



MRGC BULLETIN

July 2025



Sponsored by
District VII

Lunch & Learn

Navigating the FFCG & District 8 Websites

Introduction to Software Program Canva

A Graphic Design software platform used to create social media graphics

Afternoon Breakout Sessions for Specific Questions

August 12th, 2025

9:00AM - 2:30 PM

\$25

9:00AM Registration & Refreshments
10:00AM Meeting

Hosted by Davis Island Garden Club
81 Columbia Drive
Tampa, Florida 33606

See registration form on the last page.
Call Judy Boehm if you'd like to carpool.
(941-870-2259)

Dear friends,

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful holiday weekend with friends and family. Does anyone else enjoy looking at the fireworks and spotting flowers in the display? The displays are so fleeting that unless another plant lover is looking at the same display at the same time and from a similar angle, it's difficult to be certain!

One of our native plants that's reliably in bloom this time of the year, the firebush (*Hamelia patens*), always makes me think of fireworks when I see a mature specimen that's been properly pruned. This native gem is also very easy to propagate from seed. Another reason I think of fireworks when I see blooming is because of the whirling dervish of hummingbirds and butterflies it always attracts. Exercise caution if you decide to add one to your landscape to be certain you are acquiring the true native; over the years, there has been some confusion. Even a mature plant seemingly growing wild might not be our native as some of the other species have crossed and created hybrids. I plan to snap some photos of one I believe is a native and will send them to a botany PhD to verify. Then I'll gather some of the berries to cut and dry to obtain the seeds. Please let me know if you'd like to try your hand at growing some.

A last garden tidbit in keeping with the colors of the Fourth of July is the observation that some of my most rugged vegetable plants thus far have had red leaves or stems! Lettuce variety "Red Sails", and kale variety "Russian Red" were very robust and producing well...until we were gone for a few days, and they didn't receive rain. Next year, I'll use the same direct sow date and try again to see how far into the summer I can coax them with watering. My enormous surprise is how resilient and productive Swiss chard variety "Vulcan" continues to be. It is easily a yard long from stem to leaf tip. I've been using these enormous leaves as green mulch as we cannot possibly eat that much Swiss chard!

Continuing to wish everyone a happy and healthy summer until we're all together in September,
Melanie

The new Membership Committee met to discuss ideas for recruitment and retention. Members are Olivia Cox, Betsy Currier, Wendy McCormac, and Chairman Judy Boehm. At our next meeting we will be creating a mentor program for new members in the fall.

Do you miss getting together with your garden club friends during the summer? If you want to chat and get better acquainted, how about meeting for lunch at Panera's (6351 Manatee Ave W) on **Wednesday, July 30 at 12:30**? RSVP if you plan on attending to Judy Boehm (941-870-2259).

FLORAL DESIGN SERIES

Many of you expressed interest in learning floral design. The basic six Floral Design series will be at Sarasota Garden Club with advanced classes 7-9 being given here at MRGC. We will arrange car-pooling for anyone interested. These are fun and informative classes, taught by some of the best designers in Florida. Some people take them several times. You will come home with an arrangement every week. Learn to make beautiful arrangements for your home. Its also perfect for entering a flower show so you can join the fun.

Design Series 1-6 Sarasota GC: October 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, November 3rd, and 10th.

MRGC will be hosting the Advanced NGC Floral Design Study series 7-9 on January 8 (#7), Jan 15 (#8) and Jan 22 (#9). In order to take units #7-9, one must complete units

If you're looking for something to do, check out the Palma Sola Botanical Park's happenings. They're having several interesting classes this summer, along with other events. Information is on their website: [Palma Sola Botanical Park – Welcome to Palma Sola Botanical Park](#)



**Garden
Angels meets the 2nd
Tuesday of every
month, Summer
hours: 7:00 - ?**

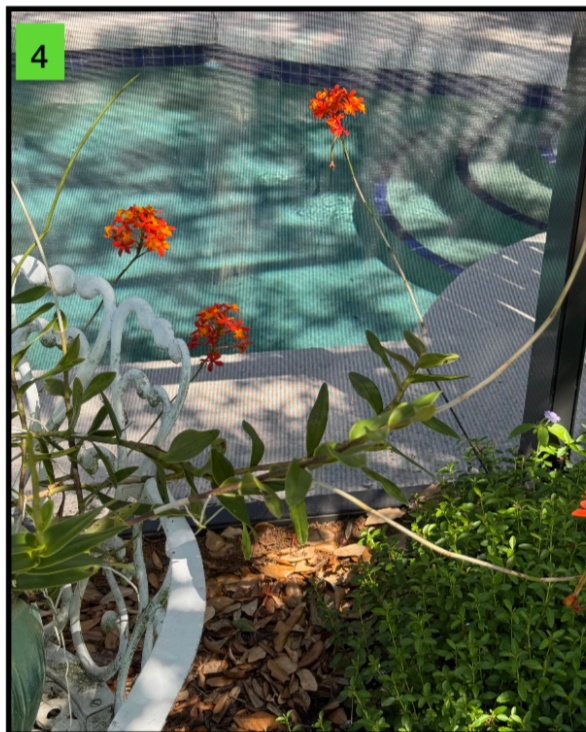
**Please help this
Tuesday, July 8th!!**

Send me pictures of your garden to share with the club. This year I would like to have a page in the bulletin featuring pictures of member's yards, gardens and plants. Email to Carol Friedman; friedymom@aol.com or text to 941-238-8561.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Rita Obeid shared these photos of the Obeid's beautiful garden with me.

1. Regina Iris
2. Begonia Alba
3. Asian lilies and Star Jasmine in their front landscape
4. Epidendrum ground orchids
5. Queen of the Night cactus
6. Jamaican Caper
7. Pink Verbena
8. Caterpillar on milkweed



DVIII Lunch & Learn

LUNCH
AND
LEARN

LUNCH AND LEARN

Sponsored by FFGC DVIII
Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee and Sarasota Counties

WHEN: TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025

TIME: REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS 9:30 AM
PROGRAM 10AM * LUNCH 12 NOON * ENDING 2 PM

COST: \$25.00 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 5, 2025

WHERE: HOSTED BY DAVIS ISLANDS GARDEN CLUB
81 COLUMBIA DRIVE
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33606

SUBJECTS:

- NAVIGATING THE FFGC AND DISTRICT VIII WEBSITES
- INTRODUCTION TO SOFTWARE PROGRAM CANVA - A GRAPHIC DESIGN SOFTWARE PLATFORM USED TO CREATE SOCIAL MEDIA GRAPHICS
- AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS FOR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS
- BRING YOUR IPAD OR LAPTOP

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT TO DISTRICT TREASURER ... (See below)

LUNCH AND LEARN — REGISTRATION FORM

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COST: \$25.00

WHERE: HOSTED BY DAVIS ISLANDS GARDEN CLUB
81 COLUMBIA DRIVE
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33606

NAME: _____ STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY AND ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

DISTRICT VIII CLUB: _____ OFFICER: _____ OFFICE HELD: _____

CHECK # _____ AMOUNT \$ _____ (Note: Check payable to DVIII)

MAIL REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT TO DISTRICT TREASURER PAT DANAHY:

(Pat Danahy, 8198 Terrace Garden Drive, Unit 507, St. Petersburg, FL 33709)

We Look forward to seeing all of you. Feel free to bring your Ipad or computer. Bring your questions and give me a written copy of issues you would like covered. Anticipate Break Out sessions after Lunch content to be determined.

Joyce Drew, Director

Sarasota Garden Club

NGC's Floral Design Study Course

Classes 1-6: \$120 per person - October 6, 13, 20, 27, November 3, 10

RESERVATION FORM: Send check to Dorinda Wilkinson (see flyer).

Name

Address

Cell #

Email address

Yours Truly, Club