



M A R C H 2 0 2 0 V O L 1 1 , I S S U E 8

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

www.pggc.org

**President's Message**

Dear Gardening Friends:

This winter the weather has been exceptionally warm, so the arrival of spring is not as anxiously awaited as in the north where the weather has been very cold and dreary. But we do have much to look forward to this month as several exciting events are coming up. First, our new members are invited to a meeting and garden tour at Vinita Jones' home. We have had more new members join the club in the last few months than we have seen in years, and the energy and enthusiasm they bring with them has already invigorated the club. Please join me in welcoming them!

Each March the club takes a field trip and this year the destination is Bok Tower. This estate offers beautiful wooded areas, gorgeous gardens, and an impressive tower that houses a carillon that plays concerts twice daily. During the return bus ride, we will have a meeting and our hostess committee will serve some light refreshments.

On Saturday, March 28th, club members will work at CHEC or along Route 17 as participants in the Keep Charlotte Beautiful event which is part of the Great American Clean Up. We participated in this event over the past few years. We would like to make a good showing and help keep our community beautiful! If you are interested in helping out, please contact Susan Forman and give her your T shirt size.

Finally, the Flower Show will be held at the Isles Yacht Club, a new venue for this event that should prove to be the perfect setting for the designs and horticulture that our members deliver. Entries will be set up on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Then join us for a noon luncheon amid the judged design entries on March 31st before the doors open to the public at 1:00. Good luck to all who enter!

Every Monday at 8:00 am a group of club members meet at a public garden to tend the plants. Consider joining us if you haven't yet - I have learned much about Florida horticulture while pruning and weeding, and even more during our discussions at Dunkin' Donuts afterwards. The location schedule is contained in this newsletter. Hope to see you there!

If you have any ideas or suggestions for events or club activities, please let me know. And if you want to get more involved in the work we do, there are many opportunities. Get in touch with a club officer or member of the Board!

Happy Gardening! Mary  
Mary Yeomans, President

**Save the Date!**

**Board Mtg**  
Mar 11 9:30 am  
First United Methodist  
Church (FUMC)  
Room 5

**Bok Tower  
Field Trip**  
Mar 18 8 am

**Standard Flower  
Show Set Up**  
Mar 30 10 am  
Isles Yacht Club

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

## Garden Tales

### *March 18 - Outing to Bok Towers Gardens*

This year's field trip is to Bok Tower which offers a private garden tour, a Carillon concert, and a tour of Pinewood Estates, a 1930 Mediterranean mansion.

The bus arrives at the Church parking lot at 8:00 am with a scheduled departure of 8:15. The return trip leaves the Gardens around 4:00 pm at the latest. We will serve some snacks and drinks on the way back, so we hope to return exhilarated, content and happy!!!

### *New Member Meet and Greet*

Our PGGC has been fortunate to have 17 new members join since September 2019. This is our largest new member season total in several years.

We, the Membership and Mentorship chairs, welcomed our newbies with a coffee and donut meet and greet just before our Nature Park tour on February 14th. Six new members were able to attend and then follow with the Nature Park tour.

Thanks to all of our members, old and new, who helped to make this a successful event.

*Nancy Knaus, Membership Co-Chair*

### *Reminder to All Members*

Please sign in when attending the monthly PGGC meeting. This meeting count is requested by the Federation and is used when we apply for awards. The count also helps the hostess committee chairs estimate the amount of refreshments and seating needed at future meetings.

### *Please note this yearbook change:*

**Joyce Stanley**  
new email: [jdstanley51@gmail.com](mailto:jdstanley51@gmail.com)

### *Welcome New Members!*

**Margery Tierney Bergsman**  
2707 St Thomas Dr.  
Punta Gorda 33950-6367  
[margerytierney@yahoo.com](mailto:margerytierney@yahoo.com)  
703-203-0664 (C)

**Debbie Chase**  
2257 Nuremberg Blvd  
Punta Gorda 33983-2649  
[Orchid4deb@aol.com](mailto:Orchid4deb@aol.com)  
941-737-9267

**Carol Moyer**  
11458 2nd Ave  
Punta Gorda 33955-1373  
[carolbeth715@aol.com](mailto:carolbeth715@aol.com)  
941-343-7006

**Dorrit Tompkins**  
2829 LaMancha Ct.  
Punta Gorda 33950-6361  
[Newshoes3@hotmail.com](mailto:Newshoes3@hotmail.com)  
941-467-4555 (C)

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

## Garden Tales



**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**

### *Important Flower Show Dates and Activities*

#### **Countdown to the Flower Show**

We are looking forward to a great show with your participation. Remember we can help you ID your horticulture just let us know.

#### **Please Mark Your Calendars with these Dates**

- March 9 Luncheon Reservations Deadline. Contact Carolyn Honour to reserve your spot.  
Design Entries Deadline. Contact Betsy Foster to submit your entry.
- March 16 Horticulture Sheets due to Pat Juliano.
- March 30 10 am to 3 pm IYC set up.  
All designs and horticulture are due.
- March 31 8:30-9 am Check entries for last minute adjustments.  
9 am Judging begins.  
12-1 pm Luncheon. Reservations only!  
1-4 pm Open to the public.  
4 pm All entries are removed.

Good Luck! Claudia and Carolyn  
*Flower Show Chairs*



#### **Horticulture Entries**

Let's make a good impression at the Isles Yacht Club and fill the dining room with beautiful samples of the plants we grow in our piece of Paradise! I encourage all members to scout their yards for possible entries in the Horticulture division. You can find online plant identification sites, the Flower Show Schedule, and the Horticulture Entries form at [www.pggc.org](http://www.pggc.org) (password is "hibiscus"). Your form provides a potential list of entries and must be submitted by March 16. If it isn't listed on the form, you cannot enter it, so make a long list. If a plant does not look good by March 30th, just don't take it in.

*Mary Yeomans, President*



*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](mailto:cbchopp@yahoo.com)*

## Garden Tales

### *Blue Star Marker*

Libby Curnow announced at the February meeting that NGC sent a certificate recognizing the work of PGGC in purchasing a Blue Star Marker to be installed in Veterans Park by the city. A dedication ceremony is being planned for May 14th. If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Libby.



### *Nature Park Tour and the New Member Meet and Greet*



## Garden Tales

### *Why We Should Learn to Love Wasps*

The Wasp family is in need of rebranding. Wasps are trapped, sprayed, swatted and squished. Wasps have long been cast as villains, and they can pack a prodigious punch when they sting. But still, they matter, and in fact they matter a lot.

Wasps are incredibly important for the world's economy and ecosystems. Without them the planet would be pest-ridden to biblical proportions. Both parasitic and predatory wasps have a massive impact on the abundance of arthropods, which include spiders, mites, insects and centipedes. The wasp's regulation of these populations is arguably their most important role, both ecologically and economically. Essentially, wasps are master exterminators. Being generalist predators, they control an array of species, thus they provide valuable, natural pest control to the agricultural sector.

So heroic are these little warriors that they may even hold the keys to one of the greatest puzzles of all: the cure for cancer. Researchers have found that wasp venom can kill cancer cells in the laboratory. So sure, a pack of ornery wasps can be a scary thing, but they also patrol our crops far better than we can. They enliven ecosystems and are integral to the lives of many fruits and flowers. They may be a nuisance on a sunny afternoon-but a world without wasps would be an ecological and economic disaster.

*Susan Forman, Environmental Chair*



Source: Condensed from an article by Treehugger.com

### *Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary Certification*



The Peace River Audubon Society (PRAS) is interested in recognizing properties with landscapes using native plants and trees that attract wildlife such as birds and butterflies. Properties that provide food, shelter and water help create microhabitats to benefit the wildlife. PRAS recently certified the Elsie Quirk Library and the Charlotte County School District Administrative building will be certified once a bird bath is added. The Audubon.org/plantsforbirds website provides a native plant list that is zip code specific.

Ideally, PRAS is interested in spaces that educate the community by serving as demonstration gardens. If you are interested in certifying your yard, refer to [peacriveraudubon.org](http://peacriveraudubon.org) for information about applying for certification and to access an application.

## Garden Tales

### *Plant Profile – Yesterday-Today-and-Tomorrow (Brunfelsia australis)*

A real conversation starter, the flowers of the Yesterday-Today-and-Tomorrow plant open in purple and then gradually change to lavender and white over a period of about three days. Hence, the common name.

A native of South America, this plant has long been in the Florida landscape. Many beautiful specimens can be found at nearby gardens, such as the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens and at Bok Tower Gardens. The plant survives in full sun to light shade and prefers moist soil.

It is an evergreen shrub that can grow to 8 feet high, although there are dwarf varieties. Being a shrub, it can be pruned to serve as a hedge. One aspect to keep in mind is the hardiness to cold weather. It is defined as medium hardy, where it might be damaged by a severe freeze. However, it will come back from the base.

Yesterday-Today-and-Tomorrow likes acidic soil, so in our environment which is commonly alkaline, you will need to add nutrients and soil acidifier.

*Edited by Jane Hayes, Horticulture Chair*

*Do you have any suggestions for the Plant Profile? Feel free to contact me, Jane Hayse, at [jhayse59@hotmail.com](mailto:jhayse59@hotmail.com)*



### *Reminder of Things Not to Recycle*

food waste  
plastic bags (of any kind)  
plastic jars (e.g. peanut butter, jam)  
yogurt containers (or sour cream/cottage cheese)  
foam or Styrofoam  
flower pots  
medical waste  
household items



## Garden Tales

### *Get to know a Club Member - Betsy Foster*



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

I was born and reared in Brooklyn, NY where garden space is scarce, but I always loved to visit Prospect Park, the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens and Central Park across the river in Manhattan. After graduating from Binghamton University, I married my college boyfriend, Dick Foster, and we later settled in the historic Village of Warwick, NY where we raised our family and taught in the local school district. I taught Middle School students with difficulties in reading and written language often aided by my colleague, media specialist Pat Juliano, now a fellow PG garden club member. I began as a raw, novice gardener in our first home learning by trial and error. Now we have thriving perennial beds at a rustic lakeside home in the southern Adirondacks as well as our subtropical garden here.

As a retired person I enjoy golf, bicycling, water aerobics, yoga, and travelling visiting public and private gardens wherever we go. Last fall on a trip to Spain and Portugal we spent a few gorgeous days on Madeira, a volcanic island in the Atlantic off the coast of Africa which is memorable for its lush vegetation, dramatic mountains, and steep canyons. Farmers of Portuguese descent grow their crops and vines on terraced beds which have been cut into the slopes for hundreds of years.

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

I joined the Garden Club in 2004 after taking the Holly Days Home Tour.

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

I have served as Recording Secretary, Vice President, Holly Days House Chair, Publicity Chair and Flower Show Design Chair.

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

The club has been a great way to meet interesting people, add to my knowledge of gardening, give to the community that I have come to love and help preserve our natural environment.

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

Bromeliads, hibiscus and bougainvillea are some of my favorite southern plants. My best garden tip is an old one: Right plant/ right place. If a plant isn't happy in your chosen spot, don't worry too much. Do some research and try something else that may be better suited to the setting.

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 Tales

## *Garden Calendar – March*

### **What to Plant**

**Annuals/Bedding Plants:** Plant heat-tolerant annuals, such as crossandra, gazania, melampodium, and zinnia that will last into fall. See *Annuals*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_annual\\_landscape\\_plants](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants)

**Bulbs:** Plant gladiolus corms 6 inches apart and 4 inches deep; stake as they grow. Plant caladium for a showy tropical display all summer. See *Bulbs for Florida*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_bulbous\\_flowers](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers)

**Herbs:** In addition to their culinary value, many herbs are ornamental and attract butterflies to the garden. See *Herbs*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_herbs](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs)

**Vegetables:** This is the last month to plant arugula, beans, cantaloupe, carrots, celery, sweet corn, endive, okra, radish, squashes, Swiss chard, and watermelon. See *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_vegetable\\_gardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening)

### **What to Do**

**Pests:** Monitor insect activity and learn which bugs damage plants and which do not. See *Landscape Pest Management*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_pests](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests)

**Beneficials:** Identify and conserve beneficial insects. Some insects should be encouraged in your yard! See *Beneficial Insects*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_beneficial\\_insects](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_beneficial_insects)

**Tomatoes:** Watch for pests, disease, and nutritional disorders on developing tomato plants. See *Home Tomato Gardening*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_tomato\\_gardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tomato_gardening)

**Palms:** Identify and treat environmental and nutritional disorders in palm trees. See *Palm Care*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_palm\\_care](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_care)

**Oleanders:** Inspect chewed or ragged leaves for oleander caterpillars at work. See *Oleander Pest Management*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_oleander\\_ipm](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_oleander_ipm)

**Fruits:** Propagate fruit crops by air layering and grafting. See *Propagating Fruits in Florida*: [http://www.solutionsforyourlife.com/hot\\_topics/lawn\\_and\\_garden/propagating\\_fruits.shtml](http://www.solutionsforyourlife.com/hot_topics/lawn_and_garden/propagating_fruits.shtml)

**Perennials and bulbs:** Divide clumps of bulbs, ornamental grasses, or herbaceous perennials to expand or rejuvenate garden beds or to pass along to friends. See *Bulbs for Florida*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_bulbous\\_flowers](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers) and *Perennial Landscape Plants*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_perennials](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_perennials)

**Shrubs:** Choose from a wide variety of shrubs to add to the landscape now. See *The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection & 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 *Shrubs*: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_shrubs](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_shrubs)

## Garden Tales

### *History Park Beautification Update*

The beautification of History Park has continued since the beginning of the year. With the help of over 30 fellow gardeners that included many PGGC members (see Cindy Dorety, Carol Moore, Betty Mosketti, and Carol Nadolski pictured below), volunteers added about 1,000 colorful annuals, 50 hybrid hibiscus and 60 orchids to the diverse collection of Florida native plants, bushes and specimen trees. The garden is in full bloom with the recent warm weather. Everyone is encouraged to visit the park and enjoy our new mini botanic garden.

The next scheduled park work day is Saturday March 14th from 9am till 12. There are some more orchids to hang in the trees and possibly more flowers and bromeliads to plant.

Visit the park at your convenience and if you see a weed, feel free to pull it.

*Alan Schulman*



### **March Hostess Committee**

**Chair: Gail Edgren**

Lauri Frost     Hal Sterwerf  
Carol Knutson     Rona Rothchild  
Linda Ross     Ora Murphy  
Mary Yeomans



### **March Birthdays Wishes**

Hal Stewerf 3/1  
Dorrit Tompkins 3/2  
Linda Walsh 3/2  
Lauri Frost 3/3  
Marianne Bjorkman 3/5  
Margita DiLapo 3/12  
Stephanie Green 3/20  
Joanne Collins 3/21  
Paula Jenkins 3/21

**And many happy returns!**



# Garden Tales

## February Events



Mar 7 - 8 - **Standard Flower Show 'Art, Flowers, and Anniversaries'**. Free. Calusa Garden Club 1010 Winterberry Drive, Marco Island

Mar 14 - **Work Day** to plant perennials and attach orchids. 9am - 12 pm. PG History Park

Mar 13-14 - **Standard Flower Show 'Hey There! What's Cookin'**. Free. Lemon Bay Garden Club 480 Yale St, Englewood

Mar 20 - PGI Green Thumbs presents **Bromeliads at Nature Park**. Joyce Laubach and Barbara Frush, Presenters. 9:30 - 10:30am. PG Nature Park

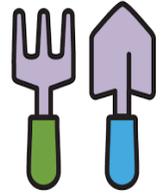
Mar 20-21 - **Standard Flower Show 'Vision 2020 Past, Present, Future'**. \$19.95. 9am - 5pm. Naples Garden Club. 4820 Bayshore Drive, Naples

Mar 26 - **Standard Flower Show 'Garden to Table'**. Free. 9am - 7pm. Sarasota Garden Club. 1131 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota

Mar 28 - **Great American Cleanup**. Contact Susan Forman to volunteer at [formanfarm1@gmail.com](mailto:formanfarm1@gmail.com). 8 am-12 pm

Mar 31 - **Standard Flower Show 'Cheers to 70 Years'**. Free. 1 - 3pm. Punta Gorda Garden Club. Isles Yacht Club

## Garden Workdays



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

- Mar 2 - History Park
- Mar 9 - PG Old Library
- Mar 16 - CHEC
- Mar 23 - Women's Club
- Mar 30 - Botanical Garden

The April newsletter deadline is Mar 20. Submit items and/or photographs to Mary Hanrahan, Newsletter Editor at [mahamherst@gmail.com](mailto:mahamherst@gmail.com).



"Let us choose for ourselves our path in life, and let us try to strew that path with flowers."  
- Emilie du Chatelet | @projecthappiness\_org

