



March/April 2026
Volume 35, Issue 6

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GCD General Meeting April 2nd.

The **Reid Farm of DeLand** will bring Edible Landscaping and Food as Medicine to the Garden Club of DeLand on Thursday, April 2.

Social hour is 9:30am with the meeting starting at 10am. **Wear your spring hat.**



The Garden Club of DeLand



The Gabby Gardener

From the President - Casey King

I think spring has finally sprung! After the "Big Chill" my yard has been looking so sad, I spend my free time bagging mushy tropical plant leaves. However, I am noticing signs of life under all the debris so things are looking up. Our Garden Club garden is looking very nice especially at the front entrance where the Milkweeds have removed some "poor performing" crepe myrtles and added a beautiful trellis with our native coral honeysuckle – what a delight that will be for the hummingbirds!!

Our Zumba classes started this month and what a success! **They are scheduled every Monday morning at 10:00am at the clubhouse.** There is no signup – just show up. Best of all, the classes are free! Plan to attend, I guarantee you'll have fun and find muscles you didn't even know you had. Thank you Lernick for using your talents to help us all!

Don't forget the Rose Circle is hosting a Game Night Friday, March 27th at the clubhouse. Tickets are \$10.00

and you will not only enjoy the games but have a chance to win some incredible prizes. You can buy tickets from any Rose Circle member.

On Saturday, March 28th the Garden Club will have a booth at the DeLand Wildflower Festival. **We will be selling caladium bulbs, milkweed, and this year the children's group will have "Pizza Garden kits" available for sale.**

This is to help them raise money for their outreach projects for children. Thank you to Mary Ripple and all the members that will be working our booth spreading the word about the Garden Club of DeLand.

Happy Gardening,



Wildflower Festival 2025

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

In June of 2025 one of the most controversial plants in Florida was added to the FICS list as a Category II plant, and since many of us are butterfly gardeners this affects our plant choices. The plant is Tropical Milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*).

There are many problems with using Tropical Milkweed in Butterfly Gardens but the reason it has been placed on the Invasive list is “tropical milkweed has been an increasingly invasive species in Central and South Florida for many years, and has begun spreading in North Florida as well. Its fast growth and prolific re-seeding have resulted in large monocultures of tropical milkweed in natural areas. This unchecked growth replaces native plants and disrupts the native ecosystems that both wildlife and humans rely on.”[1]

Tropical Milkweed is sold under many common names in garden centers and plant nurseries such as: Common bloodflower, Scarlet milkweed, Mexican milkweed, Sunset flower, Silkweed, Silky Gold milkweed, Silky Deep Red milkweed, Red Butterfly milkweed, Apollo Orange milkweed, Apollo Yellow milkweed, and Deep Red milkweed. There may be even more names that Tropical Milkweed is sold under.

If you have Tropical Milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*) in your gardens **please remove it**. Florida Federated Garden Clubs advises that we do not use any invasives for any reason in our gardens.

[1] [Tropical Milkweed is Harmful to Monarchs & Florida Ecosystems](#)

What can you use instead - Florida Native Milkweed.



Pink Swamp
Milkweed

(*Asclepias
incarnata*)

White Swamp
Milkweed

(*Asclepias
perennis*)



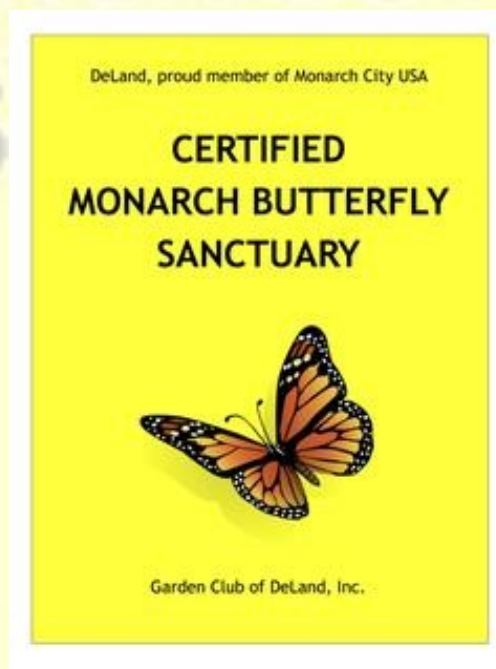
Butterflyweed
(*Asclepias tuberosa*)

Certified Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary

In 2018, Deland became the first city in Florida to become Monarch City USA. And the Milkweed Circle of the Garden Club of Deland was organized. These butterfly enthusiasts began to wonder how many butterfly gardens there were in the City of Deland and the Butterfly Sanctuary project began. **To date 242 gardens have been certified.**

Have you had your garden certified? Hopefully our cold weather freezes are behind us and we can start thinking about butterflies and other pollinators and planting our gardens for Spring.

To certify your garden go to the garden club website www.gardenclubofdeland.org and click on the information under our yellow sign. There you will find everything needed to fill out the application for your garden.



We look forward to hearing from you. Once the application is received, an appointment will be set up for our butterfly squad to visit your garden to certify.

Become a Certified Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary

Plan your garden or add to your existing garden. To register, you must have a **minimum of twenty (20) nectar and host/larval food plants total**. Plant a total of three (3) different host/larval food plants which includes a minimum of five (5) milkweed plants as they are the primary host plants for the monarchs, **native milkweed is preferred**.

Plant a minimum of five (5) different butterfly nectar plants as food sources. The brighter the color, the more butterflies will visit. Submit your application. (Form is at the bottom of this page).

[Link to application and approved plants](#) Pdf

GCD General Meeting

The **Reid Farm of DeLand** will bring Edible Landscaping and Food as Medicine to the Garden Club of DeLand on **Thursday, April 2**.

The Reid Farm is more than a nursery; they are a working food forest. Come and bring a friend to this informative program.

Social hour is 9:30am with the meeting starting at 10am. **Wear your spring hat.**

Milkweed Circle will be hosting, contact [Carole Gilbert](#) to help with the event.

<https://thereidfarm.com>



Discover
"Food as Medicine"
with Lonnie Reid

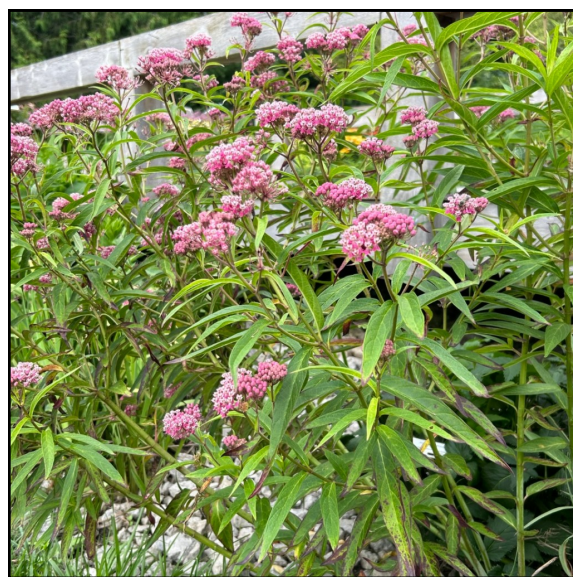
Our Spring is very short! Let's get busy!

Garden Club of DeLand
April Meeting
Thursday, April 2
9:30 am (Social) 10:00 am (Meeting)
Milkweed Circle: Host Circle
All are Welcome!
865 South Alabama Avenue, DeLand, FL

Please come support the Native Milkweed Sale for the Milkweed Circle Annual Fundraiser

Dates are: April 6th— 8th, Time of sale TBA, held at the GCD clubhouse patio. This year we will have 4" pots with native milkweed (*asclepias incarnate*) for sale from [Eden of Wings Nursery](#). No preorders or holding. By supporting the Milkweed Circle you are also supporting our outreach programs, like Stark Elementary Pollinator Garden, Sensory Butterfly Garden at Bill Dreggors Park and other community programs.

Asclepias incarnata is a moisture loving perennial known for its clusters of fragrant pink to mauve flowers, for which it is a crucial host plant for the Monarch and Queen Butterflies



Rose Circle Game Night

Open to all Garden Club Members and their Family and Friends



**Friday, March 27
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm**

Check-in/Social Time/Snacks 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm

Games 6:45 pm to 8:30 pm

Tickets \$10.00

Light snacks, desserts, soft drinks and one opportunity drawing chance included with ticket price. Additional drawing chances available at the event.

Purchase tickets at the February and March Garden Club General Meetings or from any Rose Circle Member

**Thank you to the local business who made donations
for the Opportunity Drawings**

\$100 Gift Card - Ace Hardware of Deland

\$100 Gift Card – Walmart Neighborhood Market

\$50 Gift Card – A Place in The Sun Nurseries + a Plant

\$50 Gift Card – The Nest

\$30 Gift Card – City Wine & Cigar

\$25 Gift Card - New Fangled Market + a Pixie Plant

\$50.00 E.F.G. Gift Card + a Chocolate Orchid Plant



Florida Wildflower & Garden Festival

March 29, 2025 9am-3pm
West Indiana Ave. | Downtown DeLand

Free Admission

SPEAKER SCHEDULE

FLORIDA AVENUE

9:00 *Edibles in the Wild* Dana Venrick,
President, Quality Green Specialists

10:00 *Native Orchids of Florida* Dr.
Haleigh Ray, Stetson University

11:00 *Central Florida Wildflowers* Dr.
Jeff Norcini, Florida Wildflower
Foundation

12:00 *Landscaping with Edibles* Teresa
Watkins, Host of *Better Lawns & Gardens*

1:00 *Container Gardening* UF/IFAS
Volusia County Master Gardener
Volunteer

2:00 *Waterwise Lawns* David Griffis,
Stetson University

VENDORS

WEST INDIANA AVENUE

**Potted Wildflowers
Plants & Seeds
Planters
Garden Art & Crafts
Botanical Products
Honey
Home & Garden & More!**



Silver Tea Garden Party



Hosted by

The Garden Club of DeLand

This Spring Plan to Attend

Afternoon Tea

Saturday, April 18, 2026

1pm to 4pm

Tickets \$25.00 per person

Enjoy an elegant afternoon tea accompanied by sweet and savory treats and a presentation by "Angelvines's Fine Silver" and included in your ticket is a verbal appraisal of one special item brought from home consisting of sterling silver, silver jewelry, cut glass, china, figurines, coins, music boxes or other fine antiques.

Additional verbal appraisals \$5/ea.

865 South Alabama Avenue * DeLand, Florida

**For details/tickets visit
www.gardenclubofdeland.org**





ANNUAL AWARD NOMINATIONS

As was announced at the recent Governing Board meeting, we are establishing four new annual awards for membership. They are as follows: **Distinguished Service Award**; **Member of the Year Award**; **Community Service Award**; and the **New Member Service Award**. All will have one recipient each year with the exception of the New Member Service Award which could have up to three recipients annually (A detailed description of the criteria for each award can be found on the application form which is attached to this email).

Any member of GCD can nominate another member except that executive board members are ineligible for nomination. The nomination form is attached.

Nominations are due no later than **April 15th**. Applications can be submitted in a number of ways: given to any member of the executive board, placed in a folder in the Garden Club office labeled Annual Award Nominations, or mailed to Garden Club of DeLand, P.O.Box 1965, DeLand, FL 32724.

Questions? You may call Casey at 614-512-6639. Please consider nominating a member so many members are deserving of recognition!

See the next page for form

GCD SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

All nominations are made in writing to The Board of Directors no later than April 15th. Nominations for any award can be made by any member in good standing. No members of the Executive Board (President, Vice-President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary) are eligible for nomination. Executive Board members are also ineligible to make nominations for the awards. Nominees are reviewed by the Board, and awards are presented at the final meeting of the year. Please complete the form below and submit it to a member of Executive Board. There is no restriction on the number of awards a member may submit.

AWARD DESCRIPTIONS:

Distinguished Service Award: given by the officers of the Garden Club of DeLand, it recognizes individuals who, over many years have made significant contributions to our goals and purposes and continue to show dedication in their service to our club.

Member of the Year Award: given to a member of the organization annually in appreciation for outstanding service during the current club year.

Community Service Award: given to a member of the Garden Club of DeLand who has provided leadership and service to the community consistent with the goals and objectives of the Garden Club of DeLand.

New Member Service Award: given to a member of the organization that has joined within the previous two years. This award is given in appreciation for outstanding service to the club during the current club year. This award can be given to a maximum of three individuals each year.

Nominee Name _____

Award for Nomination _____

Reasons for Nomination (brief paragraph about why this person meets the criteria for the award and why you feel they merit this honor. You may use the back side of this page for more information)

Person (s) submitting nomination _____

The Garden Club of DeLand

865 South Alabama
DeLand Florida 32724
(386) 624-6960 - The Garden Club of DeLand
gcdeland@gmail.com

(386) 279-1241 Rental Information
rentalsgardenclubofdeland@gmail.com

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

All District VI Club Members are Welcome to Attend the
FFGC District VI Spring Meeting!

Wednesday, April 29, 2026, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Location: The Clubhouse of the Garden Club of DeLand

865 Alabama Avenue, DeLand, FL 32724

Co-hosted by The Garden Club of DeLand, Inc. &

The DeLeon Springs Garden Club

