

DOWN TO EARTH

with the Navarre Garden Club

NAVARRE, FLORIDA

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 6

MARCH 2005

FEBRUARY ... a month of Fun & Festivities



January had us on a roll with all the Arbor Day activities so we were already in gear for February.

We kicked off with our regular meeting on Feb. 1st where Rebecca Rushing presented a wealth of information on the local birds that are seen in this area.



That was quickly followed up on Feb. 3rd with the second Jr. Garden Club class for 2005. Joanne Connor, Judith Begue, Lynn Wilson & Kathy Jerram presented the class on wildflowers and assisted the students in planting of new seeds in the wildflower garden started last year.

The next big event was Mardi Gras and it proved to be a fun and rewarding experience for many of our members. Many members met on Friday, Feb. 4th at Kathleen Wells' home to decorate the

float under Angie's expert guidance. It's amazing how a little gold and purple paint can make everyday garden tools look so stunning.



Belle Buckley was the "Queen of Spades" and she graced the float as others threw seeds and beads to the

onlookers along the mainland parade route on Saturday., Feb. 5th. Navarre Garden Club took 2nd place in the Community Division. Angie proudly accepted the trophy for the Club.

Of course, Valentine's Day was just another good reason to get together and enjoy each others friendship at the Valentine's Day

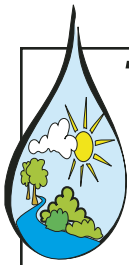


Potluck Luncheon. The social committee (shown above) did a wonderful job.



Additional photos at www.navarregardenclub.org





THE PRESIDENT'S PATH...

Our hat's off once again to our GREAT Social Committee. If you missed the Valentine's Day candlelight luncheon, you really missed a superb potluck! The tables were beautifully decorated with Jean Matters' prize-winning, colorful Camellias. Each attendee received a beautiful baby rose corsage made by Cathi Herd, a heart-shaped box of chocolates, and a paper cup of little candy hearts. We had salads galore as well as hot main dishes and plenty of desserts. There is one thing this club does extremely well—and that is cook! It was so nice to meet just for fun and fellowship. Many thanks to: Carolyn Igo, Chairman, Evelyn Enzian, Margie Henson, Kathy Jerram, Jean Matters, and Dorothy Reynolds. You all did a splendid job! And, a BIG thank you to Flo Assiminas for suggesting that this year's luncheon be a potluck.

Don't forget our Fun with Flowers Workshop on February 26th. The topic is "Making Your Own Flowers". This workshop is more hands-on than usual. For the student's take-home design,

we will be using dried Sago Palm spines to make dried Fugi mums/spider mums. Please sign up as soon as possible and bring a hot glue gun and glue sticks along with your clippers and plastic garbage bag for easy cleanup. You will be painting your mums at home so there is no need to bring paint to class. However, you will want to get some white enamel and other spray paint of your color choice. (Design Master is recommended.)

Kathy Jerram is doing a terrific job putting together this year's cookbook which will be on sale at the Third Annual Tasting Luncheon/Plant and Bake Sale on April 8th. Please let Eleanor Coppedge (Food Chairman) and Kathy know what kind of salads you are planning to bring to the Tasting Luncheon (vegetable, pasta, meat, or dessert).

How about us winning Second Place in the Mardi Gras Parade (Community Service Category)? Angie, you are to be commended for your leadership, vision and foresight. See what happens when we all pull together? There are too many members who deserve thanks to list individually, but please know that your efforts, no matter how large or how small, were greatly appreciated. We certainly let the community know we are here!

Everything a member does to further the goals of the Club also serves as an outreach to the community. What you do is a labor of love for a Club and community you love. This year we have far surpassed our history of giving to the community. With everyone pulling together, we will keep this momentum going forward. Thank you for being so generous!

Linda Henderson



- Maxine Hooks
March 12
- Roberta Garrison
March 13
- Flo Assiminas
March 16
- Barbara Warriner
Lynn Wilson
March 20
- Ginger Laughlin
March 23
- Laura Peugh
Lisa Tomi
March 26
- Yolanda Washington
March 30
- Jolene Depew
March 31

DISTRICT I HAPPENINGS

••• Th/F, March 3 & 4, 2005

Gardening Study Course I

Held at PJC Milton Campus, Room 4902. \$55 includes class/lunch/exam fee. Text book is additional. Call Tina Tuttle (587-2361) for information to register.

••• Monday, March 7, 2005

Designing Creatively Class

PFGC. Call Pat Makar (968-2111) for information to register.

••• Mon-Wed, March 14-16, 2005

FFGC Spring Symposium

Call 587-2621 for information to register.

••• Sun-Tues, March 20-22, 2005

Deep South Convention

Tunica, MS. Call Alice Holmes at 228-467-3710 for information.

••• Fri-Sun, April 1-3, 2005

8th Annual Emerald Coast Flower & Garden Festival

Call 587-2621 for information.

••• Thurs, April 7, 2005

District I Judges' Council

Call Kate Smith at 453-0504 for information.

••• Sun, April 10, 2005

Annual Spring Buffet

Public is invited. Milton Garden Clubs.

••• Wed & Thurs, April 13-14, 2005

Legislative Days

Tallahassee, at the Capitol.

••• Thurs, April 14, 2005

Friends of the Gardens of NW Florida

6 pm, PJC, Milton. Free program.

••• Fri-Sat, April 21-23, 2005

Garden Show

PFGC. For information, call 432-6095.

••• Wed-Sat, April 27-30, 2005

FFGC Convention, FFGC State Flower Show

Tampa.





VINE LINES

by *Jungle Judy*

Hello Navarre Garden Club. Working in the yard and flower garden is so nice this time of year. I never want to go back inside the house at the end of a March day. There is a lot of work to be done this month but there are some things we must not rush this spring.



Please do not fertilize your lawn until you have a really good green-up already in progress. Select a fertilizer with a slow release nitrogen formula. And do not apply more than one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 feet of lawn. In Navarre, so many homeowners kill the lawn or encourage serious problems with too much TLC. You can also apply a pre-emergent herbicide to help control our annual summer weeds now, but please only if you have had a serious problem with weeds last year.

Some of us get ready for summer by getting the saw out and cut, cut, cut the crape myrtle. You can thin out the branches now but resist the urge to top them. This is another mistaken practice most homeowners will do. Topping a crape myrtle will destroy their natural beautiful shape and could result in a weak top growth. I do recommend up-



trunking crape myrtle to show off the wonderful trunk this plant will develop.

And again with your lawn, try to hold off putting fertilizer down until April. Our centipede lawns, when fertilized while our soil temperature is still cold, will certainly show up with big yellow blotches of iron chlorosis. Try a 12-4-6 or a 16-4-8 at the most this year. Remember not too much TLC. Centipede doesn't like all that love!

While looking at your yard this spring or day dreaming of what plants to put in after Ivan, just look for the Carolina yellow jessamine vines that are in bloom this month. Also Chickasaw plums, redbuds and Japanese magnolias will show their color now. They are another great choice to consider for your yard. I don't know how Ivan will effect our spring blooming plants, but we can hope for the best. Some of us have lost the support tree for many of our vines. One of the pines that came down on my house supported my passion vine. Another pine in the back of my yard was the support structure for my Cherokee rose. I did not have this pine stump taken out and the Cherokee rose is growing from its short base. I will try to train it as a smaller species. Everyone in my neighborhood will miss its beautiful white blooms rambling among the many pine branches. It was a real show stopper. The crew that cut the pine trees that fell in my yard had a fight with the Cherokee rose, the blackberry and my Pyracantha. It took a box of Band-Aids to cover the

scratches and you know who won the fight. Vines and plants with thorns can be dangerous.

For yardkeeping this spring, your azaleas and camellias need fertilizer. Use an acid loving fertilizer only. Try an 8-8-8 or a 16-4-8. And only after the azaleas have finished blooming is the time to cut them back and only if needed. Cut out any die-back from your Camellias and ask a friend if you can air layer from some of her camellias that survived Ivan. Give your amaryllis a feeding with a bulb food of 9-9-6. You can plant the amaryllis bulbs you forced for the holidays in your bulb bed now. Harden them off slowly in their pots to get them used to the bright sun. Then plant them in the soil. If you have hollies and ligustrums that are overgrown, they can be taken down now. Cut back to as little as three feet if needed. Your ornamental grasses can be cut back now also. Take them down to about 12 inches.

March is also a good month to move some of the bulbs you have in the wrong place. Canna, walking iris and Louisiana iris all like a moist area. Amaryllis, crinum, daylily and rain lilies all like a drier area. Blood lilies and caladiums that need transplanting need to be moved now so they will do well this summer. Remove any pansies and violas that are in decline in your flower beds. A good replacement would be petunias. They will last until the heat moves in. And another yardkeeping job is to remember to continue to water those Arbor Day trees.

After all of this hard work, reward yourself and plant a gloriosa lily or some other plant that you have never tried. Pick your spirits up this spring and renew your storm-damaged yard with dreams of the paradise of plants that grow here in beautiful Navarre. Happy gardening.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Reminder ...

Plant seeds now for plants to donate for the Plant Sale at the Tasting Luncheon next month.

March 1 • Regular Meeting

Hostesses: Mary Peterzen, Laura Peugh, Dorothy Reynolds, Cliffogene Stillwell, Ann Tindell, Lee Van Deventer

Program: "Miniature Designs"

Guest Speaker: Mazie Glover

Bio: Mazie served the Gulf Area Garden Club as President and Treasurer. She served on the FFGC State Board as Parks, Memorial Garden Pilgrimage, Scenic Route Chairman. She's also served as Chairman of 1990 & 1994 State Conventions. She is a Master Flower Show Judge, been Flower Show Judges Council District I Director, and has served as Treasurer. She is a life member of both FFGC and National Garden Clubs, Inc., and is in FFGC's Hall of Fame.

March 8 • Beach Walking Tour

Meet at the Navarre Beach Public Parking Lot at 9:00 a.m. to walk with Rebecca Rushing, last month's speaker. (In case of inclement weather, alternate date is April 15.) We will walk along the beach and learn about plant adaptation, beach/dune ecology, creatures (if any), and surely there will be birds, sand fiddlers, etc., or signs of them. Wear sunscreen, comfortable shoes, and bring water.

March 12 • Workshop on Horticulture

Guest Speaker: Tina Tuttle

9:00 a.m. until Noon at the Navarre Community Center. This workshop is FREE and open to the public.

March 19 • Fun with Flowers Workshop

9:00 a.m. until Noon at the

MARCH, 2005

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Navarre Community Center. Topic: "What Can You Do with One Bunch?" Ways to use a single bunch of flowers. \$20 fee covers lecture, demonstrations, supplies and hands-on workshop. \$5 additional for lunch. Take home your own floral creation. Please register not later than March 9. This workshop is taught by Gina Jogan, and is open to the public.

March 29 • Executive Board Meeting

9:00 a.m.

Navarre, FL 32566
P.O. Box 5606
Kathy Jerram, Editor



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Kathy Jerram, Secretary

Lynn Wilson, Treasurer

Shirley Brown, Vice President

Linda Henderson, President



Club Flower ... Sea Oats

Club Bird ... Great Blue Heron

Organized 1975 - Federated 1976

Navarre Garden Club

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE