

# BLOOMING TALES

## from Terrific Ten

August, 2021



### Direct from the Director: Michelle Maguire

Hello everyone, I am your new District Director, Michelle Maguire for 2021-2023. As I said at my first District X meeting in April, I would tell you a little bit about myself.

I am originally from Hamden, Connecticut. I lived there until I went to college at the University of Rhode Island where I majored in Biology and minored in Art. Met my husband there and so began a succession of moves to eight different states and New Zealand.

Over the years I have learned so many things about horticulture, environment and the places where you can find some of the most interesting Gardens. I have been a Master Gardener for 12 years and am currently the Chairman of Landscape at my HOA. I started the Pipers Landing Garden Club in

September of 2013, and was president for four years.

Besides being your current District Director, I am the Chairman for Tropical Short Course/ Tri Refresher which will be held on January 19 and 20, 2022 at The Greenacres Community Center. The registration form is already on line at DistrictX.org. I encourage you to go if you have never been to a Tropical Short Course.

Doug Tallamy is the featured speaker on January 19. If your interest lies in Floral Design, you will be delighted to see and hear from two Ikebana designers from Morikami Gardens on January 20. Don't forget if you have to refresh in any of the NGC schools, THIS IS THE TIME TO DO IT.

I was so pleased and happy to read about all the wonderful projects you all did for GARDEN WEEK from the reports you sent me. The pictures were amazing. One of the Garden Clubs has started a book club, and so I would like

to hear from any of you about featuring books concerning the environment, gardening and landscape in a column for this NEWSLETTER. The next edition of this newsletter is December 15, so you have plenty of time to suggest some books.

I conducted several Zoom meetings over the summer and fall of last year on various topics. I have discussed all the things you need to know to be successful as presidents of your Garden Club in these meetings. Hopefully they have been helpful. I would love to visit your club sometime so do not hesitate to ask.

In closing, the next District Fall Meeting is October 19, 2021 at THE TRAILS COUNTRY CLUB in Port St. Lucie. The Saint Lucie Garden Club is the host club, and the registration form is online at DistrictX.org

Michelle Maguire, DXD

## Garden Club of Indian River County back in operation after covid interruptions

After a mixed year of meetings and distancing we are back in operation. We had a successful end-of-the-year participation in National Garden Week, with circles presenting planters and flower arrangements to many community groups, including hospice house, Zerans Jewelers, Indian River County Board of Education, Indian

River County Library, and a donation to Shining Light Gardens. One of the Poinsettia Circle projects that was disrupted by Covid, the planting of several 4 foot in diameter planters in the Hospice House reflective gardens was completed during National Garden Week.

Summer plans include to refresh the

GCIRC concrete dune planter in the Children's Garden at McKee Botanical Gardens by the Carissa Circle.

Events for 2020-21 include our 30th Anniversary Christmas Ornament, 20th Anniversary Gardenfest February 5 & 6, 2022, and delayed flower show March 26 & 27, 2022.

# ***What does one do during Covid 19?*** **Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches recaps end-of-the-year activities**

By Diane Macomber

If you don't mind getting your hands dirty, you do what you are passionate about.....work in your gardens-constantly weeding, pruning and finding new flowers or plants that brighten them up!

Some of our Jupiter Tequesta Garden Club club members continued with Community Garden Projects in and around Jupiter and Tequesta. Ongoing Club projects included the "Plant it Pink" garden in front of the Foshay Cancer Treatment Center, raised beds at the Tindall House, fully planted vegetable and pineapple plants at the Jupiter Lighthouse, redoing and adding new plants to the outside garden areas of the Jupiter Medical Center Thrift Store and tending to the Butterfly Garden that we planted at the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary.

We also planned a members' garden tour for last year in March, 2020 as a fund raiser. Tickets were sold and the 5 volunteer homes worked hard to prepare their gardens for this special event. But as we all know, Covid 19 knocked on our doors! Unsure of what the future held for all of us, we didn't really cancel it but put it on "hold".

When things seemed to start to turn around and people were feeling better about being with friends in an outdoors environment, we again started to plan the Garden Tour. The volunteers again began to prep their gardens to be viewed and enjoyed by our fellow member gardeners. On May 1, the gardens were finally enjoyed. So as not to have too many cars at one location, the tour was divided into 4 groups with a time schedule, maps and directions.

On a special note, we are happy to announce that our JTGC finally returned to "in person" monthly meetings April 5, with masks and safe distance spacing encouraged, as most of us have now had our vaccinations. Getting to see everyone's happy and smiling faces was very exciting, and we had a



beautiful cake decorated with flowers and a "Welcome Back" inscription.

We also celebrated "National Garden Week" (June 6-12), by preparing a lovely blue pot with an Anthurium plant to display at the Jupiter Community Center during the month of June.

We wish all our FFGC fellow gardeners a "Welcome Back" greeting. Hopefully the Covid virus will continue to decrease, and we can once again get back to all the great garden club activities and events that we so passionately love.

## **Garden Club of Stuart plans for busy new season**

*by Bonney Karen*

The Garden Club of Stuart is preparing for our fall meetings. We are making last minute touches on our yearbooks to keep everyone informed of all we have planned for another productive year.

One of the major focuses of our club is to provide scholarships to deserving college bound students. At present we have awarded several scholarships.

Enjoy the "Joy of Gardening" on Saturday, March 26, 2022. The Garden Club of Stuart will be having their Secret Gardens tour, for one day only. The featured gardens have been cared for and loved by their owners. We hope you will mark your calendar and save the date for a wonderful tour through the selected gardens. More information to follow.

This past May, the Oleander Garden Club received the following awards from the National Garden Clubs, Inc.:

A Certificate of Merit in the Community Gardens category for its support of the Loaves and Fishes Garden at the Elks Lodge. Oleander club members and their Wynnebrook Elementary Jr. Garden Club members helped plant and harvest vegetables to feed the hungry and homeless during 2019 and 2020.

Oleander also received a Certificate of Merit in the Food Bank donation category for supporting the harvesting and donations from the Loaves and Fishes Garden to three local soup kitchens on a weekly basis during the growing season.

On June 28, members of the Oleander Garden Club met for their inaugural book club meeting featuring Douglas Tallamy's **Nature's Best Hope**.

The discussion followed a delightful potluck lunch at the home of Beverly Lichtenstein. Eager gardeners and concerned citizens shared their appreciation of Tallamy's insights and suggestions—most notably creating "pollinator corridors."

Our next meeting is scheduled for August 30, to explore Peter Wohlleben's **The Hidden Life of Trees** at Reina Snyder's home near Grassy Waters Preserve. Members are excited about this newest garden club offering as a way to further their involvement in local environmental concerns.

# Boca Raton Garden Club joins Million Orchid Project

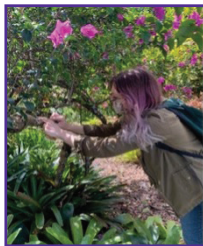
by Joan Witter

Boca Raton Garden Club is honored to take part in the Million Orchid Project. Florida Atlantic University's Pine Jog Environmental Education Center in Palm Beach County joined Fairchild Tropical Botanical Gardens in Miami to promote the Million Orchid Project. Fairchild's aim is to reintroduce native orchids to Miami and its surrounding urban neighborhoods—complementing the existing orchid reintroduction projects aimed at natural areas.



Pine Jog Environmental Center is expanding this effort farther north into Palm Beach County. The project is a five-year orchid reintroduction program for South Florida,

The Boca Raton Garden Club received some very young native orchids from Pine Jog Environmental Education Center to add to our garden to grow and assimilate into their own environment. New baby native orchids were installed in our trees on Thursday, March 16. The orchids are small enough to be held in the palm of your hand, but they have many, many new roots.



Trees with rough bark were chosen as a growing base: bougainvillea on the heavy open wood, Lakeview Jasmine tree, almond bush, and Lonchocarpus



tree as hosts. The native orchids were placed in little forks and curves in branches and glued with liquid nails. For easy identification, a gold ribbon has been tied near each orchid location. These orchids are native to this area of Florida. Hopefully, as they mature and bloom, their tiny seeds will blow on the winds and repopulate our neighborhood trees for future generations. Orchids were sold at our plant sale so they could be planted in the community in trees at individual's homes.

Thank you, Marie Young, and all the wonderful members who have come forth to sponsor and support this adventure with the Million Orchid Project through FAU and Carmen Rodriguez's FAU staff.

## Books to enlighten!

by Michelle Maguire

Here are two books for all you bibliophiles might like to read about the environment. **Rescuing The Planet - Protecting Half the Land to Heal the Earth** by Tony Hiss. This book is an urgent call to protect 50% of the earth's land by 2050 thereby saving millions of species and an assessment of the health of our planet.

The second book is **Under A White Sky- The Nature of the Future** by Elizabeth Kolbert. After doing so much damage, can we change nature, this time to save it? This book follows her book **The Sixth Extinction**.

# Jasmine Circle of the Garden Club of Indian River County turns to outdoor activities during covid

by Connie Derman

Jasmine Circle of the Garden Club of Indian River County tried to have as many monthly meetings and programs outdoors as possible during the 2020-2021 Club year (due to Covid). Those included a tour of our member, Maureen Labadie's, native garden; a nature walk in the Indian River Land Trust Lagoon



Greenway; a tour of Schacht's Groves (a local citrus producer); and a "Garden Therapy" project of our members removing the freshly trimmed palmettos in the Garden Club's backyard.

In September 2020 (since we were closed in May) we had an installation of officers as we did again in May, 2021. In November, we enjoyed hearing Tom Kehoe from the Heathcote Gardens in Fort Pierce speak about the Bonsai Collection at Heathcote, which has the largest public display of Bonsai in the U.S.

We also had two gardening workdays at the Hibiscus Children's Center. And in December, had a Boxwood Workshop led by our member, Jennifer Sauter. Members were offered some delicious "Take and Go" treats and also took their Boxwood trees home for the holidays.

# Wellington Garden Club celebrates 40th birthday

by *Maria Wolfe*

Once the quarantine was over, the Wellington Garden Club (WGC) hit the ground running. We were able to return to face-to-face meetings so 37 members and some special guests attended our installation meeting on May 3.

The Mayor of Wellington, Anne Gerwig, gave a celebratory speech to congratulate our club on being 40 Years old. The Village of Wellington City Manager, Jim Barnes and the Supervisor of Landscape, Will Gurney received the Unsolicited Landscape Design Award.

On Memorial Day WGC dedicated a Gold Star Memorial Marker at the Village of Wellington Veterans' Memorial. Marge Hendon, FFGC President attended and spoke to the large crowd on the history of Gold Star and why National Garden Clubs support the placement of markers.

Celebrating National Garden Week is always fun at WGC. On Monday, June 6, nine WGC members began National Garden Week by creating floral

arrangements that were distributed to Wellington's municipal offices, fire stations and hospitals. The club also received a proclamation from the Wellington Village Council and Mayor Anne Gerwig declaring the week of June 6-12, 2021 as National Garden Week.

A special highlight this year was the planting of four Pond Cypress trees (*Taxodium ascendens*) on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 in the Wellington Environmental Preserve. In addition to celebrating National Garden Week, the event also supports the NGC Project – Plant America. Mayor Anne Gerwig joined Club members at the tree planting ceremony that was dedicated to the memory of four members who passed away during the past year.

On June 18, 2021, the Wellington Garden Club showed its community involvement by planting eight shrubs at the home of a senior citizen in Wellington. Working with the Wellington Community Foundation our club gave back to our community in a very tangible way.

# Plant America with Natives in District X

Mark your calendar and let your members know about the District Zoom Workshop on Thursday, Sept. 23 at 10:30. We will be explaining how to apply for this matching fund grant so you can plan a native tree and/or shrub event during your club year.

All club presidents and members are invited to join us. We will ask you to share your programs over the last two years and update you on the Natives in your neighborhood program and the latest developments in coastal restoration.



Feel free to ask questions in advance as well as sharing that morning.

**Barbara Hadsell, District X Plant America with Natives Chairman**  
[barbarahadsell@cs.com](mailto:barbarahadsell@cs.com)

**Reina Snyder, Vice Chairman**

**Kimberlee Pompeo, Vice Chairman for Coastal Restoration**

# Mark your calendars for Boca Raton Garden Club's Holiday House Craft, Plant and Bake Sale

by *Mary Kaub*



The Boca Raton Garden Club will be holding its annual Holiday House Craft, Plant and Bake Sale October 28 – October 31, 2021. Hours are Thursday - Saturday 9am to 3pm and Sunday 10am to 2pm.

The crafters have been working all summer creating beautiful items for fall, Halloween, Christmas, and year around. Our nursery is full of beautiful plants for sale and the members are already baking scrumptious items for the bake sale.

Please visit our clubhouse to shop, mingle with our BRGC members and tour the beautiful gardens. If you would like to shop early, items are for sale every Tuesday and Thursday from 10am-1pm during summer crafting.

Also, BRGC will be having a Fall Pre-Sale on Friday, October 15 and Saturday, October 16 from 9am -2pm. Looking forward to seeing everyone this year and stay safe,

# Garden Club of Ft. Pierce tours members' gardens

by Abby James

Touring the fabulous gardens of our members is one of the Garden Club of Ft. Pierce's favorite activities, and our summer 2021 tours were some for the books! Starting off our summer we visited Maggie Cook's beautiful home on the Indian River in June. Not only did we receive a tour of Maggie's award-winning Florida-friendly garden, we also hosted a new member orientation. We are excited to welcome 15 new members to our club!

In July we visited Lynda Salsbury's budding garden in the Lakewood Park neighborhood and shared days of learning and companionship.



We were also busy this summer with National Garden Week activities and planning our upcoming sales and workshop. National Garden Week is a special time for promoting conservation, beautification, and community projects in Fort Pierce. We presented various public service organizations and with flower arrangements as a way of saying "thank you" for their service. Fort Pierce Mayor Hudson, the Fort Pierce Police Department, and assisted living facilities were some of the recipients of our handmade arrangements.

We also had a booth at the award winning Downtown Fort Pierce's Farmers Market on July 12. Visitors and

members alike enjoyed our plant give away and discussions about all things plants. And keeping with tradition, the Garden Club donated several horticulture books to the library and set up a display in honor of National Garden Week.



GC of Fort Pierce is also gearing up for our annual plant sales. Our Mega Sale, held every fall, will feature an outdoor plant shop in addition to an indoor flea market. The Mega Sale takes place at the Garden Center clubhouse in beautiful Glidden Park located at the corner of South 10th Street and Georgia Avenue. It is on Saturday, October 23rd and opens at 8 am.

Plants are locally grown and donated by our members and friends and include bromeliads, tropicals, perennials, and more. Our indoor flea market features gently used clothes, jewelry, small furnishings, and various home decor. This is a great way for you to spruce up your garden and home. All proceeds will benefit Fort Pierce community projects.

Looking into 2022, we will hold our spring "Plants in the Park" sale in addition to a "Fun with Flowers" workshop. For more information about upcoming events, please see our Facebook page. Here's to ushering in the new season, promoting garden clubs in South Florida, and encouraging excitement around gardening. Start sprucing up today!

# Environmental update 2021-22: important information for all District X Members

By Reina Snyder

Wanting to do your part for the environment? Here are some positively focused activities you and your club can support, and we will provide you with the resources to do it all!

September 23, 2021, Thursday, at 10:30 am, join a district zoom meeting presenting an environmental update covering how your club can sponsor environmental scholarships for students of all grade levels, how to participate with SEEK, and how to partner with Green Schools and the Pine Jog Environmental Education Center to work with environmental clubs/Green Teams in your area at the elementary, middle school and high school levels. These updates will help you and your club to support, sponsor, and cheer on young people participating in environmentally focused programs!

Finally, a district-wide program is being proposed for the garden clubs of the district to join forces to create a nature/pollinator corridor throughout District X. This is building on Doug Tallamy's latest book, *Nature's Best Hope* – a must read for all gardeners and nature lovers!

We will be taking questions and also suggestions as to your environmental concerns, ideas for possible field trips and anything else environmentally related! Feel free to submit questions, concerns, ideas in advance to: Reina Snyder, Environmental Chairman, District X, [reinasnyder@gmail.com](mailto:reinasnyder@gmail.com)

# District X Clubs shine in competition for State, Regional and National Awards

*By Twig Morris, District X Awards Chairman*

Despite the restricted activities during the 2020 club year, District X Clubs were big winners in the competition for State (FFGC), Regional (DS) and National (NGC) Awards with a total of 26 Awards for projects undertaken during the pandemic. CONGRATULATIONS to all the clubs that won and many thanks to all those clubs that entered but didn't win. I know you'll be winners in 2021. Remember, you can't win it if you're not in it.

In summary, here's what District X Clubs won:

## FFGC AWARDS:

Boca Raton Garden Club: Community Service Award for masks made for health care workers; and an individual award to JoAnn Guise for Distinguished Service to an FFGC President.

Garden Club of Stuart: Blue Star Memorial Marker re-landscaping

Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches: Arbor Day Celebration; Yearbook

Wellington Garden Club: Newsletter; Madira Bickel Civic Achievement for annual tree planting on public land

Two clubs, Stuart Garden Club and Wellington Garden Club won top awards for their Flower Shows. Individual awards went to Rosita Aristoff, Nancy Binger, Susan Healy and Alice Hooker of Stuart for their individual entries in the Stuart Garden Club show. Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches won an award for the Youth Participation in the Wellington Garden Club show. The Wellington Flower Show also won the staging award and Linda DeSanti won an individual award for her entry in the Wellington Garden Club show.

Special recognition went to Allamanda Circle of Stuart Garden Club who won a \$250 FFGC Matching Grant for the landscaping of the Gardens at Gilbert's House of Refuge. The Matching Grant Program is available again this year. For details and an application, go to FFGC Matching Grant Program on the FFGC website.

**DEEP SOUTH REGION:** Four clubs won awards from the Deep South Region that includes garden clubs in six states, so competition was stiff. Boca Raton won a second place Public Relations Award for their mask project; Garden Club of Stuart won second place for their Blue Star Memorial re-landscaping; Oleander Garden Club won third place for their Yearbook; and Wellington Garden Club won first place in the Deep South Unified Project for youth involvement in the tree planting project.

**NGC AWARDS:** Three clubs won National awards. They are: Garden Club of Stuart – Re-landscaping of existing Blue Star Memorial Marker; Certificate of Merit for "Hooked on Books" Flower Show; Oleander Garden Club won two NGC Awards – one for their Community Gardens and the other for the Food Bank Donations from their Community Gardens. Wellington Garden Club also won a Certificate of Merit for their Petite Standard Flower Show "It's a Small World".

Despite the restrictions we're enduring as we

## The Garden Club of Stuart's Circles designed arrangements to adorn libraries in Martin County to celebrate National Garden Week

*by Vivian Kobe*

It was reported that the Garden Club of Stuart's Circles stepped up to outdo one another in honor of National Garden Week 2021. A little competition is a good thing and adds fun to projects.

Rosita Aristoff presented her design to Stuart Mayor the Honorable Eula Clarke at the May 10th reading of the Proclamation of Garden Week, June 6 – 12. (Note: Below a photo of the Commission meeting and Stuart Garden Club members who attended.)



The Allamanda Circle met and decided to continue their refurbishing of the gardens at the historic House of Refuge at Gilbert's Bar. They planted 25 Inkberry plants that day, funded by the circle and a matching grant from FFGC.

Tabebuia Circle and other Garden Club of Stuart members met at Citrus Grove Elementary School in Palm City to plant a Crepe Myrtle tree in memory of longtime member Cyndy Trossback, a GCS Past President, memorializing her many years of dedication of youth gardening at the school.

Several members came forward with gorgeous floral designs and plants to adorn the libraries around Martin County. Mary Neal's design featured tulips at the Blake Library in

continue to work through this pandemic, I'm sure District X clubs will rise to the challenge next spring. This year most Adult Awards will be submitted electronically and are due November 24, 2020. Yearbooks are due November 1st and will be submitted by mail. For Award Procedures and other details visit [www.ffgc.org](http://www.ffgc.org) and go to the Awards page.

And remember, you can't win it if you're not in it. I'm happy to answer any questions and provide assistance if you need it. Contact me at [twig\\_morris@hotmail.com](mailto:twig_morris@hotmail.com)

Stuart while Barbara Farley created a planter featuring anthuriums and variegated foliage plants for the Morgade Library display in Stuart.



At the Hoke Library in Jensen Beach, where we shared a display with the Jensen Beach Garden Club,



Donna Berger's design features carnations and Areca palm. For the Cummings Library in Palm City, Liz Hall created a Japanese Ikebana arrangement featuring Calla Lilies.

In the Hobe Sound Library visitors found Susan Moore's basket of colorful bromeliads. Be careful, she says they bite! And at the Elisabeth Lahti Library in Indiantown, Ann McCormick used birds nest anthurium, a bromeliad inflorescence, and colorful roses in her presentation of Fireworks from the Garden.

Thank you Jennifer Phebus for the little painted garden rocks tucked into special places around Martin County for people to discover.

Thank you also to Kathie Smith and Karen Bonney for producing new bookmarks in time for the library displays. And thank you to our club's Facebook Administrator Daina Karol for covering this from proclamation, to the appearance of banners at major intersections, to the appearance of the displays as each library opened for the week. Daina tagged The National Garden Club, and the club's photos appeared on their Facebook page as well!

# Create a butterfly garden in a container!

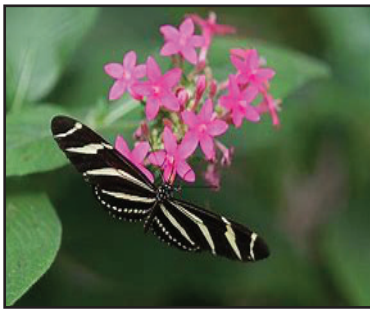
By Kat Rabla

Butterfly gardening can bring much joy with the time spent at home during this pandemic. Even if you have a “postage stamp” sized garden or just a balcony, you can start a butterfly garden. All you need is a good-sized container—the bigger the better. I would recommend about a 20-inch pot as a minimum.

If you have never had a butterfly garden before, let me give you a little background. You need two kinds of plants: ones that provide food for the caterpillars to eat and flowers for the adult butterflies to nectar on.

When most people think of a butterfly garden, they think of flowers. To feed the adult butterflies, planting certain flowering plants is very important. These are called nectar plants. But the most important plants to have in your garden for butterflies are the caterpillar food plants (also called a host plant) where the female butterfly will deposit her eggs (oviposit). Butterflies are plant-specific, meaning that their caterpillars will only eat a particular plant. The adult female butterfly knows this and will seek out these plants. Once you plant the plants specific to each species of butterflies, “they will come.”

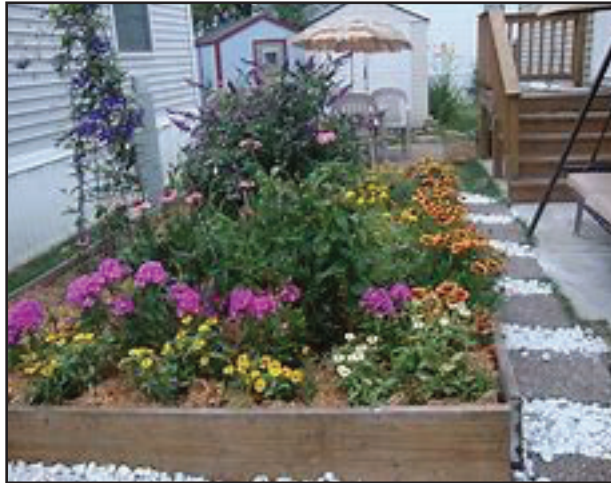
It is important to find native host plants from the start. Plants that are not from our area can be toxic or not provide the proper nutrients for our local butterflies. You also run the risk of introducing a nasty invasive plant in your area.



Let’s start with the zebra heliconian (*Heliconius charithonia*), Florida’s state butterfly! Here are three great plants to start your container garden focusing on this beautiful butterfly:

1. The zebra heliconian’s favorite nectar plant is the native Firebush, *Hamelia patens*. This plant is also a favorite of hummingbirds and many other pollinators. It can grow quite tall in the ground but is also easily kept as a small sized bush 4 – 6 feet tall and is manageable in a container. (Visit

Pan’s garden in Palm Beach—Susan Lerner has two specimens in the ground that she keeps small very successfully). Firebush is a sun-loving plant but will tolerate partial shade. This is the “thriller” in your container. While you are planting this for the zebra, don’t be surprised if you spot a passing hummingbird.



They love firebush and typically are seen in South Florida October through April.

2. The second plant—the corky stemmed passion-vine (*Passiflora suberosa*)—may be the most important as it will be feeding your zebra caterpillars. This can be grown on a trellis or as a ground cover so can be your “spiller”. It can also grow up the trunks of the Firebush. The more shade this vine receives the better,

as zebra heliconians like the shade. You might also get lucky and attract two of her species of butterflies—both gulf fritillaries and julias also lay their eggs on passion-vine!

3. The third plant is the native salvia, *Salvia coccinea*. It will serve as a “filler” but it’s also a “thriller”! *Salvia* will provide lots of color and serve as a nectar plant for the adult butterflies. Place several of these in your container and deadhead them regularly to keep them blooming. I like to cut them back hard to maintain lush full plants, otherwise they can get tall and leggy. These will help camouflage the chewed stems and vines of the Passion vine.

Speaking of chewed on leaves, I always ask when I advise on a butterfly garden “What is the look you are going for”? Many are surprised to hear that butterfly gardens can look somewhat unkempt. Keep in mind that the plants that you plant for the caterpillars are going to be chewed on, and some plants get nearly decimated (but will almost always grow back). There are a few tricks to hide the chewed leaves and stems. When growing the passion vine alone on a trellis, grow with coral honeysuckle or *Jacquemontia* vine to hide the leafless vines. The butterflies will still find the correct vine to lay their eggs on.

Here are a few other tips for creating a successful container garden:

- Grow your plants in well-draining potting mix and in a container with drain holes. These plants will be drought tolerant when established but they like moist to dry soil.
- Watering regularly is important—drip irrigation can make this easier. I

have also used upside down wine bottles filled with water daily to keep the plants hydrated in the summer heat. Until the plants are established it will be necessary to water daily check for drooping leaves and water accordingly.

- Be sure that you are not using any pesticides in the areas you are growing butterfly plants as they will kill all insects including

your butterflies and their caterpillars.

- For more information on native plants, visit the Institute for Regional Conservation’s website at [www.regionalconservation.org](http://www.regionalconservation.org). They offer suggestions on where to purchase these plants. But be sure to ask if they are native to our area and don’t purchase “dwarf” or cultivars.

Please update me on your container garden progress and feel free to contact me for any help. I will give a prize to the first three people to contact me with pictures of a successful zebra heliconian container garden using my suggestion. My favorite saying is “plant them and they will come.”



# Boynton Beach Garden Club stays busy

By Lorelei Wolff

The Boynton Beach Garden Club has remained active during the covid pandemic—safely carrying on our long-standing activities as well as looking forward to the coming months and planning for new adventures.

We were able to participate in the Boynton Beach Earth Day celebration, handing out plants, packets of milkweed seeds, and information on how to start and maintain a butterfly garden.



In celebration of National Garden Club Week in June, we held a plant giveaway at our community garden, giving free plants to over one hundred neighborhood residents. Boynton Beach mayor, Steven Grant, who has been very supportive and who plans to become a member of the club, joined us in this project.

Members have been working this summer at our community garden.



Our current project is the tree hanging of members' donated orchids. This garden offers the perfect environment for the orchids to thrive in their new "home".

Our butterfly garden, home to many coontie plants, has become a center for Atala butterfly migration. We have observed an influx of literally hundreds of very rare Atalas, which are ranked endangered by the state of Florida and at one time were almost extinct. Members continue to work this summer to maintain the many beautiful butterfly-friendly plants.

We sent two students to WEKIVA Youth Camp this summer, continuing a tradition for our club.

Working with the city of Boynton Beach landscape architect, we have beautified two "Welcome to Boynton Beach" signs in our community with

plantings.

Our most exciting endeavor this summer has been the establishment of a club website!

In collaboration with a webmaster who has generously donated his knowledge and time, the committee has produced a website and a Facebook page.

We are very proud of our 2021-2022 Yearbook, the accomplishment of one of our members. It's a great source of club information and is ready to be distributed at our first meeting in September.

In an effort to keep our members socially connected, we have met for luncheons over the summer at local restaurants.

We are certainly looking forward to the upcoming club year. We plan to conduct our general meetings both in person and virtually via Zoom. The Boynton Beach Garden Club has come in to the twenty-first century!

## Rio Lindo Garden Club delivers Fun With Flowers arrangements

by Karen York



On May 24 we had our Fun with Flower event at our regular meeting. Emilie Palmieri instructed us on making puppy dog arrangements

using 12 fresh white carnations. We selected ten of the best arrangements and delivered them to our city offices in Port St. Lucie. Everyone was thrilled to get the lovely arrangements for National Gardening Week.

On June 21, we carpoled to Rock City Gardens in Sebastian for a tour of the grounds with knowledgeable guides giving the history of the gardens. We had approximately 24 members and guests in attendance.

On June 30, members and guests enjoyed a luncheon at my house. We gained 4 new members at the luncheon.

Some non snowbirds from Rio Lindo Garden Club carpoled to

the Caladium Festival last weekend, July 23-25. A great time was had by all! Darlene Enzian plus Kathleen Colando took marvelous pictures which are now duly installed on our website. There was a car show plus a flower arranging demonstration. After lunch we took a self driving tour of the caladium growing fields. The event has really grown since its inception in 1990. It is held in the town center of Lake Placid, which is totally beautiful & charming. Some of our members attend every year. I think I will join the crowd!

