



## 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

- PGGC approved the nomination of Home Tour Chair Julie O'Brien and Co-Chair Mary Yeomans. Congratulations to our new chairs and thank you for accepting to fill these positions!
- A recent survey of members identified 59 trees encompassing 21 species that were planted by our members during the past year.
- Sandy Bruglio designed a Flower Show flyer that provides an opportunity for members to make our community aware of this event. Please ask the locations that you frequent to see if you can post this flyer. Refer to page 9 of this Newsletter for a copy of the flyer that you can print.

### President's Message

Dear Members,

What a busy month March is for the Garden Club! We have our exciting trip to the Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens which includes a guided tour and the ZimSculpt exhibition after which we get to have our lunch and member meeting at the Koi Pond.

Then, we have our NGC Standard Flower Show at the Isles Yacht Club. We were all so disappointed when we had to cancel in 2020. All of the design categories are filled, thank you to all who entered. We are gathering our horticulture entries. It will be a wonderful show and we hope to be considered for an award for the actual show. It will be a great turn-out, I am sure.

I wanted to remind all members that your annual dues are to be paid by May 15th. Payment can be made at the April member meeting. For those who are unable to join us for the Spring luncheon on May 5th at the Isles Yacht Club, you can mail your check to the Garden Club at Punta Gorda Garden Club P.O. Box 511167 Punta Gorda, FL 33951-1167.

Are you all enjoying the warmer weather? I know I am, that cold affects these old bones and not in a good way. I have been enjoying getting some work done outside. We are extending a small patio in the backyard for equipment. Don't you think it is strange that when you plan to do a small job that you think will take just a couple of days, it turns into a couple of weeks. I think it is because you do not have the pressure of time on you when you are retired. The attitude is "Oh well, it will get done eventually."

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### Save the Date!

**Board Meeting**  
Peace River  
Baptist Church,  
Zoom  
Mar 9 9:30 am

**PGGC Outing**  
Peace River  
Botanical Garden  
Mar 16 9:45 am

**PGGC Flower Show**  
Isles Yacht Club  
Mar 22  
Lunch Noon  
Show 1-3 pm

## Garden Tales

*Continued from page 1*

April's program is the Gopher Tortoise which will be very interesting. I have one who made a home in my backyard. I wonder if I should bring him for a show and tell! Perhaps not, he is very large. I hope you all have a wonderful Spring and enjoy all of our club events.

*Carol Houston, President*

### March 16 Club Outing: Peace River Botanical and Sculpture Gardens

PGGC will explore the gardens with a docent led tour that includes viewing the ZimSculpt exhibit and butterfly house. We will meet at the Botanical Gardens at 9:45 am to pay a discounted price of \$9 to enter the Gardens and receive our wristbands. The tour will take 1 1/2 - 2 hours. Lunch follows on the patio by the Koi Pond and gift shop. There are no umbrellas, so a sun hat is suggested. Do NOT bring your own chairs. We will have our meeting on the patio. Afterwards, you will be able to walk around and return to the marketplace near the ticket booth.

To sign up for the tour, please contact Mary Pompeo by Monday, March 7th at [marypompeo@msn.com](mailto:marypompeo@msn.com) or (781) 706-8586. You may bring your own lunch or sign up for a box lunch at a cost of \$12.50. The choices are ham, turkey club, chicken salad or veggie wrap. Lunch includes bottled water, homemade chips, and cookie. Payment for admission is on site on the day of tour. For lunch, please pay in advance by putting your selection on your check and send the payment to:

Punta Gorda Garden Club PO Box 511167 Punta Gorda, FL 33951-1167



## Garden Tales

### PGGC Standard Flower Show "Those Were the Days"

#### Letter from our Flower Show Chair, Claudia Chopp

Our Flower Show at the Isles Yacht Club on March 22 is fast approaching, and we need all members to participate. If you read the Flower Show Schedule that you were sent, it, you will find the schedule explains everything that you need to do to enter the Flower Show.

The luncheon information was also sent again to you. Please contact Joyce Stanley to make your reservation.

The design entries for the show are filled, but we need horticulture entries. All horticulture entries should be sent to Carolyn Honour by March 7th.

Members who agreed to help at the Show were sent a listing of all positions and participants and a digital copy of the National Garden Club's Handbook for Flower Shows. This handbook is the complete guide to putting on a flower show and should be kept for future reference. All job descriptions are in Chapter 2. Please look up your job description and make sure this is what you agreed to do. If you have questions or problems, please contact me immediately.

I know we will have a fantastic show with everyone participating!

*Claudia Chopp, Flower Show Chair*

#### Flower Show References

[2022 PGGC Flower Show Schedule](#)

[How to Identify Your Plants](#)

[Horticulture Entry Form](#)

[NGC Handbook for Flower Shows \(revised 2022\)](#)

#### Feb 22 Design Workshop Hosted by Claudia Chopp

Members entering the Flower Show's design categories met at Claudia's home where she provided insightful feedback to members for their proposed designs. Claudia is a Nationally Accredited Flower Show Master Judge.



#### Feb 22 Flower Show Luncheon

If you plan to have lunch at the Isles Yacht Club on the day of the Flower Show, send your payment of \$26 (per person) so that it arrives no later than March 15th. Checks should be made payable to PGGC and sent to P.O. Box 511167, Punta Gorda, FL. 33951-1167. Also, please note your salad choice on your check. (Salad Menu choices are Columbian - Ham, Swiss, Tomatoes, Olives, Romaine with lemon/garlic vinaigrette; Mixed Green - Cranberries, Pecans, Feta, with pomegranate dressing or Caesar Salad with grilled chicken. Salads include rolls, coffee, or tea. Dessert - Strawberry shortcake with whipped cream.) We encourage you to sign up as the Yacht Club offers this venue to us at no cost.

## Garden Tales

### Why are Citrus Groves in Florida Disappearing?

Have you ever wondered why you do not see “Florida grown” oranges at the grocery store? Have you driven to the eastern part of Charlotte County and seen rows and rows of dead citrus? Have you been told not to plant citrus trees? Or have you planted citrus trees, only to have them hardly produce any fruit?

If any of these questions relate to your experience, then you have been impacted by a very, very tiny insect called the citrus psyllid. This little 1/6 inch bug carries a disease that has literally wiped out a huge portion of the signature citrus industry that Florida is known for.

Many of our garden club members have lived in Florida for quite a while and are aware of the devastating impact of the citrus greening disease on the largest cash crop in Florida’s economy. For those that are new to the state or may want a reminder, this disease has been catastrophic to the agricultural economy.

The Asian citrus psyllid first appeared in 2005. It is believed that the citrus psyllid transmits a bacterium to the tree that causes Huanglongbing, most commonly referred to as citrus greening. To put the devastation caused by this disease in perspective, in the season before greening appeared, 2003-2004, Florida produced 242 million boxes of oranges. The February 2021 forecast for orange production was 56 million boxes! This is the smallest output in the last 20 years. On January 18, 2022, it was reported that the forecast was lowered to 44 million boxes, which is 16% less than last season.

The greening disease makes the tree starve itself to death. The bacteria infect the part of the tree that distributes nutrients. Therefore, growers and home growers must fertilize more often and spray fertilizer on the leaves because the tree cannot deliver the nutrients to the leaves. The result is yellowing, blotchy leaves and small or no fruit produced. The risk of a citrus tree in Charlotte County contracting greening is extremely high and ultimately may be unavoidable.

Currently, the disease is incurable. Combatting this disease has proven elusive to agricultural scientists. With many hurdles to overcome, several new federally funded programs have recently been announced. One is a public-private collaboration across Texas, Florida, and California to work on new solutions to combat the disease. A recent November 2021 AgriLife article discusses this multi-state effort.

In the meantime, if you have a citrus tree in your yard follow the advice of University of Florida for fertilizing and spraying at: HS-867/HS132: Citrus Culture in the Home Landscape (ufl.edu) and PP336/PP336: Citrus Tree Care for the Home Gardener in the HLB Era (ufl.edu).

*Jane Hayse, Horticulture Chair*

Sources: [https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/archive/hot\\_topics/agriculture/citrus\\_greening.shtml](https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/archive/hot_topics/agriculture/citrus_greening.shtml)  
<https://citrusindustry.net/2021/03/02/decline/>

New research takes aim at devastating citrus greening - AgriLife Today (tamu.edu)

WGCU - A.I. may be the way to stop deadly disease decimating Florida's citrus groves | WGCU PBS & NPR for Southwest Florida

## Garden Tales

### Plant Profile: Herbs for Your Florida Garden

Winter is the best time to plant, harvest and enjoy herbs here in Southwest Florida. The University of Florida suggests five herbs that are easy to grow for our climate.

#### Cilantro

Cilantro is an excellent winter herb to grow in Florida because it waits to flower until the warmer weather of spring. You should plant this herb somewhere that gets full to partial sun and has excellent soil drainage. Harvesting can begin once it reaches six inches in height and can continue until it finally dies.



You can also dry the seeds to make your own spice: coriander.

#### Parsley

Like cilantro, parsley loves the cool weather and doesn't bloom until spring. You can either plant parsley in your garden beds or in containers. Parsley also enjoys some afternoon shade, so it does well in partial sun or on a windowsill. Seeds may take up to two weeks to germinate. If you decide to grow your plants from seed, you should soak them in water overnight to help speed the process. Parsley is also beneficial to your health, containing vitamins A, C, and K as well as several B vitamins, calcium, and iron.



#### Fennel

Fennel is a fantastic herb to have on hand because the shoots, leaves, and seeds are all useful in cooking. Black swallowtail caterpillars, too, will love your fennel and use it as a host plant. After about three months, your herb will be ready for harvest. The herb works well as an addition to sauces, fish, bread, and salads. A tea is often made of the leaves that people drink for digestive health. (Photo of fennel flowers by Joseph M. DiTomaso, University of California-Davis, Bugwood.org)



#### Thyme

Thyme is another herb that enjoys full sun. It is also extremely drought tolerant and does best in well-drained soil. Like parsley, thyme makes a fantastic addition to your windowsill herb garden or garden beds. If you are interested in beekeeping, thyme is highly attractive to bees and creates a delicious honey.



#### Chives

Chives grow well in the winter months and can be harvested at any time. They prefer plenty of sunlight and well-drained soil. They tend to grow in clumps of multiple plants. You will need to divide them every couple of years to give them enough growing space. Depending on the variety you choose, your chives can add subtle onion or garlic flavor to a dish. Unlike most other herbs, they are not often used dried. Simply chop the fresh leaves and add them to any recipe.



*Jane Hayse, Horticulture Chair*

Source: <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/edibles/vegetables/five-herbs-for-december.html>

Any suggestions for the Plant Profile? Contact me at [jhayse59@hotmail.com](mailto:jhayse59@hotmail.com)

## Garden Tales



### Environment – March 26 Great American Cleanup

It's time for the Great American Cleanup on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 1 pm! I invite you to participate in this event to collect litter to help clean up our wonderful community. 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.

There will be a sign-up sheet at our General Meeting on March 16th. You may also email me at [susancmiller4@gmail.com](mailto:susancmiller4@gmail.com). Be sure to include your requested T shirt size. We will need the T shirt size and the number of folks in our team for our club sign-up. A place to meet and park will be forthcoming. I look forward to this enjoyable time together!

*Susan Miller, Environment Chair*

### Community Outreach – Crossroads Hope Academy

One very cold Monday morning on February 14<sup>th</sup>, Dorrit Tompkins organized a small group to visit the Crossroads Hope Academy to meet with Shelley Coakley, Food Service Mgr., to see whether this program could benefit from the possibility of helping out with their garden needs.

During our visit, we walked the grounds and found a small orchard area, a former butterfly garden, and small vegetable and herb gardens around the dining hall. All these areas need work - trimming and cleaning up. Crossroads has large tools such as a rototiller, lots of shovels and various rakes. There are some small hand tools. Tools that are sharp are kept in a separate area. The club will continue an assessment to determine the applicability as to how Crossroads fits our mission statement and how PGGC can assist.

*Dorrit Tompkins, PG Public Gardens Chair*



Vinita Jones, Julie O'Brien, and Mary Yeomans



Vinita Jones, Julie O'Brien, Mary Yeomans, and Shelley Coakley

## Garden Tales

### Spread the Word – College Scholarship Opportunities

PGGC has allocated \$12,000 in scholarships for the 2022-23 academic year. Please share this opportunity for financial aid as there is a deadline to submit applications by April 1, 2022. Applicants must be graduating high school seniors, current college students, or previous winners of a Garden Club scholarship. Home schooled students who meet the criteria are also eligible to apply. A written essay and three letters of recommendation are required with the application. Requirements include a B or better grade average, proof of financial need, and a desire to major in agronomy, botany, conservation, ecology, environmental sciences, environmental engineering, floriculture, forestry, horticulture, landscape design, plant pathology or related fields. Application forms are available in the Guidance Offices at Charlotte High School, Port Charlotte High, Lemon Bay High, Charlotte Technical School, Community Christian School, Florida Southwestern Collegiate High School, and the Financial Aid Office of Florida Southwestern State College, or at the PGGC website, [www.pggc.org](http://www.pggc.org).

For additional application information, applicants can contact the school guidance counselors or aid officers or PGGC Scholarship Chair Nancy Knaus at (413) 297-7187 or [nancyknaus@yahoo.com](mailto:nancyknaus@yahoo.com).

*Betsy Foster, Publicity Chair*

### Reminder – Membership Dues

Your PGGC Member Dues of \$25 for June '22 to May '23 is due by May 15. Twelve dollars of your PGGC dues are submitted to FFGC by May 20.

You can provide a check to Joyce Stanley at an upcoming member meeting or mail a check to PO Box 511167, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-1167. If not paid on time, your membership is terminated.



### *ECHO's Global Food and Farm Festival*

Bring the whole family to ECHO's Global Food and Farm Festival and learn about exotic foods, sustainable living, innovative farming, and gardening. From March 9-11, you can experience unique tours, tastings, cooking shows, and make-and-take workshops.

## 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  
Nancy Silvers 3/11  
Margita DiLapo 3/12  
Stephanie Green 3/20  
Joanne Collins 3/21

And many happy wishes!

### March Flower Shows - Southwest FL

Sunset Park GC "Down by the Sea" Mar 19 1 - 5pm;  
4624 W. Browning Ave Tampa

Naples GC "Visions: Past, Present, Future" Mar 18-19  
9am - 5pm; Naples Botanical Garden \$25

Royal Palm GC "Colors of Spring" Mar 24-25 Thurs  
3 - 6pm; Fri 9am - 2pm 2166 Virginia Ave Fort Myers

Tampa GC "This Sporting Life" Mar 26 10am - 4 pm;  
2629 Bayshore Blvd; Free

### March Plant Sales - Charlotte County

Port Charlotte GC "Garden Extravaganza" Mar 26  
9am - 2pm; Port Charlotte Beach Park Harbor Blvd

Harbour Heights GC Plant Sale Mar 19 9am - Noon;  
San Marco Blvd Punta Gorda

### Garden Workdays



For new volunteers, please contact Dorrit Tompkins to confirm schedule. Volunteers should arrive by 8 am. Bring gloves, pruning shears, and bottled water.

Mar 7 - History Park  
Mar 14 - vacation  
Mar 21 - Peace River Botanical Garden  
Mar 28 - Woman's Club

### Welcome New Members!

Please update the following information in your yearbook:

Nancy Silvers  
46 Alligator Ave  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-2244  
(412) 389-8201 n.silvers0311@gmail.com

Jody Wiley  
730 Bal Harbor Blvd  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-8203  
(561) 596-8427 magic5157@netzero.com

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



# *"Those Were the Days"*

An NGC Standard Flower Show  
Free Admission

*Presented by*

# *Punta Gorda Garden Club*

*at*

Isles Yacht Club  
1780 West Marion  
Punta Gorda, FL  
March 22, 2022



Open to the public 1 p.m. ~ 3 p.m.

Enjoy a fun afternoon filled with beauty

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

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.