

# The Gabby Gardener

## Garden Club of DeLand

December 2021 Volume 28, Issue 4

### Presidents Corner



**Valerie Seinfeld**

Congratulations to Valerie Seinfeld and Suzanne Locke who took home blue ribbons for their floral designs in the “Winter Wonderland” class and “Christmas Morning” class respectively at the recent FFGC District VI Judges Council “Holiday Magic” Flower Show. We are so fortunate to have such talent among our members.

In reading Southern Living’s “5 Signs You Should Join a Garden Club” article, there is an apt description of what attracts members to GCD – “It’s about sharing knowledge, meeting fellow garden enthusiasts, and learning something new.” Our garden visits program is a great way to see a variety of plants and garden landscapes.

The winter holidays are fast approaching. We hope you are hanging one of the wonderful wreaths from Select Growers. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser.



**Suzanne Locke**

As Downtown DeLand transforms into a winter wonderland, we look forward to GCD’s participation in the Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 4th, 6pm. We hope you come out to cheer us on!

*Wishing you all peace and  
joy over the holidays,*

**Marshall**



### Circle Around

It was Make It, Bake It, Grow It circle fundraiser time for the Marigolds and Roses. Milkweeds heard from GCD’s favorite beekeeper, Donna Athearn of Marlin’s Bees, who presented “A Brief History of Bees and their Role”. Magnolias are still up to their elbows as they continue to learn about the hypertufa process. Daisies continue to focus on their longtime friendships. Firecrackers toured the Stetson Aquatic Center scenically situated on the river with its pollinator gardens, part of the Bartram Trail and state of the art building. Please don’t forget that members-at-large are welcome to contact circle presidents to join circle activities.

*Marshall*



## Florida Native Gardening

Native goldenrod – one of the very best late summer and fall nectar plants in Florida for bees and butterflies. There are 21 varieties for Florida native goldenrod and in my garden, we have four of them: Chapman's goldenrod, anise or sweet-scented goldenrod, seaside goldenrod, and Canada goldenrod.



The first to bloom was the **anise or sweet-scented goldenrod**. Beautiful blooms on wands that were about 4-5 feet tall that the native bees and honey bees were attracted to. Honey is made from

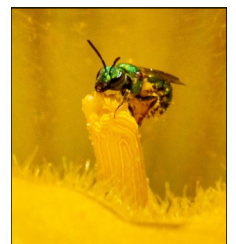
this goldenrod and it can be made into a tea. When the flowers fade and the seeds start appearing the sweet or anise scent fills the air. When collecting the seeds your hands will smell wonderful for hours.

The next two to bloom were the Canada goldenrod and the **Chapman's goldenrod**. The Canada variety can handle some shade and we have found that is where it does best. The Chapman's variety gets about 6 feet tall and it will attract native bees and insects to its flowers.



The last of the four Goldenrods in my garden to bloom is **seaside goldenrod**. The wands can reach upwards of 6 to 10 feet tall. The flowers attract a large number of native bees, butterflies and insects which leads to many birds visiting to feast on the insects on

the flower blooms.



By Dorothy Caldwell

## Vegetable Gardening in Central Florida



This month I wanted to focus on the Cucurbitaceae (usually shortened to cucurbit) family which includes summer and winter squash, cucumbers, melons, and gourds. My love of summer and winter squash led to my interest in native gardening and native bees, members of the cucurbit family depend on native bees to produce the fruit.

So first let's look at the cucurbit varieties that are suitable for Florida." Summer: Early Prolific Straightneck, Summer Crookneck, Early White Scallop, Chayote Zucchini: Co-cozelle, Spineless Beauty, Black Beauty Winter: Seminole Pumpkin, Spaghetti, Table King, Table Queen & Table Ace, Waltham, Early Butternut. For cucumber varieties try "Sweet Success, Market More 76, Straight Eight" [1]

The pollination period of cucurbit blooms is very short, just a few hours beginning at dawn and lasting till just before noon. In Central Florida we are dependent on native bees including sweat bees and bumblebees to visit and pollinate cucurbits. Bumble bees and many sweat bees that contribute to cucurbit pollination are generalists with nearly year-round forage activity, requiring floral sources throughout the year. Native wildflowers planted in and around the vegetable garden can provide those floral sources that will assist in attracting these bees to the squash blooms. [2]

By Dorothy Caldwell

[1] <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/VH021>

[2] <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/IN131121>

## 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)



"I never gardened before moving here. I did have a greenhouse with orchids before, but orchids are quite self-sufficient and a different type of gardening." The light green leaves of a sunshine ligustrum and recently planted muhly grass flaunting its fall purple-pink flowers grace the front bed. There was nothing here but sparse grass. "I do my own mowing, but less and less as my gardens grow. This is sweet almond. Sometimes when I pull into my driveway and all I can smell is the fragrance from this plant."

### Delightful Downsized Gardening in DeLand

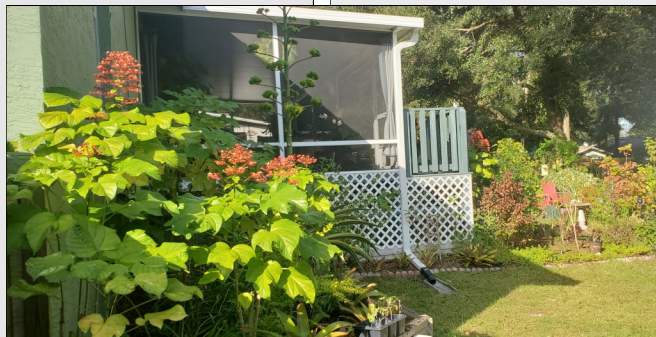


**Lynn Ventura's** five-year-old garden has become her labor of love. "I didn't know how to fill my time after retiring. I could only read so many hours of the day. I

love working, so I started by widening beds in the front of my home and along the driveway. Then I just kept going."

Step by step, plant by plant her garden grew and so did her peace of mind. The Ventura garden was recommended for Garden of the Month by Sue Jarvis, a good gardening friend who has gifted many seedlings and cuttings to get this garden growing.

Walking in front of the home we see a row of little rubies, a bushy plant that transplants and grows easily. "I bought this yellowtop, from Volusia County Cooperative Extension Garden Show. I love finding plants wherever I can to add to my gardens. Look, the red cloak blooms resemble slices of watermelon!"



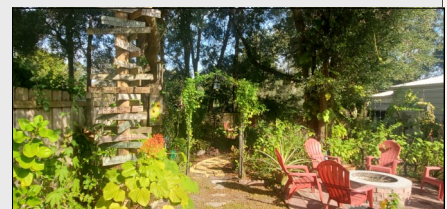
We pass a ponytail palm, copperleaf, Japanese or bush clovers, red Turk's cap, and rabbit's foot fern to name a few. Like many gardeners, her back garden is her oasis. Delightful yard art catches the eye, as well as panels made from recycled wooden fence pickets painted during a garden paint party. "It's kitschy," she shares, "I love garden art. I don't know what I would have done without this garden when I retired and especially during the pandemic." Lynn carts in square pavers and rock to create her own winding paths that lead the eye and foot to smaller

garden patches. Green baskets blend in along the path, ready for weeds. No pesticides are used in this butterfly sanctuary!

The Garden Club of DeLand awards Lynn Ventura's Garden,

### ***Garden of the Month for December 2021.***

Written and submitted by **Cheryl Floyd** for the Garden Club of DeLand, affiliated with the National Garden Clubs, Inc.



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