



# 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*

*February 2023*

## Happy Valentines Day!

### President's Message

February is a month dedicated to love. Valentine's day is special to us all and conjures up memories of sweetness, joy, and precious moments. Gifts, poems, and romantic gestures rule the day.

According to European history,, the first Valentine's Day was in 496 AD, thought to have originated from an ancient roman festival called Lupercalia, which celebrated the beginning of springtime. It's thought that as part of the celebrations, boys drew girls' names from a box. They'd be boyfriend and girlfriend during the festival, and sometimes they'd get married. Later, the church wanted to turn this festival into a Christian celebration and decided to use it to remember St Valentine too. Gradually, St. Valentine's name started to be used by people to express their feelings to those they loved.

February is also a month about self-love and self-care. Take time for yourself, get out and walk the beautiful streets of Coral Gables, smell the roses everywhere, and enjoy the migrating birds.

Finally, this month can also be about fostering relations with garden club members. Our committees have been working diligently on the first Flower show in a very long time, our biggest fundraiser of the year, the Fashions & Florals Spring Event, the Camp Mahachie restoration project, the photography program that we are developing, and the fantastic new relationship we have for our Garden Therapy program at Crystal Academy. Supporting each other on these different projects with positive energy is the key to our success, and it does require effort and compromise from everyone. By being flexible, willing to listen and learn, and staying positive, we will achieve great things, so let's work together with positive energy, love, and respect and make our goals a reality.

Love to you all,

Susan Rodriguez, President



*From the As I see it photo competition. Love by Susan Beausang*

## February 27th Program News

*By Teresa Zohn*

**Workshop:** 5pm in the Garden Center

**Topic:** This is our last workshop in preparation for the April Flower Show. "Use of Creative Design. What is Designer's Choice? Questions and Answers about Flower Show Specifics and Schedule."

**Presenter:** Leticia Delatorre Gunn, FFGC District XII Chair, President Miami Beach Garde Club, NGC Flower Show Judge

**General Membership Meeting** food service at 6:15pm in the Laguna Room. Meeting starts at 7:00pm.

**Program:** Dr. M Patrick Griffith, Executive Director of the Montgomery Botanical Center is presenting: "Montgomery Botanical Center: A Place for Palms and Cycads."

**Hostesses:** JoAnne Matthews Chair, Maria Feito, Beth Werner, Betsy Tilghman, Sally Morris

**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.

## January Workshop



*Striking floral design by Mayfair Hydro*

## January Meeting



*Ann Goodman, Nita Norman and Eeva Koulavaara*



*Deena Bell Llewellyn, Matt Anderson, Solanch Perez and Fred Couceyro from the City of Coral Gables*



*Alexis Erhenhaft,  
Cathy Zuckerman,  
guests,  
Sherri Puerto*



*Kristal Meyer  
and Denise  
West*



## A Special Valentine Moment at Crystal Academy

Thanks to Carmen Cason for organizing a wonderful Garden Therapy event at Crystal Academy, and all the members who came to volunteer. Carmen out did herself once again with lovely containers, flowers and greens, and stickers for the kids. Maria Palacio was so gracious and appreciative. Maria informed the group that our October event was so inspiring to the staff and the kids loved it so much that they planted a flower garden. The website received an email from Lauren Levy on the 13th **"My son attends Crystal Academy and he came home with the most beautiful floral arrangement yesterday for Valentines Day!! Thank you! It means a lot to parents and the kids!"**

Good Job ladies!!!



*Crystal Academy students, staff and Garden Club members*



*Maria Teofilo with friend Denise Glasser, Eleanore Ware, Marlene Riesco, Susan Rodriguez, Carmen Cason, Victoria Cabeza, Maria Gonzalez, Maria More.*



*Members of the Coral Gables Garden Club.*



*Front row: Joanne Mathews, Judy Mangasarian, Carmen Cason, Susan Rodriguez, Mercy Arrieta, Maria More, Maria Gonzalez, Ana Lam, Victoria Cabeza, Maria Teofilo. Back Row: Eleanore Ware, Friend Denise Glasser, Marlene Riesco, Denise West & Ann Goodman*



*Children enjoying flowers*



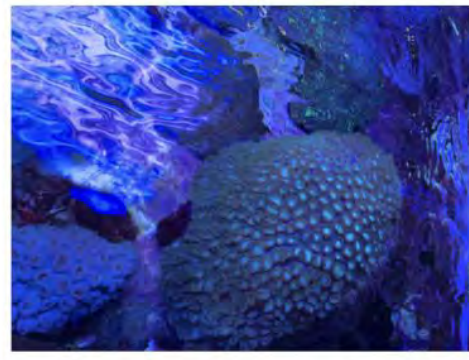
## Coral Reef Restoration Laboratory Field Trip

*By Judy Mangasarian*

On February 1st, twelve intrepid ladies ventured to Virginia Key to UM's Rosenstiel School of Atmospheric, Marine, and Earth Sciences for a tour of the Benthic Ecology laboratory. Dalton Hesley, the Senior Research Assistant there, gave us a fascinating overview of how they are trying to restore coral reefs by growing corals in the laboratory and then transplanting them to reefs suffering from degradation and bleaching. Dr. Diego Lirman then showed us the SUSTAIN project, a huge u-shaped water tank designed to mimic storms and hurricanes for research on how coral reefs can mitigate their effects. It was inspiring to see what they are doing in these areas.

After our tour, we enjoyed a delicious lunch at SALT, the RSMAS cafe overlooking Bear Cut. What a delightful way to end our day!

This field trip was so much fun that a second one is being organized for 4 pm on Friday, February 17th, with cocktails afterward at the Wet Lab at SALT, staffed by bartenders who are Ph.D. candidates! If you missed the first one, don't miss this one!



## ARBOR DAY

In keeping with the national celebration, Arbor Day will take place on Friday, April 28, 2023 at 9:30am. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. If you'd be willing to bake cookies for the event, please contact JoAnne Matthews at [joanne305@gmail.com](mailto:joanne305@gmail.com)



## **COMMISSIONER ANDERSON AT VILLA VISCAYA COLLECTING MANGROVES WITH COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.**

February 13<sup>th</sup> Commissioner Anderson met with several boys from the Columbus high school track team to collect mangrove propagules, then traveled to the temporary nursery, that has been set up behind the Boy Scout club house to plant mangroves. We have several mangroves that are stored in a bin that could be planted anytime..

If you want to help with this project you are more than welcome to go over to the site and plant mangroves. The sand/dirt is there, the containers are there, just bring a hand shovel or spade, fill containers with potting mix and plant. It is fairly simple to do. We have over 1000 mangroves that have been planted already that are bathing in the sun, and being watered every night by a system Commissioner Anderson set up. These are the examples on how they should be planted. If they are large with big roots plant them in the larger pots. Easy Peasy!

Please contact Rhonda Anderson at [randersonlaw@gmail.com](mailto:randersonlaw@gmail.com) or Susan Rodriguez at [susan56athome@gmail.com](mailto:susan56athome@gmail.com) if you would like to participate.

We have two types of mangroves, red and black. Black mangroves can be identified by **numerous finger-like projections, called pneumatophores, that protrude from the soil around the tree's trunk**. Black mangrove leaves are oblong, shiny green on top and covered with short dense hairs on the underside.

Red mangroves are easily identified by their **"prop roots," which are tangled, reddish, aerial roots that originate from the trunk and branches**. Their leaves are 1 to 5 inches long, broad and blunt on the tip, shiny, deep green on top, and paler on the underside.

We would like to keep the red and black mangroves in separate trays as they are planted in different areas along the coast.

We have all the mangroves we need for another successful mangrove planting season. Thank you Rhonda for everything you do for the garden club! You are amazing!!!

Thank you Maria Ason, Maria Teofilo and our garden club friend Denise Glasser for pitching in and helping.



Members Maria Teofilo, Susan Rodriguez, Maria Ason with friend Denise Glasser



## Flower Show

By Sharon Trbovich and Donna Box

Section F: Cut Flowers "in The Cutting Garden"  
(Not to exceed 30" in length- only one Scape, Spath, Inflorescence, or Stalk)

### Class

- 49 Anthurium
- 50 Bougainvillea
- 51 Canna
- 52 Ginger
- 53 Heliconia
- 54 Hibiscus
- 55 Liliium
- 56 Orchid
- 57 Pentax
- 58 Rose
- 59 Strelitzia
- 60 Any Other Worthy Specimen

To enter, fill out a file card with the information required for a Flower Show entry.

Example:

Division I, Section F, Class 49 - Variety Anthurium

We will have our current District Director and incoming 3rd Vice Pres of FFGC. Let's show her what fabulous growers we are!! Cheers, Sharon

## Bring your flowers

Bring your cut flower to the meeting wrapped in a damp paper towel and there will be a vase with water to display your cutting. We have 48 bottles, let's fill them all



*Callicarpa Americana*



*Hibiscus Schizopetalus*



*Red Ginger*



# Fashions and Florals Spring Fundraiser

Dear Garden Club Ladies,

Our Fashions and Florals Fashion Show and Luncheon is right around the corner, March 10, 2023. Hopefully, you have all received your beautiful invitations. Please remember to send in your rsvp card by March 1st. Our provisional members will be modeling the beautiful clothes from JOHNNY WAS. Our Kick-Off Party at JOHNNY WAS is scheduled for March 3, 2023, at their store at the Shops of Merrick Park from 5-7 pm. 10% of the sales will go to the Garden Club. So ladies, SHOP, SHOP, SHOP!

This year will be having a wonderful silent auction with beautiful items. Here is a list of our items to date. In order for our auction to be successful, we could use a few more items. Please consider reaching out to stores and restaurants for items.

**Here is a list of items to date:**

10-12 day European Celebrity Cruise – value \$7,800 - balcony  
 7-day cruise on Royal Caribbean - value \$2,000 – balcony  
 2 Wine Tastings  
 Tickets to Actors' Playhouse  
 Gift Certificate – Seasons 52  
 Gift Certificate – Serge Renald  
 Items from Rose Tree Cottage

**Baskets to date:**

Champagne Basket  
 Gourmet Breakfast Basket  
 Garden Basket  
 Dog Basket  
 Pickle Ball Basket  
 Wine Basket  
 Beach Basket  
 Orchid Basket

Anyone else wishing to do a basket, please let us know. (Maybe – Spa Basket, picnic basket, Italian Basket – or any other ideas you may have.) We will have a basket party on March 2, 2023, in the Garden Center at 10.00 am. Please contact Bonnie Seipp ([seipphome@gmail.com](mailto:seipphome@gmail.com)) if you wish to do a basket.

These baskets are fun and a great source of revenue. We would like to have at least 20 items for our silent auction for it to look good and be successful.

Also, at our luncheon this year, we will honor our wonderful Past Presidents. Hope you are all planning to attend.

Thank you all for your support of our event. We look forward to seeing you all for an afternoon of FUN, FASHIONS & FLORALS.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

March 1 – rsvp due  
 March 2 – basket party 10:00 am Garden Center – models' rehearsal 12:00 Noon Biltmore Country Club Ballroom  
 March 3 – KICK OFF PARTY – JOHNNY WAS 5 – 7 – Shops at Merrick Park  
 March 10 - FASHIONS & FLORALS Fashion Show and Luncheon – Biltmore Hotel – Country Club Ballroom

Best Wishes, Barbara and Jo Wanda, Chairs



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](http://www.eventbrite/fashions-and-florals)  
[jogpeterson@gmail.com](mailto:jogpeterson@gmail.com)



## Club Happenings

<b>2023 Dates</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Feb 25 (Sat)</b>	10am-12pm	<b><i>Fun with Flowers Workshop</i></b>	Garden Center, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
<b>Feb 27 (Mon)</b>	5pm, 6:15pm	<b><i>General Membership Meeting *Evening*</i></b>	Laguna Room, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
<b>Mar 1 (Wed)</b>	n/a	<b><i>RSVP due for Fashions &amp; Florals event</i></b>	n/a
<b>Mar 2 (Thurs)</b>	10am, 12pm	<b><i>Fashions and Florals - Basket party at 10am. Models rehearsal at 12pm.</i></b>	Garden Center (baskets) and Country Club Ballroom (models), 1200 Anastasia Avenue
<b>Mar 3 (Fri)</b>	5-7pm	<b><i>Fashions and Florals Kick-Off Party - at the JOHNNY WAS store</i></b>	Shops at Merrick Park, 358 San Lorenzo Avenue
<b>Mar 8 (Wed)</b>	9:30am-11:30am	<b><i>Board Meeting</i></b>	Garden Center, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
<b>Mar 8,9 (Wed, Thu)</b>	10am	<b><i>Prepping for Fashions and Florals Event</i></b>	Garden Center, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
<b>Mar 10 (Fri)</b>	11:30am-2pm	<b><i>Fashion and Florals - Spring Fundraiser: Fashions and Florals luncheon. Open to the public.</i></b>	Biltmore Hotel, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
<b>Mar 27 (Mon)</b>	6:15pm	<b><i>General Membership Meeting, no workshop</i></b>	Danielson Gallery, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
<b>April</b>	TBD	<b><i>Full Moon Sunset Cruise on Biscayne Bay</i></b>	Pelican Harbor Seabird Station
<b>April</b>	TBD	<b><i>Garden Therapy</i></b>	Riviera Rehabilitation Center
<b>April 3- May 5</b>	Ongoing	<b><i>AS I SEE IT Photography Contest 2023</i></b>	Online submission, Garden Club Website
<b>April 12 (Wed)</b>	9:30am-11:30am	<b><i>Board Meeting</i></b>	Garden Center, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
<b>April 24 (Mon)</b>	11:15am	<b><i>General Membership Meeting, no workshop</i></b>	Danielson Gallery, 1200 Anastasia Avenue
<b>April 24 (Mon)</b>	1-3pm	<b><i>Flower Show - Join us for our Flower Show after the General Meeting for champagne and dessert</i></b>	Coral Gables Congregational Church, 3010 De Soto Blvd
<b>May 3 (Wed)</b>	11:30am-1pm	<b><i>2023 Installation Luncheon</i></b>	Fairchild Gardens
<b>May 10 (Wed)</b>	11:30am-1pm	<b><i>Board Meeting</i></b>	Audrey Ross' home
<b>May 15 (Mon)</b>	10am-1pm	<b><i>District XII Meeting</i></b>	Coral Gables Congregational Church, 3010 De Soto Blvd

To contribute to the Hibiscus Newsletter, please contact Emily de Armas at [hibiscusnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:hibiscusnewsletter@gmail.com) or 305-213-9291