



## The Garden Club of the Upper Keys

# News & Notes

January 2022

### General Membership Meeting

Please join us at the Francis Tracy Garden Center on Tuesday, January 18 for our monthly General Membership meeting. We will have a social hour from 10-11 AM followed by the presentation and meeting.

Due to the recent uptick in Covid cases, the board decided to hold all activities outdoors. We know many of our members are not fans of Zoom, so this enables our membership to interact in person. We will place refreshments indoors, and ask our members to help themselves to beverages and snacks inside and commence outside. Wearing masks indoors is recommended.

Due to the significant amount of road noise and lighting difficulties using a projector outside, the Board decided to reschedule the presentation on mangroves by guest speaker Janice Duquesnel. We considered the use of handouts but her presentation has many full color slides, which made making copies for handouts unfeasible. It was rescheduled for the November 2022 General Membership Meeting.

Our guest speaker for the January meeting is Laurie Brooks, who will do a presentation and hands-on demonstration of **Pruning and Planting Techniques**. Following the presentation, we're planning to have a show and tell session. The topic: **My Favorite Garden Tool!**

After the meeting, we'd like to encourage anyone willing to participate to practice their gardening skills to help us get our clubhouse property looking its best for the Garden Walk! The property is large, so social distancing will be easily achievable.

*Please bring your favorite garden tool to the meeting for a fun Show and Tell session!*

### Meeting Agenda

- **Call to Order and Welcome:** President Kathy Janco will welcome members to our January meeting.
- **Guest Speaker:** Kathy will introduce Laurie Brooks, who really needs no introduction as she is our Vice President and Director of Community Outreach and Education.
- **Guest Speaker Presentation: Planting and Pruning Techniques.** Laurie will discuss and show us proper techniques for pruning and planting. As a long-time member of the garden club and volunteer at the Pennekamp nursery, she has an in-depth knowledge of these topics. Laurie is also a master gardener.
- **Show and Tell: My Favorite Garden Tool.** Each of us will have the opportunity to present and discuss our favorite gardening tool and what makes it especially useful or special. We believe this will generate some fun and lively discussion!
- **Business Meeting:** Presiding over the business meeting, President Janco will share recent Board actions and decisions.
- **Practice Session:** If you are able, please consider spending a short time following the meeting practicing any of the techniques discussed. It will help our property look its best for Garden Walk, which is only a month away!

#### Inside this issue:

PRESIDENT'S Message	2
Volunteers Needed for Garden Walk	3
A Note From the Editor...	4
Notes From the Directors	4-7
Plant of the Month	8
Holiday Luncheon Photos	9
Garden Get-Together Photos	10
Announcements for Upcoming events and Classes	11
Out and About at the Francis Tracy Gardens	12
Notable Dates and Birthdays	13



*From the desk of President Kathy Janco ...*

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Wishing you good health and joy in the year ahead “2022.”

The board has so many wonderful things planned to keep us busy. To mention just a few: Garden Walk, Garden Get-Togethers, speakers and presentations at our membership meetings and tending to our gardens.

If there is anything you would like to see happen in the future please feel free to drop me a note. ***The board is all ears...it is your club!***

Whatever the new year brings I know we will achieve many things together.

I am looking forward to cherished time and making fun memories together!

Sincerely,  
Kathy



~~~~~  
*Wishing you good health and joy in the year ahead “2022.”*  
~~~~~

The Garden Club  
of the  
Upper Keys, Inc.  
at  
The Francis Tracy  
Garden Center  
94040 Overseas Hwy.  
Key Largo, FL 33037

Mailing Address  
P.O. Box 373  
Tavernier, FL 33070

**Board of Directors**

- President - Kathy Janco
- 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 - Patti Graham
- Property - Vacant
- Publicity - Pat Uhl

## Garden Walk 2022

*Share the News! Help Others See Fabulous Gardens!*



Tickets for Garden Walk 2022 will be available during the General Membership meetings on January 18 and February 15, 2022. Ticket Chair Laura Hartner will sell you advance tickets at \$30. each or can provide you with tickets to sell to your family, friends, neighbors or others.

Tickets for Garden Walk 2022 are now available at the following vendors: Key Largo Chamber of Chamber of Commerce; Wear With All Boutique; Key Largo Flowers and Gifts; Island Home Gardens, Islamorada Chamber of Commerce and Wild Lily Boutique. Please know that advance tickets will ONLY be available at these venues until Friday, February 18, 2022.

“Same day” tickets are available for sale at 10 AM on February, 19th at the Francis Tracy Garden Center for \$35 each.

Tickets can also be purchased on-line at [www.gardenclubupperkeys.org](http://www.gardenclubupperkeys.org) on the “Garden Walk Tickets” webpage until February 19. Emailed PayPal ticket receipts are to be exchanged for official GW2022 Map/Ticket(s) at the Francis Tracy Garden Center or at one of the

private gardens on the day of the event. An event map will be displayed on the club’s Facebook page and the Garden Walk Ticket webpage on Monday, February 14, 2022.

As a club member, your role is vital in sharing the news so that the community and visitors to the Keys can appreciate its beauty! Remember, proceeds from Garden Walk fund activities related to our club’s mission.

## Volunteers Needed for Garden Walk!

Garden Walk is the largest and most popular of our premiere fundraising events and it takes our entire membership to hold a successful event. Kathy Holmes has established a list of committees necessary for success. A few committees already have chairpersons assigned, but many still need volunteers. In addition to the chairperson, many of the committees need additional support, most significantly, the Garden Host who needs a House Captain and a team of volunteers at each featured property on the day of the event.

Please call Kathy Holmes to volunteer. A sign-up sheet will also be available at the General Membership Meeting on January 18. In addition to the support listed below, we need members to bring in baked goods for the free refreshments offered at the clubhouse.



### **Tickets: Laura Hartner**

- 6 ticket outlets already confirmed
- Responsible for delivery and pick up of tickets
- Dates for outlet ticket sales 1/3/22 to 2/18/22
- The day of the GW tickets will be sold at the Gardens and the Clubhouse

### **Garden Host: \_\_\_\_\_**

- Responsible to get (and work with house captains) table, chairs, small cooler for water for volunteers at each house
- In charge of House Captains who will oversee the volunteers day of the GW
- Day of the GW be available to get any supplies (tickets, programs) to the Gardens

**House Captain 1: Pam Gode - AM; \_\_\_\_\_ PM**

**House Captain 2: \_\_\_\_\_**

**House Captain 3: \_\_\_\_\_**

**House Captain 4: \_\_\_\_\_**

**House Captain 5: \_\_\_\_\_**

- Lead morning and afternoon shifts of 3-5 people (depending on property size) to sell tickets, hand out programs, answer questions, and help direct parking at the property.

- Ensure that pictures are taken at their property and shared with publicity

### **Hospitality: Betty Ann Gear & Fran Reig**

- Handle the refreshments
- Set up clubhouse
- Available the day before to receive baked goods

### **Vendors: Evelyn McGlone**

- Responsible to contact the vendors
- The morning of the event, position vendors, make sure they do not park on or in front of the property

### **Publicity: Pat Uhl**

- Publicize event
- Ensure a team is created to take pictures of the event
- Connect with GW chair about the banner at the clubhouse and banners to hang in the community

### **Program: Darlene Rota**

- Sell adds
- Work with GW chair about content and design

### **Set Up Crew: \_\_\_\_\_**

- In charge of setting up the flags and tents at the Garden Houses and Clubhouse (initial setup the evening before, flags setup the morning of the event)

### **Parking: John Reig**

- Staff the south "private road" to make sure no one parks there for the duration of the event
- Set up along the north side of the road 3 spaces for handicapped parking

### **Master Gardeners: Laurie Brooks and Suzy Cushman**

- Help identify plants at the Gardens to assist with property descriptions for the program and/or create plant lists for the properties
- Serve as docents at the properties and FTGC grounds

### **Yard Crew: Charlene Regenhardt**

- Ensure the FTGC grounds are looking their best on the day of the event

### **Clean Up Crew: \_\_\_\_\_**

- Put away any tables, chairs, etc. that were used
- Take the trash out
- Make sure the clubhouse is cleaned up

## A note from the editor...

Happy New Year!

As you'll see in the notes from the directors below, a lot of planning and work has been ongoing this past month. Our holiday luncheon was a lot of fun and 27 members attended the affair. A few pictures are shared on page 9.

Garden Walk is our premier fundraising event and it's only a month away! Page 3 outlines the support that Kathy Holmes will need to make the event a great success. She needs ALL of our support! Please sign up when you attend the January General Membership Meeting or give her a call if you cannot attend.

I hope you are able to come to our revised presentation that Laurie Brooks is preparing for us. She plans to discuss and demonstrate pruning and planting techniques. Those will come in handy as we work together to spruce up our property so that it shines for our Garden Walk event!

As many of you know, I try to solicit and write articles centered around the main topic of the presentation for the General Membership Meeting. I had prepared articles for all three native mangroves for the Plant of the Month. With the last-minute change in our guest speaker and presentation topic, I am saving the man-

grove articles for November when our guest speaker is scheduled to give her presentation. I decided to feature snowberry instead since January is one of the snowiest months in most places. It's a native plant that is abundant along the western edge of the Francis Tracy property. Snowberry is an odd name for a plant that grows only in very warm places like the Keys. But the berries it produces are pure white, so the name is appropriate! You can find the article on page 8.

Rounding out the articles in this edition are a few pictures of our most recent Garden Get-Together to make garlic baskets (page 10), some announcements for events from other organizations and the upcoming Master Gardener training (page 11), and a few pictures of the gardens (page 12).

The "Out & About at the Francis Tracy Gardens" page also acknowledges the hard work that our members have put in to maintain the property grounds. Thank you all for your help in making our property shine! I am looking forward to helping to put some finishing touches on the property grounds so that everything looks beautiful for the Garden Walk. I hope you'll join me!

Cordially,  
Charlene Regenhardt

## Notes from the Directors...

**HOSPITALITY CO-DIRECTORS Betty Ann Gear and Fran Reig** need volunteers for upcoming meetings at the clubhouse. Assistance includes helping to set-up and clean-up refreshments at monthly General Membership meetings and special events. You can volunteer for specific months or for the entire club year. It's a great way for new members to connect with others and be active. If you are interested in helping out, please call Betty Ann or Fran.

**HOUSE DIRECTOR Christine Hudson** continues to ensure all of the indoor equipment—from fire extinguishers to AC units—are functioning properly and efficiently. Please let Christine know if we are running low on any clubhouse supplies, if something gets broken or if anything needs special attention.

**VICE-PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION Laurie Brooks** continues to set up meetings for the Florida Keys Native Plant ID class with Jim Duquesnel. The next class will be January 18 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM with Duane Kolterman.

Laurie continues to participate in the Workdays for the REEF gardens, as well as the workdays for the clubhouse gardens. The next workday will be January 16 (3rd Sunday of the month) from 10 to 11 AM, followed by a workday session at GCUK from 11 AM to noon.

Laurie also continues to support the Ocean Studies Charter School's gardens and is currently working on a committee to create an outdoor classroom (trails, kiosks and signage) for the Hammock. The eco-environment planter gardens in front of school are doing well as is the water garden in back. She and other Ocean Studies Charter School representatives have met with Monroe County on December 17 to determine what the school can do on its property.

The Master Gardener Plant Clinics continue to be held at our clubhouse on the third Wednesday of the month. The next one will be January 19. Plant Clinics have resumed at the Murray Nelson building as well and the latest one was December 1. The next one will be February 2 (first Wednesday of the month) from 9 AM until noon.

(Continued on page 5)

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Laurie recently created lending and reference libraries on book cases in the sunroom of the clubhouse. The reference library book shelf will be used to house the Master Gardener plant clinic box and materials. She also added a catalog and magazine exchange shelf on the lending library side and will request books to be ordered by Master Gardeners for the Reference Library.

Kudos to Betty Ann Gear and Cindy Davis for organizing the cooking on December 30 and thanks to all who cooked or helped serve 75 meals! Our meatloaf is much loved.

Laurie encourages everyone to continue to send her ideas for community outreach/in-reach – particularly ways to partner with youth in our community.

**PROPERTY DIRECTOR:** Laurie Brooks, Kathy Janco and Charlene Regenhardt continue to oversee responsibilities for property management until a new property director is assigned. The workdays and Adopt-a-Bed initiative has lightened the load for the Property Director position, but we need a volunteer who is willing to ensure the property is cared for. Please contact Laurie or send a message to [gardenclubupperkeys@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubupperkeys@gmail.com) if you are interested in serving as Property Director.

Property workdays are typically scheduled on the first Tuesday (9-11 AM) and the third Sunday (11 AM-12 PM) of each month. The next scheduled workday is Sunday, January 16.

*We need some help sprucing up the grounds for Garden Walk! Please help at one of our upcoming workdays. One or two additional workdays will be scheduled leading up to the big event!*

Recent achievements have included removing the invasive seaside mahoe tree and spreading a top layer of new gravel from the side entrance up to the U-shaped driveway in front of the clubhouse and behind the clubhouse back to the new shadehouse/nursery.

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR Patti Graham** has been lining up speakers for our General Membership meetings. Laurie Brooks is our speaker for this month's General Membership Meeting on January 18. She will be presenting and demonstrating planting and pruning techniques. There will be no speaker in February as we

will focus on final preparations for Garden Walk at the meeting on February 15.

Patti has lined up David Adamusko to tell us about air plants for the General Membership Meeting on March 15. He recently he gave a fun presentation to the Orchid Club and he is thrilled to come and share his knowledge about Air Plants with us. He lives in Key Largo. There was a nice article in Keys Weekly about him, which can be found here: <https://keysweekly.com/42/air-plants-upper-keys-gardener-explains-his-passion/>

The speaker at the April meeting will be Isabella of Keez Beez. The May meeting will include the installation ceremony for new officers and will not have a speaker.

At the January 12 Garden Get-together Deb Riolo and Laura Hartner showed 4 other members how to make garlic baskets. It was great fun and a few pictures can be found on page 10. Our next Garden Get-Together is announced below.

(Continued on page 6)

## Garden Get-Together

The next Garden Get-Together on Wednesday, February 23 at 10 AM will be making leaf printed tea towels like the ones sold at the Gingerbread Craft Market. Several members requested another session because they were unable to attend the last one. Others want to so make some for the club to sell at the Gingerbread Craft Market next year

For this project, you will need to bring:

- Leaves from your yard (or you can acquire leaves at the garden club)
- Towels or napkins with a smooth surface (or you can purchase some from Laura—let her know when you sign up!

The October 2021 News & Notes included a detailed description of the materials needed and instructions for making them.

Please contact Laura Hartner by Tuesday, February 15 if you wish to participate.



(Continued from page 5)

Patti has 4 properties lined up for our Members Garden Walk, tentatively scheduled for March 17. All of the properties are on Plantation Key south of the Tavernier Creek Bridge and north of Snake Creek Bridge.

Patti continues to work on planning potential programs and field trips. One of the trips that is being planned is a visit to the Green Turtle Hammock, which is the new home of Florida Bay Forever, a non-profit dedicated to protecting and preserving Florida Bay through education and advocacy.

She is also working to schedule and plan a field trip to the vanilla/tropical plant lab at the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences in Homestead. Dr. Alan Chambers, an Assistant Professor at the university was our guest speaker on the vanilla orchid at our November 2020 meeting. In addition to visiting the laboratory, Dr. Chambers suggested we might want to have lunch at the nearby Fruit & Spice park or check out other orchids available for sale at RF Orchids (also nearby). Patti is working out the logistics for a trip in April (tentatively Thursday, April 28).

**PUBLICITY DIRECTOR Pat Uhl** has been working with Kathy Holmes and Patti Graham to support publicity efforts for upcoming meetings and fundraisers. She posts information and photographs regularly on our Facebook page and works with Lonell Rice and Amy Jorgenson on website updates. Twenty-nine posts were made to the GCUK page during December 2021. She also created a Monthly Meeting Invitation Flyer for future use to invite the public to our meetings.

Pat has been actively involved with preparing fliers and e-mail blasts for supplemental fund raisers. She has leveraged a wealth of free venues to get the word out about our upcoming Garden Walk as well as other activities. Pat and Amy Jorgensen, our Webmaster, set up a page on our website to allow Garden Walk tickets to be purchased online via PayPal, and they plan to continue to work together to make other online payment options available, including membership dues!

*Pat and Webmaster Amy Jorgensen worked together to establish a webpage on our club website to purchase Garden Walk Tickets Online! The link to the website page can be accessed at [https://gardenclubupperkeys.org/?page\\_id=2075](https://gardenclubupperkeys.org/?page_id=2075)*

Pat is working on plans to update and supplement the club's existing brochures. She is also working with a committee to update our sign along US-1.

**FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR Kathy Holmes** needs ALL of our help during the final countdown to Garden Walk 2022! Page 3 of this newsletter provides a detailed list of the committees positions that need to be filled. Some positions have been filled but she needs many more, especially house captains and support (3-5 people for each of two shifts per property). The shifts are 9:30 AM-1 PM and 12:30 PM-4 PM.

### Timeline of Key Garden Walk Events

- 🌸 1/18/22 GC Membership meeting – Tickets and Volunteer signup sheets
- 🌸 1/20/22 GW Media Day
- 🌸 1/21/22 Poster Distributed
- 🌸 1/26/22 Islamorada Chamber member luncheon, in person or virtual
- 🌸 1/31/22 All ads due for brochure
- 🌸 2/1/22 GC Board Meeting
- 🌸 2/7/22 Brochure to printer
- 🌸 2/8/22 Volunteer preview day
- 🌸 2/15/22 GC Membership meeting (focused on GW final planning)
- 🌸 2/19/22 Garden Walk

**Volunteers:** There are signup sheets at the clubhouse and they will be passed around at the General Membership Meeting. We also would love to have your neighbors, friends, or spouses volunteer – everyone can get in on the fun. For questions or to volunteer call or email Kathy Holmes (her contact info is on the Resource Links Page of this newsletter).

**Tickets:** Laura Hartner will have tickets for members to sell at the General Membership Meeting. Tickets are also available at 6 locations:

- Key Largo Chamber MM106
- Key Largo Flowers and Gifts MM100
- Wear With All Boutique MM101
- Island Home and Garden Center MM89
- Islamorada Chamber MM87
- Wild Lily Boutique MM82

(Continued on page 7)

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**Advertisements for Brochure:** If you or someone you know is interested in having an ad in our Garden Walk program, contact Darlene Rota (see Resource Links Page for contact info). Advertisement pricing is: Back Cover \$500.00, Full page \$300.00, Half page \$175.00, Quarter page \$100.00.

Kathy continues to look for effective ways to support fundraising. If anyone has fundraising ideas, please connect with her.

Don't forget our fudge fundraiser! You can order online at [www.sweetestknights.com](http://www.sweetestknights.com) and click the charity link for the Garden Club (see below).

## Sweetest Knights

**Deadline for online sales is Valentine's Day**

Sweetest Knights is a company in Key West that makes fudge (among other goodies). To order, go to [www.sweetestknights.com](http://www.sweetestknights.com) and click on the BUY FUDGE tab. **Choose the Garden Club of the Upper Keys as the charity.** You can order online until Valentine's Day. Those who order online will have their orders shipped to them or at any address they want domestically. The club will receive 30% of all online sales (excluding shipping & handling).

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR Charlene Regenhardt** continues to process membership forms. A big "Thank You" to those who promptly submitted their dues! As of January 10, 76 members have submitted their membership forms.

If you have not yet mailed yours in, please take the time to do so today, as they are now overdue.



**Are you running late? If you haven't done so yet, please send us your signed renewal form and membership dues check today!**

The GCUK Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges the following generous gifts sent in with membership renewals this past month:

**Satinleaf ~ Sponsor of the Garden Club**

- Gayle Kolasa

**Lignumvitae ~ Benefactor of the Garden Club**

- Kathy & Joel Janco



## Plant of the Month

### Snowberry (*Chiococca alba*)

by Charlene Regenhardt

If you walk along the gravel drive behind the clubhouse at the western edge of our club property, you may notice some shrubs intermixed with Spanish bayonettes. This time of the year the shrub is rather unimpressive but the blooms, followed by pea-sized white berries later in the spring and summer, are sure to be noticed!

What stands out most about snowberry are the flowers and the white berries that inspire the plant's name. The flowers form large clusters called racemes that can be spectacular. The blooms are followed by small berries that are pure white. Among the lengthy list of other common names are milkberry, West Indian milkberry, West Indian snowberry, David's milkberry, David's root, cahinka and cahinka root. It is a member of Rubiaceae, the coffee family.

Snowberry is a large clambering vinelike shrub with 4-angled branches forming a large mound or climbing high into other vegetation. It usually grows between six and 10 feet tall but can reach 25 feet under the right conditions with something to grow on for support.

There are three species commonly called Snowberry; *Chiococca alba*, is the most common. It is native to the Florida Keys north mostly along the coasts to Duval and Dixie counties; Bermuda, West Indies, Texas, Mexico, Central America and South America. It occurs naturally in pine rocklands, shell mounds and coastal strands and hammocks, and prefers partial shade and moist soils.

The bark is yellowish-gray, marked by deposits of cork. The leaves are bright green, oval shaped, two to four inches long and arranged oppositely. They may be elliptic, ovate, or broadly lanceolate in shape.

When in bloom, the creamy fragrant flowers attract butterflies. The flowers are small (up to ½"), five-lobed and bell-shaped. The white fruit hang in clusters and are very attractive to birds in late summer. They are not poisonous or tasty.

In traditional herbal medicine, snowberry has been used to treat rheumatism and snakebites. It's also been used to treat asthma, coughs and diarrhea and as a laxative, diuretic and to induce vomiting. The active ingredient in snowberry apparently is methyl-salicylate, a substance the plant produces when attacked by leave-eating insects. The substance attracts carnivorous insects who then eat the bugs attacking the plant. Methyl-salicylate



is used in perfumes, in foods to provide fragrance and in liniments. It's also toxic, deadly if taken in sufficient quantities. The root, particularly root bark, is the part of the plant that was used medicinally.

Some internet sources report snowberry as a host plant for the Miami blue butterfly. I checked with an expert at FSU who told me there was an anecdotal observation of the butterfly depositing eggs on the plant in the 1970s but the Daniels Lab, which specializes in Miami blue research, does not recognize snowberry as a host plant.



### Cultivation Data

Source: [www.regionalconservation.org](http://www.regionalconservation.org)

**Habitats:** Hammocks and thickets.

**Soils:** Moist, well-drained sandy or limestone soils, with humusy top layer.

**Nutritional Requirements:** Moderate; can grow in nutrient poor soils, but needs some organic content to thrive.

**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:** Moderate; generally requires moist soils, but tolerant of short periods of drought once established.

**Light Requirements:** Light shade.

**Flower Color:** Generally yellow, sometimes white or peach.

**Flower Characteristics:** Semi-showy bell-shaped flowers in two-ranked rows. Fragrant.

**Flowering Season:** All year; peak spring-summer.

**Fruit:** Clusters of attractive white, drupelike berries.

**Wildlife and Ecology:** Provides significant food and cover for wildlife. Nectar plant for julia (*Dryas iulia*) and other butterflies.



# Holiday Gathering !

Our traditional Holiday Luncheon began was held in the clubhouse of the Francis Tracy Garden Center on December 14.

Twenty-seven members and two guests attended.



## Garden Get-Together

A few of us gathered at the Francis Tracy Garden Center on January 12. Deb Riolo and Laura Hartner showed 4 other members how to make garlic baskets. It was great fun!



# Announcements for Upcoming Events and Classes

A few announcements have been sent in by some of our members that may be of interest to our members:

- January 29:** Friends of Pennekamp are having their annual plant giveaway. A variety of native plants will be available on a first come first served basis. Some of the more popular species go quickly so arrive early if you are interested. A park entrance fee (\$8 per vehicle plus 50 cents per person) is required.
- January 31:** UF/IFAS is offering their Master Gardener Course this spring. Registration prior to the preview session is required.
- Programs at Green Turtle Hammock:** Various tours of the hammock emphasizing plants and wildlife are available. These programs will also be available in February.

**NEW! MONROE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER COURSE**

Learn about course details, volunteer requirements and opportunities for Monroe County Master Gardeners

**PREVIEW SESSION**

**Monday, January 31st at 3PM via Zoom**

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED

For registration details or questions please contact: (305)292-4501 or email [monroe@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:monroe@ifas.ufl.edu)

Master Gardener Course begins: Thursday, February 24th

FLORIDA MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER | UF IFAS Extension UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Free with park entrance fee.

**Native Plant Giveaway & Nature Walks**

Saturday, January 29  
9 a.m - Noon  
Light rain or shine  
Heavy rain date: February 5

**John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park**  
Mile Marker 102.5 Oceanside

Native Plant Giveaway for Keys Residents  
Tropical Hardwood Hammock Nature Walks  
Butterfly Garden Tours

Sponsored by  
Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park  
and John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park

For more information, please call Elena Muratori at (305) 676-3786

FLORIDA STATE PARKS

**THIS MONTH:**

**FLORIDA BAY FOREVER**

PRICING  
NON-MEMBERS: \$15  
MEMBERS: \$5  
BREAKFAST: \$30

ALL PROGRAMS BEGIN AT 9:30AM  
LOCATION: GREEN TURTLE HAMMOCK NATURE PRESERVE  
MMR12 BAYSIDE

<b>JAN 4</b>	<b>Florida Bay 101</b> Guided eco-tour of Green Turtle Hammock exploring Florida Keys plants and wildlife.
<b>JAN 15</b>	<b>Birds of Florida Bay</b> Guided bird walk of Green Turtle Hammock with local birding expert.
<b>JAN 18</b>	<b>Florida Bay 101</b> Guided eco-tour of Green Turtle Hammock exploring Florida Keys plants and wildlife.
<b>JAN 28</b>	<b>Breakfast by the Bay</b> Exclusive breakfast featuring guest speakers in Florida Bay science and policy. <i>Limited availability.</i>
<b>JAN 29</b>	<b>Birds of Florida Bay</b> Guided bird walk of Green Turtle Hammock with local birding expert.

**CONTACT TO RESERVE A SPOT!**  
(305) 563-7970 | [info@floridabayforever.org](mailto:info@floridabayforever.org) | @floridabayforever

# Out and About at the Francis Tracy Gardens

Many thanks to our members! Sometimes I stop by to do some small task such as bringing yard waste containers back from the street and someone else has already completed the task! I love that we have what I call "mystery volunteers" and the board wants to thank you for spending the time. A few noteworthy projects in December included:

- 1) Weekly watering (DeeDee Barreto),
- 2) Ongoing care of gardens through our Adopt-a-Bed initiative (Pat Saunders, Jenny Crittenden, DeeDee & Richard Barreto, Deb and Rich Riolo, Lonell Rice, Darlene Rota, Laura Hartner, Laurie Brooks, Evelyn McGlone, Kathy Janco, Anne Makowsky, Ellen Berosh, Debbie Martin, Jean Neudorf, and Charlene Regenhardt)
- 3) Taking down the seaside mahoe tree (David Bisant and Charlene Regenhardt),
- 4) Cleaning up the sidewalk and surrounding area from the mahoe debris before the Holiday Luncheon (John Reig),
- 5) Cutting up the pile of branches left from the tree (four weekly sessions that filled all 4 yard waste cans and taking them to the curb) (Charlene Regenhardt and mystery volunteers—THANK YOU!),
- 6) Arranging and overseeing delivery of new gravel (Charlene Regenhardt)

- 7) Clearing the storage shed to enable gravel placement (Laurie Brooks and Charlene Regenhardt),
- 8) Building shelves in the shed and organizing all of the contents (Harold Smith - "Smitty")
- 9) Sending a donation to the garden club and writing a poem to commemorate the demise of the seaside mahoe (Gayle Kolasa)

I probably missed mentioning someone! Forgive me if I did! The grounds are looking better than ever! THANK YOU!

Not much is blooming this month. One of the orchids near the front porch recently pushed out it's third flower spike in a little over a month. It is apparently quite happy where it's located! The *lignumvitae* in the Front Berm bed is also blooming.



## Ode to a Dead Mahoe

By Gayle Kolasa

They say it is distasteful,  
To speak ill of the dead  
Zip your lips and bite your tongue,  
Say something nice instead.

But when one's reputation  
Has fallen to such lows —  
Has become a scourge and menace,  
It only naturally flows

That I would celebrate  
The fall of that awful tree  
And dance upon its stump  
With nothing less than glee!



# Notable Dates and Birthdays

A warm birthday wish to our members with January birthdays!

## January

- \* Cindy D.
- \* Amy J.
- \* Jean N.
- \* Donna N.
- \* Nancy P.
- \* Karen S.
- \* Eileen S



## Upcoming meetings and club activities:

### January

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					

<b>4</b>	GCUK Workday (9-11 am)
<b>11</b>	GCUK Board Meeting (10 am)
<b>12</b>	Garden Get-Together: Twined Garlic Basket (10 am)
<b>16</b>	Workday at REEF (10-11 am) followed by workday at GCUK (11 am-12 pm)
<b>18</b>	GCUK General Membership Meeting (11 am)
<b>18</b>	Florida Native Plant ID Class (Zoom, 5:30 pm)
<b>19</b>	Master Gardener Plant Clinic (9 am - 12 pm)

### 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					

<b>1</b>	GCUK Board Meeting (10 am)
<b>8</b>	Garden Walk Volunteer Preview Day (9 am)
<b>15</b>	GCUK General Membership Meeting (11 am)
<b>15</b>	Florida Native Plant ID Class (Zoom, 5:30 pm)
<b>16</b>	Master Gardener Plant Clinic (9 am - 12 pm)
<b>19</b>	<b>Garden Walk</b> (10 AM to 4 PM)
<b>23</b>	Garden Get-Together: Tea Towels (10 am)

## Looking Forward...

- **Board** meetings at 10 am on Feb 1, Mar 8, Apr 12, May 10
- **General Membership** meetings on Jan 18, Feb 15, Mar 15, Apr 19, May 17. Meetings begin at 11 am; If held at the clubhouse, doors open at 10 am for social time.
- **Special Events:** The Garden Walk is scheduled for February 19, 2022. A Yard Sale is rescheduled for April 2, 2022. Our Member's Garden Walk is scheduled for March 17, 2022.