



Volume 34, Issue 6

The Gabby Gardener



President's Corner

We have successfully completed the final planned repair/upgrade to the Garden Club, thanks primarily to Norma Thomas. It is a relief to say the clubhouse is in better shape

than it has been for a very long time as well as a joy to have the parking lot paved!

Mayor Cloudman again proclaimed Less-Mow Spring. Carol Grigas, president of the Firecracker Circle, has also been busy with securing funding support from DeBary Nursery, Mainstreet Community Bank of Florida and Trophy Factory Plus. Less-Mow Spring signs will be available at the Wildflower Festival.

The Volusia County Master Gardener 26th Annual Plant Sale at the AG Center is on Saturday, March 15th. 8:30am -12:00pm. Look for a wide variety of perennials, annuals, natives and more! Cash or check only. We are fortunate to have quite a few Master Gardeners in the GCD. We also collaborate with them and the Friends of the Library on the Seed Bank at the DeLand Library.

We are looking forward to the Florida Wildflower & Garden Festival on Saturday, March 29th, 9am-3pm on Indiana Avenue. This DeLand festival celebrates our native plants and encourages sustainable gardening.

Chair Mary Ripple reports that at the GCD's booth you will find our signature caladium bulbs, native milkweed and yard art. Spruce up your garden with GCD original brightly painted art - blockhead birds with feet or crooked flat panels of birds.

It's a busy month with the great promise of more plants!

Margaret Carol Plummer December 30, 1949 February 16, 2025



Margaret "Carol" Plummer (nee Borig) passed away on February 16, 2025, in DeLand, FL

Carol embraced life in DeLand, making fast friends through various organizations including The Persimmon Hollow Women's Club, The DeLand Garden Club, Trinity United Methodist Church, and various Bunko and exercise groups. Carol blessed friends and family with her generous, compassionate, and loving nature. She cared for her aunt, her in-laws, and her mother as they aged and battled various illnesses.

The family will hold a **Celebration of Life in Carol's honor on Saturday, March 22, 2025, from 2:00p.m. to 5:00p.m. at Victoria Hills Golf Club in the Azalea Room.**

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in her memory to: American Cancer Society, Garden Club of DeLand, or Samaritan's Purse North Carolina Disaster Relief.

Circle Around

Firecracker – Informative program on honeybees with Donna and Marlin Athearn.

Magnolia – Made Valentine Vases of Love and delivered them to a local nursing home.

Marigold – Business meeting at Select Growers.

Milkweed – Dark Sky and Northern Lights presentation by Carole Gilbert.

Rose – Fundraising Treasure and Plant Sale followed by a Container Gardening presentation.

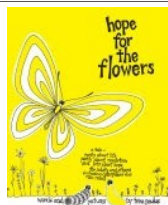
Wild Coffee – Eco Buggy tour at Deep Creek Preserve.

Tuesday, March 4, 10am Cleaning Up at the GCD Clubhouse / Volunteers Needed

It has been a few years since members came in and washed down the patio and inside the Club. It's needed again.

March 4th, 10:00 am. Grab your gloves, cleaning solutions, rags and buckets and put a shine on our old building.

Contact Norma Thomas if you can participate. 941.993.0957



GCD March Book Club Thursday, March 20, 1 PM *Hope for the Flowers* by Trina Paulas.

Hope for the Flowers is an inspiring allegory about the realization of one's true destiny as told through the lives of caterpillars Stripe and Yellow, who struggle to "climb to the top" before understanding that they are meant to fly.

Often categorized as a children's novel, it is a fable "partly about life, partly about revolution and lots about hope – for adults and others including caterpillars who can read."

We will meet Thursday, March 20th in the GCD Clubhouse at 1:00 pm.

Contact Persons:

Cindy Davenport cindy@davenportmail.com or
Sara Zollinger sarazollinger@att.net

The Florida Wildflower and Garden Festival



The Florida Wildflower and Garden Festival will be on Saturday, March 29th, from 9 to 3 on West Indiana Avenue. The Garden Club has been at this event for years. It is a lot of fun, and a great way for us to reach out to the community. The lovely and amazing Norma Thomas is the "Queen Bee" and will also be helping out.

For those of you who have signed up to help, you will be getting updates by email.

Come out and enjoy the festival and visit The Garden Club of DeLand booth.

Bulbs that will be available: Pink Sky, *Pink Symphony*, Florida Tapestry, and White Queen. This year we will have garden art from the "Yardists" and we will also be selling milkweed plants; thank you to the Milkweed Circle for their help. We



will also have someone there from the membership committee to help answer questions.



Mary Ripple

ocmemory@gmail.com

The West Volusia
Beacon

DELAND LESS MOW SPRING

Read the article in the Beacon about Less Mow Spring. This move is headed by the FIRECRACKERS including Carol Grigas.

Signs will be available soon!

<https://beacononlinenews.com/2024/03/27/deland-less-mow-spring/>

The Garden Club of DeLand

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Membership E-mail: gcdmembership@gmail.com

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Clubhouse rentals: (386) 624-6960 or
rentalsgardenclubofdeland@gmail.com

Gabby Editor: gaillafayette@hotmail.com

Gardening for the Future

Native Milkweed Project #7

The Milkweed Circle of the Garden Club of DeLand, for the 7th year, is providing the opportunity for the garden club members and the community to buy native milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*, commonly known as Swamp Milkweed.

This milkweed can tolerate moist soil, as its name suggests, but also grows well in dry soil. It prefers full sun but will tolerate partial shade.

Female monarchs will lay eggs on all nine milkweed species, but they prefer some over others. Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) is one of the preferred.

Green Isle Nursery in Lake County has grown the milkweed for us and will be delivering it to the clubhouse. Green Isle Gardens specializes in Florida native plants and wildflowers. Their plants are grown without pesticides, with the goal of preserving nature, and all its critters, in mind.

The Milkweed Circle will have these plants for sale on Tuesday, March 11, 10:30 - 12 pm and Wednesday, March 12, 3:30 - 6.



GCD Classes and Gardening Opportunities

Tuesday, March 4, 1 PM, Master Gardener Plant Clinic in the DeLand Regional Library Auditorium, 130 E. Howry Ave, **Topic: Orchids, Presenter: Kay Cordero**

Tuesday, March 4, 2:30 PM, **Seed Packaging** in the DeLand Regional Library Auditorium, 130 E. Howry Ave, **Contact Person:** Susan Ludvigh
sludvigh@cfl.rr.com

Saturday, March 8, 7:30am, **Downtown Planter and Pedestal Maintenance.** **Contact Persons:** Margaret Gillen mgillen@cfl.rr.com and Julia Neumann
julianeumann2@proton.me

Tuesday, March 11, 7:30am, **Sensory Butterfly Garden Workday** at Bill Dreggors Park (230 N. Stone St.)
Contact: Gail LaFayette gaillafayette@hotmail.com

Tuesday, March 11, 10:30—12 pm, **Native Milkweed Sale at the Clubhouse**
Wednesday, March 12, 3:30 - 6 pm, **Native Milkweed Sale at the Clubhouse**

Thursday, March 13, 10:30-12 at the Clubhouse, **Creative Corner Origami/Folding a cute Easter animal, bowl or basket and some tasty food for the Easter bunny.** \$5 donation to the Garden Club of DeLand. **Presenter: Maureen Miller-Calamo.** **RSVP to Maureen Miller-Calamo** text to 516-445-2338

Wednesday, March 19, 10:30am at the Clubhouse.
Creative Corner Presenter: Jenna Workman
Container Garden - Theme: Plants to Attract Pollinators. Cost \$30. (Includes \$5 donation to the Garden Club of DeLand.) Check for \$30 payable to Garden Club of DeLand. Due by March 12. **Contact Person:** Carol Roddenberry karolqueen@aol.com or text to 386-235-0370. Mail payment to Carol Roddenberry, 529 N. Sans Souci Ave. DeLand 32720 (*Guests welcome.*)

Thursday, March 20, 1 PM, **GCD Book Club: *Hope for the Flowers* by Trina Paulas.** **Contact Persons:** Cindy Davenport cindy@davenportmail.com or Sara Zollinger sarazollinger@att.net

Tuesday, March 25, 7:30am, **Sensory Butterfly Garden Workday** at Bill Dreggors Park (230 N. Stone St.)
Contact: Gail LaFayette gaillafayette@hotmail.com