

SEEDS FOR THOUGHT

Official Newsletter
of
Marathon Garden Club



MARATHON GARDEN CLUB

Come grow with us...

November, 2012

Volume 15 No. 6



Letter from the President

Dear Garden Club
Members,

Welcome back to all the seasonal folks and a big thanks to all the full time folks who kept the garden club running and in great shape all summer!

We are all looking forward to another great season of events at the Marathon Garden Club: Fall Festival on November 24, Christmas Dinner at Key Colony Inn December 14, January Jamboree on January 26, trip to RF Orchids on February 5, and the house tour and art show on March 2.

A little news from the FFGC District meeting last week which was attended by 4 officers of FFGC and 78 garden club members from District XII: FFGC has the 2nd largest state membership in the National Garden Club organization, the FFGC convention next spring is in Sanibel Island. Nancy Miller and I attended the meeting and luncheon and met members from around District XII including the new officers of the Upper Keys Garden Club.

On the home front we have great news on our grant for advertising for the House Tour. We are going to receive \$10,000 from the TDC again this year for our advertising! A great job in preparing the grant application by Loretta and C.J. Geotis. Also on the home front: **our Mortgage is paid off!!!!** After

receiving the grant money [reimbursement] for last year's house tour, the board made the decision to pay down the principle of the mortgage, so September was the last payment. We now own our building!

Needless to say, we should all be thrilled and grateful that we are now debt free. The board is now working on the list of future projects that will need to be done to keep the club building in good condition: carpet, painting, new chairs, etc.

So the Christmas Party will be a combined holiday celebration and mortgage burning party. Sign up for the party at the November meeting!

Thank you all for your hard work and I look forward to seeing everyone in November.

SAVE THESE DATES

November 24, 2012 Fall Festival

December 14, 2012 Christmas Party

January 26, 2013 January Jamboree

February 5, 2013 Trip to RF Orchids

March 2, 2013 House & Garden Tour & Art
Show

Rosemary Thomas

**Our Thoughts and Prayers are
with all those experiencing
impacts of Hurricane Sandy!**

FALL FESTIVAL PLANS

Mark your calendars for the **Fall Fest** on **Saturday, November 24th**, two days after Thanksgiving. It will be the perfect time to buy unique gifts for the Holidays and beautiful plants for your yard plus tasty baked goods. Vendors will offer honey, exotic tagua nut items, "Keysey" tree decorations, knitted boutique scarves and baby wear, jewelry and hand crafted goodies. A Christmas table will offer attractive reasonable recycled decorations and clothing. Lunch will be available and served from the Centennial Bank's Hospitality Wagon. The **Fall Fest** will be open from **9am to 4pm**.

This year the plant booth will have more than 4 varieties of **Bromeliads, Desert Roses, Angel Wing Begonias, Orchids**, various natives and tough zero-scape **Agave**. A few hardy salt tolerant popular **Chinese Fan Palms** are left. Advice from Master Gardeners will be given to assist you with plant choice and culture.

Some of you have already signed up to volunteer during this fun day. If you have not chosen a time or table please phone Loi at 305-517-4160. We will also need individually wrapped baked goods, jams and home made candy. If you have a partner willing to supervise parking, call Loi. It takes every person in the club to make this a winning day. Our goal is to make the day worth while for our vendors, increase our Scholarship fund and reach out to the community. Please participate!

Loi Baltes & Linnea Cunningham

MGC Scholarship Update

The Garden Club received a heartfelt thank you note from Paul Acosta, our 2012 scholarship recipient. He expressed his gratitude for our assistance in pursuing his goal to get a degree in Environmental Science with a minor in Photography. He is enrolled at Florida Keys Community College

and plans to complete his education at a State University.

Each year the Marathon Garden Club awards a Scholarship to a student who will be majoring in the field of horticulture, botany, floral design, landscape design, earth/marine sciences or conservation of natural resources. This scholarship encompasses the purpose of the Marathon Garden Club which is to educate and promote the activities listed above and to instill in our youth a love of gardening and a respect for the earth.

Raffles held at garden club events support our scholarship fund.

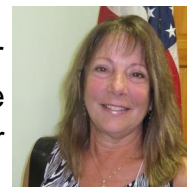
Membership Update

Welcome back to all members who spent the summer season elsewhere, hopefully in much cooler climates. It was nice to see everyone at the October meeting.

At our October Board meeting, discussion took place in regards to changes in our dues structure. It had been called to my attention a number of times that members as well as potential members, would favor a family membership. After discussion it was decided that Marathon Garden Club will offer both individual, as well as a family membership starting with the 2013 year. Individual dues will remain at \$40.00. The new family membership dues will be \$65.00. Family membership is defined as husband & wife or significant other who live at the same address. We hope this dues structure will encourage more membership.

Hope to see everyone at the November meeting and please bring a friend or your spouse. We will have a very interesting program and always delicious desserts. See you Friday, November 16th at 1PM.

Welcome new member Sandy Swantek. She's in the yearbook but we didn't have her photo.



by Phyllis Schewe

Minutes of Membership Meeting

October 19, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by President Rosemary Thomas. Nancy Miller gave the Invocation. Rosemary led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Phyllis Schewe, Membership Chairman, introduced six guests and announced a new member, Blanca Kulig. She announced that we will have a family membership available when dues come due in January. It will cost \$65 for a member and spouse/significant other living at the same address. Single dues will remain at \$40. She told the members that she would be sending out dues invoices in January.

Rosemary thanked Head Hostess, Betsy Philipps and helper, Gail Shambaugh, for the refreshments; Laurie Reeves for the beautiful floral arrangement; and Connie Miola and Fran Spinelli for being Greeters.

Fran Spinelli, Recording Secretary, read the minutes from the April Membership Meeting. Laurie Reeves clarified that the \$7,000 used to pay off the mortgage was reimbursement money from the Tourist Development Council grant for our advertising expenses that we had paid out over the year and not funds designated by them for mortgage payments. Betsy made a motion to approve the minutes with the clarification; seconded by Claudia Hamrick. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer, Laurie Reeves said that the Treasurer's Report was available for anyone wanting it. She reminded members buying things for the Club to use our tax exempt number. The mortgage has been paid off as of September 1, 2012.

Rosemary made the following announcements: The extra money that we will have by not having a mortgage payment will be used for Clubhouse maintenance and improvement; there will be a Christmas Party on December 14, 2012, at Key Colony Inn. We will have our official burning of the mortgage there. She read Paul Acosta's thank you letter for the scholarship we gave

him in June; Loretta Geotis prepared the application for a grant from the Tourist Development Council for advertising expenses for our House and Garden Tour. We received a \$10,000 grant. Loretta will prepare the advertising for the Tour; Thanks to Nancy Miller for the fine job she has done once again in preparing our Yearbook 2012-2013; There will be a trip to RF Orchids on February 5, 2013.

Loi Baltes talked about the Fall Festival to be held at the Club on November 24. She passed around sign-up sheets with jobs listed for that day and asked members to sign up. Linnea asked members to donate plants to be sold that day.

Phil Iloo from Stelmar Gardens will be the speaker at the November Membership Meeting on November 16. The topic will be "Designing with Orchids for the Holidays".

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Rosemary then introduced the speaker, Robin Robinson, who spoke about "Native Trees of the Florida Keys".

Respectfully submitted,
Frances Spinelli, Recording Secretary

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.



White-crowned pigeon, courtesy Phyllis Schewe

Mark your Calendar

- Wed. Nov 7 MGC Board Meeting 9 am
 Fri. Nov. 16 Awards Workshop for the Keys
 10:30 - noon. Everyone welcome.
 Fri. Nov. 16 MGC Membership Meeting 1 pm
 Program: Phil Iloo "Designing with Orchids for
 the Holidays"
 Sat. Nov. 17 Plant Clinic 9 am - noon
 Sat. Nov. 24 FALL FESTIVAL 9 am - 4 pm
 (see page 2)
 Wed. Dec. 12 MGC Board Meeting 9 am
 Fri. Dec. 14 Christmas Party at Key Colony
 Inn. (See President's letter page 1)
 Sat. Dec. 15 Plant Clinic 9 am - noon
 Fri. Dec. 21 MGC Membership Meeting 1 pm
 Program: Linnea Cunningham "The Poinsettia"

Ali Adams shared her delicious no-bake
 recipe for **Shaggy Dog Cookies**
 which she found on www.cooks.com.

1 stick butter	2 c. Rice Krispies
1 c. sugar	1/2 tsp. vanilla
1/2 c chopped dates	coconut
1 beaten egg	sugar
1 c. chopped nuts	

Melt butter, add sugar, dates, egg and
 chopped nuts. Boil this slowly - 10
 minutes. Add 2 cups Rice Krispies and
 vanilla. Cool. Make into small balls with
 hands. Roll in coconut or sugar.

[Ed. Note: we sampled these last spring
 & asked Ali to share her recipe. Yum!]



Gloria Meeks, past District XII Director with
 the design she created for the Fall District
 Meeting, using painted dried bromeliad
 blooms and painted vines.



This is another great photo captured by
 Phyl Schewe. You'll have to ask her if this
 Key deer was in her yard.

MARATHON GARDEN CLUB

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