



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

- A vote to approve amendments to the bylaws will be held at the Annual Meeting in April. Refer to the proposed amendments which have been emailed to all members.
- Voting for PGGC as the Non-Profit of the Month is underway. Vote by noon on March 28 at <https://www.yoursun.com/contests/npo/#/gallery/>
- Yearbook Chair Sandy Bruglio provided a proposal for a printed yearbook at a reduced cost. The yearbook will also be available on the club website. Let Sandy know if you don't want a hard copy so that she can adjust numbers.

President's Message

Dear Members,

I hope you all enjoyed our Standard Flower Show. I thought it was wonderful, such creative talent in all of the design submissions and the horticulture was excellent, such a selection. I want to thank all of our members who contributed to such a successful show. I have heard nothing but positive feedback on everything related to the event. It was also such a beautiful location to display our Garden Club's Member Talents. We had a great turnout for the luncheon, and we give a sincere thank you to the Isles Yacht Club for providing such a beautiful location for our event. Our thanks to them is well deserved.

This month is our FFGC convention to be held in Kissimmee and the club delegates include Peggy Stanfield, Joyce Stanley, and Marilyn Pachota. We are looking forward to the various presentations and hope to come away with some inventive ideas for our Garden Club. In addition, we are so lucky to be there when a National Garden Club Flower Show is being held and our own Flower Show Chair, Claudia Chopp, will be in attendance. We may even come back with some ideas for our Flower Show next year!

Members, please remember that your annual dues are due and payable at the Member Meeting on April 20th or by check mailed to the club PO Box.

April is a busy month. In addition to the FFGC Convention, the District IX meeting will be held on April 26th in Naples. Your Club representatives will be myself, Peggy Stanfield, Vinita Jones, and Marilyn Pachota.

I also want to remind our members who knew our lovely past member Anne Simpson that her memorial tree planting will be held on April 28th. We shall send out a reminder email with the

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Save the Date!

Board Meeting
Peace River
Baptist Church
Apr 7 9:30 am

General Meeting
Peace River
Baptist Church
Apr 20
1pm Gather
1:30 Meeting

Spring Luncheon
Isles Yacht Club
May 5

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details, time, and location. I would encourage all of our members who knew Anne to come and pay your respects and remember her in an uplifting event.

There are additional events that are described in this Newsletter. What a busy month, hope you all enjoy it!

Carol Houston, President

April 20 General Meeting: The Amazing Gopher Tortoise



Florida Master Naturalist, Tony Mauriello, will describe the unique characteristics of the gopher tortoise and the major issues threatening these gentle creatures.

Youth Activities

Ten students from Mrs. Pucci's Art Club at Port Charlotte Middle School met and learned the basics of flower arranging and the art of pressed flowers creating some beautiful note cards and bookmarks. The floral designs and botanical creations were on display at our Flower Show on March 22. It's amazing to see the diversity in their creations! The students donated their art and arrangements to the Life Care Center. Below are the people's Choice winners.

Marilyn Pachota, Youth Chair



PGGC'S New Director

Congratulations to our new PGGC Director Terry Tunkavige. Terry will serve as Director from June 2022 to May 2024.



Please keep Bonnie Verminski in your thoughts and prayers as she recovers from surgery. Get well wishes can be sent to:

Bonnie Verminski
1420 Waxwing Court
Punta Gorda FL

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PGGC 2022 Standard Flower Show – Those Were the Days

Our Flower Show was an outstanding success thanks to the enthusiastic support of all of our members. Designers, growers, diners, and workers.....thank you. A project like this can only be successful with membership cooperation and we certainly did have that.

Claudia B. Chopp, Flower Show Committee Chair

Set Up Day - Organization at its Best



Final Preparations



Flower Show Clerks



A Most Enjoyable Event



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Flower Show Awards (award winners are displayed from left to right in order of the list)

Division		Section	Class	Item	Member
DESIGN	Designer's Choice Award	A	3	Boogie Woogie	Gail Edgren
HORTICULTURE	Award of Horticulture Excellence	G	34	Orchid	Mary Yeomans
	Award of Merit (3) orange	B	12	Glory Lily	Kathy Sutton
		A	7	Song of Jamaica	Gail Edgren
		H	37	Planter	Julie O'Brien
	Arboreal Award	D	18	Allamanda	Molly Reifeis
	Grower's Choice Award (3) green	F	30-7	Cryptanthus Bromeliad	Vinita Jones
G		34	Orchid	Mary Yeomans	
E		28	Hemp Cactus	Mary Yeomans	
EDUCATION	Educational Top Exhibitor Award	A	1	Blue Star Marker	Karen Noonan
BOTANICAL ARTS	Botanical Arts Artistic Crafts Award	A	5	Birdhouse	Molly Reifeis



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Plant Profile: Spiral Gingers (*Costus* spp.)

Plants in the *Costus* genus are often referred to as spiral gingers although they have been segregated from the true gingers (*Zingiberaceae*). *Costus* members have spirally arranged, one-sided leaves and terminal, cone-shaped inflorescences with colorful, closely overlapping bracts. Between the bracts single or paired flowers emerge. Unlike the true gingers, *Costus* species contain no aromatic oils and do not have the culinary value of true gingers. Flower appearance can vary; some form a rigid tube that is usually red to yellow in color, or they can be more open and spreading in colors from white to pale pink.

These perennials reproduce through underground stems (rhizomes) and perform best in rich, moist soil although they are quite drought tolerant. Spiral gingers do well in part-sun, filtered sun, or shade. Unlike the true gingers, *Costus* can be propagated from rooted cuttings. Simply lay 8-inch stem pieces flat on the soil during the warm months of the year. Find a friend with this lovely plant to get a cutting!



Costus woodsonii, Red Button Ginger

One of the most popular spiral gingers is known as red button ginger. This species, *Costus woodsonii*, grows to 3 to 4 feet tall. Red button ginger has leaves that are mid-green in color. From late winter to early spring, plants produce bright red bracts from which individual orange-yellow, edible flowers emerge.

Costus comosus var. *bakeri*, Red Tower Ginger

This perennial grows to six feet tall in zones 9 to 11. Red tower ginger thrives in full sun to part shade and blooms yellow with overlapping u-shaped red bracts in warm months. Red tower ginger also boasts very fuzzy leaves.



Jane Hayse, Horticulture Chair

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

Memorial Tree Planting to Honor our Beloved Anne Simpson

Our Dedication of the memorial tree for Anne Simpson is rescheduled to Thursday, April 28 at 10 am so that family is able to attend. Gail Edgren will officiate, and Marion Wester will speak about Anne. We will also celebrate Arbor Day. I hope that you can join us at:

South County Regional Park
670 Cooper Street Punta Gorda (Beyond the swimming pool)

Susan Miller, Environmental Chair

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April Hospitality Committee Chair: Marilyn Pachota

Debbie Engel	Heidi Kaletta
Stephanie Green	Nan Lee
Carolyn Honour	Susan Nehring
Pat Juliano	Molly Reifeis
Vinita Jones	Maggie Rogers



April Birthdays

Claudia Chopp	4/2
Joan Sala	4/12
Elaine LaWell	4/13
Sandy Bruglio	4/14
Mary Pompeo	4/15
Judy Oswald	4/16
Mary Yeomans	4/19
Libby Curnow	4/25

And many happy wishes!

Hospitality Volunteers Needed

There will be a signup sheet for hostess committees for the next program year (Sept '21 to May '22) at our April General Meeting. We need a chairperson for each month as well as monthly committee members.



May 5th Luncheon

Our Spring Luncheon will be at the Isles Yacht Club and Vinita Jones will be the hostess. At the April meeting the menu choices will be available, and payment can be made. Or send a check to the club mailbox with your menu choice noted on the check.

Recycling Reminder

Go to charlottecountyfl.gov and click on "Solid Waste" and then "Residential Curbside Service" for a list of what can and cannot be recycled. Then click on Recycling 101 for more info. There is also a list on the lid of the recycling cart, which I see all the time, but sometimes forget to pay attention to it! We all have the basics down I'm sure, but a detailed reminder never hurts!

Reduce Reuse Recycle Refuse

Susan Miller, Environmental Chair

Volunteers Needed for the Great American Cleanup



Volunteers are needed for the Great American Cleanup on Wednesday, April 6th from 9 am to 1 pm at Fisherman's Village. If interested, sign up with Susan Miller at susancmiller4@gmail.com.

Susan Miller, Environmental Chair



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Garden Workdays



There will be a general cleanup of the gardens at the Blanchard House Museum 406 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd on Monday, April 11 from 8 to 10 am. Breakfast will be provided by the Wood Street Grill at 10. Sign up with Dorrit Tompkins by April 3, if interested.

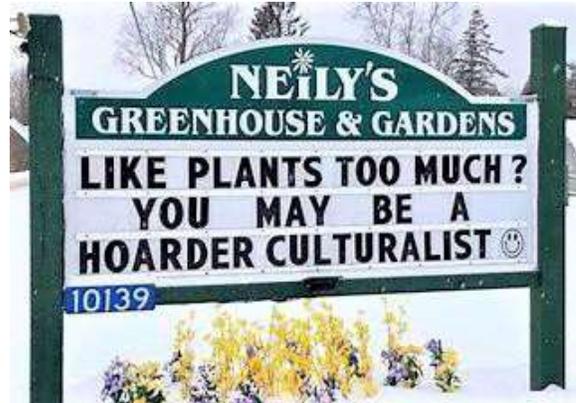
For new volunteers, please contact Dorrit Tompkins to confirm schedule. Volunteers should arrive by 8 am. Bring gloves, pruning shears, and bottled water. Usually finished in less than 2 hours!

Apr 4 - History Park
Apr 11 - Blanchard House Museum
Apr 18 - Peace River Botanical Garden
Apr 25 - Woman's Club

Dorrit Tompkins, Public Gardens Chair

Membership and Yearbook Updates!

Please update your yearbook for Nancy Silvers.
Phone # (412) 389-2244
46 Alligator Ave
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-7309



A Tug of War Ensues at History Park



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 will be terminated.

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

