



# The Gabby Gardener

## Garden Club of DeLand

May 2022 Volume 28, Issue 9

### President's Corner



It was so good to be back at the Clubhouse for the first general membership meeting since we stopped for the pandemic. Long standing friend of GCD, Master Gardener Howard Jeffries was a fitting speaker. The Governing Board (GCD business meeting) will continue on zoom.

Participants in the Book Club (the book for the next two meetings is The Forgotten Garden by Kate Morton), Nature Strolls and Creative Corner's Origami classes are having a great time. Garden visits have been well attended as well. If you haven't tried these activities, I encourage you to sign up.

Workdays at the Sensory Butterfly Garden at Bill Dreggors Park (second & fourth Tuesday mornings starting at 7:30am), Weedettes at the GCD (Monday mornings) and Downtown Planters Maintenance (second Saturday of the month at 7:30am) continue throughout the summer.

After several Covid scares among the membership, we are back on zoom for the May 5th general membership meeting. Log on is 9:30am with meeting at 9:45am. We are fortunate to have Kaydie McCormick back to talk about Summer Edibles. I hope you will join us.

### Circle Around

It's been a busy month!  
**Daisies** continue to focus on friendships.  
**Firecrackers** took a lovely garden walk.  
**Magnolias** were at Select Growers with a garden talk.  
**Marigolds** heard from their own Master Gardener Suellen Biferie on Soil Testing as a follow up to Howard Jeffries' presentation on fertilization.  
**Milkweeds** enjoyed a honey tasting and more bee information with Donna Athearn.  
**Roses** had a plant exchange with pizza.  
**Wild Coffees** heard Katie Tripp, owner of Natural Beauty Native Florida Landscapes on Plant Native, Grow Nature.



Do you have a passion about flowers, butterflies, horticulture and/or gardening?

Do you have a future event or meeting you need to advertise?

**The Gabby Gardener would love to hear from you.**

Please contact Gail at [gaillafayette@hotmail.com](mailto:gaillafayette@hotmail.com)

## Gardening for the Future

### GCD General Meeting

Thursday, May 5th, GCD General Meeting on zoom, 9:45am Social / 10am meeting

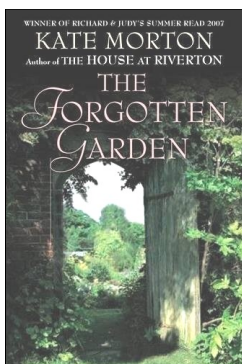
Speaker: Kaydie McCormick



Topic: **Summer Edibles**

Check your email for log on information to zoom.

### GCD Book Club



***The Forgotten Garden***  
by Kate Morton

A lost child...

A terrible secret....

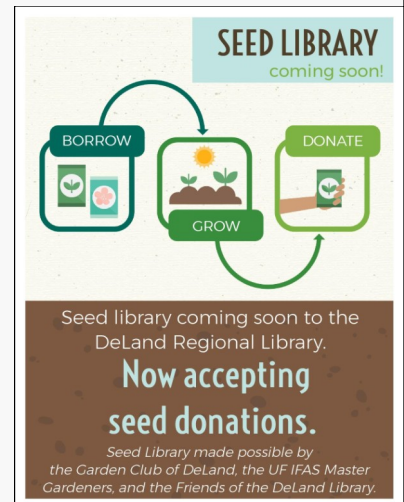
A mysterious inheritance...

*New York Times Bestseller*

May 19th at 1pm at the clubhouse.  
Cindy Davenport & Sara Zollinger  
Contact info: [cindy@davenportmail.com](mailto:cindy@davenportmail.com)

## Seed Bank Planning at the DeLand Regional Library

There is a new project to anticipate at the DeLand Regional Library - a modified seed bank, which is being planned by a collaboration of the Friends of the DeLand Library, DeLand Regional Library, Master Gardeners in Volusia County and the Garden Club of DeLand. Each month both a flower and edible plant seed packet will be featured, beginning with okra and sunflowers. The Friends of the Library will provide the seeds, master gardeners will package the seeds and present a program on how to plant the seeds. Our Garden Club will maintain a table in the library with information sheets and the seed packets. All gardeners in the community are encouraged to bring in additional varieties of seeds to share. Look for an upcoming announcement when the Seed Bank is underway.



Saturday, May 14, 7:30am



### REPLANTING OF DOWNTOWN PLANTERS AND PEDESTALS

We need lots of volunteers! We have 62 pots and 16 pedestals to replant.

Wear your GCD shirt, let the community know who we are. Bring a spade, clippers, small bag for clippings and a smile. Great time to meet your fellow GCD members.



## Garden Club of DeLand

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### Florida Native Gardening

I wanted to look at a few of the native wildflowers that are in bloom in the garden now.

Back in February I mentioned Manyflower beard-tongue (*Penstemon multiflorus*) as a wildflower that stayed green all through the very cold winter. Manyflower beardtongue is almost endemic to Florida, and it attracts a number of pollinators, including hummingbirds, and is the host plant for the Baltimore checkerspot (*Euphydryas phaeton*). [1]

One of my favorite wildflowers is **Purple thistle** (*Cirsium horridulum*). I always enjoy seeing its blooms in spring. Thistles have a bad reputation for their spiny personality, but these formidable wildflowers shine as favorite nectar and host plants for many bees and butterflies, including swallowtails. Purple thistle (*Cirsium horridulum*) is a larval host for the Little metalmark (*Calephelis virginiensis*) and Painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*) butterflies. The seeds are an important food source for seed-eating birds. [2]



I have posted pictures of my **White Wild Indigo** (*Baptisia alba*) on FB in the past but have not written about the wild-flower. White wild indigo attracts many pollinators and is the larval host plant for the Wild indigo duskywing (*Erynnis baptisiae*) and Zarucco duskywing (*Erynnis zarucco*) butterflies. The fruits are eaten by a variety of birds, and the foliage is browsed by rabbits and deer. (The plant's large tuberous roots allow it to withstand browsing.)" [3]



**Blue-eyed grass** (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*) is



one of the prettiest little flowers that blooms in the spring. They are part of the Iris family so not really a grass. They make a great ground cover. The flowers attract a variety of pollinators, including bumblebees, sweat bees, and other native bees and

flies. Birds eat the seeds. [4]

[1] <https://www.flawildflowers.org/flower-friday-penstemon-multiflorus/>

[2] <https://www.flawildflowers.org/flower-friday-cirsium-horridulum/>

[3] <https://www.flawildflowers.org/flower-friday-baptisia-alba/>

[4] <https://www.flawildflowers.org/flower-friday-sisyrinchium-angustifolium/>

**Dorothy Caldwell**