



This lovely park butterfly accent is the creation of Green Thumbs Bev & John Iredale!

We are pleased to share news that looks back on our prior year accomplishments and looks ahead to what's in store for 2026.

### **LOOKING BACK: 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Thanks to all who have donated to the PGI Green Thumbs, enabling our volunteers to keep the Punta Gorda Nature Park looking beautiful and inviting for the entire community to enjoy. We were busy as bees in order to achieve all this, so are proudly sharing our accomplishment highlights for 2025.

- PROVIDED A LANDSCAPED COMMUNITY GREEN SPACE -**

By landscaping and maintaining 5 of the park's 24 acres, the Green Thumbs provide a place where individuals and community groups can exercise and relax in a place that is a model of Florida Friendly Landscaping.

- MAINTAINED PARK -**

Every year requires updates to plantings: pruning, weeding, replacement plants, etc. Thankfully, 2025 was free of major storms, allowing us to focus on the basics while also laying the foundation for the new "Plants for Birds" garden bed dedicated in 2026.

- INVESTED OVER 3,000 VOLUNTEER WORK HOURS -**

At the Florida minimum wage rate of \$13/hr., that equates to a value of \$36,000 in contributed time.

- COLLABORATED WITH OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS -**

- Ongoing collaboration with City of Punta Gorda, which owns the land and provides lawn mowing, waste pick-up and general oversight.
- Continued partnership with Crossroads Hope Academy students who periodically join Green Thumb volunteers for heavy duty garden maintenance tasks.

-Many Green Thumbs also volunteer for Punta Gorda in Bloom.

-Book clubs, yoga groups, plein air painters and more use the park as a meeting place.

- **CONDUCTED A FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN FOR GIVING TUESDAY-**

Raised over \$1800. based on this outreach!! (BIG increase from the \$500 in 2024!)

- **RECRUITED TWO NEW VOLUNTEERS FOR A TOTAL OF 30 -**

New volunteers always welcome and have the opportunity to choose preferred tasks.

- **EDUCATED COMMUNITY RESIDENTS ABOUT FLORIDA FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING -**

The Florida Friendly Landscaping approach used by the Green Thumbs provides a model that residents can learn about and emulate. And by holding three free community classes in the park, each attended by an average of 20+ people, we provide helpful and actionable gardening information.

Classes are dubbed “Talking Plants”, and the topics in 2025 included:

Adaptive Gardening; Herb Gardening; Orchid Repotting.

*SPECIAL NOTE:* Invested in additional plant identification signs to further educate

- **COMMUNICATED WITH VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS -**

Green Thumb email newsletters provide periodic updates.

- **CONDUCTED BOARD AND SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE MEETINGS -**

Continually assessing needs and results while planning for the future.

- **PROVIDED EDUCATION AND SOCIALIZATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS**

- **USED SOCIAL MEDIA TO ATTRACT AND EDUCATE VOLUNTEERS & VISITORS**

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## **LOOKING AHEAD IN 2026...**

The first in our series of three free “**Talking Plants**” classes took place on January 9. Click below to watch this short video that provides a glimpse of what you missed as we dedicated the new “Plants for Birds” garden bed. We hope it will whet your appetite to visit the park often and attend the next two classes\*.

**This Garden is for the Birds! [Watch This Slide Show](#)**

**Photo & slide show attribution: Jim Austin Photography**

**Giving Challenge 2026** - This semi-annual community fund raiser takes place April 15-16. It is the Green Thumbs' largest source of the funds required to maintain Nature Park. Stay tuned for more details in a future newsletter.



## \*Upcoming "Talking Plants" -

**Click For Details:** [Talking Plants Classes](#) | [PGI Green Thumbs](#)

All classes start at 10 AM; BYO Chair  
February 13 - Wings, Blooms and Buzz  
March 13 - Good Bug / Bad Bug?  
1555 Aqui Esta; park on the lawn

*Photo...*

Could that be a visiting Bald Eagle?? 😊😊

**Donations always welcome...see our donation boxes on both sides of the park, mail checks to 1080 Coronado Dr., Punta Gorda 33950, OR use our PayPal link below any time...**



PGI Green Thumbs Inc | 1080 Coronado Drive | Punta Gorda, FL 33950 US

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