

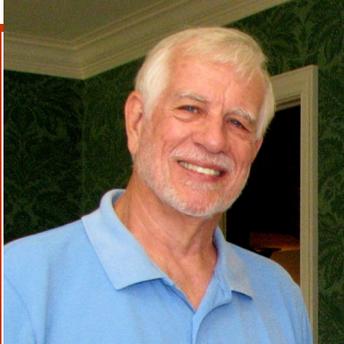
Summer edition

July 2015

"A beautiful garden is a work of heart"



GREETINGS FROM CANADA



While the weather here in Ontario Province remains a mix of rain showers and beautiful blue skies, news from the home front suggests you are experiencing some very humid and high temperature days. I have received several emails concerning roses ... the onset of fungal diseases is the major theme ... so here are a few observations. First, it's important to remember that the majority of fungi are already present in Florida soils and at best we can control their spread but it is doubtful that we can eradicate them. Secondly, if you've ever seen a slow motion video of a fungal spore exploding it really is quite dynamic and the spores shoot out in all directions. Ground-based spores naturally explode upward into any plant that is above -- therefore the first signs of fungal disease on a rose is very often at the lower leaves. This initial disease spread is best controlled by watering at the base of the plant, picking off any yellowing leaves and removing them from the garden area ... also remove any fallen leaves. If you end up with a severe infection there are plenty of good fungal sprays and systemic control products available at garden centers and places like YouTube.com are full of homemade recipes and suggestions. Remember roses are much sturdier than we often believe and can handle fairly severe cutbacks and recover nicely in 45 to 50 days. While many suggest mid-February as the ideal time to give your roses an annual pruning (in Florida) you can prune roses pretty much anytime you'd like providing you get nice clean cuts down to a bud or leaf angle. One last topic, insects ... remember not to get totally frustrated and look for complete eradication, rather, control is the goal. And remember a good healthy plant can withstand both fungal and insect attacks much better than one already under stress so be sure to apply a mild fertilizer at least once a month for best results. Enjoy the summer! Enjoy your roses! Cheers from Ontario!

Bob Hotaling



WELCOME BACK COFFEE

The "Welcome Back Coffee" will be held Monday, August 31, 2015, at Gretchen Smith's home. Joan Lasek will be sending out the invitations. If anyone wants an invitation sent to someone who is not a member, please contact Joan and give her the name and address.

We need more items for the Welcome Back Coffee. We will need a lot more small sandwiches and fruit. Please contact Joan to volunteer to make/bring these items. Thanks.

Signed up to date:

Baked Items: Sharon Lane-Crouch, Judith Shaw,
Farrell Culberson, Kirsten Collins.

Small Sandwiches: Joyce Anderson.

Fruit: Patty Scott.



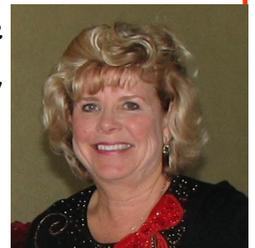
Joan Lasek (John)
1565 Oak Tree Court
Apopka, FL 32712-2583
Home: 407-889-7210
Cell: 407-222-2518
Email: JML424@cfl.rr.com



We are hosting a Tom MacCubbin Springtime tulip river cruise featuring Dutch & Belgium waterways April 6 to April 14, 2016.

Details and flyer to follow!

Sharon Lane-Crouch



BOARD MEETING

The first board meeting will be Tuesday, September 8, at the Sweetwater Oaks Community Center. (This is a correction from the June newsletter.)



Areva Barnes News from Louise Gould.

A past Garden Club member, Areva Barnes, is 94 and now located in Ohio. I spoke to her on July 4th and she is doing well. She asks me to thank you for the 42 wonderful cards she has received from the folks that know her. She loves her new digs and is very busy with crafts and bingo. She said the food is great here. She does have relatives nearby that visit regularly. She will be 95 on April 3rd of 2016. If you would like to call her the phone number is 407-388-8599. Her address is:



Areva Barnes
Logan Acres Retirement Home
2739 County 91/ Rush creek # 320
Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311-9007

FLORAL DESIGN

Hope everyone is having a good summer and staying cool. It not too early to start thinking about plans for next year. SWOGC will be sponsoring the FFGC Floral Design Units 1 - 9 beginning with the Basic 6 Units starting Thursday, October 1. The classes will give you all of basics for creating a floral design for your home or a flower show. Even though you may have taken these classes in the past, taking them again will reinforce what you have learned, and you will pick up new and different techniques. This chairman has been doing floral design for over 30 years and I still learn something new each time I sit in on a class.



In January we will offer the Advanced Floral Design Units to those that have previously taken Units 1 -6. These classes will begin Thursday, January 21st. These advance units will expand on what you have learned in the 6 basic classes and teach you more about the mechanics and open your eyes to the more sculptural form of floral design and welcome you into the world of creativity.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested. We need to have at least 12 taking the class to break even on expenses, and I need to have enough time to contact the instructors. The good instructors book up fast so please Email or call me ASAP.

As most of you know we have a Floral design exhibit at the Garden Fair, and it would be great to add some new designers to our exhibit; you can join us next Spring!

Please find a flyer attached to this newsletter with detailed information, and if you are interested or have any additional questions please call me.

Can't wait to see you all at the Welcome Back Coffee. This is going to be an exciting year for our Garden Club.

Happy designing!
Margaret Kirkpatrick
mmaui@cfl.rr.com
407 399 8230



HORTICULTURE - Outside Container Gardening



There are two large flower pots in front of my home. At present they are not as pretty as they should be. I had a bush daisy thriller, blue daze filler and white diamond frost as a spiller. Now the bush daisy has turned into the filler and the blue daze has stopped blooming. I assume it did not like that sunny western exposure. There is a need to adjust for that hot plant location. Off I went to the garden center to see what was available. I can choose from many, but are they good for the heat? Choices could be coleus, red salvias, pendas, geranium, zinnias, croton, and many more. I'm looking for something bright against my light color house. So I came home with coleus, crossandra and blue stokesia. The pots look much more festive now. I moved all non-blooming flowers to the North garden. It is just too hot for those flowers now.



What else is going on in my garden? The humming birds are back! They love the longer tubular flowers. If you want them to visit your yard you need to plant some of their favorite foods: agapanthus, butterfly bush, shrimp plants, gladiolus, golden duranta, cuphea (cigar plant), firebush, asclepias, firespike, and buddleia. My suggestion is to put a few in the garden as they all don't bloom at the same time.

On Pruning: When something has finished blooming in the yard it's time to prune it. I have a native plant called Cestrum. If I did not prune it back it would be twenty feet tall. So when I do prune it I cut off at least one quarter of the plant. It is one of the favorite flowers of our state butterfly, the zebra longwing. The myrtles are now blooming. If you cut back and deadhead the flowers that are done you will have another set of flowers coming after. I also suggest cutting any suckers off the bottom and any low branches that are smaller than a pencil. They are susceptible to snap in the winds.

On cutting back roses, it's a different story. You need to choose your cuts wisely. I go down a healthy stem to a big strong leaf cluster that has five petals and make my cut right before that leaf cluster. In forty-five days you will get new flowers forming for your pollinators. This is the time to cut out any weak, brown stems. Yesterday I trimmed all the agapanthus flowers that were done blooming. These are saved for use in floral arrangements. I remove the seed pods. The iris pods are also great to pick as long as they are done blooming. I dry these, and they can be painted for use in dried fall and holiday arrangements. If you have sago or fan palms and the fronds are turning yellow, cut and trim them into interesting shapes, and let them dry natural. You can spray paint them later for designs. Old dried up bird of paradise leaves makes a great addition for an arrangement. I love dried live-forever arrangements. Do you have a dead branch, or something you clipped off the top of a bush? Does it have an interesting shape? Would it look good if it was painted black to go into a Halloween design? Look at your plant material and decide to keep or compost.

SOGC will have floral design classes coming up for you to enjoy. For some of these classes you will need dried plant materials. You can enjoy Horticulture and floral arranging together. Grow it and use it in many ways. Happy planting and gathering.

Louise Gould, Horticulture Chair