

SEEDS FOR THOUGHT



Official Newsletter
of
Marathon Garden Club

MARATHON GARDEN CLUB

Come grow with us...

February, 2016

Volume 19 No. 2



The President's Letter

Dear Members,

Our January Jamboree was a huge success. With most of our members lending a hand, we managed to handle the early crowds and make everyone happy. Congratulations to Janet, Carol and Dee, you always make it look so easy. The goal for the event was \$6000.00 and we topped that aggressive plan. The scholarship fund generated another \$466.00 and the gift shop almost broke the \$500.00 mark. WOW!!!!

Next we gear up for our house and garden tour. March will be here before you know it. Please do your best to sell the tour and raffle tickets that you will receive in the mail. Sign ups for volunteers have begun. If you don't have an assignment please contact Sally Wood or me as soon as possible. We need each and every one of you.

We have had a very generous proposal from Carl and Nancy Miller. They will match all funds raised for the scholarship fund between Jan.1 and April 30th. We are now sponsoring 4 students and with their support in this program we will be able to continue to add a worthy recipient each year.

Please mark your calendars for our meeting on Feb. 19th. Vernon Bloch will share his knowledge on orchids with us. Remember to sign up for the February 23rd workshop, "What's Cooking."

As I mentioned in our membership meeting, we will vote on changing Article 9 of our bylaws at the February meeting. Please read the details on p 5 in this publication. We will have a membership vote on Feb.19th.

Enjoy your gardens, the recent rains have stimulated blooms and growth. See you in a few weeks!!

Sande

Club Theme

"Inspire Community Awareness"

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wed., Feb 10, 9 am MGC Board Meeting

Feb. 19, 1 pm, MGC Meeting... **ORCHIDS**

Feb. 20, 9 - noon, UF/IFAS Plant Clinic at Home Depot garden center by MGC Master Gardeners.

Feb. 23, What's Cooking Workshop see p. 3

Fri., Mar. 4, 5-6:30 pm House Tour reception

Mar. 5, 10 am-4 pm House & Garden Tour

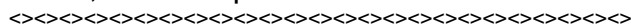


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1st Vice President's Report

February 19th our monthly meeting features Vernon Bloch, owner of Palm Bay Orchids and recent speaker at the Key West Garden Club. Vern will feature 5 native Florida orchids which he will also bring for sale.

Orchids are always a popular topic. We had 82 attendees for our January meeting featuring Thomas Guice on bromeliads - so come early, greet your friends and grab a seat! Be sure to support our scholarship raffle as well.

Several of us recently visited David Schmitt's project on Lime Lane. He is introducing many native plants to the property and there are two Conch houses including the home of former teacher Sue Moore. If you are interested in visiting the site with David, email me or tell me at the February meeting and he will take some other visitors. The property is a dense hammock, so wear sturdy shoes!

Sandy Bourgeois

2nd Vice President's Report

FEBRUARY AND MARCH WORKSHOPS

If you missed our fantastic January workshop, don't despair. We have two wonderful member workshops planned for February and March. Next up is **What's Cooking** with Beth Nagel Griffin on Tuesday, February 23rd at 1:30 pm at the Club. Would you like to be able to quickly prepare nutritious, great-tasting, plant-based, protein rich meals? Of course you would, so come hear Beth present: *Power Up! Fast, Easy and Delicious High Protein, Plant-based Meals for Every Body*. Beth is a certified raw food chef, teacher and life-style coach who loves to share her passion and knowledge on preparing flavorful and easy plant-based meals. For more information see the accompanying article on page 3.

Tuesday, March 22nd at 10:00 am will feature our **Flower Power** workshop where members will have a chance to practice

informal flower arranging. Several of our talented members will help participants create their own Spring themed arrangements using materials from our own homes, gardens and local grocery stores. You won't want to miss this "fun with flowers" event. More information about materials to bring will be in the March newsletter.

These workshops are free for members, but please register a week in advance. Please email Anne Reams if you plan to attend: anne.reams@gmail.com. There will also be a sign up sheet at the club on the podium in the front hall. Hope to see you there.

Anne Reams

January Jamboree Tidbits

Here's a great tidbit of information from the Jamboree: Part of the success of our rummage sale was the large amount of clothing that was donated and sold. At the end of the sale Sherrie Taylor came and took most of the unsold clothing for the clothes closet at the High School. She is a volunteer who helps the students to have the proper clothing for school, work programs, prom, concerts, etc. The clothing that she could not use then went to KAIR. What a great thought to know that all the clothing is now being put to a great use.

Carole Gieck

Jamboree Details

Rummage sale-	\$3,731.76
Wiener wagon-	434.00
Vendors-	815.00
Nursery-	<u>922.00</u>
Total	\$5,902.76
+ Scholarship	\$ 466.00
+ Gift shop	\$ 490.64

Incredible results!!!!!! A great turnout and very profitable day. Everyone worked hard and the results show the extra efforts. Thank you all for your dedication.

Sande, Carole, Dee, Janet, Linnea, and Alene

February 23rd Workshop News

What's Cooking:

Plants from plot to plate to palate!

Would you like to be able to quickly prepare nutritious, great-tasting, plant-based meals no matter what's going on in your life? Have you ever wondered how to incorporate more plant-based foods into your meals and still get enough protein? For answers come to our February workshop.

You *can* actually enjoy making totally satisfying plant-based meals even when you're busy, stressed, traveling, or trying to accommodate loved ones who eat differently from you AND stay healthy, lose weight and gain more energy.

Beth Nagle Griffin can show you how. Beth is a certified raw food chef and teacher and healthy lifestyle coach who loves to share her passion and knowledge on preparing flavorful and easy plant-based meals to help people look and feel better.

The Marathon Garden club is excited to have Beth host this free members workshop at the Club at 1:30 on February 23rd.

Beth will show you that you don't have to toil in the kitchen in order to enjoy mouth-watering, high-protein meals and snacks made with delicious fruits and vegetables.

In her talk, *Power Up! Fast, Easy and Delicious High-Protein, Plant-Based Meals For Every Body*, you'll learn:

- the benefits of a plant-based diet
- the 'real deal' about protein requirements
- which plant-based whole foods are high in protein
- how to incorporate more plant-based whole foods into meals for everyone

Since tasting is believing, you'll also get to enjoy samples of Beth's delicious and nutritious fare.

This talk is not just for people who are into raw food or a strict vegan or vegetarian diet. It's perfect for anyone who wants to discover how eating can be more natural, plant-based foods can become and easy, healthy--and fun--part of your busy life.

House & Garden Tour - March 5

We are fortunate to have 5 lovely homes on our tour. There are two in Duck Key, one in KCB, and two in the Sombrero Beach area. We will need full participation from our members as these homes are large and require more hostesses. There will be two shifts; 9:30-12:30 and 12:30 – 4:00. Please contact Sallywood520@aol.com if you have not yet been assigned a location. You will soon receive the tickets and raffle tickets for you to sell to your friends.

Members will wear their green polo shirts. If you do not have a shirt you may order one through me. They are \$24 and come in S, M, L, XL, XXL. There will be an opening reception on Friday, March 4, 5-6:30.

Your garden club appreciates your help with the house tour. This is our most important event. The funds raised support our club and the art raffle provides the funds for our scholarship's for Marathon students.

Sally Wood

Scholarship News

We have recently been in contact with our 2015 scholarship recipient, Rosalia Parrado. She has successfully completed summer session 2015 and fall session 2015 at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. She is currently registered for spring session 2016 and classes are underway. We are in receipt of her grades for both terms and her current course registration. She is listed as a student in good standing on her student record. We have recommended that the Marathon Garden Club present her scholarship check in the amount of \$1500 as awarded.

If you know any graduating seniors at Marathon High School who plan to study the sciences, encourage them to apply for our 2016 Garden Club Scholarship.

Arlene Keeney & Barbara Wright

Marathon Garden Club Minutes
January 15, 2016 Membership Meeting

Opening

The regular meeting of the Marathon Garden Club was called to order at 1:05 PM on Friday, January 15, 2016 at the Marathon Garden Club by President Sande Neiditz. She remarked that this was the first time since October that the Club had met formally and wished all a Happy New Year. In her invocation, Chaplain Janie Byland focused on "gardening as an act of faith." The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Visitors

Donna Barnes welcomed and recognized 22 guests. She reported that to date 90 MGC members have paid their annual dues. In addition, four new members who had just signed up were recognized. Thanks to Head Hostess Sally Linder and Dale Chorebanian for their tasty refreshments. Greeters Carolyn Belcaster and Paula Leftwich were assisted by a friend of Dale. Ann McLaughlin provided the attractive floral arrangement

President's Report

The meeting minutes of October 16, 2015 were written and emailed to all members. Carolyn Maki moved and Janie Byland seconded that they be approved as written; all voted to accept. Sande thanked all who have supported the Club's Scholarship program and said that, since December, there have been cash donations to the program totaling \$ 2,857. Of that amount, \$ 2,000 was donated by an Individual who was unable to open her home for this spring's House and Garden Tour but who wanted to support the Scholarship program.

Gift Shop

Alene Teynor and her Gift Shop volunteers presented and demonstrated a group of new puzzles, fun for all ages, and offered 20% off all puzzles that day. In light of the day's program on Bromeliads, she also showed the long garden sleeves, useful for wearing when working with thorny plants, that are also available at the Gift Shop.

Scholarships

Sande reported that Rosalia Parrado, the most recent Marathon High School recipient of a MGC Scholarship has done very well in her first term at Florida Atlantic University, where she

studies Chemistry, and has received good grades. Her Scholarship check will be sent to her now. Rosalia has written that the assistance is very welcome and will be used for text books.

January Jamboree

Janet Oechsle called on all "for positive energy for good weather" for the January 23rd Jamboree. She asked all Members to consider signing up to help and stressed how much fun it is to prepare for and help during the event. The Jamboree, starting at 8:30, includes many plant and craft vendors with the MGC Nursery selling Linnea's special treasures. Carole Gieck asked for help during the week of January 18th in setting up and pricing items for the Rummage and Treasures Sale. Items remaining after the sale will be donated to KAIR, Independence Cay, and the Guidance Clinic.

MGC House and Garden Tour

Sally Wood reported that she and Janie Byland have procured 5 great houses for the tour on Saturday, March 5th. Two are on Duck Key, including "a spectacular house on the open water," another is on Key Colony Beach, and two in Marathon—one on Tingler Island, and the other near Sombrero Beach on Calzada de Bourgainvillea. All of the houses are large and will require 6/8 hosts or hostesses per shift. There will be 2 shifts that day: 9:30-12:30 and 12:30-4:00. Non-Members are welcome to help with the tours. Tour tickets will be mailed to all MGC Members to sell; the cost is \$ 25/ticket. Tour tickets will be available at the MGC Gift Shop, at the January Jamboree, and at the February MGC meeting. There will be a pre-tour party on Friday, March 4 for all Members to meet Tour home owners and artists whose works are donated as raffle prizes. The success of the House and Garden Tour is essential for the continued funding of the Scholarship program, which currently supports 4 \$ 1,500 scholarships annually.

MGC Web Site and Facebook

Susie Ley showed an attractive flyer for the January Jamboree and asked for help in displaying posters for the event. She stated that the Bank of America sign has been booked for both the January Jamboree and for the House and Garden Tour.

Workshops

Anne Reams reported that the January 12th workshop, "Sex in the Garden," featured Sue (Minutes continued on page 5)

(Minutes continued from p.4)

Casey from Casey's Corner demonstrating propagating techniques. It was an informative and entertaining program. On February 23rd, natural foods specialist Beth Nagle Griffin will discuss and demonstrate plant-based cooking in a workshop at 1:30. The March workshop, "Flower Power," will focus on flower arranging. The date and time will be announced in "Seeds for Thought."

New Business

Sande announced that it was Arbor Day and encouraged everyone to "plant a tree"! She reminded all about the Saturday morning Master Gardeners Plant Clinics at the Marathon Home Depot. She and Norm Philipps discussed the geocache at the MGC. The Club's "spot" was created by Norm and Betsy and it has been "found" by over 1,400 people, from all over the world. Sande also noted that a Bylaws amendment proposal will appear in "Seeds for Thought" for all to review, with a membership vote scheduled for the February meeting. The proposed Bylaws amendment would change the membership dues invoice date to January 1st instead of December 1st.

As a surprise addition to the day's business, Sande asked all to join her in thanking two special individuals who have contributed so much to the betterment of the MGC: Nancy and Carl Miller. Sande presented a beautiful painted bowl from the Butterfly Museum to Nancy and Carl for their constant dedication, passion and commitment to the success of the Garden Club. As Sande noted, "occasionally it is important to take a moment to celebrate achievement and to recognize those few who give so much."

There being no further business, Dee Feeney moved and Donna Ryan seconded that the business meeting be adjourned. All voted to close the meeting.

Sandy Bourgeois welcomed the speaker, Thomas Guice, a fourth generation member of the family who owns and manages Bullis Bromeliads of Homestead. Started in 1978 by his great grandfather in Key Biscayne, the business is a specialty wholesale grower. To study and purchase plants after the talk was a special opportunity. Thomas brought numerous examples of his fine specimen Bromeliads and described their habits, horticultural requirements, and attributes. He was an enthusiastic, knowledgeable proponent of using Bromeliads to

enhance a landscape by acclimating these plants to specific growing conditions and allowing them to naturalize. Following the formal presentation, there were questions and time to purchase Bromeliads.

The raffle drawing, with five lucky winners, concluded the program

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Lytle, Recording Secretary

PROPOSED By-Laws Change:

Article IX, B. The annual dues, shall be established by the Board, invoiced December 1 and payable January 1 [shall be changed to read "invoiced January 1 and payable February 1"] each year.,,, The remainder of the Bylaw will be unchanged.

Special Thanks

Carl and I were surprised and humbled by Sande's tribute at the January Garden Club Meeting. We thank you all for this special recognition and the magnificent glass bowl. We will enjoy displaying it and will treasure it as a special memento of our affiliation with the Marathon Garden Club

Thank you Sande and MGC Members !!

Carl and Nancy Miller



L→R: Germaine Main, Roberta Hearn, Nancy Miller and Joan Bergstrom admiring the butterfly platter.

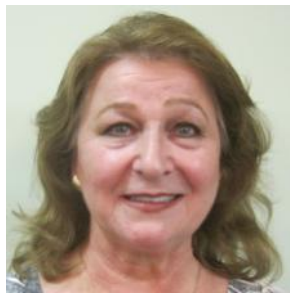
Membership Report

We are off to a great start with membership renewals. At our January meeting only 30 members had not renewed! Which means 90 members have already paid their dues! I will be ready to accept your dues (cash or check) at the February 19th meeting, if you are one of the 30 members. Dues need to be paid by March 1. I will be at the club before the meeting at 12:30 to take your renewals. Single Membership remains at \$40.00. Family Membership is still \$65.00. Thank you in advance for making my job so easy!

I am happy to announce we have 9 very active people who have joined since our January meeting. Please welcome: Roseanne Breuer, Mahopac, NY and Islamorada, Dawn & Tim Reams newly relocated to Marathon, Patricia Trefry of KCB, Ann and Cliff Knowles of Chicago, IL, and Marathon, Jackie Topolski of Little Egg Harbor, NJ and KCB, Vanessa Ferraro of Captree Island, NY and Islamorada, Judy Petersen of Mansfield, OH and Marathon. We have two photos to share. Others will be published upon receipt.



Ann Knowles



Judy Petersen

I would like to welcome all our new & returning members.

Donna Barnes
Membership Chair

NOTE

Yearbooks and paper copies of the MGC Bylaws will be available at the meetings. Any member wishing to receive an electronic version of either document, should contact Nancy Miller.

January Meeting Photos



President Sande welcomes members & guests.



Tom Guice (R) taught us about bromeliads.



Ann McLaughlin (L) made the lovely fresh floral design for our refreshment table which Bea Murphy (R) helped host.



**Great White Heron Award
Presented to Barbara Hewlett by Judy Shaw**

Barbara and Butch Hewlett have received the **Great White Heron Award** given by the Marathon Garden Club. They have lived in Marathon with their two children, Butchie and Kiki for years. In 2005 Barbara began to develop the **Mid Key Sand and Rock** company, located gulf side near the Vaca Cut Bridge at 11990 Overseas Highway in Marathon. At first the open storage area containing sand, gravel and large rocks was a design challenge. Piles were placed where ever they were dumped. Now tidy concrete block squares define specific types of sand and stone. A Gray Buttonwood hedge intersected with Christmas Palms surrounds the space and separates it from the highway. A Mahogany tree graces and provides shade along the fence.

Three years ago Barbara hired a Manager named Henry Coffelt. He has spent most of his career working in the concrete business and knows what customers need to complete their jobs. Henry provides free estimates, makes suggestions about products

and works with contractors and landscapers who are completing properties. "Squeak," a heavy equipment operator is proficient driving a bobcat, backhoe, bulldozer and dump trucks.

John Kornetti helped to design the layout, provides lawn care and keeps the yard's landscape attractive and neat. Barbara expresses her thanks to these individuals who help to make her location and company an asset to the community.

The **Great White Heron Award** has a long history in Marathon. It was initiated by a group of citizens in the late 1970's who passed it to the Marathon Garden Club in 1984. This award is given to businesses, organizations and churches along the US Route 1 Corridor who improve their properties with landscaping, painting and other methods. It is surprising sometimes how little it takes to improve curb appeal. A tidy welcoming frontage can give Marathon an appearance of a cared for and prosperous town.

Linnea Cunningham & Judy Shaw

*USDA Community Day Feb 20
10 am - 3 pm at Chapman Field
13601 Old Cutler Rd., Miami
Free, rain or shine*

Community Day is where the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in Miami can show the public the great work they do at the Subtropical Horticulture Research Station (locally known as "Chapman Field".) This year's events feature planes, plants, pests and people. Many interesting and fun activities will be part of the day. FREE coconut seeds. Trolley tours of the grounds, food trucks, etc.

Information sent by: Adrian Hunsberger, M.S.
Urban Horticulture Agent
Entomologist
305 248-3311 x 236

<http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/>

For more information, contact Nancy Miller, Cnmil@msn.com or visit the Community Day website: http://www.ars.usda.gov/main/site_main.htm?modecode=60-38-05-00

Note from Susie Ley:

The Searle Brothers 22nd Annual Plant Sale for the Key West Garden Club at West Martello Tower is Feb. 12-14; and although our Garden club is 50 miles away; its still a great outing, beautiful gardens to walk around and of course; Brilliant stock at amazing rates.

January Jamboree Photos by Susie Ley



Charlie Neiditz holds the Weiner Wagon cash box, as wife, Sande & terrific vendor chair person, Janet Oechsle, humor him.



Above: Our fabulous co-chairs of the rummage sale, Dee O'Shea and Carole Gieck.



Right: One of our great vendors with her colorful bird houses.

MGC '15 - '17 Board of Directors

Sande Neiditz, President
Sandy Bourgeois, 1st Vice President
Anne Reams, 2nd Vice President
Dale Chorebanian, 3rd Vice President
Sarah Lytle, Recording Secretary
Cindy Wooten, Corresponding Secretary
Loyal Eldridge/Carl Miller, Treasurers
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Janet Oechsle, Sally Wood
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MARATHON GARDEN CLUB

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Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. & District XII

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