



# The Garden Club of Coral Springs

**COME GROW WITH US!**

December 2021

Member of Florida Federation of Garden Clubs ([www.ffgc.org](http://www.ffgc.org)) and National Garden Club ([www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org))

MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE THE 2ND THURSDAY DURING THE MONTHS OF OCTOBER THROUGH MAY FROM 10 AM TO NOON - MEETINGS ARE HELD IN MULLINS PARK, 10150 NW 29th St, CORAL SPRINGS - LOCATIONS OF FIELD TRIPS VARY.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT JERI DECKER

Wow, it's already December and the holidays are upon us! Everyone, I'm sure, is busy meeting with friends and family and busy shopping and gardening. Our Board and Committees have also been busy bees planning programs and events for December and January.

The weather wasn't cooperative for our Flamingo Gardens tour which had to be rescheduled to December 17<sup>th</sup>. I think we have learned a lesson and any future outdoor trips will be held rain or shine.

I'd like to thank our holiday party committee Ken, Donna, Miriam, Sephora and Ginny. They are doing an amazing job. We have 34 members and guests signed up for Coopers Hawk on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. Don't forget your garden related grab bag gift and a toy for a child in the hospital.

We had a great November meeting at Pizza Time in Coral Springs. Twenty – six members and prospective members joined us for good food, camaraderie and an informative speaker on ways to protect our sand dunes.

In January, we begin our garden therapy project with Aston Gardens and Special Needs Adults at Sartory Hall. Please check your email for the details and the opportunity to sign up to volunteer.

Wishing everyone happy holidays.

Jeri

## 2021-2022 GARDEN CLUB MEETING SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 9, 2021—Holiday Luncheon—Cooper's Hawk Winery and Restaurant

APRIL 14, 2022— Regular Meeting—Guest Speaker Rose Butman from Naturescape Broward

DECEMBER 17, 2021—Field Trip to Flamingo Gardens

APRIL 21, 2022—Spring District Meeting—venue and speaker TBD

JANUARY 13, 2022—Field Trip to Fairchild Tropical Garden

MAY 12, 2022—Scholarship Luncheon

FEBRUARY 10, 2022—Regular meeting—Make & Take for Valentine's Day

Members Who Lunch in June, July and August—additional details to follow

MARCH 10, 2022—Regular Meeting—Garden Fest Planning—Guest Speaker Taryn Palo speaks on Bromeliads and Tillandsias, and brings plants to sell

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE** - [www.coral Springsgardenclub.org](http://www.coral Springsgardenclub.org) ctures of **OUR ADDRESS:** PO Box 773334, Coral Springs, FL 33077  
**What would you like to see in our newsletter? Please email suggestions to [dmolski@bellsouth.net](mailto:dmolski@bellsouth.net).**  
Membership in the Garden Club is open to all regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity or religious affiliation.

## GardenFest 2022

This is our major fundraiser of the year and gives us the most visibility in the community. This year's event will be held March 19 and 20 in the Walk. We ask all members to participate in some way! Right now we are still seeking vendors and sponsors. These vendors and sponsors are supporting us and our mission. Please consider favoring them with your business and be sure to tell them you are a member of the Garden Club of Coral Springs!

Vendors can be selling plants, outdoor yard art, plant supplies or vegetables. The following is our current list of vendors:

Adriana Gante  
Anna and Laszlo Boros  
Bamboo Management  
Biscotti Girl  
Cielos Abiertos Landscaping  
Crushable Hats, Inc  
Elena Metzkes  
Happy Dog Bakery Inc  
Haydee Gomez  
Honey Smack Attack  
Kreative Gardens, Inc  
Larry Smith  
Magic Nursery  
Sabrina Sparkman  
Smart Girl, LLC

Sponsors are donating funds to support our scholarship program which offers financial aid to High School Seniors entering a Florida College and majoring in fields of study related to the environment and horticulture. Thank you to:

Ronnie Ratner-Sheldon  
Coldwell Banker Realty

Giulio Leone  
Financial Advisor

Hap Pomeranz  
Keyes Realty

Law Offices of Barry A Diamond, PA  
Coral Springs

Ryan Meyers  
Meyers Insurance

Maria Montibano  
Sotheby's International Realty

If anyone knows someone who can be a sponsor, please send them the information from our GardenFest website. Thank you to Marcy, Jeri, Luanne and June for Chairing this event, but please remember . . . we are ALL on this important committee.

## ALTERNATIVES TO GROWING IN THE GROUND

If any of you are like me, it's getting harder and harder to get on the ground to garden these days. You have three options.

### Option One

Hire someone. Enough said.

### Option Two

You can plant in containers. This is particularly effective if you live in a villa or condo.



Almost any vegetable that you grow in the ground can be grown in a container in Florida. You must pick the appropriate size container—e.g. herbs and lettuce would prefer 10-14 inch diameter pots. Peppers, eggplants and squash would like it a little more roomy asking for 18-24 inch pots.

Also, the color of the pot is important as it can affect the amount of heat the pot retains. Dark pots absorb the sunlight and will retain the heat longer.

Plastic or ceramic pots? Air movement stimulates root growth, resulting in healthier plants. Clay also wicks moisture out of the soil. This makes clay the better choice for plants that prefer dry soil (or if you tend to overwater). This also means you will have to water more often with clay.

Your pots should have drain holes. You can put a rock in the bottom to prevent soil escape, but more only makes your pot heavier and harder to move. Other lightweight options, recycle plastics like water bottles and packing peanut materials.

Instead of using individual containers, you might opt to have an elevated planting box. There are many available on line, but if you are handy (or know someone who is), you can Do It Yourself.



### Option Three

Hydroponic Gardening is becoming more popular. Hydroponics involves growing plants without soil. One uses mineral nutrient solutions in an aqueous solvent.

Hydroponics is not without disadvantages. It is expensive to set up, vulnerable to power outages, requires constant monitoring and maintenance, can get waterborne diseases and problems affect plants quicker.

(continued on page 4.)

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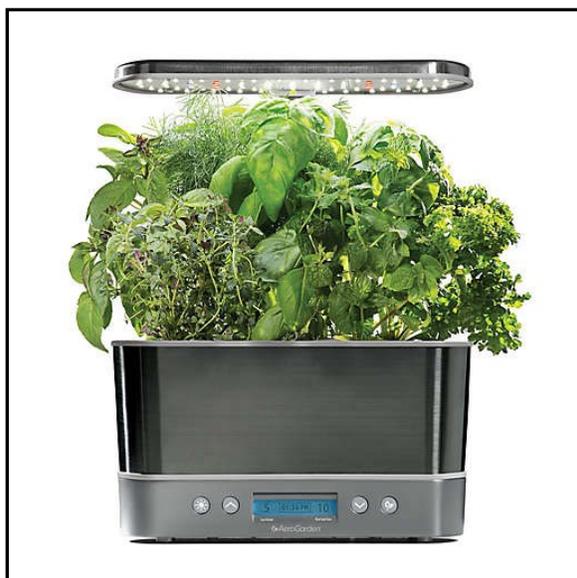
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## ALTERNATIVES TO GROWING IN THE GROUND (cont.)

A major argument against hydroponic gardening is that it is sterile. Sterility is a lack of micro-organisms. Micro - organisms such as bacteria support plant health and the environment. Without bacteria, plants are more vulnerable to disease and have difficulty taking up nutrients.

Tower hydroponic systems are expensive. Systems can be \$500 and more. But again, there are ways to make them yourself. You can also buy countertop systems on line for under \$100. Supplies can readily be bought on line or at the big box stores.

That being said, hydroponic plants grow 25% faster than soil plants. Depending on the system, you can grow up to 30% more plants in the same amount of space as soil plants. Hydroponics is



excellent for growing crops in an area you might not otherwise be able to grow them. Depending on the system, you could also have crops available year round.

So what are the best plants to grow hydroponically? Most are vegetables. Lettuce, spinach, kale, hot peppers, cucumbers, green beans, basil and strawberries are all great options. Herbs can be grown in the countertop version.

If any in the group are growing hydroponically and would like to invite us over to see their garden, that would be fun!

### UPDATE ON THE FIELD TRIP TO FAIRCHILD TROPICAL GARDENS

The date has been changed to January 14th. We are partnering with Tamarac Community Center. They have city buses at their avail, so we won't need to carpool! We will be able to step on the bus and enjoy the ride. Details to follow so keep an eye on your email.



## WHAT TO PLANT

**Annuals/Bedding plants:** To add color to the winter garden, plant masses of begonia, impatiens, and geranium. **See** *Annuals*: [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_annual\\_landscape\\_plants](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants)

**Bulbs:** Amaryllis is a popular plant for the holiday season. It can be forced to bloom now or planted outdoors for spring blooms. **See** *Bulbs for Florida*: [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_bulbous\\_flowers](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers)

**Herbs:** Plant herbs that thrive in cool weather. Some examples include parsley, thyme, sage, dill, fennel, and cilantro. **See** *Herbs*: [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_herbs](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs)

**Vegetables:** Reliable cool-season vegetables to plant this month include broccoli, carrots, kale, green onions, and others. **See** *Vegetable Gardening in Florida*:

## WHAT TO DO

**Poinsettias:** Enjoy one of the most popular holiday plants. Protect it from cold until spring, and then plant it in the garden for next year. **See** *Poinsettias*: [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_poinsettia](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_poinsettia)

**Irrigation:** Irrigate if the weather has been warm and dry. Monitor plants for signs of stress and water only as needed. **See** *Landscape Irrigation*: [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_irrigation](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation)

**Lawns:** Continue monitoring for brown patch and large patch fungal disease until May. Proper cultural practices are key for control. **See** *Turf Diseases*: [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_turf\\_diseases](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_turf_diseases)

**Houseplants:** Inspect regularly for pests on indoor plants. Keep in mind that plant-specific temperature, light, and humidity are key to ensuring that indoor plants thrive. **See** *Houseplants*: [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_house\\_plants](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_house_plants)

**Soil test:** Consider performing a soil test if plants do not perform as desired or if new plantings are planned. **See** *Soil Testing*: [http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot\\_topics/agriculture/soil\\_testing.html](http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot_topics/agriculture/soil_testing.html) and *Landscape and Soil Test (Home Lawn and Garden)*: [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_home\\_soil\\_testing](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_home_soil_testing)

**Compost/mulch:** Use fallen leaves and other plant debris to provide the carbon ingredient needed for successful composting and also to make a good mulch. **See** *Backyard Composting*: [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_home\\_composting](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_home_composting) and *Landscape Mulches*: [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_mulch](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_mulch)

**Landscape and garden pests:** Continue monitoring and treat as needed. While cooler weather generally means fewer pests, some populations actually increase at this time of year. **See** *Landscape Pest Management*: [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_pests](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests)

**Holiday trees:** Consider enjoying a live southern red cedar and then plant it in the landscape when the holidays are over. **See** *Christmas Tree Selection and Care*: [http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/giam/potpourri/holiday/xmastree\\_care.html](http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/giam/potpourri/holiday/xmastree_care.html)

**Protect:** Protect tender orchid, impatiens, and tomato from falling temperatures. **See** *Cold Protection and Chilling Damage of Landscape Plants*: [https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscapes\\_and\\_cold](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscapes_and_cold)

## THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW



## PLANT OF THE MONTH



The plant we commonly call amaryllis goes more properly by the genus name Hippeastrum. There are dozens of species and hundreds, if not thousands, of named varieties. Most people still call these winter-flower bulbs amaryllis.

For all their spectacular beauty, amaryllis are one of the easiest plants to grow. Pot up the bulb, give it a little water, and watch one of nature's miracles! No green thumb needed!

They are perennial in their native tropical and subtropical regions. In cold climates the bulbs are brought indoors and coaxed into winter bloom.

With proper care, an amaryllis bulb will grow and bloom for decades. The plant generally blooms once a year. There may be several flower stalks that bloom in succession, so the show may last for many weeks. One grower claims his bulb has bloomed every year for 75 years!

**A**  
**sweet**  
**little tree**  
**made from mini**  
**succulents!**



## NATURE AT ITS BEST



In 1960, David Latimer planted a tiny garden inside of a large glass bottle and sealed it shut. He opened the bottle 12 years later in 1972 to add some water and then sealed it for good. The self contained ecosystem has flourished for nearly 60 years.

For those who are wondering how this is even possible: the garden is a perfectly balanced and self-sufficient ecosystem. The bacteria in the compost eats the dead plants and breaks down the oxygen that is released by the plants, turning it into carbon dioxide, which is needed for photosynthesis. The bottle is essentially a microcosm of earth.

South African artist [Daniel Popper](#) debuted his first major exhibition in the United States—and his largest ever—at [The Morton Arboretum](#) in Illinois. *Human+Nature* is a sprawling exhibition that sees five large-scale sculptures by Popper invading the 1,700-acre arboretum. Ranging anywhere from 15 to 26 feet tall, the sculptures “inspire awe as they connect people and trees.”



### This **GECKO** Species Looks Like a Leaf

This masterfully camouflaged little lizard has a leafy look, complete with a tail sporting missing chunks to make it look as if it has been partly rotten. These geckos are only found in Madagascar, and only emerge at night to hunt. Scientists think they're mostly after insects, but in reality little is known about their diet in the wild.

## A Suburban Chicago Woman's Home-raised Monarch Butterfly Makes It To Central Mexico, 2,000 Miles Away!

An Orland Park, Illinois, woman who raises butterflies in her home, hit the monarch migration jackpot: A tiny tag affixed to one of her 2020 butterflies was recovered in the mountainous region of central Mexico where Midwestern migratory monarchs spend the winter.

The female butterfly, listed as ACBM486, flew about 2,000 miles from Orland Park, in suburban Chicago, to the El Rosario nature reserve near Ocampo. "I was super, super excited," said Debbie Kostolansky, 62, who grows butterfly and hummingbird gardens, and has raised monarchs for five years. "I just kind of felt like I did something good."

The monarch population has been in decline in the last 20 years, spurring conservation efforts, including large-scale tagging with tiny stickers. The nonprofit Monarch Watch education and research program, which provides stickers and compiles lists of those recovered, puts the odds of having a tag turn up in Mexico at about 1 in 100.

Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum chief curator, Doug Taron, who has tagged hundreds of monarchs over the past eight years, said he has never had a monarch turn up on a list of recovered tags.

"It is very, very unusual to get tags retrieved," Taron said. "Only a tiny, tiny fraction of the released tagged monarchs get found."

Kostolansky, who works at a garden center, planted milkweed for monarchs before she started raising the butterflies in a mesh enclosure. She doesn't raise more than 30 at a time, in keeping with experts' warnings that raising large numbers can expose monarchs to health risks such as parasite transmission.

She gathers eggs she finds on milkweed plants, picks fresh milkweed for the caterpillars to eat, cleans her monarch enclosure twice a day and transfers her caterpillars to an outdoor enclosure during the day, in the hope that they will benefit from exposure to natural conditions.

Kostolansky had been checking whether her monarchs had made it to Mexico for months when, one night in mid-August, she briefly checked her phone for news and the weather. A quick glance at Facebook revealed that a woman in Minnesota had found one of her monarchs on the Monarch Watch list of butterflies that had made it to Mexico in 2020.

"Oh, let me just check the list," Kostolansky said to herself. "What are the chances?"

She went down the Monarch Watch list, and the first four letters of her 2020 tags were there: ACBM. ACBM was followed by a familiar-sounding number, 486. She went to her own list of 2020 monarchs, and sure enough, ACBM486 was there.

"In the morning I double-checked, because I thought I was seeing things," Kostolansky said.

Most monarchs live for two to six weeks, but late summer and early fall bring a super-generation that migrates to Mexico or California. The migratory monarchs can live eight or nine months.

Kostolansky's commitment to butterflies includes raising swallowtails, and this year she helped count butterflies at Orland Grassland for the Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network.

As for migratory monarchs, she plans to release 25 in the coming weeks, each with a tiny tag and the hope of a confirmed landing in Mexico. "It may never happen for me again, but that's OK," she said with a chuckle. "I had it once."



Debbie Kostolansky in her butterfly garden in Orland Park on Wednesday, Sept. 2021.

# PATRON DONOR INCENTIVES

		<b>GCCS*</b>	<b>FFGC*</b>	<b>PATCH</b>	<b>BADGE</b>	<b>MEMBER-</b>
<b>ROSE</b>	\$ 500	X	X	1		2 (M/E) for 1 person**
<b>AZALEA</b>	\$ 250	X	X	1	1	1 (M/E) for 1 person
<b>BEGONIA</b>	\$ 100				1	1 (E) for 1 person
<b>DAISY</b>	\$ 50			1	1	

\*GCCS: THE GARDEN CLUB OF CORAL SPRINGS

\*FFGC: FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

<b>*MEMBERSHIPS</b>	American Orchid Society	\$ 79 each
	Bonnet House	\$ 65 each 2/\$100
	Butterfly World	\$ 70 each
	Fairchild Tropical Gardens	\$ 95 each 2/\$120
	Flamingo Gardens	\$ 65 each 2/\$115
	Mounts Botanical Garden	\$ 50 each 2/\$ 75
	National Wildlife Federation	\$ 75 Garden Tools
	Sawgrass Nature Center	\$ 30 each 4/\$ 50

<b>*EVENT</b>	<b>MAY LUNCHEON</b>
	<b>HOLIDAY PARTY</b>

\*\*Top two levels, 50% of money will go to Scholarship Fund

Patrons names will be acknowledged on Website, Facebook and Newsletter

ORCHID LEVEL

ROSE LEVEL

Jeri Decker

AZALEA LEVEL

BEGONIA LEVEL

Susan Baer

DAISY LEVEL

Dorothy Molski

Mary Anne McKay



**BOUQUET OF GIVING**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

Orchid:	\$1000
Rose:	\$ 500
Azalea:	\$ 250
Begonia:	\$ 100
Daisy:	\$ 50