



## The Gabby Gardener

Volume 32, Issue 8



### President's Corner

Garden Visits are back on our radar. It is a wonderful way to get fresh ideas or just enjoy the beauty. Because our gardens are always evolving, revisiting a garden continues to be interesting. The variety of styles and plants is enticing. You never know when you might be treated to cuttings or plants.

The social opportunity enhances the visit. It is a great way to meet members from other circles or reconnect and chat while you enjoy the garden.

To volunteer your garden, big or small, please contact Lisa Schnetzer ([lisschn@gmail.com](mailto:lisschn@gmail.com)). Planting for different reasons including pollinators, wildlife, food, privacy, cutting flowers, herbs, transitioning to natives or relief of stress gives each garden its uniqueness.

Look for emails that start "The Garden Club of Deland Invites you to a Garden Visit". Guests are welcome. There is a suggested donation of \$5 to benefit the Garden Club.

*I hope to see you at the next garden visit!*

Marshall

### Circle Around

Along with the Busy Bees Flower Show, March was another industrious month for our Circles.

- **Firecrackers** heard member Kay Cordero speak on Orchids.
- **Magnolias** were scheduled for a hypertufa workshop.
- **Marigolds** held a plant exchange and enjoyed Suellen Biferie's lovely garden.
- **Milkweeds** worked at the Sensory Butterfly Garden and prepared for their annual Native Milkweed sale.
- **Roses** held a workday at the Sensory Butterfly Garden.
- **Wild Coffees** learned about "Attracting Wildlife" from member Jennifer Condo. Jennifer is a landscape designer who focuses on planting native. She is a Master Gardener and FFGC's Native Plant Chair.

Please remember that most circle programs and activities are open to all members. Please contact the circle to make sure there is no space limitation.



### Less-Mow Spring

Congratulations to Carol Grigas who has overseen this initiative for the Firecrackers. Her understanding of the movement and subsequent research led her to modify the original premise (No-Mow May) to suit both Florida climate and pollinator preferences.

The movement started in England to support pollinators in early spring when food is scarce by not mowing over flowers for a month, and then along came research indicating mowing every two weeks was ideal. A bonus is less pollution from lawn mowers.

Our thanks to Mayor Chris Cloudman and DeLand's City Commission for their proclamation of support.

For more information or to purchase a \$10 sign, please contact Carol Grigas at 386-736-4641 or [carolgrigas@gmail.com](mailto:carolgrigas@gmail.com).

## 2024 Florida Wildflower and Garden Festival



The sun came out for a perfect day. Thank you to Mary Ripple and her team of GCD faithful volunteers for all the necessary planning and hard work to have a Garden Club of DeLand booth at the Wildflower Festival. In addition to the GCD's annual sale of caladium bulbs, they sold native milkweed plants from Milkweed Circle's sale and Less-Mow Spring signs for the Firecracker Circle.

Did you know that every festival speaker has also spoken at the Garden Club? It speaks to the quality of our programming and diligence of our 1st Vice presidents who secure excellent speakers.

### Habitat for Humanity Landscaping Saturday, April 6, 8:30 AM 1432 2nd Ave in Daytona Park Estates, DeLand

The landscaping date is set for Saturday, April 6, 8:30 am. The address is 1432 2nd Ave. in Daytona Park Estates, DeLand. We will need help with removing the sod against the house, digging and planting shrubs, laying mulch, and cleaning up. No tools are supplied, so please bring a shovel. Also a hat, gloves and water.

It is just the garden club volunteers working the landscape. If you are able, or know someone that could help, please let me know. We will need many hands.

Thank you so much,  
[Suellen Biferie](#), GCD Habitat Chair



**Thank you to all who volunteered, purchased at our booth and/or spread the word!**

**Gardening for the Future**

## The Garden Club of DeLand



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### Classes and Events in April

Tuesday, April 2, 1PM, **Master Gardener Plant Clinic**, (1-2:30) Antique Roses, DeLand Library Auditorium

Saturday, April 6, 8:30 AM

**Habitat for Humanity Landscaping**, 1432 2nd Ave in Daytona Park Estates, DeLand. Contact [Suellen Biferie](#)

Wednesday, April 10, 10:30, **Creative Corner Origami Class** at the Clubhouse, 865 S. Alabama Ave. Presenter: Maureen Miller-Calamo. \$5 donation for supplies. Contact Person: Maureen Miller-Calamo 516-445-2338 or [mocalamo@aol.com](mailto:mocalamo@aol.com)

Wednesday, April 17, 10-30 - 12:30, **Creative Corner Collage Class** at the Clubhouse, 865 S. Alabama Ave. Presenter: Lynda Stein, Contact Person: Carol Roddenberry [karolqueen@aol.com](mailto:karolqueen@aol.com)

Thursday, , April 18, 1 PM, **GCD Book Club:** *The Seed Underground: A Growing Revolution to Save Food* by Janisse Ray. Contact Persons: Cindy D. [cindy@davenportmail.com](mailto:cindy@davenportmail.com) or Sara Z. [sarazollinger@att.net](mailto:sarazollinger@att.net)

Saturday, April 20, 8 - 11 AM, SAVE THE DATE: **Garden Visit** at Carolyn Kieler's house. Contact: Lisa Schnetzer [lisschn@gmail.com](mailto:lisschn@gmail.com) .

SAVE THE DATE Thursday, May 16, 8:30 - 10:30  
**GCD End of Year Social** Garden of Barbara Merriam  
526 N. Sans Souci Ave, DeLand. Bonus Garden across the street: Carol Roddenberry

### Question: **How can I attract pollinators and birds to my yard with native plants?**

All living things need food, water, shelter or a place to raise their young AND sustainable practices by you! That means you have to stop using pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizer if you want to attract wildlife. Bees and butterflies are very sensitive to chemicals, which can have harmful effects for up to one year in the plant or in the area where the chemical was applied.

We all know how to attract pollinators with lots of nectar and pollen sources, but to attract birds, you need to attract insects. Birds also eat berries and seeds but they use caterpillars to feed their young. Unfortunately, we have lost close to 3 billion North American bird species in the past 50 years due to no food for them to eat. You need to put the bugs back in your yard.

Do not spray those tent caterpillars or nuisance caterpillars that eat your leaves because they will feed baby birds. We have been taking away a rich food source for the birds for too long. Your plant will survive!

#### National Wildlife Federation's Top 10 Trees to Attract Caterpillars

1. Oaks (*Quercus geminata*, *Q. nigra*, *Q. myrtifolia*, *Q. laevis*, *Q. shumardii*, *Q. chapmanii*)
2. Prunus (*P. serotina*, *P. umbellata*, *P. angustifolia*)
3. Hickories (*Carya glabra*, *C. floridana*, *C. aquatica*, *C. tomentosa*,
4. Willow (*Salix caroliniana*)
5. Maple (*Acer rubrum*, *A. saccharum* subsp. *floridanum*)
6. Pine (*Pinus palustris*, *P. elliotii*, *P. clausa*, *P. taeda*)
7. Blueberry group (*Vaccinium corymbosum*, *V. arboreum*, *V. darrowii*, *V. myrsinites*)
8. Elms (*Ulmus alata*, *U. americana*)
9. Basswood (*Tilia americana*)
10. Viburnum (*V. obovatum*, *V. nudum*, *V. dentatum*)

Start by placing one high value tree into your yard or start a pollinator garden. Remember, do not apply pesticides. Let nature eat nature. Then sit back and watch the birds thrive in your yard.

**Jennifer Condo**