



www.pggc.org

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 0 V O L 1 1 , I S S U E 7

## ***Punta Gorda Garden Club*** ***Garden Tales*** ***Gardening Nourishes the Soul***

### **President's Message**

Dear Members,

I am sure we are all looking forward to the next several weeks and all of the exciting events that are coming up.

The next three weeks has the second part of the Flower Design Course. It runs one day per week. You must have taken the first part of the course to qualify to attend part two. For those who did not make it to the first six sessions you should try to make it the next time we have this course. Our instructors were wonderful, so informative and so much fun.

Our program next month is on Staghorn Ferns with Gil MacAdam. You will not believe the variety there is of Staghorn Ferns. My community had Gil provide a program to us last year and he brought lots of samples of Staghorn Ferns with him, and as if that is not enough, we later get the opportunity to go visit his actual garden.

All of those members who are participating in our upcoming Flower Show will be thinking of awe-inspiring ideas to present to the judges and public and of course to impress our fellow members. To add to the excitement and anticipation like we do not have enough, this year it is being held at the Isles Yacht Club thanks to our member and Co-Chair Claudia Chopp.

Also, in March we have our planned outing to Bok Tower thanks to Vinita, our V.P. and included will be a bus to take us there. If you did not make the last outing that included a bus trip, you are in for a treat! I have never been to Bok Tower, so I am so looking forward to it.

How great is it to be a member of our Punta Gorda Garden Club? As a member you get to come and enjoy our programs during the year, you get to participate in our fabulous special lunches, you can join your fellow members on our annual trip, you get to gain knowledge of plants and flowers, and of our eco system, you get to take care of our Public Gardens, you get to provide funds to many worthwhile causes and perhaps best of all, you get to meet and make wonderful new friends. I know I am looking forward to the next several weeks, I hope you are too!

So, hang on for a great year! Let me or any other Board member know if you are interested in getting more involved in some way or if you have any ideas or suggestions.

Your Co-President, Carol Houston

### **Save the Date!**

**Board Mtg**  
Feb 12 9:30 am  
First United Methodist  
Church (FUMC)  
Room 5

**General Mtg**  
Feb 19  
1 pm Refreshments  
1:30 General Meeting  
FUMC

**Floral Design Class**  
Feb 4  
9 am - 3 pm  
FUMC

**PGGC  
Standard Flower  
Show**  
Mar 31  
Isles Yacht Club

## Garden Tales

### *Feb 19 General Meeting Program*

#### *Staghorn Ferns – How many varieties are there?*

Naturalist, Instructor and Gardening Consultant Gil MacAdam presents a program on staghorn ferns and will amaze you with the many varieties. An optional field trip is available to PGGC members to tour Gil's garden where many massive staghorn ferns are mounted to trees. Tour is on Feb 29.

### *Home and Garden Show January 18 - 19*

Special thanks to PGGC volunteers Carol Moore, Monica Lucey, Sue Nehring, Rose Darden, Nancy Knaus, Judy Oswald, Martha Cloran, Karen Noonan, Joy Price, Joyce Stanley, Agnes West and Chris Green for representing our Club at the Show. On display was a beautiful flower arrangement created by Marilyn Pachota. The members sold our gloves and note cards and handed out applications and business cards. We raffled the shell painting and coastal wreath from our Holly Day Home Tour to two lucky winners that were very pleased with these crafts.



### *Please note these yearbook changes:*

**Margita Di Lapo**

New tel # 905-382-2681

**Carol Broad**

New tel # 416-698-9491

Remove address (moved)

**Ursula Karlen**

Email [ursuleenk@gmail.com](mailto:ursuleenk@gmail.com)

### *Welcome New Members!*

Leigh Ann Ortega  
2826 Don Quixote  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-6352  
[Leighortega2@gmail.com](mailto:Leighortega2@gmail.com)  
708-224-1442 (C)



Joanne Collins  
257 Lido Drive  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-6345  
[eagleswingsj@yahoo.com](mailto:eagleswingsj@yahoo.com)  
281-543-9018 (C)



**Please add the new member information to your yearbook.**



### Punta Gorda Garden Club

Presents

### NGC Standard Flower Show *Cheers to 70 Years*

*Celebrating the Club being a member of  
FFGC for 70 years*

**March 31, 2020**

**Isles Yacht Club**

**1780 West Marion Ave Punta Gorda**

**Luncheon Noon - 1 pm**

**Members and Invited Guests**

**(reservations only)**

**Open to the Public 1 pm - 4 pm**

**Luncheon Menu - Chicken Caesar Salad  
\$25.00**

**Reservation Deadline is March 9, 2020**

**Send Reservation to**

**Carolyn Honour**

**1211 Coronado Dr.**

**Punta Gorda, FL 33950**



*If you have Floral Design or  
Flower Show questions that  
the Newsletter and PGGC  
site doesn't answer, please  
contact Claudia Chopp at  
314-422-5564 or  
cbchopp@yahoo.com*

Dear Members:

Looking for help with the flower show? Check out the PGGC website [www.pggc.org/flower show](http://www.pggc.org/flower%20show). Keep checking the site for updates to the schedule. The following links on our site provide more details and up to date information.

Member's Working Schedule

Horticulture Entries Sheet

Design Descriptions

Luncheon Flyer

Online Plant ID

Invasive Plant List

#### Flower Show Horticulture

Your horticulture entries are very important to a successful show. Please submit your horticulture entries form before March 16 to:

Pat Juliano, email - [pjuliano@yahoo.com](mailto:pjuliano@yahoo.com) or

mail to 7447 S. Blue Sage Punta Gorda, 33955-1111

If you have trouble with your horticulture entry form, bring it to the February Meeting. Jane Hayse, [jhayse59@hotmail.com](mailto:jhayse59@hotmail.com); Pat Juliano or Carolyn Honour, [cdhonour@comcast.net](mailto:cdhonour@comcast.net), are available to help you. Please remember to send photos using a *small* size.

The following online sources offer plant identification:

A. Check out these websites:

<http://www.Floridata.com>

<http://www.Garden.org> National Gardening Assoc.

<http://www.gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>

<http://www.south-florida-plant-guide.com>

<http://www.davesgarden.com>

<http://www.houseplantexpert.com>

B. Consider using an APP, such as Plant Snap and Garden Answers, to identify plants.

C. Google Searches can identify the specific plant variety. For example:

"How to identify my bromeliad images"

"How to identify my hibiscus images"

***Be sure to check that the plant is not on the invasive plant list.***

***Carolyn Honour, Flower Show Co-Chair***

### *What is an Invasive Plant?*

Several of you have asked whether a certain plant is an invasive species or not. That begs the question, what makes a plant invasive? The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC), makes a determination every two years or so and publishes a brochure that splits invasive plants between Category 1 and Category 2.

Typically, plants in Florida are divided into the following categories:

- Exotic - A species introduced to Florida, purposely or accidentally
- Native - A species whose natural range includes Florida
- Naturalized Exotic - an exotic that can sustain itself outside of cultivation
- Invasive Exotic - an exotic that not only is naturalized but is expanding on its own into Florida native plant communities

Category 1 is defined as invasive exotics that are altering plant communities by displacing natives, changing community structures, or hybridizing with natives. Category 2 is defined as invasive exotics that have increased in abundance or frequency but have not yet altered Florida plant communities. In addition, Florida is divided into three zones - north, central and south. Some plants may be invasive in one zone and not the other two.

The University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Science (UF/IFAS) also has a status assessment of plants divided into:

- Prohibited
- Invasive and not recommended
- Invasive and not recommended except for specified and limited use
- Caution
- Okay

There are many impacts of invasive species. Not only do invasive species displace native species, they reduce wildlife habitat, alter the ecosystem process, reduce agriculture productivity and degrade recreational areas. In addition, greater than 50% of Florida's 544 endangered and threatened plant species are negatively impacted by invasive plants.

Here are a few common species that fall into the FLEPPC Category 1 and the UF/IFAS Prohibited category:

- Australian Pine (*Casuarina equisetifolia*)
- Melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*)
- Catclaw Mimosa (*Mimosa pigra*)
- Brazilian Pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolia*)

For more information go to:

- Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council <https://www.fleppc.org/>
- UF/IFAS Assessment of Non-Native Plants <https://assessment.ifas.ufl.edu/>

*Jane Hayse, Horticulture Chair*

### *An historic year for Everglades restoration and Florida's water quality*

Over the greater part of a century, the Everglades was systematically drained by man as a means of progress and development. The fragile wilderness was slowly decimated, leaving unintended consequences: degrading water quality, loss of habitat and native species and severe economic impact. Once these consequences were realized, action was taken to fix it. In 2000, Congress authorized the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration plan to restore, preserve and protect the Florida ecosystem. In the years that followed, progress stagnated.

Then in 2016, Florida's water crisis hit an all-time high - surrounded by toxic algae, dead marine life and 3 nationally renowned estuaries on the verge of collapse. No one could ignore that there was a very real problem. This is when things began to change.

- 2016 With an irrefutable water crisis threatening our way of life, the Captains for Clean Water was founded to spread awareness and demand action.
- 2017 The Florida Legislature passed Senate bill 10 authorizing and funding the state's portion of the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir, a critical project needed to restore the flow of water south.
- 2018 Captains for Clean Water mobilized in greater numbers and acquired federal authorization for the EAA Reservoir through the Water Resources Development Act.
- 2019 Captains for Clean Water built more momentum with victories in Washington and Tallahassee to keep water quality the number one priority for state leadership.

2019 will go down in history as a turning point for Everglades restoration. Since Jan. 2019, Governor DeSantis signed Executive Order 2019-12 which outlined a plan to accelerate Everglades restoration projects and alleviate harmful algae blooms. The Florida Legislature appropriated record funding for Everglades and water quality projects. The newly formed Blue Green Algae Task Force involves top scientists working to make water quality recommendations.

Less than two weeks ago the House and Senate came together and passed a budget that included \$200 million for Everglades Restoration which was signed by the President just days later. This is only the second time in twenty years that the Federal Government has fully funded the budget needed for Everglades restoration. Let recent progress serve as a reminder that we all can make a difference.

*Susan Forman, Environmental Chair*

Source: Putting 2019 into Perspective n.d. <<https://captainsforcleanwater.org/putting-2019-into-perspective/>>



### *Plant Profile: Pepperweed (Lepidium)*

How many of us have used dried pepperweed in decorating wreaths and other natural arrangements? Did you know that pepperweed is native to Florida and is edible? The following is an edited plant profile on pepperweed, courtesy of my fellow colleague in the Peace River Butterfly Society, Jean Envoy.

According to Wikipedia, there are more than 175 different species of Lepidium, or pepperweed in the world; four grow in Florida but only one, *Lepidium virginicum*, is widespread and common. Whether you think it is a nice wild edible or a noxious weed, pepperweed is one of the main host plants for Checkered White butterflies. (1)

Pepperweed is a member of the mustard family or Brassicaceae. As the common name implies, it has been noted for its peppery flavor since the Incas cultivated it around 1000 BC.



*Lepidium virginicum* Checkered White Butterfly

These days it can be seen along roadsides and in many other sunny disturbed locations. It can grow to be anywhere from five to twenty inches tall. All parts of the plant are edible. Young leaves and flowers can be used in salads and the leaves can be sautéed. Young seeds can be used as a pepper substitute. You can throw the whole plant into a food processor along with turmeric, vinegar, miso, garlic and salt to make a “wild mustard:” or you can crush the roots and add some vinegar and salt to make a horseradish substitute. (2)

Pepperweed is very easy to grow, because it readily reseeds, but controlling it in a garden setting requires some care and persistence. Remove most of the seed pods before they drop to the ground. That way, you will have some new plants, but hopefully, they won't run amok in your garden. (3)

*Edited by Jane Hayes, Horticulture Chair*

- Source: 1. Butterflies of the East Coast. Rick Check and Guy Tudor. Princeton Univ Press.2005  
2. <http://www.ediblewildfood.com/peppergrass.aspx>  
3. <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible/herbs/peppergrass/peppergrass-information-and-care.htm>



## Garden Tales

### *Get to know a Club Member - Judi Beaumont*



#### ***Tell us about your background***

I was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana and spent most of my childhood in the Midwest. I graduated from college and law school and then practiced law for a number of years in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In 1994 I changed careers to work as an Estate and Trust Administrator for the wealth management division of a bank. Then, in 1997, I took a job in Fort Myers with what was then First Union's Wealth Management Group. At the time I took the job, I thought I would be in Florida for about five years to learn a new career and then move a little closer to my family in the Midwest. But fate stepped in and I married John Palkovic in 1999 (a man who would have to be dynamited out of Florida) so here I am, all these years later, learning to garden the Florida way, a real challenge! Unfortunately, my 14-year old rescue dog, Maggie, is not much help but I did complete the University of Florida Master Gardener Program through the Charlotte County Extension Service a couple of years ago so that gave me a real boost in learning to meet the challenging world of Florida gardening.

#### ***When did you join Garden Club?***

I joined in September 2018.

#### ***What are your Current / Past Club roles?***

I have worked on the Holly Day Home Tour committees in 2018 and 2019. This year I am serving as Chair of the Civic Committee.

#### ***Describe your favorite Club activities***

I really enjoy working in the public gardens each Monday. I have also been very fortunate to serve on Vinita Jones' Holly Day Home Tour committee both years and have learned to be a bit more creative under the guidance of Vinita and the other committee members.

#### ***Your favorite plant? Any gardening tips to share?***

I don't have an absolute favorite plant, but I am all about bromeliads right now! There are so many species, they can thrive in sun or shade and they are super easy to grow and maintain in our Florida warm, humid environment.

My best gardening tip is please follow the Florida Friendly plant selection and landscape design guidelines.

Did you plant a tree between Feb 1, 2019 and February 29, 2020 or did you help someone else (your church or another organization) plant a tree? If yes please contact Karen Noonan (karen\_noonan@hotmail.com) by March 5 and provide the tree species, how many and where. Karen Noonan is collecting this information for FFGC's effort to compile the annual tree planting and reforestation count.

## Garden Calendar – February

### What to Plant

**Annuals/Bedding plants:** Good performers in South Florida's mild winter include impatiens, verbena, dianthus, strawflower, and lobelia. See *Annuals*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_annual\\_landscape\\_plants](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants)

**Bulbs:** Many bulbs can be planted now. Divide large, crowded clumps. Provide adequate water for establishment. Some examples include Amazon lily, crinum, and agapanthus. See *Bulbs for Florida*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_bulbous\\_flowers](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers)

**Groundcovers:** Consider replacing areas of grass with drought-tolerant, low-maintenance groundcovers. See *The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design*: [https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN\\_Plant\\_Selection\\_Guide\\_2015.pdf](https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_2015.pdf) and *Ground Covers*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_ground\\_covers](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_ground_covers)

**Vegetables:** Winter vegetable gardening is in full swing. Last month to plant cantaloupes, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, peppers, spinach, and tomatoes for a late spring harvest. Protect crops in the unlikely event of a frost or freeze. See *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_vegetable\\_gardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening)

### What to Do

**Lawns:** Fertilize lawn grasses to improve color or coverage. Choose a fertilizer (not a "weed and feed") with no or very little phosphorus unless a soil test indicates the need for it. A fertilizer with controlled-release nitrogen provides longer-lasting results. See *Lawn Fertilizer*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_lawn\\_fertilization](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_fertilization)

**Roses:** Prune roses this month to remove damaged canes and improve the overall form. After pruning, fertilize and apply a fresh layer of mulch. Blooming will begin 8-9 weeks after pruning. See *Roses*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_rose](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_rose)

**Shrubs and palms:** Fertilize shrubs and palms by spreading fertilizer evenly over the soil surface and watering it in. Follow with a fresh layer of mulch to conserve moisture and reduce weeds. Delay pruning any cold-damaged branches until new growth starts. See *Palm Nutrition and Fertilization*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_palm\\_nutrition](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_nutrition) and *Landscape Fertilization*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_fertilization](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_fertilization)

**Lawns:** Apply a preemergence weed killer (not a "weed and feed") to lawns late this month to prevent germination of warm-season weed seeds. Apply when temperatures rise to 65°F for 4-5 days. Timing is important for good control. See *Lawn Weeds*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_lawn\\_weeds](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_weeds)

**Avocados and mangos:** Disease-susceptible varieties of avocado and mango may require applications of copper fungicide. See *Avocado*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_avocado](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_avocado) and *Mango*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_mango](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_mango)

**Citrus:** Fertilize now if not done in January. Frequency and amount of fertilization depend on the age of the tree. See *Home Citrus Culture*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_citrus\\_home\\_citrus\\_culture](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_citrus_home_citrus_culture)

## Garden Tales

### *Members at the Botanical Garden in Dec.*



Chris Green, Judi Beaumont, Hal Sterwerf, Sarah Corey, Mary Yeomans, Joyce Stanley, Susan Forman, Martha Cloran

### *History Park Beautification Update*

I am pleased to announce that recently over 30 volunteers, including PGGC members, worked together to plant over 1,000 colorful annuals in 27 flower beds through the park. In a few weeks these plants will be showing their colors for all to enjoy. I would like to thank all of the helpers for their support. It was just a thrill for me to see so many new friends in the garden. Everyone was enjoying the company of other gardeners and looking forward to the end result.

Next, I am planning to add perennials and a unique experiment of decorating a number of the trees with orchids. The planting for this phase is Saturday Feb 15. We will start at 9:00 am but helpers can come at any time until 3:00 PM.

Again, thanks to all for helping make our History Park a sight to behold.

*Alan Schulman*



### February Hostess Committee

**Chair: Betsy Foster**

Vera Harris	Donna McKnight
Heidi Kaletta	Carol Broad
Ursula Karlen	Dawn Thibeault
Sandy Kirk	Judy Oswald
Nancy French	



### February Birthdays Wishes

Jeanette Fowler 2/4  
Suzanne Gardner Campbell 2/7  
Sandy Kirk 2/10  
Betsy Foster 2/11  
Dottie Williams 2/15  
Liz Vantine 2/17  
Kristie Wells 2/18  
Vera Harris 2/20  
Marilyn Pachota 2/23  
Pat Juliano 2/27

**And many happy returns!**



# Garden Tales

## February Events



Master Gardener Landscape Series continues in Feb. Each class is \$5. 9:30 - 11:30 am. At Port Charlotte Beach Park 4500 Harbor Boulevard Port Charlotte.

**Feb 6 - Palms and Diseases.** Dr. Brian Bahder, Asst Professor, UF/IFAS.

**Feb 13 - Success with Succulents.** Joyce Laubach, Master Gardener

**Feb 20 - Pruning Your Landscape.** Dr. Pat Williams, UF/IFAS Sarasota

**Feb 27 - Tropical Ferns.** Gil MacAdam, Ret. Broward County Environmental Administrator

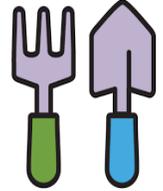
Feb 14 - PGI Green Thumbs offers **Tour of PG Nature Park to PGGC.** 10am

Feb 15 - **Perennial Planting and Attaching Orchids.** 9am - 3 pm. PG History Park

Feb 21 - PGI Green Thumbs presents **A Rose is a Rose and is also an Herb.** Dolly Tomalinas. RSVP info@pgigreenthumbs.org. 9:30 - 10:30 am. PG Nature Park

Feb 29 - **Garden Tour specializing in Staghorns.** Home of Gil MacAdam. Time to be announced at General Meeting. 7798 S.W. Sunny Oaks Drive, Fort Ogden

## Garden Workdays



Please arrive by 8am. Bring gloves, pruning shears, and bottle of water. Usually finished in less than 2 hours!

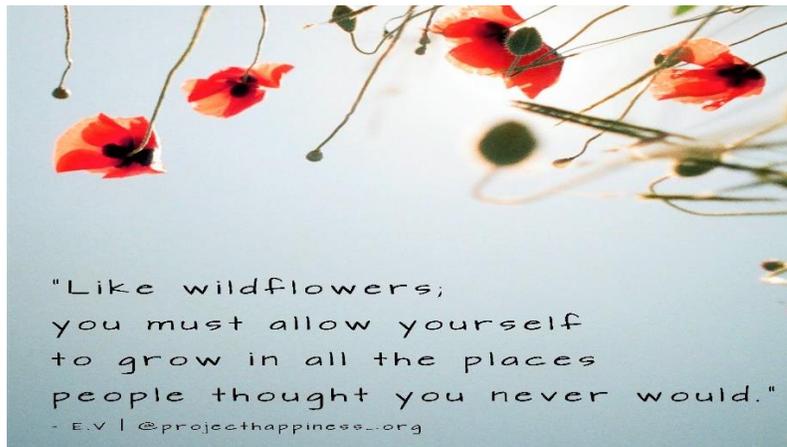
Feb 3 - History Park

Feb 10 - PG Old Library

Feb 17 - Botanical Garden

Feb 24 - Women's Club

The March newsletter deadline is Feb 20. Submit items and/or photographs to Mary Hanrahan, Newsletter Editor at mahamherst@gmail.com.



"Like wildflowers;  
you must allow yourself  
to grow in all the places  
people thought you never would."

- E.V.I @projecthappiness.org