

SEEDS FOR THOUGHT

Official Newsletter
of
Marathon Garden Club



MARATHON GARDEN CLUB

Come grow with us...

April, 2012

Volume 15 No. 4



President's Letter - April, 2012

Dear Garden Club Members,

Have you visited the Garden Club grounds lately? The Garden Groomers have been busy all season and have done an amazing job this season. Loyal Eldridge did a great job repairing our wooden fence (after someone ran into it and destroyed an entire section). Thanks, Loyal. Our pond which would no longer hold water and had many plumbing leaks has been filled in with gravel and will now become a beautiful orchid and bromeliad area with the help of some downed tree branches. Judy Shaw and Scarlett Duffy have just done a wonderful job turning this area into a beautiful addition to our garden. If you have any leftover orchids, they will be glad to take them and add them to our collection. Thanks, Judy and Scarlett.

While cleaning and re-arranging the office Mary Ann Worthington and I found two lovely floral design sculptures that we placed in the Lobby. They are so lovely it seemed a shame to leave them in storage, so these pieces are now on display. You also may have noted that the restrooms are updated with new dispensers for paper and soap. Thank you, Bonnie Eldridge.

So our grounds and building are in great shape and ready for more rentals this summer.

On another note, thanks to Cindy Wooten and Steve and Fran Showerman for the great Mosaic Workshop. We all had a

great time, made some lovely pots and learned a lot.

So now for next year! The Board has been busy planning the garden club events and getting volunteers to chair them. Thanks to all who have agreed to chair and co-chair these events: Fall Festival in November, December Christmas Dinner, January Jamboree and the House & Garden Tour in March. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Have a Happy Easter and safe travels to all who are leaving us for the summer.

Rosemary Thomas

First Vice President's Report

The April monthly meeting will be our Spring luncheon held in the Atrium at the Key Colony Inn on Friday, April 20th at 11:30 am. You won't want to miss our speaker Gary Rich, the "Bamboo Man".

Gary comes to us from Pine Crest in South Dade County. He teaches a class for Fairchild Gardens which covers how and why to grow bamboo. There will be plants and tools for sale.

It is necessary to sign up for and pay in advance for this luncheon.

Guests are welcome. The sign-up sheet with menu choices is in the club lobby. Cost: \$20.00 members; \$25.00 for guests. I would like a final count by April 12, please.

This is a nice opportunity to learn and enjoy some time with fellow garden club members before many of us head north for the Summer. If you have any questions, please call me at 305-664-8178. I hope to see you there.

by Mary Ann Worthington

2nd Vice President's Report

Many thanks go out to Fran and Steve Showerman who conducted our Mosaic Workshop held March 13 & 21, 2012. Ten participants worked on their own designs and learned the process for developing their one of a kind piece of art.

List of tools and products used to create the beautiful containers:

Acrylpro mastic (ceramic tile adhesive)
Sanded Grout (snowy white)
Water base paint (Michael's Crafts)
Liquid gold leaf (oil base)
Ceramic tile sealer (Gloss)
Art paint brushes Tile cutter
Small hammer Tile nippers
Tweezers Table Knife
Sandpaper

Remember the process: adhere the tile on the container with mastic (let dry); grout design with sanded grout, let dry over night. Paint your design with water base paint and apply liquid gold leaf. Seal container with ceramic tile sealer and then admire your work.

My thanks to all who participated in the workshop, we enjoyed two mornings of fun and creativity in our lovely garden.

by Cindy Wooten



Workshop Participants & their Mosaic Designs



Steve Showerman is shown applying paint to his tiled and grouted container.



Donna Hanson & Cheryl Burke grouting their designs



NURSERY SALE

**9 to 10:30 every
Thursday Morning**

The Marathon Garden Club Nursery has small plants, large plants, drought resistant plants and plants not found at Home Depot. Orange Bird of Paradise are \$5. These plants prefer full sun. Stop by and find a plant! Or phone Linnea (305-743-2008) to ask for a specific plant.

CONSERVATION PLEDGE

I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the Planet Earth and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, forests, land and wildlife.

Minutes of Membership Meeting

March 16, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Rosemary Thomas at 1:22 p.m. Rosemary announced that the speaker could not get here from Key West because an accident had traffic on Route 1 tied up. A guest from the audience volunteered to talk about native trees, which was the subject that the speaker was to address.

Chaplain Nancy Miller gave the invocation. It was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

In Membership Chairman Phyllis Schewe's absence, Rosemary introduced our guests.

Rosemary thanked the hostesses Barbara Driscoll, Bea Murphy, Dale Chorebanian and Linnea Cunningham; also Toni Smith for the floral arrangement and Marcella Smith, Mary Vona and Ann McLaughlin for being the greeters.

Secretary Fran Spinelli read the minutes of the February membership meeting. Roberta Hearn made a motion, seconded by Arlene Keeney, that the minutes be approved as read. Passed.

Treasurer Laurie Reeves reported that the bills were paid and that the checkbook reconciled. We have a positive balance in our cash on hand augmented by the exceptional House Tour income of \$18,000, \$6,000 over our budgeted amount of \$12,000. The mortgage stands at \$12,243. We made a \$1,000 additional payment on the principal in March.

Claudia Hamrick, House Tour Ticket Chairman, thanked the Millers for printing 900 tickets. She also thanked the membership for being accountable for their tickets and turning in unsold ones in a timely fashion. She thanked Mary Ann Gorlitz, Sally Wood and Arlene Keeney for their help.

First Vice President Mary Ann Worthington announced that the April membership luncheon will be held on April 20th at the Key Colony Inn. Cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for guests. A sign-up sheet was passed and will be available in the

gift shop—confirmation of a reservation will be made when payment is made. When signing up, members are requested to choose a selection from the 4 listed menu items. Guest speaker, Gary Rich's topic will be "How and Why to Grow Bamboo".

Rosemary thanked Pat Dean, Phyllis Schewe, Claudia Hamrick, Nancy Miller and Mary Ann Worthington for their leadership roles in the House Tour and Flower Show as well as all the members who participated. Pat Dean thanked Rosemary and Betsy Philipps for their leadership as well as Royal Furniture, D'Asign Source and the artists who donated paintings. Rosemary asked for members to be thinking about homes and gardens for next year's tour.

There were 40 responses to the members' interest survey. Those responding indicated interest in horticulture programs, a trip to a mainland horticulture site and a social event. All will be implemented next season. A Christmas Dinner-Dance is being planned at this time. A suggestion was made by Patti Soper to include the garden group from Outdoor Resorts in our plan for a trip to the mainland. Also, she suggested a brunch as an additional social event.

Nancy Miller thanked all who helped with the Flower Show. The National Garden Club sent a beautiful book on designs along with the ribbon order. Nancy placed the names of all the designers in a basket for a drawing for the book. Connie Miola won.

Announcements: Gardening and design books as well as gardening and design implements are for sale. See Alene Teynor for these items.

St. Colomba Church is holding a Night Sky program on March 22, 2012, at 7 p.m. All are invited.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Then Captain Ed Davidson, former President of the Florida Keys Land and Sea Trust and member of the Florida Board of the Audubon Society, spoke on native trees and the Keys' eco-system.

Respectfully submitted,
Frances Spinelli, Recording Secretary

White Heron Award

Dolphin Research Center, on Grassy Key, was recently awarded the White Heron Award by the Marathon Garden Club! This traveling award is presented throughout the year to area businesses that participate in beautification projects on properties located along the US1 corridor between Conch Key and the Seven Mile Bridge. Dolphin Research Center (DRC) worked with Gonzalez Brothers landscaping to improve the landscape & appearance of their main entrance and parking lot. Judy Shaw, Master Gardener & member of the Marathon Garden Club, presented the award to Armando "Mandy" Rodriguez DRC's Co-Founder and Chief operating Officer.



Recipe for Triple-Layer Pretzel Brownies

Several members asked for the brownie recipe that Nancy Miller served at the February meeting. It came from the Taste of Home *Simple and Delicious* magazine.

Ingredients:

3 cups crushed pretzels
3/4 cup butter, melted
3 Tbsp. sugar
1 pkg. fudge brownie mix (13 x 9 in pan size)
3/4 cup semisweet chocolate chips
1/2 cup creamy peanut butter

Instructions:

In a small bowl, combine pretzels, butter and sugar. Press into an ungreased 13 x 9 in. pan. Bake at 400° for 8 minutes. Place pan on a wire rack to cool this pretzel crust. Reduce heat to 350°. Prepare brownie mix according to directions. Pour over prepared crust. Bake for 35-40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out with moist crumbs (do not overbake). Place on wire rack until completely cool. Melt chocolate chips & peanut butter in microwave; stir until smooth. Spread over brownies. Chill 30+ minutes. Cut into bars.

Scholarship Committee Report

The Scholarship Committee would like to report that the applications will come due by May 1, 2012 from the Marathon High Students who are interested in applying. Our group will review the students' applications and decide on the recipient soon after that date. The applications are being sent to the Garden Club address directly this year with attention to us.

Arlene Keeney
Barbara Wright (Co-Chairs)

[Editor's note: See MGC Practices & Procedures pages 90-91 in your Yearbook for more information regarding scholarship eligibility. If you know local high school seniors who plan to pursue a degree in horticulture, botany, landscape design or one of the areas outlined on page 63, Article II, encourage them to apply for our scholarship.]

Membership Report

It is that time of the year which signals last call for dues. We have received our state forms which means I must submit them very shortly. I hope you will be making the Spring Luncheon on April 20th and can get your check or cash to me then. Otherwise please drop your check in the mail or stop by the Garden Club, Monday thru Friday between 10-2. Cash or check can be left at the club. Dues remains at \$40.00.

Again I am happy to welcome another new member. Welcome to Sandy Swantek from Islamorada and Sea Isle City, NJ. All our new members have really pitched in and are active members. Thanks to so many who helped with the House & Garden Tour. And it's great to see new faces in the garden on Thursday.

See you at the Spring Luncheon at Key Colony Inn on April 20th, at 11:30.

Phyllis Schewe, Chairman

Gift Shop

The gift shop will close for the season mid April. To our gift shop volunteers, thank you for your service to the club this year. Because of your dedicated effort we are able to have our building open on a daily basis so visitors may see our lovely facility and grounds. We look forward to your continued service and encourage other members to join us next year. We are a loyal, fun group who enjoys working together to make the shop successful. If you have ideas or suggestions for the shop please let me know. I am always interested in finding new merchandise for the shop.

I wish you all a happy, healthy summer.

Sally Wood, Chairman



Pat Greeley's creative design, "San Francisco's Chinatown" for the Metropolitan Miami Flower Show 3/16/12 won a Blue Ribbon! Congratulations, Pat!

Mark your Calendar

the Bahia Honda Sand and Sea Nature Center
at 872-9807

Wed., April 11 Board Meeting 9 am

Fri., April 20 MGC Spring Luncheon;
11:30 am at Key Colony Inn, Key Colony
Beach. See 1st Vice President's report on
page 1 [Menu choices are: Dolphin Forester
(with mushrooms & scallions in a white wine
sauce), lasagna, Chicken Piccata or Chef's
Salad. More details are available at the gift
shop.]

Sat., April 21 9 - noon. Last Plant Clinic of
the season at MGC courtyard with U. of FL
Master Gardeners

Sun., April 22nd Celebration of Earth Day
around the globe. [See article below
regarding free festivities at Bahia Honda
State Park on Saturday, April 14th.]

April 27th National Arbor Day

Wed., May 9 Board Meeting 9 am

May 9 -11 FFGC Biennial State Flower
Show, Hyatt Regency Riverfront,
Jacksonville, FL

May 10-11 FFGC Annual Convention, Hyatt
Regency Riverfront, Jacksonville

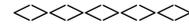
Mon., May 14 FFGC District XII Spring
Meeting hosted by Miami Beach Garden
Club at La Gorce Country Club, Miami Beach

Fri., May 18 MGC Annual Picnic (time &
location to be announced).

June 3 - 9 is National Garden Week

*Bahia Honda State Park at mile marker
36.8 will host its 17th annual Earth Day
celebration April 14 from 9 am to 2 pm. The
free family-friendly event features live music, a
sand sculpture contest, fish printing, puppet
shows, children's games, environmental
exhibitions by local groups such as the Turtle
Hospital and more. For more information, call*

Note: Check our website,
www.MarathonGardenClub.org to see the
video made when Mike Puto interviewed
Rosemary & Betsy



**Join the Garden Groomers
on Thursday mornings.
Plants (including weeds)
grow year around.**

**Volunteers throughout the summer
are always welcome.**



Metropolitan Miami Flower Show: "Diving on the Great
Barrier Reef". Left: Donna Box, Coral Gables, 1st
Place design; right: Nancy Miller, Marathon, 2nd place.

MARATHON GARDEN CLUB

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