



# The Gabby Gardener

## Garden Club of DeLand

September 2021

### Welcome Back!

Another year at the Garden Club! The year has started with the tough decision to remain on Zoom for the General Membership and Governing Board meetings. Learning to adapt to the new normal is hard. Just as we think we are emerging, things change again. We are always looking for ways to keep us together and welcome your suggestions. This year some circles are starting to meet in October when the weather is cooler. Downtown Planters and Sensory Butterfly Garden gardening continue on. Please mark your calendars for our outdoor Plant Sale on Saturday morning October 9th. With patience and support for one another, we will become stronger as we garden now for our planet.



*Marshall*

### Summer Rains and Weeds Galore

The rains have arrived and so have the weeds. Many of us are busy trying to win the battle against the prolific, ever sprouting weeds in our own gardens. It's the price we pay to have Mother Nature showering our summer blooms.

**A great big shout out and thank you to our Garden Club of DeLand Weed Warriors** who show up even through the oppressive heat and air thick and heavy with summer humidity, slathering their limbs with mosquito repellent and knowing whatever they wear will be drenched before they head home. Yes, these are ones doing the seemingly endless job of weeding the Sensory Butterfly garden, Clubhouse garden and tending to DeLand's downtown planters though these hot days of summer. Thank you to all who have joined in to help. Your deeds do not go unnoticed. We love and appreciate you.

Weed Warriors are gathering at the Sensory Butterfly Park, unless we get rained out, on the first and third Tuesdays from 7am until 9am, sometimes a little later. Please join in for whatever time you can spare, someone will be there to help you find the weeds, but please feel free to pull a few whenever you can. We don't mind.

**Hope to see you in the garden soon!**



Article by Cheryl Floyd, Pictures from GCD FB



## Welcome New Members

Sharon Grace-Poucher - Milkweed

Laura Jordan - Milkweed

Michele Llewellyn - Milkweed

Cathy Pulley - Member at Large

Norma Purcell - Milkweed

Jane Spencer - Firecracker

## Firecrackers First Forays into Fundraising

Despite the pandemic and the limitations of meeting via Zoom, the Firecracker Circle celebrated spring by launching its first fundraising effort. On April 30, the tiny but mighty circle of ten members tested its merchandising skills when it debuted a plant and garden décor stall at the Deland Farmer's Market in Artisan Alley. Although Firecrackers encountered competition from two other stalls selling plants, we sold most of our home-grown plants and garden décor items.

Members were aided by three stalwart male partners who hefted the tent into position and carried boxes of plants and supplies to our location in Artisan Alley. The evening, which featured boundless laughter and teachable moments with children and their parents, yielded a net profit of \$251, and the enthusiasm to stage an encore performance at the Monarch Magic event.

In early June, Firecracker Circle members augmented by new member, Mary Lambert, and aided by its male cohort, staged another plant sale that included more fabulous bricks by Margaret Gillen and whimsical garden décor created by Janet Stone. Kristine Ecola headed a creative crafts area to teach children about pollinator through inventive activities that engaged over a dozen kids. The persuasive sales magic of Susanna Tritschuh and Rusty Pardee helped sell out all items, as did the generous donation of Rusty and her many friends who stopped by our booth, for a profit of \$204. The morning also yielded two new members, Sandy Aubrey and Jane Spencer, and Firecracker plans to continue their adventure in direct sales.

Funds raised by the Firecrackers go to support SEEK, an environmental camp for high schoolers, and WEKIVA, a camp for elementary students, and also Pennies4Pines and Habitat for Humanity in Deland.



Submitted by:  
Carol Grigas,  
Kristine Ecola,  
and John  
Bongrennen

## August Journal 2021

Typically, on Sundays, I send out an email to the Weedettes to prepare us for what needs our attention on the grounds on onday morning. Reviewing Channel 9 Weather Forecast, it called for rain starting in the morning and continuing through the day. I reached out to the ladies that would be able to work and only two of us were available so as it is hotter than Hades with rain adding to the humidity, I cancelled our Monday morning. Guess what? It did not rain. Arrgghh. Oh, and it rained most of the day on Tuesday.

It's Tuesday and I went to the City of DeLand Police Department to drop off the notarized authorization to extend our Trespassing Ordinance another 5 years. Walked the grounds and noticed that two of our no trespassing signs have faded to nothing. The sign must be visible from 500 feet away. Shoot, half of us can't even read something that far away. On top of that, a sprinkler head behind the patio was broken off at the ground. I called Kenny to repair it. Then I noticed that the grassy area between us and Sanborn still was not mowed so I texted Rusty. She had it handled within 15 minutes. She rocks.

Now it is Wednesday, and I picked up the two signs ordered from Stetson Printing for a whole \$5. I then order two heavy duty signs that can be stuck in the ground for \$20. Will pick them up tomorrow and store them in our storage area. Kenny repaired the sprinkler and will check it again on Friday when he mows. The overgrown grassy area between us and Sanborn was mowed. Sometimes it just takes a village.

Another Monday rolls around and it is still muggy with no winds. Today Evelyn and I worked for 2 hours going after weeds. When we finished, we looked like drowned rats. Yesterday Tammy and I moved the orange dresser to our storage area. Threw away the large wooden "no parking" sign. In the future we can use the two extra no trespassing signs that are in our storage area along with the chain with a "no parking" sign attached to it. The chain is kept in the locked storage closet in our storage area. Last week we got a little over 4-inches of rain and this week we are watching tropical depressions roll off the coast of Africa. Tropical Storm Fred has gathered momentum.

Humid Monday morning and Fred is out in the Gulf heading for the panhandle. Grace will head to Mexico and Henri is out in the Northeast, no impact to us. Tammy and I today, Tammy aka Muscles dug up 3 liriopie and moved them to the left side of the entrance walkway to match the one on the other side. Then Muscles planted two African irises in the row of African irises in the front bed. While I trimmed the loropetalum and pulled weeds and left a big of mess wherever I went which Muscles picked up in a large garbage bag and hauled the heavy bag to the dumpster. Tammy also showed the building to a potential renter. She is a very busy organized lady, God love her.

Article written by Norma Thomas





**Lemmon Marigold**



**Friendship Sage**



**Narrowleaf Silkgrass**



**Firespike**



**Muhly Grass**

## Five Perennials to Plant Now

As we look forward to cooler weather in the coming months, here are 5 tough but beautiful perennials you can plant now to enjoy in the fall and winter months. The butterflies will thank you kindly!

### 1. *Tagetes lemmonii*

Also known as **Lemmon marigold**, **Mexican marigold**, or **Copper Canyon daisy**. This stunner is one of my all time favorite flowers. Producing an abundance of cheerful yellow blossoms beginning in November, and fragrant foliage year round. This versatile plant can also be added to tea for a minty/ citrus flavor.

### 2. *Salvia 'Amistad'*

**Friendship sage** is a friend indeed! A friend to butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, and especially the gardener. Large deep violet flowers bloom continuously, but thrive when the temperature drops a bit.

### 3. *Pityopsis graminifolia*

**Narrowleaf silkgrass** is native to Florida. Silver, grass like foliage is attractive and tidy all year with delicate yellow flowers that appear in late summer and last throughout the winter. If you are looking for a low maintenance plant, this one is for you.

### 4. *Odontonema cuspidatum*

**Firespike**, most commonly available in red, can also be found in various shades of purple. Growing 4'-6', this beauty can tolerate partial shade, and blooms throughout the fall and winter, providing precious nectar to our pollinators when not much else is available.

### 5. *Muhlenbergia capillaries*

**Muhly grass** can be used in the landscape as an ornamental clumping grass. Plant a single specimen, or en masse for a major statement. When the pink plumage- like "feathers" appear, we know that fall has finally arrived!

Now I know what you are thinking , "but where can I find these plants?!". I will let you in on a little secret. Come to **The Garden Club of DeLand's plant sale on October 9th, 8:00- 12:00** and don't be late.

*Happy Gardening, Erin Miceli*

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### Bees Buzzing and Butterflies Basking

Mary Lane Hood is on a mission to convert the garden space around her home to attract more bees and butterflies. In a neighborhood surrounded by traditional landscaping this home in Victoria Hills is graced by flowers. She dug out flowerless hedges in front of her home and planted a patch of larval and nectar food. Bees were buzzing around a burst of colors in this paradise patch of nectar providers: red and pink pentas, yellow bush daisies, white cat's whiskers, purple salvia "Wendy's Wish", orange firebush along with coreopsis and others too plentiful to name. "They took off like bullets because we used organic fertilizer in here," shares Hood. Larval host plants for swallow-tails, the blue sky vine, and Dutchman's pipe, have woven their way up a wooden trellis designed with double sides for more growth. There's cassia for sulphur butterflies and milkweed for monarchs. "I have lots of bees, bumble bees and honey bees. The milkweed has been eaten down to the bare bones. We had lots of chrysalises all over the place, hanging off of the glider, the roof, all over the walls. We have hatched lots and lots of butterflies. It's been a real joy."

Growing up in Tennessee Hood enjoyed gardening and grew her love of flowers with her mother and as

## Gardening for the Future



a member of 4H. Remember those 4 H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands and Health. She has embraced those and extends them through her career choice as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse with a specialty in anesthesia which she has been practicing since 1975. Her heart felt energies extend to her family including her husband, Dr. Royce Hood, two daughters, three grandsons, her patients and her beloved cats; and of course bees and butterflies. Hood's mission is to create an example garden for others to emulate. Mary Lane Hood shares, "I do this because it's beneficial, it takes effort, my effort. I do this because I think it's important. I enjoy it so much. We sit out here on the front porch glider and watch the butterflies; they were so plentiful from April through June."

Residents of HOA communities need to apply through their HOA for permission to make changes with landscaping and avoid the use of insecticides and pesticides. As more people learn about the benefits of planting gardens that are beautiful and provide natural food for pollinators as well; we can all be a part of a much needed change in our environment.

The Hoods have two DeLand homes that have received the designation of Certified Monarch Sanctuaries and now The Garden Club of DeLand also awards the Hoods' home in Victoria Hills with the August 2021 Garden of the month.

By Cheryl Floyd, Garden of the Month Chairperson, DeLand Garden of the Month

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