



The Gabby Gardener

Garden Club of DeLand

September 2022 Volume 29, Issue 1

President's Corner



Welcome back. Our goal this year is to have our general meetings in person at the Clubhouse. Masks are optional. Our speakers are all zoom capable, if needed.

I want to highlight new programs - Jim Vanover for Nature Strolls, Cindy Davenport and Sara Zollinger for Book Club, Carol Roddenberry for Origami with Maureen Miller-Calamo, Shanda Hébert & Susan Ludvigh for the Seed Bank at the Library. These programs have gotten like minded members together across the garden club.

Mark your calendars for our **Plant Sale** on Saturday, October 8th, 8-1 at the Clubhouse and **Monarch Magic** on the morning of Saturday, October 15th at the Sensory Butterfly Garden.

The new air conditioner/heat pump has been installed so the whole clubhouse is now covered for the first time. We have hired a new cleaning company so the chairs only need to be pushed to the table, no more hoisting them!

Over the summer the Weedettes, Clubhouse/Rentals, Downtown Planters and the Sensory Butterfly Garden teams have worked diligently. Their dedication is much appreciated.

There are so many ways to be involved with different levels of commitment. Garden Visits to see members' gardens are very popular. Book Club continues reading books with a gardening theme. Creative Corner is expanding its offerings to include a version of Floral Fun, and decorative painting. The Gabby will have a column for "volunteers wanted" to spread the word about committee needs.

See you in September!

Circle Around

So much to do with interesting programs, both with circles and general meetings and cross GCD activities. If you find a club program or circle program of interest, please contact the committee chair or circle president to see if there is space for you to join in. We look forward to seeing you!

General Membership Meetings are at 9:30am Social, 10am Meeting or at 5:30pm Social, 6pm Meeting (October & April) and a special fieldtrip to Stetson Aquatic Center (November).

September 1: **Propagate Our Gardens**, Julie Tyson, Volusia Master Gardener

October 6: **Florida Friendly Gardening**, Brittney Morton Council, Volusia Master Gardener Coord. & Urban Hort. Agt.

November 3: Field Trip to **Stetson Aquatic Center** with Jason Evans, Professor, Stetson University

December 1: **Florida's Native Tea** Bryon White, co-founder Yaupon Brothers American Tea

January 5: **Nighttime Pollinators: Amazing Moths**, Kaydie McCormick, Seminole Hort. Agt. & Master Gardener Coord.

February 2: **Bear Aware**, Central FL. Zoo & Botanical Gardens

March 2: **Inclusive Gardening for All Abilities**, Sarafaith Pekor, CEO, Seeds of Inclusion

April 6: **Working with HOAs**, Dr. Wendy Anderson, Professor, Stetson University & President Victoria Park HOA Board

May 4: **Installation of Officers**



Help Wanted for Clubhouse

GCD rental revenue enables us to have a clubhouse and lovely grounds.

It takes a **minimum of 50 rentals** annually to support the building and grounds without any major repairs.

We are looking to **expand our clubhouse team**. The committee is responsible for all rental related aspects of the clubhouse. You will be well trained and confident before soloing. The workload varies - on your assigned months, you are busy while the other months are quiet.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Sharyn Marzullo at 615-617-7906 or wordmerchantsm@yahoo.com

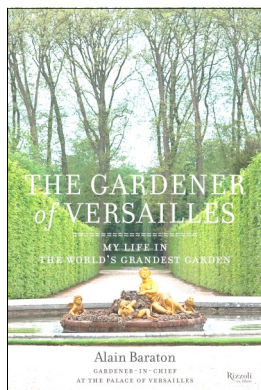
GCD General Meeting

Thursday, September 1, 9:30am,
General Meeting at the Clubhouse
(865 S. Alabama Ave.)

Speaker: Julie Tyson, Master Gardener
Topic: Propagate Our Gardens

GCD Book Club

Thursday, September 22, 1pm, GCD Book Club, meeting at the GCD clubhouse. *(New Date)*



The Gardener of Versailles

For gardening aficionados and Francophiles, a love letter to the Versailles Palace and grounds, from the man who knows them best. In Alain Baraton's Versailles, every grove tells a story.

Contact Persons:

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Vegetable Gardening in Florida

I have been at a couple of functions lately and people have asked about Florida natives that are human consumable – forage off the land. I wanted to share some that you may know and some that may surprise you.

In the March article I mentioned Wild Strawberries, Wild Garlic and Bird Pepper, but it does not end with these.

Betony (*Stachys floridana*) is a native wild radish. It is crunchy and milder than the vegetable garden variety, can be eaten raw or shaved and put in salads.

Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) berries can be made into syrup, jams and jelly. The berries provide a lot of unique color to the products but not much taste so make sure you add lots of sugar.

Chickasaw and Flatwoods Plum (*Prunus angustifolia* and *P. umbellata*) in the spring after flowering these trees produce small fruits that taste anywhere from tart to sweet. They can be eaten right off the trees or made into jellies and jams.

Muscadine Grape (*Vitis rotundifolia*) are native to Florida and can be eaten right off the vine or used in wine making.

Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*) Florida's native persimmon is plenty tasty. If you've never had a native persimmon the flavor is good but difficult to describe. The ripe flesh is thick and jelly-like, best eaten with a spoon. In fact, you don't see native persimmons in the grocery store because they are so delicate. Fruits are too soft to ship once they're ripe, and under-ripe fruit are hard and bitter. [1]

Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) is a native shrub whose leaves are used in making tea. It has the highest caffeine level in any plant in North America [1]

Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *Canadensis*) – Elderberry flowers and fruit have been prized around the world since prehistoric times. Pies, jellies, syrups, wines, spirits, and teas have all been made with this plant. Do not eat the berries raw even in small amounts. [1]

[1] <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/edibles/florida-edible-native-plants.html>

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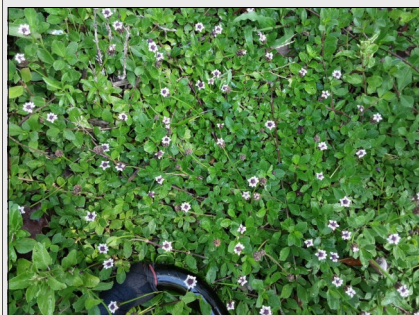
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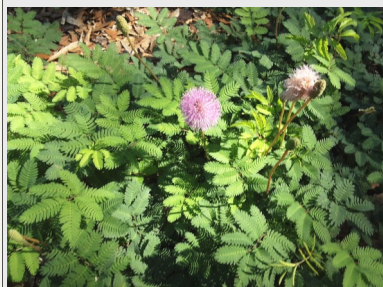
Florida Native Gardening

One of the main movements in native gardening is replacing grass with low to no mow ground covers.



Frogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*) is known by many names including Turkey tangle fogfruit, Capeweed, Match-head, Creeping Charlie and

Carpetweed. It is a good nectar source for bees and small butterflies such as hairstreaks and is the larval host for the White peacock, Phaon crescent, and Common buckeye butterflies. Frogfruit makes a great groundcover as it can form dense mats in the right conditions. [1]



Sunshine mimosa (*Mimosa strigillosa*) is a prostrate, mat-forming perennial wildflower that tolerates being mowed. It is not great for heavy foot traffic.

[2] Make sure where you put it is where you want it to be, it has roots that will go down 6 feet and very difficult to dig out if you change your mind. Do not put over a septic drain area. It is winter dormant.

(continued Florida Native Gardening)



Blue porterweed (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*) is a low-growing, sprawling wildflower. It is an excellent addition to a butterfly garden, as it is the host

plant of the Tropical buckeye and is a nectar source for many butterfly species including the Clouded skipper, Gulf fritillary, Red admiral, Monarch and Julia. Its low-growing habit makes it a nice groundcover in dry, sunny areas. [3]



Buffalo Clover (*Trifolium reflexum*) is an interesting plant but there is not a lot of information regarding it. I ordered seeds from Florida Wildflower Coopera-

tive with a description of “The showiest of Florida's two native clovers”. This very rare wildflower has mainly deep pinkish red flowers on hairy stems, with three leaflets per leaf, and many leaves per plant [4]. Since it is a clover it is a ground cover and it does best in full sun in well drained soils.

[1] <https://www.flawildflowers.org/flower-friday-phyla-nodiflora/>

[2] <https://www.flawildflowers.org/flower-friday-mimosa-strigillosa/>

[3] <https://www.flawildflowers.org/flower-friday-stachytarpheta-jamaicensis/>

[4] <https://www.floridawildflowers.com/trifolium-reflexum/>

Article by
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