



# The Hibiscus

Coral Gables Garden Club, Coral Gables, Florida ~ Celebrating our 98th Year

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

December 2022

## Tis the season to be jolly...

### President's Message

With the holidays fast approaching, I know you all must be looking forward to your family traditions. It's a lovely time for gatherings, baking, trimming trees, singing along to favorite holiday tunes, wrapping gifts, and decking the halls with your favorite décor. I wish you all a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year.

The weather has been glorious, and it is a joy being out in the garden these days. I have finally accepted that the garden in my mind will never be the garden that exists, surrendering control and accepting the chaos when gardening in South Florida.

I have cherished the days this past year with some of our members at the Heritage Garden, the Macfarlane pollinator garden, or raising Mangroves. Thank you, Rhonda Anderson, Grace Carricarte, Paula Beihler, Maria Ason, Maria Teofilo, Jodie Zaban, Emily de Armas, Wendy Cook, Tara Auclair, Bonnie Seipp, Susan Thomas and Betsy Tilghman.

I have learned so much chatting with this group, learning about their experiences, challenges, and successes in their own gardens. The committee chairs are listed in your yearbook on pages 5-6, if you are interested in participating in these hands-on gardening or other club committees, please contact the Chair.

I want to thank again, Marlene Riesco who organized a successful Fall Floral Fundraiser, raising a net profit of over \$5,600 for the club. I appreciate all the work that went into that day, gathering volunteers, table décor, registration, and the fabulous food organized by Glenda Hayley and Joan Wright. Thank you, Sandy Milledge, for organizing the Bake sale, and Teresa Zohn for organizing our registration. The Amaryllis this year are stunning, thanks to Sharon Trbovich for organizing the sale of these bulbs. We had a few left and are now at the Merrick House planted near Althea's garden. They make a lovely addition to the garden.

Thank you to Carmen Cason for organizing our first Garden Therapy activity at Crystal Academy. The staff enjoyed it; students and our members Evelyn Budde, Maria More, Susan Thomas, Marlene Riesco, Teresita Diaz, Jodie Zaban, Ann Goodman, and I had a rewarding experience.

I look forward to the Merrick House Open House on December 11<sup>th</sup>, from 2-5 PM. The club has a table; we will sell plants from members' gardens, including the Costa ginger from the Merrick House. It's a festive afternoon that brings our community together. I hope to see you there.

Finally, the December 14<sup>th</sup> holiday party is in the Danielson Gallery at the Biltmore Hotel. You are welcome to bring a guest, please RSVP to the Evite that went out on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. I hope to see you there. Wishing you and your families a memorable holiday season.



Photo credit: Susan Rodriguez

Happy Holidays,

Susan Rodriguez.

President

## December 14th Program News

By Teresa Zohn

### Oh what fun! Holiday luncheon and meeting

**General Membership Meeting** food service at 11:15 am in the Danielson room. Meeting starts at 12:00 pm.

**Program:** Holiday entertainment by Paula Barrera Scheer. I hope you will join us. Guests welcome, please RSVP.

**General Membership Meeting** food service at 11:15 am in the Danielson Gallery. Meeting starts at 12:00 pm.

**Program:** Holiday entertainment by Paula Barrera Scheer

**Hostesses:** Carmen Cason, Maria More, Victoria Cabeza, Mercy Arrieta, Maria Gonzalez.

**Contact:** Open to all. RSVP through Evite or Teresa Zohn. Email [Teresa.zohn@gmail.com](mailto:Teresa.zohn@gmail.com) or text 305-773-0262.

## Green Tip

By Emily de Armas

It's December and time to get wrapping. There are a few ways to creatively wrap gifts and be eco-friendly.

You can wrap gifts in pretty scarves. The scarf is a bonus gift! Or use Kraft paper, twine, and reclaimed bow.



## Pottery Classes by Susan Thomas

Beginning 1/10/23..Susan Thomas will be teaching a class on making clay pots for plants and your garden. This will be on Tuesday mornings for 6 weeks. For further information please go to [The Ceramic League of Miami website](#). No experience necessary. Prepare to have fun!

## Nominations

By Sharon Trbovich

The Nominating Committee consists of 5 members. The chair is chosen by the President, 2 members are nominated at the January Board Mtg and 2 members are nominated at the January general membership meeting. If you are interested in serving on the Executive Board please read in our By Laws, Article IX, Sections 1 - 8, to determine what the different positions require. Please contact me if you are interested in serving. Please give this some serious consideration. Having served as your President I can honestly say it's a very rewarding experience, one that I enjoyed very much.

Sharon Trbovich, Nominating Chair

## Workshop with Sandy Milledge



Sandy demonstrates crescent design



Packed house for the workshop



Crescent design arrangement

## November Meeting



Hostesses Carolyn Durham, Emily de Armas, Ana Lam, and Carmen Roca



Presentation by Georgia Taster

## Garden Therapy at Crystal Academy

Thanks to Carmen Cason for organizing a fun event for the students.



Garden Club members with students and staff at Crystal Academy

## Garden Therapy at Crystal Academy



## Merrick House Decorating Committee

Thanks to Alexis Ehrenhaft, Cathy Zuckerman and Ana Lam for organizing the day.



Merrick House Decorating Committee gets ready for the December 11th open house

Carmen Cason, Peggy Groves, Maria Gonzalez, Victoria Cabeza, Susan Rodriguez, Cathy Zuckerman, Barbara Reese, Joan Wright, Jo Anne Mathews, Ana Lam.

Kneeling: Jodi Zaban and Jennifer Kaufman



Ana Lam, Betsy Tilghman, Peggy Groves

## Merrick House Decorating Committee



Decorated stairwell



Victoria Cabeza, Carmen Cason, Maria Gonzalez dress the tables



Jodi Zaban and Jennifer Kaufman decorate the magnificent bannister

## History of the Blue Star Marker

By Evelyn Budde



Veterans Day November  
11th, 2022

In 1945, the National Garden Clubs Inc., adopted the Blue Star Memorial Highway Program to be implemented as a living tribute to the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. The name commemorates the blue star which is in the center of the red and white service flags which were first used during World War 1. Many families hung flags in their windows to denote the number of members serving abroad in the nation's Armed Forces in World War 1 and World War 2. This program was endorsed by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. On Friday, November 9, 2018, our Coral Gables Garden Club dedicated the Blue Star Memorial Marker in front of the Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center for all to see as they drove by or visited the Youth Center. Working very closely with the Assistant City Manager as well as the rules and regulations for the proper and acceptable directions needed to install a Blue Star Memorial Marker from the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc, was very successful. Since the only highways in our area are U.S. #1 and Lejeune Road, and both are extremely busy and heavily built with many office buildings, the landscaped area located in front of the War Memorial Youth Center on University Drive was chosen not only for its location but its dedication to the Armed Forces.

Evelyn Budde  
Dedication Chair

## Horticulture Column: Krug's Holly

By Betsy Tilghman



Holly resides in the genus *Ilex*—a large gathering of over 400 species worldwide. These trees and bushes commonly have glossy, often prickly leaves and colorful berries, which birds love. This genus is made up of separate female and male plants—which means they are dioecious—stemming from the Greek word diokia, or “two households.” Berries occur only on female plants. Bees pollinate the female flowers with the pollen from the flowers of the male plant.

Florida is home to several native hollies—our familiar American Holly, *Ilex opaca*, the Yaupon Holly, *Ilex vomitoria* (which, despite its mysterious and unfortunate Latin name, seems to make a respectable tea), the Dahoon Holly—(Plant a gal and a guy close by for masses of red berries for the birds,) the East Palatka Holly (Probably a naturally occurring hybrid of American and Dahoon, and hailing from the town of my husband’s ancestry 😊,) and others, like the Krug’s Holly.

So, we come to Krug’s Holly, *Ilex Krugiana*, named after the German botanist Leopold Krug, who first described the plant in South America. It is also referred to as Tawnyberry Holly. We are planting Krug’s Holly at Camp Mahachee. It is native to our SE coastal region and, like so many of our plantings at the camp, is endangered due to the vanishing SE coastal hammock/pine land ecosystem.

I like to imagine this gift to Camp Mahachee and our Coral Gables coastal hammock as a CGGC Holly-Day gift!

Enjoy the season!  
Betsy Tilghman



## Education Update

By Beth Warner

### Ponce de Leon Middle School Garden Club

The Ponce de Leon Middle School Garden Club has resumed meeting on Thursday afternoons. The club’s sponsor, Ms. Giovannah Joseph, is a science teacher and the recipient of Ponce’s Teacher of the Year Award last year. She and her students are enthusiastic about planting and nurturing the vegetables and herbs in the six raised garden beds located in the school’s courtyard. The students are delightful and attack the beds with gusto! There’s not a weed in sight!

### The Coral Gables Garden Club Library

The books in the garden house are now organized by topic, and there is a binder listing all the books by title and category. Garden club members may check out any book—just fill out the form in the binder and return it within two months. The books cover various topics, from flower arranging to building a terrace or patio and everything in between. If you would like to donate a gardening book to our library, please contact Beth Werner at [betwerner@gmail.com](mailto:betwerner@gmail.com).



## Fashions and Florals



## Centennial Committee Announcement



We are excited to have Teresa Zohn as the Coral Gables Garden Clubs' Chair for our Centennial celebrations.

There are so many ways to celebrate this milestone and under Teresa's leadership it will prove to be an outstanding year for all.

Thank you Teresa for all the work you have done for this club and what lies ahead!

Please contact Teresa if you are interested in being on this committee.

## Club Happenings

2022 Dates	Time	Event	Location
Dec 13 (Tue)	10am-12pm	<b>Workshop for Holiday Centerpieces</b>	Garden Center, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
Dec 14 (Wed)	11:15am	<b>General Membership Meeting, Holiday luncheon, no workshop</b>	Danielson Gallery, 1200 Anastasia Avenue

2023 Dates	Time	Event	Location
Jan 11 (Wed)	9:30am-11:30am	<b>Board Meeting</b>	Garden Center, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
Jan 18 (Wed)	7 pm	<b>Camera Club Meeting</b>	Garden Center, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
Jan 21 (Sat)	10am-12pm	<b>Fun with Flowers Workshop</b>	Garden Center, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
Jan 23 (Mon)	10am, 11:15am	<b>General Membership Meeting</b>	Danielson Gallery, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
Feb 1 (Wed)	TBD	<b>Field Trip</b> - Coral Reef Restoration Laboratory	Rosenstiel School of Atmospheric and Marine Sciences, UM
Feb 8 (Wed)	9:30am-11:30am	<b>Board Meeting</b>	Garden Center, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
Feb 11 (Sat)	8am-3pm	<b>Tour of Kitchens</b>	TBD
Feb 15 (Wed)	7pm	<b>Camera Club Meeting</b>	Garden Center, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
Feb 25 (Sat)	10am-12pm	<b>Fun with Flowers Workshop</b>	Garden Center, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
Feb 27 (Mon)	5pm, 6:15pm	<b>General Membership Meeting *Evening*</b>	Danielson Gallery, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
Mar 8 (Wed)	9:30am-11:30am	<b>Board Meeting</b>	Garden Center, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
Mar 8,9 (Wed, Thu)	10am	<b>Prepping for Fashions and Florals Event</b>	Garden Center, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
Mar 10 (Fri)	11:30am-2pm	<b>Fashion and Florals</b> - Spring Fundraiser: Fashions and Florals luncheon. Open to the public.	Biltmore Hotel, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
Mar 27 (Mon)	6:15pm	<b>General Membership Meeting, no workshop</b>	Danielson Gallery, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
April	TBD	<b>Full Moon Sunset Cruise on Biscayne Bay</b>	Pelican Harbor Seabird Station
April	TBD	<b>Garden Therapy</b>	Riviera Rehabilitation Center
April 3- May 5	Ongoing	<b>AS I SEE IT Photography Contest 2023</b>	Online submission, Garden Club Website
April 12 (Wed)	9:30am-11:30am	<b>Board Meeting</b>	Garden Center, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
April 24 (Mon)	11:15am	<b>General Membership Meeting, no workshop</b>	Danielson Gallery, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
April 24 (Mon)	1-3pm	<b>Flower Show</b> - Join us for our Flower Show after the General Meeting for champagne and dessert	Coral Gables Congregational Church, 3010 De Soto Blvd
May 10 (Wed)	9:30am-11:30am	<b>Board Meeting</b>	Garden Center, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
May 10 (Wed)	11:30pm-1pm	<b>2023 Installation Luncheon</b>	TBD