

January Newsletter

Greetings GCS Member and Happy New Year

Our next general meeting is January 12, 2026. Our program will be on African Violets and will be very interesting. We are also going to decorate a hat, if you are so inclined. The theme is Your Favorite Hobby (including gardening). I am looking forward to a large response so I will appoint three "judges" to determine the most creative. They will be secret so no sense preening in front of them.

I want to include some very **important dates and activities** coming up soon.

Registration for the first two are coming up fast so please get your registration in pronto. **Flower Show School Course 1** at the Boca Raton Garden Club and hosted by District XI Florida Flower Show Judges will be held January 13-16 and will focus on learning how to exhibit Horticulture and Floral Designs in a Flower Show. It is also geared to members who want to hold a Standard Flower Show, want to become a Judge, or simply want to learn floral design. Registration immediately. Information is on ffgc.org

The **69th Annual Tropical Short Course and Tri-Refresher** presented by FFGC and District X presents speakers on a wide variety of topics, including the environment, gardening, landscape, and floral design. Registration cutoff is January 5. Information is on DistrictX.org

Garden Expo 2026: This is a plant sale held by the Jensen Beach Garden Club. It will take place Saturday, March 7, 2026, at Memorial Park, Stuart. The Garden Club of Stuart has committed to this event and will be selling plants and garden related items. By now many of you have propagated some plants to be sold. It doesn't matter what kind they are, but they must be professional quality to show off our club. Now is the time to concentrate on growing these plants on. Trim them if needed, rotate them so they grow evenly, watch for insects, etc., in short do whatever is necessary to produce a plant of very good quality. If you are just propagating now, or if you must repot, use inexpensive pots. There is no sense in giving your good pots away. Remember also that in 2027 we will be having a flower show. If you are growing something now that might be exceptional, save it for the flower show.

I do need some information from you now in order to further the event. If you would be so kind as to text (828 423 6571) or email (fractal42@aol.com) me the following information: Your Name, how many plants you might have for the sale, the names of the plants, the sizes of the plants, and if you will need help getting them to the sale. This way I can plan how much room we need. Before the sale I would appreciate it if you could label each plant with a tongue depressor or sticker, and write a little plant care if it is something unusual. I am very excited about this project and think we will make a lot of money for the club. Thank you in advance for your work on this project.

A committee has been formed to prepare the **Operating Budget** for next year, This will be presented and voted on by the membership at the February meeting.

There is also a committee in place to review the **ByLaws**. Any changes will be presented to the membership at the next two general meetings before a vote will taken.

New Member Tea: Our 2nd VP and Membership Chair, Susan Licari, is in the process of planning a new member luncheon for all new members of this year and last year. It is a very special event and a few things will be

needed to complete the theme. If anyone has a China tea set. i.e. teapot, matching sugar and cream pitcher, and possibly 4 cups and saucers, that can be used, every precaution will be taken for their safety. Also needed are large, insulated drink carafes, big enough to hold about two quarts of liquid. Other things may be necessary but will be asked for when determined.

Membership in our club keeps growing due to everyone's efforts to talk-up our activities and bring guests to the meetings. So far this year we have 18 new members. Our membership chair is very good at following up with letters of encouragement to each guest that attends a meeting. Today many clubs across the nation are floundering. I suppose there are many reasons for this – aging out, people moving away, the internet and social media, complacency, even fear of going out. It is so important to keep a club interesting, fun, and accessible for our own personal growth and mental, physical, and emotional health. With our varied and interesting programs, our pre-meeting socializing, our shared experiences, and kindnesses to each other, our new social outings (due to Li Roberts), ... among many other things... we are doing great. Recognizing and appreciating everyone's special gifts, enjoying them together, and putting them to good use is the best way to reverse the present trend. Keep up the good work ladies. We need you.

See you at the January 12 meeting.

Mary Neal