

## **Pine Island Garden Club Gala Huge Success**

Weather and winds cooperated as the Pine Island Garden Club celebrated its 21st Annual Garden Gala Festival at Phillips Park. Hundreds of local islanders and visitors participated in its “Art in the Park” theme. Over 70 vendors exhibited Florida friendly plants, artwork, crafts, home and garden products.

Our emcee, Herb Smith enlivened the crowd with his blastmaster megaphone, while Tom LeCours and Charlie Rapazzo pleased their audience with popular tunes.

There were multiple winners from our raffles, silent auction, and raffle wheel. Our biggest winners were Debbie Memoli of Uni-Scape Landscaping winning an electric bike donated by Island Bikeworks located at 10731 Stringfellow Road and Calleen Norris’s lucky ticket being drawn for a premium Yeti cooler donated by Vision Ace Hardware located at 10523 Stringfellow Road. Tractor Supply Company of Cape Coral also donated two truck bed covers!

Our club members raised hundreds of plants for our plant sale and baked up some delicious treats for shoppers.

None of this would be possible without the overwhelming support of local businesses and talented vendors.

Garden Gala Chairperson, Beth Smith commented” What an outstanding day in such a beautiful setting”. With the efforts and contributions of so many of our members, friends and neighbors, we recognize that Pine Island and its residents are truly special.

Initial tallies conclude this is the most successful gala in attendance and with proceeds in excess of \$10,000. These funds will be utilized to maintain the grounds of Phillips Park, Museum of the Islands, the Bokeelia post office and PI Elementary School. We also financially support many local benevolent organizations including the Calusa Land Trust, PI Food Pantry, CROW, Beacon of Hope and the Kiwanis Children’s Park.