



THE MORNING GLORY

Newsletter of the Garden Club of St. Augustine JUNE/JULY 2020

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi All,
I hope all of you are well. As you know, the Garden Club of St. Augustine Board and the Tour of Homes Committee has decided to cancel the Tour scheduled for December 6, 2020. We discussed, worried about and sometimes dreaded making this decision. Once we made it, though, we felt some relief. The goals and objectives of our Club mean nothing if we put the health and safety of our members and the public at risk by holding the Tour.

Because the Club is not holding its major moneymaking event, our funds for the upcoming year and a half will be severely limited. As the expression goes, we will have to do more with less. The Board and the Ways and Means Committee are having serious discussions about our budgets for 2020-21. We have lowered our expectations about what we can do and earn for the club but we are also cutting expenses wherever possible. Several of our Circles, Committees and the Board have been holding meetings via Zoom and we expect to continue doing this in the future.

Our gardens at the Clubhouse are extremely pretty now, so we will try to do a Zoom tour of those. Led by our talented garden designers, we will be testing doing basic flower arranging of store-bought flowers with backyard greens. We can start planning for another Arbor Day tree giveaway in January and for the Spring Open House at the clubhouse. We join the Floralines members in hoping we can hold the Flower Show at EPIC next Spring.

We want and need your ideas, assistance, creativity, moxie, experience, patience and all else you can provide to help us through these strange and unsettling times. Please join us in Zoom meetings even if you are just listening in on your phones. Send us emails or call us. Hearing from you and seeing you is always good!

Take good care of yourselves,
Shirley



From Sue Swain's gardens

Floralines Wants YOU!

by Carole Saville

Have you ever seen a stunning flower decoration, and think to yourself, I wish I could do that? Well, the Floralines Guild would welcome you! We are always looking for Circle members of the Garden Club who would like to pursue floral design.

The purpose of the Guild is to create and improve designs which are used in flower shows. Each month, Floralines members learn by seeing a demonstration and practicing one of the many design types. Members are then encouraged to enter their designs into local flower shows. As you know, we have a flower show each spring at the Agricultural Center.

Floralines meet the first Thursday of each month September through May. We would love to have interested Circle members join us to learn about the Guild and its requirements, with the hope of attracting you to become a Floralines member.



The following is a synopsis of an article published by the World Wildlife Fund.

Simple Things YOU Can Do to PROTECT the Earth!

- 1. Put one foot in front of the other.** One hundred years ago, 99% of people got by without cars. They took the train; they lived near their work, and they walked. Fuel-efficient cars are good, but save more fuel by driving less.
- 2. Go for seconds.** Recycling doesn't mean only separating your cans and bottles. It can mean using things a second (or a third) time.
- 3. Watch your waste.** Items you throw away can contaminate the soil and water for thousands or millions of years. Your community has disposal procedures for things like used oil and batteries. Ink cartridges can usually be recycled where you bought them. And properly dispose of those super-efficient lightbulbs containing mercury.
- 4. Paper *nor* plastic.** Bring your bags with you! By taking reusable bags to the grocery store, you can cut down on the 350 bags the average American uses each year and reduce needless deaths of marine life caused by plastic bags that end up in streams, rivers, and oceans.
- 5. BYOB.** Last year Americans went through about 50 billion plastic water bottles. Fill up a reusable water bottle at home and bring it with you. Don't like the taste of your tap water? Buy a filter!
- 6. Flip 'em off.** In much of America we cannot even see the stars anymore, due in part to all the electric lights. Keep the light on ONLY in the room you're in.
- 7. Get in touch with your roots.** Plant a tree! Good for the soil, good for the birds, good for reducing climate change – and good for the air you're breathing!
- 8. Get off.** Catalogs are great when they're from companies you like to order from. But if you're getting catalogs from companies you don't buy from, get your name off their list.
- 9. Support WWF.** We're working to protect endangered and threatened species and preserve their habitats. Time is running out for many of the animals you love!



YOUR SUMMER GARDEN

by Sue Swain and Maggie Ouellette

Everyone likes a pop of color in their garden during the hot days of summer in Northeast Florida. Some annuals that we recommend are old fashioned **red salvia**, along with the purple bush-like, **taller salvia** ("Victoria Blue"), which makes a great summer show that can handle our heat.

Marigolds, an old-time favorite, come in so many sizes and shapes, you can create a large showy bed at little expense. **Gaillardia** and **dune daisies** are terrific native flowers. They are good for full sun gardens, poor sandy soil and once established, require little care. Also **vinca**, **purslane** and **portulaca** do well in full sun and sandy soil. **Pentas**, an all-time Florida favorite, come in various sizes and colors. They are great for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds. **Celosias** are coming back in newer showy varieties. With their various shapes they can make an interesting complement in the garden. And of course, for those who have shade, although now some flourish in full sun, the ever-popular **coleus** makes a great show as a border or in a full bed.

These plants are usually pest free. Remember, when establishing your summer garden, water frequently until plants are well established. Use a slow release fertilizer to keep them going throughout our hot, dry months. Enjoy!

NOTES

Corresponding Secretary Beverly Stuart has sent numerous cards over the past few months to our members. Some of the people she has contacted are: Anne Merwin, Holly Jaques, Mary Duryea, Pat, the family of Mary Lou Brusaw, Pat McCauley, and Angel Baer. If you know of someone who would appreciate a sympathy or get-well card, please contact Beverly.

Angela Demetriades is taking orders for pavers. Reserve one or more by sending her an email at akd2991@hotmail.com. The pavers are \$50 with 3 lines of 20 spaces each. Punctuation counts.

Please send your ideas and photos for our next edition to [Jan Litchfield](#) or [Sue Swain](#).