

Equality Park Garden Club

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Remember Wednesday's Meeting!

"Rare Plant Auction!"



Date: Wednesday,
April 18, 2018

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Hagen Park
2020 Wilton Drive
Wilton Manors, FL 33305



There will be something a little different for our group, at our April Meeting. We will have a Rare Plant Auction as it's been on our radar for years. Practically every plant society in South Florida does one. It's fun and very educational. We have Peter Kouchalakos as our auctioneer for the night. Peter is a fascinating and lively guy who is kind of famous in South

Florida for being the auctioneer at Rare Plant Auctions. He actually has a following, and some of you may remember him from our February 2017 meeting when he gave a presentation on Tillandsias. Peter is a law school graduate who found his true calling in growing and teaching others to successfully grow orchids and other exotic plants. He specializes in Phaius, Spathoglottis, Epidendrom, Oncidium, and Tillandsia and he is the owner of PCK Orchids and Exotic Plants, which is south of Miami. For the auction we are getting plants from nurseries all over South Florida, which will go for anywhere from \$5 to perhaps hundreds of dollars. Just because it's rare does not mean it has to be expensive. We're excited to have someone of Peter's caliber do our first Rare Plant Auction!



Membership Appreciation Picnic

When:

Saturday, May 5th, 11 am until 2 pm.

Where:

Richardson Park Pavilion
1937 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors, FL

The club will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, utensils and paper products. We will also have some water and soda. If you would like anything else to drink, please bring it with you. If you would like to bring a dessert or pot luck item to add to the festivities, you are most welcome to. Most important, just bring yourselves. It will be nice to get together to socialize and get to know each other better. Every one of you worked hard to make the 2018 A Tropical Plant Fair the best one yet. Let's pat each other on the backs and enjoy a beautiful day in the park.



President's Letter

All the numbers aren't in yet, but I can tell you the 2018 "A Tropical Plant Fair" was the most successful yet, because of all the hard work you put into it. We can be so proud of this club and could not have done it without your help. Thank you SO much. In May we will have a Members Picnic, so we can pat ourselves on the back, and enjoy each other's company without the fair swirling around us. Everybody did a great job, and I could not be happier with the efforts you put into it. I was also elated at how the Equality Garden Club, and the members of the Oakland Park Garden Club, became friends and worked so well together. I sense that many of the new members are going to be longtime friends.

I welcome everyone's input as to what worked, and what did not. What I have heard so far is the good far outweighed the bad! A couple of issues I have heard more than once was parking, using a "no dogs" park, and the issue with the sprinklers on Saturday night. If we remain at Richardson Park, the city knows, and we will remind them, to have the sprinklers off the entire time we are there. We were surprised at the number of people who like to bring their dogs to such events. Honestly, I love my dogs as if they were my kids, but I wouldn't bring even one of them with me in a large crowd of people in a public park I had never been to before. Next year we might try to have a little doggie day care outside the park. We will need to make sure we can, and we would carefully weigh any potential liability issues. Some kind of signed waiver from the dog's owner would be necessary. I am guesstimating that throughout the weekend we had to tell 50+ people that they couldn't bring their dogs in which caused quite a few hard feelings. Richardson Park is not an ordinary public park. It's a nature preserve and bird sanctuary. No dogs allowed signs are posted all over the interior, and exterior of the facility. It's

a beautiful place to hold an event, and I have no regrets for choosing it. If we remain at the park, we will have to make parking more efficient. The thinking so far centers on a shuttle running people back and forth from the Hagan Park Parking lot and the Richardson Park area. Again, we need your input on anything and everything regarding the event. Please mail me your thoughts, ideas, and recommendations at pbaquaserve@aol.com. I would like to compile them to share with the board, and the soon to be formed 2019 Plant Fair Committee.

This year we would like the club to increase our past philanthropic causes. Of course, anything we do will be horticulture related. Three things have been proposed to the Board at this point, and I need your input once again for other ideas. The three things thus far are, garden activities at the Kids in Distress campus/living facility, continuing to support the new Prehistoric Garden section at Flamingo Gardens, and tending to the long neglected DePalma Park, which is a native plant and butterfly plant garden. These are the three we have been reviewing, but there are so many possibilities. Mentoring schools with their butterfly and vegetable gardens, scholarships for needy high school students whose goal is horticulture, and mentoring person's in "battered spouse" shelters/living facilities with butterfly and vegetable gardens. An idea I got from the Bromeliad Society of Broward County is helping our own members. We all love our gardens and sometimes people become temporarily or permanently disabled, and their beloved gardens suffer. We could spend a couple hours weeding and tending someone's garden who really needs it. Ideally, it would be someone who could not afford help, but it's almost as important to help each other out, "just because". Please send your ideas!

We have an amazing evening planned for you at our next meeting. Rare Plant Auctions are fun and incredibly educational. I guarantee that you will be entertained, and you will learn many new things. If your Birthday falls in April, please bring a snack to add to the refreshment table. Of course, snack contributions from anyone are always welcome. We will hold our monthly plant raffle, so any plant contributions to the table are welcome and needed. Please buy tickets! Don't forget about the "bring a plant-take a plant" table. It's always fun to pick out something new to bring home.

Spring has sprung. Enjoy your April!

Paul Durbin
Equality Park Garden Club President



Dot's Dashes

BACKWARD AND FORWARD

March was a GOOD but busy month. The shady lady, Laure Kristov, gave us good ideas and we enjoyed our Wednesday with her. How wonderful that 97 people attended the meeting and that new members are coming in right and left, both from the very welcome Oakland Park Garden Club as well as from others who know how much we have to offer. The big event of the month and the year was our Tropical Plant Fair. Of course, chairman Chip Jones is thanked for the pre-planning and work and I am glad that so many good souls showed up to volunteer. If I started naming outstanding helpers I would miss somebody and get in trouble, but one person has to be mentioned for all his pre-fair, and fair work: NELSON JOHNSON dedicated days to our show of shows. Thank you, Nelson.

I need to also thank our President Paul Durbin who worked tirelessly before and during our Plant Fair. Mary Lang and her food crew produced delectable sliders and other foods and added about \$800.00 to our new profit. Our best source of profit was the silent auction, and Chuck Ross deserves the thanks there organizing the items donated, then grouping them and attending to the auction itself. I need to also thank the many members who donated plants for our 'members plant sale'. We made over \$1,500.00 and it was because so many planned ahead, divided plants and repotted them, or donated duplicates. Our offerings were amazing. There were a couple of 'bumps in the road', some due to parking and adapting to a new location. The bottom line is that it was --all in all-- a wonderful Plant Fair and we can be proud of what we accomplished.

Our bus ramble to Dade

The last week in May date has changed to the first Saturday in June which is the 2nd. Memorial Day was a problem for some, so the new date is better. Mostly we will be going to the places where we have bought the most in the past but there will be a new stop or two. Do you want to go by OFE for supplies? I know they can bring in orchids for us to buy as well. Where would you like to go? My tentative list is Redland's, Stelmar, Tillandsia Heaven, Bromeliad Heaven, and maybe Carib or Palm Hammock. If you are a Rambler with wishes, please email me (bobdot@bellsouth.net) and let me know before I confirm the list. As far as I

know your details will be 'normal' which are parking cars at Cardinal Gibbons, bringing a bagged lunch, and reserving your seat on the bus at the April or May meetings for \$30.

If you have never rambled you have missed a treat. Growers often give us discounts. Some give us raffle plants for the bus, but the best part is getting to know other members better. Most of the volunteers at the Plant Fair were ramblers. Rambling seems to increase your loyalty to the club and a feeling of belonging. Dot

WILD FLORIDA

If someone said: "I left a *Terragnatheca helianthorides* by your front door." Would you call 911? I know I would be afraid to open the front door until I learned that it was an ugly little wild flower with the common name of Square-head. Ever wonder why some people, like Chip, use the scientific names for plants? I opened a copy of Florida Wild Flowers and Roadside Plants and thought Chip had a point at least until I saw the scientific names. Picture plants shown in the book with these names: Duck Potato, Bog Buttons, Hat Pins, Horse Sugar, Hog Plum, Crab's Eye, Yellow or Blue-Eyed Grass, Possum Haw, and Scorpion Tail. The Button Bush was the only thing I saw that I wanted to buy. People of old named plants after the body part the given plant could cure. That said our Button Worts and Spider Worts don't fit, but our Bladder Wort does. (The authors didn't find Spleen Worts, Liver Worts, or Horn Worts in Florida, but thought you might find them handy for a trivia contest.)

I think common names for plants are fun, and I've got some unprintable common names I've given to the multitude of spring weeds that are peaking up thought mulch and in flower pots. If you can find a 1982 copy of the book above, it might be fun to read the names and see the 500 pictured plants in color. It is published by Laurel Press and the authors are Bell C.R. and Taylor, B.

WHEN YOU CAN, GO NATIVE

Of course, you should wear clothes, but you probably should select native plants when you have a choice. They have thrived for centuries and some weather changes. Acid soil is not in their vocabulary, and that alone gives them a better change to thrive and be trouble-free. It seems that every time I buy something with pretty flowers it hails from a country I couldn't find on the map and it is acid loving. (Of course, you will want some great flowers but select things that won't outgrow a pot where your added coffee grounds and azalea fertilizer won't wash away in the sand.)

Spring is tree planting time so think these native palms: Royal, Buccaneer, and Saw Palmetto. Other good yard trees are Buttonwood, Bald Cypress, Gumbo –Limbo and Live Oak. Don't have room for another big tree? Think these smaller, up to 20 feet, natives: Coco Plum, Geiger, or a Simpson, Red or White Stopper. My favorite is the Fiddlewood. Ours attracts bees and

butterflies and later the small seeds feed multiple kinds of birds. Our Red and Simpson Stoppers also attract and feed wildlife, but not as productive.

If you need to think even smaller, think Wild Coffee or Necklace Pod bushes which are not thirsty, nor picky about where you plant them. Florida wildflowers are not my thing, unless you put our native Tillandsias in that group.

Some natives are not so nice. Strangler Figs eventually kill, and we also have Poison Oak, Ivy, and Sumac. If you are hiking in the Everglades it might be well to avoid several trees and shrubs found there. These are unlikely to be found elsewhere.

Joan Brookwell, who wrote for the Sun-Sentinel for 25 years is one of the authors of this publication from which some of the information came. "Low –Maintenance Landscaping and Gardening Native Florida Plants. (Gulf Publishing).

Spring to-do list

1. Fertilize trees, grass, and bedding plants unless you did that in March. For house plants increase fertilizer from ½ teaspoon per gallon of water to a full teaspoon. The increased spring light will push plants into new growths and they need food. (You do know that fertilizer feeds soil microbes and their products actually provide the nutrients for plants.)
2. This is tree, bush, and bedding plant planting time, be sure you water trees daily for a month after planting. Any orchid that you have attached to a tree will also need daily watering until the roots adhere to the tree.
3. Cool growing winter annuals need to be composted and replaced with heat-loving plants.
4. Continue your battle to control weeds and insect pests.
5. Replace the soil or growing medium for potted plants that have been not been repotted "lately". For African Violets, 6 months is long enough, for orchids about 2 years, and for bigger plants that have not been repotted for 3-10 years, the time is now. If new growths are smaller than older growths the plant is begging you to get to this chore. Roots coming up to the surface of the old medium are another hint that it's time for you to repot.

Dot Henley
Equality Park Garden Club 2nd Vice President

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