

Garden Gate

Fairbanks Garden Club Newsletter

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December 2023



President's Message

Merry Christmas!

I am so looking forward to seeing everyone at our annual Christmas Party gathering at Lucy Smyth's home on Wednesday, December 13th . It is a potluck with a gift exchange. This is going to be a fun party time with only a quick roll call and a couple very brief club information updates. Other than that, it's time to relax, visit, and enjoy some great food and each other's company.

The Library Holiday Tree Committee put up the FGC Tree at the old Joy Elementary location of the Noel Wien Library on Tuesday, November 28th . Althea St. Martin, Susie Crevensten, Becky Hassebroek, Marilyn Biagi, and Caroline Wolf were there. The tree is decorated with some super cute veggie & fruit ornaments, along with a special seed section to celebrate our Plant America tally. Take a moment to stop on by and see it♦♦.

FGC has had another wonderful and successful year with its myriad annual programs, as well as several exciting new club endeavors developing and coming up!

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Joyous Solstice! Happy New Year! - to all of you and your loved ones at this special time of year!
Best Wishes,
Jane.



Horticultural Moment – December 2023

There's no Christmas plant more iconic than the Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) The most popular Christmas plant in the US. Also known as: 'The Christmas Flower'. A subtropical plant native to Central America. Named after the US Ambassador to Mexico, Joel Roberts Poinsett, who introduced the flower to the US in 1825. Poinsettias have evolved into a symbol of Christmas because of their festive red and green colors. They are a little different to other flowering plants. The popular red 'petals' are actually bracts, the upper leaves of the plant. The flowers themselves are tiny but can be seen nestled in the middle of the leaves, and are usually green or yellow in color. The shape of the poinsettia flower is said to symbolize the star of Bethlehem. There are over 100 different varieties available today. And more than 80 MILLION are sold every year in the US, accounting for almost one quarter of the potted plants sold.



December FGC members Sharing

Your Favorite Holiday Flower, What Brings You JOY in The Holidays, OR anything else one wishes to share.

Janet B My favorite activity to begin the holiday season is making little evergreen bouquets and scattering them around the house. I jazzed up one with small, lightweight, ornaments.

Conservation tip: Christmas tree sellers in town have trimmed off branches for free or nominal cost.

Marilyn B I am thankful for my granddaughter Vesta Francesca born 11/21. 8# and heathy. Thank you.

Mary F My favorite holiday flower is the Christmas cactus. I love all the blossoms that appear in December during this dark cold time - just when they're needed the most! The things that bring me the most joy are the cards, photos, notes, texts, emails and letters from nearby or far flung friends and family. I look forward to seeing and hearing about their trials and triumphs and hopes for the coming year! Cheers and happy trails to all in 2024!

Liz M My favorite flower is Xmas Cactus - maybe by saying that it will make my cactus feel special and prompt it to bloom.

FGC Members' Favorite Cookie Recipes

Mary F: My favorite holiday recipe is for candy cane cookies that are a fun activity for everyone to do. These are excellent for eating or decorating the tree. But, beware, any cookies put on the tree will be eaten, either by people—the little ones go for the low hanging cookies, the taller people go for the high or hidden ones as they think, oh, no one will miss this cookie, and the hairy ones, the dogs, don't discriminate and will eat them all, and they may destroy your tree, lights and other decorations in the process. I am speaking from experience, so don't say you weren't warned! Just make lots of them! Directions: choose your favorite roll out sugar cookie recipe. Divide the dough into three and color one red, one green and leave one white. Choose two to roll into ropes, then twist them together and shape into candy canes. Be sure to experiment and make them thick enough so they don't break at the curve. One option is to brush them with an egg wash and sprinkle with sugar to make them sparkly. Bake according to the recipe. I always use a little oil or butter on the parchment paper or on my cookie sheets to help them not to stick. Don't worry if some break, as this actually makes them more delicious! Merry holidays and happiest of new years 2024!

Liz M:

My favorite holiday cookie to make is Pecan Turtle Bars. Here is the link for it. I like more carmel in mine and doubled the amount of carmel <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/10938/pecan-turtles-bars/>

Amanda Ross: I enjoy making Gingerbread cookies with my grandchildren. <https://tastesbetterfromscratch.com/gingerbread-cookies/>

November FGC meeting was at Sheila M's lovely home. Here is the link of a google album. I hope you will be able to enjoy the pictures. You should be able to see the photos by just touching the link. ENJOY!

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/mB8ELeTQSJscEnJU9>

Christmas tree is up



Becky, Marilyn, Althea, Susie, and Caroline Wolf decorated the FGC Christmas tree at Joy Elementary November 28, 2023. A special selection of vegetables and seeds celebrate our Plant America tally project.

Fairbanks Garden Club Raffle:

The quilt below created by Marilyn Biagi for the FGC raffle. On the quilt raffle - the final design of the tickets have been finished and are ready to print. The quilt is also finished. We will start with printing 500 tickets, Althea has designed the spreadsheet for tracking tickets and sales. MORE on this later.



THIS MONTH's Meeting;

Hostess: Lucy S. Co-Hostess: Marilyn B

Moved to Walden Estates

Please Phone Regrets to Lucy:

Roll Call: What are your favorite Holiday flowers?

Share your Favorite Holiday Recipes Send to Amanda to Distribute

Horticultural Moment / Conservation Tip

Program: Gift Exchange, \$20 limit please



Feed America - Plant America project.

Althea designed a tracking sheet with instructions on the bottom. Look for a page on our website soon.

Logo Design

The Smokey Bear Contest for Our Youth logo contest requirements have been sent out to all members and the committee is looking forward to receiving designs

2024.

key Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Rules

- Competition may include students from first to fifth grade.
- Posters are to be completed by individual student artists.
- Posters must have correct spelling (posters with spelling errors will be disqualified).
- All posters must feature Smokey Bear.
- Smokey Bear posters must include Smokey's wildfire prevention message: Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!
- All posters should encourage children to take a personal role in preventing wildfires or conserving natural resources.
- Smokey Bear must be presented in his correct colors (he is an official icon protected by law); check the colors on the website www.fs.usda.gov/learn/kids or www.symbols.gov.
- Each poster entry should be 11 x 17 inches in size.
- Materials that can be used include crayons, markers, poster paints, watercolors, and the like. The choice of paper color and texture is up to the child.
- No three-dimensional posters, computer-scanned, or electronically generated images will be accepted.
- All poster entrees must be sponsored by a recognized local garden club.
- The local garden club chairperson must submit the poster entries to his or her state chairperson no later than January 20, 2024.
- The state garden club chairperson must submit the five winning posters from his or her state to the regional garden club



chairperson by February 24, 2024.

- The following information should be written on the back of the poster in the lower- right corner (do not use a dark marker for this information as it may show through):
 - The name, address, phone number, and email of the sponsoring local garden club. The artist's name, address, contact phone number, grade level, school, teacher's name, city, and State. (Should school policy preclude giving students' addresses and phone numbers, please include the school address and phone number).

Poster Tips

- A good poster has a bold and simple design.
- The poster's message should be easily understood and delivered both in the picture and in text.
- An educator, parent, guardian, or other adult should provide 11" x 17" paper for a child to create their poster.
- Find inspiration for your poster with promotional and educational products from the National Symbols Cache, www.symbols.gov.
- Posters will be judged for originality, design, slogan, artwork, and overall effectiveness of the message.



December Birthdays

Lucy S 12/2

Agnes G 12/7

Jane G 12/18

Patty K. 12/20

Pat D. 12/20

Katie D 12/26

National Garden Clubs Inc.

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The permanent home and endowment trustees have approved the addition of a walking path to the NGC grounds: The NGC Path of Success. Roughly 1/4 mile long, the Path of Success will be a walking path located on the grounds of NGC's headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri and will link to the Missouri Botanical Gardens, spreading more awareness of NGC than ever before. This project will also serve as an educational platform, showing the rich history and mission of NGC. There is a smaller paver size (\$250) for individuals and clubs (order on the website) and a larger paver for states. You can also just donate on the website for the project. For more information go to www.gardenclub.org/ngc-path-success

Susan Miner, New England Region Director reports: "You may not be aware that the NGC property abutts the beautiful Missouri Botanical Garden. There is no fence dividing the two properties, so visitors to the garden sometimes wander onto the NGC land. Also, NGC has started to rent the property for functions - the first was a wedding this fall. This serves several purposes - to more fully utilize our physical assets, to create a new revenue stream, and, most importantly, to educate the public about garden clubs and our mission. The project is to create a pathway for those and others to walk to view our gardens and trees adding signage to educate them on NGC."



Be a Great Mentor

- Have you ever walked into a room full of people and you don't know anyone?
- Have you listened to leadership at a meeting and don't understand what they're talking about?
- Have you tried to find a meeting place and finally given up because you don't know the particulars?
- Have you wondered what to wear or what to bring?
- Have you been too uncomfortable to call someone and ask?

- If these problems persist, are you going to come back?

The answer is: Probably Not! It's so easy to keep this from occurring! The definition of a 'mentor' is 'an experienced and trusted adviser'. That's exactly what we can be to our new members. Most of our new members are brought to a meeting or function by a friend. That person could be a great mentor – take them under their wings and introduce them to others, explain in detail what the organization is about, direct them to meetings, be there for questions, and give them the name and contact information for an individual who can stand in when they must be absent.

If you're a new member and could use this help and don't know anyone to ask, we have experienced members who would love to help you. Just let me know and I'll be glad to connect you with a person that you'll enjoy!

If you are currently mentoring someone, please let me know that, as well! Thanks so very much!

Becky H, Membership Chairman,

