



South Miami Garden Club

May 2019

Let's grow through community involvement

Since 1952



End of Year Luncheon and Installation of the New officers

Tuesday, May 7th, 11:00 a.m. sharp

**Coral Reef Yacht Club
2484 South Bayshore Drive**

RSVP to Sue Nichols at 305-588-4663

\$40 which includes: Chicken Piccata with linguini, asparagus, salad, Boston Cream Pie, ice tea, coffee

Dues are Due:

****If you haven't paid your dues already, please send your check for \$40 immediately to Sue Nichols.****

Our South Miami Garden Club family came in second at the Presidents Council meeting this week for an award our president, Anna Louise Fulks, had applied for regarding the meeting program "Getting to Know You. . .Getting to Know All About You" and with the certificate we received a \$50.00 check. Congratulations and many thanks. . . it was well deserved.



On left: Rachel Silverstein, Executive Director of Miami Waterkeepers is pictured with Carla Cold and Nancy Masztal. She gave an informal question answer session with members about the state of our bay, reefs, aquifer and canals. I love their motto: *We work to ensure swimmable, drinkable and fishable water in South Florida – for all!* She is my hero.

On the Right: Once again, our lunch ladies provided a wonderful lunch for the membership. From left: Linda Keyes, Suzanne Santos, Sandy Oltz, Julie LaVoie, Norma Chew.





Arbor Day Celebration will be celebrated with the planting of a 12-foot Barbados Cherry Tree honor of Frances Bentz and Betty Walsh. April 26th, 2019 9:30 am at Fuch's Park. This tree will provide edible fruit for humans and birds, flowers that will attract butterflies and an attractive tree to shade our park. Come enjoy refreshments provided by our club members and the City of South Miami.

Our South Miami Garden Club will be presenting the beautifully framed Blue Star Memorial picture to the City of South Miami on 24 April 2019 @10am on the steps in front of City hall, 6130 Sunset Drive. The picture will hang in City Hall in perpetuity. It is our South Miami Garden Club gift to the City of South Miami. After the ceremony there will be small bites and refreshments. I hope you can all join us for this celebratory event.

Since our club flower is the amaryllis, I thought I'd write more about it this month, especially when I saw this amazing display of amaryllis artfully growing in my mom's (Mimi Munroe's) garden. Kudos mom! This article is copied from www.gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu

Amaryllis

Amaryllis is a popular holiday gift plant because it can be forced to produce stunning flowers during the holiday season. Once the bloom period is over, it can be left in its container or planted outdoors in the garden.

Characteristics

Amaryllis is a subtropical bulb that belongs to the Amaryllidaceae family and is native to South Africa. It is grown as a potted plant in most parts of the United States but can also be grown outdoors year round in Florida.

The trumpet-shaped blooms grow up to six inches across, and several flowers often appear in succession. Flower color ranges from reds, oranges and pinks to pure white. Still others are



spectacularly striped and multi-colored. When planted outdoors in Florida, amaryllis plants typically bloom in the spring before the leaves develop.

The amaryllis plant has glossy, strap-like leaves that are about 1.5 inches across and 18 inches long. The leaves persist for much of the year, though they may fade in late summer and may be killed by frost in northern counties.

Planting and Care

If you wish to give an amaryllis as a gift plant, you can purchase pre-potted bulbs at many garden centers or you can buy bulbs separately and plant them in a pot that you select. Once planted and watered, bulbs should bloom within six or eight weeks.

When purchasing bulbs, keep in mind that the larger the bulb, the larger the flowers. Also remember that flower stalks can be top heavy, so make sure the container you select is heavy enough to counter balance the weight or add a layer of gravel to the bottom of the pot.

Plant the bulb in the center of the pot in well-drained potting media, taking care to press firmly around the bulb so that it is well seated. Encourage early flowering by keeping at least one half to two-thirds of the bulb above the soil line.

Water thoroughly and place the pot in a cool, bright spot. No further watering should be necessary until the bulb sprouts. When it does sprout, move the pot to a spot with direct sunlight and keep the soil moist but not over-watered. Fertilizer is not necessary at this point. Once the bloom opens, remove the plant from sunlight to prolong the life of the flowers.

When the flowers fade, take your plant outdoors and fertilize to encourage the growth of new leaves. This will help the plant store energy in the bulb so that it can flower in following years. Bulbs can be left in their original containers for two or more years before repotting is necessary.

Another option is to transplant the bulb to the garden. Amaryllis bulbs can be planted outdoors between September and January in Florida. They will perform best if planted in a spot with partial sun and well-drained soil. In heavy shade, they will be less vigorous and will flower poorly.

For more information on amaryllis, contact your [county Extension office](#).

Reminder: FFGC SPRING 2019 DISTRICT XII MEETING—Monday, May 20, 2019

(MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CLUB PRESIDENTS and ALL MEMBERS of DISTRICT XII GARDEN CLUBS) hosted by Coral Pines Garden Club

LOCATION: Auditorium of East Ridge at Cutler Bay, A SantaFe Senior Living Community, 19301 SW 87th Avenue, Cutler Bay, FL 33157

COST: includes registration, coffee and luncheon MEMBERS- \$20 pp, NON-MEMBERS- \$25 pp

REGISTRATION and COFFEE: 9:30–10:15 AM Freshly brewed coffee (regular and decaf), tea, assorted pastries
CALL TO ORDER: 10:30 AM

GUEST SPEAKER: Jerald S. Ault, Ph.D., Chair and Professor, Department of Marine Ecosystem and Society at the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science

For the complete information and registration information, please see the email on April 15th from Jean Hawa with the subject “April 2019 Buzz