



Volume 34, Issue 7

The Gabby Gardener

Photo by: Shanda Hebert



Presidents Corner

It's a very exciting time of year when the new Executive Board has been elected.

A special thank you goes to the Nominating Committee for

enlisting these competent women who bring their strong backgrounds, dedication to the Garden Club of DeLand and fresh ideas. Note: Bios provided by the Nominating Committee.

Casey King – President

Casey is a retired healthcare administration expert with 36 years in regulatory compliance and quality assurance, holding degrees in anthropology, public health, and epidemiology. Casey's extensive board experience reflects her dedication to leadership and community engagement. She is passionate about gardening, especially herbs. *Rose Circle*.

Diane Schmidt – 1st Vice President

Diane brings creative flair and a wealth of community leadership. She has successfully completed both the NGC Landscape Design Program and a FFGC Floral Design Class. At the FFGC Convention, Diane earned honorable mention for her inventive "recycle-repurpose" fashion show entry.

Diane is a dynamic leader in veteran organizations, having achieved a 100% membership increase and serving as a national director and editor for the Honor Society of Women Legionnaires. Known for her exceptional public speaking, strong leadership, Diane is dedicated to fostering a spirit of community pride and growth. *Marigold Circle*

Cindy Davenport – 2nd Vice President

After moving from Ohio, Cindy embraced the challenge of learning about Florida gardening. She co-founded the Garden Club Book Readers with Sara Zollinger, bringing together members to explore garden-themed literature and foster deeper connections. Her dedication to organization, communication, and community building has been central to her contributions to the club. *Rose Circle*

Deborah L. Dubois – Recording Secretary

A retired librarian who moved to DeLand from Ohio three years ago, Deborah brings a wealth of administrative experience. With a close-knit family—she enjoys reading, bicycling, traveling, and gardening. Her extensive background as a secretary in numerous organizations highlights her commitment to community service and organizational excellence. *Milkweed Circle*

Lupita Wiggins – Corresponding Secretary

Lupita had a rewarding career in South Florida's school system. Her volunteer experience is diverse, ranging from secretary for a HMO and managing a swim team's hospitality program to her role as a circle Recording Secretary. A lifelong lover of plants and gardening. Lupita is enthusiastic about contributing to the Garden Club's ongoing mission and community impact. *Rose Circle*

Violet Akopyan – Treasurer

Violet earned her master's in computer engineering from the Polytechnic University of Armenia, she worked as a computer engineer in her home country and later served 20 years at the LA County Welfare office in California. Since relocating to DeLand in 2016, Violet has embraced a fulfilling retiree lifestyle filled with hobbies like sewing, art, mosaics, cooking, and of course, gardening. She is eager to contribute her organizational skills. *Milkweed Circle*

Circle Around

Firecracker – Kay Cordero expanded on her recent presentation on orchids at the Master Gardeners' Plant Clinic with a program on native orchids.

Magnolia – Were scheduled to make fairy gardens.

Marigold – Made their annual trip to the Yard Stop Garden Center in Mount Dora and after lunch to Peddler's Wagon.

Milkweed – Stacey Matrazzo, Executive Director of the Wildflower Foundation of Florida, spoke about Monarchs & OE along with the importance of native plants for nectar and habitat sources.

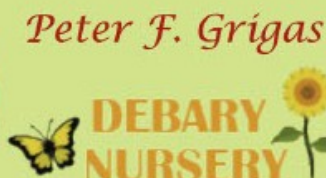
Rose – Worked at the Sensory Butterfly Garden in much appreciated support of the Milkweed's regular maintenance.

Wild Coffee – Field trip to the Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens in Sanford.

Wildflower Festival 2025



Pardon our weeds, we're feeding the bees! 2025



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

Bird Strike, by Chris Dudley

Birds not only bless us with their beautiful songs and their gorgeous plumage, but they are vital to the earth's ecosystems, as well. They are crucial for pest control, pollination and seed dispersal. Sadly, it is estimated that as many as one billion birds per year perish because they are unable to detect glass as a solid object blocking their path. They see reflections in the glass which they either perceive as vegetation or something that they can fly through, often striking glass while flying 25 to 30 miles per hour on their migratory routes.

The numbers are dismal but there is hope. You can help by placing decals on your windows and patio doors at home, 1" to 2" apart. Smaller birds need this close spacing because they think that they can fly in-between the decals if the spacing is wider. There are products to be found in the marketplace for this purpose. If you search on Amazon, for example, for bird protective window films, a number of products will appear. Some of these products will not be noticeable from inside your home.

On a much larger scale, a building in New York City, 6 blocks of solid glass, was retrofitted with such a product. The number of bird strikes was reduced by greater than 90%. Inside the building people didn't perceive the product while looking out but the birds were deterred and protected from injury. A newly invented type of glass is now available for construction that provides this protection. It is now mandated in NYC that this glass be used on all new buildings.

Other attempts at modifying windows to protect birds are happening around the country. Even in our own state of Florida, students at Florida Gulf Coast University have initiated a project on their campus to protect the birds from campus hazards. Florida is a major migratory route and stopover for birds. **What can we do?**

APRIL OPPORTUNITIES

Tuesday, April 1, 1 PM, Master Gardener Plant Clinic in the DeLand Regional Library Auditorium, 130 E. Howry Ave, **Plant Swap, labeled with name and care instructions**

Tuesday, April 1, 2:30 PM, **NO Seed Packaging** in the DeLand Regional Library Auditorium, 130 E. Howry Ave, **Contact Person:** Susan Ludvigh sludvigh@cfl.rr.com

Tuesday, April 8, 7:30am, **Sensory Butterfly Garden Workday** at Bill Dreggors Park (230 N. Stone St.) **Contact Person:** Gail LaFayette gaillafayette@hotmail.com

Thursday, April 10, 10:30-12 at the Clubhouse, **Creative Corner Origami/Folding containers for Easter.** \$5 donation to the Garden Club of DeLand.
Presenter: Maureen Miller-Calamo. RSVP to Maureen Miller-Calamo text to 516-445-2338

Saturday, April 12, 7:30am, **Downtown Planter and Pedestal Maintenance.** **Contact Persons:** Margaret Gillen mgillen@cfl.rr.com and Julia Neumann julianeumann2@proton.me

Wednesday, April 16, 10:30am at the Clubhouse. **Creative Corner Presenter: Jenna Workman Container Garden - Theme: Veggies. Cost \$30.** (Includes \$5 donation to the Garden Club of DeLand.) **Check for \$30 payable to Garden Club of DeLand. Due by April 9.**
Contact Person: Carol Roddenberry karolqueen@aol.com or text to 386-235-0370. Mail to Carol Roddenberry, 529 N. Sans Souci Ave. DeLand 32720 (Guests welcome.)

Saturday, April 19, 9am, **Wild Coffee Circle** at the **Barberville Pioneer Settlement.** 1776 Lightfoot Lane, Barberville (\$14/ Seniors, \$15/Adults) **Contact Person:** Lance Harding wildcoffeecircle@gmail.com

Thursday, April 17, 1 PM, **GCD Book Club: Winter Garden by Kristin Hannah.** **Contact Persons:** Cindy Davenport cindy@davenportmail.com or Sara Zollinger sarazollinger@att.net

Tuesday, April 22, 7:30am, **Sensory Butterfly Garden Workday** at Bill Dreggors Park (230 N. Stone St.) **Contact Person:** Gail LaFayette gaillafayette@hotmail.com

Gardening for the Future