



Clermont Garden Club Newsletter

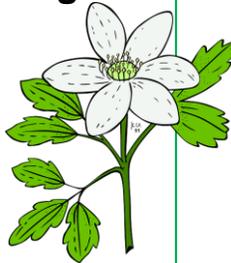
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February 19 – General Meeting

Program: *Gardening with Natives*

Presenter: Jim Lobb, CGC Member



Preserving the native plants of the “real” Florida is his passion. He has experimented with 100+ native plants on his own property, and is an expert at returning Florida to its native beginnings.

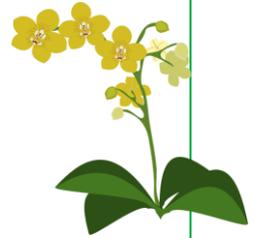
A great opportunity to learn about native plants!

Next Meeting – March 18

Program: Orchids!

Presenter: Brian Behm

President of CFL Orchid Society, VP of Mid-Lakes Orchid Society, Member American Orchid Society, Owner of B&G Landscaping



Brian will demonstrate orchid potting, Provide tips on growing orchids, and Re-pot member’s orchids for a small fee. (details to follow)

Caladium Sales Coming Soon!

The Caladium Sales Committee will have caladiums available for sale to the public at the Clubhouse on the following dates:

Saturday, March 14 - 9 am – 11 am

Saturday, April 4 - (before the Fun With Flowers) – 9 am – 11 am

Saturday, April 18 - 9 am – 11 am

Saturday, May 2 – (at the Spring Garden Festival) - 9 am – 2 pm

Sales to members will also be available at General Meetings.

There are three varieties available this year – red, pink and white. They are packaged 6 bulbs per bag. Each bag is priced at \$5.00. Cash or check payment.



“Aaron” – white



“Rosebud” – pink



“Fla. Cardinal” - red



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Mardi Gras –Wind up!

A million thanks to all who were involved in this huge event (almost every member in some way), which may have been our best Flower Show yet. With 76 attendees, the Club certainly looked ready to party on Bourbon St! (Photos on website, and yes, we stayed under budget!)

37 members entered classes in Horticulture and Design, with scores of blue ribbons awarded and the following earning Top Award Rosettes:

Mary Adams (Award of Horticultural Excellence); Gwen Carter, and invited Judge Patti Schwindt (Arboreal Award); Sandi Eckstein, Mary Adams (Award of Merit); Blanch Gibson, Julie Milburn, Anne Ellis, Arlene Rand (Grower's Choice award); Pat Richardson (Horticulture Sweepstakes Award); Carolyn Schaag, Gwen Carter (Award of Appreciation for Education Exhibits); Julie Milburn (Botanical Arts Design Award); Debra Schmidt (Botanical Arts Photography Award); Debra Schmidt (Overall Flower Show Sweepstakes Award.)

Three cheers for our winners and grateful thanks, too, to our generous donors, volunteers and miracle-working Committee members: Marilyn, Chickie, Anne, Pat R. Ruth, Margaret, Elaine, Carolyn, Gwen, Barbara and Sandi from your thrilled Co- Chairs,

Arlene Rand & Alice Barrows





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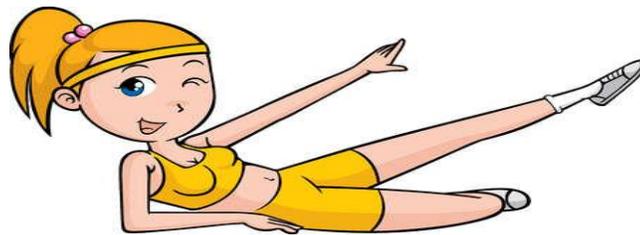
Looking Ahead – Saturday March 7 (**NOT 3/20 as in January newsletter!**) At the Clubhouse

Free Movement Workshop with our own Katrina Stephenson

Program: *Staying Active in the Garden* – 10 am – 11 am

Are achy joints and a sore back keeping you from getting out and gardening? This class will teach you simple, gentle and effective exercises you can do at home to improve your mobility, balance and stamina. All exercises are no impact, very safe and will be performed either seated in a chair or standing. Please wear clothing you can comfortably move in.

Email katrina.a.Stephenson@gmail.com by 3/3/20 to sign up. Space is limited. The class is FREE!



Fun with Flowers – Saturday, April 4 – at the Clubhouse

Join Leslie Thomas, owner of The Seaside Succulent, to create a beautiful galvanized tin container filled with colorful succulents. Perfect for a porch, patio or windowsill! Workshop will include tons of succulent growth & propagation tips and all materials and instruction by Leslie.

Time: 11 am – 12:30 pm

Cost: \$25 (20% will go to our Club)

Register and Pay on Eventbrite

<https://clermontgardenclub.eventbrite.com>

Class is limited to 25 participants

Will be Open to the Public

Raffle for Leslie's demonstration planter - \$5 for 6 tickets

The link is active NOW! If viewing this online, just click the link to be directed to Eventbrite.





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Garden Workdays at the Clubhouse

We start @ 8 am and go until @ noon

ALL are welcome and NEEDED! Bring your gloves, bug spray, clippers, etc.

Garden Workdays

Monday, Feb 10

Monday, Feb 24

Monday, March 9

Monday, March 23

Monday, April 13

Monday, April 27

Monday, May 11



February Library Plant Loaned by Blanche Jean Gibson



Blanche Gibson, Clermont Garden Club member, is displaying her succulent dish garden this month at the Cooper Memorial Library.

She is shown here with librarians Amy Hand and Mary Brown.

Succulent plants are thickened, fleshy and engorged, usually to retain water in dry climates or soil conditions. They may store water in various structures, such as leaves and stems in order to have a healthy appearance.



Yard of the Month – February & March

by Julie Milburn

The February and March 2020 Clermont Garden Club Yard of the Month are side by side this time. There is a fairly new neighborhood being built by Matt Ladd of Highland Homes off of Bronson Road called Highland Overlook.

The front entrance landscape has been done by Bruce and Donna Stratton of Stratton Landscaping. They have terraced the slope with colorful foliage plantings that set off the entrance beautifully. I will provide more detail of the plants in next month's article with pictures. (Sunny days have been scarce this week.) The first home on the left of the entrance is owned by Thomas and Colleen Gradle. They have tied their yard landscaping into the entrance design with additions of crepe myrtles, roses, coonties, agaves, sedums, and many other flowering plants. The plantings are lovely and easy care at the same time.

Both yards are a riot of color and texture that are very pleasing to the eye. Drive by and enjoy the views provided by The Gradles and the Strattons. Thank you for sharing your gardens with Clermont.

(picture not available at time of publication)



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CAMELLIA JAPONICA 'Arlene Rand'

Submitted by Marilyn Paone



We are excited!! The Camellia Japonica 'Arlene Rand' plant has been propagated and is now available for purchase.

At the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) Convention in 2017 the outgoing President, our own Arlene Rand, was presented with a camellia registered in her name but it has taken time for it to be propagated and made available to the public.

This 2004 chance seedling was discovered by John Davy of Panhandle Growers, Inc. of Milton, Florida. This beautiful plant first bloomed in 2010 and boasts a small, 3" white flower in fully peony form. The 2" long leaves are a deep green with medium serration. The plant has proved to be a prolific bloomer as well as a slow grower with a broad spread.

If you would like to see the plant prior to purchase it will be displayed at the "Art in Bloom" Festival of Fine Arts & Flowers which will be held March 26-29 at the Orlando Museum of Art. The Festival will include a museum-wide kaleidoscope of art-inspired floral designs, well-curated antiques and lifestyle events to inspire everyone. For additional information visit OrlandoArtinBloom.com.

The Club is purchasing two plants to be planted on the club grounds. They were purchased from the grower, Mark Crawford, who has a nursery in Valdosta, GA, called Loch Laurel Nursery. He can be reached at his website LochLaurelNursery.com or by phone at 229-460-5922.

Mark brings plants to many of the garden events in our area but the next time he plans to be in the area is November 14 for the Mount Dora Plant and Garden Festival. You can place an order with him, and he will bring the plant to the Festival for you to pick up. You can also go to his place in Valdosta to pick up plants. (Note: I travel through Valdosta 3-4 times per year and would pick up plants for members if you want to pre-order them and work out a pick-up date with Mark and me.)



February Horticulture Update

Your Very Own Peace of Garden



While our Northern neighbors are watching their new fallen snows, the weather outside here is pleasantly cool and beautiful. If ever you need a good reason to start a new garden project or spruce up your landscape and container gardens, it is now! Cooler breezes, beautiful landscapes and colorful gardens are exactly what Florida gardeners love about this time of year.

Tired of your current garden or outdoor living space – or just in the mood for a change? Here's a look at garden trends and inspiration for 2020.

- 1. Gardens Promoting Peace.** The garden is a place of relaxation and peace will be a hot trend this year. Besides all the work it takes to maintain a garden, it should also serve as an oasis to recharge your batteries. One easy tip to find joy in nature and skip the stress is to make sure you remove all flora that causes unnecessary work. Choose plants and flowers that only require modest maintenance.
- 2. Gardens With Purpose.** Make use of your garden by planting your own vegetables and herbs. There's something satisfying about picking your own homegrown plants and immediately enjoying the fruits of your labor. Have you ever tried edible flowers? They will add a wonderful zesty zing to your dishes as well as a colorful, unexpected garnish.
- 3. Eco-Friendly Gardens.** Current trends are directing us to more flora choices that have an ecological impact. Consider planting bee-friendly plants such as lavender to encourage pollination. The calming aroma of lavender will also perpetuate the idea of the garden being a place of serenity. The environmental aspect also gains more importance this year as even more manufacturers offer containers made of organic material and more environmentally friendly weed killers.

Whether you choose to implement all or just a few of the new garden trends, take your time and plant what makes you happy.



ATTENTION MEMBERS - YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS ARE VERY IMPORTANT!

At our Annual May Luncheon each year, we honor those club members who have been very active in and/or made significant contributions to the Clermont Garden Club.

Your recommendations are needed to help us determine who will be honored in May 2020. A committee of 3 CGC members will select those to be recognized based on your recommendations. You may recommend more than one person.

Below is the information about the recognitions that are available. Please review these and **provide your recommendations by Saturday, March 21 to Arlene Rand, Member Recognition Chairman**. Submitting your name with the recommendation(s) is optional, but each **must** include:

1. Name of the person to be recognized,
2. The reason you feel the member deserves recognition,
3. Which recognition you feel would be appropriate



Possible Recognition:

1. **Most Active New Member(s):** New member who has participated in the club in numerous ways during their first year.
2. **Outstanding Member(s):** Member who has gone above and beyond by being involved in activities in addition to their normal assigned responsibilities.
3. **Honorary Members (s):** Member who has been recognized by the Board of Directors for outstanding service. The member would no longer pay CGC dues and CGC would pay their FFGC dues for them.
4. **Citation for the Public:** An organization or individual who has assisted CGC with an extremely worthwhile deed or accomplishment. They may not be a current CGC member.
5. **Brick at FFGC Headquarters:** CGC will pay \$50 to FFGC for a brick to be ordered, engraved and installed in a walkway at Headquarters in Winter Park honoring a member who is deserving of it through their service to CGC.
6. **FFGC Life Membership:** CGC will pay \$300 to FFGC for a deserving member to become a lifetime member of FFGC. The member will no longer pay FFGC dues and will receive *The Florida Gardener* for life.
7. **Additional FFGC Recognitions** and more details about the FFGC recognitions may be reviewed on their website at www.ffgc.org.



ANNUAL CONVENTION
April 16-19, 2020
Hilton Tampa Downtown
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

You are all encouraged to attend Perfect Harmony, the FFGC 94th annual convention. The convention provides a wonderful learning experience. Information about their **informative and knowledgeable** lunch and dinner speakers is available at ffgc.org. You also may be the lucky winner of one of the gorgeous lunch or dinner table arrangements made by the best FFGC designers. **Numerous workshops** on a variety of subjects are available for you to attend.

Making new friends and learning from members of other garden clubs throughout Florida is another plus. And just in case you need any plants or garden-related items you will be able to spend your hard-earned dollars at the **numerous garden-related vendors**.

Late in the afternoon of **Thursday, April 16**, a fabulous **flower show** with plants provided by members from throughout the state will open and remain open during the convention. Later that day will be an early arrivals dinner and program. **Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18**, will each start with business meetings followed by lunch, speakers, workshops, dinners and additional speakers.

Opportunity drawing (raffle) tickets are available from some of our club members or may be purchased at Convention for \$2 each. (You don't need to be present to win.). Prizes include: one week stay at a condo in Indian Shores; I-pad; wooden tray with stand; two Hergesheimer Design containers; metal sculpture by Ken Schwartz; vertical gardens by Gronomics; silver necklace, bracelet, and earring set; and a two night stay at the Hilton Tampa Downtown plus tickets to the Florida Aquarium with boat tour and dinner at Ybor's Columbia restaurant.

The registration form for convention is included on page 21 of the Winter 2019 issue of The Florida Gardener. It may be mailed or submitted on-line and **must be received by April 1**. Note that the registration form provides choices, so you do not need to sign up for all meals or days of the convention.

Hotel registration is **due March 26** and you arrange that with the hotel to obtain the group rate. Details for registering for the hotel are also included at the bottom of the convention registration form.

Marilyn Paone, President



Plans are Blooming for the Spring Garden Festival!

Our 2nd annual Spring Garden Festival is Saturday, May 2, 2020 from 9 AM – 2 PM.

Planning is already underway! Do you have a favorite plant nursery? Do you know

Any local crafters who specialize in nature-inspired products?

The 2020 Vendor packet has been posted on our website:
clermontgardenclub.com.

Please direct any interested vendors to the website to download the vendor packet and apply for this year's Festival!

It's time for committee meetings to begin!

Ask the Experts – Contact & Schedule

CGC booth – set up canopy/chairs/tables, hand out programs, sell club items

Make & Take – set up canopy/chairs/tables, guide public in making a garden item, collect money

Plant Pick-up with the Boy Scouts – set up pick up site, give vendors plant tags, work with Scouts throughout the event

Raffles – Set up, organize, sell tickets, contact winners, distribute raffle items

Set up/Take down – Greet vendors, direct to booth site, organize vendor departure



What's Happening at the Clubhouse?

The club will soon have a new coat of paint! Testerman's Painting will be performing the work.

Our backyard has been planted with native trees and perennials. Cardboard is being placed in the planting beds and covered with mulch.

We will be slowly adding plants that thrive in zone 9a/9b so that we can show the public what grows well in our area.

Don't forget the club is available for rentals! Tell your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors! We would certainly welcome a new long-term renter!

We are now a member of the Clermont Downtown Partnership. We are now eligible to contribute and participate in many of the festivals and events downtown.

