



BLOOMING CHATTER

VOLUME XXIV

APRIL 2010

ISSUE 8

THE PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

—

TRANSITIONS

The time has come for Sarasota Garden Club to welcome its **new President, Ginger Vance**, who will be installed on **April 14th** at the University Park Country Club. I hope to see you all there.

The past two years for me have been filled with wonderful opportunities. The beginning of my term saw us going from dwindling circles to a vibrant one club. We had growing pains for sure, but I believe we have become stronger and more focused. We had many new programs, with guest speakers and delicious lunches. Judi Gallagher the Channel 7 chef graced our grounds at the members' fall design program. Who could forget the Frugal Florist? Our first Christmas Party as one club was a champagne event thanks to Suzanne Brickley and her crew. That event took us to the Ringling's Cá d'Zan where we saw Emily Yaffe and Eleanor Yates' new designs for the beautiful home. During the Floral Design classes we learned from the District's top designers. We were blessed with many new members from those classes who have gone on to become leaders in the new administration, Jo-Ann Winn and Carol Johnson. There were so many events at the Garden Club during the first year that the joke was I had a bed tucked away so I could attend them all. We were busy in a very positive way. Our fundraisers were brought to a new level as all the members were expected to and willing to work at any and all events. The dedication and very hard work of all the chairs who put on those fundraisers to support our projects will always be gratefully appreciated. Judy Herman and Kay Weber working at the Garage sale, Ginger at the Plant Sale. Andy and Mary Fran Papineau hosting the high earning Holiday Boutique, Gloria Lowe with the Spaghetti Dinner, Emily Yaffe, Aurora Defex, Cynthia Titus chairing the Fashion Shows, Livy Hayes chairing the prettiest Valentine Brunch, Andy and Mary Fran chairing the popular (and sadly missed this year) St Paddy's Day dinner, Jane Lawrence, Ginger Vance, Joann Winn chairing flower shows.

Our scholarship recipients will always hold a warm place in my heart as all our hard work goes for these young people. What better way to guarantee an enduring legacy than to teach a child. The recipients of our scholarship money have graced us with their presence and with correspondence. We are back to sponsoring the Arbor Day programs at local schools.

Our Building, under Betty Jean has undergone a transformation with a new roof and new air-conditioning; the Library with Lynn Biega has been catalogued and is on line. The grounds with Barbara Litterer as chair have been maintained and well identified with the new brochure. I am truly grateful to the wonderful Board of Directors: Barbara Litterer-Botanical Gardens; Marvera Murphy-Communications; Shirley Cook-Community Projects; Eleanor Yates-Education; Livy Haynes-Fund Raising; Betty Jean- Garden Center; Priscilla Daniels- Hospitality; Betty Madey and Jo-Ann Winn-Membership; Suzanne Brickley and Debbie Shapiro -Programs; Aurora DeFex - Rentals.

Of course this club could not function without the Executive Committee- Ginger Vance- VP, Kathryn Johnson-2nd VP, Jane Slaughter- Secretary, Jewell Emsweller, Kerry Federspiel- Asst. Secretary, Jane Lawrence- Treasurer, and Penny Thomas- Asst. Treasurer. Andy Papineau past President and Catherine LaBrie Parliamentarian. Each and every one has been of invaluable service. My heartfelt thanks to JEAN KAMP, without whom nothing would run smoothly.

It has been my pleasure and delight to work with you all, who are so very supportive and very generous with your time and money. I am grateful to have been able to serve as President of Sarasota Garden Club and look forward to the new administration.

Fondly, Barbara

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Deadline for the May issue is: April 21

NEW MEMBERS, CHANGES OF ADDRESS OR OF PHONE NUMBERS:

Carol Buzilow

2248 Circlewood Dr.

Sarasota, FL 34231

Cell: 252 489-3585

E-mail: cbuzilow@embarqmail.com

Summer address:

121 Weir Pt. Dr.

Manteo, NC 27954

252 473-3785

Affiliate

Sho Fu Bonsai Society of Sarasota

4014 Bayshire Rd.

Sarasota, FL 34234-3705

Home: 941 355-9186 Cell: 941 685-9183

E-mail: julie.trigg@verizon.net

FAX: 863 682-4345

HORT STUDY GROUP MEETING

Our March 11th speaker, Bill Coblenz, started his discussion by saying he has had his Fern for over 40 years. He married her! And as usual, wife Fern just smiled.



Northern Maidenhair Fern

Adiantum pedatum

One of the most beautiful and recognizable of all ferns is the *Adiantum pedatum* or Maidenhair. The delicate and airy foliage sits atop striking dark stems, looking like fragile fans that shiver in the slightest breeze. Despite its delicate appearance, this fern is quite hardy and can be used successfully in most woodland gardens in a variety



of climates. While it is happiest in moist, neutral to slightly alkaline soil, it can be grown successfully in a vast range of conditions, including dry, rocky limestone slopes. The graceful fronds can grow over 26 inches tall and sometimes even this wide as well, but depending on conditions and climate, it can be quite variable. *Adiantum pedatum* can be a striking addition to the shady garden with a rich, well-drained, alkaline soil. This fern likes to be planted near sidewalks to get a steady flow of lime or fertilize with it. Maintain an adequately moist soil. The fronds may provide a

display of yellow fall foliage color.

Bill also told us about Ribbon Fern and several others then elaborated on the Staghorn Ferns. The club was given a special one that grows upright instead of hanging down, for our Waterfall Patio Gardens by Jan Johannesen who said she didn't want to see it go back to where it was grown, but didn't have room for it in her garden.

Under The Big Top



!!Thank You!!

From the Flower Show Committee

IT'S DUES TIME AGAIN

We are nearing the end of this Garden Club year. May 1 starts a new membership year and **dues will be due on or before May 15th**. We will be mailing a packet out to each member containing a letter and card to be returned with your dues.

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Phone and Fax: (941) 955-0875

Editor: Barbara Mathie - 365-2144
E-mail: SGCgarden@aol.com
Mailing: Doris VanNostrand - 355-5851
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The dues will remain the same for the 2010-2011 year. FFGC raised their dues \$3.00 per person, but your Board decided to absorb this cost for this coming year. In return, we hope you will continue to remember SGC in your financial plans with donations and by attending the events. Your support is critical to our continued health.

Also included in the packet will be a profile sheet containing the yearbook information we currently have on file. Please review this, indicate changes and return it with your dues or **no later than July 31st.**

Hope to see everyone at our **Annual Meeting April 14.**

Jane Lawrence, Treasurer

MARCH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

About 50 SGC members gathered on Monday, March 15 to catch up on SGC business and hear one of our favorite speakers, **Native Florida Plant Nursery's Laurel Schiller** bring us up to date on native plants which will survive the cold weather we have had recently... hopefully we **WON'T**



have the same next winter!!

President Barbara Rao brought us up to date on upcoming activities including the cooperative efforts between SGC and the City of Sarasota to move the **Blue Star Marker** (currently along Highway 41 near Marina

Jack's) to the Bayfront Park at the intersection of Main Street and Gulf Stream. This is the park where Memorial Day, Veteran's Day and other veteran's celebrations are held. Jack Gurney, a former mayor has been helping within city hall.

VP Ginger Vance updated everyone on the Flower



Show with reminders about the Preview party on Friday, March 26. Tickets are \$10.00. Awards will be given during the celebration. Remember there will be no charge for Flower Show tickets but Jean has tickets for members to distribute.

Ways and Means chair Carol Johnson reported on the activities of the crafters. Lots of goodies have been made for sale and more are to come over the summer. Generally, the crafters meet on Thursdays at SGC.

Kathryn Johnson

SGC DATES AT A GLANCE

April

1	Craft Interest Group	9:30
	Fun With Flowers	6-8 PM
3	RENTED	
6	Scholarship Committee	9:00
	Sarasota Succulent Society	7:30
8	Hort Study Group	9:30
	Craft Interest Group (library)	9:30
	Sierra Club	6-9 PM
10	RENTED	
12	C.O.N.A	5:30
14	Annual Meeting at University Park Club	
15	Craft Interest Group	9:30
17	Butterfly Club	10 AM
18	RENTED	
22	Craft Interest Group	9:30
	RENTED	
24	RENTED	
29	Craft Interest Group	9:30

MAY

3	Board of Directors	9:30
4	Sarasota Succulent Society	7:30
5	Floralia	9:30
6	Craft Interest Group	9:30
10	C.O.N.A.	5:30
13	Craft Interest Group	9:30
15	RENTED	
20	Craft Interest Group	9:30
	Historic Preservation Event	5:30
22	RENTED	
23	Rose Society	1-4
27	Craft Interest Group (library)	9:30
	Butterfly Club	9:30
31	MEMORIAL DAY - office closed	

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(941) 955-0875

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BOTANICAL GARDENS

The gardens have had several “angels” looking after them recently. Wilda Meier, member of SGC and the Succulent Society, donated two plants to our Cactus / Succulent garden and has been advising us as we clean out and revitalize the garden.

Another plant donation came from Jan Johannesen. It was an unusual staghorn fern purchased as a result of the Hort Study Group’s Fern program. It is installed on the fence of the Falling Waters Patio Garden.

A big thank you to Marv Murphy who has made a donation to cover the cost of the ongoing plant labeling project. Another group of “angels” have made donations so we can restore the “Quiet Garden”. Thank You go to Shirley Cook, Richard and Catherine LaBrie, and Andy and Mary Fran Papineau!

We truly appreciate all these loyal Garden Club members and say thank you, thank you, thank you!

By April 1, the rain barrel should be installed and operating as we begin to collect rain water from the roof. An educational sign is also posted there. Thanks again to Barbara Mathie who did the painting, Arlene Morris for the barrel purchase, and Tom Litterer for the installation.

Additional planting and pruning still needs to be done to bring our gardens back from the cold winter. Please try to give us some help any Friday morning — there is still much to do!

Happy Spring!!

Barb Litterer, Botanical Gardens Chair

FAREWELL, BRUCE MAYER

March 24, 1935 - March 13, 2010

Bruce Mayer, 74, of Osprey, formerly of Mountain Lakes, NJ, died March 13, 2010.

Survivors include his wife of 51 years, SGC member Carol; three sons, Owen of Minnesota, Stuart of Nebraska and Curtis of Virginia; and five grandchildren.

Bruce grew up in Rutherford, NJ, and was a graduate of Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey. He served as commodore of the South Bay Yacht Club and was honorary commodore of the Venice Yacht Club.