



THE HIBISCUS LEAFLET

Cultivate. Educate. Create. Inspire.

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

Happy New Year!

President's Message

Dear Members,

We are midway through our Centennial year, and I could not be more proud of our club. Our pollinator gardens are taking root. On October 21, the HENRY S. WEST LABORATORY SCHOOL planted its pollinator garden. On October 30, THE CORAL GABLES HIGH SCHOOL GARDEN CLUB planted its pollinator garden. On November 6, 2024, the third pollinator garden was planted at SOUTHSIDE PREPARATORY.

Our Centennial Pollinator Plant Coloring Book has been produced and is being distributed. Our Centennial Home and Garden Tour was an outstanding success, thanks to the efforts of our dedicated volunteers, supportive vendors, and the gracious homeowners who opened their beautiful homes to us.

We will host "A Century in Bloom" centennial celebration and historical exhibit at the Merrick house on February 23rd. The event will feature activities for kids and adults, street food, demonstrations, live music, and a kickoff of our Century in Bloom Exhibition, showcasing the garden club's history and commitment to the City of Coral Gables.

For the culmination of our Centennial Year, we'll host a **Centennial Garden Party at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, March 20, 2025**, to celebrate our past and the ways we are impacting our future.

I am grateful to each of you for all that we have accomplished together and look forward to another year of meaningful projects, programs, and friendship. I am truly in awe of your dedication, creativity, and commitment to our garden club.

Warmly,
Bonnie



1/27 Program News

Workshop: *Native Landscapes*.

Sandy Milledge will lead a creative workshop in the Garden Cottage.

Program: *Miracle of the Monarchs* by Ron Magill, Zoo Goodwill Ambassador and Communications Director

Location: Merrick Auditorium, day meeting.

2/19 Program News

Workshop: TBD

Program: "Common Sense Approach to Orchid Care. Tips and Tricks of the Trade" by Carlos Cahiz, manager of OFEE International Orchid Supply

Location: Danielson Gallery, evening meeting

Garden Tour Success!

Thank you to everyone for making our Centennial House and Garden Tour a great success!



Save the Date: A Century in Bloom



THE CORAL GABLES GARDEN CLUB



A CENTURY IN BLOOM
A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION & HISTORICAL EXHIBIT

Sunday **FEB 23** 1 - 5p.m.

HISTORIC MERRICK HOUSE MUSEUM
907 CORAL WAY, CORAL GABLES

FEATURING

KIDS ACTIVITIES, ECO-ART, HUNTS AND NATURE TALES
CGGC HISTORICAL EXHIBITION, CGGC HERB SALE, POPCORN, LIVE MUSIC

PRESENTATIONS

BARBARA McADAM
"PLANTING NATIVES IN A FLORIDA - FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE"

DENNIS OLLE
NORTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY ASSOCIATION
"PROTECTING THE MIAMI BLUE BUTTERFLY: A RACE AGAINST EXTINCTION"

&

MARIO FERNANDEZ OF BELLE FLEUR
"COUTURE FLORAL DESIGNS FOR THE HOME"

VENDORS

BEE WRANGLERS, FLORIDA BUTTERFLY BOTANICALS, BLISS,
BOUND BY BEAUTY, GIFTED BY NATURE, KIM HEISE WATERCOLORIST,
MIAMI BLUE, SOL MUSHROOMS AND MORE...

SWEET & SAVORY TREATS FOR PURCHASE
BY
NACHO BIZNESS, INT'L TACO BAR & THE FRANCES L'AMORE PER IL GELATO

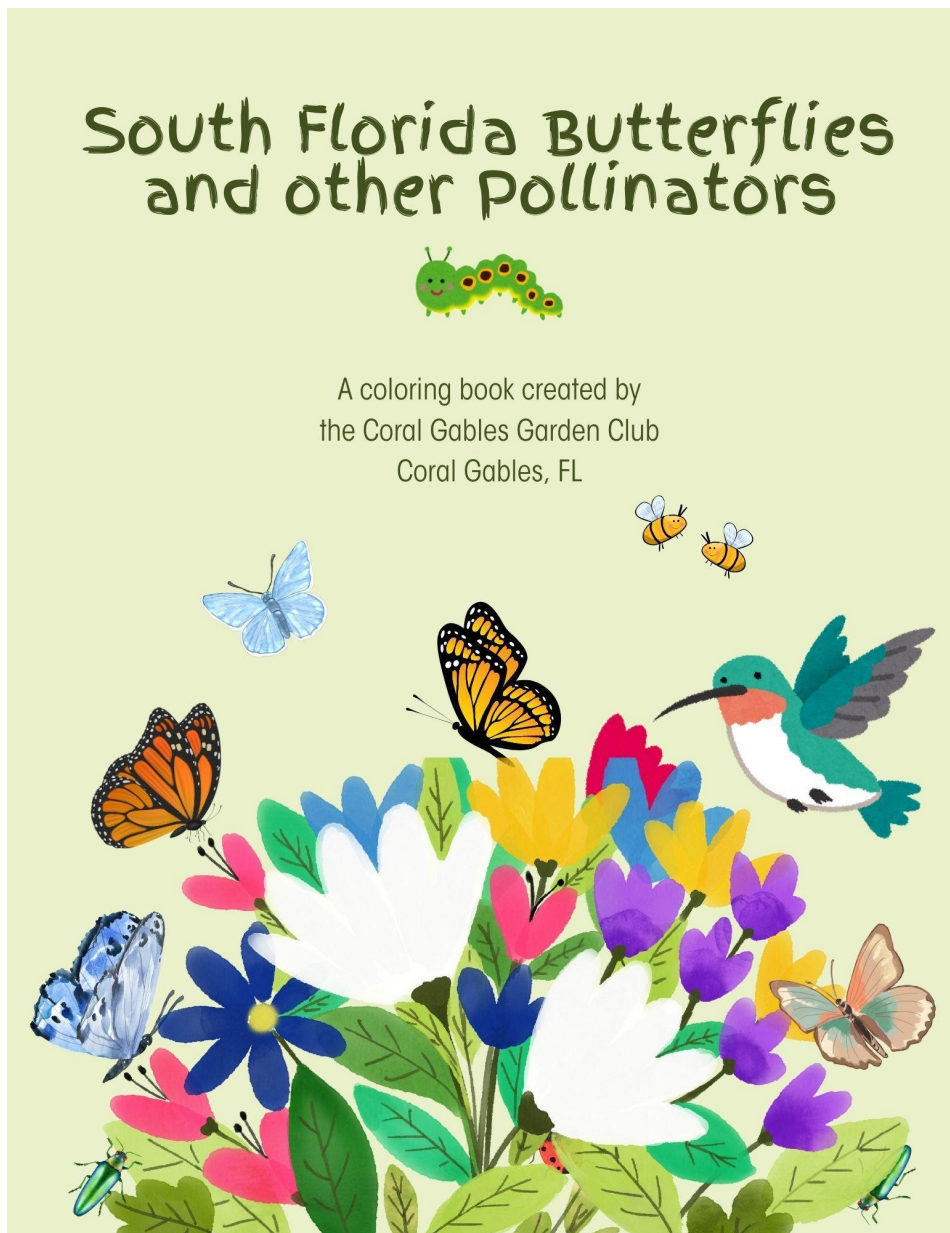
FREE EVENT FOR ALL NATURE LOVERS

Announcing Our Coloring Book

South Florida now has a coloring book about our butterflies and other pollinators!

In coordination with our Centennial pollinator patch grants to Miami-Dade County schools, the Coral Gables Garden Club has created a pollinator coloring book. This book, along with crayons, will be given to students participating in the pollinator patches.

Not only will children enjoy coloring, but the pages are also filled with interesting facts about each pollinator. Our main focus in the book is the butterfly – that beautiful visitor to our gardens we all love. The books are available to the public for \$5 each, and will be available this weekend at the club's booth at the Farmers' Market. Come check out our native plants and new coloring book!



The Leafy Lowdown

Announcements

- We have an exciting Field Trip Planned to the Four Arts Library, Gardens and Philip Hulitar Sculpture Gardens in Palm Beach on March 22nd. We have hired a 28-person bus so space is limited. Email seipphome@gmail.com to reserve a space.
- Fun with Flowers is back! Please see the calendar on the last pages for more information.
- Membership Update: Candidates must attend two meetings and be a resident of Coral Gables. Applications are available on the website. Questions? Please email Jo Wanda at jogpeterson@gmail.com or call 305-606-5555.



Garden Wisdom: In Praise of Cosmopolitan Pentas

By Betsy Tilghman

As we strive to use native plants in our gardens, it is nice to remember that we have some very helpful, easily grown-non-native plants in our midst. Sometimes charmingly referred to as cosmopolitan for their worldly, mannered ways, they are appreciated by both humans and wildlife. Consider *Pentas lanceolata*, native to tropical and southern Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.

Pentas name derives from the Greek word for five: pente. Pentas blossoms are clusters of five-petaled flowers of white, red, pink, and purple varieties. These flowers provide essential nectar for hummingbirds and butterflies. They are hardy, easily trimmed, can tolerate full sun and dry conditions, are non-invasive, and can be grown from cuttings using a little rooting hormone.

Although you can find common names for Pentas online, like Egyptian Star Cluster, it is most known by its scientific name, much like Coleus and Lantana. Pentas belongs to the Rubiaceae family, which includes familiar topical plants like coffee, gardenia, and Ixora.

Enjoy your cosmopolitan Pentas!



2025 Club Happenings

2025 Date	Time	Event	Location
01/18 (Sat)	7:00 AM- 2:00 PM	Farmer's Market Plant Sale	City Hall
01/25 (Sat)	9:00 AM	Heritage Garden Clean up	Merrick House
01/27 (Mon)	10:00 AM	Workshop Native Landscapes – Sandy Milledge	Garden Cottage
01/27 (Mon)	11:15 AM	Membership Meeting	Merrick Room, Biltmore Hotel
02/08 (Sat)	TBD	Tour of Kitchens Table	Merrick Park
02/12 (Wed)	9:30 AM	Board of Managers Meeting	Garden Center
02/13 (Thu)	10:00 AM	Fun with Flowers – Sharon Trbovich Valentine Theme	Garden Cottage
02/14 (Fri)	10:30 AM	Garden Therapy	Crystal Academy
02/19 (Wed)	6:15 PM	Membership Meeting	Danielson Gallery, Biltmore Hotel
02/20 (Thu)	10:00 AM	Floral Design Series	Simpson Park
02/20 (Thu)	5:30 PM	Sip n Snip	Curry Park
02/21 (Fri)	10:00 AM	Floral Design Series	Simpson Park
02/22 (Sat)	9:30 AM	Heritage Garden Clean up	Merrick House
02/23 (Sun)	1:00 - 5:00 PM	Merrick House Garden Club Event	Merrick House
03/08 (Sat)	7:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Farmer's Market Plant Sale	City Hall
03/12 (Wed)	9:30 AM	Board of Managers Meeting	Garden Center
03/20 (Thu)	12:00 PM	Centennial Luncheon	Fairchild Gardens

2025 Club Happenings

2025 Date	Time	Event	Location
03/22 (Sat)	9:30 AM	Heritage Garden Clean Up	Merrick House
03/22 (Sat)	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Four Arts Garden Field Trip	Palm Beach
03/24 (Mon)	11:15 AM	Business Meeting	Danielson Gallery, Biltmore Hotel
04/02 (Wed)	TBD	Garden Therapy	Riviera Health Resort
4/7-10/2025	TBD	FFGC Convention	Jacksonville, FL
04/09 (Wed)	9:30 AM	Board of Managers Meeting	Garden Cottage
04/12 (Sat)	10:00 AM	Fun with Flowers Sharon Trbovich Easter Theme	Garden Cottage
04/17 (Thu)	5:30 PM	Sip n Snip	Curry Park
04/19 (Sat)	9:30 AM	Heritage Garden Clean Up	Merrick House
04/28 (Mon)	10:00 AM	Workshop Orchid Care Susan Thomas	Garden Cottage
04/28 (Mon)	11:15 AM	Membership Meeting	Danielson Gallery, Biltmore Hotel
04/25 (Fri)	TBD	National Arbor Day Tree Planting	TBD
05/03 (Sat)	10:00 AM	Fun with Flowers	Garden Cottage
05/07 (Wed)	12:00 PM	Installation Luncheon	Granada Church Fellowship Hall
05/10 (Sat)	9:30 AM	Heritage Garden Clean Up	Merrick House
05/14 (Wed)	9:30 AM	Board of Managers Meeting	Garden Cottage
05/21 (Wed)	9:30 AM	District XII Spring Meeting	TBD