

BLOOMING TALES

from Terrific Ten

March, 2020



Direct from the Director Carol Coleman

We are experiencing difficult times that have made us cancel the FFGC Convention and our District X Spring meeting as well as many club meetings and activities. I am, however, continuing to work behind the scenes to follow through with projects and awards that will be recognized at our Fall District X Meeting.

I want to thank the Garden Club of Stuart, their President, Deborah Reaves, and her Spring District X Committee Chairs, Daina Karol and Leslie Perna, for their tireless efforts to plan the Spring District X Meeting. They planned a wonderful program called "Spring is in the Air" that was scheduled for April 23, 2020. It was to be held at Indian River State College with programs on "Container Gardening" with Jennifer Pelham, Director UF/FAS Martin County and "Growing Rare and Unusual Fruit in the Treasure Coast", with Barbara Spencer, Founder and Past President Treasure

Coast Rare Fruit Council. As you know, preparing for a District Meeting takes time and tremendous efforts on all Garden Clubs. I am sorry we will not be able to applaud the efforts of all involved in the Garden Club of Stuart.

At the Fall District Meeting we were asked to do certain things at our Spring Meeting. The Executive Committee of District X has decided to use GotoMeeting.com so that all District X Delegates can participate in a live long-distance voice only District Meeting by using our home or cell phones or computers. All will be allowed to speak, one at a time, using a printed in-hand agenda and printed reports from officers and committee chairs. To do this we will need the names and addresses of each delegate from each club, just as in the regular meeting. The agenda and reports will be mailed two weeks in advance of the scheduled Spring District X meeting. I am proposing that this meeting take place on Thursday, April 23, (the original meeting date), starting at 10am

with reports due to me, Carol Coleman, by Friday, April 1 and copies to the EC via email. The District Nominating Committee, Donna Berger, Lynn Jones and JoAnne Guise, will need to have their nominees ready to go April 1 as well. (FFGC Standing Rules Electronic Polling is for committees only.)

This is a lot to digest, but we need to follow the Bylaws of FFGC that govern our organization and complete what we are unable to do at the originally planned Spring Meeting.

Carol Coleman, District X Director



Boynton Beach GC repeats Art in Bloom at the Schoolhouse Children's Museum

by Mary Scheitler

Our club has been so busy this year and growing in membership, too. We have 48 members now and think we may get a couple more to join before we close for the summer. During the summer, we do meet once a month for lunch at a restaurant for those of us in town.

We just celebrated our Art in Bloom last week where a Boynton elementary school chose numerous student artists, grades K - 5, and their artwork for our members to recreate their art into a floral design. This was held at the Schoolhouse Children's Museum, where we had a reception Friday evening with refreshments, and open all day Saturday for the public to enjoy it. We had a nice turnout of 87 visitors who voted for the People's Choice award.

We support three gardens that we work on, two for the city and the other the school district. At the Mayor's request, the garden club took over a neglected garden in the Heart of Boynton three years ago and it's growing. With their help in cutting the grass and removing large shrubs, we have created areas with new trees, plants, paths, etc. We were to have a plant giveaway for the neighbors in April. Our members have been potting up plants to pass out. We will do it at a later date.

We also have been involved with the Poinciana Elementary school working with the teachers and garden club members in grades 1



Best use of texture: Bonnie Paton

through 5 to renew their garden



Christine Johnson won best use of color at Art In Bloom



Best interpretation of the art: Lori Wolff

by creating a butterfly garden and planting a tree. There have been opportunities for workshops on plants and different butterflies and garden crafts where they enjoy making things to take home.

For several years now, we have

created and maintained a butterfly garden outside the Schoolhouse Children's Museum. Due to the revitalizing of the town center, we have not been able to get in there at times, but again, when the city has completed their work, we will get back in and spruce it up. We have been working in coordination with the City of Boynton Beach.

Earlier this year, we had our major auction fundraiser, inviting other clubs and friends of the garden club. We had a potluck lunch where our members outdid themselves with the wonderful food they made. They also donated lovely items for the auction after lunch. It was a fun day, and we are pleased with the amount raised which will be donated to FFGC in some manner.

We also had a Fun with Flowers workshop for members with Lynn Jones setting it up and teaching us some methods for the beautiful arrangement she designed for us to create. This also helped some of our designers who participated in Art in Bloom.

We again visited our veteran's home during the holidays bringing them each a poinsettia plant and had coffee and donuts with them. We also bring magazines and books members donate to them throughout the year.

We've had carpooling trips, and interesting speakers for our meetings. As we near the end of this year, we are thinking of other projects for next year.

District X Flower Show Judges celebrated Arbor Day at Port St. Lucie Botanical Garden

District X Flower Show Judges convene 4-5 times a year to study and to keep members up to date. This year the group was invited to celebrate Florida's Arbor Day with a flower show at Port St. Lucie Botanical Garden. The show, "Mother Earth", gave members an opportunity to enter designs, horticulture or educational exhibits and chair the various committees. All judging was done by judges outside our district which increased our networking with neighboring groups.

Co-chairs Suzi Slater, Emily Kane and Jeanne-Marie Parkes planned the show. Bea Cooper, staging chair, set up and coordinated with the botanical garden. Appreciations continue: Jan Warshauer wrote the schedule and was always there to make sure all went well. Consultants Christine Biscoglio (design) and Rebecca Stallard (horticulture) encouraged members to provide the many entries that made the show delightful. Faye Estes organized the clerks. Joan Graff was judges chair. Elaine Minga prepared the delicious lunch for the judges.

Ten top exhibitor awards were given. An award for best Petite Design was made possible by West Palm Beach Garden Club to honor the late Kay Jackson, an outstanding designer and judge. Lynn Jones's design received the well-deserved award. Floor designs were front and center with Bea Cooper receiving the award for Design Excellence.

Congratulations for Horticulture entries:
 Awards of Merit - Shirley Jackson, Rosita Aristoff
 Arboreal Award - Jennifer Sauter
 Grower's Choice Award - Susan



Schedule writer Jan Warshauer and staging chair Bea Cooper welcomed visitors to "Mother Earth" at Port St. Lucie Botanical Garden in January.



Sandra Arlund, Rebecca Stallard and Mary Kaub worked on Horticulture classification.



Bea Cooper's floor Design won the Award for Design Excellence.



Bea Cooper stands with Joan Graff among the floor designs. Bea received Design Excellence and Joan's floor design was 2nd in her class.



Lynn Jones's line design received the Petite Award and Kay Jackson Award.

Hillson, Rosita Aristoff
 Grower's Choice Award - Challenge Class - Joan Graff
 Award of Merit and Horticulture Excellence - Dotty Greene
 Educational Top Exhibit Award - Rosita Aristoff (Blue Star Memorial Marker)

Piper's Landing Garden Club welcomes spring by planting a Dahoon Holly tree

by Deborah Dow

Piper's Landing Garden Club is welcoming spring. In New Hampshire, where I summer, spring is very obvious. Bare trees sprout green buds and crocuses shoot up through the snow. Florida is much more subtle. Dull green bushes become lush with bright new leaves, and forlorn trees become vibrant again.

Being a Snowbird community, Piper's members welcome spring, but know that it heralds a time of departure for most of us. With such a short season, we have to make every monthly meeting count.

In December, we were excited to have Emilie Palmieri entertain us with her Fun With Flowers. Our member, Helene Young, developed a Facebook page for Piper's, to keep members and the community informed of upcoming events. Members post pictures of the various trips, lectures, and programs we present.



In January, our own Lois Acinapura, former florist, tutored us in making individual floral designs. Some of her designing skills were used when several of us entered our displays in our biennial Art Show. We celebrated Arbor day by planting a beautiful Dahoon Holly tree opposite from our Butterfly garden area.

February brought us the expertise of Rubin Moran, formerly of Blooming Freedom Orchids, to educate us on planting and maintaining

bromeliads and orchids. Rubin now owns his own landscaping company, Matthew Landscaping, and is our go-to person.

This month we are exploring the Secret garden of

a property that was featured in the Stuart Secret Garden Tour of 2019. We were so impressed; we asked the owners for a special tour and they graciously agreed. Lois Acinapura is painting a paver, depicting the Piper's Logo, to present to them to commemorate our visit.

At our closing luncheon in April, we will present new ideas for next year's programs, and bid farewell to everyone until we meet again in October.



Garden Club of Fort Pierce explores the many definitions of “plant”

by Abby James

There are several definitions to the word “plant,” many of which we can comfortably use when talking about the Garden Club of Fort Pierce’s activities over the last quarter. We were fortunate enough to have several excellent guest speakers who each informed the club on how to grow orchid plants, how to plant art in the garden, and how to achieve a healthy plant-based lifestyle.

We also hosted a successful propagation workshop where attendees planted seeds and clippings, and we planted a community garden at Heathcote Botanical Gardens. We are looking forward to our Plants in the Park Annual Sale in the spring.

Our first plant-related activities occurred when we welcomed the president of the Port St. Lucie Orchid Society, Jon Erickson, as a guest speaker. Jon showed us amazing ways to display orchids and the best places to grow them.

Next, we were taught about planting art in our gardens from Joyce Rosselli who has been an artist for over 30 years. She brought in some of her own glass creations to showcase during our meeting. Finally, guest speaker Sean Hebert from “Got Sprouts?”

presented us with information on healthy eating with living foods. Each speaker planted knowledge and ideas into our members.

Our very successful plant



propagation workshop put on by Liz Cohen and Maggie Cook assisted attendees with planting over 400 new plants with seeds and clippings. With a turnout of 23 attendees, we welcomed all levels of gardening expertise to the workshop. We received many positive feedback remarks from those in attendance and are happy to announce that the fundraiser was a huge hit! All proceeds went back into the Garden Club of Fort Pierce for scholarships

and community projects.

Our members were also generous with their resources when they planted a section of the community garden at Heathcote Botanical Garden in Fort Pierce, Florida. Maggie Cook, Vivian Kobe, and Sonja Jemison volunteered their time and donated items to create a lovely space for the Club to proudly claim. By beautifying our space in the community garden, the Club shows support to other “plant-based” organizations and brings awareness to the public.

We are certainly looking forward to our annual sale “Plants in the Park” which will be held at our garden center this spring. Imagine a leisurely stroll through a shaded park while plant shopping, visiting horticulture booths, and enjoying the wares from various local vendors. Sound nice?

Our sale is held Saturday, April 25, 2020. There you can purchase locally grown plants such as violets, orchids, tropicals, landscape bromeliads, and more! We are also excited about our boutique of gently-used garden-related items. Doors will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Excited to keep on planting!