



Allamanda News

The Newsletter of the Wellington Garden Club

MAY-JUNE 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is hard to believe that I have already completed my first year as president of the garden club. Boy, our club has accomplished so much. The Around and Abouts were well attended, and we had some fabulous speakers. All in all, old and new members gained a lot of knowledge.

This year we tried some new ways to fund-raise to support our many programs. We had a paper shredding event that was hugely successful and a theater event at King's Academy that surprised many of us with the talent and professionalism of the students. There has already been a second outing to the theater for another musical.

But, the biggest event of the year was our standard flower show. The club chose to have this instead of the garden tour that is usually done every other year. One cannot describe what a magnificent show it was. Twig Morris, Christine Biscoglio, Susan Hillson, Barbara May and too many talented volunteer chairs to name, took on the many jobs necessary to put on a show of this grandeur. It was held at the Wellington Green Mall April 13-15. The numerous divisions were filled with entries from so many members including amateurs and professionals, judges and children. More than 500 people visited the show and couldn't believe what was on display. Many wanted to know if they could buy the arrangements. All were judged and everyone received awards and comments from the judges. I would like to personally thank everyone who played a part in this memorable event.

Next year we will have a special garden tour at Deeridge Farms Gardens, in Wellington. This 300-acre farm boasts designs of Frederick Law Olmsted who many consider to be the father of American landscape architecture. This will be a once in a lifetime must see.

The summer will be filled with preparing the 2018-2019 yearbook. Our chairs will be working hard to bring you interesting speakers and delightful Around and Abouts. The calendar will be filled with all our club's important dates as well as those from NGC and FFGC.

I wish everyone a wonderful and restful summer break. We all need that. Hopefully, our next garden club year will be as fun-packed as the past. Enjoy your gardens, continue planting and bring renewed energy for 2018-2019.

Thank you,

Carol Coleman
President, WGC 2017-2019

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - MAY – JUNE 20

May 7	Spring Luncheon, Scholarships – Mayacoo Lakes Country Club
NEW May 14	Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches, Mounts Botanical Auditorium – 6:45 PM. Hands on propagating program.
NEW May 19	Tropical Orchid Society Trip to Redlands Int'l Orchid Festival Bus trip departs 8:00 from Mounts - \$25.00 Details on pg. 15
June 3-9	Celebrate National Garden Week (Sun-Sat)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Wellington Garden Club
Treasurer's Report – April 1, 2018

Wellington Garden Club began March 1, 2018 with a checking account balance of \$17,485.80.

Income since then totaled \$3,083.62, primarily from the Flower Show, Around and Abouts, and fundraisers.

Expenses since March 1st were \$3,187.41 primarily for member education, website and newsletter, youth programs, hospitality, and Around and Abouts.

Additionally, for more detailed information, the WGC Profit & Loss versus Annual Budget report will be e-mailed.

In addition, pre-paid membership dues have been collected in the amount of \$70.00, which is reflected on the balance sheet.

Current balance as of May 31, 2017 in the Wellington Garden Club checking account is \$17,452.01

Respectfully,

Silvia Evans
Treasurer

RE-CAP OF AROUND & ABOUT FLAMINGO GARDENS, DAVIE – March 15, 2018



On Thursday, March 15th, several members from the WGC enjoyed visiting 60 acres of tropical paradise at Flamingo Gardens. The tour began with our fun-loving and very comical walking tour guide where we saw rare and exotic tropical, sub-tropical and native plants throughout the property. The tour guide was very informative, and we learned many hidden secrets and cures of some of the exotic plants through his extensive knowledge.

As a result of the last hurricane, many generational trees were destroyed but still showing life in their limbs. We had an opportunity to visit the aviary with so many beautiful water birds, storks, cranes and an abundance of Flamingos. This little island also is home to many injured and rescued wildlife. We also enjoyed the arboretum, took a guided tram tour and visited the historic home, built in 1933, of Floyd and Jane Wray who founded these beautiful gardens. Under the canopy, we all enjoyed a wonderful lunch of large sandwiches that could have each fed a whole family! The rest of the day offered us time to do more exploring on our own, take pictures and lastly, visit their beautiful gift shop. Many of us went home with pretty garden ornaments and plants.

RECAP OF “Landscaping with Begonias”

On April 2nd, President Patrick Dempsey of the Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches presented a PowerPoint program on landscaping with many different varieties of Begonias. Patrick is extremely knowledgeable about the six major groups which can be grown in either landscape, hanging baskets, in terrariums, on rocks or in pots. He came with a multitude of plants, each one with different flowers and different leaves, some lacy, some curly and others with their own personality. His program was very fascinating and reaffirmed how easy they are to propagate and grow with the right light and soil, and not nearly as perishable as they look. The editor can attest to that as of two weeks ago, she cut off two stems, dropped them in a small water vase and VOILA, they now have roots and ready for planting!

AN INVITATION FROM THE BEGONIA SOCIETY OF THE PALM BEACHES

On Monday, May 14th the Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches will be presenting a hands-on program involving the many ways we propagate Begonias. Lots of Begonias will be available such as species and hybrids. The doors will be open at 6:45 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. We meet in the Mounts Botanical Garden auditorium. Hope you can make it.

TROPICAL HEAT WAVE

A Standard Flower Show

By Deb Russell

Members of the Wellington Garden Club (WGC) met recently to learn how to best prepare plants to be entered in "Tropical Heat Wave" a Standard Flower Show. In the show's Horticulture Division, member-grown plants must be in perfect condition to win a ribbon. No brown spots on leaves, the right sized container, etc. The rules are strict! Come to the Flower Show to see the orchids, begonias, bromeliads and succulents, perfectly presented and judged by Accredited National Garden Club judges. Have your gardening questions answered by master gardeners. Listen to speakers and see demonstrations. April 14 and 15, The Mall at Wellington Green. Admission is free. (Editor's Note: This article appeared prior to the flower show in The Town-Crier. Thanks for the good PR, Deb)



Pictured left to right: Lisa Ferraro, Twig Morris, Stormi Bivin, Ann Finch, Petra Russell, Mary Drexler. Photo by Deb Russell

RECYCLING EYEGLASSES By Cass Stryker

Just a note to advise you that Cass Stryker will be collecting used eye glasses, prescription sun glasses and new contact lens as we begin our Fall 2018-2019 season. Please bring them to the September-October 2018 meeting. A box marked "Eyeglasses" will be behind the registration desk where you can kindly drop your contributions.

Glasses will be taken to Lighthouse for the Blind. They will use them for U.S. families, as well as for Third World countries. I hope you can help us out by gathering up all these dusty old glasses and disposing of them with me at our meetings. If you have any questions, kindly contact me at 561-790-6353 or 561-629-2665 Caslib036@aol.com

By the way, I thought maybe members would like to know the status of the recent used eyeglass drive - which I have noted below:

Collected 54 miscellaneous eyeglasses including sunglasses and over 25 used eyeglass cases and some unopened contact lenses. Many thanks to everyone for recycling these items which will be put to good use. See you next Fall.



WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP

HURRY HURRY HURRY

Camp Wekiva registration

As of April 2nd, Harriet has advised the WGC that there is a possibility for at least one (1) more regular camper if Wekiva still has an opening.

Those attending are
2 Critter Campers
6 Youth Campers
1 Adult Volunter

What is the procedure?

REGISTER ON LINE

1. Youngsters need to have completed Grade 3
2. Fees of \$40.00 need to be submitted with the application.
3. Wellington Garden Club is the sponsor.
4. Contact Harriet Samuels at hiswpbwh@gmail.com or 561-715-0950 to make arrangements for campership confirmation.

Community Garden at the Boys & Girls Club in Wellington

John and Kathy Siena, Co-Chairs

The garden is thriving! So are the ants! More importantly the kids are! We have an incredible team whose dedication is an amazingly wonderful expression of love for all things that grow...children and vegetables.

Important things that happened:

- We have tremendous support from the Young Professionals of Wellington and the Village of Wellington...you Wellington Garden Club members too!
- We now have pressurized water right in the garden
 - This made drip irrigation possible...we installed it
- We have kids that will be participating in our Flower Show
- We grew....Tomatoes (big boy & grape), Peppers (Bell, Cubanelle, jalapeno, ghost), onions, various lettuce types, various Kale, Collards, Cabbage, Brussel sprouts, Spinach, various edible flowers, beansand other things green
- The Harvest...Everyone loves to harvest and we have sent a lot of good food home with the kids.
- We are making plans for the summer season
 - Putting the garden to sleep, and/or
 - Putting in some things that like the heat more than we do
 - Perhaps some indoor activities with the kids

All-in-all, things are coming up GREEN. See photos of our garden and helpers. Workday is Tuesdays 3:30-5:30 PM. Abbreviated schedule in summer. Call John or Kathy to let us know if you would like to join us.

Thank you, WGC for your support!



Maria Wolfe, WGC Volunteer, with the Boys & Girls Club kids and a sunflower



Ann Finch, WGC Volunteer, with the Boys & Girls Club kids harvesting sweet and hot peppers

NGC KEEPING IN TOUCH

www.gardenclub.org

You can now access the NGC newsletter "Keeping in Touch" on line. Password is **pumpkin**. Please remember, NGC is no longer mailing this newsletter to garden club presidents so it will be necessary for you to access the website as mentioned above.

Please note that the NGC password on page 37 of the 2017-2018 Yearbook is **INCORRECT**.

Grant Information

National Garden Club Natural Disaster Fund Grant of \$4000 was given to the Wellington Garden Club (WGC) in the Fall of 2017 for restoration of Unbelievable Acres located in West Palm Beach.

RESTORATION PROGRAM

The Wellington Garden Club Master Gardeners formed a 10 member restoration committee for Unbelievable Acres. They worked with the Gardens Director to research tropical fruit trees, including rare species, to replace and expand the tropical fruit tree area plus replace eight palms that were lost.

Note: All students of the Master Gardener program in Palm Beach County are educated through field trips to Unbelievable Acres.

Planting "parties" with Wellington Girl Scout Troop Cadettes #22222 and Wellington Boy Scout Troop 222 were held on January 13 and 20. Director Gene Joyner, with restoration chairman, WGC Master Gardener, Larry Grosser, and the rest of the WGC Master Gardener members participated in educating the youth as the trees were planted including having a tropical fruit tasting table where samples of the many tropical fruit trees in the garden were available for consumption along with Master Gardener explanations.

The Cadettes, led by G.S. leader Allison Zimmerman, earned their Tree badge which was awarded at the Arbor Day celebration on Jan. 20 at the garden. The restored fruit tree garden dedication was held Jan. 20, 2018, Florida Arbor Day, at 10 am. Cadettes held an honor guard ceremony, a WGC member who was a former Girl Scout pinned a Tree badge on each Cadette and all listened attentively to a presentation on the history of Arbor day by one of the Cadettes. The remaining trees were then planted.

Community Participation: On Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018, members of the Greenacres Jr. Garden Club and members of the Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches who sponsor these Juniors, met at Incredible Acres and helped plant 9 tropical fruit trees while learning about the characteristics and fruit of each tree.

Barbara Hadsell, member of WGC and Oleander Garden Club of the Palm Beaches

barbarahadsell@cs.com

561-635-8809

WYNNEBROOK JUNIOR GARDENERS

By Tim Hadsell and Janet Stein, Co-Chairs



Wynnebrook Jr. Gardeners, led by WGC members Tim Hadsell and Janet Stein and assisted in the kitchen by Barbara Hadsell, have had a very successful year. Working at the West Palm Beach Elks Lodge #1352, they have planted and harvested a wide variety of vegetables to help feed the hungry and homeless at various soup kitchens in the county. And they had some to take home as well. Carrots were especially popular!. Their last project this spring is raising small pots of marigolds for Mother's Day gifts.



All students have had several opportunities to be chefs of the day and have made a variety of delicious and nutritious snacks under the direction of Janet Stein. These have included Macaroni and cheese with cooked sweet potato added (shown here), three bean chili, pasta salad with chopped fresh vegetables, pizza, deviled eggs with "ants on a log" (celery stuffed with peanut butter and raisins) and enchiladas.

Smokey Bear came to visit the school and a large number of students enjoyed making Smokey Bear posters. We look forward to working with our Jr. Gardeners next fall.

Scholarship Committee

John Siena, Chair

Our club has a long history of community support in both volunteer and financial arenas, as is befitting of a nonprofit organization. We have had, and still have a strong focus on the development and education of our young people, especially in environmental science, horticulture and related studies. It has never been more urgent to encourage budding leaders in these important areas. Our club has generously provided scholarships to local students to further their studies that focus in our areas of interest. We identify worthy students via our website and by working with local educators. We have had a history of excellent recipients, one of which has become the president of a garden club in our district. This year is no exception. We are vetting candidates from Wellington High School, Palm Beach Central High School, and PBSC. We will introduce this year's awardees at our Spring Luncheon on May 7, 2018.

Once more, I want to express my gratitude, and the gratitude of the young people in our community for your continuing generosity.



John Siena, Chair, Karen Clawson, Teacher and 2017 Scholarship Recipients

SEEK REPORT

Lisa Ferrano, Chair

Four students will be attending SEEK, an environmental conference for Florida's High School Students at the Crystal River Marine Science Station in Crystal River, Florida on July 8-11. The SEEK attendees are: Amy Pezoldt and Julia Cesare from Palm Beach Central High School along with Lynn Gunnels and Joe Long from Wellington High School.

EARTH DAY:

Earth Day and Arbor Day were celebrated on April 21st from 4-7 pm at the Wellington Amphitheater. Wellington Garden Club had a table with information on plastic pollution (this year's theme) and gave away little pots of marigold seeds.

"TROPICAL HEAT WAVE"

Saturday and Sunday, April 14 – 15th at the Wellington Green Mall
Twig Morris, Flower Show Chair

This was an outstanding Standard Flower Show that our club shared with the public through displays of exquisite floral design, incredible horticulture, special exhibits and youth entries that conveyed the essence of the tropical paradise in which we live. This event was free to the public and its purpose was to further the education of our members and the public in fields of gardening, floral design, horticulture, botany, landscape design and conservation. The exhibits were not only outstanding, but the talent engaged was so professional.

We thank our many sponsors whose financial support helped make this fabulous show possible as well as our members who worked so hard for months to present this show. A big "thank you" to The Mall at Wellington Green who agreed to partner with us.

The awards went to numerous exhibitors, and the Allamanda editor, for one, a little backyard enthusiast, came up with a couple of ribbons herself. These plants were inherited from a dog grooming salon that dumped them, withered and dead, in a wastebasket. An employee asked if I could revive them and brought them home. And to my amazement, these little orphans took a blue ribbon and yellow (90+) on Friday night! They are still smiling at me for their rescue!

Below are some of the fabulous displays that were seen at the Mall. Our crowd of spectators and admirers was astonishing, and many new members for the WGC may be in the making! The displays were magnificent and each revealed the wonderful talent of the participants. The commercial flower shops have nothing on these folks!!

Many, many thanks to all our members for working together to make the show the great success it was. You all should be extremely proud of what you accomplished.



Janet Seagrave, 2 of 3 winners. First Place and 2 second places.



Artistic Crafts Handbag by Nancy Cinieri



Parallel Design by Amy Schwed



Artistic Crafts hat by Carol Coleman



Al Fresco table for two by Linda DeSanti

Below: A blue ribbon for Caroline Kessman's Tray for One



Fireball Bromeliad by Carol Ralph wins top horticulture awards!



Four different interpretations of parallel designs



Artistic Crafts Umbrellas with amazing floral decor

Flower Show 2018 Boys & Girls Community Garden Participants

John & Kathy Siena, Co-Chairs



We are so thrilled to say that the Boys and Girls from the WGC Community Garden were eager participants in the Youth Division of Wellington Garden Club's "Tropical Heat Wave" Flower Show April 14-15, 2108. It all began last January with our WGC team volunteers guiding and teaching these participants how to grow flowers and vegetables from seed. We had 18 participants in all three classes. Third graders in Class 1 grew zinnia's and marigolds from seed. Fourth graders in class 2 grew beautiful sunflowers from seed and finally, fifth graders in class 3 grew cherry tomato plants from seed. They received beautiful ribbons from first place to honorable mention.

To honor the participants and the garden club members (45 in total), a surprise pizza party was given to them on Tuesday, April 17 at the Neil Hirsch Boys and Girls Club in Wellington where the community garden is located. The pizza and juice boxes were generously donated by the Young Professionals of Wellington who also attended the pizza party, along with the great and helpful staff from the Boys and Girls Club. Our team members brought in some tasty desserts to top off the party. This is the best volunteer team ever, and we love and support these kids. After the party, the team went out to the garden to do a last-minute harvest of tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, Brussel sprouts, parsley and more. The season is winding down as the Florida heat will soon be approaching and most of the large four beds will be put to sleep for the summer. If possible, the kids will have a few indoor gardening-related activities during the hot summer to stay cool.

Thank you, WGC members and team, for your support of this wonderful community service educating our youth in the world of gardening. Be sure to visit the gardens and join our team. We always need more help. You will fall in love with these kids.

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK – JUNE 3-9, 2018

By Twig Morris, District X and WGC National Garden Week Chair

National Garden Week gives our club an opportunity to join NGC clubs across the country and celebrate this special week. As members of NGC we are urged to promote the NGC objectives of beautification, education of environmental efforts, gardening, and involvement of Garden Clubs in our community. This week is an opportunity to encourage pride in our community, interest new members, and work with other groups to be part of those efforts.

Some of the things we have done in the past are: Obtained a proclamation from Wellington's Mayor declaring the first week in June as National Garden Week, conducted an educational program at the Wellington library, organized a planting activity with Wellington's summer camp students, placed a plant or flower arrangement at public facilities, along with a card thanking these groups for supporting Wellington Garden Club.

Plans for 2018 National Garden Week activities will be announced shortly – Stay tuned!



AN INVITATION FROM THE TROPICAL ORCHID SOCIETY

You're invited to join the Tropical Orchid Society at America's favorite *orchid* event. Browse *orchids* and supplies for sale from over 60 vendors from around the world.

Redland International Orchid Festival is being held May 18 - 20, 2018 at the Redland Fruit & Spice Park, 24801 SW 187th Ave., Homestead, FL. Admission is \$10.00 at the gate.

A bus sponsored by the **Tropical Orchid Society** will be going to the festival on **Saturday May 19th**. The bus will leave from the Mounts Botanical Gardens front parking lot on Military Trail **at 8 am and should return around 5 pm**.

The cost is \$25.00 per person, which includes the driver gratuity and admission to the festival.

Food vendors are available at the festival or you may pack a lunch. Bring a box with your name on it to keep your purchases safe under the bus.

Contact: Cheryl Akey 561-329-4390 before May 16th to reserve your seat.

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Wellington Garden Club Meetings

Garden Club meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at Wellington Community Center, 12150 Forest Hill Blvd., Lakeview Room (Ground Floor), Wellington, FL.

Guests are always welcome. If you plan to bring a guest please call Mary Drexler, Membership Chair, at 561-506-7404 or email mkdrexler@comcast.net

Newsletter

The *Allamanda News* is published five times a year. Please send your news, photos, tips, and advertising to Evvy Bartley at evvy35@comcast.net.

Deadline for Sept/Oct Issue: Aug 15th
Newsletter Editor Evvy Bartley

Wellington Garden Club Officers

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2 nd Vice President	Caren Griffin
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