



Clermont Garden Club Newsletter

February 2021
Editor: Cindy Simon

page 1

February 17 – General Meeting

Program: *African Violets*



Presenter: Jay Sespico
a trained horticulturist and
Master Judge with the Gesneriad
Society

Jay will have plants for sale (cash
and checks only)

Time: 9:30 – 10:00 Social time
10:00 – Noon General Mtg
& Program

Location: **TBD by Wed. 2/10**

Watch for Email Updates!

Masks & social distancing required

Next Meeting – March 17

**Program: *St. Johns River Water
Management District***

Presenter: Jennifer Mitchell, Ph.D.

Jennifer is the Public
Communications Co-Ordinator for the
St. Johns River Water Management
District and will discuss Protecting
our Water Resources and Providing
Water for People.

Time: 9:30 – 10:00 Social time
10:00 – Noon General Mtg
& Program

Location: **TBD by Wed. 3/10**

Watch for Email Updates!

Masks & social distancing required



Clermont Garden Club Officers

President, Marilyn Paone
m.paone@icloud.com
1st VP, Sandi Eckstein gtesse@aol.com
2nd VP, Cindy Simon
bsktcindy@earthlink.net
Treasurer, Elaine Hogan
laniehogan@yahoo.com
Recording Secretary, Helen Ribbe
rhpsd@aol.com
Corresponding Secretary, Tina Worrell
grammytina9@gmail.com
Parliamentarian, Ruth Webb
ruthwebb1938@gmail.com



Clermont Garden Club Newsletter

February 2021

page 2

Caladium Sales Begin Saturday, February 27!

We will have caladiums available for sale to the public at the Home and Garden Show in downtown Clermont on Saturday, February 27, from 10 am – 5 pm at our Garden Club booth.

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

Our thanks to Barbara Williams, Caladium Sales Chair, for placing the order and prepping the Bags for sale! The amount ordered is less this year, so come to the show to purchase yours!



“Carolyn Whorton” - Pink



“Royal Flush” – Red

Florals for a Cause for Easter



Our club is becoming more and more involved with the community and we would like to make a difference where the spotlight might not shine. The board has been discussing creating floral arrangements for a local nursing home or assisted living facility for Easter, April 4, 2021.

Since January, at least eight people have expressed interest in this project. Helen Ribbe and Ruth Webb have agreed to co-chair this endeavor and will be setting up meetings soon.

This will be an agenda item for the February General Meeting. Please consider adding your name to the committee!



Plant to City Hall Loaned by Pat Richardson



Pat is pictured with Rose Ford, receptionist at City Hall. Pat has loaned a beautiful Talavera pot filled with succulents including kalanchoe, echeveria, crassula and sedum. Succulents are plants with parts that are thickened, fleshy and engorged, usually to retain water in arid climates or soil conditions thus making them easier to grow.

Succulents love light but some may scorch in direct sunlight.



January Library Plant Loaned by Donna Farraguto



Liam Wagler, Library Services at Cooper Memorial Library, is pictured with the Chinese Money Plant that Donna loaned to the library this month.

The Chinese Money plant, *Pilea peperomioides*, requires indirect light and dry soil. It should not be over-watered.

A good test to check the level of moisture in the pot is to put a finger in the soil, if the soil sticks, wait to water.





Clermont Garden Club Newsletter

February 2021

page 4

February Yard of the Month

By Julie Milburn

The Clermont Garden Club's choice for February 2021 yard of the month is 1522 Setting Sun Court in the Lakeview Pointe neighborhood.

The owner, Mr. Jack Bellanti, has planted 3 or 4 different kinds of palm trees as well as Norfolk pine and oak around his home. He has framed the front of the home with viburnum and juniper and then sprinkled colorful foliage plants such as Hawaiian Ti, crotons, and purple queen around the tree beds and hedges where the colors will stand out against the green backdrop. Lilies, succulents, vinca, and rosemary have been added to the beds for additional color and texture.

Congratulations on creating a yard that is pleasing to the eye and relaxing to the spirit.





Clermont Garden Club Newsletter

February 2021

page 5

It's an Election Year for our Garden Club!

Do you want to get more involved in CGC? Do you want to be a part of the CGC decision making process?

CGC's current officers are serving a two-year term, which started May 15, 2019, and will end May 19, 2021. During this current program year, we need to elect officers for the two-year term which starts May 19, 2021 and will end May 17, 2023.

If you are interested in being nominated to run for an officer position please notify Cindy Simon, Chairman of the Nominating Committee (bskctcindy@earthlink.net or 352-242-1664) by Friday, February 19.

Board Meetings - The officers and committee chairmen meet the first Wednesday of each month to discuss ongoing activities and all matters of importance to the club.

Following is a summary of the responsibilities of each officer as provided in the CGC by-laws. The position of Treasurer is the only position where a member may serve more than one term.

President - Presides at meetings and over all aspects of CGC. Appoints the parliamentarian and all committee chairmen, is an ex officio member of all committees except the nominating committee. Prepares the budget with assistance, approves all club bills, appoints an auditor to audit the Treasurer's books, represents the club at, or appoints a representative to, all District VII meetings, and provides a FFGC report the 2nd year of their administration.

First Vice President - In the absence of the president or at their request, performs the duties of that office. The First Vice President is Program Chair and arranges for the programs held at the general meetings.

Second Vice President - Is the Yearbook/Publications chairman.

Recording Secretary - Records the proceedings of all meetings, provides copies electronically to all members, and records attendance at meetings.

Corresponding Secretary - Handles the correspondence of the club, including electronic notices of meetings, correspondence from District VII and FFGC, and "thank you" notes for memorial gifts.

Treasurer - **Note that Elaine Hogan will NOT run for re-election for this position.** The Treasurer is responsible for all aspects of CGC monies including deposits of funds received and payment of bills submitted.



Clermont Garden Club Newsletter

February 2021

page 6

What's Going on at the Clubhouse?

Jim Lobb captured these two photos while at the club in January.

Going through my pictures on this cold January day I came across the last Elliott's aster plant that was a late bloomer. This is one plant which instead of growing to 4 feet with flowers on top of a leafed stalk only grew to 18 inches and filled out nicely.



I found this common cooter turtle helping to cultivate the garden by the gazebo. (can you see him?)



Pat Richardson has added new plugs to the hydroponic garden including basil, kale, lettuces and tomato.

If you have any large pots at home that you will not be using, please consider donating them to the club to be used for nectar plants to attract pollinators. The pots will be placed around the grounds. Drop them off by the shed in the backyard.

It is winter, but the garden work days must continue. Please consider spending an hour or two at the club working in the gardens. If you cannot make a work day, please come on a day of your choice and do some general weeding.

Thank you!



Flowers to Plant with Your Vegetables

From The Spruce Website

Introducing flowers to a vegetable garden is full of perks beyond simply adding beauty. Flowers can be used in companion planting to help deter pests and attract beneficial insects, such as pollinators. Interplanting also saves space and time, as you can grow and tend to more of your plants in one place.



Cosmos (*Cosmos bipinnatus*)

Few flowers grow as easily and bloom as profusely as cosmos. And those blooms can be put to practical use in the vegetable garden, as they attract many helpful insects. For instance, if you want to draw in green lacewings, choose a white or bright orange variety, such as 'Cosmic Orange'.

Green lacewings are voracious eaters, vacuuming up all sorts of soft-bodied insects, including aphids, scale, and thrips. Thus, they are considered a beneficial insect, and making them at home in your vegetable garden will help to prevent pest problems.

- USDA Growing Zones: 9 to 11
- Color Varieties: Pink, purple, red, yellow, orange, white
- Sun Exposure: Full sun
- Soil Needs: Average, moderate moisture, well-draining



Marigold (*Tagetes* sp.)

Marigolds do not get the respect they deserve. They deter pests both above and below the ground, and they look great doing it. Ring your garden with marigold plants, and rabbits will think twice before crossing the line. Plus, confuse Mexican bean beetles by interplanting marigolds with bean plants in your vegetable garden.

Marigolds also have been credited with repelling squash bugs, thrips, tomato hornworms, and whiteflies. Some even exude a chemical that kills root nematodes in the soil.

However, if nematodes are a problem, you will need to leave the marigold roots in the soil at the end of the season.

- USDA Growing Zones: 9 to 11
- Color Varieties: Red, orange, yellow, gold
- Sun Exposure: Full sun
- Soil Needs: Average, medium moisture, well-draining



Flowers to Plant with Your Vegetables (continued)

From The Spruce

Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*)



Cheerful nasturtiums prefer cooler temperatures and continue blooming well into the fall. Nasturtiums offer some protection from squash bugs and beetles. They also are favored by aphids and make a great trap crop. But they are one of the more delicious edible flowers (and leaves), so do not sacrifice them all to the insects. The seeds are large and easy to collect for replanting next season. Many varieties will seed on their own. Plant the seeds after scarifying them first (nicking them or rubbing them with sandpaper) to help their germination.

- USDA Growing Zones: N/A (annual plant)
- Color Varieties: Red, orange, yellow, cream
- Sun Exposure: Full sun to part shade
- Soil Needs: Poor to average, slightly acidic, well-draining

Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*)



Sunflowers are a perfect flower for the vegetable garden. They make great trellises for climbing plants, and they have lots of nectar to attract pollinators. Unfortunately, sunflowers also tend to attract squirrels, which can be a problem if you are growing them to save the seeds. However, a coarse-leaved vegetable, such as squash, planted beneath the sunflowers can go a long way to deter animals.

- USDA Growing Zones: N/A (annual plant)
- Color Varieties: Yellow, red, burgundy, chocolate
- Sun Exposure: Full sun
- Soil Needs: Average, moist, well-draining



It's Time for Member Recognition!

by Arlene Rand

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 2021. 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 20 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):** A member who is being recognized for their years of exemplary service to the Clermont Garden Club. The member would no longer be required to pay CGC dues. The member's FFGC dues would be paid by CGC.
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.



94th Annual FFGC Convention Details

The 94th Annual FFGC Convention is scheduled April 11 – 13, 2021, Hilton Oceanfront Resort, Daytona Beach. Plans are well underway for a safe, interesting, and educational convention. Please read the following information so you will be up to date on all happenings.

HOTEL: Rate has been lowered to \$ 105 inclusive for double/single

Oceanfront or Ocean View for all room assignments within inventory

24 HOUR CANCELLATION POLICY (cancels other cancellation policies stated)

ONE NIGHT charge to credit card on all reservations at time of reservation. Balance paid at checkout. All reservations made through FFGC Group Code will receive revised confirmation form. Hotel Covid Precautions including Guest Rooms, Public areas, Food and Beverage.

- Housekeeping for room only by request
- Social Distancing in common areas including elevators, escalator etc.
- Face coverings required at all times for Guests and Staff.
- Restrooms and other areas frequently cleaned and sanitized
- Sanitizers available within hotel

CONVENTION ACTIVITIES:

Social distancing in ALL areas including but not limited to meals, meetings, breakouts. (Meetings & meals etc. focus on social distancing and safe practices)

- Masks required by attendees and staff.
- Frequent cleaning and sanitizing of all public areas including restrooms.

Every effort is being made by the hotel staff and Convention Committee to have a “safe” environment for Convention.

Wonderful programs, speakers and educational opportunities are planned. Lena Bateman, Deep South Director, will be in attendance as our honored guest. Join with us as we say “farewell” to Al Latina and his administration and welcome the Installation of Marge Hendon and her incoming administration. A Tentative Schedule of Events is posted on the website.

REMEMBER: Hotel Reservations are made directly with hotel by calling 386/254-8200 or hotel website listed on the Convention Registration Form in the FI Gardener or posted on ffgc.org. Group Code: FFGC21.

Convention Registration is printed in FL Gardener or on the website ffgc.org. You may send in paper Registration Form OR use the new Easy Reg computer generated Registration which is easy & efficient. Credit Card may be used with Easy Reg.

**DEADLINE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS & CONVENTION REGISTRATION
MARCH 17, 2021**

This has been a most unusual year for all of us in so many ways, but we persevere and move forward! Convention planning has been no exception with many twists and turns with planning. We are hopeful as many as possible will attend the 94th FFGC Annual Convention.

One more reminder: business casual is the dress code- bring a sweater-comfortable shoes- pack your masks/sanitizers and don't forget to pack your patience, smile, and love for FFGC.



Annual Tree Report

We need your tree count! In an email from Marilyn Paone, President, on February 4, 2021, she requested members send information about any trees you planted between February 2020 – February 2021. The information will be sent to FFGC and an award will be presented at the convention in April to the ten clubs who planted the most trees.

Please remember to send your tree information to Marilyn Paone, m.paone@icloud.com, by March 1, 2021.

Tree Species (Botanical and Common Name)

Number of Trees Planted

Where Trees were Planted (public or private location)

Our club can count the 700 slash pine seedlings given out during Clermont's Arbor Day Activities because members Debra Smidt and Gwen Carter helped with the give away.

Plans are Blooming for the Spring Garden Festival!

By Cindy Simon, Festival Chairwoman

Our 2nd annual Spring Garden Festival is Saturday, May 1, 2021 from 10 AM – 4 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 2021 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 local experts
- CGC booth – set up canopy/chairs/tables, hand out programs, sell club items
- Make & Take – guide public in making a garden item, collect money
- Plant Pick-up with the Boy Scouts – 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



Clermont Garden Club Newsletter

February 2021

page 12

Change to Membership Dues for 2021

It was an easy decision...after all, 2020 was a very strange year. Your board of directors has voted to reduce the amount of the membership dues for the upcoming program year.

Dues for the 2021 program year of June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022 will be reduced from \$40 to \$26. We hope that this may make any cancellations in the 2021 program year due to Covid 19 restrictions easier to bear on members financially.

Membership dues will begin collection at the February 17 general meeting and must be collected by May 15, 2021 or be considered delinquent.

Please make checks payable to "Clermont Garden Club." Present your check to Treasurer Elaine Hogan at the general meetings, or mail to:

Clermont Garden Club
P.O. Box 121322
Clermont, FL 34712-1322





Clermont Garden Club Newsletter

February 2021

page 13



February Baby!

Sue Randall Feb 4



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.
And don't forget your WATER!

Garden Workdays

Monday, Feb 8

Monday, Feb 22

Monday, March 8

Monday, March 22

Monday, April 12

Monday, April 26

Monday, May 10

Monday, May 24

