



www.pggc.org

## Punta Gorda Garden Club

# Garden Tales

*Gardening Nourishes the Soul*

### Club Objectives

To promote the beautification and improvement of Punta Gorda and the surrounding areas; to encourage the growing of flowers, plants and shrubbery in public and private places; to cooperate in the conservation of natural resources and to promote education in these areas.

The Punta Gorda Garden Club was founded in 1949 and federated in 1950. We are members of National Garden Clubs, Inc., Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc., Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc; and Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. District IX.

### President's Message

Hello Gardening Friends:

This most unusual time just won't seem to end. While many of us have spent our hours in isolation cultivating plants, hobbies, or home improvement projects, I am sure we all have missed our PGGC friends and the camaraderie felt when meeting or working on a project as a group. The cancellation of our beloved Holly Days Home Tour is certainly disappointing, but it was felt that it was the best decision at this time.

Hopefully you have found ways to connect with those about whom you care or love and continue to communicate in a safe way. We will be holding a general meeting on Wednesday, September 16 at 10:00 am at Becky's Garden Shoppe on Elliott Street in Punta Gorda. The description of the program is found in this issue. After much discussion we decided that an outdoor meeting where we can maintain distance would work best for those who are willing to venture out. Please bring a folding chair, water to drink, and wear a mask.

During this meeting we have a few important loose ends to tie up - a vote will be held on the new proposed budget, which will be emailed after the Board meeting on Sept. 9. Also, a vote will be held for the open Director position for which the Board has recommended Marilyn Pachota. She will replace Sarah Corey and join Betsy Foster and Anne Simpson, our other two Directors. Our 501(c)3 application was approved (Yea!!) so that committee will be discharged.

*Continued on page 2*

### Save the Date!

#### Board Mtg

(note - room change)  
 Sept 9 9:30 am  
 First United Methodist  
 Church (FUMC) Room 9

#### General Mtg

(note - location/time change)  
 Sept 16  
 Becky's Garden Shoppe  
 6450 Elliott St, Punta Gorda  
 10 am General Meeting

## Garden Tales

*Continued from page 1*

And our Home Tour Chairs, Carol Moore and Elaine LaWell will be reappointed in anticipation of holding the event in 2021. So, if you can make it and feel comfortable doing so, please join us!

Vinita Jones, First Vice President, has scheduled a great list of programs for this year, so we are hoping to be able to meet to hear these presentations. Please do what makes you comfortable - do not feel that you must participate if that is not in your comfort zone.

And speaking of Vinita, she was one of six PGGC members who submitted entries in National Garden Club's first ever Virtual Flower Show and she won three awards! Check the photos of the winners in this issue. Other members who entered included Peggy Stanfield, Claudia Chopp, Elaine LaWell, Sarah Corey, and Sandy Kirk.

Carol Moore's garden crew has worked every Monday morning to tend our public gardens, and a small group of PGGC members participated in the Great American Clean Up. Working outside is one way we can be together but stay apart to remain safe.

*Mary*

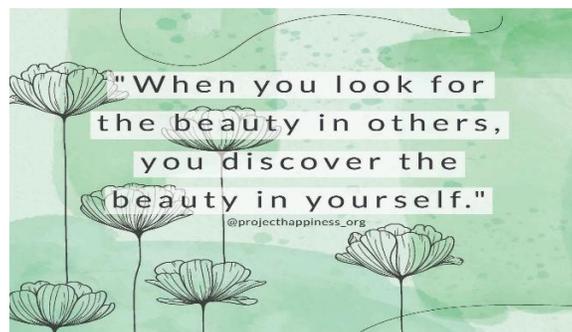
*Mary Yeomans, President*

*Sept 16 GENERAL MEETING:*

*UNUSUAL EDIBLE PLANTS FOR YOUR FLORIDA GARDEN*

Our guest speaker is Rebecca Copenhaver, Certified Landscape Designer, Certified Horticulture Professional and Certified Master Gardener is the owner of Becky's Garden Shoppe in Punta Gorda. Becky will share her vast knowledge of edible plants for your very own garden.

This meeting will be held on Sept 16 at 10 am at 6450 Elliott Street, Punta Gorda. Please bring a chair, water to drink, and a mask to wear. No refreshments served. Yearbooks will be distributed at the Sept and Oct meetings.



Source: <https://projecthappiness.mykajabi.com/>

## Garden Tales

### *PGGC Cleans Up Again!*

Six club members and one helpful hubby left a section of Route 41 south of Punta Gorda (near Tuckers Grade) a lot tidier after picking up litter there one day in July. The Great American Clean Up scheduled for March had been postponed, so this made up for that missed day. Volunteers received T shirts and observed social distancing while working.

Thanks to participants for showing they care about our community!

*Mary Yeomans, President*



### *NGC Virtual Flower Show Awards*

NGC awarded Vinita Jones the Blue Ribbon 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Botanical Arts Artistic Crafts Division! This category was “Eye to Eye” a decorated outdoor seat (chair, bench, stool, etc.) of the designer’s choice.



Vinita also received awards in the Horticulture Division:

90+ Section E “Perception” Class 23 - Euphorbia Milli ‘Crown of Thorns’ (photo on left)

90+ Section D “Optical Illusion” Class 2 - Microsorium musifolium ‘Alligator Fern’ (photo on right)



## Garden Tales



### 2020-21 Officers

President	Mary Yeomans
Co-President	Carol Houston
1st Vice President	Vinita Jones
2nd Vice President	Carol Moore
Recording Secretary	Pat Juliano
Corresponding Secretary	Jan Brady
Treasurer	Joyce Stanley
Asst Treasurer	Elaine LaWell
Directors	Betsy Foster Anne Simpson Marilyn Pachota
Parliamentarian	Judi Beaumont



### Sept Birthdays Wishes

Susan Pymm 9/05  
Laura Flannelly 9/08  
Chris Green 9/11  
Betsy Mosketti 9/14  
Nancy French 9/17  
Cindy Dorety 9/22

Celebrating you all year long!

And many happy wishes!



Get  
Well  
Soon



We are wishing a speedy recovery to Sandy Kirk from knee replacement surgery.

We offer our sincere condolences to two of our members who recently lost their spouse/partner.

**Carol Moore lost her husband, Robert Moore on July 21.**

**Susan Pymm lost her partner, Karl Thober on July 22.**

Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers.



## Garden Tales



### Get to know a Club Member - Marilyn Pachota

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

I grew up in Detroit, Michigan watching my dad farm an empty lot across the street while I sat under the shade of a large tree and observing my grandpa tend his garden bringing the left over peelings, etc. from the day's meals. My dad had a natural green thumb growing beautiful flowers on our postage-stamp sized back yard. So, you could say that gardening is in my genes and jeans!

Bob and I lived in Livonia, Michigan where Bob joined the family business of manufacturing cement blocks and readi-mix cement. A family of three soon followed and filled my days. I was a stay-at-home Mom with a hobby of drapery making. When the children were all through college and married, I had several small jobs and finished my working career as a school secretary until early retirement in 1999. We moved to Rifle Lake and Bob soon found 80 acres of woods for hunting, a barn and suitable space for an acre garden. It flourished with every imaginable vegetable and some berry bushes. Bob was affectionately known as Farmer Bob and I was his helper. We entered the annual county fair with our vegetables and I also entered creative flower designs. We'd sometimes win a whopping \$25 in prize money. No such incentive in our flower shows! I was active in the Livonia Garden Club as President and Vice-President and Youth Gardening Chair. My favorites memories include working with a Girl Scout Troop, a five-year old child care center group and other various school groups. This is my true love - working with kids.

In 1999 we bought a house in Punta Gorda where we put in raised beds. I found it challenging to deal with the different soil and the heat. But the long and lush growing season provides us with incredible plant material. My northern gardening buddies would love rummaging through the plant material we'd toss away. We moved to our current condo on Breakers Court in 2010 and love the harbor view it affords.

***When did you join Garden Club?*** I joined the Punta Gorda Garden Club in 2000 after visiting a historic house tour.

***What are your Past / current Club roles?*** I was recently nominated to be a Director. My first and only position until this upcoming year is Chair of Youth Gardening., My current group is kids from SGA of Charlotte High School where we have 2 plots at history park. We raise vegetables and flowers of their choosing and occasionally make a craft or floral arrangement. My other groups include Sallie Jones School - both Mrs. Law's second graders and recently an after-school program that was really promising until the pandemic struck. We hope to pick up in the Fall.

***Describe your favorite Club activities*** My favorite club activities are those that bring us together on a more intimate level such as road trips, home tour workshops, flower show seminars, etc.

***Your favorite plant? Any gardening tips to share?*** I love flowers that bring essential pollinators. My garden tip - the most important ingredient in successful gardening is good soil and that you are never quite finished as transplanting is always an option. Join a garden club for the most fun and an educational experience.

## Garden Tales

### *Plant Profile – Turmeric (Curcuma longa)*

Did you know that turmeric is in the same plant family as ginger? So why not plant it in the landscape instead of, or, accompanying your ginger plants? The bloom of the *curcuma longa* is exquisite. There are also multiple varieties, although the golden root is the most common. This is a plant I am looking forward to planting in a shady area, perhaps under a live oak tree.

Like ginger, the underground stems, or rhizomes, of turmeric have been used for thousands of years in Indian cooking and is a major component in curry recipes; it is also quite popular in other Asian, East African, and Caribbean dishes. Today, researchers are looking at its possible health benefits, including anti-inflammatory properties. The turmeric you find in the spice aisle in the grocery store is the plant's rhizomes, dried and ground into a powder, but you can substitute fresh turmeric into most any recipe.

Fresh turmeric can be hard to find consistently in the grocery store. Luckily for Florida gardeners, growing it at home is easy. With its tropical foliage and showy flowers, turmeric is a beautiful and useful addition to any garden. The turmeric plant grows to three feet and has oblong, dark green leaves that are about five inches wide. The flowers are yellow-white, growing on a spike-like stalk. It grows well in partial to full shade in soil that has been amended with organic matter. Turmeric prolifically produces rhizomes that are ready for harvest generally in late fall or early winter; you'll know it's ready when the plant goes dormant. A perennial, turmeric dies back during winter freezes but will return reliably in late spring.

While you can sometimes find turmeric at your local garden supply store, you may also have luck finding turmeric for planting in the produce aisle of your favorite grocery store. Choose a firm, fresh piece. To plant, cut the rhizome into pieces 1 to 1½ inches long, each containing at least one "eye" if possible. Do this a few days ahead of planting to allow the cut surfaces to dry, reducing chances of rotting. In your prepared bed, insert each piece and cover with about 1 inch of soil. Early in the spring is the best time to plant.

*Jane Hayse, Horticulture Chair*



#### **Source:**

<https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/edibles/vegetables/turmeric.html>

Edited by Jane Hayse,  
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)

## Garden Tales

### *Garden Calendar – September*

#### **What to Plant**

**Annuals/Bedding plants:** If summer beds need refreshing, try scarlet sage, nasturtium, celosia, and wax begonia for color 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 every 2 weeks to stagger blooming. Stake each plant. See Bulbs for Florida: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_bulbous\\_flowers](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers)

**Herbs:** Plant herbs that tolerate the warm temperatures of early fall, such as Mexican tarragon, mint, rosemary, and basil. See Herbs: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_herbs](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs)

**Vegetables:** September opens the door for more vegetables to plant. See Vegetable Gardening in Florida: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_vegetable\\_gardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening)

**Shrubs:** Consider placing native shrubs, like beautyberry, marlberry, firebush, and dahoon holly, where you can view the birds that enjoy them. 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 Shrubs: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_shrubs](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_shrubs)

#### **What to Do**

**Lawns:** Continue to monitor the lawn for signs of insect damage. Fall armyworms, chinch bugs, mole crickets, and sod webworms are still active this month. See Turfgrass Pest Insects: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_turf\\_pest\\_insects](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_turf_pest_insects)

**Fertilizer Bans:** Numerous municipalities in south Florida prohibit the application of fertilizer to lawns and/or landscape plants during the summer rainy season (June-September). See if such an ordinance exists in your area.

**Vegetable Gardens:** Prepare the fall vegetable garden if not done in August. Using transplants from your local garden center will get the garden off to a fast start, but seeds provide a wider variety from which to choose. See Vegetable Gardening in Florida: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_vegetable\\_gardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening)

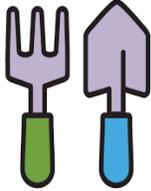
**Perennials and Bulbs:** Divide and replant perennials and bulbs that have grown too large or need rejuvenation. Add organic matter to planting beds and monitor water needs during establishment. See Seeds and Propagation (Lawn and Garden): [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_garden\\_propagation](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_garden_propagation)

**Irrigation:** Check that irrigation systems are providing good coverage and operating properly before summer rains taper off. See Landscape Irrigation: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_irrigation](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation)

**Citrus:** Fertilize citrus with a balanced fertilizer either this month or in October. Use controlled-release nitrogen because rain will not leach it from the soil too quickly. 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

### *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!

- Sept 7 - History Park
- Sept 14 - Old PG Old Library
- Sept 21 - Botanical Garden
- Sept 28 - Woman's Club

The deadline for the October newsletter is Sept 20, 2020. Submit items of interest and/or photographs to Mary Hanrahan, Newsletter Editor at [mahamherst@gmail.com](mailto:mahamherst@gmail.com).



Source: <https://projecthappiness.mykajabi.com>