



THE HIBISCUS LEAFLET

Cultivate. Educate. Create. Inspire.

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

Legacy in Bloom: Cultivating Tomorrow

President's Message

As we begin our 101st year, I'm filled with gratitude for the deep roots of the Coral Gables Garden Club—and the vibrant growth we continue to cultivate together. After a truly remarkable Centennial season, this year's theme, **"Legacy in Bloom: Cultivating Tomorrow,"** invites us to celebrate the beauty of our past while turning our focus toward the future we are building for our club, our community, and our environment.

We will continue our Centennial celebration with the installation of a Coral Gables Garden Club historic exhibition and the dedication of the Planting Pollinators sculpture at the Coral Gables Library in the Fall.

Our Centennial year reaffirmed the strength of our mission and the dedication of our members. This year, we'll continue to build on that momentum with new opportunities for environmental impact and community engagement. Among the most exciting are two major initiatives currently under consideration:

Leaf icon **A multi-year commitment to the Camp Mahachee Restoration Project**, where the Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida are working to restore native tree canopy and natural habitat.

Leaf icon **A proposed donation to help establish as part of our Project Canopy, a Micro-Forest at the Coral Way entrance**, in collaboration with the City of Coral Gables, to enhance green spaces and biodiversity.

Both projects align beautifully with our values and represent meaningful ways we can continue making a lasting difference in our city.

At the same time, we'll continue to offer the engaging programs that connect us as members and gardeners—from Fun with Flowers and hands-on Diggin It workshops to field trips, speaker series, and community planting days. Whether you are new or a longtime member, I encourage you to get involved, stay curious, and bring a friend along for the journey.

Now is the time to take our legacy and shape it into action. Step up, dig in, and be part of the growth. Join a committee, say yes to something new, and help us cultivate a future that blooms even brighter.

With admiration and appreciation,

Bonnie Crouch Seipp

President, Coral Gables Garden Club



A Word from the New Editor:

I am delighted to step into the role of editor for our Garden Club newsletter. Just like tending a garden, I see this as a chance to nurture fresh ideas, celebrate growth, and share the beauty that blossoms when we come together. I hope these pages will inspire you—whether through planting tips, stories from fellow members, or simply a reminder of the joy found in nature's rhythm. Thank you for welcoming me into this role; I look forward to growing alongside all of you as we continue cultivating both our gardens and our community.

Let's keep growing,

Michele Dudley

Editor of the Hibiscus Leaflet

Havana in Bloom - 100th Installation Luncheon!

May 7th, 2025

THANK YOU TO OUR HAVANA IN BLOOM INSTALLATION COMMITTEE:

Kristal Meyer (Chair), Marlene Riesco (Co-Chair), Connie Cabeza, Carmen Cason, Mabel Galoppi, Denise Glasser, Phyllis Hernandez, Judy Mangasarian, Jo Wanda Peterson, Barbara Reese, Susan Rodriguez, Bonnie Seipp, Maria Teofilo, Betsy Tilghman, Sharon Trbovich, Denise West, and Teresa Zohn.



Member Highlight: *Evelyn Budde*

By Susan Rodriguez

In the past, we have often acknowledged our past presidents who have done wonderful things for our community and the Coral Gables Garden Club (CGGC). But many members, whether or not they ever served as president, have given generously of their time, talents, and hearts, and they, too, deserve recognition.

In this issue, I'd like to take a moment to spotlight one of our most longstanding members, Evelyn Budde. A dedicated member for 35 years, Evelyn continues to support our club wholeheartedly and rarely misses a general meeting.

For those newer to the CGGC, you may recognize her as the lady with striking red hair and the fabulous animal pins adorning her lapels, always seated up front and fully engaged. Her presence and enduring commitment are truly remarkable, considering how many years she has faithfully served our club. If you ever get a chance to talk with Evelyn she will keep you laughing with her wit and dry sense of humor.



Evelyn was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, where her parents, Estell and Emma Garwood, began their lives together and started their family of three girls and two boys. During a critical time in our nation's history, Cincinnati played a pivotal role in World War II as a leader in manufacturing machines and munitions. It was the site where the first "smart bomb" was developed, a groundbreaking innovation that significantly influenced the war's outcome.

Evelyn's mother, Emma, and older brothers answered the call to work in the factories, earning good wages and contributing to the war effort while most men were serving overseas. Her mother, who was part of the women's factory workforce immortalized by the iconic Rosie the Riveter posters, worked on the line at the Ford bomber plant, doing her part to serve her country. No doubt, she played a significant role in shaping Evelyn's outlook on life and service from an early age.

After the war, her father's health began to decline. On the advice of doctors, the family decided to leave the smokestacks and snow behind in search of a brighter, healthier environment. Evelyn's mother saved fifty-cent pieces from her factory job toward the purchase of a boat to live on. They set their sights on Miami, drawn by the promise of sunshine and warm water. When Evelyn was in her pre-teens, the family left Cincinnati and settled in a home on the Miami River.

Her parents instilled in their children the importance of giving back to those less fortunate, even when their circumstances were modest. Their strong values and example of service left a lasting impression on Evelyn.

Her professional career began right after high school. "I was the first one in my family who wanted a professional position," Evelyn recalled. "Instead of going to Miami High School as all my friends were planning, I listened to my father, who was the most honest and knowledgeable poor man I ever knew. He came to me and said, 'Evelyn, I know you want to go into business one day, but I just cannot afford to send you to college.' Since I was Daddy's little girl, I listened, and I enrolled in Miami Technical High School's business department."

Evelyn graduated with both a high school diploma and a business diploma. "I graduated one day, and the next day I went to work at the First National Bank of Miami, which at the time was the biggest bank in Miami!" she recalled proudly. She went on to build a remarkable banking career at City National Bank, where she worked as a private banker for 50 years. Early in her career, she met her first husband, Robert Williams, and just shy of her twenty-first birthday, she welcomed their only child, Robert Williams Jr. Evelyn's only grandchild is Robert Williams III.

Member Highlight: *Evelyn Budde - cont.*

By Susan Rodriguez

After her marriage to Robert ended, Evelyn eventually met her second husband, and fell in love with Rollo Budde, a banker who shared her passion for community involvement. Rollo served as president of the Rotary Club, the Coral Gables Country Club, and several other service organizations. Together, Evelyn and Rollo were deeply engaged in civic life and stood at the forefront of community activism. Both Robert and Rollo passed away many years ago.

Evelyn began her most meaningful community service work by helping young children who had entered the state system due to neglect or abuse. In the 1970s, she and a group of friends and colleagues recognized that few women's organizations were undertaking community service projects of this kind. Inspired by the model of the Rotarians, they formed an all-women's group dedicated to supporting these vulnerable children.

Over time, however, the work proved emotionally overwhelming for many members. The heart-wrenching nature of the cases eventually led the group to shift its efforts toward other community organizations.

In 1990, she joined the Coral Gables Garden Club. She became involved in significant projects led by past president Betsy Adams and her board, culminating in the creation of the three iconic entrances to the City of Coral Gables. She continued her engagement as a committee member for the George Merrick Statue. She chaired the Althea Merrick Statue committee after being inspired by a statue she saw on a vacation trip to the Carolinas. Over the past 35 years, Evelyn has served on the CGGC board and chaired numerous committees, too many to remember. She has held the offices of 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, and Treasurer. Even while working full-time, she managed to attend meetings and chair committees.

In 2023, the club honored her with the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs' Pillar of Pride Award in recognition of her many years of devoted service to the community and the garden club—a distinction she richly deserves.

Evelyn is also a founding member of the Coral Gables Community Foundation, the Coral Gables Museum, and the Gables Good Government Committee, as well as past President of the University of Miami's Women's Guild. Today, you can always count on her to ensure that the Blue Star Marker—erected by the club in 2018 at the War Memorial Youth Center—remains beautifully maintained and thoughtfully decorated for Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and Independence Day.

As Evelyn reflects on her work with the garden club, her hopes for new members are inspiring:

"The thing I have learned is that many people don't realize how much they have to offer. We all have different talents, some big, some small, but each is valuable in its own way. I hope that over the years, our members will continue to share whatever gifts they have."

Thank you, Evelyn, for sharing your story and for the many ways you have enriched our club and our community. We are so grateful for your service and dedication.

Here's to you, Evelyn.



Garden Wisdom: Two Guys and a Hummingbird Feeder

By Betsy Tilghman

On my deck in the North Carolina mountains, I've always had a songbird feeder, but never a feeder for hummingbirds. This year as I was straightening up a closet, I saw an old hummingbird feeder I had bought with good intentions. I decided it was either the deck or the thrift shop, so I bought a hanger, made the sugar water, hung up the feeder and waited. After a couple of days, a female ruby-throated hummer showed up, and soon a pair of males with their iridescent ruby throats and stunning green wings. The female left - the fellas must have driven her crazy, but the two guys stayed around - bickering with each other and fighting over nectar rights. And to add to the entertainment, the feeder had a little water well at its top to prevent ants from accessing the sugar water. Well! That turned into my songbirds' water fountain. Fresh water right beside the sunflower seeds - the perfect life!

Here in South Florida we have three of the 338 species of hummingbirds found in the Americas - the ruby-throated (our most common), the black-chinned and the rufous. Ruby-throated hummingbirds migrate from South and Central America to North America. They visit and nest in North America from March to October. The guys arrive a week before the gals - hummm - are they laying claim to the best flowers or are they preparing to roll out the red carpet?

Adult hummers mostly sip nectar, supplementing their diet with a few insects. They need to eat every 10 -15 minutes but lower their heart rate and body temperature at night to survive the nocturnal hours.

In our gardens they are attracted to deep tubular flowers of red, orange and pink hues. Some of their nectar favorites are our firebush, Jamaican caper, firespike, necklace pod and porterweed shrubs and the wild tamarind, geiger, Bahama strongbark and bottlebrush trees. To make sugar water for your feeder boil together 1 cup sugar with 4 cups water. Replace the sugar water in the feeder every 3-5 days. Post your new friends on our social media pages!!



The Planting Patch: Turn Your Yard Into a Feathered Friend Hot Spot!

Content in this piece is based on the work of Saruque Ahamed Mollick of GardenVive.com on trees that will attract birds in South Florida.

In choosing a tree consider:

- Tree If the tree can produce fruits or berries for the birds.
- Tree If the tree's branches are in such a way that birds can build their nests.
- Tree If it safe to rest on the branches of the tree (away from animals and snakes)

Remember to take the height of the mature tree seriously. Do not go for a big tree close to your house.

List of Bird-Attracting Trees in South Florida

Tree Name	Birds Attracted	Height
Firebush	Hummingbirds, butterflies, songbirds	6-12 feet
Simpson's Stopper	Mockingbirds, woodpeckers, migratory songbirds	10-20 feet
Gumbo Limbo	Migratory birds, warblers, vireos	25-50 feet
Live Oak	Woodpeckers, jays, hawks, owls, warblers	40-80 feet
Pigeon Plum	Pigeons, doves, mockingbirds	20-35 feet
Red Mulberry	Cardinals, orioles, woodpeckers, tanagers	30-50 feet
Buttonwood	Shorebirds, warblers, herons	15-40 feet
Wild Tamarind	Songbirds, hummingbirds	30-50 feet
Jamaican Caper	Songbirds, hummingbirds	10-15 feet
Seagrape	Doves, pigeons, warblers	15-30 feet

Note: Do not consider only fruiting trees as birds love nectars and insects too as their food.

You should be careful when choosing to plant trees in South Florida as few areas may present challenges due to specific environmental factors. Such as:

1. Coastal Areas (For example Palm Beach) - Salt spray, sandy soil, and high winds.
2. Hurricane-Prone Areas - High winds and storms.

The Planting Patch: Turn Your Yard Into a Feathered Friend Hot Spot! - cont.

Trees to attract birds in Coastal Areas

Tree Name	Birds Attracted	Height
Cabbage Palm	Woodpeckers, mockingbirds, doves	40-50 feet
Seagrape	Doves, pigeons, warblers	15-30 feet
Buttonwood	Shorebirds, warblers, herons	15-40 feet
Royal Palm	Hummingbirds, songbirds	50-70 feet
Wild Tamarind	Songbirds, hummingbirds	30-50 feet
Pigeon Plum	Pigeons, doves, mockingbirds	20-35 feet
Florida Thatch Palm	Hummingbirds, small songbirds	15-30 feet
Coontie	Cardinals, other small birds	2-3 feet (low-growing)
Beach Strawberry Tree	Songbirds, fruit-eating birds	6-15 feet

Trees to attract birds in Hurricane Prone areas

Tree Name	Birds Attracted	Height
Live Oak	Woodpeckers, jays, hawks, owls	40-80 feet
Sabals (Cabbage Palm)	Woodpeckers, mockingbirds, doves	40-50 feet
Red Maple	Cardinals, warblers, finches	30-50 feet
Southern Magnolia	Woodpeckers, mockingbirds, songbirds	60-80 feet
Pigeon Plum	Pigeons, doves, mockingbirds	20-35 feet
Gumbo Limbo	Migratory birds, warblers, vireos	25-50 feet
Wild Tamarind	Songbirds, hummingbirds	30-50 feet
Black Olive	Woodpeckers, migratory songbirds	30-40 feet
Florida Elm	Cardinals, woodpeckers	40-50 feet

👉 The above trees have canopy-structured branches, which means they will bend without breaking during high wind.

👉 Those trees with deep and extensive root structures will survive better than shallow rooted trees.

➡ For more great articles go to GardenVive.com 

Harvest Kitchen: Microgreens!

By Michele Dudley, RDN, Culinary Coach, founder of Barefoot Nutrition®

Growing microgreens is a rewarding and relatively simple process that can be done even in small spaces like kitchen counters or window sills. Here's a basic guide to get you started:



Choose Your Seeds: Select seeds that are suitable for microgreens. Some of my favorite choices include arugula, radish, broccoli, kale & beet.

Prepare Your Containers: Use shallow trays, seedling flats, repurposed containers or even fallen tree stumps like in the picture above.

Fill with Soil: I use organic garden or potting soil. Fill your containers to about 1-2 inches deep.

Sow Seeds: Scatter seeds evenly over the soil surface. Sow them more densely than you would other seeds since you'll harvest them young. Gently press seeds into the soil to ensure good contact.

Cover and Water: Cover the seeds with a very thin layer of soil. Water gently using a mist sprayer or by bottom watering (placing the tray in water and letting the soil soak it up).

Provide Light: Place the trays in a location with indirect sunlight or under grow lights.

Maintain Moisture: Check the soil daily and water gently to keep it moist, but not waterlogged. Avoid letting the soil dry out completely.

Harvest: Microgreens are typically ready to harvest in 7-21 days, depending on the variety. Harvest when the first true leaves appear and they reach 1-3 inches in height. Use scissors to cut them just above the soil.

Enjoy Your Microgreens: Rinse harvested microgreens gently to remove any soil particles. They can be used fresh in salads, sandwiches, soups, or as garnishes.

Repeat: You can sow new batches of microgreens every couple of weeks to ensure a continuous harvest. The beauty of microgreens is you can grow them all year long as long as you have a sunny spot!

Microgreens are packed with nutrients and can add fresh flavors and colors to your dishes. Experiment with different varieties and enjoy the process of growing your own nutritious greens!

Beet, Avocado & Microgreen Salad - Serves 4

Ingredients:

2 large cooked beets - you can find these already prepared in the produce section of the supermarket

2 ripe avocados

2 cups microgreens

2 Tablespoons feta cheese

2 Tablespoons balsamic vinegar - aged is even better!

1 Tablespoon olive oil

Salt & pepper to taste (optional)



Directions: Cut beets and avocado in wedges. Arrange the wedges in a circle on each plate. Add 1/2 cup of microgreens in the middle of the circle. Top with 1/2 Tablespoon feta cheese. Drizzle with olive oil and balsamic vinegar. Add salt and pepper if using. Enjoy!

2025 Club Happenings

2025 Date	Time	Event	Location
09/04 (Thu)	7:00 PM	Provisional Orientation	1321 N. Greenway Drive, Coral Gables
09/06 (Sat)	10:00 AM	Diggin' It Workshop	Biltmore Hotel Garden Cottage
09/09-11 (Tue-Thu)	10:00 AM	FFGC Fall Board of Directors Meeting	1400 S. Denning Drive Winter Park, FL
09/18 (Thu)	10:00 AM	Fashions & Florals Meeting	Biltmore Hotel Garden Cottage
09/22 (Mon)	11:15 AM	General Meeting & Plant Sale	Biltmore Hotel
09/27 (Sat)	9:00 AM	Heritage Garden	Merrick House 907 Coral Way
10/04 (Sat)	10:00 AM	Fun with Flowers	Biltmore Hotel Garden Cottage
10/15 (Wed)	9:30 AM	District XII Autumn Meeting	Rusty Pelican Key Biscayne, FL
10/25 (Sat)	9:00 AM	Heritage Garden	Merrick House 907 Coral Way
10/27 (Mon)	11:15 AM	General Meeting & Plant Sale	Biltmore Hotel
11/01 (Fri)	10:00 AM	Diggin' It Workshop	Biltmore Hotel Garden Cottage
11/06 (Thu)	5:30 AM	Sip N Snip	Lamar Louise Curry Park 2665 De Soto Blvd, Coral Gables
11/13 (Thu)	10:00 AM	Field Trip - Tram Tour & Luncheon	Fairchild Gardens 10901 Old Cutler Road
11/20 (Thu)	10:00 AM	Fashions & Florals Meeting	Biltmore Hotel Garden Cottage
11/22 (Sat)	9:00 AM	Heritage Garden	Merrick House 907 Coral Way
11/24 (Mon)	11:15 AM	General Meeting & Plant Sale	Biltmore Hotel
12/04 (Thu)	10:00 AM	Merrick House Holiday Decorating Event	Merrick House 907 Coral Way
12/10 (Wed)	11:15 AM	General Meeting	Coral Gables Congregational Church
12/20 (Sat)	9:00 AM	Heritage Garden Cleanup, Planting, and Maintenance	Merrick House 907 Coral Way
TBD	TBD	Planting Pollinators Sculpture Installation Reception and Programs	Coral Gables Library 3443 Segovia Street
TBD	TBD	Install Historic Display at Library	Coral Gables Library 3443 Segovia Street