



October Newsletter

ISSUE XII

Message from the President

Over a year ago, two hurricanes upended our lives. I know many of you are starting to feel discouraged by the lack of visible progress at the Clubhouse. That doesn't mean there is none. A detailed report commissioned by the City of St. Petersburg estimating repair cost is due at the end of November. In the meantime, we need to be making a serious effort to raise funds.

Rentals provided us with \$37 K in income, their loss leaves a big hole in our \$60 K annual budget. Our bank account has \$17 K. The plant sales and Holiday Resale will bring in approximately \$8 K. The February Home and Garden Sale, which last year netted \$11 K, was held inside. Now we need to redo the logistics for an outside event. If you can help with the planning, please contact the new chair Kris Carlock at 415 725-2101 or email kris.carlock@icloud.com.

Of our projected \$38 K, we must set aside \$5 to 10 K to pay our insurance bill on June 7, which is required by the City. The difference depends on whether or not we are occupying the building.

While we have free use of Azalea Recreation Center, we still must pay a monthly average of \$1800 in utilities for the GCSP Garden Center.

Upon our return, our Phoenix Fund only has enough funds to make the building functional. We will be returning to a no frills building.

While we wait, we can determine our needs and changes we might like to make. Catherine Gore will chair the Building Recovery Committee. She has experience with long-term project planning. The City has agreed she will be our liaison when they start planning.

When the City asked us to stop using the building, they gave us a general outline on the rebuilding process. It is unchanged. Two key things to remember are that the building is owned by the City and that we use the building under license. It is the City who decides what and when repairs will be done. We are not contributing financially to the process. Accordingly, the City does not need to share their financials (budget, expenses) or repair timeline with us.

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Created by & for members

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you can find:**

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Mingle &
Creative Crafts**

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Nursery Trip**

**Garden
Workday**

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Event Flyers

Message from the President (continued)

The building is commercial property requiring different building standards than a house. All the ideas one may have about how things are supposed work based on your homeowner's, or neighbor's experience do not apply.

For perspective, the City had 200 buildings damaged and repaired based on highest immediate need. They secured our building. Worried about mold causing further damage in summer's high humidity, they repaired the AC units. When the Bride's Room unit did not work properly, the City replaced it, a clear indication the City intends to proceed.

After the November cost analysis report, The City must figure out how close they are to meeting the 49% rule. This rule says expenses for remediation incurred immediately after the storm for cleaning and drywall removal, etc., any repairs to make the building functional as well as improvements to bring the building up to code cannot exceed 49% of the assessed value of the building in the year the event occurred. Any expense, whether paid by us or the City, make up the total for the 49% rule. If the cost exceeds that threshold then the building has to be brought up to the new code of elevating the building to a required height above the storm surge. That would put repairing the building beyond our financial reach and probably the City's as well. We do not expect that to happen. We estimate the 49% cost should not exceed approximately \$400,000. One shouldn't plan to spend up to the actual limit as final costs always rise due to unforeseen problems in construction.

While \$400 K may seem high, here's some quick internet math: replacing the 10 glass doors, a minimum of \$50 K. We need to replace kitchen cabinets, drywall and 3 bathrooms. The quote for the long storage cabinets was \$60 K. Costs mount up fast. We have no money to fund any of that. Even if we wanted to make additional improvements, we need the City's approval AND we could not apply for a permit (required for all projects over \$250) until 1 year after the City's project was finished or we hit the 49% rule again.

The bottom line is we need to start fund raising now. Other garden clubs have been successful in raising funds through garden tours, musical events in the gardens, plant auctions, silent auctions, and workshops to name a few. We need someone or a group to step up and plan the event(s). Please, please call me at 727 215-6666 or email gardenbessie@gmail.com with your ideas, expertise and help.



GCSP President





FALL PLANT SALE

THANK YOU!

A BIG thanks to all including Sale Chair, Sally Farr, who helped make the Oct 25 Plant Sale a huge success! From the variety of donations, to the most volunteers ever who worked before, during and after the sale—all of your efforts paid off. Thanks to you, the Garden Club made over \$3,000!



Your Help Was Vital to Our Success!

Sally Farr

Cathy Holwart
Pat Doyle
Annie Ellis
Mary Pat Troy
Kathy Hollis
Deb Bibeault
Glenda Gufstason
Ramona Griffin
Bessie Morse

Diana Stem
Kris Carlock
Nance Francisco

Catherine Gore
Emily Suppe
Geri Brizzi
Rosemary Miller
Monica Gray
Bonnie Riggins
Diane Van Avery
Madison Tucker

Linda Myers
Jaci Anson
Laura Horvath
Pat Strawn
Trish Jarrell
Sandy Konon
Drew Konon
Annette McComos
Evelyn Clayman
Joyce Drew
Karen Birnkrant
Bea Rhater



New(er) Member Mingle

Pat Doyle, 2nd V.P. Membership welcomed nine new members to The Garden Club of St. Petersburg, Inc. with an informal New(er) Member Mingle at the GCSP Garden Center. It was a perfect day to sit outside in the Bromeliad Garden and get to know each other better and how the club works. Cathy Holzwart, Grounds Manager, then led them on a tour of all the club-maintained gardens as well as "The Cage", where we store plants, and pots.



Creative Crafts

Creative Crafts Interest Group created shell charms by wrapping beaded wire around shells collected from our local beaches. On Nov 3, they will be filling bookmarks with pressed flowers. Join them at 10 am at Azalea Recreation Center, 1600 72nd St. N. \$5 for GCSP members and Visitors \$6 to cover the cost of materials and instruction.



NIGHTBLOOMERS

Local Nurseries Field Trip

Nightbloomers went shopping at our favorite nurseries. First stop was Art Stone Orchids and Statuary on Tyrone Blvd. They are the go-to place for all things orchid, including advice. They have a great selection of succulents, yard art and small ceramic pots.



Then we moved on to Willow Tree Nursery on 49th St. They have the most complete selection of plants: indoor, annuals, vegetable starts and landscape plants as well as a large selection of ceramic pots. What they don't have, they will special order. Next up was Dolins Garden Center on 62nd Ave. They specialize in annuals and indoor plants. They are also outstanding for garden supplies like fertilizer and mole cricket killers that really work on grasshoppers (lubbers).

All that shopping left us hungry, so we headed over to our favorite garden, the Olive Garden for a long leisurely lunch.



November 12 will find them back at Azalea Recreation Center, 1600 72nd St. N. at 6 pm for a program on African Violets. Master Gardener Terry Jordan will talk about these easy-care plants that thrive indoors.

Butterfly Garden WORKDAY

Touring the grounds in preparation for the Newer Member Mingle, we discovered the Butterfly Garden was buried under two dumpsters worth of long grass. The railroad vine jumped its bed to cover the sidewalk and headed north another 20 ft. It took 2 workdays to remove most of the weeds. Monica Gray had to enlist the helpful hands of her friend, Levi.

Cathy Holzwart mastered the art of stomping down the weeds in the dumpster so we could pack more in. Along the way, we uncovered the water spigot, 2 raised beds and some pots that were totally missing from view and way more sticky seeds than we wanted.



It is not perfect and there are still areas that need weeding. If you want to help, call Sally Farr (727) 515-0517 or Cathy Holzwart (727) 365-8516.

Our next workday is November 8, 10 am at the GCSP Garden Center, 500 Sunset Drive S. Join us for an educational, easy day (no weeding) to learn about bromeliads. Franne's Backyard Garden will talk about their care and how you can identify the different types. Bring two bromeliads and we will plant the ones that fit in best in our current garden. Workers get to take home the leftovers.



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2025

NOV
3

Monday, 10am
Creative Crafts:
DIY Bookmarks
with Dried Flowers

Azalea Recreation Center
1600 72nd St. N., St Pete,
33710

NOV
8

Saturday, 10am
Bromeliad 101 &
Plant Swap

GCSP Garden Center
500 Sunset Drive South
St. Pete 33710

NOV
10

Monday, 10am
GCSP Make & Take:
Fall Floral
Arrangement

Azalea Recreation Center
1600 72nd St. N.,
St Pete, 33710

NOV
12

Wednesday, 6pm
Nightbloomers:
African Violets
With Terry Jordan

Azalea Recreation Center
1600 72nd St. N.,
St Pete, 33710

NOV
13

Thursday, 11am
Garden Tour:
Click Link below to
register and get
location.

<https://forms.gle/59wuPew41d8hiJRXA>

NOV
15

Saturday, 7am - 1pm
Recycle Holidays:
Donate Holiday
Decorations, Jewelry &
Baked Goods

GCSP Garden Center
500 Sunset Drive South
St. Pete 33710

NOV
17

Monday, 10am
Floral Design:
Leaf Manipulation
by Jeanne Houlton

Azalea Recreation Center
1600 72nd St. N.,
St Pete, 33710

NOV
20

Monday, 10am
Garden Buds:
Field Trip to
Weedon Island
Preserve

1800 Weedon Dr. NE
St. Pete 33702

BREAKING NEWS

New Date
New Location

The date and location of this program has changed to Nov 3rd at 12:30pm at Azalea Recreation Center, 1600 72nd St. N. Deb Bibeault & Nance Francisco are new co-chairs.



Garden VARIETY

Rain Gardens & Rain Barrels

Presented by Melissa West,
Pinellas Extension Service



NOVEMBER 3

12:30 PM

Azalea Recreation Center
1600 72nd Street N
St. Petersburg 33710



NOTE: The date of this program has changed since the yearbook was published. It has been moved from November 18 to November 3

BROMELIAD GARDEN WORK DAY & PLANT SWAP



Franne from Franne's Backyard Garden will be giving the talk,
Bromeliad 101—How to identify and care for these easy growers.

- ✓ Bring 3 bromeliads (if you have them) to replant in our garden.
- ✓ We will plant bromeliads and divide the leftover plants among the group.



SATURDAY NOV 8 AT 10 AM

GCSP Garden Center
500 Sunset Dr. S. St.
Petersburg, FL 33707

FLORAL DESIGN

LEAF MANIPULATION

Presenter Jeanne Houlton, a GCSP member and Ichiyo Jr. Executive Master President of School of Ikebana, will demonstrate how to use plant material creatively.

NOVEMBER 17 10:00 AM

Azalea Recreation Center
1600 72nd Street N
St. Petersburg 33710

All members are invited, guests welcome.

*Foliage provided for
hands-on practice.
Please bring scissors
and snips.*



General Meeting

CORNUCOPIA FLORAL ARRANGEMENT WORKSHOP

Get ready for the Fall holidays with a lovely floral arrangement in a cornucopia. The workshop will take place at our November General Meeting. Feel free to attend the business meeting only. Location is Azalea Rec. Center, 1600 72 St. N, St. Pete



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MONDAY NOVEMBER 10TH AT 10 AM

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Cost: \$ 25 covers materials and instructions.

Registration is required by Nov. 1 at: <https://forms.gle/yukFPWt8SrN1cVUq5>

Payments can be made via Zelle address is gcsptreasurer@gmail.com or mail a check to Garden Club of St. Petersburg, c/o Deb Bibeault, 500 Sunset Dr. S., St. Pete 33707.

Christmas RECYCLE PLUS SALE NOV 15

Ho ho ho!

Tis the Season is almost upon us. Let's get ready for our 8th annual Christmas Recycle Sale. **This is a one day event on Nov. 15th** Set up is 7am – 9am. Sale is 9am to 1pm. Tables will be marked: trees, ornaments, lights, misc., etc. Please bring your items priced (what you think the public will pay) and place on appropriate table. We will also have a boutique area for jewelry and nicer gifts. Any items left over will be donated to Boley or Goodwill.

BAKE SALE This is very popular with our community.

Last year we made over \$700 just on baked goods.

So, dig out your special recipes and get baking. Bring baked items to the club on November 15th 7am – 9am.

Arlene and Bea will price your baked goods.



PLANT SALE We will also sell plants! If you forgot your plants for the plant sale, bring them to this event 7am - 9am.

NEW MEMBERS This is a one-day event and **everyone has fun** while raising money for our club. Please go through things and if you are tired of seeing the same holiday items, donate them.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!
CLICK BELOW TO SIGN-UP
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/EQQ2N5QT2DTSNYPD6](https://forms.gle/EQQ2N5QT2DTSNYPD6)





MONDAY NOV 3 AT 10 AM

Creative Crafts Presents:
DIY TRANSPARENT
BOOKMARKS W/
DRIED FLOWERS

Join us for a hands-on
Crafting Class to make
transparent bookmarks
with dried flowers, some
from our own GCSP
gardens.

Azalea Recreation Center

1600 72nd St N,
St. Pete, 33710

Like what you're reading? Help us create it!



We're looking for volunteers to assist with:
Newsletter, Flyers, Forms, Photos & Social Media.
Interested? Email diana@dianastem.com or
gardenbessie@gmail.com

**The Garden Club of St.
Petersburg, Inc.**

gardenclubofstpetersburg@gmail.com

gardenclubstpetersburg.org

**The building at Sunset Drive is temporarily
closed due to hurricane damage. Until then,
join us at Azalea Recreation Center 1600
72nd St N.**



facebook.com/gardenclubstpetersburg

Edited by: Diana Stem & Madison Tucker