

The weather seems to be warming up a bit. I am not sure it is safe to put your plants back outside yet. Keep an eye on the temperature and check to see what each plant will tolerate. I hope you haven't lost special plants with the frigid temps. Some things can't be helped – those in the ground, in the trees, or the trees themselves. It just shows that we cannot control everything, the weather included. Accepting the limits of our control and the unpredictability of life, the more peace of mind we can find. We bring our best efforts to what we can control, and we let go of the rest. Your garden (like your life) is in bigger hands than yours.

There are many events coming up rather quickly. One is the **Garden Expo** sponsored by the Jensen Beach Garden Club. We are participating in this as a fundraiser. You were asked several months ago to propagate some plants to be sold. Hopefully many of you did just that. Now is the time to groom those plants so they are sale ready by March 7, the date of the sale. Please label each plant with the common name, and, if you know it, the botanical name. I would like a list and number of the plants you have so we can determine the number of tables we need. If you could text or email that to me ASAP, I would appreciate it. Some people have already done that and I thank them. We need a canopy for our booth. If you have one we can use please let me know. We will also need tables and folding chairs for the booth, as well as volunteers to man the booth. We will also need some boxes for people to carry their purchases. The types of boxes at Costco & such would be perfect. Maybe you could start saving now them for the sale. I will send a complete list of anything else we need, as well as instructions for taking your plants to Memorial Park next month. This promises to be a fun and profitable event and we want to show off our gardening skills as well as our wonderful club.

On February 17, we are hosting a **New Members' Tea**. Susan Licari, our membership chair has planned a unique and exciting event. The purpose of this event is to familiarize new members with the workings of our club, How we fit into FFGC, District X, Circles, and Committees. For that reason, the Executive Board is invited to attend this event and to share pertinent information. We ask those of the board who attend, if they want to, to be prepared with a short speech to share with the new members. There are 22 new members attending, which include new members from last year who did not have a welcome event, as well as 26 board members. Please wear your badge and bring your yearbooks. Many people came forward to

share teapots, teacups, various necessities, and food. On behalf of Susan and her committee, thanks to all of you. It's amazing what can be accomplished when we all work together.

Our 1st VP, Marilyn Horan, has planned excellent programs for us. On February 27, there is a **River Lilly Jungle Eco Cruise**. There are a few spaces left. Check page 9 of your Yearbook for information and contact Marilyn if you want to attend. The scheduled February program (Crotons) had to be cancelled and had to be replaced with the March program, **Plant a Natural Pollinator Garden in Your Landscape**. (page 7 in yearbook). Marilyn is working on programs for next year. If you have any suggestions, please share them with her.

Charlene Cook is planning the **GCS Annual Spring Luncheon** (p. 7) and will apprise you of her progress at the general meeting. She will also have tickets (\$39) to sell at the meeting so don't forget your checkbooks.

Bonnie Stoeppelman and her committee are working feverishly on the **Secret Garden Tour**. She asked me to share this email with you:

"As our Grand Gardens and Classic Cars Tour quickly approaches, we are sending out a friendly reminder to bring a bottle of wine of your choice to our next general membership meeting on Monday, February 9. We are organizing our Secret Garden Appreciation Stroll for Friday, March 20, 2026 and this donation will be an integral part of a wonderful evening for our volunteers. This evening will afford them the opportunity to view 2 of our largest gardens and enjoy refreshments in appreciation for their work at their designated gardens on Saturday, March 21, 2026. "

Bonnie Stoeppelman, Secret Garden Chair

Sue Dudzic, Appreciation Stroll organizer

Pat Dermody and Helen Goller remind you to bring things for **Ways and Means**. It's a good time to clean out your drawers and such to help them out. Go do that now while you still remember. Put everything in your car the night before the meeting so you don't forget them.

Gentle Reminders: Please wear your badge to each meeting. If you forget, Alice Lyons has paper ones at the reception table. It is important to identify yourselves at each meeting. If you see someone without a badge, offer them help or question their being there. We have not had a problem with safety thus far, but this will further help in that respect. Many people pass

through the corridors during our meetings, so from now on we will close the doors during the meeting.

You are always asked to silence your phone during the meetings and you have always done so. I further respectfully ask you not to use your phones during the meeting.... texting, scrolling, chatting, etc. There are always emergencies that can happen and of course you should respond to them. But using the phone as if you are home, for things that can wait, should be avoided. Remember, if there is someone sharing information, they should have our undivided attention. I thank you in advance for your attention to this request.

Awards: Please check out the awards available on pp 18 & 19 of the yearbook, as well as the lists Louise Andrews has given you. Talk it over with others and make nominations. Some turn in to Louise or me, some to your Circle Presidents, no later than March 13, to be reviewed by a committee. We have so many events and members who are doing great things. We should recognize as many as we can.

This has been a long letter but there are so many things happening. The end of our garden club year is fast approaching. It has been a wild ride so far and promises to be even more so in the months remaining. Don't forget to check our website for upcoming events and complete reports, as well as District X and FFGC. I appreciate all our wonderful members and am proud to be your president.

Mary Neal