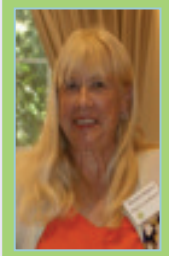


BLOOMING TALES

from Terrific Ten

March, 2023



Direct from the Director: Michelle Maguire

This is my last article as District Director. I have so enjoyed meeting many District X members from the various clubs. I attended some club meetings and also gave several presentations as a Gardening Studies, Landscape Design Studies and Environmental Studies consultant. I went to flower shows, GardenFest and Garden Tours. As chairman of Tropical Short Course, I met more people outside of District X at the tri-refresher.

I want to thank my executive board: Jane Zezeck, Blanca Rancourt, Barbara Hadsell, Peggy Gahn, Marty Neal and Li Roberts. These group of women are amazing to work with and had to put up with a lot of issues and sometimes had to

put up with me.

It was my goal to make sure that you were informed about EVERYTHING from District X, FFGC and NGC. I have to admit that sometimes the amount of emails I had to forward to you were overwhelming.

I want to thank my Chairmen also. When I started as District Director I had no idea how many chairmen I had to recruit. Thankfully some stayed from the previous administration. Thanks to Reina Synder, Twig Morris, Cyndie Sable and Stormi Bivin.

I hope many of you have applied to my Beautification award which is due in a few weeks, All the rules and form are on the website.

So now I must have your attention for important information. Your

Club presidents and your Circle club presidents will be getting a copy of OUR DISTRICT BYLAWS. You are to make sure you have gotten a copy of them. WE WILL BE VOTING ON THEM AT THE DISTRICT X MEETING ON APRIL 27 which is being held at the Westchester Country Club hosted by the Boynton Beach Garden Club. The BYLAWS WILL GO TO ALL PRESIDENTS BY MARCH 27. It is imperative that you attend because we have to TALLY THE VOTE COUNT. If you are a delegate from your club, you must attend or make sure someone replaces you if you cannot go.

I so enjoyed these past two years,

Michelle Maguire, District X Director
2021-2023



District X Blue Star Chair Rosita Aristoff initiates the restoration of a Blue Star Memorial Highway marker abandoned for forty years

The Canal Point Garden Club formed prior to 1957 in the small community in far western Palm Beach County adjacent to Lake Okeechobee along US 98/441. For many years the club's primary project was beautification of the roadside along this federal highway.



On March 5, 1960 the garden club dedicated a Blue Star Memorial Highway marker along with a living memorial garden in a roadside park across the highway from the Canal Point Community Center.

Unfortunately, in 1983 the garden club withdrew from the FFGC and disbanded, leaving the marker and garden untended for the next forty years. Over this timeframe the



surface of the marker deteriorated significantly and the garden disappeared.

Several years ago, District X Blue Star Chair Rosita Aristoff reached out to a number of the District's garden clubs to determine if any were willing to adopt and care for the marker. Due largely to the remote location of the marker no clubs had expressed interest by 2021. So, on behalf of District X, the Blue Star Chair applied to the FFGC's Matching Grant Program for funds to assist with restoration of the marker and its garden. At the FFGC Convention in April, 2022 it was announced that District X

had been granted \$400 towards the project where the total cost had been projected to be \$800. With another \$400 donation from an anonymous District X member in hand, Historical Markers Restorations of Daytona Beach was contacted to arrange for refurbishment of the marker.

The Glades Parks District Manager, L.J. Pearce, of Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department who oversees the area in Canal Point where the marker is located had FDOT come and straighten and resecure the marker on the concrete pad to which it is affixed.

Branches of the trees overhanging and somewhat obscuring the marker were trimmed back. And in December of 2022, the restoration of the marker was completed. Surrounding the marker, a mulched bed of *Aechmea* 'Blue Tango' bromeliads was planted.

The Blue Star Memorial Highway marker and its living memorial garden in Canal Point are once again a fitting tribute to the veterans of our nation's Armed Forces.

National Garden Clubs declares April 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

distictx.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 Beautification award application is due by April 1. You will also find a 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!

Incoming District X Director Maria Wolfe invites all to attend Florida Federation of Garden Clubs' convention and District X's meeting

by *Maria Wolfe*

It is my honor to address you as your incoming District Director for 2023-2025. I hope to see you all at the 96th Annual Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (FFGC) State Convention, which is titled 'Worlds of Wonder - Recycled'. The State Convention is held April 18 -20, at the Embassy Suites, Lake Buena Vista South, Kissimmee, Florida.

Keynote speaker Stacey Matrazzo of the Florida Wildflower Foundation, promises to share a wonderful and educational presentation on Wednesday at 10:45am.

My installation will be Thursday at 7:00pm. Be sure to visit this link: <http://www.FFGC.org> for more convention information and to register.

Closer to home, the Boynton Beach Garden Club (BBGC) is hosting the Spring District X Luncheon titled '**Bee the Solution**' on Thursday, April 27, at the Westchester Country Club in Boynton Beach, 12250 Westchester Club Drive, Boynton Beach, FL. Please mark your calendar because BBGC has an

exciting event planned!

The keynote speaker is CJ McCartney, a Master Gardener and Environmental Steward for Palm Beach County. Her presentations are very lively and practical because she introduces material that is easy to apply to our lives and our gardens.

The cost of the event is \$50.00. Please actively help promote this event by sharing this information with your club members, as well as try to reach out to them personally. Visit <http://www.DistrictX.org> . Click on 'Upcoming Events' to locate the interactive registration form.

Registration and coffee are from 8:30-9:30am, and the meeting runs from 9:30-4pm. The registration deadline for the luncheon is Thursday, April 13, 2023.

The Spring District X meeting offers clubs the opportunity for you to toot your horn! If you would like to make an announcement at this District X meeting, please notify me by email of the topic of your message and the name of

who is announcing by 5pm, Friday, April 7, 2023. You will be given 2 minutes from the podium. In turn, I will let you know when your time is to be on the podium. So our Club presidents and I can help promote each other at the luncheon and broaden our collective outreach, please bring your postcards and other promotional materials for your Garden Club's upcoming events. Your materials will added to the system in place to distribute all information so that each club receives your flyers.

Lastly, the FFGC President asked that each District incorporate and help promote the FFGC's 100th year birthday theme. Therefore, I am happy to embrace that grand accomplishment by announcing my theme for the next two years: Proudly celebrating the Florida Federation of Garden Club's century of promoting plant diversity that insures the future of insect diversity. I proudly look forward to working with you all and your Clubs in the next two years and sharing my vision for the District.

Garden Club of Stuart participates in flower show to give back to the community for its support

The Garden Club of Stuart participated in a successful Flower Show which took place the first weekend of March, 2023 titled "A Symphony of Beauty". The Flower Show was located at Indian River State College where we have our monthly meetings.

Open to the public, the Flower Show was one of our Community Services to give back to the public for supporting our Secret Garden Tour. The Flower Show

schedule was developed by Mary Neal, Chairperson and co-chaired with Alice Hooker. These ladies did an outstanding job!

While the year is winding down, we're planning our annual luncheon meeting. We are thankful to membership for volunteering with refreshments, ways & means, chairing committees, entering the flower show and all the work commitments needed to fulfill Garden Club of Stuart and FFGC

requirements.

National Garden week is being planned for the first week in June, and floral designs will be in six various libraries, National Garden Week banners will be up, and civic proclamations are being planned. When completed, we'll post on Facebook to encourage new members, pride in our community and ignite spirit to National Garden Week.

Boynton Beach GC prepares for District X Meeting

by Carol Stender, President

Currently, BBGC is focused on preparations for the upcoming District X Spring Meeting. We are excited to welcome District members to a special luncheon at the lovely venue, the Westchester Country Club. Chairperson Lori Wolff has us organized and is making sure all the details are covered. The theme is “**Bee the Solution**” and we are abuzz with anticipation for the event. Hope to see you there!!

Besides preparations for the District Meeting, club members continue to serve the community and educate on best gardening practices.

When the city recently updated the irrigation system at the downtown Community Garden we maintain, our gardeners were motivated to redesign the space as a Bird-Friendly Urban Oasis. Existing beds were enlarged, water features refurbished, and a Plant Donation Day requesting bird-friendly and pollinator-friendly plants, was posted on the calendar. The garden is already remarkably transformed. The work has not yet been completed, and the butterflies



BBGC members making favors for District X Meeting

and birds are already moving in. They now keep us happy with regular visits during our bi-monthly maintenance.

Members also participated in the City Library’s Brown Bag Lecture Series. In February, we presented Gardening in Florida and in March, our topic was Gardening with Native Plants. These lectures are much appreciated, especially since we hand out free plants to the participants at the end.

Finally, our Annual Art in Bloom event was expanded

and better attended than ever. For this event, members design floral arrangements inspired by student artwork. This year, we paired up with Plumosa School of the Arts and we changed the venue to the city’s Arts and Culture Center. We added a floral design demonstration and a children’s craft. Members, students, parents, grandparents, and others came and enjoyed the show. Lots of smiling faces were our precious reward.

BBGC looks forward to more of the same in the year’s



Ocean Ridge Garden Club sends nine children to camp Wekiva

by Jackie Reed

Ocean Ridge Garden Club is well on its way to another highly successful sponsorship of Camp Wekiva attendees. Last year we sent 9 children to the camp, with all expenses paid and each camper equipped with gear.

This is a huge turn-around from past years of awarding scholarships, only to see that the campers failed to attend. While there were a variety of reasons that the scholarship recipients did not show up at Camp Wekiva, the main obstacle appeared to be the lack of transportation for the 3.5 hour round trip.

ORGC member Britt Flanagan helped the club raise enough money to cover the camp fees and transportation costs. Britt contacted local schools who assisted with identifying potential recipients, based on school achievement, interest and need.

She also matched each camper with ORGC club members Maya Breman, Mickey Farley Austin, and Barbara Souther to mentor both the children and their parents prepare for camp. ORGC member Carol Besler solicited donations from a variety of sources to provide backpacks, clothing, toiletries and other camp necessities. With all this assistance, only one of the original 10 scholarship recipients dropped out.

ORGC members had the pleasure of hearing from three of the 2022 Camp Wekiva scholarship recipients at their March meeting. The kids each spoke briefly about their experience and what it meant to them. Each expressed anxiousness at going away from home for the first time and the transformation of those fears into sadness that camp was ending for them.

They would all love to go back! Their parents also spoke, and all expressed their gratitude for the opportunity their children received. The parents had been apprehensive about allowing their children to go so far from home for an entire week, but each overcame their reluctance and felt rewarded by the experience their child had. One of the moms called the scholarship a gift that will be life-changing for her daughter. Another told the members that her son had gained confidence and become more out-going...and is more organized and makes his bed now! It was gratifying to hear how these parents benefitted, as well as the campers. Their presentations motivated ORGC to exceed what we achieved last year, and we hope to sponsor at least 10 campers for Camp Wekiva 2023!

Piper's Landing Yacht and Country Club continues its educational series

We enjoyed another wonderful winter educational series at Piper's Landing. These presentations continue to grow in popularity, as evidenced by increased attendance and positive reviews.

In December, Piper's Landing Yacht and Country Club's own Chef Brandon entertained us with an informative (and witty) demonstration of his artful combination of herbs that delight us alldayinourrestaurant. He highlighted his presentation with tales of his culinary experiences, herb growing techniques, and finished off with a delightfully delicious sampling of his savory

concoction of magnificently whisked oils, herbs atop cheese. Is anyone's mouth watering yet?

In January, our own member, Lois Acinapura, led us in what has become one our most popular events: Floral Design. She guided participants in revealing their artistic inner selves as we each successfully completed our own personalized floral arrangements. Lois is not only a talented designer, she is an accomplished teacher, who provides positive support to all. So satisfying!

Finally, our winter series was capped off in February by a most informative and timely

presentation on our local Florida ocean waters by Zach Jud, PhD., Director of Education and Exhibits at the Florida Oceanographic Society. Member response to his talk was enthusiastically positive. We were most fortunate to have him share his knowledge and wisdom, and all went home more enlightened.

In March, our annual field Trip will be to "The Four Arts Society" in Palm Beach. We'll explore the beautiful works and wonders of renowned sculpture artists, magnificent floral paths, ponds, and fountains in a tropical oasis.