



# Punta Gorda Garden Club Garden Tales

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

[www.pggc.org](http://www.pggc.org)

## Club News

Our new venue for monthly PGGC Board and General Meeting is the Peace River Baptist Church at 478 Berry Street, Punta Gorda.

The monthly PGGC meetings will also be accessible via ZOOM for those who cannot attend in person. Mary Hanrahan will send an email with details for how to attend via Zoom in advance of the meetings.

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.

## Directors’ Message

Dear Gardening Friends,

What a time of chaos and uncertainty in our world! We were all hoping that by this time the pandemic would have calmed down, but instead a new surge is evident. As a result, the District IX meeting that PGGC was going to host has been canceled, following the lead of FFGC as several of their meetings were canceled. All we can hope for is to watch the numbers of new cases decrease as they did before so life can get back to normal - whatever that is these days!

Meanwhile, the club is experiencing its own troubles. Without going into detail, I can say our leadership is in flux. Judi Beaumont resigned, which set off a series of events that we (the Directors) are working to resolve. We are in need of volunteers to fill a few of the chair and elected positions; more will be explained at the September meeting. Please consider stepping up to support the club by taking one of the open positions.

Club business continues to move ahead! The Holly Days Garden Tour is ready to go. Teams are busy planning and starting to work on creating decorations and crafts to display at the event. The effort to get the word out about this new event is in full swing, and plans for ticket sales are in the works.

As far as we know, the Home and Garden Show scheduled for October 23 and 24 is still on so we will need members to volunteer to cover our table there. Making our goals and the work we do to accomplish them known in our community is of great importance. Consider helping with this event.

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## Save the Date!

**Board Meeting**  
Peace River  
Baptist Church  
Sept 8 9:30 am  
Zoom accessible

**General Meeting**  
Peace River  
Baptist Church  
Sept 15  
1pm Refreshments  
1:30 Meeting

**Coastal  
Cleanup**  
Sept 18

## Garden Tales

*Continued from page 1*

Our public gardening is also changing since the Punta Gorda Library is being sold, so our crew will no longer be maintaining it. Also, our gardens at Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center have been pretty much demolished by the feral hogs so a new approach to gardening there must be adopted. Talks about our role at CHEC are ongoing with the new director too. And yet, our gardening crew works every Monday at 8:00 am somewhere, making Punta Gorda even more beautiful than it currently is.

We are set to meet at our new location at the Peace River Baptist Church as was mentioned in the summer newsletter. This is a big change for the club but we are looking forward to forging a new relationship with the community there. Please remember to head for the new location on September 15th!

For those who cannot attend the meetings this year, a Zoom option will be offered whenever possible. Be sure to let Mary Hanrahan know if you would like to receive a Zoom invitation. Her email is mahamherst@gmail.com.

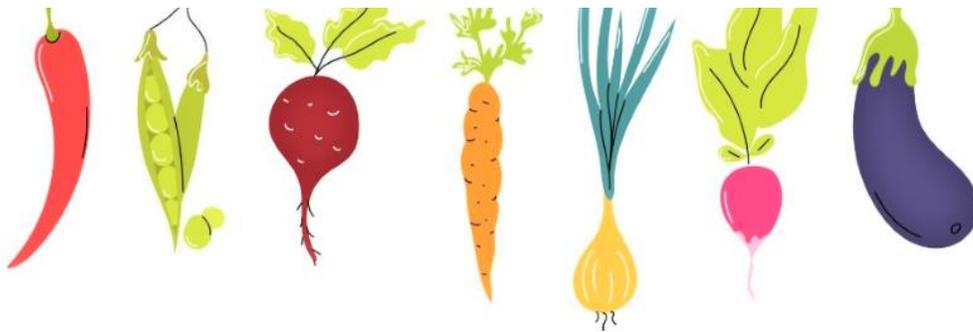
Our club includes a great number of extremely talented folks who put energy and enthusiasm into our work. We will continue on this path although some things have changed, but change often brings improvement and progress. We hope to see many of you in September and hope everyone has had a nice summer, wherever you spent it!

Take care and stay safe -

*Mary Yeomans, Vinita Jones, and Marilyn Pachota  
Directors*

### Sept 15 General Meeting: VEGETABLE GARDENING IN FLORIDA

Master Gardener, Mike Stevens, will share some great ideas to help inspire you to start or expand your own vegetable garden. In Florida this is the time to get started! Florida has 3 growing seasons - Fall (mid Sept to early Nov), Winter (Nov to Jan) and Spring (late Jan to mid-March).



*Get  
Well  
Soon*



We wish a speedy recovery to Molly Reifeis as she recently had a hip replacement! Also, get well wishes to Pat Juliano and Libby Curnow!

## Garden Tales

### Summer Work Days



Nan Lee, Hal Sterwerf, Cindy Dorety, Peggy Stanfield



Botanical Gardens - Mary Yeomans, Hal Sterwerf, Julie O'Brien

### Summer Workshops for the Holly Day Garden Tour



Traditional Country Christmas team members began making decorations for the December Tour. Members include Mary Yeomans, Carol Houston, Nancy French, Sandy Bruglio, and Chair Vinita Handlon.

## Garden Tales

### Member Profile – Jane Hayse

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

I was born in Charlotte, North Carolina and have lived in Chapel Hill, NC; Tallahassee; St. Paul, Minnesota; metro Atlanta; Blue Ridge, Georgia; and since 2016, in Punta Gorda. I graduated from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with an Economics degree and received a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida State University. I spent over 30 years as a regional planner starting in St. Paul and ending in Atlanta, where I lived for most of my career, primarily in the transportation field.



My husband and I retired to Punta Gorda to be near our grandchildren who live here. We have enjoyed watching them grow up. Attending school ball games has been a weekly regimen during the fall and spring.

#### **When did you join Garden Club?**

I joined the Garden Club in the fall of 2018 after finishing the Charlotte County Master Gardener certification program with Dottie Williams.

#### **What are your Current/Previous Club roles?**

Since joining PGGC, I have served as Horticultural Chair and enjoy contributing articles to the newsletter.

#### **Describe your favorite Club activities**

The Garden Club has been a great place to make new friends. I am constantly impressed by the care and concern members have for each other

#### **Your favorite plant? Tips?**

I am very much into sustainable gardening - using natives and edibles in the landscape. We live on 10 acres outside of Punta Gorda towards Arcadia and I have plenty of room to experiment and learn about plants in our climate. I do not have a favorite plant, but love having something blooming year-round.



### Committee Chair Openings

The club has several openings for committee chairs and we are looking for interested persons. Please consider volunteering to fill one of them. The club President makes the appointments to these positions with Board approval. Brief descriptions follow. Full job descriptions are found on the PGGC website. Please email Mary Yeomans at [mymrsphysics@aol.com](mailto:mymrsphysics@aol.com) if you are interested.

**Civic:** Stay abreast of local projects and issues relevant to club objectives, establish and maintain relationships with local governments, promote PGGC projects and goals in the community.

**Environmental:** Promote and raise awareness of local environmental issues and projects within the club, organize participation in local environmental events, and collect money for Penny Pines.

**Webmaster:** Maintain and update website with news and events, post monthly minutes, newsletters, and photos as appropriate, post forms and applications as necessary (membership and scholarship).

## Garden Tales

### Plant Profile: *Jatropha* (*Jatropha integerrima* and *Jatropha multifida*)

*Jatropha* is an evergreen shrub or small tree with stunning flowers that will bring butterflies and hummingbirds to your garden. There are two species of *Jatropha* that grow quite well in Southwest Florida, *Jatropha integerrima* and *Jatropha multifida*.

*Jatropha integerrima* is native to Cuba and the West Indies and is sometimes called peregrina, spicy *Jatropha*, or fire-cracker. The individual flowers on this species are star-shaped and generally red, although a pink-flowered variety exists. Flowers are 1-inch wide and are produced year-round in beautiful clusters that are held upright above the lobed leaves. Some of the butterflies you may see enjoying this plant include monarchs, swallowtails, and zebra longwings. However, please keep in mind that all parts of *Jatropha* are poisonous when ingested, so take care if children or pets are in your landscape.

*Jatropha multifida*, commonly called coral plant, is native to Mexico. This species has flat circles of coral-pink flowers and distinctly tropical-looking foliage that is deeply dissected and fan shaped. Coral plant is a bit tender in cold weather.

Once established, *J. integerrima* and *J. multifida* are both low maintenance and drought tolerant. *Jatropha* plants need well-drained soil, and while they can handle partial shade to full sun, they will flower best in areas with full sun. This plant is not salt tolerant.

*Jatropha* tolerate pruning well, which gives you options when it comes to the form of your plant. I have both varieties and give *J. integerrima* a good deep prune in March. It comes back beautifully for the summer. *Jatropha* can also work quite well in a large container on a porch or patio.



A zebra longwing butterfly on the bright red flowers of a *Jatropha* shrub in the butterfly rainforest at the Florida Museum of Natural History. UF/IFAS, some rights reserved.



You can see why *Jatropha multifida* is often called coral plant. Photo: Edward Baker, some rights reserved (cc-by-nc-sa 2.0)

Jane Hayse, Horticulture Chair

Source: [Plant of the Month - Gardening Solutions - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences \(ufl.edu\)](https://www.ufl.edu/~ifas/Plant_of_the_Month_-_Gardening_Solutions_-_University_of_Florida,_Institute_of_Food_and_Agricultural_Sciences_(ufl.edu))

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

### Do Something Drastic, Cut the Plastic!

Here are 10 tips for eliminating plastic from [Treehugger](#):

**1. Avoid the Worst Types of Plastic.** If you check the bottom of any plastic container, you'll see a number (1 through 7) inside a triangle made of arrows. The worst plastics are:

#3 (Polyvinyl Chloride): an extremely toxic plastic that contains dangerous additives such as lead and phthalates and is used in plastic wrap, some squeeze bottles, peanut butter jars, and children's toys

#6 (Polystyrene): contains styrene, a toxin for the brain and nervous system, and is used in Styrofoam, disposable dishes, take-out containers, plastic cutlery

#7 (Polycarbonate/Other category): contains bisphenol A and is found in most metal food can liners, clear plastic sippy cups, sport drink bottles, juice and ketchup containers

**2. Choose Reusable, Non-Plastic Containers.** Carry a reusable water bottle and travel mug wherever you go. Pack your lunch in glass (Mason jars are wonderfully versatile), stainless steel, stacking metal tiffins, cloth sandwich bags, a wooden Bento box, etc.

**3. Never Drink Bottled Water.** Buying bottled water in North America is absurd, especially when you consider that bottled water is less regulated than tap water; it's usually just filtered tap water; it's exorbitantly expensive; it's a gross waste of resources to collect, bottle, and ship it; and it results in unnecessary plastic waste that's usually not recycled. (via Life Without Plastic)

**4. Shop in Bulk.** The more items you buy in bulk, the more you'll save in packaging. While this mentality has been the norm for years at special bulk food stores, it's fortunately becoming more common in supermarkets. You'll save money in food costs and, if you drive, in the gas used for extra trips to the store.

**5. Avoid Frozen Convenience Foods.** Convenience foods are among the worst culprits for excessive packaging waste. Frozen foods come wrapped in plastic and packaged in cardboard, which is often lined with plastic, too.

**6. Invest in Alternatives to Non-Stick Cookware.** Don't expose you and your family to toxic perfluorochemicals that are released when non-stick surfaces such as Teflon are heated. Use cast iron (which works as well as non-stick if seasoned and cared for properly), stainless steel, or copper cookware.

**7. Make Your Own Condiments.** This could be a fun experiment in canning, and if you dedicate a whole day to it, you could have enough to last the whole year. Make cucumber or zucchini relish and ketchup when late-summer vegetables are at their peak. Items such as chocolate sauce, mustard, and mayonnaise are quick and simple to make once you get the hang of them. Everything can be kept in glass jars.

**8. Clean with Baking Soda and Vinegar.** Baking soda, which comes for cheap in large cardboard boxes, and vinegar, which comes in large glass jars, can be used to clean, scour, and disinfect the house and wash dishes, replacing plastic cleaning bottles; soda can be turned into an effective homemade deodorant; and both soda and vinegar (apple cider, specifically) can replace shampoo and conditioner bottles.

**9. Use Natural Cleaning Tools.** If you need something with scrubbing power, go for copper instead of plastic. Use a cotton dishcloth or a coconut coir brush for dishes, instead of a plastic scrub brush. Use cotton facecloths instead of disposable wipes. Don't underestimate the versatility of old rags!

**10. Remove Plastic from Your Laundry.** Use soap flakes, soap strips, or soap nuts instead of conventional laundry detergents that come in plastic-lined cardboard with plastic scoops or thick plastic jugs.

**Source:** Treehugger '10 Tips for Living with Less Plastic' Sept 15, 2019

## Garden Tales



### Sept 18 Coastal Cleanup

PGGC will work in partnership with Keep Charlotte Beautiful for the **International Coastal Cleanup**. This event is organized by Keep Charlotte Beautiful, one of the local nonprofits that PGGC supports.

**Registration** - Register by sending an email to Mary Yeomans: [mymrsphysics@aol.com](mailto:mymrsphysics@aol.com). To ensure that you receive a T shirt, include your T shirt size and send your email by Sept 3.

**Time** - 8:30 am

**Location**- Meet in Fishermen's Village parking lot at east end near fitness area.

Bring gloves, insect spray, and water to drink. Sunscreen and a hat are also recommended.



### September Events

Sept 18 - **Butterfly Day at Peace River Botanical Gardens**. A day dedicated to our beautiful winged pollinators. Crafts, face painting, art, plant sales, games and a butterfly release. Seniors \$11; Adults \$13; Children (6-17) \$9; Under 6 Free. 9am - Noon

Sept 24 - **Bok Tower Complimentary Free Admission on Wawa Summer Fun Days**. You must register to attend on or after Sept 1. See <https://boktowergardens.org/calendar/wawa-summer-fun-day-10/> for details. Registration and ticket are required for entry. 8am - 5pm.

Ongoing - **Master Gardener Resource Center** offers a new educational series that is a free online, self-paced Master Gardener Curriculum. For more information refer to the Master Gardener Resource Center home page (<https://www.fast-growing-trees.com/pages/master-gardeners>) or directly to the free, self-paced Master Gardening Curriculum (<https://www.fast-growing-trees.com/pages/master-gardening-course>). For additional information, contact Jim Hodson via email at [jhodson@fast-growing-trees.com](mailto:jhodson@fast-growing-trees.com) or by phone at (704) 942-4600.

### Monty Don Musings

'The whole point about gardening is not to learn how to garden, but is to find solace, is to be happy, is to make beauty, is to have spiritual communion, is to have fun and muck about. How we do that really, really doesn't matter.'

Source: *Country Life*, Sept 2020

# Garden Tales



## Sept Birthdays Wishes

Chris Green 9/11  
Betsy Mosketti 9/14  
Nancy French 9/17  
Cindy Dorety 9/22

And many happy wishes!



## Sept Hostess Committee

Chair: Julie O'Brien

Martha Cloran	Rose Darden
Lynn Davies	Jeanette Fowler
Joy Price	Mercy Triana
Marion Wester	

## Sept Gardening Tips

**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)

**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)



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## Garden Workdays



Volunteers should arrive by 8 am. Bring gloves, pruning shears, and bottled water. Usually finish in less than 2 hours!

Sept 6 - History Park  
Sept 20 - PR Botanical Garden  
Sept 27 - Woman's Club

The October Newsletter deadline is Sept 20. Submit items and/or photos to Mary Hanrahan [mahamherst@gmail.com](mailto:mahamherst@gmail.com).)



YOU WILL BLOOM IF  
YOU TAKE TIME TO  
WATER YOURSELF.

UNKNOWN | @PROJECTHAPPINESS\_ORG

