



# The Garden Club of Coral Springs

**COME GROW WITH US!**

FEBRUARY 2026

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 SEPTEMBER THROUGH MAY FROM 10:30AM TO 12:30PM - ALSO SOME SATURDAYS TO ACCOMMODATE OUR WORKING MEMBERS - MEETINGS ARE HELD AT NORTHWEST REGIONAL LIBRARY (3151 N UNIVERSITY DR, CORAL SPRINGS) AND FIELD TRIPS ARE HELD AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS - PLEASE SEE THE SCHEDULE IN THE NEWSLETTER AND ALSO ON OUR

## President's Message

February is often associated with love, and in our Garden Club that love shows up in many forms—volunteers, shared plants, laughter at meetings, and friendships that continue to grow right alongside our gardens.

So many members have been busy caring for our community spaces. Les Corbin, Dave Thompson, and Gail and Ken Gauthier have been volunteering at Whispering Woods, planting and updating signs for our native garden. Have you been to see it?

Debra Weatherly and Lynn Rochelle regularly tend Veterans Park on Royal Palm Boulevard, our Florida-Friendly garden, and also help keep Sawgrass Nature Center looking its best. Have you been to see it?

Carol Johnson consistently tends the grounds at Sawgrass Nature Center and keeps an eye on our vegetable garden—another must-see! Debra Weatherly also repainted, mulched, and cleaned up our plant exchange outside the Community Garden. Have you been to see it?

Les Corbin and Terry Conowal continue to give regular care to our Community Garden plot, while Terry also manages our seed exchange. Have you been to see it?

Behind the scenes, many committees are hard at work. The May Luncheon Committee: Ken Decker, Jeri Decker, Luanne Betz, Debbie Strong, Maria DePasque, and Molly St. Cavish met to plan our luncheon at Livello's. This is a new venue for us, and I hope it will be enjoyed by all. Our Scholarship Committee: Luanne Betz, Jeri and Ken Decker, Dolores Culver, and Jill Kareff is preparing forms and contacts for distribution to local high schools. Jeri Decker, Maria DePasque, Debbie Strong, and Debra Weatherly have been busy creating Valentine thank-you gifts for the volunteers at Sawgrass Nature Center.

Our Newsletter Committee: Dotty Molski, Caroline Steffen, Jill Kareff, Lynn Rochelle, Mary Anne McKay, Ken Decker and Jeri Decker continues to work diligently on each issue to keep us informed and connected. Our Yard of the Month committee: Nancy Da Silva, Ken Decker, Carol Johnson, Mary Anne McKay, and Casey Lee awarded another home YOM.

Coming up soon is our [Paradise Palms Botanical and Sculpture Garden](#) field trip. Will we see you there?

As we nurture all of these projects, we also nurture ourselves and one another. I hope you feel your share of love this month. Thank you to all of you for everything you do.

Warm regards,  
**Luanne Betz**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE** - [www.coralsspringsgardenclub.org](http://www.coralsspringsgardenclub.org) **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.

# THE ADORABLE BURROWING OWL OBSERVE, BUT DON'T BOTHER

A Summary of the Presentation by Paul Krash of Project Perch at our January Meeting

By Lynn Rochelle

This is one of the smallest owls, about nine inches tall with a wingspan of 21 inches.

They have unusually long legs, an adaptation that provides them a better view from ground level.

Their range is throughout the Florida peninsula. They make their homes in open spaces, such as golf courses, open prairies, vacant lots, all preferable because there is minimal under-story vegetation. They can also be found in urban areas and parks.

The burrowing owl is under threat from vehicles, iguanas, feral and domesticated animals and from humans destroying their habitats. Rain can flood their homes. Another threat is aerial predation. If a lazy iguana finds the owl's burrow, it can lay up to 60 eggs. Iguanas cover their eggs, which can cause baby owls to suffocate.

They feed primarily on insects, but will include small frogs, bird, lizards and rodents.

The mating season is from February to mid-July. Their burrows are maintained and reused. Females lay three to eight eggs which they incubate for 28 days. Two weeks after they hatch, the white-feathered juveniles appear out of the burrow. They begin learning to fly at four weeks, but they are unable to fly well until they are about two months old.

Burrowing owls are most active at dawn and at dusk. The burrowing owl lives in family groups. In the rainy season and during hawk migration, they will take to the trees for safety.

For any concerns, please contact Paul Krash by email at [owl@projectperch.org](mailto:owl@projectperch.org)



# MANATEES CONSERVATION

## By Caroline Steffen

Manatees are gentle charismatic mammals, and our state has a favorite habitat for them. They congregate in warm waters and eat vegetation 'seagrass' for survival. Dozens of manatees or sea cows, which can grow up to 10 feet (3 meters) long and 1,200 pounds (544 kilograms), have been congregating for the past few cold weeks near Florida Power & Light Company plants.

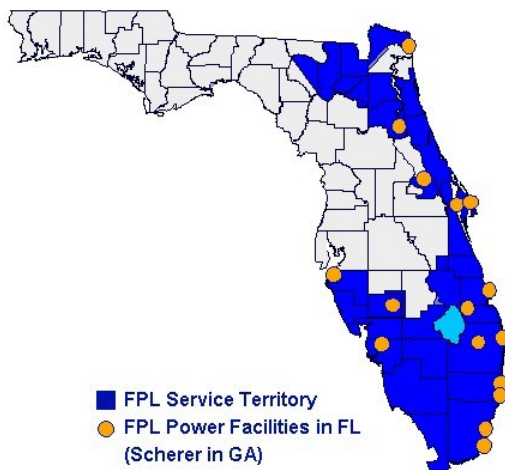
"Manatees are such a special species that we have in our waters here in Florida, because they are a sentinel species, which means that they're an indicator for any water problems that we may have or any environmental issues we may have," Manatee Lagoon staff confirmed.



**Calves may stay with their mothers for up to two years, and travel Florida's waterways together in search of food and places to rest (Credit: Save the Manatee Club)**

However, our recent climate changes have made over 60 percent of Florida's manatees dependent on our local power plants for their warm discharges. The state's rapidly growing population, expanding industry, and rising sea levels have significantly altered the manatees' natural habitat, limiting their access to food [seagrass] and the waters that kept them warm during cold winter months.

In search of new warm water habitats, manatees have become vulnerable to cold stress syndrome when water temperatures drop below 68°F. If action isn't taken soon, it could trigger cataclysmic losses in the state's population of Manatees.



FPL MAP: Manatees come to the surface to breathe at several power plants that offer free attractions and warm waters such as at the Florida Power & Light plants and Manatee Lagoon, and other attractions operated by power plants throughout Florida. They let the public view and learn about the sea cows who gather in winter for the warm-water outflows that they so very much depend on to survive. (AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell)



## Manatee Conservation (Cont)

The manatee population was in severe crisis – and so scientists came up with a desperate plan: if there wasn't any seagrass to eat, scientists would feed them romaine lettuce. Almost 600,000lb (272,155kg) of lettuce was fed to the manatee population on Florida's east coast, mainly around Cape Canaveral, over two years in a program named Let Them Eat Lettuce. It was a success, and the manatees had recovered sufficiently that they could pause the program during the 2023 winter period.

But manatees aren't just threatened by a loss of habitat and seagrass; 96% of manatees in Florida have some kind of scars on their bodies – from boat collisions. "Virtually every manatee alive has been within an inch or two of losing its life," explains Rose. "The leading cause of their injuries and mortalities is still watercraft collisions." In Florida, manatees share the waterways with hundreds of thousands of boats. Manatees can sustain both blunt and sharp force trauma from propellers, and collisions account for almost a quarter of mortalities. And yet, motorized boats are still permitted in many of the natural springs that manatees rely on for survival.

Despite these protections, at least 104 manatees were killed by human-related activity in 2023. We are far from protecting all of the areas we need to protect. We have come a long way but we have got much farther to go. In 2023, a new set of questions were introduced to the boater safety course that anyone operating a boat in Florida is required to take. In 2019, Florida allocated more than \$50m to manatee programs, and in 2023, the state measured the lowest manatee mortality rate since 2017. A further \$325m has been invested to restore Florida's springs. In January 2024, Blue Spring State Park, which has been working on restoration efforts since 1970, counted a record 932 manatees. When it first began its restoration work, park rangers counted just 14 of the mammals.

Floridians can support manatee conservation by donating to organizations like the [Save the Manatee Club](#) (one-time/monthly gifts, symbolic adoptions), purchasing a [Manatee Specialty License Plate](#) (FWC), or donating to the [Marine Mammal Fund](#) via the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida. Funds support habitat restoration, rescue, and rehabilitation.

Key Donation and Support Options:

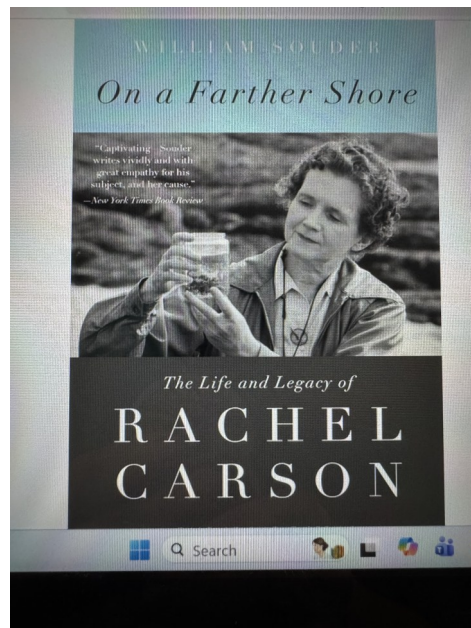
Symbolic Adoption: Adopt a real, living manatee through the [Save the Manatee Club](#), starting at \$25

Shop to Donate: Purchase [Manatee Coffee or specialty items](#), where proceeds help feed and protect manatees.

Other Ways to Help:

- Report Distressed Manatees: Immediately report injured or orphaned manatees to the FWC at 1-888-404-FWCC (3922 ).
- Volunteer: Participate in local shoreline, beach, or park cleanup events to reduce pollution.
- Responsible Boating: Obey posted boat speed zones to prevent injuries to manatees

Rachel Carson  
1907-1964



## A BOOK REPORT By Jill Kareff

**“Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.”**

This is a quote from Rachel Carson's most famous book "Silent Spring". She wrote several books including "Under the Sea Wind", "The Edge of the Sea" and "The Sea Around Us", as well as numerous articles. She began her writing career at 10 years old, writing articles for children's magazines. Rachel earned the National Book Award and a Guggenheim Grant.

Growing up in rural Pennsylvania, Rachel excelled in school, the only one of her siblings to finish high school and go on to college. She graduated magna cum laude from Pennsylvania College for Women and went on to earn her master's degree from the Oceanographic Institute at Woods Hole and Johns Hopkins University. She proudly became the second woman to be hired by the US Bureau of Fisheries, where she worked for 15 years.

"Silent Spring" was groundbreaking in revealing the dangers of chemical pesticides. The information she uncovered eventually led to a nationwide ban on DDT and other pesticides and ultimately led to the creation of the US Environmental Protection Agency... the EPA. Rachel was diagnosed with terminal breast cancer while writing "Silent Spring" and kept her diagnosis and treatments a secret. She was awarded, posthumously, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

For more information on Rachel Carson please look for her biography "On a Farther Shore" by William Souder. It is available via Libby in our Broward County Library System.

**VERY, VERY IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ!**

## **FEBRUARY 12th PROGRAM**

Gail and Jill will be leading a Make and Take using a hard cover book.

You will need a pair of scissors that you don't mind using to cut paper, and a hardcover book of any size or vintage. We will have books and scissors as well as glue and a hand out sheet with instructions for those who need them.

Our dear friend, Carol Johnson oversees the Friends of the Library, and she would love to sell you a nice hardcover book. Of course, there are many Little Free Libraries throughout our neighborhoods.







## POMPANO BEACH GARDEN CLUB

### Annual Fashion Show & Luncheon

**Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 am**

*Emma Lou Olson Civic Center • 1801 NE 6th St, Pompano Beach*

Join us for our annual fashion show where we will be serving our fabulous *homemade* soups, salad, rolls, cake, coffee, and tea!

Fashions by *Patchington*  
Patchington.com

- Plants and jewelry for sale
- Baskets available for raffle
- Silent auction
- 50/50 raffle

**Reservations \$35**

To reserve your seat, send your check and this form to: **Cindy DeBlasio-1619 SE 8th Ave, Deerfield Beach 33441**. If registering more than one person, include all names with your check. If you do not have your guest's name(s) send the check to reserve your space and send the names when available.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Garden Club (if you belong to one): \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? email [cindydaisy@me.com](mailto:cindydaisy@me.com) or call 954-253-9938

## OUR MEMBERS

Our president accepts a generous donation from Festival of the Arts presented by Joe Morera and Joy Carter.



Dave Thompson created slate name tags for our plantings at Whispering Woods Park.



## GARDENING TIPS From Jeri Decker



### IMPROVE SOIL HEALTH

Add compost or well-rotted manure  
in fall or early spring.

Aim for rich, loamy,  
well-draining soil.



— Healthy soil grows strong plants —



# Word Search

P K Z M E B U K D B B D Y F R D S V V A  
E Q Z R S O K P F G D R B R U V D H G U  
E C X Y H Z D J U O W D C U X S Z X C D  
L R C U I C X J Y Y V A M I K N D W D A  
J E B I G T N O O O P O K T E I L V S A  
K A L U K V N R M P G S M O O T H I E V  
V M K W Z K H T S W P U A Q N J R G N F  
B X R L E P U R E E Y A R J J U I C E V  
H M I Q S W F D T R V P A T J U P R T W  
T H P X T O I E N D M W A F I E V U W B  
M X E C J N Z S N I B A K L I K F G L C  
G R A I A F U A P Z L X N J B E F W R H  
L Y F R I Z D L T T H Y C G V K B P F U  
E E O S O Y B S B C F J Z O O P L S M T  
Y T L K M E P A Y N R U R G W G Z A S N  
T X U S E Z W P P I Q P X E I P V L D E  
P B I W Q O M M F U J P D R P W F A K Y  
I S O E I N Y F H D F M B A Q L N D Y A  
N G H E V N W T J Z N X D K Z K L Z W W  
A A J T O H M D E S S E R T Z C B N H B

SMOOTHIE

CHUTNEY

DESSERT

RIPE

YOGURT

MANGO

FRUIT

PEEL

SALSA

JUICE

PUREE

SWEET

SALAD

CREAM

ZEST

# The FFGC Registration for the Convention is now open.

Check out the fun Workshops! [www.ffgc.org](http://www.ffgc.org)

Register online today in 5 minutes and get free self parking once you register.

**FFGC CONVENTION**  
**Registration**  
**is now open!**



**APRIL 14-17, 2026**  
**Embassy Suites Orlando by Hilton**  
**Lake Buena Vista South, Fl.**  
**State Flower Show - "Once Upon a Time"**



As part of the City's ongoing commitment to expanding and strengthening the urban tree canopy, the Residential Tree Subsidy Program helps eligible single-family homeowners plant new street trees at a reduced cost.

Residents may receive a \$250 rebate for planting an approved Florida Grade #1 street tree, measuring over 10 feet in height, on their property. Rebates are issued after the tree has been inspected, properly established, and confirmed to be thriving.

**For additional information go to [Street Tree Program - City of Coral Springs](#) or contact our member Casey Lee, City Forester, at [clee@coralsprings.gov](mailto:clee@coralsprings.gov) or by phone at 954-344-1117.**



# MANGOES RECIPE: MANGO LASSI PARFAIT WITH SPICED COCONUT CRUNCH

Submitted by Jeri Decker

A refreshing, tropical-inspired parfait that features ripe mangoes, creamy yogurt, and a crunchy spiced coconut topping. Perfect as a breakfast, snack, or light dessert.

## INGREDIENTS

### Mango Layer

2 medium ripe mangoes, peeled and diced (about 2 cups)  
1-2 tsp honey or maple syrup (to taste)  
1/2 tsp fresh lime juice  
1/4 tsp vanilla extract (optional)

### Yogurt Layer

1 cup plain or vanilla yogurt (Greek yogurt for extra creaminess)  
1-2 tbsp honey or maple syrup (to taste)  
1/2 tsp ground cardamom (optional)

### Spiced Coconut Crunch

1/2 cup shredded coconut (unsweetened)  
1 tbsp coconut oil or melted butter  
1-2 tbsp brown sugar or coconut sugar  
1/4 tsp cinnamon  
Pinch of salt

### Assembly (Optional Garnishes)

Fresh mint leaves  
Pomegranate seeds or chopped pistachios  
Lime zest

## INSTRUCTIONS

### Prep the mangoes:

In a blender or food processor, blend the diced mangoes with lime juice, vanilla (if using), and a little honey until smooth. You can leave it chunky if you prefer texture.

Scoop a few spoonfuls into a small bowl and set aside for the mango layer.

### Make the yogurt layer:

In a bowl, whisk the yogurt with honey (or maple syrup) and cardamom until smooth and well combined.

### Make the spiced coconut crunch:

In a skillet over medium heat, combine coconut oil, shredded coconut, brown sugar, cinnamon, and a pinch of salt.

Stir constantly for 3-5 minutes, until the coconut turns golden brown and fragrant.

Remove from heat and let cool completely. It will crisp up a bit as it cools.

### Assemble the parfait:

In serving glasses or bowls, layer as follows:

A spoonful of mango puree (or diced mango) at the bottom.

A layer of yogurt.

A spoonful of mango chunks or puree.

A layer of yogurt.

Generous sprinkle of spiced coconut crunch on top.

Repeat layers as desired.

### Garnish and serve:

Top with fresh mint, pomegranate seeds or chopped pistachios, and a little lime zest for brightness.

Serve immediately or refrigerate for up to 2 hours.

## TIPS AND VARIATIONS

**Dairy-free option:\*\*** Use coconut yogurt and a dairy-free yogurt alternative; replace honey with agave or maple syrup.

**Texture boost:\*\*** Leave some diced mango in chunks for contrast with the smooth puree.

**Citrus twist:\*\*** Add a teaspoon of fresh orange zest for a citrusy aroma.

**Make-ahead:\*\*** Prepare the mango puree and coconut crunch ahead; layer just before serving to maintain crunch.

## Golden Bee Award (Begonia)

Nominated by members. Awarded to a member who goes above and beyond.

---



Winner

**Debra Weatherly**

February 2026

**It is my great pleasure to present the Golden Bee Begonia Award to Debra Weatherly.**

Debbie was an early recipient of the Golden Bee Award and has been a member of the Garden Club since the very beginning, our 1999 charter. When I joined the club, she was assigned as my "big sister," and from that moment on, her generosity and kindness were evident. That same spirit continues today in everything she does.

Debbie is always willing to help members develop their gardens, sharing plants and cuttings with enthusiasm. She regularly monitors the plant exchange, making sure it is well organized and looking its best. She also continues to include and support our founder, Marcy Di Mare, by bringing her to various club functions.

Debbie is deeply committed to the maintenance of Veterans Park, where she frequently repaints bricks, trims plants, replants, and refreshes mulch as needed. She is equally vigilant in helping keep Sawgrass Nature Center looking beautiful. This year, she also contributed plants for our Valentine plant project.

And, of course, you can always count on Debbie to be dressed in her own uniquely *fashionable garden style*!

Thank you, Debbie, for all that you do, and congratulations on this well-deserved recognition. 🌸 🐝



## IMPORTANT

If you wear your name tag to meetings and events, you'll have the chance to enter a drawing to win a beautiful prize. It's a simple way to show your participation and engagement, and who knows—you might be the lucky winner! Don't forget to wear your name tag for your chance to win!

Order a Garden Club Tee Shirt. \$15.00.



Polo shirts white for men , pink for ladies. \$25.00  
One tee shirt is given to new members who work the garden fest. Anyone who previously received a shirt will need to purchase if they want an additional tee shirt.  
Contact Ken 954-913-1617



We still have patches available for purchase that you can sew or iron onto a **pink** blouse, tee, hoodie, hat or garment of your choice.

Depending on your level of giving, you may be entitled to one for free. However, they are only \$5 each so it may be fun to get more than one for style flexibility! Please contact Mary Anne at [mimi0113@gmail.com](mailto:mimi0113@gmail.com) to purchase/pick up.



THE GARDEN CLUB OF CORAL SPRINGS  
YARD OF THE MONTH  
BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT



Please help us acknowledge the beautiful yards and gardens in our community of Coral Springs and surrounding areas. We are fortunate to be able to garden year-round due to our semi-tropical climate.

If you, or someone you know, would like to be nominated for our

Yard of the Month Award

contact

[gardenclubs2020@yahoo.com](mailto:gardenclubs2020@yahoo.com)

with name and address of property to be nominated

HAPPY GARDENING!!

## YARD OF THE MONTH GUIDELINES

**Nominations are made by members. PLEASE review the following rules and keep this in mind as you drive around our area.**

Yard of the Month guidelines were determined by  
Ken, Mary Anne, Carol J, Nancy D, Casey and Jeri.

Nominations for Yard of the Month are for the front and back yards.

Areas covered are Coral Springs, Parkland, Tamarac, Coconut Creek, and Margate.

Anyone can nominate a yard to the club, even yourself. This nomination is sent to [gardenclubs2020@yahoo.com](mailto:gardenclubs2020@yahoo.com).

No patios or condos are considered.

Pictures of said nominations are sent for approval and a google earth search is completed by Jeri.

Jeri will send photos of the nominations to the committee, but everyone wins unless the yard is not suitable.

After the nominations are approved, Ken or Jeri will call and set up an appointment around the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month.

Emails are then sent to the committee for presentation of the sign with a date, time and addresses of the winners. The garden is then visited by the committee and/or other club members and the sign is presented along with a laminated certificate.

Mary Anne makes up the certificate and there are 4 signs.

Nancy photographs the yard during the visit and then a collage is made and put on Facebook. Photos from Facebook are then sent to Mary Anne and Dotty to be added to the newsletter. Yard of the Month winners will also be uploaded to the club's web site.

Thirty days after placing the sign in the yards, they are picked up and taken to the next winners by various committee members.

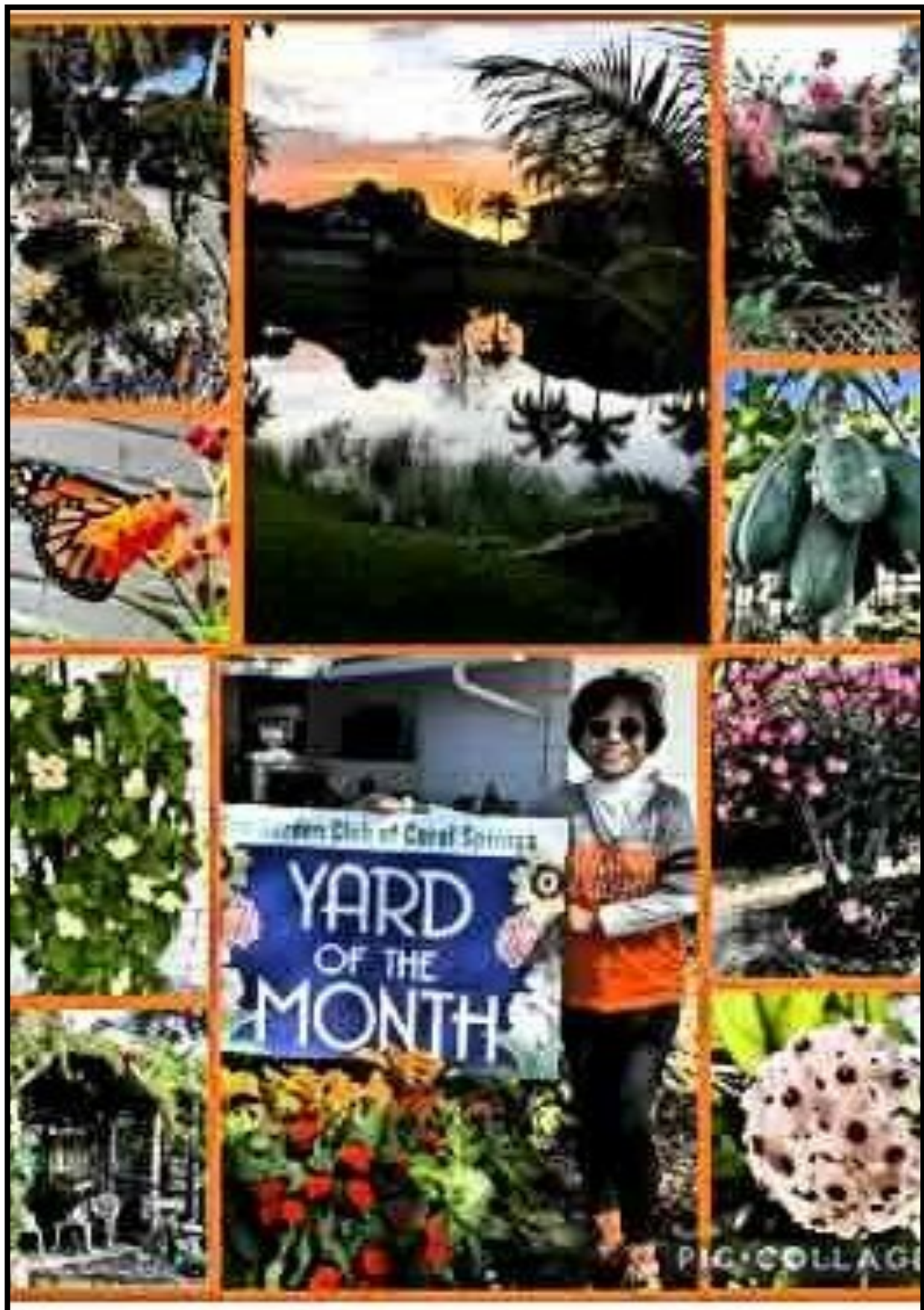
Any exceptions to the above guidelines are to be determined by the committee.



*The Garden Club of Coral Springs*



Congratulations to Dr. Joe and Tippy Lewis of Tamarac for creating a beautiful zen garden. It's a peaceful design and details create a true meditation sanctuary, offering a place of calm, and reflection for all who visit.





**The Garden Club of Coral Springs Schedule of Events 2025-2026**  
**Meetings are held at Northwest Regional Library in Coral Springs**  
 (Events and Speakers are subject to change.)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
February 7 (Saturday)	Field Trip to Paradise Palms Botanical & Sculpture
February 12 (Thursday)	10:30 AM to 12:30 PM - Make 'n' Take with Jill Kareff and Gail Gauthier (Flowers in Books) - Trash to Treasure
March 12 (Thursday)	10:30 AM to 12:30 PM - Meeting with a presentation by Doug Young - Plants for Birds
April 9 (Thursday)	10 AM Field trip to Jesse Durko
April 18 (Saturday)	10:30 AM to 12:30 PM - Meeting with a presentation by Ashley Cocherham - Stream to Sea
May 9 (Saturday)	Field Trip to Wahoo Bay & Tour Old Pompano
May 14 (Thursday)	Scholarship Luncheon - to be held at Livellos

If you have a wonderful place to recommend for a field trip or a guest speaker you think we would all enjoy and learn from, please feel free to contact Debbie Strong with your suggestion at [deb.bob@outlook.com](mailto:deb.bob@outlook.com).

We plant and maintain a vegetable garden at Sawgrass Nature Center & Wildlife Hospital to help feed the animals.

We planted and maintain a native garden at Whispering Woods Park.

We planted and maintain a Florida friendly garden at Veteran's Park in Coral Springs.

We will be hosting a series at Northwest Regional Library "Color Your World with Plants".

We have a plot in the Community Garden of Coral Springs to grow vegetables and flowers.

PLEASE CONTACT [LUANNEBETZ@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LUANNEBETZ@GMAIL.COM)  
 TO VOLUNTEER FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE.

**DO BE A DO BEE**

**DON'T BE A DON'T BEE**

**BECOME A QUEEN BEE**

Become an active member and help our  
CLUB BUZZ around town.

How to earn pins?

**WORKER BEE PINS:**



Complete 2 of the 3 items below:

Attend 5 out of 8 meetings or events;

Bring a new member or guest;.

Share a gardening tip at a meeting, in the newsletter or on Facebook.

**QUEEN BEE PIN**

Must receive 1 WORKER BEE PIN and complete 3 items from below:

Attend an additional meeting or event;

Volunteer at least 1 hour at the EarthFest Booth;

Help Youth Groups assemble kits or presentation;

Help with gardens at Veterans, Community, Sawgrass Nature

Center or Whispering Pines;

Help with Library Presentations  
over the Summer.





## What to Plant

**Annuals/Perennials/Wildflowers:** Good performers in south Florida's mild winter include **impatiens, verbena, coleus, and dianthus.**

**Groundcovers:** Consider replacing areas of grass with drought-tolerant, low-maintenance groundcovers.

**Vegetables:** Winter vegetable gardening is in full swing. Last month to plant **cantaloupes, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, peppers, spinach, and tomatoes for a late spring harvest.** Protect crops in the unlikely event of frost or freeze.

## What to Do



**Lawns:** If local ordinances allow, fertilize lawn grasses to improve color or coverage. Choose a fertilizer (not a "weed and feed") with 0% or very little phosphorus unless a soil test indicates the need for it. A fertilizer with controlled-release nitrogen provides longer-lasting results.

**Shrubs and palms:** Fertilize shrubs and palms by spreading fertilizer evenly over the soil surface and watering it in. Follow with a fresh layer of mulch to conserve moisture and reduce weeds. Delay pruning any cold-damaged branches until new growth starts.

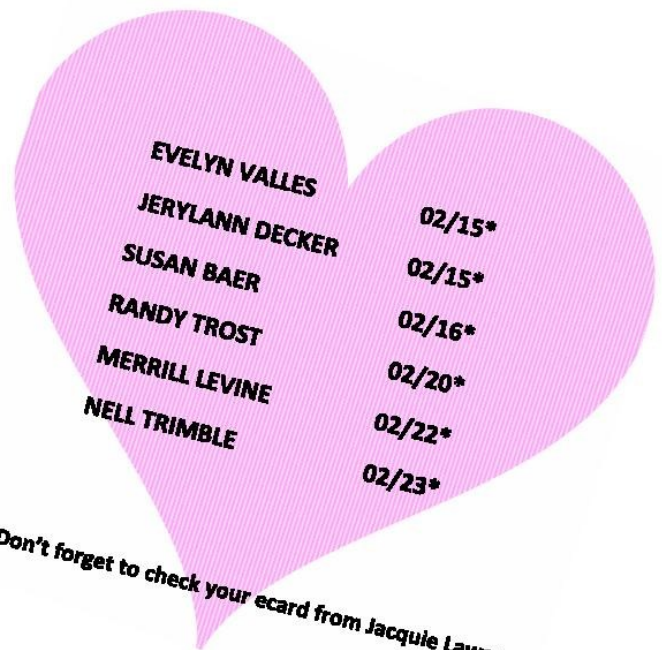
**Pests:** Begin a regular scouting routine to detect warm-season landscape pests like whiteflies, lubber grasshoppers, and Turler mealybugs on Zoysia lawns. This allows for early intervention and the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques.

**Avocados and mangoes:** Disease-susceptible varieties of avocado and mango may require applications of copper fungicide.

**Citrus:** Fertilize now if not done in January. The frequency and amount of fertilization depend on the age of the tree.

**Trees:** Don't wait until hurricane season to check your trees. Hire an ISA-certified arborist to do an inspection.





*\*Don't forget to check your ecard from Jacquie Lawson!*

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

### Railroad vine as a landscape groundcover



Stephen H. Brown, UF/IFAS

Being native to dunes and beaches, **railroad vine** can tolerate intense heat, full sun, and poor soils, but it requires excellent drainage. It is used to stabilize beaches and dunes but may also be cultivated as an inland groundcover.

In south Florida, plant cuttings from March through October to form a groundcover on beaches, dunes, and landscapes. **Railroad vine** may be used on slopes up to 20°, and on steeper slopes if stable. Space small plants 2 to 3 feet apart, and 3 to 5 feet apart for larger plants. Plant with the top of the root ball slightly below the soil's surface. Irrigate at the time of planting and for several weeks thereafter unless there is regular rainfall. Providing regular water and controlling weeds will speed establishment of new plantings. For faster and denser coverage, redirect errant stems back into the growing area. Dense coverage is possible in two to three years on moist well-drained soil.





Please consider helping others, including Mother Earth,  
by recycling the following products.

Collection Chair is Mary Anne McKay unless otherwise  
noted.

## **COLLECTION ITEMS**

**Towels, sheets and small rugs** - chaired by Jill - for the  
animals at Tri-County Animal Shelter.

**Tabs** from soda cans, pet food cans, vegetable cans,  
etc. Money earned is used to vest K-9 dogs for first  
responders and the military.

**American Flags** in poor condition—The American  
Legion accepts them and they are properly disposed of.

**Corks** - Chaired by Jeri - These are donated to Total  
Wine.

**Plant a Tree** - Chaired by Shannon Schnuerer - Our  
pennies go towards reforestation.

## WEB SITES FOR MORE INFORMATION:

### UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA:

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/>  
Native aquatic and wetland plants in Florida

<http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/>

#### **Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Pattern Book:**

[http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FFL\\_Book\\_Zone\\_10\\_081610.pdf](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FFL_Book_Zone_10_081610.pdf)

#### **Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Plant Selection Guide:**

[http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN\\_Plant\\_Selection\\_Guide\\_v090110.pdf](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_v090110.pdf)

### NATIVES FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD—SOUTH FLORIDA

<http://regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn>

Find out how to turn simple gardening into habitat restoration by using plants native to your specific area

<http://www.plantfinder.com>

<http://www.floridanativenurseries.org>

<http://www.fnqla.org/>

[www.floridata.com](http://www.floridata.com)

<http://flawildflowers.org>

### SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT:

[www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)

### PUBLISHERS:

<http://upf.com>

(the scholarly publishing arm of the State University System of Florida)

<http://www.pineapplepress.com/>

\*\*\*\*\*

### NATIVE PLANT & OTHER BOOKS:

#### **NATIVE FLORIDA PLANTS, Revised Edition**

Robert G. Haehle & Joan Brookwell  
(Amazon.com, Borders, Barnes & Noble carry this)

#### **A GARDENER'S GUIDE TO FLORIDA'S NATIVE PLANTS**

Rufino Osorio, University Press of Florida

#### **FLORIDA'S BEST NATIVE LANDSCAPE PLANTS**

Gil Nelson, University Press of Florida

#### **THE GUIDE TO FLORIDA WILDFLOWERS**

Walter Kingsley Taylor/ the book is color coded—very useful (Amazon and possible Barnes & Noble)

#### **FLORIDA WILDFLOWERS: A Comprehensive Guide**

This is the 2013 update from Walter Kingsley Taylor and includes the newest scientific information about Florida's wildflowers. (Amazon and possible Barnes & Noble)

#### **EVERGLADES WILDFLOWERS**

Color coded. A great field guide  
Roger L. Hammer, The Globe Pequot Press

#### **FLORIDA KEYS WILDFLOWERS**

Color coded—companion to **Everglades Wildflowers**  
Roger L. Hammer, The Globe Pequot Press

#### **ATTRACTING HUMMINGBIRDS & BUTTERFLIES IN TROPICAL FLORIDA**

Roger L. Hammer, University Press of Florida

#### **NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPING FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

Very well written and informative,  
Craig N. Huegel, University Press of Florida

#### **NATIVE FLORIDA PLANTS FOR SHADY LANDSCAPES**

Craig N. Huegel, University Press of Florida

#### **BRINGING NATURE HOME**

How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife In Our Gardens  
Douglas Tallamy: Timber Press

#### **FLORIDA GARDENER'S GUIDE (REVISED EDITION)**

Tom MacCubbin & Georgia Tasker  
Cool Springs Press/ <http://coolspringspress.com>

#### **NATIVE BROMELIADS OF FLORIDA**

Harry E. Luther & David H. Benzing, Pineapple Press, Inc.

#### **WILD ORCHIDS OF FLORIDA**

Paul Martin Brown/A more compact update & field guide of the work of Carlyle A. Luer, University Press of Florida

#### **FLORIDA'S FABULOUS BUTTERFLIES**

Includes special chapter on moths &

#### **FLORIDA'S FABULOUS INSECTS**

2 separate oversize publications in the FLORIDA FABULOUS series. WORLD PUBLICATIONS/ [www.allfloridabooks.com](http://www.allfloridabooks.com)

#### **FLORIDA BUTTERFLY GARDENING**

Marc C. Minno & Maria Minno  
University Press of Florida

#### **ATTRACTING BENEFICIAL BUGS TO YOUR GARDEN**

Jessica Walliser: Timber Press

#### **ATTRACTING NATIVE POLLINATORS**

Protecting North America's Bees & Butterflies  
The Xerces Society: Storey Publishing

#### **ATTRACTING BIRDS TO SOUTH FLORIDA GARDENS**

James A. Kushlan & Kirsten Hines  
[www.kirstenNatureTravel/publications](http://www.kirstenNatureTravel/publications)

#### **THE BOOKS OF PAMELA CRAWFORD:**

<http://pamela-crawford.com/pamela-crawfords-books/>

#### **A Garden Diary:**

#### **A Guide to Gardening in South Florida ©**

by Robert G. Haehle and M.E. DePalma  
De Palma Enterprises

#### **THE HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA NEW ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HERBS & THEIR USES**

The Definitive Guide to the Identification, Cultivation and uses of Herbs  
Deni Bown: Dorling Kindersley Publishing Staff