

# BLOOMING TALES

## from Terrific Ten

December 2019



## Direct from the Director Carol Coleman

First, I want to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Lots of exciting projects have been going on in District X over the past few months. District X Garden Clubs have a unique opportunity leading the way in this new NGC initiative, "Plant America with Trees, Each One (member) Plants One (native tree)"

Florida Arbor Day is January 17, 2020 and can be the focal point of the initial phase of PAT in our District. The need for carbon sequestration through expanding our tree-planting efforts is rapidly becoming the most vital program to ensure our planet has the clean air we need to survive.

Planting native trees--both saplings and mature trees--in great numbers in cooperation with our local community organizations is the goal of the NGC PAT initiative. Adults, youth and wildlife will benefit from the creation of clusters of native trees labeled for identification and wildlife support. Educational field trips for adults and youth to these areas help fulfill the mission statements of our garden

clubs. This project fulfills the mission statement of our Garden Clubs in the following ways:

- "To further the education of the members and the public in the fields of gardening, horticulture, botany, landscape design and environmental awareness."
- "Conservation of natural resources"
- "Civic beautification"



- "Nature studies"
- "Instill in our youth the love of gardening and the respect and protection of the environment."

Projects to be considered would include expanding the native trees in County and local parks as well as supporting the planting of wetland native trees around the water-retention areas at local schools, helping local Boy and Girl Scouts to obtain their Tree Planting merit badges, educating homeowners on the advantages of planting native trees

and providing easy access to obtaining trees through plant sales.

To date, there have been meetings with the Palm Beach County, Board of Commissioners/Parks and Recreation Department, the Office of Public Engagement, Greenacres Community Center, The City of West Palm Beach, Gulf Stream Council of Boy Scouts, which covers 7 counties, are planning to do plantings of native seedlings and

trees in John Prince Park (we have dates planned for January 4 and 18 and April 25, Earth Day ) as well as covering other locations of our District X Clubs. For Boy Scouts of America, there is a three-pronged approach:

- 1) Actively involve Scouts in tree-planting for the Plant Science Horticulture merit badge and Community Service hours
- 2) Funding from Council
- 3) Eagle Scout Projects-planting native tree gardens with signage which could include Blue Star Markers in the gardens to additionally support our Veterans.

In addition to this exciting project, I will be visiting several of the Garden Clubs meetings in the New Year. Hopefully, I will be invited to all clubs over the 2020 and 2021.

*Carol Coleman, District X Director*

# District X speaks out on saving Wellington Preserves

by Diane Rice

Cudos to District X Director Carol Coleman and Environmental Chairman Diane Rice who spoke out against rezoning the Wellington Preserves in the Wellington Mall at the Village of Wellington (VOW) Council Meeting on Monday, October 7, 2019, and a special thanks to the Wellington Garden Club attendees and family members namely: Linda DeSanti, Lisa Ferrano, Ann Finch, Roxanne, Christine and David Henry, Twig Morris, Ellen Rawlings, Deborah Russell, and our own Wellington Garden Club President Jan Seagrave!

According to the New York Times, in the last 50 years the number of birds in the United States and Canada have declined by 3 billion and hence the approximate 32 acres now deeded Preserves is crucial to these birds' very existence. These preserves also provide Nature's own air conditioning through transpiration in the leaves of the trees that exist there. This is seen world over as welcomed relief given that US National Research Council in June 2006 announced the Earth is the hottest it has been in the last 400 years!

As part of the discussion, I submitted an article to the Palm Beach Post and Town Crier and parts of it were published in both newspapers. The submission centered around ten year old Elbridge Gale Elementary student Skyler Peterson who with his class of 25 wrote letters to the Village of Wellington asking them to vote NO on rezoning and save the Wellington Preserves for the birds and trees and future generations.



Saving deeded Preserve land is not just a local issue; it is a global issue. Greta Thunberg addressed the UN Embassy on Sept. 20, and exclaimed that, " This Earth is on Fire". And according to the Washington Times on October 7, 2019, hundreds of activists from the Extinction Rebellion raised the bar by dousing the rage bull in New York City with fake blood along with blocking traffic in Berlin, Madrid, London and Amsterdam.

We in Wellington also had our own protest rally at Starbucks thanks to Mark Offerman of Palm Beach County Environmental Alliance. This rally gave me an opportunity to speak on the 5 pm ABC local news about the need to keep Wellington Preserves for birds, trees and cooling effect.

Global Warming awareness is not all about protesting - it is also about saving green spaces in your part of the world to contribute to global cooling. The real question is not whether Global Warming is real --- but what is it going to take to get the Village of Wellington Council or your own city council to realize that they have a stake -- and in this case -- the power to make a difference in cooling their part of the Earth and keep deeded Preserves intact for future generations. Down the street from Wellington is Okeehelée Park South where they

have made a difference by keeping their Preserve intact. You can even bike and hike there.

As members of the FFGC, we can make a difference by responding to Inger Jones and Pat Carver Environmental Alerts. FFGC asks all Presidents to do an environmental email blast to all its members since we are the largest volunteer gardening organization in Florida.

What is it going to take to get the Village of Wellington Council to realize that they have a stake -- and in this case -- the power to make a difference in cooling their part of Earth, namely, Wellington. What kind of Earth are we giving to our children and grandchildren? If we do not have an Earth to live on, clean water to drink and clean and cool air from trees to breathe, then nothing else matters. Young adults are protesting all over the world because they see adults lacking in leadership on this matter.

According to Drew Martin --- if the Village of Wellington votes to reverse the zoning of Forever Preserve - then they have set a precedent for all of Florida that a deeded Forever Preserve no longer matters and saving Florida for your children and grandchildren doesn't really matter either.



# Plant a native tree to make a difference in your community

by *Barbara Hadsell* NGC, FFGC Gardening Schools Chairman  
NGC Plant America with Trees—Vice Chairman

The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, District X, is off to an early start with the NGC project Plant America with Trees: Each member plants one native tree.



**District X PAT Leaders:** *Reina Snyder-Vice Chairman PAT, Barbara Hadsell-Chairman PAT, Carol Coleman-District Director and Diane Rice-District Environmental Chairman.*

FFGC District X heartily endorses the PAT statement, "Plant 165,000 trees in one year., and the example this sets in our communities can be empowering.

# Boca Raton Garden Club honors 20 year members

by *Nancy Richards*

Our club recently recognized people who have been members of our club for 20 or more years. Boca Raton Garden Club has 16 of these members!

We acknowledge these long-term members for their dedication to the BRGC. In addition, they provide the narrative of how our club has developed through the years. This includes many changes, and sometimes upheavals, and offers a story of perseverance, transformation, and faith in a vision.

This writer believes that each of these long-term members has a special gift that she gives to the club. This offers her a sense of fulfillment. Isn't that, in the end, what we are all seeking?

Even planting a single tree in a small garden provides an opportunity to talk with neighbors about choosing a tree, planting a tree and nurturing that tree. However large or small your tree-planting project may be, it is important to look for ways to incorporate community education into your plans."

Native tree plantings in the District will begin with a dedication on the FL Arbor Day weekend of Jan. 17-18, 2020 with at least two community partnering events: City of Greenacres Parks, Oleander G.C of the Palm Beaches and Greenacres Jr. G.C creating a teaching garden of native trees AND Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Dept., District X G.C. members, Boy Scouts of America and other community volunteers planting native tree saplings in a special nursery in John Prince Park in Lake Worth.



To sum up, thank you so much for your years of camaraderie, enthusiasm, and service, and your example to the rest of us in how we can gain the pleasure of giving of ourselves and receiving the feeling of accomplishment.

# Mother Earth is calling all gardeners!!

by *Dotty Greene*



YOU are cordially encouraged to attend ...  
"Mother Earth" an NGC Standard Flower Show sponsored by Judges Council of District X .

Mark your calendar to celebrate Florida's Arbor Day by visiting Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens on January 18 & 19, 2020. Horticulture will focus on "Fertile Flora" while Design entries will highlight "Mother Nature - Birth and Rebirth". The Education Division will inspire with "Tree of Knowledge" as a theme.

Details:  
"Mother Earth", an NGC Standard Flower  
January 18 and 19, 2020  
Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sun. noon to 4 p.m.

Location:  
Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens  
2410 SE Westmoreland Blvd.  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34952

Admission to the Flower Show is free. Please pay regular admission for touring the gardens.

# The Garden Club of Ft. Pierce honors their theme of “Share, Conserve, Grow” throughout the season

by Dottie Greene and Abby James

The Garden Club of Ft. Pierce has taken our seasonal theme to heart during our most recent activities and fundraising events. “Share, Conserve, Grow” is as important in horticulture as it is in life. The Club has honored this theme by providing relief aid to the Bahamas, holding a fundraising Mega Sale open to the community, and welcoming a varied set of speakers to our monthly meetings. We are also looking forward to some additional upcoming events that are as different as each gardener.

The Garden Club of Ft. Pierce practiced the “Share” part of our theme by donating supplies and a monetary donation to Ministry Flights International (MFI) in conjunction with Parkview Baptist Church for the Hurricane Dorian Relief Effort in the Bahamas. The Club voted at its September meeting to redirect a portion of its funds towards this great cause to help our brothers and sisters of the Bahamas.

MFI operates out of two hangars flying turbine-powered DC-3s to meet the needs of over 450 missions in the Bahamas, Haiti, the Dominican Republic. When the need arises, as with Hurricane Dorian’s massive destruction in the Bahamas, the Garden Club reaches beyond Fort Pierce to provide aid.

In order to “Conserve” our resources and cut back on waste, The Garden Club held its Mega Plant and Indoor Yard Sale fundraiser on Saturday, November 2, 2019 at Glidden Park in Ft. Pierce. This sale featured locally grown plants for sale outside the club grounds and gently used household goods for sale inside the clubhouse. It was a successful event that not only raised money for our scholarship

fund and community projects, it also spurred several attendees to inquire about membership. Which then naturally led us to the “Grow” idea of our theme. We are looking at growing our club this year with several new members to join us in our efforts and fun.



**Abby James and Ingrid Van Hekken prepared for shoppers at the Garden Club of Ft. Pierce’s Mega Outdoor Plant Sale.**

Our most recent guest speakers have certainly carried the “Share, Conserve, Grow” theme to the next level. We welcomed speaker Paul Laura to our September meeting where he discussed the ever-growing danger to our environment. By educating us on state and federal efforts on local concerns and the politics in Florida that contribute to or remediate the issues we face.

In October we were given the opportunity to learn about growing herbs from Dennis Gretton, a self-taught expert on open-air grown herbs. We learned that open-air grown herbs make for much hardier plants.

In the month of November, the club was treated to a program about succulent gardens and tillandsias by Wade Matz. There was a gorgeous array of available plants and a fall themed display made from a pumpkin and succulents that was quickly sold to one of our members. Future speakers for the season include art in the garden, living foods and sprouts,



**Liz Cohen and Guest Speaker Wade Matz share in the delight of a successful meeting.**

and caladiums.

Looking forward to the next few months we will be busy giving our time to volunteer work, a day trip visit, and hosting a workshop. First, our group will be volunteering at the Heathcote Botanical Garden with their annual Garden of Lights. We help decorate the Garden with beautiful holiday lights for the 11,000 visitors to enjoy during the holiday season. Garden of Lights kicks off on Thanksgiving weekend, November 29 and 30, and continues Fridays and Saturdays from 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., through the end of December. It really is one of our favorites for the entire year.

In early December we will be going on a field trip to Jupiter, Florida to visit a nursery that specializes in orchids and desert roses. We hear there are some unique specimens for sale and are excited about coming home with a few new additions to our gardens.

Lastly, we are hosting a propagation workshop on January 29, from 1 pm-4 pm. Several of our members are hard at work preparing for this workshop which will cover all manner of propagation from rooting cuttings to air layering. It should be very educational and fun!

# Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches fulfills mission of Youth Education

by *Basrbara Hadsell*

Oleander members have been very active with their programs to support elementary school junior garden clubs. The Greenacres Juniors with 22 members- 2nd through 5th grade-meet every Friday afternoon. Activities include planting vegetable seeds and seedlings in their raised bed garden and in pots and hydroponic tower.

Smokey Bear visited and Juniors created posters. They are currently decorating pine cones as holiday trees and making "gift wrap" out of lunch bags.

Nine Oleander GC men and women volunteer for this program and the Wednesday Wynnebrook Jr. Garden Club of 20 fifth graders that also



*Oleander member Reina Snyder helps Wynnebrook Junior plant a pollinator-friendly native wildflower*



*Smokey Bear with Greenacres Juniors, a Forest Ranger and Oleander members Janet Stein and Carol Krenkel*

meets weekly.

Unique to the Wynnebrook Juniors is the nutritional cooking class taught by Oleander GC volunteers using the kitchen facilities at the WPB Elks Lodge. The Juniors also plant and harvest vegetables at the Loaves and Fishes Gardens and in their school courtyard. These projects help the Wynnebrook Elementary School maintain its Green School status.

*Junior Gardeners creating pine cone Christmas trees*



# Wellington Garden Club Teams Up with Estonians and St. David's for 2019 International Coastal Cleanup

by *Diane Rice*

Beach Cleanup happened with a bang when Wellington Garden Club (WGC) members Sandy Sklar, Maria Wolfe and Diane Rice met up with an Estonia group on Sept. 21, 2019 at John MacArthur State Park. The Estonians showed us their flag and invited us to join them in their quest for fighting pollution. Marie and Sandy picked up over 1100 plastic pieces and Carol Krenkel picked up over 8 pounds. On the other side of the beach and pictured below is WGC member Roxanne Henry and her daughter Christine who together picked up 10 pounds. Ann Cavaleri and Philip Macnak of WGC were also there to assist.

At a time when natural areas along south Florida's coast are almost nonexistent, John D. MacArthur Beach State Park stands out as an "island in time". It preserves the natural heritage of subtropical coastal habitat that once covered southeast Florida. It was also



the same beach that the Wellington Garden Club gathered together in June, 2019 to watch loggerheads lay eggs. Just as important as visiting the loggerheads was meeting ranger Ruth Rhodes who thanked me on behalf of the Wellington Garden Club for her college scholarship money which allowed her to see her dream come true in becoming a park ranger at this beach.

A great big thanks goes to Jenifer Elmore who arranged the youth group and their families at St. David's to join us and they picked up a total of over 30



pounds. They have been our partners for over 5 years. Pictures of some of them are above. Thanks to all who participated.

# Oleander Garden Club Of the Palm Beaches

Garden Salad Luncheon & Fundraiser  
Silent Auction, 50/50, Door Prizes

Thursday, February 20, 2020 from 11:45 to 2:45 pm

Pine Jog Environmental Education Center  
6301 Summit Boulevard, West Palm Beach

Doors Open at 11:45

Lunch Served at 12:30

\$25.00 per person

Registration Closes When Seating Limit of 76 Guests Reached

## Program Features

Mij Bryam

Professional Storyteller

Past President of the Palm Beach County

Storytelling Guild and

Publisher of the South Florida Storytelling News.

Presenting

"Nature's Folk & Fairy Tales"

## Proceeds Benefit Our Work in the Community

Junior Gardener Program in partnership with Elks Lodge #1352

Wekiva Youth Camp (Grades 3-8)

Green Schools Recognition Program

For Additional Information Contact Pat Welch (561) 271-0709

We ask that you please RSVP by February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Please cut off this portion and mail along with payment to:

Ruth Clarke  
3434 Amalfi Drive  
West Palm Beach, FL 33417-1035

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (Checks payable to Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches)

\_\_\_\_ I am paying for myself

\_\_\_\_ I am paying for myself and the following individuals

\_\_\_\_ I will be attending with others from (name of garden club, church group, etc.)

\_\_\_\_ I wish to sit with the following individuals: \_\_\_\_\_

FFGC 2020 District X Spring Meeting

# Spring is in the Air

Thursday, April 23, 2020

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

**Jennifer Pelham, Director UF/IFAS Martin County**

**Topic: Container Gardening**

**Horticulture or Floral Design Presentation: To Be Determined**

**Indian River State College ~ Chastain Campus ~ Wolf Technology Center  
2400 SE Salerno Road ~ Stuart, FL 34997**

**Registration Begins at: 8:30am ~ Meeting: 9:30am**

**Questions? Call or text:**

**Co-chairs: Leslie Perna 772.284.0843 Daina Karol 609.364.0802**

**Registrar: Sandra Lagana 772.529.1755**

- **Cost: \$37 Registration**
- **Deadline: April 13, 2020**
- **Interactive Registration Forms & more information online at:**

**[www.districtx.org](http://www.districtx.org)**



**Hosted by: The Garden Club of Stuart**



Registration Form 2020 FFGC District X Spring Meeting

Spring is in the Air

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Indian River State College ~ Chastain Campus ~ Wolf Technology Center  
2400 SE Salerno Road ~ Stuart, FL 34997

Registration Begins at: 8:30am  
Meeting: 9:30am

Program: Container Gardening  
Speaker: Jennifer Pelham, Director UF/IFAS Martin County

- Please complete a Registration Form for each person attending
- Interactive Registration Forms online at: [www.districtx.org](http://www.districtx.org)
- Registration Deadline: April 13<sup>th</sup>. Forms & Checks must be RECEIVED by April 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be an additional \$5 Registration Late Fee after this date ~ Also, NO REFUNDS after April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Make \$37.00 check payable to: Garden Club of Stuart (GCS)
- NO Walk-ins
- Mail Registration Form and check to: Sandra Lagana, Registrar  
701 SW Stuart West Blvd, Palm City, FL 34990-5939  
bslaga@gmail.com 772.529.1755

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Club/Circle \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Your Registration includes Continental Breakfast and Luncheon, which includes salad & dessert. Please select Lunch choice:

- Mediterranean Grilled Chicken     Peach & Pecan Honey Glazed Pork Loin     Vegetarian, Salad, Rice, Vegetables

Please check each category that applies to you. You may check MORE than one category.

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Officer        | <input type="checkbox"/> District Director     | <input type="checkbox"/> Circle President                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Former National Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> District Officer      | <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor / Guest                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FFGC State Officer      | <input type="checkbox"/> District Chairman     | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Club Member                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FFGC State Chairman     | <input type="checkbox"/> Director              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Delegate (per Club President) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Former FFGC President   | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Club President | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate (per Club President)           |



Hosted by: The Garden Club of Stuart



## FFGC District X Spring Meeting 2020

Spring is in the Air

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Directions to:

Indian River State College ~ Chastain Campus ~ Wolf Technology Center 2400 SE Salerno Road ~ Stuart, FL 34997

From SOUTH of Stuart via I-95:

- Take I-95 N
- Take Exit 101 for FL-76 toward Stuart / Indiantown
- Stay in the right exit lane, at the light turn right onto FL-76 E
- Turn right onto Salerno Road
- Turn right onto Community Dr
- Then left into the Indian River State College parking lot for Building C and the Wolf Technology Bldg

