

Independence Cay Garden

By Linnea Cunningham

On April 2nd the garden at Independence Cay got a new look! Thirteen members of The Cross Community Church Youth Group arrived with shovels, rakes, a pick ax and lots of energy. The group traveled from Deerfield Beach, FL and spent two overnights in Marathon to work on this project. Most of them stated that they had done very little gardening before. Not only did they put on their gloves and start picking up trash around the garden, they began pulling weeds which were growing over much of the fenced garden area.



The garden has been in existence for several years. The shade cloth has been blown off by hurricanes, plants have been eaten by iguanas and most plants struggle to survive. This year the garden has produced peppers, eggplant and tomatoes. Now thanks to the hard work of these teens a Carambola, (star fruit), banana and Moringa have been planted. Pineapple plants are located within a fenced area with the herbs and vegetables. Fresh mulch has been spread to retain moisture in the soil and to slow the growth of weeds.

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Part of the group went to an empty lot on 15th Street and began a huge trash pick up. This lot is the future home of KAIR and Independence Cay. KAIR is an organization which provides assistance to community members who need financial help with medications, utility bills and transportation,



*Marathon Garden Club Minutes
April 15, 2016 Membership Meeting*

Opening

Following a tasty and well-attended potluck luncheon, the regular meeting of the Marathon Garden Club was called to order at 2:10 PM on Friday, April 15, 2016 at the Marathon Garden Club by President Sande Neiditz. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sande thanked all for coming to the final meeting of the season, and thanked Head Hostess Loi Baltes and all hostesses for helping with the luncheon set-up and Germaine Main for the lovely flower arrangements, and asked all to stay after the day's brief meeting to tour the Club gardens and nursery and to admire the plantings and hard work put in by the groomers.

Secretary's Report

The meeting minutes of March 18, 2016 were written and emailed to all members. With no changes noted, Loyal Eldridge made a motion, which Diane van Beuren seconded, that the minutes for the February meeting be approved as written; all voted to accept.

Membership

Sande announced that current membership totals 131—the largest rate of growth in the Club's history. She noted that it will be a tremendous boost to have new members join in and fully participation in all Club activities in the coming season.

Treasurer's Report

Sande called on Treasurer Loyal Eldridge who reported that, at the April 6th MGC Executive Board Meeting, a balanced budget was passed for the coming fiscal year, May 2016- April 2017. The Board has authorized an expenditure of \$6,500 in scholarships to be given to four Marathon High School graduates: a \$1,500 scholarship will be granted to a graduating high school senior to be selected, as well as to the rising college sophomore and junior scholarship recipients. Sean Roussin, the

rising college senior recipient, will receive a \$2,000 scholarship in recognition of his good work during his college career. Loyal noted that the Club's scholarship program is partly the result of the past successful house and garden tours and that it will be important to continue to work to ensure future successful house tours in order to sustain these generous scholarships.

Gift Shop

It was announced that there is an on-going 40 % off sale underway in the Gift Shop. Support your Club and check out the sale!

New Business

Sande reported that Nancy Miller will represent the MGC at the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs District XII meeting on May 2 at Fairchild Tropical Gardens. It was the final day to register for those interested in attending.

Sande then turned to recognizing the lasting contribution made by Virginia Leier who is retiring from coordinating the Rentals program for the Club. As a token of appreciation, Sande presented Virginia with a MGC Life Membership. In her remarks, Sande recounted Virginia's many years of service to the MGC, noting that:

One of her first jobs was clerking in the gift shop. She started helping with the rentals under 3rd VP Jeri Michalak. It was around 2008 when she took over rentals, always saying 'I'm helping out, not in charge of anything.' She also began scheduling volunteers in the gift shop, receiving shipments and filling in when no one showed up to work. She lives here full time and was able to interview renters during the summer. She found stand-ins to cover rentals when she travelled. I think she liked rentals because of her extensive experience in real estate before she retired. She really cares about the club image and finding financial resources to carry out our mission. She pays attention to the rental contract and makes sure that the checks and monies are obtained before renting the building. Virginia spends time meeting with prospective renters, showing the building, helping them to get

in touch with other providers, wedding specialists, caterers, etc. Much of this 'show time' does not result in an actual rental. It is a task which takes time.

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There was a hearty round of applause to thank Virginia, and then Sande went on to announce that Natalie Danko has agreed to take on the task of managing the Rentals program in addition to serving as "official" MGC photographer and web site liaison.

In her final comments before concluding the season, Sande thanked the members of the Executive Board, who, she said, all contribute to help "make the MGC run smoothly." She wished all a good summer with many happy adventures in our gardens. Sande also reminded members to stay to tour the Club gardens and for the end-of-season raffle (which raised \$125). There being no further business, Susie Ley made a motion, seconded by Diane van Beuren, to adjourn.

See you all at the October 21st meeting of the Marathon Garden Club!

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Lytle, Recording Secretary

2016 FFGC Convention and State Flower Show "SEEDS OF SUNSHINE"

Nancy Miller served at the MGC Delegate to the FFGC Convention, April 17-19 in Kissimmee, FL. There were 234 Delegates present with a total registration of 352. One of the most interesting presentations was Dr. Glenn Cunningham's personal expedition across rugged terrain in Mexico to study Monarch butterflies.

Right: An Invitational Design honoring the FFGC 3rd Vice Pres.



A Traditional Mass Design presentation "Remember"

Another highlight was a

A Creative Underwater Design "Preserving"



entation Display of Foliage about Specimens (5) new Air Plants



A Creative



and underutilized plants for Florida gardens presented by staff from the Harry P. Leu Gardens. They said, "The secret to a green thumb is brown knees."

Membership Report

The Membership corner is done collecting dues until next season! Everyone paid their dues before March 15th! We now have a total of 131 members! We have three new members to announce: Joanie Barrett, who spends most of the year in Marathon, Eleanor "Elle" Burgess of Marathon and Rhonda Fackert from Michigan. **And on May 3 Peggy Bielik rejoined the club. She splits her time between Marathon and Oconomowoc, WI. Welcome back Peggy, (Editor's note)**

The membership table would like to have a Co-chair person. If you have an interest in recruiting or would just like to help out at meetings - please let me know!

Thanks,

Donna Barnes

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Gift Shop

The gift shop has closed for the season. Plan to join us next year, not only as Gift Shop sales clerks, but also as Garden Club Representatives. We are a fun-loving group who enjoys working together to make a difference in the club and make the shop a success. The shop will reopen in November.

Bonnie Eldridge & Donna Barnes

Garden Groomers



Scarlett Duffy makes room for more yard waste in our dumpster.

Don't forget the Garden Groomers and Nursery need help throughout the summer. Join us on

Thursday mornings ~ 8:30 - 10:30.

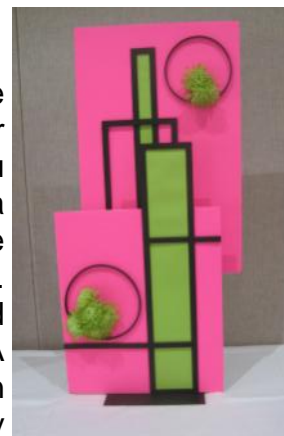
District Meeting Floral Designs



Nancy Fehr displayed this serene creative design featuring white lilies at the District meeting. Nancy said she buys lilies almost every week to enjoy her beautiful sculpture. (She was sorry the provided background wasn't tall

enough to adequately enhance the design.)

This was one of the designs that Mayfair Hydro exhibited. As you might guess, it is a creative design, in the style of Mondrian's art. She said she initially did this design for a CEFA show using green anthuriums. Since they were not available today, she used green mums.



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Scholarship Update

We received several outstanding scholarship applications. Barbara Wright & Arlene Keeney (scholarship committee) have selected a deserving applicant to receive a \$1,500 scholarship after completing the first semester of college work. The recipient will be announced at the H. S. Senior Night, June 7. Three advanced scholars will

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