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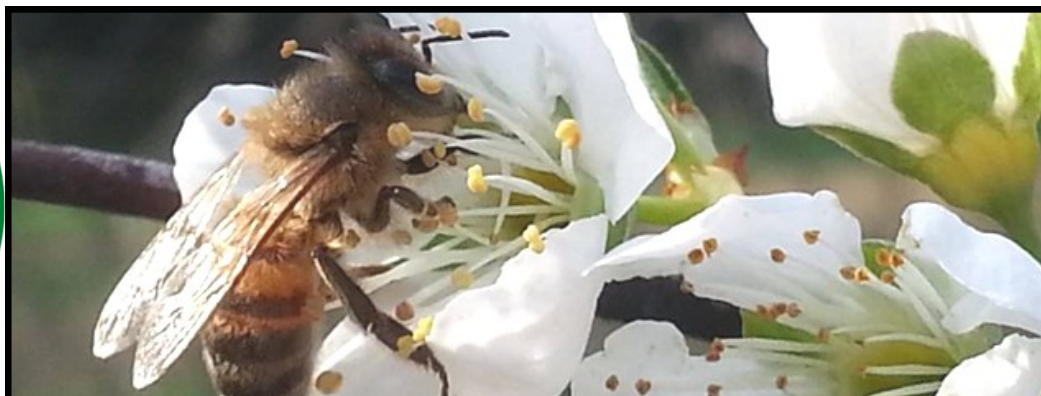


Photo by Shanda Hebert

The Gabby Gardener

GCD Rentals Update

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In response to our request to the members this past spring for additional help on the rental team, the lovely Carmen Visconti, to our delight, was willing to give the team a try. She has been communicating with and meeting members of the Deland community. This has resulted in scheduled events to help the GC offset the costs of maintaining our building.

We would like to ask for a few more volunteers to join the rental team. Right now, we work in teams of 2. Ideally, we would love to form a third team to help us with our duties.

Please come and join us. You will have the opportunity to meet wonderful people in our community and be a part of helping them initiate special events in their lives.

For more information please contact Norma Thomas at 941-993-0957 or nojoto11@gmail.com.

GCD Book Club

3rd Thursday 9/17/26
in the
Clubhouse at 1pm



**The Backyard
Bird Chronicles**

Written and
illustrated by **Amy Tan**



Foreword by
David Allen
Sibley



Growing Roses in our Sandy Soil

Speaker: Pat LeClaire
Garden Club of DeLand

SEPTEMBER 3
12:30 SOCIAL
1:00 PM MEETING

Host Circle: Magnolia
Ice Cream Social

We want to get to know you!
Welcoming new and potential members.

www.gardenclubofdeland.org

865 SOUTH ALABAMA AVENUE
DELAND

Hello fellow Gardeners and Readers,

The book for the September Garden Club Book Club is "Backyard Bird Chronicles" by Amy Tan. Goodreads states: "Tracking the natural beauty that surrounds us, "The Backyard Bird Chronicles" maps the passage of time through daily entries, thoughtful questions, and beautiful original sketches by the author. With boundless charm and wit, Amy Tan charts her foray into birding and the natural wonders of the world. We can easily apply our birding experiences with the species endemic to Florida.

Hope to see you on the 3rd Thursday 9/17/26 in the Clubhouse at 1pm. All are welcome.

Peace, Chris Nott & Sara Zollinger (see page 1 for book cover)



PLANT SALE



SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

8AM – 3 PM

The Garden Club of DeLand

We will have native plants, shrubs, fall vegetables, herbs, and ornamentals. There will also be a Botanical Treasures area as well as a great Bakery area.



865 South Alabama Avenue, DeLand
(386) 624-6960 | www.gardenclubofdeland.org

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

First let's review what we went over in the spring and for our new members this may be new information.

Here in Florida, we have 4 Invasive Weed lists. The Federal Noxious Weed List, The Florida Noxious Weed List, The Florida Invasive Species Council (FISC) Plant List and The UF/IFAS Assessment of Non-Native Plants. The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) decided a few years ago to use the FISC list as their go to invasive species list. Not all the lists agree on the invasive classification of individual plants, and for Master Gardeners who are trained by UF/IFAS but are members of a Garden Club that is part of FFGC this sometimes presents confusion.

With this in mind we will be looking at **Porterweed**. The good one, the very bad one and then there is the mysterious third type of Porterweed.

Let's start off with the good Porterweed. It is native and its formal name is

(*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*). The Florida Native Plant Society has started calling this plant Trailing Porterweed so as not

to confuse anyone with the common name for the very bad porterweed. The native Porterweed is usually only 8 to 12 inches tall and spreads horizontally with only the flower stalks sticking up. It is the host plant for the Tropical buckeye and a native nectar plant



to many butterflies and bees.



The very bad Porterweed is an Invasive Category 2 plant on the FISC list, (*Stachytarpheta cayennensis*) the confusion comes in that the UF/IFAS Assessment only says plant with "caution". Blue Porterweed has a distinct woody trunk and has an upright growth habit of 4 – 6ft tall. I have even heard of one being

trained into a small standard tree. It is listed as invasive due to its ability to self-seed and naturalize in areas far beyond its planting, the seed is transported in garden waste, rainwater, as well as its tendency to hybridize with the native porterweed. <https://shuncy.com/article/why-in-porterweed-hybrid-on-florida-invasive-plant-list>.

The mysterious third species of Porterweeds happens when these two species *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis* and *Stachytarpheta cayennensis* have hybridized, and the hybrids are recognized as *Stachytarpheta x intercedens*. The hybrid plant is usually only 2-4 feet tall with woody branches, but I have seen a hybridized Porterweed that has the green stems of the Native Porterweed but the leaves of the larger invasive plant.

Florida Federated Garden Clubs and the Garden Club of Deland advise to remove invasives and hybrids of invasives from your gardens and plant native to protect and preserve our Florida environment.

Plant-A-Tree Donation Formerly known as "Penny Pines"

These donations are used by the USDA Forest Service to plant trees in US National Forests. You may choose to have your donation go where it's most needed or you may select a National Forest; however, the Forest Service reserves the right to utilize funds based on need. If you choose a forest where no tree planting is needed, funds may be used for planting on another forest. FFGC (and NGC) request minimum donations of \$50 or more. Complete this form and mail it to: FFGC Treasurer, 78 Sierra Lane, Crawfordville, FL. 32327 Please enclose your check made out to FFGC with the form. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Andrea Finn (FFGC Plant-a-Tree Chairman) 1840 Old Tomoka Rd. Ormond Beach, FL. 32174-6715 (email: finn1840@bellsouth.net). Let's "PLANT AMERICA".



FFGC Tree Planting Count

Keep records and apply for Recognition Certificates. Please record every tree planted by individuals, clubs or circles and fill in the form below and email or SNAIL MAIL to Cecilia Gayle, Tree Chairman by March TBA, 2027. (Allow sufficient time if snail mailing!!) If more space is needed, please list locations. Remember to observe Florida Arbor Day (3rd Friday in January) and/or National Arbor Day (4th Friday in April). Certificates of recognition will be presented to top ten clubs planting the most trees and reporting plantings. Presentation will be at convention. The 2027 Form will be ready soon.

T&R chairman: Cecilia Gayle

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City: Plant City, FL 33566

Phone: (813) 297-1095

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gcdvpres4members@gmail.com (Membership)

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

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

POLLINATOR PLOOZA



Smokey Bear/Woodsey Owl Poster Contest

Jill Anderson, FFGC Chair: jillandersn@aol.com (727) 798-1970 (c)

Deadline: January 15

Write entrant details on back of poster

- Only children from first through fifth grade can participate. You can reach out to schools, scout troops, after school programs, youth programs, and similar groups.
- Students should be reminded to check spelling as posters with spelling errors will be disqualified.
- The following information must be written on the back of each poster: The student's name, grade level, garden club name, garden club contact name address, phone number, school, teacher's name, school name, parent or guardian name and address, phone number and email. (Should school policy preclude giving students' addresses and phone numbers, please include the school address and phone number.)



"Only You Can Prevent Wildfires"

Since 1944, Smokey Bear has served as a national symbol of wildfire prevention. In 1977, Woodsy Owl ("Lend a Hand Care for the Land") joined the effort, encouraging environmental stewardship and conservation. Together, these beloved icons remind us that each of us plays a role in protecting our natural resources, wildlife, and public lands.

Locate a Garden Club in your area to learn more about sponsorship opportunities and the poster contest entry process.