



www.pggc.org

OCTOBER 2021 VOL 13, ISSUE 3

Punta Gorda Garden Club Garden Tales

“A garden is not a place. It’s a journey.”

Club News

The Board approved amendments to the Standing Rules proposed by the By-Laws Committee. The changes were reviewed at the Sept General meeting. Members will vote to approve the amendments at the October General meeting. Refer to the PGGC website for the Standing Rules.

PGGC is hosting the District IX Fall Meeting on Oct 26. It will be held via ZOOM and members are invited. The Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Program will speak on the Everglades.

PGGC will be represented at the Home & Garden Show on Oct 23-24. Contact Cindy Dorety if you want to volunteer.

Sandy Bruglio will commence photographing each member for the Yearbook at the October Meeting.

PGGC is a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc, Deep South Region National Garden Clubs, Inc., Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., and FFGC District IX.

President’s Message

Dear Members,

It is so exciting to be beginning a new year with our wonderful Garden Club! I am so looking forward to being your President. It is such an honor, thank you.

I am sure we are so happy to see our club members and gardening friends. I don’t know about you, but I feel that the summer has gone really fast. It may be due to the fact that I did not get everything done that I had planned! How about you?

Our September meeting was really great. We had many members in person and several more by ZOOM. It was so nice to have our little luncheon back. It felt somewhat normal and the food was sooo good! I think I went back for seconds.

Members, we are facing who knows what for the upcoming year. Will it be back to normal or will we have to be inventive? Just in case, let’s get our heads together and come up with some wonderful and creative ideas that will generate money, money, money! This enables us to donate to all of our wonderful causes and recipients that rely on us to support their wonderful environmental, educational, beautification and conservationist ideals.

I want to encourage all of our members to come up with ideas - whether miniscule or gigantic. Do not keep them to yourself, let us know. Something you think that may not be a practical idea may lead to something fabulous. That is how our “Home Garden Tour” was initiated. The Tour will be so wonderful. Wait until you see what our Chairs and worker bees have made and still are creating. It will be a Christmas Dream come true. Stay positive, stay committed, stay creative, stay productive! Thank you all for your participation.

Your President, Carol Houston

Save the Date!

Board Meeting
Peace River
Baptist Church
Oct 13 9:30 am

General Meeting
Peace River
Baptist Church
Oct 20
1pm Refreshments
1:30 Meeting
ZOOM accessible

District IX Meeting
9:30am -1:30pm
ZOOM

Garden Tales

General Meeting – October 20, 2020

Butterfly Gardening with Native Plants

Our guest speaker will be Florida Master Naturalist Tony Mauriello. Butterfly gardening is designed to create an environment that attracts butterflies. Various Florida native plants will be discussed which attract the most common butterflies visiting Southwest Florida.



International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) – Sept 18

PGGC environmentalists turned out for the annual ICC to clean up the east end of the Fisherman's Village parking lot then followed the stream along Linear Park, past the new library, to Berry St. Using the #CleanSwell app, they recorded 344 items, (totaling 60 pounds), removed from the area. Below in the back row are Betty Moschetti, Vera Harris, Richard Collins, Joyce Stanley, Julie O'Brien; in the front row are Janice Williams, Carol Moore, Joanne Collins, Peggy Stanfield. Photo by Mary Yeomans. Great Job and Thank You!



Ocean Conservancy International Results

2020 ICC Top Ten Items Recorded		
1	Cigarette Butts	964,521
2	Beverage Bottles (plastic)	627,014
3	Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	573,534
4	Other Trash* (Clean Swell)	519,438
5	Bottle Caps (plastic)	409,855
6	Grocery Bags (plastic)	272,399
7	Straws, Stirrers	224,170
8	Take Out/Away Containers (plastic)	222,289
9	Beverage Cans	162,750
10	Beverage Bottles (glass)	146,255

*Other Trash refers to items that are collected by volunteers using the Clean Swell mobile app not fall in a specific category. These other items range in material type and size. Examples include indistinguishable plastic pieces, clothing and metal pieces. Notably for 2020, it is likely that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) items were logged in this category before a specific category was created for it on Clean Swell.

Fact - The Ocean Conservancy revealed that 70% of items collected over the past 35 years are effectively unrecyclable! Source - "We Clean On." Ocean Conservancy, 2021.

Garden Tales

Holly Days Garden Walk - Update

Teams are busy working on decorations for our 6 gardens, even those whose chair, homeowner and/or team members are out of town. Work still progresses. Your help is imperative this year due to our club having so many members who are unable to help with this, our major fundraiser. On that thought, let me remind you that our club is now able to accept donations so especially if you cannot work, please consider making a donation. Many of us are covering our own expenses for this garden walk. Even though the budget is very low, significantly less than half of our normal budget for the home tour, every small expenditure that is not turned in for reimbursement will make a difference in our revenue.

Again, because so many are not able to work, getting help during the two days of the tour will be a challenge. So please step up if you are able. Also think about asking non-members if they would like to help, but clear it first with me or Carol Moore so we can place help where it is most needed. My husband is now an "experienced docent", having worked our last home tour. I personally have asked 3 friends if they can possibly help us during the two days of the tour. We have had to become creative in many ways, starting with an entire new idea of the garden walk, to ensure that our event can happen this year and that we continue with our tradition and retain the loyal following we have enjoyed for many years. We do not want to lose momentum!

In addition, this year we are emphasizing making items for sale. With the uncertainty over how many tickets we will sell, having had no experience with this new idea, we want to make sure we do everything we can to generate the revenues that we are accustomed to and are able to continue providing scholarships and supporting charitable organizations in our community. This is where we can branch out and make things solely for sale. We gained some experience with this in our garden, craft and art fair earlier this year. Think about what you can make, clear it with the Chair of your team, and get busy. Each house will have things made for sale that can be taken upon purchase. In addition, there are the garden decorations themselves which as usual can be purchased and then picked up at the close of the tour.

And our traditions will continue with the things that provide us with a loyal following - handmade decorations, cookies, and poinsettias. The cookies this year will be given out at one house only, packaged in a pretty bag along with a small bottle of water. Our poinsettias should be lovely and hopefully more unusual this year, thanks to member Alan Schulman who assisted in the purchase of our plants. We will have plants for purchase, that are not the usual big box variety, in white, pink and ice crystal.

Several new plans for ticket sales will be implemented this year. Club members may pre-sell tickets as usual, but are not required to do so. If you want tickets to sell to friends, please reach out to Joyce Stanley. In addition, Joyce will be listed on our website as the person to contact to buy advance tickets, as many of our neighboring garden clubs do. Joyce will accept credit card payments for tickets, which can then be picked up at any of the gardens on the tour. In addition, a docent stationed at each garden will handle all credit card sales for tickets or for purchases.

Continued to next page

Garden Tales

Holly Days Update (continued)

Tour hours have also changed this year to 10 am to 5pm each day. We lengthened our hours to accommodate the time needed to drive from garden to garden. The morning of the tour will begin early in order to fully setup, with start time to be determined by each Garden Chair. There will be some work involved at the end of each day to close up for the evening.

With all these changes, many of us who have been involved in the planning are truly excited about this event. It should be a blast, truly about gardens, but also showing how very talented we are. We can rock this, let's show off!

Elaine LaWell, Holly Day Home Tour Co-Chair

Holly Days Garden Walk - Garden Owners and Team Chairs

"Classic Car Christmas" Owner Nancy Knaus 538 Peeples Dr PG Chairs Cindy Dorety, Betty Moschetti

"Whimsical Christmas" Owner Joyce Stanley 285 Seasons Dr PG Chairs Mary Curby, Julie O'Brien

"Fantasy Christmas" Owner Claudia Chopp 5000 Riverside Dr PG Chairs Claudia Chopp,
Marianne Bjorkman

"Traditional Country Christmas" Owner Vinita Jones 1425 Amelia Ave Port Charlotte Chairs Vinita Jones,
Molly Reifeis

"Enchanted Tropical Christmas" Owner Nancy Palmer 2704 Hibiscus Ct PGI Chairs Vinita Jones,
Molly Reifeis

"Shabby Chic Christmas" Owner Elaine LaWell 433 West Ann St PG Chair Elaine LaWell

Important Dates to Save

Punta Gorda Garden Club
presents

Our Holly Days Garden Tour
Dec 3 & 4, 2021
10 a.m. ~ 5 p.m.

Tickets \$20.00 Our Theme:
"Christmas Dreams"

Please visit our webpage and/or Facebook page for
ticket and location information

Pggc.org  Join us on
Facebook

All proceeds fund community projects
and scholarships
Punta Gorda Garden Club
is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Garden Tales



October Hostess Committee

Chair: Gail Edgren

Frolly Boyd	Jan Brady
Louise DiNino	Ursula Karlen
Bernadette Klein	Madeline Medeiros
Peggie Stanfield	Bonnie Verminski
Dottie Williams	Agnes West



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
Lynn Davies	10/17
Madeline Medeiros	10/18
Leigh Ann Ortega	10/20
Bonnie Verminski	10/24
Nancy Ziegenbein	10/28
Carol Houston	10/30

And many happy wishes!



Member Profile – Joyce Tilden

Tell us about your background

I grew up in Southern California (beautiful Downtown Burbank). I spent a few years in Northern CA (East Bay) before transferring to Basking Ridge, NJ with AT&T. Retired from AT&T/Lucent Technologies in 2001 at the age of 49½ and relocated, with my then husband, to PGI. I had an exciting and fulfilling career that afforded me the opportunity to travel to some wonderful places around the world - at the company's expense. I have two step-children that I raised from the ages of 2 and 7 and 8 wonderful grandchildren. They are spread between New Jersey, Georgia, and North Carolina.

When did you join Garden Club?

I joined the Garden Club just in time for the Home Tour of 2002. While driving around the Isles getting ideas for landscaping the home that we were building, I came across the lovely gardens of former member Carole Biggs. I stopped to ask questions about her yard and next thing I knew I was part of the Punta Gorda Garden Club.

Past / current Club roles?

Over the years I did the Newsletter and Yearbook, served as Treasurer for multiple terms and helped create our first "Market." The 2004 Home Tour was cancelled because of Hurricane Charley. To earn money that year, I suggested having a "Plant Sale" like the Hibiscus Festival/Plant Sale. The sale was held in the church parking lot with lots of vendors who paid to participate and we sold poinsettias at a profit.

Describe your favorite Club activities

Some of my favorite things about the club are getting to know the members and learning new tips and tricks about Florida landscaping and gardening. And of course, the Home Tour!

Your favorite plant? Gardening tips to share?

I love all kinds of plants, particularly unusual or different plants. That is what drew me to Carole Biggs' lovely garden twenty years ago - it did not look like a typical Florida yard.

Plant Profile - Longleaf Pine (Pinus palustris)

You may not give pine trees much thought, but they are very important to the ecology of our area. Longleaf pines once dominated the southeastern United States, covering 30 to 60 million acres. A wide variety of native wildlife depends on the unique longleaf pine ecosystem, including Florida mice, gopher frogs, eastern diamond-back rattlesnakes, and the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.

Today this stately pine has been reduced to about 10 percent of its original geographic coverage. Thankfully, recognition of the value of longleaf pine ecosystems is growing and longleaf pine is increasingly the focus of protection and restoration efforts. The Cecil B. Webb Wildlife Management Area in Charlotte County has over 2000 acres of mature longleaf pine and is home to the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.

Not to be confused with Slash pine or Loblolly pine, Longleaf pines can reach 125 feet in height in good soil. The bark is thick, reddish-brown, and scaly. The tree has bright green, long, flexible needles, giving it an almost weeping appearance. Equally dramatic are the large, spiny cones. At 6 to 10 inches long, longleaf pine cones are prized by florists and crafters. Don't wait around for them to drop; cones can remain on the tree for more than a year! Longleaf pines take 100 to 150 years to reach mature size and can live to be hundreds of years old under ideal conditions!

Longleaf pine is unique in being both a *pioneer species* (the first to colonize a disturbed area) and a key member of the *climax community* (the final, stable ecosystem). In the wild, longleaf pine forests develop a stable grassland ecosystem, home to a rich variety of plants and animals. Fire is an important part of both the ecosystem and the pine population's health. Regular burns remove competing vegetation and expose the bare soil needed for seeds to germinate.

For its first 5-7 years of life, longleaf pine grows slowly, remaining in its grass-like juvenile form. This period gives it time to develop a strong root system. Afterwards it shoots up quickly into the recognizable adult form, reaching a final spread of 30-40 feet.

Longleaf pine is not usually planted in landscapes, but often they are preserved on construction sites as specimen plantings. If you do choose to plant longleaf pines, choose container-grown seedlings over bareroot seedlings.

When planting seedlings, use extreme care to avoid damaging the taproot during planting. Water frequently and control vegetation around the seedling; competition for water and space often results in tree loss.

Longleaf pines can tolerate partial shade but will grow best in a site with full sun and the well-drained, sandy soil of their native sandhill ecosystems. They are extremely drought tolerant once established and tolerate salt spray, too. Needle drop occurs seasonally, so some landscapers avoid planting longleaf near paved surfaces.

Continued to next page

Garden Tales

(Continued from prior page)

Among all the pine species of the south, longleaf pine stands out as the most disease-, pest-, and fire-resistant. This tree has no major diseases of concern and only a few pests: borers, sawflies, pine-shoot moth, pine bark beetles, and pine weevils.

The next time you come across a Longleaf pine, give it the respect it deserves. It took a long time for it to be there!



A mature longleaf pine. UF/IFAS.



Longleaf seedling.
Joseph O'Brien,
USDA Forest Service
Bugwood.org

Jane Hayse, Horticulture Chair

Source: Longleaf Pine - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
Any suggestions for the Plant Profile? Contact Jane Hayse, at jhayse59@hotmail.com



Night Blooming Cereus

This is a night blooming Cereus grown by Hal Sterwerf. This cactus flower usually begins to bloom at 9 or 10 pm and is fully open by midnight. The first rays of the sun will see the petals droop and die

Hal used his cell phone and a small flashlight to photograph this unique flower.

Garden Tales



Upcoming Events

Oct 1 UF/IFAS Extension Charlotte County Florida-Friendly Friday; Port Charlotte; Register online at <https://flfrfr.eventbrite.com>

9-9:50am Intro to Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ ; Free

10-10:50am Butterfly Gardening 101; \$5

11am -12:30pm Upcycled Garden Art; \$20 to make and take 2 projects

Oct 9-10 Edison Ford Museum Orchid Sale and Symposium Daily admission for presentations \$15 non-member; \$10 Edison Ford member; 9:30am - 3:30pm

Oct 9 - Nov 28 Selby Botanical Garden Orchid Show: Aerialists from the Tree Top to the Big Top! breathtaking beauty of orchids in tree-top canopies high above the forest floor; Sarasota; 10am - 5pm

Oct 16 ECHO International Get into Gardening with Food Forests N. Fort Myers; 9am - 3pm

Oct 19 Floral Design at Selby Gardens Design gorgeous, custom flower arrangements as we partner with Two Bloom Events for a night of wine and design. \$75 nonmembers; \$65 members; 6pm - 8pm

Oct 23 Peace River Botanical Garden Plant Sale No admission to buy plants! Punta Gorda

Oct 30 & Nov 6 Edison Ford Museum Hypertufa Wall Pot Class Two-Part Series. \$50 members; \$75 nonmembers; 9am - 12pm



Your Vote is needed

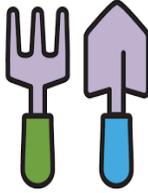
Punta Gorda is a finalist in the America in Bloom competition. PGGC members are encouraged to go to the website and vote for our city. The deadline to vote is October 1, 2021. Here is the link to view the video and vote: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AIB2021>

America in Bloom empowers communities to be more welcoming and vibrant with colorful plants and trees in clean environments. It also promotes celebrating heritage and planting pride through volunteerism.



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 4 - History Park
- Oct 18 - Botanical Garden
- Oct 25 - Woman's Club

Monty Don Musings

"I am always more interested in people than plants. Nature doesn't make gardens, people make gardens. And the story of a garden is always the story of a person."

Gardening Tip

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



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

