



Volume 33, Issue 3

The Gabby Gardener

Photo by: Shanda Hebert

Presidents Corner

Marshall Rawson, President
Receives Blue Diamond Certificate
for 97 years Federation with FFGC

Garden Club of DeLand



Valerie Seinfeld, District VI Director

October was an eventful month with Hurricane Milton, especially his remnants of flooding and debris. The Plant Sale was still very

successful despite rescheduling and reducing it to one day without the art vendors. Thank you to Chair Lance Harding and Whimsy Chair Norma Thomas and their host of volunteers. There was also a wonderful group of members who helped the Weedettes gather and pile the hurricane debris at the curb. We were very fortunate to have no damage and that the city picked up our debris prior to the plant sale and a wedding the next day.

FFGC District VI's Fall 2024 meeting took place in Indian Harbor Beach. Debra Giffith, president of DeLeon Springs Garden Club and the current Assistant Director was elected District VI Director, 2025-2027. Debra will take office after the April Convention. We have been grateful for GCD's presence in District VI -Valerie Seinfeld (Director), Jennifer Condo (Native Plants Chair) and Marshall Rawson (Recording Secretary). The GCD was recognized with a **Blue Diamond Award** (above picture) for being a FFGC federated club for 97 years.

The Sensory Butterfly Garden workers, led by Gail LaFayette used plants from the Plant Sale to fill their eight planters. It is another wise use of our resources. Their team works about an hour twice a month to keep the garden flourishing. You are encouraged to join them.

GCD under the direction of chair Suellen Biferie has landscaped another home for our local Habitat for Humanity. She too incorporated plants from the Plant Sale!

Next our thoughts turn to DeLand's beloved Christmas Parade, "A Winter Wonderland down Mainstreet", on Saturday, December 7th, 6pm. We are always looking for walkers, even if you can't go the whole way and disappear into the crowd when you are tired. Our walkers typically wear butterfly or moth wings with Christmas accents. It is a great way to support both the Garden Club and the City of DeLand.

Congratulations to long time GDC member (44 Years!) Margaret Gillen for receiving the Master Gardeners' Silver Service Award, Rooted in Service. Margaret's talented hand has been found in so many areas of our club. She is best known for her stewardship of the Downtown Planters project. What a Firecracker!



Wishing you all happiness, peace
and safe travels for the holidays!

Marshall

NGC Gardening School - Course 1

Our Garden Club has so many ways to encourage us to learn to become better gardeners, all while having a good time! An email about the 3-day Zoom NGC Gardening School Course caught my eye and, although the thought of studying the science of botany and soil was a little intimidating, I was certain any nuggets of learning would be well worth it!

First, the registration process, course information, pre-course Zoom and audio dry run to identify any technical issues were so very well done. The course began at 8, going to 12:15, with 2 presentations per day, a daily review to get ready for the "open-book" exams (which were optional) and intermittent breaks.

Each presenter was so enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and even though the material was college level, they had beautifully summarized and emphasized the most important elements in their material, making the information easy to grasp and understand.

The course took us from looking at each segment of a plant and what each segment's purpose was to the plant overall and its function, to 17 macro and micro soil elements plants need for optimal growth, to different methods of propagation (even with a propagation workshop!) to techniques of growing outdoor flowers--presented with both seriousness and humor to help us become better stewards of our gardens by simply knowing more.

One thing the course taught me is that I need to be more curious!! I had never considered opening up a seed to see what's inside--all the specific plant parts are contained in that seed along with food energy that allows a seed to become a living plant!! Wow!!

A second deeper lesson is that I've been taking the amazing abilities of plants for granted. I've never considered that a plant cell can change its primary function depending on the plant's need--a cell that first begins

as a stem cell to hold the plant upright, can change into a cell that produces roots when the stem is cut and placed into the ground to begin growing as another plant! Something so amazing, but I'd never given a second thought to it--just plants doing plant "things." Not any more!

I'm so very glad I took advantage of this wonderful course! Very well worth it, indeed!

<https://ffgc.org/Education>

Submitted by Carole Gilbert

Mark your Calendars!

Tuesday, December 3, 1 PM, Master Gardener Plant Clinic in the DeLand Regional Library Auditorium, 130 E. Howry Ave,
Topic: Camellias

*NO SEEDING PACKAGING TO FOLLOW

The DeLand Rotary **Christmas parade** will be held on December 7th at 6:00 p.m. Contact [Erin Miceli](#)

Tuesday, December 10, 7:30am, **Sensory Butterfly Garden Workday** at Bill Dreggors Park (230 N. Stone St.) **Contact Person:** Gail LaFayette gaillafayette@hotmail.com

Wednesday, December 11, 10:30am at the Clubhouse. **Creative Corner Presenter: Jenna Workman Container Garden - Theme: Holiday Centerpiece Garden. Cost \$30.** (Includes \$5 donation to the Garden Club of DeLand.) **Check for \$30 payable to Garden Club of DeLand. Due by 12/4.** **Contact Person:** Carol Roddenberry karolqueen@aol.com or text to 386-235-0370. Mail payment to Carol Roddenberry, 529 N. Sans Souci Ave. DeLand 32720 (Guests welcome.)

Thursday, December 12, 10:30-12 at the Clubhouse, **Creative Corner Origami/Holiday Patterns Presenter: Maureen Miller-Calamo.** **Contact Person: Maureen Miller-Calamo** text to 516-445-2338

Saturday, December 14, 7:30am, **Downtown Planter and Pedestal REPLANTING.**

Thursday, December 19, 12 PM, **GCD Book Club: Holiday Potluck and planning for 2025.** **Contact Persons:** Cindy Davenport cindy@davenportmail.com or Sara Zollinger sarazollinger@att.net

The Garden Club of DeLand

865 South Alabama Ave.

DeLand, FL 32724

(386) 624-6960

E-mail: gcdeland@gmail.com

Membership E-mail: gcdmembership@gmail.com

Website: <https://gardenclubofdeland.org>

Clubhouse rentals: (386) 624-6960 or
rentalsgardenclubofdeland@gmail.com

Gabby Editor: gaillafayette@hotmail.com



Healing, Therapy & Senior Gardening from FFGC Website

There are approximately 71.6 million baby boomers between 57-75 years old in the United States. The number of Americans ages 65 and older is projected to nearly double from 52 million in 2018 to 95 million by 2060. What does this tell us? That NGC's inclusion of Healing, Therapy and Senior Gardening as a committee anticipates the wave of interest and need for healing, therapy and senior gardening. Some of the top reasons for encouraging senior gardening:

1. Improved moods and lower stress levels: Studies have shown that spending time in nature makes people calmer and happier.
2. Gardening provides light aerobic exercise which can enhance your mental and physical health.
3. Digging in the dirt, planting seeds, pulling weeds- all of these gardening activities require the use of the hands and arms, which can help seniors improve dexterity and strengthen muscles.
4. Great for heart health! Regular moderate exercise decreases the risk of many heart problems.
5. Careful exposure to the sun increases Vitamin D in the body, which is essential for senior health.
6. Gardening requires critical thinking and problem solving (a bit of an understatement, I know!) so it can help to keep an aging mind active. Over this term, I will be providing information as to how both individuals and clubs can conduct streamlined senior gardening in their homes, and undertake projects in their community to assist others in their quest to continue gardening at any age.

David E. Rich, Healing, Therapy & Senior Gardening Chairman

A Winter Wonderland Downtown



The DeLand Rotary Christmas parade will be held on December 7th at 6:00 p.m.

Since 1948, the parade on Woodland Blvd., has been a fun event for the whole family to enjoy.

The theme is "**A Winter Wonderland Downtown**". Over 130 parade entries will march through town, beginning on Minnesota ave., and ending on Euclid Ave. Santa Claus will be making an appearance on the final float, so you better be good for goodness sake.

The preceding evening, Friday December 6th "Light up DeLand" will usher in the holiday season downtown. Tens of thousands of lights will shine, lining the rooftops, as well as a 30+ foot Christmas tree in front of the historic Volusia county courthouse, and a Menorah outside of city hall.

Events include ice skating, Santa's Workshop with Christmas crafts for children, face painting, pictures with Santa, and more! Santa Claus himself will skydive in from above to light the tree.

The Garden Club of DeLand will once again be walking in the parade, donning our customary wings and holiday accessories. All members are invited to join in the festivities, along with their children, grandchildren, or friends. If you would like to join us, please reach out to parade chairperson Erin Miceli, at orangeblossomerin@gmail.com or 386-624-8139. Please check your email for more details.

Happy Holidays!