

Buds and Banter



GTGC

Upcoming Meeting Dates

November 18, 2020	Zoom and Royal Palm Grille
December 8, 2020	Betty White's Home *
January 20, 2021	TBA
February 17, 2021	TBA
March 17, 2021	TBA
April 21, 2021	TBA
May 19, 2021	Royal Palm Venue

NOTE: Meeting locations are subject to change.

*December event is limited due to capacity and is open to the first 50 registered guests.

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 connect 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.

Most of all Stay Safe.

A Message from Lisa Ermini, President

The year of *Change* and *Challenges*...

How do we keep our Members together?

I hope you all are enjoying our *Buds and Banter* newsletter. Each month it's growing like a weed ... or a bed of flowers 🌻.

Our *Buds and Banter* newsletter continues to expand its topics sharing the Committee Chairs' project updates and a consolidated view from our garden club affiliates and news from other garden clubs. Don't miss our updated GTGC Garden Shop for list of floral supplies to buy for the upcoming holidays. A new shopping experience!

Another Covid challenge addressed: How do we support our Ways and Means program and fund our Scholarship program and other charities if we are not together.

Solution: Create a Raffle Ticket Program with cash and other great prizes!!

Coming to your mailbox in November is our Ways and Means Raffle Tickets (\$2 per ticket or \$20 per book). Additional books are available to sell your family and friends or buy more for yourself. Your generosity is very important more than ever to support our college bound students. Let's make this year the best!

Again, I would like to congratulate our Board Members and Committee Chairs for extending themselves and creating ways to keep our club working together. Building alternatives to support a meeting-as-usual attitude. Together, we can do what our membership has always done; serve our community, charities and quest for gardening knowledge and excellence!

FRIENDS-FAMILY-COMMUNITY

and the Love for Gardens

Thank you all, Lisa

Buds and Banter

Just in case you missed it! Here is a wrap up of what happened at our October Meeting...

The Green Thumb Garden Club, Inc.'s October meeting experienced it's first virtual Garden Tour with fall table scapes and small gatherings of members!!



I'm just so excited to tell you about our October meeting *Garden Tour-to-Table*. We visited Nashville Tennessee's most spectacular gardens located at Chihuly at Cheekwood. What a fun and great experience, we learned how the glass sculptures are created and set in place! The gardens are enchanting and magical. When we can travel again safely, plan a trip to Nashville. You are sure to enjoy the exhibits.

Congratulations to the all the GTGC members who supported the October *Tour-to-Table* program with their vision of fall table scapes.

Participate, have fun and learn!



Vickie Lancaster and Friends ~ Homestyle Cuisine Table Scape



A Fall Picnic in the Park



An Autumn Luncheon



Halloween

Buds and Banter

November Member's Meeting Program

Pack your virtual suitcase and zoom with us to the GTGC Garden Tour-to-Table event featuring **Sweet Home Alabama!**

We will be visiting the beautiful grounds of **Bellingrath Gardens** in Theodore, Alabama! All year long the garden caretakers work hard to deliver the spectacular November exhibit that we will share using Zoom. The Fall Outdoor Cascading Chrysanthemums Show is the nation's largest display in the world! It is Amazing! So grab a few of your garden club friends, put together some Southern treats and drinks. And let the party begin! Don't forget your tablescapes! Each table scape should incorporate a Chrysanthemum.



P.S. We have another very special event during this meeting you're not going to want to miss!

Are you remodeling or down sizing and have quality furniture to donate, call the Habitat Restore !!



The current Restore was, unfortunately, once again flooded when hurricane Sally came through. With hard work and wonderful volunteers, they were able to clear out most of the damaged goods and are functional again. Because of the loss of inventory, they are in need of quality donations. The new Restore on 98 is underway and we are hoping that

it will be completed by late Spring. I know that Garden Club is waiting to contribute to the landscaping and I will keep you apprised of our progress. Our thanks to Garden Club for their continued support.

Janet Woerner

Buds and Banter

Congratulations to Joyce Waters-Smith

Our own Joyce Waters-Smith of the Green Thumb Garden Club was voted into office as District 1 Director of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs at the meeting, October 20. She will take office Spring, 2021. An advocate of the Florida Federation and all things gardening and floral design, here are just a few of Joyce's accomplishments:

* Chaired and orchestrated the Tour of Tables held October, 2019; a two and a half day event attracting not only participating members from the club but the public. This was a very successful community event, and perhaps netted the largest profit in the history of the club. It won the Public Community Award from the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.

* Hosted and planned several Basic Floral Design classes setting up the budget and organizing the criteria. She can boast of a number of graduates from these classes.

* First Vice President for Programs with the Green Thumb Garden Club for two years. Under her guidance, we enjoyed interesting and educational programs; many were hands-on projects. She chaired the American Pride Landscape Committee. She recently volunteered to be chair of Scholarships for the club.

* National Flower Show Judge: Due to the virus this year, the test for this exam was postponed until October 22, 2020. Studying Floral Design for ten years beginning with the Basic Floral Design class (which she says she took for four years before graduating into the Floral Design Study Group), she has won a number of ribbons and shows. Never scoring below a 90 on any of the 12 tests, she traveled to New Orleans, Birmingham twice and Charleston South Carolina in order to attend school. Each school is three full days with a half day test on the 4th day. There are three tests in each class on Horticulture, Flower Show Procedure and Design. (Ladies, that is dedication!)

* An Okaloosa County Master Gardener since 2007 and previously a member of the Tri-County Horticulture/Environment Studies which she co-chaired for six years and was responsible for the programs and locations. One field trip that she is particularly proud of was a full day bus trip to Tallahassee, including the Camellia Gardens, Tallahassee Nursery and shopping in Havana. She has made over 100 home visits to diagnose lawn problems and advise homeowners. Recently, she planned the landscaping at the John Horton Senior Center. The landscaping is thriving and will look beautiful in the years to come as it continues to grow.

* As past President of the Destin Garden Club, Joyce created the Landscape Committee providing landscaping for the Destin Library. The landscaping there has become a public showpiece in Destin attracting many visitors.



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Congratulations to Joyce Waters-Smith

As an administrator, she is organized and proficient in her efforts. She has attended a number of State FFGC Conventions and District Meetings. She is well known and well thought-of throughout Okaloosa and Walton Counties.

As a member of the Nominating Committee and friend, I am pleased that Joyce will be our District 1 Director. Would you believe she is already thinking up creative ideas for the district.....and, I'm sure there is no bias, but for the Green Thumb Garden Club!

She is well-qualified and will distinguish herself in this position.

Betty White



Submitted by Barbara Young

Recently the Walton County Master Gardeners voted to go ahead with the Wildflower Walton project. We are reaching out to the Green Thumb Garden Club to see if you all would be interested in getting involved.

Right now, the only involvement would be to help get behind the Walton Board of County Commissioners and Road Department to agree to cut back on mowing certain roadsides all the way to the tree-line during the flowering season. There would need to be mowing a safety strip from the edge of the pavement outwards 10-15 feet. Help us spot roadsides where there are significant wildflowers blooming. I know this sounds really vague, but we need to start somewhere.

We will try to keep you posted of developments and maybe we can make a difference together. If anyone would like more information, there is a webinar to view at www.YouTube/flawildflowers. The title is Saving Roadside Wildflowers and is 1:01:29 long + Q&A.

Barbara Young 850-865-8238

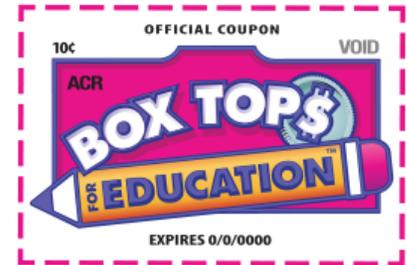


Buds and Banter

Important News from our Committee Chairs

Hello Ladies.

Your efforts collecting pop tops, corks and box tops is amazing. Four gallon size zip lock bags full of pop tops have been delivered to Van R Butler Elementary School along with the box top labels.



But now... the most amazing statistic I had so many corks from y'll I decided to weigh them.... a total of 40 pounds !!!! A little research taught me there are approximately 80 corks per pound.... do the math.... we collected 3,200 corks !!! I delivered 6 shopping bags full to Whole Foods, who sends them to a nonprofit, who receives 2 cents per cork to help sustain the cork forests !! No Worries... your efforts will keep our wine bottles corked for a long while !

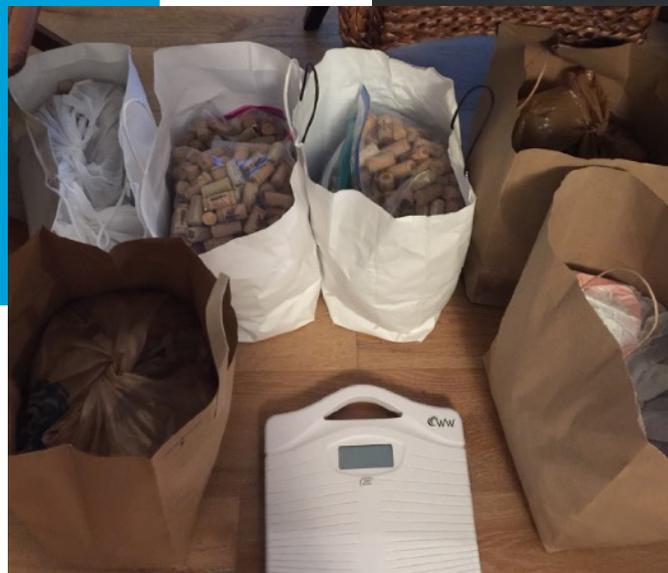
Also, \$50.00 has been collected for Penny Pines. If you wish to contribute just leave by my front door along with your corks and pop tops. Or give to a board member who can give to me.

Job well done. Keep saving.



Do the math...

**80 corks per pound...
we collected 3,200 corks !!!
I delivered 6 shopping
bags full to Whole
Foods, who sends them
to a nonprofit, who
receives 2 cents per
cork to help sustain the
cork forests !!!**



Thanks so much. Miss all of you.
Gail

Buds and Banter

Important News from our Committee Chairs

The Holidays will be here soon! Join GTGC Members for a cocktail Holiday event on Tuesday, December 8.



This year's event supports a family in need to be announced. We will present the family with a decorated Christmas Tree and gifts.

Event Location: Betty White's home

Time 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres

For safety, we are limiting attendance to the first 50 members who register through Punchbowl. This is a members Only event and the attendance fee will be announced soon.

Let's not forget it's time for our CARING AND SHARING CHARITY DRIVE

Debbie Massey, Committee Chair



Caring and Sharing of South Walton provides food and assistance to local residents. Families have started signing up for the Thanksgiving Giveaway Program and need our help to make sure Caring and Sharing of South Walton is able to give food and gift cards to their families for a Thanksgiving celebration. All food donations and gift card donations - \$25 to Walmart or

Publix - are needed by November 6th.

The GTGC Thanksgiving drive will begin on November 1 and run through November 18. Please provide canned goods and paper products. Check or Gift cards are always welcome.

Drop Off Points: Beginning November 1

1. A drop-off bin will be at the Burnt Pine Club House in the main lobby.
2. Another drop off point will be at Vin'tij Wine Boutique & Bistro on Grand Blvd behind the chicken at the front door (management will take it in each evening).
3. You are also welcome to drop off items at my home at 3406 Ravenwood Lane, Miramar Beach. Checks and gift cards can be mailed to this address or dropped in one of the bins.

Please make checks to Caring and Sharing of South Walton. Thank you for your support. Debbie Page 7

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Let's get the ball rolling on our WAYS AND MEANS program!!

“Plan..ts” for the Future” Raffle

GTGC's 2020/2021 Ways and Mean program is called “**Plan..ts” for the Future** appropriately named to represent our mission statement to support gardening, horticulture, environment and education.

It's our Covid solution to generate donations for many of our favorite charities, projects and programs one of which is the **Mercer Scholarship Fund** that we all have supported at our monthly meetings through raffles and silent auctions.

In November, we will be mailing to your home a book of **GTGC Ways and Means Raffle Tickets** (10 tickets for \$20) for your purchase or share with a friend. Your generosity supports the GTGC Scholarship Fund and the future of our young adults planning a career in gardening, landscape design, environmental issues, floral design or horticulture.

With the purchase of your GTGC Raffle Tickets you have the chance to win Cash prizes:

First Prize	\$250
Second Prize	\$150
Third Prize	\$100

Other exciting prizes:

- (2) The Spa Silver Shells Certificates valued at \$125 each
Donated by Donna McDaniel

- A 2016 Kurni Red Wine direct from Italy. This great bottle of wine retails for \$118 with a five star rating. You will love it and your guests will love it, but you may want to keep it just for yourself.
Donated by Charles and Betty White

- Enjoy a fabulous dinner at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse located in Sandestin Grand Boulevard ... our favorite is the 38oz. Tomahawk. \$125 Gift Card.
Donated by Lisa Ermini and her husband, Jerry Klinger

- Gift Certificate for 4 at Burnt Pine Golf Club
Value \$500

- Gift Certificate for \$60 toward any treatment at Lee's Spa and Nails

More prizes to come...

Buds and Banter

The Butterfly Garden at Eden Gardens



The Butterfly Garden has new plants for the winter and a pretty new sign acknowledging that it is maintained by members of Green Thumb Garden Club. A local artist and good friend Laura Leslie-Sell from the Biophilia Center has painted us a lovely sign that now

sits proudly in front of the garden.

Margie Bach, Dee Burkeen, Barbara Young, and Marianne Burbach met at the garden Monday, October 19th to weed, and put in new plants that we hope the deer won't be interested in chewing and pulling out of the ground!

It looks lovely and the Butterflies seem to be enjoying their new plants.



GTGC Volunteers(L to R):

- Dee Burkeen
- Margie Bach
- Marianne Burbach
- Barbara Young

Sending out Special Thanks to our dedicated Members.

Buds and Banter

Benefits from being a Member of our Garden Clubs Affiliates

As a member of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., the National Garden Clubs, Inc., and the Deep South Region of Garden Clubs, “we love flowers....we are stewards of the environment...we conserve water, protect pollinators and wildlife.. and provide plants and habitats..”

Benefits of being a member:

- * Subscription to quarterly magazine, “The Florida Gardener” in which you will receive invaluable information; messages from your FFGC president; topical news and updates from your state and national organizations.
- * Member Services
- * Online and PayPal registrations
- * Library access to over 2,000 books
- * Garden Shop of plant-related items
- * Club Yearbook
- * Monthly programs, speakers, field trips, workshops, hands-on projects
- * Recognition and honors of individuals and clubs
- * Project grants programs
- * Annual convention opportunities
- * Introduction to mentors with common interests
- * Discounts and perks

What Does the State and National Organization Do:

- * Horticulture - plant exchanges/gardening therapy
- * Design - “Floral Design” “Fun with Flowers” Fl Arrangement Calendar
EPCOT Flower Show
- * Community - Blue Star Memorials, Roadside Beautification, Coral Reef
Restoration, Penny Pines, Historic Preservation, Habitat for Humanity, Disaster Relief
- * Education - Schools: Flower and Gardening; Environmental Study;
Landscape Design. Short Courses, Lectures, Seminars, Conventions
- * Youth Garden Clubs/Wekiva and Critter Camp/S.E.E.K./College
Scholarships
- * Environment - “4 - R’s” Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover Conservation and Preservation
- * For more information contact Joyce Waters-Smith

Buds and Banter

Support our fellow Gulf Coast Garden Clubs and Friends

Gulf Coast Friends
Holiday Craft Fair

Friday & Saturday
November 20-21, 2020
9 am - 4 pm

First Baptist Church
555 Fairpoint Dr.
Gulf Breeze, FL 32561

FREE Admission & Parking

- HANDMADE CRAFTS
- CHRISTMAS GIFTS
- LOCAL JEWELRY
- HOLIDAY DECOR
- VINTAGE ITEMS
- BAKED GOODS
- SNACKS AND BEVERAGES & MUCH MORE...

For more info visit www.gulfcoastfriends.org OR call 850-934-9485

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Friday & Saturday
November 20-21, 2020
9 am—4 pm
First Baptist Church
555 Fairpoint Dr.
Gulf Breeze, FL 32561

Our annual Craft Fair is scheduled just in time for Christmas shopping. This event is free and open to the public. All profits will support Gulf Coast Friends local charities. We expect lots of sales because many craft fairs have been cancelled this season and we charge no entry fees.

We would love to have you exhibit and sell your crafts! You provide your merchandise, tables and table covers. We provide the eager buyers. If you cannot bring your own table, please contact Barbara. The cost is \$45 for an 8' by 8' space—plenty of room to exhibit or even share— plus 10% of your sales. To participate, please fill out the registration form (be sure to tell us what type of item you are selling) and send it to us with your fee for the space.

Set up is at 8 am. We will follow any COVID restrictions that are in place. Contact Barbara 850-934-9485 for more information.

Gulf Coast Friends Craft Fair Registration

Name _____ Business _____
Address _____
Phone # _____ Email _____
Type of Item for Sale _____
8' x 8' space for \$45 (\$25 GCF members)

I understand and agree that Gulf Coast Friends assumes no liability for any loss or injury that may occur on the premises of the Craft Fair.

Signature _____ Payment Rec'd Date _____ Ck # _____
Make Check Payable to: Gulf Coast Friends
Return to: Gulf Coast Friends, P. O. Box 294, Gulf Breeze, FL 32563 by November 14, 2020

ANNUAL POINSETTIA SALE!
TO BENEFIT THE BILLY GRAY MINISTRIES

Beautiful blooming Poinsettias!
Delivered to your home or business on
December 4th /5th, 2020
(delivery area south of Choctawhatchee bay, from Destin bridge east to 331)

Order online from November 1st thru 30th, 2020
at billy-gray-ministries.square.site
For more information, call Jeff Murrell 719-244-8455

ANNUAL POINSETTIA SALE!
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Beautiful blooming Poinsettias!
Delivered to your home or business on
December 4th, 2020
(delivery area south of Choctawhatchee bay, from Destin bridge east to 331)

Name: _____
Delivery address: _____
Zip: _____ Gate Code: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Please send me (qty) _____

_____ Lg (10")	_____ red	@ \$25 = _____
_____ Med (8")	_____ red	@ \$20 = _____
_____ Lg (10")	_____ white	@ \$25 = _____
	Total	\$ _____

Make check payable to: **Billy Gray Ministries**
Mail check and order form, **to arrive by November 30th**, to:
Billy Gray Ministries, P. O. Box 6202, Miramar Beach, FL 32550

Or order online at: billy-gray-ministries.square.site
For more information, call Jeff Murrell 719-244-8455

Call Jeff Murrell to order your Holiday Poinsettias

Buds and Banter

The Garden Shop



**To all Members~~Let's go Shopping!!
ON SALE NOW—**

GTGC Ways and Means Raffle Tickets

COMING TO YOUR MAILBOX SOON!

Support the GTGC Scholarship Fund and other charities with your donation of \$20 for 10 tickets to win cash prizes and other donated prizes.

Contact Betty White at
bettyw74@yahoo.com
to purchase your items. Thank you

We have the following Floral Design and Miscellaneous Items for Sale:

Green Bowls	\$1 each - 13
Black Bowls/Trays	\$3 each - 12
Calendars - 2017	\$1 - 30
Floral Snips	\$10 - 3 individual
Pizza Box Stands	\$1 for 6 - 274 individual
Candle Cups	\$3 - 10
Cling Floral Adhesive 1"	\$3 - for 2
Paddle Wire	\$3 - 3 individual
Water Picks	\$2 - 1
3" Round Slant Cupholders	\$22
O'Dapters	\$3.75 - 12 individual
Christmas Ornaments (Balls)	\$1 - 3 individual (green)
Coffee Cups (Styrofoam)	- 73
Small Dessert Plates (Plastic)	- 200
Dinner Plates (Plastic)	- 100
Bowls Styrofoam	- 12
Plastic Trays	- 5
Vases	- several
Zip Tags	- 50 individual
GTGC Tote Bags	36 @ \$12 each
4- 2021 FFGC Calendars	\$9 each
1 Small Santa Sleigh	1 @ \$15

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

Doris Brady Sunshine Lady Report September 28, 2020 through October 27, 2020

Anne Collins, Committee Chair

We continue to receive positive comments on our new digital birthday card program. Happy Birthday to our 9 October Birthday Ladies and Gentleman!

A condolence card was sent to our former member Jean Rice on the death of her husband. We all are so sorry for her loss.

A get well card was sent to our dear friend Tim Ryan who has been hospitalized with a serious illness.

The Sunshine Lady had the opportunity to recognize excellent achievements this month. A thank you card was sent to Adriana Greczylo for being the program host for our awesome October program. Joyce Waters-Smith was sent two congratulation cards this month! Joyce completed the final requirement to become an Accredited National Garden Club Flower Show Judge. Joyce also was selected to become the next District 1 Director for the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. Joyce will be outstanding in both positions. I know that she will cook up some fun for our district.

As always, if any of you sunbeams know of someone who needs a little sunshine or cheer please let me know.

Buds and Banter

Member Contributors

Gail Pizar, Committee Chair, Recycling and Penny Pines

Debbie Massey, Committee Chair, Caring and Sharing

Anne Collins, Committee Chair, Sunshine Lady

Joyce Waters-Smith, Committee Chair, Scholarship

Marianne Burbach, Committee Chair, Eden Butterfly Garden

Barbara Young, Member and Past President

Lori Echols, Programs, First Vice President

Betty White, Director

Lisa Ermini, GTGC President