

SEEDS FOR THOUGHT

Official Newsletter
of
Marathon Garden Club



MARATHON GARDEN CLUB

Come grow with us...

January 2014

Volume 17 No. 1



Letter from the President

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

Welcome Back to all of our winter folks, who arrive right after Christmas. The Garden

Club has been busy all Fall with a lot of fun activities.

January brings more events and a chance to clean out your closets. The January Jamboree is on Saturday, January 25. We will be accepting items beginning on Monday, January 20 at 10AM. Please bring your clean, gently used items as early in the week as possible. This makes sorting and pricing so much easier. We will accept electrical household items, if they work and have all the parts. We will NOT accept other electronics such as: computers, printers, DVD players, TVs, etc.

Our vendors are signing up and our grounds should be full of exciting items. There will be sign up sheets at the January general meeting, so you can volunteer...help is always needed and appreciated.

On January 27, 28, 29 the club will host Claudia Bates (a floral design judge and certified instructor) who will teach Classes 1, 2, 3 of the Floral Design course. The cost is \$25/class and we are limited to 30 students. Sign up was due by December 31, however, there is still time. Contact Sally Wood if you are interested (phone: 305-289-3323; e-mail: Sallywood520@aol.com).

Also, please find attached on page 5 an opportunity for an interesting day trip sponsored by the Miami Beach Garden club. Get your friends together and car pool!

Our **garden groomers** really need help on Thursday mornings (around 8:30am); please stop in and help rake and trim. You will get great exercise, learn a lot and have fun. You don't need to know anything about plants, Scarlett and Judy will help you.

Looking forward to our January meeting, about orchid re-potting. See you all at the meeting.

Rosemary Thomas

1st Vice President's Report

You won't want to miss our monthly meeting on Friday, January 17, 2014 at 1:00 PM at the Garden Club. The guest speaker is Juanita Contreras of Juanita's Orchids in Homestead, FL. Known for gorgeous orchids of all varieties, Juanita will give a presentation on orchid dividing and re-potting, as well as answering your questions on general orchid care. In addition, there will be an orchid sale and raffle.

If you have ideas or suggestions regarding future programs and/or items you would like to donate toward our club scholarship raffle, I welcome your participation.

Wishing all of my friends in the Marathon Garden Club a healthy and happy 2014!

Mary Ann Worthington

Gift Shop

We hope to have the gift shop open Monday-Friday 10-2 for the next 3 months. To accomplish this we need more volunteers. If you have even a day a month available it would be helpful. **Please call or email Sally Wood, 289-3323, sallywood520@aol.com .**

Membership Report

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope you had as great a Christmas and New Year's Celebration as my husband and I did.

With the new year brings the renewal of memberships for the Marathon Garden Club. With the new dues structure introduced last year, please remember that you can have a spouse or significant other who lives in the same household join under our family membership. Family Membership is \$65.00 yearly. The single membership is \$40.00. I will be at our January 17th meeting by 12:15 to take your dues. Please remember we can take cash or checks only.

This month we welcome our newest member, Barbara Cowen. Barbara and her husband, Dave, live year round in Marathon. I'm sure we will see Barbara actively participating in some of the club's upcoming events.



See you at the January 17th meeting with an interesting program on orchids.

Phyllis Schewe

Horticulture Tips

from Pat Greeley

To get a bougainvillea to bloom well every year, it needs full sun, gritty soil with excellent drainage and a distinct wet and dry seasons. Don't water it at all during the summer unless it's growing in a pot. Even then, let it go a bit dry between watering. Blooms will come in the fall and spring when days and nights are roughly equal in length. You can extend blooming in



both seasons by promptly pinching off faded flowers.

Mark your Calendar

- Jan. 8 MGC Board Meeting 9 am
- Jan. 17 MGC meeting - **ORCHIDS !**
See page 1 for more information.
- Jan. 18 Plant Clinic by Master Gardens at Home Depot 9 am-noon
- Jan. 20-23 @ 10 AM Gently used items will be accepted for the January Jamboree sale
- Jan. 24 Baked goods will be accepted
- Jan. 25 January Jamboree 8:30 - 3; Clean up crews needed from 3 'til ?**
- Jan. 26 Floral Design Instructor arrives to set up for classes.
- Jan 27 Floral Design Course 1 w/ Claudia Bates**
- Jan. 28 Floral Design Course 2 w/ Claudia**
- Jan. 29 Floral Design Course 3 w/ Claudia**



**MGC Yearbook is available electronically;
Send an E-mail to Nancy to request
your electronic Yearbook**

Cnmil@msn.com

**Printed copies will be distributed
at Membership Meetings**



You'll need to ask Janet Oechsle how she decorated these cupcakes to look like Poinsettias

Photo by Susie Ley

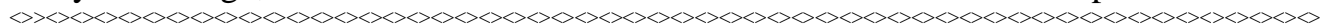
Special Events & Projects

January Jamboree, Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014. Chair: Bonnie Eldridge; Plant Sales by Vendors - Janet Oechsle; Used Treasures/Flea Market - Carole Gieck; Bake Sale - Margaret Wendel. Plants will also be available from the MGC Nursery. Hours: 8:30 am - 3 pm. E-mail: rosebillthomas@yahoo.com or call 305-743-4971.

Floral Design Classes, Sign up deadline has been extended. Don't miss this great opportunity! Units 1 - 3, January 27 - 29, 2014, with Claudia Bates, National Garden Club Accredited Instructor and Master Judge. E-mail: sallywood520@aol.com or call 305-743-4971.

A Small Standard Flower Show, "Celebrate Spring", Friday, Feb. 28. Preview Party, 5 - 6:30 pm. Flower Show, Saturday, Mar. 1, 10 am - 4 pm. Chair: Nancy Miller (Cnmil@msn.com)

38th Annual House & Garden Tour, Saturday, March 1, 2014. Chair: Cindy Wooten (CLMWooten@aol.com); Homes & Gardens - Betsy Philipps; Advertising - Susie Ley; Tickets - Sally Wood; Head Hostess - Sande Neiditz; Raffle - Bonnie Eldridge; Parking - Loyal Eldridge; Refreshments - Dale Chorebanian. Hours: 10 am - 4 pm.



Marathon Garden Club

presents the

Gardens of London {including the Chelsea Flower Show}

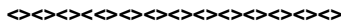
May 17-24, 2014

Price includes round trip air from Miami, air taxes and fees/Hotel Transfers, 8 days, 9 meals (6 breakfasts, 3 dinners) double \$4,059, Single \$5,159*.

Contact Debbie Hegland, Sea the World Cruises and Tours.

(305) 743-7575 or stw@seatheworldtravel.com

***All rates are per person and are subject to change.**



Highlights...London City Tour, Diner's Choice, Chelsea Flower Show, Hampton Court Palace, Kew Gardens, Windsor Castle, Wisley Gardens

THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

is often billed as the world's greatest flower show. You can enjoy full access to opening day at this spectacular event so tied to British culture.

Except during times of war, the Flower Show has been held on the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea every year since 1913.

Opening day is always on the Royal calendar.

You can explore modern displays and innovative designs that will leave you speechless but inspired.

According to past travelers, if there is a "bucketlist" horticultural event, this is it!

Synopsis of Dec. 11 Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Rosemary Thomas who welcomed returning seasonal Board members, Minutes of the November Board Meeting were approved as written. Carl Miller, Assistant Treasurer presented a financial report received from Treasurer, Loyal Eldridge. The Club has sufficient funds in its accounts; it is on budget so far in regard to income and expenses, although insurance costs were \$300 over budget. He noted that \$728 has been collected from sale of nursery plants.

Rosemary thanked Dale Chorebanian for steam cleaning the tile and for assisting her with washing windows and cabinets. Rosemary also reported that 36 (plastic) chairs were sold to the Marathon Yacht Club at \$10.00 per chair. Sixty plastic chairs remain in the shed and there are 80 folding chairs in the club. She noted we have 45 responses for the Christmas party. Susie Ley will assume the responsibility for the WEB site rather than Janie Byland. The plan is to redo the web site in the future.

1st VP Mary Ann requested feedback regarding the November Holiday Event. Following discussion, the Board decided:

- To have a November event but change the date to Saturday after Thanksgiving which will be 11/29/14.
- It was suggested a table be set up with plants at the gate with signage directing people to the nursery.
- To keep the Christmas rummage sale, have nice items for the raffle, and not have a bake sale.
- Sande Neiditz suggested having some table-top trees that she volunteered to manage.

2nd VP Pat Dean reported that Sally Wood is registering people for the Floral Design class. Sally will assume all the responsibilities of the registrar for the program. She will not order the flowers, set up the room or do the refreshments. Rosemary and Nancy Miller will arrange for the flowers.

3rd VP Dale Chorebanian reported that she is exploring estimates to have the club (interior) painted. Dale also is exploring the costs and types to replace the hand-capped toilets. Both of these projects will be suggested for capital expenses for 2014-2015. Carl added that the club had budgeted \$1800.00 for building maintenance and repair. Thus far \$1200.00 has been spent.

Membership Co-chair Phyllis Schewe reported currently there are 102 members. Renewal notices will go out in early January.

Cindy Wooten reported that the houses and garden for the House Tour will be on Key Colony. She will meet with Sande about hostesses and will send confirmation letters to the home owners. Cindy will also talk with Susie Ley about publicity. Sally Wood will be responsible for the tickets. Carl and Nancy will print the tickets.

Grounds: Scarlett Duffy reported that she and Judy Shaw purchased two Hibiscus plants. The garden looks good, but more help is needed to work in the garden. A pole saw has been ordered.

The White Heron Award will be given to American Caribbean Realty.

Notes: Membership Meeting Dec. 20, 2013

Approximately 35 members and guests attended the bountiful Christmas potluck luncheon. Announcements were made regarding future events. A program on Christmas plants, coordinated by Master Gardener, Janie Byland followed. Presenters were Janie, Sande Neiditz and Sally Wood. Raffle items included lovely bromeliads & Christmas cactus centerpieces. Everyone was encouraged to take a sprig of rosemary Sally cut from her garden and some mistletoe purchased by Janie.

**The Miami Beach Garden Club's annual field trip is a Lunch & Learn at Paradise Farms.
They would like to share this unique opportunity
to visit one of Miami Dade's foremost farms with fellow District XII members.**

When: Thursday, Feb. 6th

Time : 11:00 AM. (duration 2 hours)

Where: Paradise Farms - 19801 SW 320 St. Homestead , FL 33030 `` Ph: 305.248.4181
<http://www.paradisefarms.net/>

Cost: \$50/pp - check made payable to: Miami Beach Garden Club. Payment/confirmation due no later than Jan. 30th. **Mail check to:** Margo Hofeldt, MBGC Treasurer, Paradise Farms Tour Reservation, 314 W. San Marino Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139.

What to expect: Visit Paradise Farms for a Learning Lunch! Learn about organic gardening and eat the fruits of your learning!

About Paradise Farms:

Gabriele Marewski purchased an old abandoned avocado grove in 1999. Since then, she has transformed it into Paradise Farms, a show case certified organic farm that grows edible flowers, micro greens, a variety of tropical fruits, and oyster mushrooms for the best restaurants in Miami . Gabriele hosts Dinners in Paradise, a monthly charity dinner that features top chefs in Miami cooking on the farm. Proceeds go to local non-profits and organizations philosophically in line with the vision of Paradise Farms.

Our vision is to educate the public about the importance of organic gardening for our health, the environment, and our general well-being. With a little conscious effort, food can be grown without the use of toxic pesticides and fertilizers. Organic farming is for the long-term sustainability of land and our health. We hope to inspire, encourage, and empower the public to eat local and grow their own food organically.

What is a Learning Lunch?

Here on the farm, we provide what we call Learning Lunches. Guests arrive at the farm for an educational and interactive walking tour about organic farming/gardening, followed by a delicious lunch prepared with ingredients right from the farm!

On the tour, guests get to taste some of our edible flowers and seasonal fruits and vegetables. It is an invaluable experience to be able to see how the foods we eat grow, smell them, and then taste them fresh off the plant! It creates a magical connection between the person and the land, which is something different for everyone. Guests also learn about gardening and growing plants in south Florida . Our unique subtropical climate makes it possible to grow a wide variety of plants!

After the tour, we provide lunch and our own iced herb flower tea. We source as many ingredients as possible directly from the farm to emphasize the idea of eating (very) locally produced food that is fresh, healthy, and delicious. The menu varies depending upon seasonal availability, but typically lunch consists of our signature Paradise salad blend, pasta with pesto, iced tea, and fresh fruit. The total duration of the tour and lunch is about 2 hours.

What can guests gain from a Learning Lunch?

With over 12 years of organic gardening experience, there are a plethora of topics we can discuss on a field trip to Paradise Farms. We would love to work with you to gear our tour towards a particular topic. We can tie in or focus on topics such as the environment, nutrition and health, or plant identification. Our edible landscape is a wonderful inspiration!

Sandy Shapiro

fivesenses@me.com

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DECEMBER POTLUCK LUNCHEON MEETING
PHOTOS BY SUSIE LEY....THANKS SUSIE!



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