



LEAF NEWSLETTER

Apollo Beach Garden Club, Inc 2017



December 2024 - Edition #60

"Just Keep on Planting"



President's Message **Paula Olesen**

Dear Garden Club Members,

Welcome to December and the Holiday season.

We all have been through a lot the past 2 months, but in spite of havoc we have much to be thankful for and to find joy and peace in the Season.

I am very pleased to welcome Nan Major a member of both the Club and Community Forest Garden for the past 3 years, as our new Secretary. Nan will do an outstanding job for us and is a very welcome addition to the Board. Thank you, Nan, for taking on the position.

We are planning our Holiday get together in the Community Forest Garden on December 17th at 5:00 to 8:00PM. See the flier in this edition of the newsletter for details. We hope you will all come by, have a bite to eat, socialize and participate in the garden gift swap. We are planning a festive time and, yes, there will be lights!!

A big shout out to Raleigh and Annie who provided a great presentation on Herbs when our scheduled speaker was too delayed in Rt 4 traffic accidents. It was so fortunate they had the presentation ready to go. So appreciated. Thank you. Many patrons bought their fruit trees donated for the Fall Plant Sale and I left Third Insight Design out of my thank you list last

month. The Third Insight Nursery has had its storm damages but these two are always working our Community Forest Garden tirelessly.

Welcome to new member Jacquie Hoffman, who like the rest of us, is eager to learn.

Plans are already in the works for the Spring Plant Sale, Saturday February 8th. Watch for how you can contribute by starting certain herbs, vegetables and flowers.

I wish all you all the Peace and Love this Season promises.

Paula

Paula Olesen, President





**Chris Deno,
Program Chair**
Poster by Teresa



**Holiday
Garden Party**

**@ The Community
Forest Garden**

Pot Luck & "Green" Elephant Exch

Dec 17, 2024 5:00 - 8:00 PM

Bring an appetizer to share and a \$10 value wrapped garden related gift to participate in the "Green" Elephant Gift Exchange.

Call/text Teresa for additional information. (813) 310 - 3204

664 Golf and Sea Blvd Apollo Beach



Apollo Beach Community Forest Garden updates:

By Annie Jimenez, Forest Garden Coordinator
apollobeachgardenclub@gmail.com

- Pineapple canoe planted
- Most raised beds have been fitted with new micro jet irrigation systems; table beds are to follow. After the hurricanes the Board has decided each tenant to be responsible of providing their own timer.
- 300-gallon trough donated during Fall Plant Sale by Apollo Beach neighbors. Red hybrid Jaboticabas to be planted in it.
- Grants and donations have made it possible to add several new trees to replace lost ones. Signage is in place for these at the garden: 2 mulberries, 1 avocado, 1 jackfruit, 1 banana, 1 black sapote, 1 white sapote and more.
- Row A community plantings as of 11/26: Rocket Arugula, Chinese Cabbage, Uberlandia Carrots and Cherokee Purple Tomatoes

Apollo Beach Garden Club Calendar

| Event | Date | Notes |
|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Volunteer Work Days at the Community Forest Garden | Tuesdays and Saturdays 9A-11A | Location: ABCFG, 664 Golf and Sea Blvd No Volunteer Work Days 12/24 and 12/31 |
| Board meeting | December 17th, 10:00am | Location: ABCFG, 664 Golf and Sea Blvd. After the board meeting we will be preparing for the holiday gathering, setting up lights and tables. |
| Monthly meeting: Holiday Garden Party | December 17th, 5pm-8pm | Location: Apollo Beach Community Forest Garden. For members, volunteers and their guests. Pot luck and Green Elephant. |





Teresa Hall, Committee Chair

ABGC Plant Sale Market & Marketing

Hello fellow garden club members. Hoping you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and are enjoying the end of year festivities coming into the new year. Everyone is quite busy with the holiday fun, but it is time to start sowing seeds for our Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, February 8, 2025. Please start getting some seeds into trays this week so we can have robust plants on offer in 8 weeks. The ideal pot size is four inches, holding a robust, disease free plant with good root development at sale time.

This year we are highly focused on providing vegetable and fruit starts and trees that can withstand and keep producing in our Florida Spring and Summer Gardens. Please consider creating lots of different herbs both annual and perennial; particularly in the Mediterranean category. The herb Wishlist includes Rosemary; Greek Oregano; Italian Oregano; Thai, Opal and Ethiopian Basil; Fernleaf and Mammoth Dill; Thyme; Sage; Parsley (Italian); Chives (regular); and Sorrel.

There is also a focus on providing more local/heat tolerant greens. We are encouraging our members to create Swiss Chard, mustard and collard greens, Longevity and Malabar Spinach, Tuscan Kale, Bok Choy and Chinese Cabbage to have on offer.

Native flowers and pollinator attractors will be a feature in the plant sale because every prolific garden requires relentless pollinators.

For tomatoes, the varieties should be both heat and disease resistant. I have personally purchased seeds for the Mortgage Lifter VFN, Tropic VFN, Japanese Black Trifele and Garden Peach Tomato varieties. I've been dying to try growing a Mortgage Lifter for years but could never find seeds or a start. I am truly "giggity" to grow these tomatoes this year and provide starts to be on offer for others in February. If you don't know what a Mortgage Lifter tomato is, do a quick search online. It's a great story and sounds like an even better tomato that rivals or surpasses the Ugly Ripe Tomatoes from Publix.

As the Plant Sale Committee Chair, I am super excited to come into spring with new passion, new energy, and an incredible offering of plants that our patrons will be excited about. I want to make sure that the excitement lasts through the season with patrons who are over the moon about the plants they got from us so they can grow with us year after year.

Let's go large this Spring! Let's be the "go-to" place for quality, unique and rare food plants. We can do it just by planting those seeds now. That's what I love the most about gardening. Often times, you are just planting seeds of intention as you are putting those seeds in the ground. Let's plant those seeds of intention for a magical and productive new year.

For any questions about what plants to start, please contact me at (813) 310 – 3204 or kcpredictions4fl@hotmail.com.

Sincerely, ~ *teresa*~



Apollo Beach Garden Club

Spring Plant Sale



Event Page

ApolloBeachGardenClub.com

Saturday

Feb 8, 2025

8 am - 1 pm

(813) 310 - 3204

rain or shine

Presenting hearty, local, rare and unique vegetables, herbs, fruits & fruit trees perfect for a spring garden that will work well into and through the heat of a Florida summer.

Great local vendors include local bay area honey, tool sharpening, tie die apparel, food/beverage and more.

664 Golf and Sea Blvd

Apollo Beach

Florida

Apollo Beach Garden Club Membership Form



- Annual Garden Club dues are due in SEPTEMBER.
- Community Forest Garden raised bed rentals run from SEPTEMBER or the date of lease start until the following 31st of AUGUST, regardless if they start mid season.
- Leasing a raised garden bed at the Apollo Beach Community Forest Garden is an add-on to being a member of the Apollo Beach Garden Club. It is required that you join the Apollo Beach Garden Club and pay the dues stated below to opt in to renting a raised garden bed. Before an available raised bed is assigned to you we ask that you donate 10 hours of your time by actively participating at volunteer days (Tuesdays and Saturday mornings from 9am-12:00pm); and are familiar with the *Raised Bed Lease Agreement* posted online at <https://apollobeachgardenclub.com/member-information/>. The *Raised Bed Lease Agreement* document acts as a binding contract which you will have to sign for below when renting a raised bed from the Apollo Beach Garden Club.

Please mark the boxes () with an X where it applies.

OPTION 1 - ABGC Dues

Apollo Beach Garden Club Dues: \$15.00 single, \$25 couple

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs: \$12.00 per household (Joining the federation is optional)

Name: _____

e-mail: _____ Phone number: _____

Address: _____

Membership total \$ _____ paid on ____/____/____, by CASH or CHECK # _____

Member's signature _____

OPTION 2 - ABGC Dues + Raised bed rental

Apollo Beach Garden Club Dues: \$15.00 single, \$25 couple

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs: \$12.00 per household (Joining the federation is optional)

Yearly Raised Bed Rental: \$50

Name: _____

e-mail: _____ Phone number: _____

Address: _____

Leasing raised bed: # _____ (to be assigned by ABGC board member)

Membership total \$ _____ paid on ____/____/____, by CASH or CHECK # _____

Member's signature _____

By signing here you agree to comply with the Rules and Regulations Stated in the Document "Raised Bed Lease Agreement" made available to you online at <https://apollobeachgardenclub.com/member-information/>. Failure to abide by these rules can result in early termination of your lease.

To pay and finalize, fill out this form and bring it to the next Garden Club meeting (3rd Tuesday of the month at the Recreation Center, 664 Golf and Sea Blvd, Apollo Beach, FL 33572), payments will not be accepted outside this time.



Sam Goodwin, Beekeeper

Bee a Bee-Keeper, not a Bee-Haver

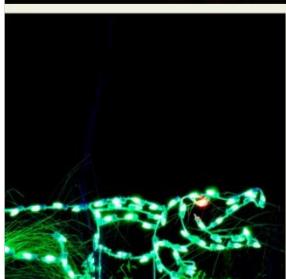


Members in Our Garden

The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies." -Gertrude Jekyll



Florida Botanical Garden’ Holiday Lights in the Gardens 2024



This winter fundraiser runs from Friday, November 29th, 2024-Saturday, January 4, 2025 from 5:30-9:30 PM nightly.

There is a suggested donation of \$10 per person, with kids 12 and under free.

The Florida Botanical Gardens will sparkle with 1 million, twinkling, LED lights in a multitude of colors. Vibrant laser lights and lighted figures round out our display to wow guests of all ages. The opening of our new Majeed Discovery Garden will take this already awesome event to the next level. You won't want to miss it! Interested in being a sponsor? See the information below.

Kids Activities - There will be free kid's activities in the Majeed Discovery Garden every Sunday and Thursday evening throughout the month of December.

Participate in this community event while enjoying the twinkling lights.





Dec 12: Holiday Succulent Wreath Workshop at Cigar City Brewing

Thursday, December 12 · 6 - 7:30pm EST, 924 West Spruce Street Tampa, FL 33607 Ticker \$75

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dec-12-holiday-succulent-wreath-workshop-at-cigar-city-brewing-tickets-912256733447?aff=ebdssbccategorybrowse>

Join succulent florist Cactus Moon and learn how to create your very own living succulent wreath. You will learn how to arrange and care for these beautiful plants for many months to come.

Each ticket includes all supplies needed: a 14" wreath form, a variety of succulents and foliage to choose from, floral pins, and take-home care instructions. Hosted at Cigar City Brewing in Tampa, FL.

Fine print: Due to the nature of perishable items purchased for each attendee, no refunds will be given for the wreath workshop. Seats are extremely limited so make sure to get your spot early as there will be no walk-in seats available.

Friday, January 10th - 10a-12:00p - Meet your Forest: Tree and Fungi Walk and Talk

Fishhawk Creek Nature Preserve North 3931 Lithia Springs Road Lithia, FL 33547

Join UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County Urban Forestry Agent, Alyssa Vinson for a walk and talk about our local trees and fungi. She will cover tree identification techniques, including using naturalist to document your findings. Be prepared to walk with closed toed shoes, water, hat etc. **A map will be emailed to you the day prior with the exact meeting location. Be aware that the park has a \$2 entry fee.**

If you have any questions, please contact the UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County at (813) 744-5519.

*****The University of Florida is committed to providing universal access to all of our events. For disability accommodations such as sign language interpreters and listening devices, please contact: VinsonA@HCFL.gov, 813-744-5519 Ext. 54106, at least 1 week in advance. Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs.**

The University of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Institution.

Volunteer to help always needed!!



Garden Visitor Hours -

Open to the Public
Tuesday and Saturday from 9 to 11
Garden is closed on Holidays
To schedule a tour outside regular hours email
apollobeachgardenclub@gmail.com



Object and Mission of the Apollo Beach Garden Club, Inc.:

The Object of the corporation is to enrich outdoor garden experiences through **education** programs, public awareness, experts and a community garden.

The Mission is for residents of Apollo Beach and the South Shore community to learn how to grow various endemic, epiphytic, edible and Florida-friendly plants. In addition to understanding the significance of local environmental issues and regenerative efforts.





2024-2025 Elected Board

President: Paula Olesen

Secretary: Nan Majors

Treasurer: Ev Barnes

Community Forest Garden Coordinator: Annie Jiménez

Director of Committees: Raleigh Barnes

Past President: N/A



Committee Chairs

Scholarship Chair: Raleigh Barnes

Program Chair: Chris Deno

ABGC Leaf Newsletter Editor Chair: Jeanette Doyle

Marketing and Plant Sale Event Chair: Teresa Hall

Bee Keeper: Sam Goodwin

Membership Chair: Annie Jiménez

All inquiries to be sent to: apollobeachgardenclub@gmail.com

