



COCOA-ROCKLEDGE GARDEN CLUB

MEMBER OF THE FLORIDA FEDERATION OF
GARDEN CLUBS
NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. AND DEEP SOUTH
THE GARDEN PLOT
2010

Volume 1

February/March

Number IV

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hope all of you survived the cold weather. Don't believe we have experienced this much cold weather in a long time. I get depressed looking at my garden!

My hat is off to those who put on their gloves and came to the garden center on January 27th, for a work day. Much was accomplished on the inside and outside of the garden center, it's looking much better. I want to express my sincere gratitude to those who gave their time and helped with this clean-up: Betty & David Moxley, Fran Huntress, Shirl Phillips, Gail Holder, Cathy Thirlwell, Louisa Kupper, Cece Ford, Evelyn Fraley, Ruth Ganter, Nihla Trosset, Ann & Lindsay Proctor, Diane Alvarado, Linda Connor, Robeana Chaffiot, Joan Fagan and yours truly. If I missed anyone, I apologize. Your time and help were really appreciated and made a big difference!

Thanks to Cozette Merritt and her committee, the Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club Beautification Award Program is expecting to present the first Award to winners by the end of March. Get your nominations in to the committee soon.

SOME UP-COMING EVENTS TO REMEMBER:

- * **Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club fundraiser for Celebration Garden—Lunch or Dinner—at Chili's, Merritt Island:** February 11, 2010 – 11:00 am – 11:00 pm. Chili's will donate 10% of the sales on every flyer presented with CRGC's name on the flyer. Let's let CHILI'S do the cooking and make some money for Celebration Garden!
- * **Wekiva** Leadership Training – at Wekiva Youth Camp, - February 19-21, 2010
- * **Wekiva** Open House – at Wekiva Youth Camp, Sunday, February 21, 2010 from 1 pm-3 pm.
- * **Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club** – Flower Show – March 26-27, 2010, at the garden center.
- * **Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club** – “Wine Tasting”, fundraiser for Celebration Garden – April 10, 2010, 5:00 pm-7:00 pm, at the garden center.
- * **FFGC DISTRICT VI SPRING MEETING** – April 14th, 2010, hosted by In-Har-Bee & Melbourne Garden Clubs.
- * **FFGC 84TH ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION** “Tropical Treasures”, State Flower Show –April 22-24, 2010, at Boca Raton Embassy Suites – hosted by FFGC District X.

Please try to attend some or all of the events listed above.

Remember to check the websites for information on upcoming events!

<http://www.ffgc.org>

<http://www.ffgcdistrictvi.org>

<http://www.cocoarockledgegardenclub.org>

Wishing you Butterfly Mornings and Wildflower Afternoons!
“You are the key, be a mentor”, Jo

DIRT DAUBERS: Reported by Barbara Rathbun

DIRT DAUBERS WILL MEET

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2010 AT 9:30 A.M.

Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club

Hostesses : Dee Fronk, Billie Fitzjarrold, ShirleyPerez, Lillie McGhee and Cozette Merritt

Speaker: Sharon from Maple Street Natives will talk on "NATIVES IN OUR LANDSCAPE"

Dirt Daubers March 9, 2010 Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the

DERBY STHREET CHAPEL

Speaker: Theresa Riley of Rockledge Gardens will give a talk on "Butterfly Gardening".

We invite other CIRCLES to join us for the talk and also to go out for lunch after the meeting.

The Christmas luncheon at the Radisson was attended by many members and their guests. The setting was enhanced by the talent of our hostesses decorations. The game of "Chinese gift exchange" was fun for many, especially for the one who got the grand prize of the coveted gift of the day. Gifts of food were also brought and taken to the sharing center.

January found our meeting moved to the Cocoa Library since the heat was off at the clubhouse. Sally Scalera changed her talk on "Water Quality" to information on caring of plants after the freeze. Many questions were ask and answered on keeping our plants from dying.

A motion was made to move the Garden Tour "Behind the Garden Gates" from May to October in order for plants to recover from the freeze. For a Spring fund raiser the Dirt Daubers will hold a CARD PARTY at the CRGC, Friday, February 26 at 11:30. Lunch will be served, ticket price \$10. Get your table together and join in for a great day.

SPADE & TROWEL: Reported by GAIL HOLDER

SPADE & TROWEL WILL MEET,

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2010 AT 9:30 A.M.

At MARY JANE RALLEIGH'S home, 665 HERON DRIVE, MERRITT ISLAND.

HOSTESSES: Linda Williams, Sandy Fancher, Marion Jordon and Martha Chambers

Speaker: SUSAN HALL, who's program is "LOVELY LANDSCAPING"

We had a wonderful meeting in January at Rockledge Gardens with a informative program on "Proper Pruning". It could not have come at a better time after the "Freeze". The hostesses were Fran Huntress, Joan Anderson, Arline Mason and Martha Cambers. All of us enjoyed a delicious soup with sandwiches and dessert. We had the pleasure of five of our associate members joining us, hopefully they will join us more often. Betty Adamson gave a wonderful and interesting talk on Christmas Cactus.

Our December Home Tour was a huge success in spite of the rain. The members worked very hard and it showed, everything was beautiful. We were also successful with the bake sale and craft sale. Delicious hot cookies were served to our guests as well as coffee and hot chocolate. We are looking forward to an even more successful "tour" next year. People are already working on it, we have learned a lot. THANK YOU, THANK YOU TO ALL for a JOB WELL DONE.

Fran Huntress wishes to thank all her crew for helping to take down the Christmas decorations at the Club house. Evelyn Fraley wishes to thank Phyllis Bourdon, Cathy Thirwell, Linda Williams, Carol Scott and Nihla Trossett for all their help assembling the toiletry bags for "Meals on Wheels" our civic project.

We are looking forward to the Flower Show and Work Shop for "Showers to Flowers". The show is March 26 & 27th. The work shop will be Friday, February 19, 9:30 at the Garden Center. We are hopeful everyone will enter and have fun. Betty Moore will be there to help with the work shop.

We are planning to enjoy lunch on FEBRUARY 11TH AT CHILI'S ON MERRITT ISLAND. Ten per cent of the proceeds from our lunch bills will go to the Garden center. So come one, come all and bring your "pink slips". Hope to see you there, you can bring your husbands and friends. (if you need a pink slip, let me know).

An FFGC AWARD was presented to Fran Huntress daughter, Diana Huntress. Thank you Diana for always being there with a helping hand. You are one in a "million".

We collected \$360 at our Christmas Luncheon for Wekiva and have added an additional \$140 to it to make an even \$500 for our Christmas present to Wekiva. Our members prefer to do this, rather than exchange gifts. It's a gift of love.

We are beginning to make crafts again this week and looking for ideas, as well. Come and enjoy craft-therapy with us. A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE. Gail

STRAW HAT CIRCLE: REPORTED BY NORENE KISER
STRAW HAT WILL MEET FEBRUARY 10 AT 9:30 A.M.
COCOA ROCKLEDGE GARDEN CLUB
HOSTESS: Fran Weizenecker, Evelyn Lemanski
SPEAKER: Barbara Willey an open meeting on "Dried Arrangements"
MARCH 10, 2010
LOU GARDENS

The Straw Hat Circle met at Joyce Forino's home for their December meeting. Over 40 gifts were collected and taken to "Huntington Place" in Rockledge. The members visited with the patients. One of our former members of the CRGC, Pat Callahan, was there,

Ask a Master Gardener
Submitted by: Joyce Forino
RIGHT PLANTS, RIGHT PLACE

One of the Florida Friendly Landscaping practices that will help you grow healthy plants and protect the environment is "Right Plant Right Place". This practice should be used for every plant that you add to your yard and is just as important for a native plant as it is for an ornamental. Every plant will have preferences for soil pH, light conditions, soil moisture, hardiness zone and don't forget to consider their mature height and spread. When it comes to soil pH, the majority of plants can tolerate a wide range except for bahia, American holly, ixora, azalea and blueberry which all require pH of 5.5 or below. Light conditions are also important and can play a big part in the plants' flowering like the bird of paradise which requires full sun. A plant's soil moisture preference can fall in the range of well-drained, moist or wet. A plant's hardiness zone hasn't been as important over the past few winters, but this winter it has proven to be very important. If you want to plant something that you won't have to worry about losing in a freeze then choose a plant that can handle zone 9B or even up to zone 8. The last characteristic of a plant to consider is its mature height and spread. Make sure that you check how tall and wide they will be when full grown before planting them. The next time you are going to add a new plant to your yard, check out all of these items before making your final decision and both you and your plant will be better off. This is extremely important if you have power lines near your property. Do not plant medium (25-50 feet) or larger trees underneath the power lines. Next time: Water Efficiently

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

Saint Patrick's day is held in honor of Saint Patrick, the missionary who brought Christianity to the Irish people in the 400's AD. Are you Irish? Over 34 million Americans are of Irish descent. That's almost nine times the population of Ireland.

Editor: Cozette Merritt

