THE SEEDLING

Gainesville Garden Club http://www.ggcfl.org **Volume 21**
Florida Federation of Garden Clubs http://www.ffgc.org **Fall 2026**







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Message from President Becky O'Brien

Hello!

In case you haven't heard, we had a spectacular Fall Horticultural EXPO! Thank you, thank you, thank you to our entire club. The success of the event relies on a year of planning that draws on our talent and resources and time! There's a nice summary of EXPO and many pics in this issue. Even if you were able to attend, I'm betting you will be surprised by the pictures as there was so much going on and it was easy to miss some things!

Read the wonderful note we received from Dr. Cynthia Nazario-Leary about the EXPO. We are lucky to be working with her as she has been a great co-chair with our own Kathy Stephens. They have certainly been our leaders in bringing a vision of community service and education to life with the EXPO.

Despite still catching our breath from the EXPO, our ambitious plans for Fall and the early Winter are well underway – Veteran's Day Garden Tour, Fun with Flowers, Holiday Design, Holiday Marketplace, Arbor Day – plus our Circle Meetings. I am confident you will find things of great interest to help with or to attend or to bring a friend along with you.



Did you know that the Fun with Flowers Workshop is a great introduction to the garden club and we attract new members with that program? Take my hint and bring a friend so you can both enjoy the morning and then leave with a wonderful floral arrangement of your own design. (In photo: Jess, Nicole, and Beth).

President's Message continued:

This note is really a survey of what's ahead – so I wanted to mention one more thing. It will be time to recruit members to become officers in Circles, to recruit Committee Chairs for many tasks and to recruit some new members for the Board of Directors Elected Officers. Leah Oehmig is the Chair for the Board of Directors Nominating Committee and your Circle Chairs and officers will also be asking.

Our 100th year "Growing Legacy" is built on members stepping into new roles and tasks. It's actually a lovely way to meet members from other Circles and learn more about how we operate this large organization with lots of moving parts and interests and accomplishments! And fun!

Becky O'Brien
GGC President
2025-2027



GGC Veterans' Day Garden Tour

November 14th from 9-12pm

Tickets: a $10.00 donation for a Blue Star Marker.

Purchase tickets at www.ggcfl.org/upcomingevents

Gardens on the Tour: Mary Schindler, Kristy Welch, and Cyndee Park

It is a self-guided tour.

Flyers will be handed out at next




GAINESVILLE GARDEN CLUB
What's Next?
NOV 10
Fun with Flowers* *Fee
Gainesville Garden Club - Get Creative.
NOV 14
Veterans' Day Garden Tour*
Fund-Raiser for Veterans' Projects *Fee
DEC 5
Holiday Market
Crafty Gifts. Free and open to public!
DEC 10
Holiday Design* *Fee
Tasty Tidbits. Design Your Holiday Florals
JAN 17
Florida Arbor Day
Community Presentation. Maybe win a tree!
NOW
SCAN QR for Details! or
ggcfl.org/upcomingevents

MAKE PLANS TO SHOP

Gainesville Garden Club's 3rd annual

Holiday Market

Saturday December 5- 9am -4pm

1350 NW 75 St,
Gainesville FL 32605

Featuring a curated selection of local artisans, crafters, plant & food vendors!

Something for everyone!!

FREE ENTRY
We ask that you bring a shelf stable food item for Bread of the Mighty Food Bank

Service Dogs are welcome!

Want information on being a vendor?
email: kmlt1724@gmail.com
call: 352.332,0426
https://www.ggcfl.org/upcoming events

Mark your calendar – you won't want to miss it! Below are photos of members enjoying previous markets.









GGC General Meeting & Holiday Design Workshop

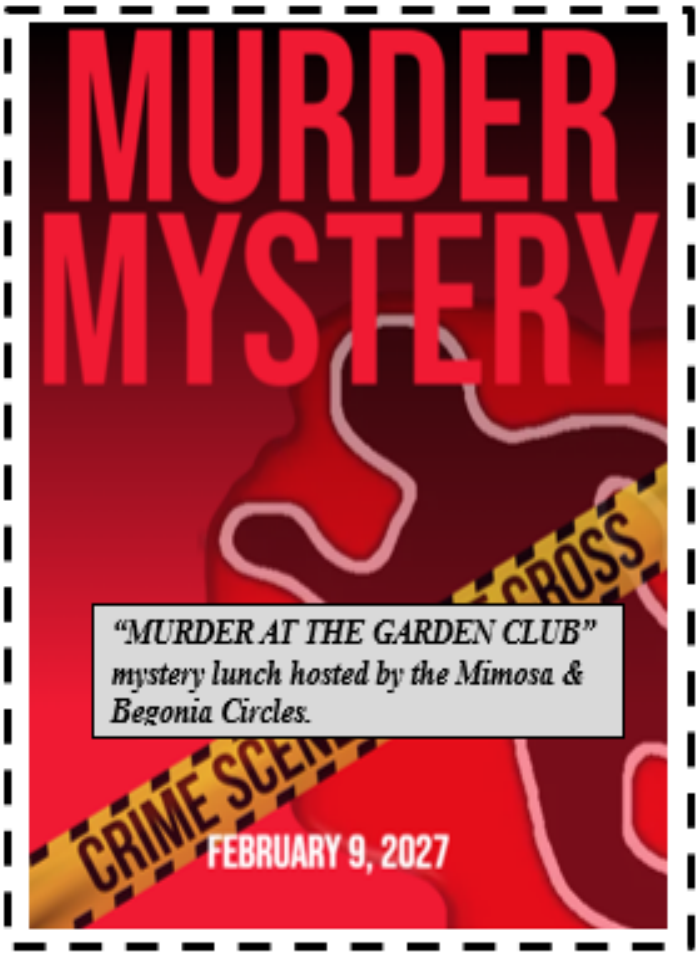
9:00 - 10:00 AM	Meet & Greet, Holiday Shop/Refreshments
10:00-10:05 AM	Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance & GGC Prayer
10:05-10:40 AM	General Meeting
10:40-10:50 AM	Break
10:50-11:55 AM	Holiday Design Workshop
12:00 PM	Meeting Adjourned

Holiday Brunch: Join us for a delightful Holiday Brunch from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM, where attendees will have the opportunity to indulge in a selection of seasonal dishes and beverages. The brunch will feature a Bloody Mary Bar "with and without spirits" and a variety of culinary delights, ensuring that there is something for everyone to enjoy, from sweet pastries to savory options, all beautifully presented to reflect the holiday theme.

General Meeting: Following the brunch, we will hold our General Meeting from 10:00 AM to 10:40 AM. This meeting will provide an important platform for discussing upcoming events, sharing news within the community, and addressing any pertinent topics related to our club.

Holiday Design Workshop: After the meeting, from 10:50 AM to 12:00 noon, participants with tickets are invited to engage in an enriching Floral Design Class. Led by Jon George owner of Cottage Gardens, Inc., this class will delve into the intricacies of holiday floral arrangements, offering hands-on experience and expert guidance.

Holiday Design Workshop Tickets - $45. Sale of tickets ends on Dec 06, 12:00 PM.



MURDER AT THE GARDEN CLUB – THE TOXIC LEAF

You are Cordially Invited to the Murder Mystery Luncheon set in 1950 and hosted by Begonia & Mimosa Circles.

Join us for an afternoon of botanical elegance, stunning orchid exhibits, and a delicious 50's menu.

But Beware... Behind the beautiful blooms and blue ribbons, a bitter scandal is growing. The club president, Rosemary Rossi, has been found dead under deeply suspicious circumstances—clutching her prize-winning orchid ribbon and a poisoned cup of tea.

The greenhouse is now a crime scene. Detective Evans needs your help to dig up the truth, inspect the evidence, and unearth a cold-blooded killer.

Date: February 9, 2027 **Time: 11 AM – 2 PM**
Location: GGC's Main Building
Ticket Price: $30 (Includes lunch, and a murder mystery play). Tickets may be purchased at www.ggcfl.org.

Attendees are asked to wear 1950 formal or garden-party attire - hat & gloves included. A prize for the best attire and best hat! Prize for naming the murderer! Door Prizes!

GGC Hosts 2027 FFGC District V – UF Short Course





GGC Hosts 2027 FFGC District V – UF Short Course on June 6-8

Experience the 2027 FFGC District V - UF Short Course, a premier horticultural program for you and Master Gardeners. Grow your knowledge as you meet 90 plant-loving folks from across the state.

This year's theme, "Planting Ideas: Be Curious," identifies emerging gardening, landscaping and environmental research-based recommendations. Attendees will enjoy:

- Exclusive Guided Tours - Monday, June 7 AM
- Giving Garden or McRorie Community Garden
- Florida Museum of Natural History and Butterfly Rainforest
- Expert Presentations - Monday, June 7 PM & Tuesday, June 8
- Eight sessions featuring UF faculty and regional plant specialists, sharing the latest research and practical guidance at the UF Straughn Center. Learn, connect and be inspired.
- Special Member Pricing
- Registration, only $115 includes 2 lunches, 1 continental breakfast & 3 refreshment breaks. No fee increase!
- Sunday June 6 Welcome Reception at GGC from 3-5:30 pm, includes She Shed & Circle shopping. New: Floral Demonstration included

Tentative schedule is available at https://ffgc.org/Education. Register in February and join us for a fun and inspiring horticultural experience! Contact Paula Waterman at paularhoades@gmail.com to help your GGC circle with this fun event.

FALL HORITULTURE EXPO – Edible by Nature



To All of Our Members,

A year in the planning, many days to produce all the "parts," yesterday culminated in a one-day incredible event for our community. We had over 2500 attend! A new record crowd.

Thank you! Thank you to our many, many volunteers. My feet hurt and bet many you have some new aches today, too! Rest up. And thank you to those volunteering in other ways through the year to make this happen - whether or not you were able to be at our Third Fall Horticultural EXPO yesterday.

You'll hear more follow-up in the days ahead and I heard wonderful comments all day long yesterday. We have created a welcoming, fun and educational event for all ages and many interests! I just wanted to relay a nice note I got from our guest speaker, Brie Arthur last night. Brie wrote, “It was truly the most remarkable event. You all should be proud for a million reasons."

Meanwhile, enjoy these food forest inspired floral arrangements on page two by some of our talented crew: Lois McNamara, Bruce Cavey, Vicki Wallace and MJ Stoeker!

Have a lovely, cool day! Becky



FOOD FOREST INSPIRED FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS













THANKS TO THE MANY VOLUNTEERS WHO MADE THE 2026 EXPO SUCH A SUCCESS!





WORKING HARD













HAVING FUN













Children had a great time posing with Smokey the Bear at the Expo…. So did the adults!



SHARING GARDENING KNOWLEDGE













ORGANIZATION & VENDOR SUPPORT















More vendors….













More vendors….













2026 FALL HORTICULTURAL EXPO WRAP UP

It was truly the most remarkable event. You all should be proud for a million reasons…Thank you so much for inviting me to be a part of the Fall Hort EXPO;

Brie Arthur, 2026 Expo Keynote Speaker “It was a great event for us! Lots of familiar friends + new faces. Thank you for all the efforts to round us all up; organize; keep the parking and the loading and unloading flowing. Really appreciate the extra hands for set up and break down. I know #39’s a lot!!” Melissa DeSa, Working Food, Seed and Garden Director from Small Beginnings to Creating a Community Tradition

The 2026 Fall Horticultural Expo and Plant Market once again, brought together gardening enthusiasts, environmental organizations, families, and community members for a full day of discovery, shopping, and hands-on learning.

The arena was full vendors and exhibitors and attendees. What began as a modest plant sale in 2023 has quickly grown into one of the region’s most anticipated horticultural events. Expo 2026 drew over 2,500 visitors compared to last year’s 1,900 and 1,400 in 2024.

Education is at the heart of the Expo and reflected our theme “Edible by Nature”. That idea evolved into our graphics on our tee shirts, hats and posters with the simple idea, “Grow a Food Forest – Plant for People, Pollinators and Our Planet.”

Keynote speaker and author Brie Arthur, The Plant Lady presented on food scaping to 150 GGC and MGV members on Friday in a well-received and practical presentation. Brie was engaging and informative as well as entertaining. On Saturday, she spoke to another crowd of 125 folks to glowing reviews with Fabulous, Fruitful Foodscapes.

New in 2026

Aside from more vendors and exhibitors, EXPO welcomed the Orchid Society with many vendors who created a spectacular display and the Fang Fest that was a favorite with kids and adults alike learning about Florida snakes. Chiappini’s Native Nursery created a huge display to feature information on creating a food forest in your home landscape

Also, as a new sponsor this year, Children’s Trust of Alachua County, helped enhance efforts to engage children. With their support, MGV created an Expo Passport for older children and a Bingo card for younger kids. These were the Super Science Scavenger Hunt and so successful many kids thought doing the hunt was the prize!

Our Volunteers

On event day, it was truly “all hands-on deck,” with well over 200 volunteers from GGC, MGV and community groups who ensured everything ran smoothly. Almost 100 GGC members volunteered over Friday to set up and then manage the event on Saturday. Plus, we had many members prepare for the Expo in advance but were unable to attend. We also appreciate members who covered a big rental event at GGC on Saturday who are certainly EXPO volunteers, too!

Planning Started Last January

An event of this scale requires careful planning and a lot of teamwork. The Steering Committee led by Kathy Stephens for GGC and Dr. Cynthia Nazario-Leary, for IFAS, included many GGC folks with big tasks to pull together vendors, exhibitors, exhibits, sponsors and volunteers. All of the team leaders listed below relied on help in planning, setting up and managing during the EXPO.

Kathy, Leah Oehmig and Fran Maris – Worked as a trio on all details of the EXPO from signing up vendors and exhibitors up to arranging booths in arena, to keeping track of EVERYTHING! Leah Oehmig – Managed enlisting 40 vendors, follow-up and managed set-up and load-in day on Friday. Then for fun on Saturday, managed the Fun with Flowers for Kids booth

Fran Maris – Enlisted 43 non-profit exhibitors and helped them create interactive displays and along with Leah Oehmig got folks loaded into and out of the arena. Paula Waterman, Cat Parsons and former GGC-er Cindy Bennett lead PR. Over 2500 people attended because of creative and consistent publicity efforts with dozens of impactful social media posts on Facebook and YouTube. Paula also tracked all the clicks and shares! Nicki Byers was our gardening star in many posts. This team was also responsible for graphics. Kristy Welch designed and maintained the EXPO webpage and is moving us toward more digital capabilities for the EXPO. In her spare time, she designed and set up arena decorations. And, she recruited Miss Florida 2025, Paris Richardson to read her children's book on stage and at Kids Zone. Linda Schoellhorn led financial team for EXPO with Carol Wiltbank, Kathy Stephens and Cynthia Nazario-Leary. Money out and money in. Linda also obtained and managed the Visit Gainesville grant. Elizabeth Amdur – Money in! Led effort with Kathy to double number of sponsors to 14 and also helped lead metrics team to demonstrate impact of EXPO.

Moe LaTour and Blanca McNabb were team leaders for Kids Zone. This is the cornerstone for EXPO emphasis for being family friendly and inviting kids to get invested in growing. They led the planning, set-up, and recruited many wonderful GGC volunteers and had over 500 kids in the zone. Kathy Post – Recruited and managed all the six experts doing demonstrations during EXPO. Candy Dennis – Lead for our EXPO Shops at Marketplace and Farmer's Market. Created successful Vintage Garden Items display and shop and had many items to track for inventory and sale Karen Beaty – Our Tee Shirt/Hat Queen. Managed orders and sales before EXPO and at the EXPO. We still have some Grow a Food Forest Shirts! Get one! Plus, she got her son-in-law to haul things for us. Jill Carter, recruited Women Build to help on arena set up on Thursday with Steve Provost and former GGC member and now MGV, Mark Zadra. Suzanne Questell – Figured out tables, chairs, tents needed and got them there! Bruce Cavey – Food Forest Floral Arrangement Demonstration and did an extra one for display in Marketplace tent

MJ Stoeker, Lois McNamara and Vicki Wallace all brought creative designs to show off a Food Forest Floral arrangement too for display in the Marketplace tent. They earned lots of oohs and ahhs. Theresa Stevens is our birdhouse champion for another excellent and kid-focused event. Shelley Warner, Susan Thrall kept folks enthralled with Fun with Flowers demonstrations David Willkomm - for a popular repeat, David led the Micanopy City Limits on stage with live music. Mona Rippe – Managed all aspects at event for cashiers, from price lists to collecting funds with Carol Wiltbank Becky O'Brien, Sue Legg and MGV's selected books for sale in Marketplace and auditorium.

Becky also helped manage our keynote speaker that was a delightful task. Plus, chores as assigned! Gwen Williams, Carol Binello fed volunteers on Friday and Saturday and kept the break room restful, appealing and well stocked. Carol also found time to set up 16 tents on Friday morning and supervise getting them down on Saturday. Gail Cook, Ann Osterling led a great She Shed team selling garden items and amaryllis bulbs. These funds raised go to GGC, while sales in the Marketplace and Farmer's Market benefit EXPO.

The Planning Team has already met for a "wrap up," and is preparing to start planning again for 2027 in January. The team heard already that vendors were happy with sales, exhibitors happy with the attendance and ideas for improvements in 2027.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER BIE ARTHUR, HORTICULTURIST & BEST-SELLING AUTHOR



Brie Arthur, a celebrated bestselling author and distinguished horticulturist, captivates audiences with her dynamic presentations and groundbreaking gardening insights.

This Triangle horticulturist is changing the way suburban homeowners grow fruits and vegetables with her unique approach to gardening.



Brie's contributions extend to the Emmy-winning PBS program, "Growing a Greener World," where her expertise shines.

Bruce Cavey, Landscape and Floral Designer went on stage at noon.

David Willkom his band, "Micanopy City Limits" performed from 1:30 to 3:30 PM.



1. Brie The Plant Lady - https://youtube.com/shorts/_TvYszbJEeU?feature=share
2. Imagine That Inspiration Garden & Plant App Playground - https://youtube.com/shorts/QIL40FRRGYs?feature=share
3. Expert Demonstrations - https://youtube.com/shorts/qo8KKnrGMKc?feature=share
4. Special Displays - https://youtube.com/shorts/nMvzNIEmwWM?f

GGC Members: Dr Cynthia Nazario-Leary wrote the following letter the day after our Fall EXPO. She expresses exactly why we make this huge effort that relies on our whole club. Feel appreciated and enjoy!

Dear Master Gardener Volunteers and Gainesville Garden Club Volunteers,

My heart is full and the body tired, but I want to take a moment to extend my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to each of you for helping make this event such an incredible success.

Simply put, this event would not happen without you.

The Fall Horticultural Expo is truly a team effort, and its success is a direct result of the countless hours, dedication, enthusiasm, and passion that our volunteers contribute not only on event day, but throughout the entire year. Whether you were involved in planning, coordinating, setting up, welcoming guests, staffing activities, supporting educational exhibits, or helping with cleanup, your efforts played an essential role in creating a memorable experience for our community.

One of the things that makes this event so special is our ability to bring together the unique strengths of two remarkable volunteer organizations. By combining the gardening knowledge, community spirit, creativity, and service-minded dedication of both the Master Gardener Volunteers and the Gainesville Garden Club, we create something far greater than either organization could accomplish alone. The collaboration, camaraderie, and shared commitment to horticultural education are what make the Expo such a meaningful and impactful event year after year.

That spirit of partnership extends beyond our volunteer teams. We are also fortunate to work with outstanding vendors and exhibitors who embrace our vision and create engaging, interactive, and participatory experiences for attendees. The Expo succeeds because it is a truly synergistic event, with organizers, volunteers, vendors, exhibitors, and attendees all coming together to create a day filled with fun, learning, discovery, and inspiration. Together, we help connect people with gardening, nature, and environmental stewardship in ways that can make a lasting difference in their lives and communities.

I'm happy to share that we welcomed more than 2,500 attendees to the event and initial exit-poll interviews were very positive, with participants expressing how much fun they had, how much they learned, and how wonderful they found the overall experience. We are still compiling participation data from many of the booths and activities, and we expect to have a full event report completed by early November.

For now, I simply want to say thank you. Thank you for sharing your time, your talents, your knowledge, and your enthusiasm. Thank you for believing in the value of horticultural education and community engagement. Most importantly, thank you for helping create an event that inspires others to become better stewards of our natural resources and environment.

With much gratitude,

Cynthia

Cynthia Nazario-Leary, Ph.D. Environmental Horticulture Extension Agent & Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator
UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County
22712 W. Newberry Rd.| Newberry, FL 32669
cnazarioleary@ufl.edu | office: 352.955.2402 | UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING



Megan Kelly McCarthy guest speaker
GGC President Becky O'Brien



Megan. McCarty was introduced by Moe LaTour, 2nd Vice President
Her presentation was "The Florida Food Forest Garden".





On left members select seeds. On top, Kathy Stephens presented an over view of the upcoming Horticulture Expo hosted by GGC & Master Gardeners.



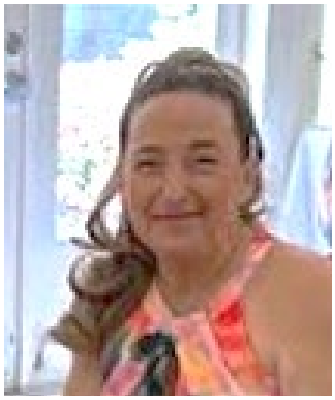
On the left Begonia Circle Chairman Lynnette Worley presented cirlce members Moe LaTour, Blanca McNab, and Jo Lee Houlihan "Pillar of Pride" awards for their service to the club and circle. Congratulations!

SPOTLIGTHING MEMBERS



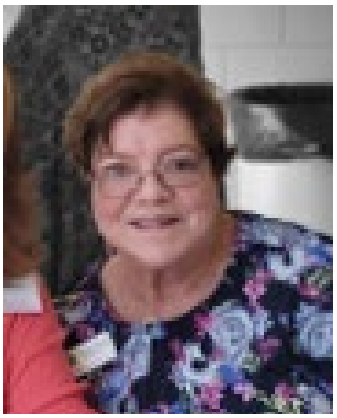
M J Stoeker has served as the Chairman of Wild-flowers and is currently serving on the Board of Directors as the Recording Secretary.

MJ works on many of the club's service projects with the most recent being the Horticulture Expo.



Kristy Welch is the GGC Webmaster Extraordinaire. She creates and maintains the website and provides updates & how to us its sessions for members.

Kristy is also a talented decorator and her services are often used at special events & luncheons!



Susan Thrall is the Co-Chairman of Fun with Flowers, has served as Co-Chair of Gardenia Circle and the Board of Directors as the Recording Secretary.

Susan has served as Registrar for a District V Meeting and helped on countless circle and club projects.



Karen Beaty if the 1st VP of GGC, Membership Chair, Yearbook Chairman, and is on the Board of Trustees.

Karen manages the "Bricks" project; solicits donations for various events and is always available to be of help.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kate Ellington (M), Susan Haynes (W), Susan and Doug Gilmour (J), Jill Denton (G), Brandon Church (J), Sandra Brooker (B), Liz Reed (J), Michael Dennis (M).

FFGC AWARDS 2026

The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. recognizes the achievement of an individual, a club/circle or district that furthers the goals and objectives of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.; the Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.; and National Garden Clubs, Inc. Awards give us an opportunity to:

- give well-deserved recognition to members, clubs, and districts for their hard work and dedication;
- highlight the talents and creativity of our members;
- add to a group's cohesion and pride;
- give clubs credibility and visibility in the community;
- attract new members with fresh ideas and talents, all of which serve to strengthen clubs within the community.

Let's make sure that GGC recognizes all our achievements – all you need to do is to complete and application, or better yet, ask Sandra Arnold, Awards Chairman, if she can help you complete one. For more information about FFGC Awards, go to www.ffgc.org and click on Awards. Deadline for most of the awards is 11/27/26.

MAXIMIZING GGC'S GREEN SPACES, IMMEDIATE NURSERY SOLUTIONS AND LONG-TERM GREENHOUSE VIABILITY

Have a garden project?

In last Spring's discussion about whether or not to build a greenhouse on GGC property, many, many good ideas were advanced by Sandra Arnold and Blanca McNab and most can be done with our existing nursery. So, let's make some plans.

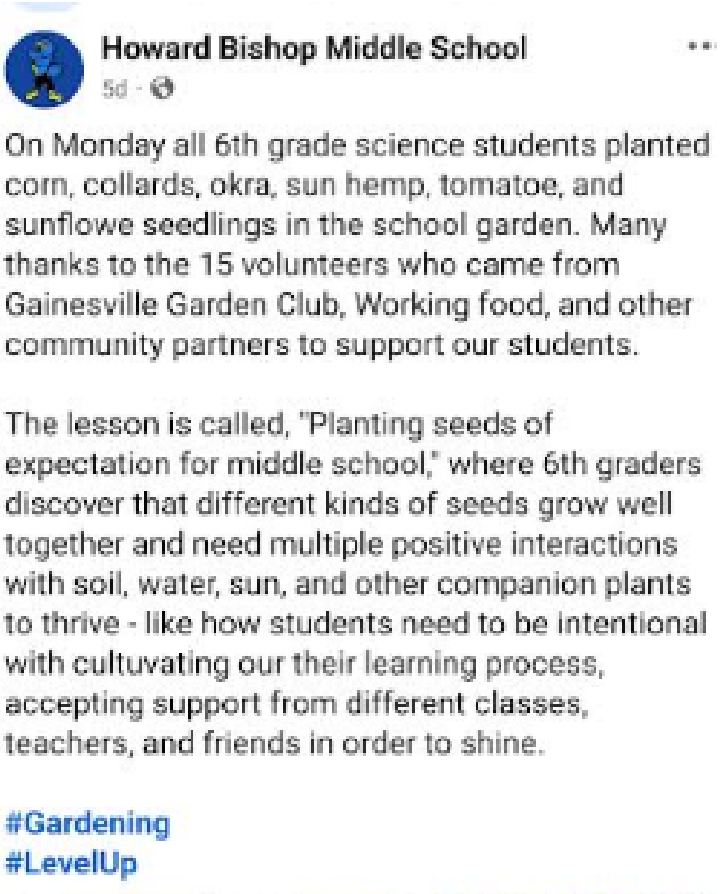
Leah Oehmig, Bruce Cavey, Carol Binello and her husband all worked together to be sure the area is cleaned up, secure and ready to put your ideas into action. We are hopeful we can add potting benches soon. There are currently tables folded up against the fence, many pots and a place for potting soil along the wooden fence line outside the nursery. The watering system works, thanks to Leah. Please coordinate your ideas with Leah, as our nursery manager. leahoehmig@gmail.com.



- Let's put our nursery area to good use for our members and our community:
- Would your Circle like to grow out plants for sale later in the year? A good fund-raiser.
- Would you like to invite a children's group to come learn how to pot up plants?
- Think of a youth outreach project your Circle might like to sponsor.
- Have someone you'd like to invite to guide our members in learning a skill? Many members are from elsewhere and eager to learn good Florida gardening practices.
- Want to lead a workshop to make hypertufa pots? (Look that one up!)

YOUTH GARDENER PROGRAM

Blanca McNabb, Chairman











Howard Bishop Middle School •••
1h ·

Thank you Tractor Supply Co. and Gainesville Garden Club for the generous donations to Howard Bishop's school garden.

Next project: students will design and build pallet compost bins that are safe, durable, and help transform waste into nutrient rich soil.

Thank you Dr. Winant for all you do for our scholars!!!



CIRCLE REPORTS

BEGONIA CIRCLE
Lynnette Worley, Chairman

Begonia Circle has been busy. Moe LaTour and Blanca McNab headed up our efforts for the very successful EXPO Kid's Zone. Many volunteers from all our Circles joined into an operation that served over 500 children and parents coming through to participate.



Begonia Circle provided the sweet dishes for the "Sweet and Savory" menu at the Club's well-attended September General Meeting. At the meeting, **Blanca McNab**, **Jo Lee Houlihan**, and **Moe LaTour** were presented with the FFGC's prestigious "**Pillar of Pride**" award in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the GGC. (Photo on the right)

This month our Circle added two new members: Sandra Brooker (3rd generation Begonia) and Cyndee Park. Under the leadership of Blanca, many of our members have been working in the School Gardens we help with. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be working/assisting getting the Veteran's Park grounds ready for the Veteran's Day commemoration next month. Mary Schindler and Cyndee Park will be hosting their gardens for our Veterans Garden Tour.

GARDENIA CIRCLE
Shelley Warner & Leah Oehmig, Co-Chairmen



Gardenia members enjoyed the first Gardenia Circle meeting with a "Welcome Back" luncheon. We discussed our fundraising and program plans for the year. We selected again to do the product survey fundraising for non-profits we did two years ago with hopes of raising more money as we've previously had a good experience. We had one new member join and had a guest that may also join. (Above members at October General Meeting).

JASMINE CIRCLE
Linda Schoellhorn, Chairman



In August, Jasmine members learned how to grow herbs and plants in Aero gardens in our homes. It is a great tool and can also be used to do starts for planting in your garden. We discussed fund raising and hope to bring back the Wheelbarrow Raffle in the spring to earn money for our Community Project. Jasmine had 40 members present with three guests. We have one new member, Liz Reed.

Jasmines coordinates Women Build Landscaping Projects each year, as well as coordinating circles bringing lunch to the volunteers. Photo on left shows Jasmine members with other Circle members landscaping a Women's Build Home in 2025.

MIMOSA CIRCLE
Patti Farley, Chairman





Mimosa members Karen, Kathy, Julie. Janet, Ami, Sandra D., Laura, Candy D worked at The Veterans Park in early October. Their hard work is greatly appreciated and will soon create a beautiful garden to honor the men and women who gave us this safe country to live in. Thanks again Patti (Note: Patti Candy volunteered but are not in photo).

Cindy Dennis aided the members in putting together the craft project (caterpillar) for the Fall Horticulture Expo. A number of other members worked in various areas throughout the Expo. Sue Farris coordinated a field trip on October 22nd to Landscape Unlimited in Alachua.

Mimosa is pleased to announce that we have a new member, Kate Ellington!

WILDFLOWERS CIRCLE
Co-Chairmen Tim Lambert & Bill Williams

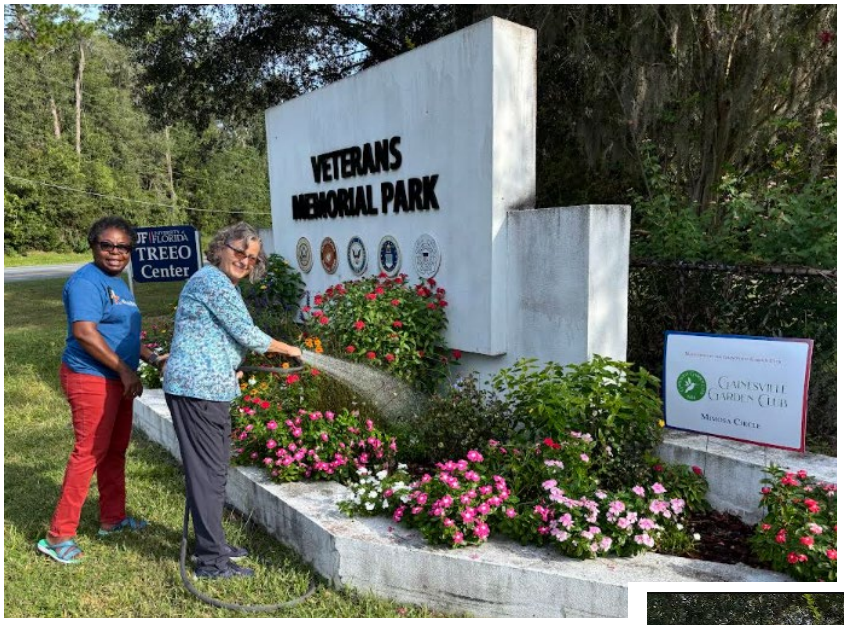
In September, Wildflowers met at "Raise Your Glass Restaurant" for our monthly meeting. Yearbooks were distributed and members signed up to work the Wildflowers table in the Kid's Zone at the Expo on October 17th. We will assist children in coloring bookmarks. Our Circle will also provide coffee for the volunteers on that Saturday morning.

Our next meeting will be held at the Lambert's home. Karen Trull, Master Gardener, will present the "Season to Plant." At this meeting, we will collect money to purchase gift cards for the Elks Children's Mobile Therapy Unit. The Elk Therapists can hand out cards during home visits if family's holiday season looks sparse.

Photo on right: Tim Lambert & Bill Williams are enjoying sharing time with each other during a club meeting.



VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK PROJECT



Above Mimosa members Ami Kanu and Julie Lake take their turn at watering the garden.

Service Projects are a way for the club and its circles to bring beauty to the grounds of schools and gardens within the city and county. It has been Mimosa Circle members honor to have taken on the project of creating a beautiful flower bed at the base of the Veteran's Memorial Park entrance sign.

A number of dedicated Members have been volunteering their time to plant, weed and water the flowers for almost four years.







WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION?

Manage your required minimum distributions while also supporting organizations and causes important to you!

Info for GGC Members

What's a QCD from a RMD for GGC?

Lots of initials for a simple idea. If you are 73 or older and have tax-deferred retirement accounts, may have to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) each year from those qualified accounts.

Funds from a RMD count as income

For many of us retired folks, the RMD is a welcome and needed boost to income. Others reinvest those funds, to add to college funds for grandkids, to travel or to make charitable donations.
All good ideas.

What's a QCD?

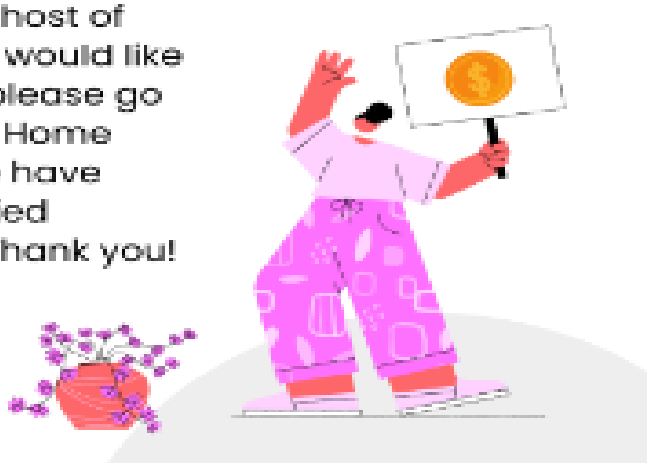
QCD stands for Qualified Charitable Donation. That means donations to qualified nonprofit organizations reduce your taxable income.

And did you know?

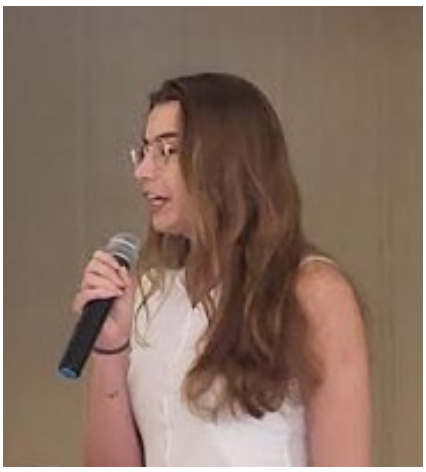
A QCD Made Directly from a Required Minimum Distribution can be deducted from your taxable income for the year. You can request a donation from your RMD in any amount you decide.

Some members have been able to donate to GGC this way

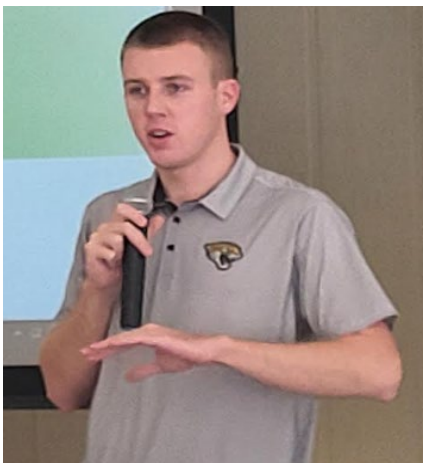
This is not for everyone....for a host of good reasons. However, if you would like more information about this, please go to our **GGC website**. Open the Home page and click on **Donate**. We have details about making a Qualified Charitable Donation to GGC. Thank you!



MIDNIGHT SKY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS







GGC awarded five scholarships and three were present at the General Meeting. Pictured are Taylor Sawyer, Tori Guarino and Tyler Davies. Carter Oleckna and Aharon Heinrich were not able attend. Taylor is a graduate student studying strawberry breeding and Genetics. Tori is a graduate student doing research on waterway plants for restoration; Tyler is an undergraduate studying Agricultural Communication. Carter is a graduate student researching coastal reclamation. Aharon is an undergraduate student in Plant Science.

ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION

Karen Beaty, Chairman

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ADOPT - A – HIGHWAY
LITTER REMOVAL AGREEMENT

Name of Group/ Organization: Gainesville Garden Club

Name of Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) Group Coordinator: Karen Beaty

Street Address: 6427 NW 53rd Terrace Gainesville, FL 32653

City/County: Alachua

Phone Number: 352-256-7209

Date of Litter Removal: February 7, 2026

State Road Number:26010

Number of Miles Adopted: 2

Number of Volunteers: 8

Number of Litter Removal Hours: 20



*(This Number Should Be: Number of Volunteers x Litter Removal Hours = Total Volunteer Hou

Amount of Litter Collected:	Trash:	Recyclables
Number of Bags	5	
Total Weight of Bags**	40 lbs.	lbs.

(30-gallon bag holds approximately 20 pounds of trash)





GARDENIA ORCHID FIELD TRIP

Barbara Wilson shared her Orchid collection with us and then we went to lunch at Spinwiches in High Springs.





















Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

FFGC@ffgc.org | (407) 647-7016

October 16, 2026

Dear Garden Club Members,

FFGC is excited to offer another free webinar to all members. On November 17th, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. EST, join us for "CityZen Garden: Cultivating an Urban Sanctuary" and learn how to incorporate these ideas into your own backyard. The session will be led by the husband-and-wife team, Sherryl Muriente and French artist Beju. To attend, please register by visiting https://forms.gle/DKfF2zdomwDMUygF7 or by going to ffgc.org and clicking on webinar registration. An informational flyer about the webinar is also available.

Grab a cup of coffee or tea because the Fall issue of the Florida Gardener is now online at ffgc.org. Enjoy reading all the articles and discovering what the districts and clubs are accomplishing.

I am pleased to announce two new youth programs. The first is the Garden Club Recognition for Youth Activities, which includes two components: a recognition pin program for youth gardener chairmen and a certificate of recognition for dedicated Youth/Jr. Gardener members. Both applications are available on ffgc.org under Youth, by clicking on Garden Club Program Recognition.

The second new youth initiative is the Scouting and FFGC patch program. This program was created to encourage and empower clubs and districts to recognize the value of partnering with these organizations. Special thanks to Jennifer Barber for bringing this program to FFGC. This can also be found under Youth on the FFGC website.

The 2027 FFGC Convention, "Let's Celebrate" Our Golden 100th FFGC Annual State Convention registration is now open. The convention team is excited about the workshops, speakers and breakout sessions and know you will be too. You won't want to miss the Early Arrival Dinner titled

"The Golden Girls". The districts will entertain you with skits and there will be a dance party afterwards and a free signature drink called "The Rose". We have a real treat this convention and that is a Photography Exhibition Show. The chairmen have been working hard on presenting this and the title is "A Century in Bloom". A Photographic Celebration of 100 Years of Florida's Garden Heritage. You will find the registration to enter on the ffgc.org website. Youth photography is chaired by Jennifer Barber with 6th graders at Wekiva Camp this past summer. There are 67 entries from our talented 6th grade campers.

Wishing you all a beautiful fall day and enjoy those Florida cool mornings.

Best

Christy Linke
FFGC 2026-2028 President

GGC CIRCLES TAKES TURNS CARING FOR OUR BUTTERFLY GARDEN

Gardenia Circle members took time after working in the Butterfly Garden to pose for a photo. Don't they look great!





NGC Membership Monday

The NGC Membership Committee is pleased to present NGC Master Flower Show Judges Bonnie Vaughters and Amye Kelly in a Membership Monday design program. Bonnie and Amye will present a holiday-theme design program, **"Carols Through the Centuries"**, that features songs of the holidays and related floral designs. We hope that you will join us and these fabulous floral designers as they give us a wonderful beginning to the 2026 holiday season.

Please join us on Zoom at **2:00 p.m. CT on Monday November 2, 2026.**

Gale D. Thomas
Membership Chair
galedthomas@gmail.com

Newsletter Submissions

If you wish to submit Circle or member news, projects, programs, or photos for the Fall Newsletter, please send them in by December 22nd to searnold6348@gmail.com.

GARDEN CLUB WEBSITES

Gainesville Garden Club
Websites: ggcfl.org

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC)
Website: ffgc.org

Deep South Garden Clubs
dsgardenclubs.com

National Garden Clubs
Website: NGC.org