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TAKE NOTE

Because the first Thursday in January is a holiday (New Year's Day) our meeting will be held on the second **Thursday, January 8th 9:30 Social, 10 am meeting.** Thus, in January we will have no Governing Board meeting.

Topic: Perfect Plant Combination

From the President - Casey King

Hi All,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and fully prepared for the busy holiday season. What a whirlwind past two months! We celebrated the 100th anniversary of our founding on November 15th with a nod to the 1920's with our Great Gatsby-like party. It was so much fun! With the Alleycats jazz band playing, our beautifully decorated bar and food tables, opportunity drawings, and the jail for the rowdier party-goers we certainly had a great time!! Many thanks to all of you who worked so hard to make this celebration happen.



No sooner had we recovered from the party than we held our Festival of Trees on December 6th. The entire club – all the circles, special interest groups, and members at large joined together to decorate trees, collect gently-used items to sell, and baked cookies and cakes to make it a

huge success! The clubhouse looked so festive with all the trees, wreaths, and Christmas decorations for sale and the cookies and cakes scented the air with ginger, cinnamon and cloves so it both looked and smelled like Christmas. We sold and auctioned off most of our trees and wreaths and had very few baked goods left after the sale. A huge thank you to all the members who helped decorate the trees, make wreaths and swags, bake the many cookies and beautiful cakes, and of course the group who spent their Saturday working the sale. It takes all of us to make an event so successful. Our lesson for next year is to get an early start so a committee has already started forming for next year's Festival of Trees. Please consider joining this group so the 2026 Festival of Trees can be even more successful!

As we look forward to 2026 my hope is the Garden Club of DeLand continues its legacy of service to the community with its many projects and also serves with new programs that reach more parts of our community.

Wishing you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season and a very happy new year!!

GARDENING BASICS SERIES

Don't forget. The Wild Coffee special interest group is offering a **FREE gardening series** starting in January. The series is four sessions, two in January and two in February, offered by members who are Master Gardeners and will cover several basics in gardening that lots of people have questions about. This is open to the public and occur on the second and fourth Wednesdays of January and February beginning at 6PM – 7:30PM. The dates and subjects are listed:

January 14th – Vegetable and Herb Gardening

January 28th – Container Gardening

February 11th – Houseplants Galore

February 25th – Right Plant, Right Place

To register for one, or all the seminars contact **Fred Zollinger 386-848-5004** or email at fredzollinger@att.net

THE BLUE STAR MEMORIAL PROGRAM

The Blue Star Memorial Program is a public display of our Federated Garden Clubs' respect, support and honor of our military services. Garden Club of DeLand just received a permit from DOT to landscape the Marker located in front of McDonalds on ISB (US 92) in DeLand. We will plant red/white/blue flowers that are Florida friendly and native. For more information, contact [Diane Schmidt](#), 6th District Blue Star





ARBOR DAY

Friday, January 16th the Garden Club will be celebrating with a tree planting at the Garden Club. Dorothy Caldwell and Violet Akopyan are co-chairing this event. They have decided on at least one (possibly two) native trees to plant for the event. More information to come regarding this event soon. Don't forget, you can celebrate Arbor Day as well, planting your own tree at home. If you do, make sure you let us know as it is part of our club tree count.

Weeping Yaupon pictured

GCD MEMBERSHIP GROWS

Hello my Garden Friends,

Since we are headed into a new year, I wanted to update everyone about our new members and the total number of members in the Garden Club of DeLand.

As of December 6th, we have 145 members: Each Circle is listed below with their primary member total.

- Firecrackers: 15
- Magnolia: 20
- Marigold: 15
- Milkweed: 32
- Rose 21
- Members at Large: 42

Our growth would not have happened if everyone had not invited friends and neighbors to our events and General Meetings. fellow Gardeners, keep up the fantastic work.

Remember to invite, invite, invite!

Best Regards and have a very Blessed Holiday and New Year,

Cindy Davenport
2nd VP and Membership Chair



Invasives in Our Gardens

There is a focus on removing invasive plants from our club house gardens, and a group of members have listed the plants that need to be removed. But there seems to be a few questions that are coming up “What are these invasive plants?”, “Why are they invasive?”, “What is an invasive plant?”

Over the course of the next few months, I will try to answer these questions and maybe a few more along the way, but first we need to know what is an invasive plant?

According to the U. S. Dept of Agriculture An "invasive species" is defined as a species that is Non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration; and, whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. They go on to add:

Why are invasive plants successful? Many invasive plant species produce large quantities of seed. Many invasives thrive on disturbed soil. Invasive plant seeds are often distributed by birds, wind, or unknowingly humans allowing seed to move great distances. Some invasives have aggressive root systems that spread long distances from a single plant, these root systems often grow so densely that they smother the root systems of surrounding vegetation. Some plant species produce chemicals in their leaves or root systems which inhibit the growth of other plants around them.

What are the impacts of invasive plant species? Invasive species have contributed to the decline of 42% of U.S. endangered and threatened species, and for 18% of U.S.

endangered or threatened species, invasives are the main cause of their decline. Invasive species compete directly with native species for moisture, sunlight, nutrients, and space. Overall plant diversity can be decreased. Establishment and spread of invasive species can degrade wildlife habitat. Results in poor quality agriculture lands, degraded water quality, increased soil erosion, decreased recreation opportunities. These impacts change nature's balance on which all species depend.

Here in Florida due to the large number of invasive species we have there are 4 invasive species lists that are used.

Federal Noxious Weed List [weedlist.pdf](#)

Florida Noxious Weed List [Noxious Weeds Photo Gallery / Noxious Weeds / Plant Pests and Diseases / Pests and Diseases / Agriculture Industry / Home - Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services](#)

Florida Invasive Species Council(FISC) [FISC List of Invasive Plant Species \(Updated 06/2025\) - Florida Invasive Species Partnership](#)

UF/IFAS Assessment of Non-Native Plants [Assessments - UF/IFAS Assessment - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences](#)

The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs decided a few years ago to use the FISC list as their go to invasive species list.

Next month I will start looking at individual plants that are in the gardens that are on the Invasive lists. If you have questions please email me at djcaldwell76@gmail.com

Dorothy Caldwell

Garden Club Survey to hit your email

Be on the lookout in February for a garden club survey to hit your email. Cindy Davenport and her committee are working on preparing a short survey to help us determine what our members would like to see us do at our meetings, for fundraising, and community outreach among other things. It's important that the voices of all members are heard so I want to encourage everyone to complete the survey when you receive it. This survey will really help both the Executive and Governing Board make sure that we are providing content and activities desired by the membership.

CRAFTER'S CORNER

We need someone to coordinate the Crafter's Corner programs. This would involve scheduling the class, getting it on the calendar, working with the teacher on supplies and costs, gathering list of attendees, and follow up with treasurer on costs and income. We have several people willing to offer some very interesting classes but we need someone to coordinate the process. We are thinking about one class each quarter to start.

Please contact Casey (614-512-6639 or gdcpres@gmail.com) if you would like to discuss this in more detail.

School Butterfly Garden

We are steps closer to creating the school butterfly garden!

After we selected the 3 locations at the school, Lynda Stein presented them to the principal. We weren't aware that she had to get the OK from the district and the builder. HAPPILY, we have been given approval to create the garden at any one of the 3 locations we selected!!

Now, our next step is to find out about the irrigation system, which will guide us in selecting the best spot of the 3. Lynda is working on getting the answer to this.

Then we'll meet to finalize the location, select our design, begin choosing the best plants for this project, and making our date-specific list of what is needed to prepare the garden spot ahead of time and check with the school/teacher regarding possible dates, most likely early April.

The last step will be coordinating with the teacher regarding the part the children will play in creating the garden, i.e. putting their painted rocks around our planted flowers, etc. All that's left will be taking pictures and celebrating!

DISTRICT VI SPRING MEETING

The Garden Club of DeLand and the DeLeon Springs Garden Club are teaming up to host the Spring FFGC District VI meeting at our clubhouse on **April 29, 2026**.

We need a few members to join the planning committee for this event. If you would like to work on this, please contact [Deborah DuBois](#) or [Violet Akopyan](#). It will be a fun, rewarding event to participate in.

We need your creativity and party planning skills to make this a success!



"A Look Back at the Beginning of Downtown Planters"

One of our members loves to spend time hanging out at yard sales. One day, she found photo paper, bought it and took it home. When she started to use it, this letter about Barbara Stockhausen (Rose Circle Member) is what she found.



Barbara Stockhausen

I would like to nominate Barbara Stockhausen for parade marshal for the DeLand Jaycees Christmas Parade.

A familiar figure with downtown shopkeepers and Public Works Dept. employees, Barbara is practically a one-woman Garden Club Beautification Committee. For several years she has borne the responsibility of seeing that the urns, planters and in-ground plantings along Woodland Blvd. are filled with well-kept, blooming plants – a warm and beautiful first impression for anyone entering DeLand.

Having been her assistant for the past year, I can testify that Barbara not only organizes the Garden Club’s seasonal planting downtown, choosing and purchasing plants and then distributing them to groups of Garden Club members to plant in specific areas, but she tends the plants all year long, personally replacing missing (yes, sometimes plants “walk away”), diseased or expired specimens. She takes particular care when special events or visits are occurring in the city, or incidents such as hurricanes or droughts play havoc with the plantings. She totes gallons of water when the watering system isn’t doing its job and picks up litter and cigarette butts non-thinking residents leave in the planters.

I sincerely hope you will consider this remarkable woman for Parade Marshal this year.

Very truly yours,

Joan Thompson

2025 WAS A BLAST!





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