

## Buds and Banter



### GTGC

#### Upcoming Meetings/Programs

##### Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Join us at Cantina Laredo located in Grand Blvd as we unveil our New GTGC Website! WooHoo!!! You'll also get to catch up with your friends, meet some new members and get a sneak peek of this years programs and activities!

##### Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Third time's hopefully a charm as we tour the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center in Freeport, FL! Our meeting will be held in the **afternoon (2pm-5pm)** to make way for the school children in the morning. We are so blessed to have such a remarkable venue in our area!

##### Friday, November 12, 2021

##### Rain Date Saturday, November 13, 2021

Holiday Festival Event ... Everyday is a Celebration! This will be a fun, festive fundraiser for the year so get your groups together and get creative!! The event is located at the Market Shops on Highway 98 in the amphitheater next to Bijoux.

##### Wednesday, December 8, 2021

The GTGC Holiday celebration will be hosted by Judy and Joe Zito at their home in Burnt Pine. Enjoy lite fare, fun and music. Our donation tree will be welcoming everyone at the front door and remember to bring a gift for our Habitat charity and other sponsored charities.

NOTE: Meeting tours and locations are subject to change.

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### A Message from Lisa Ermini, President

*Connecting and participating!*

**Mark your calendar for our next members' general meeting on**

**Wednesday, September 15, 2021  
at the Cantina Laredo Restaurant**

**Doors open at 8:45am**

**Attendee Fee \$25**

**Lunch is provided**

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer filled with family and memories.

Top of the agenda is the inaugural launch of the **Green Thumb Garden Club, Inc.** Website!

Kicking off this historical event is Kathy Edge, GTGC Web Master and Director. Joining us will be the website developers, Debbie and John Esling of UBU Enterprises.

We plan to have demo stations available providing a hands-on look at the GTGC website.

In closing, I am asking all GTGC members now more than ever to PARTICIPATE in our meeting, HELP plan a meeting, ATTEND our meetings, INVITE potential members and BRING ideas to the table.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Cantina Laredo on September 15.

Thank You.

*Buds and Banter*

## GTGC Members Meeting

### Wednesday, September 15, 2021

The end of a beautiful family-fun summer is here! It's time for our garden club to get back in the swing of things with great programs.

Our September program is the historical launch of Green Thumb Garden Club **website**. Kathy Edge and her team have been working hard this summer developing the website's content, look, and ease of use.

The website developers Deb and John Esling will be attending our meeting to demonstrate:

- ◆ How we navigate the site
- ◆ Website functionality
- ◆ How we pay for our annual Membership donation, pay our monthly meeting attendance, and the opportunity to make other donations
- ◆ Find interesting articles, newsletter and photos

Demo stations will be available for anyone wanting to try the website for themselves.



GARDENS ✨ FRIENDS ✨ COMMUNITY

*Green Thumb Garden Club*

Green Thumb Garden Club, Inc. is an active and inclusive non-profit organization that welcomes members and guests, from all walks of life, united by their love of plants and gardening.

## Save the Date

### Wednesday, September 15, 2021

**Meeting Location:** Cantina Laredo at Grand Boulevard  
**Doors Open:** 8:45 am  
**Meeting Time:** 9:45am - 12:00  
**Luncheon Menu:** Choose your meal from 3 offerings  
**Meeting Fee:** \$25.00 (Cash or Check)

## Buds and Banter

# GTGC Members Meeting Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Finally! After having to cancel this event on two occasions we are now confirmed to privately tour the **Biophilia Center**.

### E. O. Wilson Biophilia Center and Nokuse Plantation The man who started it all...



Founder, MC Davis with loyal companion, Trubby.

M.C. Davis was a self-made man. Through hard work, determination, and smarts, he became a successful business man, and as such was afforded the opportunity to spend time on his true passion - a love for the outdoors and nature.

One rainy day in 1994, M.C. was stuck in traffic on Interstate 4 in Tampa, FL. Tired of waiting he took a detour off I-4 and his route took him in front of a marquee at a school that read "Florida Black Bear Rally". M.C. decided to get out of the traffic and went inside the rally. Little did he know at the time, but that chance encounter would change M.C.'s life. He was so enthralled with what he had heard that he (like he did in so many other endeavors in his life) dove head first into the world of nature the environment. Already being a voracious

reader, M.C. started by reading as much as he possibly could about the subject. He was inspired by books such as *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson, *The Diversity of Life* by E.O Wilson, *Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin, and *Voice of the River* by Marjory Stoneman Douglas. Over the next years, M.C. became a significant donor and fund raiser for Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society, Gopher Tortoise relocation and of course, Florida's Black Bear.

In 2000, M.C. decided to step up his environmental endeavors and he started assembling land in the Florida Panhandle near Freeport, Florida. He purchased 54,000+/- acres that became what is now known as Nokuse Plantation. M.C. personally chose the name Nokuse which is a Native American name for Black Bear in the Muscogee language. M.C. understood that the Florida Black Bear was an umbrella species, and he knew that if he could provide a large enough contiguous habitat for the Black Bear to thrive, then he would be able to provide a native natural habitat for a host of other species that would also flourish. In addition to species preservation, M.C. has been able to restore the endangered Long Leaf Pine with close to 6,000,000 long leaf pine seedlings planted at Nokuse.

## Buds and Banter

# GTGC Members Meeting Wednesday, October 20, 2021

### The man who started it all...continued E. O. Wilson Biophilia Center and Nokuse Plantation

Over the years, M.C. encouraged his friends and family to be naturalists and to participate in protecting the environment. Not only did he encourage them to financially support environmental causes but to actively participate by attending anti fox penning rallies, letter writing campaigns to save the sea turtles and gopher tortoise relocation efforts. He even sponsored a theatrical play titled "A Sense of Wonder" about the life of environmentalist Rachel Carson.

One of M.C.'s greatest accomplishments was the creation of the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center located on site at Nokuse Plantation. In 2009, M.C. opened the self-funded, 28,000 square feet, \$12,000,000 nature center named after the evolutionary, two time Pulitzer Prize winning biologist, E.O. Wilson. E.O. Wilson who has visited the center on multiple occasions. The E.O. Wilson Biophilia (the love of all living things) Center educates over 5,200 students annually in a five county area of the Florida Panhandle. Students who visit the center learn about the natural environment through interpretive exhibits as well as extensive trail systems through natural areas on Nokuse Plantation.

M.C. Davis has been featured in numerous articles and books including Wildlands Philanthropy: The Great American Tradition and National Geographic. In 2015, several months before he lost his battle with lung cancer, M.C. was featured on the national show All Things Considered on National Public Radio (NPR).

E.O. Wilson called M.C. Davis's passing "a huge loss for the conservation movement in Florida and nationally", and it certainly has left a big void in the lives of his family and all those who loved him. The E. O. Wilson Biophilia Center and Nokuse Plantation serve as a living legacy to continue the work of M. C. Davis and to fulfill his dream of indoctrinating and inspiring future generations to be environmentally aware and responsible.

**Mark your calendars and enjoy a great day at Biophilia!**

**Tour Time: 2:00-5:00pm**

**Snack Pack will be provided**

**Member and Guest Donation to Attend \$25**

**(a portion of you donation will be donated to support the Biophilia Center)**

## Buds and Banter

### GTGC Members Meeting Friday, November 12, 2021

GTGC Holiday Festival! This event celebrates all the holidays all year round. Members have an opportunity to show off their TreeScaping techniques! This will be our fun, festive fundraiser supporting our Mercer Scholarship. So get your groups together and be creative!! More details coming as we continue to build this program.

The club will provide each team with a 3' artificial tree to decorate as your team chooses. The more trees the merrier so feel free to decorate 2 or more table top trees. **Contact Lori Echols to reserve your tree(s) now.** This event is a silent auction of the trees plus other member creations with all net proceeds benefiting the Mercer Scholarship and other GTGC charities. In addition, Robbie Carroll has generously donated an autographed Darius Rucker guitar. This is HUGE!! Thank you Robbie so much for your generosity!

Event Date: Friday, November 12, 2021

Rain Date: Saturday, November 13, 2021

Location: The event is located at the Market Shops on Highway 98, in front of the amphitheater next to Bijoux.

Time: 9:00am - 4:00pm  
Open to the Public  
No Fee to Attend

### GTGC Members Meeting Wednesday, December 8, 2021

#### *Members Holiday Celebration*

The GTGC Holiday celebration will be hosted by Judy and Joe Zito at their home in Burnt Pine. Enjoy lite fare, fun and music. Our donation tree will be welcoming everyone at the front door so remember to bring a gift for our Habitat charity and other sponsored charities.

Members, Guests and Spouses may attend for a fee of \$20 per person

*Buds and Banter***GTGC Chairperson Update****A message from Jan Shuttleworth, Membership****Chair**

**If you haven't already paid your annual donation, it's time. Please see Jan when you arrive for our September meeting.**



<b>Annual Membership Donation</b>	<b>\$40</b>
<b>Lifetime Members</b>	<b>\$28</b>
<b>Family Membership for 2 people</b>	<b>\$60 *</b>
<b>Children, 12 yrs old, in the same household</b>	<b>\$10*</b>
<b>Household Life Members</b>	<b>\$48*</b>

**\*NEW Membership Options**

**Mail your Membership donation to Jan Shuttleworth at the address below:**

Jan Shuttleworth, Membership Chair  
2530 Vineyard Lane  
Miramar Beach, FL 32550

We can only accomplish our goals if we have your support. We want to continue to support GTGC's charitable programs in our community and we can only do that as our membership numbers allow. If everyone brings only one new member to the club, we can do wonders! Consider your membership a donation to our community!

**MORE DETAILS FOR OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING**

**The GTGC September meeting will be historic ... so please plan to attend! Kathy Edge and her committee have worked hard to create the most beautiful, functional and simple-to-use Green Thumb Garden Club, Inc. website. You'll see it first at the September meeting.**

**With all new things, we have another document to sign. Jan will have the website authorization document at the meeting for your approval and signature.**

**We look forward to seeing all our members at the Cantina Laredo on September 15. Our meeting will start promptly at 9:45am.**

**Jan Shuttleworth and Lisa Ermini**

## Buds and Banter

### Grand Boulevard Health and Rehabilitation Update

Kathy Bilello, Chairperson

Kathy is sharing with us the fun activities she and Donna the activities director at the Grand Boulevard Health and Rehabilitation Center have been working on with the residents. GTGC's 2020/2021 donation was used to purchase a fun-activity "growing" butterflies from a Butterfly pavilion habitat kit. The kit starts with caterpillars and continues to maturity until they hatch as **butterflies**. GTGC also provided several large flower containers with butterfly friendly flowers.

Enjoy some photos of the residents enjoying the butterflies.



## Buds and Banter

### A Labor of LOVE and a Shovel

On behalf of the Green Thumb Garden Club, Inc. I would like to extend a big thanks to Betty White, GTGC Director of Special Projects and the GTGC volunteers, Christie Burke, Debbie Massey, Debbie Michel, Barb Landwehr, Joyce Waters-Smith, Brenda Radtke who have worked hard and endless caring for the gardens creating a more beautiful community for all of us.

The Green Thumb Garden Club, Inc. and Habitat for Humanity of Walton County have collaborated to create several gardens for the new ReStore project supporting Habitat's "Raise the Roof Campaign."

Teresa Indieke, Executive Director of Habitat, states, "Our current ReStore services thousands of families in our area. Our new facilities will allow us to expand our reach and increased profits will help us build more houses for hard-working families....

Every helping hand makes a difference....." "Hard-working" hands have helped build the store and create the gardens, and their grand opening will be in September with a 18,500 square foot store located east of Sandestin. Habitat for Humanity continues to be an important charity of the Green Thumb Garden Club with donations at Christmastime and landscaping tools during the year at new homes.

On a very hot summer day in June, volunteers Christie Burke, Debbie Massey, Debbie Michel, Barb Landwehr, Joyce Waters-Smith, Brenda Radtke and Betty White of the Green Thumb Garden Club planted four areas at the project consisting of Crape Myrtles, irises and hibiscus. We look forward to a beautiful landscape for years to come.



The ReStore plaque from the Green Thumb Garden Club reads:

**We dedicate these gardens to  
ReStore life and all who Habitat the earth**

The "ReStore" name also aptly applies to this project. Through donations received of reusable furniture and other goods, the store "restores" life to recycled items and helps families needing items for their homes.

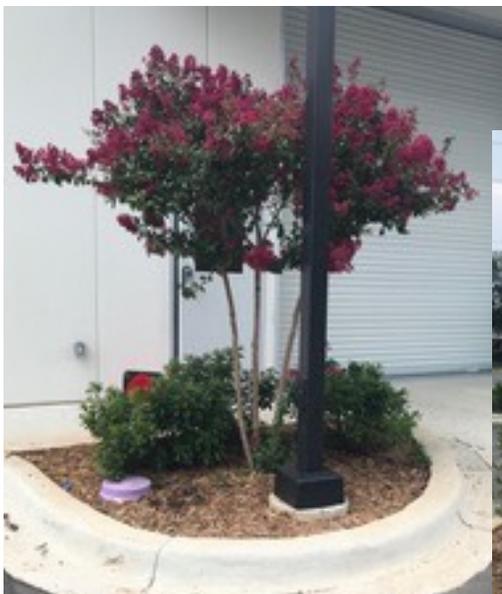
## Buds and Banter

### A Labor of LOVE and a Shovel

The garden club feels this aptly shares our intent to “plant America” one garden at a time in Walton County. Our vegetable and flower gardens at the John Horton Senior Center have flourished providing lots of herbs, tomatoes and flowers for the seniors who share the joy of the Center. In the fall, we have an Oyster Lake landscaping project on 30A being planned. These projects were possible through the support of matching grants from the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. As Gina Jogan said to me as I thanked her for FFGC’s support, “Go, do good work!” This is a great mantra for all clubs!

The Green Thumb Garden Club is pleased to be a part of this project and to help continue to beautify the community. We look forward to the Fall and the many programs the Garden Club has planned for the next year.

Betty White  
Special Projects Director  
Green Thumb Garden Club, Inc.



ReStore Landscape



ReStore Landscape

## Buds and Banter

### Notice from District 1 Director, Joyce Waters-Smith

It is sad news to report the death of Darolyn Weiss recently.

Darolyn was a District 1 Director, Chairman of the FFGC Backyard Habitat, a Valparaiso President, and a long-time member of Rosemont Church in Niceville. Her funeral will be held at the church on Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

May she Rest in Peace.

### NGC, National Gardener Magazine



Dear FFGC Club Members,

Here is a link to the summer issue of the National Gardener, the magazine from the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Please read and enjoy the wonderful articles. This magazine is one of the benefits of our National Garden Club membership.

<https://ffgc.org/resources/Site/Publications/tng-summer-2021.pdf>

Happy Reading!

Thank you,  
Marge Herndon

Buds and Banter

Fall 2021 District 1 Meeting Invitation

To All Green Thumb Garden Club Members:

This is your invitation to the Fall 2021 District 1 Meeting on Tuesday, October 12 at 9 am. Included in this email is your invitation, registration form, and driving directions. Please consider attending, mark your calendars and grow our attendance at this important District 1 meeting. Sign up as a Member and join our delegates and learn more about our District Organizations

The District meeting will be hosted by the Azalea Garden Club of Pace and will be held at the Pensacola Federated Garden Club building. All the details and driving directions are attached.

Please send your registration and check to Judy Zito, Treasurer in the amount of \$20.00 payable



Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

District I Fall Registration

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Hosted by: AZALEA GARDEN CLUB OF PACE, INC.

Venue: The Garden Center, 1850 N. 9th Ave., Pensacola, FL 32503

REGISTRAR

Rebecca Sherman
Azalea Garden Club of Pace
6223 Highway 90 Box 250
Milton, FL 32570

Club Treasurer send all registration forms and ONE check for all that are attending to the registrar listed above. Make check out to: AZALEA Garden Clubs Of Pace, Inc.

Attendees! Please make check payable to YOUR CLUB in the amount of \$20 per person.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM PLEASE.

Give your completed registration form to the club or circle treasurer with your registration fee. He or she will then send them to the registrar with one check from your club.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all that apply

Do not check delegate unless you have been elected by your club or circle as a delegate. If you are a club or circle president, you have an automatic vote. A delegate is voted upon by the club or circle. An alternate is selected by your club or circle to serve as a delegate if the president or voted delegate is unable to attend the meeting.

- \_\_\_\_ National Officer \_\_\_\_ District Director \_\_\_\_ Circle President
\_\_\_\_ Former National Officer \_\_\_\_ District Officer \_\_\_\_ Delegate
\_\_\_\_ FFGC Officer \_\_\_\_ District Chairman \_\_\_\_ Alternate
\_\_\_\_ FFGC Chairman \_\_\_\_ Former District Director \_\_\_\_ Member
\_\_\_\_ Former FFGC President \_\_\_\_ Club President \_\_\_\_ Visitor/Guest

PLEASE WEAR YOUR CLUB NAME TAG



District 1, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

CALL

An Invitation to: All District 1 Garden Club Members, Club, Circle and Council Presidents, State and District Officers, State and District Chairmen, Former FFGC Presidents and District Directors.

Azalea Garden Club of Pace Inc. will host the 2021 Fall District 1 Meeting at The Garden Center, 1850 N. 9th Ave. Pensacola, FL 32503 on Tuesday, October 12, 2021. Registration and Hospitality will begin at 8:15 am and Call to Order will be promptly at 9:00 am. Directions to the event center are attached.

Cost of registration, morning hospitality, lunch, and program will be \$20. Delegates and Alternates must be registered 14 days prior to the meeting (September 28, 2021). Each club shall be entitled to delegates or alternates as follows (BOI):

- Membership of 10-25: Club/Circle President or alternate
Membership of 26-50: Club/Circle President plus 1 member
Membership of 51-75: Club/Circle President plus 2 members
Membership of 76-100: Club/Circle President plus 3 members
Membership of 101-125: Club/Circle President plus 4 members
Membership of over 125: Club/Circle President plus 4 plus 1 for every additional 12 over 25

The Pensacola Federation of Garden Clubs shall be represented by the President or alternate.

Deadline for registration will be September 28, 2021, for Delegates/Alternates and October 1, 2021 for all club members. NO REFUNDS will be made after October 1, 2021. A copy of the registration form is attached.

Lunch will be buffet style. If your club pays for your registration as president, please ensure that your registration fee has been sent. Please show your support by registering today.

The theme for this district's administration is WONDERS NEVER CEASE - LEARNING CONTINUES. Chairmen and Presidents should prepare 2 copies of your report for the District Secretary and keep a copy for your file. Any motions shall be presented in duplicate as well. District Chairmen will have 3 minutes to report, Club Presidents will have 2 minutes. Your report can be a visual display or 'Show and Tell'...no need to be conventional!

Any District Chairman wanting to display an exhibit of any kind or club wishing to make an announcement should let the Director know as soon as possible to Joyce Waters Smith, email: joycews@cox.net or cell phone 850-217-4888.

At this meeting we offer raffles, Ways & Means tables and other exciting activities so be prepared to shop! (Cash or check). PLEASE BRING SMALL BILLS!

Looking forward to seeing you there!

- MENU
Stuffed Pork Loin w/apple stuffing and Cranberry Sauce
Lemon Chicken
Scalloped Potatoes
Peas and Carrots

## Buds and Banter



**1850 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

**Pensacola, Florida 32503**

### **DRIVING DIRECTIONS**

**From Crestview, Defuniak Springs, Destin, Niceville,** area, drive west on I-10 to Exit 12, take I-110 South toward Pensacola, Take Fairfield Dr exit (about 3 miles), Turn left onto Fairfield Drive go about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile, 2nd light, turn right onto North 9th Avenue, go about 2 miles the Garden Center will be on the left side of the road. Parking is available on either side of the building.

**From Navarre, Gulf Breeze** drive Highway 98 until you arrive at 9<sup>th</sup> avenue in Pensacola, turn right onto 9<sup>th</sup> avenue, drive about 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile garden center is on the right. Parking on both side of building.

**From Milton** area drive Avalon Blvd. to I-10 turn right, drive west on I-10 to Exit 12, take I-110 South toward Pensacola, Take Fairfield Dr exit (about 3 miles), Turn left onto Fairfield Drive go about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile, 2nd light, turn right onto North 9th Avenue, go about 2 miles the Garden Center will be on the left side of the road. Parking is available on either side of the building.

From the **Pace**, Drive West on Highway 90 turn left onto Davis Hwy, go about 6 miles turn left onto Fairfield Drive go to the 1st light, turn right go about 2 miles garden center is on the right. Parking is available on both sides of building.

## Buds and Banter

# The Interstate Fair Flower Show Invitation

To All Green Thumb Garden Club Members:

I am excited to invite one and all to enter the flower show in Pensacola or see the upcoming Interstate Fair Flower Show October 21 - 30, 2021.

The Flower Show is a nine-day event; put these dates on your calendar, participate or attend. Entries as Amateur Gardeners or Designers are accepted. See the attached information to enter. If you have any questions, please contact Deanna Gordon, Flower Show Chair at [dkwgordon@gmail.com](mailto:dkwgordon@gmail.com).

**The Green Thumb Garden Club, Inc. has tentative plans for a group of members to enjoy the flower show with a day outing on Friday, October 22, 2021. Our tentative plans are to go to the tea room at Duh, shop around and then go to flower show.**

If you are interested please contact Betty White at [bettyw74@yahoo.com](mailto:bettyw74@yahoo.com)

So get your friends together to attend and enjoy the event.

PENSACOLA INTERSTATE FAIR, INC.  
AND  
PENSACOLA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

*Invite you to the 69th NGC Standard Flower Show*

## *Pollinators at Center Stage*



**October 20, 2021**  
Open to the Public 4:00 to 10:00 p.m. October 21-30

Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds  
Hwy 90 West  
Pensacola, FL

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## Buds and Banter

### Did you know?

#### Different pruning methods required for different plants

Anyone can prune, but not everyone prunes correctly. In order to prune correctly, you need to understand how plants respond to pruning.

When a pruning cut is made on a stem or limb, new growth will develop just a few inches below the cut. This is because of a hormone that is produced in the terminal bud (the bud at the end of a branch or twig). This hormone prevents dormant buds located directly below the terminal bud from growing. So, when you routinely shear plants, a lot of dense, new growth will be produced near the outer portions of the plant. This eventually results in less light reaching the interior portions of the plant, foliage within the canopy becomes sparse and the plant appears stems or hollow.

Thinning generally is a better method of pruning most shrubs. Thinning is cutting branches back to a lateral branch, a lateral bud or the main trunk. Basically, a thinning cut is the complete removal of a branch or stem for the purpose of thinning or opening up the plant. Thinning encourages new growth within the interior portions of the plant, reduces size and provides a fuller, more natural looking plant compared to plants that are routinely sheared.

Keep in mind the desired results when pruning. If you plant a row of shrubs that will serve as a hedge or screen, begin pruning them the same year that you plant. Many times, people wait several years before pruning a newly planted hedge. Doing so can result in little growth at the base of the plants, which means a privacy hedge that can be seen through. Because of the fact that new growth on plants only occurs a few inches below the cut, you should begin pruning early to encourage a compact growth habit.

Pruning time varies among plants. Plants that are not grown for their showy flowers such as holly, boxwood and privet can be pruned during late winter, spring and summer months. Avoid pruning during fall or early winter because the new, tender growth produced as a result of pruning will be subject to cold injury.

Plants that bloom before May such as azaleas, forsythia, spirea and climbing roses should be pruned shortly after they bloom. It is best to avoid pruning plants in this category later than July because they set flower buds in the fall.

Plants that bloom after May such as crape myrtle, gardenia, bush roses and abelia can be pruned just before spring growth in late February or early March.

Avoid severely pruning junipers, cedar, arborvitae and other narrow-leaf evergreen plants because it may cause them to die.

Acknowledgement to Larry Williams is a UF/IFAS Extension Agent in Okaloosa County.

## 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 April 30, 2021 to August 5, 2021

What a glorious summer we are having in our portion of the Sunshine State: plenty of sunshine, quenching rains for our thirsty landscapes and best of all no major storms (so far, knock on wood). We are truly fortunate to be surrounded by so much natural beauty.

It has been an active summer. Not only have the Sunbeams done an excellent job of letting me know who has needed a little cheer, but they have themselves generously provided comforting support to friends in distress. Thank you, Sunbeams! You are the BEST!

Congratulations were sent to our very own Joyce Waters-Smith on becoming District Director, District 1, FFGC. We are proud of you, Joyce!

Our members were also touched by tragedy. Sympathy cards were sent to Audrey Sementilli on the passing of her brother, to the family of Marion Hilliard, former president of FFGC, to the family of Margaret Carlen, former president of GTGC, to Gail Pizar on the unexpected passing of her dear husband Mick, and to Lisa Ermini and Jerry Klinger on the passing of Jerry's beloved mother.

Get well cards were sent to Janine Pitts, to Ellen Tabor's husband Ron, and to Joyce Waters-Smith's husband Stuart.

Thinking of you cards were sent to Sue Surgala, to Joyce Waters-Smith, and to Carole Bergstrom.

58 digital birthday cards were sent to our May - August birthday ladies. Happy Birthday, Ladies!!! An interesting point of trivia: August has the most birthdays of any month with 23.

The Sunshine Lady sends each one of you sunshine and cheer and looks forward to seeing each of you.

Respectfully submitted, Anne Collins

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

Anne Collins, Sunshine Lady, Chairperson  
Jan Shuttleworth, Membership Chairperson  
Lori Echols, Programs, First Vice President  
Larry Williams, UF/IFAS Extension Agent in Okaloosa County  
Betty White, Director and Special Project Chairperson  
Kathy Bilello, GB Rehabilitation Center, Chairperson  
Lisa Ermini, GTGC President