

2026-2027 Yearbook

The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.

STUART, FLORIDA

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



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2026-2027 Yearbook

The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.

PO BOX 684, STUART, FLORIDA 34995-0684

www.gardenclubofstuart.org



www.facebook.com/thegardenclubofstuart

130 MEMBERS

Organized in 1936 ~ Federated in 1937 ~ Our Ninetieth Year

Member of:

National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.
Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
FFGC District X

MISSION STATEMENT

The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. is a non-profit organization for the purpose of engaging in activities which are charitable, educational and scientific, and to further the education of members and the public in the fields of gardening, horticulture, floral design, botany, landscape design, conservation of natural resources, civic beautification, public sanitation and nature studies.

This directory is for the personal use of members and is not to be used for commercial or solicitation purposes.



President's Message

Greetings, my wonderful family of gardeners!

A whole year has passed since I became president of the Garden Club of Stuart, and what a year it has been! Together, we participated in National Garden Week in June and the International Coastal Cleanup Day in September before we even had our first meeting in October. You hit the ground running and showed me what a great group you are...ready to take on the world, and you didn't disappoint. The year just kept getting better. Remember the Veterans Day Parade in November when you dressed up in patriotic outfits and decorated those great hats with ribbons, flowers and flags? We made quite a show marching down Ocean Boulevard, passing out information and greeting people with our smiles. I was so proud to be part of the group. And what about the Garden Expo in March when we propagated all those plants and went to Memorial Park to sell them? So many people came to our booth to chat and talk "garden" stuff. And, of course, who can forget the incredible Secret Gardens Tour, complete with a classic car show and silent auction for an African safari trip, of all things!

This was just a small part of what we accomplished last year, and it was only through the efforts of everyone that we did. There are many who do a great deal of work, and we appreciate them so much. However, there is nothing too insignificant that you can do. But coming to meetings, bringing a friend, showing support, welcoming new members, and doing assigned jobs makes us a strong and caring club.

Remember that we are part of a much larger organization: FFGC District X, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Deep South Garden Clubs, and National Garden Club. These are comprised of people who think and act as we do. They are gardeners, dedicated to the same goals as stated in our Mission Statement on page 1. When you meet these people, it's like meeting old friends. I ask that you consider attending a district meeting, or even a convention, to see what you are a part of. At the very least, please visit their various websites to familiarize yourselves with how connected we all are.

This year offers many wonderful programs, activities, workshops and field trips. Your officers and various committees have worked all summer getting everything in place for you. The major activity this year is our NGC Standard Flower Show, but it is not the only activity, by far. Please be ready to offer help wherever your talents and abilities lie. Refer often to your FFGC award-winning yearbook and website to keep up with everything. I look forward to serving for another year and plan to carry on our theme of "Mental, Physical and Emotional Health Through Gardening."

Mary Neal, President

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Club Colors – Pink and White
Club Flower – Periwinkle
State Flower – Orange Blossom
State Bird – Mockingbird
State Butterfly – Zebra Longwing
State Tree – Sabal Palm
State Wildflower – Coreopsis
Martin County Official Tree –
Bauhinia x blakeana

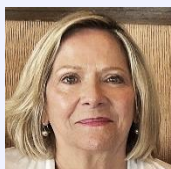


2025-2027 EXECUTIVE BOARD

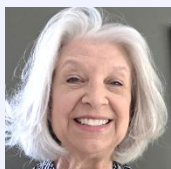
ELECTED OFFICERS



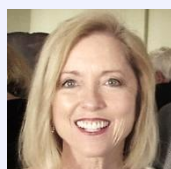
Mary Neal
President



Marilyn Horan
First Vice President
(Program Chairman)



Susan Licari
Second Vice President
(Membership Chairman)



Mary Jane DuCoin
Recording Secretary



Judith Just
Corresponding Secretary



Christia Li Roberts
Treasurer



Kathie Smith
Assistant Treasurer



Donna Berger
Parliamentarian
(Appointed Officer)

CIRCLE PRESIDENTS

Barbara Farley
Allamanda Circle

Mary Claire Anderson
Jacaranda Circle

Gail Brady
Periwinkle Circle

Karen Bonney
Satin Leaf Circle

Helen Goller
Tabebuia Circle

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Academic Scholarships	Karen Vaina
Annual Spring Luncheon	Sue Dudzic
Arbor Day	Linda Sarubbi
Blue Star Memorial Marker	Donna Baker
Butterfly Garden Certification & Conservation	Leslie Perna
Bylaws	Debra Smith
Chaplain	Debbie Cairnes
Community Events	Kim Wildenberg
Cyndy Trossbach Youth Award	Debbie Sahlberg
Facebook	Daina Karol
Flower Show	Karen Bonney
GCS Awards & FFGC Honors	Louise Andrews
Members at Large	Cathy Gerzina
Memory Lane	Rosita Aristoff
National Garden Week	Linda Sarubbi
Proofreader	Debbie Cairnes
Publicity	Alice Hooker
Refreshments (Monthly Meetings)	Nancy Binger
Registration	Alice Lyons
Ways & Means	Pat Dermody
Webmaster	Mary Ann Abegglen
Wekiva Youth Camp	Mary Claire Anderson
Yearbook	Susan Licari

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

The Executive Board is comprised of active members (Elected Officers, Circle Presidents and Committee Chairmen). One-third is required for a quorum. Note: when more than one member is listed as chairman, only one shall vote. For multiple positions, an individual only counts once for attendance and voting purposes. Executive Board meetings are held at the Children's Services Council meeting room located at 101 SE Central Parkway, scheduled as follows:

DATES: Oct 5, Nov 2, Dec 7, Jan 4, Feb 1, Mar 1, Apr 5, May 3

TIME: 9:30am-12:00pm

The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.

proudly presents an NGC Standard Flower Show

Reflections thru Time: 1890 to the Present

INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE, CHASTAIN CAMPUS
2400 SE SALERNO ROAD, STUART FL 34997

FLOWER SHOW DATES

Friday
March 19, 2027
1:00pm-4:00pm

Saturday
March 20, 2027
9:00am-3:00pm

CHAIRMAN

Karen Bonney
617-448-4856

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
& FREE ADMISSION**



Frank Bramley, *Delicious Solitude*, 1909.

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Indian River State College, Chastain Campus

2400 SE Salerno Road, Stuart FL 34997

October 12, 2026	January 11, 2027
November 9, 2026	February 8, 2027
December 14, 2026	March 8, 2027
April 12, 2027 (annual luncheon)	

8:30- 9:30am	Set up
9:30- 10:00am	Meet and Greet
10:00-10:30am	Business Meeting
10:30-11:00am	Interim Social Break
11:00-11:45am	Program
11:45-12:00pm	Raffle

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

The programs presented relate to one or more of the purposes and mission of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.

– 2026 Programs –

OCTOBER 12, 2026 – Familiar and Exotic Fruit Trees

Presenter: Mike Luciano, owner of Trees & More in Palm City, will share his expertise for growing fruit trees including techniques of grafting and root stock. Planting and care of mango and avocado will be emphasized.

NOVEMBER 9, 2026 – Birds in Your Home Landscape ... Do You Have What They Need?

Presenter: Marjorie Shropshire (with a little help from Larry the Lichen) will help us make our home landscapes a better place for birds to nest, rest, and forage. Learn about natural alternatives to bird feeders and why understory plants are important. Marjorie is the co-author of the books *A Step-By-Step Guide to a Florida Native Yard* and *Living Shorelines of Florida*. She is also editor of *Palmetto*, the Florida Native Plant Society magazine.

DECEMBER 14, 2026 – Mental, Emotional, and Spiritual Balance through Gardening

Presenter: Cecilia Gayle, landscape architect, FFGC member, and speaker at the 2026 FFGC Annual Convention, discusses the therapeutic benefits of gardening as a natural way to relieve stress and foster a greater sense of calm and well-being. She will also share specific examples of how we can continue to enjoy gardening safely and comfortably as we age.

– 2027 Programs –

JANUARY 11, 2027 – Growing Heliconia and Ginger in Florida

Presenter: John Goss, owner of JG's Tropical Plants, and Florida resident for over 50 years, treks the jungles of Central America to locate new and unique plants that thrive in our similar Florida climate. His plants are started from seed and rhizomes, and are carefully grown prior to being offered to the public. He will present several varieties, offer advice in plant selection, and answer questions about enhancing your existing landscape.

Facebook: JG's Tropical Plants, telephone 772-532-6648

FEBRUARY 8, 2027 – Crotons, Nature's Stained Glass

Presenter: Mark Peters, owner of Peters Croton Nursery in Vero Beach, former director of Horticulture at McKee Botanical Garden, and VP of Horticulture at the New York Botanical Garden, will speak to us about the care of crotons including best growing conditions and plant location, light needs and nutrition.

MARCH 8, 2027 – Tips on Entering an NGC Standard Flower Show

Presenter: Susan Hillson, a member of the Wellington Garden Club, is an NGC Accredited Master Flower Show Judge, the Flower Show School Chairman, and also teaches the Floral Design Study Series. She will give us an overview of flower show rules, how to sign up, what you can enter, and what you can win. She spends time in her Maine garden growing vegetables and flowers and, in Florida, she grows a mix of tropical and native plants.

APRIL 12, 2027 – Annual Spring Luncheon and Installation of Officers



GCS ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON AND
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

All That Jazz

Monday, April 12, 2027 | 11:30am | \$40.00

SANDHILL COVE
1500 SW CAPRI STREET, PALM CITY

RSVP: SUE DUDZIC 215-518-8281



FIELD TRIPS



LOXAHATCHEE QUEEN II BOAT TOUR

Jonathan Dickinson State Park
Hobe Sound, Florida

Friday, January 22, 2027

Arrive 10:30am for

11:00am boat departure

\$37.50 per person, limit 20

Embark on a 90-minute narrated journey through the subtropical landscape of the Loxahatchee River. See century-old cypress trees, lush ferns, and hardwood forests while learning about the river's unique history and wildlife from your licensed captain. Keep an eye out for manatees, alligators, bald eagles, osprey, and other species. Your tour includes a stop at the restored camp of Trapper Nelson, the Wildman of the Loxahatchee.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Monday, January 11, 2027

CONTACT: Marilyn Horan 347-446-7539

Payment due upon booking. Cancellations are non-refundable.



FLAMINGO GARDENS

Davie, Florida

Thursday, March 11, 2027

Meet at Pin Oak Clubhouse

3735 NW Pin Oak Drive, Jensen Beach

Bus departure 8:15am,

returns to clubhouse approx. 4:30pm

**\$95 per person includes bus, admission,
tour, lunch, donation, driver gratuity.**

This trip is open to guests.

(\$3 additional fee for credit card payments)

We will travel by coach to the gardens, then enjoy a guided tour and tram ride to see some of the largest collections of orchids, cycads, gingers and heliconias. Over 3,000 species of rare, exotic, tropical, subtropical, and native plants and trees can be viewed here. The on-site Everglades Wildlife Sanctuary is home to permanently injured Florida native wildlife including alligators, bobcats, eagles, otters, panthers, peacock and, of course, flamingos! It also houses endangered species which now serve as animal ambassadors to educate the public about the Everglades.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Monday, March 8, 2027

CONTACT: Marilyn Horan 347-446-7539

Seating is first-come, first-served, so do not hesitate to sign up.

Payment due upon booking. Cancellations are non-refundable.

GENERAL WORKSHOPS

TRICKS OF THE TRADE: A Chef's Insider Tips

**Thursday,
November 12, 2026
10:00am-noon
Cambridge Clubhouse at
Heritage Ridge South
8201 SE Constitution Blvd.
Hobe Sound FL 33455**



Maura Zafarana, a new member of our club, received her training at the Culinary Institute of America and has extensive experience as a fine dining chef. Maura also taught at Freehold High School in Freehold, New Jersey and helped found a public restaurant at that school. Participants will make garlic paste, onion juice, and secret sauce using herbs and vegetables, and will learn several chef shortcuts for preparing Thanksgiving dinner.

Cost: \$5 – maximum 10 participants
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Monday, October 12, 2026
CONTACT: Marilyn Horan 347-446-7539

GARDEN INSPIRATION: Drawing, Painting and Poetry

**Friday, February 5, 2027
10:00am-noon
Meet at the home of
Debra Smith
4923 SE Pine Knoll Way
Stuart FL 34997**



Debra Smith, a member of the Tabebuia Circle, is a retired New York City art teacher. She will guide participants to create art using nature as inspiration. Members will use pen, ink, watercolor/acrylic paints, and/or paper to create flowers as table decoration. Poetry will be included as part of a LOVE celebration for Valentine's Day.

Cost: \$10 – maximum 15 participants
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Monday, January 11, 2027
CONTACT: Marilyn Horan 347-446-7539

FLORAL DESIGN WORKSHOPS

To prepare for our upcoming GCS Flower Show, ***Reflections thru Time: 1890 to the Present*** (see page 5), club members Nancy Binger and Susan Slater, both Accredited Master Flower Show Judges, will present two hands-on floral design practice workshops. Whether you are unsure of where to begin or have already selected a design class to enter, they will provide guidance to ensure your design meets the specifications outlined in the Flower Show Schedule.

The sessions will feature a variety of design styles to help participants practice and build confidence as they refine their skills. Topics to be covered include interpretation of theme, flower and foliage selection, conditioning and grooming, container choice, mechanics, and staging techniques to effectively utilize the allotted display space.

This is an excellent opportunity to benefit from Nancy and Susan's years of training and judging experience to prepare you for successful show entries with confidence and joy.

Floral Design Workshops will be held at

Palm City Community Center, 2701 SW Cornell Avenue, Palm City



SESSION 1

**Monday
January 18, 2027
10am-noon**

SESSION 2

**Monday
February 15, 2027
10am-noon**

FEE

\$20 PER SESSION

Sign up early.
Additional details
will be given by
January 3, 2027.

Contact:

**Nancy Binger
631-766-0040**

MONTHLY MEETING HOST ASSIGNMENTS

To provide a congenial and friendly meeting each month, designated members are responsible for hosting duties including set up; centerpieces/decorations; registration assistance including greeting and seating; Ways & Means support including unpacking, sales, and repacking; opportunity basket ticket sales; and Plant-a-Tree table collections. A stipend of \$30 is available monthly to offset centerpiece costs. ***The Members at Large assigned to hosting duties in March are Eve Roberts, Laura Ronayne, Judy Rovniak, Lee Rush, Debbie Sahlberg, Louisa Schneider, Sandra Scudder, Victoria Shipley, and Alexis Smith*** (under the coordination of Cathy Gerzina 954-675-3248).

2026

OCTOBER – Tabebuia Circle
NOVEMBER – Jacaranda Circle
DECEMBER – Periwinkle Circle

2027

JANUARY – Allamanda Circle
FEBRUARY – Satin Leaf Circle
MARCH – Members at Large

OPPORTUNITY BASKETS – MEMBERS AT LARGE

At each of our six regular monthly meetings, attendees are able to win opportunity baskets supplied by our Members at Large. Members at Large coordinate with **Cathy Gerzina (954-675-3248 or cgerzina@gmail.com)** for the drop off of their basket prior to their assigned meeting. If your assigned month doesn't work for you, please contact Cathy Gerzina to agree upon a month that will work. For your convenience, Members at Large with refreshment assignments are assigned the same month for their opportunity basket responsibility. Nine Members at Large who do not have a refreshment assignment and/or an opportunity basket assignment this year (*Eve Roberts, Laura Ronayne, Judy Rovniak, Lee Rush, Debbie Sahlberg, Louisa Schneider, Sandra Scudder, Victoria Shipley, and Alexis Smith*) will be responsible for hosting duties at the March meeting, as mentioned above (as Circles do for the other regular monthly meetings).

OCTOBER #Kathie SMITH, #Diane SPENCER, Barbara MAINE, Irene MALOY, Mary Lou MARSHALL
NOVEMBER #Diana WELCH, #Mary Ann ABEGGLEN, #Rosita ARISTOFF, #Judy BAILEY, Marty NEAL
DECEMBER #Pauline BECKER, #Cynthia BEDDOW, #Nancy BINGER, #Debbie CAIRNES, Donna Rae PEARLMAN
JANUARY #Bea COOPER, #Jean DANIELS, #Yvonne DIASIO, #Cynthia DONEY, #Pat DOYLE, #Edwina DUNWORTH
FEBRUARY #Bobbi ENGLAND, #Eleanor EPLER, #Cathy GERZINA, #Elaine GRAHAM, Leslie PERNA
MARCH #Mar Lou JENNINGS, #Daina KAROL, Deborah REAVES, Christia Li ROBERTS

indicates those who also have a Refreshment Assignment in the same month

REFRESHMENT ASSIGNMENTS

Refreshments are an important part of the monthly general meetings. Our membership roster has been utilized alphabetically to determine which members shall have refreshment obligations this year. Chairman **Nancy Binger (631-766-0040 or nancybinger6@gmail.com)** coordinates this effort so please reply promptly to calls, texts, or emails from her to make this a smooth process. Please see the following page for refreshment instructions for the 3 ways you can meet your obligation. *(Associate & Patron Members are exempt from this obligation.)*

OCTOBER **#Kathie SMITH**, Debra SMITH, Evelyn SMITH, Maria SMUNDIN, Vanessa SOMOANO, **#Diane SPENCER**, Lynne SPILLUM, Katharina STEJSKAL, Bonnie STOEPELMAN, Jan STOORZA, Debra STUTMAN, Sonia SWEARINGEN, Karen VAINA, Conchita VALLECILLO, Lisa WEIDENHEIMER

NOVEMBER **#Diana WELCH**, Sharon WEST, Laila WHITE, Margaret WHITNEY-SMITH, Kim WILDENBERG, Maura ZAFARANA, **#Mary Ann ABEGGLEN**, Janice ALEXANDER, Mary Claire ANDERSON, Louise ANDREWS, **#Rosita ARISTOFF**, Dorothy ARMSTRONG, **#Judy BAILEY**, Donna BAKER, Beth BARONE

DECEMBER **#Pauline BECKER**, **#Cynthia BEDDOW**, Mary BENSON, Donna BERGER, **#Nancy BINGER**, Fran BONDY, Karen BONNEY, Gail BRADY, Jean BULICK, Jill BURTON, **#Debbie CAIRNES**, Lynn CALLAGHAN, Trish CAPRA, Lynne CAVANAUGH, Charlene COOK

JANUARY **#Bea COOPER**, **#Jean DANIELS**, Christine DAVIES, Ruth Anne DECKER, Sandy DECKER, Patricia DERMODY, **#Yvonne DIASIO**, Nancy DILLARD, Josephine DONEGAN, **#Cynthia DONEY**, **#Pat DOYLE**, Sue DUDZIC, Doreen DUNCAN, Rhea DUNN, **#Edwina DUNWORTH**

FEBRUARY Mary Jane DU COIN, **#Bobbi ENGLAND**, **#Eleanor EPLER**, Barbara FARLEY, Jean FEDELE, Betts FREER, Erna FRIEDEL, Tish GELINEAU, **#Cathy GERZINA**, Lynn GIFFORD, Helen GOLLER, **#Elaine GRAHAM**, Mary HARRELL, Martha HENDRICKSON, Catherine HERETICK

MARCH Nancy HESS, Rana HOLBROOK, Alice HOOKER, Marilyn HORAN, Judi HUBERT, **#Mar Lou JENNINGS**, Judith JUST, **#Daina KAROL**, Diane KIMES, Linda KLIMOWICZ, Lorraine KNAPP, Chrysanthé KOUMAS, Linda KUHNS, Rosanne KRAMER, Ruth LANGE

indicates Members at Large who also have an Opportunity Basket Responsibility, which has been conveniently arranged to be in the same month.

REFRESHMENT INSTRUCTIONS

There are **THREE** ways you can meet your refreshment obligation:

1 BRING REFRESHMENTS

Since our meetings are held in the morning, refreshments should be thought of as a “mini brunch.” This can include items such as fruit or cheese trays (*bite size with toothpicks*), bagels (*sliced open and cut in half with spreads or jams*), muffins, donuts, Danish, coffee cake, or breads (e.g., *zucchini, banana, cranberry*).

Plan on bringing enough for **24 SERVINGS**. Two large buffet tables will be set up, so please divide your items between **TWO PLATTERS** (*with your NAME ON THE BOTTOM of each platter*), **COVERED** (*with foil or plastic wrap*), and **Labeled** with a description of your contribution (e.g., *banana bread, blueberry muffins*).



Please bring your food **TABLE READY** as we do not have time or space to accommodate food preparation. You will be contacted so we can find out what you will be bringing.

2 FIND A SUBSTITUTE OR SWAP

According to our Standing Rules, it is your responsibility to find a substitute. Refer to the previous page to find a member who is assigned a different month during the current season and contact that member to arrange a swap. Please call or email **Nancy Binger (631-766-0040** or **nancybinger6@gmail.com)** to let her know who will be replacing you.

3 PAY A NOMINAL FEE

Bringing refreshments to the meeting is preferred over paying a fee. If you are unable to provide refreshments, there is a \$25.00 charge for the Refreshment Committee to purchase your share of the refreshments. **You must send a CHECK for \$25.00 payable to THE GARDEN CLUB OF STUART, INC. to Nancy Binger, PO Box 684, Stuart FL 34995-0684. The check MUST ARRIVE before the meeting and you MUST NOTIFY Nancy Binger that you will meet your obligation with a check.**

ACTIVITIES AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Members are encouraged to participate in one or more of these activities. By sharing your interests and talents and enjoying the friendship of fellow members, you help ensure the continued success of our Club and the fulfillment of our Mission Statement. Committee Chairs listed on page 4.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

ARBOR DAY (FLORIDA) – JANUARY 15, 2027: A tree is planted at a park, garden, or other location to celebrate Arbor Day. Members are also asked to report all trees planted in public and private areas.

BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER: The Garden Club of Stuart created and maintains a garden at Memorial Park honoring the service of our Armed Forces, with a Blue Star Memorial Marker placed within the plantings.

BUTTERFLY GARDEN CERTIFICATION AND CONSERVATION: This committee assists members and the public to receive certification for properly established butterfly gardens. Martin County's Wildflower Resolution encourages roadside and neighborhood plantings.

COMMUNITY EVENTS: Members volunteer to clean up trash at local beaches during the **International Coastal Cleanup Day** in September, and also participate in the **Veterans Day Parade** in November.

COMMUNITY VEGETABLE GARDEN: The Club provides financial support to House of Hope for their vegetable garden.

FLOWER SHOW – MARCH 19-20, 2027: The Garden Club of Stuart will host its biennial Flower Show to showcase floral design, horticulture specimens, educational exhibits, botanical arts, and photography. This main event of the year is highly anticipated in the community, free to the public, and an opportunity for every Club member to get involved. (*see page 5*)

MEMORY LANE AT AUDUBON'S POSSUM LONG NATURE CENTER: Our Club maintains an ongoing project honoring the memory of its members. Located at 6th Street and Hibiscus Avenue in Stuart, this beautiful public arboretum and butterfly sanctuary allows visitors to enjoy native and exotic plants where flowers, foliage, birds and butterflies are seen year-round.

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK – JUNE 6-12, 2027: Proclamations of National Garden Week are received from City and County government. Six floral arrangements are created by members and displayed in each of Martin County's public libraries with a banner and handouts to promote the Club.

ORGANIZATION SPONSORSHIPS: GCS membership is promoted while sponsoring an annual event at each of these like-minded organizations: Audubon Society, Florida Oceanographic Society, Friends of the Everglades, Keep Martin Beautiful, Master Gardeners, and Sierra Club.

PLANT-A-TREE: National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the USDA Forest Service maintain a partnership sustaining our national forests through this program. For every \$50 in spare change collected at our monthly meetings, the Forest Service plants a tree where reforestation is needed most, such as in areas impacted by wildfires, floods, or drought.

YOUTH COMMITTEES AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS: Four high school seniors are awarded scholarships (\$2,000 each) for furthering their education in agriculture, landscape architecture, environmental science or a related field. An additional \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded this year to a fifth deserving student. Recipients are announced in Spring and invited to the Annual Spring Luncheon to elaborate on their career plans.

CYNDY TROSSBACH OUTSTANDING YOUTH AWARD: \$500 is awarded to a local high school student who has exemplified the goals of the Mission Statement of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. An anonymous committee of three members appointed by the President shall receive nominations in writing by March 1st of each year.

READ-ALoud GARDEN BOOKS: We supply oversized, colorful books about gardens to Port Salerno Elementary.

SUMMER CAMP: A financial award is given to the Environmental Studies Center to support camperships.

VEGETABLE GARDENS: Financial awards are given to the following non-profit and local school gardens to teach children about growing their own food: Boys & Girls Clubs, Felix A. Williams Elementary, Palm City Elementary, Spectrum Academy, and YMCA.

WEKIVA/CRITTER CAMP: One of the goals of the Mission Statement is to educate. The camp curriculum is based on science, principles of gardening, history, arts, math, and language skills. We provide books to campers (grades 1 and 2). FFGC is the only state garden club that sponsors an ACA-accredited environmental summer camp for children through the 7th grade. A Leaders in Training (LIT) program promotes leadership for older students.

GCS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON: This luncheon serves the purpose of celebrating and presenting awards to outstanding members of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., Member of the Year, scholarship recipients, Community Service Award, and other recognition. The committee is responsible for all aspects of the event. (*see page 7*)

FACEBOOK: Members are asked to forward announcements on upcoming events, and to report accomplishments with photos and descriptions.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: This annual event educates new members about Circles, responsibilities, and opportunities in our Club.

WAYS & MEANS: A variety of garden items and plants are available at monthly meetings, with proceeds supplementing our operating budget.

WEBMASTER: Our Club internet site is www.gardenclubofstuart.org where members and the public can learn more about our activities.

YEARBOOK: The annual yearbook provides information about events and activities; assignments for monthly meetings; Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Standing Rules; financial information; district, state, region, and national contacts; Circle rosters; and Membership Directory. Members are asked to provide updated information by June 15th each year.

MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

Active participation is expected from active members. You may choose to be involved on committees or projects. However, generally speaking, **ALL active members have FOUR responsibilities each year.**

- 1. DUES:** Notices are distributed in March. Dues are due April 1st and delinquent May 1st. Active Members \$45. Associate Members \$85. Patron Members \$135. FFGC Life Members \$33.
- 2. REFRESHMENTS:** Fifteen active members are assigned alphabetically each month to bring TWO table-ready platters with 24 SERVINGS TOTAL. Let the Chairman know BEFORE the meeting if you are finding a substitute or paying the nominal \$25 fee.
- 3. MONTHLY MEETING OBLIGATIONS:** Circles are assigned to one meeting each year for hostess duties including greeting guests, registering attendance, assisting with seating directions, selling opportunity basket tickets, assisting with the Ways & Means table, and supplying table centerpieces. Members at Large are EITHER assigned hostess duties for one meeting OR responsible for bringing an opportunity basket for an assigned month. Let the Members at Large Chairman know BEFORE the meeting if you are swapping duties with another Member at Large.
- 4. SPECIAL PROJECT:** Our major project alternates each year between the Secret Gardens Tour and Flower Show. This year the Flower Show will be held in the Spring of 2027. Your participation by submitting an entry, staffing the event, or assisting before or after the show will be coordinated by the Flower Show Committee Chair.



MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL DUES

2027-28 Annual Dues are due April 1 (delinquent May 1)

Active Members \$45 | Associate \$85 | Patron \$135
FFGC Life Member \$33

Checks payable to: **The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.**

Mail to: **Garden Club of Stuart Treasurer**
PO Box 684, Stuart FL 34995-0684

Our fiscal year is May 1 to April 30. Members joining during the current club year are paying for the current 2026-27 year, and will owe 2027-28 dues on April 1. Unfortunately, if dues are NOT paid by May 1, your listing will not be in the yearbook, you will not receive a yearbook, and your membership will be suspended.

Suspended memberships can be re-instated and receive a yearbook by paying the new member dues (currently \$70).

Resignations, in writing, should be directed to Second Vice President Susan Licari (susanlicari3892@gmail.com), which will allow you to rejoin in the future without paying new member dues (*see Bylaws, Article III – Membership*).

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AWARDS

THE GARDEN CLUB OF STUART, INC.

MEMBER OF THE YEAR

The Member of the Year Award is presented annually to a member, other than an officer, in appreciation for outstanding service during the current Club year. Accomplishments may extend over a number of years but should be prominent in the present award year. Written nominations are due March 1st. Prior to 2011, this award was titled "Woman of the Year."

1981 Sally Crabtree	1993 Louise White	2005 Lauren Palmero	2017 Kathie Smith
1982 Marifran Kaster	1994 Ruth Campbell	2006 Virginia Maloney	2018 Carol Stone
1983 Helen Leedy	1995 Betty Cline	2007 Bobbie Spilman	2019 Donna Berger
1984 Signe Morris	1996 Mary Lou Holding	2008 Susan Steen	2020 Rosita Aristoff
1985 Anne Lartaud	1997 Bert Chase	2009 Louise Andrews	2022 Daina Karol
1986 Mary Ing	1998 Phyllis Gidley	2010 Birgitte Carlsson	2023 Mary Neal
1987 Carol Frank Klein	1999 Jane Mills	2011 Christia Li Roberts	2024 Leslie Perna
1988 Eleanor Marshall	2000 Bea Cooper	2012 Erna Friedel	2025 Nancy Binger
1989 Jeanne Lord	2001 Pat Pagano	2013 Joanne Gamba	2026 Bonnie Stoepelman
1990 Paula Neal	2002 Grace Palmer	2014 Jill Burton	
1991 Millie Creegan	2003 Marge Collins	2015 Sandra Lagana	
1992 Betty Shepard	2004 Jean Foley	2016 Kathy Chartier	

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Endowed by Mary M. Bickmann, the Community Service Award is given to an individual in Martin County who has provided leadership and service consistent with the aims of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. and National Garden Clubs, Inc. The recipient need not be a member of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.

1987 Jean Henry	1998 June Henderson	2007 Diane Rexroad	2016 Marty Neal
1988 Nancy Sailer	1999 Esther Fenton & Family	2008 Terri Pinder	2017 Cyndy Trossbach
1989 Eve Conlon		2009 Louise White	2018 Carol Cloud Bailey
1990 Joan Jefferson	2000 Jody Braskamp	2010 Mary Lersch	2019 Barbara Farley
1991 Lovelle Ray	2001 Jeanne Curtiss	2011 Ann McCormick	2020 Louise Andrews
1992 Louise Carnevale	2002 Jane Mills	2012 Joan Graff	2022 Donna Berger
1993 Barbara Hendry	2003 Faith Haarala	2013 Carolyn Bartholomew	2023 Daina Karol
1994 Ella "Mike" Clark	2004 Irene Mortensen		2024 Carly Batts
1996 Elaine Taylor	2005 Maggy Hurchalla	2014 Sarah Heard	2026 Debbie Sahlberg
1997 Mary Lou Holding	2006 Susan Smyth	2015 Sandy Decker	

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Given by the officers of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., the Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals who, over many years, have made a significant contribution to our goals and purposes, and continue to show much dedication in their service to our Club.

2013 Sally Crabtree	2015 Jeanne-Marie Parkes	2018 Jan Stoorza	2024 Daina Karol
2013 Joan Graff		2019 Barbara Peyton	2025 Cynthia Doney
2013 Jane Mills	2015 Carol Breen	2020 Tancy Rapp	2026 Susan Licari
2013 Phyllis Gidley	2016 Bobbie Spilman	2022 Louise Andrews	
2014 Louise White	2017 Donna Berger	2023 Debbie Sahlberg,	
2015 Joan Carman	2018 Mary Lou Marshall	Marty Neal	

CYNDY TROSSBACH OUTSTANDING YOUTH AWARD

The Cyndy Trossbach Outstanding Youth Award is given to a high school student in Martin County who has displayed leadership and initiative in support of the goals and aims of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

2018 Alex Leserra	2022 Tiago Barros	2024 Kate Jiggins	2026 Morgan Fowler
2019 Faith Cotter	2023 Alexander Tedder	2025 Kathryn Rogers	

HONORS

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

HALL OF FAME

This State Award recognizes an individual for contributions of time and/or talents to the Club, community, or to some phase of garden club activity.

1994 Sally Crabtree, GCS	2015 Christia Li Roberts, GCS
2002 Joan Graff, GCS	2016 Jean Foley, GCS
2006 Phyllis Gidley, District X Judges Council	2017 Donna Wiggdahl, Satin Leaf Circle
2010 Cyndy Trossbach, Tabebuia Circle	2017 Donna Berger, District X
2011 Jane Mills, GCS	2019 Jennifer Phebus, Hibiscus Circle
2012 Louise White, GCS	2019 Alice Hooker, Satin Leaf Circle
2013 Jan Stoorza, Jacaranda Circle	2022 Lisa Weidenheimer, Jacaranda
2014 Rosita Aristoff, GCS	2023 Ingrid Jimrusti, Tabebuia Circle
2014 Louise Andrews, GCS	2026 Susan Licari, GCS

PILLAR OF PRIDE

This very special honor is given to a member of a garden club who has shown purpose, pride and productivity for progress towards the aims and objectives of FFGC.

2005 Joan Graff, District X	2015 Joan Carman, Tabebuia Circle
2010 Donna Berger, GCS	2016 Mary Lersch, Tabebuia Circle
2010 Phyllis Gidley, GCS	2016 Louise Andrews, Jacaranda Circle
2010 Jan Stoorza, Jacaranda Circle	2017 Sandy Decker, Tabebuia Circle
2010 Sally Crabtree, Jacaranda Circle	2018 Bente Krarup, Tabebuia Circle
2011 Bea Cooper, GCS	2019 Debbie Sahlberg, Hibiscus Circle
2011 Lee Zaleiko, Tabebuia Circle	2019 Barbara Farley, Allamanda Circle
2012 Rosita Aristoff, Tabebuia Circle	2019 Mary Ann Aegglen, GCS
2012 Jeanne-Marie Parkes, GCS	2021 Karen Vaina, Tabebuia Circle
2012 Christia Li Roberts, GCS	2023 Ann McCormick, Allamanda Circle
2013 Jane Mills, Jacaranda Circle	2024 Marty Neal, GCS
2013 Cyndy Trossbach, GCS	2025 Rosita Aristoff, GCS
2014 Susan Slater, Tabebuia Circle	2026 Karen Bonney, GCS; Helen Goller, Tabebuia Circle; Lisa Weidenheimer, Jacaranda Circle
2014 Ingrid Jimrusti, Tabebuia Circle	
2015 Joanne Gamba, GCS	

EARTH STEWARD

This State Award recognizes contributions to the environment and individuals who are "Protectors of our Natural Resources."

2014 Christia Li Roberts, District X	2018 Rosita Aristoff, GCS
2015 Jean Foley, GCS	2019 Mark Perry, GCS
2015 Louise White, GCS	2022 Barbara Farley, Ann McCormick, GCS
2016 Tancy Rapp, GCS	2024 Greg Braun, GCS
2017 Maggy Hurchalla, GCS	2026 Jim Moir, GCS

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

(HON) indicates Honorary Member of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Louise Andrews 4478	Sandy Decker 4710	Ginny Maloney 3670 (HON)	Louise White 4077 (HON)
Rosita Aristoff 4612	Bobbi England 4639	Deborah Reaves 4737	Joan Wilcox 4278 (HON)
Donna Berger 4168	Jean Foley 4062 (HON)	Susan Slater 4371	
Karen Bonney 4776	Phyllis Gidley 3250 (HON)	Bobbie Spilman 4114 (HON)	
Bea Cooper 3337	Joan Graff 3496 (HON)	Jan Stoorza 4730	

DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Rosita Aristoff

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Rosita Aristoff 10038	Donna Berger 10120	Phyllis Gidley 7360 (HON)	Christia Li Roberts 9762
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MEMBER CREDENTIALS

NATIONALLY ACCREDITED FLOWER SHOW JUDGES

National Garden Clubs, Inc. approves and registers Flower Show Schools for garden club members to become internationally recognized, nationally accredited Flower Show Judges. Schools consist of four multi-day courses with a time limit for completion to be valid. After successful completion of three courses, the designation of Student Judge is conferred. In addition to the fourth course to advance from Student Judge to Accredited Judge, there are requirements that include exhibiting credits, judging participation, schedule writing requirements, and the Final Handbook Exam. Judges then progress to Life Judge, Master Judge and retire as Emeritus Judge.

We are honored to have these Accredited Flower Show Judges as members:

Life Judge: Rosita Aristoff
Accredited Master Judge: Nancy Binger, Bea Cooper, Susan Slater
Emeritus Master Judge: Joan Graff

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA / IFAS EXTENSION MASTER GARDENERS

The mission of the Florida Master Gardener Program is *“to train a core of volunteers to assist the county agent in delivering information to residents on how to design, plant and care for their plants and landscapes in a Florida-friendly way”*. To become certified, participants complete a 50+ hour training course and must serve 75 volunteer hours within their first year. Certification is renewed by participating in 10 learning hours and completing 35 volunteer hours each year.

The following members are Martin County Active Master Gardeners:

Louise Andrews, Karen Bonney, Ruth Anne Decker, Sandy Decker, Yvonne Diasio, Nancy Dillard, Cindy Doney, Bobbi England, Barbara Farley, Daina Karol, Diane Kimes, Mary Nangle, Mary Neal, Donna Rae Pearlman, Bonnie Stoeppelman, Lisa Weidenheimer

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB CONSULTANTS

NGC endorses and approves curricula for three schools: Environmental Studies, Gardening Study and Landscape Design to educate and train members on these specific topics. Upon completion of all modules, members are recognized as a Consultant.

The following members have earned these credentials:

Environmental Studies: Sandy Decker, Christia Li Roberts, Lisa Weidenheimer, Joan Wilcox
Gardening Study: Susan Slater
Landscape Design: Nancy Binger
National Garden Club 5 Star Member (master in all four NGC schools): Susan Slater

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA / IFAS EXTENSION MASTER NATURALISTS

The mission of the Florida Master Naturalist Program is *“to promote awareness, understanding and respect of Florida’s natural world among Florida’s citizens and visitors.”* The program consists of three Core Modules (Freshwater Wetlands, Coastal Systems, and Upland Habitats). Each module has 40 contact hours of classroom learning, field trips and practical experience. Upon completion of a module, graduates are registered in that area of expertise. Graduates share their knowledge and foster principles of sustainability, connectivity, and biodiversity.

The following members are recognized as Master Naturalists:

Donna Rae Pearlman, Christia Li Roberts, Kathie Smith



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

www.gardenclub.org

4401 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis MO 63110

telephone: 314.776.7574 email: headquarters@gardenclub.org

Quarterly Magazine Online: *The National Gardener*

President: Donna Donnelly, Charleston SC email: ddon21@aol.com

2025-2027 Theme: "Plant America for the Next 100 Years"

NGC 2027 CONVENTION: May 13-17, 2027 – Madison WI



DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

www.deepsouthgardenclubs.com

Director: Denise Thorne, 402 Bass Road, Watertown TN 37184

telephone: 615.289.2138 email: denise@tec63.com

2025-2027 THEME: "Plant the Deep South with Flowers and Trees for the Birds and Bees"

DSGC 2027 CONVENTION: March 14-16, 2027 – Tuscaloosa AL



FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.



www.ffgc.org

Headquarters: 1400 South Denning Drive,
Winter Park FL 32789

telephone: 407.647.7016 email: ffgc@ffgcmail.com

Office Coordinator: Robin Hayes

Quarterly Magazine Online: *The Florida Gardener*

President: Christy Linke, 2909 Aston Avenue, Plant City FL 33566

telephone: 732.322.8392 email: clinke3173@aol.com

2025-2027 THEME: "Sharing Our Knowledge Plants the Seeds of Tomorrow"

100th FFGC ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION: April 6-9, 2027 – Kissimmee FL



FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, DISTRICT X, INC.

www.districtx.org

Online Publication: *Blooming Tales*

Director: Mary Ann Cody, 4890 Pine Tree Drive, Boynton Beach FL 33436

telephone: 518.506.2578 email: maryanncodyesq@gmail.com

2025-2027 THEME: "Color Your World, One Blossom at a Time"

DISTRICT X FALL MEETING: "Pay It Forward"

October 22, 2026 – Wellington Community Center, Wellington FL

TROPICAL SHORT COURSE: "Roots in Paradise"

January 21-22, 2027 – Wellington Community Center, Wellington FL

NGC FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL COURSE II:

January 26-29, 2027 – Boca Raton Garden Club, Boca Raton FL

DISTRICT X SPRING MEETING:

April 2027 (date to be determined) – Jupiter Tequesta Garden Club, Jupiter FL

REPRESENTATIVES / LIAISONS

These designated members serve as representatives or liaisons with the following like-minded groups. Please contact them for additional information.

Bea Cooper
PSL Botanical Gardens

Tish Gelineau
House of Refuge

Daina Karol
Master Gardeners

THE GARDEN CLUB OF STUART, INC.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

(Revised April 5, 1976)

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this Corporation is THE GARDEN CLUB OF STUART, INC., an independent Garden Club in membership with the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

ARTICLE II – OBJECT

This Corporation shall be a nonprofit association for the purpose of engaging in activities which are charitable, educational and scientific within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. The purpose of the association is to further the education of members and the public in the fields of gardening, horticulture, botany, landscape design, conservation of natural resources, civic beautification, public sanitation and nature studies.

ARTICLE III

The qualifications of members and the manner of their admission shall be regulated by the rules and regulations of the Bylaws of the Corporation.

ARTICLE IV

The term of existence of this Corporation shall be perpetual unless dissolved by law.

ARTICLE V

Names and addresses of 1962 Special Committee on Revisions (on file).

Names and addresses of 1976 Special Committee on Revisions (on file).

ARTICLE VI

SECTION 1. The affairs of the Corporation shall be conducted and administered by its Officers and an Executive Board.

SECTION 2. The Officers of the Corporation shall be a President, a First Vice President, a Second Vice President, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, an Assistant Treasurer and such other officers as may be provided from time to time in the Bylaws. Each of such other officers shall be elected at the March meeting in odd-numbered years.

SECTION 3. The Executive Board of the Corporation shall consist of the Officers, the Chairman of each Standing Committee, and such other officers as may be provided from time to time in the Bylaws.

SECTION 4. The manner of electing and the powers, duties and terms of office of all officers, and the procedure for filling a vacancy in any office shall be as provided in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII

The Corporation shall hold an annual meeting in the month of April, when feasible.

ARTICLE VIII

The procedure for amending the Bylaws shall be as provided in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX

These Articles of Incorporation may be amended by resolution of the Executive Board which must then be ratified by a two-thirds vote of qualified members entitled to vote at an Annual Meeting of the Corporation, when a quorum is present or at any special meeting duly called for that purpose.

ARTICLE X

SECTION 1. No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of any member or officer of the Corporation, or any private individual, except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the Corporation affecting one or more of its charitable purposes.

SECTION 2. Upon dissolution of the Corporation or the winding up of its affairs, the assets of the Corporation shall be distributed exclusively to charitable, religious, scientific, literary, or educational organizations which would then qualify under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations thereunder, and no member or officer of the Corporation, or any private individual, shall be entitled to share in the distribution of such assets.

SECTION 3. No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Corporation shall not participate or intervene in (including the publication or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this corporation shall be The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. shall be a nonprofit association for the purpose of engaging in activities which are charitable, educational and scientific. The purpose of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. shall be to further the education of members and the public in the fields of gardening, horticulture, floral design, botany, landscape design, conservation of natural resources, civic beautification, public sanitation and nature studies. The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. shall otherwise conduct its activities in a manner which is consistent with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Candidates – A candidate for membership shall be invited to attend no more than two (2) meetings as a guest during the current Club year. After attending one (1) or two (2) meetings, the candidate shall be asked if they would like to join, and to select a class of membership (Active or Patron).

SECTION 2. Active Membership - To be eligible for Active membership, one must have an interest in the objectives of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., as stated in the Articles of Incorporation, and must demonstrate a willingness to work on committees, support projects, attend meetings and take an active part in general garden club work, and shall hold voting privileges.

- a. Applications for Active membership shall require a payment of \$70.00, which includes an initiation fee of \$25.00 and annual dues of \$45.00. A check made payable to The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., shall be presented to the Second Vice President along with the application.
- b. Upon receipt of an application for membership, together with initiation fee and current dues, the Second Vice President shall announce the new member to the Executive Board at any meeting of the Board. The Second Vice President shall notify the applicant of his/her acceptance with an invitation to attend meetings and assume responsibilities of membership.
- c. Membership fees paid in March for any class of membership shall constitute paid dues for the following Club year.

SECTION 3. Additional classes of membership shall include three (3) classes: Associate, Patron, and Honorary.

- a. **Associate Membership** - Associate members shall have a continued interest in the objectives of the Club, shall support Club projects, shall be exempt from committee responsibilities, and shall not hold voting privileges or the right to hold office. Associate members would hold the same Associate status in any Circle to which they previously belonged. To be eligible for Associate membership, one must have been an Active, contributing member of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. for at least five (5) years. Requests for Associate Membership shall be sent to the Second Vice President and may be granted by vote of the Executive Board. No more than ten percent (10%) of the total membership may become Associate members. (Dues for an Associate member, as shown below, are \$85.00 per Club year.)
- b. **Patron Membership** - Patron members shall have an interest in the objectives of the Club, shall support Club projects, shall be exempt from committee responsibilities, shall not hold voting privileges or the right to hold office. Patron members are not eligible for Circle membership. Applications for Patron membership shall be sent to the Second Vice President and may be granted by a vote of the Executive Board. No more than ten percent (10%) of the total membership may become Patron members. (Dues for a Patron member, as shown below, are \$135.00 per Club year.)
- c. **Honorary Membership** - The Executive Board may confer Honorary membership upon any member who has made an outstanding effort to promote the purposes of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. Honorary members have the privilege of electing the extent of their participation, however, they shall not hold voting privileges or the right to hold office. (Honorary members are exempt from the payment of dues.)

SECTION 4. Transfer Membership - A member in good standing in any Federated club of the National Garden Clubs, Inc., upon presentation of a letter of transfer from his/her club, may become a member of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. upon payment of appropriate dues for Active or Patron membership. Such transfer members would be required to maintain membership for five (5) years before attaining eligibility to request Associate membership.

SECTION 5. Resignation - A member who resigns while in good standing may, at a later date, return to the Club with Executive Board approval and payment of current dues for appropriate class of membership.

ARTICLE IV – DUES

SECTION 1. The fiscal year shall be from May 1 through April 30 of the following year.

SECTION 2. The annual dues for an Active member shall be \$45.00.

SECTION 3. The annual dues for an Associate member shall be \$85.00.

SECTION 4. The annual dues for a Patron member shall be \$135.00.

SECTION 5. Honorary members shall be exempt from payment of dues.

SECTION 6. Dues shall be payable on April 1 of the current year and delinquent after May 1. Members whose dues are unpaid by May 1 shall be suspended from the Club and forfeit membership listing in, and receipt of, a yearbook. To be reinstated as a member in good standing, current New Member's dues must be paid in full.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The Officers of the Corporation of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. shall be the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer, all of whom must be Active members of the Club.

SECTION 2. These officers shall hold office for a two (2) year term, or until their successors are elected. No officer shall be eligible for re-election to the same office with the exception of the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

SECTION 3. To be eligible for the office of President, the candidate shall have served a minimum of two (2) years on the Executive Board.

SECTION 4. All officers, except the Treasurer, shall begin their terms of office at the close of the Annual Meeting at which they are installed. The terms of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall begin at the close of the fiscal year of the Club immediately following the election.

SECTION 5. If a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the First Vice President will assume that position. There would then be a General Election for the position of First Vice President. In the event a presiding Vice President is elected to the office of First Vice President, or a Vice President position becomes vacant, a General Election would be held to fill the vacant Vice President office.

SECTION 6. The President, with the approval of the Executive Board, may fill any vacancy in the elective office of the Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer for the unexpired term.

SECTION 7. In January of the odd year, the First Vice President becomes the President-Elect.

ARTICLE VI – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The **President** shall:

- a. preside at all meetings of the Club and of the Executive Board;
- b. appoint the Chairmen of Standing and Special Committees, with the exception of the Program Chairman (First Vice President) and Membership Chairman (Second Vice President);
- c. be a member ex-officio of all committees except the Nominating and Auditing Committees;
- d. fill vacancies of officers, other than First and Second Vice Presidents, who must be elected, for the unexpired term, with Executive Board approval;
- e. give an oral report to the membership at the Annual Meeting in April;
- f. represent the Club at District and State Federation meetings;
- g. appoint a Parliamentarian who shall see that all meetings are conducted according to ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER NEWLY REVISED;
- h. appoint in the month of January of the election year, two (2) Active members from the Executive Board to serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Nominating Committee;
- i. appoint in the month of March two (2) Active members of the Executive Board to audit the books of the Treasurer during the month of May; and
- j. with approval of the Executive Board, countersign with Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer all lawful checks and investments of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.

SECTION 2. The **Vice Presidents**, in order of their rank, or a member of the Advisory Council, shall perform all duties of the President in the absence of the President.

SECTION 3. The **First Vice President** shall:

- a. be Chairman of the Program Committee and shall complete the following selections for the upcoming year prior to publication of the annual yearbook:
 1. Monthly meeting programs;
 2. Workshops;
 3. Classes; and
 4. Trips.
- b. become President-Elect in January of the odd year.

SECTION 4. The **Second Vice President** shall be Chairman of the Membership Committee and shall:

- a. receive and review applications for memberships;
- b. introduce new members to the Club;
- c. keep membership roster and files current, including responsibilities fulfilled;
- d. provide accurate membership lists for inclusion in yearbook;
- e. order new and replacement name badges;
- f. receive and record written resignations; and
- g. order and install a memorial plaque honoring each deceased current member of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. (to include Honorary Members) to a larger plaque at Memory Lane at Audubon's Possum Long Nature Center.

SECTION 5. The **Recording Secretary** shall:

- a. record attendance at each Executive Board meeting and confirm to the President the presence or absence of a quorum;
- b. record the proceedings/minutes of all meetings;
- c. be custodian of all official records of the Club; and
- d. have a copy of the Club's Bylaws and Standing Rules at every meeting.

SECTION 6. The **Corresponding Secretary** shall:

- a. conduct such correspondence as requested by the President or the Executive Board;
- b. send electronic notices for special meetings and events;
- c. compile and duplicate any meeting information or reports necessary;
- d. acknowledge written resignations in writing; and
- e. maintain records of all Awards received. (An Awards Log detailing the name, date and origin of the Award and scrapbook containing the Awards.)

SECTION 7. The **Treasurer** shall:

- a. receive all monies of the Club;
- b. mail notices and collect annual dues, and coordinate accurate membership lists for inclusion in the yearbook;
- c. be responsible for preparation of an annual budget;
- d. disburse only funds approved in the budget or approved by the Executive Board, with the President as co-signer of all checks;
- e. keep itemized accounts of all receipts and disbursements;
- f. make a financial report at each meeting;
- g. keep a record of all State Life Members;
- h. pay State Federation dues for each member and submit names of those eligible to receive THE FLORIDA GARDENER;
- i. pay District dues;
- j. ensure The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. checkbooks remain with one of the corporation signatories when the Treasurer expects to be out of town; and
- k. transfer to his/her successor, within six (6) weeks from the close of the fiscal year, all Club monies, vouchers, record books, and Club papers in his/her possession.

SECTION 8. The **Assistant Treasurer** shall assume the duties and authority of the Treasurer in the absence of the Treasurer and perform such other duties as assigned by the President and the Treasurer.

ARTICLE VII – NOMINATING COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. Election of Officers shall be held every two (2) years.

SECTION 2. The Nominating Committee shall be named in the month of January of the election year. Two (2) Active members shall be appointed from the Executive Board by the President, one to serve as Chairman, one to serve as Vice Chairman, and three (3) Active members shall be elected from the general membership.

SECTION 3. The Nominating Committee shall report at the March meeting. The Committee shall present one (1) Active member candidate for each of the offices.

SECTION 4. Election of Officers shall follow the report of the Nominating Committee. When there are no nominations from the floor, the election shall be by voice vote; otherwise, it shall be by ballot. A majority vote shall elect. The installation of Officers shall be at the close of the Annual Meeting in April.

ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS

SECTION 1. The Club year shall be from May 1 through April 30.

SECTION 2. General meetings shall be held monthly, on the second Monday, unless otherwise ordered by the Executive Board, except during the months of May to September inclusive. Special general meetings may be held at the call of the President and shall be called upon the request of one-third (1/3) of the current Active Membership.

SECTION 3. One-third (1/3) of the current Active membership, including three (3) officers, shall constitute a quorum at a regular meeting.

SECTION 4. The Annual Meeting of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. for the purpose of presenting the President's annual report, and the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting, shall be held in April of each year, when feasible, the date and place to be determined by the Executive Board.

SECTION 5. The installation of officers shall be held at the Annual Meeting in the odd-numbered years.

ARTICLE IX – EXECUTIVE BOARD

SECTION 1. The Executive Board of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. shall consist of the elected Officers of the Corporation, appointed Officers, Chairmen of Standing Committees, Chairmen of Special Committees, and Presidents of Circles – all of whom must be Active members.

SECTION 2. Executive Board meetings shall be held monthly, prior to general meetings. Special meetings may be held at the call of the President.

SECTION 3. One-third (1/3) of the members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum at a board meeting.

SECTION 4. The Board shall be empowered to transact any and all business of the Club.

SECTION 5. The Board shall promote programs, workshops, study groups, projects and cooperative programs with other organizations having similar goals, which shall be based upon the purposes of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. and the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

SECTION 6. The Board shall ratify the report of the auditors at the meeting of the Board following the close of the fiscal year.

SECTION 7. Each Officer, Chairman, and Circle President shall submit a written annual report to the President at the March meeting of the Executive Board.

SECTION 8. Each retiring Officer and Chairman shall turn over to his/her successor, or the President, such books and records as belong to his/her office as soon as possible upon expiration of his/her term.

SECTION 9. The Board shall approve all officers appointed by the President to fill an unexpired term if a vacancy occurs.

SECTION 10. The Board shall approve the acceptance of a Circle into the Club.

SECTION 11. The Board shall approve donations to projects and programs with goals related to the purposes of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.

ARTICLE X – STANDING COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. PROGRAM - shall consist of the First Vice President as Chairman and Active members appointed by the President. The committee shall develop the year's programs and workshops. These shall be approved by the President prior to publication of the annual yearbook.

SECTION 2. REGISTRATION - At general meetings the committee chairman aided by two (2) Active members shall:

- a. confirm to the President the presence or absence of a quorum;
- b. provide to the Second Vice President the membership attendance record; and
- c. provide to the Second Vice President a record of prospective members and their dates of attendance.

SECTION 3. FINANCE - shall consist of the Treasurer as Chairman and two (2) Active members appointed in January of each year by the President. The committee shall draw up the annual Operating Fund budget for the next year and present it to the Executive Board in February for approval.

SECTION 4. CIVIC IMPROVEMENT - shall consist of an Active member Chairman and five (5) Active members appointed in March of each year by the President. The Treasurer shall be a member ex-officio of this committee. The committee shall prepare a budget for the period May 1 to April 30 and present it to the Executive Board in May for approval. Civic and beautification projects and their anticipated cost shall be approved by the Executive Board.

SECTION 5. SPECIAL PROJECTS - shall consist of the Active member Event Chairman (e.g. Flower Show or Garden Tour), appointed by the President, and no fewer than five (5) Active members. The President shall approve the proposed event. A budget for the event shall be approved by the Executive Board.

SECTION 6. There shall be other standing committees, with duties prescribed by the Executive Board, which conform insofar as possible to the corresponding National Garden Clubs, Inc. and Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. committees.

ARTICLE XI – CIRCLES

SECTION 1. Circles are units within The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.

SECTION 2. The purpose of Circles is to offer opportunities to members for additional study in the many phases of garden club work.

SECTION 3. Each Circle shall be composed of not less than ten (10) nor more than thirty-five (35) Active or Associate members of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.

SECTION 4. A Circle is a unit which bases its monthly programs upon purposes of the Club and gears the programs to meet the needs of Circle members. Circles should submit plans for projects of a civic nature to the Executive Board for approval. Membership in a Circle is by invitation.

SECTION 5. When ten (10) Active or Associate members wish to form a Circle, the Second Vice President shall provide guidance in the development of the organizational plans and purposes.

SECTION 6. In the event a Circle does not have a Circle member able to represent the interests of the Circle at meetings of District X or the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., it shall be permissible for an Active member in good standing of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. to serve as a Delegate or Alternate with the approval of the President of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. and the Circle President.

SECTION 7. The Executive Board shall approve the acceptance of the new Circle into the Club.

SECTION 8. Action to Dissolve a Circle:

- a. may be taken after an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Circle membership, and written notice to the Executive Board governing The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. at least one month prior to action;
- b. within 30 days of written notice to the Executive Board of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., at the discretion of the Circle, the assets of the Circle shall be distributed exclusively to charitable, religious, scientific, literary or educational organizations which would then qualify under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) in the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations thereunder. Under no circumstances are the funds belonging to a Circle to be distributed among its members. After the 30-day period, any assets remaining shall be distributed at the discretion of the Executive Board of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.

ARTICLE XII – ADVISORY COUNCIL

SECTION 1. All Former Presidents of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. shall be members of the Advisory Council.

SECTION 2. In the event an elected officer is unable to fulfill his/her duties at a meeting, a member of the Advisory Council may fulfill those duties, with the approval of the President.

ARTICLE XIII – NO PERSONAL LIABILITY

The Officers, Board, and any other agents of the Club shall not be personally liable for any debt, liability or obligation of the Club. All persons, corporations, or other entities extending credit to, contracting with, or having any claim against the Club, may look only to the funds and property of the Club for the payment of any such contract or claim, or for the payment of any debt, damages, judgment or decree, or of any money that may otherwise become due or payable to them from the Club.

ARTICLE XIV – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER NEWLY REVISED shall govern the proceedings of this Club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XV – AMENDMENTS

The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Active members present and voting at any regular meeting, provided notice of such proposed amendment has been given at the previous regular meeting. The proposed amendment shall have been previously passed by the Executive Board.

STANDING RULES *(Revised February 2, 2026)*

The Bylaws of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. govern the structure and operation of the Club. They are inflexible and can be changed only by vote of the membership. The Standing Rules amplify the Bylaws, clarifying procedures and practices followed in carrying out Club activities. They are flexible and can be changed by vote of the Executive Board.

Each administration must abide by the Bylaws and Standing Rules as they stand. Personal decisions made without consideration of them are out of order.

The Bylaws and Standing Rules shall be reviewed by the committee on an ongoing basis and revised as necessary. Amendments shall be made if needed between these periodic reviews.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

New officers should become thoroughly familiar with the Bylaws, especially Article V, and with the Standing Rules and published Guidelines.

The President shall have flexibility in the number of Chairmen appointed. He/she shall appoint Active members to serve on Special Committees when necessary to carry out the administrative theme. Generally, a Chairman shall not serve more than two years.

The President shall make a conscious effort to rotate Chairmen so that more members have an opportunity to become involved and to serve on the Executive Board.

The outgoing President shall plan a transitional workshop to be held soon after the April Annual Luncheon Meeting and attended by outgoing and incoming Executive Boards. All files shall be turned over to the new Executive Board and plans of work and procedures shall be discussed. The Parliamentarian shall review the Bylaws, Standing Rules, and parliamentary procedure.

When a President completes their term, the President's pin shall pass to his/her successor when installed. The outgoing President shall be presented with a Past President's pin and an FFGC Life Membership or a suitable NGC or FFGC honor recognition award. The duty to arrange for the pin and the award shall be that of the First Vice President, or, in the absence of the First Vice President, the Second Vice President.

After serving one year, the President and First Vice President shall be eligible for expense reimbursement for two consecutive State Conventions each. In the event that either are unable to attend, the President may appoint a substitute from the Executive Board as a delegate to represent the Club. The designated attendees shall each be reimbursed by the Club for the full two-Day Convention Plan (which includes the registration fee and specified meals). The designated attendees may each receive additional reimbursement for related expenses of one half of the remaining amount in the Operating Budget for the Convention.

The Club shall cover the expense of registration and luncheon for the current President and First Vice President to attend the Fall and Spring District Meetings. In the event that the President and/or First Vice President are unable to attend, the President may appoint substitutes as delegates to represent the Club/Circle. Substitutes may be other officers, Executive Board members, or Active members.

A report of said conventions and conferences shall be presented by an attending officer to the Executive Board.

In the case of the simultaneous unavailability of two of the authorized signatories for lawful checks and investments of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., the First Vice President may become the required second countersignatory.

The Treasurer will ensure The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. checkbooks remain with one of the corporation's signatories when he/she expects to be out of town.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

When Chairmen of Standing Committees are appointed to serve on the Board, they assume the obligation to attend all Executive Board meetings except when illness or travel prevent attendance. Special Committee Chairmen are obligated to attend Executive Board meetings pertaining to their projects and their presence or absence shall not affect the quorum.

When a Chairman is unable to attend an Executive Board meeting, said Chairman shall inform the President of the intended absence, and send his/her report to the Recording Secretary.

When a Chairman is absent from three consecutive meetings, a resignation is advised.

The Minutes of the monthly Executive Board meetings and the Treasurer's Report shall be forwarded to Board members by email for review and correction in advance of the next meeting, eliminating the need to read the Minutes and Treasurer's Report aloud at the meeting itself. Only additions and/or corrections will be requested.

The President of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. shall be permitted to conduct business of an URGENT nature by electronic device. The action to be approved will be in the form of a motion and will be sent to each member of the Executive Board by electronic device. (Those who are entitled to be present, but not vote shall be copied on the message.) Confirmation of receipt shall be requested. An explanation of why the matter cannot wait for the next Board meeting must accompany the motion, and the period of time allowed for voting. Debate and comment, either positive or negative, may be made by the voting member and should be sent to all members of the Executive Board (Reply All). Return votes on the motion will be made to the Recording Secretary within the stated time period. A majority vote of the entire Executive Board shall adopt a motion. A motion will be considered adopted whenever a majority vote of the entire Executive Board has been reached, even if it is

before the end of the specified time period. The Board will be notified of the results. All forms of electronic devices are allowed.

FINANCES

Operating Fund

Budget items to be paid from the Operating Fund shall include:

1. Rent of facilities and ancillary costs for general meetings
2. State and District dues
3. Yearbook and its first-class mailing
4. Website, Newsletter, stationery, and postage
5. Officer and committee expenses
6. President's stipend for incidental expenses, regulated by the current Operating Fund Budget
7. Convention and conference expenses
8. Member of the Year Award and other Club awards approved by the Executive Board
9. Other items approved in the Operating Fund budget

The Operating Fund may receive up to ten percent (10%) of proceeds raised by special events.

Proceeds from monthly Ways & Means Table will be dispensed to the Operating Fund.

Program expenses shall be regulated by the current operating Fund Budget.

Workshops, Classes and Trips shall operate with an approved balanced budget prepared by the appropriate Chairman. If a Club member conducts a Workshop, Class or Trip, that member may receive compensation in accordance with the approved budget.

The Civic Improvement Fund may receive additional funds from the Operating Fund when approved by the Executive Board.

Civic Improvement Fund

Budget items to be paid from monies raised by events open to the public. The Operating Fund may receive up to ten percent (10%) of proceeds raised by special events for projects not listed below:

1. Beautification projects
2. Civic improvement projects or contributions to them
3. Arbor Day
4. Student camperships, scholarships and awards
5. Projects of District X, FFGC, Deep South Region and NGC
6. Membership dues or contributions to other societies and agencies with similar goals and purposes
7. Memorial plaque updating
8. Other items approved in the Civic Improvement budget

A statement regarding specific expenditure of funds raised for civic improvement and beautification projects should be sent to contributing organizations and, through the press, to the general public.

Any proposed unbudgeted expenditure from either the Operating Fund or the Civic Improvement Fund over \$50.00 must have Executive Board approval.

There shall be no refund on a ticket purchase for a Garden Club event.

Garden Club funds shall not be given to any organization which does not have goals and objectives comparable to the Club's. Payment of dues to other organizations should be reviewed yearly by the Executive Board.

In lieu of a bond, the Officers, Board Members and other agents of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. shall not be personally liable for any debt, liability, or obligation of the Club.

MEMBERSHIP

Active membership in The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. carries with it responsibilities and obligations regarding participation in its various activities: general meetings, committee work, special projects, hospitality, leadership roles, etc. In addition to paying Annual Dues, all Active members have three responsibilities each year:

1. **Refreshment duties, if assigned.** An alphabetical rotation determines which Active members have refreshment duties each year.
2. **Ways & Means duties during one monthly general meeting each year as assigned.** Each Circle is assigned one monthly general meeting each year. Members at Large are assigned each year in the Yearbook to a Circle to facilitate their participation in their Ways & Means duties. (These Members at Large shall hold no

Circle benefits or obligations. The assignment is merely to coordinate participation. However, this assignment in no way precludes their joining that Circle or any other in the future.)

3. **Special Project Participation.** In the event project duties are assigned to Circles, Members at Large shall affiliate with the Circle assignment designated in the Ways & Means duties. (These Members at Large shall hold no Circle benefits or obligations. The assignment is merely to coordinate participation. However, this assignment in no way precludes their joining that Circle or any other in the future.)

All correspondence pertaining to The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. shall be sent to the Corporation address: P.O. Box 684, Stuart FL 34995-0684. Personal addresses should not be used for Corporation business such as trips, workshops, classes, refreshments, new membership applications or treasury transactions.

Prospective members, who are interested in being associated with the Club but are unable to fulfill these annual duties, are encouraged to become Patron Members.

Members who have been Active for at least five (5) years and wish to continue to support the Club but who no longer can attend meetings because of employment, illness, etc., shall be encouraged to become Associate Members.

Members shall be encouraged to attend State Conventions and District Conferences in order to broaden individual participation and Club representation.

Members who join during a current year shall be invited to a social gathering for the purpose of learning about the Club and its circles, getting acquainted with the Executive Board and each other.

Refreshments are an important part of the monthly general meetings. The Active membership roster shall be utilized alphabetically to determine which members shall have refreshment duties for the upcoming year. The Active members with refreshment duties for the year will then be divided into groups to serve as monthly committees. The monthly committee shall work under the guidance of the Refreshments Chairman, appointed by the President. If a member cannot serve during his/her assigned month, each member is responsible for finding his/her own substitute or paying a fee, and must call the Refreshments Chairman, advising of their substitute or making arrangements to pay the fee. Each Refreshments Committee shall:

1. purchase and plate refreshments for members who have chosen to pay a fee to fulfill their refreshment responsibility;
2. set up a tea table; include a natural arrangement done by a Club member; and
3. prepare and serve refreshments.

The yearbook may be mailed or hand delivered to all members (Active, Patron, Associate and Honorary). Members shall notify the Yearbook Chairman and Second Vice President at the time the annual dues are paid if the mailing address for the yearbook is different from the Florida address being printed in the yearbook, or if the member wants the yearbook held for pick-up at a general monthly meeting.

Names of members who hold State and National Life Memberships shall be reported by the Life Membership Committee to the Second Vice President for inclusion in yearbook listing and membership records.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability (including HIV, AIDS, or Sickle Cell Trait), pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information which are classes protected by State and/or Federal law (collectively "protected classes") in its programs and activities.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

The purpose of this Conflict of Interest Policy of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. is to help avoid the appearance or actuality of private benefit to individuals within the corporation who are in a position of substantial authority.

1. **Definition of Conflicts of Interest.** A conflict of interest arises when a Member of the Executive Board ("Member") is in the position of voting for a transaction that the Member or any family member of the Member has a financial interest in the conflict of interest transaction.
2. **Individuals Covered.** All Members are covered by this policy. The Executive Board consists of elected Officers, appointed Officers, Chairmen of Standing Committees, Chairmen of Special Committees and Presidents of the Circles.

3. **Duty to Disclose Conflicts of Interest.** A Member will disclose in writing to the President, First Vice President and Treasurer of the corporation any actual or possible conflict of interest that may arise at any time.
4. **Procedures for Existence of Conflicts of Interest.** Interests disclosed to the President, First Vice President and Treasurer of the corporation will be reviewed and a determination made whether to (a) take no action; (b) assure full disclosure to the Executive Board; (c) ask the Member to recuse oneself from participation in related discussions and deliberations of the Executive Board; or (d) ask the Member to resign from the position in the corporation or, if the Member refuses to resign, become subject to possible removal.
5. **Affirmation of the Policy.** Annually, all Members will sign a Certificate stating that the Member has received a copy of the Conflict of Interest Policy of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., has read the policy, understands the policy and has agreed to comply with the policy.

CIRCLES

Circles and their activities are secondary to the activities of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. Active or Associate members are eligible for Circle membership. Circles may also confer Honorary membership of their own. The members shall support and take an active part in the Club meetings and projects.

Circles shall not be relied upon or given preference to the exclusion of those members who belong only to The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.

Circle Presidents shall present a Circle report at Executive Board meetings. If unable to attend, a representative shall be sent to present a report and keep the Circle informed of Executive Board action. Written copies of Circle reports shall be submitted to the Executive Board's Recording Secretary.

Circle Presidents and Program Chairman (First Vice President of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.) shall attend a joint meeting in early spring to discuss the purpose of Circles and Circle programs.

Circle Presidents shall annually submit three (3) copies of their Circle yearbook to the First Vice President of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. Circle Presidents shall annually submit three (3) copies of their current Circle bylaws to the President of the Club. If these bylaws are included in the yearbook, that is an adequate submission.

Circle programs shall be related to the goals of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. and stress active participation of the Circle members in a study-workshop type of meeting.

Circle meetings shall be conducted according to parliamentary procedure.

Circles shall include assigned Members at Large in working on Ways & Means and other meeting responsibilities. (These Members at Large hold no Circle benefits or obligation. Their assignment is merely to improve this annual working responsibility and relationship. However, this assignment in no way precludes their joining that Circle or any other in the future.)

THE GARDEN CLUB OF STUART, INC. AWARDS

These award statements shall appear in the yearbook, along with a list of recipients.

The President and/or the Executive Board shall have the option of honoring members for outstanding service to the Club (with FFGC Hall of Fame, Pillar of Pride or Earth Steward awards) when it is deemed appropriate.

Distinguished Service Award

Given by the officers of the Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., the Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals who, over many years, have made a significant contribution to our goals and purposes and continue to show much dedication in their service to our club.

Member of the Year Award

The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. Member of the Year Award is presented annually to a member, other than an officer of the Corporation (President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer) in appreciation for outstanding service during the current Club year. Officers of the Corporation do not include Circle Officers. Presentation is made at the Annual Luncheon Meeting.

Accomplishments may extend over a number of years but should be prominent in the present award year. Written nominations indicating qualifications must be presented to the President by the first of March. Three anonymous judges, appointed by the President, make the choice based not on the number of nominations, but on the qualifications of the nominee.

Community Service Award

Endowed by Mary M. Bickmann, The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. Community Service Award is given annually to an individual in Martin County who has provided leadership and service consistent with the aims of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., and National Garden Clubs, Inc. The recipient need not be a member of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. Nominations must be presented in writing to the President during the club year but not later than the March meeting. Selection of the recipient is made by a committee of the President and two former Presidents based not on the number of nominations, but on the qualifications of the nominee. The award is announced at the Annual Luncheon Meeting.

Cyndy Trossbach Outstanding Youth Award

The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. Cyndy Trossbach Outstanding Youth Award is given annually to a high school student in Martin County who has displayed leadership and initiative in support of the goals and aims of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., and National Garden Clubs, Inc. as defined by their Mission and Vision statements. Nominations indicating the qualifications must be presented in writing to the President by the first of March during the Club year. Three anonymous judges, appointed by the President, make the choice based not on the number of nominations, but on the qualifications of the nominee. The award is announced at the Annual Luncheon Meeting.

CLUB CIRCLES

Circles are approved units within The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. Each Circle has monthly programs based on the purposes of the Club which are designed to meet the needs of Circle members.

In addition, Circles often plan their own field trips, workshops and community service events that are of particular interest to their members.

Circle membership is limited in size and openings are not always available.



ALLAMANDA CIRCLE – Meets 3rd Thursday

President: Barbara Farley **Secretary:** Barbara Peyton
Vice President: Tish Gelineau **Treasurer:** Beth Barone

Trish Capra, Ruth Ann Decker, Nancy Dillard, Judi Hubert, Ruth Munneke, Sue Ropelewski, Lynne Spillum, Sunny Swearingen, Conchita Vallecillo

JACARANDA CIRCLE – Meets 3rd Wednesday

President: Mary Claire Anderson **Secretary:** Lisa Weidenheimer
Vice President: Joanne Ryder **Treasurer:** Pat Dermody

Louise Andrews, Dorothy Armstrong, Jean Bulick, Doreen Duncan, Rhea Dunn, Rana Holbrook, Linda Klimowicz, Carol Ann Mayer, Kathy Mullen, Iris Rhett, Fran Schoen, Evelyn Smith, Jan Stoorza, Debra Stutman

PERIWINKLE CIRCLE – Meets 3rd Thursday

President: Gail Brady **Secretary:** Jean Fedele
Vice President: Jill Burton **Treasurer:** Maria Smundin

Karen Benson, Fran Bondy, Josephine Donegan, Betts Freer, Erna Friedel, Lynn Gifford, Lorraine Knapp, Laila White, Margaret Whitney-Smith

SATIN LEAF CIRCLE – Meets 1st Wednesday

President: Karen Bonney **Secretary:** Charlene Cook
Vice President: Alice Lyons **Treasurer:** Susan Licari

Donna Baker, Lynne Cavanaugh, Chris Davies, Mary Jane DuCoin, Sue Dudzic, Catherine Heretick, Nancy Hess, Alice Hooker, Marilyn Horan, Judith Just, Diane Kimes, Linda Kuhns, Dawn Lasure, Mary Nangle, Mary Neal, Lina Novak, Lee Rodman, Susan Sentell, Georgeann Sgroso, Vanessa Somoano, Katharina Stejskal, Bonnie Stoepelman, Kim Wildenberg

TABEBUIA CIRCLE – Meets 3rd Thursday

President: Helen Goller **Secretary:** Mary Lersch
Vice President: Linda Sarubbi **Treasurer:** TBD

Janice Alexander, Donna Berger, Lynn Callaghan, Sandy Decker, Mary Harrell, Martha Hendrickson, Chris Koumas, Rosanne Kramer, Ruth Lange, Kathryn Mann, Diana Mihaltese, Susan Slater, Debra Smith, Karen Vaina, Sharon West, Maura Zafarana

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Cathy Gerzina, Chairman

Mary Ann Abegglen, Rosita Aristoff, Judy Bailey, Pauline Becker, Cindy Beddow, Nancy Binger, Debbie Cairnes, Bea Cooper, Jean Daniels, Yvonne Diasio, Cynthia Doney, Pat Doyle, Edwina Dunworth, Bobbi England, Eleanor Epler, Cathy Gerzina, Elaine Graham, Mar Lou Jennings, Daina Karol, Barbara Maine, Irene Maloy, Mary Lou Marshall, Marty Neal, Donna Rae Pearlman, Leslie Perna, Deborah Reaves, Christia Li Roberts, Eve Roberts, Laura Ronayne, Judy Rovniak, Lee Rush, Debbie Sahlberg, Louisa Schneider, Anne Scott, Sandra Scudder, Victoria Shipley, Alexis Smith, Kathie Smith, Diane Spencer, Diana Welch

Members at Large who are interested in joining a Circle should contact the Circle president and indicate interest. Any Member of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. wishing to be included in a Circle, and finding difficulty in locating an available opening, is encouraged to contact The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. Second Vice President (Membership Chairman) for assistance.

LONG-STANDING MEMBERS

Over 25% of our current Active membership have been members of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. for 15 years or more. A special thank you to these members for their many years of participation.

Membership over 25 years

1995 - Christia Li Roberts	2001 - Erna Friedel
1997 - Bea Cooper	2001 - Elaine Graham
2000 - Donna Berger	2001 - Jan Stoorza

Membership from 15 to 25 years

2003 - Rosita Aristoff	2008 - Lee Rush
2004 - Mary Lersch	2008 - Susan Slater
2004 - Irene Maloy	2008 - Debra Stutman
2005 - Louise Andrews	2009 - Sandy Decker
2005 - Jill Burton	2009 - Donna Rae Pearlman
2005 - Eleanor Epler	2010 - Pauline Becker
2005 - Mary Harrell	2010 - Fran Bondy
2005 - Marty Neal	2010 - Bobbi England
2006 - Patricia Dermody	2010 - Betts Freer
2006 - Barbara Farley	2010 - Alice Hooker
2007 - Kathryn Mann	2010 - Judy Rovniak
2007 - Mary Lou Marshall	2010 - Kathie Smith
2008 - Ruth Anne Decker	2011 - Mary Neal

FORMER PRESIDENTS

1936-1939 Mrs. Willaford R. Leach*	1983-1985 Mrs. Carol Frank Klein*
1939-1941 Mrs. John E. Taylor*	1985-1987 Mrs. Frederick Bickmann, Jr.*
1941-1942 Mrs. H.H. Hipson*	1987-1989 Mrs. Frank J. Creegan, Jr.*
1942-1943 Mrs. Leon E. Ashley*	1989-1991 Mrs. John Allinson*
1943-1948 Mrs. Willaford R. Leach*	1991-1993 Mrs. William Barringer*
1948-1950 Mrs. H.B. Swinglehurst, Jr.*	1993-1995 Mrs. Roy Holding*
1950-1952 Mrs. Edwin A. Menninger*	1995-1997 Ms. June Henderson*
1952-1954 Mrs. Howard W. Neail*	1997-1999 Mrs. Bea Cooper
1954-1956 Mrs. Hugh Willoughby*	1999-2001 Mrs. Joan Graff
1956-1957 Mrs. Richard U. Hupfel*	2001-2003 Mrs. Virginia Maloney
1957-1959 Mrs. R. Cecil Johns*	2003-2004 Mrs. Marjory Holland*
1959-1961 Mrs. W.C. Armor*	2004-2005 Mrs. Bobbie Spilman
1961-1963 Mrs. D.S. Hudson, Sr.*	2005-2007 Mrs. Donna Berger
1963-1965 Mrs. John W. Hussey*	2007-2009 Mrs. Joan Wilcox
1965-1967 Mrs. W. Arnold Gesner*	2009-2011 Mrs. Cyndy Trossbach*
1967-1968 Mrs. Thomas Thurlow*	2011-2013 Mrs. Louise Andrews
1968-1970 Mrs. Howard J. Bayley*	2013-2015 Mrs. Donna Berger
1970-1971 Mrs. John Andrew*	2015-2017 Mrs. Bobbi England
1971-1973 Mrs. William H. Cobb*	2017-2019 Mrs. Sandy Decker
1973-1975 Mrs. James A. Saxton*	2019-2021 Ms. Deborah Reaves
1975-1977 Mrs. Edward A. Neail*	2021-2023 Mrs. Karen Bonney
1977-1979 Mrs. Charles E. Bishop*	2023-2025 Mrs. Rosita Aristoff
1979-1981 Mrs. Alex D. Stahl*	
1981-1983 Mrs. Roy J. Menard*	

*deceased



Calendar of Events

2026

September 19	International Coastal Cleanup Day
October 5	Executive Board Meeting
October 12	Membership Meeting
October 22	District X Fall Meeting: Wellington FL
November 2	Executive Board Meeting
November 9	Membership Meeting
November 11	Veterans Day Parade
November 12	Workshop – Tricks of the Trade: A Chef's Insider Tips
December 7	Executive Board Meeting
December 14	Membership Meeting

2027

January 4	Executive Board Meeting
January 11	Membership Meeting
January 15	Arbor Day
January 18	Workshop – Flower Show
January 21-22	Tropical Short Course: Wellington FL
January 22	Field Trip – Loxahatchee Boat Tour
January 26-29	NGC Flower Show School Course II: Boca Raton FL
February 1	Executive Board Meeting
February 5	Workshop – Garden Inspiration: Drawing, Painting & Poetry
February 8	Membership Meeting
February 15	Workshop – Flower Show
March 1	Executive Board Meeting
March 8	Membership Meeting
March 11	Field Trip – Flamingo Gardens
March 14-16	DSGC Convention: Tuscaloosa AL
March 19-20	GCS FLOWER SHOW
April 1	Dues are due
April 5	Executive Board Meeting
April 12	GCS Annual Spring Luncheon – Sandhill Cove, Palm City
April 6-9	FFGC Convention: Kissimmee FL
April (TBD)	District X Spring Meeting: Jupiter FL
May 3	Executive Board Meeting
May 13-17	NGC Convention: Madison WI
June 6-12	National Garden Week