



Punta Gorda Garden Club Garden Tales Gardening Nourishes the Soul

www.pggc.org

Club News

Due to the Pandemic and wanting to keep all members safe and connected, the PGGC Board and General Meetings will utilize ZOOM to offer a hybrid approach of onsite and remote attendance.

Unfortunately, the Bok Tower field trip in March is canceled because of the concerns regarding the coronavirus.

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

Gardening Friends,

Phew! 2020 is past, the election and inauguration are over, the light is visible at the end of the vaccine tunnel (although it is a long tunnel for many), and spring is on the horizon. Can you feel a change in the air?

If you read The Daily Sun every morning like I do, you may have recently noticed a column title that reminds me of something we all need to do these days. "Keeping Positivity in the Foreground" was the title of John Wright's article about the plans of the Chamber of Commerce. There are many reasons for folks to worry and feel anxious, but at this point we need to focus on the positive aspects of our daily lives and the hopeful feeling that is beginning to pervade the news. Thinking positively has been proven to improve mental and physical health, and a sense of optimism provides cheer even on dismal days. Let's work to keep smiles on our faces and the work of our club moving along!

And, speaking of work, we have some fundraisers coming up that could use some help from our members. Both have been described in articles and emails in the past, but keep in mind the dates: February 6 is the Citywide Garage Sale and March 6 is the Hop'N Into Spring Sale Event. Help us by donating and/or working at these events, or even better, come shopping at both! There are some treasures being offered at the Garage Sale at great prices, and some beautiful art, crafts, and plants making an appearance at the Sale Event. Support PGGC and shop! Please spread the word about both events to your friends and neighbors.

2021 is an odd-numbered year, so that brings elections to PGGC. The Nominating Committee has been formed, and its members
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Save the Date!

Citywide Garage Sale	Board Meeting	General Meeting
Bal Harbor Shopping Plaza PGI	FUMC, ZOOM	FUMC, ZOOM
Feb 6 8am - Noon	Punta Gorda Feb 10 9:30 am	Punta Gorda Feb 17 1pm Gather 1:30 pm Meeting

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soon begin to “tap” club members on the shoulders and ask if they are willing to be nominated for an office. Please agree to take on a role on the club leadership team if they ask. If there is any position in which you might be interested, please let one of them know. I hope you will consider stepping up! More details can be found in this newsletter.

We had a hybrid Board meeting in January - some Zoomed from home and others met at the church. It seemed to work, so we are going to try that for our February General Meeting. Check your email as we get closer for details.

Port Charlotte Garden Club presented us with a certificate announcing that an engraved brick will be installed at FFGC to honor our 70th Anniversary! What a lovely and thoughtful gift! More details on the PCGC/PGGC joint meeting on January 14th on p. 4.

The weather is comfortable again so I hope that you have been outside and appreciated the beautiful paradise in which we live. I don't think my gardens have ever looked better in terms of weeds and pruning. I'm looking forward to when everything starts blooming again... Take care and stay safe - Mary

Mary Yeomans, President

February 2021 General Meeting: Florida's Coral Reef

The program at our February 17th meeting will be presented by Martha Roesler, Chief Development Officer of the Coral Restoration Foundation. The foundation is a nonprofit ocean conservation organization restoring coral reefs, educating individuals, and using science to further research. They are known for the offshore coral tree nurseries where they propagate corals to be later outplanted on the reefs off the Florida coast and places in the Caribbean.

Our Garden Club is one of the donors to this organization. This presentation will be delivered via Zoom. Mary Yeomans is going to be setting up in Lennox Hall, First United Methodist Church at our regular time of 1:00 pm. The actual meeting will start at 1:30 promptly, followed by the guest speaker. You may attend the Zoom meeting at the church or at home. There will be a short practice run on Monday Feb. 15th at 3:00 pm for those of you who are not familiar with Zoom, but you must let me know if you are interested in that. Feel free to call me at 941-276-1733 with questions.

Vinita Jones Program Chair

To Join the Zoom Meeting Use the following link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82486871204?pwd=LzZJL25XdThLRlEzd2wrQmt4dXRtQT09>

Meeting ID: 824 8687 1204

Passcode: 587715

For One tap mobile

+13126266799,,82486871204#,,,,*587715# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,82486871204#,,,,*587715# US (New York)

To call in: Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)



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PGGC 2021 Fundraiser – Hop'N Into Spring Sale

Members - Just a reminder that our largest fundraising event for this year is nearly here. On March 6th, we will have our Hop 'N Into Spring Sale Event. We still need more items! If you can make some larger craft items using natural materials, please contact Vinita Jones. For plants, please contact Joyce Stanley. For artwork of any type, please contact Elaine Lawell. If you have small craft handmade items to donate, please contact Cindy Dorety. And, if you can help on the day of the event, please contact Carol Moore. We ask all members to make a contribution to this effort. If you need additional information, contact event Chair Carol Houston or Co-Chair Sandy Bruglio. Thank you in advance for your help!

Carol Houston, Co-President



PGGC 2021- 2023 Officers

According to the PGGC Bylaws, elections take place in odd-numbered years, so now is the time. This club has eight elected two-year offices: President, First Vice President (Program), Second Vice President (Ways and Means), Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and two Directors. Of these, only the Treasurer can serve more than one two year term in a row. The past President becomes a Director and the other position is elected this year. In even-numbered years, the third Director position is filled by election. The Parliamentarian and Assistant Treasurer are appointed by the President for a total of twelve members on the Executive Committee.

Other Board positions include the chairpersons of the Standing, Special, and Ad Hoc Committees. These positions are filled by appointment by the President, and the same person can hold a position for many years - there is no term limit!

Please take some time to look over the list of our Board members on pages 9 and 10 of the current yearbook. Is there a position or office you can imagine yourself taking? Does any particular aspect of the club interest you? Please reach out to our Nominating Committee to let them know if would like to be considered for any of these jobs. If the one you have chosen is filled, perhaps you might Co-Chair or help out. The club can only get better with more talented members involved!

Thank you for your consideration, and if you need more information, you can check the club website for job descriptions or just ask!

Mary Yeomans, President

Penny Pines

Attendance at our meetings is down due to the pandemic, but support for the Penny Pines program is still needed. This program provides funds to replace native trees in state forests damaged by fire, flood, or other disaster. The money PGGC submits is used in Florida only. Please be generous when the basket comes around! Thanks!



CITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE

Saturday, February 6
8 am until Noon
Bal Harbor Shopping Plaza
Come support PGGC!

This fundraising sale is approaching so please reach out to Mary Yeomans to help with the following:

- Scour your home to donate items (except books, clothes and shoes).
- Contact Mary to arrange a time for drop off at her home. Asking that large items (such as high chair, desk chair, etc.) be dropped off at the Plaza at 7am on the sale day.
- Contact Mary to volunteer for set up and/or clean up. We have enough volunteers to help during the sale.
- Spread the word to your friends and neighbors!

Your help is greatly appreciated!

Mary Yeomans, President

Sister Clubs Get Together!

On January 14, Port Charlotte Garden Club hosted 12 PGGC members at their general meeting. During the meeting Mary Yeomans was presented with a certificate stating that Port Charlotte Garden Club purchased an engraved brick to be installed at the FFGC headquarters in Winter Park to commemorate PGGC's 70th Anniversary! Due to pandemic restrictions, they hadn't given it to the club and thought this was an opportune time. What an honor!

After the business portion of the meeting, Sandi Witzke and Claudia Chopp distributed palm fronds and helped participants make boondoggles and weave areca palms. Many folks started projects although most didn't finish while there. A good time was had by all who attended! Thanks Port Charlotte GC!

Mary Yeomans, President



Plant Profile: Tropical Hydrangea (*Dombeya Wallichii*)

Recently, I was asked to identify the “Pink Ball” Tropical Hydrangea. While I do not have one, it made me very curious to find out more about it and share it with you. If you are from a northern climate, you are probably very familiar with hydrangeas. Did you know that there is a tropical variety?

It is the perfect snowbird’s plant, in that it blooms in the first months of the year. There is a beautiful specimen at the Punta Gorda History Park. The blooms are said to smell like frosted cake and resemble pompoms.



The Edison and Ford Winter Estates in Ft. Myers, offers the following suggestions for maintaining your Tropical Hydrangea:

- It is a high-water consumer, so watering is necessary during the dry months
- It likes sunny to partially sunny locations
- The shrub will grow up to 15 feet, so make sure you have room when you plant it
- It can be pruned without deforming the shrub
- It is possible to grow in a container, but it prefers the ground
- It prefers temperatures above the low 30s, and will lose its leaves if the temperatures get into the 20s.
- Best suited for tropical climates but can be grown in Zone 9B with some frost protection.

Jane Hayse, Horticulture Chair

Source: Planting & Caring For Your Tropical Hydrangea (Pink Ball, *Dombeya Wallichii*) | Edison and Ford Winter Estates (edisonfordwinterestates.org)

Any suggestions for the Plant Profile? Contact me at jhayse59@hotmail.com

REQUEST FOR MATERIALS

Ladies, If you have 4 " CLAY POTS that you can give me, I would very much appreciate it. If you have saucers to go with them, all the better. Please text or call at 941-276-1733 or email at tusky1959@gmail.com. Thanks, Vinita Jones



Water Gardens Add Soothing Sounds and Calming Sights to Your Florida Yard (Part 1)

The calming effect of the sight and sound of a waterfall or fountain may be enough motivation to create your own water garden. But what about also having a place to grow unusual plants and watch beautiful fish leisurely swim? Soothing sounds of splashing water and blooming, floating plants such as water lilies are among the many reasons to add a water feature in your yard.

Creating a beautiful water feature is easier than you think. They can be large or small, in-ground or tabletop, inside or outside—accessible to those with yards or perhaps just a balcony. Whether it's just a container of water or a full garden designed to show off fish, plants and even plant roots, your imagination is the only limit!

Basically, a water garden is a big aquarium. And like aquariums, you are creating a miniature ecosystem. The first important decision is the choice of location. If you include plants, they need sunlight, although an excess of sun accelerates algae growth. If built in-ground, be sure it is level for proper drainage and filtration. Most ponds need electricity for pumps and fountains, so make sure you have an electrical connection nearby. Also, take into consideration the reality that outdoor water gardens accumulate leaves and debris that will sink, impacting the ecosystem and causing formation of muck at the bottom. Wildlife critters will also be attracted to your water garden, so make sure you protect fish or plants that you do not want harmed.

You may have thought you found the right location with these tips in mind only to find that you cannot see the pond from the house. Be sure it is in a location where you enjoy it every day. And please consider the safety of children and pets!

Basic Steps to Create a Water Garden

After selecting a location, you need to determine the size of the water garden. You can opt for a container garden using large barrels, tubs or planters. If choosing a ceramic container, ideally find one with no drainage hole, although the holes can be caulked shut. Whether you decide on an in-ground pond or a container, your water garden needs a secure liner. Most liners are a heavy plastic material that can handle shifting rocks and other objects.

Before adding water, arrange rocks and pebbles along the bottom to provide fish with hiding places. Multiple levels, either in the pond structure itself or created via added platforms as simple as an upended pot, allow for use of different potted plants. In addition, you need to have your electrical components placed. It may be only a small pump, but it could also be a fountain and underwater lights. Take care to align these components so they do not shift after filling with water.

There are many potential plants to consider. Water gardens do best when including the three basic types of water plants: floating, submerged and edge plants. A sound water ecosystem should incorporate all three types. Not only are these plants good for the pond's balance, they also attract butterflies and other pollinators. The leaves of the plants shade the fish on hot days and help to prevent algae growth. Floating plants need no soil, as their roots obtain nutrients from the water. Many edge plants can be either in the water or out. Be careful to avoid invasive aquatic plants. For example, water hyacinth, hydrilla and water spinach are prohibited plants in Florida. The University of Florida's Institute for Food and Agricultural Science (UF/IFAS) houses the Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants. Search the website at www.IFAS.UFL.edu, where you find useful, Florida-specific information. Additional information on prohibited aquatic plants is available at www.flrules.org, searching under regulation 5B-64.011.

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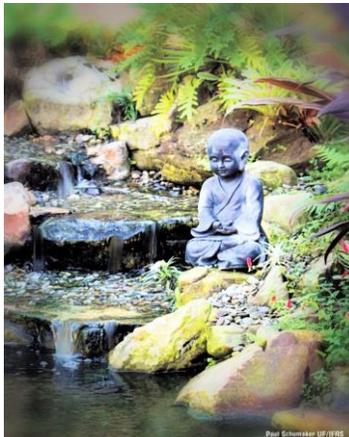
Care and Maintenance (continued from page 6)

Just like any garden, water gardens require care and maintenance, even with a balanced ecosystem. Algae is considered a microscopic weed. Left unchecked, it can cause real damage to your water garden, killing fish and other plants. Algae requires sunlight and grows in water with excess nutrients. To prevent excess nutrients, be diligent and only fertilize plants using a slow-release fertilizer. In addition, too many fish and overfeeding them is a prime culprit in fostering algae growth.

A good rule of thumb is to maintain 40 to 60 percent plant coverage over the surface of the pond. Preventing mosquitoes is another key consideration for a water garden. Mosquitoes like standing water, so having a pump to circulate the water is critical. If you have a small container garden with no pump, be prepared to flush out the water on a regular basis to kill the mosquito larvae. Gambusia are small native fish that eat mosquito larvae and can be a nice addition to your water feature as well. Another option is mosquito “dunks,” available at garden centers and online, which are added to the pond and release bacteria, killing the mosquito larvae.

Written by Jane Hayse, Horticulture Chair

Part 2 includes Maintenance Resources and Plants for the Pool will appear in the March Newsletter



January 2021 General Meeting's Bromeliad Presentation

Cate Peterson, Peace River Botanical and Sculpture Gardens Board Member, shared her passion for bromeliads with Club members at the Nature Park. Twenty five members attended.





February Birthdays Wishes

Jeanette Fowler 2/4
Suzanne Gardner Campbell 2/7
Sandy Kirk 2/10
Betsy Foster 2/11
Dottie Williams 2/15
Liz Vantine 2/17
Kristie Wells 2/18
Vera Harris 2/20
Marilyn Pachota 2/23
Pat Juliano 2/27

And many happy returns!

Membership and Yearbook Updates

Please update the following information in your yearbook:

Bev Babcock
2206 Padre Island Dr.
Punta Gorda Fl 34950-8135
oz01@comcast.net (810) 335-3847

Nan Lee
new phone # 941-621-8840

March Newsletter deadline is Feb 20.
Submit items and/or photographs to
Mary Hanrahan mahamherst@gmail.com.)



February Gardening Tip

Shrubs and palms: Fertilize shrubs and palms by spreading fertilizer evenly over the soil surface and watering it in. Follow with a fresh layer of mulch to conserve moisture and reduce weeds. Delay pruning any cold-damaged branches until new growth starts. See *Palm Nutrition and Fertilization*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_nutrition and *Landscape* http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_fertilization

Garden Workdays



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!

Feb 2 - History Park
Feb 9 - PG Old Library
Feb 16 - PR Botanical Garden
Feb 23 - Women's Club



sffuncheap.com

Thinning prolific garden plants? Too many seedlings survive? Pruning a shrub that will root? Bring specimens to the next meeting to share with other members. Put them on the Plant Exchange table when you arrive. Share your Green Thumb!

WANTED

Used Wine Corks

Only those made of real cork – no plastic corks please!

Bring to PGGC monthly meetings!