

## Buds and Banter



### GTGC

#### Upcoming Meeting Dates

##### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January 20, 2021	Zoom Tour of Butchart Gardens
February 17, 2021	Dune Lake Tour
March 17, 2021	Eden State Gardens
April 21, 2021	Gulfarium
May 19, 2021	General Meeting at the Sandestin Links Conference Center

NOTE: Meeting tours and locations are subject to change.

#### Introducing a Fun Activity Create your own Zoom PARTY

Have fun and get your friends together and Zoom! Gather around your computer or TV and stay safe. It's easy to connect to Zoom, and watch the GTGC meeting from your home. If you need help contact anyone on our Board or even a family member. Afterward enjoy a fun lunch or gather at a local restaurant. Take a group photo for our Buds & Banter Newsletter.

#### A Message from Lisa Ermini, President

*Keeping us connected!*

It is finally time to ring in the New Year. With 2020 behind us, we can all look forward with hope and wishes for a speedy delivery of the Covid vaccine to keep us healthy so we can get back in full garden club swing. I am sure that all of us will be happy to be able to get together again, share hugs and good stories, travel, and enjoy our lives as we all remember them.

The first edition of the 2021 Buds and Banter includes a featured article from Linda Lewis Featherstone. I hope you enjoy her floral design tips, I know I did - inspiring indeed. As one of our new members, she is showing herself to be wonderful addition to our club.

Linda has shown us how we can all contribute to our club by sharing experiences and knowledge. We are looking for some additional members to 'volunteer' to submit articles for all of our members to enjoy.

We will continue to use Zoom to feature unique gardens and enjoy GTGC's unique Tour-To-Table concept. Lori Echols has exciting programs in store for us in 2021 including local outdoor garden tours and world-class gardens from around the world.

We will continue to meet remotely to insure we keep our members safe and healthy. Happy New Year to all!

FRIENDS-FAMILY-COMMUNITY  
and the Love for Gardens  
**Thank you all, Lisa**

## Buds and Banter

### GTGC Holiday Event

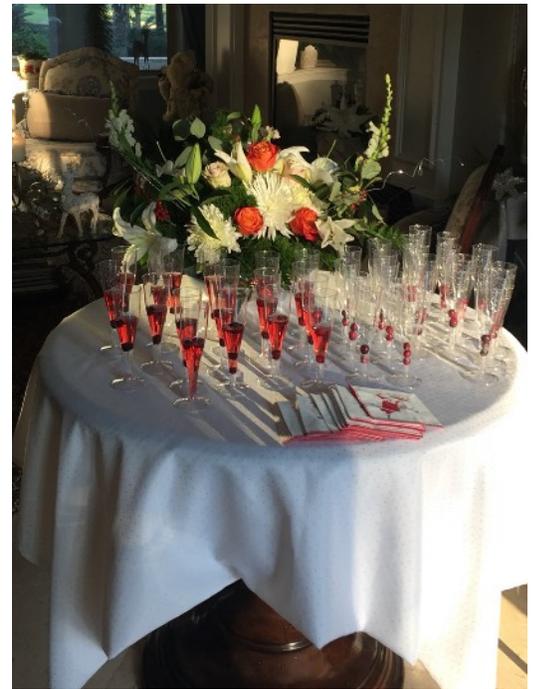


On Tuesday, December 8, a gaggle of merry GTGC members got together to help prepare Betty and Charles White's home for our members 2020 Holiday Event. With masks and sanitized gloves on hand, we prepared covered plates of cheese, crackers and specialty meats for snacks. I was so pleased to see everyone work hard to insure everyone attending was welcome, comfortable and safe.

On this cool afternoon the event took place on the Lanai... the fireplace was roaring and Christmas music playing. We had great fun playing games and enjoying visiting with

everyone in attendance.

Kay Crawford won the Trivia Contest winning 2 tickets to the play, *A Christmas Carol*. Since Kay already had plans to attend she passed the tickets to Lori Echols. The **funny mask** contest was won by Brenda Radtke. There were other challenges at hand, such as how to drink your champagne with a mask on! Well, with a pair of scissors we proceeded to cut holes for our straws. How do you snack? Take small nibbles and slide them under your mask while you turn away from people. We finished the event with mask muffled Christmas Carols lead by Lori Echols. Lori's wonderful voice and gift to entertain made this Covid 2020 Holiday event a unique experience.



Hors D'oeuvres 🍷

Compliments of Betty and Charlie White

Signature champagne cocktail 🍷

Compliments of Lori Echols

Assorted Wines 🍷

Compliments of Lisa Ermini and Jerry Klinger



A special Thank you goes to Jan Shuttleworth, Loris Echols, Vicki Lancaster, Judy Zito, Robbie Carole, Kathy Edge and Betty White for making the 2020 Holiday Event the best. Also, Thank you to the Emerald Coast Theater Group and Tina Burke for donating 2 tickets for our raffle.

#### A Special

**THANK YOU to all our GTGC members for your support, kindness, and love this holiday season.**

## Buds and Banter

Santa's sent his best Elves to travel from the North Pole through the snow and cold. Their assignment was to collect the special gifts for the GTGC Habitat families delivered to Ravenwood Circle. On this unusually cold December afternoon Santa's Elves, their names were Robbie Carole and Judy Zito, arrived on time and in their decorated SUV. Low and behold before the Elves began greeting our generous GTGC members they were greeted by Lori Echols and Vickie Lancaster with a Prosecco Cranberry Toddie!



Our Elves, all masked up and socially distanced, greeted our members for curbside drop-off. Merry Christmas to all for their kindness and heartfelt generosity for the families in need this Covid Christmas season.

Your gifts were delivered and received by the families with smiles and tears 🍷 🍷 They were truly grateful to you all to help make this Christmas very special.

*Introducing the GTGC 2020 Habitat Families:*

The first family is Courtney King, a single mom and her 3 year old daughter Olivia. Courtney King works in the Deli at Publix.

Our second family is Nichole and Mark Smith. Nicole is a nurse at the Prison and Mark has serious medical

problems and is unemployed. They have two daughters, Madison age 12 and Natalie age 13. They are currently trying to save money so Mark can have needed surgery.



Now, let's start the New Year off right and make your plans to participate in **GTGC's January Member's meeting on January 20, 2021**

**Hello ladies! January's tour to table will feature the beautiful Butchart Gardens near Victoria on Vancouver Island in Canada! Butchart is one of the top display gardens in the world and consists of over 55 acres of spectacular floral beauty. A true feast for the eyes and nose!**

**Learn how one woman's dream over 100 years ago became a national treasure today! A morning tea would be a lovely event for this garden tour!**

**Looking forward to seeing y'all!! Lori**

## Buds and Banter

### Members Staying Connected - Floral Design Tips



Linda Lewis Featherstone is a GTGC member who joined in 2019 and immediately became active in the club. Linda was excited about our Tour of Tables Event. So, Linda started searching through the internet for instructions on how to create a Victorian English floral design that she wanted to use at the Tour of Tables. Wanting to learn more about floral designs, she found Michael Gaffney from his how-to videos. From there, Linda was so impressed with Michael Gaffney's work that she decided to attend his beginner floral design class and found that one of his schools was in Atlanta! Off she goes!

And now, Linda wants to share with you her lessons-learned. Enjoy her abbreviated tips. Thank you Linda for sharing and connecting with our members. Here are her tips!

Michael Gaffney teaches that there are two types of arrangements: one-sided with a front side to be viewed and an all round which is viewed from all sides. Styles include classic dozen roses, English urn, French, and American. Each design has its own formula. There are 2 basic types of flowers: line flowers which are long and slender like snapdragons, delphiniums and gladioli and mass round flowers, like lilies, roses and daisies.



For the classic dozen roses, never drop them straight down into a vase because they will look rigid and stiff. Allow them to float above the bottom of the vase with a full windshield wiper effect. Start by getting enough greenery to fill the vase opening, using a star within a star pattern. Fill the vase to create a tight grid. Put greenery in the top facing each other. Arrange the roses in a 6-5-1 pattern: six in a lower deck, 5 in the next layer and one in the top.



English arrangements are unlike American design which is evenly spaced and more sprawling. English design is tight and short with little or no greenery. Flowers are mass flowers. Use greenery only at the bottom tier to clog the opening of the vase and hold the flowers in place. The focal point should be at the top. The flower height is equal to or less than the height of the vase.

American design is often mixed. Start with the showiest flowers and place those in an upper deck as the focal point at eye level using a geometric pattern based on how many flowers you have. Go down the design adding more flowers so that stems are flared out at a nice angle giving you a windshield wiper effect. Flowers must be placed on all sides of the vase so that they are even and symmetrical. Use patterns such as triangles, squares, pentagons, etc.



## Buds and Banter

### Members Staying Connected - Floral Design Tips



Hand tied bouquets are the most requested bridal bouquets in America. Flowers are arranged in a rounded arrangement with the first flowers at the top a little taller than the next row around it. Greenery only collars the bouquet at the base of the bouquet. Other bridal bouquets can be arranged like a poker hand, starting with the prettiest flowers and working down to other flowers and greenery.



Hydrangea bouquets are very popular. Take leaves off and place hydrangeas together to make them as round as possible. Strip roses of their leaves and thorns so they won't damage the hydrangeas. Use symmetry. If you have 4 roses put them in a square. If you have six, put them in a hexagon or two triangles. Use greenery sparingly.

Vertical line design is one-sided and has negative space to create a contemporary look. Put Oasis in a container leaving about an inch above the top of the container. Insert line flowers vertically and horizontally as you would see plants in nature, growing and reaching for the sky. Switch to mass flowers at the bottom third of the arrangement.



Topiaries can be made with lilies. Tear the leaves off lilies. Make them nice and straight by using river cane or bamboo in the center or wire at the top and then gradually and evenly wire down to the base. Blooms that are more open go to the outside. Keep them uniformity rounded. Put other flowers or moss at bottom. You can add willow to soften the effect.

For a tropical design, incorporate both negative and positive space. The tropical flowers should be big and showy in positive space. Empty space between the flowers is negative space. Set the height with the tallest stems and then work them left to right to bring the color down to the vase.



Thank you so much Linda for our virtual floral design class.

## Buds and Banter

### Important News from our Committee Chairs

#### **GTGC Facebook Page - Take a look**

The GTGC Facebook page is flourishing! We have many engaging features.

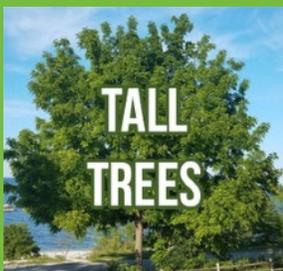
Our post about our Christmas Project for Habitat families was shared multiple times, including a share by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs! This means the cutest little elves, Robbie and Judy, got some statewide fame. We are so grateful to our members for their work on this wonderful endeavor.

In addition, our stats are up! New page 'likes' are up 100% and post likes are up by 21%. So, if you haven't already, get onboard with the fun. Check out our page, 'like' our posts, and leave comments!!! Invite your friends to 'like' our page. And thanks so much in advance.

Also, anytime you have snaps or ideas you'd like me to post, don't hesitate. And much gratitude to recent contributors Gail, Kathy, and Tina.

We also have many talented contributors, including a couple of professional photographers and a few artists. Suggestions for new posts would be greatly appreciated. And please let us know what you would like to see more of in the way of content.

See you on the 'net',  
Dee Burkeen

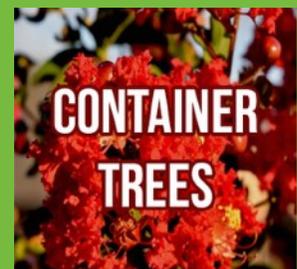


### **Special Notice**

#### **Remember to Plant-A-Tree**

**Please send in your tree planting numbers  
to Betty White.**

**Betty will be preparing this year's GTGC report.**



## Buds and Banter

### Make a difference and PLANT- A - TREE



**DID YOU KNOW?** The National Garden Club(NGC) and the USDA Forest Service are proud to have formed a partnership sustaining our national and urban forests through this reforestation/ forest education program.

Annually, the Green Thumb Garden Club, Inc. participates in a meaningful and practical conservation project by contributing over \$250.00 to Penny Pines Biophilia plantation as part of the costs of replanting replacement trees

indigenous to a particular damaged area. Whether by fire or by other natural catastrophe, pine trees and other trees are replaced.

Under a conservation agreement, the forest service will do the planting, using your donation together with federal funds, and will provide to the plantation the same protection from fires, insects, and disease given other forested areas. The plantations are a part of the regular national forest reforestation program planted on burned-over and brush-covered areas which are potentially productive timberlands. Planting sites are selected by the supervisor of each national forest. These plantations provide soil protection, watershed protection, soil stabilization, future harvestable timber, as well as beauty and shade for recreation.



States, regions, districts, clubs, and/or individuals may participate in this program by donating in multiples of \$68. A \$68 donation may be made in honor or in memory of ONE individual, organization, or theme.

During this 2020 Covid year, GTGC has not had any face-to-face meetings so our Penny Pines Jar can not be passed around and has only collected dust. As you all know we created a special program to help support our Penny Pines charity supporting Biophilia Center reforestation. This year, in order to help fulfill our long standing commitment to reforestation, we are offering our GTGC Yearbook electronically and in paperback. The paperback version costs \$10 per copy of which the net proceeds will go to support the Penny Pines program. Jan Shuttleworth is your contact to request a hardcopy Yearbook and collect your payment. Gail Pizar is the Penny Pines Chairperson and will tally all donations to help reforest our planet. It is befitting a reforestation donation for the publication of a book! Thank you in advance to all our members who support this initiative and the Green Thumb Garden Club, Inc. Penny Pines program.”

**Remember to Plant-A-Tree and send in your tree planting numbers to Betty White. Betty will be preparing this year’s GTGC report.**

Thank you to our members for your continuing support.

## Buds and Banter

### A Message from our District 1 Director, Kat Spieker

I hope all of you are enjoying these beautiful days and getting some good time outdoors!! Please share the registration information with your club members immediately so that interested parties can sign up early for the flower show school. I am so glad to see that the school is going on! Every one of them is a wonderful experience! And won't we all be ready for some real "face time" with our friends across the district!

**Information:** All lectures are open to the public for stated fees; only members of a garden club belonging to NGC, Inc., are eligible to receive credit toward Nationally Accredited Judges' Certificates. Students taking the course for credit must be in attendance throughout lecture time; front seats are assigned to them. Seating is numbered and assigned in order paid registrations were received.

**Bring to class:** The *Handbook for Flower Shows*, 2017 edition, clipboard, pencil/s (mechanical preferred) and notepaper.

**Attendance cards** are proof of attending the course and will be 'punched' for each session.

**Required reading list:**

*The National Gardener Magazine* (TNG online as PDF [www.gardenclubs.org](http://www.gardenclubs.org))

*Handbook for Flower Shows*, 2017 edition

*Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging* (NGC)

**Nearby Hotels:**

Hampton Inn-Pensacola Airport

Hyatt Place- Pensacola Airport

Days Inn by Wyndham

Courtyard Pensacola (Marriott)

Holiday Inn Express- Pensacola Downtown



Fl

Fla Flower Show Judges, District I  
Hosts

National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Flower Show School IV

February 17-19, 2021

Pensacola Garden Center  
1850 N. 9th Avenue  
Pensacola, Florida

Florida Flower Show Judges  
Jan Griffin, President

FSSJ Credentials  
Barbara Jacobson  
[Chuck7503@aol.com](mailto:Chuck7503@aol.com)

District I Judges' Council  
and  
FSS Chairman  
Linda Henderson, Director  
[Henderson9364@outlook.com](mailto:Henderson9364@outlook.com)

Treasurer  
Ann Crawford  
1201 Knollwood Drive  
Cantonment, FL 32533-7972  
[Rcrawford2@panhandle.rr.com](mailto:Rcrawford2@panhandle.rr.com)  
850-968-5645

Registrar  
Judy Keliher  
2022 Downing Drive

## Buds and Banter

# Make your Reservation NOW for the 2021 Flower Show School

### Daily Agenda

#### Wednesday, February 17, 2021

8:00-8:25 Registration open  
 8:25-8:30 Announcements  
 8:30-9:30 Flower Show Procedure  
 9:30-9:45 Morning Break  
 9:45-Noon Horticulture  
 Noon-12:45 Lunch  
 12:45-2:30 Horticulture  
 2:30-2:45 Afternoon Break  
 2:45-3:45 Horticulture  
 3:45-4:00 Break  
 4:00-6:00 Point Scoring Exam

#### Thursday, February 18, 2021

8:00-8:25 Registration open  
 8:25-8:30 Announcements  
 8:30-9:30 Flower Show Procedure  
 9:30-9:45 Morning Break  
 9:45-Noon Design  
 Noon-12:45 Lunch  
 12:45-2:30 Design  
 2:30-2:45 Afternoon Break  
 2:45-3:45 Design  
 3:45-4:00 Break  
 4:00-6:00 Point Scoring Exam

#### Friday, February 19, 2021

9 a.m. Exam

### Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (area code) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Garden Club \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please 'check' your choice below:

- ( ) Two-day Course and Exam \$100.00  
 ( ) Two day Course (no exam) \$ 95.00  
 ( ) Horticulture Only (1 day) \$ 60.00  
 ( ) Design Only (1 Day) \$ 60.00  
 (Fees include handouts and lunch)

**Total remittance enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: FFSJ, District I**  
**Mail to: Judy Keliher, Registrar**  
**2022 Downing Drive**  
**Pensacola, FL 32505-1860**

**NO REFUNDS AFTER February 3, 2021**

#### FSP, Gina V. Jogan

Presently serves NGC on the Flower Show Schools committee as the Design and FSP Instructors' chairman. She is an NGC Accredited Master FS Judge and teaches FSS, symposia, workshops, gives programs, provides Allied topics of interest and loves her travels.

#### Pam Braun, Horticulture

A garden club member for over 40 years, Pam is a member of Leipers Fork Garden Club, which she founded in 2004. She is the TN District II Director and a board member for the TN Federation of Garden Clubs and Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. She is an NGC Accredited Master Flower Show Judge, an NGC horticulture, flower show procedure, and symposium instructor, member of fourteen different plant societies and judge for four of the societies. She specializes in exhibiting collections and displays of different plant groups and has won numerous top exhibitor awards for her horticulture. Besides horticulture, she enjoys floral design and has been a speaker, leader of workshops, or exhibitor at all levels from district to internationally. She has enjoyed growing plants all her life and the plant material she uses for both designs and instruction often comes from her own garden or indoor plants.

#### Claudia M. Bates, Design

Claudia, a 7th generation Floridian has been a member of the Gainesville Garden Club for 30 years. Claudia graduated from the UF and is an avid GATOR. She taught Math, English and Gifted Ed at the Middle School level. Claudia is an Accredited Master Flower Show Judge, an NGC Flower Show Schools/Symposia Instructor for Design and a certified Floral Design Instructor. She is the immediate *Past President of FFGC, Inc.* She has been awarded life memberships and personal honors in NGC, FFGC and the Deep South. Claudia has presented Design Programs for CFAA and OFAD; has taught Symposiums in 11 states. Her designs have been published in the NGC calendar, the Florida Federation of Garden Club's calendar 16 times (2019 cover) and she has two designs featured in *Designing the American Way*. She loves and often visits her Highlands, NC mountain home.

## Buds and Banter

### Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. News

The Winter Issue of The Florida Gardener is now available on the FFGC Website!

[Click Here to view it.](#)

The hard copy of the magazine will be delivered to all qualifying members. The actual magazine delivery date, hopefully early December, is dependent on the publisher's printing completion and ensuing USPS Delivery Process.

Note: Our current magazine distribution is holiday and pandemic challenged. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

### SPECIAL NOTICE

**Register now for the 94th FFGC Annual Convention  
April 11-13, 2021 in Daytona Beach, Florida**

**Hilton Oceanfront Resort  
100 N. Atlantic Ave  
Daytona Beach, FL**

**The best way to register is using the link below. It's easy to use!**

**[https://www.easyreg.org/cgi-bin/acct/XMY8FK3KSY/displayForm.pl?  
dir=LUXEZJN2\\_2020](https://www.easyreg.org/cgi-bin/acct/XMY8FK3KSY/displayForm.pl?dir=LUXEZJN2_2020)**

**Registration may also be made using a pdf and jpeg form made available upon request.  
Please contact Lisa Ermini at [GTGClisaermini@gmail.com](mailto:GTGClisaermini@gmail.com)**

## Buds and Banter

### GTGC News from Our Members and Affiliations

The GTGC Members and Club Affiliations are key contributors to the Club's newsletter ~~

#### ***Buds and Banter.***

We need your Support!!

Articles can be fun or educational and photos and other images and quotes would be a great feature. Articles are due by the 24th of the month for the next issue.

Join other Members by submitting an article which supports the Club's mission statement ~

**The Green Thumb Garden Club, Inc.'s key mission is to stimulate interest in the beautification of Walton County, to further the education of its members and the public in fields of gardening, horticulture, botany, floral design, environmental awareness, conservation of natural resources, civic beautification, nature studies, and to instill in our youth the love of gardening and respect for the environment.**

To submit articles or for more information contact:  
Lisa Ermini, President  
[GTGClisaermini@gmail.com](mailto:GTGClisaermini@gmail.com)

### **Doris Brady Sunshine Lady Report November 23, 2020 through December 26, 2020**

The Sunshine Lady Hopes that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and is ready to begin a promising New Year. The month of December saw a few more very serious illnesses than we had anticipated.

Get well cards were sent to Cathy Campbell, Carol Fearon, both Taffy and Bob Woolf, and Bette Nelson's husband Tom. We hope that you are much better very soon.

Thinking of you cards were sent to Barbara Young and Teri Vice as they successfully recuperated from their illnesses.

A sympathy card was sent to Donna McDaniel on the death of a family member.

On a happier note, digital birthday cards were sent to our 9 December birthday ladies. Happy Birthday fellow December babies!

The Sunshine Lady wishes each of our members a much brighter new year as we bring this trying year to a close and await the arrival of the new vaccine.  
**Happy New Year everyone! Here is to 2021!!!**

Respectfully submitted, Anne Collins, Chairperson

### ***Buds and Banter***

### **Member Contributors**

Dee Burkeen, Facebook Chairperson  
Anne Collins, Committee Chair, Sunshine Lady  
Linda Lewis Featherstone, Member  
Kat Spieker, District 1 Director and Special Project Chairperson  
Lori Echols, Programs, First Vice President  
Betty White, Director  
Lisa Ermini, GTGC President