Speakers Bureau 100+ Topics

District IX Florida Federation of Garden Clubs
&
Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council

Link p 15: We need Floral Design Tips Speakers, 20 to 30 min.

Please Bookmark 32-page Document

District IX FFGC includes eight counties, 24 garden clubs, and 6 FFGC Affiliate Members.

Parent organizations are FFGC and NGC.

To recommend great speakers email contact information to Sandy and she will send the speaker an invitation. Sandy Troy Pennington
stroy_penn@msn.com
239-994-8147

LINK to Field Trip List

Please complete the survey on the last page.

Speakers Bureau: District IX & Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council

Alphabetical by Speaker's Last Name ~ 100+ Topics

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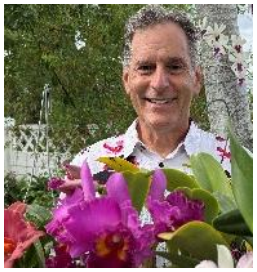
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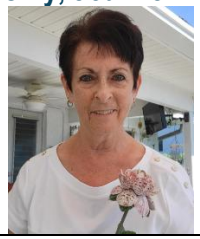
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Speaker	Topics	Ph #, Email	County Travel Collier, Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Polk
Burke, Sara  **&** **Matrazzo, Stacey**	**Link Bio** **How to Start a Backyard Revolution** **20 Top Wildflowers for Your Garden** **Sara:** saraburkeFL@gmail.com 352-870-6569 **Stacey:** smatrazzo@flawildflowers.org 407-590-5321	No Fee Florida Wildflower Foundation former President & Director of Communication, Master Gardener https://www.flawildflowers.org/	**Sara:** Lee, Collier, Hendry **Stacy:** Hendry, Charlotte, Highlands, DeSoto, Polk, Hardee
Callender, Pamela 	**Link Bio** **Home Landscape Design with Native Plants** Pamela's Power Point presentation begins with a brief history of Florida landscapes and Eco Art, followed by displays of new landscape ideas using Florida Native Plants. The descriptions of native plants include how to attract butterflies and birds while exposing garden myths that explain differences between Florida and other parts of the country.	No set fee. 941-932-2993 text Callenderpamela@gmail.com Art Curator, Educator, Native Plant Landscape Designer and Advocate PBS WEDU Pamela Callender, Planted in Art	Charlotte, Desoto, Hardee, Hillsborough, Manatee, and Sarasota
Chervinski, Noreen	No Bio **Orchids: Basics of Orchid Care**	Pgifolks@yahoo.com Master Gardener	Charlotte
Cook, Ashley 	**Link Bio** **Vertical Oyster Gardening:** Explore Charlotte Harbor's water quality challenges and learn how oysters help restore our waterways. Then roll up your sleeves and build your own Vertical Oyster Garden to support cleaner Florida waters, one oyster at a time. **Animal Neighbors:** Join Ashley Cook, Florida Master Naturalist and CHEC's Director of Conservation, for a dynamic program on	No for Fee Lee/Charlotte 941-575-5435 ashley@checflorida.org Director of Conservation, Alligator Creek Preserve Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center	Lee & Charlotte

Speaker	Topics	Ph #, Email	County Travel Collier, Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Polk
	understanding and safely coexisting with local wildlife. Through myth-busting facts, safety tips, and practical guidance, she replaces fear with knowledge and encourages peaceful connections with the animals in our neighborhoods.		
Dunn, Cathy 	Link Bio **Hibiscus - The Queen of the Tropics** **Creating Beautiful Mixed Containers** **Gardening in Small Spaces** **Gardening in Our Unique Florida Environment** **Hurricane Gardening Preparation** **Garden Rehab after a Hurricane** **Planning Butterfly or Pollinator Gardens** **Plant Propagation**	No Fee 765-891-1442 cathy.dunn53@gmail.com Former pres. JEH Chapter American Hibiscus Soc. Master Gardener Member of GC of Cape Coral	Lee, Collier counties
Erickson, Warren 	Link Bio **Food Forests** **Agroforestry** **Gardening Sustainably** Tropical_Dragon_Permaculture - YouTube	No Fee. Call for appointments for individual or group tours. Owner of a food forest Tropical Dragon Nursery, LaBelle area. Cell/Text: 262-308-5168 Email: tropicaldragonpermaculture@gmail.com	Lee, Hendry

Speaker	Topics	Ph #, Email	County Travel Collier, Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Polk
Finer, John 	**Link Bio** **Growing Orchids from Seed aka Where do Orchids Come From?** I explain how orchids grow from seed in nature versus in cultivation, and I cover orchid pollination and how hybrids are created through cross-pollinating compatible orchids. **Orchid Physiology** In this presentation, I highlight the surprising features of orchids, debunk common growing myths, and simplify orchid anatomy and physiology. Attendees learn how orchids truly function — including the fact that, despite loving moisture, their photosynthetic pathway is closer to cacti adapted to arid environments — so they become more confident, successful orchid growers. **General Plant Propagation Presentation** I show how to propagate a wide range of plants from cuttings — including the conditions that trigger rooting, how to prepare cuttings for best results, and how to maximize survival rates. I also introduce micropropagation/tissue culture and explain how it compares to traditional cutting propagation. **General Plant Propagation Workshop.** In this workshop, participants bring plants or plant tissues to prepare cuttings that will be rooted to create new plants. Organizers should provide Miracle-Gro Moisture Control potting mix, 3–4 inch pots, rooting powder, trays, watering cans, and access to water. Limited to 20 participants; the instructor must approve all plants used.	TheOrchidPropagator@gmail.com Emeritus Faculty, The Ohio State University Courtesy Faculty, Florida Gulf Coast University Education Director, Gulf Coast Orchid Alliance Link to YouTube: The Plant Propagator - YouTube	Collier, Lee

Speaker	Topics	Ph #, Email	County Travel Collier, Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Polk
	Plant Biotechnology Plant biotechnology has reshaped agriculture — from genetically engineered crops that make up over 95% of major U.S. plantings to the newly approved blue orchid. I will explain how these plants are created, which genes are used, how they're introduced, the traits they add, and how they're grown. Participants may request details on specific biotechnology products by contacting the instructor.		
Hansill, Ginger 	**Bio Link** **Camp Wekiva** **Shade Gardening in Central Florida**	No Fee 863-838-1713 ghansill@gmail.com District IX Camp Wekiva Chairman, former Master Gardener	Polk
Jones, Malcolm (Chip) 	**Bio Link** **Bromeliad Breeders** **Landscape design with bromeliads** **Xeric terrestrial bromeliads** **Analysis of variegated hybrid neoregelias** **Dioon Day** **Cycads of Oaxaca** **Cycads of Chiapas** **Peru plants and understanding the Amazon**	aka Chip 954-296-2019 9357 State Road 80, Moore Haven chipjones14@hotmail.com Chips special skills include cycad horticulture especially artificial propagation from seed - 112 cycad species visited in situ. Publications: • Handbook of Cycad Horticulture • How Private Collections Shape Public Gardens in Cycads by Cycad Specialist Group Link Jones Landscaping » Jones Landscaping Nursery	South Florida

Speaker	Topics	Ph #, Email	County Travel Collier, Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Polk
Kishfy, Joanne 	**Bio Link** **Creating Flowers from Shells (30 min presentation)** **Two hour hands-on workshop create a flower from shells. …** **Requires fee for supplies.**	No Fee 401-714-3517 Joannetc19@gmail.com Member, Garden Club of Cape Coral	Lee county only
Lawson, Susan 	**Bio Link** **All about District IX** **Benefits of belonging to FFGC**	No Fee 941-979-0615 Director IX FFGC slawson921@gmail.com	District IX counties
Manzo, Barbara	No bio. **eYes on Conservation 20/20**	No Fee barbcprp@gmail.com Facebook link for eYes on C 20/20 Chair, eYes on Conservation 2020 Coalition	Lee
Moore, Sean 	**Bio Link** **Worms: Benefits of Gardening with Worm Castings**	No Fee (941) 626-5970 Sean Moore 941) 626-5970 Roxanne Morre 941-626-3926 Green Leaf Farm GreenLeafWormFarm@gmail.com Sean is available for consultations and services to school and community groups and has helped	Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Lee, Polk, Highlands, Hardee native plants for purchase from his farm in Zolfo Springs, Fl.

Speaker	Topics	Ph #, Email	County Travel Collier, Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Polk
		organizations set up and maintain their marvelous community gardens. Green Leaf Worm Farm Web Link Green Leaf Worm Farm FB Link Sign up Newsletter Newsletter Link	
Nichols, Angie 	**Bio Link** **Worms: All About Growing Worms for Your Garden**	No Fee 239-281-7980 realtor@thenicholsteam.com Brings worms for purchase Master Gardener	Charlotte, Lee, Hendry & Collier.
Owens, Richard 	**No Bio.** **Bonsai: The Art of Bonsai**	No Fee Aka Rick, 239-258-1265 richard.L.owens@comcast.net Bonsai Society of SWFL	Lee, Collier
Patton, Sean 	**No Bio.** **Our ponds, flora, fauna & their importance in our environment.**	Honorarium $150 941.500.2218 https://www.stockingsavvy.com	

Speaker	Topics	Ph #, Email	County Travel Collier, Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Polk
Reith, Charles 	**Bio Link** **Micro-forests: Benefits of Micro-forests** **Green infrastructure and urban resilience** Green infrastructure to enhance urban community resilience includes insights into high performance micro forests, living walls, rain gardens, green roofs, and other protective features against flooding and wind damage. Green infrastructure to enhance community resilience was a focus of Charles' academic practice while at Tulane University - inspired by the circumstances that befall New Orleans after Katrina. Charles lives in Sarasota and appreciates an honorarium especially when traveling further distances.	Honorarium appreciated 703-342-6185 charles.c.reith@gmail.com PHD, Professor of Environmental Science at four different universities. His habitat rehab work has spanned more than 20 countries in four continents. Charles has published several books on land reclamation and waste disposal using natural encapsulation systems.	Charlotte, Collier, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Lee, Polk
Sollecito. Phil 	**Bio Link** **Vegetable Gardening in FL 1: How to be successful in Florida's challenging environment with organic gardening methods** **Vegetable Gardening in FL 2: Garden pests**: How to recognize and defeat them. Biological Pest and Disease Control for the Home Gardener. **Vegetable Gardening in Fl 3: Good Bugs, Bad Bugs. Recognizing Good Bugs (predators)** and Bad bugs in the veggie garden and landscape. The importance of preserving predators so they will help you control the pests. **Growing Pineapples from Sucker to Fruit** Secrets of success with everyone's favorite tropical fruit! From propagation for maximum production, keeping pesky racoons away, to gauging fruit ripeness.	No Fee Philsoll52@gmail.com 425-773-4472 (cell) Master Gardener Honorariums will be donated to Friends for Charlotte County Extension	Charlotte, Sarasota, Lee, DeSoto and Hardee

Speaker	Topics	Ph #, Email	County Travel Collier, Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Polk
	Grow Magnificent Mangoes in Your Own Yard In-depth information to choose varieties based on fruit ripening times, disease resistance, and flavor; Pruning mango trees for best fruit production, and Gauging Ripeness for picking the perfect fruit. **Growing Stellar Star Fruit** In-depth information to help grow and harvest perfect ripe Carambola fruit. **Hurricane Prep and Recovery –** Focus on Fruit Trees With more frequent hurricanes, it is important to prepare beforehand to minimize damage to your trees. After storm damage, how to straighten and support ASAP to reduce long-term effects. **The Coontie – Florida's Cycad** Everything you never knew you wanted to know about a tough little Florida native landscape plant and its Atala butterfly. **Grow Amazing Avocados in Your Own Yard. In**-depth information to help choose the best Florida Avocado Varieties: Understanding A & B type flowering and pollination, Pruning and Gauging Ripeness for picking the perfect fruit.		
Samsel, Joyce	**No Bio** **Monarch: The Plight of the Monarch Butterfly in Florida**	floridamonarchreproject@gmail.com Fl Monarch Res. & Educational Project	unknown
Sprague, Wendy	No Bio **Bringing Birds into your Gardens** **Bringing Butterflies into your Gardens** **Growing Herbs**	No Fee 239-728-6543 ibseafox@aol.com Master Gardener	Lee

Speaker	Topics	Ph #, Email	County Travel Collier, Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Polk
Tolen, Christopher 	**Bio Link** **The Magic of Microgreens: From Seed to Table** **Microgreens Masterclass: Grow Better, Troubleshoot & Harvest More** **Grow Fresh Food in a Tiny Space**	info@ferpherfarms.com 321-EAT-LIFE (328-5433) ferpherfarms.com Facebook: Ferpher Farms $450 for a standard 45–60 minute presentation. Interactive and hands-on workshops are quoted based on format, participant count, materials, and travel. We are always happy to discuss the best structure for an individual club or event.	Charlotte, DeSoto, Lee, Collier, Polk, Highlands, Hardee, and Manatee Travel outside our immediate Lake Wales area is subject to date availability and applicable travel costs.
Troy, Sandy 	**Bio Link** **The Pristine Lanai: A Journey to Epiphytes & Less Mess** **Winter Color** (my favorite easy care Florida friendly winter bloomers) **Six Things to Love About Caladiums**	Sandy Troy Pennington 239-994-8147 stroy_penn@msn.com LINK to complete list of presentations	Mon thru Fri, 11 am to 2 pm in northern Lee & southern Charlotte Counties. Sat and Sun flexible times.
UF / IFAS Charlotte County IFAS Master Gardeners	**Butterfly Gardening** **Bromeliads** **Lawns** **Citrus** **Container Gardening** **Tropical Fruit** **Herbs Gardening** **Vegetables Gardening** **Florida Friendly landscaping™** **Hazardous Plants** **Holiday plants/Winter Color** **Insect Identification** **Pesticide Safety** **Biological Pest Control (least toxic)** **Native Plants** **Biter-Natives, Uildflowers** **Common Invasive Plants Orchids** **Palms/Why is My Palm Sick/What palms should I plant** **Propagation** **Pruning** **Rain Barrels** **Succulents** **Trees and Shrubs**	Holly Bates Extension Program Manager UF/IFAS Extension Charlotte County Holly.Bates@charlottecountyfl.gov 941.704.4340	Charlotte

Speaker	Topics	Ph #, Email	County Travel Collier, Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Polk
UF / IFAS Collier County Master Gardeners	Container Gardens Gardening for Pollinators Bromeliads Stormwater Ponds Fruit Trees Landscaping in Small Spaces Color in FL Gardens Palms Vegetable Gardening Bonsai Native Plants Landscape Design Everblooming Gardens Plant Diseases Orchids Succulents Littoral Plants	Kamila Perez Residential Horticulture Agent kamila.perez@ufl.edu 239-252-4809	Collier
Via, Cathy 	Bio Link Herb Uses from A to Z How to incorporate herbs, teas, & spices into your routine Growing Herbs in South West Florida	No Fee 239-595-0586 cathysandbotanicals@gmail.com Licensed certified Florida nurseryman. https://www.facebook.com/CathysHerbs Degree in Environmental Science. Worked in the City of Naples Environmental Laboratory for 20 years.	Call re location.
Webb, Stephanie 	Bio Link From Vine to Vanilla: Mastering the Art of Vanilla Orchid Cultivation. Florida Vanilla: From Backyard to Bean. Growing Vanilla in the Sunshine State The Vanilla Project: Secrets to Vanilla Flowering and Pollination. Vanilla, Cultivation to Application: How to use your Home Grown Vanilla Beans	Fee $150. 910-508-8724 stephanie@sunshinestatevanilla.com President of the American Vanilla Association. CEO Sunshine State Vanilla LLC, Educator, Botanical Formulator, Clinical Aromatherapist and International Sourcing Agent Certified Aromatherapy Teacher Training L1 www.stephaniewebbconsulting.com www.sunshinestatevanilla.com	All counties

Speaker	Topics	Ph #, Email	County Travel Collier, Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Polk
Wynne, Dee 	**Bio Link** **Orchid Basics: Selecting and Growing Orchids** **How to Repot Orchids** **How to Mount Orchids** **The latter two can also be workshops where participants bring plants to repot or mount.**	Master Gardener Volunteer No fee. For significant travel discuss honorarium. 239-292-1542 dawsoncwynne@gmail.com Web: The Orchid Enthusiast Facebook: Dee Orchid Enthusiast Facebook	All counties
Need Floral Design Speakers **20 to 45 min programs**	**Examples of topics needed** • Floral Design: Tips for Beginners • Floral Design: Conditioning flowers • Florida Design: Mechanics options • Creating movement • Floral Design: Weaving leaves for Design • Preparing Horticulture for a Horticulture Show • Ikebana: The Art of Ikebana, Intro • Basics for new to flower shows • ETC		

Sara Burke Bio



Introducing Sara Burke

Sara Burke is a communications advisor to community leaders, with a master's degree in digital media and over two decades of international experience. She is an expert in communicating complex information to the public in ways that result in measurable real-world change. She serves Director of Communications for the Florida Wildflower Foundation and former President.

Burke first visited Florida in 2008 and fell in love with the state's unique ecology. She now uses her skills in lifestyle and technical publishing to help the public learn about Florida's biodiversity and what we can all do to protect and conserve it.

Topic: How to Start a Backyard Revolution

Contact: 352-870-6569, saraburkeFL@gmail.com

Link Fl Wildflower Foundation

Sara Burke has volunteered to be on District IX FFGC Speakers List.
We appreciate Sara's willingness to speak in Lee and Collier counties.

Pamala Callender Bio



INTRODUCING PAMELA CALLENDER

Pamela Callender has roots to Sarasota, Florida since 1972. Her art and teaching career has evolved from Dance, Painting, Environmental Art to now Eco Art with Florida Native Plants as her medium. Pamela designs home landscapes, micro forests and living walls with Florida Native Plants. Callender works and studies at Sweetbay Native Plant Nursery in Parrish and offers monthly tours of her studio/property in North Sarasota.

Pamela graduated Eckerd College in St. Petersburg with a BA in Visual Arts and a minor in Human Development and Goddard College, Plainfield Vermont with a MFAIA, Master of Fine Art in Interdisciplinary Art.

Pamela Callendar MFAIA has volunteered to be on District IX FFGC Speakers List. Pamela enjoys speaking about native plant landscaping and environmental art. She is the Founder of Lifelines, Connecting Nature's Habitat. Pamela's activities: Art Curator, Educator, Native Plant Landscape Designer and Advocate PBS WEDU Pamela Callender, Planted in Art. Contact info: 941-932-2993 callenderpamela@gmailcom

Ashley Cook Bio

INTRODUCING ASHLEY COOK

Growing up in Cape Coral, Florida, Ashley has always been a lover of all things in nature. That love drove her to study Environmental Science and achieve a Bachelor of Science from Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Florida. Since then, she has traveled and worked on multiple continents holding positions ranging from an Agroforestry Specialist for the Peace Corps in Senegal West Africa, sea turtle conservation and wildlife sanctuary efforts in Costa Rica, and teaching English as a second language in Thailand. Returning home from these adventures, Ashley brought that love back to the beautiful state of Florida to serve as the Park Manager of Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center's Alligator Creek Preserve in Punta Gorda.

She is currently leading a variety of conservation projects that focus on protecting, preserving, and restoring our unique Florida ecosystems and the creatures that inhabit them.

Topics:

- Vertical Oyster Gardening
- Animal Neighbors (safely & peacefully coexist with Florida wildlife).

Contact: 941 575 5435, ashley@checflorida.org

Askley Cook volunteered to be on District IX FFGC Speakers List.
She is willing to speak in Charlotte & Lee counties.



Cathy Dunn Bio

INTRODUCING CATHY DUNN

Cathy is a Master Gardener Volunteer, member of the Garden Club of Cape Coral, and former president of the James E. Hendry Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society. She writes monthly gardening columns for The Cape Coral Breeze. Cathy was also a Master Gardener in Indiana and served as Vice President of the Hendricks County Master Gardeners Association.

As a lifelong gardener Cathy created and maintained gardens in her native state of Virginia, Connecticut and Indiana before moving to Florida in 2018. Cathy is particularly interested in butterfly gardens, Florida Friendly Landscaping, and cultivating and hybridizing tropical hibiscus. Before retiring Cathy worked in the telecommunications industry for 30 years, specializing in fiber optics technology.

Cathy has volunteered to be on District IX FFGC Speakers List. Cathy's favorite topics are "Resources for Gardening in our Unique Florida Environment" and "Hybrid Tropical Hibiscus." Cathy is willing to travel to Lee and Collier Counties.

Cathy's contact info: 765-891-1442 cathy.dunn53@gmail.com

Cathy volunteered to be in the District IX Florida Federation of Garden Club Speakers Bureau. Contact Cathy about her two favorite presentation topics.



Link JEH Chapter of the Am Hibiscus Society

Warren Erickson Bio

INTRODUCING WARREN ERICKSON

Owner of Tropical Dragon Nursery. Call for appointment & group tours.

Born in WI, I've lived in various states throughout my life including CA, OK, MS and now most recently FL. Growing conditions are drastically different in my new home than anything I've previously experienced. Over the past 3 years I have learned a lot from research and interactions with other gardeners in my area.

The food forest I am building at Tropical Dragon Nursery has started to produce enough food and medicinals that I'm starting to realize a reduction in my grocery bill. While I'm a long way from being an expert, I have had some success and more importantly, have learned from my failures to improve the gardens.

Topics: Food forests, Agroforestry, Gardening Sustainably

Contact email: tropicaldragonpermaculture@gmail.com
Call for appointment or group tours. Phone: 262-308-5168 (cell and text)

Link YouTube

Link email

Warren volunteered to be in the District IX Florida Federation of Garden Club Speakers Bureau.



John Finer Bio



INTRODUCING JOHN FINER

John Finer is an Emeritus Professor in the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science at The Ohio State University and Courtesy Faculty in the Ecology & Environmental Studies Department at Florida Gulf Coast University. He is a fellow with the Society for In Vitro Biology and the American Association for the Advancement of Science and has been an editor for several different plant science journals. He currently serves on the Education Committee and Research Committee of the American Orchid Society and is an Education Director with the Gulf Coast Orchid Alliance in Naples.

After spending his academic career performing research and teaching in the area of plant biotechnology, John has since focused on propagating and reintroducing native orchids into local Florida communities and making novel new orchid hybrids, some of which are available from select orchid growers in Florida. John grows award-winning orchids at his small house in Naples and has registered 44 different orchid hybrids (so far). He also has a YouTube channel where he is "The Plant Propagator" and a business called "The Orchid Propagator".

Topics

- Growing Orchids from Seed/Where do Orchids Come From?
- Orchid Physiology
- General Plant Propagation
- General Plant Propagation Workshop (hands on)
- Plant Biotechnology

Link: YouTube

Contact email: TheOrchidPropagator@gmail.com

John volunteered to be in the District IX Speakers Bureau and is willing to speak in Collier and Lee Counties.

Ginger Hansill Bio



Introducing Ginger Hansill

Ginger Hansill is a retired elementary school teacher (27 years), retired Master Gardener (12 years), current treasurer of Bartow Garden Club and District IX Camp Wekiva Chairman. She is married with three grown children and 5 grandsons.

Ginger is an avid gardener with specialty in pollinator gardens. She is involved in Line Dancing with Country Connections Line Dancers. Ginger is also an avid reader and on the Library committee at her church.

Topics:

- Camp Wekiva
- Shade Gardening in Central Florida

Contact: 863-838-1713, ghansill@gmail.com

Link Camp Wekiva

Ginger Hansill has volunteered to be on District IX FFGC Speakers List. Ginger is willing to travel to speak in Polk county. If outside of Polk county if the meeting is at night, Ginger would appreciate overnight lodging.

Chip Jones Bio

INTRODUCING CHIP JONES

Malcolm (Chip) Jones has a BS in Horticulture (Alabama A&M University) and is the owner of Jones Landscaping and Nursery (Fort Lauderdale, Davie, Moore Haven, FL) where he designs, builds, and maintains tropical gardens. Cycad nursery.

Chip worked at Flamingo Gardens, Davie, FL (design and build new collections, based cycad garden); Fairchild Botanical Gardens, Coral Gables, FL (Curator of Cycads, tropical horticulture and introduction to cycads of the world); New England Wildflower Society, Framingham, MA (native plant horticulture and public garden management); and Westvaco Corp, Summerville, SC (vegetative propagation of gymnosperms).

Chips special skills include cycad horticulture especially artificial propagation from seed - 112 cycad species visited in situ.

Topics:

- Bromeliad Breeders
- Landscape design with bromeliads
- Xeric terrestrial bromeliads
- Analysis of variegated hybrid neoregelias
- Dioon Day, Cycads of Oaxaca
- Cycads of Chiapas
- Peru plants and understanding the Amazon.

Link

Contact: 954-296-2019, chipjones14@hotmail.com

Chip volunteered to be in the District IX Florida Federation of Garden Club Speakers Bureau. Chip travels throughout South Florida to speak.



Joanne Kishfy Bio

INTRODUCING JOANNE KISHFY

Joanne is a native Rhode Islander. She moved to Cape Coral in 2020 and shortly after joined the Garden Club of Cape Coral. She volunteers her time to help at meetings, plant sales, functions, Cape Coral Library Butterfly Garden and is the Chair for the yearly Club Directory Photo Contest.

Being a lover of both shells and flowers, she combined the two to create shell flowers. Joanne is self-taught and successfully sells her shell art on Etsy. Joanne entered the Sanibel Shell Show in March of 2025 and won 1st Prize for Best Flower Exhibit in the Professional Division. She is currently working on her entry for next year's competition.

Topic: Creating Flowers from Shells
Workshops also available. Fee for supplies.
Etsy Shop: OneOfKindShellingArt

Contact: 401-714-3517, joannetc19@gmail.com

Link Etsy

Joanne volunteered to be in the District IX Florida Federation of Garden Club Speakers Bureau.



Sean Moore Bio

INTRODUCING SEAN MOORE

Over the last 15 years Sean Moore with Green Leaf Worm Farm has expanded far beyond just growing worms. On his farm in Zolfo Springs, Florida, Sean provides worm castings, worm tea, bamboo biochar and native plants.

Sean gives presentations and has brought products to garden clubs, homeowner associations, schools and tropical fruit societies all over central and southwest Florida. Sean's presentation with PowerPoint describes the benefits of earthworms and their castings to Florida soil. Sean explains how to use worm casting and worm tea and especially enjoys answering group's questions.

Sean consultations and services to many school and community groups has helped these organizations set up and maintain their marvelous community gardens. Sean is available by phone or email. You can find Sean (Green Leaf Worm Farm) at the major plant events throughout Florida.

Topic: Benefits of Gardening with Worm Castings

Contact: 941.626.5970, GreenLeafWormFarm@gmailcom

Link Web | Link Newsletter

Sean Moore has volunteered to be on District IX FFGC Speakers List. Sean's farm is in Hardee county, Zolfo Spring, Florida and is willing to speak in Charlotte, Lee, Hendry & Collier, Polk, Highlands, and Hardee counties.



Angie Fritz Nichols Bio



Introducing Angie Fritz Nichols

A full-time mother of 3 boys under 12, owner of Grow Prosper MOVE Realty, & garden enthusiast.

Angie started vermicomposting to enrich her soil and improve her vegetable gardens without toxic chemicals or unnatural fertilizers.

After receiving her Master Gardener designation, she began teaching others to do the same.

She loves helping people & worms find the perfect home.

Topics:

- All About Growing Worms for Your Garden.
- Can bring worms for purchase.

Contact: 239-281-7980 realtor@thenicholsteam.com

Angie has volunteered to be on District IX FFGC Speakers List. Angie is willing to travel to Charlotte, Lee, Hendry & Collier counties.

Susan Lawson Bio



Charles Reith Bio



Introducing Charles Reith

Charles Reith is a restoration ecologist who rehabilitates distressed landscapes, including deserts, wetlands, native forests, and -- of special interest here in Florida -- urban forests. Charles has planted or contributed to the planting of a dozen high-performance microforests along the Suncoast.

Before retiring, Charles was a Professor of Environmental Science at four different universities. His habitat rehab work has spanned more than 20 countries in four continents. Charles has published several books on land reclamation and waste disposal using natural encapsulation systems.

Charles' talk on 'Green infrastructure and urban resilience' includes insights into high performance micro forests, living walls, rain gardens, green roofs, and other protective features against flooding and wind damage.

Topic: Benefits of Micro-Forests, Green infrastructure and urban resilience.

Contact: 703-342-6185, charles.c.reith@gmail.com

We appreciate Charles Reith, PhD volunteering to be on District IX FFGC Speakers List.

Phil Sollecito Bio

Introducing Phil Sollecito

Phil gardens to put quality food on the table. After marrying Wendy in 1974, Phil planted vegetable gardens everywhere they lived. Phil's BS in Fishery Biology (Cornell '74) included courses on soil science, ecology, conservation, habitat enhancement, and sustainability. He has gardened organically for 50 years. After growing vegetables and fruit trees in the Seattle area for 40 years they moved to North Port Florida in June 2014. Their property search criteria included enough land for a large vegetable garden and orchard. They now have 6 varieties of Mangoes, 6 varieties of Avocados, 100+ pineapples and 25+ other fruit trees and vines. Phil enrolled in the Charlotte County MGV course in 2023 and has been giving talks to the MGV group and to Garden Clubs ever since.

In 2024, Phil and Wendy's property received UF/IFAS Extension statewide recognition and awards for Outstanding Mature Florida-Friendly Landscape as well as Outstanding Edible Florida-Friendly Landscape.

Topics:

- Vegetable Gardening in FL 1: How to be successful organically in Florida's challenging environment
- Vegetable Gardening in FL 2: Garden pests: How to recognize and defeat them
- Vegetable Gardening in Fl 3: Good Bugs, Bad Bugs
- Growing Pineapples from Sucker to Fruit
- Magnificent Mangoes in Your Own Yard
- Grow Magnificent Mangoes in Your Own Yard

Contact: 425-773-4472 Phillsoll52@gmail.com

Phil Sollecito has volunteered to be on District IX FFGC Speakers Bureau. Phil is willing to speak in Charlotte, Sarasota, Lee, DeSoto and Hardee counties. Honorariums will be donated to Friends for Charlotte County Extension.



Christopher Tolen Bio



INTRODUCING CHRISTOPHER TOLEN

Christopher Tolen is Co-Founder & Grower-Educator at Ferpher Farms, a working microgreens farm in Lake Wales, Florida. He teaches practical, beginner-friendly microgreens programs for botanical gardens, garden clubs, libraries, lifelong-learning groups, and community organizations. His programs draw on hands-on commercial growing experience and cover seed selection, germination, growing media, light, watering, troubleshooting, harvest, storage, and everyday use. Christopher presents independently, and Jennifer Tolen joins him for larger or full hands-on workshops.

Contact: info@ferpherfarms.com
321-EAT-LIFE (328-5433)
ferpherfarms.com Facebook: Ferpher Farms

Christopher volunteered to be in the District IX Florida Federation of Garden Club Speakers Bureau.

Sandy Troy Bio

INTRODUCING SANDY TROY

Sandy Troy Pennington loves sharing "easier gardening tips" and presents on a wide variety of topics.
Her current favorites include: The Pristine Lanai (Journey to Epiphytes & Less Mess), Winter Color, and Lightweight Container Gardening.

Link to Complete List of Presentations

Sandy is a Master Gardener and volunteers her time at six organizations lending her computer and garden expertise.

Sandy's passions include gardening, landscaping, baking and teaching baking breads, learning new computer applications, and welcoming company.

Contact: stroy_penn@msn.com 239-994-8147

Sandy created and is admin for the Speakers Bureau.



Stephanie Webb Bio



INTRODUCING STEPHANIE WEBB

After attaining my BFA degree I started my career as an Art teacher at The American School in London in 1997. When arriving back to the states I started a wholesale manufacturing company called "Seedling Kids" where I spent years photographing plants and embellished them to clothes. I researched sustainable and organic farming practices to ensure I was manufacturing the highest quality American made clothing. I was highly recognized for my work and a guest on the "Martha Stewart" show and other publications like "Vogue" for my work as a Mom Entrepreneur.

After selling my company, I became deeply interested in essential oils and natural healing. I studied herbalism and Clinical Aromatic Medicine. I proceeded to seek knowledge and training on the usage of plants in a therapeutic health setting- I continue to research and teach others on the healing potential of plants.

Topics:

- From Vine to Vanilla: Mastering the Art of Vanilla Orchid Cultivation.
- Florida Vanilla: From Backyard to Bean. Growing Vanilla in the Sunshine State
- The Vanilla Project: Secrets to Vanilla Flowering and Pollination.
- Vanilla, Cultivation to Application: How to use your Home-Grown Vanilla Beans

Contact: 910-508-8724, stephanie@sunshinestatevanilla.com

Link Sunshine State Vanilla

Link Consulting

Stephanie volunteered to be in the District IX Speakers Bureau and is willing to go to all counties.

Link Bio

Dawson (Dee) Wynne Bio

INTRODUCING DAWSON (DEE) WYNNE

Dee has been growing orchids in Southwest Florida for over 30 years and loves sharing how easy they can be! Her favorite approach is to get the right plant settled in the right place and then enjoy a low-maintenance experience. All talks are interactive, welcoming, hands-on, and available on Zoom. For a longer hands-on program, participants are always welcome to bring plants and questions so that we can all learn from each other. Dee is Master Gardener volunteer.

Topics:
Orchid Basics: Selecting and Growing Orchids
How to Repot Orchids
How to Mount Orchids. The latter two can also be workshops where participants bring plants to repot or mount.

Contact: dawsoncwynne@gmail.com
239 292 1542

Web

FB QR

Dee volunteered to be in the District IX Florida Federation of Garden Club Speakers Bureau.



Cathy Via Bio

INTRODUCING CATHY VIA

After Cathy earned a Degree in Environmental Science she worked in the City of Naples Environmental Laboratory for 20 years. The love of gardening and cooking she opened an Herb, Spice, and Tea shop in the Garden District of Downtown Naples.

You can find Cathy selling her plants at Farmers Markets on the weekends and spreading her knowledge about growing and using herbs at events. Cathy is an avid organic gardener and a State of Florida Certified Nurseryman

Topics:

- Herb Uses from A to Z
- How to incorporate herbs, teas, & spices into your routine
- Growing Herbs in Southwest Florida
- Cathy brings plants to her presentations to demo and for purchase if you want.

Contact: 239-595-0586, cathysandbotanicals@gmail.com

Link Web

Link FB

Link Sales Locations

Cathy volunteered to be in the District IX Florida Federation of Garden Club Speakers Bureau. Cathy speaks in Lee, Collier counties.

