



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.

www.pggc.org

Club News

Treasurer Joyce Stanley updated the profit from our 2021 Holly Days Garden Tour to over \$27,000! Congratulations members! If you wish reimbursement, please contact Joyce Stanley.

PGGC has one delegate opening for the FFGC convention scheduled on April 12 - 14. So far, we have only three delegates - Carol Houston, Joyce Stanley, and Claudia Chopp. If interested, please email contact Carol Houston ASAP at t.houston@centurylink.net.

President's Message

Hello Dear Members,

What can we say about February? Just a few interesting facts: The U.S. acquired the Florida territory from Spain on February 22, 1819. Thank you, we all love Florida. Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809. Thank you, Mother Lincoln, for giving us Abe. On February 20, 1962 Astronaut John Glen Jr. became the first American to orbit the Earth. As Neil Armstrong later said, "that's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."

What can we, as a club, do in February? Perhaps, not something so memorable. However, we can get ready for our March Flower Show, which is so exciting. I know many of us were so disappointed last year when we had to cancel the show due to Covid. We are so looking forward to seeing the designs in the various competitions and all of the beautiful horticulture that I am sure will be presented. Our club has such wonderful and creative participants. I think holding the show at Isles Yacht Club will only add to the enjoyment of all. You will be able to have lunch there during the judging and then the show will open to the public. Please consider entering one of the competitions, experienced or not. We are sure you will enjoy the process. Betsy Foster is looking for contestants for the remaining open categories but remember any member can bring an item for the horticultural part of the show. Please register any plant or specimen that you want to enter before March 7. If it isn't up to par on March 21st, then cancel it. If you miss the deadline, it may be too late to enter something beautiful from your yard!

February is also the time to decide if you would enjoy some lovely fresh vegetables that you have grown. There is still time to start peppers, tomatoes, and eggplants indoors from seed, to name a few. I intend to get my backyard tidied. It has gotten away from me with the torn tendon issue. Unfortunately, my

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Save the Dates!

Board Meeting
PRBC, Zoom
Feb 9 9:30am

General Meeting
PRBC, Zoom
Feb 16
1pm Gather
1:30 Meeting

Flower Show00
Isles Yacht Club
March 220

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husband cannot tell a weed from a plant so I have to be there to shout NO!!! when he wants to pull out one of my little gems.

I also have to say that Hal Sterwerf's fruit punch served at the January member meeting was excellent. Then I find out he grew both the mangos and pineapples that were used in its creation. What did you think of all of the wonderful food and dessert items? We always enjoy our wonderful snack buffet. The host Mary Yeomans asked her committee to think of flowers because the program was on the Flower Show and they did not let her down. We have such talented members who continually amaze and delight us with their various talents and creativity.

Let's all plan on having a spectacular Flower Show in March that we can all enjoy and that showcases our talents to the members of the public

Carol Houston, President, PGGC Inc.

February 2022 General Meeting: Keep Charlotte Beautiful

Executive Director, Rhonda Harvey, of Keep Charlotte Beautiful (KCB) is our guest speaker. She will give a presentation on the impact and importance recycling has on our eco-systems.

KCB was founded in 1974 and is one of the nation's first Keep America Beautiful affiliates. The KCB Board works closely with neighborhood organizations and homeowner groups, as well as with area businesses, schools, and local governments, to create a healthier environment. KCB organizes the annual Great American Cleanup and the International Coastal Cleanup in which PGGC participates each year.

At the February meeting there will be a signup to attend the field trip to the Peace River Botanical Gardens on March 16. Members can opt to purchase a box lunch for \$12.50. There will also be a sign up for the March 22 Flower Show Luncheon. See page 3 for more details.



Get
Well
Soon



Please keep Bonnie Verminski in your thoughts and prayers as she seeks medical treatment.

Remember, being
happy doesn't mean
you have it all.
It simply means
you're thankful for
all you have.

PGGC Flower Show – “Those Were the Days”

PGGC will present the NGC Standard Flower Show on March 22 at the Isles Yacht Club. Flower Show Chairs Claudia Chopp and Stephanie Green along with their team of Division Chairs are available to assist as you formulate and prepare your Design and Horticulture entries. The PGGC web site provides the [2022 PGGC Flower Show Schedule](#) and [Horticulture Entry Form](#) along with [How to Identify Your Plants](#).

At our January Member Meeting, Claudia Chopp and Carolyn Honour demonstrated Design Division examples and described the Horticulture Division entry process. Below are photos taken by Sandy Bruglio during the Flower Show presentation.



Isles Yacht Club (IYC) is a new venue for our flower show. IYC will offer the following lunch options at a cost of \$26 per person. The luncheon sign up and payment takes place at the February Member Meeting. Alternatively, mail your luncheon payment and choice to Punta Gorda Garden Club PO Box 511167 Punta Gorda FL 33951-1167.

Choice of Salads

- Columbian-Ham, Swiss, Tomatoes, Olives, Romaine, with lemon, garlic, oregano vinaigrette
- Mixed Green- Cranberries, Pecans, Feta, with pomegranate dressing
- Caesar salad with grilled chicken

Includes rolls and coffee or tea

Dessert - Strawberry shortcake with whipped cream

Welcome New Members!

Jill Dratler
710 Via Esplanade Punta
Gorda, FL, 33950
(239) 298-1172 Jilldratler@gmail.com

Margaret Rowlett
701 Aqui Esta Dr. Lot #44
Punta Gorda, FL, 33950
(802) 274-9885 kjrowlett@gmail.com

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PGGC 2021- 2023 Executive Board Updates

In January, the Board approved the nomination of Jan Brady as Corresponding Secretary on a temporary basis until May 2022 and Sandy Bruglio as Recording Secretary through May 2023. President Carol Houston appointed Karen Noonan as Parliamentarian through May 2023. PGGC is very appreciative of those members who stepped forward to fill Executive Board vacancies.



From left to right - Carol Houston, President; Peggy Stanfield, 1st Vice President; Jan Brady, Corresponding Secretary; Sandy Bruglio, Recording Secretary; Karen Noonan, Parliamentarian



Opening - Holly Day Home Tour Chairs

Are you looking for something new and exciting? We need a Holly Days Home Tour Chair and Co-Chair for the upcoming Tour in December 2022. You would be involved in obtaining the homes for the Tour, meeting with homeowners, and organizing and managing everything related to our largest fundraiser of the year!

As Chair, you would have the help and guidance of our prior Chair Elaine LaWell in addition to our various board members. This would be a wonderful and rewarding experience. Please consider this opening and contact me at t.houston@centurylink.net or 941-764-7177 for more information or to discuss the positions! Thanks!

Carol Houston, President

March Field Trip - Peace River Botanical and Sculpture Gardens

Please join us on Wednesday March 16th at 10am for our annual field trip to the Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens. Our tour includes the ZimSculpt Exhibition featuring artists from Zimbabwe, who are here for a limited time working on their sculptures at the Botanical Garden. How lucky are we!

The cost to non-members of the Botanical Gardens is \$12 per person. You are welcome to bring visitors with you. We will not collect the entrance fee in advance. It will be paid upon entry to the Gardens. The Gardens will offer a boxed lunch available when pre-ordered for a cost of \$12.50 and includes a sandwich, fruit, chips, and water. Our club will provide dessert. You may also bring your own packed lunch if you prefer. We will have a sign-up sheet for attendance and for the boxed lunch with a choice of sandwiches at our February 16th meeting. For every ten participants, we will have a docent to guide us through the gardens. Please bring a chair for the lunch and meeting. Hope to see you all there!

Carol Houston, President



Monthly Reminder - Vote for your favorite Non-Profit

Please take the time to vote for our Garden Club as Charlotte County's best 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit this month. This month's deadline is January 31. You can add a monthly reminder as the program runs until June 2022. The monthly prize is \$1500 with a grand prize of \$5,000 in June. Vote at <https://www.yoursun.com/contests/npo/#/gallery>



We offer our sincere condolences to Martha Cloran on the recent passing of her sister. Please keep her and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Plant Profile: Desert Rose (*Adenium obesum*)

One of the more popular plants for Southwest Florida is the Desert Rose. It makes a great container plant to have by your pool or inside a lanai. Desert rose is a low-maintenance succulent that produces dozens of trumpet-shaped flowers in shades of pink, rose, or white in the summer. Like many succulents, it needs conditions that are bright, warm, and dry.

Desert rose and its many hybrids are often seen in retail garden centers. Flowers average 2-3 inches in diameter and may be single, double, or even triple. To maintain the profuse flowering, the plants must six hours or more of bright light each day.

Desert rose makes a dramatic specimen for a deck or patio but since it's sensitive to temperatures below 40 degrees. Southwest Florida gardeners can grow this as a small shrub.

Take care not to overwater, since too much can lead to root rot. Over time, your desert rose can reach four or five feet tall and the lower portion of the trunk, called the caudex, will widen and swell.

Desert rose can have issues with scale; keep a look out for these tiny pests so that should your plant start to suffer, you can address the situation quickly. As a member of the same family as Oleander, desert rose is susceptible to being munched on by oleander caterpillars. Plants may naturally droop a bit during winter, but they will re-leaf after that.

Jane Hayse, Horticulture Chair



Adenium obesum 'Blooming Fool' in full flower growing in a 10-inch pot.
Credit: R.J. Henny, UF/IFAS.

Source: Desert Rose - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (ufl.edu)
Any suggestions for the Plant Profile? Contact me at jhayse59@hotmail.com



February Hospitality Committee

Chair: Betsy Foster

Jan Brady	Peggy Stanfield
Anita Frumson	Nancy Knaus
Chris Green	Bonnie Rehling
Pat Juliano	Molly Reifeis
Sandy Kirk	Joyce Stanley
	Ellen Klinger-Clark



February Birthdays

Jeanette Fowler 2/4
Alan Schulman 2/5
Suzanne Gardner Campbell 2/7
Sandy Kirk 2/10
Betsy Foster 2/11
Holly Scherzi 2/11
Dottie Williams 2/15
Vera Harris 2/20
Marilyn Pachota 2/23
Pat Juliano 2/27

And many happy wishes!

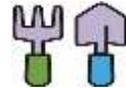
Gardening Tip - Flower Conditioning

Re-cut stems and remove all leaves and thorns that will be below the water level in the container as they will cause bacteria to grow, shortening vase life. Remove 2 inches from the bottom of each stem, always cut stems at a sharp angle.

Most flowers benefit from warmer water (temperatures of 110°F) containing floral preservative. Store in clean containers in a cool location for a minimum of 2 hours and overnight is preferred.

Source - Sarahboynton.net

Garden Workdays



We welcome new helpers for light work and cleanup such as trimming and sweeping of the city parks. Monday volunteers arrive 8 am and work up to 2 hours. Bring your clippers, gloves and water. We hope you can join us. Please contact Dorrit Tompkins to be added to the reminder email at newshoesdorrit@gmail.com.

February 7 - History Park 501 Shreve St

February 14 - vacation day

February 21 - Peace River Botanical Gardens
5827 Riverside Dr

February 28 - Woman's Club 118 Sullivan St

My goal for 2021 was to lose 10 pounds. Only have 14 to go.



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

