



Clermont Garden Club Newsletter

February 2022
Editor – Cindy Simon

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Club Meeting – February 16

Program: Edible Landscapes

**Presenter: Master Gardener
from Lake County**

Social Time 9:30-10:00 am
Meeting 10:00 – 10:45 am
Program 11:00 - Noon

Replace ornamental plants with plants that produce food! Get ideas designing an edible landscape and find out what kind of plants you can use.

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



Next Meeting – March 16

**Program: Plants & Vegetables
in Season in March**

Presenter: Julie Fisher

Social Time 9:30-10:00 am
Meeting 10:00 – 10:45 am
Program 11:00 - Noon

Julie is the owner of Hidden Cypress Hollow Nursery and Environmental Center. She will be talking about plants and vegetables that are in season in March.



**HIDDEN
CYPRESS
HOLLOW**

Ecology Center, Nursery & Eco-Camp

Field Trip – Tuesday, March 8

Field Trip to Winter Park: Boat Tour of Winter Park Chain of Lakes and Tour of Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens with Lunch nearby.

**Watch for a separate email with
prices & RSVP details!**

Call 301-788-0199 or email her at gmo5793@aol.com with questions

A minimum 10 people is needed to attend to get a group rate, a tour of the chapel and the gardens.

Clermont Garden Club Officers

President, Cindy Simon

bskctcindy@earthlink.net

1st VP, Pam Molesky

GMO5793@aol.com

2nd VP, Denise Palermo

educate2011@icloud.com

Treasurer, Elaine Hogan

laniehogan@yahoo.com

Assistant Treasurer, Julie Milburn

jmilburn4@cfl.rr.com

Recording Secretary, Linda Lauletta

lllauletta@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary, Margaret Piper

flowergal@cfl.rr.com

Parliamentarian, Ruth Webb

ruthwebb1938@gmail.com



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February City Hall Plant Loaned by Lisa Palermo



Lisa (R) is pictured with Janet from City Hall. Lisa loaned a Kalanchoe, a succulent perennial with scallop-shaped leaves and umbels of flower Clusters that extend above the foliage. Homeowners with curious pets should be careful where they keep their kalanchoe – all parts of the plant are toxic to cats and dogs. The plant requires full sun to partial shade and a sandy, well drained soil.



Example of Kalanchoe, not actual plant

February Library Plant Loaned by Tina Worrell



Tina loaned a bonsai with four fairies playing in the Bonsai Ficus Benjamina or Weeping Fig. The plant likes to be dry with moderate to bright light and it likes to be pot bound. The Ficus does drop its leaves. Library Assistant, Brandon Cummings accepts the plant.





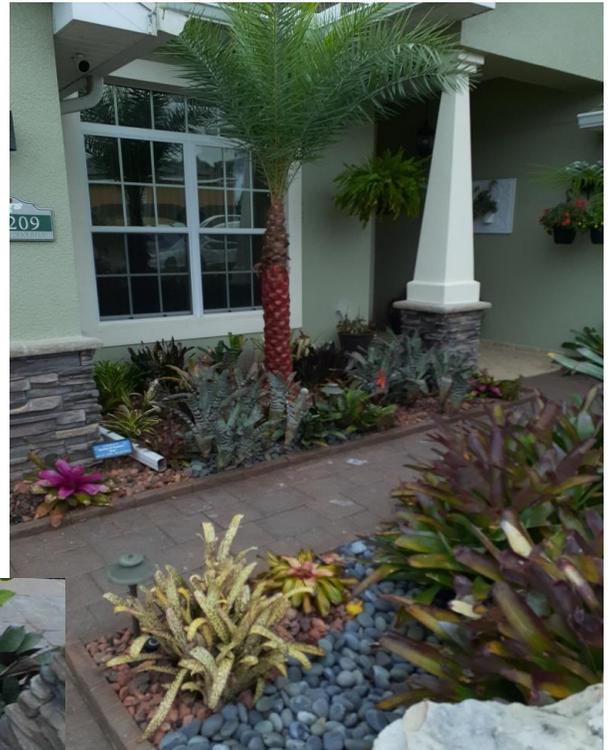
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Yard of the Month

The Clermont Garden Club is pleased to pick the yard of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Carroll at 1209 Giovani Blvd in the Verde Ridge neighborhood (off old Hwy 50) as the February yard of the month. The Carroll's are from New York state and Bob is having a great time planting all the tropical plants that he could not grow in the north. He has filled the yard with dozens of bromeliads of all sizes, colors, patterns, and shapes that he can find on his trips to south Florida. Bob says he has approximately 50 to 60 surrounding their home. Sprinkled among the bromeliads are white bird of paradise, Indian hawthorn, whitetail palms, Robeline palms, and assorted flowering plants. The beds are "mulched" with rocks of different colors that make it appear to have creek beds woven among the soil and plants. Beautiful work! Thank you for sharing your garden with your Clermont neighbors.





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Garden Club to Participate at the Clermont Spring Forward Event Saturday, February 26, 2022



Our garden club will have a booth at the Clermont Spring Forward event on Saturday, February 26. We will be demonstrating garden techniques, providing membership information and selling caladium bulbs.

Linda Lauletta has volunteered to demonstrate rooting African violets and will have some available for sale. We will also be selling caladium bulbs at our wonderful price of 6 bulbs for \$5.00. The event times are 10 am – 4 pm so mark your calendars to come and see us!

Volunteers include: Cindy Simon, Chairman, Linda Lauletta, Letizia Isaia, Helen Ribbe, Denise Palermo, Lisa Palermo and Anne Ellis.

Thank You for Your Donations to ECHO!

Correction to Amount Donated!



A charity that the Clermont Garden Club has supported for several years is ECHO (World Gardening). ECHO's purpose is to help those who are teaching farmers around the world learn to be more effective in producing enough to meet the needs of their families and their communities. They in turn teach others and the ECHO effect continues! www.echonet.org for more information.

This year our combined donation to ECHO exceeded last year. Debra Smidt, Charity Chairman, received a report from ECHO that the final amount donated by the club and twelve (12) individual members was \$1720! Members contributed \$1420 and the club contributed \$300.

Thank you for your generous contributions!



Horticulture Report for February

Did you cover plants or do the “orchid shuffle” during our recent cold weekend? Do you have some plants that don’t look very good right now? Maybe some plants were frost-bit or “melted”.

DON’T START PRUNING YET!

Allow the temperatures to stabilize for a few weeks and ensure another cold front doesn’t sneak in. Dead branches will serve as protection for the plant, and pruning will encourage new growth, which will be damaged if more cold weather comes through.

It’s okay to weed your garden, just resist the urge to get in there and start cutting back plants, shrubs and trees. And NEVER commit crepe murder! (cutting crepe myrtles drastically back to mere stumps.)

Our next garden club workday is Monday, February 7. We work at our own pace, between 8:30 – Noon. Pat Richardson, Grounds Chairman, is there early in morning and has a clipboard with suggested activities for the day. Please bring your garden gloves, tools, kneeling pad and water and join us in our garden.

Roll Call, Attendance and Meeting Minutes

Roll Call:

Please continue to sign in at the door for club meetings. Linda Lauletta, Recording Secretary, will capture any who missed signing in and we will not call the roll at the club meetings.

Attendance:

We have 63 members and need to know when you are attending club meetings. Please RSVP when the club agenda is sent out so that we can ensure adequate seating for all attending.

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the club meetings are already being sent out to members after being proof ready by the President. If you see anything recorded incorrectly, please respond to the email with the minutes attached. Your response will be investigated. Any updates to the club meeting minutes will be re-sent as “corrected”. This eliminates the reading of the minutes at the beginning of each meeting.



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YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR



WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP OPEN HOUSE

SPONSORED BY THE FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

Sunday, February 13, 2022

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

ACA Accredited Residential Camp for Children in Grades 1 – 8

Sunday – Saturday Sessions from June 19 – July 30, 2022

Wekiwa Springs State Park, 1800 Wekiwa Circle, Apopka

Guided Tours



Light Refreshments

FFGC's Wekiva Youth Camp has been located at Wekiwa Springs State Park since 1974, under a partnership with the Florida Dept of Natural Resources and Division of Parks & Recreation. The facility has grown through the years and now boasts a swimming pool, craft hall, screened pavilion, dining hall, canteen, nature hut, outdoor amphitheater, sports field and Volunteer and Camper Cabins. Over a six week period each summer, campers completing Grades 1-8 spend a week living in cabins clustered around a fire circle learning about the importance of conservation and protection of our environment in a protected natural setting. Adult Volunteers and Environmental Educators serve as Program Leaders and Role Models as our Campers enjoy swimming, hiking, nature photography, crafts, nature study, skit night, campfires, great food and more at this American Camp Association Accredited environmental youth camp. The Infirmary is staffed 24/7 with a Registered Nurse on site daily. Our Camp Director supervises the activities of the Campers and Counselors, many who are former campers themselves.



Field Trip to Green Isle Gardens

The program for the club meeting on Wednesday, January 19, was a field trip to Green Isle Gardens nursery in Groveland. A group of 17 members enjoyed a tour of the nursery, which is comprised of 28 acres. The front 4 acres is the retail area, where the customers can stroll through plants suited for partial shade or full sun.

We were treated to a walking tour of greenhouses where they start plants from seed and cuttings, their seed sorting and storing locations, and the area where they move seedlings into pots. They even have chickens to help keep the bug population in check!

Enjoy the pictures!



The tour began with an overview of what we would be seeing

Anne Ellis gets up close to new transplants





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Pictured L to R starting in the back: Margaret Iler, Linda Chaize, Nora Randazzo (Letizia's guest), Carol Dixon, Barbara McDowell, Barb Williams, Cindy Simon, Pam Molesky, Kim Sams, Diane Wilson. Front row, L to R: Linda Wentworth, Carol Walker, Tina Worrell, Letizia Isaia, Carmen Stone (new member at this meeting!), Anne Ellis



Fun with Flowers Workshop: How to Create a Terrarium

Learn to build your very own terrarium with miniature tropical plants at this Fun with Flowers Workshop at the Clermont Garden Club.

When: Saturday, March 19, 2022
Time: 10:00 AM - Noon
Place: Clermont Garden Club
849 West Ave
Clermont, FL 34711



Everything you need will be supplied at the workshop. No experience necessary. Price includes a 10-inch glass bowl, gravel and soil, and miniature tropical plants. You will be working with gravel, soil and live plants. Garden gloves and comfortable clothes are suggested. The instructor will provide step-by-step instruction.

Registration is available on Eventbrite.com:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/clermont-garden-club-30670895844>

Eventbrite will allow payment with a credit card. Tax is included, as is the Eventbrite fee.

Cost via Eventbrite: \$47.14

If you wish to pay by check:

Cost: \$40 plus \$3.08 tax = \$43.08

Email your registration request to Cindy Simon at bsktcindy@earthlink.net

Checks are to be made out to CLERMONT GARDEN CLUB for \$43.08

Mail checks to: Clermont Garden Club
PO Box 121322
Clermont, FL 34714-1322



The February Tea committee is in the planning stages for the Mad Hatter Tea Party.

The date has been changed from February 5 to April 23. Stay tuned for details.



Many have said they have teacups/saucers, luncheon plates, or teapots that they would be willing to lend for this event. Note: do not loan anything of sentimental or monetary value!

Please send an email to Pam Molesky, gmo5793@aol.com, with what you have available. We need to get a count to see what our totals are.

THANK YOU for your generosity!



Reasons to Plant Native Trees

It is so sad to see all the tree clearing at construction sites, that is occurring around Central Florida.

One of the goals of the Florida Native Plant Society is to obtain permission to go into sites that will be cleared for construction and remove native vegetation to be transplanted to different locations. Denise Palermo, our 2nd VP, is an active member of the Passionflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. She was recently featured on our Facebook page in a picture taken at one of the sites where they were digging up native plants for transplant.

The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs shares the goal of planting more trees. Denise is our Trees and Reforestation Chairman and is recording the number and types of trees planted between March 1, 2021, and February 28, 2022, by members of our garden club and will send in the total in March. If you have added trees (native or not) to your landscape or helped hand out trees at a Florida Arbor Day event in January, please contact Denise at educate2011@icloud.com with your totals.

Why plant trees? Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) is one of the primary greenhouse gases that is emitted into our atmosphere from human activity. Studies have shown that one tree should remove approximately one ton of CO₂ in 40 years. This removal is called sequestering. Plants and trees are the natural and easiest way to sequester carbon from our atmosphere. The plants take in CO₂ through photosynthesis, bind it up into sugars used to build the plant material, and they release oxygen. It sounds like a simple solution, but the problem is that forty billion tons of CO₂ are produced each year on this planet. We would need to plant a lot of trees to sequester that much CO₂. Clearly there will need to be some other innovative methods to remove and reduce greenhouse gases; but why not make a start and do something for the planet that will help, even if it's a small improvement. People in India recently organized a planting of 50 million trees in 24 hours to battle deforestation. People can make a difference!

Our club donated \$50 for 50 slash pine trees to be planted by the Florida State Parks Foundation.

If you want to plant some trees at your home, I suggest doing some research or check with a nursery to make sure you are planting native trees that are suitable for your area.



2022 Caladium Bulb Sales

Thanks to our Caladium Chairman, Barb Williams, the order for caladiums has arrived. This year we will have 200 bulbs in three colors: Red - Florida Cardinal, Pink – Carolyn Wharton, White – White Queen.

The price will be 6 bulbs for \$5.00 and are pre-packaged and labeled with the color of bulb.

The plan for caladium bulb sales is as follows:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| February 16 | Available to club members at the general meeting 9:30 – 10 AM and after the meeting |
| February 26 | Available to club members and general public at our booth at the Spring Forward event 10 AM – 4 PM |
| March 16 | If still available – general meeting 9:30 – 10 AM and after the meeting |
| April 23 | If still available – Mad Hatter Tea Party – before and after the event. |
| May 7 | If still available – Spring Garden Festival at the CGC booth |

We order from Happiness Farms, Inc. in Lake Placid, FL. They recommend waiting until the middle of March before planting the bulbs for best results.



Florida Cardinal



Carolyn Wharton



White Queen



FFGC Convention 2022 News

*Register NOW for the 95th Annual Convention in Kissimmee!!
Embassy Suites Orlando, Lake Buena Vista South
April 12-14, 2022*

Volunteers Needed to sell Opportunity tickets, 50/50 raffle tickets, and be greeters at event doors. Please contact Judy Agmjp@aol.com if you are interested. Great way to see the convention! There will be training.

In addition to workshops and speakers, there are vendors and a FLOWER SHOW! This is an easy drive from Clermont. Get some friends together and come out to attend for a day or stay the night.

Our club will be hosting a Flower Show in 2023 and this will be an awesome opportunity to see entries from all around Florida from various clubs. Flower Show opens Wednesday, April 13 from 2:15-5 PM, Thursday, April 14 8 AM-9:30 PM.

Visit FFGC.org for more information and to register. The convention information is on the home page. **Register by March 21, 2022**

SEE YOU THERE!





Member Recognition!

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 2022. 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 19 to Arlene Rand, Member Recognition Chairman at arlene.rand25@gmail.com**. 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.



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February Babies!

Sue Randall 2/4
Bob Karnes 2/29!



Welcome New Member!

Carmen Stone

Garden Workdays at the Clubhouse

We start @ 8 am until @ noon

ALL are welcome and NEEDED!
Bring your gloves, bug spray,
clippers, etc.
And don't forget your WATER!

Garden Workdays

Monday, Feb 7

Monday, Feb 21

Monday, March 7

Monday, March 21

Monday, April 4

Monday, April 18

Monday, May 9

Monday, May 23

