



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

January 2023

Out with the old, in with the new: may you be happy the whole year through. Happy New Year!

President's Message

I hope this new year brings you happiness and good health. It was an honor to serve last year as your President, and I appreciate all the excellent work we have done together.

Our last public event of 2022 was the plant sale at the Merrick House, which was successful in so many ways—bringing our new Provisionals together, working on our heritage garden, having a sale with donations from Commissioner Anderson, FTBG, and the ginger pups from the Merrick House and Betsy Tilghman. Many thanks to Maria Teofilo, who brought terrific snacks for the guests that day which was a lovely way to introduce residents from our community to the garden and talk about gardening for health and our club. We have many beautiful things coming up, including our Fashions and Florals spring fundraiser, the Photography Contest, Garden Therapy for the elderly, planting a pollinator garden on April 16th at Camp Mahachee, and an Arbor Day Celebration.

So, check out all the club happenings in this newsletter.

My favorite quote about teamwork and collaboration is from Mother Teresa, "None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things with great love, and together we can do something wonderful."

If you have yet to sign up for a committee, check out all the committees in your yearbook listed on pages 5-6 and call the chairman to see how you can contribute, or better yet, come to our January meeting and sign up. There is plenty to do; I promise you will enjoy your time with the extraordinary ladies of the Coral Gables Garden Club, that have significantly impacted the City Beautiful for the last 98 years.

Warmly,

Susan Rodriguez, President

January 23rd Program News

By Teresa Zohn

Workshop: 10:00 am in the Garden Center

Topic: The Use of Color in Line, Symmetrical and Asymmetrical Design

Presenter: Mayfair Hydro is an NGC accredited-Life Flower Show Judge, President of Metropolitan Miami Flower Show and has many other the accolades beside her name.



Wendy Cook, Betsy Tilghman, Maria Teofilo, Susan Rodriguez

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

Program: Our speakers will be Matt Anderson, Fred Couceyro, and Deena Bell-Llewellyn all from the City of Coral Gables. They will present on sustainability, community recreation planning, and greenspace management.

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 or text 305-773-0262.

Holiday Centerpiece Workshop



Ladies at work on their beautiful creations



December Holiday Meeting

Holiday centerpiece arrangements



Victoria Cabeza and Carmen Cason serving lunch



Marlene Riesco, Kristal Meyer, and Sherry Jordan

December Meeting continued...



Barbara Reese & Lynn Kerdyk



Paula Barerra Scheer
entertaining for Christmas



France Ingraham, Ana Lam,
Jowanda Peterson & Sandy
Milledge

Plant Sale at the Merrick House



Commissioner
Rhonda Anderson



Wendy Cook, Susan Rodriguez, Maria Teofilo



L. Endangered
ferns donated by
Fairchild.
R. Heritage
Garden at the
Merrick House



Field Trip: February 1st

By Judy Mangasarian

Our first field trip this year will be to the UM Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences on Virginia Key on **Wednesday, February 1st**. Dr. Dalton Hesley will lead us on a tour of the Benthic Ecology laboratory where they are doing research on **Coral Reef Restoration**. We will then enjoy lunch at their on-campus cafe, SALT, overlooking Bear Cut.

I hope you can join us for this fascinating tour! Spaces are limited, so contact Judy Mangasarian ASAP.
jmango15@gmail.com or 305-461-6076.



Save the Date

By Kristal Meyer

Orchids Among Us
Installation Brunch

Date: 5.03.23

January 21st Fun with Flowers is canceled

Join us February 25th from 10 to noon at the Garden Center for some Fun With Flowers! Sharon Trbovich and Marlene Riesco will demonstrate and help you create a beautiful tabletop centerpiece floral arrangement. Bring your clippers and bring your favorite flowers. We will provide containers and oasis. Space is limited so sign up early. Together we will share in the art of floral design while having Fun with Flowers.

Green Tip

By Emily de Armas

As we begin 2023, there are many ways we can make small eco-friendly choices. Here are 3 ways to go green this year.

1. Purchase biodegradable household products like bamboo toothbrushes and cloths made from agave or hemp fibers
2. Unplug appliances while you travel. Toasters, microwaves, and TVs can all be unplugged while you're away
3. Purchase refillable personal items to reduce plastic waste. For example, consider buying a refillable lipstick.



Flower Show

By Sharon Trbovich and Donna Box

We are continuing our exploration of the Horticulture entrance procedure for the upcoming Flower Show, "The City Beautiful," to be held on April 24, 2023. Practice will be at our General meeting on January 23. Entry Cards will be available for participants to fill out. Orchids are judged only when flowering.

Division I Horticulture

"Fairchild's Favorites"

Section D: Orchids-Flowering

"In the Shade House"

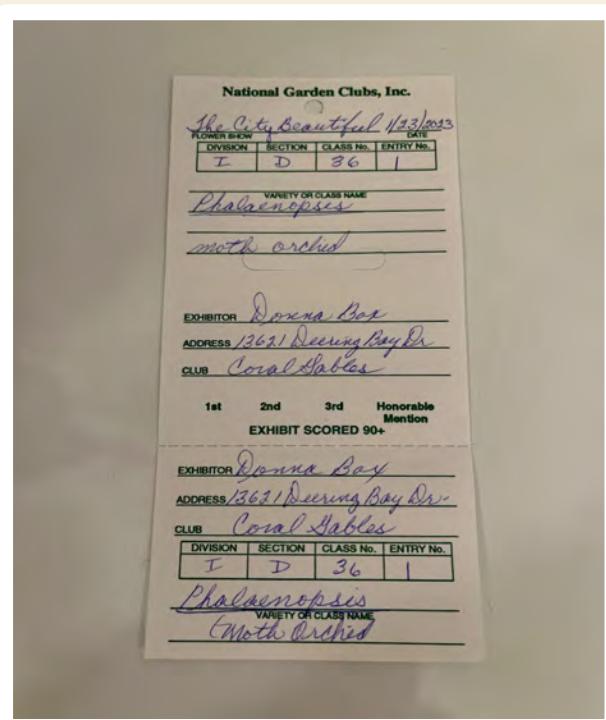
Class 31. Brassia

- 32. Cattleya
- 33. Dendrobium
- 34. Epidendrum
- 34. Oncidium
- 36. Phalaenopsis
- 37. Vanda
- 38. Any other worthy Specimens

I have as a demonstration chosen a Phalaenopsis, and filled out the entry card for January 23 meeting. Sharon Trbovich, Donna box, or Sandy Milledge will be happy to answer your questions.

LET'S GO SHOPPING

We will have a beautiful selection of horticultural specimens to sell at our January 23rd meeting just in time to present at our CITY BEAUTIFUL FLOWER SHOW, on APRIL 24th. You need 90 days to take care of a plant to enter, so bring cash and support your garden club. They will be priced at a fair market value! Or you can go shopping at your favorite nursery.



Lawless Zauberflotte



Oncidium Dancing Lady



Phalaenopsis with card

Horticulture Column: Milkweed Update!

By Betsy Tilghman



Photo by Joshua Criss

Our prior understanding had been that we lucky south Floridians could enjoy Monarchs year-round because the warm weather allowed the milkweed plants to retain their leaves over winter, providing food and hence little reason for our local Monarchs to migrate. This is true! — but only our non-native tropical milkweed, mostly the beautiful and hardy Mexican milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*), stays green. This is the orange and yellow flowered milkweed available at our nurseries. It is easy to grow, is a great pollinator, and stays green and flowers throughout the year. Our native milkweeds all die back in the fall and reappear in the spring. For thousands of years, this senescence prompted the Monarch migration.

A protozoan parasite, *Ophryocystis elektroscirra* (OE), evolved with the Monarch. The butterfly infests the milkweed with this parasite when it lands, eats, or lays eggs on the leaves. With the natural dieback of our native milkweeds, the parasite dies too, and the new spring leaves are OE-free. Now, however, with the always-leaved milkweed we plant, scientists are seeing concerning buildups of OE in our local Monarch populations as generations of Monarchs are exposed to higher levels of OE. Although usually not lethal, OE can weaken the butterflies, causing pupas not to open, smaller butterflies, and migratory confusion.

What to do?!! Joshua Criss of the UF IFAS extension recommends urging our nurseries to sell only native milkweed. Still, as a stop-gap measure, he encourages homeowners to cut back their Mexican milkweed to about 4" high in the fall. This will largely mimic the natural cycle of native milkweed and encourage both healthy leaves and butterfly migration.

Right now, our native milkweed choices are not perfect – two of our common milkweeds, Pink Swamp (*Asclepias incarnata*) and White Swamp (*Asclepias perennis*), like wetter conditions, but Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) with its beautiful orange flower heads is adaptable to a larger range of environments.

There is nothing simple about nature's balancing act!

Betsy Tilghman

Photo by Ansel Oommen

Save the Date for Arbor Day 2023

By Joanne Matthews

The Garden Club collaborates yearly with the Coral Gables Landscape Advisory Board to celebrate Arbor Day. In keeping with the national celebration, Arbor Day will take place on Friday, April 28, 2023 at 9:30am. As one way of celebrating the City's 100th anniversary, the LBAB has decided to commemorate Arbor Day as a community-wide event on the western corner of Merrick Park/City Hall Park, where the ceremony and presentation will include the planting of a beautiful yellow Poinciana tree. Residents will be invited to enjoy the celebration, and students from local schools (garden, agriculture, and eco clubs) will be encouraged to attend via an invitation to their principals. Of possible interest to some of you, Deena Bell-Llewellyn reported at the November meeting of LBAB that the City and staff have turned their attention to the City entrances. Because of funding issues, the initial focus will be on clean-up.

They are currently working on the Coral Way/Red Road entrance, with donated funds. Next will be Granada/8th Street, again with donated funds, then Alhambra/Douglas, then Alhambra/Granada, then Coral Way/Granada. Efforts are being focused on pops of color, low-maintenance plants, and plants that can survive without irrigation (few, if any, of the entrances, have it). The current budget does not provide irrigation. Deena will submit a request for a new budget that addresses irrigation at the entrance. The procedure is for submission in April, review May-Sept, and Commission vote in October.

Some fun tips/apps for finding and identifying plants: PlantAnt and PlantNeet.

Fashions and Florals Spring Fundraiser

The 2nd annual Fashions and Florals fundraiser is fast approaching. We are honoring our Past Presidents this year, so come out and support them. The event will start with a champagne reception, a silent auction including cruises, baskets of goodies, a floral raffle from our designing divas, and a special party favor from Johnny Was. Hats off to our provisionals this year, who will be walking the catwalk, modeling the romantic, beautiful designs of Johnny Was. This is our primary fundraiser of the year, which will help raise funds for our projects and community outreach programs.

Our kick-off party will be at the Johnny Was Boutique in Merrick Park **on March 1st from 5:00 PM-7:00 PM**. You will be receiving invitations in the mail **by February 1st**. If you have already sent your checks in or purchased your tickets on [Eventbrite](#), that is wonderful; please fill out the RSVP card anyway, and mail it to

Jowanda Peterson
90 Edgewater Drive, Apt. #1205
Coral Gables, FL 33133.

We are selling Ads in our program this year for additional revenue, so if you know a local business that would like to be in our program, contact Barbara Reese. The deadline is February 15th, 2023. We also have several underwriting opportunities; the deadline is January 24th for underwriters to be included on our invitations.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Barbara Reese at barbarareese1@aol.com or
Jo Wanda Peterson at jogpeterson@gmail.com



Coral Gables Garden Club
presents its
Spring Event



Fashions & Florals

Biltmore Hotel – Country Club Ballroom
March 10, 2023

11:00 a.m. Champagne Reception
12:00 p.m. Luncheon

Fashion Show by
JOHNNY WAS

\$125.00 per person

www.eventbrite/fashions and florals
jogpeterson@gmail.com

Club Happenings

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