

President's Annual Report
2020-2021
Sally Lutz

Year 2020-2021 was memorable for the Covid-19 Pandemic which affected everyone and everything. In spite of it our resilient and clever Club managed to pull off a great year with many accomplishments. My theme for 20-21 was take time to "Stop and Smell the Roses." Little did I know at the time that we would be forced to *stop* almost everything. However in the process, I believe we all learned to appreciate the everyday as something very special. Here's how the Naples Garden Club navigated a tricky Season.

The Board decided late summer 2020 to "pause" the normal year we had already planned and move everything forward one year, including our Board and Committees. Hence this coming year, 2021-2022 will be an iteration of the year that was already planned. At the same time we began to move forward with another plan that could accommodate the challenge of doing everything "virtually." Through the magic of Zoom we were able to conduct Board and Membership Meetings.

Message from the President

Communication with our members was a #1 priority. Navigating through uncertainty was best dealt with by sending out emails every 2 weeks on Monday mornings. Our periodic Trowel Prints became "Message from the President." It was fun – it was informative – it involved member participation via photos – it did the trick. Our Communications Chair, Sandy Lasch did a remarkable job pulling all of this together.

Zoom Membership Meetings

Carole Whittemore, VP, Program/Education gave us wonderful programs that kept us connected. The first two programs featured our own members.

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| December 7, 2020 | Holiday Decor |
| January 4, 2021 | The Idea Garden: Celebrating the 10 Year Anniversary |
| February 1, 2021 | Evenstad Horticulture Campus at the Naples Botanical Garden |
| March 1, 2021 | The Importance of Native Plants in our Environment & Gardens |

Virtual House and Garden Tour

Mary Schmidek, VP, House & Garden Tour did a beautiful job compiling a virtual tour, complete with music, of local gardens in Naples. It was a complimentary gift to our many past tour attendees – a way of saying "thank you." We got a tremendous response and preserved our spot in the community for future H&G tours.

Flower Show

Our Flower Show Vision 2020 in conjunction with the Naples Botanical Garden had to be cancelled for the second time. It will be reborn this coming year, March 2022 as "Visions: Past Present, Future." Terry Aufranc, VP Flower Show will at long last be able put on the Show as well as performing her duty as President Elect.

Membership

Donna Lindberg, Membership Chair continued to shepherd the Provisional Class of 20-21 into another year to become the Class of 21-22. The Provisionals have been very patient with a lot of pent-up energy to begin their workshops this coming Fall.

Finance

Because of our mindful Treasurer, Eliza Nevin and our Finance Committee, we were well prepared financially for a bad year with a budget to sustain us for the coming year. That along with generous contributions from our members has put us in a good place. A special thank you to the Maher Family.

Grants

Again due to our careful financial planning, we were able to give out \$72,500 in budgeted Grant funds. The grant recipients were:

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| Naples Botanical Garden | \$35,000 |
| Cypress Cove Landkeepers | \$ 9,000 |
| Echo Global Farms | \$ 5,000 |
| Youth Haven | \$ 5,000 |
| STARability | \$10,000 |
| Avalon Elementary | \$ 8,500 |
| FGCU Scholarship Recipient | |
| 2020 William Lee | \$4,400 |
| 2021 Kara Driscoll | \$4,800 |

Idea Garden

Even though we were unable to have more members work in the Idea Garden, our core group headed by Sudie Minamyer maintained the garden beautifully. In fact they more than maintained it – they transformed certain elements to make it colorful and especially inviting for the Garden guests.

District IX

Again this year we were unable to host the semi-annual District IX Meeting. We are now in the planning stages for the meeting to be held here in Naples, April of 2022.

Naples Botanical Garden

Naples Botanical Garden and The Naples Garden Club reached a written 5-year agreement that was signed April 2, 2021. Our special relationship with the Garden is one of the most valued components of our Club. We look forward to continue to work and grow with them.

In conclusion

It has been an interesting year – to say the least. Thank you to all who helped make it better than we could have imagined. Moving forward to year #2, I look forward along with our Board

to an energized Club ready to see old friends and make new ones all in the name of The Naples Garden Club. Moving on to 2021-2022 theme:

“Friends in Flowers”

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