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JANUARY 2022 VOL 13, ISSUE 6

Punta Gorda Garden Club Garden Tales

A garden is like a friendship, ever growing, ever changing, needing love and attention, providing one with joy and happiness.

Club News

Congratulations Members! At the Holiday Luncheon Joyce Stanley reported a profit of \$25,301 for the 2021 Holly Days Garden Tour! The Board will consider reimbursement requests in January. So please turn in receipts for sales tax adjustments and/or reimbursement. PGGC pays a sales tax on the Tour's craft sales and your sales receipts will help reduce this sales tax payment.

The Home and Garden Show will be held on January 22 and 23 at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center. The set up of our table is on Jan 21. To volunteer to staff the table, contact Cindy Dorety.

PGGC held a Garage Sale at Bal Harbor Shopping Plaza on Dec 11 to sell crafts from the Garden Tour. Many members turned out to help and Total Sales were \$383.

President's Message

Hello Dear Members,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and were able to spend it with those you love. Tom and I were able to spend a lovely time with our close friends from Canada and Scotland as we all missed out on last year. They are here for the next several weeks and we are enjoying seeing them so much.

I was so thrilled to hear how much we made on our first Holly Days Garden Tour. Do you believe it was over \$26,000? So much more than we anticipated. You know it was because of all your combined efforts and hard work. Thank you all so much and thank you to our members who volunteered to have their beautiful gardens on display. I was so pleased that we all had the opportunity to see all of the gardens, they were spectacular, so creative, so lovely and so entertaining.

We have our first Board Meeting of the new year in January and the Board has a lot to discuss regarding the upcoming year. Please be aware that any member can put forward an agenda item for the board. They can personally attend any of our meetings to discuss those items and we welcome new ideas or comments to enhance our membership, our community service and our fundraising efforts. Remember, the Board is there to serve the community and you and to promote our wonderful club, so please share your thoughts and ideas with us.

Our January 2022 program is all related to our upcoming March 2022 Standard Flower Show. The prospect of having a Flower Show is so exciting after having to cancel the 2021 Flower Show! I hope we can all remember most of what we learned in the Floral Design Courses that we took in what which seems like ages
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Save the Date!

Board Meeting
Peace River
Baptist Church
Jan 12 9:30 am

General Meeting
Peace River
Baptist Church
Jan 19 1 pm Gather
1:30 pm Meeting

PGGC Flower Show
Isles Yacht Club
March 22

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ago. They were so much fun and we learned so much. Stay tuned for 2022, we have several exciting ideas in the planning for the upcoming year but we are always looking for more.

Finally let me wish you all a “Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year” and I look forward to sharing another exciting and innovative year with you all in our beloved Garden Club.

Sincerely, Carol Houston, President

January 2022 General Meeting – Pre-Flower Show Analysis

Flower Show Co-Chairs Claudia Chopp (NGC Master Flower Show Judge) and Stephanie Green will explain and demonstrate award winning floral designs and horticulture entries in preparation for our NGC Standard Flower Show ‘Those Were the Days’ scheduled for March 22 from 1 to 4 pm. The show will be held at the Isles Yacht Club and will offer an optional luncheon. Signups for design classes will take place at the January Member meeting.



Youth Activities

PGGC donated funds to Crossroads Hope Academy to purchase plants and garden supplies for their recently planted garden. Crossroads is a non-profit 501(c)(3) home for foster boys who have had multiple failed placements in the Florida foster care system. Crossroads offers the first stable home for many of these boys who range in age from 12 to 18. PGGC plans to regularly assist with the garden weeding.

As Chair, I also contacted the art teacher at Port Charlotte Middle School to have students enter the Flower Show. This should be a great experience for all.

Marilyn Pachota, Youth Chair



Shelley Crowley, Crossroads Hope Academy Gardener and Cook



Crossroads Hope Academy Garden

Garden Tales

A Look Back at December 2021 - Holly Days Garden Tour



- Holiday Luncheon at IYC



Garden Tales

Plant Profile: Wild Coffee (*Psychotria nervosa*)

Did you know that wild coffee is a Florida native plant? Wild coffee is a native shrub that makes a versatile addition to the landscape. The evergreen leaves are shiny and dark green. Clusters of small white flowers bloom from the branch tips in spring and summer, and red fruits are produced in summer and fall. The fruits resemble true coffee beans, but do not contain caffeine—while wild coffee is in the same family (*Rubiaceae*) as true coffee, *Coffea* spp., they are not the same species.

Wild coffee (*Psychotria nervosa*) has interesting leaves that are about 6 inches long. The leaf veins are distinctly impressed on the upper leaf surface and you can find fine hairs on the underside of the leaves along the main mid-rib. These shrubs reach 4 to 10 feet tall and spread 4 to 8 feet wide with a dense, rounded growth habit. When grown in heavy shade, the form may be more like a small tree with an open canopy. Cultivars of wild coffee, such as the dwarf shrub 'Little Psycho'™ can be found in the plant trade.

Birds and other wildlife are attracted to wild coffee fruits, while the flowers are one of the nectar sources for the rare Atala butterfly found primarily in southeast Florida.

These plants do well when grown in partial to full shade; leaves become yellowed and the plant will stay small if grown in an area with full sun. Wild coffee is moderately salt- and drought-tolerant and responds well to pruning. I have several wild coffees in my yard and highly recommend them for shady areas such as under an oak tree. They are very low maintenance and have beautiful red berries.



Wild coffee plant in the Seacrest Scrub Natural Area, Boynton Beach.
Photo by Scott Zona (CC-BY-NC).



Wild coffee fruits on plant.

Jane Hayse, Horticulture Chair

Source: <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/trees-and-shrubs/shrubs/wild-coffee.html>

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

Welcome New Members!

Doreen Secor
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Joan Sala
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607-333-0025 jsala2@aol.com

Garden Tales



January Hospitality Committee

Chair: Mary Yeomans

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|-----------------|-----------------|
| Bev Babcock | Cindy Dorety |
| Nancy French | Malinda Gordy |
| Betty Moschetti | Terry Tunkavige |
| Rona Rothchild | Hal Stewerf |
| Kathy Sutton | |



January Birthdays Wishes

Carolyn Honour 1/6
Carol Nadolski 1/13
Peggy Stanfield 1/14
Joyce Tilden 1/14
Malinda Gordy 1/31
Ursula Karlen 1/31

And many happy wishes!

The February Newsletter deadline is Jan 20. Submit items and/or photographs to Mary Hanrahan (mahamherst@gmail.com.)



January Gardening Tip

Do you want to be inspired for 2022? Check out videos by Linda Vater, a baby boomer and self-taught garden designer and stylist living in Oklahoma City. Topics range from garden design, plant care and garden tours to lessons on creating topiaries, repurposing, and flower arranging. As a stylist and thrifter, her videos end with a rundown of her attire and jewelry.

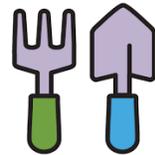
Check out Linda's YouTube videos at <https://www.youtube.com/c/LindaVater>.

Membership and Yearbook Updates!

Please update your yearbook with:

Susan Miller's new address:
26069 Feathersound Drive Punta Gorda 33955-4708

Garden Work Days



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

Jan 3 - History Park
Jan 17 - Peace River Botanical Garden
Jan 24 - Woman's Club

