

THE GARDEN GATE



Lemon Bay Garden Club 480 Yale Street, Englewood, Florida

www.lemonbaygardenclub.org

December 2017

A Message from Christine...

Happy December Everyone!

I am very excited to report that the Garden Fair did very well this year — better than last year in fact. Glorious Florida weather, lots of happy people, and incredibly hard work by members made this all happen. Many, many thanks to all who stepped up and contributed to this - our biggest fundraiser of the year.

And how about the clubhouse? Doesn't it look simply marvelous? Kent Coxey and Bob Mesrobian truly worked miracles to finish the remodeling in time for our Garden Fair. There are still a few things to finish up but all in all I am thrilled with the facelift! If you know of something that needs attending, please let Linda Geoghegan know.

Along those same lines, we have changed the locks on all the doors to the clubhouse. I am requesting that we keep the key distribution to a minimum. I think everyone in Englewood had keys previously. If you believe you have reason to need a key let me know. Right now, I am limiting keys to committee chairpersons. If you require access to the building, contact the chairperson of your group.

Looking forward to kicking back at the Manasota Beach Club on Monday — you all deserve it. Don't forget to bring a small plant and canned food for Helping Hands.

• *Christine Hannula*, President

December Membership Meeting

Monday, 10am - At the Clubhouse

Followed at 12p at Manasota Beach Club for our

Annual Holiday Luncheon

7660 Manasota Key Road, Englewood
941.474.2614

Please park across the street and reserve the spots in front of the Beach Club for those who need to park closer to the entrance.

Please bring a small plant to the meeting. After the meeting, members of the Garden Club bring the plants to nursing homes to be distributed to the residents and to our LBGC members who are homebound.

Please bring a can of food to the meeting. This year we'd like to help Helping Hands meet their goal of 50,000 cans of food to help under-privileged residents of Englewood.

In This Issue

- President's Message
- December Meeting
- Garden Fair Follow-up
- Membership News
- House News
- 2018 FFGC Calendars
- Gift Basket Winners
- Rummage Sale
- Notes from Elaine
- Horticulture Notes
- Brush Fire Season
- "A Day at the Zoo" News

LBGC's Boola-boola

Wear your name tag.
Wear your name tag.,
Wear your name tag -
or you will sing!

Even wor-orse
Even wor-orse
We may have to
Sing to you!
.....AJ and Mari

Garden Fair Follow-Up

We'd like to extend a special "Thank You!" to three members of our Club for generously offering to have their gardens on the tour this year. Without your help - Sue Killion, Wendy Mineault and Renee Uhlich - we would not have had the successful tour that we did. Thank you all! Marca and Cheryl

~~~~~      ~~~~~      ~~~~~

A huge THANK YOU to all who made our Plant Sale such a success! Thank you to the members and friends who contributed plants and cuttings, the potting crew, those who tirelessly groomed and watered our inventory to keep everything looking good, and those of you who worked during the tour sale days. ... And a special shout out to the Bromeliad crew - Jackie, Barb, Audrey and Liz. The Bromeliads are our biggest income source. Plant Sale income from the tour was a bit over \$2200! Great Job!!

~~~~~      ~~~~~      ~~~~~

And a truly creative *Thank You* to the crafters, card creators, bakers and all else who volunteered their expertise, time, gently-used-items and help in any way towards the success of the Garden Fair. Our Club depends on the Volunteerism of our members to achieve our Club's purposes.

Membership News

The next New Member Orientation Session is planned for Friday, January 26 at 11am. It is open to anyone who is interested in joining the Club. During the orientation session a few LBGC officers will explain the workings and importance of LBGC.

WE NEED MENTORS! Mentors ease the process of integrating into Club activities: introductions to other members, encouragement to join committees and events, carpooling to and from meetings, or workshops, etc. It's an excellent way to make a new friend.

House News

The LBGC Clubhouse has a brand new, spiffy look!!!

New deck. New paint. New front doors. New hallway doors. And our original windows have been preserved!

Building contractor Kent Coxey of Coxey Construction (941.441.6883) and Bob Mesrobian of RWM Painting (941.468.9924) worked very hard the two weeks prior to the Garden Fair to finish the job of making our home ready for visitors. A special Thank You to these people!

2018 FFGC Calendars

Calendars are here. Please see Alberta Bair at the December meeting to pick up your pre-ordered copy.

Additional calendars may be available. Calendars cost \$8 and are filled with beautiful floral designs.

Garden Fair Basket Winners

Lucky winners of the baskets:

- 1) Barb Leonard
- 2) Mari Franklin (member)
- 3) Sue Killion (member)
- 4) Bobbie Medal (member)
- 5) Mari Franklin (member)
- 6) Susan Rexer (member)
- 7) Carol Brown (member)
- 8) Pam Roy
- 9) Sherry Ault (member)
- 10) Susan Rexer (member)

Rummage Sale

The annual Rummage Sale will be held on Feb 15, 16, and 17.

Start gathering your unwanted items to donate to the sale. Where and when to bring them to the Clubhouse will be announced at the December meeting.

Notes From Elaine

BUSY CALENDAR!

December 1, from 9am till 12pm - **Fun With Flowers Workshop** presented by Kathy Myers.

December 6, starting at 9am - **Fairy Garden Workshop**.

Including: How to construct a Fairy Garden
Examples for the three classes in our Horticulture Specialty Show
Directions for completing the Botanical Arts Horticulture Form and the 4X6 index card diagram
Ideas for handmade components for your Fairy Garden
Signup sheets at the meeting. Fee based on full participation vs auditing the workshop.

December 8, 11am (after garden workday) - **Organizational/Brain-storming Meeting for the Horticulture Specialty Show**.

Any member who has ideas to share, suggestions to make, or questions to ask is invited to come. If you cannot join the meeting, email your info to Elaine Schweitzer (likkorish4@yahoo.com). Information on the Horticulture Specialty Show can be found on the LBGC website (lemonbaygardenclub.org).

Proposed for January... Succulent Garden Workshop - Signup sheet will be passed at the December meeting.

Designing Women will NOT meet in December. Next meeting is Jan 10.

January 10, from 9:30 till 12:30 - **Designing Women** - This will be an **Alcohol Inks Class** presented by Rosana Halprine. Cost \$30 per person. All materials provided. Open to all LBGC members and their friends and family. Signup sheet at the December meeting.

Save the Date!

January 20 - Winter Park, FL
- Trash and Treasures - The big FFGC fundraiser of 2018.

Possible carpool field trip.

\$5.00 admission, similar to Antique Roadshow ... PLUS Vendors, Food, and Friends.

See Elaine Schweitzer for details.

Field Trips

Due to family issues, the planned and proposed field trips are on hold.

If another member or members would like to run any or all of the trips, please contact Christine Hannula to get the information.

Horticulture Notes

Did you know that your holiday poinsettia can be planted in your landscape after the holidays? Once the threat of frost has passed, choose a sunny spot with moist, well drained, fertile soil that will not receive any artificial light at night. Place the plant at the same depth it was growing in the container. Cut off the fading bracts (colored leaves), leaving 4-6 inches of stem on each branch with as many green leaves as possible. Keep the plant mulched and well-watered until established. Fertilize monthly from March to October. Prune monthly from May to early September, when pruning should be discontinued to allow the flower buds to develop. Poinsettias are a tropical plant and should be protected from frost.

Winter arrives this month and, for the next few months, there is a possibility of a freeze. If frost is predicted, cover tender plants with a sheet, box, blanket or freeze-protecting cloth. NEVER use plastic sheeting to protect a plant.

Brush Fire Season

Submitted by Wanda Milik, Conservation and Environment Chair

December 1 marks the end of Hurricane Season ... And Brush Fire Season begins. It lasts until April, depending on the weather. Southwest Florida is the driest part of the state and Sarasota County is one of four counties in Florida permanently banning trash and yard waste burning without a permit. Not so for burning in the form of recreational fires and cooking fires which are allowed in all Florida counties without authorization, unless a temporary ban is in place. Temporary ban status can be checked online at www.freshfromflorida.com or by calling Fire Prevention at 941.751.7627.

While enjoying recreational fires or cooking fires, be aware that both these activities require containment, limited fuel use, and safety precautions. Recreational fires must be lit in a fire pit, fire bowl, chimenea or fireplace. Fuel areas must be no more than 3 feet in diameter or 2 feet in height. Cooking fires must be contained in a camping grill, camping stove or other cooking containment structure. Fuels are limited to dry untreated natural wood, charcoal, fire-starter logs, briquettes, liquid petroleum, natural gas, or butane. Both fires are restricted to the hours of 10am till 11pm.

Safety measures required include the supervision of an adult while burning, a water hose, a filled water bucket, shovel or other item on hand for controlling or extinguishing the fire. Recreational fires must be set back from structures, fences and other combustible material at least 25 feet. Note that the setback may be reduced to 10 feet if a permanent fireplace, chimenea or fire bowl contains the fire. Open burning must also be at least 50 feet from any public roadway unless authorized by the Fire Chief.

Brush Fire Season is at hand. Manmade fires cause most brush fires and this year 126,000 acres across Florida have been destroyed by brush fires. Act deliberately by reporting concerns to the Florida Forrest Service or, in an emergency, call 911.

Florida Spring Symposium

FFGC's Spring Symposium will be held February 28 thru March 1.

The Spring Symposium brochure and registration form can be found on the FFGC website (ffgc.org).

Come Play with Us!

Join us working in our gardens every Friday, 8:30 till 11:30 - enjoy light refreshment while we chat afterwards....

Join us in the clubhouse crafting and creating crafts and handmade greeting cards every Friday, 9:00 till noon - bring a sandwich and enjoy chatting with the crafting team afterwards...

Lemon Bay Garden Club
480 Yale Street - PO Box 1176
Englewood, FL 34295
941.474.9068

We can be very proud! "A DAY AT THE ZOO" received rave reviews from the panel of judges that attended and evaluated our show last Spring. This week we submitted applications for eight Florida Federation of Garden Club (FFGC) awards for this show. Award applications are judged at FFGC Headquarters on December 7th. Winners will be announced at the FFGC Convention in April.
Barb Jacobson, Lemon Bay Garden Club Awards Chairman



The fanciful title of this National Garden Club Standard Flower Show garnered excellent publicity, exceptional member participation and record visitor numbers.

Life-sized giraffes towered to the clubhouse roof to welcome guests. A "Free Today" sign hung above a ticket window. Design and cut horticulture exhibits were staged inside the clubhouse. Container-grown horticulture exhibits were staged outside in the shade house. Zoo animals and the show logo carried the theme throughout all aspects of the show from signage to zebra-print staging properties. Show hostesses were "Zookeepers".

Ninety five percent participation was achieved by involving members in show committees and by utilizing their varied artistic and creative talents from sewing to sawing. Members designed the show logo and built and painted the giraffes and theme-related Division signs. Members painted zoo animals on palm spathes to be displayed for sale throughout the gardens. Members also sold beautiful hand-made cards.

Most members had never entered a flower show before. Enthusiasm for the theme resulted in outstanding exhibits. In addition to the blue-ribbon winners there were many 90+ exhibits: 6 of the 12 table designs; 5 of the 12 other creative designs; 2 of the 12 artistic crafts exhibits; and 2 of the 4 educational exhibits. Although only one blue ribbon can be awarded in each class, 90+ exhibits were also blue-ribbon worthy.

Four educational exhibits showcased NGC and FFGC projects: NGC Youth Gardening, Wildflower Project with Girl Scouts, Pressed Flowers, and NGC Blue Star Memorial Markers. Classes from two local elementary schools exhibited invitational horticulture. Framed student drawings of favorite zoo animals were displayed in the "GAZOOBO GALLERY".

Visitors signed a guest book to receive notice of future club events and were invited to vote for the "People's Choice Awards" in design and horticulture. Guests enjoyed walking through the club butterfly, succulent, and woodland gardens and were treated to free popcorn and lemonade.

