



MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

Jackie Fegan, our Garden Club president, thought that a newsletter would be a great way to promote better communication about news and activities to all club members. This is our very first newsletter and it's still a work in progress.

Trips and Tours is Going to Corkscrew Swamp!

Come join us on April 9th for a guided boardwalk tour in Corkscrew's ancient bald cypress forest, the world's largest remaining old growth bald cypress forest. The tour will start at 10:00 and will be led by Amy Swanson, a member of the VW Garden Club and volunteer in the Butterfly Garden!

Members: \$20 Non-Members: \$25. We will be arranging a carpool.

Contact Barb Van Esler at b.vanesler@att.net

The boardwalk is an easy and beautiful walk. Some recent highlights include painted buntings, indigo buntings, blue flag irises, swallow-tailed kites, a red-shouldered hawk nest and buttonbush in bloom. If you have binoculars, you might want to bring them otherwise they are available for rental at the gift shop. Water is always a good idea. There are water refill stations and bottled water is available for purchase.



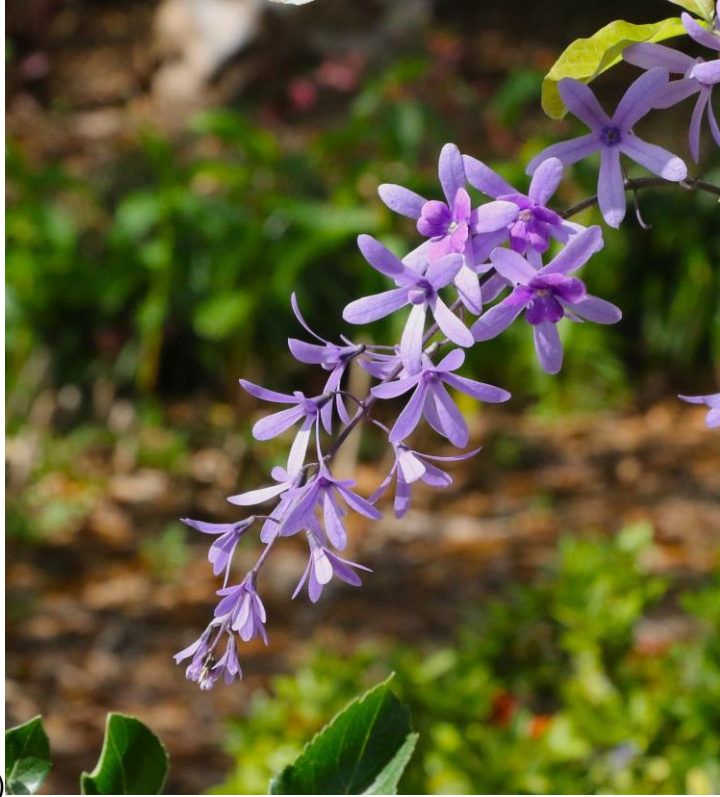
Butterfly Festival is Coming Up Soon

The long anticipated VillageWalk Butterfly Festival will be delayed one day to Sunday, March 24 from 10:00AM to 1:00PM because of the inclement weather that is forecast on Saturday. It will be

great fun for kids and adults of all ages. Please plan to attend. Thanks to the many volunteers and donors that are helping put the festival together and to Linda Blaise who organized this wonderful event.

Images from the Butterfly Gardens – Gardens 1 through 4

(Gardens 5 through 10 and the Corner Garden will be featured next time, plant/animal identification was done using PlantNet, Seek, Merlin phone apps)



Queen's Wreath



Summer Tanager



Phalaenopsis Orchid



Amaryllis



Florida White Butterfly



Red Passion Vine

Membership Dues

The deadline for the Membership Renewal Fee (May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025 which is the fiscal year) is April 30. The dues are \$20 per person or \$35 per couple. Dues include the club yearbook and name tag. If needed, you can contact Eileen McDonough at emcdonough50@yahoo.com.

Bromeliad Presentation

Betty Anne Kinzie Prevatt from Kinzie's Nursery and Julie Stein who is the president of the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society gave a very informative presentation (types of plants, care, tools, propagation) on bromeliads at the March 19th General Meeting. Many of us have worked with bromeliads before, but the speakers presented information that was even new to the most experienced gardeners in the audience.

IMPORTANT DATES in 2024

March 24 (rain date) from 10:00AM to 1:00PM: Butterfly Festival in VillageWalk

April 9 at 10:00AM: Tour of Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

April 16 at 11:00AM: Annual Meeting at the VillageWalk Town Center

April 30: Deadline for Membership Renewal Fee for May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025

May 3 at 9:45AM: Campus Tour/Gordon River Cruise at SWFL Conservancy

May 16 at 11:00AM: General Meeting at the VillageWalk Town Center

June, July, August, September, October: nothing is scheduled and normal club activities resume in November