



## The Garden Club of DeLand



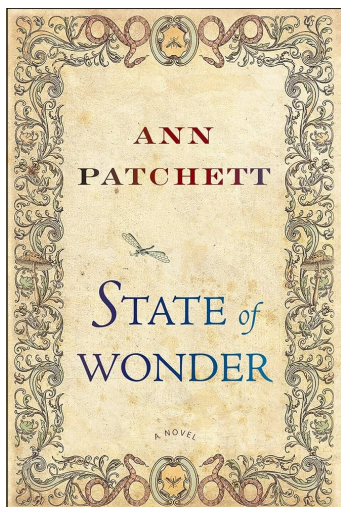
## The Gabby Gardener

October 2025

Volume 35, Issue 2

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## From the President - Casey King

Hi All,

Wow! What an incredible meeting we had in September it was great to see so many members after our summer hiatus and how nice it was to have guests – some of whom even became members at the meeting. A huge thank you to the members of the Magnolia Circle for hosting the meeting.

I hope everyone is getting ready for our **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House and Garden Faire** on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, from noon till 5:00pm. We have several vendors, a plant sale, baked goods, and gently used items for sale. More importantly, this event will give us a chance to showcase for the public what the Garden Club of DeLand, the Circles and Special Interest groups do throughout the community. I can't wait to see all the Circle tables!

The Book Club got off to a great start with a review of *The Light Eaters*. The October meeting date has changed to Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1PM, and the group will be reviewing the book, **The State of Wonder** by Ann Patchett. Don't forget to look at the Book Cart our "Free Library" please take a book, leave a book, or at least peruse the shelves. There's lots of

great reading available for the taking!

Don't forget, the tickets for our **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Membership Party** go on sale at our next meeting. The date is November 15<sup>th</sup> from 5PM -9PM at the clubhouse. We have cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a live band, dancing, games and fun. We're going to party like it's 1925 again! Tickets are \$15.00 each or two for \$25.00.

I want to remind all of you that there is a **District VI meeting** coming up this month. The meeting is in Palm Coast on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. It will be a celebration of fifty years of the Palm Coast Garden Club and Christy Link's birthday. We are entitled to four voting members at the meeting, so if you are planning to attend, please let me know. The cost for the luncheon is \$45.00.

It is my hope that I can visit all of the Circle meetings and be a resource to you if necessary. A big thank you to the Milkweed Circle, I very much enjoyed attending your September meeting (potluck was fantastic!). I need to apologize to the Magnolia Circle as I was unable to attend your September meeting. I sincerely hope you'll give me a rain check.

Thank you all for the many things you do to support all of our projects in the community. Wishing you a lovely fall!

*Casey*

## Garden Faire and Open House - October 19th 12-5pm



Hello Gardeners,

Hope everyone is looking forward to our Annual Plant Sale. This year we're adding an Open House to also showcase the Garden Club and all of the outreach activities we share in our community.

Along with this there will also be a "Botanical Boutique" for your shopping pleasure.

Please reach out to your friends, neighbors and family and invite them to come enjoy the afternoon with us.

Hope to see you all at the October meeting.

If you have not already signed up to participate, please look for me at the meeting or contact me.

Best to you, Lisa Schnetzer

## Certified Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary School Garden Project

Update on the **Certified Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary school garden project at Starke Elementary**

We have a team of 10 members of the Milkweed Circle working together sharing ideas, providing positive energy, brainstorming on the best plants to include, where to get donations and a myriad of other details as we look forward to creating the Starke School Garden! These ladies are, Lynda Stein, Jill Drake, Doris Saffran, Dawn Wyatt, Karen Hall, Deborah Dubois, Mary Rose Vogt, Lynn Ventura, Gail LaFayette and Carole Gilbert.

1. We learned about 2 possible grants for the garden. We met twice to review the application guidelines and award dates, and found they weren't a good fit, unfortunately.
2. However, there is an open grant from Espoma specific to soil, so we're going to check on that.
3. The new Edith I. Starke Elementary School is now open and the children are continuing the school year in a completely fresh building! In the first part of October, after everyone is settled in, we'll set a time to visit the grounds to check out potential places for the garden, with the input of the principal.
4. The garden will be a Certified Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary so we'll have the required host and nectar plants needed for this designation and then expand on from there to support our other local pollinators.
5. We're hoping/planning for a 10 x 10 spot and Lynda Stein found a garden plan with 3 options for this size garden that we can use as a guide.
6. After our school visit, we'll begin working on our lists of items, donations, and plants (the most fun part + seeing the smiles as the kids take part).
7. Our garden creation date will be shortly after the local March Wildflower Festival, but no specified date has been set at this time. We'll be sure to let everyone know so you can save the date and celebrate with us!!

*Submitted by: Carole Gilbert*

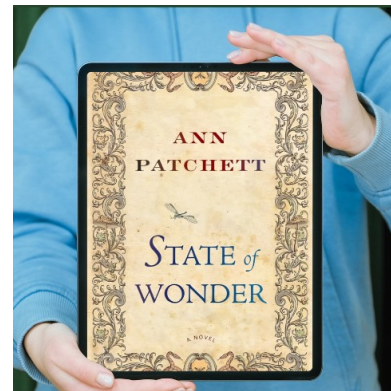


## Book Club - October 23rd @ 1 pm

In October GCD Book Club is reading “**State of Wonder**” by Ann Patchett. A quote from one review states: “Patchett achieves alchemy, creating complex, compelling characters, packing a Ph.D.’s worth of scientific knowledge into a nail-biting narrative, setting stark human dilemmas against the lush Amazon jungle backdrop.” Can’t wait to hear everyone’s

responses to this highly rated fiction book.

**ATTENTION:** Due to member participation in the work and set-up for our Open House on 10/19 the **Book Club meeting has been moved to the following Thursday, 10/23/25 at 1:00pm.**



## Time Capsule

This year marks a very important milestone for the Garden Club of DeLand as we celebrate our 100th Anniversary. Given the importance of this event, a time capsule is a perfect way to honor a century of growth, community, and love of gardening. It is also our responsibility as inheritors of this garden club to acknowledge those who came before us and who did their part to beautify our community through our shared love of plants and nature. A time capsule captures the essence of the club’s legacy while offering a gift to future generations in the hope that others will carry on our vision for another 100 years. Following up on Casey King’s idea for a time capsule, a small committee has come together to

make this idea a reality. Lupita Wiggans, Gail LaFayette, and Shanda Hebert are working on this project. Ideas abound, but there is a physical limit as to what can be placed in the time capsule itself, so anything that goes in it must showcase the club’s history, current achievements, and aspirations for the next century in a way that is concise and practical. We hope that this time capsule will be more than a collection of objects. We hope this will be a bridge between past, present, and future gardeners, and that when this time capsule is opened in 2125, future generations will feel the same sense of awe and responsibility toward nature and their community, and will ensure that this legacy will bloom for generations to come.

*Lupita*

## New Special Project Committee

As part of our focus on promoting pollinators and the Home Grown National Parks theme in our community in the next two years, we want to develop a series of four (possibly more), free classes for the public to attend at no charge. A lot of the details are still to be worked out. [Mary Lambert](#), [Kay Cordero](#), and [Fred Zollinger](#) have

graciously volunteered to help with the planning of these courses. We certainly could use more members on this special project committee.

*Please consider volunteering for this important work to spread gardening in our community.*



**Promoting pollinators**

## Our Garden Club in Action

### Gardening Series

We have set the dates for our Gardening Series. The dates will be Wednesday evenings -January 14 and January 28th and February 11 and February 25th. This series will be free to any attendee. The topics for each session have not been firmed up so there will be more information coming soon.

### [Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Coloring Contest](#)

Calling all children in First through Fifth grade!!! The Garden Club is sponsoring the Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl coloring contest. Please let all of your children, grandchildren, or great grandchildren and the neighbor kids know about our contest and encourage them to participate. They have a chance to win a local, state or national award for their poster. Don't delay, the deadline is December 16th!! The rules are attached for you to review. For more information, please contact Doris Saffran, [Sarah Zollinger](#), or Lernick Davityan.

### Our Garden Club Garden

The Wild Coffee Committee has been hard at work looking at our landscape. They have divided the garden into seven smaller areas which can be 'adopted' by circles, special interest groups, and members at large to work on, removing any invasives, adding new plants, and cleaning the beds. They have also put together some guidance to help with this project. At our November meeting we will discuss this further and show everyone the zone map. For more information please contact [Fred Zollinger](#).



## ANNOUNCING 2026 Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

**Children from first through fifth grade  
are invited to participate in this annual  
drawing contest featuring conservation icons  
Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl!**

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service and the National Garden Clubs, Inc., are giving students the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of wildfire prevention and basic environmental conservation principles through original drawings of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl.

View previous contest winners:

<https://gardenclub.org/smokey-bear-woodsy-owl-youth-poster-contest>.

### Smokey Bear says: "Only you can prevent wildfires!"



Smokey Bear is recognized nationally and internationally as the symbol for wildfire prevention. The original Smokey Bear appeared in 1944. Smokey's message, "Only you can prevent wildfires!" encourages personal responsibility for wildfire prevention. Smokey Bear teaches children and adults to be careful with campfires, barbecues, burning yard waste, and matches. For more about Smokey Bear visit <https://smokeybear.com>.

### Woodsy Owl says: "Lend a hand—care for the land!"



Woodsy Owl is America's icon for the conservation of the environment. Since 1971, Woodsy has helped parents and teachers inspire children to observe, explore, and care for the environment. He challenges children to "Lend a hand, care for the land!" and to take an active role in caring for the land through recycling, reusing, and reducing waste; gardening, planting, and caring for trees; using resources wisely; and not littering. For more about Woodsy Owl visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/learn/kids/woodsy-owl>.

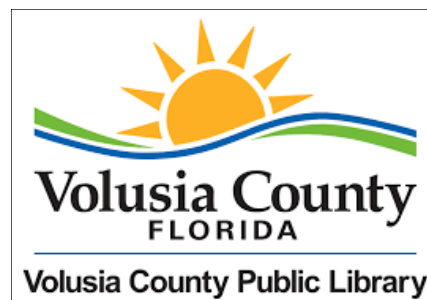
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

[gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2025-09/cotest-announcement.pdf](https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2025-09/cotest-announcement.pdf)

## Seed Bank, Tuesday January 6th 2026

The seed bank stuffing of envelopes has been rescheduled to Tuesday, January 6, 2026. It takes place immediately after the master gardener monthly lecture, approximately 2:30 pm. Please come and help replenish the library's seed bank. If you have seeds that you would like to contribute to the Seed Bank, drop them at the DeLand Library Circulation desk or to Susan Ludvigh at 1757 West Minnesota Avenue DeLand, Contact her at [sludvigh@cfl.rr.com](mailto:sludvigh@cfl.rr.com).

\*Just a reminder that the **Circles typically donate \$50.00** (or whatever they can afford) to purchase seeds for the public seed library.



We will be purchasing more seeds to pack on Tuesday January 6th for patrons. It would be great if the library could have money sometime in October. Please let me know if your Circle is willing/able to donate again this year and if it can be done in October.

*Thank you all*

## Memorial Brick

Don't be scared! Ghosts are banished from the GCDs website, along with cobwebs and witches. Ordering a Memorial Brick from our user-friendly website is an easy way to honor a special person or event or achievement and also enrich the coffers of the GCD.

All you have to do is go to the Memorial Brick form, download the form, fill it out, and mail it in, for a ghost-free experience.

[Memorial Brick order form.](#)

Carol Grigas  
Memorial Brick Chair



## How To Festival



The Garden Club of DeLand was well-represented at the DeLand Library **How To Festival** this past month. We had a beautiful table thanks to the efforts of Cindy Davenport, Cathy Swint, and Lisa Schnetzer. Our club was well-represented by Deborah DuBois, Tony

Blackwell, Violet Akopyan, Doris Saffran, Diane Schmidt, and Sarah Zollinger. We had a steady stream of visitors to our table with many taking information about the Garden Club. Our Plant Propagation demonstration had 15 attendees including some very interested children. Elizabeth Milliken and Sarah Zollinger helped our guests learn to propagate plants and even take some home. Shout out to Lupita Wiggans and Sarah Zollinger for the pots and plants for the project.



1925 2025

The Garden Club of DeLand  
is happy to present our

**CENTENNIAL  
CELEBRATION GALA**

to acknowledge the achievements  
of those who came before us

15 NOV SAT \$15<sup>EA</sup> 2-FOR \$25 5PM TO 9PM

1920's GATSBY GLAM ATTIRE

at the  
Clubhouse  
865 S Alabama Ave

Appetizers - Drinks  
Jazz Music by  
The Alley Cats

The Garden Club of DeLand  
Est. 1925 Federated 1927  
100 Years  
Centennial Celebration

**You're Invited to Attend the  
FFGC District VI Fall Meeting  
"Celebrating Our Years Together"**

**Friday October 24, 2025, 9 am - 2 pm**  
**Hammock Dunes Club • 30 Ave Royale, Palm Coast, FL 32137**  
**Registration, Hospitality and Shopping 9:00 am - 10:00 am**

**Our Family Tree**

**District VI**

Cocoa-Rockledge Garden Club

Cherry Laurel Garden Club

DeLeon Springs Garden Club

Garden Club of DeLand

Garden Club at Palm Coast

Garden Club of the Halifax Country

Indian Harbour Beach Garden Club

Garden Club By-the-Sea

Melbourne Garden Club

Ormond Beach Garden Club

Port Malabar Garden Club

New Smyrna Beach Garden Club

South Peninsula Garden Club

Tillandsia Garden Club

Titusville Garden Club

**The Garden Club at Palm Coast is celebrating their  
"50th Anniversary"  
and hosting our Fall District VI Meeting**

**DIRECTIONS:**

**Option 1: From 1-95 (\$2.00 Toll)** Take exit 289 (Palm Coast Parkway) Turn right onto Palm Coast Parkway SE. Proceed straight toward the Hammock Dunes Toll Bridge.

Continue over the bridge and at the 4-way stop, turn right onto Camino de Mar and check in at the Hammock Dunes gatehouse. Check in, your name will be on the list.

Continue on Camino de Mar and at the traffic circle, take the 3rd exit onto Ave Royale. Follow this to the parking lot at the Hammock Dunes Club.

**Option 2: From 1-95 (No Toll)** Take exit 284 (FL-100, Bunnell/Flagler Beach). Turn right onto FL-100 towards Flagler Beach. Turn left onto Florida A1A N /A1A Scenic and Historic Coastal Byway.

Turn right at the Hammock Dunes gate house (NOT left at Island Estates). Check in, your name will be on the list.

Follow the road to the end and make a right on Camino de Mar.

At traffic circle, take the 3rd exit onto Ave Royale. Follow this to the parking lot at the Hammock Dunes Club.

**You're Invited to Attend the  
FFGC District VI Fall Meeting  
"Celebrating Our Years Together"  
"50th Anniversary: Garden Club at Palm Coast"**

**Friday October 24, 2025 9 am - 2 pm**

**Hammock Dunes Club • 30 Ave Royale, Palm Coast, FL 32137**  
**Registration, Hospitality and Shopping 9:00 am - 10:00 am**

Please complete a registration form for each club member registering.

Copy the form as needed. • Email: [info@gardenclubatpalmcoast.org](mailto:info@gardenclubatpalmcoast.org) (questions or to receive a form) • Forms and checks must be received by Wednesday, October 15, 2025. No refunds will be given after October 15 • Make your check out for \$45.00 payable to: The Garden Club at Palm Coast Inc. Mail to: Registrar Denise Garcia 75 Island Parkway, Palm Coast FL 32137

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Club/Circle: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Check every Category that applies**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Former Deep South Dir. | <input type="checkbox"/> District Officer         | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Club Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Former FFGC President  | <input type="checkbox"/> District Chairman        | <input type="checkbox"/> Delegate           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FFGC State Officer     | <input type="checkbox"/> Former District Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Delegate/Alternate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FFGC State Chairman    | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Club President    | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District Director      | <input type="checkbox"/> Circle President         |   |

**\$45 registration fee includes:**

Breakfast beginning at 9:00 am includes coffee and assorted pastries. Lunch at 12:00 pm is one choice from below. Please indicate your preference.

- ☐ **Mediterranean Salad** – spinach topped with lemon pepper salmon, feta cheese, roasted red peppers, kalamata olives, cucumbers and yezou vinaigrette (with or without Salmon)
- ☐ **Chicken Piccata** – Rosemary - Lemon Chicken with Pecan - Honey Sauce
- ☐ **Vegetarian Entree** – Spinach & Swiss Quiche with Side Salad and balsamic vinaigrette.

All entrees served with Chef's choice of vegetable, warm rolls & butter, iced tea, coffee and fountain soda.

**Cash Bar available**

**FFGC.ORG**

**Meet me in  
KISSIMMEE 2026**

FFGC CONVENTION APRIL 14-17, 2026 | [FFGC.ORG/CONVENTION](http://FFGC.ORG/CONVENTION)  
 EMBASSY SUITES ORLANDO by HILTON | LAKE BUENA VISTA SOUTH FL

## FFGC CONVENTION

**FFGC CONVENTION is APRIL 14-17, 2026**  
**Embassy Suites Orlando by Hilton**  
**Lake Buena Vista South, FL**



**14-17 APRIL 2026**



Visit our website  
**[WWW.FFGC.ORG](http://WWW.FFGC.ORG)**

**State Flower Show -  
"Once Upon a Time"**



ship to attend a  
 Florida college or university is offered to a  
 high school senior who is a Florida  
 resident and USA  
 citizen. Student must plan to major in  
 ecology, horticulture, landscape design  
 or architecture, conservation, botany,  
 forestry,  
 marine biology, city planning, public  
 sanitation, or a related field. Applicants  
 must have a "B" average (3.0) or better,  
 and be  
 enrolled as a full time student.



## COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

*Garden Clubs offer  
College Scholarships*

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

- ✓ FFGC offers up to \$3000
- ✓ Deep South offers up to \$3500
- ✓ NGC offers up to \$4000

**Your local Garden Club can sponsor  
your student and help you get in  
touch with a scholarship chair**

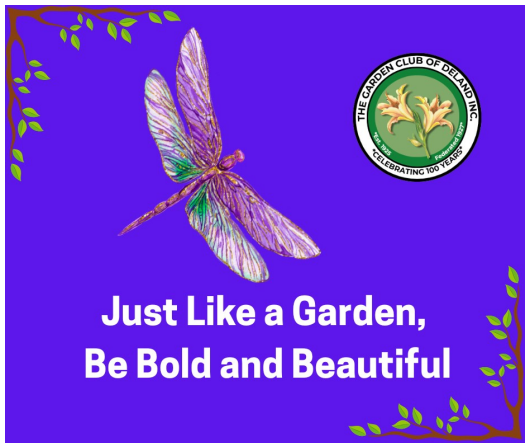


## The Garden Club of DeLand

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

(386) 279-1241 Rental Information  
[rentalsgardenclubofdeland@gmail.com](mailto:rentalsgardenclubofdeland@gmail.com)

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



### BEWARE

Sadly, scammers are everywhere and will do anything to try and get money. The Garden Club of DeLand is not spared. This summer, scammers used my name (but not my email) and sent an email to some of you purporting to be me, asking you to send me gift cards for Veterans using the email attached.

Please know, **I will never ask members to send money, gift cards, or bank info** to me or any other Board member. **DO NOT RESPOND TO ANYTHING LIKE THIS!** I understand this is a common scam when small groups get new officers scammers will use the new officers' names to try and extort gift cards and money. Please call and let me know if you get something like this, but **DO NOT respond to it!**

## Upcoming Events and Fundraisers

There is a lot we have planned that we will need volunteers to help with. I would like to list some of them here – you will hear much more on these soon, but please consider volunteering to help out with these events:

**Festival of Trees** – Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> (were hoping to make this as successful as they used to be)

**Bunco Games**

**Antique Roadshow Tea** (Angevine's will present on Antiques of the Gilded Age as we host a tea, each attendee will get one free antique appraisal at the event)

**Fairy Garden Event** for mothers/daughters

**Pollinator Palooza** (similar to Monarch Magic, but at garden club and featuring other pollinators, geared for children)

**Gardening Classes** (free to public, offering four starting in January – April)