

This Year's Short Course Was Simply Great!



The beautiful lodge at the Austin Cary Forest was our meeting place for the first day of 2015 UF/FFGC Short Course. The new building has a beautiful deck with an overlook of Lake Mize and it's resident gator. The speakers were informative and the subjects very engaging. (See "Course Highlights" on p. 2.) Lunches were provided by Hill's Catering and featured their smoked meats. Tuesday night's dinner was held at GGC and a highlight was the delicious roast beef dinner provided by Wildflower Circle. It was followed by the floral designs of Carol Lucia.

Plans are already in process for next year's short course. Let's have an impressive GGC turnout next year! Compliments to Jeanice Gage, Rose Kimlinger and Peggy Caswell for providing a very successful Short Course!



3rd Annual GGC Garage Sale

1:00 PM - 7:00 PM Friday, September 4th
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM Saturday, September 5th



To insure its success, we need to form a Garage Sale Committee to begin planning now. Everyone is invited to be on the committee – the more the better. The first meeting will be held on Thursday, at 10:00 AM on July 14th.

If you are unable to serve on the committee, there are many other ways to help. We need your donated items to be sold and you might ask their neighbors, family and friends for their contributions. During the week of August 31st through September 3rd, we would like help unpacking donations and placing items on tables. Your help is needed during the sale and to assist with clean up following the sale. We have always had fun working together and volunteering our time even if it is just an hour or two.

The State of the Garden Center

The Grounds:



This summer the Garden Center grounds are very impressive with dozens of pink, red, and white caladiums. All were donated and planted in a number of flower beds by members of Begonia Circle. Another flower bed is edged with brightly colored marigolds which were donated and planted by Grounds Chairman Lorene Junkin. Not to be out done are the Crape Myrtle trees with their large pink and white blooms. The Grounds are a beautiful welcoming sight for visitors, members and of course for potential renters seeking the right venue for their wedding, anniversary or memorial service.

The Building:

Can You Spare Some Time —
Thursday, July 16th, from
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM?

Our beautiful club house needs some serious sprucing up. We will be cleaning countertops, ledges, floors, the stage, washing windows, and even doing some touch up painting. Please bring vinyl gloves, cleaning supplies, paint brushes and anything else that will help get the job done. Hope you can help!

Missing from the inventory:
three 6 ft. white tables
one 4 ft. gray table
three glass punch bowls.

Thanks for helping us locate these items.

Short Course Highlights

- On a walk near the lodge, the rangers explained the difference between a long leaf pine and a slash pine. We were informed that today's pines are harvested for wood and paper pulp, but historically, pines were tapped for resins and most importantly turpentine.
- Fish expert, Dr. Chuch Cichra, instructed attendees on how invasive plants in the waterways are detrimental to fish.
- Bluebirds: No, you can't get bluebirds to sit on your shoulder, but Mary Miller, the Audubon Society member who tends to the Flatwoods Park Bluebird Trail near Tampa with its 51 bluebird boxes, assured us we can have successful bluebird nesting in our yard if we understand their needs:

A nesting box with the following specs:

Location at the edge of an open grassy area; ideally next to trees or bushes for cover
Facing east or north (south and west make the nest box too hot for baby birds)
A 1 ½ " opening; A baffle to keep out predators (especially snakes); A 3-4" overhang;
No perch! (Predator birds will use it.)

Look for expanded versions of the courses in future Horticulture articles of *The Seedling!*

“There is a real magic in enthusiasm. It spells the difference between mediocrity and accomplishment.”

— Norman Vincent Peale

New(s) Sprouts is a flyer to be issued as needed between the bi-monthly publications of The Seedling - Gainesville Garden Club's official newsletter.

Email notices for publication to Maureen Dawson. Please include identification information when submitting photos.