



The Hibiscus

Coral Gables Garden Club, Coral Gables, Florida ~ Celebrating our 99th Year

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

January 2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

President's Message

Dear Members,

I want to extend my heartfelt wishes to all of you for a Happy New Year! I hope you had a delightful holiday season and are now ready to dive into what promises to be our club's busiest time of the year. We have much to look forward to, including our upcoming Fashions and Florals event, Garden Therapy at Crystal Academy, a field trip to Vizcaya, and the AS I SEE IT photo contest. Your continued support in our fundraising efforts is crucial, enabling us to undertake exciting projects, bring you engaging programming, and contribute to our community-based initiatives.

I'm thrilled to share the success of our Florida Arbor Day Celebration at West Matheson on January 19th. Despite the unusual timing in our driest month, we joined hands with other clubs, DERM, James Duncan, and the participants of the Piano Slam competition, thanks to Executive Director Carlene Sawyer. Together, we planted 300 trees, including the Paradise tree, at precisely 11:00 AM, honoring members who passed away in District XII over the past year. Coral Gables Garden Club members' names included Grace Carricarte, Jeanette Slesnick, Sallye Jude, Daria Feinstein, Judy George, Gail Mase, Dorothy Stein, and Eleanor Zahner. A special shout-out to our dedicated members who got in the weeds and muck in this hydric hammock restoration with me—Teresa Zohn, Jo Anne Mathews, Elizabeth Petterfy, Tonya Griffith, Karen Luneburg, Michele Koliesch, Denise Glasser, and Lynn Kerdyk. Thank you all for your commitment and hard work. Here's to another fantastic year of projects, programs, and community service!

With Love,

Susan Rodriguez, President



Susan Rodriguez and Leticia Gun 3rd VP of FFGC

February 26th Program News

By Barbara Reese

Workshop: 5:00 pm in the Garden Center

Topic: Orchid Success

Presenter: Our February evening workshop features CGGC member and award-winning orchid grower Susan Thomas discussing her approach to growing orchids, managing pest control and other hints and tips on orchid success in your own backyard.

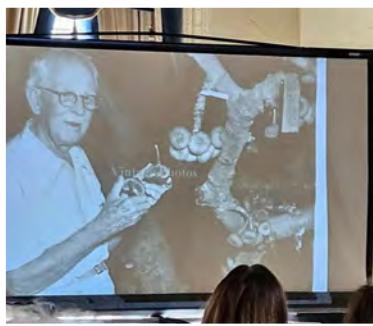
General Membership Meeting food service at 6:30 pm in the Laguna Room. Meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

Program: "Techniques to Control Pests" CGGC member, Education Chair Commissioner Rhonda Anderson will present.

Hostesses: Julie Connor, Kitty Winkler, Marlin Ebbert, Beth Werner, JoAnne Matthews, Emily de Armas, Derita Downey, Michele Koelsch

Contact: Remember to RSVP to the Evite you will receive. If you bring a guest, please provide their name.

January General Meeting



Chad Husby, Botanist and present-day Plant Explorer for Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. He spoke about the life and adventures of the first Plant Explorer of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

Fairchild was responsible for the introduction of more than 200,000 exotic plants and varieties of established crops into the United States, including soybeans, pistachios, mangos, nectarines, dates, bamboos, and flowering cherries. Certain varieties of wheat, cotton, and rice became especially economically important.

Garden Therapy

Carmen Cason



Please join us for a very Valentine's themed Garden Therapy at Crystal Academy on February 13th. Please be there at 9:45 a.m. if you would like to participate. 107 Antilla Ave, Coral Gables, FL 33134

Field Trip: Vizcaya Museum & Gardens

Margaret McMahon



The Rose Garden has been restored after 100 years and features historic roses. Scheduled for **Wednesday, February 21, 11am Garden Tour; 12pm House Tour**. Attendees are limited to a max of 21 people. **There is no charge**.

For more information please visit vizcaya.org. Please confirm attendance with Peggy: mrmcmahon132@gmail.com

A Good Friend

Betsy Tilghman



Sandy Milledge is with Betsy Tilghman, helping her create three beautiful 50th Anniversary floral arrangements for the party for Betsy's sister and brother-in-law. Thank you, Sandy!

Flower Show

Sharon Trbovich

SAVE THE DATES...19 - 21 of April.

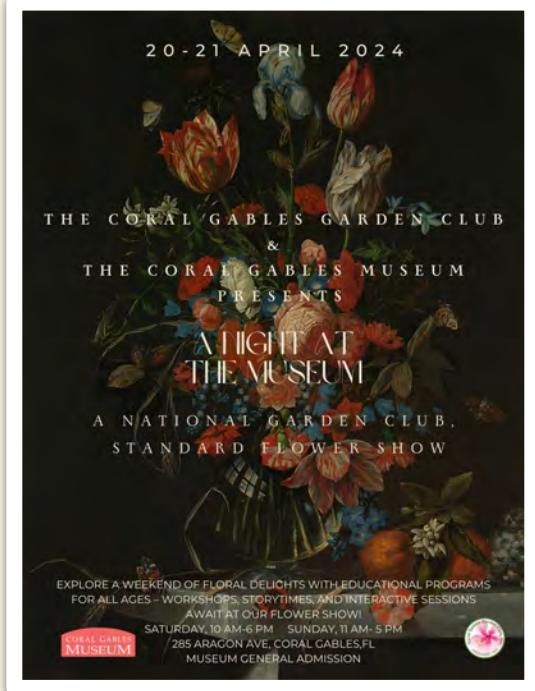
WHY?? CGGC would like to take you around the world with a NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM, a NGC standard Flower Show.

You will travel to Paris, London, Spain, Amsterdam, Russia and Italy to experience delightful, creative floral designs and outstanding Horticulture.

Horticulture classes will have something for everyone. Now is the time to start looking over your plants, grooming them, repotting, making them worthy of that Blue Ribbon. Rules state you must have owned a plant for 90 days, please keep that in mind when plant shopping!!

There will be at least 70 different classes for you to enter.

The schedule will appear on our website shortly. It's meant to inspire you to use your creativity, showcasing our talents to each other and the public.



Flower Show

Barbara Reese

Dear Members: Our Fashions & Florals "A Night at the Museum" event will be on April 19, 2024, from 7-10 at the Coral Gables Museum. We distributed envelopes with tickets to the event for you to purchase one and sell the other. A letter explaining the event, together with a sponsorship-level form was enclosed. For those of you who could not attend our January meeting, we mailed your tickets to you. Please advise Barbara Reese or JoWanda Peterson if you do not receive them. We are excited about this wonderful evening we have planned of fashions and florals. We need people to sign up to help on the committee, especially for the silent auction. Please contact either Barbara or JoWanda to let us know if you are willing to help. After we have the names of those interested in helping, we will have a committee meeting to review the details. We appreciate your support of our fundraiser.

Barbara Reese – Co-Chair barbarareese1@aol.com

Jo Wanda Peterson – Co-Chair
Jogpeterson@gmail.com



Florida Arbor Day, January 19th: Celebrating 100 Years of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

By Susan Rodriguez

I'm excited to share the details of the native trees planted in the Celebration of the 100th anniversary of FFGC at West Matheson Hammock. Under the guidance of the tree whisperer, James Duncan, trees were carefully selected for a hydric hammock restoration site. This was a project collaboratively undertaken by EEL and Derm over the past few years, district garden clubs teachers and students of the Dranoff Foundation's Piano Slam initiative.

A hydric hammock, explained by James Duncan, is a "forest type that grows on a muck formation with limestone rock formations at the surface. They're associated with rivers and springs and have a flooded season of 60-90 days per year." This area, where we planted 300 trees in West Matheson Hammock, has fallen victim to the devastating impact of significant climate events and invasive Asian vines. Over the years, it's been transformed into a dumping ground, and now dogs have been walking off-leash, which has changed the migration patterns of birds. Non-native snakes such as pythons have substantially diminished the native wildlife, that once roamed freely in the hammock. The county is now planning a dog park on this very site, which is very controversial. As stewards of the environment, I hope we can continue undertaking projects to restore and protect endangered environmental lands we still have, ensuring that they are kept pristine for our native wildlife and ourselves. If you object to the dog park plan, please contact your county commissioners.

The list of these trees is provided on the next page, and clicking on their respective links will take you to the regional conservation database for more detailed information about each tree. Many of these trees can significantly enhance your landscape and provide a habitat for our native wildlife.



Florida Arbor Day, continued

List of Trees Friendly to our Native Wildlife:

Dahoon Holly: Great source of food for songbirds and bee pollinators. Native red berries that can be used in holiday décor.

<https://regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/plantdetail.asp?tx=Ilexcass>

Black Ironwood

<https://regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/plantdetail.asp?tx=Krugferr>

Satin Leaf

<https://regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/plantdetail.asp?tx=Chryoliv>

Gumbo Limbo: Host plant for the Dingy Purplewing butterfly

<https://www.regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/plantdetail.asp?tx=Burssima>

Paradise tree: Great shade tree

<https://www.regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/plantdetail.asp?tx=Simaglau>

Coco-plum: Great bird and pollinator attractor

<https://www.regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/plantdetail.asp?tx=Chryicac>

Crabwood: The host plant for the large Florida Purple wing butterfly.

<https://www.regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/plantdetail.asp?tx=Gymnluci>

Simpson stoppers: Great fruit for birds and nectar for pollinators

<https://www.regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/plantdetail.asp?tx=Myrcfrag>

Myrsine: Moist forests and pinelands.

<https://regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/plantdetail.asp?tx=Myrscuba>

Green buttonwood: This is one of the most important host trees for epiphytes in South Florida. Larva host plant for martial hairstreak butterflies.

<https://www.regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/plantdetail.asp?tx=Conoerec>

Marlberry: Great source of food for birds and bee pollinators

<https://www.regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/plantdetail.asp?tx=Ardiesca>

White indigoberry: Nectar plant for the Schaus butterfly

<https://www.regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/plantdetail.asp?tx=Randacul>



2024 Club Happenings

| 2024 Dates | Time | Event | Location |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|---|--|
| Jan 24 (Wed) | 7pm-8pm | Frame Fatales , Camera Club Meeting | Garden Center, 1200 Anastasia Avenue |
| Feb 10 (Sat) | 7:30am-9:30am | Tour of Kitchens | Shops at Merrick Park, 358 San Lorenzo Avenue |
| Feb 14 (Wed) | 9:30am-11:30am | Board Meeting | Garden Center, 1200 Anastasia Avenue |
| Feb 13 (Wed) | 10:00am | Garden Therapy | Crystal Academy, 107 Antilla Avenue |
| Feb 21 (Wed) | 11am-1pm | Field Trip, Private Tour of Vizcaya Museum and Gardens | Vizcaya 3251 S Miami Ave |
| Feb 26 (Mon) | 5pm | General Membership Meeting | Laguna Room, 1200 Anastasia Avenue |
| March 2 (Sat) | 9am | Plant Sale, Coral Gables Farmers Market | 405 Biltmore Way |
| March 13 (Wed) | 9:30am-11:30am | Board Meeting | Garden Center, 1200 Anastasia Avenue |
| March 21 (Thurs) | 7pm-8pm | Frame Fatales , Camera Club Meeting | Garden Center, 1200 Anastasia Avenue |
| March 25 (Mon) | 5pm | General Membership Meeting | Danielson Gallery, 1200 Anastasia Avenue |
| April 10 (Wed) | 9:30am-11:30am | Board Meeting | Garden Center, 1200 Anastasia Avenue |
| April 10 (Wed)-April 12 (Fri) | 8am-5pm | FFGC Convention | Jacksonville Southbank Marriott Hotel, Jacksonville, FL |
| April 19 (Fri) | 7pm-10pm | Fashions and Florals: A Night at the Museum | Coral Gables Museum 285 Aragon Avenue |
| April 20-21 (Sat, Sun) | 10am-6pm 11am-5pm | A Night at the Museum: NGC Standard Flower Show | Coral Gables Museum 285 Aragon Avenue |
| April 22 (Mon) | 10am-11am 11:15am | Flower Show Roundup General Membership Meeting | Garden Center, 1200 Anastasia Avenue Danielson Gallery, 1200 Anastasia Avenue |
| April 24 (Wed) | 10am-2pm | Garden Therapy | Riviera Health Rehabilitation Center 6901 Yumuri St |
| April 26 (Fri) | 8am-5pm | National Arbor Day: Tree planting with the City of Coral Gables and the LBAB | Merrick House, 907 Coral Way |
| May 8 (Wed) | 9:30am-11:30am | Board Meeting | Garden Center, 1200 Anastasia Avenue |
| May 20 (Mon) | 8-5pm | District XII Meeting | Meeting Location TBD |

**PRINT this page to keep up to date with Club Happenings.
 This page will not appear again for the remainder of the year.
 All club happenings will be in the yearbook. Please print this page.