



Punta Gorda Garden Club Garden Tales

Gardening Nourishes the Soul

www.pggc.org

Club News

The PGGC annual Holiday Luncheon will be discussed at the November Board Meeting. Members will find out at the November General Meeting as to whether the Luncheon will be held in 2020.

The dedication of the Elise Haymans Bench at Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) has been postponed. The new date has not been determined.

Plans for a December Garden Tour of 4 members' gardens are not moving forward. Many factors contributed to this decision including no Chairperson, too tight of a window for planning and preparation, ticket sale logistical challenges, and other competing events.

President's Message

Dear Gardening Friends:

As I was dressing this morning for the District IX Zoom meeting, I decided to wear a PGGC T shirt I purchased a few years ago. The quote on the front reads "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." This quote from Audrey Hepburn has always resonated with me, but in these times I think we all need to envision a brighter future and know that even though things seem difficult now, they will get better. Spending time outdoors, gardening, walking, and appreciating nature have proven to be beneficial to one's health even when times are good. So, it is critically important that we all get out and spend some time soaking in the wonders of nature.

And our club needs to adapt to the new "climate," just like many living creatures are adapting to warmer temperatures in their habitats. (I just read about the American Pika - cutest mammal ever - here: <https://www.treehugger.com/american-pika-resilient-climate-change>.) Those that don't, do not thrive and may be extinct, eventually. I don't want that to happen to us!

So, we must proceed but with a different set of rules. We need to develop a vision for our club, but that must include consideration for our members' comfort and safety. Accepting that all of us are not practicing the same protocols is part of this vision. Some folks have isolated themselves for a long time and do not want to jeopardize that by leaving their homes. Others are okay with masks, social distancing, and hand sanitizer. We must believe "To each his own" and accept his or her decisions. But, we need to find ways to continue to support donations to local organizations and our scholarship program.

Continued on page 2

Save the Date!

Board Mtg

Nov 11

First United Methodist Church
9:30 Room 13

General Mtg

Nov 18

South County Regional Park
670 Cooper St Punta Gorda
1 pm Gather
1:30 pm General Meeting

Garden Tales

Continued from page 1

So, what is right? That is not an easy question to answer without many parameters. We continue to struggle to find fundraisers that will work for us and our community. We are looking for creative ideas and volunteers to bring them to fruition. If you feel that you can contribute, please let me know.

I want all of you to know that your ideas and thoughts are welcome and will be considered openly. I want you to know that you are valued as members of this group of civic-minded, environmentally conscious, garden-loving folks. We will continue to work toward achieving our goals as they have been listed since this club was formed 70 years ago. Circumstances may be different than at any other time since PGGC began, but we will strive to find a way.



*Stay safe, Mary Yeomans
President*

General Meeting – Nov 18, 2020

Thanksgiving Candlestick Floral Arrangement Workshop

Claudia Chopp, our resident NGC Flower Show Judge, Flower School Instructor, and Ikenobo Asst Professor, will help us create a centerpiece just in time for your Thanksgiving celebration.

Please bring a candle holder (or as a substitute, a wine glass turned upside down), flowers, greens (ferns, Podocarpus, asparagus ferns, etc), berries, grapevine stems, twigs, and scissors/clippers. If you have flowers and/or greens to share, that would be greatly appreciated. The Club will provide oasis. The meeting will be held at South County Regional Park 670 Cooper St. at 1 pm under the Pavilion where there are tables and chairs. Social distancing and wearing of masks will be enforced. Please RSVP to tusky1959@fmail.com.



Please continue to keep Nancy French and Marion Wester in your thoughts as Nancy and Marion both recuperate from recent hip replacement surgery in October.

Welcome New Member!

Please add this new info to your yearbook.

Julia Schade
25188 Marion Ave. Apt. C304
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-4157
260-668-0472 cnjschade@chartermi.net



Garden Tales

October 21 PGGC General Meeting

Many club members attended the October General Meeting featuring Debbie Hughes, Senior Horticulturist at Edison & Ford Winter Estates presenting tips on growing succulents. PGGC observed CDC guidelines with social distancing and mandatory facemasks during our meeting held at FUMC.



Gardening Tips from Marilyn Pachota

Conditioning Flowers

If you do not have cut flower preservative, try Listerine Mouthwash to extend the life of the flowers. Add 1 tbs Listerine to 1 qt Water. Listerine contains the following 3 ingredients that cut flowers need:

- Citric acid lowers the ph of water to enable stems to take up water more easily.
- Glucose provides food to stems, flowers and buds.
- Bactericide inhibits the bacteria that turns water rancid.

Choosing High Quality Clay Pots

Avoid poor quality pots that break easily by following these tips:

- Check the strength and soundness by hooking your finger through the drain hole and tapping the rim with your other hand. A ringing sound occurs with a good pot. A thud occurs with a poor-quality pot.
- Low quality pots scratch easily due to insufficient time in the kiln. Also, sandy texture indicates improper firing.
- White or gritty stains on pot surface means impurities were left in clay and may cause flaking.

Garden Tales



November Hostess Committee

Chair: Marianne Bjorkman

Suzanne Campbell	Betty Kersey
Martha Cloran	Linda Krippendorf
Margita DiLapo	Betsy Spagnolo
Chris Green	Peggy Stanfield
Ursula Karlen	Kathy Sutton

Please note: Refreshments will not be served at November Meeting due to COVID-19 precautions.



November Birthdays Wishes

Mary Hanrahan	11/7
Bernadette Klein	11/9
Debbie Chase	11/10
Margery Tierney-Bergsman	11/10
Linda Ross	11/11
Caroline Wooters	11/11
Rona Rothchild	11/11
Sajida Khudairi	11/15
Donna McKnight	11/27
Susan Nehring	11/28
Joyce Stanley	11/28

And many happy returns!

Yearbook Correction

Please note that the January General Meeting will be held on January 20. (This is a correction to the date found on page 11.)

November Planting Tip

Divide and replant overgrown perennials and bulbs now so that they establish before the cool weather arrives.



Plant Profile Mulberry (Morass pp.)

The Mulberry tree has a rich history. Mulberry is native to many places in the world. There is the native North American red mulberry that has supplied tasty fruits to Native Americans, pioneers and many of our ancestors.

Mulberry is in the same plant family as figs, jackfruit and breadfruit. The fruit resembles blackberries and will attract wildlife. Fortunately, the tree produces so much fruit, there is enough for all. Some types of Mulberry grow quite tall. The University of Florida recommends black mulberry for the home garden.

Black mulberry is native to western Asia and the Middle East. Many consider it the highest quality fruit. Although it can grow tall in drier climates, it usually stays smaller and more bush-like in Florida.

Mulberries can thrive in infertile and sandy soils and can be drought tolerant once established. They like full sun to light shade. When selecting a site, keep in mind that the fruit will stain surfaces, so avoid planting over driveways, sidewalks and patios.

Mulberry trees require very little maintenance; they rarely require irrigation after establishment and generally do not require fertilization. As far as pruning goes, you can perform light pruning when trees are young to help create a strong framework of branches. Be careful when pruning your tree, mulberry trees have milky sap which can causes skin rashes in some people.

Jane Hayse, Horticulture Chair

Sources: <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/trees-and-shrubs/trees/mulberry.html>
Any suggestions for the Plant Profile? Contact Jane Hayse, at jhayse59@hotmail.com



Source: Etsy.com

Garden Tales

Want Cooling Shade? Just Add Trees!

There is an ancient saying that goes: “The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago, the second-best time is now”. Another saying goes: “You plant nut trees for your great- great- grandchildren.”

Yes, there is no denying that many trees take a long time to grow into those beautiful canopies we envy in other people’s yards! But as stewards of the land we have available to us, there is no better time than now to start a tree on its life journey. Not all trees take a long time to grow, and we are blessed with a good climate for trees here in Southwest Florida.

One advantage we have is that we can plant trees anytime of the year! If you grew up in the temperate zones of the US, like many of us, you probably learned that planting trees in fall or spring was a good idea. Primarily, this is because the tree can get its roots established during the winter rains and snows before exerting its energy on spring growth. However, here we have dry conditions in the winter due to being in a subtropical zone. With our mild weather, trees can be established any time. The major factor is to make sure the tree gets adequate water for its roots.

However, planting a tree is not as simple as taking the tree out of a pot and dropping it in a hole you have dug. There are a few guidelines to follow and once you have mastered those, you will be rewarded with a happy and beautiful tree:

- First, pick a site with well-drained soil. Make sure it is not too close to your house and away from powerlines.
- Dig a wide, shallow hole. Tree roots will grow out, not down and need room to grow into your existing soil.
- Inspect the root ball carefully! If you see roots growing in a circle around the pot, this is a sign that it is pot-bound. If so, you will need to cut the roots at the point where they have started to curve. This is very important. I speak from experience. When I relied on others to plant some trees and shrubs in my yard, they did not do this. Four years later I wondered why the plant had not grown like it should. I dug it up and sure enough, the roots were growing in a circle rather than out from the plant.
- Find the point where the uppermost root emerges from the trunk. This is the root flare and should be even or slightly above the surface as you place the tree in the hole.
- Water, water, water! The tree should be watered everyday for the first two weeks. Depending on the size, the watering schedule differs. Speaking of size, although you may want instant shade, it is usually better to start with a smaller tree size. The roots will establish easier because it is a smaller size. The smaller tree will end up growing faster and may end up surpassing a larger tree planted at the same time!

There is much more information on the University of Florida website:

<https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/planting/planting-and-establishing-trees.html>

Jane Hayse, Horticulture Chair

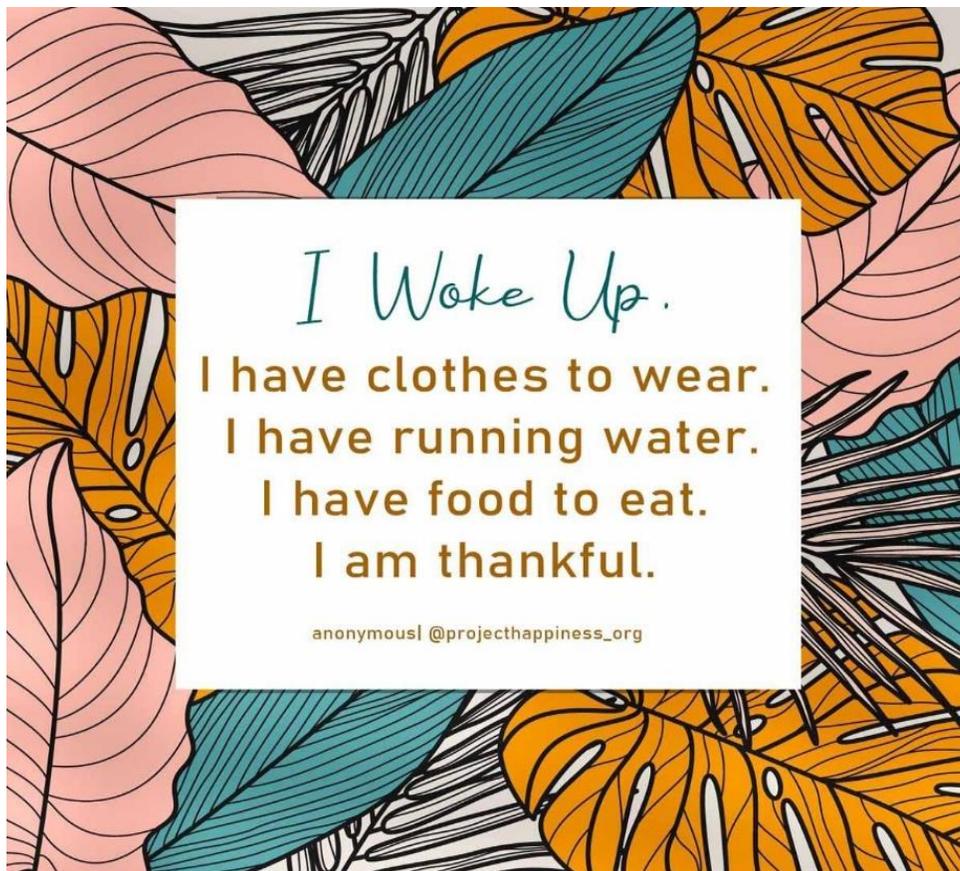
Garden Tales



Upcoming Events

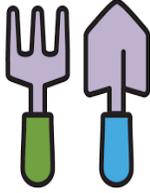
Dec 5 Lake Placid Garden Club Holiday Home & Garden Tour

Sat 12-4 pm. Several beautifully decorated homes and meticulously maintained gardens will be featured on this tour. The Holiday Café opens at 11:30 and will offer complimentary refreshments and several unique gift items. This event is Covid-19 compliant, please wear a mask and practice social distancing. If you choose, bring an ornament for our “Giving Tree” that will be donated to a needy family for Christmas. For more info, call Julie (702-994-9739) or Brenda (561-201-2130). The Café is located at the Women’s Club, 10 N. Main Avenue in Lake Placid. Tickets \$15.



Garden Tales

Garden Work Days



For new Work Day volunteers, please contact Carol Moore to confirm schedule. Volunteers should arrive by 8 am. Bring gloves, pruning shears, and bottled water. Usually finished in less than 2 hours!

- Nov 2 - History Park
- Nov 9 - Old PG Old Library
- Nov 16 - Botanical Garden
- Nov 23 - Woman's Club

Gardening Resources

For gardening ideas, watch Laura LeBoutillier's Garden Answer YouTube videos. Laura is a charming, inspirational Millennial offering gardening tips and landscape design ideas. I first heard about this high desert gardener from Oregon when Laura was invited as a guest speaker at the 2018 Newport RI Flower Show. Laura has 400,000 Subscribers on YouTube and over 2.4 million followers on Facebook.

Here is the Facebook link:

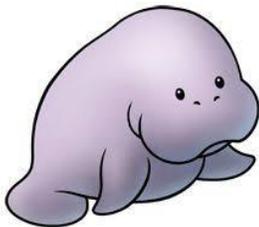
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Gardener/gardenanswer/posts/>

Mary Hanrahan, Newsletter Chair

November is Manatee Awareness Month

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission reminds us that large marine mammals migrate to warmer waters for the winter. Beginning in November, many of the state's 8000 manatees will be on the move. Be alert, follow viewing guidelines and obey manatee protection zones.

Visit MyFWC.com/Manatee for more information.



The December newsletter deadline is Nov 20. Please submit items and/or photographs to Mary Hanrahan, Newsletter Chair at mahamherst@gmail.com.



Happy
Thanksgiving Day



designed by freepik