



The Garden Club of DeLand



Photo by Shanda Hebert **The Gabby Gardener**

May 2026

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From the President - Casey King

Hi All:

I cannot believe our year has almost ended! Seems like it just started. I was thinking about what we have done this past year and it is remarkable all we have accomplished! Last summer, many of us came together to get the club house repainted – so many volunteered! Then in October we had our annual plant sale with an open house for the public. Many thanks to Lupita Wiggins and her team for stepping in at the last minute to make the sale a huge success – we had a wonderful bake sale, treasure sale, and even a children’s corner where our members helped them make a pot for their new plants! Even gained a few new members! In November we celebrated our 100th anniversary as a garden club in style, 1920’s style that is! Such a fun evening with the music of the Alley Cats and good friends.

Our small but mighty Children’s committee helped our club participate with the national Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster contest

among DeLand’s elementary school children. We had eleven participants and four winners that went on to state competition and our first grade winner, Ezra Scott actually won the statewide competition!!! What a great start!! Thank you Doris Saffran, Sarah Zollinger, and Lernick Davityan.

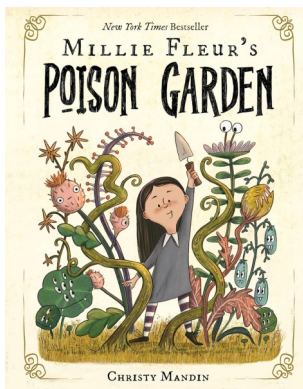
In December we brought back our Festival of Trees and it was fantastic! All of the circles designed such beautiful trees and wreaths. Our bake sale items sold out and the treasure sale was very successful as well! So many people worked on this, but a shout out to Lisa Schnetzer for being the driving force to bring this back. It was so festive!

While the Wild Coffee Circle decided they would form a special interest group it didn’t mean they were stepping back. In January and February they offered a Gardening Basics course for the general public and had over 30 attendees at each of the four classes. It was very successful, we had six new members sign up at the series, and we plan to do another in the fall

GCD Book Club

Thursday, May 21 at 1:00pm in the clubhouse.

“Millie Fleur’s Poison Garden”
by Christy Mandin.



Casey King (continued)

and the spring.

The Wildflower Festival was so ably organized by Mary Ripple. Thanks again Mary for all you did to make this such a success! We had 36 people sign up for more information and sold out of caladium bulbs, milkweed, and most of the art. A wonderful representation of our club! Thanks to all who helped volunteer with this.

Our Downtown planters group has been going strong under Rosie McKenna and Julia Neumann's leadership. This weekend we will be replanting the planters in red, white, and blue for the 250th anniversary of the United States. Advance plans are being made so we can have a better idea of what we are going to plant.

The book club has been going strong this year with some great reads! They have also provided the membership with a book cart where members can leave a book or take a book. I hope all of you make use of this.

Thanks to the hard work of Dorothy Caldwell and the many members that have submitted pictures and information, our Facebook page won an award for excellence at the recent FFGC conference. Thank you Dorothy!!

Most recently, we held a Tea Party with Angevine's giving free appraisals to those attending. I wish I could have been there! From the pictures I can tell everyone enjoyed the tea very much! Next week, we are co-hosting the District VI general meeting with the DeLeon Springs Garden Club. Deborah Dubois is chairing the event and it looks like it will be a well-attended event. Our own Barbara Chapman will be the featured speaker.

With the help of the Wild Coffee Special Interest Group, we have divided our garden into zones and our circles have adopted areas to care for and replant. We are removing invasives and improving our landscape! Wild coffee is also working on making labels for our plants with QR codes so people can get information real time on any plant they see in our garden.

Thanks to a very generous donation by Harland Merriam and Philip Dollar our club will have an area filled with beautiful daylilies!! The daylily is our club flower and we will finally have a large planting of them to really make a statement as people visit our building. What a great way to honor our past and celebrate the next 100 years!

I have barely scratched the surface with what we have done this past year. Our circles continue to do so much for the community that I haven't even listed. I feel so very blessed and humbled to represent such an incredible group of people who give willingly to others and their community. I am honored to be part of this group and truly look forward to what we will accomplish next year!!

Thank you all for your help and hard work – you are the best!!

Casey





**The Garden Club of DeLand
Thursday, 7 May 2026
Social 9:30 am Meeting 10:00 am
General Meeting**



**Come for a comical presentation presented by
Norma Thomas and Friends
on NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium)-all you
need to know about providing essential nutrients to
your soil and plants.**



**You don't want to miss this meeting.
At our last meeting of the year the
Garden Club of DeLand Service Awards
will be announced.**

865 South Alabama Avenue • DeLand

Invasives in Our Gardens by [Dorothy Caldwell](#)

This month I wanted to look at Pipevines, the plants and the butterflies that use Pipevines as a host plant. There are 2 butterflies the Pipevine Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*) and Gold Rim Swallowtail (*Battus polydamas*) and multiple vines all called Pipevine some are native, some are invasive, and some are poisonous to the caterpillars. Calico Flower Vine also called the Elegant Dutchman's Pipe Vine (*Aristolochia elegans*) is a Category 2 Invasive in Florida. The Calico Flower Vine has the ability to weigh down native plants and cause collapse under the mass of vegetation produced. This creates an opening for opportunistic weeds to invade and take over an area. When the winged seeds of calico flower are dispersed, they will germinate wherever they land. This species is difficult to control once established because of above and below ground stems and roots that require numerous herbicide applications.

Calico Flower Vine



Pelican Flower (*Aristolochia gigantea*) not native also called Pipevine in nurseries – This vine is fine for Gold Rim Swallowtail caterpillars, but is deadly toxic to Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillars.

Pelican Flower



Dutchman's Pipe (*Aristolochia trilobata*) is an extremely rare not native Pipevine plant. I have seen both Pipevine and Gold Rim caterpillars use the vine successfully. I have one in my gardens but it struggles to survive.

Dutchman's Pipe



Woolly Dutchman's Pipe (*Aristolochia tomentosa*) is the Florida native pipevine that is the easiest to find and grow. It needs moist feet in the shade and needs to reach for the sun. I have 4 of these vines in my gardens. This vine will support both the Pipevine and Gold Rim caterpillars but it is not a large vine so more than one is needed.



Woolly Dutchman's Pipe

Virginia Snakeroot (*Aristolochia serpentaria*) is also native to Florida but it is extremely difficult to find and is very very small, needs shade to part shade and moist feet. This vine will support both the Pipevine and Gold Rim caterpillars but just one caterpillar will need multiple vines for its life cycle.

Virginia Snakeroot





Starke School Butterfly project

Carole Gilbert

April has been a very busy month for those of us working together on the Starke School Butterfly project!!

This has been the month where all of our planning, list-making, nursery touring, design adapting and color coordinating came to an end, and we actually began to prepare the garden site. This we did on April 9 and 13, removing the grass, tearing out weeds and roots; mixing good potting soil with the existing sand, depleted soil and clay; adding coconut coir for better aeration and root growth, trenching for edging and placing cardboard to help with weed control--not to mention hauling the discarded sod to the dumpster. We were all weary but smiling! To illustrate how poor the soil was, during our time working directly in the ground, we didn't see one ant, bug or other crawly thing, and certainly no self-respecting worm! It was completely devoid of life.

On April 22, Earth Day, we reached the pinnacle!! Time to finally plant! The plants were laid out according to the design, cardboard cut out for the plants which were put into the soil with compost mixed in, mulch placed and the final step of giving a good soaking!! We were all thrilled at the transformation!!

Our next steps will be to purchase and place the edging and pavers, and adding the kids' painted rocks along a pathway



From now until the plants have a chance to get established, we'll be watering 2 to 3 times a week, especially while we remain in the current drought. If needed, we'll replace any plant that dies, and carry on until a future date in September when the garden will be mature and become a certified butterfly sanctuary!!

Beyond the joy of creating a beautiful garden where one didn't exist before, there is the joy of working together with enthusiastic, positive, let's-get-planting, kindred gardening spirits--that is also a thing of beauty!!

The amazing plants in the garden are:

- Camellia Sasanqua
- Pineland Lantana (depressa)
- Firecrackers
- FL native yarrow
- Thryallis
- Atlantic St John's wort
- Goldenrod
- Lyreleaf sage
- Narrowleaf sunflower
- Lion's ear
- Purple sage
- Simpson's stopper
- Milkweed (swamp)
- Milkweed (butterfly weed)
- Muhly grass
- Fennel
- Parsley
- Elliot's aster
- Pentas
- Twin Flower

Tropical red sage seedlings to be planted later.

The Garden Club of DeLand

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Social Links: [FaceBook](#)
The Garden Club of DeLand's [Website](#)

For all who have shopped the Way and Means in the past, we Thank you. To all the new members. Welcome to the Garden Club.

Here's some information in case you were wondering what is Ways and Means? We look forward to seeing you at the meetings and sometimes at our special events.

Hope everyone has a Great Summer and we look forward to sharing the Treasures with you.

Lisa

