

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

THE IDEA EXCHANGE

SPRING 2026

FFGC PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Here we are hard to believe the holidays are over and we are in March 2026 already. Where did January go? Garden clubs remain active despite the weather. Although outdoor work may not be feasible, numerous projects are currently underway across the state. Our FFGC board met by Zoom on January 7th, letting members participate remotely and finish business in three hours instead of a day and a half at FFGC Headquarters. The Tropical Short Course in District X, January 22-23rd featured engaging topics for all participants. We are so fortunate to have Districts run NGC Schools; District IV held Environmental School course 1 in January, and we have Gardening School course IV being held in February by District VI. This President attended both classes and encourages all members to participate in these educational oppor-

tunities. The Basic Floral Design Series 1-9 are being held throughout Florida. Check the FFGC calendar of events for these classes in your area. FFGC hosted its second free webinar for members, with increased attendance. The speaker was CJ McCartney, and topic was Nature-Inspired Landscaping, Designing sustainable Wildlife Gardens. If you missed it you can go to the FFGC website and download the webinar to watch. Garden Clubs are busy holding flower shows and Fundraisers of all kinds. There is definitely something for everyone. Our 3rd Vice President, Maria Wolfe has been busy getting ready for Wekiva Volunteer Training, February 6-8th with over 40 attending as well as Camp Wekiva Open House. If you've never volunteered at Camp, you are really missing out. Once you do, you'll be hooked for years to come.

Some of us will be cruising away on the Deep South Garden Club Cruise in March. Sure to come back with memories and stories. Stay tuned for those. The Chairmen of the 99th Annual Convention and State Flower Show have been busy to make sure there is something for everyone and fun will be had by all. There are flower show entries to be filled, so please go to the FFGC website and sign up today. Oh, don't forget to get your Pj's and come to PJ's and Pancakes, it's sure to be a good time. Register today and look forward to seeing all of you at the 99th Annual Convention.

Wishing all of you the best in 2026

Christy Linke
FFGC President 2025-2027





NAVARRE GARDEN CLUB

Our garden club is known for being hardworking and dedicated to our many projects throughout the year. From community plantings to special events, we stay busy! But we also believe it's important to slow down, enjoy each other's company, and simply have fun together.

That's why we are excited to introduce a new program — Lunch and Blooms! Lunch and Blooms is all about friendship, inspiration, and sharing our love of gardening in a more leisurely way. We hope you'll join us as we grow not only our gardens, but our friendships too.

Once a month, members will gather to enjoy lunch together at a local restaurant, followed by a visit to a nursery, grower, or nonprofit organization involved with nature. It's a wonderful opportunity to relax, connect with fellow members, discover new plants and ideas, and support local businesses and organizations.

On Arbor Day January 16, 2026, the **Baker Area Garden Club** partnered with the Baker High School agriculture class and planted a Live Oak in honor of Arbor Day. The tree was planted on the playground to give shade in a few years to this area. Jenny Weber demonstrated the correct method of planting a tree and gave instructions to the class on how to care for the tree.

The Baker Area Garden Club enjoy our outreach programs in the community and plan many more in the future.

Carmen Lundy, President

Pensacola Federation of Garden Clubs

The 2026 Educational Series event hosted by **PFGC** was a resounding success. 118 attendees included PFGC members, FFGC dignitaries, Master Gardeners from several surrounding counties, and members of the general public.

The presenters were, Beth Bolles-Alternatives to turf: are they for you? Rick O'Connor Living with snakes-how to deal with them and avoid them. Joshua Criss-Florida Friendly Landscape-how it works with your HOA. Carol Perryman-Companion planting with herbs.

The food committee provided a continental breakfast to start off the day. Lunch consisted of a salad, sandwich and chips. There were also afternoon sweet and salty snacks.

Vendors, Native Plant Company and the Camellia Club had plants for sale and Truth Sharp got tools brought to the event sharpened and ready for spring.

It wouldn't be a PFGC event without our wonderful opportunity baskets assembled by our circles and our 50/50 drawing. We have already started thinking about the 2027 event and hope to see everyone then!

Karan Llewellyn, President, Dogwood Circle Garden Club & Ann Luther, President, Bud N Bloom Circle Garden Club

The Pensacola Federation of Garden Clubs host each year a "The Tour of Tables" event in March. The table designers are PFGC Garden members and have certain guidelines for their table design. It is a night that highlights the talent of our Pensacola garden club members. A luncheon is hosted the next day for the members. This year's theme is "Everyday Celebrations, Design on a Dime." Design does not have to be expensive to look great. There are daily moments that are special for your family, bringing everyone together with beauty, smiles, congratulations, and love. PFGC members are very talented and enjoy doing this once a year event. They vote on the table that makes a moment for you to remember and use the design for your "Everyday Celebration."



Green Thumb Garden Club, Inc. celebrated its 70th anniversary in January 2026.

Members and guests enjoyed a special lunch and member speakers who reminisced about their experiences in the Club.

Fifth annual Holiday Bazaar in November 2025 raised \$8K+ for scholarships and other non-profit organizations in Walton County. GTGC supports the Mercer College Scholarship, 4H Camp Timpooshee, E.O.Wilson Youth Summer Camps and Westonwood Ranch.

GTGC members are working with the Friends of Eden Gardens on the planning and development of the renovation for the State Park's Butterfly Garden. Thank you to FFGC for the \$250. grant which will be matched by Green Thumb Garden Club for this project.

The historic Wesley House at Eden Gardens was decorated by a team of Green Thumb members for the holiday season. The beautiful decor was viewed by Walton County residents and visitors during the months of November and December 2025.

GTGC participated in the Festival of Trees parade in Sandestin Grand Boulevard for the first time in November 2025. Our presence was so well received that the Club has been invited to participate with our own tree in 2026. Trees entered into the Festival by select non-profit organizations in Walton County by invitation only and are eligible to receive monetary awards.

Walton County Sheriff's Santa Patrol received \$1,345. in gifts, gift cards and cash from our generous Club members.

Habitat Holiday Family received \$2,135. in gifts, gift cards and cash from GTGC members. The cash was used to purchase a swing set, as requested by Mom for the four children. Using the GTGC donations, Habitat for Humanity purchased and installed the swing set in the backyard of the family's home.

The 2025/2026 Junior Gardeners program at Butler Elementary School has the highest participation since inception at 38 third and fourth grade students. We are fortunate to have full support from parents, teachers and Club members.

Caring & Sharing received over \$600. in GTGC donations in October to support their food pantry and other assistance programs. A diaper drive was held in February 2026.

AZALEA GARDEN CLUB OF PACE

Enjoy a variety of scented candles in beautiful cut glass tea cups just in time for Mother's Day. Azalea Garden Club of Pace will have a booth in the Spring Festival of Flowers the weekend of April 10th – 12th , 9AM – 4PM at Pensacola State College and UF/IFAS campus in Milton. Members had fun making the candles and look forward to using the funds raised to refresh our rose and pollinator butterfly gardens at Benny Russell Park in Pace. Our adopted park also has a wonderful walking trail through the woods where we plan to identify the trees and eventually put markers.



Sneads Rose Carlisle Garden Club participated in Grand Ridge and Sneads Christmas Parades on Dec. 12th and 13th, respectively. The Club joined the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 241 in preparation of a beautiful “poinsettia tree” float. Afterwards, 25 poinsettias were donated to residents at Hatton House in Sneads. “Bloom Wherever You Are Planted”



Chibley Garden Club

For Arbor Day, we planted a Memorial tree at Spanish Trail Playhouse in memory of the late Barbara James. We've also perked up our downtown pots, and made Dried Designs with kids at Kate Smith Elementary. Next week we will do Fresh Designs at KMS and judge all the horticultural exhibits at Washington Co. 4H Youth Fair.





Port St. Joe Garden Club

Arbor Day A Great Success!

Florida celebrates Arbor Day on the third Friday of January (the best time to plant trees here is January-early March). This year the Florida Forest Service marked the occasion with their annual Arbor Day tree giveaway on January 16. The Port St. Joe Garden Club hosted the event for the first time. Members helped by giving away the 111 trees and providing information on the seven species plus information on how and where to plant your tree. Gulf County Master Gardeners were instrumental in organizing the event and supplying the information. Folks were lined up well before the 10 am start time, and the trees were gone within about 30 minutes! It was a great collaboration between the three entities — Port St. Joe Garden Club, the Master Gardeners and Florida Forestry Service. Thanks to all who helped with this successful project!





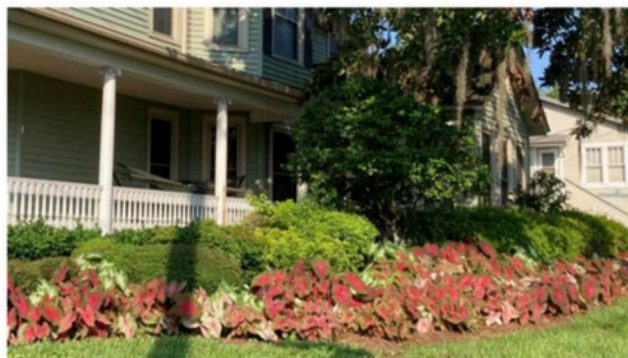
Garden Tips Shared by Lucille Heinrick, President of the **Live Oak Garden Club**

All varieties of roses should be pruned at least once a year, even knock out roses. The best time to prune roses is the end of January or early in February. Cut them back about 1/3rd. Remove any dead canes at this time as well. Fertilizer them immediately after pruning. Roses are heavy feeders and like to be fertilized monthly. Sprinkle salt in the spaces between patio slabs and at the bottom of walls to get rid of pesky weeds (but be careful NOT to get salt near plants you want to keep as salt will kill them). Fire ant hills can be eliminated by pouring 2 cups club soda (carbonated water) directly in the center (poke a hole in the middle) of a fire ant mound. The carbon dioxide in the water is heavier than air and displaces the oxygen which suffocates the queen and the other ants. The entire colony will be dead within 2 days. Club soda leaves no poisonous residue, does not contaminate the ground water, and does not indiscriminately kill other insects. (You can also try pouring about 2 quarts of boiling hot water down the mound - it works!)

To prevent tangled hoses, wind them up in a pattern 8. Guaranteed to unwind perfectly.

Ground layering hydrangeas works on azaleas, rosemary, gardenias and other woody plants. Just dig a shallow hole and bend the plant branch in (don't cut it off the main plant). Cover the bent stem that sits in the hole with dirt and place a brick on top. Water and wait. Over time, roots develop from the buried section. Once well-established, the rooted portion can be cut away and transplanted as a new plant. Lucky you if you have a freshwater fish tank. When changing water, use old water to water your houseplants. Pure fertilizer at its best!

**LIVE OAK GARDEN CLUB
CALADIUM SALE**
TWELVE DIFFERENT COLORS AND VARIETIES
ONE BULB MAKES A HUGE PLANT
THESE ARE HAPPY ANYWHERE
GREAT IN POTS \$1 Each



Orders must be in by March 31

CONTACT ANY GARDEN CLUB MEMBER

OR

Liveoakfloridagardenclub.com

OR

SANDY at mrsdew5834@outlook.com

DANA at WVFarmgurlNFL@aol.com



THE IDEA EXCHANGE - DISTRICT IV

Florida Arbor Day Celebrations

Many Clubs conducted some type of activity to celebrate this special day ranging from free tree giveaways, tree plantings and public awareness ceremonies.

Garden Club of St. Augustine, Inc.
 Posted by Linda Scott Buchanan
 2d · 📷

Florida Arbor Day was tree-mendous! So glad to see folks of all ages rooting around for free trees today. Thanks to all who came out and bundled up for the chilly morning!

Bartram Garden Club of A...
 Beverly Williams

GSA Troop 71733 helped Bartram Garden Club celebrate Florida Arbor Day today as we dedicated a Gerbing Camellia which they propagated to plant at AIHM. Pictured are the girls and garden club members who attended. Many thanks to Will Knudsen who engraved the beautiful granite plaque we donated to the girls in recognition of this project, ensuring Gustav Gerbing's camellias will continue to thrive as a living legacy and horticultural history of Amelia Island.

Green Cove Springs Police Department

Arbor Day Ceremony
 in partnership with
 Garden Club of Green Cove Springs
 Friday, January 16, 2026
 9:00 AM
 City County Habitat for Humanity
 3 S. West Street, Green Cove Springs, FL

The Garden Club of Palatka
 10h · 📷

The Garden Club of Palatka continued their 2026 Arbor Day celebration by planting a third bald cypress tree at the Palatka Waterfront. Earl Wallace secured a 12" potted tree and arranged for a power-driven auger to dig the planting hole. Palatka Mayor, Robbie Correa, read the proclamation declaring January 16th as the official Palatka Arbor Day and presented the proclamation document to Jim Daniel, Garden Club president. Many City and Garden Club members were on hand to witness the tree planting.

FUTURE EVENTS

Anastasia Island Branch Library 124 Sea Grove Main St. St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080

Demonstration Raffle & Silent Auction
 Please RSVP

Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants
Saturday, March 14 @ 1:00 PM
 Sponsored by Friends of the Anastasia Island Branch Library

Garden Club of St Augustine, Celebrating their 100th year, presents

A Century of Flowers

NGC Standard Flower Show & Bonsai Exhibit

April 24th & 25th, 2026
Friday 2pm - 5pm, Saturday 10am - 3pm
At the Southeast Branch Library
6670 US1 South, St. Augustine, FL 32086
Free to the public

www.gardenclubofstaugustine.org

Ribault Garden Club
 Presents
 An NGC Standard FLOWER SHOW
 "Seed to Sanctuary:
 Time Spent in the Garden"

Friday, March 27, 2026 1:00pm-5:00pm
 Saturday, March 28, 2026 11:00am-4:00pm
 Open to the Public ... Free Admission!!

Member of:
 National Garden Clubs, Inc.
 Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.
 Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
 District IV

705 Second Avenue North
 Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
 904 246-4641 Ribaultgc.org

Design Division: A creative showcase based on the show's theme. Get ready to be wowed by these **Distinctive Museum Quality Designs!**
 Horticultural Division: Exhibits the best plants in each category.
 Botanical Arts Division: A fun interpretation which may include fairy gardens, dried flowers, wearable art and photography.
 Educational/Youth Division: Encourages gardening and creativity at a young age.

**Observe Displays of Unique & Original:
 Floral Designs, Horticulture, Botanical Arts
 & Educational/Youth Exhibits**

This is a National Garden Club Standard Flower Show. Designs are submitted by Members of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. K.G.C. Members reside throughout the Beaches Area, Nocatee, West of the Intracoastal & throughout Florida.

Ribault Garden Club
Garden Center Day
**Biodiversity Conservation:
 Backyard Permaculture Ponds
 & Shoreline Restoration**

Thursday, March 19, 2026 10:00am
 Guest Speaker: Cheryl Mannel
 Legacy Land Restoration & Wild Birds Unlimited
 Open to Public - Free Admission!

705 2nd Avenue North
 Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
 904 246-4641 Website: Ribaultgc.org
 Refreshments & Raffle!



SPRING IS IN THE AIR

ANNUAL HORTICULTURAL EVENT

presented by
Garden Club of Orange Park, Inc.

FRIDAY
March
20

9:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Advent Lutheran Church
2156 Lock Rane Blvd.
Orange Park, FL 32073



Program Speakers

Dr. John Rossi, Director, St. Johns Botanical Garden
What's New at the St. Johns Botanical Garden: Cold-Tolerant Palms

Stephanie Means, Florida Friendly Landscaping Program Assistant
Garden MacGyver: Clever Hacks for a Sustainable Space

Billy Dorscheimer, Master Gardner Volunteer
Carnivorous Plants

Bob Hawkinson, Owner, Total Lawn Care (TLC)
Newly Developed Biodegradables for Your Garden

Pre-registration required: \$30 prior to March 16, 2026. Late registration: \$35
Refreshments and lunch provided.
Door Prizes, Silent Auction, Ways & Means and Plant Sales

Registration link below or through our Facebook page |
www.gardencluboforangepark.org

For additional information, please call 904-654-2916 or email

Plant Sale & Butterfly Release

Saturday, April 11, 2026
9:00-1:00



A variety of plants including Florida Natives & Seedlings provided by Garden Club Members & Florida Native Plant Society

Over 100 live Painted Lady butterflies will be released throughout the morning



CASH, CHECKS, CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Guest Speakers:
9:30 - Butterfly Friendly Fertilizer & Pesticide Strategies by Keith Fuller
10:45 - Butterfly Garden Basics by Bob Warren

Table with Garden Related Items For Sale!

3440 Old Moultrie Road
St. Augustine, FL 32086




2026 Blooms Galore & More

March 28 @ 9:00 am - 3:00 pm | FREE



Attend this amazing day of activities throughout the Garden Club campus:

Sprout Sale: Plants you can't find anywhere else because our members propagate them in their backyards.

Green Market: Dozens of vendors sell homegrown and handmade items.

Budding Gardeners: A kids zone includes nature-themed crafts, lawn games, and more.

Garden Club Academy: Enjoy lunch or a beverage in the Club Room while you watch a looping series of #GardenClubJax programs.

Plant Pick-up: Convenient system allows you to retrieve purchases in your vehicle.

Food Trucks: Delicious selections will delight your taste buds while you soak up the spring air under the trees around the campus.

Free and open to the public

<https://www.gardenclubjax.org/>



Gainesville Garden Club

Arbor Day – GGC took a different approach this year to focus on urban forestry and discuss choosing an appropriate tree for yards. We purchased native trees and shrubs to give away via a drawing at the conclusion of the program. We advertised via Facebook and had a healthy audience of almost 60 people with a number of newcomers who came due to the Facebook postings.



GGC held a fundraiser at a local brewery - the fourth year for the event advertised as Blossom, Brew and BBQ. This year we had 17 vendors with plants and garden related items. Our BBQ master does the cooking at cost and the brewery offers discounts when customers purchase a wristband from GGC for a \$10 donation. Funds raised support our community projects. Our Facebook postings have been recognized by Facebook as innovative and impactful.

We bring GGC info and are delighted because the event reaches many younger people. The brewery is noted as a family-friendly place and attracts a nice cross section of folks from our community.

This year we are planning a Sip 'N Stroll fund-raiser to support our scholarship programs. It will involve many members as we cook, obtain auction items, decorate our buildings and gardens to create a memorable evening in mid-March. We hope you can plan to come!



This is your personal invitation to join us for the 2026 FFGC-District V and University of Florida Short Course. We are excited to bring you Tools for Tomorrow, an innovative program that will cultivate ideas and provide tools for action. Space is limited. Registration opens on February 1 for FFGC Members and March 1 for Master Gardeners. And think about coming early to enjoy Alachua County highlights: Sweetwater Wetlands Park, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, Payne's Prairie and Butler Plaza shopping. We look forward to seeing you at Short Course!

Contact Mona Rippe, 2026 Registrar, <https://ffgc.org/event-6446850>

FFGC DISTRICT V - UF SHORT COURSE



TOOLS FOR TOMORROW

May 31 - June 2, 2026

University of Florida Straughn Center
Gainesville Garden Club

FFGC Member Registration Opens February 1
Master Gardeners March 1, General Public April 1

www.ffgc.org/education Registrar: monarippe@gmail.com

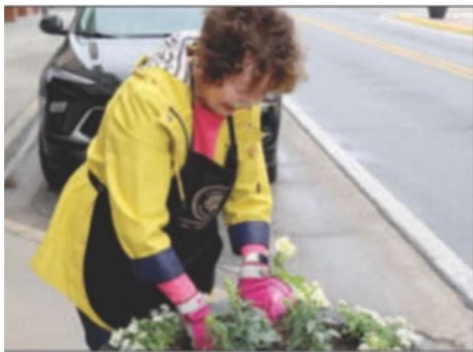


Funded in part by
Visit Gainesville, Alachua County





Lake City Garden Club 10th Annual Scrabble Tournament was a success. Thanks to the kindness of our supporters we raised \$4,000 to fund our downtown beautification project.



Lake City Garden Club brightens up downtown Plants that were damaged by freeze.



Indian Harbour Beach Garden Club members participated in a Christmas Floral Design Class



On January 16th in honor of Florida's Arbor Day, Indian Harbour Beach Garden Club members Joyce Schofield, Lynne Brownrigg and Robin Chang planted a 7 gallon native Simpson Stopper tree at Gleason Park.



On January 28th IHBGC held their annual Bunco fundraiser at Gleason Park Community Center with an amazing turnout!

Kudos to co-chair organizers President, Robin Chang and FFGC Lifetime member, Nancy Dennee





DeLeon Springs Garden Club's recent activities below:

In September, we hosted renowned author Lucy Tobias, who presented a slide show and discussed her book, *The Zen of Florida Gardening*. Beyond gardening, our members enjoyed a range of social events monthly, including sewing, quilting, and Bunko. Denise Baggett also led a photography class. Additionally, the club took a field trip to Lukas Nursery & Butterfly Encounter in Oviedo, led by Pam Clayton.

On October 23, 2025, members toured Magnolia Farm in Barberville. Owners Julie and Matt Roth shared the history of this six-generation family farm. We learned about their wreath-making operation, which produces wreaths with a lifespan of 15–20 years. Their work has been featured in “Garden & Gun” magazine and even displayed at the White House.

Master Gardener Pat LeClare gave a presentation on antique roses. A fourth-generation Floridian and Stetson University retiree, Pat has grown and propagated roses for over 40 years. She is dedicated to reintroducing heritage roses to the Florida landscape and frequently speaks at botanical gardens and historical societies throughout Central Florida.



Karen Tinsen, Kim Meginnes, Lorraine Sullivan, Suzanne Fox, Linda Arthur, Jim & Kim Coleman and Debra Griffith created the Glenwood Nursery on the Glenwood Presbyterian Church grounds, where we can propagate plants for our garden club sales.

November - We have a fun activity, “Make It, Bake It, Grow It”. The members bring items, and they are auctioned off to the highest bidder. This annual event brings together a rowdy and roaring crowd, scoring the club financial gain. Another field trip was to Sanford for the Asian Lantern Festival at the Central Florida Zoological Park & Botanical Gardens. Several met there for a delightful time enjoying beautiful, larger than life, animals, plants, Chinese dragon and loads of lanterns.

December - Our garden club had our annual Holiday Party & Chinese Gift Exchange. Among the oohs & aahs a few members enjoyed “stealing” gifts from one another, only to have them choose another. Lots of fun. Several members, including Barbara Gallenkamp, Cheryl Dukes, Lorraine Sullivan, Sandra Ford, Adrienne Staheli, & Jean Johnson volunteered at the DeLeon Springs Post Office. Their hard work was so impactful that the Postmaster, Kirk Rickels, joined in to help.

DeLeon Springs Garden Club also participated in the DeLeon Springs Community Association’s Autumn in the Oaks, from (left to right) Tammi Kowatch, Cheryl Dukes, Lorraine Sullivan, Debra Griffith, Karen Tinsen & (not pictured) Adrienne Staheli, Sharon Pinder and Mary “Mac” Freeman.

Additionally, Pam Clayton, Diane Rohmeyer, Adrienne Staheli, Kat Jamieson, Kim Meginnes, and Jean Johnson traveled via Sun Rail to the Morse Museum in Winter Park to view the extensive Louis Comfort Tiffany collection and sample some of Winter Park’s fine cuisine.



THE IDEA EXCHANGE - DISTRICT VII



LAKES & HILLS GARDEN CLUB OF MOUNT DORA

Our membership has GROWN! We are up to 72 members from 59 in September!

Orianne Indigo Snake Field Trip,
<https://www.centralfloridazoo.org/about-the-zoo/ocic-2/>
 Located in Seminole State Park, 30931 Brantley Branch Rd, Eustis. The Orianne Center for Eastern Indigo non-venomous snake conservation works in conjunction with the Central FL Zoo. DVII members took a 2-hour tour of the facilities & met wildlife up close and personal.



Mount Dora Holiday Parade



President Annie Libby & Corresponding Secretary Margie Hill rode in style in the Mount Dora Holiday Parade on Dec. 6 th .

Fashion Show: Our annual fundraising event was a great success! See our member-models tear up the fashion aisle.. We took a page from the Miami garden club and ran our own Queen's Ransom fundraiser with Margie Hill as the Queen of hearts – all 100 envelopes sold! Member Reggie Doherty & Margie announced we raised \$239 and it was now time to open the ransom envelopes to find the Queen of Hearts.

Member models: Connie Goss, Jan MacGillis, Vivian Rice, Cinda Pierce, Gabriela Faulkner, Carolyn Sonnentag, and Minette Cote



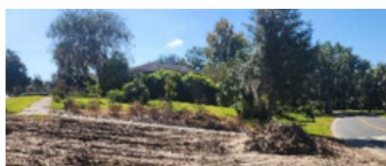
Wreaths Across America



Cheer Mugs - Members made 36 Cheer Mugs after our October meeting as a group activity. We plan to do more of these for donations to various facilities.

Blair Park

The City cleared the landscape for a clean slate & installed new irrigation, planted a Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*) & Natchez Crape Myrtle and laid some sod to help with erosion & soil washaway. Park Committee Chair, Betsy Rice, and member Reggie Doherty are making some landscape design plans.



MDCT Bank Planter - We receive an annual \$150 donation from bank for taking care of the planter. January's pansies was done by Betsy Rice.





APOPKA GARDEN CLUB



Reading of the Proclamation celebrating Arbor Day on January 16, 2026, by Mayor Bryan Nelson of Apopka.



Christmas Parade. President Roberta (Bobbie) Dougherty provided the costumes. Jennifer, and Pam Groseclose were Butterflies; Bobbie and Ann Mixon were Flowers; and Laura and Brian Ramsey were Bumblebees

Made & delivered Cheer Mugs to the Assisted Living Facility at Village on the Green in Longwood. President Roberta Dougherty along with 1st Vice

APOPKA CHRISTMAS PARADE December 13, 2025

The Foliage Garden Club of Apopka—District VII wins the MOST CREATIVE AWARD



President Roberta Dougherty



Christmas Luncheon held at Positantos in Apopka.

DVII Director, Jennifer Barber, decorated her truck as the “float” for the Apopka Christmas Parade. President Bobbie Dougherty provided the costumes: Jennifer & Pam Groseclose were Butterflies; Bobbie & Ann Mixon were Flowers; Laura & Brian Ramsey were Bumblebees. Yes, MOST CREATIVE well deserved.



CAMELLIA, EUSTIS

Enjoyed an eventful Fall with a wonderful boat trip and a visit with the Orienne Indigo snakes. Our December meeting ended with a festive luncheon at a member's home beautifully decorated for Christmas. We also held our second silent auction of 2025 with proceeds going to our camper scholarship fund. Many thanks to some friends of our members who also contributed to the fund. We are now able to support at least 3 campers for this coming summer.

Members: Suzanne Peele, Sue Roberts, Barbara Smith, Anne Reilly, Gloria Gray, Patty Linde, Suzanne Paczkowski, & Ellie Macey were in attendance at the Holiday luncheon. Members: Gabrielle Faulkner took the picture and Suzanne McGuire & Mary Rooney are not in photo.



IXORA SANFORD

Ixora Garden Club of Sanford has been very busy last Fall with 4 fundraisers that have raised money that we will now disburse to the community programs we support. We attended the grand opening of the Georgetown Community Garden at historic Hopper Academy in Sanford on Jan 13th.



In Dec., gave the Veteran's Memorial Never Forget Garden at Sanford's municipal cemetery a workday, placing Christmas wreaths on the 7 crosses honoring the fallen veterans in all our U.S. wars. We continue to work in this garden which our garden club refurbished and adopted (in 2021) so it will always be a beautiful memorial for the over 1,000 veterans buried in the municipal cemetery. This is a perfect project of our club to promote the love of gardening to beautify our community to the greater Sanford and Seminole county community.

LADY LAKE

In Nov. Participated in the 100th year anniversary of Lady Lake, we held a joint public meeting in Heritage Park with the Historical Society.

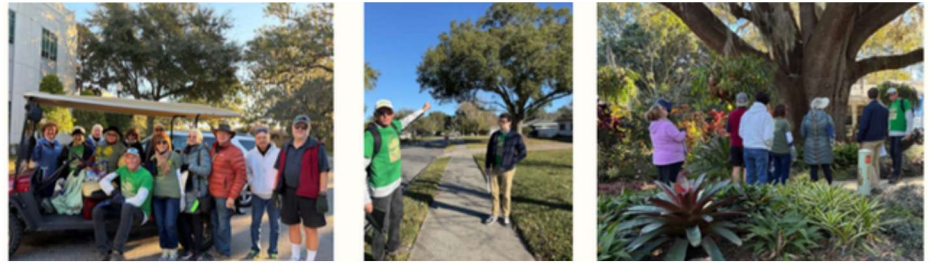
Teri Mallory gave a speech to remind residents of the many ways the Lady Lake GC contributes to the community including the fact that our members had designed the park, planted shrubs and flowers, and created a butterfly garden within the park 25 years ago!





THE IDEA EXCHANGE - DISTRICT VII Cont.

BLOOM & GROW, Winter Garden
We celebrated Florida Arbor day with two events: a Heritage Tree Walking Tour and Tree Giveaway, We gave out 250 3-gallon trees - Live oak, Pink Trumpet and Gold Trumpet trees.



Members embarked on a 3-day field trip to SW Florida and visited Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Naples Botanic Garden, Marco Island Historical Museum, Edison/Ford Houses and Museum, and the collection of Frank Lloyd Wright architecture at Florida Southern College in Lakeland. The weather wasn't great - rainy one day and freezing cold the last day. But we all had a terrific time!



On Valentine's Day, we held our annual **Denim & Diamonds** event at Gretchyn Boyd's property. Guests had the option to join a bird walk guided by Alan Shapiro or Nature Identification walk guided by Andy Kittsley. We were greeted with lively flamenco dancers and a fabulous Paella dinner cooked on-site! A wonderful turnout this year!



Brenda Knowles recently visited Camp Wekiva Open House. Here she is delivering a check to FFGC 2nd VP Leticia Delatorre Gunn.

Mark
YOUR
Calendar

April 11th and 12th
Downtown Winter Garden

Spring Fever
IN THE
Garden

The 24th annual **Spring Fever in the Garden** festival, hosted by the Bloom & Grow Garden Society, will take place in Downtown Winter Garden on April 11-12, 2026. Plant Street will be transformed into a delightful celebration of spring and all things gardening. We invite you to experience the festival firsthand by strolling along Plant Street and indulging in all it has to offer.

Enjoy the charm of historic downtown Winter Garden with its brick-lined streets, unique shops, great restaurants, the city clock tower, lush hanging flower baskets, and enjoy the swings and listen to the fountain under the vine-covered gazebo. Be sure to visit Butterfly Park (right next to the kid's splash pad) and marvel at Flora, our copper Monarch sculpture. Join us for a wonderful ode to spring!





SPRING VALLEY

Spring Valley Plant Sale!!! Plants & vegetables for sale, raffles, vendors, demonstrations by our community service providers, bake sale, and a new KIDS CORNER where children can plant their own seeds & learn about hatching chickens!



Plant Sale - March 7th at the Park

**Roses are Red
Violets are Blue**
The Spring Valley Garden Club's
Annual Plant Sale is coming to YOU!

Saturday, March 7th,
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
797 Spring Valley Rd, Altamonte Springs

This year's event will feature a variety of activities, including plants & vegetables for sale, raffles, vendors, demonstrations by our community service providers, and a new **Kids Corner** where children can plant their own seeds & learn about hatching chickens!

In addition to Hot Dogs and chips, there will be a **bake sale featuring** treats made by your neighbors and Garden Club members.

We invite you to attend the plant sale to discover the latest plant offerings, ask our Master Gardeners questions about your plants, and enjoy a day of fun and relaxation.

WINDERMERE:

You are invited to Windermere Garden Club Derby Day! Join us midday Thursday, April 23rd for a fun Kentucky Derby Day-themed party to raise funds for our Valencia College, Camp Wekiva, and SEEK scholarships.

<https://windermeregardenclub.com/event-6502017>



WINTER PARK:

Feb. 11th's meeting was an interesting lecture about African Violets. We had quite the turnout! All members were invited to take a small plant home.

GARDEN CLUB OF ORLANDO

SOLD OUT!!!



\$30



Orlando Garden Club
presents
English Tea Party and Plant Sale

April 11, 2026
2:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.
Orlando Garden Club

710 E. Rollins St.
Orlando, FL
Raffle and Silent Auction
Cash or Credit Card

Purchase Tickets by contacting: Any OGC Member or by
contacting: Ann Milburn at amilburn276@gmail.com
Phone number: 407-765-6376.

Enjoy an afternoon of tea, treats, and beautiful plants for sale! Everyone is welcome.





DADE CITY

The Dade City Garden Club invites you to UNCORKED—A Taste of Dade City, scheduled for Saturday, March 14, 2026, from 2 pm to 5 pm. Visitors are invited to savor vibrant flavors, scents and experiences as garden club members transform the gardens into a celebration of the delectable charm that is Dade City, not only to residents but to the whole Tampa Bay region. Everyone is invited to taste wine and local beer, sample culinary bites from local restaurants, enjoy live entertainment, be inspired by local artists, learn cooking tips from a local chef, and win extraordinary prizes--all while helping the Dade City Garden Club maintain its beautiful grounds as an asset to the Dade City community!

Built in 1915 as a church, the Dade City Garden Club clubhouse was moved to its present location with funds collected by the founding members through bake sales, catering, and public donations and was recognized in 1979 as a historic site by the Pasco County Commission Board and the Historical Preservation Committee.

UNCORKED—A Taste of Dade City will take place at The Dade City Garden Club, 13630 5th Street, Dade City, FL, and is for guests ages 21+ only. Event tickets are available for a \$75 donation in advance from members of the Dade City Garden Club or online by visiting dadecitygardenclub.com.

The Monarch Butterfly Festival will be back in 2026 in the Spring. This year's event will be presented by the Dade City Garden Club and The City of Dade City on Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 10 am to 4 pm in Touchton Park with activities flowing across the street into the gardens. We are thrilled to announce that the Jolley Trolley will be back in town for the day, taking visitors from free parking areas downtown to the Festival and back, thanks to the generous support of the Nature Coast Council of Community Foundation Tampa Bay. Community Foundation Tampa Bay connects generous individuals, families, and businesses with the causes and communities they care about most. Founded in 1990, the Foundation works across Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas counties to strengthen communities through strategic philanthropy, local partnerships, and lasting investments. We are grateful for their participation with us again this year.

The Dade City Garden Club is currently accepting orders for memorial trees to be planted and dedicated at our Arbor Day/Memorial Tree Celebration, scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2026. The Dade City Garden Club Memorial Tree Program was created in support of The City's Tree City USA designation and is co-sponsored by both the Dade City Garden Club and the City of Dade City. Since 1994, approximately 500 trees have been planted throughout Dade City. The deadline to order a tree is March 15, 2026. This year's memorial trees may be reserved for a donation of \$100, which includes the tree, planting, marker and inscribed plaque.

Over the past few years, the value and importance of trees have become increasingly clear. Cities and towns across the globe are facing issues with air quality, water resources, personal health and well-being, and energy use. The Dade City Garden club is happy to partner with The City of Dade City in taking steps to create a brighter and greener future.

NEW PORT RICHEY

Our club has always focused on horticulture. We have been fortunate enough to have a member who allows us to use a portion of her property to propagate plants. We have to date approximately 1,000 plants. We sell at bargain prices, \$4.00. Members and friends donate cuttings as well as plants. This gives us a decent profit margin that allows us to give scholarships to local students interested in environmental science. This year we will present two students with a check for \$1,000 each. The winners are chosen via essays submitted.

The plants also allow us to work with the Community Service Council of Pasco County. This season we donated \$250 to feed needy families at Thanksgiving. Having property available with a water source, some security and a bathroom is not easy. If you can, it is a great source of income for a small club. Not everyone volunteers but those of us who do spend Thursday mornings propagating, weeding and plant care, then lunch. A fun day.

Rosemary Nagy, President



APOLLO BEACH

Fall 2025, we held Tuesday & Saturday up-potting parties to prepare over 1000 plants for the November 8th Plant Sale. The 6 vendors all expressed satisfaction with customers. Club made about \$3200. Goal was \$3000. Held monthly speakers in the community forest garden: November was Vicki Parsons-Neem & Moringa; December was our Holiday buffet & green elephant. Had a blast with many new members attending.

January 20 was our first quarterly full membership meeting with speaker. We hold monthly open Board meetings. Speaker-Alyssa Vinson, Forestry-UF IFAS. Best trees for Central FL landscapes. Feb 14 was our Spring Plant Sale, we've been growing plants since last sale!! March 7 will be D 8 Plant Auction.

We piloted our Junior Gardener Academy which included harvesting sweet potatoes. The 8 session series begins with 10 - 5-8 year olds Jan. 14. The classes filled in 72 hours. This series is for Homeschool children only & is in collaboration with Step-Up for Children of Hillsborough Co & UF IFAS 4 H coordinator. Membership is at 31 with 13 FFGC members.

Paula Olesen, President

DAVIS ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

September 2025: Members returned to the club still recovering from Hurricane Helen damage. Two of our members, Pam & Sandra, dedicated time to begin refurbishing the entrance to the club! To date, our club is still making efforts to recover. Our next repair is our Seawall. Members also participated in a Back to School Supply Drive!

October 2025: Members volunteered to participate in the Annual Halloween in the Village! We passed out Candy to over 1000 children within Davis Island Community.

November 2025: Our members visited the residents of Hudson Manor Assisted Living Facility on Davis Island. Each month, a different member group of our club volunteers their time to make a craft with the residents to bring joy to their hearts! The residents LOVE these moments!

December 2025: The Club Officers held our Annual Holiday Luncheon for members. Members donated toys, canned goods and goodies for the Hudson Manor residents! This Holidays we made:

- 52 Christmas Stockings for Hudson Manor Residents
- Donated Toys to Children's Cancer Society
- Canned Goods to Ronald McDonald House

We ended the year with many blessings and happy hearts as we started to plan for our FFGC DISTRICT MEETING MAY 13, 2026,

Debbi Copeland, President

LAKWOOD RANCH GARDEN CLUB

November was a busy month for us. We sponsored our annual yard sale for local neighborhoods. Additionally, we decorated about 100 coffee mugs with holiday ornamentals that we delivered to meals on wheels. We also filled bags with personal products—shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soaps, hand sanitizers, etc. that we delivered to Stillpoint Mission in Bradenton where they are distributed to the needy.

In February we are sponsoring a forum about butterflies. Gil Daigneau, an expert on all things butterfly, will lead the program. He will explain how to set up a butterfly garden in your yard, including detailed information about our local species. As our attendees enter, we will give them a paper to write down questions that Gil will answer during his talk. In the past, our butterfly forums have.

Our second Garden Fest will be held in April, and we are busy making plans. In addition to vendors bringing plants and accessories, we will have a question-and-answer table for questions about homeowner's plants, demonstrations, and an abundance of children's activities. We have been going into elementary schools to teach children about gardening. We are happy to go back into the schools after the restrictive years during COVID.

Anita Machlin



Dunedin Garden Club started off our year in September with two presentations by club president, Briony Tomalesky – one on growing plants in shade as Dunedin is an older community covered in vintage oak trees with large canopies. It poses challenges to plant due to massive root systems and shade. This presentation was followed by a talk about growing plants for butterflies – both larval and nectar – with photos of the most common butterflies, caterpillars, and plants native to our area.

The October meeting was a huge success – a Gardeners' Round-table of “Did you know?” Our members shared tips they have learned about gardening in west central Florida. The tips spurred lively discussions which prompted more tips! Members were introduced to Joyce Drew, District 8 Director – who joined in the fun of sharing.

Our November meeting started with a presentation from a former Junior Gardener who shared her experiences at Camp Wekiva as well as her awards she earned as a Junior Gardener. She brought her daughter, who spoke eloquently about her time at Camp Wekiva. Both she and her brother have been sponsored by Dunedin Garden Club. Mother and daughter drew comparisons to then/now – and brought along photographs to share. Our members had so many questions! Then a member from the Florida Chapter of Pinellas County Native Plant Society led everyone on a “walk in the wild” through Hammock Park, one of Dunedin’s most beautiful parks. Members were able to see the native flora and fauna on an absolutely gorgeous autumn day in Florida.

Briony Tomalesky, President

The Plant City Garden Club has 3 junior gardener chairpeople and we have 5 junior gardener clubs in 3 different public schools and we also work with one homeschool group. Our many activities include but are not limited to stick weaving, floral design, insect study, gardening (pollinator and agriculture), fairy garden assembly, and designing and creating terrariums. Each of our junior gardeners receives a plant or creates a terrarium or fairy garden to grow for 90 days and show at the Florida Strawberry Festival. Our club members staff the horticulture show at the Strawberry Festival annually along with doing all the plant check-in and arranging for the judging and teardown.

Plant City Garden Club hosts 2 fun with flowers events each club year and they are open to the public and always very well received. Starting this year, we have partnered with Metals in Nature to host a booth where we are fundraising for our Club by selling Plants we have propagated and other garden related items. We also host an annual small standard flower show.

Our garden club awards 2 \$1,000 college scholarships annually. We also award camperships for children to attend Wekiva Youth Camp . We also support camp with a monetary gift each year along with several of our members being regular volunteers. Three of our members attended WEKIVA leadership training this month. Plant City Garden Club has adopted our local Community Care nursing home center and we put fresh flowers in common areas several times a year along with hosting floral design activities with the residents . We also host an annual Christmas party for the nursing home residents . We purchase and donate gifts at the holiday season for residents also.

In January we planted 30 native trees at McIntosh Preserve and 2 fruit trees at our local community garden. In January and February we had a master gardener present programs to our membership on plant propagation through cuttings and plant propagation through seeds. We have a very effective publicity team that is posting our meetings in the local papers and on social media. As you can see, Plant City is a small but mighty club that is very active in their community.

Julianne Papp



MANATEE RIVER GARDEN CLUB

October: MRGC partnered with Sarasota Garden Club to offer the Floral Design Study series. Nine MRGC members enrolled. MRGC held a lasagna dinner for the Habitat for Humanity homeowners from Poling Gardens. Our October meeting speaker was Issac Eger, a Sarasota journalist talking about his book *Cowboys, Conservation, and the Great Florida Cattle Drive*.

MRGC partnered with Sarasota Garden Club to offer the Floral Design Study series. Nine MRGC members enrolled. MRGC held a lasagna dinner for the Habitat for Humanity homeowners from Poling Gardens. Our October meeting speaker was Karen Ecklert from UF/IFAS with a succulent dish planting demonstration.

November: The Floral Design Study series concluded this month. A large contingent of our members attended the NGC symposium in Stewart that coincided with our regular membership meeting. Our speaker was Whitney Costner, a Manatee County Ecological Program Manager. She gave a presentation on “How oysters help clean our waters”.

December: On 12/3, our membership chair and her committee presented an evening workshop, “Merry and Bright” where participants made Christmas trees from succulents. 28 registered for the event, a few over capacity! Several were not club members. We had a field trip to the “Peaceful Path” at Peace Presbyterian Church in East Bradenton on 12/10. Peaceful Path has been a recipient of our club’s Eaton Foundation grants. The December meeting included a tabletop competition as well as a centerpiece competition. After lunch, the centerpieces were auctioned, with the funds collected donated back to the club. The auction raised approximately \$600. MRGC collected 175lbs of food for the St. Joseph Food Pantry. MRGC ended the 24-25 season in May with 58 members. We started the 25-26 season in September with 71 members and are up to 75 now. Our Membership Chair resurrected a membership committee in June to create a growth and retention strategy. Spring 26 Planned:

January: Advanced Floral Design Study with SGC continues this month. Dean Hay, Certified Arborist with the city of St Petersburg, will give a program “The Importance of Trees” at our monthly meeting on 1/21.

February: Annual Wine and Cheese/Plant Auction “Fun, Friends, & Garden Treasures” will be on 2/12 starting at 6P. Jason Mellica from Advanced Bromeliad Culture will give a program on bromeliads at our monthly meeting on 2/18. On 2/20, MRGC will have a field trip to Palmer Orchids for a demonstration on potting and mounting orchids, with a lunch afterwards tbd.

March: MRGC Flower Show “Luck of the Irish” will be an NGC Standard Holiday Flower Show on 3/13 and 3/14. Amy Stripe, a Manatee County Master For the maximum number of MRGC members to attend the FFGC Convention and FFGC State Flower Show to support our District’s Christy Linke, as well as State Flower Show Co-chair Lori Richie and four other MRGC members serving on the show committee, MRGC moved our monthly meeting from the 3rd Wednesday to the 4th Wednesday. Design and artist Nancy Abrams will give a program on “Interior Landscaping” at our monthly meeting on 4/22. The May meeting on 5/20 has a program TBD.

There will be more field trips after February’s including this summer, but they are not yet finalized.

Melanie Halsey Koester

VENICE AREA GARDEN CLUB

Our club continues to be busy planning the “Birds of a feather “ Flower show for Jan.31, 2026, Saturday, 10-4, in conjunction with Lemon Bay Garden Club. Location is Venice UCC 620 Shamrock Blvd., Naar Hall, Venice. We are having fun combining our talents, hoping to make this a fun show.

We worked on the Legacy Park Demonstration Garden. Looks great all trimmed up and new mulch.

We continue to plan our Home/Garden tour, “A Centennial Garden Celebration” for March 13 - 14, 2026 , 10-4. We have two houses, One is an old historic farm house. We have three gardens in So. Venice. We are including a city park to direct more of the public there. It is Venice’s 100th year celebration, so we are piggybacking on that.

Many new members have joined. We seem to be doing something right. 67 people attended the October Meeting. We participated in “Art in Bloom” at the Venice Art Center. Very busy. That’s all for now!

Sara Stafford, VAGC President



Sarasota Garden Club has had a fantastically busy month in November. The Club had 20+ students finished their week six of the Floral Design Study Classes. District 8 Floral design, instructor and judge Carol Lucia from Saint Petersburg Garden Club taught the last class with great regalia! The next group of classes 7, 8, 9 will be held at Manatee River Garden Club in January.

Since August, our Awards committee has executed the Community Service Design Award by featuring floral designs at Selby Library and Gulf Gate Library. Designing judges, such as Clare Milligan, Barbara Rao, Sue Angle created beautiful designs. The weekly participation has been greatly received by the library attendees.

A few members volunteered to re-landscaped the Doughboy, World War II memorial statue and Sarasota Garden Club's Blue Star markers on Main Street, downtown Sarasota, for the Veterans Day parade activities.

The Education Committee presented an excursion to the Sarasota Succulent Society, where many of our members got a tour of the whole garden, saw the historical home and created our own succulent gardens to be entered in the Flower Show in February 2026.

Several Board of Directors members attended a re-dedication of the Mable Ringling fountain located on along US 41 near our Bayfront and presentation was by the Alliance of Historical Preservation. Mable Ringling was SGC's first president from the 1920's.

Our November general membership meeting urged new members to learn about our standing committees and sign up to participate. We also enjoyed a program that day presented by Michele Marinangel on Sustainable Living with local resources. We all looked forward to a Thanksgiving break with family and friends.

Emily Yaffe, President

Tampa Garden Club is proud to host two annual Community Projects, an NGC Standard Flower Show and an outdoor plant sale and festival, GreenFest! Both are held Sat and Sun March 28-29 from 9am to 4pm, rain or shine. FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Our GreenFest plant festival features Florida native plants with local vendors selected. The plant and product selections are exceptional and the growers are on hand providing educational information to the public. Master Gardeners will present scheduled outdoor presentations for festival goers on a variety of interesting topics.

This year's Flower Show theme is "Oh, The Games People Play!" The well established GreenFest plant festival draws thousands to the area who get the benefit of experiencing our Flower Show. The numbers that experience our show increases every year. We are so happy to meet our goal of providing advanced floral design and pristine horticulture to our visitors.

The Garden Club of Tarpon Springs

This Year:

- Sponsorship Program for members to have garden beds at the Tarpon Springs Community Garden. 5 beds for members \$200.00
- Fall Fundraiser: Sales: \$1,963 (from plants, baked goods, and vendors)
- Donations: Boys and Girls Club of Tarpon Springs \$250; Club Butterfly Project \$198.73
- Scholarship to Tarpon Springs High School Recipient \$500

Plan for the Rest of the Year:

- Arbor Day Volunteer Work at Brooker Creek Preserve Arbor Day Celebration 1/16
- Community Medicinal Plant Walk and Art Presentation at Brooker Creek Preserve 1/31
- Community Presentation on the Club Butterfly Project at the Community Garden
- Member Garden Presentations after club General Meetings
- Collaboration with the Tarpon Springs Library Florida Wildflower Association "Seeds of Knowledge" Grant, planting at our local library.
- Donations to: Boys and Girls Club of Tarpon Springs, Tarpon Springs Library, FFGC World Gardening, Wekiva Memorial Donation, Tarpon Springs Gro Group, Tarpon Springs Community Garden
- Spring Plant Sale: Expected Sales - \$2,000
- Youth Programs: Begin a youth garden bed at the Tarpon Springs Community Garden



Susan Lawson, District IX Director

District IX clubs continue to be busy. We hope you enjoy this snapshot of what we have been up to and some of our upcoming plans.

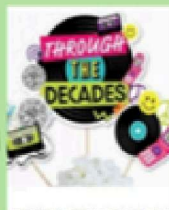
2026 District IX FFGC - Flower Shows



Feb/ 10, 10-4, The Strolling Flower Show 'Awesome Blossoms,' Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, 2301 First Street, Fort Myers FM-LCGC



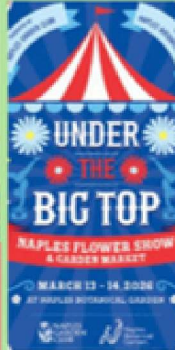
Feb. 12, 1 to 3, District IX FFGC Judges Council Annual Flower Show, 2166 Virginia Ave, Fort Myers



CELEBRATING 70 YEARS Thursday February 19th, 2026 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Feb. 19, 10-3, Through the Decades, A Placement Flower Show, Royal Palm GC, 2166 Virginia Ave, Fort Myers



Feb 22, 10-4, Flower Arranging Competition, Art in Bloom, Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Garden 5827 Riverside Dr, Punta Gorda



Mar 13 & 14, Under the Big Top, Naples GC Flower Show, Naples Botanical Garden



Mar 24, 1-3 From Golf to Gulf an NGC Standard Flower Show Sponsored by the Punta Gorda GC, 5240 Duncan Rd., Punta Gorda



Ap 24, 2:15-4:30 & Ap 25, 9-3, Flower Show: Painted Paradise - Lovegrove Style, GC of Cape Coral, NW Cape Library, 519 Chiquita Blvd N. Cape Coral

DIX Plant Sales

- Feb 14-15 Edison Ford Winter Estates
- Mar 14 GC of Cape Coral
- Mar 14 Avon Park Founders GC
- Mar 21 Port Charlotte GC
- Apr 18 JEH Hibiscus Society
- Apr 18 Bonsai Society Auction
- May 2 Avon Park Corr. Facility





The Garden Club of Lakeland, Inc. decorated 450 ornaments and pinecones to accompany meal deliveries to the shut-ins of our community.



GC of Winter Haven continues to raise funds for their 100th Anniversary Gift.

Welcome Lakeland Camelia Society as our sixth local FFGC Affiliate Member.



Gardeners Out East gifted a Japanese blueberry tree to the Lakewood Ranch Celebration of Life Center.



The Periwinkles enjoyed another successful auction and raised over \$21,000 to support philanthropic causes in Lee County.

Port Charlotte GC spread joy at two rehab facilities.



At Bouquet GC's Christmas luncheon, we all brought gifts for the children served by Project Love.

Naples GC viewed "Patchwork Wild" at the Naples Zoo. This documentary supported by our club's grant to the Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation features a week-long journey by four trekkers through Collier County.






You are invited to a delightful

Tea Party

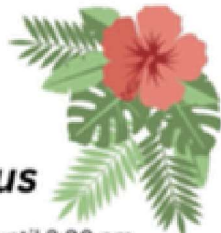
27 February 2026

AT TWO O'CLOCK
Punta Gorda GC
Buttonwood
Village Clubhouse
701 Aquí Esta Dr
Punta Gorda

\$55



Florida Federation of Garden Clubs
Horticulture Program



Digging It: All About Hibiscus

Thursday, March 5, 2026, 9:30 am until 2:00 pm
Berne Davis Botanical Gardens Center
2166 Virginia Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33901

Presented by Cathy Dunn, President,
James E. Hendry Chapter, American Hibiscus Society

\$30 includes instructor fees, materials, and handouts. Bring your own lunch and beverage.

REGISTER ONLINE AT PGGC.ORG
OR USE THE QR CODE BELOW
OR SEND A CHECK TO P.O. BOX 511167,
PUNTA GORDA, FL. 33951-1167
PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS.



Punta Gorda Garden
Club is a
501(c)3 nonprofit
organization.



THE GARDEN CLUB OF SEBRING, INC.
INVITES YOU TO ITS
ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND-RAISING
EVENT

CARD PARTY AND GAMES DAY

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026
TIME: 10-3



JACK STROUP CIVIC CENTER
355 W CENTER AVENUE
SEBRING, FL 33870



FUN FOR ALL! EVERYONE WELCOME!
GAMES, FOOD, DRINKS & PRIZES
TICKETS: \$15
LUNCH INCLUDED

DOOR PRIZES, AUCTION, 50/50

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND TICKETS

Contact: Margaret Grassman: margaretgrassman@gmail.com
Carol Gragilla: graggy14@gmail.com



You Are Invited!

SPRING TEA

March 12, 2026
2:00 - 4:00

Winter Haven
Garden Center

715 Third St., N.W.
Winter Haven
Cost \$30.00

Questions:

KMorrisbouquetpc@gmail.com



The **Garden Club of Ft. Pierce** has had a busy season, reaching out to the community while our clubhouse is being renovated. In addition to our regular meetings (generously hosted by good neighbors, the Ft. Pierce Yacht Club) we have coordinated our fall fundraiser with Heathcote Botanical Gardens and volunteered to light up the garden for their Festival of Lights. We participated with Rio Lindo GC and GC Stuart to have a fashion show fundraiser for Wekiva. We honored very effective members with the Earth Steward Award for Sonja Jemison and Pillar of Pride for Liz Cohen. Designing holiday arrangements for a nursing home made our December Covered Dish a creative charitable event. New on our schedule ... we will be celebrating spring with our own Art in Bloom, Friday, March 20th at the St. Lucie Cultural Alliance, 111 Orange Avenue, Ft. Pierce. Mark your calendars!



District XI has been busy with many varied activities. From fun floral design workshops to a bee aviary and a Secret Garden Tour there is always something going on. Coral Springs is involved with numerous community gardens and outreach programs and Pompano Beach and Fort Lauderdale work with childrens groups.

Fort Lauderdale Garden Club: Fall 2025 in Review

Transitions, Traditions, and Memorable Moments: A Year of Change

The Fall of 2025 for the Fort Lauderdale Garden Club year was a blend of transitions and traditions. Members gathered at the George English Park Community Center on Bayview Drive, just across Sunrise Boulevard from the Galleria Mall, for our October and November General Meetings.

October Highlights

On October 9th, the General Meeting program, “All About Us,” celebrated FLGC’s accomplishments, upcoming events, and ongoing programs. The event was a tremendous success. Rose Bechard Butman, Moringa Circle Member and Florida Master Gardener, delivered an inspiring presentation: The Moonlight Garden...A Composition in White. Sample plants were auctioned off following the talk. This standing-room-only was a testament to the vibrancy of our club!

November & Winter Events

November’s General Meeting featured Keith London, Florida Master Gardener, presenting Edible Gardens: What to plant that fall. Keith’s presentation was both interesting and entertaining. Members enjoyed his expertise and anecdotes while learning how to plan for a successful edible garden. Parkinsonia Garden Circle hosted the meeting and did not disappoint. They provided a wide array of refreshments for attendees and guests.

Holiday Luncheon & Fashion Show

On Friday, December 5th, members enjoyed the Holiday Luncheon and Fashion Show, Tinsel and Topiary, at Jacaranda Golf Club. Chico’s sponsored the fashion show, and club members modeled Chico’s stylish fashions, showcasing a beautiful array of women’s clothing for all shapes and sizes. Attendees also shopped for the holidays at vendor booths and participated in the Holiday gift basket raffle featuring Circle-sponsored gift baskets.

January’s General Meeting centered around a “Totally Teacups” petite floral design program and workshop. Andrea L. Hellman, National Garden Club Master Judge, presented a slideshow of petite designs in teacups, mugs, and small containers, explaining the specifications for entering a Petite Design in an NGC Standard Flower Show. Andrea shared her “Andrea Always” rules for floral design, inspiring participants as they created their own teacup arrangements with her guidance and encouragement. The results delighted everyone.



Garden Club of Coral Springs

We spruced up our plant and vegetable garden at Sawgrass nature to feed the animals, adding annual greens such as kale, lettuce and tomatoes. We added some native plants to our native garden at Whispering Woods Park, signage failed and we have to redo them! We planted and maintain a Florida friendly garden at Veterans Park in Coral Springs. We have a plot in the Community Garden in Coral Springs that was replanted this fall to grow vegetables and flowers. Our plant exchange is very popular and we are in the process of freshening up the stand signage.

Our Seed Library at the NW Regional Library has taken off this fall and we have delivered many seeds to happy gardeners. Patrons can request up to six varieties of seeds per order through the website <https://www.thelittleseedlibrary.org/>. We also have drop-off drawers available for seed donations. Seed donations must include labeling and instructions. Unsealed donations will be repackaged by our volunteers. This Seed Exchange Library is free and proudly sponsored by the Garden Club of Coral Springs.



The **Lauderdale-By-The-Sea (LBTS) Garden Club** has 36 current members (adding 4 already this year). We have been busy learning new topics at our monthly meetings the 2nd Monday of each month starting in September. We have had strong programs on Building our Tree Canopy, Immersion into the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, the Basics of Raising Orchids and Simple Fall Floral Design. We also held a field trip to Flamingo Gardens. The Club plans to hold at least three more group filed trips in the spring to local gardens including our garden plat at Patricia Davis Reserve.

Future topics for this year include:

- Growing Plants in Containers
- Wildlife Rescue
- Composting at Home
- Spring Flower Arranging Demonstration and Garden Tour
- Beekeeping, Honey, and Pollinators
- Health & Gardening

On January 31 st from 9am-1pm, the Club will hold its annual Rummage Sale to raise awareness and funds for our projects. We also received a grant from the Town of LBTS to assist with the educational signage for a new pollinator garden, stock and support a micro-bee apiary and assist with the Town’s annual Arbor Day-tree planting (and adding this year an orchid walk celebration) in Friedt Park with on April 24 th at 10:00 am.

Junior Garden Club had their first meetings and they went very well. The K-3 met on Wednesday.



They put seeds in the small pots and decorated them.

The 3-5th met on Thursday



Both groups do the same things. There are approximately 20 children in each group. All the supplies are divided and ready for the children. The children worked in teams of 5 to plant Basil in the bigger pots. Thank you, Kendra for spearheading this project. If you are interested in joining, you must be FINGERPRINTED which will be coordinated through PB Garden Club. The next meeting is October Wednesday 8 & Thursday 9—3:30-4:30

Garden Club of Lighthouse Point

The Garden Club of Lighthouse Point is currently conducting a Floral Design Study series from 7-9, with Susan Hillson and Christine Biscoglio as instructors. The club is continuing to assist eleven-year-old Haley with her floral collections and has provided her with school supplies donated by a local elementary school. Her mother, Melody Jackle, recently joined the club.



Laura Campanella, an avid gardener, was selected as the latest “Beauty Spot of the Month” for her exceptional landscape. Allison Zack, from the Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Garden Club, presented her club’s Bioswales project, which they collaborated on with their city. Her presentation was highly inspiring. The club eagerly anticipated Ann Wiley’s presentation on “Planting for Life—how to transform your yard into a bird feeder” in February.



The club is preparing for its annual Salad Lunch Fundraiser and will utilize Zeffy, an online event ticketing platform, for the first time to facilitate ticket sales, email distribution, and report generation.





Coral Gables Garden Club

The Coral Gables Garden Club decorates the Historic Merrick House prior to its open to the public holiday party. This year we had 15 members and provisional members participate. Our Centennial Historic display was on view at the Coral Gables Library for the month of December as well as the Planting Pollinators sculpture dedication and reception. Each month members participate in our Heritage Herb Garden planting and maintenance at the historic Merrick House. At the Diggin It Workshop a Micro greens presentation and planting took place. Garden Therapy at the Crystal Academy school for autistic children, where flowers and containers are provided and club members help each child make an arrangement. Members participated in our monthly Fun with Flowers workshop conducted by Sharon Trbovich.

South Miami Garden Club

The South Miami Garden Club held its annual Make, Bake or Grow fundraiser to raise funds for various non-profits in our community. Members are encouraged to bake homemade baked goods, make crafts or other items and bring in plants they have grown (some just buy them). We have a bid sheet by each item and also have a club member auction off some of the items to bring a higher bid. It is fun and raise around \$2,000, This is our big fundraiser for the year.

Ken Pines Garden Club

Ken Pines Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale with both nursery bought and member propagated plants. A fieldtrip to the mushroom farm was a great educational and fun trip.

Coral Pines Garden Club

In January, Coral Pines Garden Club went on a fabulous field trip to Lion Farms Organic Mushroom Farm. Lion Farms is a zero-waste, 100 percent organic regenerative farm producing nearly a dozen varieties of high quality, healthy culinary and medicinal mushrooms. They are known for their “worm tea” made from worm castings and compost to produce a microbially-rich vermicompost tea used for fertilizer. In February, members had a fun workshop making Kokedama Japanese Moss Balls. Meanwhile, Members are potting plants and are looking forward to our annual Plant Auction coming up in March. Plans are being made for hosting the District XII Spring Meeting in May.

Miami Beach Garden Club

Miami Beach Garden Club sent 6 members to Wekiva Volunteer Training weekend where they participated in educational speakers, arts & crafts, nature hikes and a campfire with smores. Our annual Valentine senior workshop was enjoyed by attendees from several senior living facilities.



Wekiva Springs



MBGC Wekiva Volunteers – Mayami Cabin



The Coral Gables Garden Club is excited to bring you our
4th Annual Fashions and Florals Event
"NIGHTFALL IN THE GARDEN"
Friday, April 24, 2026, at 7:00 PM
Coral Gables Country Club
997 Greenway Drive, Coral Gables FL

ENJOY AN ENCHANTED EVENING
Featuring an AvantGarde Fashion Show by
JULIAN CHANG

Beautiful floral arrangements • Cocktails • Dinner
• Dancing • Silent Auction
Ticket price: \$175 per person

**The Miami Beach Garden Club
Invites You to Meet Us Where
Reality Bends and Perception Blooms in**
Le Jardin Surrealiste
Let's raise our glasses for a toast!
April 23, 2026
11:00 AM

Join our lively basket raffle and
sensational silent auction followed by
a delectable lunch and intriguing entertainment.

The **2026 Design Parade Competition** asks you to
reimagine a bowler or top hat with natural plant material
in the most unpredictable way! Prizes awarded to:
**Best Use of Material, Most Surreal, Most Salvador Dali,
Most Monochrome, Best Sense of Humor**

\$165.00 per person
Valet Parking Included / Cash Bar

KLAW Restaurant
1737 N. Bayshore Drive

**Purchase
Tickets**



or Zelle: info@miamibeachgardenclub.org
Please contact Drenda Mercer at
drendamercer24@gmail.com with seating preferences.