



Punta Gorda Garden Club Garden Tales

Gardening Nourishes the Soul

www.pggc.org

President's Message

Club News

Our Club's new year kicked off with several PGGC officer changes. Judy Beaumont is the Parliamentarian, Marilyn Pachota is a Director, and Dawn Thibeault is the Secretary. Congratulations and thank you for accepting these positions!

Sandy Bruglio completed the 2020-21 Yearbook which is now available at the General Meetings. Thank you, Sandy, for creating this lovely yearbook!

Due to COVID-19, PGGC approved a Replacement Budget for 2020-2021 and is brainstorming fundraising ideas that will substitute for our annual House Tour fundraiser.

Dear Gardening Friends:

As we navigate uncharted waters and make decisions after weighing the options, we are hoping that all of our members are safe and healthy. Activities and events in the next few months will be offered and you should decide to participate or not based on your comfort level. None of us has experienced a time quite like this before and we all need to keep our anxiety and stress levels at a minimum.

Our meeting at Becky's Garden Shoppe was hot but enjoyable. The October Meeting will be held at the church as usual but no refreshments will be served. PGGC will not have a table at the Home and Garden Show this year due to COVID-19 concerns. There are some other fundraising ideas being considered and details will be shared as soon as they are finalized.

Work in our public gardens continues every Monday morning. A group of members participated in the International Coastal Cleanup on Sept. 19th, tidying up the area near Fisherman's Village. Our efforts to beautify our community continue.

We lost two longtime members in the past year. A dedication ceremony was held at South County Park to honor Mary Kay Newman. A Little Gem Magnolia tree was planted there in April as part of Charlotte County's Trees for Posterity program. A bench has been installed in memory of Elise Haymans at the garden dedicated to her at Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center. We will gather to celebrate her life in November some time when her family can be present. Details will be shared later.

Continued on page 2

Save the Date!

Board Mtg
Oct 14 9:30 am
First United
Methodist Church
(FUMC) Room 9

General Mtg
Oct 21
FUMC
1 pm Gather
1:30 General Meeting

Home & Garden Show
Not attending due
to COVID-19
concerns

Garden Tales

Continued from page 1

So, life goes on. We will continue the programs we have in place as best we can, and hope to do some fundraising so that we can support local organizations and award scholarships as we have done in the past. Join us when you can, but do what feels right for you.

*Stay safe, Mary Yeomans
President*

General Meeting – October 21, 2020

Succulents and Sunshine

Growing succulents indoors and outdoors doesn't have to be tricky, if you follow tips and steps presented by Debbie Hughes, Senior Horticulturist at Edison & Ford Winter Estates. Gathering begins at 1pm and the business meeting starts at 1:30. To be safe, please wear a mask.



Keep Nancy French in your thoughts as she continues to recuperate at home. Hopefully, Nancy was able to enjoy her recent birthday!

Welcome New Members!

Please add this new info to your yearbook.

Irene Gagerman

4725 Almar Dr.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
igagerman@gmail.com

773-931-9097

Nan Lee

2720 Mayaguana Ct.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
nan@pgisles.com

941-623-9255

Janice Williams

10269 Arrowhead Dr.
Punta Gorda, FL 33955
janicewilliams5@comcast.net 941-655-8328

Garden Tales

America in Bloom comes to Punta Gorda

Our Garden Club has partnered with TEAM Punta Gorda and PGI Green Thumbs, as well as the City, on the newest project through America In Bloom, Growing Vibrant Communities, which seeks to engage communities in achieving easily attainable community beautification goals. The pilot project is located at Hector Square and on two sides of the old County Building. New pole planters have been installed at Hector Square, at Taylor and Olympia Streets. Groupings of flowerpots will soon be added. The poles and pots will then be added along Taylor and Olympia Streets, all with red, white and blue plantings.

Garden Club members Elaine LaWell, Marilyn Pachota, Judi Beaumont, and Alan Schulman are all representing the Garden Club on this committee. Alan has very generously donated the initial funding for this project. PGGC is proud of his efforts and proud that Alan is a member of our club.

After the pilot project is completed, which will be very soon, work will move forward on Phase 2. This phase includes pole planters and flowerpot groupings on Taylor Street from Hector Square to Marion Street. The hope is that this initial project serves as a starting point for beautification throughout Punta Gorda. America In Bloom provides assistance and guidance by reviewing what is in place and recommending enhancement as well as educational resources and coaching support throughout the project. I'm sure you will be pleased with this project and proud that our Garden Club has been part of the effort.

Elaine LaWell, Asst Treasurer; Holly Day Home Tour Co-Chair



We offer our sincere condolences to Gail Edgren for the loss of her father, Paul G. Fredrickson, who passed away on Sept 21. Please keep Gail and her family in your thoughts and prayers.



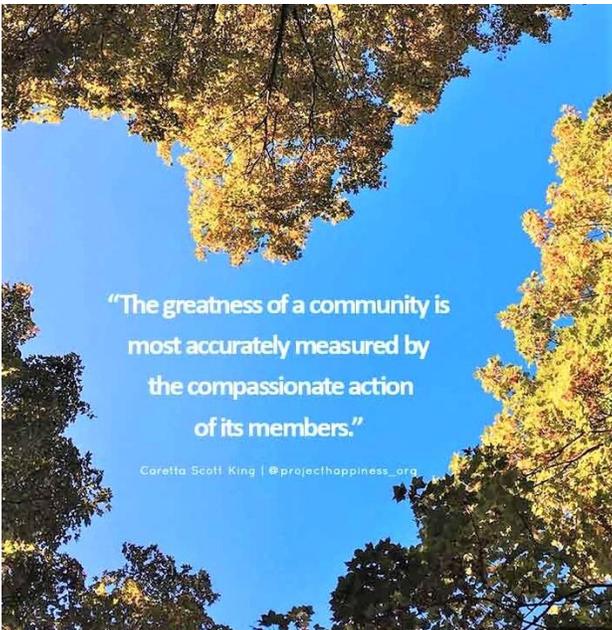
Garden Tales

General Meeting at Becky's Garden Shoppe

About 25 club members assembled at 10:00 am on September 16 to learn about edible plants from Becky Copenhaver at her shop on Elliott St. It was a warm day, but a business meeting was conducted, votes were taken, and much was accomplished before Becky spoke to the group. She offered some samples to taste as members strolled the grounds. Many purchased plants for their homes, edible or not! Thanks Becky!!

Members were also invited to tour a hydroponic greenhouse across the street owned by Gwaltney Supply Company. Tower gardens are employed to grow a variety of vegetables there and are sold for home use too. Thanks Jeremy!!

Mary Yeomans, President



How to Improve Recycling Rates

- Scrunch foil lids and wrappers together into a bigger ball, making them more likely to be recycled.
- Screw plastic lids back onto bottles to ensure they don't get lost during the recycling process.
- Squash bottles as flat as possible to take up less room and to be less likely to roll off the conveyor belt.
- Look for plastic recycling codes on containers when choosing what to buy. Numbers one, two, and five usually mean a bottle or container is more eligible for curbside pickup. Source: <https://www.treehugger.com/snack-packaging-not-easily-recycled-5079336>



Garden Tales



October Hostess Committee

Chair: Gail Edgren

Jan Brady	Bernadette Klein
Sandy Bruglio	Marilyn Reynolds
Barbara Drake	Terry Tunkavige
Dianne Felstein	Agnes West

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



October Birthdays Wishes

Nancy Kraus	10/1
Terry Tunkavige	10/2
Jane Hayse	10/9
Marion Wester	10/11
Heidi Kaletta	10/12
Ellen Klinger-Clark	10/13
Leigh Ann Ortega	10/20
Bonnie Verminski	10/24
Nancy Ziegenbein	10/28
Carol Houston	10/30

Coastal Cleanup - Sept 19:

The annual Coastal Cleanup was supported by hardworking, energetic members of PGGC. This volunteer group included Monica Lucey, Carol Moore, Vera Harris, Jack Forman, Joyce Stanley, Dorrit Tompkins, Judi Beaumont and Susan Forman (L to R in photo below). Monica's dog O'Malley provided moral support. Thank you for your efforts for a job well appreciated!



Freddy the Frog Update:

Carol Houston's adopted frog, Freddy, continues to thrive and enjoy his home on Carol's lanai.



Society Garlic (Tulbagh violacea)

Society Garlic is a lovely lavender perennial groundcover that can serve many purposes. It is actually not in the same plant genus as garlic and onions, but smells and tastes like garlic. It is a native of South Africa. Since garlic is difficult to grow here in Southwest Florida, society garlic is a good substitute. (Soft-neck garlic is the garlic should be grown here.)

Society garlic is a clump-forming herbaceous perennial with narrow, grass-like green leaves and clusters of small lilac flowers. Leaves reach about a foot tall and flowers rise up on stalks about two feet tall. The tubular flowers open up at the end to look like six pointed stars.

Varieties include 'Silver Lace', also called 'Variegata', which has larger flowers and cream striped leaves; 'Tricolor' has pink and white variegations.

Tolerant of both cold and drought, this plant grows in zones 8 to 10 and flowers in warm months. The leaves smell of garlic when disturbed, so keep this in mind when selecting a location for planting. Society garlic is also resistant to deer, rabbit and mole damage. Society garlic is great for a sunny, water-wise garden. This easy-to-grow plant prefers sandy soil, and performs best in terms of flowering with full sun.

There are no serious insect or disease problems. Slugs and snails may damage the foliage. Society garlic is lovely in rock gardens, sunny borders, herb gardens and edging and in containers.

Other uses of crushed leaves of the society garlic plant include repelling fleas, ticks, and mosquitos, when rubbed on the skin. The rhizomes and leaves are edible and can be used in dishes the same way that garlic or garlic chives are used. Flowers are also edible and can be used as a delicate garnish. You can propagate your plants easily by dividing the clumps while the plant is dormant. When grown outdoors, plants spread slowly by rhizomes but are not considered aggressive.

Jane Hayse, Horticulture Chair

Sources: <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/society-garlic.html>
<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c559>
<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com>

Any suggestions for the Plant Profile? Contact Jane Hayse, at jhayse59@hotmail.com



Source: Etsy.com

Garden Tales

Garden Calendar – October

What to Plan

Annuals/Bedding plants: Even though temperatures are still warm, begin planting for the cooler months ahead. Impatiens, alyssum, and dianthus are good plants for the fall/winter garden. See Annuals: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants

Bulbs: Plant agapanthus, rain lily, and clivia lily now for blooms next spring or summer. Add organic matter to the planting bed for best results. See Bulbs for Florida: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers

Herbs: A wide range of herbs can be planted from seed or transplants this month. Some to try include dill, fennel, parsley, and cilantro. See Herbs: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs

Vegetables: Easy crops that can be grown now include beans, broccoli, carrots, collards, lettuce, green onions, peppers, radishes, spinach, and tomatoes. See Vegetable Gardening in Florida: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

What to Do

Lawns: Control winter weeds in lawns before they appear. Preemergence herbicides must be applied at the right time to be effective. Apply when nighttime temperatures are 55° F-60° F for 4-5 days. See Lawn Weeds: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_weeds

Ornamental trees and shrubs: Fertilize plants that are not performing as desired. This is the last month of the year to fertilize shrubs and trees. Controlled-release fertilizer provides nutrients over a longer period of time. See Palm Nutrition and Fertilization: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_nutrition and Landscape Fertilization: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_fertilization

Lawn fertilization: Fertilize lawns if needed. See Lawn Fertilizer: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_fertilization

Strawberries: Prepare beds and set strawberry plants this month. Strawberries also make a colorful and tasty container planting. Either way, water daily until plants are established. See Strawberries: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_strawberries

Palms: Palms have unique nutritional needs. Select a fertilizer that contains controlled release nitrogen, potassium and magnesium. See Palm Nutrition and Fertilization: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_nutrition

Oleanders: Control the oleander caterpillar, which is a year-round resident in South Florida, without harming beneficial insects by pruning off infested leaves or spraying with BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*). See Oleander Pest Management: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_oleander_ipm

Twig girdlers: Control twig girdlers by cleaning up and destroying fallen branches that young twig girdlers can use for harborage. See Twig Girdlers: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_twig_girdlers

Garden Tales



Upcoming Events

Oct 24- 25 Avid Gardeners' Plant Sale

Sat 8-5, Sun 9-3 or so. Theresa Collins Hill, (Treasurer of the DeSoto Garden Club), and several gardener pals from DeSoto, Charlotte, and Lee counties are 'thinning our gardens' and holding an informal sale. Plants start at \$1 and include common, natives, rare, and collector's plants among the expected several thousand plants plus unique wood for DIY'ers, and other plant/garden themed items. Some sellers plan to set up on Saturday only. Location - Oaks of Devonaire 1423 SE County Rd 760A, Arcadia. (This is a wedding barn venue.) Call 863-990-0605 if you have any questions.

Dec 5 Lake Placid Garden Club Holiday Home & Garden Tour

Sat 12-4 pm. To feature several beautifully decorated homes and meticulously maintained gardens. 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.

Eco Tip - Grocery Tote

Protect the environment by replacing plastic bags with reusable, machine washable DIY bags made from T shirts. Directions:

1. Turn your t-shirt inside-out. Lay on a flat surface.
2. Cut off sleeves, keeping seams intact (for strength).
3. Cut neckline inch or two wider, depending on size.
4. Pin cotton edges of shirt together. Sew closed.
5. Remove pins. Flip out t-shirt right-side in.

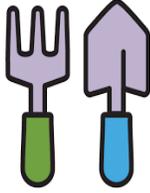
source

<https://theartofsimple.net>



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!

Oct 5 - History Park
Oct 12 - Old PG Old Library
Oct 19 - Botanical Garden
Oct 26 - Woman's Club

The November newsletter deadline is Oct 20. Please submit items and/or photographs to Mary Hanrahan, Newsletter Editor at mahamherst@gmail.com.



"Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."

Marcel Proust | @projecthappiness_org

Sept Edible Plant Program Follow up Lavender Shortbread Cookie Recipe

Erica Leahy, Artist Baker Morristown, NJ

Yield - 2 dozen cookies

Ingredients

1 c butter softened
¼ c granulated sugar Plus extra to sprinkle on cookies
¼ c powdered sugar
¼ tsp salt
1 c cake flour
1 c all-purpose flour
1 tbs chopped fresh lavender

Steps

1. Using standard mixer fitted with paddle attachment, cream butter, sugars, and salt until thoroughly combined (about 3 minutes)
2. In separate bowl, sift together flours.
3. Mix flour mixture into butter mixture in 3 additions. Scraping down sides of bowl in between each addition.
4. Add lavender and mix to just combine.
5. Roll out dough to a ½ inch thick rectangle. Wrap in plastic and refrigerate for at least 4 hours.
6. Preheat oven to 350F. Cut the dough into 2x1 inch bars and place on parchment lined baking sheet.
7. Bake cookies until just golden at the edges about 20 minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle immediately with granulated sugar. Cool completely before serving.

Source - JamesBeard.org

