



www.pggc.org

M A Y 2 0 2 0 V O L 1 1 , I S S U E 1 0

Punta Gorda Garden Club

Garden Tales

Gardening Nourishes the Soul

Club News

- Good News! After months of waiting, we received the IRS 501(c)3 certification. This allows the club to benefit from certain tax laws for non-profits and was needed since we now bring in over \$50,000 between the Home Tour and other collections of funds for dues, luncheons, etc. A full explanation will be provided to the membership at our next meeting, hopefully, in September.
- The Executive Board approved the proposed 2020-21 budget. The budget will be distributed and ratified by the General Membership at our next meeting. We are following the procedure that was announced by FFGC for their budget.
- The Board approved the Nominating Committee's recommendation of Marilyn Pachota for the Director position which will be vacated at the end of this year by Sarah Corey. The General membership will vote on this nomination at our next meeting.

President's Message

Dear Members,

I hope you are all well and keeping safe during this most difficult time. I am like all of you, I am sure, trying to keep busy and amused. I have a few projects on the go, haven't actually finished any of them completely but I am getting there. Have you discovered, the more time you have available to do things, the more time it takes for you to actually get them completed?

I have been cooking a lot, which I love. But I love eating it more and don't mention the cocktail hour. It has stretched out a bit longer than an hour now. Add to that the fact that the gyms are all closed and not being able to play tennis, I foresee stretch pants in my future!

I have also been working in the garden, still some more weeding to do. I did purchase some annuals for my hanging baskets. What a treat it was to walk around the Home Depot garden center and do some shopping. It felt somewhat normal.

I don't know if any of you plan on travelling North for the summer and I doubt we will see each other before the end of our season in May. I want to tell you all that I miss seeing you, I miss our meetings and outings and I look forward to seeing you all very soon. Take care and God Bless!

Carol Houston, Co-President

Save the Date!

May Luncheon
CANCELED

National Garden Week
June 7 - 13

Garden Tales

2020 Holiday Home Tour Preview

This year's theme is Peace on Earth.

Here are the Home Chairs:

124 McGregor (John & Chris Cannon) Chairs: Claudia Chopp & Marianne Bjorkman
716 Palm Ave (Anne Elferdink) Chairs: Sarah Corey & Chris Green
413 Rhetta (Anne Gatley) Chairs: Vinita Jones, & Molly Reifeis
401 Rhetta (Janice Chupak) Chairs: Cathy Russo & Dottie Williams



SAD NEWS



The Punta Gorda Garden Club joins with the family and friends of Margaret Elise Haymans in mourning the loss of this talented, resourceful, dedicated woman who passed away on April 1, 2020 after a long illness. Elise held many positions on the local, regional, state and national levels including PGGC President (1974-74; 2003-05); FFGC District IX Director; FFGC Board of Directors; FFGC President (1989-91) and Master Flower Show Judge.

In recognition of her serving as FFGC President, the "Florida Elise" caladium was named for her.

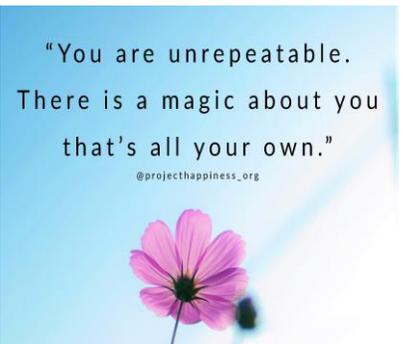


Memory Tree



A Little Gem Magnolia tree has been planted along the drive into South County Regional Park in memory of Mary Kay Newman. It is located near the lake and next to another of the same species that was planted for club member Shirley Mearns in 2018. A name plaque is not yet on the new tree but should arrive soon. A dedication ceremony will be planned once social isolation rules have been lifted.

Mary Yeomans, President



Garden Tales

Make Every Day Earth Day - Practice the 7 Rs

Reuse instead of buying new every time.

Repurpose The more creative cousin of reuse, repurposing turns old junk into new, functional objects.

Rot compost everything organic.

Repair instead of replacing.

Return Only buy from companies with take-back programs.

Refill instead of buying disposable bottles and paper cups.

Refuse to buy overpackaged, disposable, single-use junk.



Source: Treehugger https://www.treehugger.com/culture/10-tips-make-every-day-earth-day.html?utm_source=TreeHugger+Newsletters&utm_campaign=a9966a8366-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_11_16_2018_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_32de41485d-a9966a8366-243832433

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REMINDER

Member Dues

Thank you to those that have paid their dues. Your \$25 dues for June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021 are due by May 1st. If you have not done so, please mail your payment to the following address:

Punta Gorda Garden Club
P.O. Box 511167
Punta Gorda, FL. 33951-1167

Yearbook Member Photos and Contact Info

Any member who has not had a face photo taken for the yearbook should send one in. There are many new members with no photo on file. No sunglasses or hats - just a face. Also, every member should check to make sure their info is correct in the yearbook. Some phone numbers, emails, and addresses have changed. Please send to Mary Yeomans at mymrsphysics@aol.com.



Garden Tales

Plant Profile – African Lily, Lily of the Nile (Agapanthus orientalis)

Agapanthus is a summer-flowering bulb for Southern gardens. The blooms are absolutely unique and make a wonderful display in mass plantings.

Characteristics- Agapanthus orientalis is a perennial lily. And though non-native, it is considered a Florida-Friendly plant. It is both low-maintenance and a refuge for wildlife.

Left undisturbed, this lily will multiply to form large clumps. These look wonderful when planted in groups in landscape beds but work equally well in containers. Individual plants seldom spread wider than 2 feet, but clumps can fill entire beds over time.

Depending on the cultivar, the flowers may be blue, lavender, purple, or even white. These blooms are perfect for highly visible spaces in a landscape. The flower clusters bloom 2-4 feet above the ground in summer. The seed pods that follow the flowering are almost as attractive as the flowers themselves.

Individual plants can reach up to 4 feet tall and 2 feet wide, but dwarf forms are available. Both varieties make an excellent ground cover or accent plant for areas with full sun or partial shade.

Planting and Care - Agapanthus grows best in USDA hardiness zones 9-11. Though visually delicate, it is a deceptively tough plant. It performs well in partial shade or full sun, drought, and even our sandy loam soil. It will tolerate occasionally wet, slightly alkaline, acidic soil, and clay soil. The best soil for this lily, however, is moist and organic. Agapanthus may take two to three years to establish and reach peak bloom. Africa is sunny and experiences seasonal rains.

Gardeners in Florida should plant their agapanthus in full sun for the best blooms. Light irrigation between spring and fall is ideal. In most of Florida agapanthus is dormant during the winter months. Do not water plants during their dormant period. Other factors that boost blooming are improved soil and high density (agapanthus blooms best in dense, undisturbed clumps of plants called stands). If diminished blooming doesn't deter you, divide the clumps in the fall as you would your other bulbs.

Although pests are not usually a major concern, gardeners occasionally find some chewing and boring on the leaves. As for disease, botrytis fungus can be damaging to plantings of agapanthus. In humid areas, particularly in the eastern U.S., we recommend planting only disease-resistant cultivars.

When planting, space individuals 18-24 inches apart. Propagate established plants by division of the clumps, or by seed.

Jane Haynes, Horticultural Co-Chair

Copied from: <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/agapanthus.html>. Do you have any suggestions for the Plant Profile? Feel free to contact me, Jane Hayse,



Garden Tales

Growing Vegetables in the Summer

Are there any other crazy Florida gardeners, like myself, that still feel the urge to plant vegetables in the Spring? I guess I must be hardwired for this, but I have been surprisingly successful. Successful that is, if you are willing to try new foods typical of the subtropics and tropics.

One of the first things we learned in Master Gardener training was that traditional vegetable gardens should be grown between October and April. Tomatoes do not like low temperatures at night that are above 75 degrees, which can be quite common here in the summer. That's right, the low temperatures are too high for tomatoes! So, in the fall, I tried tomatoes, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, radishes, onions, beets and turnips to limited success. I am sure there are a million things I did wrong, but all my vegetables were tiny or never developed properly.

I happened upon some cowpea seeds from ECHO (link below) and saw that they love hot and humid weather! So last summer I decided to try a summer garden here. I planted the cowpeas, Seminole pumpkin and Malabar spinach. Was I in for a surprise! The garden grew into a jungle, as all these plants are vining. I could not keep up fast enough. Cowpeas can be eaten at any stage of the bean's development, but due to my tremendous yields, I let them dry in the shell and harvested them dry. They are just like black-eyed peas and were delicious cooked. The Seminole pumpkin was not as productive but created gorgeous flowers. The Malabar spinach, is actually not a spinach, but its young leaves are harvested for salads and were nice tasting.

This year, I have seeds and volunteers of all these vegetables already coming up in the garden. I am going to also give a few other plants a try: Sesame, Egyptian spinach, Jicama, Armenian cucumber and two types of Japanese peppers. All are supposed to do well in warm weather.

I discovered that there is so much less work involved with a summer garden. Given all our rain here, irrigation is not necessary. The plants thrived on the humidity. Mother Nature also gifted me everglades tomatoes last year. They produced like crazy and have many more growing now as well.

If you are adventurous and like eating and cooking new foods, give summer gardens a try. If you have a small area, you can grow plants in pots or with a trellis. Plus, summer gardening beats trying to keep the weeds out of your beds until next Fall!

I would love to know if anyone else gives summer gardening a try. It would be fun to share what we have learned!

Jane Haynes, Horticultural Co-Chair

Garden Tales

Get to know our Club Member - Joyce Stanley



Personal background. (Career, hobbies, family, pets, etc) I was born in Indiana where I spent most of my growing up years until my husband Jerry joined the Navy during Vietnam and I was able to do some traveling to California where he was stationed. He was in the Navy for four years on an aircraft carrier, the USS Midway which is now a museum in San Diego.

My work background was in Accounting. Right out of High School I went to work in Chicago for a sugar refinery in their order department until I left to go to California with Jerry. When I returned, I went to work for United Consumer's Club in their Finance Dept. and then worked for BankOne in their mortgage department. My last job was working for U.S. Steel as a cost analyst and I worked there for twenty years and retired in 2012. I have one son Jason but he is not married so I have no grandchildren.

When did you join the PGGC? I joined the Club in 2013. Some friends and I had gone to one of the Home Tours and they said, "Why don't you join the club so we can learn how to make all these neat things." I joined and the rest is history.

What roles have you filled as a member? After two years in the club I was asked to take the 2nd V.P. position and held that for two years. Then I took the President position for two years and that was definitely a challenge but an enjoyable challenge. In 2019 I took the position of Treasurer. Since my background is Accounting, I really am enjoying the Treasurer position. I love working with numbers. When working at U.S. Steel, you had to be accurate down to the penny so I enjoy finding and recording those pennies. When I took over as Treasurer, I wanted to convert all of the previous year Club transactions to QuickBooks but I had never worked with QuickBooks before so I taught myself the program and continue to use that in our daily bookkeeping.

What are your favorite garden club activities? My favorite Club Activity is working at the Public Gardens on Monday mornings. This is such a fun group of girls who come out to work and I have made some wonderful friends. Afterwards, we go for coffee and catch up on all the activities and what everyone is doing for the rest of the week. During this corona virus social distancing, I am really counting the days until we can return to our regular Monday work groups. I miss all my Garden Club buddies.

What are your favorite plants? Any gardening tips to share? My favorite plant is the bromeliad. Carol Moore started by giving me a large abundance of them. My collection keeps growing whenever and wherever I can find one. I am on the Bromeliad Facebook page and enjoy looking for varieties that I don't have so I can buy more. My gardening tip is don't let your husband buy a staghorn. Jerry got obsessed with them and now has 11. Our oak trees behind our house are full of staghorns. Staghorns in the air and bromeliads on the ground. We purchased a new home in Deep Creek in Oct. of 2018 and I have filled the entire lot behind our house with plants. I am outside almost every day finding something to clean up or prune. My husband asks me how I can stand to be out in this heat but I love it. Gardening was the one thing I said I was going to do when I retired and I am definitely enjoying my retirement in my Garden. I do miss the large collection of hostas I had in Indiana, but it is just too hot here in Florida for them.

Garden Tales

Garden Calendar – May

What to Do

Annuals/Bedding plants: Plants that can take summer heat include coleus, salvia, torenia, wax begonia, and ornamental pepper. See Annuals: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

Bulbs: Some lilies do better when their roots are crowded. Try planting Amazon, Aztec, and Clivia lilies in containers to increase blooming. See Bulbs for Florida: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers

Herbs: Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, Mexican tarragon, ginger, cumin, summer savory, and rosemary. See Herbs: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: Sweet potatoes, boniato, hot peppers, and tropical “spinach” such as Sisso, Malabar, and New Zealand can be planted now. See Vegetable Gardening in Florida: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

What to Do

Pests: Watch for thrips, scale, and mites on ornamental plants because they become more active in warm weather. See Landscape Pest Management: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests

Gardenias and ixora: Distinguish between the normal yellowing of older leaves and the yellowing of new growth, which usually indicates a micronutrient deficiency. See Nutrient Deficiency (Landscape Plants): http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_nutrient_deficiencies_landscape_plants and Gardenias at a Glance: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep338>

Oleanders: Inspect chewed or ragged leaves for oleander caterpillars at work. See Oleander Pest Management: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_oleander_ipm

Lawns: Watch for damage from chinch bugs in St. Augustine grass and begin scouting for newly hatched mole crickets in bahia grass lawns. See Turfgrass Pest Insects: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_turf_pest_insects

Tomatoes: Watch for pests, disease, and nutritional disorders on tomato plants. See Home Tomato Gardening: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tomato_gardening

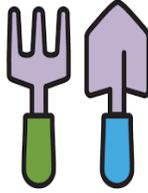
Trees: Prepare for hurricane season by checking trees for damaged or weak branches and prune if needed. Hire an ISA-certified arborist. See International Society of Arboriculture: <http://isa-arbor.com/> and Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning

Lawns: Prevent or minimize disease by following proper cultural practices when caring for lawns. See Turf Diseases: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_turf_diseases

Garden Tales

Work Days

Due to the safe distancing guidelines, the Work Day schedule is canceled until further notice.



May Birthdays Wishes

Barbara Drake 5/03
Jan Brady 5/09
Monica Lucey 5/09
Dianne Felstein 5/12
Betsy Spagnolo 5/22

May Events



Given the importance of social distancing, no public and club events are listed.

June Birthdays Wishes

Janice Williams 6/01
Anita Frumson 6/02
Martha Cloran 6/10
Agnes West 6/20
Carol Knutson 6/22
Cathy Russo 6/25
Dorothe Patterson 6/27
Carol Broad 6/28

The Summer newsletter deadline is June 30. Submit items and/or photographs to Mary Hanrahan, Newsletter Chair at mahamherst@gmail.com.



And many happy wishes!

