

THE SEEDLING

Gainesville Garden Club <http://www.ggcfl.org>
Florida Federation of Garden Clubs <http://www.ffgc.org>

Volume 20
Summer 2026



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Message from President Becky O'Brien

The Fun Scale –

I recently read an article about The Fun Scale. Some outdoor adventurers and mountain climbers came up with a way to think about their experiences as three types of fun. In many ways, I thought it could apply to our various experiences as members of the Garden Club. Consider these:

- ☐ Type 1 Fun: Enjoyable while it's happening and fun to remember later
- ☐ Type 2 Fun: Difficult or arduous in the moment, but deeply gratifying and entertaining to recall once the struggle is over.
- ☐ Type 3 Fun: Not enjoyable in the moment, and not fun to look back on. No fun!

I'm hopeful that all of us have many Types 1 experiences and moments as members. Through our Circle programs, our General Meetings and community projects we want to offer opportunities to learn, to see friends and to make new friends. All these things build lasting and warm memories. We want our GGC membership to be enjoyable and fun to remember!

Type 2 fun is more complicated, but we offer many, many opportunities for this kind of fun. I'm hopeful not too many of our community projects are difficult or arduous, but we do have a lot of club activities that have lots of "moving parts." Think of all the projects we take on together. We plan and produce the Fall EXPO, Circle gatherings, plant swaps, multiple civic projects, garden tours, and we maintain our facilities with Down & Dirty Grounds Workdays, rentals and building hosts, Butterfly and Wildflower gardens, etc., etc.

All these kinds of projects can offer a real sense of accomplishment that is "gratifying." We can pick and choose ones that are of the most interest and sound the most fun!

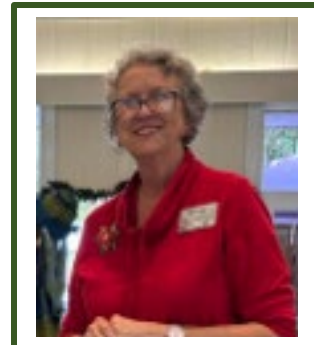
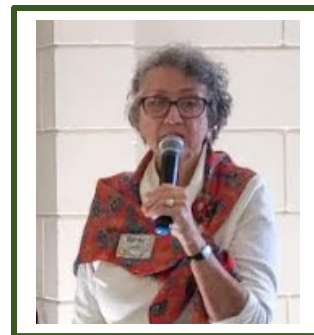
President's Message continued:

And, we have jobs for folks who like to work on their own on a task, or with a small team or a large team. I'm hopeful we offer something for all of us that gives us the rewards of Type 2 fun. Maybe the best is a combo of Type 1 and Type 2. The goal to enjoy ourselves despite the work required and give us pleasure and pride recalling the task.

Type 3 "fun," is to be avoided! And, I hope to goodness, we have not asked anyone to tackle a project or task that was Type 3. (The mountaineers go on to define this as dangerous and life threatening....so the lesson to us is to stay off of ladders as much as possible!)

May your summer offer you lots of Type 1 fun and some Type 2 fun. Take it easy, do something new, enjoy our hot and sticky days, and continue your "rain dances," as we need every inch of rain we can have. The start of our GGC year will be here before you know it to offer even more opportunities for Type 1 and Type 2 fun.

Becky O'Brien



**"Thank you to the 2025-2027 GGC officers and Circle Chairs for your amazing first year!"
"You worked so hard and helped our group grow."**

GGC OFFICERS



Becky O'Brien
President



Karen Beaty
1st VP - Membership



Moe LaTour
2nd VP - Programs



Kathy Stephens
Treasurer



Janet Greene
Secretary

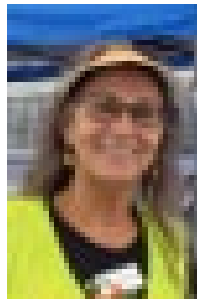
CIRCLE CHAIRMEN



Lynnette Worley
Begonia Chair



Shelley Warner
Gardenia Co-Chairs



Leah Oehmig
Gardenia Co-Chairs



Linda Schoellhorn
Jasmine Chair



Patti Farley
Mimosa Chair



Tim Lambert
Wildflowers Co-Chairs



Bill Williams
Wildflowers Co-Chairs



Sat, Aug 22 | Gainesville Garden Club

POLLINATOR PARTY

Great Florida Pollinator Census

The Gainesville Garden Club invites you to come to their Butterfly Sanctuary at the Clubhouse Grounds on **August 22nd at 10 AM** to participate in a quick citizen scientist project! Leaders will help you choose one plant that is attracting insects for its nectar (sugar water) or pollen (protein for their queen or babies).

After an introduction to show the differences between 4 kinds of bees, wasps, flies, butterflies and moths, you will get a tally sheet and set your timer for 15 minutes. You can stand or sit and mark each time a bug lands on your plant. You will add up each category and submit your findings using a QR code or link to the Great Southeast Pollinator Census.

Pollinators prefer plants in the sun so wear a hat and reading glasses if you need them. Water will be available but bring a beverage if you wish. You can do the Census from your home, but we thought it would be more fun with friends in our beautiful garden! You will see that it's easy enough to repeat at home if you wish.



SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

September 24, 2026

“THE FLORIDA FOOD FOREST GARDENS”

The speaker is Megan Kelley McCarthy who is a certified permaculture design specialist and whole systems educator with a great love for the living world. She studied philosophy at Loyola University of New Orleans and has devoted the past decade to creating communal food forests and educational garden experiences centered in regenerative design throughout her home state of Florida.

Megan will be guiding the Gainesville Garden Club through an introduction to Florida Food Forest Gardens. You can learn more about Megan and her work at - NewRiverGardens.com

Begonia and Gardenia Circles are providing refreshments for the meeting- their 2nd VPs are coordinating this.

EXP and Worm castings shirts will also be available for sale at the meeting.

The start of refreshments/meet and greet will be at 9:00 to 10:00 AM. The meeting will begin at 10:00 AM.



Sat. Oct 17 | Agriculture and Equestrian Center

FALL HORTICULTURAL EXPO 2026

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

2025 Fall Horticultural Expo From Small Beginnings to a Community Tradition

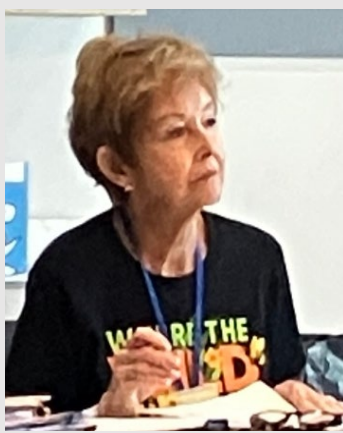
The 2025 Fall Horticultural Expo and Plant Market brought together gardening enthusiasts, environmental organizations, families, and community members for a full day of discovery, shopping, and hands-on learning. What began as a modest plant sale in 2023 has quickly grown into one of the region's most anticipated horticultural events. Expo 2025 drew 1,900 visitors compared to 1,400 in 2024. Gainesville Garden Club treasurer Kathy Stephens, who is also a Master Gardener, and Dr. Nazario-Leary (Environmental Horticulture & Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) Coordinator) combined the strengths of both organizations to create a successful event. An event of this scale requires careful planning and a lot of teamwork. The Steering Committee, with Ms. Stephens as co-chair begins planning in earnest in January each year as the team meets monthly.

Kathy Stephens coordinates the agenda and multiple teams taking on multiple tasks: parking, vendor recruitment, tee shirt sales, educational demonstrations, children's activities, grant writing, publicity, and planning for a keynote address that sets the theme for the entire event. In addition to the large planning meetings, Ms. Stephens works each week with various team leaders all through the year to keep everyone informed and on task. Her current goal is to create a lasting framework for an annual event to thrive and expand.

Speakers and demonstrations provide education that is at the heart of the Expo and theme The 2024 brought Doug Tallamy to speak at the EXPO in 2024 with a theme of "Nature's Best Hope. Plant Native." Last year, Jennifer Jewell set the agenda for Where the Wild Things Grow." This coming Fall we'll welcome Brie Arthur for Edible by Nature, to emphasize plantings for a true food forest.

The Expo isn't just about plants—it's about education, community engagement, and inspiring people to connect with the natural world. It is built on partnerships with dozens of organizations. Civic groups, Audubon Society, Girl Scouts, Grow Hub and multiple state and county park systems all played a part.

On event day, it was truly "all hands-on deck," with about 170 volunteers ensuring everything ran smoothly. 45 GGC members set up on Friday and 75 volunteered on Saturday. Plus, many members prepared for the Expo in advance but were unable to attend. Exhibitors and plant vendors fill a large arena all ready to welcome the public to a free event that exceeds expectations each year!





Short Course attendees picked up their course materials at the club on May 31st. Above: Paula Waterman, Short Course Chairman, fills the gift bags which were given to attendees. Left: Mona Rippe assists attendee.

Bottom L-R: Leah Oehmig, Kathy Stephens & Moe Latour. Bottom Right: Beth Breitenbach & Barb Trainor.

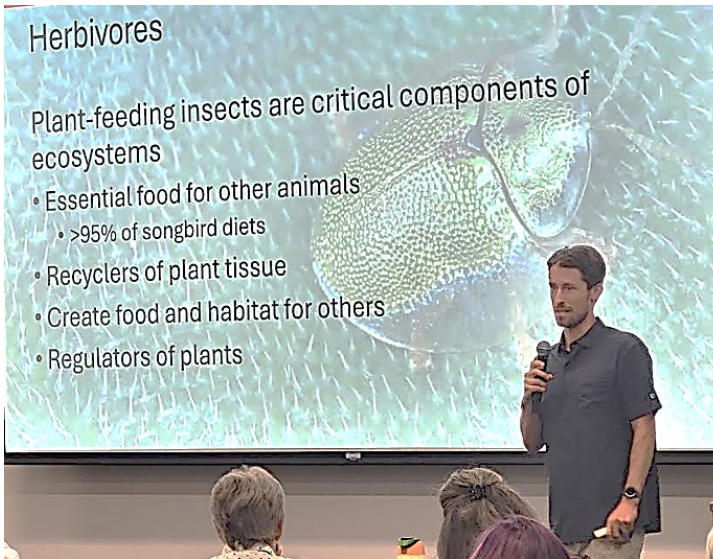


Members sold plants and gift items to attendees for their Circles and She Shed.

Bottom left: Laurie Spears and MJ Stoeker, Wildflowers Chair.

Bottom right: Linda Miller & Karen Beaty.





Jeremy Rhoden, UF/IFAS Marion County Extension presented “Counting on Pollinators: The Great Southeast Pollinator Census”.



Dr. Shelley Johnson, UF Wildlife Ecology Department presented “Wildlife in the Landscape: Who Made That Hole?”



Paula worked hard & kept on smiling.

R: Mona Rippe and Mary Birch-Hanson greeted attendees and sold 50/50 & gift basket tickets.



Circle members baked food for several meals and on Tuesday, made sure the food dishes were kept full and the pots & pans were cleaned following lunch.



Story Time in the Garden

Hosted by the Gainesville Garden Club with Miss Florida 2025 & Author, Paris Richardson!



On June 7, 2026 attendees received a free copy of Miss Richardson's book, *"The Not-So-Perfect Garden Project"* toured the Butterfly Garden and potted a plant.

Above: GGC Members (L-R): Leah Ohimeg, Kristy Welch, Miss Florida, Moe Latour, Blanca McNab, and Mary Munson.

Also shown in photos on left: Barb Trainor (in blue) and on

Story Time in the Garden

Children & parents toured the garden and were shown how to pot a plant.



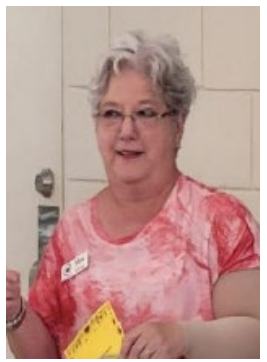
Paris Richardson is the founder of C.R.O.W.N. of Health, a statewide initiative rooted in her early work as a student leader C.R.O.W.N. of Health, which stands for: Community, Research, Outreach, Wellness, and Nutrition which is a prevention-focused initiative designed to make wellness accessible and actionable across Florida. GGC supported her in this initiative by hosting the Storytime event.

Thank you, Kristy Welch for coordinating this wonderful event!

GENERAL MEETING – MAY 7, 2026



Becky O'Brien, GGC
President 2025-2027



Moe Latour, 2nd VP &
Program Chairman



Karen Beaty, 1st VP &
Membership Chairman



Speaker Dr. Rachel Mallinger



Dr. Rachel Mallinger



Karen Beaty welcomes
new members to the
club!



Above: Becky O'Brien
presented an FFGC Pillar of
Pride Pin and Certificate to
Kathy Stephens for her
contributions to the club.
Congratulations, Kathy!



Right: Sandra Arnold, receives
FFGC Award for the GGC
newsletters she published in
2025 from the District V
Director Jo Lee Houlihan.





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Top left: Karen Markey, Horticulture, Wildflowers and Native Plants Chairman, coordinated the plant exchange.

Top right: Claudia Lambert speaks with Barb Trainor; Sue Farris looks on.

Bottom left: Lois McNamara, answers questions about plants; explaining where and how to plant them.

FFGC & GGC TRIVIA

What is the name of the current FFGC President?

What is the name of the FFGC 1st VP? (Hint – she is a member of District V)

When was GGC formed?

When did GGC join FFGC?

Answers on Page 25



MOTHER'S DAY GARDEN TOUR

May 09, 2026

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Gainesville Garden Club

1350 NW 75th Street



Tour at the home of Kathy Stephens



MOTHER'S DAY GARDEN TOUR

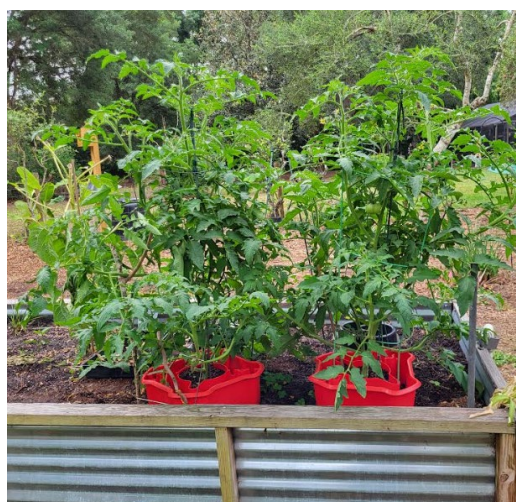
TOUR OF THE HOME OF RANDY BATISTA



L-R: Valerie Mountjoy, her son, Becky &



Randy Batista with attendees.



MOTHERS DAY TOUR LUNCHEON

The Mother's Day Tour attendees were treated to lunch and each received a very nice mini-vase of flowers!



Karen Markey coordinated the event and was helped by other members such as on left: Leah Oehmig and Kathy Murphey.

R: Kathy M, Laurie Spears, Leah O. and Shelley Warner.



Attendees were encouraged to create their own vase of flowers using all of the items assembled on the table. They enjoyed doing this as show in photo.



**DISTRICT V SPRING MEETING
CONTEST PHOTOS BY GGC**



Go Gators
Kitty Redfern, Gainesville Garden Club



Pelicans at Sunset
* Cynthia Quartel, Gainesville Garden Club



Squirrel Eating Corn
* Sandra Arnold, Gainesville Garden Club



Black & White Beauty
Kitty Redfern, Gainesville Garden Club



Buckeye Butterfly in Garden
Sandra Arnold, Gainesville Garden Club



Monarch Caterpillar
MJ Stoeker, Gainesville Garden Club



Night Blooming Ceres
Laura Davis, Gainesville Garden Club



A Landscape of Flowers
Sue Legge, Gainesville Garden Club



A Rose is A Rose?
Kitty Redfern, Gainesville Garden Club

**DISTRICT V SPRING MEETING
CONTEST PHOTOS BY GGC**



Lady Bathing in Garden
Kitty Redfern, Gainesville Garden Club



Passion Flowers
MJ Stoeker, Gainesville Garden Club



Hanging in There
Kitty Redfern, Gainesville Garden Club



Bumble Bee on Flower
Kitty Redfern, Gainesville Garden Club



Praying Mantis
MJ Stoeker, Gainesville Garden Club



Bumble Bee on Cone Flower
Sandra Arnold, Gainesville Garden Club *



Pelican Pruning
Kitty Redfern, Gainesville Garden Club



Frog in Gator Bird House
Candy Pigot, Gainesville Garden Club



Looking At You
Sue Legg, Gainesville Garden Club

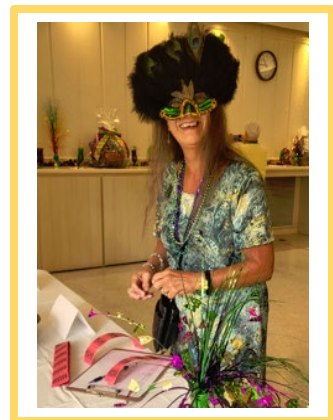
Photos were judged in 7 different categories. The photos won by members in GGC are marked with an *.

MARDI GRAS LUNCHEON – MAY 28, 2026

Hosted by Mimosa & Begonia Circles



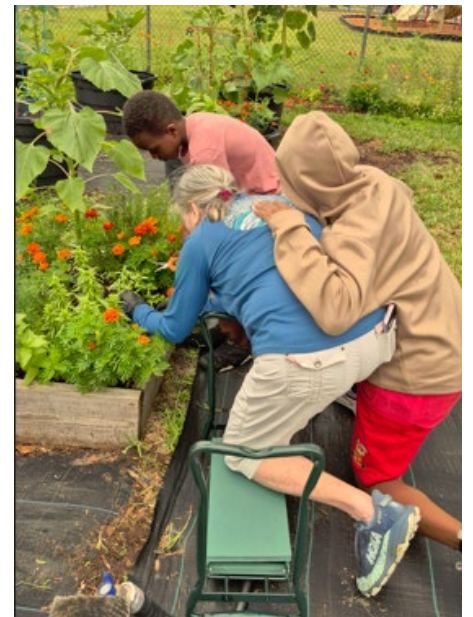
Begonia Members gathered on stage for a photo!



YOUTH GARDENEER PROGRAM



The Youth Gardener Program doubled in size this year thanks to the efforts of Blanca McNab, Youth Gardener Program Chairman and the volunteers. The students interested in learning about gardening meet weekly throughout the school year.



ALACHUA WOMEN BUILD PROJECT

Dear Women Build Volunteers and Friends,
Alachua Habitat for Humanity's Women Build program invites you to join us at 9 am on Thursday, July 23rd, to celebrate the completion of our House #19 and to welcome Tanisha and her family to their own, new home.

AWB House #19 is located at the corner of SE 17th Terrace and SE 4th Avenue in Gainesville (the address is 404 SE 17th Terrace) and nearby street parking is available. Please email us or call our Google Voice phone number (352-559-4336) if you have any questions about the dedication.



If no one picks up when you call, leave your name and a call back number and we will get back to you.

You helped make this celebration possible! One hundred women volunteered their hard work, time (3,061 hours), and sweat to building the house. Once again, we are grateful to the Gainesville Garden Club (GGC) for designing, donating, and installing landscaping, and to the many members of the GGC and the Altrusa Club, plus other individuals, who kept the builders very well fed. Numerous donations from Women Build supporters helped finance the house, and we especially thank Dr. Kim Kazimour for her generosity. Thanks also to the City of Gainesville, the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, Wells Fargo, Federal Home Loan Bank, Radiant Credit Union, and the CH2M Hill Alumni Association Legacy Gift Fund for their support.

Anna Golson (on Saturdays) and Tim Ruelke (on Thursdays) served as our ever-patient mentors and site supervisors, and Jill Carter and Kathy Carroll kept the trailer well stocked and very organized. We also thank Alachua Habitat for Humanity's construction team — Beth Kurtzman (Construction Director), Julie Endres (Construction Administrative Assistant), and Gene Drury and David Owen (Construction Field Coordinators) — for their expert guidance and for making sure that all the necessary materials and supplies were on hand at the right time.

If you cannot attend the house dedication, please check out the photos on our [Facebook page](#) a few days later. While on the page, you can view the entire process of building AWB House #19 from the slab to the completed, landscaped home.

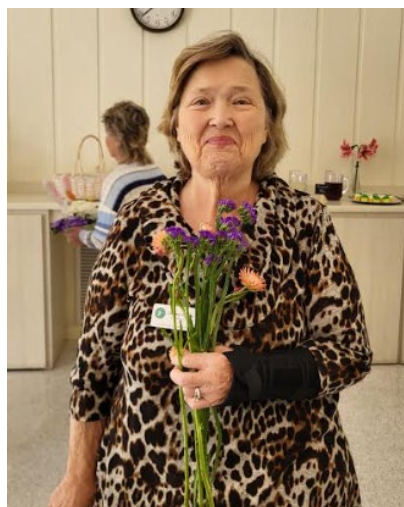
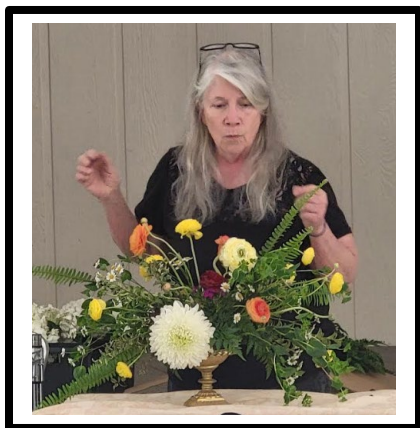
We look forward to celebrating with you on July 23rd. Please stay tuned for an announcement about the start date of our next house, hopefully before the end of 2026.

As always, thanks for all of your support,

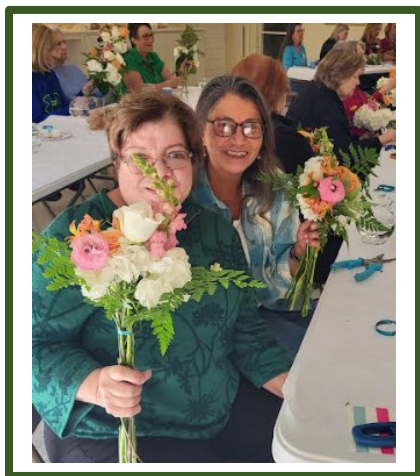
—The Alachua Women Build Steering Committee

Note: At the Dedication Jasmine donated a garden bench for the front porch and Begonia donated gardening supplies: shovel, rake, loppers, gloves, bag, trowel. All circles, except Begonia provided lunches during the build.

FUN WITH FLOWERS



Shelley Warner, FWF Chairman



FWF CALENDAR

October 12, 2026

March 16, 2027

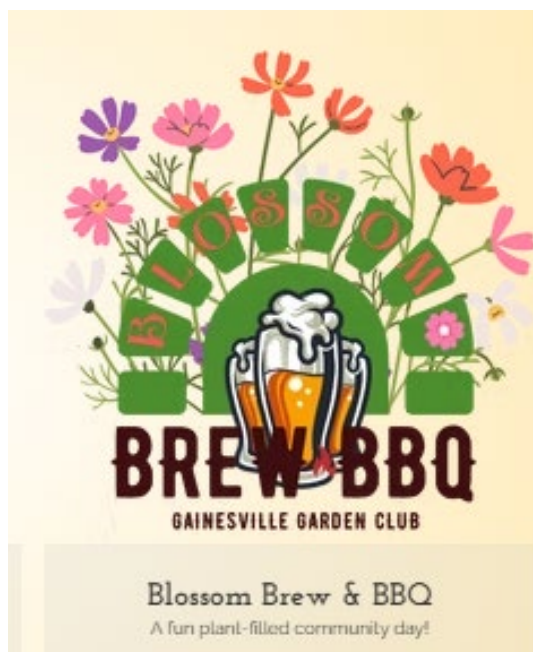
November 10, 2026

April 20, 2027

January 19, 2027

Please make your reservation on or before the first day of the month the FWF Workshop is being held.

BLOSSOMS & BREW& BBQ 2026



HONORING A LEGEND



Inez loved seeing flowers in bloom



Inez & Lynnette at a GGC luncheon



Inez stands proudly by her design

Honoring a Legend

By Lynnette Worley

My name is Lynnette Worley, and I currently serve as chair of the Begonia Circle. I consider it an honor to have the privilege to write a few comments regarding the passing and legacy of GGC's longest serving member, **Mrs. Inez Brooker**.

Inez grew up in a farming/agricultural background, and that is where she probably developed her lifelong love of all things "green and growing".

Soon after her arrival in Gainesville, one of the first things she did was to establish her membership in our club and get right to work. During her distinguished nearly 70-year membership in our club, she held just about every position including that of GGC President and FFGC District V Director.

As a Master Judge and Floral Design Instructor, her talents and influence extended across the entire United States as well as Central and South America. The stories that she could relate to these trips could easily fill two/three articles including the time of her catching the last Eastern Airlines flight back home during one of those periodic Peruvian revolutions.

Probably the pinnacle achievement of her Design career occurred in 1994 when she and her close friend, Carolyn Smith, were asked to represent the Americas at the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show in London, earning a Silver Medal for their floral arrangement.

Inez once remarked to my husband that "they might still be miffed that two former Colonists" had won such a prestigious award. I cannot personally verify that this is a true story - - - that is just what he told me.

One of the items that really struck me was seeing Inez's name among the GGC Board of Trustees that had "guaranteed" the original mortgage of the current building that we meet in. Those ladies really had some moxie.

Finally, it is to acknowledge that Inez was truly one of those special people that we only occasionally get to meet in this life. Friendly to a fault, always opening her home for anything and everything, and able to fill up a wall with an encyclopedic knowledge of gardening and plants – she will be so missed.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

GGC is so pleased to have so many wonderful new members join the club: Theoan Altschul, Elizabeth Amdur, Nancy Anderson, Ed Byers, Lewis Cole, Sandy Davis, Steve DeCubellis, Michael Dennis, Jack Fine, Bonnie Flunn, Claudia Hardly, Henry Hardy, Carol Hazy, Katy Kavagh, Jason Kawaja, Tim Lambert, David Lindberg, Sandy Lloyd, Joy Lynch, Gabriela Mateescu, Pamela Morrison, Mike Parker, Susan Percival, Mary Plankenhorn, Ryan Plankenhorn, Sarah Pratt, Mercy Quiroga, Manny Quiroga, Wei Wei Ritzhaupt, Michael Spino, Nelwyn Townsend. Members are encouraged to introduce themselves and show them around the club!



Above: Karen Beaty welcomes new members at the May General Meeting. Each received a gift bag & sunflower.



The She Shed Craft Group continues to work during the summer months. This picture is them celebrating Janet's birthday (green shirt – top left), only after discussing what crafts we be sold at the Expo.

FALL Horticultural
Expo 2026

WE WANT YOUR VINTAGE HORTICULTURE ITEMS!

→ WE WILL BE HAVING A VINTAGE SALE AT THE EXPO! →

Please bring your donations to the
GAINESVILLE GARDEN CLUB
SEPTEMBER 24, 2026
AT OUR GENERAL MEETING
OR YOUR CIRCLE MEETING IN SEPTEMBER

Your vintage garden treasures will help support the Fall Horticultural Expo 2026 and our community.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- Antique & vintage HORTICULTURE and GARDENING BOOKS
- Vintage WATERING CANS
- Vintage VASES
- Vintage garden containers & planters

- Vintage garden DECOR and decorations
- Botanical PRINTS & artwork
- Any vintage horticultural treasures you may have

→ THANK YOU! YOUR DONATIONS WILL BE SOLD AT OUR FALL EXPO! →

FRESH IDEAS LOCAL GOODNESS

GROW EAT THRIVE

Let's Grow Together!

GAINESVILLE GARDEN CLUB
ALACHUA COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

Proudly Present

FALL Horticultural
Expo 2026
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026

LOCATION:
Alachua County Agriculture & Equestrian Center
25700 W. Newberry Road
Newberry, Florida 32569

TIME:
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

CIRCLE NEWS

Mimosa Circle - Members volunteered: at the Butterfly Garden, GGC Grounds Workdays, Roadside Clean-up and prepared and delivered lunches to Women Build. We maintained the Veterans Memorial Park Tower Rd Planter and organized a plant sale with Dillard's raising \$700 for The Children Miracle Network. Members volunteered at the Expo, sold crafts/sweets at GGC Holiday Market, donated \$300 to the Midnight Scholarship, \$250 to The Independent Project, and sponsored one child to attend



M.J. Stoeker announced that she was stepping down as Chair of Wildflowers June 1st, 2026. Thank you M.J. for all you did for Wildflowers. Our new Co-Chairs will be Bill Williams and Tim Lambert. Thanks. Bill and Tim

Wildflowers served a luncheon to Ladie's Habitat Build in April. We were excited to tour the 4-bedroom home the ladies were building.

Wildflowers purchased our second acre of pines for the GGC year of 2025-2026 from Penny Pines. We also contributed \$250 to the Midnight Sky Scholarship Fund at GGC. Our Circle provided a scholarship for a child to attend Camp Wekiva for a week this summer.

Wildflowers were saddened at the loss, in late May, of longtime member, Maggie Viele. She will certainly be missed.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MAKE PLANS TO SHOP



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

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



Something for everyone!!

Service Dogs are welcome!

Want information on being a vendor?

email: kmlt1724@gmail.com

call: 352.332.0426

<https://www.ggcfl.org/upcoming-events>



Holiday Market

This year the Holiday Market is December 5, 9am – 4pm. As a reminder this is a club fund raising event. We are looking for additional members for our planning and coordination team. Our next planning meeting is August 26, 9:30 in the Laura Carmichael Room.

This is a great friend making event with amazing creations, just in time for the holidays. Shopping is always a pleasure with our excellent makers and wonderful volunteers. A flyer will be available at the September meeting, for you to share in your community.

This is a great opportunity for student volunteer hours.

Questions about joining our committee, volunteering, student volunteers or booths please reach out to Mary Hanson or Barb Trainor or Beth Breitenbach.



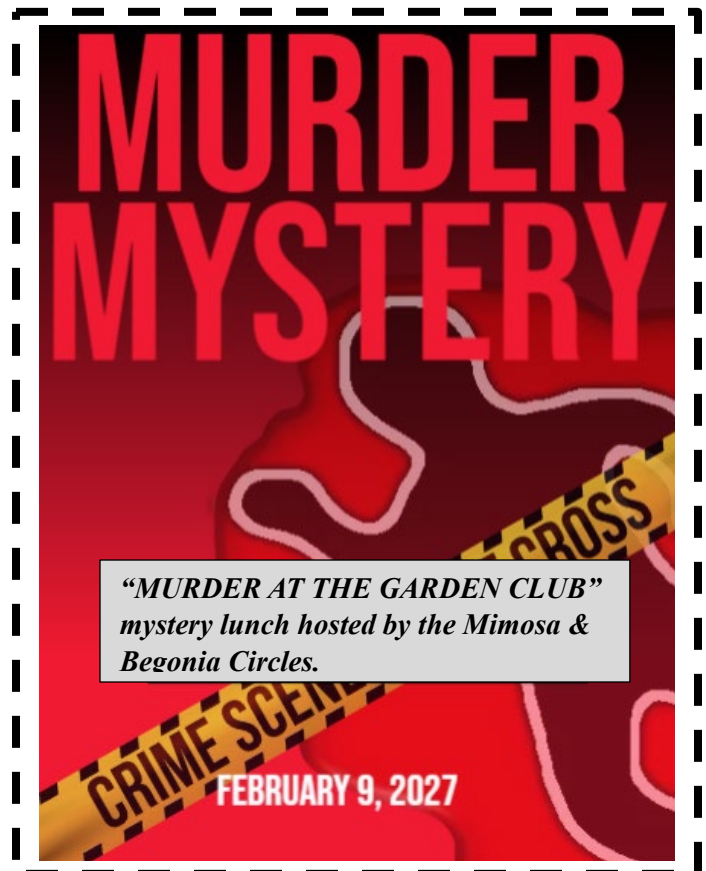
Flowers, butterflies, bees, and murder at the Gainesville Garden Club and its gardens is a beautiful backdrop for a diabolical who-dun-it. We've got the perfect murder mystery luncheon for you. One of the club's beloved officers

is murdered and attendees will have to find out how & why it happened. A prized, rare seed worth thousands of dollars goes missing – could that be a clue? Or, was it because of jealousy between officers? Did one of them want the others position? Did the victim steal club funds? Or, die from a poisoned petal?

The suspects are narrowed down throughout the event. Suspects are questioned and then votes are taken. The first attendee to correctly name the murderer will receive a prize.

More information about the murder mystery luncheon "Murder at the Garden Club" will be in the Fall Newsletter. Tickets can be purchased beginning in December.

Questions? Contact Sandra Arnold at 352 870-6161 or email her at searnold6348@gmail.com.



Holiday Herb Planters 2025



Leah Oehmig, Carol Wiltbank, Kathy Post, Carol Hazy, Susan Thrall



FWF CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP



Mimosa bought flowers, and greenery for a FWF Student Workshop at Alachua Elementary School. We helped the students make flower arrangements for Mother's Day. Several members also helped at Open Door Ministry doing the same activity.



THE GAINESVILLE GARDEN CLUB 2026-2027 CALENDAR

GGC 2026-27 CALENDAR -

August – 2026

- 18 – EXPO planning, IFAS
- 22 – Pollinator Census at GGC.
- 26 – Grounds workday – early to beat heat
- 27 – BOD “Get-ready Lunch for 2026-27”

September – 2026

- 10 Circle Meetings
- 15 Board of Trustees – 9:30
- 15 EXPO Planning - 1:30 at IFAS
- 17 Board of Directors
- 24 General Meeting for All Members

October – 2026

- 1 Grounds Workday – Down & Dirty!
- 6 EXPO plans, also 10/13, 10/20
- 8 Board of Directors
- 13 Fun with Flowers
- 16-17 Fall Horticulture Expo (set up on 10/16)
- 22 Circle Meetings
- 27 Fun with Flowers

November – 2026

- 4 District V – Fall Meeting – Ocala
- 10 Fun with Flowers
- 12 Board of Directors
- 14 Veterans Day Garden Tour
- 19 Circle Meetings
- 20 Grounds Workday – Down & Dirty!

December – 2026

- 3 BOD Meeting
- 4 Ronald McDonald Gingerbread House
- 5 Holiday Market at GGC
- 10 General Meeting – Holiday Design Workshop, 9 -11:30 am
- Holiday Wonderland Shop
- 17 Circle Meetings

January – 2027

- 12 Board of Trustees
- 14 Board of Directors
- 17 Florida Arbor Weekend – Sunday
- 19 Fun with Flowers
- 21 Circle Meetings

February – 2027

- 9 Mimosa/Begonia Fund-Raiser
- 18 Board of Directors
- 21 Blossom/Brew/BBQ at First Magnitude
- 25 Circle Meetings and Combined Circle

March – 2027

- 2 Grounds Workday – Down & Dirty!
- 12 Sip and Stroll Evening Fundraiser
- 16 Fun with Flowers
- 18 Board of Directors
- 25 Circle Meetings

April – 2026

- 1 Spring Luncheon/ Dillard’s
- 5-9 FFGC Convention
- 15 Board of Directors
- 20 Fun with Flowers
- 22 Circle Meetings
- 27 Grounds Workday – Down & Dirty!

May – 2027 – TBD – DV Spring meeting

- 6 General Meeting – End of Year Event and Plant Swap,
- 8 Mother’s Day Garden Tour
- 11 New Board of Trustees
- 13 New Board of Directors
- 20 End of Year Circle Meetings
- *** TBD, Master Gardener Plant Sale

June – 2027

- 6-8 UF/IFAS Short Course
- 24 Grounds Workday – Down & Dirty!
- 12 GGC Summer Garden Tour – Flag Day

July/August – 2027

- 22 Grounds Workday – Down & Dirty!
- 21 August - Pollinator Census
- 26 August – Grounds

Jan 2027 Fall Expo Planning Meetings - IFAS
Monthly to be added

*New inclusion TBD – 6 monthly sessions for
Floral Design Series with Claudia Bate:

Calendar as of 07/08/2026



The FFGC annual convention is our 100th. Such an exciting time. It is also installation of Officers.

FFGC & GGC TRIVIA

- ! Name of the current FFGC President – Christy Linke
- ! Name of the FFGC 1st VP – Mary Whisler
- ! GGC was formed in 1924
- ! GGC joined FFGC in 1927



It's been a rough summer but I made it - how about you?

Newsletter Submissions

If you wish to submit Circle or member news, projects, programs, or photos for the Fall Newsletter, please send them in by October 15th to searnold6348@gmail.com.



PETALS OF THE PAST, ROARING 20^S NIGHT, TEA PARTY AT HISTORIC MANSION, TOUR UNIV OF ALABAMA FOOTBALL STADIUM, DESIGN PROGRAMS, GREAT FOOD, FUN, FRIENDS, AND SHOPPING



National Garden Clubs (NGC)

PLANT AMERICA was established in 2017, guided by former NGC President Nancy Hargroves.

With NGC's commitment to community-focused initiatives, PLANT AMERICA thrives and supports NGC's mission to foster a passion for gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental stewardship. Through various projects, PLANT AMERICA beautifies public spaces, educates both children and adults about gardening, and instills pride in local, city, and county efforts.

As we continue to grow, we are working on expanding our reach and impact across the nation.

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

