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Punta Gorda Garden Club Garden Tales Gardening Nourishes the Soul

Club News

The slate of the slate of candidates for elected offices will be presented at the March General Meeting.

The 2021 Donations discussion will begin at the March Meeting after the profit from the Hop'n Into Spring fundraiser is determined.

The Great American Cleanup is scheduled for Mar 27. Refer to page 8 for details.

Port Charlotte GC, our sister club, is holding a 'Garden Extravaganza' on Mar 27 at 4500 Harbor Blvd from 9 - 3.

PGGC plans to participate in the April 3 City Wide Garage Sale. Please begin gathering items to donate. As we get closer to the date, more information will be provided. (Note: items will not be stored at Mary Yeomans home.)

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 to attend onsite or remotely. Note: there is no ZOOM call for the March General Meeting.

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

President's Message

Dear Members,

I hope you are well and keeping safe and I hope those of you who have been trying to get vaccinated for Covid-19 have been successful.

Many of us have been busy creating wonderful items that we can sell at our upcoming Art & Craft Sale "Hop'n Into Spring" on March 6th. We now have our volunteers, but more would be most welcome, contact Carol Moore who is assigning times on the day of the sale. Remember to send our Chairs a picture of any items you are contributing if you have not done so. Joyce, plants, Cindy/Vinita crafts and Elaine/Claudia art. This will allow them to price the items prior to the day as they will not have enough time to do all of that on the morning of the sale which runs from 10am to 4pm with volunteers starting at 7-30am. It is in the parking lot of the First United Methodist Church.

Join us on our trip to ECHO Global Farms! After the tour, we will head to Babcock Ranch Eco-Tours where you may purchase lunch or enjoy a picnic lunch that you bring. It will be nice to have some time to visit with fellow members, outdoors and at the appropriate distance. I am really looking forward to it as I have not been to ECHO before.

We hope you have enjoyed the Zoom meetings that we have had. We had a few little glitches at first but I think we are getting pretty good at them. We plan on having a Zoom meeting for those attending the March board meeting. If any regular member is interested please respond to the email that will be sent. All interested parties should email me direct so that I can send you the Zoom invitation.

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Save the Date!

PGGC Hop'n Into Spring Sale	Board Meeting	General Meeting
FUMC	FUMC, ZOOM	Field Trip
Mar 6 10am - 4pm	Punta Gorda	ECHO Farm Tour
	Mar 10 9:30 am	Mar 17 9:30 am
		Meet at ECHO

Garden Tales

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As you may be aware, our FFGC annual meeting in April this year is in Daytona. Mary Yeomens, Judi Beaumont, Marilyn Pachota, Joyce Stanley and myself are attending as delegates for the club and I am sure we will have lots of interesting news to share with you.

This weather is great for working outdoors and getting our gardens tidied up for the summer. I am still working on mine, not quite there yet, lots of interruptions, not anything nice, mainly things breaking down! It's nice to see some of my flowering plants starting to bloom, hibiscus, passion flower and my mini rose (bought that on our trip to Eddison Ford). Funny how the weeds are always great and healthy.

Hope to see you all at our Art & Craft Sale!

Carol Houston, Co-President

March 17 General Meeting: ECHO FARM FIELD TRIP

Please join us for our March 2021 field trip to the ECHO Global Farm. This is a creative working farm where you will gain knowledge of how this organization helps hungry families by teaching them small-scale, sustainable farming methods so that they can provide for themselves and their communities. Please visit their website echonet.org to become familiar with ECHO.

Due to the virus, we shall not gather at the Church as we normally do. Please make your own driving arrangements to meet at the ECHO Farm, 17391 Durrance Rd, N. Ft. Myers, FL 33917. (239) 543-3246 at 9:30 am on Wednesday, March 17. The tour starts at 10 am.

This is approximately a 2-hour walking tour so please wear comfortable shoes. **Don't forget your masks, water, insect repellent and sunscreen.** The tickets are \$10.50 plus tax.

Following the tour, plan on having lunch at the Gator Shack, Babcock Preserve, 8502 FL-31, Punta Gorda, FL 33982. (800) 500-5583. You may bring a boxed lunch and sit at a picnic table under the oak trees.

I need to have a head count for the guided tour to plan for the number of needed docents. **So please RSVP to me at (941) 276-1733 or email me at tuskv1959@gmail.com** Thanks, *Vinita Jones Vice President*



Garden Tales

Hop'n Into Spring Sale Update

Art Update:

The variety of art mediums that members have contributed is very impressive as is the quality of the work! I think my team is in good shape, in part with thanks to 3 husbands who will be helping us set up. The Art section plans to have 2 tents and awesome displays. I would like anything for Art to be dropped off to me by March 4 so we can track, price and plan displays. Please contact me directly to arrange drop offs. Text or call (219) 201-3598 or email ElaineL111@comcast.net

Elaine LaWell



Framed Abstract Art by Barbara Schulman, wife of member Alan Schulman.

Hand painted silk scarves from Sandy Bruglio

PGGC Garage Sale Success

On Saturday, February 6th, a large group of PGGC members participated in earning almost \$1000 for our Club's donations and scholarships. There were about 37 members who donated items, priced, filled their vehicles to transport items, set up for the sale, sold items, and packed up the remainders.

It was a beautiful, warm day despite two brief showers. There were tables with boating and hardware items, tables with jewelry, tables with glassware, with hats and sundries, with purses, with dishes and glassware, with books and magazines, not to mention a large fountain, vacuums, fabric, wall art, lamps, toys and games, tablecloths and placemats. There was something for everyone and more. And, the customers kept coming right until the sale ended at 12 noon!

Having been at the sale all morning I was able to see how much customers enjoyed picking up a few items of their choice. And there were plenty of club members to help the customers. I think this event shows how well we work together as a group. One of the staff commented to me as I was driving to unload items, "Another garden club member? How many are there?"

I think this fundraising event sums up how well our club works toward our goals. Kudos to PGGC! We won't let COVID 19 get us down.

Nancy Knaus, Membership Co-Chair

Reminder - Membership Dues

Your \$25 dues for June '21 to May '22 is payable in March. They are delinquent May 1 and your membership is terminated if not received. Twelve dollars of your PGGC dues are submitted to FFGC by June 1. Joyce Stanley will collect dues at the field trip or mail a check to PO Box 511167, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-1167. You may also pay at the April meeting.

Garden Tales

Charlotte County Replaces Memorial Plantings

The Punta Gorda Garden Club (“PGGC”) installed and maintained the plantings at what is now known as the old Punta Gorda Library property for many years. Late last year, the County put the property on the County surplus property list to sell to a private bidder by sealed bid.

There are two memorial plantings at the old PG Library property, one planted in 2007 in memory of Bernice Conrad and one planted in 2008 in memory of Mary Poluson. After learning of the proposed sale of the old PG Library property, PGGC reached out to County representatives to alert them of the memorial plantings and to ask if the County would replace those memorial plantings at another public space before the property transfers to a private owner. PGGC suggested replacing the memorial plantings with magnolia trees (Little Gem Magnolia, *Magnolia grandiflora*) to be planted near the other memorial magnolia tree plantings at South County Regional Park. Those trees were planted in memory of Mary Kay Newman in 2019 and in memory of Shirley Mearns in 2018. After communicating via email for some time, the County approved the replacement plantings as PGGC suggested. The replacement memorial trees are now located along the same road as the other two trees. The County did a very nice job of placing the trees and creating the signs as evidenced by the photographs. (From left to right - Bernice Conrad and Mary Poluson memorial trees.)

Please note the County planted the trees and ordered the signs but cannot maintain the trees, so the next time you’re in the park, throw a jug of water or two on the trees if it hasn’t rained. And be sure to thank the County administration of PGGC’s gratitude in allowing the memories of our former members to continue in a living tribute.

At this point in time, PGGC is tentatively planning a rededication ceremony for the two memorial plantings sometime during Arbor Week in April.

Judi Beaumont, Civic Committee Chair



Garden Tales

Plant Profile: Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*)

Like many other hollies, yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) is an evergreen shrub. Yaupon is dioecious which means that male and female flowers are born on separate plants; male yaupon hollies do not produce berries. The berries can be red, orange, or even yellow, and birds and other wildlife will feed on them through the winter months. 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.



Both male and female plants produce small white flowers in spring which attract pollinators. Their small leaves are oval, serrated, and dark green. Yaupon hollies' dense and shrubby evergreen growth make them ideal for screens or hedges while also providing habitat for songbirds and other wildlife.

Yaupon holly is native to the South, but there are also several cultivars offering a variety of forms – from attractive dwarf types to weeping forms. This holly can grow to be between 15 and 25 feet tall and will have a spread of about the same width. You can train your yaupon holly into a small tree with the lower branches removed, revealing the interestingly contoured multiple trunks. This versatile plant can also be used as a hedge, screen, barrier, or even in Bonsai.

Yaupon hollies should be planted in a spot where they'll receive full or partial sun. They are both drought and salt tolerant, meaning this plant can find a home in a variety of landscapes.

Remember to purchase a female holly if you want a plant that produces berries. Your best bet is to shop for a holly during the winter and purchase one that already has berries on it. Some cultivars, like "Nana" and "Schillings" are all-male plants.

Yaupon holly readily sprouts from the roots; these sprouts will need to be pruned to the ground two or three times a year to keep the base of your plant looking neat.

While yaupon holly is relatively free of serious pests and diseases, scale, leaf miners, mites, and aphids can sometimes be a problem.

The leaves of the yaupon contain caffeine. In fact, the yaupon boasts the highest caffeine content of any plant native to North America. According to a 2009 study by researchers from the University of Florida and Texan A&M, "yaupon is a viable caffeine alternative for North Americans living within its range on the southeastern coastal plain" (Palumbo, 2009). Yaupon holly tea is delicious, caffeinated, and anti-oxidant rich. Like tea and coffee, it is perfectly safe when brewed appropriately and consumed in moderation.

Jane Hayse, Horticulture Chair

Source: Yaupon Holly - Gardening Solutions - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (ufl.edu)

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

Garden Tales

Water Gardens Add Soothing Sounds and Calming Sights to a Florida Yard (Part 2)

This is a continuation of the water garden article by Jane Hayse found in the 2021 February Newsletter.

Resources to Help with Maintenance of Your Water Feature

So, you love your water feature, but feel overwhelmed by the maintenance? Thankfully, there are many resources available that can help. The UF/IFAS online portal includes specifics on water garden design and care at www.gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/design; search for “water gardens.” Other sources for inspiration include YouTube and Pinterest. You may find that plant choices are difficult to find locally, although big box stores usually carry basic components to construct your garden. There are many places to buy suitable ceramic containers and order plants online.

There are companies that provide maintenance, cleaning and repair of your pond. Rick Jensen, owner of Mystic Falls and Pond, LLC in North Port, has been servicing ponds all over Southwest Florida for more than 12 years. Jensen cites the number one mistake that pond owners typically make: having poor filtration systems, resulting in unwanted algae blooms and placing strain on other pond components, such as the piping. Because of our harsh summer weather, Jensen recommends thorough cleaning of your pond at a minimum of once a year to remove algae and restore the proper balance of bacteria and fish. Check out his YouTube videos (Richard Jensen Sr.) and Facebook page (Mystic Falls & Ponds LLC) for guidance, or call (941) 456-8833.

A water garden is a wonderful ecosystem to cultivate and observe, and it is well worth the effort!

Water Garden Additions

Listed below are some of the most lovely, appropriate and available components for your Florida water garden. Aquatic plants suitable for the Southwest Florida climate can be difficult to find at local garden centers, but Wonderful Water Lilies in Sarasota sells a variety of aquatic plants and products by appointment only. Visit www.WonderfulWaterLilies.com or call (941) 378-9146.

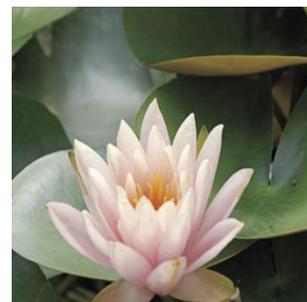
Fish:

The most attractive fish for a water garden are called Koi, an informal group name for colored varieties of Amur carp, bred and kept for decorative purposes and easy to maintain. Major Koi color options include solid or patterned white, black, red, orange, yellow, blue and cream. They are sold in many pet aquarium shops, with higher-quality fish available from specialist dealers. If adding Koi, take that into consideration when determining pond size.



Water Lily:

Water lilies are perhaps the most familiar pond plants and can add stunning glamour. These beautiful floating plants come in a variety of colors, such as lavender, pink, yellow or apricot. There are many hardy hybrids that grow well in the Florida climate. Water lilies can be either night or day-blooming and can have a fragrant aroma. They grow from a rhizome or tuber and are usually in pots set a few inches deep in water. They are fast growers, rewarding you with beautiful blooms all season long.



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Louisiana Iris:

A native iris, this beautiful plant comes in a variety of colors from blue, yellow, pink or white. You can grow them in pots with large drainage holes that are placed in shallow water. Like all iris, they grow from rhizomes and bloom in the spring, growing into clumps over three feet wide. This Iris variety is best when grown in standing water.



Swamp Lily:

A beautiful native lily that is excellent for water gardens, rain gardens or drainage swales is the Swamp Lily. It is related to the Crinum lily seen in many gardens. It is a large plant, with equally large blooms of fragrant, spidery white flowers.



Written by Jane Hayse, Horticulture Chair

March 29 Great American Cleanup



PGGC Members are invited to join the Great American Cleanup on Monday, March 29th from 8:30 until 11 am. We have sponsored this project for a number of years and the club logo appears on the back of the T shirts provided to each volunteer.

Sign up with Carol Moore if you are interested, and be sure to give her your T-shirt size. She will be in touch with details about where to meet later this month. Email: carol25582002@gmail.com Cell: (941)916-3341

FFGC Tree Count Survey

Did you plant a tree between Feb 1, 2020 and February 28, 2021 or helped someone (your church or organization) plant a tree? If yes, contact Karen Noonan (karen_noonan@hotmail.com) by March 5 and provide the tree species, how many and where. Karen Noonan is collecting this information for FFGC's effort to compile the annual tree planting and reforestation count.

Garden Tales



March Birthdays Wishes

Hal Stewerf 3/1
Julie O'Brien 3/2
Dorrit Tompkins 3/2
Linda Walsh 3/2
Marianne Bjorkman 3/5
Margita DiLapo 3/12
Irene Gagerman 3/17
Stephanie Green 3/20
Joanne Collins 3/21
Paula Jenkins 3/21

And many happy returns!

Garden Workdays



For new 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!

Mar 1 - History Park
Mar 8 - PG Old Library
Mar 15 - PR Botanical Garden
Mar 22 - Women's Club

The April Newsletter deadline is Mar 20. Submit items and/or photos to Mary Hanrahan mahamherst@gmail.com.)



March Gardening Tip

Perennials and bulbs: Divide clumps of bulbs, ornamental grasses, or herbaceous perennials to expand or rejuvenate garden beds or to pass along to friends.

See Bulbs for Florida:

http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers

and Perennial Landscape Plants:

http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_perennials

Welcome New Members!

Please update the following information in your yearbook:

Lynn Davies
1405 Blue Jay Ct
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-8264
(770) 712-8201 lynndavies91@gmail.com

Julie O'Brien
3520 Blue Jay Dr
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-8203
(484) 467-0482 jul_226@comcast.net

Julie Edwards
27365 Jones Loop Rd
Punta Gorda, FL 33982
(941) 637-0283 captnelson@centurylink.net

Teresa Desguin
413 W Grace St
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(941) 815-0324 teresadesguin@iheartmedia.com





HOP'N INTO SPRING At the Punta Gorda Garden Club Art & Craft Sale Event

We are a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.
All proceeds go to local charities & scholarships.

March 6, 2021 ~ 10am-4pm

MASK & SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIRED

Parking lot of First United Methodist Church
507 W. Marion Ave. ~ Punta Gorda, FL



Come fill your baskets with

Handmade Crafts

Original Artwork

Wreaths

Plants

*Something for
Everyone*

