



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
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Floral Design Study Unit 7	9	10
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- ? Board of Directors 10 am 	14	15 Floral Design Study Unit 8	16	17
18	19	20	21 MRGC MEETING 10:30	22 Floral Design Study Unit 9	23	24
25	26	27	28 New Member Orientation 2-4 pm	29 Flower Show Meeting 11 am	30	31

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.



March 13 & 14

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

- Cut Stem of Tropical Foliage
- Cut Flowers or Bracts from Perennials
- Orchids – Container Grown or Mounted
- Container grown flowering plants
- Container grown foliage plants
- Container grown Cacti
- Container grown Succulents
- Container grown or mounted Bromeliads
- Cut Arboreals
- 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/roes
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 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)

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

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)

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/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 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.

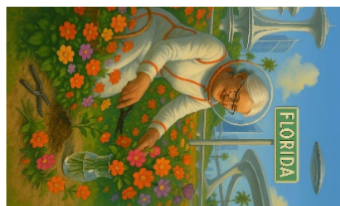
OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS:

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=resvlink>

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

two Queen beds (\$274/night).



Gardening into
the Future

The 69th Annual
Tropical Short Course
and Tri-Refresher

presented by

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc

and

District X



Jackie Reed, 2026 TSC Chair

djarreed@gmail.com

Thursday, January 22

9:00-9:30
Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:30-9:45

Welcome and Opening Remarks
Mary Ann Cody
District X Director



9:45-10:45

FFGC's Jr. Gardener Program
Christy Linke
FFGC President

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

10:45-1:05

Morning Break

11:05-12:05

Orchids to Know and Grow
Rich Ackerman
Past President of Ft Lauderdale Orchid Society & Master Gardener

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

12:50-1:50

New Species for FL Gardens
Kimberly Moore, PhD
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

2:10-3:10

Saltwater Intrusion & Gardening
Kimberly Moore, Ph.D.
Associate Center Director & Professor

Many people are unaware of where their water comes from and how gardening practices can contribute to saltwater intrusion. This talk explores the connection between our landscapes and our freshwater resources.

3:10-4:10

Judges Floral Design Challenge

Four Flower Show Judges will be given the same containers, florals, leaves and accents with 30 minutes to create an arrangement as the audience watches. Each will then explain their design, and the audience will vote on their favorites by a show of hands.

Friday, January 23

9:00-9:30

Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:30-9:45

Welcome and Opening Remarks
Mary Ann Cody
District X Director

9:45-10:45

Community Gardening
Shelly Zacks
www.delraybeachchildrensgarden.org
Michiko Kurisu
@swintoncgp on Instagram
Swinton Community Growing Project
on Facebook

How do nature-based spaces like children's gardens and food forests enrich cities, communities, and individuals of all ages? Why is it now more important than ever to provide access to nature and gardening? Shelly Zacks of the Delray Beach Children's Garden and Michiko Kurisu of the Swinton Community Growing Project, a food forest and community garden in Delray Beach, will share the mission and impact of their not-for-profit organizations that bring nature to people of all ages.

10:45-11:05

Morning Break

11:05-12:05

Designing Delray Beach Children's Garden

Allan Hendricks
Landscape Architect
VP of Caulfield & Wheeler, Inc
www.cwi-assoc.com

Planning and installation of a garden designed to engage children and inspire their play while promoting environmental learning.

12:05-12:50

Box Lunch

12:50-1:50

McNab House Sensory Garden
Sarah Mulder
Project Manager

Plans for creating a botanical garden that stimulates all 5 senses for everyone to enjoy at a historical home in Pompano Beach.

1:50-2:10

Afternoon Break

2:10-3:10

Landscape Design using Native Species

Debra Yates
Spatial Designer & Artist
Benjamin Burle
Naturalistic Garden Designer
Yates Burle Studio
www.debrayates.com

Creating sophisticated native gardens in residential settings, how and why privacy buffers should replace sterile hedges, and custom pools nestled within well-designed spaces.

3:10-4:10

Floral Design
Mayfair Hydro & Sandra Deery
NGC Accredited Judges

FFGC President	Christy Linke
District X Director	Mary Ann Cody
District X Assistant Director	Jackie Reed
Registrar	Toni Cvetko
Treasurer	Li Roberts