

HBC

Hammocks Beautification Committee

“TO HAVE COMMUNITY DRIVEN PARTICIPATION, THAT RESULTS IN THE MOST BEAUTIFUL COMMON AREA AND HOME LANDSCAPING IN RIVER WILDERNESS”



April 2020 Newsletter, Vol. 1 Issue 1.

Introduction:

The Hammocks Beautification Committee would like to communicate with our community to let them know what has been accomplished and what we would like to accomplish, to solicit more volunteers, to fund raise for small donations, and provide some helpful gardening tips.

The Committee has a core team and those members are listed in the right-hand column. However, we have ad hoc members who participate in cleaning our common areas in conjunction with committee members.

The Beautification Committee picks up where the BrightView landscaping contract ends.

2020 Projects Completed:

Feb -MRD/WFD circle was power washed

Feb – Pond 44(dead duck pond) common area and MRD fence common area was raked of leaves 20 bags

Mar – RLR common area was raked of leaves, fertilized, mowed, pruned dead oak tree limbs, applied fire ant pesticide

Mar – Pool area- over 50 bags of leaves were raked up by the ad hoc members over several weeks.



Apr – again MRD common area was raked of leaves and Pond 44 had all the downed moss picked up for a total of 22 bags

Hammocks Beautification Committee Members:

hammocksbeautification@rwhoa.org

Keith Burton	Sherry Zabikow
Carmela Karns	Colleen Tilbe
Carol Bianchi	Nancy Tilbe
Marilyn Vida	Donna Tosoni

Let's make the Hammocks Beautiful!!!!

Beautification Committee Tip:

Source:



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Master Gardener Volunteer Newsletter *The Garden Bench*. The next page is an article on Bougainvilleas from the April edition.

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ecz5kkoif765rxl/AADsMgB2_cFQ0_HaVho6VxdKa?dl=0&preview=April+2020.pdf

Future Projects:

1. Replacing the pentas at the MRD circle, as well as, under the Hammocks sign at the front entrance
2. Monitoring, pruning, replacing as needed flowers at the pool area.
3. Working with the Board to replace the dead flowers at the WFD/MRD circle to keep the circle in good condition.
4. Keeping the common areas at the pond area and the MRD/WFD area picked up: removing fallen twigs and moss.
5. Monthly scheduled clean up days.

Volunteers are welcome!

Donations are appreciated to buy paper bags, paint, etc.

Please **contact:**
hammocksbeautification@rwhoa.org

The Beauteous Bougainvilleas

By Nancy Hammer, Master Gardener Volunteer 2014



Have you ever wondered about those striking flowering shrubs or vines that you see as you drive through Manatee County neighborhoods in October through March? Chances are you are admiring the striking bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea* spp.) - pronounced boog-in-VIL-ee-uh. Like palms, it is a signature tropical plant of Florida and named by Louis-Antoine de Bougainville, a ship commander.

There are several plants that our Landscape Assistance Program (see "Need Help with Your Landscape?" - March 2020 issue) recommends based on certain site conditions, and client goals. The shrubby variety of bougainvillea is one of these thumbs-up plants.

Although not a Florida native, when properly sited, the hardy bougainvillea is low maintenance, and enables environmentally sustainable practices – desirable traits in Florida-Friendly Landscaping™. It thrives in zones 9-11, although I have a mature vine which has laughed off frosts, and even a freeze over the years. Depending on the variety, bougainvillea can be a fast-growing evergreen vine suitable for a large trellis, fence or wall, a viney shrub, groundcover, or trained into a tree form known as a standard. They are also used for bonsai and topiaries and are very popular in containers.

Bougainvillea stems all sport long lasting and showy modified leaves called bracts, which are often thought of as flowers. In fact, the flower is the tiny white petals inside the colorful bracts. Blooms are available in an array of luminescent colors including purple, fuchsia, red, white, yellow, pink, coral and orange! There are also varieties with variegated leaves.

Bougainvillea needs full sun (at least 5 hours) for desirable bloom. Otherwise expect just an evergreen vine or shrub. Don't be tempted to fertilize to make more blooms, as it will have the opposite effect.

One of the reasons that it is Florida-friendly is that it thrives in dry conditions – growing happily without supplemental irrigation after being established. Avoid planting this beauty near a downspout, or irrigation head.

You may want to prune your bougainvillea from time to time. In order to not reduce blooming, it is best to prune soon after flowering. Some - but not all varieties - are VERY thorny, and downright nasty. So, arm yourself with long handled pruning shears; heavy, long sleeves, and leather gloves. When shopping for bougainvillea, it is advisable to make a note of the mature height and spread, and site accordingly.

Another reason to recommend bougainvillea is that it is generally pest and disease free. Occasionally I will see leaf-roller caterpillars wrapped up in some of the leaves on my vine. The leaves may look tattered for a while but bounce right back.

For more information, visit:

<https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/bougainvillea.html> or

http://hort.ufl.edu/database/documents/pdf/shrub_fact_sheets/ousppa.pdf

