

THE SEEDLING

Gainesville Garden Club, Inc.

<http://ggcfl.org/ggc>

Volume 14



Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

<http://www.ffgc.org>

Winter 2024-2025



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT JOLEE HOULIHAN

Dear GGC Members,

Spring is upon us, and I know you are busy cleaning and planting your gardens. Trees are leafing out and the Azaleas are in bloom. This is always a happy time of year for our garden club members

We of course have had a busy winter starting with our Holiday Design Workshop and the Ronald McDonald Gingerbread event. In February we held a retreat for our Board to discuss the next year's calendar and then we invited the rest of the membership to join in to discuss and brainstorm what we would want to do with the \$100,000 gift that was given anonymously by one of our long-time members. This meeting proved to be very beneficial to our garden club. In March we had a very successful Spring Fling entitled "A Taste of Spring Tea Party". Dillard's provided a lovely Fashion Show. And our male models were a hit with all the ladies attending. As we move into the rest of Spring, there will be several events you will want to attend. First, FFGC will host its State Convention in Jacksonville on April 8-10. I encourage everyone to attend. There are several workshops that will be of interest along with wonderful speakers at the lunches and dinners. If you wish, come for a day.

On May 8th we will have our General Meeting where there will be a memorial service for our deceased members and an installation of officers for the term 2025-2027. On May 10, 2025 there will be a Garden Tour followed by a luncheon at GGC. The flyer is available for this event. The FFGC/District V and UF Short Course will be held June 1-3, 2025. The Registration is available for print and chock full of lectures and field trips. Check this out.

The FFGC District V Meeting will be held May 20, 2025. I will be installed at the Convention as District V Chairman, and this will be my first meeting for the district. So, this article will be my last as President of Gainesville Garden Club in *The Seedling*.

These last three years have been challenging at times but have also been wonderful. The Board of Directors and you, the members have all been marvelous to work with. It could not have happened without each one. I thank you for your support and willingness to work hard on all our events including our 100th Anniversary. The new slate of officers will continue to lead Gainesville Garden Club to new heights. I will still be around and cannot wait to see what is in store.

Yours in Gardening,

Jo Lee Winterrowd-Houlihan
President

Sharing a cup of tea
with friends at the
"Taster of Spring" party!



FASHIONS by DILLARDS

GGC held "The Taste of Spring" on March 6, began with a fashion show by Dillard's. An array of members adorned spring and cocktail attire as they stroll across the stage and weaved throughout the table of attendees.



Jo Lee Houlihan, President



Nicole Prichard, Mgr., Dillard's



Kristy Welch



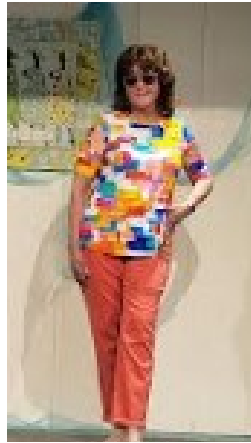
Gwen Williams



Ruth Anne Wycoff



Kitty Redfern



Laurie Spear



Diane McCall



Nadine Russo



Pam Monroe



Gwen Davis



Bruce Cavey



Gwen Williams



Ruth Anne Wycoff



Steve Provost



Kittv Redfern



Laurie Spear



Gwen Williams



Diane McCall



Pam Monroe



Gwen Davis



Bruce Cavey



Kristy Welch



Steve Provost



Shelley Warner, Co-Chair of Gardenia Circle, enjoys the tea party and being with fellow circle members.



Thanks to Karen Beaty & Susan Thrall for greeting members and for being cashiers at the event.

HAT CONTEST



Karen Beaty chaired the contest.
as Jo Lee looked on.



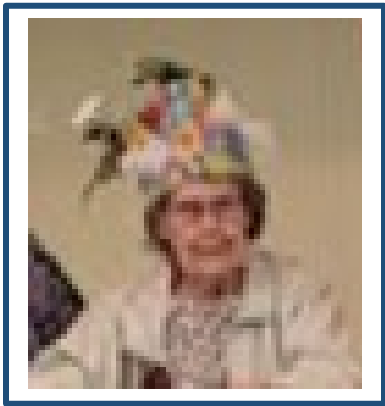
L-R: Diane Robar, Kathy Powell,
Leslie Henry.



Inez Brooker created a beautiful
arrangement, as did Lorene Junkin



Attendees wearing a variety of spring hats lined up on stage to have the audience select and cheer on the winning hats!



Best Use of Spring Colors
Irene Gyure



Craziest Hat
Cecilia Gottesman



Prettiest Hat
Dawn Dukes

A LOOK BACK...

GGC HOLIDAY MARKET, December 1, 2024



Kudos to Mary Birch-Hanson event chair - the event was a success! Everyone had a great time. Thank you, Moe LaTour for Santa.

Mary Whisler, FFGC 2nd Vice President and Wekiva Camp coordinator with volunteers.

JINGLE & MINGLE HOLIDAY DESIGN WORKSHOP – December 5, 2024



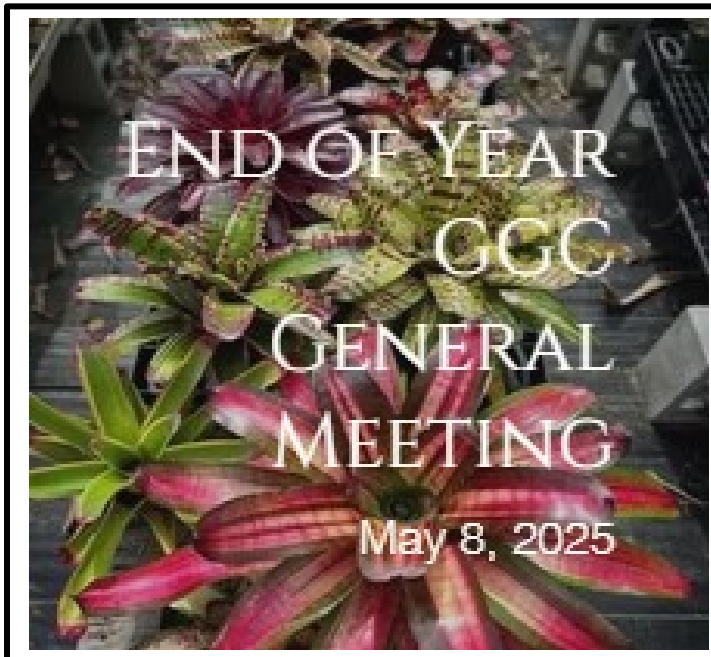
UPCOMING EVENTS



FUN WITH
FLOWERS
April 15, 2025



MASTER
GARDENER
PLANT SALE
May 3, 2025



END OF YEAR
GGC
GENERAL
MEETING
May 8, 2025



MOTHER'S
DAY GARDEN
TOUR
May 10, 2025



MOVIE
MATINEE
May 29, 2025



GAINESVILLE GARDEN CLUB
Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.,
District V and University of Florida
87th Annual 2025
SUMMER SHORT COURSE

YOUTH GARDENING PROJECT AT GAINESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Students at Gainesville High School are learning the ABCs of gardening in 2025. The youth gardening project began in January 2025 and is chaired by Blanca McNab who is assisted by members of GGC. Students and club members meet each Wednesday. The students are taught about how to plant gardens. Lois McNamara, a Master Gardener, provided the students copies of our region organized by calendar year. Together they have built the framework for the various beds, added irrigation, built a trellis and planted vegetables and scattered wildflower seeds. Begonia and Gardenia have contributed fund to purchase the gardening supplies and plants.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Steve Provost presented an appeal for volunteers who are interested in joining him in planning and coordinating the planting of five mediums around the city. Those on the committee will only meet as needed and members will provide their ideas on what is to be planted and to develop a schedule to weed and plant at each medium. Even if you are unable to do the physical work, your input will be much appreciated.

Interested in serving on the committee or interested in volunteering to weed and plant, or both? Contact Steve Provost at 3fox3@att.net or call him at 386 566-4266.



Roadside Beautification is fun and very worthwhile.

20' BAT HOUSE INSTALLED ON GGC GROUNDS



Bat houses provide safe, secure roosting areas for numerous bat species. An individual bat can eat hundreds of insects per night, including mosquitoes and agricultural pests.

Unfortunately, many bat populations are disappearing at alarming rates due to habitat loss. A bat house can offer the perfect place for our flying friends to live. They will also return the favor by helping to control insects in your area.

Installed by the Lubee Bat Conservancy.



Here's an interesting place to visit for a great day trip that's close by in Hastings, Florida. They have a good website that tells you all about the garden: stjohnsbotanicalgarden.org. It opened only two years and was created out of one man's vision.

You can have a lovely walk through a wooded Florida landscape with palm trees collected from all over the world. There's a cactus garden, many bromeliads, lots of native plants. You have to watch your step as pathways are gravel and/or mulch. It takes about an hour and a half to wend your way through the property and admire everything. Many plants are labeled and it's a lesson in what full grown specimens look like. They rely on volunteers to help

maintain the garden and all were eager to talk about the plants and the property. Have fun! (By the way, the 2nd Annual Cabbage, Potato, & Bacon Festival is in Hastings April 26-27)

--Becky O'Brien

FUN WITH FLOWERS WORKSHOPS

Don't miss out on the fun. Check the calendar in your club handbook or on-line at ffgc.org. Sign up today!



SAVE THE DATE
GREAT FLORIDA POLLINATOR CENSUS AT GGC
SAT, AUG 23 10-11 AM

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Thank you for your support over the past year. With your help, we've been able to expand educational programs, workshops, and service within our community. None of this could have been done without YOU!

We invite you to renew your membership for the coming year. You may do this at your next Circle meeting or by paying on-line at ggcfl.org.



GGC members, mark your calendars for Saturday October 18, 2025. It's the 3rd Fall Horticultural Expo & Plant Market, taking place at the Alachua County Agricultural & Equestrian Center in Newberry. Our Keynote Speaker this year is Jennifer Jewell of NPR's Cultivating Places, speaking on "Cultivating Place: What We Sow". Jennifer is the author of *The Earth in Her Hands*, *75 Extraordinary Women Working in the World of Plants*, and *What We Sow: On the Personal, Ecological and Cultural Significance of Seeds*. Jennifer seeks to elevate the way we think and talk about gardening, and the possibility inherent in the intersection between places, environments, cultures, individuals and the gardens that bring them together beautifully.

The Expo will be filled with fun, informational activities, vendors, plant & seed sales, Kids Zone and food trucks. Please share the news with retailers who might help to sponsor the event. Make plans to join in the fun!

Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?

—Mary Oliver

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK PROJECT

Memorial Circle has taken on the Veteran's Memorial Park flower bed as one of its many projects for 2025. Circle members took time in March to clear out dead plants and limits and to discuss the types and quantity of plants that will be planted in the next couple months.



FALL EXPO 2025

Kick Off Meeting for the Fall Expo at the Extension office will be held on Tuesday, March 18th at 2:30 PM.

Everyone is invited!

Bring your ideas and suggestions! Join an organization team ... New vendors & exhibits!

DISCOVER 200 ALACHUA COUNTY 1824-2024 BICENTENNIAL

COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB 1924

UF IFAS Extension UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

FLORIDA MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER

Fall Horticultural Expo & Plant Market

October 18, 2025

Alachua County Ag & Equestrian Center
23100 W Newberry Road, Newberry, FL 32669

Jennifer Jewell
Keynote Speaker
"Cultivating Place" NPR
Podcast Host and Author

www.ggcf.org/horticulture-expo

An Equal Opportunity Institution



GARDEN CLUB 101
Back to Basics



98th FFGC Annual Convention
April 8-10, 2025
Jacksonville FL

THE 98th ANNUAL CONVENTION
APRIL 8-10, 2025 🌻 **JACKSONVILLE FL**

Midnight Sky Scholarship

Academic Scholarships

Gainesville Garden Club believes that the future of our society is in the hands of our young people; education is critical to their success as civic leaders and as stewards of our earth. We are proud to offer scholarships to worthy students entering studies in horticulture, environmental sciences, and other related courses of study. Successful fund-raising events have provided the means for these scholarships in the past and we plan to continue providing them into the foreseeable future.

Midnight Sky Scholarship

Created in honor of Rick Schoellhorn for his lifelong contributions to family, music, community, and sharing his love of nature, this scholarship is dedicated to the continued love and growth of future horticulturalists.

GGC will be accepting applications for the 2025-2026 terms on **1 February 2025**. Deadline for submissions is **1 May 2025**. Recipients will be notified in person and listed on the website and our publications in **June 2025**.

GGC CALENDAR 2025

April 2025

- 8-10 FFGC State Convention
- 15 Fun with Flowers Workshop
- 17 GGC Board of Directors
- 24 Circle Meeting

May 2025

- 3 Master Gardeners Plant Sale
- 8 General Meeting 9 AM – Noon
Installation, Memorials, Plant Swap
- 10 Mother's Day Garden Tour
- 13 Board of Trustees
- 15 New Board of Directors
- 20 District V Spring Meeting at GGC
- 22 Circle Meetings
- 29 Movie Matinee Lunch Party

GARDEN TRIVIA

1. What fruit is from the bromeliad family? The word pineapple comes from European explorers who thought the fruit combined the look of a pinecone with flesh like that of an apple. Pineapples are the only edible members of the bromeliad family.
2. Did you know... From a botanical standpoint, avocados and pumpkins are fruits, not vegetables, because they bear the plants' seeds. Rhubarb, on the other hand, is a vegetable.
3. Where did Poinsettias originate from? Well, they were natives of Mexico and were brought to the United States in 1825 by the first U.S. minister to Mexico, Joel Poinsett, for whom the plant is named.
4. Why do cranberries float? Small pockets of air inside cranberries cause them to bounce and float in water.

Newsletter Submissions

If you wish to submit Circle or member news, projects, programs, or photos for the Spring Newsletter, please send them in by May 30th to searnold6348@gmail.com.

Thank you.... Sandra Arnold, Editor

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

