Letter from the President

Happy Valentine’s Day!

Well these are busy and fun days at the Garden Club. We had another successful January Jamboree and a wonderful program on orchids at our January general meeting.

A special thank you to: Carole Gieck, Dee O’Shea, Diane van Beuren, Janet Oechsle, Susie Ley, Loyal Eldridge (parking), Carl Miller, Linnea Cunningham for their hard work and leadership for the Jamboree. These folks have led the charge for this event for numerous years and always do a superb job. THANK YOU!!!!

The results of the Jamboree were over $6000 in total sales which included vendors, rummage sale, plant nursery sales, scholarship raffle, membership.

February brings a trip to Fairchild Gardens that promises to be memorable. No work, just fun! Seats are almost gone, so sign up and enjoy a day with friends.

Sande Neiditz, Susie Ley, and Mary Ann Gorlitz are busy working on the House & Garden Tour. Tickets are being mailed to all members and are also available at the Gift Shop. This is another fun event, hope you all will get involved.

Finally, have you seen the Gift Shop lately?? Alene has done a great job and the new merchandise is great. Reasonable prices and fun stuff. Stop in.

Thanks to everyone for their hard work, support and friendship.

Rosemary

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wed. Feb. 11, 9 am MGC Board Meeting
Feb. 13, 2015 MGC Trip to Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden - departs MGC @ 8 am. Contact Loi Baltes ASAP
Fri. Feb. 20, 1 pm Membership Meeting: Coral Restoration by Ken Nedimeyer p. 2
Feb. 21, 9 - 12 Plant Clinic by UF/IFAS Master Gardeners at Home Depot
March 6, 5-6 pm Wine & Cheese Party for House Tour volunteers, art donors & property owners
March 7, 2015 House & Garden Tour 10-4
Apr. 18-19 Rhythm of the Tropics, FFGC 89th Annual Convention Boca Raton
May 7 FFGC District XII Spring Meeting at the Fruit and Spice Park, in Homestead!

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1st Vice President’s Report

This month the Marathon Garden Club welcomes The Coral Restoration Foundation (CRF), a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to creating offshore coral nurseries and reef restoration efforts for threatened coral species. CRF is leading the development of new nursery and restoration techniques. With the help of students, volunteers, scientists, dive operators, and community groups, thousands of corals grown in CRF’s nurseries have already been out-planted on coral reefs. Our friends in the Garden Club of the Upper Keys and District XII have assisted in this effort and the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs is a proud sponsor of this organization.

The meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, February 20th and is open to the public. Please plan on arriving early for refreshments and to catch up with friends. The CRF will be the beneficiary of the raffle this month, so please have your $5 ready!

Almond Butter Cookie Recipe

A number of you requested Sande Neiditz' great cookie recipe she served at the January meeting. She sent it, so you can make it, too. Sande says she doesn’t use all the frosting, just enough to glaze the top and ‘stick’ the almond.

Cookies:
3/4 cup Publix Sweet Cream Butter, softened
1/2 cup sugar
1 egg
1 teaspoon almond extract
2 cups all-purpose flour
Sugar

Frosting:
2 tablespoons Publix Butter, melted
1 2/4 cups confectioners’ sugar
1 teaspoon almond extract
1 - 2 tablespoons milk
Sliced almonds

Steps:
1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Beat butter and sugar, in large bowl, with electric mixer on high speed until creamy. Add egg and almond extract, mixing well. Gradually add flour, mixing well.
2. Roll dough into 1-inch balls. Place 2 inches apart on greased baking sheet. Dip a flat-bottomed glass into sugar and flatten balls.
3. Bake 10-12 minutes until bottom of cookies are golden brown. Cool 1 minute on baking sheet, then remove to wire racks to cool completely.
4. To prepare frosting, combine butter, sugar and almond extract until smooth. Stir in milk, as needed, until frosting is spreading consistency. Spread on each cookie; top with an almond slice.

Makes about 4 dozen.

I hope everyone enjoyed the orchid program in January. Our guest speakers, Melana and Jim Davison, have asked me to share their contact information with our club, should any of our members have questions about orchid culture and care. What a generous offer! They can be reached at (760) 212-8919 or orchidiva@att.net

Mary Ann Worthington
House and Garden Tour

Our 39th house and garden tour is fast approaching. Your tickets will be mailed to you on February 2nd. We need everyone’s help in making this a wonderful event. We have 5 lovely properties on our tour. If you haven’t signed up to hostess or sell tickets, please contact any of the 5 head hostesses and volunteer (Rosemary Thomas, Mary Ann Worthington, Linnea Cunningham, Scarlett Duffy, or Paula Leftwich). Mark your calendars for March 7th and let's all make this a very successful event. Remember, we need all unsold tickets and monies collected returned on or before the general meeting on February 20th.

Thank you.

Sande Neiditz

Gift Shop

The Gift Shop had many newly arrived items. Some of them are nautical and they are selling fast. Stop in soon to have the best selection.

Alene Teynor

Horticulture Tip

HOUSE PLANTS

Yellowing foliage is often a sign of too much water. Clip off the affected leaves and hold back on the watering until the soil feels dry. If the plant stays green, the problem is solved. If yellowing persists, it could mean an iron deficiency. Try feeding the plant with an iron supplement.

Pat Greeley

Membership Report

A big thank you to all who have renewed so early. More than 75% of our membership has already renewed which makes life so much easier for your chairman.

Because neither Donna nor I could attend the January meeting, I called upon Nancy & Carl Miller to help along with Diane Hilferty. A very big thank you to the three of you.

I’m happy to report we have 4 new members. A big welcome to Roxane Hager and Trina Reis who joined at the January Meeting and welcome to Marlene Zacher who joined at the January Jamboree. Also welcome, Jay Carvotta’s husband, Ed, who joined as a new family member.

In addition, many thanks to Frolly Boyd who helped with membership and raffle ticket sales at the January Jamboree.

Donna & I will see you at the February Meeting and if you are among those who have not renewed, we’ll be at our membership table to take your dues.

Phyllis Scheewe & Donna Barnes

January Jamboree Thanks

The weather was threatening but we were so fortunate it never poured on our Event. All your help... guiding vendors, unloading and loading trucks, selling raffle tickets, parking cars, selling hot dogs, and cleaning up... THANK YOU! The vendors enjoy our friendly club members and look forward to coming back each year - your smiles and kindness are the reason. Thank you to all for making it such a FUN and successful annual event.

All my best -

Janet Oechsle

Event Parking Thanks & Request

A special thank you to our Jamboree parking experts: Dick Cunningham, Neil Ericsson, Loyal Eldridge, Ken Larose and Bob Leier. Since there are five homes on the March 7 House Tour, we will need ten people to volunteer for shifts either from 10-1 or 1-4.

Contact Loyal Eldridge at 269-806-6531 to volunteer for House Tour Parking
Opening
The regular meeting of the Marathon Garden Club was called to order at 1:05 P.M. on Friday, January 16, 2015 at the Marathon Garden Club by the President, Rosemary Thomas. The Invocation was given by Diane van Beuren, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Carl Miller reported for Membership that 68 persons thus far have renewed their membership. Rosemary thanked Ann McLaughlin for her beautiful floral design. She also recognized the Greeters, Barbara Driscoll and Dale Chorebanian as well as the Hostesses Sandy Neiditz and Nancy Miller.

Approval of Minutes
Scarlett Duffy moved with a second by Doris Shinn that the minutes be approved as they appeared in Seeds for Thought. All agreed.

Treasurer's Report
Carl Miller reported that the dance floor that was purchased in February 2000 for $275.00 was sold on Craig's List with the help of Scarlet Duffy for $500.00. Carl continued that at the 2/3 mark in the fiscal year some items as rentals are behind budget and some as the sale of nursery plants are ahead of budget. Rosemary added the importance of everyone helping as our two biggest fund raising events are the January Jamboree and the House Tour.

Second Vice President
Loi and Rosemary explained to the membership a planned day trip to Fairchild Garden and the Chihuly exhibit that will cost $55.00, which includes bus transportation, entrance fee and tram ride; lunch is on your own. The Shuttle bus will leave the Garden Club at 8 A.M. on February 13th and leave Fairchild to be back at the Garden Club around 5:30. Those interested should pay Loi and it was noted that the bus only holds a limited number of people.

Third Vice President
Dale stated the front railing was being repaired. She asked for volunteers to paint the cement posts at the gate.

Gift Shop
Alene reported all new merchandise in the gift shop and emphasized a couple of items that would be on sale that day. She also requested volunteers to work the shop.

January Jamboree
Janet reported that the Jamboree is Saturday, February 24th and there would be 20 venders, many of them new and different for the event. Carole reported about the Rummage sale and asked members to help and also bring their used item to the club this week, preferably Monday or Tuesday so they can be priced.

House and Garden Tour
Sande reported that the houses had been finalized with the tickets being $25.00. She asked that people volunteer and read the names of the Head Hostesses who would be asking people to work in their houses. She requested that people sign up to make cookies as cookies, lemonade and ice tea will be available at the club. The pre-party Friday night will be a wine and cheese party for volunteers, home owners and art donors from 5-6 P.M.

Announcements
Riet Steinmetz made announcements concerning Florida Keys Concerts that start Monday Jan. 19th with the Tommy Dorsey band at the high school. She also asked for volunteers for the Pigeon Key Art Festival held February 7th and 8th at the Marathon Community Park benefiting Pigeon Key.

Carl recognized 3 new members who had joined the club.

As there was no further business, Cheryl moved, seconded by Laurie, that the meeting be adjourned. Following the meeting Mary Ann Worthington introduced Melana and Jim Davison who spoke on orchids. A raffle followed the presentation.

Respectfully Submitted:
Claudia Hamrick, Recording Secretary
Karen Wunderlich, Janie Byland & Linnea Cunningham were in charge of nursery sales.

Gift Shop Clerks: front - Alene Teynor & Marilyn Fraelich; back - Carolyn Belcaster & Virginia Leier

R: Some cashiers before the rush - Afrie King, Toni Appell & Barbara Driscoll

Below: Super Rummage Sale organizer, Carole Geick with her friend Julie Joyce, local artist.

Below: Barbara Driscoll helps Germaine Main check out with her bargains.

L: The crowd rushes in. photo by Sandy White

Below: The Boutique - Diane van Beuren Dee O'Shea Joan Bergstrom
Above: Vendor, Denise Oleson - Beady DeeDee/Astoria Design, with Carolyn Belcaster & Rosemary Thomas

Above: Vendor, Monty Dale & his great bargain-priced orchid boxes

Right: Successful MGC shoppers, Dee Speicher & Sandy White

Above: Phyllis Schewe fielded membership questions & sold raffle tickets for items donated by our Vendors. All proceeds from the raffle went toward our scholarship fund. Frolly Boyd, not pictured, assisted her.

Dagny Johnson Hammock Botanical Park, Key Largo, FL
Nursery Notes

Beautiful plants are still available in the nursery. They would be a delightful addition to your gardens or could be used as a gift. Please stop by on Thursday morning or phone me for an appointment at 305-743-2008.

Linnea Cunningham

When the Nominating Committee Calls…..Remember

“Each of us has something different to contribute, and no matter how small or insignificant it may seem, it can be for the benefit of all.” Lauritz Melchior

Note

Continue to save Campbell's Labels for Education found on over 2,500 products. (Not just Campbell's soups and beans, but also found on Bic, Emerald nuts, Post cereals, Prego, Pepperidge Farm products, Glad bags, Swanson, Franco-American, Pace, V-8 and Splash). Also clip Box Tops for Education. Each box top is worth 10 cents. Box Tops are found on Hanes apparel, Betty Crocker items, cereal, frozen foods, paper products, Ziploc & Hefty items, snacks, produce, etc. Bring your Labels and Box Tops to the meeting. They will be used to "purchase" items for the FFGC sponsored Camp Wekiva.

Condolences

We extend our sincere sympathy to Cindy Wooten on the recent passing of her Mother.

Marathon Garden Club

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Metropolitan Miami Flower Show

MMFS presented “The Circle of Love”, A Small Standard Flower Show on January 19th at Simpson Park. The Design Division was titled “Celebrate Around the Table”. [all table designs]

Mayfair Hydro (L) received ‘best of show in Design’ from Chairman

Gloria Meeks for her Exhibition Type I Table, ‘Honeymoon Luau’.→

Pat Greeley, below, won ‘best of show in Horticulture’ for a gorgeous Tillandsia with many blooms.

Congrats to MMFS for a lovely show & to Mayfair and Pat!