



# COCOA-ROCKLEDGE GARDEN CLUB

MEMBER OF:

THE FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

DEEP SOUTH

## THE GARDEN PLOT

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### COCOA-ROCKLEDGE GARDEN CLUB

#### WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2010

5:30 – 7:30 P.M.

WINE

APPETIZERS

MUSIC

Ladies this is our big fundraiser for the "Celebration Garden". There will be 3 representatives from "Wines of Distinction" at three different wine stations. The wine will also be furnished by "Wines of Distinction." There will be a Chocolate Fountain (Cocoa-Rockledge will provide chocolate and items for dipping). There will be a wine basket raffle, 50/50 and a silent auction. PLEASE bring an appetizers to share, if you can not make the date please think about making a donation. Gather your husband, family and neighbors, and get out for a social evening. Contact your Circle President for tickets or call Jo Compton at 338-7059.

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is here, now is the time to think about our garden club activities for April and May.

#### **REPORT ON FLOWER SHOW:** What an "AWESOME FLOWER SHOW."

Gratitude goes to Gloria Blake, Flower Show Chairman, Betty Moxley, Co-Chairman and the Flower Show Committee. I am afraid I will leave someone out if I start to name all the members of CRGC who worked so hard to make this a GREAT STANDARD FLOWER SHOW! Gloria - says we are eligible to enter for an AWARD! Thanks to all those who have contributed to make this a memorable "SHOWERS TO FLOWERS" Flower Show.

FLOWER SHOW "Showers to Flowers" Award Winners  
HORTICULTURE AWARDS

Award of Horticultural Excellence—Betty Moxley----Mammillaria elongata cactus  
Award of Merits

1. Fran Huntress—Aloe
2. Betty Adamson—Phalaenopsis orchid
3. Betty Moxley—Mammillaria elongate cactus
4. Gloria Blake—Conical sansevieria

Arboreal Award: Martha Chambers—Bougainvillea

Collectors Showcase Award: Gloria Blake—Collection of five Cactus

DESIGN AWARDS

Award of Design Excellence: Pat Morgart

Table Artistry Award: Pat Morgart

Designers' Choice Award: Andrea Finn

SPECIAL EXHIBIT

Butterfly Gardening: Claudia Lambkin

**My thanks** - for all our wonderful members who continue to work at the Garden Center or by helping in some other capacity.

To Betty Moxley and her grounds committee along with all who have continued to work daily, weekly and monthly at the Garden Center during the winter maintaining the grounds. The Azaleas are blooming, therefore, we know Spring is here.

Due to the efforts of Louisa Kupper, House Chairman (now in Europe) and Evelyn Fraley who has taken over - until Louisa's return, some upgrades are in the process of being completed.

To Robeana Chaffiot who took the stage drapes down, repaired them and hung them back with new rod and hooks. Beanie even made a trip to a Thrift Store to find a part no longer made. The drapes look GREAT. The lights that were out in front of the auditorium area are now working, the return air vents cleaned, & the list goes on ...

To Laura Minot - the carpet in the Library was cleaned by John and Laura. The drapes and sofa covers in the Library were taken to the cleaners, furniture polished and glass doors in the cabinets cleaned.

You can make a difference and I can make a difference, but TOGETHER as member of CRGC, and as members of FFGC our possibilities are LIMITLESS. Together we can work to protect, improve, nurture and respect our Mother Earth.

Many environmental and conservation issues have been addressed by FFGC in our beloved State to ensure our quality of life. Water, air and other natural resources if left unspoiled will last for generations to come.

SEEK out and use the resources available to CRGC as members of FFGC. Contact your District Director or this President so you can receive the maximum return on your CRGC investment.

REMINDER OF UP-COMING EVENTS

Let's build the "**Celebration Garden**" by raising funds at the Wine Tasting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April. When funds from the Wine Tasting event are added to CRGC funds in escrow we could bring the total amount up to complete this project.

**FFGC District VI Spring Meeting** hosted by In-Har-Bee and Melbourne Garden Clubs will be held on April 14<sup>th</sup> at Gleason Park (Community Center, Dept of Recreation) 1233 Yacht Club Blvd., Indian Harbor Beach. Please send in your registration and plan to attend. Registration forms are available online: [www.ffgcdistrictvi.org](http://www.ffgcdistrictvi.org)

**FFGC 84<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention "Tropical Treasurers"** and State Flower Show April 22, 23 & 24, 2010. Boca Raton Embassy Suites – hosted by FFGC District X. Registration forms are available in your Florida Gardener and online [www.ffgc.org](http://www.ffgc.org).

Mark your calendar for **Governing Board Luncheon on May 5<sup>th</sup>**. For more information check with your Circle President. Remember all members of CRGC are invited to attend this luncheon.

**National Garden Week:** June 6-12, 2010.

IT IS ALSO TIME AGAIN FOR DUES TO BE PAID, check with your Circle President.

"YOU ARE THE KEY, BE A MENTOR,"

Jo

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**DIRT DAUBERS**  
**Reported by Barbara Rathbun**

DIRT DAUBERS WILL MEET  
TUESDAY APRIL 13, 2010 AT 9:30 AM  
Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club  
Hostesses: Joan Hoover, Barbara Brown,  
Speaker: Bill Hoffpauir on "Plant Nutrition"  
Dirt Daubers MAY 11, 2010 WILL BE ANNOUNCED later

We had a successful "After the Freeze" card party the end of February, with over 80 attending. The food was outstanding. I want to say Thank You to all who participated to make this event a pleasure to attend.

Dirt Daubers met in March at Derby Street Chapel. The scheduled speaker on "Butterfly Gardens" was ill, however our talented Ginny Height and Claudia Lambkin filled in and gave a wonderful presentation. A tour of the Chapel and addition built behind it was given by one of the church's many volunteers. The chapel is rented out to raise funds for the upkeep. The meeting was adjourned. A delightful lunch was enjoyed after at the Amish Deli.

I was happy to see so many of our Dirt Dauber had entered the Flower Show. The CRGC house was decorated beautifully. Congratulations to the committee for a wonderful job.

A decision on where to hold the Dirt Daubers end of year Luncheon on May 11<sup>th</sup> will be made at our April meeting. It is also time to pay our dues for 2010/2011. Sheets will be passed around for all to sign up as hostesses and/or on several committee vacancies.

Plans for this summer include another card party for July and organizing the garden tour in October. Please plan on attending this important April meeting.

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**SPADE & TROWEL**  
**Reported by Gail Holder**

**SPADE & TROWEL WILL MEET,  
WEDNESDAY APRIL 21, 2010 AT THE FLORIDA TECH BOTANICAL GARDENS**

Please be at the Garden Club by 9 am to carpool for this trip.

A box lunch will be served in the Gardens, the cost is \$6.95

Please send your reservation and check, made out to Spade & Trowel to Lyn Davidson no later than April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010. There will be a choice on the box lunch you want when we arrive. The Gardens are lovely, hope to see you all there.

I want to thank, Jean Mead and Fran Huntress for helping in the clean-up of the Garden center yard. I also thank Martha Chambers and Phyllis Bourdon for pulling weeds. Thank you so much girls, it is a very busy time for all of us. A thank you to Betty Adamson, Martha Chambers and Fran Huntress for the grand display board of Camp Wekiva entered at the Flower show. Thank you to our members who entered the Flower show, the designs & Debi Sage's decorations were beautiful.

We enjoyed Margret Cornell's lovely home and hospitality for our March meeting. The hostesses, for a delicious luncheon, were Debi Sage, Barbara Costello, Louisa Kupper and Marion Jordan. Our guests were Merle Black, Cathy Thirlwell's friend, and Phyllis Bourdon's guest, Sally Williams. Betty Adamson gave an informative horticulture report. Our speaker Mark Rutledge gave a report on "Crime Prevention". We all came away with helpful hints on how to protect ourselves.

Three people will be going to the annual Convention in Boca Raton, Cathy Thirlwell, Phyllis Bourdon and I. Cathy and I will be delegates for Spade and Trowel.

Reminder it is time to pay our annual Dues. Please send a check to Lyn Davidson made out to Spade & Trowel. We will be planting a Memorial Tree in honor of Marion Jordan's sister for Arbor Day.

Don't forget Wine Tasting April 10<sup>th</sup>, bring your appetizer's to clear the palate.

Please remember to continue saving "pop tops" and "plastic bottle tops" for the Ronald McDonald house and Candlelighter, also soup labels, etc. for Wekiva. SPADE & TROWEL'S SPRING LUNCHEON WILL BE WEDNESDAY, MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2010, 11:30 am at JIMMIE'S RESTAURANT 1279 Admiralty Boulevard, Rockledge. The Hostesses are the Hospitality committee.

This will be our last luncheon of the year, hopefully everyone will be off to enjoy a wonderful summer. Thank you all for a good and successful year. See you in September.

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**STRAW HAT CIRCLE**  
**Reported by Evelyn Laminsky**

**STRAW HAT WILL MEET APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup>**

**FIELD TRIP TO LEU GARDENS**

**WE WILL MEET AT 9:00 AM AT THE GARDEN CENTER FOR A QUICK MEETING,**

**THE BUS WILL LEAVE AT 9:30 AM**

**Lunch will be in Orlando at the "Cheese Factory"**

**STRAW HAT WILL MEET MAY 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2010 AT 9:30 AM**

**BETTY MOXLEY'S**

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## FERTILIZER

Whatever does those numbers and letters mean. NPK

N=nitrogen

P=phosphorous  
or potash

K=potassium

The easiest way to remember what they do is to think of it this way: shoots, fruits, roots.

Nitrogen is the stuff that makes everything green and is the first number on the fertilizer bag.

Phosphorous encourages flowers and fruits and is the second number.

Potassium is essential for root production and is the third number

Our Florida soil has enough of the second number, phosphorous, that we really do not need it in fertilizer for our soil. While in a major department store recently, I noticed the lawn fertilizer lacked the middle number. It was zero. ie: 10-0-10. This is fine for lawns but for potted plants we need the middle number. When fertilizing shrubs and trees the numbers vary as does the types of fertilizer. For example, palms are heavy feeders and suffer from several problems if not properly fertilized. They require several minor elements that are not present in common fertilizers. Citrus is another example of a plant needing specific minor elements. Some shrubs are acid loving plants and benefit from a fertilizer specifying just that. Read the labels. Fruit plants such as bananas need more of the last number. Then there is always Maxicrip. It can be used anytime as a foliar feed right along with the granular types. Granular fertilizers feed through the root system of the plant and are more of a time release type. It takes a while for the granules to break down where as the liquid type is readily absorbed by the plant. In the case of fertilizers more is not better. When you put too much fertilizer on a lawn, several things happen. The first is instant green up. This flush of new growth cannot be sustained because it lacks a sufficient root system to maintain. Second, the extra fertilizer washes below the root system, winds up in our water supply and does nothing for the plant it was intended to help. The usual result is a burnt or dead lawn. The only time I recommend using slightly more than the recommended dose is when I am planning a new bed of some kind, either vegetable or floral. I fertilize the area to be planted, cover it with a thick layer of newspaper and at least three inches of mulch. In order for this to work, there must be no gaps in the paper or mulch so no sunlight can penetrate. What happens is, the grass grows fast, the roots cannot support the grass so it dies, decomposes and enriches the bed as does the newspaper and mulch. The best thing is to know your plant and its requirements, read the label on the fertilizer and act accordingly and responsibly.