



# Punta Gorda Garden Club Garden Tales

www.pggc.org

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

## Club News

The 2022-23 PGGC Yearbook which is now available at the General Meetings. Thank you, Sandy, for creating this lovely yearbook!

Sign up for the Floral Design Study Units 7 - 9 commences at the October General Meeting. Refer to the September Newsletter for details and/or contact Carolyn Honour for additional information.

The 2022 Holly Day Home Tour tickets will be available for members at the October Meeting to begin pre-sales.

The 2023 PGGC Flower Show theme will be ‘A Salute to Broadway’. Each class names will be a Broadway Musical and the class entry names will be songs from that Broadway musical.

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.

## President’s Message

Hello Dear Members,

I hope you are enjoying getting your fall gardening started and looking forward to Halloween. I am still struggling to get rid of all the weeds in my backyard. It would be great if my plants thrived as well as the weeds.

Lots of you have started in your workshops, being creative and working hard towards our Home Tour. It is so much fun to get together with your fellow members. I am so looking forward to being able to tour the homes this year and to see all of the wonderful ideas turned into actual items. I think our visitors will greatly appreciate that they can park their vehicles and walk to all four homes as they are so close together. We will have our beautiful poinsettias for sale in addition to many crafts also for sale. It never ceases to amaze me how lucky we are to have such talented artists in our club and this year, we have so many new members, all of whom are so enthusiastic and excited about being able to contribute to this event.

On a very sad note, I want to ensure that our members are aware that Sandy Kirk and our V.P. Peggy Stanfield’s son both passed away very recently. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families and friends.

I will not be at the October meetings, for a happy reason. My sister and her husband are coming from England for a visit. We are finally able to get together after five years (due to covid etc.). Tom and I are so looking forward to it. Don’t worry, our meetings will proceed as normal, and I will see you all come November.

*Your President, Carol Houston*

## Save the Date!

**Board Meeting**  
Peace River  
Baptist Church  
Oct 14 9:30 am  
ZOOM accessible

**General Meeting**  
Peace River  
Baptist Church  
Oct 21  
1pm Refreshments  
1:30 Meeting  
ZOOM accessible

**Home & Garden Show**  
Charlotte Harbor  
Event and Conference  
Center  
Oct 23 & 24  
10 am - 4 pm

## Garden Tales

### General Meeting – October 19, 2022 Benefits of Gardening with Worm Castings

Green Leaf Worm Farm owner, Sean Moore, teaches us how worm castings improve plant growth, increase crop production, and help suppress certain plant diseases.



### Our Hostesses are the Mostest!

At the PGGC Sept Meeting, the Hospitality Committee went all out for our first meeting of the 2022 -23 program year.



**Left to right:** Dorrit Tompkins, Frolly Boyd, Lynn Davies, Susan Miller, Vera Harris, Agnes West, and Susan Summey. Molly Reifeis made the Floral Arrangement.

## Garden Tales

### *International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) - Sept 17*

Thank you to the PGGC environmental volunteers who turned out for the annual Ocean Conservancy ICC! And as always, thanks to Rhonda Harvey at Keep Charlotte Beautiful for help and supplies. Despite large pools of standing rainwater, the group persevered to clean up the east end of Fisherman's Village parking lot and the area along the Peace River waterfront to the Bayfront Center YMCA. Another team covered the area of Linear Park to the library. Thanks to our 8 hardy helpers, over 400 pieces of trash did not enter our waterways!

*Susan Miller, Environmental Chair*



**Above** - Heading out to clean up are Susan Miller, Laura Flannelly, Diane Commens, Richard Collins, Joanne Collins, and Janice Williams. Photographer - Joyce Bradley.



### *Sad News*

On September 10, our beloved PGGC Member Sandy Kirk passed away. Sandy was a member of PGGC since 2017 and recently moved back to Oklahoma to be with family as she courageously fought cancer. A funeral service was held on September 17. The memorial service and condolences can be accessed at

[https://smithandkernke.com/memorialpage\\_new.asp?id=3089](https://smithandkernke.com/memorialpage_new.asp?id=3089). Please keep Sandy's family in your thoughts and prayers. We will dearly miss Sandy.



### *Sad News*

We offer our sincere condolences to Peggy Stanfield for the loss of her son who passed away on Sept 19. Please keep Peggy and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

## Plant Profile - Brazilian Red Cloak (Megaskempamsma ertyrochlamys)

Brazilian Red Cloak is the epitome of tropical Florida! It is also the most treasured plant in my garden! It is a large exotic shrub having 4 - 5 inch long, dark green leaves with a pink midrib. Brazilian Red Cloak has gorgeous red flower spikes which bloom through the year in sun or shade. It is a very easy plant to grow.



Unlike its name, Brazilian Red Cloak is native to Venezuela and elsewhere in South America. It is a free branching, upright showy shrub that grows upwards of 10-12 feet. Grown for its dramatic inflorescences with large heads of conspicuous crimson bracts and with small white flowers. When it flowers, the clusters of crimson bracts droop downward and collectively give the end of the branch the appearance of a cape or cloak. The bracts also tend to "cloak" the smaller white flowers from casual view. These cloaks are absolutely gorgeous, with its large green leaves and crimson bracts.

Brazilian Red Cloak prefers to be grown in a rich well drained, slightly acidic soil. But it fares well when the soil is neutral to slightly alkaline. New plants should be planted at least 6 feet apart to allow for full growth. This shrub is easy to maintain. It loves the cool weather as well as hot days in Summer, especially with a little shade. It likes moderate watering during the dry season but does not like wet feet !! Also, it affords much privacy, if desired.

TRY IT, you'll love it !!

*Laura Flannelly, Horticulture Chair*

Source: Rogers, George K. Landscape Plants for South Florida. 2016 print



## October Hostess Committee Chair: Joyce Tilden

Bev Babcock	Gail Edgren
Louise DiNino	Ursula Karlen
Sajida Khudairi	Joy Price
Bonnie Rehling	Peggy Stanfield
Bonnie Verminski	Jance Williams



## October Birthdays Wishes

Nancy Kraus	10/1
Doreen Secor	10/1
Terry Tunkavige	10/2
Julia Schade	10/7
Judy McQueen	10/8
Marion Wester	10/11
Heidi Kaletta	10/12
Ellen Klinger-Clark	10/13
Lynn Davies	10/17
Bonnie Verminski	10/24
Carol Houston	10/30

**And many happy wishes!**

### *Homemade Pesticides for your Garden*

There are several recipes for pesticides that use items you probably have in your kitchen. Many times, these are much cheaper and safer than purchased products for your garden. But, before whipping up one of the following recipes, it is important to remember that natural home pesticides are exactly like chemical pesticides in one very important way. They both will kill any bug they contact, whether a pest bug or a beneficial bug.

Before using any insecticide, think hard about how much damage pests are really doing to your garden. You may be damaging to your plants more by killing the bugs than the bugs were doing to your plants.

When mixing your own pesticide, there are a few important things to remember:

- You should always test a home mix on a small portion of the plant first to make sure that it will not harm the plant.
- Avoid using any bleach-based soaps or detergents on plants since this can be harmful to them.
- It is important that a home mixture never be applied to any plant on a hot or bright sunny day, as this will quickly lead to burning of the plant and its ultimate demise.

Here are three recipes to try:

#### **Organic Garden Pest Control Recipe #1**

- 1 head of garlic
- 1 tablespoon (15 ml.) dish soap (Note: do not use a dish soap that contains bleach)
- 2 tablespoons (29.5 ml.) mineral or vegetable oil
- 2 cups (480 ml.) water

Peel the garlic cloves and puree the cloves along with the oil and water. Allow to sit overnight and then strain the mixture. Add soap and mix thoroughly. Pour into a spray bottle and use on pest-infected plants.

#### **Organic Garden Pest Control Recipe #2**

- 1 tablespoon (15 ml.) vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons (29.5 ml.) baking soda
- 1 teaspoon (5 ml.) dish soap or Murphy Oil (Note: do not use a dish soap that contains bleach)
- 2 quarts (1.9 L.) of water

Combine ingredients and pour into a spray bottle. Use this organic bug spray on your affected plants.

#### **Organic Garden Pest Control Recipe #3**

- 1/2 cup (120 ml.) chopped hot peppers (the hotter the better)
- 2 cups (480 ml.) water
- 2 tablespoons (29.5 ml.) dish soap (Note: do not use a dish soap that contains bleach)

Puree peppers and water. Let sit overnight. Strain carefully (this will burn your skin) and mix in dish soap. Pour into a spray bottle and spray this organic bug spray on your buggy plants.

*Mary Yeomans, Director*

Source: [gardeningknowhow.com](http://gardeningknowhow.com)

# Garden Tales



## Upcoming Events

**Oct 7-8 Orlando Garden Club Standard Flower Show** District VII presents "MASKS UP". Orlando Garden Club 710 E. Rollins St. Orlando (Free Parking); 12 - 4pm

**Oct 14 UF/IFAS Extension Charlotte County Florida-Friendly Friday**; Port Charlotte; \$5 for the series; Register online at [Florida Friendly Event](#)

9:30-10:15am Haunting Horticulture

10:30 -11:15am Spiders

11:30am -12:00pm Pumpkins, Squash, and Gourds

**Oct 15 - Dec 4 Selby Botanical Garden Orchid Show: Capturing the Perfect Shot!** The beauty and diversity of orchids by featuring unique horticultural displays and stunning scientific photographs of its rare orchid collection; Sarasota; 10am - 5pm

**Oct 16 ECHO Get into Gardening - Make Your Florida Garden Thrive** Free workshops and plant sales. N. Fort Myers; 9am - 3pm

**Oct 22 Peace River Botanical Garden Plant Sale** Punta Gorda

**Oct 18 & 22 Edison Ford Museum Vegetable Gardening in South Florida Two-Part Series.** \$45 members. \$55 nonmembers; 2 hours each day

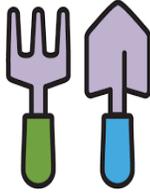
## Rescheduled - Self-watering Bucket Workshop

The Bucket Workshop was postponed due to the hurricane forecast. A new date will be chosen, and a notice will be sent to all members. There is still space to sign up if you are interested. For this workshop at Mary's home, the cost is approx. \$12 for all materials including two 4 gal food grade buckets, soil, etc. along with the use of Mary's tools to assemble the buckets. Below is Mary's bean plant growing in a self-watering bucket.



# Garden Tales

## Garden Work Days



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

- Oct 3 - History Park
- Oct 10 - New Punta Gorda Library
- Oct 17 - Peace River Botanical Garden
- Oct 24 - Woman's Club
- Oct 31 - tbd

The November newsletter deadline is Oct 20. Please submit items and/or photographs to Mary Hanrahan, Newsletter Chair.



## Gardening Tip

**Vegetables:** Easy crops that can be grown now include beans, broccoli, carrots, collards, lettuce, green onions, peppers, radishes, spinach, and tomatoes. See Vegetable Gardening in Florida: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_vegetable\\_gardening](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening)

