



Photo by: Shanda Herbert



The Gabby Gardener

Volume 32, Issue 6

President's Corner



There is much excitement as we turn to floral design, members' requested topic. We are so very fortunate to have Penny Decker, Master Flower Show Judge and renowned Floral Designer at the February 1st General

Meeting. Her topic is "Penny Presents Purely for Pleasure". Penny is an excellent speaker.

The Firecracker Circle has expressed interest in "No Mow May." This movement started in the U.K. by a group of environmentalists who wanted to help save pollinators by increasing their food supply at a time when there wasn't much available bloom by avoiding mowing for a month. It is very important that we are aware and help pollinators during this early springtime. While this program essentially excludes those of who live in HOA's or have weekly lawn service, it does segue into what our speakers continually promote – the addition of flowering plants and trees, especially natives, reducing/eliminating our use of pesticides, and providing necessary habitat for overwintering and raising young.



**No
Mow
May**



(continued, President's Corner)

February brings another busy month:

- **Mardi Gras Dog Parade** on Saturday, February 10, 11 AM. Wear your wings and Mardi Gras finery, WALKERS & DOGS NEEDED. Contact: Erin Miceli orangeblossomerin@gmail.com
- **Flower Show Deadline** for entry is prior to February 15. Space in Design classes is limited, horticulture is unlimited. Contact Jennifer Condo, Horticulture, 386-956-2729, jattq3@yahoo.com or Penny Decker, Design, 386-676-2990.
- **Deadline For Tree Count Information** is Tuesday, February 20. Turn in information on any trees you have planted since March 21, 2023 to your circle Tree Count Chair or to GCD Tree Count Chair Suzanne Fox, suzfox@aol.com.

Circle Around

It has been another busy month for our Circles.

Firecrackers enjoyed learning about "Cooking with Herbs" with Casey King.

Magnolias were scheduled to learn basket weaving at the Design Studio.

Marigolds enjoyed a garden tour and gardening tips with Erin Miceli.

Milkweeds heard about "Edible Gardening" from Mark Robinson and his son Christian Robinson

www.revivalgardening.com

Wild Coffees heard Lesley Nixon, past president of the PawPaw chapter of the Native Plant Society speak about "Growing Natives". www.pawpaw.fnpschapters.org/

E-mail: gcdeland@gmail.com



97th Annual Convention

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Southbank Marriott Hotel, Jacksonville, FL

April 10-12, 2024

GCD members are encouraged to attend and there is a wonderful flower show to view. Convention information and registration forms are available at ffgc.org

GCD is entitled to six delegates so please let Marshall Rawson know if you are registering. Marshall must submit the GCD's official list of delegates.

Classes and Events in February

Tuesday, February 6, 1PM, **Master Gardener Plant Clinic**, (1-2:30) **Topic: Adding Colorful Understory Plants**, Speaker: Jennifer Condo, Auditorium of the DeLand Library .

Tuesday, February 6, 2:30, **Seed Packaging**, Auditorium of the DeLand Library Contact Person: Susan Ludvigh sludvigh@cfl.rr.com

Saturday, February 10, 11 AM, **Mardi Gras/Dog Parade**, Along Woodland Blvd. between Michigan and Howry Avenues, Wear your wings and Mardi Gras finery, **WALKERS & DOGS NEEDED** Contact Person: Erin Miceli orangeblossomerin@gmail.com

Tuesday, February 20, **DEADLINE FOR TREE COUNT INFORMATION** - Turn in information on any trees you have planted since March 21, 2023 to your circle Tree Count Chair or to GCD Tree Count Chair Suzanne Fox, suzfox@aol.com

Thursday, February 22, 1 PM, **GCD Book Club: The Botanist's Daughter** by Kayte Nunn
Facilitator: Susan Ludvigh
Contact Persons: Cindy D. cindy@davenportmail.com or Sara Z. sarazollinger@att.net



Arbor Day— which translates to “tree” day from the Latin origin of the word *arbor*—is a holiday that celebrates the planting, upkeep and preservation of trees. This holiday was first proposed in the 19th century by J. Sterling Morton (an American journalist and politician), who wrote:

“Other holidays repose upon the past; Arbor Day proposes for the future.”

During the years between 1867-1882, Morton stepped away from politics in order to spend more time promoting agriculture. The first Arbor Day celebration was held in Nebraska on April 10, 1872; more than one million trees were planted. Here in the United States, Arbor Day is now most commonly observed on the last Friday in April, though some states have moved the date to coincide with the best tree planting weather.

This year for Arbor Day the Garden Club of DeLand has selected the **Red Maple tree**. Found throughout our state, the native red maple (*Acer rubrum*) grows in wet areas but can also thrive in the landscape with adequate irrigation. This tree provides beautiful yellow and orange fall colors, as well as producing seeds that are popular with the squirrels and birds.

References:
history.com/topics/holidays/the-history-of-arbor-day

britannica.com/topic/Arbor-Day

nebraskastudies.org/en/1850-1874/j-sterling-morton-founder-of-arbor-day/

<https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/trees-and-shrubs/trees/red-maple.html>

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/ST041>



The Garden Club of DeLand

865 South Alabama Ave.

DeLand, FL 32724

(386) 624-6960

E-mail: gcdeland@gmail.com

Membership E-mail: gcdmembership@gmail.com

Website: <https://gardenclubofdeland.org>

Clubhouse rentals: (386) 624-6960 or

rentalsgardenclubofdeland@gmail.com

Gabby Editor: gaillafayette@hotmail.com



The Garden Club of DeLand is hosting a District VI Flower Show called Busy Bees.



I would love for you to enter any house plants you have at home. You can bring in your container or pot or even cut a bloom to put in a glass container (you'll have to bring the glass container). Your container should be less than 14 inches in diameter and weigh less than 20 pounds. If your

plant is flowering, then please show it off by entering. You can bring ANY plant that looks great. You don't have to stick to the plants in the flower show schedule, they are just suggestions. You can top dress your container but try to keep it a neutral color. For example, you can use little pebbles or mulch to cover the soil. The pot can be any color but it should not compete with your plant. If it is a busy pattern, you can stick it inside another pot for the show.

I do ask that you contact me through email (jattq3@yahoo.com) or text (386-956-2729) to let me know what you are bringing. We need to make space for all the entries. A picture is a great way to share that with me. Please tell me the name of your plant or any info on it. We will try to identify it for you, but it helps if you know it. We will help you fill out an entry card on Thursday, March 7th, between 10 am and 4 pm when you drop off your plant at the clubhouse.

(continued)

Do not go out and buy a plant to enter. You need to use plants that have been in your possession for more than 90 days. You can enter as many plants as you want, but again let me know what you are bringing. I would love for everyone to bring in something they think is worthy. It can be a succulent, a bromeliad, a vegetable, an annual, something tropical or a tree cutting. Nothing artificial is allowed nor can any oil or shine products be used.

Feel free to contact me with any questions regarding the horticulture section of the flower show.

Jennifer Condo

jattq3@yahoo.com

(386) 956-2729 cell



Important Volunteer Help Wanted



We are looking for a fourth member of the Clubhouse Rental Team.

Ideal qualities are excellent people skills, positive attitude, team player, well organized, strong follow through and ability to work flexible hours as needed. Duties rotate through the team every month.

Your on-call month includes answering the phone and responding, forwarding any non-rental messages left on the phone to the appropriate person, updating the rental calendar, showing the Clubhouse and making sure the rental contract paperwork is complete and payments up to date, meeting the renter to exchange the key and then after the event inspecting the building and grounds to make sure it was left as found, and occasional troubleshooting. If there are four members of the rental team, then you are usually on-call every fourth month. Occasionally you may be called upon to help in other months if someone is away or ill.

It is the rental income that this team generates that pays sufficiently for the Clubhouse to allow us to keep the building!