

The Gabby Gardener

Garden Club of DeLand

October 2021 Volume 28, Issue 2

Pollinator Life

This summer I replanted one side of my pool enclosure with only native plants. The pollinator life is amazing, especially at eye level from the pool. It was a first sighting in my yard of Stetson caterpillars who enjoyed 'trimming' the cootie and blue curls. Yes, I am still waiting for the blue curls to bloom. The spotted horsemint is alive with several varieties of bees. The bed is anchored by muhly grass and rounded out with starry rosinweed, seaside goldenrod, conradina and twinflower. There is so much to learn as I long for a waterproof guide to bees of Central Florida! October's general membership meeting on Zoom will focus on native plants with Neta Villalobos-Bell to help us all as we garden now for the planet.

We are counting trees again for FFGC's Tree and Reforestation Committee. Any tree or shrub that goes in the ground between March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2022 counts! Did you plant trees on your property, or help raise/donate funds for a tree, dedicate a tree in a park or playground or help an organization plant trees. It all counts! Just keep track of what, when and where you planted. Most circles have a tree counter and Sharyn Marzullo is the GCD Chair ably overseeing the GCD's count.

I am looking forward to cooler weather and the Garden Club's PLANT SALE on Saturday, October 9th, 8am – 12pm. If you have plants or yard art to donate, please let Norma Thomas or Suellen Biferie know. I hope to see you there. After all you can never have too many plants!

Marshall

Pillar of Pride

At the Installation Meeting in May, two of our members were awarded the Pillar of Pride. This esteemed award provides special recognition for a member's pride, purpose and productivity in garden club work.



Jennie Patrick of the Daisy Circle and multi decade member of the Garden Club was nominated by her circle for her many contributions over the years.

Jennifer Condo of the Sparkleberry Circle and outgoing President of the Garden Club of DeLand was honored for her contributions, especially her leadership through the beginning of the pandemic and implementation of the NGC's four gardening schools.



These women are ever so deserving of this recognition. The Garden Club is most appreciative of their contributions.

Congratulations, Jennie and Jennifer!

Welcome New Members

Sharon Grace-Poucher, Milkweed
Dana Hankins, Firecracker
Lance Harding, Milkweed
Laura Jordan, Milkweed
Michele Llewellyn, Milkweed
Norma Purcell, Milkweed
Cathy Pulley, At Large
Jane Spencer, Firecracker
Reagan Stanley, Milkweed
Dawn Wyatt, Milkweed

Monarch Migration

It is that time of year that Monarch enthusiasts look forward to, the Annual Monarch Winter Migration. The migration is tracked very closely by everything from Weather radar to citizen scientists, and many nonprofits like Monarch Watch, Save our Monarchs and The Monarch Joint Venture. As the Eastern Monarchs move further south from their summer feeding grounds, as far north as Ontario, Canada, the swarm grows. Swarm sightings usually occur in Chicago, Denver, Kansas City, and San Antonio all of these Monarchs are heading to the Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico. There is a much smaller group of Eastern Monarchs that fly from Maine to Florida. This smaller group divides and most head to the Big Bend area of Florida where, at the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge around mid-October, they gather energy and fly over the Gulf of Mexico heading to the Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico. The smaller portion of these East Coast Monarchs head south to winter in the South Florida and Key West some even flying further on into the islands of the Caribbean.

There has been a lot of research over many years as to the how and why of this very long and difficult trip, so many questions and the scientists do not have all the answers, but the scientists and researchers have

made some startling discoveries. One of the most important discovery is called “diapause” Migratory Monarchs go into a reproductive diapause the Monarchs equivalent of hibernation. This diapause allows for a Monarch butterfly to fly from Canada to Mexico, more than 3000 miles, and exist in the cold Mountains until their return migration begins in February. [1]

Monarchs that come across milkweed on their migration journey south will come out of diapause and become sexually active again laying eggs. “A warm climate and continuous growing milkweed season keep the species hanging around throughout the year in southern Florida. North and Central Florida cold winter temperatures can kill them, monarchs from south Florida and those migrating from Mexico repopulate the area.” [2]



“Monarchs can't fly unless they can warm their muscles to 55°F. They can't even crawl below 41°F. Although monarchs can save energy when they are cold, the cold also makes them vulnerable to predators. January and early February is the coldest time of the season. This is a really critical time for the

monarch, if the butterfly is also wet, there is only a 10%-20% chance of survival for the monarch.”[3]

To help our Monarch tourists passing through Volusia provide them with nectar plants to help them keep up their energy for that last leg of the journey to South Florida and beyond. Cut back the non-native milkweed so they do not stop their journey and start laying eggs.

Notes:

[1] <https://www.monarchwatch.org/press/press-briefing.html>

[2] <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/fl/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD363613>

[3] <https://journeynorth.org/tm/monarch/sl/2/Text.html>

Submitted by: **Dorothy Caldwell**

DOES YOUR GARDEN CRY OUT FOR A SPECIAL ACCENT PIECE???



See any member of the Firecracker Circle to obtain a handcrafted whimsy pole or a cascading ornamental metal garden décor to jolt your flower bed into a more personal spot. Whimsy poles stand about 3-4 feet tall and are topped by brightly painted and manipulated

aluminum cans that are embellished with beads to achieve a sparkling focal point. The cascading ornamental metal art are also handcrafted, and each unique piece is painted and shaped to enhance plants as the metallic flowing shape dangles above from an eve or a tree. We want our fellow club members to have first dibs before sales open next month at Artisan Alley. Pricing is \$20. for the first one and \$10. per each additional piece. Both artsy items are the creations of that terrific trio of Kristine

Ecola, Margaret Gillen, and Janet Stone, aided by Firecracker workers who can manage to paint and twist metal. All profits go to support several charities.



Article and photos by:

Carol Grigas

***Fellow club members
have first dibs!***

Gulf Fritillary Butterfly

Orange butterfly fluttering through your yard? A monarch you say, perhaps not, take a closer look it could be a Gulf Fritillary. The tops of their wings are primarily orange with a few black spots and black circles as accent marks. The underside of their wings is very distinctive with shining silver spots across both wings.

Gulf Fritillaries are so named because they are common in the states around the Gulf of Mexico. They do not tolerate freezing temperatures at all, either in their butterfly form or as a caterpillar. They fly all year in southern Florida and appear again in northern Florida after cold winters. They frequent woodland edges, city gardens, and open bushy fields to locate a favorite plant of theirs, lantana or fire bushes.



If you would like to draw them to your yard have the aforementioned plants on hand as well as other nectar plants. They will need purple passionflower vine, their host plant, in your yard, also, in order to deposit their eggs. In a few days, black caterpillars with reddish orange stripes and four rows of black spines (harmless) will emerge from the eggs to devour the leaves of your passionflower and begin the Gulf Fritillary life cycle once again.

Article and photograph by:

Christine Dudley

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The Bee Guy

My dogs found a colony of bees on the ground, building a hive under an old irrigation box on the side of the yard. I called our friend Donna Athearn of Marlin's Bees and she recommended Nick



Jay. A local beekeeper here in DeLand.

Nick arrived the next day and examined the colony and set a date to return the following day around 6:00 pm. Armed with head gear, gloves, smoker, vacuum, and a portable hive, he began to move the queen and her colony to their new home. It was fascinating to watch the bees move from the lid to the frame.

As I am trying to take pictures and not get in the way or stung, Nick gave me a little tip. Hold your breath when interacting with the bees, they are attracted to CO2. Nick did not need to wear his head gear as the process moved along. He is calm and quiet when he works.

It was an amazing thing to see. Nick vacuumed up the few stragglers, packed the frame back into

Gardening for the Future

GARDEN CLUB OF
DELAND

Annual Plant Sale

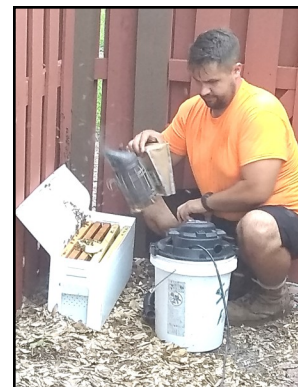
Saturday, October 9th 2021
8am - Noon

865 SOUTH ALABAMA AVENUE * DELAND, FL 32724

the portable hive, loaded up his gear and was done.

Nick is also looking for land to put more hives on. If you have the property and would like to help our honeybees, please contact him.

Nicholas Jay
386-295-6459



Submitted by:

Norma Thomas



Do you have an passion about
flowers, butterflies, horticulture
and/or gardening?

The *Gabby Gardener*
would love to hear from you.

Please contact Gail at
gaillafayette@hotmail.com

E-mail: gcdeland@gmail.com