosphere, to install our officers for a second term and introduce our new members. In the early years of our club, there were many picnics planned as our installation luncheon, and I am so happy our Chair Liz Parnes has guided her committee to do the same. Please read the articles in this newsletter for details on both events.

This past month's activities and Chairmen need to be recognized, as we had a very active and successful March. I would like to thank Barbara Reese and Jo Wanda Peterson for creating a spectacular Spring Event that brought our community together for a fun afternoon at the Biltmore Hotel and helped raise funds for all our programs. It exceeded all our expectations and, more importantly, created a new signature event for the Garden Club to look forward to in the future. Carmen Cason also deserves a big thank you for the Garden Therapy event last month that she so effortlessly puts together every year, to bring joy to the patients at the Riviera Rehabilitation center. Sandy Milledge held a wonderful wreath workshop, and Judy Mangasarian did a great job planning our second field trip of the year. Betsy Tilghman, as always, did a terrific job heading up our Tour of Kitchens committee, which was a fun day for all selling herbs and orchids. A big thank you goes out to Nancy Leslie for heading up our by-laws committee, and to Sharon Trbovich and her scholarship committee for bringing us our newest recipient Fabio Tarazona.

We have had a great year! We now have a signed contract with the Biltmore for a meeting space every month starting in September 2022. We planted pollinator gardens at the youth center and in the MacFarlane District, finished the Garden Center renovation and have a new signature event. The Lamar Louise Curry Park will be finished by the beginning of May, and our second annual Photography Competition will be wrapping up April 30th. Don't forget to take photos of anything you love about Coral Gables and submit them now, as I will be picking a photograph taken by one of our members to grace the cover of our next year's yearbook. Enjoy the process, it's a beautiful time of year to be outside and taking pictures.

Mark your calendars for April 25th's final general membership meeting of the year at Camp Mahachee. (Please see Teresa Zohn's note on the venue and program change.) I'll be looking forward to seeing you, and you are welcome to bring guests!

With love,

—Susan Rodriguez, President



Above: Frank and Susan Rodriguez with Bert D'Armas from First Horizon

### April 25th Program News \*\*Change of Venue and Program\*\*

by Teresa Zohn

**Where: Camp Mahachee--9950 Old Cutler Road**

**When: 11:30 AM - Meeting begins at 12:00 PM**

The Garden Club is exploring how we can help Camp Mahachee, the Girl Scouts Camp on Old Cutler across from Matheson Park. This is an exciting opportunity for our club.

Directions: 9950 Old Cutler Road. Turn in at the mailbox just south of the parking lot across from Matheson, drive all the way back to the camp. Follow the balloons and signs.

The program will be presented by Chelsea Wilkerson, CEO, and Haley Karl, speaking on the History of the Girl Scouts in South Florida, Girl Scouting Today and Camp Mahachee: The Plan for the Future. A tour of the facility will be available after the meeting, so dress casually with appropriate shoes i.e. sneakers. Light lunch will be served.

## National Arbor Day April 29th

PLEASE JOIN OUR CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL ARBOR DAY at **West Lab Elementary** on **Friday, April 29**, 9:00 AM, 5300 Carillo Street. What could be better than a morning of blue skies and children's voices? How about a program for and by the students! They are so excited to share our enthusiasm and passion for horticulture, environment and beauty. The event will conclude with the planting of a tree donated by the Coral Gables Garden Club. In addition, the school's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) has decided to extend this effort with their own planting of additional Cassia Bakerna trees.

Be sure to arrive early enough to allow for security clearance at the front gate. Parking is available on the open field across from the school.

ADDITIONAL HELP NEEDED: On **Wednesday, April 27**, 10:00 AM, we will meet at the Garden Center at the Biltmore to assemble giveaway bags and a snack for the children. And on Friday, at the event, some helpers will be needed to disburse the bags. Please contact JoAnne Matthews if you can help on either (or both) dates: [joanne305@gmail.com](mailto:joanne305@gmail.com) (305) 608-7893.

— JoAnne Matthews

## Field Trip Recap —A Beautiful Day at the Beach!

On March 31st, seven intrepid ladies joined me at the Miami Beach Botanical Garden for a fascinating tour of this lush green oasis across from the Convention Center in South Beach. Three horticultural experts, Sanna, Daniel, and Riki, spent over an hour showing us around the entire garden, including the original 1960's Japanese Garden, the 2011 Raymond Jungles-designed pools and plantings, the Pine Rockland and pollinator areas and the rare palms and orchids everywhere. It was a paradise!

After our tour, we meandered over to Lincoln Road and found the perfect spot for lunch, Cafe Med by Napule E. The food was delicious, the breezes delightful, and our time together just flew by. All in all, it was a delightful day to get away. When the next Field Trip is organized, try joining us for the adventure and camaraderie.

Hope to see you then!

—Judy Mangasarian



## Butterfly of the Month: Tropical Buckeye

by Linda Waldron

The Tropical Buckeye Butterfly is one of two common similar species (the other is the Mangrove Buckeye) that are found in the Southern US and in the East, the southern tip of Florida and the southern tip of Texas.

It is a large brown butterfly with dominant eyespots and trailing orange and cream-colored wing edges, with a wing span of 1 3/4" -2 1/4".

The eyespots are used to frighten predators. Female Buckeyes are larger than males. They drink nectar with a short throat, their proboscis not being long enough to reach the bottom of tunnel-shaped flowers. Eggs are green and laid singly on host plants. Our host plant here is porterweed. The eggs of this butterfly are tiny. Buckeye caterpillars molt four times before they hang in a J shape to pupate. Underneath the old "skin" is a larger baggy one.

Gardeners often worry when their caterpillars disappear from the host plant. Predators are frequently the reason, but if a caterpillar is ready to pupate, it often leaves the plant to do so. One to two weeks after the caterpillar becomes a chrysalis, the adult butterfly emerges. A day after emerging, it begins to drink nectar.



Photo courtesy of [butterfliesandmoths.org](http://butterfliesandmoths.org)



## Don't Miss Out on the May Installation Luncheon!



We look forward to seeing all of our members and guests at the Annual May Installation Luncheon, **May 4, 2022** at 11:30 AM at The Merrick House.

Please note the following:

- Annual Installation Luncheon: "Picnic Style" casual, hats, sunscreen and comfortable shoes.
- RSVP: Through Green Envelope, and please send your checks to Frances Ingraham, 1240 Ferdinand Street, Coral Gables Florida 33134.
- Parking: Merrick House parking lot, Toledo Avenue and Young Park (behind Merrick House)
- Centerpieces: Available for purchase, \$10.00 each, checks made payable to the CGGC.
- Thank you Provisional Sponsor for covering the cost of your Provisional member.
- We welcome additional donations to help cover the cost of Luncheon Honorees.

— *Thank you, The Annual Installation Committee*

## Green Tip

April 23rd is your semi-annual chance to offload hazardous electronics waste and shred unneeded papers from 9-noon at the CG City Hall parking lot. Remember also to bring any clean, gently used clothing (men, women's and children's) you would like to contribute for the Camillus House Homeless Shelter.

— Marlin Ebbert



## Fun With Flowers Spring Fling

Dazzle friends and family with the two spring floral designs that you will create at our **Saturday, April 23rd** *Fun with Flowers* workshop at 10:00 AM in the Garden Center.

Sharon will demonstrate a basket of floral beauties for spring. A basket, oasis and greenery will be provided for you to do your own design. Bring your favorite spring flowers and clippers.

Kitty will once again focus on a small arrangement, this time with an Oriental springtime in mind. All materials for this design will be provided, but do remember to bring those clippers.

The cost of the workshop is \$20, payable when you sign up. Saturday, April 16th is the deadline to register for the Spring Fling. Contact Sharon Trbovich (skyeterriers1@gmail.com / 401-935-6709) or Kitty Winkler (kittywink1@gmail.com / 786-536-2110). We'll see you there for good fun and joyful creativity to celebrate the coming of spring!

— Sharon Trbovich and Kitty Winkler



## Fashions & Florals Spring Event

Our "Fashions & Florals" spring event was fantastic. It was fun, beautiful and very successful. We are happy to announce our proceeds from this event were \$16,500. AMAZING!

More than 180 guests filled the country club ballroom at the Biltmore Hotel, where they enjoyed a Champagne reception, luncheon and fashion show by Lilly Pulitzer. During the cocktail hour, the Lilly Pulitzer pop-up shop was busy selling spring favorites to our guests. Lilly Pulitzer was most generous in donating 10% of their sales from the pop-up show and at the kick-off party two weeks earlier, raising more than \$1,300 for our Garden Club. We are most grateful to our wonderful sponsors who supported our luncheon; Royal Caribbean, Lilly Pulitzer, Evensky & Katz, First Horizon Bank, Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr., iSure Insurance Brokers, Mercedes-Benz of Coral Gables, RG Law Group and 360 Builders. We are also grateful for the support of our City Officials who attended our event.

*(story continues on Page 6.)*



## **Fashions & Florals Spring Event (cont)**



## Fashions &amp; Florals Spring Event (cont)



(story cont. from Page 4) The room was decorated in Lilly colors of fuchsia and turquoise. The beautiful table arrangements were designed by our very own talented divas, headed by Sharon Trbovich. Thank you to Donna Box, Carmen Cason, Leticia de la Torre Gunn and Mary Harriman of the Miami Beach Garden Club, Sandy Milledge, Eileen Plasky, Marlene Riesco and Kitty Winkler for your exquisite floral designs. Our guests loved them so much that they purchased over \$1,500 worth of raffle tickets for the chance to take one home!

Our models rocked the runway in Lilly's beautiful spring line. Thank you to Commissioner Rhonda Anderson, Connie Cabeza, Carmen Cason, France Ingraham, Judy Mangasarian, Sandy Milledge, Sally Morris, Liz Parnes, Jo Wanda Peterson and Denise West for your supermodel talents. Everyone was "on their feet" for the finale.

A big thank you to Eeva Kulovaara for obtaining the Royal Caribbean Cruise for our silent auction and also to our table sponsors. Thanks to Alexis Ehrenhaft and Cathy Zuckerman for check-in; to France Ingraham for handling the reservations and to Teresa Zohn for Eventbrite.

Last but not least, thanks to our wonderful President, Susan Rodriguez, who was a great help to us with this event. She did an amazing job securing underwriting and helping guide us through our spring fundraiser.

We hope you all enjoyed our "Fashions & Florals" event as much as we enjoyed chairing it.

Best wishes,

—Jo Wanda and Barbara

## Member Profile: Fabulous Fran Reid

by Kitty Winkler

When asked what defines Fran, her longtime friend, Nita Norman said, "her ability to get through anything." Nita also mentioned Fran's commitment to the Coral Gables Garden Club over the long haul. Fran's tenure in the Club is certainly for the long haul – she joined the Club in 1980, was President for two terms, and has been a Director of the Club for 35 years. Also, there is a continuity in Fran's projects and passions through the years that has contributed growth, stability and stature to the Garden Club. But first, a little background.

Fran was born in Winston-Salem, NC and grew up in Charlotte, NC. At age thirteen, she was a teen model for the national magazine "Calling All Girls." While at Queens College, she dated Ted, who became her husband in 1952, a marriage that would last 67 ½ years. At the time, Ted was a student at Davidson College, and when they married, Fran somehow managed to talk the administration into letting her become a Davidson student too, the only female student at the all-boys school.

After Davidson, the Reids moved to Philadelphia where Ted attended the University of Philadelphia Medical School. While Ted was busy with his studies, Fran was occupied with founding the Student American Association Auxiliary for all Medical Schools in the U.S.

Fran and Ted moved to Miami in 1960 for Ted's Internship and residency at the University of Miami Medical School, and Fran attended classes at the University. After a couple of years in Kentucky with the Army, they returned to Miami. At that time, the Reid's Miami house was a rental that had no air conditioning or heat; and Fran's sister, Carolyn (Garden Club member, Carolyn Durham) lived with them for a time. In fact, it was during that period that Carolyn met the man who would become her beloved husband of 61 years.

In the late 1960's, Fran and Ted moved to Coral Gables, and in 1972, they moved to their home on Alhambra Circle where Fran frequently entertained Ted's medical colleagues and the Garden Club, as well as hosting charity events.

Fran's life has been full and busy. She has three children and four grandchildren. In addition to the Garden Club, she had an interior design business, served as President of the Cancer Association, was active in Big Brothers/Big Sisters, was a member of the Merry Widows at Jackson Memorial, belonged to the University of Miami Women's Guild, was a member of the P.T.A. and room mother at Carver School, spent seven years as Chair of the Coral Gables Beautification Committee and chaired a variety of committees at the Coral Reef Yacht Club. Over the years, Fran and her family have enjoyed frequent international travel, sailing and boat racing, as well as 26 years of skiing, fly fishing and other activities at their

Montana vacation home. After joining the Coral Gables Garden Club in 1980, Fran immediately became active and involved in the Club. In 1985, she became the Club's President. One of the Club's highest priorities was finding a home. Club meetings were being held at the Women's Club.

The Garden Club tried to negotiate shared space with the Women's Club, but that didn't work out. (story continues on Page 8.)



*At left: Fran Reid delivers supplies to the Garden Center. 1989.*



*Above: Fran Reid at the Fashions & Florals event, March 2022*

*Above: Arbor Day, approximately 1985. Fran is on the far left in the yellow dress, and Nita Norman is third from right.*

## Fabulous Fran Reid (cont)

(Fran Reid cont. from Page 7)



Above: Fran Reid displays a UM Lowe Art Museum artwork, circa 1986.

Right: Fran at Merrick House, 2019. Below, Fran (c) with sister Carolyn Durham (l) and Ruth Markham (r) at the Coral Gables Museum.

Carolyn Durham (l) and Ruth Markham (r) at the Coral Gables Museum.



As President, Fran took on the challenge of finding space where the Garden Club could hold its meetings and have a place of its own. She, along with other members of the Club, did extensive research of potential sites, working closely with City of Coral Gables officials. With the discovery of our current building on the grounds of the Biltmore Hotel, a new home for the Club was found and dedicated in 1989, with then Mayor, George Corrigan, Jr., City Commissioners and the City Manager present. Mayor Corrigan's predecessor, Mayor William Chapman, had been an advocate in helping the Garden Club obtain the space. Also involved were longtime Garden Club member and former Mayor Dorothy Thomson, and Raul Valdes-Fauli, Vice Mayor at the time. Nita Norman recalls a meeting where there was discussion of giving the club a 3-5-year contract for the building. Commissioner Bill Kerdyk, Jr. was present and said, "Why not just give it to them?" and it has been our Club home ever since. Fran has maintained strong interest and involvement in the Garden Center, including the recent renovation and plans for the future patio and French door entrance.

Fran has visited many gardens worldwide, but her passions are the roses that she learned how to grow and care for through the Garden Club. She also had two orchid houses at her Alhambra Circle home and raised camellias at the family's South Carolina plantation.

Carolyn, Fran's sister, tells a delightful story that says a lot about who Fran is. The two of them had been visiting a friend in California for a week. During the course of the visit, Fran bought an enormous basket and two porcelain rabbits that she was sure would be perfect for the big Garden Club year-end meeting she would be hosting when she returned. What she initially failed to take into account was how she would get these large decorative pieces home. As it turned out, Fran made the long trip from California to Miami uncomfortably crowded, with the basket and bunnies in her lap. Carolyn also mentioned that the Club meeting that Fran was hosting was the very next day at 10:00 AM. The bunnies, basket, Fran and Carolyn all made it in time for the next day's party, and the décor was, as always, beautiful. As Nita so wisely pointed out at the beginning of this story, "Fran has the ability to get through anything."

## Club Happenings

2022

April 30 (Sat) **CGGC "As I See It" Photo Contest Entry Deadline —**

Our 2nd annual Photography Competition entry deadline is the final day to get your submissions in, and we hope to see many of you participating in this virtual fundraiser! Contact Susan Rodriguez with any questions.

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).

