

BLOOMING TALES

from Terrific Ten

December, 2022



Direct from the Director: Michelle Maguire

This time of year is busy, busy and more busy. We just finished sending in our applications for awards before Thanksgiving. Before that, some of us were at Gardening Studies School or conducting a Flower Show. I visited some Garden Clubs. We had a great District X meeting with Wellington Garden Club as our host and the Tour Team of FFGC officers. WHEW!!!

Now we are planning programs with our clubs tossing possible Holiday celebrations in the mix. Sometimes Christmas and

Hanukkah overlap making for lots of ways to celebrate. I hope you all have a wonderful time with friends, family and your community during this Holiday season.

I want to remind you all of the Upcoming Tropical Short Course on January 25 and 26, 2023. This will be my third year as chairman and my sixth year on the TSC committee. This year is more relaxed since we do not have all the hours of education to comply with since it is not a tri-refresher. Continental breakfast is back as well as lunch. You have more time to be with the vendors and to participate in the raffle items donated by all of

our Garden Clubs in District X.

In all the years I have attended TSC, I have learned about places to visit from the presenters who spoke there. I learned about why we have the problems in our rivers from Lake Okeechobee runoffs and how it all started with the Army Corps of Engineers in the 1940's. I am amazed by the Floral Designers that come up with such beautiful designs right before our eyes just like they do at convention. I hope to see you all at the Greenacres Community Center for this great event. Please register at districtx.org under educational opportunities and scroll to January.

The GC of Stuart looks forward to a successful year

by Bonney Karen

The Garden Club of Stuart has delivered yearbooks, planned our meetings and planned a Flower Show scheduled for March 3, 2023, from 1-4pm. then on March 4th, 2023 from 9am.-3pm. Titled "A Symphony of Beauty". The Flower Show will be located at Indian River College, 2400 SE Salerno Road, Stuart, Florida. It will be open to the public which is our gift back to the community for supporting us at the Secret Garden Tour.

The Ways & Means Committee has reorganized to bring plants, garden related items or objects

of creative interest for sale at our monthly meetings.

Facebook is utilized daily to keep our members up to date on different gardening topics, notify them of current meetings dates and events.

Circle Luncheons are ongoing throughout the year to keep in touch and to plan various commitments. Circles participated in the International Coastal Cleanup in September and planted a butterfly garden in Sewall's Point. They maintain the butterfly garden at Hospice and at Kiwanis Park, as well as

maintaining ongoing projects at House of Refuge, the Blue Star Marker Garden at Memorial Park and the gardens at Memory Lane. Circles also work with youth at developing a garden at Martin Art Council which helps to earn scouts their Eagle Scout Badge.

The GC of Stuart has kept busy throughout the fall keeping our obligations, planning the Flower Show and informing our members of floral designs, garden art, and learning about heliconia and ginger plants. We look forward to a successful year.

Piper's Landing GC presents interesting program topics

by *RJ Barone*

Piper's Landing GC season is in full swing and we have already experienced several great events!

October brought a well-attended opening business meeting followed by a wine tasting, conducted by our club sommelier. He selected several wines to be sampled and explained about sensory evaluations, and how the wines were enhanced by various sweet, salty or sharp flavor comparisons.

In November, we enjoyed a very informative presentation on our native areas. We are entering the final year of Piper's Landing GC's 8 year plan agreement with Martin County to remove and control invasive plants in our community. Areas that have been cleared are being maintained and Florida native plants are being reintroduced and are thriving! Amazing "before and after" drone photos were presented showing the progress being made in this endeavor.

Our upcoming December program will be on the topic of herbs, presented by community chefs. It should be a very informative presentation including how to enhance flavors with the use of herbs.

Also, we are pleased to welcome seven new members to Piper's Landing GC.

Garden Club of Fort Pierce starts a new season

By: *Vivian Kobe*

The Garden Club of Fort Pierce regrouped in September for our first member meeting of the new season after a long summer break. While we were still awaiting arrival of our snowbirds, attendance was very good. Spirited socializing with folks we had not seen for months made for a very enjoyable afternoon.

Also in September, and still in the midst of the summer heat, members began work in earnest on a total revamp of our vegetable 'Inspiration Garden' at Heathcote Botanical Gardens in Fort Pierce. Our club supports and maintains this garden year round. Photo below shows application of new tarps and new grow boxes built during September.



Subsequent work days filled the raised beds with soil, refreshed the soil in the grow bags (which we use to demonstrate an alternative method of growing vegetables), planted seeds and transplants. In addition to vegetables, the garden contains herbs, fruit trees, berries and edible flowers. Harvest will be donated to a food bank and Heathcote will use the garden in the future as an educational opportunity.

The speaker at our October meeting focused on the environment and our Indian River Lagoon in particular. Missy Weiss, Director of Citizen Science & Education, is responsible for the management of ORCA's four Citizen Science projects. While

it was interesting to hear about all four projects, one particular program sparked interest in our members: It was ORCA's Land to Sea Citizen Science Project. ORCA staff and citizen scientists recruit waterfront property owners to add buffers to their shoreline. Buffered shorelines help minimize the amount of pollution entering the waterways. Learn more at ORCA's Center for Citizen Science | Indian River Community Foundation (ircommunityfoundation.org).

October also is the time for the GCFP's biggest fundraiser of the year – what we affectionately call our Mega Yard and Plant Sale. Many beautiful plants, propagated by our members, were for sale in Glidden Park and inside our clubhouse were gently-used treasures of all kinds for sale at bargain prices. Thanks to the donations and hard work of our members, the sale was a big success.

Also in October several members attended the Fall District X meeting. Kudos to the Wellington Garden Club for putting on a great show. The theme, the speaker, the unusual raffle items, wonderful lunch and the beautiful venue were outstanding. To finish our day, we visited Wellington's Patriot Memorial. Wellington dedicated its Patriot Memorial on the 10th Anniversary of the September 11th attacks. The memorial includes one of the largest steel beams salvaged from the World Trade Center, as well as an eternal flame fountain, and etched glass panels inscribed with the names of the victims. Seeing this memorial was a moving experience.

Rio Lindo Garden Club travels to BOK Tower Gardens

by Karen York

On November 12, Rio Lindo Garden Club hosted a membership table at the Port St. Lucie Botanic Garden's Arts & Crafts Festival. We had poster boards made by Membership Chair Anne Nourse and Joyce Rosselli, Assistant Membership Chair showing pictures and information about our ongoing Rose Garden Project, some pictures of great speakers and presenters from recent meetings, some great crafts we learned along the way, all presented by volunteer members Anne Nourse, Joyce Rosselli, Linda Giddens, Virginia Waters, Marilyn Zeller, Gigi Shrager, Kathleen Colando, & Karen York.

We made \$85 by raffling a beautiful succulent wreath made & donated by Karen York. We passed out cards with our name & contact information to those we greeted who said they were interested in joining our club. One of our own members, Judy Wade, Master Gardener & chairman of the educational department at the Port St. Lucie Botanic Garden won the succulent wreath. She was interested in having an instructional class on making succulent wreaths for the upcoming Botanic Garden educational schedule which we agreed to.

On November 16, 20-22, five hard-working Rio Lindo Garden Club Members put lots of Tender Loving Care on the Port St. Lucie Botanic Garden Rose Garden preparing it for the annual Christmas Lights Event. Mike Becker, our noted Rosarian who assists us in caring for the Rose Garden directed our efforts. Clubmembers who assisted were: Kathleen Colando, Anne Nourse,



Rose Garden Chair, Virginia Waters, Marilyn Zeller, & Nancy Pocius. After we finished the grooming, our Rose Garden was made even more beautiful with the addition of lighted Christmas trees. You really should see it! The garden is free, donations accepted. The holiday lights will be up until the end of December. Check the website PSLBG for details.

On December 6, we hosted a sold out chartered bus for a field trip to BOK Tower Gardens for members & friends.

The bus trip was planned by Illona Christie, Second VP and Joleen King, Parliamentarian. The trip sold out within two weeks- the fastest time ever for our club.

It was a smooth 2 hour ride from Port St. Lucie to Lake Wales, Florida to spend a lovely day in the garden. Most of us had lunch in the charming cafe on site. The gift shop was too good to miss. The bell tower carillon concert at 1pm was super. You could hear well from any part of the garden. Weather was perfect. The bus departed at 3pm with everyone feeling great from hours of walking in the garden. There were lots of benches to sit & take it all in. What a day!

The Boynton Beach GC takes part in the City Holiday Parade

by Carol Stender

The Boynton Beach Garden Club burst onto the new season with a calendar full of much anticipated and long-planned-for special events.

We had our first Plant Sale in recent memory. Club members nurtured plant cuttings and seedlings throughout the summer in preparation for the event, producing an overwhelming abundance of healthy plants to sell.

Then on Nov. 9, we had our Luncheon Fashion Show, a resounding success despite the windy threat of Hurricane Nicole!

By December, club members had fashioned vibrant "BEE the Solution" decorations for our entry to the city's Holiday Parade. With a decorated Jeep full of plants, flowers, ribbons and butterflies, we marched with our banner behind the up beat



sounds of the Boynton Beach High School band. So much FUN!

An assortment of workshops, day trips, and evening strolls filled out the many other days. Will the action slow down? Not a chance. In addition to our normally full schedule, we look forward to hosting the District X Spring Meeting in April. See you there!

District X Fall Meeting deemed a success by all!

by *Daphna Goldberg*

A Tribute to American Heroes was the theme of our District Fall Meeting on Friday, October 21, 2022. The guest speaker, a retired Navy Seal, gave the lead presentation about a wonderful organization, Force Blue, which provides Veterans with help needed when they return to civilian life. These men and women restore corals in the Barrier Coral Reef which has been destroyed mostly by human pollution. Healthy corals are key to our ecosystem and Veterans are helping to regrow them since the garden growing in our ocean is vital for our existence.

Michelle Maguire, District X Director led our Fall Meeting. Marjorie Hendon, FFGC President and her Tour Team Officers were in attendance. Each addressed our group with encouragements. The Officers of District X represented all members of the Garden Clubs in District X.

The day long meeting was hosted by Wellington Garden Club and held at the Wanderers Club in Wellington, FL. The Wellington Color Guard team marched in full uniform, carrying our State Flag and the Flag of the United States. The granddaughter of Wellington Garden Club member Kathy Sienna sang the National Anthem in a Capella. Her amazing voice captivated everyone.

Garden Club Presidents' reports were made by the Boca Raton Garden Club President, Marie Young and by the Ocean Ridge Garden Club President, Mickey Farley Austin. Marie highlighted BRGC's Fall Fundraiser Holiday



A floral replica of the American Flag made by Wellington GC member Linda DeSanti

House, our dedication to our community through Garden Therapy at the Memory & Wellness Center. Our 70th anniversary celebration is on February 4, 2023, and everyone is invited to attend as we highlight our accomplishments of planting seeds in the ground and the mind for 70 years in Boca Raton.

A vote was held for the new District X Director for the next two years. Michelle Maguire introduced Maria Wolfe, the current President of the Wellington Garden Club, as her successor. Maria's term will start in April 2023.

Our amazing hosts organized and decorated this Fall Meeting beautifully. About 90 District X Garden Club members attended. The food was delicious, the vendors offered healthy plants, and there were many generous raffle baskets. An interesting Ways & Means display board explaining the history and purpose of having Ways & Means at every Garden Club meeting was also on display from our District's headquarters in Winter Park. Overall, District X had a wonderful Fall Meeting.

Don't miss out on NGC Gardening School Course

by *Barbara Hadsell*

Did you join a garden club to learn more about gardening in south Florida? Then you don't want to miss this exceptional opportunity!

"NGC Gardening Schools were established in May 1977. Four courses were designed to teach the correct way to plant, to prune and marvel at what we have accomplished. We are stewards of the land; we have a responsibility to serve and protect for future generations."

Course 2, Day 1 will cover Plant Diseases and Garden Pests, Irrigation and Water, Lawn Alternatives and Growing Grass. We are very fortunate to have three professors from the U. of FL Research Center in Davie and our own Ken Pernezny covering these topics.

On Day 2, Larry Grosser, renown Master Gardener will instruct on Growing Fruits and Growing Vegetables. (And we are sure he will provide "tastings" for all of us to try.)

Registration forms and more information is available on Districtx.org at the link: Upcoming Events (districtx.org) and scroll down to February. Hope to see you there on February 9-10, 2023 at Mounts Auditorium, West Palm Beach!!

Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design Schools are available to all

Just a note to remind everyone that Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design Schools are being held around the country. Please help others in your garden clubs learn more about them.

The Chairman of the above schools worked with the National Garden Clubs Virtual Team to create short videos informing you about each individual school and how to access the schools being currently offered in each.

Please make your way to the

Schools Page located on the home page (<https://gardenclub.org/>) and click on Schools Overview. Each of the videos are listed and able to be viewed with a click on their name: (<https://gardenclub.org/our-schools>). These are very short video's (2+ minutes) that give a general overview of what each school offers. Please stop by and view – then share with your membership.

In addition, each school will be the focus of the virtual NGC Membership Monday in Jan,

Feb, March, April. Please sign up to view and learn more in depth. (<https://gardenclub.org/member-resources>).

Also, any person may attend any school, however, only National Garden Club members receive credit towards becoming a consultant. Contact any School Chairman for more information.

Pat Rupiper
NGC Schools Policy and Procedure
Chairman

Wellington Garden Club hosts Holiday Gift Boutique

by Maria Wolfe

In conjunction with the Wellington Art Society, the Wellington Garden Club hosted a Holiday Gift Boutique. Vendors were invited by both clubs and a joint raffle was held. The Wellington Garden Club sold 100 native milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) by noon. It turned out to be a very successful event that we hope

will be held annually.

Project Paradise was the guest speaker for October at the WGC. This filmmaking group premiered "The Water State: How Florida permits for pumping water is broken." The insight is on how bottled water companies are draining our springs left all of us stunned.

Timely tidings from your Treasurer ! ! !

by Chritia Li Roberts, District X Treasurer

This is a reminder to District X Clubs that our current budget has allocated District funds of \$25 per Club to support a Garden Club Project.

Submit a short (2-3 sentence) Report and Photo to District Director Maguire (mouthmom@yahoo.com) and a copy to District X Treasurer Roberts (CLRoberts@bellsouth.net) with a description to claim these funds. Be sure to include an address on where to send your \$25.

This could be a dirt-gardening project completed, scholarship awarded, flower show held, speaker hosted by your club, or any Garden Club Project that your club has done since June 1, 2022. The year ends May 31, 2023 so now is the time to get your report and photo in.

