

The Boynton Bloomers

Boynton Beach Garden Club
October 2021
C. DiVeto, Editor

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PRESIDENTS' REPORT: **Toni Cvetko and Lori Wolff**

The club year has started, and we are off and running!

A carpool trip to Butterfly World in Coconut Creek, arranged by Mary Scheitler, took place on October 12th. Those who attended enjoyed an informative docent-guided tour of this facility, learning about the butterfly life cycle and butterfly-friendly plants. The glorious sight of

hundreds of butterflies happily flying about was breath taking. This was an experience to be remembered.

The District X Fall Meeting was held on October 19th at the Trails Country Club in Port St. Lucie. Seven of our members attended. This was an opportunity for our members to meet members of other District clubs. In addition to District business, there were interesting speakers, numerous vendors, beautiful raffle baskets and a 50/50.

We hope that everyone is gathering items for our upcoming auction on January 11th. New and gently used items will be auctioned to the highest bidder. Hopefully, this will be profitable and definitely fun.



G 1.

PROGRAMS: **Carol Stender**

Program / Meeting Tuesday, October 26, 1:00

High Point West Clubhouse and Zoom

Our program will feature a presentation by Ryan Leavengood, a member of the Native Plant Society. There will be a Horticulture Committee presentation, a raffle (tickets \$1.00 each or 6 / \$5.00), and we will collect for Penny Pines. We welcome guests; just be sure to contact our membership chairman Linda Christianson to let her know. (Linda_L_Christianson@comcast.net)

Our auction fundraiser is in January, and everyone must start working now. We cannot fulfill our goals unless we have money! There will be a signup sheet at the meeting so you may choose how you want to help. If you can't attend the meeting, call Mary Scheitler to choose. See flyer and more on pages 5 & 6.

Half of our membership is registered on our website. At the end of Tuesday's meeting, our Website Committee with laptops in hand will stay to help those members needing to register. We encourage every member to register. Our website is <https://boyntonbeachgardenclub.org>.

P.S. Sign up for the flowerpot decoupage workshop with Linda Schrader by October 28! See page 3.

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PLANT THIS, NOT THAT !



Native Wildflowers

Above is a photo of a small area filled with sunshine mimosa, fog fruit, porter weed, river sage, tropical sage and *Bidens alba*, all pollinator friendly plants.

Ryan Leavengood presents our first program under the umbrella of this season's program theme, **Go Wild, Go Native!** A native Floridian, originally from the Tampa area, Ryan Leavengood is a long-time resident of Boynton Beach.

When he bought his home in 2002, he quickly grew tired of maintaining a weedy yard. He began seeking out alternatives around 2008. He and his future wife attended their first meeting of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, and they won a few plants at the meeting's plant drawing. That was the start of their adventure!

Over the years, Ryan has propagated a lot of his own plants from seed and cuttings. He has traded plants with various gardeners and bought some at nurseries. Through the years, he has had great successes and great failures, but has kept learning all the way. Despite any mistakes, the butterflies and birds have been happy and his yard really is a sanctuary, not only for him and his wife, but also for the animals.

Ryan concedes, "A well planted yard is definitely more maintenance than a plain lawn, but it also supports so much more life. I'd rather pull a few weeds and trim a few shrubs than mow a giant yard. Hopefully, I can convince some other people to do the same."

Part of BBGC's 2021-2022 Program Series:
GO WILD, GO NATIVE

**ALSO IMPORTANT: Alerts, Committee and member notes, etc.
CHECK YOUR YEARBOOK FOR A DETAILED LIST OF
PROGRAMS!**

WEBSITE COMMITTEE: Since one of the purposes of creating a website is to attract new members, the Board discussed allowing the general viewer access to our photo gallery. If you do not want your picture displayed on our website in our photos of our group activities, please let Bonnie Paton know.

COMMUNITY GARDEN: November 2, 8:30: Helpers will build a BRICK AND SUCCULENT area. Come to lend a hand... call Joan Grace if you have questions. The garden is located on the corner of North Seacrest Boulevard and NW 6th Avenue, in the Boynton Hills neighborhood.

SIP AND STROLL: November 3, 4:45: Please join your fellow garden club members for a stroll through Wakodahatchee Wetlands Park on Wednesday November 3rd. Because parking at Wakodahatchee is limited, we will meet to carpool at the Walgreen's parking lot on the northwest corner of Jog Road and Woolbright Road at 4:45 PM for a 5 o'clock stroll. (This is the best time of day for bird watching at Wakodahatchee.) Bring your favorite beverage and a snack if you wish.

RSVP to Lori Wolff (561.779.8777) if you plan to attend. We don't want to leave anyone behind!

DIY DECOUPAGE FLOWERPOTS WORKSHOP: November 5, 10:00 in the High Point Club House, cost \$5.50: RSVP to Linda Schrader by October 28!

VETERAN'S DAY: November 11, 9:30: We will meet at the Blue Star Marker on North Federal Highway in Boynton for a brief ceremony on November 11th. Wear red, white, and blue! The Marker is located on the west side of Federal Highway, near the "Welcome to Boynton Beach" sign, between B.B. Blvd. and Gateway Blvd. After our gathering, consider attending another beautiful presentation at 10:00 a.m. at Boynton Veterans Park, just south of the marker, but before B.B. Blvd.

RUSTIC RETREAT: Friday, November 26, Time TBA: We will bring poinsettias and donuts to the residents in our traditional start of the holiday season, and don't forget that we may ALWAYS bring donations of books, magazines, or puzzles to meetings, and we'll take them to the Rustic Retreat residents, mostly male veterans.

P.S. June Trach, manager, has offered her help and advice to our members who have questions about veterans' benefits. Her phone number is: 561-704-5045. June says we can call her any time.

**ALSO IMPORTANT: Alerts, Committee and member notes, etc.
CHECK YOUR YEARBOOK FOR A DETAILED LIST OF
PROGRAMS!**

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: Saturday, December 18, 12:00: South Florida National Cemetery, US 441, Lake Worth: Because of crowds personal attendance is difficult, but we support this national day to honor veterans by donating wreaths. You may donate your own online at <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/14798/Overview/?relatedId=0>

AUCTION FUNDRAISER: REMINDER: All members are asked to save items for our upcoming fundraiser, our auction on January 11th. We need new or gently used items to be auctioned and to fill baskets that will be raffled. (We need the baskets, too. Check out Goodwill or thrift stores, etc.) Everyone's help is needed to make our fundraiser a success.

TREASURER: Bonnie Paton reports that the balance as of 10/17 was \$3,953.96.

BUTTERFLY GARDEN: Christine Johnson reports that the garden is beautiful and is a source of pleasure for many visitors. She and her helpers are developing a new area. The garden is almost ten years old!

YOUTH GARDEN: Nancy Lemcke reports that Poinciana School, which we supported previously, does not have a garden club this year because of Covid virus restrictions. SO we are definitely working with the students at Freedom Shores Elementary. Keeping the tradition that Tuesday is garden day, Tuesday mornings at 7:30 and Tuesday afternoons at 2:00 for both the garden club and the student council, each delightful group plays a different role in the garden. The morning group waters!

HORTICULTURE: GRAB THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PLANTS BY JOINING THE HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE. Did you ever notice that when you teach someone about something you become smarter yourself? Our mission is to teach the members about plants. Contact Cyndy DiVeto if you are interested.

BRGC: The Boca Raton GC annual Holiday House Craft, Plant and Bake Sale: October 28 - October 31 at the clubhouse, 4281 NW 3rd Ave, Boca Raton, Thursday - Saturday 9am to 3pm and Sunday 10am to 2pm,

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB:

NGC Gardening Blog—Free--<https://gardenclub.org/ngc-blog>
The National Gardener Magazine - Free--<https://gardenclub.org/national-gardener>
NGC Convention Orlando Florida -- Rosen Plaza Hotel, May 16-20, 2022



BOYNTON BEACH GARDEN CLUB

is Planning a

Potluck Luncheon with an Auction, Baskets and a 50/50

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

at 12:00 Noon

Our Club is extending an invitation to you to join us. We will meet at:

Sterling Village *

500 North Federal Highway

Boynton Beach, Florida

We hope you will be able to attend for what will be a fun afternoon.

Food is provided by BBGC members; please be our guest.

Reservations are a must, so please call or email:

Kathy Menninger

at 516-849-3415

or kathleenmenninger@gmail.com

Please RSVP by January 6

BBGC is a 501 (c)3 organization. This fundraiser is benefiting FFGC's Scholarship Endowment Fund.

*** Directions: I-95 to Boynton Beach Blvd. and exit east. Drive to Federal Hwy. (the light after crossing the railroad tracks) and turn right (south). Sterling is about 2 blocks down on the left-hand side. We are in the large building straight ahead, slightly to the left. Park only in the yellow marked parking spots. You can enter the clubhouse from both sides. Image Source Clipartall.com**

FUNDRAISER: Mary Scheitler & Pat Waldron, Chairs

Tuesday, January 11, 2022 - BBGC's Potluck Luncheon, Auction, Baskets and 50/50 - In this newsletter is an invitation that will be sent out to district clubs, hoping for a good turnout.

At September's meeting members attending were asked to mark January 10 and 11 on your calendar, as we expect all our members to participate, and to start collecting items for sale.

This is our major fundraiser and we are asking all members to collect gently used or new items for baskets or auction items. PLEASE keep them at your home until we meet on Monday, January 10, at Sterling Village. We will meet at 11:30 a.m. for you to deliver your items and to stay to help make up the baskets, choose auction items and set up the room for Tuesday. After the event, we ask that all members remain and help clean up, which shouldn't take too long with all of us helping.

At Tuesday's general meeting we will have two sign-up sheets that we will be passing around; one for food sign-up and for various jobs we need filled. More information will be forthcoming. Pat and I want to thank all of you for your involvement - we can't do this without your help.

FACEBOOK: Carol Stender

Boynton Beach Garden Club now has a presence on Facebook, where we are registered as a non-profit gardening group. The purpose of our Group Facebook Page is to facilitate the dissemination of information, boost interest in garden club goals and activities, and help create a deeper connection between our members.

Has your lovely Vanda orchid recently burst into blossom? Let fellow members share in your delight. Take a photo and post it on Facebook. While browsing online, did you come across an interesting gardening article? Post the article's link on our Group Page so others might also benefit. Is there a meeting of interest coming up? Post it! Keep members in the loop when you come across various opportunities. All of this can be done quickly and efficiently with our Group Facebook Page.

Because our page is a Public page, anyone who is interested in gardening might see our posts. Those in our area might even like what we are sharing and decide to visit our club. A good Facebook page is also a totally free marketing tool.

However, as we all know, some Facebook experiences can be unpleasant. Therefore, our Group Facebook Page has a number of Safety Measures in place to insure that only suitable posts appear on our site. Group rules include:

Be kind and courteous. We're all in this together to create a welcoming environment. Treat everyone with respect. Healthy debates are natural, but kindness is required.

No hate speech or bullying. Everyone is to feel safe on our page. Bullying of any kind isn't allowed, and degrading comments will not be tolerated.

No promotions or spam. Self-promotion, spam and irrelevant links aren't allowed.

Respect everyone's privacy. Being part of the group requires mutual trust. What's shared in the group should stay in the group.

The most important safety precaution, however, is the precaution of having gatekeepers, or administrators, in place. Administrators maintain control over the page and the posts. Individuals must be approved by a page administrator before they can join, post or comment. That way, the club keeps control over the content of our page.

Members are encouraged to join our Group Page and participate in the interaction. Take a few moments to visit us on Facebook and explore the possibilities. Members and their friends can go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/boyntonbeachgardenclub.org> to visit and apply for membership to the Boynton Beach Garden Club Group Page.



Vanda recently posted on
Facebook

MEMBER MEMOS:



HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS: **Ginny Rush** 10/8, **Susan O'Neill** 10/30

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS COMING SOON: **Carol Stender** 11/6, **Suzette Gebhardt** 11/10

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We wish all those who are not well a speedy recovery, members and their loved ones.

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2ND VICE PRESIDENT / MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: **Linda Christianson**

Please welcome the following new members and add this information to your handbook:

Peg Fagan
225 Main Blvd Apt B 1
Boynton Beach, FL 33435
561-271-8291
peggyf1940@gmail.com
Peg's birthday is January 11th.
She will help with Trip Planning and Summer Lunches.

Judi Liebert
6843 Lake Island Drive
Lake Worth, FL 33467
201-207-4786
Theatrern@gmail.com
Judi's birthday is August 23rd
She will help in the Butterfly Garden

Debbie Lytle
1008 Ocean Drive
Boynton Beach, FL 33426
561-574-2614
Lyttled52@gmail.com
Debbie's birthday is August 22nd.
She will help on the Horticulture Committee and the gardens we support.



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CALENDAR & MORE INTERESTING THINGS TO DO:

Please check your yearbook for more events! Your yearbook has information too! Descriptions of activities have been excerpted from the sources, and more information is available throughout the year.

DETAILS ABOUT THESE ACTIVITIES ARE GIVEN ELSEWHERE IN THIS NEWSLETTER!

OCTOBER

10/26	1:00	Meeting
10/28 -31	9:00-3-00	Boca Raton Holiday House Bazaar

NOVEMBER

11/2	8:30	Community Garden, build a Brick and Succulent garden
11/3	5:00	"Sip and Stroll" at Wakodahatchee
11/5	10:00	Decoupage a Flowerpot at High Point Clubhouse
11/11	9:30	Veteran's Day at the Blue Star Memorial on Federal Highway
11/26	TBA	Visit with the residents of Rustic Retreat

MOUNTS BOTANICAL GARDEN MEMBER NEWS

The Boynton Beach Garden Club is a supporting member of Mounts Botanical Garden. Because we contribute each year to the Friends of the Mounts Botanical Garden, we are given two Garden Steward cards to allow for free admission.

Thursday, October 28: OPENING DAY FOR MOAI AT MOUNTS BOTANICAL

Located in the Tropical Forest Garden, this permanent installation is the vision and gift of Margaret Blume. It was designed by artist Dennis MacDonald as a tribute to the ancient Rapa Nui culture and people of Rapa Nui (Easter Island). With great attention to authenticity and detail, the three statues replicate the iconic, monolithic figures called moai. Each statue is made of solid reinforced poured concrete and has been stained to create a weathered appearance.

Saturday November 6th and Sunday November 7: FALL PLANT-A-PALOOZA

This is one of the events we all look forward to and we know you do too! Come shop a wide variety of vendors offering a plethora of items including ornamentals, orchids, succulents, cactus, bonsai, butterfly/native plants, shrubs, fruit trees, herbs, garden accessories, baskets, fine crafts, and much more.

As a reminder, Members get to shop first! Join us for the special Member Preview Hour from 8:00 - 9:00 am on Saturday, November 6th!



BUTTERFLY CERTIFICATION: Carol Stender

Butterfly Corner

An article on the front page of the *Palm Beach Post*, October 11, 2021, reads “West Palm Wants More Shade Trees, Fewer Palms.” The City of West Palm Beach, out of concern for steadily increasing daily temperatures, is looking to mitigate the situation by planting more shade trees. Good news! We all know how much cooler it is when we stand under some nice big shady trees. The article goes on to say that “the city encourages people to plant native and broadleaf hardwood trees over palm trees, which provide less shade and capture less carbon.”

What the article does not say is that native hardwood trees are essential for the existence of any number of birds, insects, and animals in our area. Some lovely trees, in fact, are host plants for a number of our most beautiful and interesting butterflies here in southeast Florida. We generally think of butterflies in conjunction with flowering plants, bushes, and vines, but five of our native hardwoods are hosts for butterflies. The first of these is the redbay or red bay tree (written as either one or two words is considered correct). The redbay is a host for the larvae of two butterfly species: the Palamedes swallowtail (*Papilio palamedes*) and the spicebush swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*).



The redbay (*Persea borbonia*) is an attractive evergreen tree with six-inch glossy, leathery leaves that are medium to dark green in color. The trunk has showy, ridged, red-brown bark. It is native to the Southeastern United States, including every county in Florida. It is happiest “at the edge of streams, springs, and swamps” where the water is plentiful, but the soil is well-drained. According to the University of Florida’s IFAS website, however, the redbay can tolerate a wide range of soils, from hot and dry to wet and swampy, and thrives on little care in full sun or partial shade. Birds love the shiny dark blue to deep purple fruit of the tree, which appear every year in October. Crush a leaf with your fingers and you get a bright spicy aroma (think bay leaves on your spice rack). “Dried redbay leaves have been used for generations as the “real” Southern bay leaf for flavoring savory foods and considered essential for gumbo” (Coder, Dr. Kim D., *Redbay (Persea borbonia): Drifting Toward Oblivion*. Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, U of G. May, 2012).
(Continued)

Leaves and Berries of the Redbay
by David Sedore, *Wild South Florida*

The Palamedes swallowtail and the spicebush swallowtail larvae both prefer the redbay as their host plant here in Florida. The two closely related species look similar, but there are differences. The Palamedes swallowtail is a large black, brightly marked butterfly. Both sexes are similarly marked, with rounded brownish black wings rimmed with yellow spots and crossed by another broad V-shaped yellow bank. The underside of the wing has an orange strip parallel with the body.



Palamedes Swallowtail by Candice Martino @ Flickr via Creative Commons



Larva of the spicebush swallowtail by Jerry F. Butler, U of Florida

The Palamedes swallowtail can be found from March to December in our area, especially in moist wooded areas and swamps, and will roost communally in oaks and palmetto trees. Females lay pale greenish-yellow eggs singly on host plant leaves. The larva protect themselves with a leaf shelter which they create by towards the

chewing a slit near the tips of the leaves from the edge midrib and then spinning silk, which soon causes the leaf to curl around the larva and create a leaf shelter. The larvae are green with two false eyespots on the thorax and a few blue spots along the abdominal segments. They are almost identical to the caterpillar of the spicebush swallowtail, except the spicebush swallowtail larva has larger false eyes, and larger blue spots.

The spicebush swallowtail, while also preferring the redbay as its host, will sometimes use the spicebush, the sassafras, or the swamp bay. The upper surface of the spicebush swallowtail's forewings is black with a narrow marginal row and a broader sub-marginal row of light yellowish spots. The upper surfaces of the hind wings also have the rows of spots, but they are light green in color. The median areas of the hind wings are dusted with blue in females and blue-green to green in males. The larvae are green with a pale yellow lateral line edged beneath with a fine black line. Other larval markings include a band of six blue dots running along the abdomen with each dot ringed by a fine black line (much thicker than those on the larvae of the Palamedes swallowtail). A pair of large tan false eyespots lined with black dominates the metathorax. The eyespots have a large black "pupil: with a white "false reflection." Larvae also have a smaller pair of tan spots dorsally on the first abdominal segment.



Spicebush swallowtail by Donal W. Hall, U of

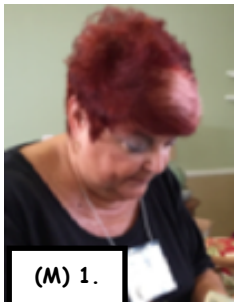
There are at least three generations of spicebush swallowtails annually in Florida with peak numbers of adults in late spring and early fall.

Many plants are valuable as nectar sources for swallowtails. The long proboscis of the spicebush and Palamedes swallowtails allow them to feed at tubular flowers that are not accessible to many other butterfly species.

Other Florida hardwoods that are butterfly larvae hosts include: the Wild Lime (*Aanthoxylum fagara*), host for the Giant Swallowtail, the Sweet Bay Magnolia (*Magnolia Virginian*), host for the Tiger Swallowtail, Sweet Acacia (*Acacia farnesiana*), host for the Ceraunus Blue, and the Native Tamarind (*Lysiloma latisiliquum*), host for both the Large Orange Sulphur and the Cassius Blue.

Hopefully, you can find a spot to plant one of these host trees soon!

THE CULINARY GARDENER: Fennel: Pat Inturrisi



Fennel is an aromatic Mediterranean herb that is often classified as a vegetable as well as an herb. It's in the Apiaceae family that includes carrots, celery, parsley and dill, which is why fennel is often roasted with carrots. It's grown for its distinct anise flavor as a culinary ingredient. The plant has upright branching growth and yellow blossoms. The yellow blossoms, seeds and pollen can be used as well as the vegetable bulb.

You can grow fennel in pots as well as in the ground. And you can grow fennel from seeds and from "scraps".

If you grow fennel in pots from seed, you need to insure that your pots are big enough for the long taproot that fennel produces. You also need to leave several inches of room between the soil and the rim of the container when you sow. Your fennel will be extra tender if you "earth up" or pile the dirt around the top of the bulb to protect it from the sun. This "blanching" process keeps the bulb from becoming brown and thereby retaining its sweetness.

Fennel is a Mediterranean plant that loves warm weather. It must be kept moist at all times so it should be planted in well drained soil and watered frequently. However, fennel is really a cool weather crop, so if it gets too hot it will "bolt" and run to seed. In our scorching hot summers, it will do best outside in partial shade. You don't need to fertilize, all you need is some basic TLC. Fennel is susceptible to aphids, slugs and thrips, but a good stream of water may do the trick in getting rid of them. In harvesting the fennel, you can pick the tender young shoots as micro greens, while the mature shoots are exceptional when finely chopped and used as an herb. Gather the bulbs when they are the size of a tennis ball. The flowers will produce seeds that can be used to further grow plants next season.

Now fennel can be grown from the stub that's left over once you've finished cooking with it, as well as from seed. When you buy fennel from the grocery store, the bottom of the bulb will have a noticeable base where the roots grew from. When you cook with fennel, leave a little bit of the bulb attached to this base. Place the piece that you saved into a shallow dish of water with the base facing down. Place in a sunny spot and change the water every couple of days. In a few days you should see green shoots growing up from the base. Once you reach this stage, you can keep on growing in water where it should continue to grow. Another option is to replant in a deep container with well-drained soil.

In my family, fennel has always been a holiday treat known by its Italian name "finocchio".

In superstitious circles the herb has been known to ward off evil spirits and render witches spells ineffective. But it's our Italian trick into managing all those courses in an Italian holiday meal, using it after a heavy holiday meal as a digestive. We pour some good olive oil in a shallow dish to which we added a smashed clove of garlic, some black pepper and salt. Slivers of fennel are swirled in the olive oil and nibbled on until the fruits and nuts and desserts come out!

ROASTED CARROTS AND FENNEL WITH HONEY LEMON WHITE BALSAMIC VINAIGRETTE

- 1 fennel bulb sliced into eighths
- 3 large carrots
- 1 red onion sliced into wedges
- 2 tbl white balsamic vinegar
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- 2 tbl extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tsp honey
- 1/2 tsp thyme, 1/2 tsp rosemary, and 1/4 tsp oregano, or can use 1 tsp Italian seasoning
- 1/2 tap salt



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If the outer leaves of your fennel leaves are tough, remove them. Cut in half and then cut each half into 4 thin half moon slices. Cut the carrots into thick matchsticks. Put fennel, carrots and onion into large bowl. Mix vinaigrette ingredients and pour over vegetables. Toss until well mixed. Place on sheet pan lined with foil and sprayed with Pam. Bake 425 degrees for 20 minutes, turn and bake additional 20 minutes.

PAT HAS ANOTHER RECIPE USING FENNEL ON THE NEXT PAGE.

MORE THE CULINARY GARDENER: Fennel: Pat Inturrisi

On Christmas Eve, this is served as one of our Seven Fishes. It's a great dish because it can include quite a few types of fish, which we can count towards our Seven Fishes! It's a grab bag of whatever fish you can find at the market. I've made it just using shrimp and cod or mahi, or cod and mussels, as some can be pricey. For Christmas Eve, I use a lot more of the fish.

ITALIAN FISH STEW

1/4 c extra virgin olive oil
2 fennel bulbs, white part thinly cut into 1/2" dice
1-1/2 c yellow onion, diced 1/2"
3 cloves garlic crushed
1 tsp fennel seeds
28 oz. crushed tomatoes
4 c clam broth
1-1/2 c dry white wine such as Pinot Grigio
1 lb shrimp, peeled and deveined
1 lb cod cut into large chunks
1 lb scallops (if using large cut in half crosswise)
1 doz mussels
1 doz clams
1 tbl Anisette or Sambuca, optional



In olive oil, saute the onion and fennel for 10 minutes until tender. Stir in garlic, fennel seeds and pinch of crushed red pepper if you like a little spicy. Add tomatoes, clam broth and wine, 1 tbs. salt and 1 tsp black pepper. Simmer on low uncovered for 30 minutes. Add seafood in following order: the cod, the shrimp, the scallops and then mussels and clams. Do not stir. Bring to simmer, cover and cook 10 minutes. Stir in Anisette if using and let sit 5 minutes. Carefully ladle into big bowl and surround with garlic bread to sop up broth!

HORTICULTURE: Look What's Blooming!

Christine Johnson has a batflower in bloom, in time for Halloween!

Jane Gavlick's salmon colored orchid is spectacular! Her *Catleya* orchid, which is tied to a tree, has 3 blooms open. Seems it only likes to bloom every other year.



HORTICULTURE / PROGRAMS: ASK AMI: Carol Stender



Welcome to BBGC's interactive gardening advice column, ASK AMI. AMI (pronounced like the name Amy) is an acronym for All Members Interested. So to submit a question to ASK AMI is to ask the question of All our Members who are Interested in helping you out!

Last month, we had a question about recommendations for a plant or small bush to complete an area marked off by three clumps of grasses. The writer was looking for plantings that would look nice all year, even if not blooming. Our club members rose to the occasion and, at last month's general meeting, they came up with some excellent suggestions, including filling in with low flowering plants such as lantana or blue daze. Another interesting suggestion was to fill in with some bromeliads. A final idea was to plant a fire bush in the middle, which would look lovely. Great ideas from our members.

October's questions:

Remedy for Scale

My plants are suddenly full of scale and getting very sickly looking. This is a problem that I have dealt with repeatedly. Although Home Depot has any number of products that claim to rid plants of scale, I'm afraid to use anything that might be toxic to the fragile caterpillars, bees, and other beneficial insects in my garden. Are there some easy, natural solutions that can conquer this problem?



Options for Spindly Milkweed Stems



My milkweed provided a wonderful nursery for monarchs, but now I have an ugly garden full of spindly milkweed stems stripped bare of leaves. I would just let them be to regenerate, but the garden really looks awful and it seems that as soon as new leaves come on, they get devoured too. If I simply cut them down, I'm still left with an ugly area. Are there maybe some flowering nectar plants, companion plants, that I might plant among the milkweed to improve the aesthetic of this garden?

Have a gardening question of your own? Send it to ASK AMI at BBGCaskami@gmail.com.
Straggly Milkweed Stems

HORTICULTURE: Ground covers: Cyndy DiVeto

In response to May's ASK AMI column, I received several suggestions, especially from Carol Stender, Christine Johnson, and Jane Gavlick. I will share what I have learned at the meeting on Tuesday.

MEMBERS HAVE BEEN BUSY:

MORE NEXT MONTH!

MEMBERS HAVE BEEN BUSY:

THANKS TO ALL THE MEMBERS WHO SENT PHOTOS OF THE BUTTERFLY WORLD FIELD TRIP FOR US ALL TO ENJOY... Bonnie Paton, Keegan Gabriel, Toni Cvetko, Carol Stender, Linda Schrader

The photos of the butterflies will be in next month's issue.



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Credit should always be given to an author / creator.

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Page 13: (M 1.) Carol Stender
Page 14. (M.1) Linda Schrader



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