



November 2022 Volume 29, Issue 3

President's Corner

At the FFGC District VI Fall meeting The Garden of DeLand was recognized by the President of FFGC Marge Hendon with a blue diamond certificate for our 95 years as part of FFGC! We actually were formed two years prior to that.



The other highlight of this meeting was the election of our own **Valerie Seinfeld as FFGC District VI's Director, 2023-2025** – Congratulations Valerie!

Thanks to all our volunteers who helped make the Plant Sale and Monarch Magic so successful. Our chairs Norma Thomas and Shanda Hébert had everything so well organized with a great selection of plants. Karen Hall's vision extended to the wonderful children's pollinator parade and the unveiling of Lynda Stein's caterpillar at the Sensory Butterfly Garden. We did learn that our attendees and volunteers love a bake sale!

We are straying from tradition by accepting the invitation of Dr. Jason Evans for a personal tour of the Stetson Aquatics Center instead of our meeting at the Clubhouse on Thursday, November 3rd. This visit follows up on his excellent presentation in March. We are indeed fortunate to have access to such outstanding speakers. We are looking forward to seeing you at 2636 Alhambra Avenue, DeLand when we gather starting at 9:30am for a 10am tour. If you are planning to carpool, please do NOT start out from the Garden Club – our clever Rentals team has taken advantage of our absence to rent the clubhouse for the day!

Circle Around

It was a busy month with Ian adding his own twist to events. The **Firecrackers** were at Select Growers. The **Magnolias** enjoyed a garden tour and lunch at Elaine Waidelich's. The **Marigolds** repeated a favorite field trip to the Yard Stop, lunch on the water at the Fish House and Peddler's Wagon. The **Milkweeds** heard an interesting presentation on the development of his farm from Lonny Reid of the Reid Farm. At the **Roses'** meeting Chris Nott stepped in for Jennifer Condo to speak on "Designing and Planning your Garden." Christie Miller spoke to **The Wild Coffees** about what it means to "Be Floridian Now."

Members are always welcome to attend Circle meetings – please check with the Circle president to make sure there is room. Circles meeting in homes have limited space.

Gardening for the Future

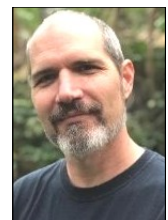
GCD General Meeting

Thursday, November 3rd, 9:30am,

Field Trip to Stetson Aquatic Center

9:30am Field Trip to Stetson Aquatic Center, 2636 Alhambra Ave. (on Lake Beresford)

Speaker/Host: Jason Evans
Topic: Native Transformation



Invasives in Florida

In Florida there are many different types of plants and an equal number of terms used to describe them, and to resident gardeners these terms can be confusing and can even cause angry discussions. I want to try to reduce the confusion and explain why a plant is designated as invasive and to try and calm the discussions.

The first is a definition of what is an invasive plant in Florida. According to the Florida Invasive Species Council:

“Invasive: A species that (a) is nonnative to a specific geographic area, (b) was introduced by humans (intentionally or unintentionally), and (c) **does or can cause environmental or economic harm or harm to humans**”. [1] The part (c) is the most important part of this definition in my view. We as gardeners have many non-native plants in our gardens that are not a problem, Pentas, Society Garlic, Blue Daze, Bulbine, Firespike, Lion’s Ear, Peacock Ginger just to name a few, these plants are called Florida Friendly and many are loved by the butterflies and bees.

“Approximately 1,400 of Florida’s plants are non-native in origin. Most non-natives do not cause problems and support human health and economic interests such as crop production and landscaping. These plants are well managed by those who grow them.

“[2] Of these 1400 non native plants that have been introduced into Florida only” 6% are considered to be invasive “. [2] These plants are divided into 2 categories (Category 1 and Category 2) and are listed on a publication that was called Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council’s (FLEPPC) 2017. [3] and is now called the Florida Invasive Species List. CATEGORY I-Invasive non-native plants that are altering native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with natives. This definition does not rely on the economic severity or geographic range of the problem, but on the documented ecological damage caused.[3] CATEGORY II-Invasive non-native plants that have increased in abundance or frequency but have not yet altered Florida plant communities to the extent shown by Category 1 species. These species may become Category 1 if ecological damage is demonstrated.[3]

“Non-native invasive plants threaten our natural plant communities and pose ecological and financial impacts. Millions of dollars are spent each year to fight these pest plants. Local, state and federal governments, farmers and ranchers, and other organizations play a role in the control of non-native invasive plants. Ecologically, these plants change the composition of natural plant and animal communities. Many animal species that coexist and evolve with native plant communities cannot readily adapt to rapid changes made to their habitats by non-native invasive species. Invasive plants deplete the soil of nutrients and moisture, block sunlight to native plants, prevent access to water (for animal species), deprive animals of nesting areas and food sources, and provide ideal conditions for yet other non-native species to invade. Areas with non-native invasive species tend to become monocultures (areas where one plant species dominates) and greatly reduce habitat diversity” [4]

[1] <https://floridainvasivespecies.org/definitions.cfm>

[2] <https://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/manage/why-manage-plants/non-native-invasive-plants/>

[3] https://bugwoodcloud.org/CDN/fleppc/plantlists/2019/2019_Plant_List_ABSOLUTE_FINAL.pdf

[4] https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/library/hillsborough/media-center/documents/development-services/permits-and-records/permits/natural-resources/invasive_plants.pdf

Invasives in Florida -Lantana Camara

The first plant that I wanted to look at is one of the most controversial, and may be one that is most commonly found in our home gardens. It is unfortunately easily found in the local big box garden stores, it is bright and colorful, and catches the unknowing gardeners’ gaze.



Lantana camara/ Lantana strigocamara is listed as a Category 1 invasive. It has been found to “Invade areas and can become the dominant understory, eliminating native flora and fauna. In Florida, Lantana camara forms thickets in sunny open areas and can hybridize with some varieties of native Lantana depressa.” [1]

The reason Lantana camara is often found in our gardens is because the pollinators- butterflies and bees – are highly attracted to it, but it is extremely toxic to livestock and Lantana camara is spread to our Florida natural areas by birds eating the berries. “Lantana camara is notoriously poisonous and deaths have been reported throughout its range, including Florida. The green, unripe fruits can be fatal to humans if eaten, and the leaves are exceptionally toxic to grazing cattle. The leaves can also cause acute liver problems in dogs.” [2]

What to plant instead of Lantana camara: There are also sterile varieties of Lantana Camara.” These plants cannot produce viable seeds or viable pollen. As a result, they aren't invasive. Recently UF/IFAS added its own breeds to the list of sterile varieties. These include 'Bloomify™ Red', 'Bloomify™ Rose', and 'Luscious® Royale Red Zone™’” [3]

[1] <https://plantatlas.usf.edu/flip/plant.aspx?id=61>

[2] <https://www.fnps.org/assets/pdf/palmetto/v23n1lantana.pdf>

[3] <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/lantana.html>

[4] <https://assessment.ifas.ufl.edu/assessments/lantana-strigocamara/> (photos)



Bloomify Red Lantana

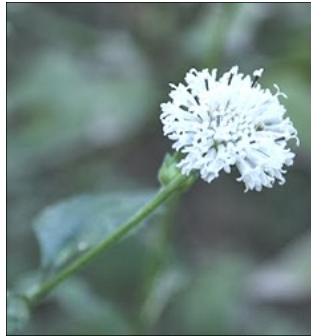
Florida Native Gardening

This month I have begun writing a new article for The Gabby called "Invasives in Florida" and the first plant is Lantana camara/ Lantana strigocamara. In that article I gave some Florida Friendly planting options, but I also wanted to give two Florida Native planting options.



One of the best Native options is a beautiful wildflower called **Coastal mock vervain** (*Glandularia maritima*), it also is called Beach verbena. Coastal mock vervain is a low growing ground cover. It is in the same plant Family as Lantana camara- Verbena or vervain family. The flower colors are deep pink to lavender flowers, loves full sun and dry, well-drained soil. The flowers are a good nectar source for a variety of butterflies and moths, including Gulf fritillaries, hawkmoths and Long-tailed skippers. [1]

The second Native option is called **Snow squaristem** (*Melanthera nivea*), also called Salt and Pepper. This plant can get up to 4 feet tall and 4 feet wide. It likes full sun to part shade and moist to dry soil. It typically blooms summer through early winter, but can bloom year-round.[2] Snow squaristem is heavily used by butterflies, skippers, bees, and wasps for nectar. This plant is an insect magnet. [3]



- [1] <https://www.flawildflowers.org/flower-friday-glandularia-maritima/>
- [2] <https://www.flawildflowers.org/flower-friday-melanthera-nivea/>
- [3] <https://www.fnps.org/plant/melanthera-nivea>

Articles on page 2 and 3 by **Dorothy Caldwell**. Thank you so much Dorothy for this information!



Thank You!

Our New addition to the Sensory Garden. Thank you to Lynda and Jeff for creating this wonderful photo op for the children!

Monarch Magic 2022



To view all the Monarch Magic Photos, go to

<https://gardenclubofdeland.org/photos>

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Looking for information about The Garden Club, schedules, upcoming events, and rental information.

Visit our website at www.gardenclubofdeland.org



Help Wanted for Clubhouse

GCD rental revenue enables us to have a clubhouse and lovely grounds. It takes a **minimum of 50 rentals** annually to support the building and grounds without any major repairs.

We are looking to **expand our clubhouse team**. The committee is responsible for all rental related aspects of the clubhouse. You will be well trained and confident before soloing. The workload varies - on your assigned months, you are busy while the other months are quiet.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Sharyn Marzullo at 615-617-7906 or wordmerchantsm@yahoo.com

Aftermath of Ian (<https://gardenclubofdeland.org/photos>)

