

BLOOMING TALES

from Terrific Ten

December 2023



Direct from the Director: Maria Wolfe

What a fun time I am having as District X Director! Since my induction in April 2023, I have enjoyed driving through the counties seeing, firsthand, the vibrant and creative education and engagement activities at the District's garden clubs.

During my visits, I was able to help celebrate anniversaries with Piper's Landing and Boynton Beach Garden Clubs, attend a meeting at the Rio Lindo Garden Club and meet the members at the Boca Raton Garden Club installation luncheon. The fundraisers for the Garden Clubs of Ft. Pierce and Boca Raton Garden Club were a great pleasure to see in action.

I was pleased to see that the overall club memberships are diverse and are bringing a wealth of life experiences to the table, from Shirley Walker in Garden Club of Ft. Pierce who has been a member for 36 years to the many brand new members in other clubs. The quality of your dedication is admirable.

Looking ahead, Arbor Day is Friday, January 19, 2024. Partnering is the name of the game. I applaud your clubs' creativity year-round, but, as

you know, it is especially important on Arbor Day for your club to visibly promote the environmental protection mission with tree-plantings and giving away trees in your neighborhoods.

As well, I encourage that your club complement your community and area municipality partners' efforts in promoting the importance in being environmentally responsible for years to come. Our clubs are designed to help the communities leave a legacy so we will be able to show the next generation the trees and plots, and say, "We planted this!" A favorite quote of mine, "Business is not about one's own success or failure, but how successful we make our partners" firmly applies to garden clubs. Please actively participate in your club's Arbor Day event.

The 67th Annual Tropical Short Course is Thursday-Friday, January 25-26, 2024, in Wellington, Florida, at the Wellington Community Center, 12150 Forest Hill Blvd., Wellington, Florida 33414, from 8am-3pm.

The event is titled 'Groundbreakers... Then & Now' and offers dynamic speakers, floral designing demonstrations and raffle prizes. Among other speakers, hear Ginny Stibolt, known as the

Myth Buster, share her wealth of information, such as whether we should use bone meal to feed our plants or not, and should we bleach our clippers or not. In addition, other seasoned gardeners on the program will share their experiences. I think you will agree these talks will help make the registration fee very worthwhile. More information on how to register is in this newsletter and on <http://www.DistrictX.org>.

Art in Bloom is the District X FFSJ (Florida Federation of Flower Show Judges) gift to you, the members of District X. On Saturday, February 10 please plan on visiting Posh Art Gallery in Delray Beach. You will have the pleasure of seeing floral designers interpret art using floral designs. More info in this newsletter.

The 100th Anniversary Convention of FFGC will be held on April 9 -12, 2024. I hope you are making plans to join me as we enjoy a State Flower Show, a Members' Art Show, and hear a former White House Florist share her experiences while working for a U.S. President and First Lady.

I look forward to many more months of making a difference in our communities.

Tropical Short Course
Jan. 25-26

Don't wait to register for Tropical Short Course Refresher

by Maria Wolfe, District X Director

Some of the great topics are:

- * Common gardening myths from Ginny Stibolt, author of *Step By Step Guide to a Florida Native yard.*
- * Gertrude Jekyll, groundbreaking female landscape designer
- * Seagrass devastation and its effects

on Manatees

- * Plumerias - From seed to bloom
- * Dazzling Floral Designers

Registration deadline is: January 5, 2024 (to avoid \$10.00 late fee)

Seating is based on date of registration receipt.

Jacaranda circle celebrates Christmas at member's home

This year, Jacaranda Circle met at the beautifully decorated home of one of our members, Iris Rhett. Husbands were invited, too. It was a small group, which afforded us the opportunity to share more intimately. A good time and meal was had by all.



Jan, Iris, Lisa, Mary Claire and Kathy



A few of the couples...



A few of the yummy desserts!

67th Annual Tropical Short Course NCG Tri-Refresher

Groundbreakers.....Then & Now

Thursday - Friday,
January 25-26, 2024

Wellington Community
Center
12150 Forest Hill Blvd
Wellington, Florida 33414

Speakers
Floral Design
Raffle Prizes

Go to www.DistrictX.org
For more information
and Registration Forms.
Maria Wolfe, Chairman
tcacad_registrar@yahoo.com
561-386-4903



Jasmine Circle of GCIRC incorporates a social aspect into club meetings to encourage growth

by Susan Simmens

Jasmine Circle of GCIRC keeps growing - I think I know why. Last year, as President, I carefully reviewed our members' District X surveys and learned that each one had joined for social reasons, as well as others. Covid changed us; we now realize how important friendships and relationships are in our lives.

As President, I took a few minutes during President's Remarks and shared some personal insights about myself. I tried to relate my remarks to gardening in some slight way, but mostly, I let our members know a little more about my-

self and my family than just the administrative side; for example, when my two year old son, who loved the 1970's TV show, Emergency, took the hose while we were planting a tomato ring, dragged it into my laundry room and put out his imaginary fire! All ended well.

Another addition to our Agenda, which our new President, Maureen Labadie, has continued, is beginning our meetings with "Member Highlights." She invites a member, a month in advance, to share some-

thing about herself. Our members have repeatedly spoken how meaningful this is to each of them.

Make, Bake, and Grow, Jasmine's traditional fundraiser, raised more money than ever for our Civic projects and was attended by almost all members, including 15 guests.

Six good reasons to mark January 19, 2024, on your calendar

By Katherine Wagner-Reiss, District X Arbor Day Coordinator

1)Friday, January 19 is Florida Arbor Day, and thanks to the vision of Tina Tuttle, FFGC President, over 400 trees will be planted by clubs on that day.

2)The role of native trees, especially keystone species, is an important message to share with our communities.

3)Celebrating Arbor Day is a good way for our garden clubs to be visible and to attract new members.

4)Elected officials have been invited by some of our clubs, and it will be an ideal time to thank them for supporting our natural spaces.

5)In addition to a ceremonial tree planting, many of our clubs are giving away seedlings, offering guided tours, or hosting other ancillary events. Check out what your garden club has planned.



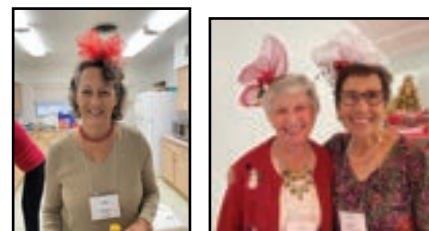
Wellington Garden Club will be planting a slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*) to celebrate Florida Arbor Day on 1/19/24.

6)Having seen your club's tree planted, it will be interesting to watch it fill its ecological niche over the years.

Source:<https://ffgc.org/Arbor-Day>



Make, Bake, and Grow auction item



Jasmine's "new" members
Maggie Cook, Marilyn Case, and
Navy Edmiston

Jasmine, I believe, continues to grow because we've become more personal during our meetings, and our membership is growing!

Boynton Beach celebrates 85th anniversary

By **Linda Anderson, President**

A festive spirit was in the air when Boynton Beach Garden Club gathered to celebrate its 85th anniversary on November 14. Special guests in attendance included District X Director Maria Wolfe, former Boynton Beach Mayor Steven Grant and Virginia Savietto of Palm Beach County, representing Mayor Gregg Weiss. Tao Woolfe from the Coastal Reporter was also present.

Garden Club President Linda Anderson asked everyone to imagine what life was like in 1938 Boynton Beach, a small fishing and farming village of fewer than 1,300 people. "The town was growing," Anderson said. "And, with the help of a small group of women, which became the Garden Club, and the beautification projects they took on, Boynton Beach grew from a village into a community, an attractive center of culture and civic pride, the third largest city in Palm Beach County."

"Since this was a celebration of the club's years of service to the community, length of service was also recognized. Ilia Lindsay and Jane Gavlick were recognized for over 25 years of service to the Garden Club. At the other end of the spectrum, 27 new members were added in the 2022-23 time period," Anderson noted.

Following a tasty potluck lunch provided by the members, the program resumed with a short history of the club. The 85th Anniversary Committee also created multiple display boards with clippings and photos of activities throughout the years.

The club was presented with a proclamation from Palm Beach County recognizing its service over the years. Former Boynton Beach City Mayor Steven Grant spoke of collaborating with the Garden Club in 2018 to create the community garden in the Boynton Hills neighborhood. Maria Wolfe, District X director, congratulated the club on its service to the community.

In closing, President Anderson not-



ed that as much fun as it is to celebrate the past, we need to look toward the future. "I want all of us to believe in tomorrow and to be looking for what is next," Anderson said. "Our immediate future includes the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and the Arbor Day tree planting at the Boynton Hills Neighborhood Garden on January 19."

In conjunction with those events the grand opening of the garden as a bird sanctuary will also take place. The program concluded with everyone receiving a rose as a favor when they departed.

The 85th Anniversary Committee, headed by Mary Scheitler, ensured that all attendees had a wonderful celebration. Other committee members were Sonja Zalutko, Ilia Lindsay, Evelyn Maciag, Jane Gavlick and Marianne Madyda. Christine Johnson created the beautiful centerpieces. Thanks to all!

We Love a Parade....

About a dozen BBGC members dressed like dancing candles took to the streets to celebrate the club's 85th Anniversary by marching in the Boynton Beach Holiday Parade on December 2. The entry featured a mega-cake adorned with beautifully painted and



ton Beach Holiday Parade on December 2. The entry featured a mega-cake adorned with beautifully painted and

crafted paper roses made by the members. A bounty of poinsettias and other plants were placed on a platform extending out the back of a Jeep, with evergreen boughs and holiday bows trimming the car. Painted magnolia leaves, arranged to look like poinsettias, were added to the hood on streams of ribbon. It was a mix of creativity and ingenuity along with feats of engineering!

UPCOMING EVENTS

BBGC Arbor Day Celebration marks opening of Bird Sanctuary Garden In conjunction with its Arbor Day celebration this year, Boynton Beach Garden Club will have the "big reveal" of the Boynton Hills Neighborhood Garden's transformation to a bird habitat. Garden Committee members have been working hard this year to plant trees and shrubs attractive to birds," Christine Johnson, Garden Council Director, said. "This is a nice complement to our Butterfly Garden at the Schoolhouse Children's Museum."

A tour of the small garden will follow planting a *lignum vitae* tree or "Tree of Life", provided by Duke Energy, via a grant to FFGC in honor of its 100th birthday. The club will also be giving away wax myrtle tree seedlings, provided by a National Wildlife Federation grant to FFGC.

Boynton Beach Garden Club is sponsoring a Raisin' Cane bus trip tour of sugarcane fields on Thursday, February 15. A buffet luncheon at the Clewiston Country Club is included. Cost is \$10. For further information and registration contact Lori Wolff, via email: loreleiwolff@aol.com.

Mark Your Calendars for *Blossoms & Butterflies Luncheon and Fashion Show* will be held Noon to 3 p.m., Wednesday, March 20 at Westchester Country Club. Sponsored by the Boynton Beach Garden Club, the event will feature fashions from six boutiques, raffle baskets, vendors and more. Cost is \$45. For more info email tlcvetko@gmail.com.

Garden Club of Stuart struts its stuff!

by Rosita Aristoff, president

The Garden Club of Stuart proudly hosted the District X Fall Meeting on October 20 at the Monarch Country Club in Palm City – once again facilitated by the capable leadership of Committee Chair Li Roberts.



The meeting enjoyed a strong attendance which resulted in a modest profit of about \$400. The meeting's feature program described youth environmental education in Martin County. The FFGC officers gave a very informative presentation, and the guests were treated to a variety of fun activities including: a mystery wine auction, raffle baskets, Queen's Ransom Games, a Land, lots of Land Game (free), and a Best of the Best Game (free).



On November 11, The Garden Club of Stuart participated in Stuart's Veterans Day parade with members displaying our club banner followed by a small float which presented an exhibit related to the NGC's Blue Star Memorial program.

Congressman Brian Mast joined our parade group for a photo opportunity with us. The parade terminated at Stuart's Memorial Park.



The City's Veterans Day Ceremony took place immediately following the end of the parade. The Garden Club of Stuart's Kathie Smith presented the history of the Blue Star Memorial program and GCS President Rosita Aristoff dedicated the new Blue Star Memorial By-Way marker. This recently acquired marker is to replace the older, weathered marker which resides in the park and is surrounded by memorial gardens maintained by club members.

Finally, The Garden Club of Stuart prepared and submitted ten FFGC award applications prior to the November deadline.

Discover Camp Wekiva for a weekend

by Stacy Johnson, District X Wekiva Chairperson

Central Florida's first tourist attraction was started in 1890, consisting of a hotel & bathhouse touting the so-called medicinal waters of Wekiva Springs. The depression saved this beautiful area from being developed into a housing community and it became a state park in 1969.

In 1974, FFGC opened Camp Wekiva in partnership with the Florida Parks Service, accomplished only by every FFGC district raising money to each fund one camper cabin. At the current time, Wekiva Youth Camp is the only camp in the United States run by a Federated Garden Club.

Won't you consider discovering Wekiva Youth Camp and Wekiva Springs State Park? From Feb. 9-11, 2024, FFGC offers you a weekend at this resort, in air-conditioned/heated cabins with indoor plumbing, for just \$75. What an excellent opportunity to participate firsthand in camper activities and to become acquainted with summer volunteer opportunities. Hope to see you there!

Visit <https://www.wekivayouthcamp.org/wekiva-leadership-training/> for the application and more information. Parents of campers should register youth campers on either Jan. 2 or Jan. 3 depending on child's age. Visit www.wekivayouthcamp.org for details. Spots can fill up quickly, so advise the parents of your scholarship recipients to be prepared to sign up right away.

The importance of strategic planning

By Pat Welch

Strategic planning sounds boring... right? Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches has found that going through the process every 3 years has given us purposeful direction and has provided opportunities for members to let



us know what they value. And we have done it in a way that is not boring and gives every member a voice!

Every member responds to a request to list the strengths and weakness of the Club as well as opportunities that we might take advantage of and threats that we need to consider. These responses are collated and shared at the beginning of a brainstorming session where members answer the question:

“What should Oleander Garden Club accomplish in the next three years?”

We have used a process that gives every member a chance to share their thinking and a process which lends

itself to quickly distilling the brainstormed list and voting. We end up with 3-5 major goals and a boatload of great ideas. The greatest outcome is the creation of a shared vision which everyone has participated in creating. This process also energizes members who know they have had a chance to voice their opinion and share in setting the direction for the Club.

Strategic planning can be fun and, for Oleander Garden Club, it certainly has been a very positive tool to engage our members and position our Club for growth and success.

NGC Deep South Garden Club awards

Your garden club has a wonderful opportunity for a planting project at your Blue Star Memorial Marker site or a Butterfly Garden at your Community Center, and the Deep South Garden Clubs want to know! It wants to acknowledge your Garden Club with an Award and a monetary contribution to your club.

Information and applications are available on deepsouthgardenclubs.com and FFGC.org. You will find easy online applications for your Garden Club achievements.



If your club is doing it, apply and get the Award!

Daphna Goldberg
dmkdaisy@yahoo.com
Boca Raton Garden Club
NGC Flower Show Judge
Deep South GC Awards Chairwoman

Wellington GC lines up five fundraisers this season

by Carol Ralph, Prresident of Wellington G C

The Wellington Garden Club has had a superb start to the 2023-2024 season. We have 11 new members and 1 renewal since the first of September...amazing!!!

The speakers we have lined up for this season are so very interesting: history of the Everglades, permaculture, wild animals endemic to Florida, bee pollinating and natural habitats, pest control, strengthening in gardening and scientific and common names of plants. We will be so well educated!

Talk about fun, the Around and Abouts lined up are fantastic. It is a mix of educational and fun things to do.

As our meetings don't allow sufficient time to really socialize with each other, we have scheduled Sunset Socials, one each month. These are held at a member's home where we are also able to enjoy the various gardens created by our members.

Our fundraisers are:

- *Holiday Gift Boutique*- a joint effort with the Wellington Art Society held on December 2, 2023. We will be selling native milkweed plants!
- *Shredding Event* held on January 13, 2024.
- *Lunch & Learn*- a joint effort with the Wellington Historical Society, held on March 13, 2024.
- *Fabulous Tour of Equestrian Estates and Gardens* held on April 6, 2024. This is our biggest fundraiser so be sure to save the date!
- Last but not least is our *Plant Sale* held on April 22, in conjunction with the Village of Wellington's celebration of Earth Day.

If any additional information on any of the above is desired, please contact me. I would love to chat with you.

caroltaylorralph@gmail.com

740-243-8843

GC of Ft. Pierce donates time and effort to Heathcote Botanical Gardens

By Dotty Greene

As Garden Club of Ft. Pierce winds up the celebration of 75 consecutive years of FFGC affiliation, we are proud to thank our leadership. We had a delightful tea party with special invitations to former presidents who are not active at this time. Current member past presidents were honored as well. We look forward to continuing the festivities with a visit from District X Director Maria Wolfe in February.

Regarding current presidents, 2022-24 club president Vivian Kobe's leadership will be missed as health reasons prompted her resignation. Glad to report she is feeling a little better. Both 1st VP Anne Kern and 2nd VP Francine McGuire-Popeck have continued their dedication to the club by stepping up to the next official roles.

A giant thank you to all who participated in the MEGA Sale! We sold lots of member grown plants (great for sharing knowledge) and many gently used household goods. This sale continues to fund our Charitable Giving Committee projects, led by committee chair Liz Cohen.

In the past year garden related projects were developed at Lake Forest Park Senior Living, Mustard Seed shade house, Manatee Center. The GCFP veggie garden and the irrigation system at Heathcote Botanical Garden continue to be the focus of activity for many members.

During this season of giving and light, a number of our members have been sharing their energy at Heathcote Botanical Gardens. They have decorated the Pioneer House, Heathcote House and the Bonsai Garden for Heathcote's fundraising



Garden Club of Ft. Pierce members are honored volunteers at Heathcote Botanical Gardens.

holiday show, the Garden of Lights. Many member are vounteering their time as helpers at the actual



Past President Vivian Kobe prepares the veggie garden at Heathcote Botanical Gardens.

event on Friday and Saturday evenings from Thanksgiving weekend through the end of December. We hear that the gardens are reporting excellent numbers enjoying the festivities, making their big fundraiser very successful.

Garden Club of Ft. Pierce wishes all our district clubs a happy, healthy, productive 2024!

West Palm Beach Garden Club small but still going strong

by Lynn Jones, President

West Palm Beach Garden Club has been enjoying the present post-Covid atmosphere. While we lost a few members due to resignations, we also lost many beloved members to non-Covid problems. Our club, although small, has always been fortunate to receive wonderful new members.

We meet monthly at Mounts Botanical Gardens. Director-Curator Rochelle Wolberg has received the FFGC Earth Steward Award from our club, and we have a very cordial relationship with MBG.

Our "Yard of the Month" program has recognized monthly yards of beauty in West Palm Beach as well as promoting our club via our "Yard of the Month" sign with contact information. The owners are absolutely thrilled to be recognized.

WPBGC recently hosted a speaker from *Community Greening*, a Palm Beach County urban forestry program that is expanding beyond Palm Beach County. This is an incredibly organized program and one that garden clubs should be aware of.

We prepared a quilt block for the FFGC Centennial Quilt and are looking forward to attending the 2024 FFGC Centennial Convention in Jacksonville as well as looking forward to our own Centennial in 2028.



District X garden clubs enjoy Flagler Museum tour and High Tea

Forty Five garden club members and their guests were treated to a docent-led tour of the Flagler Museum in Palm Beach, Florida on Thursday, December 14.

Decorated for the Holidays, the summer home of Henry Morrison Flagler and his wife Mary Lily did not disappoint. The painted ceilings, gold moldings and furnishings whisked us back to the gilded age.

Our imaginations ran wild as we contemplated the lifestyle of Flagler's rich friends who visited the 71 year old and his 34 year old wife while being entertained and fed seven course meals.

We enjoyed a High Tea served on Whitehall China in the pavilion. Located

right on the intracoastal, we had a view of the yachts and boats traveling in the rainy weather of that day. Flagler's restored rail car named simply Railcar No. 91 was in the pavilion with us.

This was a fun event for District X members to meet each other and experience a part of history. Stay tuned for our next fun event.....



All guests enjoyed a guided tour.



Barbara Maine - Rio Lindo Garden



Rebecca Walton Oleander GC, Roberta Corrigan, Boynton Beach GC, Toni Cvetko Boynton Beach GC, Mary Ann Cody Ocean Ridge GC

Enjoy this new event brought to you by the District X Flower Show



A Posh Event

Saturday, February 10th, 2024
12 noon - 7 p.m.

Join us for a celebration of art and flowers featuring imaginative floral interpretations of selected works from the Posh Gallery collection.



Posh Art Gallery
Delray Market Place - Suite 104
9089 W. Atlantic Avenue
Delray Beach 33456
561-591-3680

District X Flower Show Judges Council
Free and open to the public.



Debra Tucker Boynton Beach GC, Maria Freed Boynton Beach GC, Ronnie Levay Wellington GC, Maria Wolfe Wellington GC



Boynton Beach Garden Club
presents

BLOSSOMS & BUTTERFLIES
A Luncheon/Fashion Show

Noon to 3 pm, Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Westchester Country Club

12250 Westchester Club Dr, Boynton Beach 33437

\$45

Fashions from 6+ Boutiques Raffle Baskets 50/50 Raffle Vendors

Return this section with your check made out to BBGC by 3/10/2024.

Mail to Bonnie Paton 11234 Green Lake Dr. #101 Boynton Beach FL 33437.

Call Toni Cvetko at 908-757-0116 for further info.

Name _____ Cell # _____

Garden Club Member Y N Club Name _____

Luncheon Selections: please choose one entree which includes dessert and a champagne cocktail upon arrival.

___ Italian Chopped Salad- Chopped romaine lettuce, roasted turkey breast, julienne salami, garbanzo beans, tomatoes, mozzarella and fresh basil tossed in a house-made mustard herb vinaigrette.

___ Oriental Chicken Salad- Grilled chicken, mandarin oranges and toasted almonds on mixed greens with oriental vegetables served with peanut dressing.

___ Grilled Salmon Salad- Grilled salmon over mixed greens, cucumber, tomato, red onions and balsamic dressing.

The BBGC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your support benefits the Scholarship Endowment Fund and local gardening and civic projects.