



# The Gabby Gardener

August 2021



June 5, 2021 was an exciting day for the Milkweed Circle of the Garden Club of DeLand as they invited the public to join them in kicking off National Garden Week with a

celebration of the Monarch butterfly. DeLand Mayor Robert Apgar began the festivities by reading a proclamation declaring it National Garden Week. Milkweed and nectar plants were available for sale, educational exhibits, children's storytelling, butterfly origami, a butterfly talk and a tour of the Sensory Garden at Bill Dreggors Park brought the community out to learn more about our beloved Monarch butterfly. The Firecracker Circle members had plants for sale and led in children's activities. Volusia Water Alliance joined in and the West Volusia Historical Society gave tours of the Burgess Museum on the grounds of the park.

Attendees enjoyed the unveiling of Monica, the Monarch, by DeLand artist Carissa Paige. Monica, standing 5 feet tall, watches over the garden and is a great photo opportunity when you visit the garden.

The City of DeLand was designated Monarch City, USA in February, 2018 and is the first city in Florida with this designation. To date, there are 13 cities in Florida with this designation. We are spreading the word and helping to save the Monarchs.

Karen Hall



## Carissa Paige

Artist, Writer, & Inspirer

Monarch Wings finally became a reality at the Sensory Garden thanks to artist Carissa Paige.

Carissa is a Florida native, born and raised in Mt Dora, FL. She attended school at Daytona state, studying graphic design and digital media. Ultimately her heart led her to pursue fine arts & mixed media, which she self-studied. Carissa is also certified as a Kundalini Yoga instructor and a Reiki 1 energy healer.

Carissa lives in DeLand with her husband, Daniel, and two and a half year old son, Ever.

Carissa Paige  
Artist, Writer, & Inspirer  
[www.carissapaige.etsy.com](http://www.carissapaige.etsy.com)

E-mail: [gcdeland@gmail.com](mailto:gcdeland@gmail.com)

## Habitat for Humanity

The Garden Club of DeLand supports basic home building projects of the West Volusia Habitat for Humanity. We provide gardening advice for selection of trees and shrubs, volunteers and donations. Together with the new homeowner plantings are chosen and then donated by the Garden Club. For example, a life-threatening bee sting allergy drove the plant selection for a recent home. Our volunteers also help plant the shrubs and trees.



**Such joy is seen as the house is turned over to a new homeowner** who has purchased the home through Habitat's zero fee and interest free mortgage terms.



## A Big Welcome Back to everyone.

We're looking forward to the upcoming year. Seems like we have a lot of making up to do, so happy to say we will be starting the Garden Visits again. When you come to the September meeting we will have the information available to you, along with a sign up sheet. Also if you would like to host a visit to your garden you will be able to sign up for that.

For those not familiar with the visits, for the hostess just pick a day and time you would like to have us visit. Your choice of day and time. For the visitors, just sign up, make a small donation to the Garden Club and get the information for the next visit.

These are a small fundraiser for the Club, but a Big opportunity to share our Gardens and Friendships with our fellow members. It is just a lot of fun and an opportunity to see what grows in our members' gardens. Some have been generous to share not only their gardens, but sometimes a plant or two.

Looking forward to seeing and sharing with everyone.

Thanks,  
Lisa Schnetzer

## A few of my favorite things.

We all have favorites: favorite music or song, favorite book, favorite dessert, favorite season. I have a favorite flower and a favorite butterfly. My favorite flower is a purple passion flower also known as Maypop (*Passiflora incarnata*).



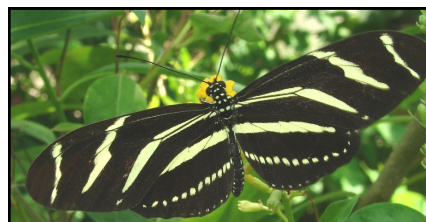
It is a Florida native vine. I fell in love with this flower due to its extraordinarily intricate structure. It has 10 lavender sepals, a purple-and-white-fringed corona, a central "crown" of pink filaments, and a conspicuous style and stamens. I look at this flower and think of all the detail that our Creator put into it and I am always amazed. They are pollinated by insects such as bumblebees and carpenter bees resulting in the edible fruit, the Maypop.

My favorite butterfly has a close association with *Passiflora incarnata*, the butterfly is the Zebra Longwing, our State Butterfly. The Zebra Longwing (*Heliconius charithonia*) uses Passion Flower vines, preferably planted in the shade, as a host plant laying their eggs on the tips of the vine for protection of their offspring from predators.

Zebra Longwings have some very unusual characteristics that are not exhibited by any other butterfly. First the male butterfly will choose his mate while she is still in the chrysalis. The female that is about to emerge from a chrysalis produces a scent that will attract a male, and the male will fight other males off defending his mate. Immediately after she emerges from the chrysalis they mate. Secondly Zebra Longwings feed on both nectar and pollen. They gather the pollen with their proboscis, feeding tubes. Since they use pollen as a source of nutrition the Zebra Longwings live for 5 to 6 months, while other butterflies may only live for a few weeks. Finally, Zebra Longwings roost communally at night. They have a social order when roosting; the oldest ones choose the best places.

They also gently nudge the others early in the morning to get going. It has been found that Zebra Longwings can remember their food sources and will return daily to the plants where they fed previously, this is called trap lining. Zebra Longwing prefers to nectar on Firebush, Tropical sage, Blue Porterweed, *Bidens alba*, Tall Red Pentas, and White Golden Dewdrop.

In my yard you may have one of the most magical moments, since Zebra Longwings do not scare easily, you can stand in the midst of a cloud of Zebras as they float from nectar plant to nectar plant.



By:  
Dorothy Caldwell

## Garden Club of DeLand

865 South Alabama Ave.

DeLand, FL 32724

(386) 624-6960

E-mail: [gcdeland@gmail.com](mailto:gcdeland@gmail.com)

Membership E-mail: [gcdmembership@gmail.com](mailto:gcdmembership@gmail.com)

Website: <https://gardenclubofdeland.org>



### Daylily and Butterfly Gardens

The Garden Club of DeLand awarded Barbara and Harland Merriam Garden Club of the Month for their Daylily and Butterfly Gardens. The Merriams returned to DeLand from Texas and moved into their renovated Carriage House located on property that Barbara's parents bought in 1951. In the fall of 2020 with renovations completed they moved into the larger 1910 family home that had been restored to its early style with modern conveniences.

Barbara is an active member of the Garden Club of DeLand and the Milkweed Circle. She helps in the Butterfly Sensory Garden, the downtown planters and serves on the Butterfly Squad that has certified over 180 Monarch Sanctuaries. "I raised monarch butterflies for years when I was teaching my three and four year olds in the classroom and now we are including butterfly attractors and more native plants in our gardens. We love trading plants with others. That's how our garden keeps growing." In addition to larval plants for butterflies, Barbara's favorites are pagodas, spinach tree, shrimp plants, Firebush, Pentas, Wendy's Wish and Amistad salvias.

Propagating and hybridizing Daylilies have become a passion of Harland's. "Their prime blooming season is April to June. We moved several trailer loads of potted daylilies from Texas to DeLand. Then we began

## Gardening for the Future



Mark your calendars  
for **GCD Plant Sale**  
**Saturday, October 9th.**  
Grower volunteers should  
contact Norma Thomas at  
[nojoto11@gmail.com](mailto:nojoto11@gmail.com)

amending the soil by collecting, spreading and composting leaves through a diligent collection of bagged discarded oak leaves." This gives a new meaning to one man's trash is another man's treasure.

"I started hybridizing in 2006 but we have been growing and collecting them for a lot longer. We actually dug up a ditch lily on our way to get married. I like growing daylilies because you can neglect and abuse them and they keep coming back. The favorite of my hybridization will bloom as early as February through November, with four or five re-blooming cycles. I named it St. Andrew's White Gold. It's a very simple, humble daylily that grows about a foot off the ground and is mostly gold. During a good sunny day the flower turns from gold to white." Daylilies are more like a grass than a lily; named for their lily-like flower. Varieties range from dormant in the winter to ever-green, depending on the growing zones. How appropriate that the daylily is the official club flower for The Garden Club of DeLand. This couple adds their mutual love of gardening to their full bloom life-long connection.

Readers may want to mark their calendars to drive by next spring because the daylily and butterfly garden will keep growing. Located on North Sans Souci in DeLand, this garden receives additional professional assistance from master gardener, Lance Harding, owner of DeLand Plance, located inside The Table Pantry and Provisions.

Submitted by Cheryl Floyd,  
Garden of the Month Chairperson

E-mail: [gcdeland@gmail.com](mailto:gcdeland@gmail.com)