

BLOOMING TALES

from Terrific Ten

March, 2022



Direct from the Director: *Michelle Maguire*

Since the last issue of Blooming Tales, I have visited with three clubs. West Palm Beach in December for a installation of officers from The West Palm Beach Garden Club, Rio Lindo General Meeting in February and Oleander Garden Club for a speech on my escapades as a Master Gardener. Thank you to all them for their invites.

District X had a successful Tropical Short Course on Jan. 19 and 20. I was the chairman for the event and we attempted a HYBRID ZOOM meeting. The speakers were amazing, thanks to Barbara Hadsell. We had over 150 attending by Zoom or in person. We managed some glitches, and we still remained sane. Thanks again to all those who helped.

I am looking forward to going on the Secret Garden Tour presented by the Stuart Garden Club on March 26. If you have never gone to their Garden Tours over the years, you must try and go this year. Wellington Garden Club

is also having a Garden Tour on April 2, Gardens of Distinction. Hopefully I can make that one.

I hope many of you will go to the convention in Kissimmee April 13 and 14. Whenever there is a state flower show, I am sooo there. If you haven't experienced a flower show at our conventions, you are definitely missing out. Also our own Environmental Chairman for District X, Reina Snyder is the keynote speaker on Wednesday night. What an honor, and I get to introduce her to everyone. WOW!!! You will have two people representing DISTRICT X at the head table. Our District X party is Wednesday before dinner. I am making some appetizers. On Thursday there is a special party before dinner for first time attendees of convention. Come and Party for 2 nights. YES, YES and YES!

Our District X Spring meeting is on April 26, hosted by the Ocean Ridge Garden Club. The theme is "The Ocean is our Garden" and we are having a FLOWER SHOW at this meeting. Go to the District X website and register.

There has never been a flower show at a district meeting. Don't wait.

Remember to send in any articles about a book you think any of our gardeners or environmentalists might want to read. I recommend **The Sixth Extinction** by Elizabeth Kolbert. Any one of you might have an area of expertise in a garden-related subject you would like to share. Write an article for this newsletter.

Hope to see you at convention. If you have any orange attire, wear it at convention and then



Wellington GC sends 4 members to Wikiva Leadership Training

by *Maria Wolfe, President*

Wellington's Garden Art Co-Chair, Carol Lazzarino, held a workshop to create a plaque for Air Plants using mini clothespins.

Volunteers from WGC donate time every month to plant, groom and maintain the butterfly Garden at the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Preserve. This project is chaired by WGC Member Kate Kouba.

The WGC also participates in Adopt-A-Street on a quarterly basis. Armed with grabbers, vests and gloves, volunteers from WGC pick up trash on a mile stretch in the Village of Wellington.

Four members of the Wellington Garden Club were able to attend Wekiva Leadership Training. This

year's weekend of training held February 11-13, 2022, was more special because the WGC members were able to meet the new Camp Director, Shelby Mander and her assistant David Kleinman.



The Woodsy Owl poster contest submissions from New Horizons Elementary School in Wellington were thrilled to receive certificates of participation, and trophies for 1st and 2nd place and a special treat of "rainbow bacon."

Clewiston Green Thumb GC celebrates 50th anniversary

Vice President Mary Ann Jones welcomed everyone to the Valentine Tea Party celebrating 50 years of service to the community.

While everyone ate, a slide show of GTGC activities over the last 50 years played put together by Margo Fatzinger, recording secretary and Suzanne French from scrapbooks and smartphones.

During the program, Aimee Sweet sang "You're Gonna Be" by Reba McEntire. Local

children sang "If You Love Me and You Know it" and received gifts for their participation. The High School Public Service Academy was presented with a donation by President Jones for their wonderful service to the community.

A silent auction was held with plants as well as other items. Janet Way and Tena Harris planned that part of the festivities.

Thanks to Margo Fatzinger and the Lake Okeechobee News

National Garden Clubs declare April as Plant America Month

by *Barbara Hadsell, District X Plant America with Natives Chairman*

April is the time to plant native trees, shrubs and wildflowers! Beautify your surroundings as your club celebrates national Arbor Day and/or Earth Day. Take advantage of the District X Plant America Matching Grant program. Details found at districtx.org under Forms.

Ask your city or county to declare April as Plant America month using the proclamation from NGC declaring April as Plant America month or the proclamation for Cities to sign for Plant America with Native Trees, both found at districtx.org under Forms.

Also note that the District X

Planting in Vero Beach in anticipation of upcoming Flower Show

From *Jasmine Circle, Garden Club of Indian River County Inc.*



When the call went out to refresh, meaning replant, two pots at Vero Beach's Heritage Center in anticipation of the upcoming "A Glimpse Back In Time" flower show at the end of the month, Susan Simmens of Jasmine Circle took on the challenge herself and planted Fascia Dipladenia knowing that they are coming into season, need little water and little attention. The flower show judges will be entertained at this lovely public site in the center of Vero Beach and not far from GCIRC's building.

Thank you Susan!

Beautification award application is due by April 1. You will also find an **April is Plant America** poster on that site as well. It is really beautiful and can be used in the media covering your event.

Happy Planting—GO NATIVES!

Boynton Beach GC gains twelve new members

by Toni Cvetko

Due to the Omicron variant Boynton Beach Garden Club's major fundraiser had to be cancelled, as well as our bus trip to McKee and Heathcote Botanical Gardens in Vero Beach and Ft Pierce. Even with Omicron, our club has been busy this year. With 12 new members, we have grown to 49 members.

Luckily, over the next several months we had some outdoor activities scheduled. The Sip 'n Stroll is an outdoor event, which is held the first Wednesday of the month, where our members gather to Sip 'n Stroll or Sip 'n Sit at various nature preserves. So far this year members have gone to Green Cay Nature Wetlands, Hypoluxo Scrub Natural Area and Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.

For the January general meeting, 17 members and seven guests carpooled to Indian Trails Native Nursery where our meeting was held outdoors. After the meeting, members were given a tour of the nursery and gardens and an opportunity to purchase various native plants.

In March there will be a tour of member's beautiful gardens and our general meeting, all outdoors.

Besides all these activities, we maintain three gardens: a beautiful butterfly garden located at the Schoolhouse Children's Museum, a Community Garden off Seacrest Avenue where the newest addition is a succulent garden, and a Memorial Garden in the



community of High Point in Boynton Beach.

Currently, we are also teaching

students at Freedom Shores Elementary how and why to plant native plants.

To get ready for our fun flower show, Art in Bloom, which was held at the Schoolhouse Children's Museum in Boynton Beach, we held a "Fun with Flowers" workshop taught by Emilie Palmieri, who provided our designers with important tips for flower arranging.

For Art in Bloom, our designers creatively interpreted elementary student's artwork into beautiful floral arrangements. This year our designers created 13 arrangements. Four new members participated and truly showed off their creative talents. The arrangements were judged by three impartial judges and the winning arrangements were awarded a ribbon.

The three winning arrangements were:

*Best Use of Color: Roberta Corrigan



*Best Use of Texture: Linda Schrader

*Best Interpretation of the Art: Christine Johnson

*All visitors vote for the People's Choice Award, and the winner was: Roberta Corrigan.

Getting ready for City's Earth Day celebrations which are being held the month of April, our members held a workshop to fill seed packets with milkweed seeds and prepared 100 salvia plants for the Earth Day Giveaway.

At the local library's request, our members will give a presentation, "The Benefits of Gardening and the Basics for Success", to adults at the Boynton Beach Library. Members will also be teaching children how to pot plants and seeds at the City's First Friday Event.

A carpool trip to Gene Joyner's Unbelievable Acres Botanical Gardens was well attended by 13 members who enjoyed walking beneath trees covered with colorful tropical vines, orchids and bromeliads. Because of the many varieties of plants and trees, the garden also attracts a lot of wildlife and is a certified wildlife habitat.

Town and Country Garden Club invited our members to a delicious potluck luncheon. Thirteen members attended, three were new members. Five members had the 'luck of the Irish', and won gift baskets.

Our 'Go Wild, Go Native' program series ends in April with "Creating Wildlife Habitats - Butterflies, Birds and Pollinators Thrive in Native Gardens". In May we will hold an Installation ceremony and a "Mad Hatters Luncheon".

The District X Spring meeting is right around the corner and our members are eager to attend. This is the first time in several years that our club will have representation at FFGC Convention. Four members are attending and looking forward to it.

Make your own bonsai or succulent boat

by Kimberly Helms, District X Habitat for Humanity Chair



Have you ever wanted to make your own bonsai or succulent boat? Then you should take one of my classes. You will make a garden project of your choice while enjoying great friends and beautiful weather.

Choose from the project above or make multiple projects in the same class. If you cannot make the scheduled class, call me to set up an alternate time that fits your schedule.

Next Classes—March 31 and April 28th 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Bonsai Projects cost \$30.00, Succulent Boat costs \$45.00. All materials included.

Rio Lindo GC supports rose garden

by Karen York

Friends of Port St. Lucie Botanic Garden President Jeff Chambers (center) discussed his support of the Rose Garden, future plans for it & Rio Lindo Garden



Club with Rose Garden Chair Anne Nourse and American Rose Society Master Rosarian Mike Becker, Rio Lindo's Rose Garden Mentor, February 23, 2022 for annual hard pruning of our 32 rose bushes

Joan Witter receives Earth Steward Award from Boca Raton GC

by Mary Kaub

As co-chair of the Dirt Gardeners at BRGC, Joan Witter has mobilized an army of women and men who spread out every Monday to canvas the garden for weeds, fallen limbs, and debris. Her motto is: "If it looks like it doesn't belong, take it out!"

The Dirt Gardeners meet every week and under her knowledgeable leadership they maintain and care for the landscaping and propagate plants for the bi-annual plant sales.

Joan spearheads the group by instructing everyone on tasks that need to be completed on a particular day. These tasks

include weeding, transplanting, propagation, and the proper planting of new plants.

During morning water breaks, Joan presents new educational information regarding the trees and plants we have growing in our gardens.

Most importantly, Joan always has a smile on her face. She is friendly, welcoming, and approachable. During her leadership, participation in the Dirt Gardeners has grown. Time with Joan is not work at all, but a time of love, fellowship and fun.

Congratulations, Joan, on your special Earth Steward award!

Garden Club of Ft. Pierce helps children grow plants and learn how to fertilize them

by GCFP President Liz Cohen

Thanks to the help one of our new members, Kat Rogoff, who was a second grade teacher for 10 years, our club financed and participated in a joint junior gardener program with *The Loving Care Academy*, a small private school in Ft. Pierce. Vegetables such as tomatoes, collards, peppers, broccoli and other greens, as well as marigolds to control the insect population, were planted in raised beds.

The students and their science teacher developed 3 different hypotheses related to which soil addition would contribute to the best plant production: coffee grounds, epsom salts or crushed egg shells. The clear winner was coffee grounds!!

The students felt that they had learned quite a bit, not only choosing the best soil addition



to contribute to good growth of the vegetable plants, but they also learned that they could grow their own food, especially healthy vegetables!

We will be continuing the program next year with a new group of students and some additional club members as well.

P.S. Mark you calendar to join us for Plants in the Park on Saturday, April 23, 2022.

Save The Seas - Plastics Free



Come Join Us! Fun-Filled Day of Activities!

Saturday, April 2, 2022
Ocean Ridge Town Hall
6450 North Ocean Blvd.



8:30 AM Beach Clean Up
 Sponsored by Surfrider Foundation

10-11 AM Plastics "Dump", Sort, Recycle
 Family activities, awards

10 - 3 PM Conservation Exhibitor Booths
 Music by Indigo Dreamers
 Food Truck by Nomad Surf Shop

11 AM Conservation Presentations
12 PM PlasTrek 2019 – The Story, Bryan Galvin
 Surfrider Foundation,
 Rise above Plastics, Tom Warnke



Limited Parking
 Valet Available



Ocean Ridge Garden Club

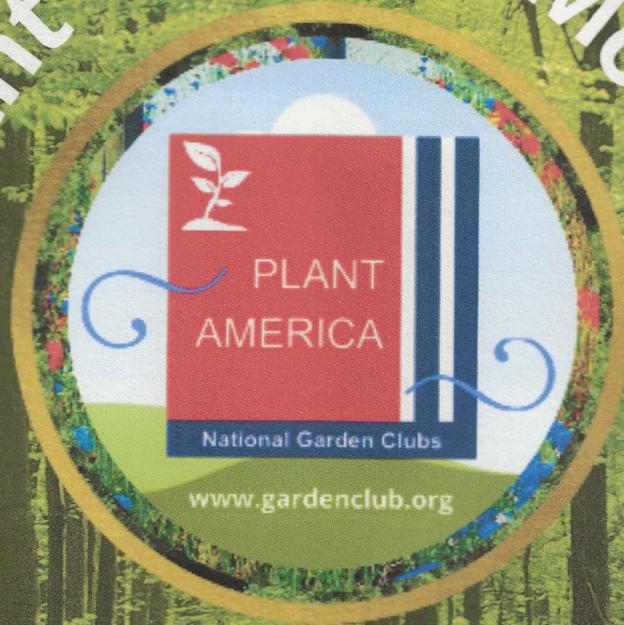


Town of Ocean Ridge



Boynton Beach

Plant America Month



April 2022

National Garden Clubs, Inc.



*Garden Club of Fort Pierce
Presents*

P

*lants
in
the
Park*

**SATURDAY
April 23, 2022
9 am - 2 pm**

**Location-Glidden Park
911 Parkway Dr. Ft. Pierce
34950**

**MULTI-CLUB
PLANT SALE,
information
booths
GARDEN BOUTIQUE**