



MRGC BULLETIN BOARD

January 2026



We have made it to our shortest day of the year and are barreling towards Christmas and New Year's! One of our plant-related holiday traditions is tying together several leaves of collards and hanging them on our front door on New Year's Day. This mostly rural, Southern custom is rooted in the story that the leaves of collards fold like dollar bills, and hanging them on the entrance of your home will attract prosperity in the new year. I wish for all of you, my gardening friends, a happy and healthy 2026!

Melanie

New Member Orientation

January 28th
2-4 pm

All members
welcome

January Luncheon: "Happy New Year"

Hostesses: **Crystal Herold**, Barbara Johnson, Gail Manna, Susan Soloman, Cheryl Weeks-Rosten

The meeting begins at 10:30AM with the luncheon to follow. Please RSVP by January 10th to mrgchospitality@gmail.com to let us know whether or not you can attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

Rita & Jay Obeid. Hospitality Chairpersons

January Program: "The Importance of Trees"

Speaker: Dean Hay, ISA Board Certified Master Arborist and Senior Urban Forestry Specialist, Office of Sustainability & Resilience, City of St.Petersburg

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
11	12 Flower Show info: Combination Plantings that you plan to enter must be in your possession by January 13th.	13 Garden Angels 8:30- ?	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 MRGC MEETING 10:30	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

1 New Year's Day

12 Flower Show info:
Combination
Plantings
that you plan to
enter must be
in your possession
by January 13th.

13 Garden Angels
8:30- ?

14 Board of
Directors
10 am

15 Floral Design
Study
Unit 8

21 MRGC
MEETING
10:30

28 New Member
Orientation
2-4 pm

29 Flower Show
Meeting
11 am

Flower Show:

Our Flower Show is coming up soon! Preparations are happening now! The Flower Show schedule is available on line. If you didn't pick up a printed copy at the December meeting, they will be available at the next meeting. Our flower show is our gift to the public and we always have a wonderful show! Please join the fun! Volunteers are welcome and needed! Entries need to be filled! Consultants for all divisions are listed in the schedule. If you have any questions, let us know.



This is a synopsis of the schedule. We are counting on all members to contribute. We need entries in all Divisions. See schedule for consultants. Entry forms are available on the MRGC website.

DESIGN. 4 entries in each

Tables:

1. "Linen & Lace"

A functional dinner for two, staged on a card table, Designer to supply table covering.

2. "I'm Looking Over a Four Leaf Clover"

A functional, alfresco picnic lunch for two

Staged in an area measuring 36" x 36" on green artificial turf on the floor, marked by tape. A small green bench, measuring 24" long x 10" wide x 12.5" high is provided by committee and may be or not be used by exhibitors.

3. "Where Everybody knows Your Name"

An Exhibition Table Snacks & Brews at the Pub,

Designer's Choice

1. "Sweet Molly Malone"

Creative Design of Designer's Choice staged on a natural wood pedestal.

2. "Look to the Rainbow"

A Monochromatic Design staged on a table.

3. "When It's Moonlight in Mayo."

An Illuminary Design, staged on black pedestal.

Challenge: An All Foliage Design

Identical components and mechanics will be provided by the committee. Designers will be given one hour to complete the design on March 12th.

Designer must provide clippers, scissors, wire cutters or knife to cut plant material. No other mechanics are allowed.

HORTICULTURE unlimited entries

Members may enter up to 10 different specimens

- A. Cut Stem of Tropical Foliage
- B. Cut Flowers or Bracts from Perennials
- C. Orchids – Container Grown or Mounted
- D. Container grown flowering plants
- E. Container grown foliage plants
- F. Container grown Cacti
- G. Container grown Succulents
- H. Container grown or mounted Bromeliads
- I. Cut Arboreals
- J. Combination Plantings

BOTANICAL ARTS DESIGN 4 entries in each

General rules:

1. Include a card listing all plant materials used
2. Must contain some plant material
3. No artificial plant material

A Wreath or Door Hanging.

Theme: "Doors of Dublin"

Will be hung on a natural wood door. Space allotted: 30" wide x 36" tall x 10" deep.

A Collage.

Theme: "Shamrocks"

Will be hung on a natural wood door. Space allotted: 24" wide X 30" high x 5" deep.

Collage: an abstract design created on a background panel/s with a dominance of components attached in a non-realistic manner.

A Topiary design.

Theme: "Tree of Life"

Create a tree form, not to exceed 36" tall. Space allotted: 18" wide X 18" deep X 36" high.

Topiary: an contrived tree form having a visible trunk/s created by the exhibitor and embellished with cut plant material. Non- plant material may be used to embellish the topiary.

PHOTOGRAPHY. 4 entries in each

1. "Chasing Rainbows" : a photo of a rainbow
2. "My Wild Irish Rose" : a photo of a rose/roses
3. "Lighthouse Legends" : a photo of a lighthouse
4. "Green Spaces in Green Places" : a photo within a local preserve

BOTANICAL ARTS HORTICULTURE unlimited entries

A Fairy Garden

Theme: "Fairy Life"

No container is to exceed 16" in any direction when measured across the top of the container.

Fairy Garden: a combination planting with fairy/s or implements indicating fairy life (a table, bench, etc.)

***Emphasis is not necessarily on plant material, but some live plant material must be included (at least 3 different plant specimens, grown together for a minimum of of six weeks (Jan 13th))**

***Each specimen named by proper scientific designation on a card indicating placement of plants in the garden.**

For any member interested: Tropical Short Course: Wellington, FL, January 22-23

FFGC & District X 69th Tropical Short Course and Tri-Refresher: "Gardening into the Future" January 22-23, 2026

Name: Garden Club: District:

Address: City: State: Zip:

Phone: E-mail:

Dietary restrictions for box lunch.....

Registration postmarked by January 5, 2026:

- Attend both days - \$95
- Attend Thursday only - \$65
- Attend Friday only - \$65

(For registration postmarked AFTER January 5, add \$25)

For Tri-Refresher, submit NGC Form 7 with registration

- Landscape Consultant, add \$5 to registration fee
- Gardening Consultant, add \$5 to registration fee
- Environmental Consultant, add \$5 to registration fee
- Master Gardener Continuing Ed (no fee)

Registration includes continental breakfast and box lunch for each day registered.

ALL INFORMATION ABOVE MUST BE COMPLETED. NO REFUNDS AFTER JANUARY 19, 2026. Make checks payable to

FFGC DISTRICT X. Numbered seating by date of registration received. Mail completed form and payment to:

Toni Cvetko, 911 Gardenia Drive #151, Delray Beach FL 33483-4817

The 2026 Tropical Short Course will be held at

Wellington Community Center

12150 Forest Hill Blvd

Wellington FL 33414

PLEASE NOTE: The Wellington Community Center is NOT the first building you come to in the Municipal Complex. It is BEHIND the building on Forest Hill Blvd. The address is in large numbers at the top of the building.

From North/South via I-95

Exit #68 US 98/SR 80 (Southern Boulevard) - Head west for 11.6 miles. Turn left on Forest Hill Boulevard. At the 3rd traffic light, (2.1 miles), turn right into the Wellington Municipal Complex.

From North/South via Florida's Turnpike

Exit #97 US 98/SR 80 (Southern Boulevard). Head west (right) for 7.9 miles. Turn left on Forest Hill Boulevard. At the 3rd traffic light (2.1 miles), turn right into the Wellington Municipal Complex.

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS:

District X has arranged reduced room rates at:

Fairfield Inn & Suites-Wellington
10616 Forest Hill Boulevard
Wellington, Fl. 33414

Please note that the cutoff date to make reservations at the reduced rate is 12/22/2025.

TO RESERVE BY PHONE

Call (855) 999-0489 and request a reservation under

District X Tropical Short Course.

TO RESERVE ONLINE:

Use this link to make

reservations:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1758729940160&key=GRP&app=reslink>

Please enter your arrival date and departure and choose whether you want a **King bed (\$254/night)** or

two Queen beds (\$274/night).



District X



Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc
and
District X

Jackie Reed, 2026 TSC Chair
dijareed@gmail.com

*Gardening into
the Future*

**The 69th Annual
Tropical Short Course
and Tri-Refresher**

presented by



Thursday, January 22

2: 10-3: 10 **SaltWater Intrusion & Gardening**

11:05-12:05

Designing Delfay Beach Children's Garden

9:00-9:30 Registration and

Associate Center Director & professor
are unaware of where their water
and how gardening practices can

9:30-9:45 Welcome and Breakfast

comes from and how gardening practices can contribute to saltwater intrusion. This talk explores the connection between our landscapes and our freshwater resources.

Mary Ann Cody
District X Director



Strategies to engage young gardeners and promote environmental education through the FFGC Junior Gardener Program.

10:4E 11:0E

10:45-11:05 Morning Break

9:00-9:30 Registration and Commencement
Breakfast

Bach-Ackermann et al. / *Stress in Women* 1211

Rich Ackerman
Past President of Ft Lauderdale Orchid Society

Learn about a mix of native and exotic orchids that will look beautiful in your landscape while playing an active role in your local ecosystem.

12:05-12:50 Box Lunch

How do nature-based spaces like children's gardens on Facebook

Associate Center Director & Professor
UF/IFAS Ft. Lauderdale Research and
Education Center (UF/LREC)

Florida Gardeners are discovering new plant species that thrive in our unique climate. This talk will highlight trial gardens at UF FLREC and how they help identify promising additions to local landscapes.

1:50-2:10 Afternoon Break

10:45-11:05 Morning Break