



Words from our President

Dear members of The Garden Club at Palm Coast,

Happy New Year to all our wonderful Garden Club Family!.

2022-2023 Club year has started with a bang.  181 members currently! Thank you to everyone who shares with friends and neighbors about our club and all we do for the community.

Jane Howells, our Vice President, has done an outstanding job with our speakers. We have learned so much and look forward to learning more. Thank you, Miss Jane.

Margie Brady and Kennetha Kilmurray and their team have created two fabulous Junior Garden clubs with students begging to join. Thank you for all that you have done to promote gardening in our community and to our students.

Nancy Iandoli and Mary Kay Hirsch continue to amaze us with the gardens that they find for the "Selection of the Month". Nancy has also been working nonstop to make sure that we apply for as many awards as possible.

Membership, publicity, hospitality, arrangers' guild, propagation guild and so many more committees have also been continuing to promote all that we do for our city and county.

2023 has so much in store for us and so many opportunities for volunteering. I look forward to working with everyone.

Thank you, Team Garden Club at Palm Coast,

Denise Garcia



January 9, 2023 meeting at the VFW

The meeting will be held at the VFW located at 47 N Old Kings Rd, Palm Coast. Doors open at 11:30AM for raffles and socializing. Members can enjoy lunch at the VFW starting at 11:30 (cash only). There will not be a plant sale this meeting. The Garden Club meeting begins at 1 pm.

Speaker: The speaker this month is Teresa Watkins from Orlando. She will be guiding us on how we can add color to our gardens. Teresa is a garden author, radio host, landscape designer, and horticulturist.

Board Meetings - First Monday of each month, August through May at the Palm Coast Public Library at 1:00PM. All club members are invited to attend, but general members are not eligible to vote. Please check the club's website calendar for next month's board meeting location.

VFW Meeting Menu:

PLEASE FIND YOUR TABLE AND TAKE YOUR NUMBER WITH YOU WHEN YOU PLACE YOUR LUNCH ORDER. THE VFW HAS A NEW TEAM AND WE WANT TO WORK WITH THEM TO HELP THEM SUCCEED.



THE OUTPOST

At VFW Post 8696
47 Old Kings Rd. North, Palm Coast FL 32137 PH: 386-446-8696



The Garden Club at Palm Coast

January 9th, 2023

Grilled Chicken Caesar Wrap - \$8.50

Tomato or Spinach wrap with crisp Romaine lettuce, grilled chicken freshly grated parmesan- gently tossed in Caesar dressing. With French Fry's

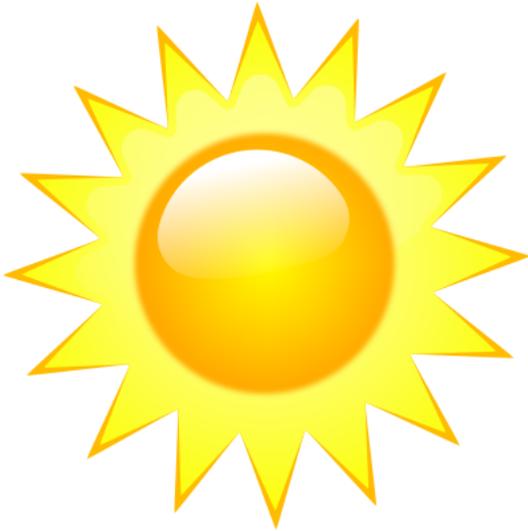
Grilled Cheese Sandwich - \$5.00

3 Slices of Cheese, perfectly toasted bread, equally delicious flavor. Add Bacon \$1.00 Add 2 slices Tomato \$.75

Chef Salad—Large \$7.00

Hard-boiled egg, a variety of julienned meats (such as Ham and Turkey) Tomatoes, cucumbers, and cheese, all served on a bed of lettuce.

Beverages: Soda or Iced Tea \$1.50 Coffee \$.50



SUNSHINE REPORT

Since the last newsletter, the following cards were sent:

Thinking of you:

Bob Griffin
Lucy Davis
Connie March
Elma Chung
Mary Jablonski

If you know of anyone who is sick, or is in need of an uplifting card please email janetrfonseca@outlook.com or call 347-673-3458

Membership

Welcome to new members who joined over this past month:

Gina Borges

Ellen Werner, Membership Chairperson

We hope everyone enjoys being a member of The Garden Club at Palm Coast and gets involved with a committee of their choice.

Happy Gardening!

Plants for Pleasure

Correction to December newsletter: Suzanne Wilson made up two beautiful dish gardens that went to the Stuart F. Meyer Hospice House at AdventHealth and Las Palmas Senior Living.

Ellen Werner, Chairperson

Plant Spotlight

Sharon Smith

Lulu Advocado *Persea americana*

Yes, you can grow avocados in Flagler County. There are eight cold tolerant varieties. I chose to purchase a Lulu avocado tree after seeing one grown successfully in the P section.

Avocados are classified into three groups; West Indian, Mexican and Guatemalan. The West Indian varieties are the dominant commercial crop in Florida, and the Mexican varieties are the dominant commercial crop in California. All avocados are self-pollinating and the trees have both male and female flowers.

The first documented Lula avocado tree was planted in 1915 by nurseryman George B Cellon on his Miami property. DNA analysis indicates this cultivar is a cross between Guatemalan and Mexican type avocados. He named it Lula after his wife.

The Lula avocado has very good fruit quality, excellent production, and very good crop consistency. It is considered a good choice for commercial planting, and an excellent choice for home planting.

The fruit ripens from October to January. The fruit is small, weighing 8 to 16 ounces. It is similar in size to the Hass avocado, but with a thin smooth edible skin and a slightly longer and slimmer pointed top.

This plant prefers full sun and moist well drained soil. It is cold hardy to 24 degrees F. It has a medium growth rate and gets to 30' high by 20' wide. Suggested fertilizer is 8-3-9 or similar. Fertilize monthly except in November and December. Mix soil with organic material when planting.

References — UF/IFAS “Avocado growing in the FL landscape “ Jonathon H. Crane, Carlos F. Balerdi, and Ian Maguire



Florida Native Pitcher Plants

There are six varieties of pitcher plants native to Florida. Pitcher plants are perennials with modified leaves that have pitchers that trap insects and digest them. They live in boggy areas where the soil is nutrient poor. They need the nitrogen from the insects they trap. The plants excrete a fragrant waxy substance. Once the insect lands it slides into the pitcher and hairs inside the pitcher trap the insect. After the insect is dead, the pitcher secretes enzymes that break down the prey.

The largest areas of native pitcher plants in Florida are in the Panhandle, in the western portion and the



Apalachicola National Forest (ANF). There are tour guides to help you find them and garden club trips. Unable to coordinate with either, my friend and I packed our hats, bug spray, and waterproof boots and hit the road. The ANF has no main gate, entrance fee, forest ranger or map to guide you. The forest is just there and is almost 1000 sq miles in area. There are also many unpaved roads which lack names, and no cell reception.

All six native pitcher plants can be found in the ANF. They are all the genus *Sarracenia*. The varieties are *S. flava*, *S. leucophylla*, *S. minor*, *S. psittacia*, *S. purpurea*, and *S. rubra*. We found 5 out of 6. The most obvious and plentiful was *S. flava*. It is the tallest, grows in large groups, and the bright yellow-green color glows in the sunlight. Because it was spring, we also saw the flowers of several varieties. The other types are smaller and less obvious. The smallest one is the *S. rubra*. It is so tiny that we were standing on it and didn't know for several minutes. The pitcher plants are all protected species because their habitat is shrinking. We took pictures, but no plants came home with us. We were hoping to find them in local nurseries but that didn't happen either. I would make this trip again if I could coordinate with a guide or garden club. These plants are fascinating and I would like to learn more.



Ringless Honey Mushroom *Armillaria tabescens*

Safety first. Mushroom identification requires a detailed study of a specimen. In the words of my mother “never eat a strange mushroom”. After a few days of heavy rain in late October, I noticed these mushrooms in a park in Bunnell. They were growing in a shadier section of the park. The cluster shaped mushrooms were located a few feet from the trunks of two older giant live oaks. They most likely emerged from the roots.



Start with the overall shape. Then examine all the parts of the mushroom. The caps vary in size, shape, color, surface feel and texture. There are different smells to the mushroom. Stalk shape and color vary as well as presence of a ring. Gills need to be viewed, and spore prints differentiate different species.

The mushroom I found is called Ringless Honey Mushroom *Armillaria tabescens*. It is common in North America and Europe. It is more common in warmer regions and seen from October to December. It is edible, but can cause an upset stomach, and needs to be cooked thoroughly. The cap is up to 4” across. It is convex to flat with a central bump. Color is yellowish brown with tiny brown or black scales. The stem tapers at base. There is no ring. Gills are off white and the spores print white. Location is in clusters on or near hardwood trees or stumps.

If you are interested in learning more, consider foraging with a qualified mushroom guide. An internet link www.mushroomthejournal.com can connect you to resources and links for more information.



Spring District Meeting Gift Baskets

May 9th our club is hosting the Spring District VI meeting and my Committee Team will be putting together several Gift Baskets to sell raffle tickets at the meeting.

We need your help with donations for the baskets. Perhaps you got too many colognes and candles for Christmas and would like to donate them for the baskets!

We will also appreciate any new donations and/or monetary donations so we can shop to fill the baskets.

Please bring your donations at each meeting until April.

Some ideas are chocolate baskets, wine baskets, Movie Night baskets, Italian baskets, Spa baskets and, of course, Gardening baskets. I will put together more basket ideas in future emails!

We also need any large-extra baskets and /or nice containers to use as a basket. These gift baskets are a good and easy money maker for our club!

Thank you for your help.

Nancy Iandoli
Gift Basket Chair

Horticulture Workshop Series at the Palm Coast Community Center

The Agriculture Extension Service is holding its Horticulture Workshop Series at the Palm Coast Community Center from 10-11. Here are the upcoming dates and topics:

- Jan. 27 – Bromeliads
- Feb. 24 - Florida Garden for New Residents
- March 24 – Pollinators
- April 28 – Beekeeping
- May 26 – Color in Your Garden

Fee: \$10 each class. Limited space, so reserve soon online at palmcoast.gov or call 386-986-2323.

Horticulture Spotlight

What you should do to prepare your gardens for a freeze and what to do afterwards

Jane Villa-Lobos

When planning your landscape in Flagler County, you must take in consideration what plants can survive in temperatures below freezing and be prepared to protect your plants in the winter months, just in case. Usually, Jan. and Feb. are the coldest months here. However, before Christmas we experienced a few days of temperatures in the 20s which wreaked havoc in all our gardens.

There are many factors to consider as you prepare your gardens for freezing temperatures: How low will it get? How long will it stay below freezing? Will there be a wind chill?

What should you do before cold temperature are expected?

1. Water your landscape plants, as the wet soil will absorb more heat during the day and radiate it during the night.
2. Move plants which are in containers into the garage, lanai or areas which are warmer and protected from a freeze or frost. If you need to leave them outside, move them to one area and cover with frost cloth or other coverings.

What types of coverings to use:

1. Frost cloth is the best, but you can use sheets, beach towels, cardboard boxes, quilts, blankets and even plastic. If you use plastic covers, be sure and remove them during a sunny day or provide ventilation to keep the air under the cover from heating up too much and “cooking” your plants.
2. It is best to have the covers extend to the ground to trap heat. If using plastic covers, be careful that the plastic does not touch the foliage as sometimes the foliage is injured since the cover takes heat away from the plant.
3. Some people also use lights under the covers to provide heat.

How to protect palms or larger shrubs/trees:

- a. Be sure to wrap the heads and fronds of the palms with cloth or blankets. Secure the cloth by tying string around it or you can also use clothes pins or larger clips. It is imperative that the heads of the palms are covered thoroughly as this is where the heart of the palm is and the heart is the lifeline of the palm.
- b. You should also work yourself down the trunk all the way to the ground as the ground projects heat to the palm.

What to do after a freeze?

1. Remove the coverings unless you use frost cloth which can stay on if there are going to be low temperatures for several days. The frost cloth is breathable and lets light in.
2. If the soil is dry, water, even if your plants are injured.

What not to do?

- **DON'T PRUNE!** Your plants may look awful, but the damaged leaves protect the plants from further damage if it gets cold again. In the spring (end of March/early April) when the threat of cold weather is gone, wait until you see buds/new sprouts emerge, then cut the wood back a little at a time until see green. Cold injured or dead wood will be black or brown.
- **DON'T FERTILIZE** If you fertilize too early you could encourage new growth before the cold weather has gone. Be Patient!

Places to Go/ Events

Jane Villa-Lobos

January 7-8 Camellia Show, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, 4700 S.W. 58th Dr., Gainesville. Sat. 1-5; Sun. 9-4. This show is geared toward educating the public about the care, culture, and appreciation of camellias, both in the greenhouse and in the landscape. Admission fee.

<http://www.kanapaha.org> or <http://www.americancamellias.org>

January 13 Urban Forestry. Palm Coast Parks and Recreation Lunch & Learn Series at the Community Center Rm. 116. 11-12:30. FREE. palmcoast.gov

January 20 – April 30 Garden of Glass Exhibit, McKee Botanical Garden, McKee Botanical Garden, 350 US Highway 1, Vero Beach. Admission fee. (772) 794-0601.

<http://www.mckee.org>

January 21 Camellia Society of Central Florida's Camellia Show and Festival, Winter Park Garden Club Clubhouse at Mead Botanical Garden, 1500 S. Denning Dr., Winter Park. Plant sale 10-4; Show is open to the public from 1-4. FREE. <http://camelliacfl.com/>

January 27 Bromeliads Palm Coast Parks and Recreation Dept. Horticulture/Workshop Series at the Community Center Rms. 114/115. 10-11. \$10. palmcoast.gov

Feb 3-5 Joy of Bonsai 2023, Kawa Bonsai Society, Schley's Bonsai and Supplies, 2745 Audubon Ave., Deland, FL Registration required, <http://kawabonsai.com/joy-of-bonsai-2022-flyer/> This is the 2023 flyer even though address is 2022.

February 4-5 Gardenfest, sponsored by the Garden Club of Indian River County held at Riverside Park, 3250 Riverside Park Dr., Vero Beach. Over 80 vendors selling plants, planters, pottery, furniture, garden accessories and more. Sat. 9 -5: Sun. 9-4. Free.

February 12 Wekiva Youth Camp Open House. Wekiva Springs State Park, 1800 Wekiva Circle, Apopka. 11:30-1:00.

February 18 Spring Edible Plant Sale, Volusia County Fairgrounds, 3100 E. New York Ave., DeLand. 8:30 – noon. Cash or check only.

February 24 Florida Gardening for New Residents. Palm Coast Parks and Recreation Dept. Horticulture/Workshop Series at the Community Center Rms. 114/115. 10-11. \$10.

palmcoast.gov

February 25-27 19th Annual Florida Gourd Society Show and Sale, Azan Shrine Center, 1591 West Eau Gallie Blvd., Melbourne. FREE. Fri. & Sat. 9 – 6; Sun. 9 – 4. Arts and crafts, demonstrations, sales exhibits. <http://www.flgourdsoc.org>



Members of the Arrangers' Guild decorating the Garden Club's tree at the library.

THE ARRANGERS' GUILD MEETING

December 9, 2022

The Arrangers' Guild got together for a Holiday Workshop on December 9, 2022. Students bought their Boxwood tree from the Guild and they were in charge of decorating their own tree!

They all had a good time and their trees came out awesome!

Article & Photos by: Nancy Iandoli



Selection of the Month



Winnie and Joe Rodriguez of Freemont Turn, have been recognized as January 2023 Selection of the Month by The Garden Club at Palm Coast.

Originally from Long Island New York, Winnie was a school bus driver and a substitute teacher. Joe had worked for the New York City Transit Society. They retired and found their new home in Palm Coast and have been here for 4 years now.

This writer has been keeping a watchful eye on the development to their front yard as they had to start from scratch. They added cement curbing for all their beds and a round center island. They incorporated rubber mulch in their beds, and they love adding colorful yard decorations like bronze statues of kids holding lanterns which light up in the evening as well as colorful spot lights that add a whole new dimension to this lovely curb appeal landscape at night time.

The front area has a white bird of paradise, red and purple pentas, vibrant yellow allamanda, blue daze, yellow, red, and peach hibiscus, bright pink crape myrtle, plumbago, two potted pagodas, firecracker bush, pink oleander, orange ixora, a beautiful red metal art spinner, and a decorative wagon wheel bench to sit and enjoy their yard.

The center island has curcuma gingers, yellow allamanda, coleus and two beautiful green peacocks on either end keeping watch and light up at night. Over to the right there is a wishing well to make your wishes! They have future plans in the works to redo their back yard as well. Great job Rodriguez family!

Submitted by Nancy Iandoli
Selection of the Month Committee



Flagler County Master Gardener Class

The Flagler County Master Gardener Program is now accepting applications for the upcoming class starting on March 7, 2023. If you or a loved one is interested in participating please apply at <http://btrr.im/g2mop> or stop into the office at 150 Sawgrass Rd Bunnell, FL 32110. For any questions, please contact Judy at jean.cjudy@ufl.edu!



Plant Clinics Are Back!!!

The Flagler County Public Library is pleased to announce a new partnership with the Florida Master Gardeners through the UF Extension Office located in Flagler County.

Have a  or need to diagnose a plant or pest problem, come see the Master Gardeners at the library, located at 2500 Palm Coast Parkway, NW.

The clinic will be held one Saturday every month from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The Dates are as follows:

September 24, 2022

October 22, 2022

November 19, 2022

December 17, 2022

January 28, 2023

February 25, 2023

March 25, 2023

April 29, 2023



Gardening
SOLUTIONS 

January 2023 Newsletter. Strictly for the members of the Garden Club at Palm Coast. The Garden Club at Palm Coast is a member of National Garden Clubs (NGC) and Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC).



Our mailing address is:

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