

# Gabby Gardener

Volume 27 Issue 1

Garden Club of DeLand Newsletter

Valerie Seinfeld, Editor

## President's Message

### Welcome Back Garden Club Members!

We are experiencing some unusual times in our lives right now and I hope things are well for you and your family. Have you learned anything new about gardening? Learned how to use Zoom to communicate with your family and friends? For our September general meeting we will be meeting on Zoom. Did you get to play in your garden? What do you have growing there? I know we have all learned new ways of living and we will be trying new things in the Garden Club this year. Please let me know if you have any concerns or ideas on keeping us together during these trying times.

Let us continue to learn, play, and grow together!  
Jennifer Condo

### In Memoriam

Diana Bitler, Firecracker and Rose Circle

### National Garden Clubs, Inc. has a NEWLY UPDATED Website.

[www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)

To Read: "The National Gardener" quarterly publication  
"Keeping in Touch" every other Month

Visit Member resources at: <https://gardenclub.org/member-resources>

### Executive Board of the Garden Club of DeLand 2019 - 2021

**President** - Jennifer Condo

**1st Vice President** - Joyce Fisher

**2nd Vice President** - Valerie Seinfeld

**Recording Secretary** - Sara Zollinger

**Corresponding Secretary** - Marshall Rawson

**Treasurer** - Richard (Rich) Fisher

### Upcoming Programs and Events

October 20 District VI Meeting

October 27-28

NGC Gardening Study School



Mike Adams  
portraying  
William Bartram

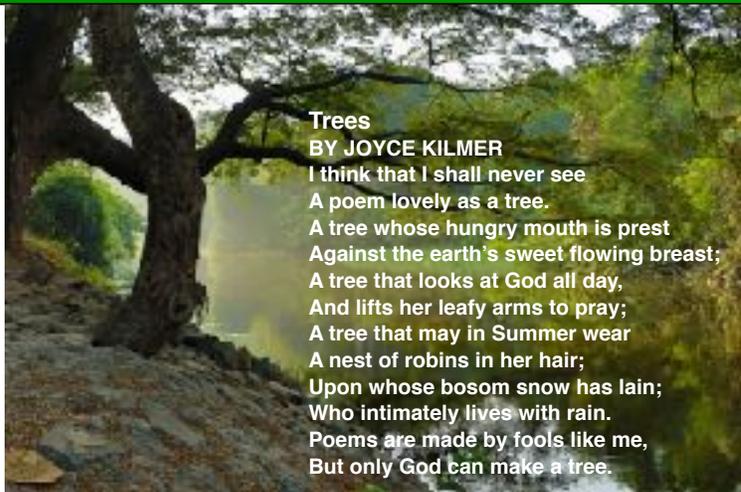


### October 1, 2020 @ 6:30 pm Mike Adams, Adamsscience; Topic: Bartram's Travels Sparkleberry- Host

Mike Adams is Biologist by trade, in the early 1990s Adams began giving ecological field tours on Saturiwa to groups such as the local Audubon bird watching outing; then he gave a nature tour to a local garden club and later to a civic group. But it was taking his son's fourth-grade science class on a night-time astronomy field trip in 2010 that awakened a passion for teaching about the beauty and benefits of north Florida's diverse ecosystems. Now he routinely conducts tours of Saturiwa throughout the year, sharing his knowledge of its history, science and regional natural and cultural resources management to various groups.

Biologist Mike Adams has been restoring the region's native plants, including longleaf pine, for over 20 years. He and his family bought and preserved a tract of land on the St. Johns River.

Mike Adams often plays William Bartram and in his William Bartram persona, Adams outlined his conservation program and described the design and construction of his house and surrounding buildings. As he pointed out the details of the house, including this inlaid compass, I thought of yet another Bartram lesson: the mix of science and beauty. The sciences, arts, and humanities were not always considered as separate endeavors.



**Trees**  
**BY JOYCE KILMER**  
 I think that I shall never see  
 A poem lovely as a tree.  
 A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
 Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;  
 A tree that looks at God all day,  
 And lifts her leafy arms to pray;  
 A tree that may in Summer wear  
 A nest of robins in her hair;  
 Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
 Who intimately lives with rain.  
 Poems are made by fools like me,  
 But only God can make a tree.

### Tree Count Resumes

I hope you have been keeping track of your tree plantings since February 1st! Please report to your circle counter and send some pictures. Congratulations on your hard work last year, we were recognized for our efforts by FFGC. February 1, 2020 -February 28, 2021

Debbie Jones, Tree Counting Chair

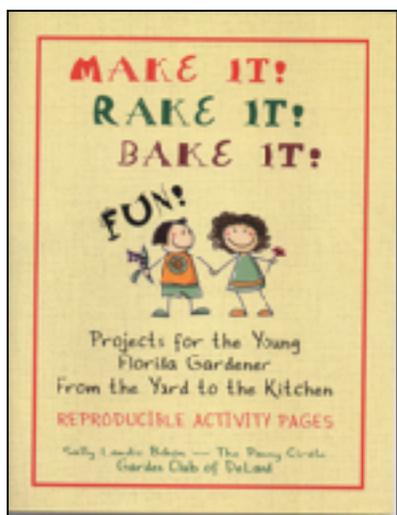
## Garden Club of DeLand Wins! Jennifer Condo, Awards Chairman

- Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Award**
- 63-4Garden Center Programs Award
- Award of Appreciation** for Tree Count 415 Trees Planted
- Deep South Garden Clubs Award**
- 10 A iv Special Achievement Award
- Garden Club of DeLand, Inc. 1st Place
- NGC Awards**
- #MP-4Aiv Video/CD/DVD/Flash Drive 1st Place



On July 11th, Suellen Biferie along with volunteers from Habitat for Humanity planted shrubs at their newest Habitat House on Stone Street in DeLand. We planted Podocarpus at the owner's request. After finishing on Stone Street, we planted Red Pentas at the Habitat Office.

Suellen Biferie, Habitat for Humanity Chair



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### Fundraiser - Make it! Rake It! Bake It!

Former Pansy Circle president, Sally Bohon created a handwritten and illustrated activity booklet filled with gardening and kitchen projects for the young gardener. Sally wanted to teach the next generation about growing things. This booklet has ample opportunities for you and the young gardener to perform many hands-on activities to create and to cook foods with your harvests. You have an excellent opportunity to share in the wonder of this booklet with your children or grandchildren. Please support the Garden Club of DeLand in this fundraiser with your purchase of the **Make It, Rake It, Bake It** activity booklet with a suggested donation of \$10. We can mail it to you for an additional \$5 shipping and handling fee. Contact your Circle President for ordering details.



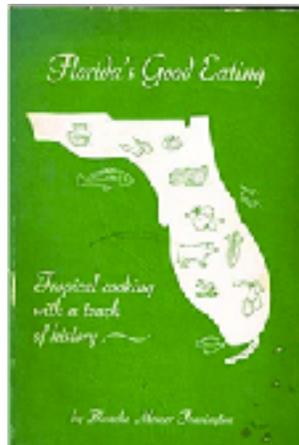
**Recipe with a little DeLand History**

Sally Bohon has been sharing a bit of DeLand History and Recipes from a 1978 Cookbook published in DeLeon Springs called “Florida’s Good Eating” by Blanche Mercer Fearington, *Grace Dreka’s Deviled Crabs*

Grace Dreka was one of the beloved charter members of the Junior Service League. I do not recall her so well as I remember her husband, Godfrey, an impressive figure. But the name Dreka should be emblazoned in a significant public place, for this family was as important to this town’s survival as Henry DeLand or John B. Stetson. Godfrey’s father, George, came to DeLand in 1878 and built a mercantile business, Dreka’s Department Store, that literally became the commercial center of central Florida. Two generations later, their daughter Betty carried the name forward with Betty Dreka’s Dress Shop. Where one generation shopped at Dreka’s, the next knew that corner as J. C. Penney’s, and yet another generation banked there before it became a restaurant. The corner of E. New York and the Blvd has seen the sweep of our town’s history from the Great Fire of 1886 to the COVID-19 pandemic. But it all started with the vision of a man named Dreka, and Grace Dreka saw a whole lot of it in her lifetime. As for the recipe she left us in Fearington’s Cookbook, I can attest to the fact that it absolutely superb.

**GRACE DREKA’S DEVILED CRABS**

- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup cold milk
- Yolks of 3 eggs
- 1 lb white crab meat
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped parsley
- 1/2 cup cream
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire
- 6 crab shells
- Buttered bread crumbs



Fry onion and garlic together in butter, add flour mixed with salt and milk. Stir and boil gently for 5 minutes. Add egg yolks and blend. Add crab, parsley, cream, mustard and Worcestershire and mix well. Stuff clean crab shells, top with buttered crumbs and bake until brown at 400 degrees.

(No, she didn’t give an amount of time to bake. Just watch it.)

**NGC Gardening Study School**

Course 3 the adventure continues  
 This Study will be held on the Virtual Platform “Zoom”  
**Tuesday - Wednesday October 27 - 28, 2020**

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM Jennifer Condo, Chair  
**Course 3 Highlights**

**FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE PLANT GROWTH**

- A. Environmental factors
  - a. Local, regional conditions
  - b. Light, water, and temperature
  - c. Weather - Seasonal, drought, flood
  - d. Pollution problems
- B. Nutrients - organic, inorganic
- C. Plant/cultivar choices

**NEW PLANT DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION**

- A. Hybridization or Genetic Manipulation
- B. Species/Cultivar selection Include Native Plants and Nativars
  - a. Commercial operation - seed company
  - b. Plant specialist - (i.e., plant society hybridizers)
- C. Environmental suitability – The importance of linking plant selection with plants that support biodiversity
- D. Test gardens

**CONTAINER GARDENING**

- A. Plants suitable for containers
- B. General culture
  - a. Environmental, temperature, light, humidity
  - b. Annuals, perennials, vines, etc.
- C. Types of containers
  - a. Size, weight, and adaptability—include factors such as heat intensity on root development
  - b. Single container, combination plantings, dish gardens, planters, and troughs

**Horticulture**

- A. Providing appropriate amounts of light and water
- B. Growing conditions indoors
- C. Plant choices
- D. Training and pruning
- E. Types of indoor containers (Single container, combination plantings, dish gardens, terrariums)

**Native Trees and Shrubs**

Plant Species/Varieties – Being mindful of planting zone, soil moisture, sun exposure, and salt exposure for coastal areas.

Local, regional choices – Right Plant, Right Place  
 Wildlife support – Native species (usually more trees than shrubs and wildflowers alone) are the foundation of biodiversity.  
 Properly planting and maintenance (covered in depth in other GS Courses)  
 Maintenance – Pruning and the relationship between trees and turf grass

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GARDEN CLUB  
MEMBERS  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE IN  
THEIR  
COMMUNITY  
AND IN THE  
LIVES OF OUR  
MEMBERS  
UNTIL WE MEET  
AGAIN

Weedettes Plant  
Sales  
CareAVans  
Downtown Planting,  
Certifying Butterfly  
Gardens and Caring  
for the Container  
Gardens



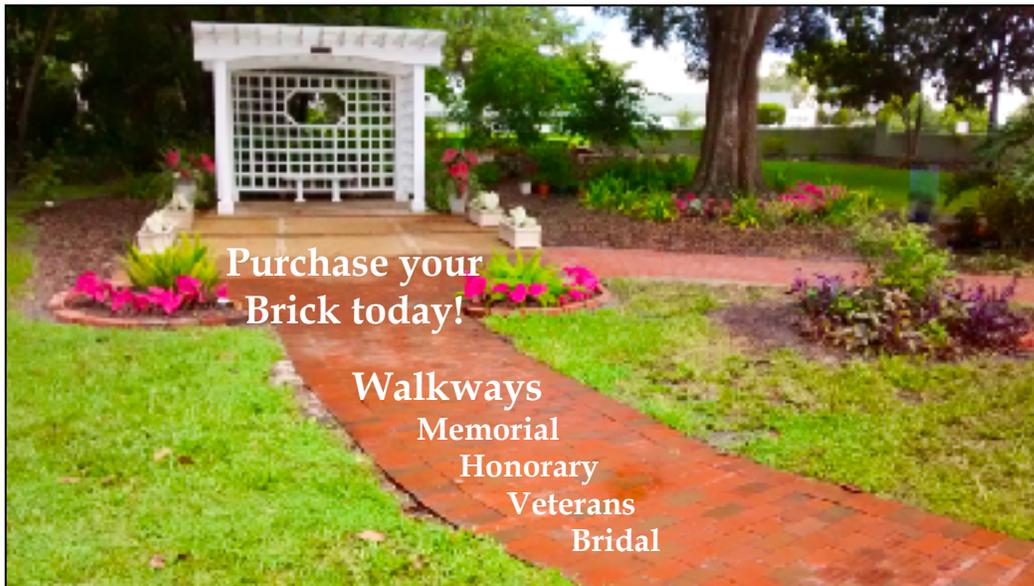
# In Your Backyard

A monthly monograph on making your landscape beautiful and sustainable  
with Teresa Watkins  
gardening expert, landscape designer, author  
[www.she-consulting.com](http://www.she-consulting.com)

Are you interested in gardening? Are you new to Florida and don't know what to do in your backyard? You're in luck! In Your Backyard, a free monthly gardening newsletter, written by gardening expert, author, and Better Lawns and Gardens radio show co-host Teresa Watkins is now available. "In Your Backyard" is a fun and helpful newsletter about Florida-friendly landscaping and gardening. Each month it is packed with design tips, a to-do list, inspirational pictures, and more.

You can read past archived newsletters, listen to Tom MacCubbin and Teresa Watkins on Better Lawns and Gardens podcasts, and subscribe to In Your Backyard newsletter on Teresa's website: [www.she-consulting.com](http://www.she-consulting.com).

Subscribe this month and receive Teresa's Garden Reminders free!



**Brick Pathway**  
Pat DeSalvo, Chair

*Give the gift of love by planning to buy a brick to honor a loved one.* We have planted over 170 bricks over the years. 1 brick for \$50, 2 bricks for \$90. We have the Memorial Walk (members that have traveled to the prettiest gardens). The Veterans Garden for all that have served in the Military. The Honorary Garden for anyone or anything. Our latest Walk - the Bridal Walk. This is for our members to remember their special day OR for any of our many brides. Please make check payable to Garden Club of DeLand and mail to the attention of Brick Chair, P.O. Box 1965, DeLand, FL 32724-6947

To download Brick Form or see the Map of each Brick Walkway area visit [www.gardenclubofdeland.org](http://www.gardenclubofdeland.org)

"Fresh Start"

NuSu Bauerle, Inspiration Chair

COVID-19 has affected all of us, whether we have actually been infected or not. So our theme for reflections this year will be how we have responded, or can positively respond, to its impact on our lives. We are being tested - whether we pass or fail is up to us . . . our response will mark a significant milestone in our walk of faith.

The most precious gift we have ever been given is that of life itself. Since none of us has ever been through a pandemic or lockdown before, we're in a novel situation - actually a transformation. As we sense this conversion, we begin to realize that it is up to us to embrace it for our own sanity. To regain some semblance of normalcy, we must develop new habits & routines.

For those who cherish Garden Club, we will attempt to re-assemble the faithful & remain devoted to our purpose. Socially, we will choose to be committed to each other, & while we will rejoice that we are finally back together, our priority must be to plan for our future success.

~ We ask for blessings upon our gatherings & our people, especially for safety & health. Hopefully we have all developed a fresh appreciation for our individual friendships & our club as a whole. As others feel more comfortable, bring them back to our gardening community so that we may continue to celebrate the majesty of nature . . .

Weedettes

Norma Thomas, Chair

What a weird Spring and Summer!

From shutting down in March to quarantining and social distancing.

The Weedettes kept working all summer long. Here is a synopsis of our Monday morning activities.

In March, the pollen count was sky high, we had record heat, lubbers emerged, Muscovy ducks flocked in and out of the gardens and the temperature ran hot, cold, hot, cold. We created the Larkin Garden aka Pollinator Garden and battled and lost against Mother Nature. Plant, water and come back and its been eaten.

Good grief. We chose to work in different gardens for safety. We trimmed back the loropetalum and unfortunately lost two of them.

April brought shelter in place and the Weedettes chose to work different days of the week. The heat was equivalent to the days of July per our weatherman. We agree. A storm blew in and tore down a panel of the gazebo. The Hometown News came by and took pictures of Sharyn weeding a garden bed. She made the papers! A freaking tornado came to visit DeLand. No damage at the Club but it beat the heck out of my property and my community. We cut down the coontie as we are supposed to do every two years. They look great now! We cannot work in the azalea bed because there is a Muscovy duck on a nest.

June brought rain. Lots of it. Dollar weed is as happy as can be and we are not. Cindy made new plant ID signs; we created our propagation bed in the area behind the patio; growing Cassia Privet, Little Ruby, walking irises, candlestick cassia, coleus, Texas star, herbs and more. The grounds are spectacular in color. Coreopsis, gaillardia, rudbeckia, crinums, agapanthus, roses, Little Ruby, caladiums and so much more. Two named tropical depressions have developed in the Gulf before June 1st and Cristobal is trying to form in the warm Gulf waters. And it is hot. Brutally hot. And on top of that, the shelter in place is slowly being lifted and there is an upswing in Covid cases. The Weedettes are back to working on the same day. We maintain a safe distance, or we wear our masks.

July brought steamy hot weather with each week hotter than the week before. We hand weeded beds, transplanted a bougainvillea, and started selling plants. We raised over \$200 so far. We will be moving planters to make room for outside seating by our gazebo once the weather becomes cooler, hopefully in October. Steve Jones will be pressure cleaning our walks, building and maybe the gazebo. It has not been repaired to date. The rains are here with one week getting 5-inches. Then the end of the month brought us hurricanes. Hannah hit Texas, Gonzales fizzled out and on August 2nd and 3rd, Isaias blew up our coast as a tropical storm.

First Monday in August and the Weedettes scheduled off due to Isaias. No damage to our town.

As I started out saying, I end with saying, "what a weird Spring and Summer."