



The Seedling

Volume 17 Autumn 2025

Gainesville Garden Club, Inc.

<http://ggcfl.org/ggc>

Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

<http://www.ffgc.org>

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Message from President Becky O'Brien

Congratulations all around!

Dear Gardening Friends,

The weather has finally turned a cooler corner and our thoughts turn to upcoming holidays. It's a busy time for GGC and for our friends and families as well.

As you'll read in this newsletter, we are now taking a short breather after the EXPO and looking forward to a wonderful variety of happenings and events. For the last two years, we have started our garden club year with a tremendous effort that created the Fall Horticultural EXPO and Plant Market.

Congratulations all around for a wonderful event that is helping us establish a legacy partnership with the Master Gardener Volunteers and a legacy program for the public. We are particularly proud of the strong educational component to the EXPO with a keynote speaker and demonstrations – all well received. We think we are developing a unique and welcoming EXPO that supports local efforts to "grow a greener world." Planning for 2026 will start in January!

In November and December, there are many ways to become involved as a member. You are not expected to participate in all our upcoming events – although, we would welcome that! I encourage you to try different things and find what you really enjoy doing. Our calendar notes also give a preview of 2026.

Happy Fall to us all and thank you for the many exceptional ways you support GGC.

Becky O'Brien
GGC President, 2025-27



SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING



Above Moe LaTour introduced Lily Anderson-Messec, Director of the Florida Native Plant Society who spoke on "Your Yard Matters". The society advocates for the conservation, preservation, and restoration of native plants and native plant habitats within the state of Florida.



On the left Lily Anderson-Messec speaks to the 80 attendees made up of members & friends from the community.

On the right Moe LaTour speaks with the GGC President Becky O'Brien.



Midnight Sky Scholarship Recipients

In 2025 scholarship were given to three students - Tyler Davies, Carter Oleckna and Tori Guarino. Carter and Tori came to the General Meeting in September.

On the left is Tori Guarino and on the right Carter Oleckna. Both expressed appreciation for their scholarship at the meeting.



DISTRICT V FALL MEETING

October 10, 2025

DISTRICT V NOTES

Jo Lee Houlihan, District V President

THANK YOU to Gainesville Garden Club for giving Newberry Garden Club our facility to host the District V President's Tour on October 11, 2025. Newberry did an outstanding job of decorating and hosting this meeting which had 67 people in attendance. President Christy Linke along with 1st Vice President Mary Whisler, 2nd Vice President Leticia Gunn and 3rd Vice President Maria Wolfe were their guests and gave a very informative power point presentation on FFGC and all the many aspects. Concentration was given to Youth Gardeners and Wekiva. District V Committee Chairs addressed this meeting with Paula Waterman giving funds from Short Course - half to District V and the other half to FFGC. The profit is split between the Host Club and District V. Marge Hendon, District V Membership Chair gave her report along with Chairman of Wekiva, Devon Villareal-Dabbs giving a lengthy report. Claudia Bates, District V Chairman of Floral Design gave her report on the upcoming Floral Design classes being held in Gainesville for Courses 1-6. An invitation was given to the district to attend.

After a wonderful Italian lunch, we heard reports from those Clubs in attendance. Sandra Arnold, District V Awards Chairman gave a workshop on awards which was found very informative and hopefully we will see many awards for District V at the convention.

The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Convention will be held April 14-16, 2026, at the Embassy Suites in Kissimmee, Florida. You can register now on the FFGC Website. You will see the many wonderful speakers that will be at this convention along with the workshops. I encourage you to attend.

The next District V meeting will be held by Citrus Garden Club on May 13, 2025. Stay tuned for more information about this event. I look forward to seeing you at the convention and our next district meeting.





Kathy Stephens & Linda Miller



Thank You to all those who volunteered prior to, during and after the event, and the Sigma Alpha Sorority, Women Build Team and other community helpers.



Savannah Johnson, Paula Waterman
Gerardo Medrano on the PR Committee.



Expo Keynote Speaker Jennifer Jewell – Host
Host Nationally Syndicated Radio & Author.



Moe Latour – headed up Kids
Zone. Lorene Junkin in red.





2025 HORTICULTURE EXPO VOLUNTEERS

Ann Osterling, Ann Wehmeyer, Ami Kanu, Arlene Smillov, Barbara Smith, Barbara Trainor, Becky O'Brien, Beth Breitenbach, Bev Giordano, Blanca McNab, Brenda Sullivan, Bruce Cavey, Candy Dennis, Carol Binello, Carol Wiltbank, Carolyn Harrell, Catherine Ziegler, Cat Parsons, Cathy Stewart, Chris Waldman, Cindy Dennis, Claudia Lambert, Dale Williams, David Wilkomm, Don Welch, Donna Berthold, Doris Harvey, Eli Redston, Elise Webb, Fairlie Bagley, Fran Maris, Gail Cook, Gerardo Medrano, Jan Brown, Janet Greene, Jean Akins, Jill Carter, Jim La Tour, Julie Lake, Karen Beaty, Kathi Bowker, Kathleen Powell, Kathryn Stephens, Kathy Ames, Kathy Murphey, Kathy Post, Keith Legg, Kitty Redfern, Kristy Welch, Laura Davis, Laurie Spear, Leah Oehmig, Linda Miller, Linda Schoellhorn, Lisa Davies, Lois McNamara, Lorene Junkin, Lynnette Worley, Mary Birch-Hanson, Mary Chiozza, Mary Munson, Mary Schindler, Merris Pappas, Masuma Downie, MJ Stoeker, Mo La Tour, Mona Rippe, Nancy Loeper, Nadine Russo, Nicki Byers, Olivia Dann, Pam Fuller, Patti Farley, Paula Waterman, Penny Clark, Ruth Ann Wycoff, Sandra Arnold, Savannah Johnson, Shelley Warner, Sue Farris, Sue Legg, Susan Lash, Susan Thrall, Steve Provost, Teresa Chalkley, Terry Medrano, Terry Murphy, Theresa Stevens, Valerie Mountjoy, Vikki Wallace, Wilma Gordon, Wayne Berthold. Sigma Alpha Sorority, the Women Build Team, and other community helpers. (Note: Not all of the volunteers listed are in the above photo)





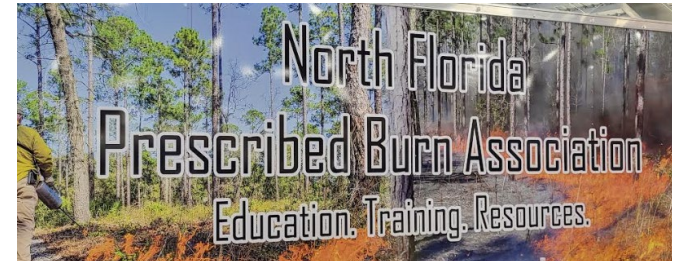




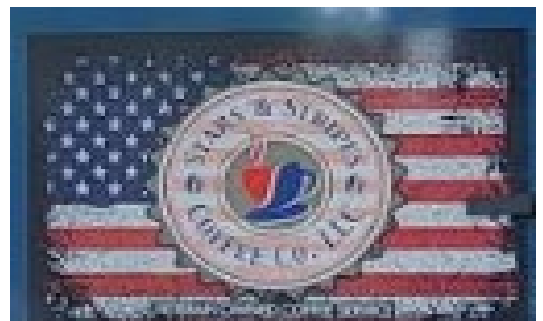
TABLESCAPES

Newberry GC - "Papas Farm, Grandmothers Sunday Best-Farm table Erma Cobb. **Begonia** - "Picnic With The Wild Things". Donna Berthold, Beth Breitenbach, Ruth Ann Wycoff. **Mimosa** - "The Enchanted Roselle Meadow" dinner table Patty Farley and Candi Dennis. Bruce Cavey designed their centerpiece. **Wildflower** - "As Our Gardens Grow So Do Our Friendships" MJ Stoeker, Nadine Russo (tall rabbit in centerpiece). **Gardenia** - "Flowers Today Are The Seeds For Tomorrow" dinner for 2 (layered flower centerpiece). Vicki Wallace, Kathy Murphy, Brenda Sullivan. **Donna Berthold** - booked and merchandised the tables. **Jasmine and Kristy Welch** did their décor.





Thank You
Vendors!



2025 Fall Horticultural Expo Wrap Up

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.

How to Grow an Expo

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 required careful planning and a lot of teamwork. The Steering Committee appreciates the countless hours that GGC members gave over the past 10 months. 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.

A Mission with Roots

The Plant Market visitors found fall-blooming plants, vegetable starts for the cooler season, perennial shrubs and trees, wildflower seeds, and pollinator pots. Leah Oehmig assisted Kathy Stephens with the 30 vendors from recruiting to loading out the arena. Steve Provost and Jill Carter marked booth spaces. Suzanne Rowett organized our gear.

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 that Fran Marris Organized. Civic groups, Audubon Society, Girl Scouts, GrowHub and multiple state and county park systems all played a part.

Speakers and Demonstrations

Education is at the heart of the Expo and theme "Where the Wild Things Grow." Keynote speaker Jennifer Jewell of Cultivating Place presented "Sow Wild Wonder". She highlighted the impact of gardeners on our culture with "Big G" Gardening.

Kathy Post organized five demonstrations including GGC's Bruce Cavey's Capture Wildness in a Vase. Each circle displayed a fall floral tablescape organized by Donna Berthold. Gardenia Circle presented Fun with Flowers for adults and added a very popular FwF for Kids. Jasmine Circle staffed the bird house decorating and other booths and parked cars. Begonia Circle led the Kids Zone and She Shed. Becky O'Brien coordinated the speaker's talks and book sales. Karen Beaty headed up t-shirt and apron sales. Mona Rippe trained and supervised cashiers.

Spreading the Word

The Publicity team included Paula Waterman, Mary Birch-Hanson, Cat Parsons, Savannah Johnson and Gerardo Medrano. Kristy Welch designed the webpage and arena decorations. Several GGC members wore a Master Gardener hat as well, such as Carol Binello, Lois McNamera with wildflower seed and Nicki Byers with cut flowers. David Willkom was part of the music group.

Expo 2025 was a fun team effort and everyone's help was appreciated.

IMAGE **PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST**

**Capture the essence of the
Fall Horticultural Expo on Oct 18, 2025!**

- Submit your 1 best photo that could stand alone as the “Image of our Expo” in future years.
- Format: PNG or JPG horizontal
- Maximum Size: 25 MB
- GGC Members & MGVs are eligible
- No photos showing a child's face
- Deadline: **December 1, 2025**
- Visit Publicity/Photo Contest via button below!



Holiday Market

Saturday November 29, 9am-4pm

We are sold out, with thirty-seven artisans/crafters, as well She Shed, Mimosa, Begonia and Jasmine all have booths. This year the artisans have donated items for door prizes and we will have a 50/50 drawing. Another new addition: food will be offered for sale during the Holiday Market.

Last year you were so responsive in helping to make this event a success. We hope that you will help again this year. On Saturday we need hostesses to welcome people, sell tickets, and assist with the pantry collection. Friday afternoon we could use some help in setting up and decorating. Please share information regarding our Holiday Market.

Our event team is thrilled with the response to our Holiday Market



FREE admission

Bring non perishable food item as a donation for local food pantries.



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

for information on being a vendor
email: kmit1724@gmail.com
or call (352) 331-0428

[HTTPS://WWW.GGCFL.ORG/UPCOMINGEVENTS](https://www.ggcfl.org/upcomingevents)



FEATURING: local artisans, crafters, plant, and food vendors

HOLIDAY DESIGN WORKSHOP



TIME & LOCATION

December 11, 2025

9 AM - 12 PM

About the event

GGC General Meeting & Holiday Design Workshop

Floral Designer: Bruce Cavey, the esteemed Owner of Gardener Extraordinaire, is a well-respected figure within the floral design community. Recognition as a dedicated life member of the Gainesville Garden Club reflects his long-standing commitment and contributions to the club and his field. Bruce is an active participant in the Jasmine Circle, and known for his focus on promoting horticultural education and floral artistry. His passion for floral design is evident in his innovative arrangements and his ability to inspire others in the art of creating stunning floral displays.

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. This gathering will not only serve as a delicious start to the day but also as a wonderful chance to connect with fellow floral enthusiasts and share in the festive spirit of the season. The brunch will feature 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 10:30 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. It is a valuable opportunity for members to voice their ideas and suggestions, fostering a collaborative environment that encourages growth and creativity within our group.

Holiday Design Workshop: After the meeting, from 10:45 AM to 12:00 noon, participants with tickets are invited to engage in an enriching Floral Design Class. Led by Bruce Cavey himself, this class will delve into the intricacies of holiday floral arrangements, offering hands-on experience and expert guidance. Attendees will learn various techniques, including color theory, composition, and the selection of appropriate materials to create stunning floral arrangements. This class is designed for all skill levels, from beginners eager to learn the basics to seasoned floral designers looking to refine their craft. By the end of the session, participants will leave not only with their own unique floral creation but also with newfound knowledge and inspiration to apply in their future designs.



Tickets: The cost of admission is \$35 per person for participation in the Workshop portion of the morning. Tickets will be available for purchase starting October 1st and will remain on sale until December 1st. We encourage everyone interested in participating to secure their tickets early, as this event is expected to attract a large number of floral enthusiasts eager to celebrate the season and enhance their design skills.

Purchase tickets on line at www.ggcfl.org. Deadline to purchase tickets - December 1st 4 PM:

Ticket type

Holiday Design Workshop

Sale ends

Dec 01, 4:00 PM

Price

\$35.00

+\$0.88 ticket service fee

Quantity

0



Growing, Gardening, Journaling - Coming Up January 2026

Come discover a new way to enjoy your garden through artmaking. In this two-part workshop, we'll provide you with materials and ideas to start your own garden journal.

Class 1 In the first class we'll see examples of journaling in nature and in the garden...and the myriad ways a journal can bloom to suit *your* whims and interests! We'll also cover basic observational drawing techniques to help you get grounded in your journal. Wed, January 21, 5:30-8pm at GGC - Making a mark. Materials, journal provided

Class 2 We'll dig into a deeper exploration of art materials and techniques in the second class! Come experiment with a variety of mark-making tools and find out what piques your inspiration. Sunday, January 25, 2-5pm at GGC - More choices - pens, watercolors, pencils. Come to one or to both: \$50 per class or \$75 for both.

Classes will be taught by an experienced teacher, gardener, nature appreciator & artist - Angela DeCarlis, MFA. Angela encourages anyone to try this out. No experience needed and all first-timers are welcome. Becky O'Brien is signing up even tho' she reports she's hapless at drawing. "I love looking at my plants and want to try to draw what I see for my own pleasure and notes. No art shows in my future.")

Sign up information will be posted, soon! Come with a friend.



AGED TO PERFECT – SIP & STROLL

Save the Date – March 13, 2026 – for a Spring Aged to Perfection – celebrating 101years! We are planning a Sip and Stroll affair with delicious hearty appetizers, yummy drinks and a live music for ambiance. Shifting to the Spring will enable us to enjoy our own lovely gardens, so put it on your calendar and wait for more information!

If you would like to assist in any way, contact Linda Schoellhorn (Lschoell@gmail.com or text 352-226-0102).



Please don't hurt or kill opossums! They can withstand up to 80 rattlesnake or coral snake bites - thanks to them, we have snake venom antidotes! Plus in a single week, 1 opossum can eat 5500 larval ticks and they rarely contract rabies.

Opossums are your friend! ❤️

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



In Remembrance – Eugenia (Jean) Fouraker

Jean Fouraker passed away on September 11, 2025 after a short illness. We remember Jean for her generous spirit, unlimited energy, genuine kindness and sincere commitment to the Club and the Jasmine Circle. During her 8 years as a member, her contributions were extraordinary, by any measure. “Sorry but I can’t help” are not words anyone would associate with Jean Fouraker. She was the person you could count on to step up and do an exceptional job, every time, and always with humility. Taking the spotlight was never her way. With Bill, her husband of over 50 years, Jean opened her garden to us for multiple tours, sharing her love of camellias, Japanese maples and making us believers that a shade garden was aspirational.

As a Grounds Chair, Jean took a lead role in conceiving and creating the Celebration Garden that graces the Laura Carmichael grounds. As Inventory Chair, Jean worked tirelessly to organize and maintain our linens and kitchen equipment, no small task! She volunteered to host rentals, worked on developing the area for memorial bricks, served on countless committees and participated in many of our community projects. And, as a 1st Vice President for Jasmine, Jean’s was the face of Jasmine Circle meetings. Greeting members, enthusiastically welcoming guests and keeping us in line when it came to our nametags.

Our time with Jean was far too short. But her legacy and mark on the GGC is indelible. We hope to have a Celebration of Life for our dear friend sometime in the future.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Monica Garcia – Mimosa

Cathie Ziegler – Begonia

Nancy Anderson – Gardenia

Carol Hazy – Gardenia

Bonnie Flynn – Gardenia

Nell Townsend - Gardenia

Debbie Coats - Jasmine

Mary Carter - Jasmine

Katy Kavanagh – Jasmine

Wei Wei Rizhaupt - Wildflowers

ROADSIDE CLEANUP

We have our first Roadside (2025-2026) cleanup scheduled for Saturday, November 15 from 9am-11am or noon. We are working with the State of Florida DOT to conduct litter removal on a portion of 13th Street from Archer Road (South) to 16th Street (GHS) (North).

The roadside cleanup will be done in pairs, and Karen Beaty has openings for **eight more** volunteers (first come-first served). She has all the supplies that we will need including vests, trash bags, signs, carts, pickers and water. However, she will need a volunteer count by this Thursday.



We will review the procedures for litter bag collection at the Adopt-A-Highway Signs (at Archer Road and at GHS) Karen has a volunteer who will coordinate this with all walkers. Star Automotive at 706 NW 13th Street has agreed to let us use their property as a staging and parking area (just don’t park in front of dumpsters).

Please contact Karen if you are able to help. Karen needs all volunteers to review a short DOT safety video before the actual cleanup. Karen will send this info to each volunteer once she has your name. Our designated area is only 2 miles, on both sides of 13th Street, so if we have 16 volunteers, the faster we get done.

Hope you can volunteer and if not this time, then sometime in 2026.

WILDFLOWER AREA

In the fall of 2022 native wildflowers were sown on the GGC grounds in an area surrounding the stump of a large oak tree that had to be removed following heavy storm damage. Since then, the area has gone through various stages. In June of 2023, *Coreopsis leavenworthii* dominated.



However, in May 2025 black eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia hirta*) put on a fantastic show, blooming by the hundreds, for months. (It was a dry spring and black-eyed Susans thrive in dryer conditions.) - Lois McNamara

Our wildflower garden is designated as
a Bee City Gainesville garden.



Hello, friends of Bee City Gainesville!
Please join us for our next public meeting.

Monday, July 21 , 2025 at 10:45 am

Location: Alachua County Library

[Library Partnership Branch](#)

[912 NE 16 Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601](#)



Pollinator Party for the Public

The Gainesville Garden Club hosted the 2nd Great Florida Pollinator Census on August 23, 2025 🌸 Unfortunately rain limited attendance to 12 guests. We showed the differences between 4 kinds of bees, wasps, flies, butterflies and moths that participants tallied for 15 minutes. Native plants host our native pollinators. They submitted their findings using a QR code to the Great Southeast Pollinator Census at <https://gsepc.org/>.

Pollinators came out when the sun came out. It was fun with new friends in our beautiful garden. Helping us tell the story was the UF student club Veterinarians in One Health. We can share our space with pollinators, some of the “small things that run the world.”



Pollinator Trivia

1. Besides bees, what other creature are considered pollinators?
 2. Do native bees occur on every continent on the planet?
 3. How many miles does a honeybee colony fly to make one pound of honey? A 5,000, B 15,000, or C 55,000?
- Answers on page 20

YOUTH GARDENER PROGRAM

The Gainesville High School Youth Gardeners & Master Gardeners, UF student, and the Begonia and Wildflower Circle volunteers (shown below) are getting ready for fall planting season.



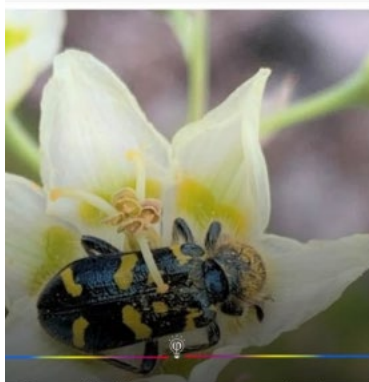
FIELD TRIP TO THE SANTA FE COLLEGE TEACHING ZOO

Seventeen Mimosa Circle went on a guided tour of the zoo on October 23. We learned that the Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo, a unique 10-acre zoo in Gainesville, Florida, is the only zoo on a college campus accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

The SF Teaching Zoo is coordinated by ten full time staff members, home to over 70 different species of animals and is maintained by about 100 students enrolled in the college's premier Zoo Animal Technology program.



The zoo showcases a diverse collection that contains both native and exotic species for everyone to enjoy. Visitors enjoy the Bald Eagles, White-throated capuchin monkeys, American alligators and Matschie's Tree Kangaroo to name a few. These species and many other mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians are on display in a naturally shaded environment. The 1/4 mile trail through the wooded environment is lined with mulch and is stroller and/or wheelchair accessible.



Magnolia flowers are among the oldest flowering plants on Earth, dating back nearly 95 million years—long before bees existed. Instead of bees, magnolias evolved to be pollinated by beetles, which were among the earliest available pollinators. Their thick, waxy petals protect against damage from beetles' chewing mouthparts, allowing successful pollination. This ancient plant-pollinator

No one lies harder than a plant lover that says they're going to the garden center to "just look".



The State of the Garden Center

STATE BOARD, SPECIAL COMMITTEES, AND PROJECTS

Board of Trustees – Kathy Powell Terry Murphy

The BOT met on October 9, 2025. Old business included review of two e mail votes over the summer: 1) \$6000 additional approved for completion of the bathroom project and 2) \$1300 approved to replace the large planters.

MOTIONS

Kathy Powell, BOT, presented the following recommendations as an eVote.

1. Approved \$750 to purchase and install blinds in the Men's bathroom and the Garden Room. Approved of an amount not to exceed \$300 to install a gate and purchase ground cloth for the nursery area.
2. Approved \$340 to purchase up to 10 utility carts to be used by the Roadside Beautification team. It has been suggested that 4 carts be purchased initially to see how they work.

Mona Rippe made a motion to purchase a Windows Updated Laptop not to exceed 650 dollars and a small lockable cabinet to keep it secured. Seconded by Patti Farley. Approved.

Budget and Finance - Kathryn Stephens

Board of Directors

October 9, 2025

Treasurer's Report for September 2025

Total Cash & Investments, as of September 30, 2025

Checking:	\$ 12,647.50
Money Market:	43,121.99
Truist, CD 1561 Matures 10/12/25 3.71%	25,000.00
Truist, CD 0717 Matures 1/16/26 4%	25,000.00
Truist, CD 0835 Matures 5/12/26 3.55%	<u>100,000.00</u>

Total \$205,769.49

For the month of September 2025:

Total income:	\$ 7,066.66
Total expenditures: ...	<u>- 8,693.30</u>
Net Loss	\$ - 1,626.64

NEW BUSINESS

Steve Provost gave an update on the 5 medians the GGC is supporting. Moe LaTour voiced concerned about our laptop and a need for updates. Missing White Project was located!

The Hermit Thrush

They're here for the winter!

It turns out I've got something in common with the Hermit Thrush. They too avoid snow and harsh cold. And like me, they choose to spend winter away from it! According to Cornell Lab of Ornithology's "Birds of the World" website, in winter they are "common only in forests with average January temperatures $> -1^{\circ}\text{C}$ (30.2°F) and no snow."

And it's likely most of those we enjoy in our area are males as the male winter population centers along a line roughly between Savannah, GA through Jackson MS while the center of the female population is a degree or so farther north; roughly along a line from Augusta, GA to Birmingham, AL. That doesn't mean they're all males here or all females north of that line, only that the ratio of males to



A Hermit Thrush Enjoying Dahoon Holly Berries
Photo ©John A. Middleton Jr.

for the very lucky the Gray-cheeked Thrush) may be seen during migration. But this one's pretty easy to distinguish. The eyering is thin but complete and white on the Hermit Thrush, the tail is distinctly reddish, and they flick that tail more than any of those others.

On their breeding grounds nearly all their diet consists of small non-vertebrates, mostly insects but also anything else they happen to catch. In Spring and Summer such animal prey makes up more than 90% of the diet, but in winter it may account for less than half the diet. When prey is scarce, they supplement with fruits and berries, such as the Dahoon Holly the bird on the left is consuming. So when it's cold watch for them where such vegetable foods are found. And you can [learn more about the Hermit Thrush here!](#)

Article published by the Audubon Society

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. You might be surprised to learn that bats, birds, butterflies, and some beetles are also pollinators. In fact, even some larger animals (such as black and white ruffed lemurs) and reptiles (such as lizards) are critical pollinators.
2. No. **Native bees occur on every single continent except Antarctica.**
3. **Answer: C, 55,000.** It takes eight bees their entire lifetime to make 1 teaspoon of honey. But because of its numbers, the average hive makes 60 pounds of honey in a good season.

GGC CIRCLES



BEGONIA CIRCLE – Lynnette Worley

The Circle met on September 25th at Jo Lee's clubhouse with 16 members in attendance - Focus was on nailing down our circle plans for the upcoming year. Blanca McNabb reported that the GHS Garden began on October 1st and will be on going every Wednesday afternoon during the school year. Mary Schindler reported on how things have gone for the Front Door Garden. She has purchased/planted yellow Mums for the District V meeting on 10/10. Our Circle was responsible for the Butterfly Garden for this month. We had five members meet for a general workday there. Jo Lee discussed the upcoming District V meeting. Moe reported on the Kid's Zone for the Expo while Donna B. spoke on what we are doing on the Tablescapes for the event. Our guest speaker was GGC treasurer Kathy Stephens. Her topic was the Garden Expo. Mary Birch-Hanson spoke on the Holiday Market scheduled for November 29th. Donna Berthold, Mary Chiozza & Mary Munson will be providing a food table with the proceeds going to the club.

JASMINE CIRCLE – Linda Schoellhorn, Chairman

At the September meeting, Nicki Byers, Jasmine member and a Master Gardener Volunteer, gave a talk and demonstration on the basics of Plant Propagation. Members voted to purchase a Japanese Maple tree for the Celebration Garden in memory of Jean Foraker who was instrumental in its planning and execution.

At the October meeting members enjoyed hearing Patrick & Sarah Stoddard of Lucky Buddha Farms talking about the magic of mushrooms. They sold packages to "grow your own" of a couple different varieties. Very easy. Several members took the challenge!

Members are busy with the Expo and Carol Binello and Jan Brown have taken over as chairs of the Butterfly Garden. The Veterans Garden Tour on Nov 8th will be at Bruce Cavey's home in Ft White along with three other homes in his neighborhood.

Three new members joined Jasmine this month – Debbie Coats, Katy Kavanagh and Mary Carter.





Shelley Warner stands in front of one of the three planters which Gardenia Circle maintains.

GARDENIA CIRCLE – Susan Thrall & Shelley Warner, Co-Chairmen

Gardenias reported 829 volunteer hours 2024-2025. Participated in the 100K recommendations committees of Ground and Facilities. Performed Treasurer bookkeeping work for GGC. Researched what is needed to update the nursery to make it more immediately reusable and for possible future needs. Presented findings to the BOT and to the BOD.

Members attended monthly meetings for Expo. Gardenias are the head of three committees: vendors, publicity, demonstrations. Participated in the Pollinator Count Party. - both heading it up and participating. Attended the FFGC planning meeting for Short Course. We also tidied up the plant nursery and recruited florists for Fun with Flowers for 2025-2026. We helped on Weed Days and held two meetings of circle officers regarding program planning for the coming year. Attended the GGC President's luncheon. Headed up the dedication of the Bartram Trail Marker and took care of landscaping at Haven Hospice Attic.

MIMOSA CIRCLE – Patti Farley, Chairman

During our September meeting we worked on a children's craft project. The project shows the life cycles of a tomato, strawberry, butterfly & dragon fly. We visited the Veterans Park Memorial twice a week to maintain the garden. We gave \$300 to the Midnight Sky Scholarship Fund. Three members worked on Oct 1, getting Down & Dirty. Photo on the right is of members taken at the Love Café following our lunch meeting.



WILDFLOWER CIRCLE – MJ Soeker, Chairman

Our September Welcome Back Lunch at Perkins. Pancakes gained a Wildflower YaY! Glad to have WeiWei Ritzhaupt. October's meeting - we all drove north to Lake City FL where Circle Chair MJ instructed the Wildflower members in creating their own signature bookmark. Afterwards all headed downtown (LC) to enjoy lunch at Marion Street Bistro.



After creating signature bookmarks, members posed for a photo.



Oct. Fun w/Flowers group Terry Murphy, Claudia Lambert Diane Lauramoore and guest.

FLORAL DESIGN WORKSHOP SERIES ***Led by Floral Designer, Claudia Bates***

Come learn the art of floral design. Surprise yourself as you develop new and artistic skills. Join us in February and March for the six introductory courses in Floral Design Study, starting Wednesday, February 18th.

Claudia Bates, a member of Wildflowers, is recognized nationally as an exceptional and talented teacher. She last taught this course three years ago at GGC and several folks who took it the first time want to sign up again. It's fun. And note, space will be limited to 40 participants.

The course is a series of six units in basic floral design. We'll meet each week from 9AM to about 2 or 3 PM. Bring your lunch. We'll provide drinks and all the materials. Bring your snips. During the day, Claudia will lecture, demonstrate and then help us each make our own arrangement. The class concludes each time with a review of everyone's work. This is so helpful as you learn from Claudia and from each other. Certificates are presented after completing all of the six units.

Claudia teaches floral design across the state and has taught in 35 states. She is a former president of GGC and a former President of FFGC. Also, she is currently serving on the NGC Board as a member of the Flower Show Schools Committee. Come learn from the BEST!

You can sign up and bring a friend, too. Sign up will be on our website and Circle meetings in December. \$120 for all 6. That's only \$20 per class.

Save the dates. Classes will be starting Wednesday, February 18, 9AM-2 or 3PM. Weekly: 02/25, 03/04, 03/11, 03/18, 03/25.



FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS (FFGC) CONVENTION & FLOWER SHOW

APRIL 14 – 17, 2026

EMBASSY SUITES, LAKE BUENA VISTA, FL

State Flower Show - "Once Upon a Time"



Information about the convention, the hotel, the schedule, and the registration form can be found by going to the FFGC webpage at www.ffgc.org.

You won't want to miss this convention which is being hosted by District V. The hotel is wonderful. It also has a café downstairs that offers free breakfast and is open in the early evening for free snacks and drinks. One morning attendees will dress up in PJs for a pancake breakfast. WOW!

Featured Lunch Speakers



Sammy Tedder
Native Plant Musician
Wednesday, April 15

As a professional musician, composer, film editor, and cinematographer Sammy will share with us "How Southeastern Native American Cultures Used Native Plants in Their Lives." His most recent film *River Obscura: Secrets of a Blackwater River* received the Tallahassee Film Festival's Audience Choice Award for Best Local/Regional Film.



Mike Echevarria
Reef Renewal
Thursday, April 16

Our 2021 "Award of Horticulture Excellence" winner is back with us to give an update on the health of our Florida Keys coral reefs. Hear how his efforts to help grow and plant corals faster, better and less expensively are helping to save our underwater gardens.



And a note about
what we just did!

Did you know
1900 attended?
Thank you all
for your help
making the
2025 EXPO
a success



Calendar Notes

- 11/11** Gainesville Garden Club invited to **Flag Pole Dedication at Veterans' Park**. We have a proud 25-year history of projects. 9a-noon
- 11/11** **Fun with Flowers** - Get Ready for Thanksgiving. Sign-up on website \$30
- 11/19** **Down & Dirty Workday at GGC**. 8:30-10:30 for fun with weeds & clean-up.
- 11/29** **Holiday Market at GGC** - 9a-4p. Get in the spirit during shop local Saturday. Hand-made items, plants, food. Free admission. Open to public. Tell friends
- 12/05** **Ronald McDonald House Event** - We'll make a gingerbread house & sell stuff
- 12/11** **Holiday Design at GGC** - Brunch and flower design you take home. What could be better? \$35. Tickets - website.
- 12/18** **Wrap up 2025 with Circle Meetings**. Details in yearbook calendar.
- 01/18** **Arbor Day at GGC**. Sunday afternoon. Help us plant Florida anise shrubs.
- 01/21** **Learn botanical drawing for garden journals and notes**. No experience needed. More info coming.
- 01/25**
- 02/08** **Open House at Wekiva**. Let's go see this beautiful camp and learn more.
- 02/15** **Blossom, Brew and BBQ at First Magnitude Brewing**. GGC fund-raiser, so we'll need volunteers. 1-6pm. Plant vendors and garden items. Free admission. Open to public.
- 02/17** **Mardi Gras Luncheon** -Hosted by Mimosa & Begonia. Save the date!
- 02/18** **Take Six Floral Design Classes** with Claudia Bates, our own nationally known design teacher. Plus, it's fun! Starting 2/18, weekly. Info inside.
- 03/13** **Evening fund-raiser - A Sip N' Stroll**. Being planned now. You can help!

Newsletter Submissions

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

Thank you,

Sandra Arnold, Editor



Gainesville Garden Club
Website: ggcfl.org

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

GARDEN CLUB WEBSITES



Deep South Garden Clubs
dsgardenclubs.com

National Garden Clubs
Website: NGC.org

