

SEEDS FOR THOUGHT

Official Newsletter of Marathon Garden Club

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MARATHON GARDEN CLUB

Come grow with us...

President's Report

by *Linnea Cunningham*



ORCHIDS IN JANUARY

Does everyone who attended the January meeting know what vellum is and how it protects orchid roots? Peter Kouchalokas not only gave us very useful information about growing orchids, he presented it in an amusing and memorable manner. The audience was large, perhaps the largest we have had at a general meeting; More than 90 people. Our business meeting centered on all the future activities planned: the **January Jamboree on the 30th, the Flower Show on February 12 and 13 and the House Tour on March the 6th.**

If you want to increase your orchid nursery, visit Ernie at Sea Cloud on Saturday at the Jamboree!

On January 19th, more than 30 card and domino players met to enjoy a tasty lunch in a **Memorial to Ruth Winter**, a club member for the past 23 years. Donations from the luncheon will be used to purchase new card tables for the club, a gift fitting for Ruth's memory. Thanks to all the individuals who prepared food, created fresh center pieces, set tables and laundered linens. The day was a huge success.

Have you visited our **Marathon Garden Club web site**? We are fortunate to have our own name, **WWW.MarathonGardenClub.org** !

We have attracted readers who have requested information about our activities. One respondent wishes to buy January Jamboree raffle tickets and another is looking for a native tree. The more information we can give to the community about our activities and resources the more valuable we become to residents and tourists.

***"BE A MENTOR
& GROW WITH US"***

1st Vice President's Report

by *Rosemary Thomas*

Well, the January meeting and program on Orchids had an unbelievable turnout! Thank you to the wonderful lunch committee for serving a great lunch and not running out of food for the crowd of over 100.

Our speaker, Peter, was fantastic and he stayed and answered all of your questions. When Peter was leaving he shared with me that he was astonished at the lovely building and grounds that is our Marathon Garden Club. He said he and his wife, Clara, enjoyed the day as much as we all did. I have asked Peter if he could return again next year and do another orchid program since he has so many topics he can share with us.

Our February program is on succulents and will be presented by Dennis Cathcart of Tropiflora Greenhouses. Dennis will give us some basics on growing succulents and will also be bringing succulents and bromeliads for sale. Join us on February 19.

2nd Vice President's Report

by Pat Greeley

There will be no February floral design workshop. The next design workshop is scheduled for March 3, 2010 at 9:30 am. This is the Wednesday before our House Tour. We can start to make our designs for the tour. If tropical plants are used, they will last. If you intend to use a different type of flower, you will get some ideas of what design will work for you. Thanks again to all the members who are working so hard to make "Garden Party" a great flower show.

Flower Show Reminder

by Nancy Miller

All Design classes for the February 12 & 13 flower show have been filled, thanks to Roberta Hearn. Design entries are to be placed on Thursday Feb. 11 between 10 am and 2 pm.

Horticulture in containers, hanging or mounted may be placed on Tuesday or Wednesday (Feb. 9-10) between 10 am and 2 pm. Cut specimens may be entered Thursday between 10 am and 2 pm. If you have grown a healthy plant for 90 days, you can probably exhibit it. A few examples are shown below:



Photos of shrimp plant, caladium and orchid taken by Carl Miller at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond, VA. If you're passing nearby, be

sure to visit.

If you have questions, about horticulture entries, e-mail: Nancy Miller. Cnmil@msn.com

Don't forget, exhibitors, clerks and all other volunteer workers are invited to a **wine and cheese preview party** after the judging on Friday from 6:00 - 7:30 pm. Additional tickets can be purchased for \$10 per person in the gift shop.

The Flower Show will be open and free to the public on Saturday, February 13 from 10 am until 4 pm.

34th Annual House and Garden Tour

Our annual house tour is March 6. You will soon be receiving the tickets and raffle tickets to sell to your friends and neighbors. This is our big fundraiser and we need your help to make it successful.

All of our members will be needed that day to hostess and take tickets at the homes. There are sign up lists at the garden club so you can sign up for either hostess or ticket taker. You can come by the club between 10-2 to sign up or call if it's more convenient.

The featured homes this year are on Duck Key with one in Grassy Key. We very much appreciate your assistance with this important event.

Sally Wood co-chair

Mary Ann Worthington co-chair

[Editor's note: We'll need cookie bakers, too.]

Scenic Sunset, Full Moon Kayak Trip to No Name Key Friday, January 29th, 5-7pm

Join Friends And Volunteers of Refuges (FAVOR) on the only charity kayak event on the islands. Capt. Bill Keogh, a noted local guide and photographer, and his crew at Big Pine Kayak Adventures have donated a sunset/moonrise scenic paddle through the sponge flats, grass beds and mangrove forests of the Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge. The two-hour trip will cost \$25 per person and all proceeds will be used for outreach, education, and volunteer projects on behalf of the four Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges. Call 872-7474 for more info.

Minutes - Membership Meeting

January 15, 2010

President, Linnea Cunningham, announced at 11:35 am that a light lunch would be served.

At 12:20, Linnea called the meeting to order. Linnea recognized the hostesses who served the luncheon and Connie Miola who made the beautiful floral design, "New Beginnings". Nancy Miller gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Claudia Hamrick, Recording Secretary, read the minutes from the membership meeting/luncheon December 17, 2009. Diane van Beuren made a motion with a second by Susan Bankard and approval of the membership to accept the minutes as read.

Laurie Reeves, Treasurer, reported the Treasurer's Report had been filed after presentation to the Board. She stated the check-book was reconciled and the bills all paid. Laurie stated if any member wanted a copy of the Treasurer's Report she would get it to them.

Phyllis Schewe, Membership, stated there were 42 guests at the meeting and she introduced two new members. Phyllis was taking money for annual membership renewal. As there were so many guests, Linnea gave a brief description of the garden club and its goals.

Linnea next recognized Sally Wood, Gift shop (chairman), who stated she was taking orders for Garden Club logo shirts, which Phyllis Schewe demonstrated.

Linnea announced there would be a Memorial Card Party January 19th at 11:30 honoring Ruth Winter, a past member of the garden club. Thus far, 31 people are coming to the Card Party / Luncheon.

Linnea introduced Jeri Michalak who with Carole Gieck and Margaret Wendel described the January Jamboree January 30th. Sign up sheets were passed to work on the jamboree and make baked goods. Rummage items would be accepted starting Wednesday the 27th and baked goods Friday the 29th. Betsy Philipps, Publicity, had posters for people to distribute in the community. Jeri recognized club member Ruth Bragan, who is 101 years old. Jeri also recognized Lynette Walther, who wrote an article in the Florida Gardener about the Marathon Garden Club.

Linnea next introduced Pat Greeley, who described the Standard Flower Show "Garden Party". The Flower Show has a horticultural exhibit and floral design component. Judging is February 12th and opens to the public February 13. There will be a wine and cheese party February 12th. Betsy had posters advertising the Flower Show for community distribution.

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned. Linnea introduced Rosemary Thomas who introduced the speaker Peter Kouchalokas. Kouch gave an excellent presentation on "Orchid Growing Basics". The presentation was followed by the raffle.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia Hamrick, Recording Secretary

Membership Report

by Phyllis Schewe, Chairman

I am happy to report that two more new members joined at our January meeting. They are **Amy Prumo**, a year-round resident in Key Colony Beach who is a realtor with Exit Florida Keys. The other is **Janet Oechsle** (sounds like "Oshel"), a retired teacher who spends January - April in Marathon. **Welcome to you both! We're delighted to have you on board.** (We'll try to get photos of them at the January Jamboree or our next event.)

January is membership renewal month. Many thanks to all who have paid their dues. If you haven't sent your check, you can pay on Saturday at the January Jamboree, drop off your check (for \$40) at the gift shop or mail it to the Garden Club's P O Box 500826.

*We hope all garden club members
renew for 2010
and that you'll bring friends
to enjoy the fantastic activities
the Marathon Garden Club has to offer.*

Gift Shop

There are many new items in the gift shop. If you are looking for specific floral design or gardening supplies, let us know. Sign up to work in the shop a day or more a month and be a garden club ambassador.

Sally Wood

Mark our monthly meetings on your Calendar

February 19, 2010

“Succulents for Beginners”

Speaker: Dennis Cathcart, owner Tropiflora Nursery

March 19, 2010

“Bromeliads for Beginners”

Speaker: Jackie Thomas of the Key West Garden Club

April 16, 2010

Spring Luncheon at Marathon High School Culinary Institute; Tour of the Institute will be given by Chef Anthony Green

Other Important Dates

Feb. 12 & 13 - A Standard Flower Show, “Garden Party”. Preview Wine & Cheese Party 2/12: 6 - 7:30 pm, Tickets \$10; Flower Show 2/13: 10 am-4 pm, Free Admission!

March 6 - MGC House & Garden Tour

April 9 - District XII Spring Meeting hosted by Marathon Garden Club

April 22-24 - FFGC Annual Convention at Embassy Suites in Boca Raton

Floral Design Tips

Plant material should be cut in late afternoon or early evening as this is the time when plant sugars and moisture are at their highest levels. Early morning is an alternate time, but not quite as good as late afternoon.

When the plant material has been taken indoors and the stems recut under water, almost all varieties should be put in deep, tepid water, with or without a preservative, and placed in a cool spot, out of drafts. It is best to allow plant material to condition overnight before use in a design.

The Garden Groomers work on Thursday mornings.
Additional volunteers are always welcome!
Just show up with your gloves and clippers.
There's always something to do.
If you have questions,
call (289-0790) or e-mail Betsy:
Nbphilipps@bellsouth.net

Grooming Horticulture For a Flower Show

- Exhibitor may have to decide whether a fresh scar caused by removal of a leaf would be penalized less than leaving the damaged portion on the specimen.*
- Evidence of spay, dust, insect damage, or faded petals & leaves should be carefully removed.*
- Container-grown plants must be well groomed with soil surface clean and neat.*
- Seed pods, wilted flowers, damaged foliate, broken stems must be removed.*
- Foliage must be clean.*
- Limited trimming of foliage is permitted, following the natural outline of leaf or flower.*
- Container must be clean and in proportion with amount of plant material. However, naturally grown moss covered containers are acceptable.*
- Container-grown specimens should be centered in the pot. Exception: sympodial orchids*

There will be a **Plant Clinic** by University of Florida Master Gardeners in the Marathon Garden Club Courtyard on Saturday, February 20th
From 9 - Noon
Bring plants or plant problems for ID

MARATHON GARDEN CLUB

Located at 5270 Overseas Highway
Near Mile Marker 50 in Marathon, Florida
Phone 305-743-4971
WWW.MarathonGardenClub.org
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 500826
Marathon, FL 33050-0826
For Rentals, Contact Jeri @ 305-289-1696