



Shanda Lynn

# Gabby Gardener

## The Garden Club of DeLand

*Gardening for the Future*

Volume 32, Issue 1



### President's Corner

Welcome back!

We are fortunate to have a wonderful range of membership from Brown Thumbs to those who are resting on their laurels of past gardening accomplishments. Our programming reflects this span. You are welcome to do it all, but our expectation is that you participate as you are able without feeling guilt!

This year we are hosting the FFGC District VI Fall Meeting on Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> and FFGC District VI Judges' Flower Show on Friday, March 8, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm and Saturday, March 9, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. As a prelude to the Flower Show, the ever-enjoyable Penny Decker who is a master floral designer and judge will be demonstrating designs at the February General Meeting. Our club is strongly represented on the FFGC District VI Board with our own Valerie Seinfeld as the District VI Director.

Please mark your calendars for the GCD Plant Sale on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at the Clubhouse. Our propagators are hard at work growing a variety of plants. The contact is Lance Harding. On Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> the Milkweed's Monarch Magic Festival at the Sensory Butterfly Garden is a great morning for families and members. The contact is Gail LaFayette.

New programs include the Florida Gardening Basics which expounds on the Florida Friendly Gardening principles with Rosie McKenna. Veggie Bed with Laine Berman helps with which vegetables to plant when. As always Circle programs are open to all members, on a space available basis, but you need to check with the Circle President first. We are anticipating our first Fireside Chat where topics are presented that are of interest to us, but not necessarily gardening related.

It has been a busy summer. I am grateful to the Executive Board, Weedettes, Clubhouse Rentals, Downtown Planters and the Sensory Butterfly Garden teams who have continued to work diligently despite the excessive heat.

***There are many ways to enjoy the Garden Club and many friends to help you. See you soon!***

**The Weedettes** meet every Monday morning at 8 a.m. on the grounds of the Garden Club for about two hours. Together, we decide on where to weed, trim or plant. Each Weedette brings their own gloves, clippers and water.

You will learn a variety of plants, identify insects, learn propagation techniques, and plant maintenance. We encourage pollinators to our gardens with blooms galore. We are busy bees.

Join us and learn. Contact Head Weedette, Norma Thomas. 941.993.0957 or [nojoto11@gmail.com](mailto:nojoto11@gmail.com)

E-mail: [gcdeland@gmail.com](mailto:gcdeland@gmail.com)

## GO NATIVE!

### FLORIDA'S DIRTY LITTLE SECRET



By: Jennifer Condo,  
FFGC Native Plant Chair,  
Member of GCD

How many different plant species do you think you can grow in Florida? Depending on who you ask, the number

ranges between 4,200 to 4,700, which is a lot of different kinds of plants. Of those plants, how many are native plants? In Florida we have between 3,000 and 3,300 native plant species. **A native plant is one that has occurred naturally in a specified geographic area for hundreds of years.** A native is not always specific to one state, it is specific to an ecosystem. Plants do not know state boundaries. Natives have evolved to its location along with the insects and animals that use them. All of those plants should make any gardener happy to choose from such a wide ranging plant palette.

Conversely a nonnative plant is one that does not occur naturally in a specified geographic area for hundreds of years. A nonnative can be introduced meaning that it was brought to a new area either intentionally or unintentionally. Other terms can be used to describe non natives such as exotic, alien, foreign, non-indigenous and introduced. Examples are oranges, gardenias and roses.

I am sure you have heard about invasive plants. Do you know what invasive really means? **An invasive species is a nonnative species that was introduced to an area and it does or can cause environmental or economic harm to humans and their health.** Only a few introduced plant species will become invasive. How many invasive plant species are in Florida? Today that number is 317, which is about 7% of all the plant species grown in Florida, but the sheer number of those plants are immense and too many to count. Some examples include Brazilian peppertree, cogon grass and air potato vine.

Also, based on the definition of an invasive species, a native plant can never be invasive, although it can be aggressive or a nuisance. Usually if you have an aggressive native plant growing in an area, like Virginia creeper or Smilax, then it is a monoculture, an area where one species dominates. In that case, you need to evaluate your soil needs based on the present plant and find other plant species with similar characteristics and add those plants to that area. We all know how important biodiversity is for our pollinators, for our soil and even for our own health

## GCD MEETINGS

Thursday, September 7, 5:30 PM, **GCD General Membership Meeting** at the clubhouse, 865 S. Alabama Ave. Welcome Back. Contact Person: Lance Harding [wildcoffeecircle@gmail.com](mailto:wildcoffeecircle@gmail.com)

Friday, September 8, **Rose Circle** at the clubhouse. Welcome Back, Roses. Speaker: Taylor Bass. Topic: Farm to Table. Contact Person: Casey King [caseyking@live.com](mailto:caseyking@live.com)

Monday, September 11, 5:45pm, **Wild Coffee Circle** at the clubhouse. Welcome Back Potluck Social. Contact Person: Lance Harding [wildcoffeecircle@gmail.com](mailto:wildcoffeecircle@gmail.com)

Tuesday, September 12, 12 noon, **Marigold Circle:** Welcome Back Meeting at member's home. Contact Person: Suellen Biferie [sbiferie@yahoo.com](mailto:sbiferie@yahoo.com)

Friday, September 15, **Magnolia Circle:** Welcome Back Luncheon at member's home. Contact Person: Lisa Schnetzer [lisschn@gmail.com](mailto:lisschn@gmail.com)

Tuesday, September 19, 12:30, **Milkweed Circle** at the clubhouse. Welcome Back Potluck Social. Contact Person: Erin Miceli [orangeblossomerin@gmail.com](mailto:orangeblossomerin@gmail.com)

Tuesday, September 19, **Firecracker Circle.** Topic: Welcome Back Meeting at A Place in the Sun Nursery. Contact Person: Carol Grigas [carolgrigas@gmail.com](mailto:carolgrigas@gmail.com) or Suzanne Locke [locke2151@aol.com](mailto:locke2151@aol.com)

## Certified Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary By Carole Gilbert

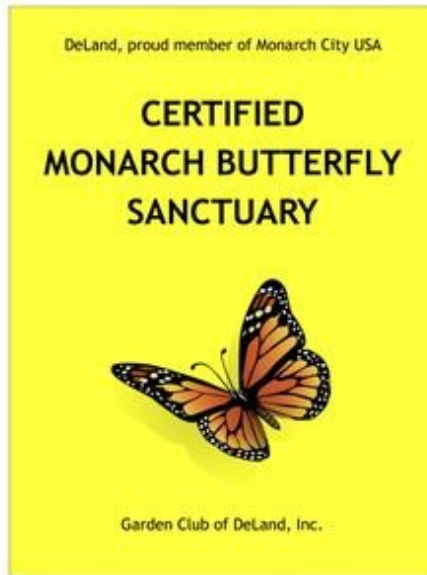
On Friday, July 21, our wildflower garden was visited by 6 members of the Garden Club of Deland [GCD] to see if the number and type of flowers qualified it as a Certified Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary. We are thrilled to say it did!! We are Garden #220, registered in DeLand, FL, as part of Monarch City USA.

3 years ago when we "torched" our backyard so we could plant native wildflowers to support the 5 "Bs" [bees, butterflies, birds, bats and bunnies - and recently an armadillo that we've named Amethyst], we didn't realize we could apply as a Monarch Sanctuary until Matt Kemm, of Kemm Services, told me about this in spring when doing a sprinkler repair.

The application to become a sanctuary is on the GCD's web site [only DeLand zip codes are eligible] and notes the need to have a minimum total of 20 nectar and host/larval food plants, including 3 different host plants with a minimum of 5 milkweed plants [the only host plant for Monarch butterflies] and a minimum of 5 different nectar plants for food. The application recommends native wildflowers [especially native milkweed] and lists several host plants and the types of butterflies each one hosts, along with a long list of common and native wildflower nectar plants.

For host plants, we had originally planted several milkweeds, and then added parsley/dill/fennel for the Black Swallowtails, and native Passion Vine for Zebra Longwings and Gulf Fritillary. Our native wildflower nectar plants include Black-Eyed Susan, Blanket Flower, Horse-mint, Ironweed, Stokes Aster, **Tickseed [our**

**State Wildflower]**, Tropical Sage, Coral Honeysuckle, Firebush, Blue and Coral Porterweed\*, and non-native Penta, Lantana\* and a Chaste Tree.



Happily, this summer we've been "visited" by 3 types of caterpillars and 10 types of butterflies: Monarch, Zebras [our State Butterfly], Gulf Fritillary, Julia, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Eastern Black Swallowtail, Spicebush Swallowtail, Common Buckeye, Red Admiral, Gray Hairstreak, Red-banded Hairstreak, and some I haven't been able to identify.

The voracious appetite of caterpillars has been a happy surprise!! We've replanted fennel and dill at least 2 times, and added passion vines. Monarch caterpillars eat the milkweed leaves and even munch on the stems, but milkweeds grow back easily. Stems without leaves can be cut and rooted in water and replanted, or just left in the ground with new leaves popping out quickly and when milkweed pods open, seeds can be gathered and replanted or left on the white "feathers" that are scattered by the wind.

It is a sobering fact the number of Monarch butterflies has decreased to the point that migrating Monarchs have been placed on the critically endangered list due to habitat loss, the use of herbicides, even the planting of non-native milkweed which may be grown with insecticides and/or have parasites in the leaves.

Our part to support Monarchs is simple!! 1. Care enough to take action. 2. Ask for and plant FL native milkweeds [Asclepias tuberosa, incarnata, or perennis] and FL native wildflowers. 3. Watch for these beautiful creatures to visit your garden!

You'll see our metal award and Monarch Butterfly hung on one of the oak trees in our front yard, along with bug houses and other whimsical butterflies [one is on the Little Free Library]!!

*Editor's note : **Low growing blue porterweed is native, but the coral is not. Be careful with lantana – the camara variety is toxic and invasive while the pineland is native.***



## Garden Club of DeLand



865 South Alabama Ave.  
DeLand, FL 32724

(386) 624-6960

E-mail: [gcdeland@gmail.com](mailto:gcdeland@gmail.com)

Membership E-mail: [gcdmembership@gmail.com](mailto:gcdmembership@gmail.com)

Website: <https://gardenclubofdeland.org>

Clubhouse rentals: (386) 624-6960 or  
[rentalsgardenclubofdeland@gmail.com](mailto:rentalsgardenclubofdeland@gmail.com)

Gabby Editor: [gaillafayette@hotmail.com](mailto:gaillafayette@hotmail.com)



**The Garden Club of DeLand**  
hosting the Fall District VI  
meeting and luncheon.

Please join us for a Birthday Party  
Wednesday, October 25th 9AM to 2PM

CELEBRATING FFGC 100 years of  
**BEEing Happy in the Garden!**



Hospitality 9-10AM coffee, tea, pastries, muffins  
& fruit.

Lunch from "Wrap it Up" DeLand. 50/50 drawing,  
Opportunity Baskets and Ways & Means Bou-  
tique!

If you have any "boutique type" items to donate  
to Ways & Means please contact [Lisa Schnetzer](#)  
or [Suzanne Locke](#). If you have shopped Ways &  
Means in the past, you know that there are some  
great finds to be purchased!!! Donations can be  
brought to the September General meeting. This  
is a 100% fundraiser for our club, so be generous  
in your donations AND purchases at the lunch-  
eon.

The District VI meeting registration form will be  
available online.

Thanks, Suzanne Locke  
District VI meeting chair



**Monarch Magic Festival**  
**Saturday, November 4, 9 - noon**  
**Bill Dreggors Park, 230 N. Stone St.**

We have had two (2) meetings to plan our Milkweed Cir-  
cle's **Monarch Magic Festival**. The activities will be in  
and around the **Sensory Butterfly Garden** which is  
maintained by you, the members of the Garden Club of  
DeLand, on every second and fourth Tuesdays of the  
month.

**We are excited that all circles have accepted our  
invitation to participate this year.** We hope to see  
many of you there as volunteers or just come and see the  
garden, other members of GCD and the many families that  
will be there to enjoy the festival.

Our next planning meeting will be **Thursday, Septem-  
ber 28, 2 PM** at the clubhouse. **All are welcome.**

**Volunteers are still needed. Canopies and tables  
are still needed.**

**Contact Person: Gail LaFayette, Milkweed Circle  
President** [gaillafayette@hotmail.com](mailto:gaillafayette@hotmail.com)

**Downtown DeLand Beautification  
Planting and Monthly Maintenance**

**"Beautifying DeLand One Seed at a Time."**



The Garden Club of DeLand gath-  
ers two times a year to plant 68  
container gardens, 16 of these are  
pedestals. The **second Saturday  
of each month**, a group of volun-  
teers from the Garden Club meet  
to weed, tweak, and evaluate the  
condition of each container garden.  
All month long, as time allows, each  
Garden Club Circle checks on their  
assigned containers and reports  
issues to the chair.