

THE SEEDLING



Gainesville Garden Club, Inc.
<http://ggcfl.org/ggc>
Volume 10

Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
<http://www.ffgc.org>
Fall Issue 2023

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I start to write this message, I want to say thank you to Mo Dawson for doing *The Seedling* for so many years and at the same time thank Sandra Arnold for stepping up to continue our newsletter. This is a worthwhile communication for GGC and I encourage each of us to support Sandra's efforts in this endeavor.



We have had a very busy fall and at our first General Meeting in September we had an informative talk with Steven Starks discussing Pollinators. In October, we hosted FFGC's District V Meeting with its theme being "A Spooky Halloween". We had a lot of fun and the State Officers really liked our decorations.

We had an entry into the Gator Homecoming Parade letting everyone know that we have been a part of Gator Nation for 100 years. On November 3rd we held Aged to Perfection. This was a magnificent event with Nick DeCarlis Quintet playing music during the evening. The food and beverages were just delicious. There were both live and silent auctions, too.

As we move to December, we have our Holiday Workshop on December 5th. Our own Claudia Bates will lead us in a holiday design. Of course, the She Shed along with other Circles will have lots of goodies for sale. You do not need to do the design to come and shop. The Ronald McDonald Gingerbread Event will be held at Legacy Park in Alachua on December 8th. We do have a group of GGC members who will be competing in the gingerbread competition. This should be lots of fun as well. Sunday with Santa is scheduled for Sunday, December 17th. This is a free event for our members to bring children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews as well as children of friends to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus.

There are so many things celebrating our 100th Birthday in the New Year. Be on the lookout for more information. We will continue to have a wonderful time. I am so proud of Gainesville Garden Club and all we do. Have a very Happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful Holiday Season to you and yours.

Yours in Gardening,
Jo Lee Winterrowd-Houlihan

Jingle & Mingle

Register and Mark your Calendar

HOLIDAY DESIGN WORKSHOP

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023 - 9 TO NOON

CREATE YOUR OWN WONDERFUL HOLIDAY CENTERPIECE -
"PEPPERMINT TWIST" \$35.00 EVENT FEE

CLAUDIA BATES, FLORAL DESIGN INSTRUCTOR FOR
FFGC, NCH & MASTER FLOWER SHOW JUDGE

REGISTER AT CIRCLE MEETING WITH CASH OR CHECK,
GGC WEBSITE TO REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE

ANNUAL HOLIDAY WONDERLAND SHOP
ORNAMENTS, HOLIDAY DECOR
BAY TREES, AND GARDEN GEAR

DELICIOUS TIDBITS TO NIBBLE AND FAMED BLOODY
MARY AND MIMOSA BAR!

*YOU DO NOT HAVE TO REGISTER TO COME SHOP!

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT BY CASH
OR CHECK IS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2023.
REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT VIA GGC WEBSITE OPEN
UNTIL DECEMBER 1ST.

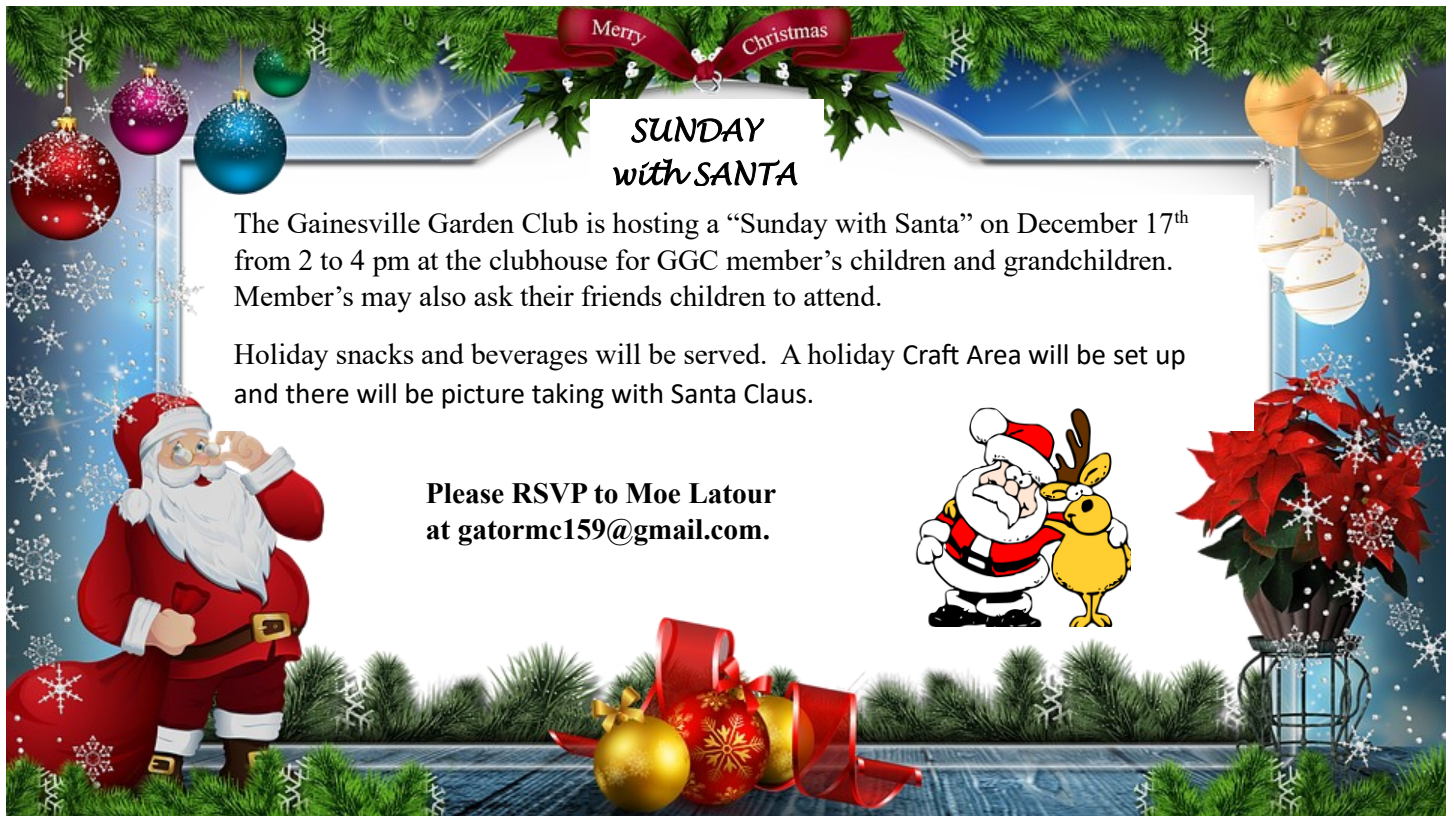
CIRCLE TREASURERS: PLEASE COLLECT MONIES/CHECKS
AND DEPOSIT TO CIRCLE ACCOUNT, THEN SEND KATHY
STEPHENS, GGC TREASURER, ONE CHECK OR TRANSFER
TO GGC ACCOUNT WITH NOTE ON HOLIDAY DESIGN
REGISTRANTS.

SIGN UP TODAY
THROUGH YOUR CIRCLE
or AT GGCFL.ORG.



Photo of the
Peppermint Twist
Arrangement.





BEGONIA'S TEA PARTY

If you did not attend Begonia's Tea Party on September 28th, you missed out on a special treat. Begonia members split into teams; each decorating a table with a tea pot or floral arrangement with tea cups and fancy napkins. Attendees were treated to an array of mini sandwich's, savory biscuits and an array of petite desserts. A white elephant auction was held with Becky O'Brien officiating. A great time was had by all. Thanks Begonia!





Women Build Supporters Needed



Attention, Attention!! Looking for people interested in supporting Alachua Women Build (WB) with their 17th house. In the past, the Gainesville Garden Club has supported WB by designing and installing landscaping at the end of the project AND during the project by providing lunches to the volunteers. Since the landscaping project is about 6 months in the future, this article will only address lunches. There should be a sign-up sheet at your Circle's monthly meeting for you to indicate which date you prefer. If you don't find a sign-up sheet, you can email Jill Carter (jill_w_carter@outlook.com) and let her know which date you prefer. Lunch providers can individually supply lunch or they can team up with others to provide lunch. So, what are the details needed to provide lunch?

House construction occurs on Saturdays. The house will be located in the Greater Duval Neighborhood (east of Waldo Road). WB is hoping to start building on Saturday, Nov. 18. The exact date is dependent on the City of Gainesville Building Department. Any food is fine; it doesn't need to be fancy. You can either go out and purchase lunch or make a lunch and deliver it. WB has had pretty much everything under the sun - bagged sandwich lunches, pizza, gourmet soups and salads, chilis, casseroles, fruit, desserts. We ask that you please provide something for vegetarians. Several regulars and even the meat-eaters really love the veggie food! Target one-fourth of the total headcount for vegetarian meals. Nowadays the total number of volunteers is between 17 - 22, as WB caps the number of volunteers at 20. (There may also be a site supervisor and of course the homeowner.) A headcount will be emailed to the lunch provider the Thursday before the build day. WB provides cutlery, serving utensils, napkins, dishes, tablecloths, and drinks. WB suggests arriving around 11:15 am to allow you time to set up the food before the builders break at 11:30a. Of course, you may come earlier if you wish. Someone at the site will help you.

A WB Steering Committee member will introduce you to the homeowner and give you a tour of the construction site. You are welcome to stay and chat and/or eat with the volunteers – or you may just drop off and go. The volunteer builders REALLY love gathering and bonding over a plate of healthy food!

Thanks in advance for your consideration! Please contact Jill Carter with any questions.

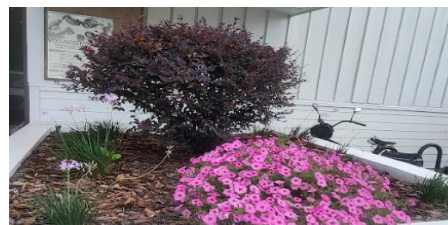
FFGC Opportunity Drawing Tickets

Take a chance, you might win one of the many prizes such as: Two-night stay at Disney Resort; Two Night Stay at Southbank Hotel, five card gift baskets valued at \$500 each. \$2.00 per ticket. Make checks payable to FFGC Convention 2024.

Please note: The address where the stubs are to be mailed is incorrect. The correct address is 9900 Norman Riley Road instead of the one listed.

GARDENIA'S COMMUNITY SERVICE

Gardenia Circle members have been landscaping the Hospice Attic front planters for a long time and their work is much appreciated by Hospice and those that visit.



BEE CITY USA

The City of Gainesville has recently joined 195 other Bee City affiliates in the US. In Florida there are 2 other affiliates, Pinellas County, and the Town of Webster. Gainesville becoming a Bee City USA means the City has made commitments to conserve native pollinators in a resolution adopted by the City Council. City Staff, County Staff, and community members work together to carry out the commitments and make Gainesville a better place for pollinators.

Pollinators are keystone species in essentially every terrestrial ecosystem on earth, assisting in plant reproduction and supporting other species of wildlife. Pollinators touch our lives in numerous ways each day, including being responsible for approximately 1/3 of the food & drink we consume. The value of crop pollination has been estimated to be between \$18 and \$27 billion annually in the US. Today, up to 40% of pollinator species may be at risk of extinction in the future due to habitat loss, pesticide use, and climate change.

Bee City USA provides a framework for communities to come together to conserve native pollinators by providing them with healthy habitat that is rich in a variety of native plants. The focus of Bee City USA is on native bees, and in the United States there are over 3600 native bee species.



FDOT District 2 is supporting Gainesville's Bee City commitments by providing native wildflower seeds to be planted this fall along various roads in Gainesville. The Gainesville Garden Club supports the city's efforts by working with FDOT to weed and plant wildflower seeds in a number of mediums throughout the city. Pictured above is Neil Greishaw, Alachua County Horticulturalist, Jeff Ogburn, is the District 2 Vegetation Management Coordinator, and Karen Markey, represents the Gainesville Garden Club as Horticulture Chairman.



Wildflowers started the year with a get-together luncheon at Metro Diner. A great time was enjoyed by all. Our October meeting was a tour of the Leveda Brown Environmental Park. We learned so much information about recycling. We purchased 1 acre of pines for Penny Pines, and several members worked at Age to Perfection.

One of Wildflowers service projects is the Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services which provides in-home physical and occupational therapy to FL Children in need of such services. This rehabilitation is necessary to be rendered in the home because of the absence of these services locally or because of the patient being medically infirmed at home. Priority is given to children who do not have ready access to therapy as a result of financial considerations. Wildflowers purchased 13 gift cards for the program this year. These cards can be distributed by therapists as they visit homes where Christmas may be sparse. We have been contributing to this worthy cause for over 10 years and recently received a letter of appreciation from Colleen Gallant, PDGER, Director of the Florida Elks Children's Therapy Service.

Our next meeting will be our Annual White Elephant auction, with Fran Maris as auctioneer.

Claudia Lambert

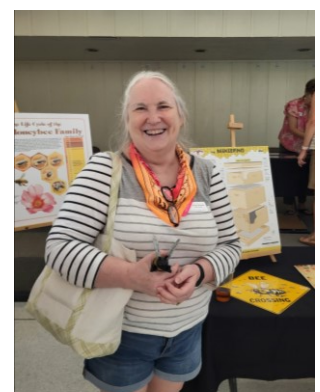
**GGC GENERAL MEETING
September 14, 2023**



President Jo Lee Houlihan welcomed guests. Becky O'Brien, 1st VP and Karen Beaty, Program Chair, presented new members with sunflowers. Thank you to Jasmine Circle for providing an array of delicious food, which was enjoyed by all.



PRESENTATION
**PROTECTING BEES and POLLINATORS
& HOW TO DO BACKYARD BEE KEEPING**
Speaker Steve Sparks, Levy County Backyard Beekeepers
Karen Beaty, Program Chairman



FUN WITH FLOWERS

Fun with Flowers was held at the club on October 17th and was well attended. Prange's Florist taught attendees how to create a beautiful arrangement. She moved about the room and made sure that each person understood what she had said, while encouraging their creativity.

Shelley Warner chairs this program; schedules the florists and with the help of Susan Thrall and other members, the tables were set up with everything that the attendees needed. If you wish to attend the next workshop, you will need to go to the club's website ggcfl.org and register.



FFGC AWARDS JUDGING December 11, 2023 10 am – 2 pm

COME ONE, COME ALL – Members who have judged before, as well as those who have written award applications for their clubs are invited. We will be meeting at the FFGC Headquarters on Monday, December 11th from 10 am to 2 pm. Lunch will be served. Headquarters address: 1400 South Denning Drive, Winter Park, FL 32789.

Attendees will work in groups of 3 or 4 and will judge applications from clubs, other than their own. Evaluation and scoring forms will be available at each table.

Awards Judging Day gives attendees an opportunity to network and get to know each other. It is also a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the award application process. As you review and discuss the pros and cons of each application during judging, you will learn more about what is comprised in a winning application.

Please **RSVP at flawards2024@gmail.com** if you plan to attend.

Looking forward to seeing you on December 11th.

Sandra Arnold, FFGC Awards Chairman



Aged To Perfection

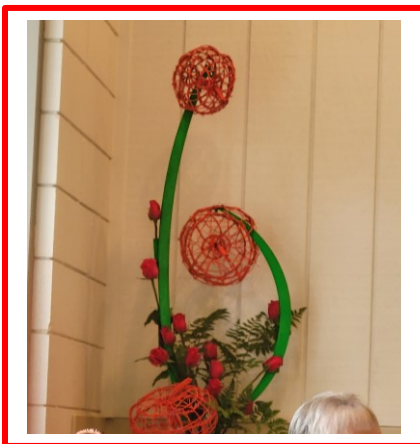
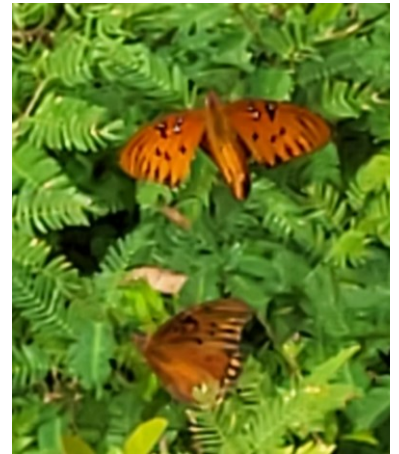
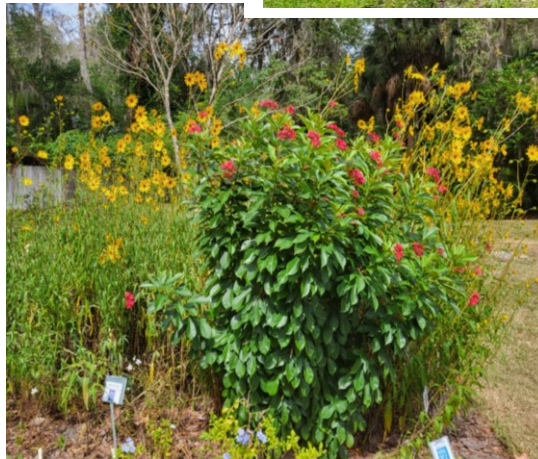
GAINESVILLE GARDEN CLUB'S JAZZ'N FOR GOOD 2023

On November 3rd, the annual “Aged To Perfection” fundraising event was held at the Gainesville Garden. The event had a new, more upscale look as the fantastic designed logo, designed by Cindy Bennett, displayed. The Nick DeCarlis Quintet played wonderful, passionate jazz. Linda Schoellhorn chaired the event with the help of a creative and hardworking committee of members. Mo Dawson, chaired the food committee. She and members created a variety of delicious savory dishes and desserts. So delicious. Bruce Cavey decorated the clubhouse with creative and beautiful arrangements. Karen Beaty chaired the committee on items for a live auction, a silent auction and items for sale. What a fantastic job!



THE BUTTERFLY & WILDFLOWER GARDENS at the Gainesville Garden Club

If you haven't spent time in one of the two GGC gardens, you have missed so much - the array of flowers and the beauty of the butterflies and bees that hover over them. Thanks to the hard work of Kathy Fanning, who took advantage of the removal of a large tree in our east grounds to scatter wildflower seeds, an array of wildflowers sprang up in glorious bloom. Lois McNamara, chair of the Butterfly Garden spent numerous hours tending it and working with club members as they weeded, watered and mulched the beds. She focused on installing plants that benefited pollinators and created signs that identified the various plants. The photos below show the wonder and beauty of the gardens.



KUDOS to Lorene Junkin, an accomplished floral designer, for the beautiful arrangement she created for club events.

On the left is a creation she made for the Begonia Circle tea held in September.

On the right, is a creative arrangement she made for the September GGC General Meeting.

Thanks, Lorene for sharing your talent!





99 YEARS AND STILL BLOOMING!

On September 11, 1924, eight ladies met to organize a garden club to create a more beautiful city. This group ultimately was to become the Gainesville Garden Club and in 1927 became affiliated with the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.

When founding members created the club, they envisioned a small organization to further their garden research and to enhance city spaces. Because they did not have a place to meet, they gathered in members' homes which limited enrollment. However, by 1930 the new club was such a success that over 100 women had asked to join and garden circles were initiated. The first four circles were Founders, Azalea, Camellia and Oleander and they met monthly from September to May.

During the early years the Garden Club focused on civic projects and city planning and in the 1940's were active in providing assistance to servicemen and in sending packages overseas to war torn Europe. The Garden Club with other civic organizations worked together to establish a Community Cultural Center, a portion of which was allocated to the Garden Club for a library and meeting place; the Garden Club members landscaped and maintained the grounds of the Center. Left to right, front row: Mrs. Pound Sr., Mrs. Day; Mrs. Bashaw, Mrs. Parrish Sr., Second row: Mrs. McDonald, Mrs. Getzen, Mrs. Simmons, Mrs. Philyaw. Back row: Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Nieland, Mrs. Borland, and Mrs. Garris.



A New Home With the blossoming growth of the Garden Club, it soon became clear that a permanent location was needed. In 1968, four acres of land were donated by Dr. Lamar & Mrs. Louise Roberts to build the current Garden Center. In the 1990's a generous endowment by Laura Carmichael allowed for the addition of a smaller building for more meeting space. The entire campus has been enhanced with several patios, walkways, gardens and a demonstration butterfly garden. These buildings continue to be the site of garden club meetings, lectures, demonstrations, exhibitions, and plant and garden sales as well as weddings and other special events.



The Gainesville Garden Club turns 100 in 2024

In order to appreciate the club turning 100, we need to look back on the 99 years of service and the impact the club has had on the county, city and its citizens since being formed in 1924. In 1927 the Gainesville Club of Gainesville (name changed later), was admitted to the state federation. The club became a member of the American Tree Association and planted a Cedar Tree in the City Park. Members planted shrubs and flowers at the Old City Gates on Alabama Street, now known as 6th Street and trees along East University Avenue to Newnan’s Lake.

In 1933 GGC hosted the FFGC Convention in Gainesville at the Hotel Thomas, which is known today as the Thomas Center. In the mid to late thirties, the club developed a city planting plan with each Circle taking a section of the city and developing it year after year. The club landscaped the grounds of various schools, the library, and planted palms and day lilies along US Highway 44.

During World War II the Garden Club sold war bonds and sponsored dances for servicemen. Funds were given to the Red Cross, the USO Recreation Center, and the Army & Navy Emergency Fund. The impact of the war made even greater inroads on the Garden Club. Again, stepping out of character, the Garden Club appointed a War Services Committee Chairman. The club was asked to donate Christmas packages for servicemen. Old pocket books with flower & vegetable seeds, bobby pins and small items were shipped to war torn Europe.

During the years that followed the club continued its work in the community. It began holding Fun with Flowers Workshops; built the entrance to the Evergreen Cemetery and planted flowering trees on the inside of the cemetery; landscaped gardens at the Girls Club, Thomas Center, Ronald McDonald House, Winn Dixie Hope Lodge, ACORN Clinic, local schools, collected materials for a Garden Therapy Project at the Union Correctional Institution and went on field trips like the one taken to the Gainesville Sun (Right: members are shown at the Gainesville Sun Building). The club also provided a nativity scene each Christmas which was placed in front of city hall. (Photo below).



GGC was declared a Butterfly Sanctuary, one of 20 in the state, and donated funds and volunteered at local gardens. The club planted Crape Myrtles along 16th Ave. corridor with signs, and began roadside pickup along a section of 13th Street as part of “Keep Alachua County Beautiful.”

GGC has always supported its men and women in the military and dedicated a Blue Star Memorial Marker at Kanapaha Veterans Memorial Park, and a Gold Star Families Memorial Marker at the VA Medical Center. We have just taken on a new project at the Memorial Park – installing plants under the park’s entrance sign that is along South 75th Street (see below).

Circles continue to support local seniors in our community by hosting FWF workshops and donating floral arrangements to local senior centers and nursing homes.

Members of GGC are proud of the many years of community support; the foundation of teaching about gardening, protecting our environment; and developing friendships with those who share similar interests. Deep foot prints of service have been left behind and many more will be made with the many projects, workshops and projects that lie ahead. It feels good to be part of a club turning “100”. We can look forward to the *Centennial Celebrations* in 2024.



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The Gainesville Garden Club held a tour of member's gardens on Saturday, November 11th. The tours were selected and coordinated by Karen Markey who presented each garden host with a plaque.

One of the gardens in the tour was Delores Buffington's. The Garden tour was well attended and received \$160 in donations which will be donated to local veteran services.

Pictured below is Delores Buffington receiving her participation plaque and pictures of her garden.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Beachy Susie | Beachy, Jay |
| Brooks, Deanna | Childers, Nancy |
| Fippinger, Cindi | Genden, Edie |
| Grayson, Illene | Kane, Theresa |
| Keller, Gloria | Lake, Juliette |
| Malkemes, Valerie | Mattison, Anne Marie |
| Munson, Mary | Nielsen, Cindy |
| Troughton, Gary | Troupe Cheryl |
| Troupe, John | |

GGC & FFGC CALENDAR

November 2023

- 16 Combined Circle Meeting – Begonia & Mimosa hosts.
- 21 Fun with Flowers
- 29 Grounds Workday

December 2023

- 5 Jingle & Mingle Holiday Design Workshop – General Meeting
- 8 Ronald McDonald House Gingerbread House Luncheon – GGC will be selling items.
- 14 Circle Meetings
- 17 Sunday with Santa



Newsletter Submissions

If you wish to submit Circle or member news, projects, programs, or photos to the Winter newsletter, please send them in by December 17th, to searnold6348@gmail.com.

Thank you,
Sandra Arnold, Editor

GARDEN CLUB WEBSITES

Gainesville Garden Club
Websites: ggcf.org



Deep South Garden Clubs
dsgardenclubs.com



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



National Garden Clubs
Website: NGC.org

