



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

May 2022

President's Message: Looking Back / Looking Forward

Greetings Garden Club Members: What a year it has been!! Thinking back over our club year to craft this message has brought a whirlwind of memories—some particularly fresh. For example, two wonderful events and a delightful workshop have taken place since our last newsletter, and the months behind us were jam-packed with activities.

Arbor Day 2022, held at the West Lab Elementary School, was the best Arbor Day event ever, by all accounts. Thanks to Joanne Mathews and her team of volunteers who made wonderful gift bags filled with treats and seeds, and planned fun activities for the kids. A big thank you also goes out to Denise West for filling in for me due to Covid-related illness; Denise gave an engaging presentation to children on the history of Arbor Day that was enjoyed by all. Thank you to all our volunteers and those who attended this very important event that reflects a partnership with the City of Coral Gables for over 30 years.

Our May installation luncheon was a huge success thanks to our Chair Liz Parnes, co-chairs Betsy Tilghman, Teresa Zohn, and their committee. It was such a lovely setting at the historic Merrick House, home to Coral Gables Garden Club founding member Althea Merrick. Everyone enjoyed the laid-back feel of the picnic, with great food, music, and friends. F.F.G.C. Hall of Fame Awards were presented to Betsy Tilghman, Donna Box, and Sharon Trbovich for their continued work and dedication to our club. Rhonda Anderson and Linda Waldron each received the Steward of the Earth award from F.F.G.C., which acknowledges the environmental work they have done for our club and the community. Congratulations to our new active members, and a warm welcome to our 14 new members. Please make sure you greet these ladies with open arms in September, and make them feel welcome throughout the year.

During the year, we achieved not one but two successful fundraisers, along with an updated garden center that was christened during a Spring floral design workshop this past month, thanks to Kitty Winkler and Sharon Trbovich. We have been inspired through ongoing efforts on our pollinator garden in the Macfarland district, the mangrove project spearheaded by Commissioner Anderson and Grace Carricarte, and finally by the Lamar Louise Curry Park, which is nearing its opening date, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony scheduled for July 16th. I am certain Ms. Curry would have been delighted to see all the flowering plants and trees at this park.

Now it is time to rest before we start a new club year, and I hope you are all planning fun things to do this summer. Please send me photos of your vacation or gardening efforts for our September newsletter. I'll be experimenting in my own garden during the break by planting Dahlia bulbs that are said to grow in our zone. Keeping my fingers crossed for success in this endeavor, and am wishing a happy and safe summer for you and your loved ones.

Thank you for a wonderful year,

—Susan Rodriguez, President



Above: A study in pink—Beautiful table decor at the May Installation Luncheon

National Arbor Day April 29th

Arbor Day has been celebrated nationally for 150 years, and the Garden Club enjoys participating in local events surrounding this important day. This year, we were welcomed at West Lab Elementary School in Coral Gables on April 29, in collaboration with the City of Coral Gables and its Landscape Beautification Advisory Board (LBAB).

Principal Mrs. Soto Pujadas, teachers and the school's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) were enthusiastic about our planting a Cassia Bakerana near the fence at the north end of the schoolyard, visible from the road.

A total of 75 students (Kindergarten and First Grade) enjoyed the ceremony, which included an opening by the Coral Gables Honor Guard, a reading of a self-published book about trees by Maria Counts (a member of LBAB), a very engaging talk about Arbor Day by Denise West and a performance by third-graders who signed the words as they sang about the beauty of the earth. As the children filed out to the tree planting, they received a giveaway bag that contained information about Arbor Day and pollinators as well as a tree/butterfly coloring sheet and crayons. The children also received seeds and materials to plant milkweed; it was suggested that they might bring their mature plants back to the school to form a butterfly garden. Also included was a "TREE-t" (a Rice Krispie cookie, dyed green, with a pretzel stem).

The actual tree planting was facilitated by City Staff, but selected children took up some of the gold shovels and finished the job.

Many thanks to club members who helped with the event: Alexis Ehrenhardt, Carmon Cason, Sandy Milledge, Joan Wright, Susan Rodriguez, Betsy Tilghman, Ana Lam, Denise West, Liz Parnes and Nancy Leslie. Our thanks also go out to Commissioners Rhonda Anderson (a CGGC member), and Kirk Menendez.

— JoAnne Matthews



Picnic Fun at the May Installation Luncheon!

The Annual May Installation Luncheon, held **May 4, 2022** at The Merrick House, was a wonderful event. Thank you to our Provisional Sponsors for covering the cost of our Provisional members, and to all who participated and contributed.

— The Annual Installation Committee



Garden Therapy Recap

Garden Therapy . . . members in action . . . We had a delightful time!

—Judy Mangasarian



Above: France Ingraham, Evelyn Budde, Carmen Cason and Joanne Matthews



Above: Carmen Cason, Victoria Cabesa, Evelyn Budde, France Ingraham, the Riviera Health Resort administrator, Mercy Arrieta, Joanne Matthews, Denise West, Judy Mangasarian and Grace Carricarte

Louise Lamar Curry Park is Close to Completion



Lamar Louise Curry Park is sprouting! You'll want to save the date of July 16th, and put this park on your weekend morning walk plan after the grand opening ribbon-cutting ceremony, which has been scheduled for July 16 at 6:30 PM.

You will be amazed at the many trees that are taking root. The large and rare Yellow Poinciana, Delonix flavida, Miss Curry's favorite tree, will be the star attraction and will grace the park with its blooms as the summer unfolds. Thank you, Susan Rodriguez, for finding this beauty! And there are so many other trees with lovely flowers and luscious scents. Think of two dwarf Ylang Ylang trees—their blossom extract gives Chanel No. 5 its sensual tones. Or the Darwin Blood Red Frangipani, Plumeria rubra, and Bridal Bouquet Frangipani, Plumeria pudica—both fragrant, especially in the morning and evening hours, and happy to bloom from May to November. Related to the Plumeria, the evergreen Milkyway Tree will be one of the park's most fragrant, the ground strewn with its beautiful white flowers during all but the chilly months of winter. Two native Lignum Vitae, Guaiacum sanctum, a favorite of many of our members, have been planted. These small, slow-growing trees with famously dense wood have lightly scented blue flowers appearing in late spring and summer. When the park opens, you will also see a yellow flowered Verawood, some White Ginger, a few "Seminole Pink" Florida Hydrangeas, several Red Orchid Trees, six red Mandarin Hats, a purple flowering Lancewood and several butterfly loving Pink Jatropha. It will be a bloom-fest! Within the palm family (and what is south Florida without its fabulous palms?), you will find Cat Palms, Teddy Bear Palms with their fuzzy crown shafts, Montgomery Palms and the already established Coconut Palms.

Thank you, Landscape Architect Mike Conner, for designing this jewel of a park! Our long-awaited Lamar Louise Curry Park is nearing the finish line – just in time for our trees to drink up the sweet rains of summer!

—Betsy Tilghman



Welcome New Garden Club Provisional Members

The Coral Gables Garden Club extends a heartfelt welcome to its 2022 / 2023 Provisional Members:

1. Maria Ason
2. Tara Auclair
3. Fabiola Bolanos
4. Wendy Cook
5. Emily de Armas
6. Maria Feito
7. Amy Kutell
8. Karen Luneburg
9. Kristal Meyer
10. Carmen Roca
11. Ann Rudolph
12. Bonnie Seipp
13. Maria Teofilo
14. Tracy Udansky



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8. Karen Luneburg



9. Kristal Meyer



10. Carmen Roca



11. Ann Rudolph



12. Bonnie Seipp



13. Maria Teofilo



14. Tracy Udansky



As I See It Photo Contest

The results are in with another spectacular photography competition. We had wonderful judges this year, so a big thank you to Hector Astorga, Ken Archer, Kirsten Hines and Wendy Shatil for taking the time, and for their careful thought process in selecting the award winners. Thanks to our Grand sponsor, the Allen Morris Company, to the Marlene Kerdyk Beautification Fund for sponsoring the grand prize, and to Berkshire Hathaway, William Bonn and Ruben Ceballos, Nancy Sanabria, and Gunster Law/Mario Garcia Serra for sponsoring our categories.

Enjoy the top photos of the contest on this page and the following:

1. Overall winner—"Mom-how do you work these wings?" by Gunilla Imshaug
2. 1st place in wildlife—"Unveiled" by Ana Bowers
3. 1st place in black and white—"Stare Down" by Christopher Baker
4. 1st place in pollinator and plants—"Busy Bee" by Christopher Baker
5. Humans interacting with nature—"Lone Hiker" by Debi Lander
6. Flowers plants and trees—"Sunflower Dew" by Robyn Saur
7. 1st place in altered states—"Going Into the Blues" by Gunilla Imshaug
8. 1st place winner in everything Coral Gables—"Any Which Way you Look at it, Coral Gables is a Special Place" by Vicky Cerdá



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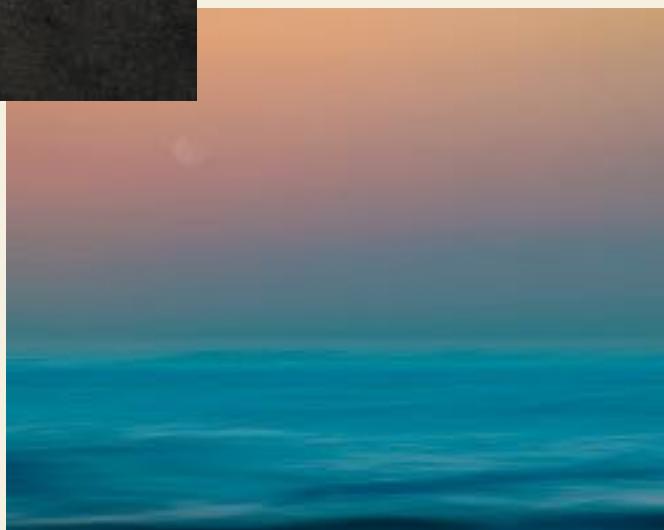
As I See It Photo Contest (cont.)



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On this page:

5. Humans interacting with nature
— “Lone Hiker” by Debi Lander
6. Flowers plants and trees—
“Sunflower Dew” by Robyn Saur
7. 1st place in altered states
—“Going Into the Blues” by Gunilla Imshaug
8. 1st place winner in everything
Coral Gables—“Any Which Way you Look at it, Coral Gables is a Special Place” by Vicky Cerda