



The Garden Club of the Upper Keys

News & Notes

MEMBERS' ONLY EDITION

February 2021

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General Membership Meeting via Zoom

Please join us at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, February 16 for our monthly General Membership meeting. The Resource Links page of this newsletter (Members Only Edition) provides the meeting link (url), Meeting ID, Passcode and some basic instructions.

Meeting Agenda

- **Call to Order and Welcome:** President Kathy Janco will welcome members to our General Membership meeting.
- **Guest Speaker Presentation:** Program Director Laura Hartner will introduce our guest speaker, Susan Kolterman who is a GCUK Member and Master Gardener.
- **Guest Speaker Presentation: "Keys Friendly Gardening for Butterflies and Their Friends in a Unique Circle of Life."** Our speaker, Susan Kolterman, will discuss butterfly gardening. A brief introduction is provided below.
- **Business Meeting:** Presiding over the business meeting, President Janco will share recent Board actions and decisions. Members of the Board will provide highlights of the work accomplished in the past month.

Keys Friendly Gardening for Butterflies and Their Friends in a Unique Circle of Life

GCUK member Susan Kolterman will present this interesting program at the GCUK General Membership Zoom meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 11:00 AM via Zoom.com. The meeting is open to club members and their friends.

Susan's belief is you never know what will entice your senses in the wild world of the Keys until you go for a walk in the woods. Her personal goal is to increase her knowledge of the flora and fauna of the Florida Keys and Everglades National Park and to share it with the public through walks and talks as a means to increase responsible stewardship of our natural resources. Thus, Susan will share her knowledge of butterflies with our members during this presentation in anticipation of the club's further development of the butterfly garden at the Francis Tracy Garden Center.



"Whether you grow a tiny bed of flowers or a full-fledged butterfly garden, this is a great time in our lives to add natives and non-threatening non-natives to attract butterflies and wildlife. Like chicken soup, it is good for the soul."

— Susan Kolterman

(Continued on Page 2, see Butterfly Gardening)



"The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies but never grows to the enduring happiness that the love of gardening gives."
—Gertrude Jekyll

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Board of Directors

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V-President - Laurie Brooks
Treasurer - Anne Makowsky
Secretary - Laura Hartner
Directors of:
Fundraising - Kathy Holmes
Hospitality - Betty Ann Gear
and Fran Reig
House - Christine Hudson
Membership - Charlene
Regenhardt
Program - Laura Hartner
Property - Beverly Middleton
Publicity - Patti Graham

From the desk of President Kathy Janco ...

Happy February and Happy Valentine's Day to you and those you love.

Speaking of love... our garden bed adoption is going well. We have 13 out of our 18 beds spoken for. Thank you to the members who volunteered for this new and much-needed project.

For those of you who were unable to commit to a bed feel free to come on our usual Wednesday garden clean-up day. If Wednesday is not a good day for you, stop by to pick up a branch or do some weeding anytime.

Until we can meet in person again I look forward to seeing you at our Zoom meetings or wandering around the garden. The weather has been lovely; it makes enjoying our garden even more special.

My best to you and yours,
Kathy

Butterfly Gardening, Continued

Susan has a wealth of knowledge and experiences in the natural flora and fauna of the Keys. Since 2007, she has been a volunteer for the Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park native plant nursery which includes responsibility for seed collection and propagation, helping maintain the nursery, out-plantings in park conservation areas with follow-up, removing non-native invasive plants within the upper and middle Keys, and growing pineland croton *Croton linearis* for Big Pine Key Deer NWR.

Susan has completed quarterly breeding and non-breeding shorebird surveys in the middle keys and has led weekly walks in the woods from October to April at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park. In April through June, Susan takes Schaus' Swallowtail *Papilio aristodemus* surveys and gives talks about the use of native plants for the benefit of resident and migrating fauna, and about the endangered Schaus' Swallowtail.

Beginning in 2014 and still continuing today, Susan volunteers at the Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Her activities include invasive plant removal or treatment, annual walks and talks, leading and training volunteers, creating PowerPoint programs on native plants, birds and butterflies within Crocodile Lake, Burmese python monitoring, crocodile nesting surveys, and Key Largo woodrat *Neotoma floridana smalli* and Key Largo cotton rat *Peromyscus gossypi-*

nus allapaticola surveys. She also helps construct supplementary Key Largo woodrat nest structures and helps plant native trees and shrubs in disturbed areas.

Susan was a junior author for George Wilder's (2014) A Floristic Inventory of Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park and Immediately Adjacent Lands (Monroe County) Florida USA- SFK. She has been a junior author or sole author in several other scientific publications. In 2017, Susan was awarded the "Florida Parks Resource Management Volunteer of the Year."

She has presented lectures on native plantings and Keys butterflies for NABA (North American Butterfly Association) Miami Blue Chapter (as acting vice-president for Monroe County), NABA Broward County Chapter and our garden club as well as winter native plant walks/classes for the Village of Islamorada.

Please join us for her interesting and educational presentation on Zoom!



A Julia butterfly on Jack-in-the-box -S. Kolterman

A note from the editor...

This month's newsletter and guest speaker topic for our upcoming General Membership meeting features butterflies and butterfly gardening. It's a subject of great interest to me—I have spent untold hours reading and learning about butterflies since moving to the Keys, but still have much to learn. South Florida is one of the few places in the US where we can enjoy butterflies all year long rather than only spring through fall. More than 200 species can be found here!

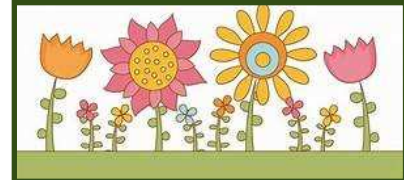
One of my favorite places to visit is the butterfly garden at the Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. It gave me inspiration to start my own little butterfly garden which is still very rudimentary. I also enjoy visiting the butterfly garden at REEF which Community Outreach Director Laurie Brooks and other GCUK members planned, planted, and continue to nurture. The TDC Grant project that we will implement at our club property includes some enhancements and plantings to welcome more butterflies, so this is an opportune time to learn more!

Our Plant of the Month, coontie, is a host plant for the rare atala butterfly. A very brief article about the butterfly follows the plant of the month article. A few months ago, I spotted a small mostly black butterfly while sitting next to the Philodendron Garden, and wondered if it might be an atala, but didn't get a close enough look at it to know for sure. With all the new coontie plants Property Director Beverly Middleton

added to the refurbished front berm, we have enough host plants to support an atala colony. So, maybe someday we will attract some (if we haven't already). The Resource Links page includes a link to a detailed publication about coonties and atala butterflies as well as other general articles about butterfly gardening.

A recent experience I had related to butterfly gardening was purchasing a giant milkweed and a few tropical milkweeds several months ago. Little did I know what voracious eaters those little monarch caterpillars can be! I equated the experience to the quote from the movie *Field of Dreams*: "*if you build it, they will come.*" More precisely, *if you plant it, they will come.* I have since struggled to keep enough milkweed to feed the many caterpillars I keep finding. Fortunately, several people I know, including fellow GCUK member Gayle Kolasa, have graciously adopted some of them from time to time. I keep buying milkweed plants, and they keep eating them... maybe someday I'll have enough plants to sustain all of the caterpillars. I've concluded that, if we plant milkweed at the Francis Tracy Garden Center, it needs to be a mass planting! Please join us at the upcoming Zoom meeting this Tuesday to learn more about butterfly gardening from our knowledgeable guest speaker and fellow GCUK member Susan Kolterman.

Cordially,
Charlene Regenhardt



Notes from the Directors...

HOSPITALITY CO-DIRECTORS Betty Ann Gear and Fran Reig need volunteers once we are able to meet in the clubhouse again. Assistance includes helping set-up and clean-up refreshments at General Membership meetings and special events. If you are interested in helping out, please call Betty Ann or Fran.

HOUSE DIRECTOR Christine Hudson is still organizing volunteers to help with the final stretch in cleaning and house maintenance. The final tasks include painting the meeting room the same color as the kitchen. She still needs a volunteer who isn't afraid of working on a stepladder to do some caulking under the eaves in the sunroom. Some leakage was detected after a rainstorm, so there are a few areas above the windows that need to be sealed. Please contact her if you can help! (Or send a message to gardenclubupper-keys@gmail.com.) She is working with Terranova to have internet services installed at the clubhouse.

PROPERTY DIRECTOR Beverly Middleton reports that work and planning for the gardens continues every Wednesday around noon. Our "heavy lifter" James Zebrowski is always there at that time so you won't be asked to strain or labor hard unless you so desire.

VICE-PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION Laurie Brooks announces that the next Florida Keys Native Plant ID class with Jim Duquesnel is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. The topic has not yet been identified. Dates have been set through March of 2021 on the third Tuesday of each month.

The next work day for the REEF butterfly, Connect to Protect and Ocean Unity display gardens is Saturday, February 20 from 10 to 11 am. We will perform general garden maintenance. REEF work days are now regularly scheduled on the third Saturday of each month.

(Continued on page 4)

Notes from the Directors...

(Continued from page 3)

Our last work day was on February 16. Nancy Perez and I worked with Dave Ehlert and the interns. I gave the new REEF interns the Florida Friendly gardening spiel on January 14 so that they understand how what we do in the garden impacts our reefs. One of the new interns, Sierra, was president of her college garden club and is very interested in helping to maintain the gardens at REEF.



Feb 16 REEF Work Day – from left: Dave Ehlert, McKenzie, Summer, Sierra, and Nancy Perez

Laurie worked with the 4th graders at Ocean Studies Charter School to install a water garden for mangroves they are growing to plant for restoration projects.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR Laura Hartner continues to line up events for our upcoming General Membership meetings. Master Gardener and GCUK member Suzy Cushman presented “Herbs” at our January 19, 2021 General Membership meeting. A copy of her slides will be posted on the Links Page of our website. To continue with our “herb” theme, the January 27 Garden Get-Together” had interested members making herb-infused salts and vinegars. The last issue of News & Notes had directions you could easily follow at home if you were not able to make this gathering.

Susan Kolterman will be our speaker on butterfly gardens for the February 16, 2021 General Membership meeting. Information about this event is posted on the front page of this issue.

Looking ahead to March, the meeting on the 16th will highlight “Backyard Bugs: The Good and the Bad” presented by Michelle Leonard-Mularz. Michelle is the Environmental Horticulture Agent for UF/IFAS and a complimentary member of our club. More details about her presentation will be included in the next issue.

Do you remember Ed Kattel, our October speaker? A “field trip” has been arranged to view the bounty of the Islamorada Community Garden on February 24, 2021. See the featured article in this issue.

The next “Garden Get-Together” will take place in March with the date to be determined. Laurie Brooks will present a “hands-on” primer on how to take care of your garden bed. This will be helpful for members who have adopted a bed at Francis Tracy or others who are interested in tending their own garden at home.

As Program Director, I look for “Garden Get-Together” ideas that are related to our program topic of the month or hands-on gardening-related ideas. Some of my recent thoughts are having a plant/seed/cutting swap, learning about various plant propagation techniques, and making one of the following items: a simple macramé plant hanger, a small reed basket, or a small air-dry clay pot for a succulent. What do you think? If any of these interest you, please let me know! E-mail me at ProgramDirector@gardenclubupperkeys.org.

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR Patti Graham and her team would like to remind members to continue visiting our Website and Facebook pages. Spring is just around the corner and the newsletter and Facebook has had some great information and gardening ideas! Please take photos of yourselves or friends working at the clubhouse or in the Gardens and we will add them to the website and or Facebook. We hope to see everyone at the General Membership Zoom meeting this week!

FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR Kathy Holmes is pursuing fundraising options for the remainder of this year and getting a jump start on lining up properties for the 2022 Garden Walk slated for February 26, 2022. She already has one home lined up. A neighbor of one of the 2020 Garden Walk homes has expressed interest for the 2022 Garden Walk. If anyone has fundraising ideas, please contact Kathy.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR Charlene Regenhardt is processing membership forms. So far, 47 individual members and 34 family members have replied. We also have 7 honorary and 4 complimentary members, for a total of 92. There are still about 20 members who have not yet renewed. Please remember that if you are experiencing any hardships as a result of the pandemic, several members of the board have expressed interest in sponsoring anyone who is having difficulty paying dues this year, and that the request will be kept completely confidential—just send an email to gardenclubupperkeys@gmail.com (the email account is only accessed by the president and membership director).

Garden Get-Togethers and Club-Sponsored Activities

GCUK Co-hosting In-person Plant Clinics at our Clubhouse Property

As many of you know, the UF/IFAS Monroe County Master Gardener volunteers (many of whom are GCUK members) hosted plant clinics at the Murray Nelson Government Center every third Wednesday of the month prior to the Covid pandemic. The in-person meetings were cancelled and went to a virtual Zoom meeting as a result of the pandemic.

GCUK offered our gardens as a venue to hold the clinics outdoors. Masks and social distancing are required, but the new format allows in-person interaction while still protecting participants.

The clinics will be held at our gardens every third Wednesday from 9 am to 12 pm, starting February 17, 2021.

Upcoming Workday at our Clubhouse, February 20, 11 am

In preparation for the work on the new nursery/shade house structure (to be constructed under the TDC grant), we want to have a work session to clean out the outside storage shed and establish a holding area for new plants. We plan to establish the plant holding area along the western edge of the property, where mainly old bromeliads and invasive oyster plants are growing. An abundance of snake plants are making their way into the natural wooded areas and we want to eliminate those as well. A News Flash will be sent out next week providing more details. Please save the date.

Upcoming March Garden Get-Together at our Clubhouse

Laurie Brooks is planning to present a “hands-on” primer on how to take care of your garden bed. This will be helpful for members who have adopted a bed at Francis Tracy Garden Center or others who are interested in gaining additional skills to nurture their own gardens at home. The date is undetermined at this time and will be announced in the March *News & Notes* newsletter.

Projected GCUK Fundraising Events for 2021-2022 Fiscal Year

With vaccines coming out and the possibility of seeing the light at the end of the proverbial tunnel, we have

rescheduled our two signature fund raisers. The Holiday Market will be Saturday November 27, 2021 at the Francis Tracy Garden Center and our Garden Walk will be Saturday, February 19, 2022.

With the uncertainty about the future of the virus, we will continue monitor the situation and update you with any changes. We will need all hands on deck. Please consider how you can be a part of these two fabulous events. If you know of any properties for the Garden Walk or have any other ideas, please connect with Kathy Holmes.

Field Trip to Islamorada Community Garden

On Wednesday, February 24, 2021, club members and friends can travel to Islamorada Community Garden for a “trip to the field.” The garden was featured in our October General Meeting program by its founder, Ed Kattel. This is an opportunity to see the fruits of the gardeners’ labors as well as some of its features like the lettuce table and worm and the Johnson-Su Bioreactor composters.

The garden will be open between 9 and 11 AM for your viewing. Ed will be on-site to answer questions. Come when you are available between those hours and stay as long as you like. Ed’s presentation to our club can be found on the “Links” page of our website. For easy reference, here is the url link: <https://gardenclubupperkeys.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Planning-Preparing-Keys-Garden.pdf>.

For this local trip, members are responsible for their own transportation. The garden is behind the First Baptist Church at 81201 Overseas Highway, Islamorada, just south of Green Turtle. You will walk around to the back of the building to get to the garden. Please remember to use Covid health and safety protocols and enjoy this experience!





Plant of the Month

Coontie

(*Zamia integrifolia*)

by Charlene Regenhardt and Laurie Brooks

Coontie is included in multiple gardens at the Francis Tracy Garden Center. It can be found in the Buttonwood and Front Porch Beds along the east side of the clubhouse, in the Song of India Bed, and is abundant in the Front Berm. Coontie is found in pine rockland and hardwood hammock habitats, although it is not planted in the Pine Rockland Garden at our clubhouse property.

This small Florida-native "shrub" looks like a small fern and grows very slowly to 2-1/2 to 3 feet tall by 3 feet wide. It is the only cycad native to North America. Populations are presently limited to Florida, southeastern Georgia, central Cuba, and the Dominican Republic. It was once also native in southern Puerto Rico and Haiti, but apparently was made extinct in those areas by intensive land use.

There were once vast colonies of Coontie in south Florida near Miami and Ft. Lauderdale. The Seminoles used Coontie as a food source ("Coontie" roughly means "flour root" in the Seminole language). When the white men came to Florida, they also used the stems for food, and called the plant "Arrow Root." Despite its use as a starch for cooking, be aware that the plant is highly toxic to humans, pets, and livestock unless properly processed.

In 1845, factories began producing starch from the Coontie. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the processing of coontie became so industrialized that a plant in Miami put out 15 tons of starch a day. It takes 100 pounds of coontie root to make 10 pounds of starch. It doesn't take much imagination to see what that scale of production did to the coontie population!

Coontie is the host plant for the Atala butterfly. Considering the oversized coontie harvest, combined with habitat loss as Florida became more and more developed with less and less pine rocklands and hammocks, Coontie nearly vanished, and along with it, the Atala butterfly. The Atala was considered extinct in Florida in the 1950s and 1060s. Fortunately, the butterfly found the small pockets of Coontie still growing in the remaining pine rocklands and tropical hammocks.

Happily for both species, someone figured out that coontie makes a nice landscaping plant. Because of its increased popularity as a landscape plant, the populations of Atalia butterfly have rebounded and the butter-



One of our larger Coontie plants, growing in the Song of India Garden.

fly is no longer considered threatened or endangered. Coontie is still rare in the wild, and Florida lists it as "commercially exploited." Collecting the plant in the wild is illegal.

Coontie is dioecious, which means that there are male and female plants and only the females bear fruit. Flowers are definitely unflower like — the large brown "cone" seen in the photo below (female plant) is actually the blossom of the coontie.



Coontie female flower.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from Page 6)

Female flowers are about six inches tall and thicker, covered with fuzz. A small weevil, attracted to coontie by the cycasin toxins, pollinates the flowers. When ripe, the flower will crumble, exposing orange seeds covered with a waxy coating called a sarcotesta.

Flowers on the male plant (see picture below) are narrower and taller than the female flowers, and contain pollen. They can reach a length of 7 inches.



Coontie male flower.

Female cones are usually singular, whereas male cones often grow in groups or clusters. The sex of the plant cannot be determined until cones are produced.

The major poison in coontie, cyasin, is what attracts the atala; the larvae take in the toxin the way monarch caterpillars take in milkweed poisons when they munch milkweed leaves.

Coontie is something of a controversy among those who classify plants. Some say there are multiple species of coontie, as many as four in Florida, each subtly different from the other, each with its own range within the state and different from coontie found in the Caribbean. Others argue for a single species. Much of the controversy is due to the leaflet shapes found within different areas of Florida, as shown in the picture in the next column. In addition, coonties found in the Ocala National Forest are often larger (up to 5 feet in height) compared to coonties found in other locations.



Coontie leaflet shapes and ranges.

The Institute for Regional Conservation uses *Zamia integrifolia* as the scientific name for the plant. The USDA goes by *Zamia pumila*, while other names used include *Zamia floridana* and *Zamia umbrosa*. Some sources use *Zamia integrifolia* for Florida coontie and *Zamia pumila* for coontie growing in the Caribbean.



Cultivation Data

Source: Natives for Your Neighborhood

Soils: Moist, well-drained sandy or limestone soils, with or without humusy top layer.

Nutritional Requirements: Moderate to low; it prefers soils with organic content, but will still grow reasonably well in nutrient poor soils.

Salt Water Tolerance: Low; does not tolerate long-term flooding by salt or brackish water.

Salt Wind Tolerance: High; can tolerate moderate amounts of salt wind without injury.

Drought Tolerance: High; does not require any supplemental water once established.

Light Requirements: Full sun to light shade.

Flower Color: Brown cone.

Flowering Season: All year.

Fruit: Seeds are brilliant orange, about 1/2-1" long, poisonous to people and animals.

Wildlife and Ecology: Larval host plant for atala (*Eumaeus atala*) butterflies. Attracts butterfly and beetle pollinators.

Atala Butterfly

The rare Atala butterfly (*Eumaeus atala*), uses the coontie (this issue's Plant of the Month) as its only host plant. The larvae are able to withstand the coonties' natural toxins and, in turn, incorporate them into their tissues, rendering the larvae and adults unpalatable to predators, especially birds.



Atala Butterfly. Source, UF/IFAS

The coontie was once a common plant in Florida hammocks and pinelands, but because of intensive collection for starch production and landscape use, it is rarely seen in the wild. The overharvesting of the coontie plant nearly eradicated the habitat for the Atala butterfly.

Between 1937 and 1959, the Atala butterfly was never found in the wild in south Florida, and many thought it was it was extinct. A colony of butterflies was rediscovered in 1979 by Roger Hammer on Key Biscayne, Florida. Since then, Atala populations have rebounded in South Florida. Gardeners avidly plant Coontie in hopes of seeing this unique butterfly.

The Atala butterfly occurs naturally in subtropical Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties in southeastern Florida, although some ephemeral (short-lived) colonies have been recently introduced into Martin, Monroe and Collier counties. The butterfly is also found in the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos, Cayman Islands, and Cuba, in areas where the host plant occurs.



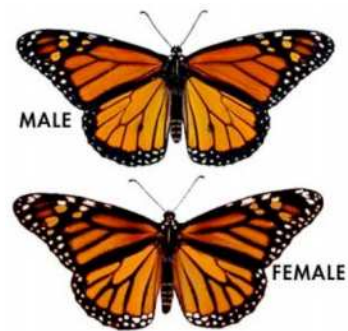
Atala mature larvae have 7 pairs of yellow spots. Source, UF/IFAS

Want to know more?

Internet searches will turn up a number of articles and publications; the one I found to be the most detailed is a website publication by the UF/IFAS Entomology Department, under their "Featured Creatures" series of articles. The article can be found at the following link: [atala hairstreak \(ufl.edu\)](http://atala.hairstreak.ufl.edu). Featured Creatures has articles about hundreds of insects, including many common species of butterflies. The index by common and scientific name, as well as other search categories can be found at the following link: [Featured Creatures \(ufl.edu\)](http://FeaturedCreatures(ufl.edu))

Fun Facts about Monarchs

1. Their Scientific Name is *Danaus plexippus*. This is Greek for "sleepy transformation" and refers to the transformation process that happens in the chrysalis.
2. Monarch butterflies have two main groups in North America: western monarchs breed west of the Rocky Mountains and overwinter in southern California, while eastern monarchs breed in the eastern US and Canada and overwinter in Mexico.
3. Non-migratory monarchs have smaller bodies and smaller forewings. They are found in southern Costa Rica, Florida, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.
4. The Monarch is the state insect of Texas, Minnesota, Idaho, Illinois and Alabama. It's also the state butterfly of Vermont and West Virginia.
5. The caterpillars have voracious appetites! The Monarch caterpillar can grow 2,700 times its original weight in only 10 to 14 days.
6. Caterpillars eat their shed skins. When it first emerges from the egg, it eats the egg shell. It then sheds its skin five times as it grows and makes a meal out of this each time. Each stage is known as an "instar" thus, monarch caterpillars have 5 instars.
7. Their chrysalises have gold studs. Chrysalis is derived from the greek word for gold, "chrysos." The gold spots on Monarch chrysalises are due to carotenoid pigments from their milkweed diet.
8. The monarch butterfly lives and reproduces for four generations before migrating. It is the fourth generation that migrates in fall. The butterflies travel up to 100 miles a day to migrate up to 3,000-miles.
9. Male monarch butterflies have a dot on the vein on their hindwings. This dot is made of specialized scales. The wing veins of the female also look slightly wider than the males.
10. Caterpillars and adult butterflies retain the poison from the milkweed leaves in its body, thus protecting it from being eaten by predators.



Gardening Best Practices

ANSI Standards for Pruning

Last month we said that you should not prune more than 30% of green vegetation in one annual cycle when pruning trees. This was wisdom passed down to the nursery crew at Dagny Johnson by professional arborists. However, there is a national standard for pruning that says not to prune more than 25 percent. Here is a link to that standard which is American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 Part 1: <https://www.pines.com/DocumentCenter/View/2187/ANSI-A300-Part-1-2008-Pruning?bidId=>

See 6.1.4 on page 8 and note that this standard uses the word “should” not “shall,” meaning that it is advisory and not mandated. There may be times when it is necessary due to disease or damage to prune more than 25 percent. The standard also has lots of other good information and good practices for pruning, many of which we highlighted last month. The complete standard has 10 parts, shown in the image below.

Current ANSI A300 standards for tree care

TCIA is the secretariat for the ANSI A300 tree care management standards, which are divided into the following parts based on tree care practices:

- ANSI A300 (Part 1) - 2017 Pruning
- ANSI A300 (Part 2) - 2018 Soil Management (includes Fertilization)
- ANSI A300 (Part 3) - 2013 Supplemental Support Systems (includes Cabling, Bracing, Guying and Propping)
- ANSI A300 (Part 4) - 2014 Lightning Protection Systems *Revision in progress*
- ANSI A300 (Part 5) - Revised 2019 Management of Trees and Shrubs During Site Planning, Site Development, and Construction
- ANSI A300 (Part 6) - Revised 2018 Planting and Transplanting
- ANSI A300 (Part 7) - 2018 Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM)
- ANSI A300 (Part 8) - 2020 Root Management *Newly revised!*
- ANSI A300 (Part 9) - 2017 Tree Risk Assessment
- ANSI A300 (Part 10) - 2016 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) *Revision in progress*

For more A300 information, click on the Build Your Business tab at www.tcia.org.

ANSI’s mission and objectives include the following

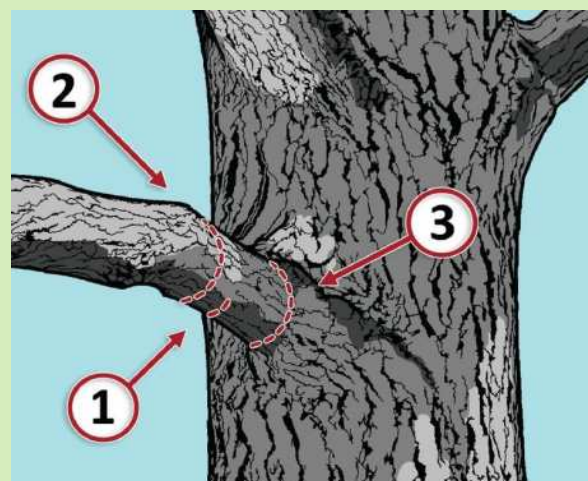
- ANSI's mission is to enhance both the global competitiveness of US business and the US quality of life by promoting and facilitating voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment systems, and safeguarding their integrity.
- ANSI is a private, non-profit organization that administers and coordinates the US voluntary standards and conformity assessment system. Founded in 1918, the Institute works in close collaboration with stakeholders from industry and government to identify and develop standards- and conformance-based solutions to national and global priorities.

- ANSI is not itself a standards developing organization. Rather, the Institute provides a framework for fair standards development and quality conformity assessment systems and continually works to safeguard their integrity. And as a neutral venue for coordination of standards-based solutions, the Institute brings together private- and public-sector experts and stakeholders to initiate collaborative standardization activities that respond to national priorities.

You will see when you look at ANSI A300 that it was developed by the Tree Care Industry Association which included representation from many professional organizations such as the American Society of Consulting Arborists, the Asplundh Tree Expert Company, the American Society of Landscape Architects, and many others so that this is truly a set of practices that has been vetted by industry experts.

Pruning Large Branches

Anytime a large, heavy branch is pruned a three-cut method is needed to avoid damage to the tree. This practice avoids causing the bark to split below the limb, which takes a longer time to heal and can promote disease. This information came from an excellent pruning article by the Tree Care Industry Association at the following link: [Tree-Pruning Essentials: Part One - Tree Care Industry Magazine \(tcia.org\)](https://www.tcia.org/~/media/TCIA/Articles/Tree-Care-Industry-Magazine/Tree-Pruning-Essentials-Part-One-Tree-Care-Industry-Magazine-tcia.org).



The tri-cut, or ternary method, includes the first cut, called the undercut, the second cut, called the top cut, and the third and final cut just outside the branch bark ridge and the outer portion of the branch collar. Source: Tree Care Industry Association, Graphic by Jeff Harris.

Butterflies in Southeast Florida

By Charlene Regenhardt

The Miami Blue Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association maintains a wealth of information on butterflies, including extensive lists of butterflies, host plants, favored nectar plants, and more. Depending on what resource you read, between 170 and 200 different butterfly species can be found in Florida. The list below includes nearly 100 of the more common species that can be found in south Florida.

According to the website, up to one-third of the butterflies in southeast Florida are considered to be rare, imperiled, on the decline, likely to be extirpated, or

recently determined to be extinct. The list can be found on the Miami Blue chapter webpage. The majority of the butterfly species on that list do not appear in the list below. Exceptions include the Schaus' and Miami Blue, which are on the list below.

For more details, check out the extensive website at www.miamiblue.org. Additional information can be found on the national NABA website at www.naba.org.

List of Butterflies found in Southeast Florida

Swallowtails

- Polydamas Swallowtail
- Black Swallowtail
- Giant Swallowtail
- Schaus' Swallowtail
- Bahamian Swallowtail
- Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
- Palamedes Swallowtail

Whites and Sulphurs

- Florida White
- Checkered White
- Great Southern White
- Cloudless Sulphur
- Orange-barred Sulphur
- Large Orange Sulphur
- Statira Sulphur
- Pink-spot Sulphur
- Lyside Sulphur
- Barred Yellow
- Little Yellow
- Mimosa Yellow
- Dina Yellow
- Sleepy Orange
- Dainty Sulphur

Gossamer-wing Butterflies

Hairstreaks

- Atala
- Amethyst Hairstreak
- Silver-banded Hairstreak
- Gray Hairstreak
- Martial Scrub-Hairstreak
- Bartram's Scrub-Hairstreak

- Mallow Scrub-Hairstreak
- Fulvous Hairstreak
- Red-banded Hairstreak
- Gray Ministreak

Blues

- Eastern Pygmy-Blue
- Cassius Blue
- Miami Blue
- Nickerbean Blue
- Ceraunus Blue



Miami Blue Butterfly, Source NABA, Miami Blue Chapter

Metalmark

- Little Metalmark

Brush-foot Butterflies

Heliconians

- Gulf Fritillary
- Julia Heliconian
- Zebra Heliconian
- Variegated Fritillary

Crescents

- Cuban Crescent
- Phaon Crescent
- Pearl Crescent

Ladies

- American Lady
- Painted Lady
- Red Admiral

Buckeyes and Peacock

- Common Buckeye
- Mangrove Buckeye
- Tropical Buckeye
- White Peacock

Malachite and Viceroy

- Malachite
- Viceroy

“Wings”

- Dingy Purplewing
- Florida Purplewing
- Ruddy Daggerwing
- Florida Leafwing

Satyr

- Georgia Satyr

Monarchs

- Monarch
- Queen
- Soldier

Skippers

Spread-wing Skippers

- Mangrove Skipper
- Hammock Skipper
- Long-tailed Skipper
- Dorantes Longtail
- Florida Duskywing
- Horace's Duskywing
- Zarucco Duskywing

- Common/White Checkered-Skipper
- Tropical Checkered-Skipper

Grass Skippers

- Three-spotted Skipper
- Clouded Skipper
- Least Skipper
- Southern Skipperling
- Fiery Skipper
- Baracoa Skipper
- Whirlabout
- Southern Broken-Dash
- Sagem
- Delaware Skipper
- Aaron's Skipper
- Palmetto Skipper
- Palatka Skipper
- Berry's Skipper
- Monk Skipper
- Eufala Skipper
- Twin-spot Skipper
- Brazilian Skipper
- Salt Marsh Skipper
- Obscure Skipper
- Ocola Skipper



Schaus' Swallowtail Butterfly, Source: lepcurious.blogspot.com/

Notable Dates and Birthdays

A warm birthday wish to our members with February birthdays!

February

- Judith D.
- Michelle H.
- Joan H.
- Terry E.
- Raquel P.



Upcoming meetings and club activities:

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

9	GCUK Board Meeting (10 am)
16	GCUK General Membership Meeting 11 am via Zoom
16	Florida Native Plant ID Class (Zoom, 5:30 pm)
17	In-person Monroe County Plant Clinic at Francis Tracy Garden Center (9 am to 12 pm)
20	REEF Workday, 10 am
20	GCUK Workday, 11 am
24	Field Trip to Islamorada Community Garden, 9-11 am

Notes:

- Stop by the clubhouse on Wednesdays at noon to help with property maintenance chores

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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Looking Forward...

- **Board** meetings at 10 am on Mar 9, Apr 13, May 11
- **General Membership** meetings on Feb 16, Mar 16, Apr 20, May 18. Meetings begin at 11 am; If held at the clubhouse, doors open at 10 am for social time.

Out & About at Francis Tracy Garden Center

I stop by the property from time to time... sometimes to do a little weeding and other times to find something interesting to take a picture of to share in this newsletter. More and more often, I see another member working on a task either inside the clubhouse or in one of the gardens. I've attached a few photos of my encounters to show you the progress made in beautifying the property, both inside and out.



Evelyn McGlone cleaning up the Philodendron bed



Vanilla Orchard Bed



*Erik Dalaker fixing the clogged toilet
in the pink bathroom*



Cactus Garden

Garden Get-Together: Herb-Infused Salt and Herb-Infused Vinegar

By Laura Hartner

A "Garden Get-Together" in the Francis Tracy Gardens for members ONLY was held on January 27, 2021 to make herb-infused salts and vinegars. Four members were in attendance and a photo was shared for website and Facebook postings.

Thanks go to Suzy Cushman and Anne Makowsky for providing additional herbs to share. I shared salt and vinegar.



Resource Links

Topic: Florida Keys Native Plant Workshop

Description: Laurie Brooks is hosting the Zoom meeting on February 16 at 5:30. The topic has not been identified.

Link: Zoom Meeting [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4526147402?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4526147402?pwd=RCtIMU5pbENhZk4yd1VvaHRpMG50QT09)
[pwd=RCtIMU5pbENhZk4yd1VvaHRpMG50QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4526147402?pwd=RCtIMU5pbENhZk4yd1VvaHRpMG50QT09)

Meeting ID: 452 614 7402

Passcode: 123456

Topic: Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC) and Natives for Your Neighborhood

Description: Natives for Your Neighborhood provides a wealth of information about natives in the Keys and South Florida. Links to both are listed below.

Link: [Butterfly Gardening for South Florida \(south-florida-plant-guide.com\)](http://www.butterflygardening.com/south-florida-plant-guide.com)

Topic: South Florida Plant Guide Website

Description: Information on plants that thrive in South Florida (many are not native, and some may be considered invasive, so use caution when using this resource)

Link: <https://ediblesouthflorida.ediblecommunities.com/eat/growing-spices-and-herbs-south-florida>

Topic: North American Butterfly Assoc. (NABA) Website

Description: Contains lists of plants and advice from other NABA members based on their experience in our region.

Link: [South Florida Butterfly Garden Guide \(nababutterfly.com\)](http://www.nababutterfly.com)

Topic: UF/IFAS Gardening Solutions Website

Description: Information on butterfly gardening, including plants and individual species of butterflies. Their bookstore also includes links to books, including Roger Hammer's "Attracting Hummingbirds and Butterflies in Tropical Florida."

Link: [Butterfly Gardens - Gardening Solutions - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences \(ufl.edu\)](http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/butterfly-gardens-gardening-solutions-university-of-florida-institute-of-food-and-agricultural-sciences)

Topic: UF/IFAS Publication "Butterfly Gardening in Florida"

Description: Can be viewed online or downloaded as a PDF file; contains tables of butterflies and their host plants.

Link: [WEC 22/UW057: Butterfly Gardening in Florida \(ufl.edu\)](http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/wec22/uw057/butterfly-gardening-in-florida)

Topic: UF/IFAS Electronic Data Information Source (EDIS) of UF/IFAS Extension; Articles on butterflies and host plants

Description: Link to a long list of publications about individual species. The second link is a UF/IFAS EDIS article about Coontie plants and Atala butterflies

Link: [Butterflies \(ufl.edu\)](http://www.ufl.edu/butterflies); [ENH117/MG347: Florida Coonties and Atala Butterflies \(ufl.edu\)](http://www.enh117/mg347/florida-coonties-and-atala-butterflies)

Youtube Videos

Video of Monarch forming Chrysalis

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKjGIvm5F84>

Video of Monarch adult emerging from Chrysalis

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTa-HMMi7yc>

Identification Guides available on Amazon

- Butterflies of Florida Field Guide (2003) by Jaret C. Daniels
- A Swift Guide to Butterflies of North America: Second Edition (2017) by Jeffrey Glassberg
- Butterflies through Binoculars: The East (1999) by Jeffrey Glassberg
- National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Butterflies (1981) by Robert Michael Pyle
- A Field Guide to Eastern Butterflies (Peterson Field Guides) (1998) by Paul A. Opler et al.

Books available on Amazon

- Caterpillars in the Field and Garden (2005) by Thomas J. Allen, Jim P. Brock, Jeffrey Glassberg
- Florida Butterfly Caterpillars and their Host Plants (2005) by Marc C. Minno, Jeffrey F. Butler, et al.
- Butterfly Gardening in South Florida (2010) by Georgia Zaskir (Gardening with Fairchild)
- Wildlife Friendly Plants (2004) by Rosemary Creeser
- The Development and Evolution of Butterfly Wing Patterns (1991) by H. Frederik Nijhout

Books for Children available on Amazon

- Face to Face with Butterflies (2010) by Darlyne A. Murawski
- Touch a Butterfly: Wildlife Gardening with Kids (2013) by April Pulley Sayre
- The Family Butterfly Book (2000) by Rick Mikula

Organizations

- North American Butterfly Association: [NABA Butterfly Garden and Habitat Program](http://www.nababutterfly.com)
- Keys' butterflies from Audubon Society [Butterflies of the Keys — Florida Keys Audubon Society](http://www.audubon.org/butterflies-of-the-keys)

