



# Clermont Garden Club Newsletter

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## Club Meeting – December 15



### Short Meeting & Holiday Luncheon

**Doors open 10:30 to bring food,  
plant, buy raffle tickets  
Meeting will begin at 11 am  
Luncheon will begin by 11:45  
Enjoy a leisurely lunch & fun!**

### Reservation Only! Limited Seating!

If you did not sign up at the November 17 Club meeting or send an email to Cindy after the meeting, you are excused from the meeting.

Potluck style food  
Prepared by members

Beverages  
Water, Iced Tea, Wine, Holiday  
Punch (with alcohol)

50/50 Raffle  
Buy raffle tickets 6 for \$5 or 15 for  
\$10. If you win, you split the pot  
with the Club!

Bring a Plant, Get a Plant  
Bring a plant in a 4–6-inch pot  
Each person will receive a number  
Starting with #1, each person will  
select the plant of their choice.

## Next Meeting – January 19

**Program: Field Trip to Green Isle  
Gardens**

**11303 CR 33, Groveland, FL**

Social Time 9:30-10:00 am  
Meeting 10:00 – 10:45 am

**Bring your own lunch**

Bag Lunch 10:45 – Noon

### **Field Trip to Green Isle Gardens**

Noon - Carpool from clubhouse to  
Green Isle Gardens

12:30 pm - Presentation on native  
plants of Florida. You will learn how,  
when and where to plant native plants.

Plants available for purchase.

There will be an alternate plan in  
case of inclement weather.





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## Holiday Luncheon is by RSVP this Year

Our club now has sixty-two (62) members, and we have room to seat forty-eight (48) comfortably at our round tables. Those who reserved a spot need to know the following:

Social Time: 10:30 AM

Bring your plant, bring your dish (if you signed up), and get your tickets for the 50/50 raffle. Raffle tickets: 6 for \$5 or 15 for \$10.

Club Meeting: 11:00 AM

There will be a short club meeting.

Luncheon and Fun: 11:45 AM – 1:45-ish

Buffet Style Lunch

Bring a Plant – Pick a Plant

50/50 Raffle – You could go home with ½ the pot

Bring a Plant – Pick a Plant

Bring a Plant, get a number.

Pick a plant when your number is called.





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ECHO is a global Christian organization that equips people with agricultural resources and skills to reduce hunger and improve the lives of the poor. They are in Ft. Myers and help people around the world. For example, in Mali they provided training on the production of Moringa which will increase their crop yield and improve their livelihoods. Also, Agri Corps volunteers who trained for a week at ECHO Florida have served various villages in Ghana teaching agriculture and applied science while mentoring 4-H clubs, gardening, and supporting other community projects.

Our garden club members have traditionally made individual contributions to ECHO and the club donates \$300 annually.

We would appreciate it if this year you would send your donations directly to ECHO and write "Clermont Garden Club" on the memo line of your check. ECHO will track that you are a member of the Clermont Garden Club. The club likes to maintain a record of the total of how much was sent by our members so please also let our charities chairman, Debra Smidt, know the amount. Only the total donated will be shared with other CGC members - not the individual amounts.

Contact information is:

ECHO - 17391 Durrance Road, North Fort Myers, FL 33917

Write "Clermont Garden Club" in the memo section of your check

CGC Chairman - Debra Smidt, [debrajsmidt@gmail.com](mailto:debrajsmidt@gmail.com)

Thank you for your support of ECHO and don't forget to notify Debra of the amount donated.



## Plant to City Hall Loaned by Ruth Webb



Ruth is pictured with City Hall Receptionist, Janet contreras Ruth loaned a red poinsettia this month. Information about the care of poinsettias was shared at the November 17 Club meeting, by our speaker, Leslie Lightbourne.

## December Yard of the Month

Yard of the Month will return in January





## Cooper Memorial Library Receives Two Plants in December

We had an overbooking of library plants loaned this month. Denise Mercandetti and Lisa Palermo both loaned plants to the Cooper Memorial Library. The second plant is at the Reference Desk on the second floor. Thank you, Ladies!

### December Library Plant was loaned by Denise Mercandetti



Denise is pictured with Library Assistant, Sarah Fellers, with an impressive bromeliad.

This plant is displayed at the Reference Desk.

### December Library Plant was loaned by Lisa Palermo



Lisa is pictured with Library Assistant, Lexi Bigard, with a beautiful poinsettia.

Lexi is holding the information and care page for the plant.



## Deck the Halls!

'Twas a chilly morning Friday, November 19, just after that rain on Thursday night moved through, when several member elves gathered to deck the outside of the club with holiday cheer.

The roofline has been strung with icicle lights, the front entrance has garland and bows and wreaths, Oh My! Twinkle lights glitter from the bromeliads in front, and large colored lights will guide you around the south side of the club. A sweet duo of candy canes light the way to the front door.

Inside, a Christmas tree brightens the corner next to the bookcase. And the top of the bookcase has been decorated with holiday décor!

Many thanks to our elves for donating decorations and assisting with the decorating.

Decorating: Kim Sams, Linda Lauletta, Carol Walker, Donna Clement, Cindy Simon. Donating décor: Lori Toth, Kim Sams, Margaret Piper, Julie Milburn, Marilyn Paone, Donna Clement and Cindy Simon. I apologize if I missed anyone!





## Garden Club Participates in Clermont's 2<sup>nd</sup> Enchanted Holiday Forest

The Enchanted Forest is located on the Clermont waterfront at Victory Pointe where over forty trees were erected this year for local businesses and organizations to decorate. The theme is Holiday Gnomes this year.

Several members met to design and plan the decorations. On Saturday, November 20, members met at Victory Pointe to decorate the tree on a cloudy, blustery Fall day. Members included chairman Gwen Carter and her daughter, Anne Ellis, Lori Toth, Mary Adams, Pam Molesky and her granddaughter and Linda Lauletta.



Lori Toth and Kathleen Fielitz visit the tree!  
(Did you know they are sisters?!)



## Christmas Tree Arrangement is December's Fun with Flowers

The December Fun with Flowers workshop will be held on Saturday, December 18, 2021, from 10:00 AM to Noon at the Clubhouse.

The arrangement will consist of live boxwood and carnations in a Christmas tree shape.

Registration is open until Thursday, December 9, 2021. The order for floral supplies will be placed on Friday, December 10, 2021.

Details have been sent to all members via email. Here are the particulars:

Cost: \$48.15 (\$45 + \$3.15 tax)

Pay by Check: Email Cindy Simon at [bsktcindy@earthlink.net](mailto:bsktcindy@earthlink.net) to register. Send a check made out to Clermont Garden Club to Cindy Simon at 11228 Summer Wind CT, Clermont, FL 34711.

Pay by Credit Card: Register and Pay on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-tree-centerpiece-a-fun-with-flowers-workshop-tickets-203523152227>

Total cost on Eventbrite: \$49.37.

Questions: Call Cindy Simon at 352-978-9542



Sample Arrangement



## Horticulture Report for December

By Tina Worrell

Why do my buds fall off my Christmas cactus?

Some of the reasons to consider include:

The light that the plant receives: This is a plant that will grow well in direct sunlight during the spring and the summer, but when it becomes fall, it will do best in indirect light. Starting in the fall, the plant will need 12 hours of darkness to bloom, so it is not getting the darkness that it needs, the blooms could drop. If the plant is near a door or a window where it gets light during these times, even light from a passing car's headlights, it can disturb the darkness and cause the buds to drop.



The temperature of the plant: This is a plant that likes cooler temperatures, so place it in a room where the temperature is around 70 degrees in the day and between 55 and 65 degrees at night. When the temperature rises above 90 degrees and the buds have formed, they are likely to drop because of it. Also, make sure that the plant is positioned in a location that is not going to get a draft. Things like air vents, blowing heaters, and drafty doors can provide an extreme temperature differential, which will also cause the buds on the plant to drop.

The water that you give to the plant: Too much water can cause the leaves of this plant to wilt, but too little water can also hinder the blooming process by causing the buds to drop. The soil should be moist and well-drained, but before it is watered again, make sure that the soil is dry to the touch. When you do give the plant some water, make sure that it is room temperature so that it does not shock the plant and cause the buds to drop or not form at all. Also, make sure to water the plant at the base of the soil so that the leaves and the buds do not get wet in the process.

The fertilizer that plant receives: Fertilizer is another thing that can cause the buds to drop on a Christmas cactus, especially if it is being fed during its dormant time of year. The plant can be fed during the growing season, but not use food during the fall and winter, which is the blooming season. Never fertilize this plant when the buds are on the plant because if the salt from the fertilizer gets in the buds, they will drop.



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## Welcome New Members!

We are so happy to welcome new members to our club.

**Robin Farmer   Florinda Ferrante   Letizia Isaia**



## Nehrling Gardens 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Amaryllis Festival December 11

From their website

**December 11 @ 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

Join us for our 10th Annual nature-themed free community event! We will feature beautiful and rare amaryllis bulbs for sale as well as blooming amaryllis and other plants for the holidays. There will be nature-themed vendors, food, music, and crafts for the children. The list of participants and activities include:

- Nehrling Gardens – Blooming and boxed Amaryllis and many garden plants for sale
- Amaryllis Spectacularis – Unique and rare Amaryllis bulbs
- Brass ensemble from the Orlando Concert Band – playing on the back porch from 11am to 1pm
- Olympia High School Strings – playing throughout the day
- Avian Reconditioning Center Birds of Prey – visit with the Owls and Raptors from 10:30 am and 1:30 pm
- Program on Culture, Care & Hybridization of Amaryllis by Theresa Schretzmann-Myers at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm
- Kids eco-activities and eco education by the Dragon bamboo

We will have raffle drawings, photo spots throughout the gardens and live birds of prey from the Avian Reconditioning Center (including the much-loved OWL AMBASSADORS) by the lakefront. **Please remember to bring a non-perishable food item or an unwrapped toy for a chance to win a family fun basket and help a local charity in need.**



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## December Babies!

Leslie Temmen 12/3  
Marilyn Paone 12/6  
Barbara McDowell 12/6  
Patricia McNabb 12/9  
Elaine Hogan 12/13  
Loretta Brown-Burtt 12/14  
Jane Caruso 12/16  
Denise Palermo 12/16



## 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, Dec 6*

*Monday, Dec 20*

*Monday, Jan 10*

*Monday, Jan 24*

*Monday, Feb 7*

*Monday, Feb 21*

*Monday, March 7*

*Monday, March 21*

