

# Buds and Banter



## GTGC

### Upcoming Meeting Dates

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Thursday, February 18, 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.

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## A Message from Lisa Ermini, President

*Keeping us **connected** and **participating**!*

While 2020 is behind us, we all need to be vigilant to stay safe and healthy. Great News ... Many of our members have received their first and second vaccination. "Virginia there really is a Santa Claus".

As I mentioned in our January meeting, beginning February through April, we are moving forward with outdoor programs. **Mark your calendar: We've moved our February meeting in observance of Ash Wednesday to Thursday, February 18 and plan to participate in our Dune Lake Tour.**

Yes, this means...No Zoom call in February 😊😊

Connecting with people and our gardens is healthy. GTGC is looking to our future...participate MORE and do MORE for our charities, our environment, and our members. Many of our members join our club to meet people, make new friends, and learn more about growing our gardens. I am asking all of our members to help retain and grow our membership. We need the GTGC members more than ever to PARTICIPATE in our meeting, HELP plan a meeting, ATTEND our meetings, INVITE potential members and BRING ideas to the table.

NEW!! In this edition **Buds and Banter's** featured article is a GTGC Member. Please reach out and welcome new member **Sue Surgala**.

Sue's email address is Suesurgala@hotmail.com

I am sure we all will be happy to get together again, share hugs and good stories, travel, and enjoy our lives as we all remember what life was like before. Our New Norm is here.

FRIENDS-FAMILY-COMMUNITY  
and the Love for Gardens

## Buds and Banter

### January Tour-to-Table Program



If you missed at our January 20 Tour-to-Table zoom call, go to The Butchart Gardens website link below to see a family's dream and love of gardens come to life to share with the world.

Lori Echols, GTGC Program Chair and VP hosted a video tour of The Butchart Gardens once a private home of floral display gardens in Brentwood Bay, British Columbia, Canada, located near Victoria on Vancouver Island. Today, the gardens are a National Historic Site of Canada with over a million visitors each year.

The gardens were started over 100 years ago by Jennie Butchart who wanted to make her husband's limestone quarry look beautiful. To learn more about the Gardens and its beginnings go to <https://www.butchartgardens.com>

### Upcoming Programs

**Thursday, February 18, 2021**

March 17, 2021

April 21, 2021

**Dune Lake Tour (Watch for our next communication with more details)**

Eden State Gardens

Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park

### Upcoming Special Program - May 2021

**Participate, Participate, Participate ...**

GTGC Members General Meeting on Wednesday, May 19, 2021

1. Landscape Awards presentation by Lindsay Huurman and Tina Burke
2. GTGC Team Centerpiece Contest and Silent Auction
3. Ways and Means Raffle Drawing

## Buds and Banter

### Staying Connected!

Even during COVID-19 our Garden Club has added a number of new members ❤️ Absolutely wonderful! please reach out and welcome them to our club!

Christine Carter  
Sharron Chandler  
Sue Surgala  
Jeanne Cosentino (Pronounced Jean)

[christine@cartercpa.net](mailto:christine@cartercpa.net)  
[eandschandler@cox.net](mailto:eandschandler@cox.net)  
[suesurgala@hotmail.com](mailto:suesurgala@hotmail.com)  
[jeannecosentino@gmail.com](mailto:jeannecosentino@gmail.com)

### Introducing – Sue Surgala

One new member to GTGC is Sue Surgala who permanently retired to Sandestin in July 2020. Sue is no stranger to our resort as she and her husband, Dave, bought an original Bungalow in 2003 and then a home on Pine Valley in 2012. With their four grown children and twelve grandchildren spread out in New Orleans, Atlanta, Niceville and even Vermont, Sandestin is the perfect location for family gatherings.



**Sue and her husband Dave**

Sue is an original Clevelander who moved to Central Pennsylvania 20 years ago when Dave accepted a position at Bucknell University. Although their recent retirement to the Panhandle during COVID has been a bit different than planned, they are thrilled to be full-time residents of Sandestin.



As an active member of the garden clubs in Bay Village Ohio and

Lewisburg Pennsylvania, Sue has always enjoyed learning about landscaping elements and regional plantings in private yards and city gardens. Annual projects also included integrating large whimsical scarecrows into the landscape of her community parks in the fall and crafting wreaths and gift plants during the Christmas and holiday season.



Although COVID has temporarily delayed future trips, Sue and Dave love to travel and they make a point to appreciate local gardens and nature whenever they can. Their most recent visit during an Alaskan cruise was Butchart Gardens in Vancouver which was just featured by our club last month.

In addition to getting her hands in soil, Sue is an avid social bridge and bunko player and recently joined the Sandestin Walkers Club. Sue and Dave hope to take up boating this year and look forward to meeting many more neighbors as social distancing, vaccinations and time permit.



## Buds and Banter

### GTGC Special Community Projects

Ladies, the past few weeks, the committee chairs for the following programs have been working on creating special projects for this spring/summer. We have developed these projects with the hope that we will secure matching grant funds from the FFGC, Inc.

**John Horton Senior Center - Debbie Michel, Chair:** The Senior Center has undergone a transformation. County Maintenance has painted the



building, replaced rotten boards, repaired the underpinning, a new address sign and a new irrigation system. Our new project is a vegetable garden. We will be recreating the vegetable garden on the side of the building.



**ReStore, Habitat for Humanity - Janet Woerner, Chair:** The ReStore building is to be completed early Spring. Our project here is to plant trees and hopefully some additional shrubbery.

**Scenic Walton 30A By-Pass - Christy Burke, Chair.** Our project for Scenic Walton is to create a barrier of grasses and trees in an area adjacent to Oyster Lake and Scenic 30-A. We are excited about this project, as Scenic 30A is in contention to be designated a Federal Scenic By-Way.



Respectfully Submitted by Betty White, Committee Chair for Special Projects

## Buds and Banter

### Important News from our Committee Chairs

## American Pride Landscaping Award Program

It's time to start thinking about our annual **American Pride Landscaping Award Program**. The program timeline is upon us so let's get busy and send your nominations to this year's judges; Tina Burke and Lindsay Huurman.

Submit Nominations from:	January 20-April 1
Judging	April 28
Award Presentation	May 19

2021 Landscape categories are: Large, small, do it yourself, native and commercial

Landscape Awards ceremony is planned for the May 2021 GTGC General Member's meeting. Both Lindsay and Tina are very knowledgeable and will present a fun and memorable report with photos of the winners. We are keeping the committee small and manageable and in keeping with the restrictions of the time.

We are in desperate need of yards so get busy everyone and email your nominations to Tina or Lindsay. You can also call us if you have any questions.

[tinaburke1220@gmail.com](mailto:tinaburke1220@gmail.com)

[whuurman7@gmail.com](mailto:whuurman7@gmail.com)

## Ways and Means Raffle Tickets

### Reminder to all GTGC Members

We will be drawing for the  
**GTGC Ways and Mean Raffle**  
on Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Please remember to send in your ticket stubs and checks to  
Betty White by May 1, 2021

If you need more tickets, Betty will be happy to send you a supply.

## Buds and Banter

### Important News from our Committee Chairs

#### ***Habitat for Humanity - January 2021 Update***

Despite dealing with Covid over the past year and having to work in much smaller groups, we have been able to accomplish a number of our missions.

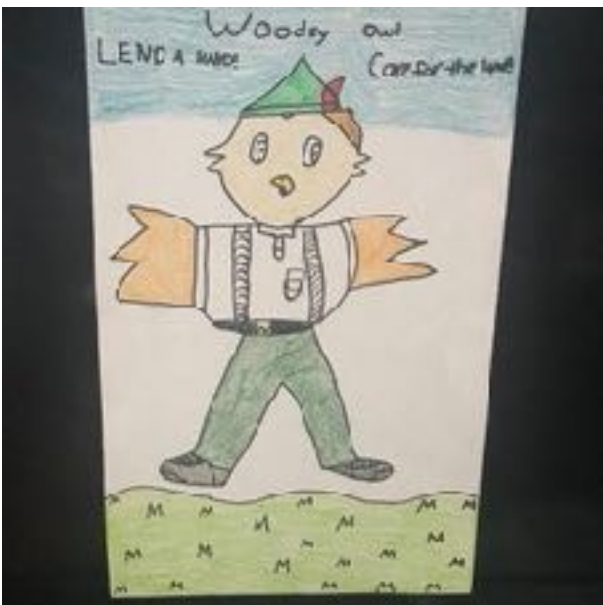
We currently have two homes under construction, one in Defuniak Springs and one in Santa Rosa Beach. Both will be completed and ready for occupancy by late spring if all goes well. We are also working on the construction of a new Restore on Highway 98 which we hope will be up and running by summer.

Because of the generosity of the Green Thumb Garden Club and Master Gardeners, we will be able to landscape these two homes and provide the homeowners with gardening tools to maintain their new property. Garden Club has also awarded us funds to place trees at the new Restore and we are hoping for an additional FFGC grant.

I would also like to thank the ladies of the Green Thumb Garden Club for their extreme generosity in providing Christmas gifts for two of last year's homeowners and their families. Needless to say, the families were overwhelmed and the mothers brought to tears when they were delivered!

The partnership between Habitat and Garden Club has been a blessing indeed! Respectfully Submitted by Janet Woerner, Committee Chair, Habitat

#### **Woodsy Owl Lend a Hand; Care for the Land**



Kay Crawford, Chair of the Jr. Gardeners, has submitted this poster as the winner of the Woodsy Owl Contest. Woodsy Owl turns 50 years old in September, and the children from the Emerald Coast Boys and Girls Club submitted a rendering of Woodsy Owl. Woodsy is America's icon for the conservation of the environment.

Woodsy encourages all of us to "ReCycle, ReUse, and ReDuce" Poster submitted by Mackenzie Scozzafave, a student in the 5th Grade. She will receive a \$25 check from the Green Thumb Garden Club, Inc. Congratulations to MacKenzie for a job well done!

## Buds and Banter

# Saturday in the Park

An NGC Flower Show

## A Horticulture Specialty Flower Show

Presented by

Valparaiso Garden Club

at

Perrine Park and Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, FL

April 24, 2021

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Free and Open to the Public

Member of

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, District I, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs,  
Deep South Region of Garden Clubs, and National Garden Clubs



## Buds and Banter

# A Fun VACAY for you and family!

## FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS

Providence Hospital campus  
Mobile, AL 36608

**MARCH 12 - 13, 2021**

Experience the art of gardening at Mobile's signature showcase of excellence in landscape and floral design and horticulture, and shopping area. Premier flower and garden event of the greater Gulf Coast. Over 300,000 square feet of exhibits to enchant, entertain, educate visitors.

- **Admission:** \$12 - \$15
- **Days/Hours Open:** Fri 9am-9pm, Sat 9am-9pm
- **Address:** 6801 Airport Boulevard, Mobile, AL 36608
- **Other Activities:** family fun day with face painting and educational activities for children

For more information reference the website at:

<https://festivalnet.com/14299/Mobile-Alabama/Home-and-Garden-Shows/Festival-of-Flowers>



## Buds and Banter

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



The January / February Issue of The Florida Gardener is now available on the FFGC Website!

[Click Here to view it.](https://ffgc.org/resources/Documents/Eblasts/21-01-05ngc-kit-january-february-2021.pdf) <https://ffgc.org/resources/Documents/Eblasts/21-01-05ngc-kit-january-february-2021.pdf>

**Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
94th Convention**



*Please Join Us  
on  
April 11-13, 2021  
at the  
Hilton Oceanfront Resort  
100 North Atlantic Avenue  
Daytona Beach*

**SPEAKERS  
WORKSHOPS  
ENTERTAINMENT  
MEET & GREET  
OPPORTUNITY DRAWING  
VENDORS  
RAFFLE BASKETS  
SILENT AUCTION  
50/25/25**



## Buds and Banter



# Please Register Online

(You will be able to use a credit card.)

[Click Here](#)

**TO PRINT A CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM:** [CLICK HERE](#)

## Hilton Oceanfront Resort

### Hotel Reservation Information

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

Deadline for Reservations: March 17, 2021

Reservations MUST be made directly with the Hotel by calling [386-254-8200](tel:386-254-8200) OR Online

- Click on link below or enter web address into your browser:

[https://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/D/DABDHFF-FFGC21-20210410/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](https://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/D/DABDHFF-FFGC21-20210410/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)

USE Group Code:FFGC21 Group Name: Florida Federation of Garden Clubs  
Room Rates: Starting at \$105.00 Double/Single Occupancy

## Buds and Banter

### *Birthday Flower by the MONTH*

This article is provided by Marian M. McNabb, NGC Land Conservation Chairman

Start this new year with a new tradition of presenting a family member or a friend with the Flower for the Month they were born. Here is a list to help you get started,

**January is Carnation**

**February is Iris**

**March is Daffodil**

**April is Daisy**

**May is Lily of the Valley**

**June is the Rose**

**July is Larkspur**

**August is Gladiolus**

**September is Aster**

**October is Marigold**

**November is Chrysanthemum**

**December is Poinsettia**

If the recipient has limited space, some of these flowers can be grown in pots to put on a deck or patio or can be given as cut flowers. It is a great way to wish a Happy Birthday and get them into gardening.



**January - Carnation**



**February - Iris**



**March - Daffodil**



**April - Daisy**



## Buds and Banter

### *Birthday Flower by the MONTH*



**May - Lily of the Valley**



**June - Rose**



**July - Larkspur**



**August - Gladiolus**



**September - Aster**



**October - Marigold**

## Buds and Banter

### *Birthday FLOWER by the MONTH*



**November- Chrysanthemum**



**December- Poinsettia**

## Wildflower Walton

### WILDFLOWER WALTON by Barbara Young

DeFuniak Springs Garden Club and the Seagrove Garden Club are also involved. Other partners are The Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance, The Freeport Town Planters, 7 Pines Native Plant Nursery, Walton Outdoors and others are also onboard with our mission.

Our goal is to enlist the cooperation of Walton County Maintenance people to reduce mowing roadsides in identified areas during the wildflower growing season. This will allow our native plants to shine for locals, and visitors alike, to enjoy. This past fall's wildflower show was spectacular!

**We are asking members to make note of special areas in our community which exhibit special wildflower beauty during the different seasons.** Our next effort will be to get signs erected to identify our roadside plots.

Please feel free to contact me if you have suggestions or ideas!

Barbara Young

[Bayoubarbara120@gmail.com](mailto:Bayoubarbara120@gmail.com)

850-865-8238 M, 850-622-0192 H



## Buds and Banter

### The Camellias are showing off at Eden!



If you haven't visited Eden Gardens State Park recently, the next couple months are a great time. The weather is nice and mild and many of our camellias are blooming.

There are over 200 varieties of camellias throughout the park and many of them are 60+ years old.

Sadly, there will not be a full scale **Camellia Festival** this year because of crowd size restrictions the state park system has put in place to keep the public safe from COVID. Eden will, however, still be selling camellias to raise funds for the park on ***Feb 13th & 14th from 9am-3pm each day.***

Many of the plants available for sale are air-layered directly from the Camellias in Eden. Propagating Camellias by air-layering is a method of creating an individual plant with identical DNA of the parent.

Eden volunteers began the air-layering process last spring, potted them all up in Sept and have been caring for them ever since. We are very thankful to our volunteers for all of their hard work so that our supporters can have a piece of Eden to bring home with them.

On the days of the sale EDEN will have volunteers present to answer questions about the camellias, and the camellia varieties available.



The volunteers will be wearing masks for the safety of our supporters. We look forward to seeing you at the fundraiser!

## 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***

PARTICIPATION Requested !!

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

December 27, 2020 to January 29, 2021

The Sunshine Lady has been happy to welcome in a new year and a new month. With the advent of January, the Covid-19 vaccine has become available and promises thankfully to become more widely available and easier to source. That is a Good Thing!

Unfortunately our GTGC family has been touched by heartbreaking news this month. A condolence card was sent to Barbara Cummins on the loss of her husband Tom. A condolence card was sent to Taffy Woolf, also, on the loss of her husband Bob. Please keep both of these dear families close in your thoughts, hearts, and prayers.

Get well cards were sent to Carol Fearon, Anniston Reeves ( Gail Pizar's remarkable granddaughter), Linda Henderson ( our floral design instructor), and to Betty White's husband Charles.

Eight digital birthday cards were sent to our January birthday ladies. Happy birthday to each of you!

Please do not hesitate to let me know if someone needs a little sunshine or cheer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne C Collins

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

#### **Member Contributors**

Anne Collins, Committee Chair, Sunshine Lady  
Sue Surgala, Member  
Kat Spieker, District 1 Director  
Marian M. McNabb, NGC Land Conservation Chairman  
Marianne Burbach, Committee Chair, Eden Garden  
Barbara Young, Member and Chair for the Walton County Master Gardeners  
Kay Crawford, Committee Chair, Jr. Gardeners  
Lori Echols, Programs, First Vice President  
Betty White, Director and Special Project Chairperson  
Lisa Ermini, GTGC President