

# BLOOMING TALES

## from Terrific Ten

December, 2017



## Direct from the Director: Lynn Jones

A big thank you to all of you who have contributed to this issue of Blooming Tales. Your Director realizes that this is a very busy season and that District X Club Presidents and Committee Chairmen are involved in activities beyond garden club. However, our District members are very appreciative of all articles written and look forward to the information.

Bobbi Ziegler has stepped down as Corresponding Secretary but has agreed to continue as Tropical Short Course Registrar. Thank you, Bobbi, for continuing to share your talents with District X. Sandra Arlund, former District X Director and West Palm Beach GC President has agreed to take her place as Corresponding Secretary.

District X held its "Lunch and Learn" in September, 2017, as well as its Fall District Meeting in October, 2017 at the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens, an incredible location for meetings (see [districtx.org](http://districtx.org) for photos)

Your Director attended an impressive Green School Recognition Program at North Grade Elementary School in Lake

Worth sponsored by Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches (see [districtx.org](http://districtx.org) for photos) as well as the Boca Raton Garden Club's Holiday House, a yearly event selling holiday items, plants, and yummy treats. She also attended Boynton Beach Garden Club's annual Fun with Flowers afternoon. BBGC has great bakers!

District X has continued to shine holding the last of four courses of the Environmental Studies School in November at which your Director attended a fascinating session on sea turtles. District X ended the year with a weekend-long District X Judges Council Flower Show called "Twas the Night Before...." chaired by Susan Slater. What a beautiful event!



*By Elaine Minga of Rio Lindo GC. It won "Best in Show" at District X Judges Council Flower Show December 2-3, 2017.*

The 62nd Annual Tropical Short Course and NGC Tri-Refresher will be held January 24-25, 2018 at Mounts Botanical Gardens in West Palm Beach. The registration form can be found in this Newsletter and on the District X website.

The District X Resource Directory (see [districtx.org](http://districtx.org)) will soon be updated by Janie Zezeck, who has included an article in this issue. The District thanks the former editors of the Resource Directory for such a comprehensive and vital District X Directory.

Winter and spring are typically seasons for Club fund-raising events and flower shows. Check [districtx.org](http://districtx.org) for the upcoming events. It's always a treat for District Directors to visit and see the creative ways that each club does fund-raising while having a good time. Please remember that your District Director must be invited to attend a meeting, and looks forward to doing this.

Enjoy your holiday with family and friends. Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah! See you in 2018!

# Garden Club of Indian River County honored by Main Street Vero Beach for civic activities

The Garden Club of Indian River County was recently honored by Main Street Vero Beach (MSVB) for our numerous civic activities. At Coffee with the Mayor, on November 10, Mayor Laura Moss presented the recognition certificates for The Very Vero Award to our circle presidents. The recognition is



much appreciated, and we look forward to working closely with MSVB to maintain the attractive appearance of our downtown area.

Every year, for 26 years, much thought and effort has gone into creating a collectable and unique Christmas ornament. This year our ornament committee has outdone themselves, coming up with a tribute to the Old Vero Ice Age Site. The colorful ornament features an ice age family, as well as a tapir and a mastodon. To view the ornament, as well as our other ornaments, and for information on where to purchase the ornament visit [www.gardenclubofirc.org](http://www.gardenclubofirc.org).



Coming soon and not to be missed, Gardenfest!, "Nature's Finest Marketplace" takes place in Riverside Park, Vero Beach, Saturday, February 3 and 4. Over 85 vendors and free admission and parking.

And who doesn't love a spring flower show? "Impressions of Vero," a standard flower show, will be held at our Garden Center, April 7 and 8. The show is meant to showcase the beauty and diversity of our town. Take a fresh look at all our community has to offer and revel in what a marvelous place it is to live and work. We hope you will attend.

## 62nd Annual Tropical Short Course at Mounts Botanical Garden on January 24 and 25

District X will be hosting the 62nd Annual Tropical Short Course/NGC Tri-Refresher at Mounts Botanical Garden of Palm Beach County in West Palm Beach on January 24 and 25, 2018.

Our title for this year is "Tropical Waters". We hope that you will join us for a great two days of education, vendors and, of course, a raffle. The price remains at \$60.00 for both days (includes box lunches) for FFGC/NGC Garden Club Members and \$70.00 for all other registrations. The two Mounts special exhibits on our flyer are an extra special enticement to join us!

Special presentations include

sustainable farming, learning how to use our garden greens for your personal wellness program, sustainable landscapes, community gardens and floral design.

This year's short course will also be an NGC Tri-Refresher. We welcome those who are required to refresh, and we welcome Master Gardeners who can earn up to six hours of continuing education by attending. The schedule has been approved by NGC.

Garden Club members, we look forward to you attending and remember, you can invite a friend to come.

The brochure and interactive

registration form can be found at [www.districtx.org](http://www.districtx.org) under Educational Opportunities and Upcoming Events. Bobbi Ziegler is the Registrar. The registration form will also be included in this issue.

Register early and mark your calendars for January 24 & 25, 2018, to attend this great two-day event. Seating is determined by when your registration is received. (Registration form can be found in back of this newsletter)

Donna Berger, Chair, Kathy Siena, Assistant to the Chair and Nancy Richards, NGC Tri-Refresher Chair are looking forward to welcoming you all.

## *Piper's Landing GC tastes wine and makes garden stepping stones!*

Piper's Landing GC has had a busy few months! October was our opening seasonal meeting along with an informative and well-attended wine-tasting program presented by our club sommelier. Participants were encouraged to invite a prospective GC member.

November we gathered with SEEK & Wekiva attendees to share their summer experiences. Later that month, we had a creative session making garden stepping stones, some will be placed in our butterfly garden.



***Members making Garden Stepping Stones***

A field trip for a Bonsai Workshop is planned for our December event. We are also continuing work on the 2nd year installation of our special Thousand Orchid Project in the Piper's Community.

Lastly, we are looking forward to hosting "Orchids and Opals" the District X Spring Meeting on April 12, 2018 at our recently renovated Piper's Landing Yacht & Country Club. We hope you plan to join us!

## **Port St. Lucie GC helps celebrate "Boo"tanical Halloween Party with 4,000 children!**

This was the first year we put our photos next to our names in our Yearbook. Our members really appreciated this since it helps identify their fellow club members.

Our club supports the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens and participates in some of their public activities. The "Boo"tanical Halloween Party took place Halloween night and for 2 ½ hrs. eight club members gave out candy to over 4,000 children for this popular event also supported by the City of Port St. Lucie. Each of our members brought in a bag of candy to our meeting before the event. (see pic of our candy table to right)

Our club won the week in Spain, at last year's Opportunity Drawing held at the state convention. We auctioned the week to our members and as a result the winning bid of \$500 has certainly increased the amount of donations we plan to give to our charities this year!

Our outreach program to The Brennity at Tradition (senior living facility) took place Nov. 30. Our craft program, led by our garden club member, Ellabee Scully, made tissue paper flowers. It was well received by the residents attending the workshop.



We had two outstanding speakers in October and November: Kevin Osburn spoke to us about Hydroponic gardening and Susan Lerner showed us how she converted her property using Florida native landscaping.

We are in the process of planning our biggest event of the year, "Fun at the Beach" Luncheon and Fashion show happening on February 27 at our new venue, The Legacy Golf and Tennis Club. Anthony's will be providing the fashions. Last year we hosted 185 people and hope to do the same this year!

# Let's start restoring Florida to La Florida of the past

by *Kat Rabla*

Imagine a place explorers thought to be so beautiful that they called it La Florida or "Flowery".

Then imagine that as centuries passed, the landscape changed. Clear cutting land and the introduction of exotic plants and animals, paving with materials that stop the water from reaching the aquifer, and building and dividing the land into smaller tracts all added changes to La Florida..

Now imagine this land a fragment of it's former beauty-unrecognizable as the plants native to this beautiful land are few and far between. The water pathways developed over so many centuries are forever changed. The groundcover is now unnatural turf that requires high maintenance, water supplement, nutritional supplement, cutting and chemical control.

The birds, insects, mammals, reptiles and amphibians that once were all in perfect balance and harmony are diminishing in vast numbers, many extinct or near extinction. We can watch them disappearing, count their numbers, but do nothing as we manipulate our landscape to suit our tastes and desires.

That place is where you and I live. The land that was home to the endemic Scrub Jay all but gone. The land that panther, bear, deer, bobcats, iridescent indigo snakes and unimaginable other species lived is now unrecognizable. It is easy to lose hope and wonder what can I, just one person, do to make a change? You are just one person, but say to yourself

"if I am not part of the solution, I am part of the problem".

You as one person can make quite an impact even if it is only in your own back yard. Plant native plants that were living in your neighborhood before it was altered. Restore food, shelter and homes for wildlife where you live.

Even if you do it one plant at a time, the benefits are quickly visible. You may attract more beneficial insects, or birds that will help control insects that will help eliminate toxic chemical control. You may start to see birds that have never been in your yard before. You may find your plants once established are not only beautiful but, take less work, less water, require less pruning and don't need chemical supplements. Win-win and win!

This year I will be introducing you to the benefits of making subtle changes that will help you become a more responsible and effective gardener. I will show you how to remove an exotic that may be invasive or require chemical treatment and replacing it will be an easy and rewarding adventure.

Also I will show you where to find information and where to purchase native plants that have a little more tolerance for insects and that provide food for birds and will strengthen the food web for us all to be healthier. I am hoping to show you a different way to think about our gardening choices. If you are already doing this BRAVO!

## Palm Beach Gardens GC participates in PBG Annual Holiday Bazaar

The Palm Beach Gardens Garden Club welcomed December by participating in the PBG Annual Holiday Bazaar and enjoying their annual holiday party. At the bazaar they greeted customers going inside who stopped to buy their plants for sale.



*Davis Chaimowitz, president, and Cheryl Drake, new member, at holiday bazaar.*

Many signed up to learn more about the club. The party held at a member's home was a chance to socialize and enjoy choices of appetizers and desserts. Interesting speakers are scheduled through June for a variety of meetings.

# Garden Club of Fort Pierce wraps up another excellent year

It's a gift, you know. Garden life, that is. This year we have enjoyed lots of nature's blessings. Between regular meetings and travel adventures, we have wrapped up a variety of presents.

## One of a kind of packages:

\*Monthly Meetings with information shared, creative hostesses, excellent speakers and member's exhibits. Each meeting was an extraordinary opportunity to learn about nature. Each month we built a foundation for projects, such as building/grounds work or plans for field trips.



*At our Mega Sale, you never know what you will buy! President Janie Zezeck assists Santa (Stacy Johnson) as she tries on her new wardrobe feature.*



*President Janie Zezeck prepares volunteer resources with Heathcote Botanical Gardens Board Member Chris Adams.*

\*With our News and Notes flyer, everyone kept up with local events that are of interest.

\*Proud to say the MEGA Sale was very successful, and we'll be able to continue community work, scholarships, etc.

## Networking- a multi-faceted gift:

\*Support for Heathcote Botanical Garden. What joy it was to wrap the Heathcote House, the Pioneer House and extensive gardens in colorful decor. Then we were official hosts one evening for Garden of Lights in perfectly chilly weather.

\*Adding some color to the Hospice Garden brought a different kind of light to those who are ill in our community.

\*Two food/household-goods collections this year increases the network of ties we have with our less fortunate neighbors.

## Travels took us outside the box:

\*A meeting at Heathcote with Miriam Charles motivated us to make beautiful container gardens for gifts.

\*A tour of Bok Towers in December got us thinking about how we can decorate our homes and gardens.

\*A video trip "took" us to The Unseen Everglades -great information and no driving required!

## Almost ready for wrappings:

Our Blue Star Marker has arrived, and we are working with the City of Fort Pierce to place it soon. By the way, its installation will be a lovely way to help celebrate our 70th year in 2018!

Looking at 2017 at the Garden Club of Fort Pierce, we are not sure whether it is giving or receiving a present that is the most fun. Working together- "Blooming Together"- sharing with our members and the community- that is the true garden gift! Wrap it up!

Seasons Greetings

# Let's engage our youth in environmental issues

What is our reward when we plunge ourselves into another Environmental issue? Our reward is plentiful when the youth joins with us in saving Florida by explaining to others why we need to save our natural resources.

The Wellington Garden Club (WGC) and District X through me (Diane Rice) has been "Engaging the Youth" with several annual events. For example, every year the Wellington Garden Club partners with Keep Palm Beach Beautiful, Inc. and the International Coastal Cleanup and invites many high school students to come out and engage in picking up the plastics from our beaches.

Then in mid January for 3 weekends, students from the Environmental Club of Wellington High School come out to the South Florida Fair to explain the threats of fracking in the Big Cypress Preserve and how this carelessly uses our precious resource of water and puts our Florida aquifer in jeopardy. Just this year one of those students joined us in the October 23rd Everglades Symposium held by the Everglades Foundation as shown in the picture. Had this oil



***Alana Macmahon - Wellington High School Student, Barbara Hadsell, Drew Martin and Diane Rice***

permit application been accepted and the Kanter family been allowed to put an exploratory well in the western part of the Everglades near Tamarac and found it favorable to frack, then perhaps one day they would have inched their oil wells nearer to people's homes.

No doubt we need the youth to join the local grass roots efforts in safe guarding our land, air and water. Just this year Martin and Palm Beach County had three months of algae bloom and lost a great deal of the fishing economy because of past decisions made by the state and federal level on the preservation and flow of water into and out of Lake Okeechobee.

And the year before the state permitted seismic testing as a

means to explore for more oil in Big Cypress Preserve. Though we were not allowed to see exactly what they were doing in the deep preserve where endangered Florida Panthers and other endangered species live --- there was a glimmer of hope when young and old alike made their voices heard against Kanter Realty's application to drill for oil in the Broward Everglades.

Against all odds the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) sided with South Florida Wildlands and community, disagreeing with a state administrative judge and writing a Final Order denying Kanter Realty's application (see <http://www.nwfdailynews.com/news/20171210/guest-editorial-no-oil-drilling-in-river-of-grass>). Had this application been accepted then there could have been a possibility of oil companies fracking near people's homes.

Yes, I have a dream- that one day the young will show the old just how to take back our state parks, preserve our water, wetlands and watershed and prevent fracking and most recent LNG (liquefied natural gas) production in this state before it is too late .

## District X Resource Directory revision underway

An update of our online Resource Directory is being undertaken this winter so that the 2018 - 2019 Program Chairs will have a reliable resource list at their fingertips with ideas for informative, entertaining speakers, field trips, tours, gardens, museums, etc.

Many, many thanks to those who worked so hard to compile our current directory. It certainly

is an amazing base from which to begin this process. To view to the directory, click [http://www.districtx.org/resource\\_directory](http://www.districtx.org/resource_directory).

Several things have changed in the three years since the last revision, so I encourage you to please help me with this update. Any suggestions for additions, deletions, corrections, contact information, categories and format would be appreciated along with

short helpful comments that could be included in the listing. It looks like I'll be making a lot of calls to confirm phone #'s and get email addresses, so any deletion info is welcome ASAP.

The directory is for everyone to use, so send any and all ideas to me at [zezeck@hotmail.com](mailto:zezeck@hotmail.com) or 304-282-2411. Jane Zezeck, Resource Directory Chairman

**REGISTRATION FORM**

FFGC DISTRICT X ~ 62<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL TROPICAL SHORT COURSE

*Tropical Waters*

*NGC TRI-REFRESHER -Master Gardener Continuing Education*

*January 24 – 25, 2018*

*Mounts Botanical Garden of Palm Beach County, West Palm Beach, Florida*

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Garden Club: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ EMail: \_\_\_\_\_

- \$60 Complete Two-Day Course, FFGC /NGC Members *(add \$10 for Late Registration)*
- \$70 Complete Two-Day Course, No FFGC/NGC Affiliation *(add \$10 for Late Registration)*
- \$35 Wednesday Only – FFGC Member *(add \$5 for Late Registration)*
- \$40 Wednesday Only – No FFGC Affiliation *(add \$5 for Late Registration)*
- \$35 Thursday Only – FFGC Member *(add \$5 for Late Registration)*
- \$40 Thursday Only – No FFGC Affiliation *(add \$5 for Late Registration)*

***Late Registration postmarked after Jan 11, 2018 ~ No Refunds after Jan 18th***  
**Light Breakfast and Box Lunch included each day of registration**  
**Numbered seating by date of registration**

**NGC Tri-Refresher** (Check each that applies)

- \$5 – Landscape Design Consultant
- \$5 – Gardening Consultant
- \$5 – Environmental Consultant

Master Gardener:

- Continuing Education
- 6 hours credit for both days (No Fee)

**TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION.

Make Checks Payable to: FFGC – District X

**Mail Form and Check to our Registrar: Bobbi Ziegler**  
**8837 Via Brilliante**  
**Wellington, FL 33411-6529**



# Boynton Beach Garden Club

Annual Bus Trip, February 6, 2018: Homestead

1. Fruit and Spice Park:

2. RF Orchid Nursery:

3. Robert is Here Fruit Stand:

Our day begins at the Fruit & Spice Park, a 37-acre subtropical paradise nestled in the heart of the historic Redland community, just 35 miles south of Miami. Surrounded by thousands of acres of tropical agriculture, the Park contains more than 500 varieties of exotic fruits, herbs, spices and nuts from around the world. It is the only public garden of its kind in the United States. Visitors can sample fallen fruit (no above-ground harvesting is permitted). We will have a tram tour, and hope to be able to collect seeds and cuttings suitable for planting. <http://redlandfruitandspice.com/>

After lunch at the park, we will tour nearby RF Orchids, the proud recipient of more than 1,100 awards from the American Orchid Society (including more than 75 awards for outstanding orchid culture!). <http://rforchids.com/>

We will end our day at nearby "Robert Is Here" fruit stand, specializing in Rare & Exotic fruits and vegetables, and buy exotic smoothies / milkshakes to refresh ourselves on the way home. / <https://www.robertishere.com/>

**WHEN:** Tuesday, February 6, 2018, 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M., meeting at / returning to the Barnes & Noble parking lot, south of Boynton Beach Boulevard, west side Congress Avenue, back near the old Sports Authority. We depart at 8:00 A.M. SHARP.

**COST:** \$55.00 includes bus, admission to the park, tips, and lunch at the Mango Café in the park.

**LUNCH:** Group Tour Menu: Choose a wrap, which includes a bag of chips and cookies.

*Turkey Club - Turkey breast, crispy bacon, tomatoes, and shredded lettuce, whole-wheat tortilla.*

*Asian Chicken - Chicken breast, shredded carrots, cabbages, lettuce, teriyaki sauce, whole-wheat tortilla.*

*Vegetarian - Assorted greens, shredded cabbages, carrots, tomatoes, Swiss cheese, spicy bistro sauce.*

*Drinks: Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Dasani water*

Wear comfortable shoes / sun protection. The park / buildings / tour vehicles are mostly handicapped accessible; wheelchairs are free of charge at the park entrance, first-come, first-served (reservations are not accepted). An ID must be left with Visitor Services.

**INFORMATION / QUESTIONS:** Email (preferred) ([622dixie@bellsouth.net](mailto:622dixie@bellsouth.net)) or call (561-214-3463) Cyndy DiVeto. Give / send your check and registration form below to her, 33 Anna Street, Ocean Ridge, FL 33435. Deadline for registering / paying / cancellation is January 19, 2018. SPACE IS LIMITED. RESERVE SOON!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_ WRAP CHOICE: \_\_\_\_\_

# IMPRESSIONS OF VERO

An NGC Standard Flower Show

Presented by

GARDEN CLUB OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

**2526 17TH AVENUE  
VERO BEACH, FLORIDA 32960**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2018  
12:00 - 4:00 P.M.**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 2018  
Noon- 4:00 P.M.**

**TICKETS - \$5.00**



*Piper's Landing  
Garden Club  
Presents...*



PIPER'S LANDING  
Yacht & Country Club



**SAVE THE DATE**

**Thursday, April 12, 2018**

**District X Spring Meeting**

**Guest Speaker, Carol Cloud Bailey**

Landscape Counselor, Horticulturist, and Writer for the Treasure Coast Palm Newspaper

At Piper's Landing Yacht & Country Club

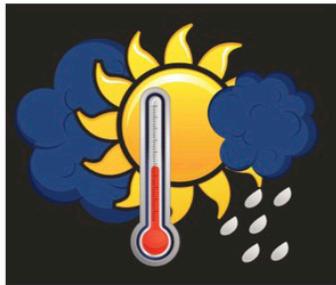
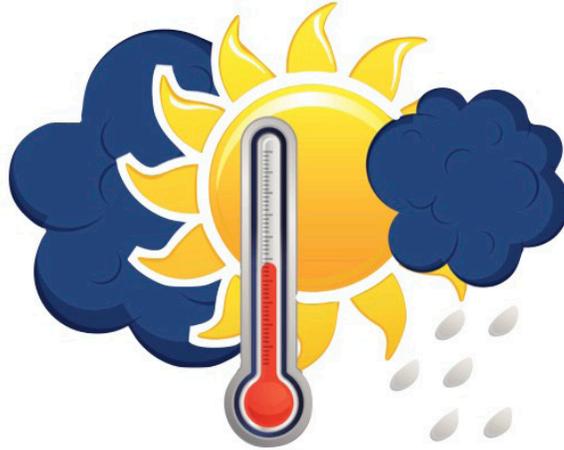
6160 SW Thistle Terrace Palm City, FL 34990

# WELLINGTON GARDEN CLUB

PRESENTS

## "Tropical Heat Wave"

AN NGC STANDARD FLOWER SHOW



**SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018**  
10 AM - 7 PM

**SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2018**  
10 AM - 5:30 PM

**AT THE MALL AT WELLINGTON GREEN**  
**10300 W. FOREST HILL BOULEVARD**  
**WELLINGTON, FLORIDA 33414**

**OPEN AND FREE TO THE PUBLIC**