



Words from our President

Dear members of The Garden Club at Palm Coast,

Dear members of The Garden Club at Palm Coast,

What a January we have had!

Yes, our plants might look dry and sad, but if we can just wait a few more weeks we know they will be healthy and green.

Congratulations to us! 187 members and still growing. Thank you to all new members, friends and families that visit and participate in all the activities that our Garden Club has to offer.

Margie Brady and Kenetha 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. Please check the section about the Junior Garden club. Make a donation or send us any ideas you might have to continue to help grow and promote The Junior Garden Club.

Propagation Guild members have started growing plants for the Spring Festival and the New Creativity group is coming up with whimsical gardening decorations for our gardens and to sell at events.

We are honored to host the District Spring Meeting on May 9th. and look forward to members attending.

So much more going on, please check the presentation board at the meeting this month to learn about all the volunteer opportunities that are available to help our Garden community grow.

Thank you, Team Garden Club at Palm Coast,

Denise Garcia



February 13, 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 be a plant sale prior to the meeting. The Garden Club meeting begins at 1 pm.

The speaker for the February 13 meeting will be Jana Milbocker, an avid gardener, garden designer, and author from the Boston area. She will take us on a journey to some of Florida's tropical gardens which are included in her 2021 book, *The Garden Tourist's Florida Guide. A Guide to 80 Tropical Gardens in the Sunshine State*. She will have some of her books for sale

She has also published ***The Garden Tourist: 120 Destination Gardens and Nurseries in the Northeast*** in 2018 and ***The Garden Tourist's New England*** as well as an ***E Book Fabulous Fall Gardens: Plants and Design Techniques for Ornamental Gardens***. Check out her website enchantedgardensdesigns.com and sign up to receive her newsletter.





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

February 13, 2023

Chicken Salad Wrap - \$9.50

House Chicken Salad wrap with chips.

Grilled Cheese Sandwich and Fries- \$6.00

3 Slices of Cheese, perfectly toasted bread, equally delicious flavor. Add Bacon \$1.50 Add 2 slices Tomato \$.75

Burger & Fries - \$11.50

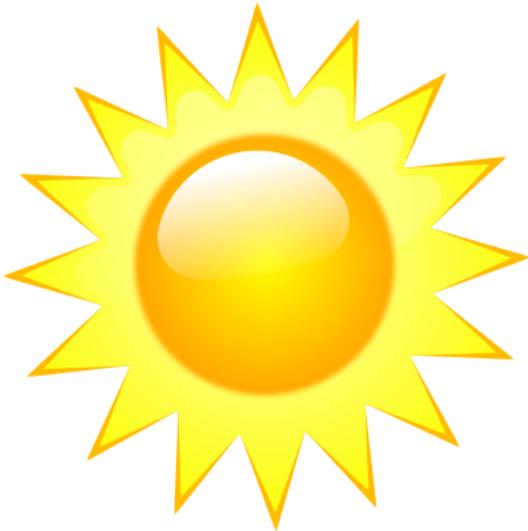
½ lb. of beef loaded with topping of choice and served on a warm Brioche bun.

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

TEXT or call in your order 386-446-9288

This is a requisite from the head of food services so they know how much to have in stock. Members and guest still need to place orders at the window.

Please text your order by Saturday. Identify the order is for GC on Monday.



SUNSHINE REPORT

Since the last newsletter, the following cards were sent:

- Condolence Cards were sent to Linda DuLong, on the passing of her husband Robert. and Jill Carpenter, on the passing of her husband Jerry.
- Get well cards were sent Jill Carpenter on her stay in the hospital & Judith Davis recovering from surgery.

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:

Heidi Bell
Roseann Drew
Patricia Malak
Heidi Mollman
Selma Paul
Evelyn Rich

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!

SAVE THE DATE

The Garden Club at Palm Coast

Presents

Treasures in the Attic

March 10th - 9am to 3pm

at

Shepherd of the Coast Lutheran Church
101 Pine Lakes Parkway, Palm Coast FL

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

March 9th - 9am to 6pm

*For information or assistance
with pick-up of donations*

Call/Text Susan McConnell

215-872-7107

www.gardenclubatpalmcoast.org

www.facebook.com/Gardenclubatpalmcoast/

info@gardenclubatpalmcoast.org

Plant Spotlight

Cast-Iron Plant *Aspidistra elatior*

The cast-iron plant is a common house plant that requires very little care and does well in conditions found inside houses. Here in Florida it also grows well outside in shady places such as under oak trees. It can be used as a border plant or ground cover. These plants tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions and are not bothered much by insect or diseases. The plant is relatively slow growing.



The cast-iron plant, also known as the bar room plant, is native to Asia and is a member of the Asparagaceae family. It is a low maintenance flowering plant, although the small purplish flower often goes unnoticed as it opens close to the ground. The cast-iron plant became a popular houseplant during the Victorian age. The leaves are used in flower arranging. The leaves are non toxic to dogs and cats. There are variegated cultivars as well.



One of our garden club members, Iris Graim, has a large plot of cast-iron plants growing in her yard. Recently as she was dividing plants she noticed they were flowering (picture). If you are interested in trying to grow some cast-iron plants, the Propagation Guild will have them for sale at the February club meeting.

DISTRICT MEETING

May 9, 2023

Hosted by The Garden Club of Palm Coast
The Hammock Dunes Club (more information in future emails)

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.

Some ideas are Chocolate Baskets, Game Night, Spa Basket, Coffee/Tea, Wine and Cheese, Wine/Beer, Italian Basket, Snack Basket, Grilling Basket, Golf Basket, Arts/Crafts, Desserts/Baking Basket, Beach Supplies, and, of course, Gardening Baskets.

Please donate any items you can provide me at our monthly meetings or contact me any time and I will pick them up. I will accept your donations until our April meeting. If you prefer to donate cash, I will purchase items needed to complete our lovely baskets! I can also use large baskets or nice containers.

This is a great fund raiser so let's make it our best!

Thank you all.
Nancy Landoli
Gift Basket Chair



Plant Sales



This is the time for spring festivals and plant sales!

By Jane Villa-Lobos

Don't miss out on getting new plants for your landscape. This time of year, many garden clubs and plant organizations hold their spring plant sales. At the end of this newsletter, I have compiled a list of events you might want to attend. Invite a friend and go on a fun excursion!

Proven Winners Eco-Pots

Proven Winners has been working on the development of a compostable container for three years and is debuting a brand new, fully compostable container called the Eco+ Grande. This 4 ¼ -inch plant-powered container is made in the U.S.A. from starchy renewable plants like corn, switch grass and sugar beets and has organic nutrients built right into its walls.

The Eco+ Grande container is designed to be planted directly into landscapes and decorative containers. Home gardeners will remove the four pull-off tabs from the sides of the container to expose the roots and can then set the entire container into the soil. Since the tabs also contain beneficial nutrients, they can be placed into the hole with the plant. Root disturbance is eliminated by not taking the plant out of the container. As the organic nutrients that are built into the Eco+ Grande container break down, they are released directly to the roots, helping the plants to grow bigger and stronger. Watch for plants grown in these pots when you buy plants this year.



They also have Proven Winners® Seed-Starting Eco-Pots which are compostable and self-feeding! With plant nutrients built right into the pot, they're ideal for starting your seeds. These petroleum-free Eco-Pots are safe for waterways with no harmful fertilizer runoff. Plus, they make gardening landfill-free – any product that is still recognizable can be tilled up for nutrients for your next growing season. Just remove the 4 tabs and plant the entire pot directly into the soil.

Jr Garden Club Newsletter

Rymfire Elementary

The best news is the garden has a path which will be used for school tour groups. The children, volunteers and myself are so grateful to the following people who made this possible: Susan McConnell, Nancy Landoli, Kenetha Kilmurray, Kathleen Fuss, Mickey Ulmer (rotary club), Rob Ulmer (Mickey's son) and Jenny Scott. The children were overjoyed to see the path. Some were dancing. Some rocks were placed by the bird bath and they all thought it was hop scotch.

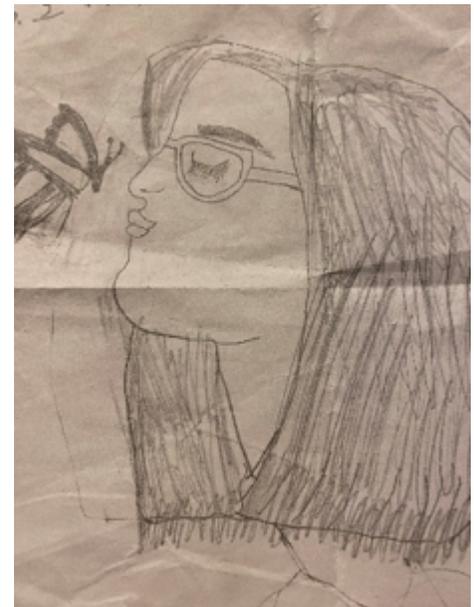
I discussed with the children that they will be teaching all the students about host plants, nectar plants, native plants and butterflies. They will be doing the research and putting together a tour. They can't wait to go to the library to do their research.

A butterfly bench was put in and the children loved it.

A new bird house was installed with a flip door so nesting activity can be viewed. The bluebirds were very interested in their new house.

The children experienced the same disappointment that we all had after the chilling weather. I explained the plants may or be not be dead and I would show them how to tell if a plant is coming back when March and the warmer weather comes. They were happy upon hearing that not all is lost.

One of the students, a gifted artist, drew a picture of me. Luckily, she left out the wrinkles. She loves butterflies and wears a butterfly necklace all the time.



Belle Terre Elementary

The children made a holiday surprise for the volunteers. Kenetha Kilmurray took propagated rosemary given to us by Helen O'Mara and made individual buckets for them to take home. We all felt appreciated for the work we are doing for the children in Jr. Garden Club.

On a cold day we painted gnomes which they later hid in amongst the vegetables.

A bunny came and ate the strawberries so Eva Larsson and her husband came and made a Swedish solution to keep hungry bunnies away. More strawberries grew and we were able to enjoy the harvest. So delicious...



One of the teachers, Deb Smith-Meck, covered the crops against the cold. We only lost the tomatoes, eggplant and peppers. These will need to be replanted in March. In addition, the children started seeds for future plantings. They are budding little propagators.



The volunteers and myself have seen something totally unexpected. First the children are worried about next year when they leave for Middle School, and won't have Jr Garden Club. Second, they are bringing their learning home. Holden built a greenhouse with his Dad. Maci started plants on her lanai with her Dad.

That's the latest update from Jr. Garden Club. Once again I am so grateful for the Club's support. The children are learning and loving gardening.

"Let's Get Dirty"
Margie Brady

THE ARRANGERS' GUILD MEETING

January 17, 2023

The Arrangers' Guild met on January 17, 2023, for class 3 of 6 units.

The design consisted of a crescent shape to create a curved design with plant material.

Our class instructor was Margaret Kirkpatrick who gave us a demo on how to bend and manipulate a leaf or any tough plant material such as a young sago palm. The leaves can be conditioned to be able to bend and make a curved shape. Here are a few handy tips:

Tip # 1 After trimming the edges on a sago palm, put 3 branches together. Insert them in a nylon stocking so you can manipulate by bending it to curve. Then remove the nylon sock and you will have a curved shape.

Tip # 2 When using a softer leaf, like an aspidistra, you can massage it to form a curve shape. If you want a shiny leaf, simply rub it a few times with a soft cloth. This brings out the oils in the leaf.

Tip #3 When using oasis always soak it for 3-4 hours. Do not remove a flower then reuse the same hole as it will not drink the water and it will die. Also, always remove the bottom leaves or it will rot in the oasis.

After a short break the students created their own design. Margaret Kirkpatrick then critiqued each one and showed us how to improve on our designs and they came out beautiful! Nice job everyone!

Article & Photos by: Nancy Landoli





Selection of the Month



Kathleen Bolanos, of Bayside Drive, has been recognized as February 2023 Selection of the Month by The Garden Club at Palm Coast.

Kathleen lived in Tennessee before moving to Palm Coast in 2019. In Tennessee she owned 79 acres of farmland near the Tennessee River. She moved to Palm Coast because of her love for Washington Oaks Gardens State Park, where she volunteers at the greenhouse. She is an organic gardener, pulls her own weeds, uses no chemicals, and grows food crops and concentrates on providing a suitable environment for pollinators. She enjoys growing many plants from seed, particularly her vegetables.

The front entrance has several potted succulents, bromeliads, jade, red dragon flower, ground orchid, bird's nest fern, aloe, flapjack, and lipstick plant. The center island has several bromeliads mounted on a palm tree and other bromeliads planted in the ground as well as a princess flower.

The front yard contains blue and coral porter weed, several shrimp plants that she propagates and has in several gardens, along with mint for a ground cover. There are pagoda plants, lipstick plant, small potted ponytail palm, bougainvillea, bleeding heart vine, assorted baby sun rose and thornless crown of thorns.

Native plants abound with Carolina jasmine, scarlet sage, button sage, lantana, scorpion tail, creeping sage, Maypop passion vine, coral bean, salt bush, and beauty berry. Several beds have her hand made beautiful pottery planters, pottery dolls and fountains. At night she has lighted wine bottles for her edging.

The large back yard has various bromeliads, variegated liriopse, several fruit trees, red maple, Chinese fringe tree, and an orchid tree to name a few. She had an impressive

vegetable garden with tomatoes, lettuce, kale, arugula, peas, beans, asparagus, onions, peppers, beets, cucumber, watermelon, and plantain.

Submitted by Nancy Landoli
Selection of the Month Committee





Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention 2023

- **Don't forget to Register - deadline is 3/27/2023** [Click here to register on-line](#)
- **Attend the Early Arrivals Dinner on 4/18/2023 and be entertained by the "Trashion Show"**
- **Buy your Opportunity Drawing tickets and 50/50 tickets NOW!!! - See your club president or any member of the Board of Directors!**
- **Schedule of events and highlights are available on the FFGC.ORG website. FFGC.ORG/Convention-2023**

Margorie H. Hendon
FFGC President

Susie Berryhill and Kelley Wood
FFGC Convention 2023 Co-Chairs

Interesting Buzz About Bees in Ancient Egypt

Members may be interested in this fascinating video from National Garden Clubs featuring Dr. Gene Kritsky, who shares his extensive knowledge on the historical role of bees and their honey, dating back to ancient Egypt. Discover how this civilization utilized bees for health, agriculture, and even in the afterlife.

[Click here to view the video.](#)

There is a separate Q&A video with Dr. Kritsky [available here](#)

Places to Go/ Events

Jane Villa-Lobos

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>

February 25 Seminole County Garden Expo, Seminole County Extension Service, 250 W. County Home Rd., Sanford. 9:00 - 3:00. FREE.

March 4 Melbourne Downtown Botanical Fest, 1900 South Harbor City Blvd, Melbourne. 8 - 4. FREE.

March 2-July 4 Epcot International Flower and Garden Festival. 100 topiaries, bonsai, butterfly house, vendors, much more. Admission to Epcot. www.disneyworld.com/flower

March 11-12 Annual Plant Sale, Leu Gardens, Orlando. 9 – 5. Bamboo, bromeliads, butterfly plants, citrus, ferns, bromeliads, heliconias, herbs, orchids, palms, roses, much more. www.leugardens.org

March 17-18 NGC Small Standard Flower Show, Clermont Garden Club, 849 West Ave., Clermont. March 17: 1-6; March 18: 10-4. FREE.

March 18 Volusia Plant Faire Volusia County Fairgrounds, 3100 E. New York Ave., DeLand. 8:30 – noon. Cash and check only.

March 18-19 Annual Spring Garden Festival at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, Gainesville. 9 – 5. Admission: \$10 adults; \$5 children (2-13 yrs. old). (Cash only). This is Gainesville's premier horticultural event. The Spring Garden Festival features about 200 booths offering plants, landscape displays, garden accessories, arts and crafts, educational exhibits and food. Also featured are a walk-through butterfly conservatory, children's activities area, live entertainment and auctions, both live and silent. Parking is free and two off-site parking areas are serviced by shuttle buses. www.kanapaha.org

March 25 Annual Wildflower & Garden Festival on West Indiana Ave. in downtown DeLand. 9-3. mainstreetdeland.org

February 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).



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