



# Allamanda News

The Newsletter of the Wellington Garden Club September, 2020

## Zooming into a new season



Stormi Bivin



Danese Sloan-Kendall



Carol Krenkel



Mary Alexander

Dear Garden Club Members,

The 2019-2020 Garden Club year ended abruptly at the height of the season. We were forced to cancel many wonderful activities including our Spring luncheon, which is always a great way to wrap-up the year and celebrate together.

The beginning of our new year will look a little different too, but we are still here, planning and preparing for whatever comes our way. We will stay in touch as we move forward knowing that we are all in this together!

Happy Gardening,

Jan Seagrave,  
President



**I look forward to seeing you  
at our Zoom meeting  
Monday, September 14, 2020  
at 9:30 am.**

**Just a reminder—  
Download Zoom to your  
phone, computer  
or tablet.**



Uma Bhatti



Mary Anne Greely



Maxine Fisher



## *Wellington Garden Club Award Winners*

Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) Convention last spring, the announcements of FFGC, Deep South Region and National Garden Clubs, Inc. award winners were sent via email to the winning garden clubs instead of being announced at the Convention. Although the celebratory atmosphere of the Convention was absent, it was no less thrilling for me as WGC Awards Chairman and Jan Seagrave, WGC President, to receive notification that our Club won the awards listed below for our activities from June 2018 through November 2019. Congratulations to all members for their award-winning achievements.



### **Blue Star Memorial Marker Award**

For the dedication of the Blue Star Marker at Veterans Memorial Park, November 2019



### **Promoting Bees Through Knowledge Award**

For the program at Wynnebrook Elementary School with Al Salopek, "The Bee Man"



### **National Garden Week Award**

For floral designs distributed to local businesses and municipal offices, the youth program at Wellington's Summer Camp and the program on attracting wildlife to your garden, presented at the Wellington Branch Library, June 2019



### **Special Youth Program Award**

For the National Garden Week program with youth at Wellington's Summer Camp, June 2019



### **Floral Designer's Award to Susan Hillson**

for all she has done in floral design for our club, District X and local communities

**In addition, the Club won the following:**

**Deep South Region First Place Award**

**Community Action Award for the Blue Star Memorial Marker Dedication**

**The Blue Star Memorial Marker project also won a Certificate of Merit from National Garden Clubs, Inc.**



# WGC Celebrates National Garden Week

Each year during the first week of June, Wellington Garden Club (WGC) joins with clubs across the country to celebrate National Garden Week, a project of National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC). A special highlight this year was the planting of a Florida native Gumbo Limbo tree in Wellington's Foresteria Park. The event supports the NGC President's Project, Plant America with Trees. We sponsored the tree planting in conjunction with Wellington's Commemorative Tree Program, administered by the Public Works Department. We are grateful for the support our club receives from Wellington and are delighted to show our appreciation.—Twig Morris, WGC National Garden Week Chairman

*"This program is a perfect way for our club to enhance the community."*

— Jan Seagrave, WGC President



WGC Tree Planting on June 17th at Foresteria Park



WGC Tree Planters at Work



Mary Anne Greely, Kate Kouba, Linda DeSanti and Twig Morris created floral arrangements for first responders, municipal offices and the library



Kathy and John Siena presented flowers to Wellington Public Works Department



L-R: Wellington Regional Hospital: Veronica May, Physician Relations Manager; Twig Morris; Pam Tahan, CEO; Colleen Thielk, Chief Nursing Officer; Steve Ruppert, Director of Surgical Services; and Cathie Lessard, ICU Nurse Manager



Station 20 Fire Fighters with Stormi Bivin

Wellington Garden Club is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has been serving Wellington area communities since 1982. Its motto is "Gardening Makes a World of Difference."

The Club is a member of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC), District X, the Deep South Region (DSR) and National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC).



# *Just Waiting for the Kids*

## **Community Garden at the Boys & Girls Club of Wellington** —John and Kathy Siena, Co-Chairs

The Pandemic caused us to scale back the Community Garden beginning in March due to the country shutdown. We were able to keep it going for a while without the kids, but we missed them terribly. It has been such a blessing to watch both the plants and the kids grow over the years. But pandemic aside, there is plenty of good news!

We solarized the garden and it looks great. And we incorporated the butterfly garden into the Community Garden. It is still being tended by some of our team members and it is attracting butterflies and bees. We are now thinking about ways to attract hummingbirds too.

We met with the director of the Wellington Boys & Girls Club to see how we could work with the kids under pandemic conditions. She was very optimistic; she sees the positive influence that we have on the kids. She said she loves the “inter-generational communication” with the kids... I think that means the kids are responding to a bunch of older people in a significant way; we can wear that designation like a badge of honor.

We will have a team planning meeting soon, to set a scope of operation for the coming growing season. We will adjust our schedule to all the protocols that the Boys & Girls Club is implementing, and we will coordinate with the YPoW. We will abide by whatever protocols the CDC, our State, and our Village establish.

*Gardens don't care about pandemics. Gardens care about the earth, the sun, the rain and the people that care about them. I think gardens also grow better when they hear the laughter of children! Ask the peppers and tomatoes what they think the next time you see them.*



Lisa weeding our Butterfly Garden



Community Garden Team Volunteers



John & Jim Solarizing Beds



Cute Caterpillar on the Parsley





## *Calling All Teachers... We need you!*

### **Youth Garden Clubs** —Kathy Siena, Chair

Even though this summer has been an extremely hot one and no school was in session, there have been no youth garden club kid's activities since COVID-19 shut down all school events last spring. However, it is important for me to let our WGC members know that once school clubs are back in working order, we plan to continue working with the teachers and students at the various youth garden clubs.

As of this point, we support the following: Binks Forest Elementary, Girl Scout Troop 22222, Palm Beach Central High School, Pine Jog Elementary, Wellington High School and our newest addition, New Horizons Elementary School.

**We are looking for a WGC leader for Binks Forest Elementary if anyone is interested, please contact me.**

I understand that this has certainly been an unusually difficult time for all of us and I think especially for the kids. I know they are looking forward to getting back to their physical school setting, as well as working in the youth gardens. A benefit to these gardens is that they are outdoors and not in a closed environment. I am looking forward to the time when we can all return safely to our activities and get-togethers. Contact [ksienazooo@gmail.com](mailto:ksienazooo@gmail.com) or 561-371-3388.



### **Must Share Gardening Tip** from Twig Morris

Mix 1 teaspoon Epsom salt in 4 Cups warm water.  
Spray on plants and then again 10 days later.  
Produces more fruit due to boost of magnesium,  
Especially good for tomatoes, peppers and rose..

### **Did You Know?** from Carol Lazzarino

You can make biodegradable and renewable confetti for parties and weddings by using a hole punch on leaves. This is a great alternative to plastic confetti that ends up in landfills or the ocean.





# *WGC Gardeners at home*

*What a time for sharing! Take a peek at what just a few of our friends did during the Summer of the Quarantine.*



Maxine Fisher



Mary Anne Greely



Carol Krenkel's Ducklings and Banana Peppers

Tina's Night-blooming Cereus, a gift from Stormi



Papaya at the Community Garden

Mary Alexander's Raffle Winner in Bloom

Last Visit to Butterfly World



*Uma Bhatti*

*shared these photos  
from her amazing  
summer garden.*



Medinilla Malasian Orchid



White Geiger



Red Passion Flower Vine



Potato Tree



Cashew Tree



Parrot's Beak



African Lily



Bush Morning Glory



Cape Honeysuckle



Heliconia Lobster Claw

*Bloom where you are planted*



## *A different look at my same old garden*

—Anne Hlasnicek



Acacia from China

With time created by the current health challenge, I became interested in why gardens look as they do.

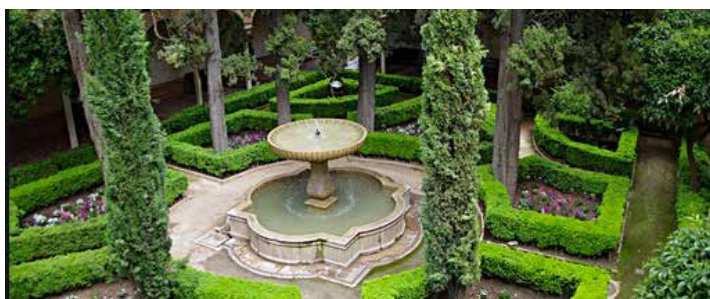
The first gardeners seem to have been in Egypt, where they actually grew apples among many other things. There were people like us way back when planting, trading and collecting occurred on the Silk Road. Garden design resulted from the need for irrigation and so were built along water sources. Lawns were created by pounding the turf and extreme skills developed for pruning and climatizing were practiced before the time of Christ.

Only the wealthy could afford a non-farm “garden.” Landscaping was developed in the middle east to provide places to relax, entertain, and included walls, architecture and water features. Shade and sweet scents were valued.

Parterre was the name for a flat piece of ground with decorative plantings and until the English began to create naturalized gardens, the French and Italians had pursued the formalized look to its zenith. Gardens were often religious expressions.

Once explorers began returning to Europe from the new world, plants that we consider to be common were prized as collectables. Whole businesses grew up as nurseries to foster their propagation and sale.

Today I look at my humble garden, with only a little mud-puddle-sized duck pond and plants from just about every country in the world, and marvel at the thousands of years of gardening looking back at me.



## *Crafting with Cyanotype*

—Carol Lazzarino

Well it was a stay-cation at my house this summer so Nancy Cinieri and I decided to experiment with Cyanotype as one of the craft classes this year. Cyanotype, also known as sun prints, is an antique photographic printing process developed in the 1800's and is distinctive for its rich blue color. When the paper is exposed to sunlight a chemical reaction occurs. It won't reveal itself though until you put the paper in water. Then it instantly turns blue. Stay tuned—when it is safe again to gather we will have a lot of fun creating these botanical prints.





# YouTube Was My Teacher

## A New Gardening Technique Learned during Quarantine—Stormi Bivin

Like many of you, I was looking for things to do around the house to “stay safer at home”. Many months of quarantining has given me the opportunity to try a few new gardening projects. One of them has given me great satisfaction.

I love to propagate plants and see the fruits of my labor. I am used to making new plants from my own garden plants, but I'd like to share this new experience.

I have a lovely pink plumeria tree and one day I discovered a seed pod growing on a branch. This was a first for me, I had never had a seedpod on this tree before and I didn't know what would become of it. I knew you could grow plumeria from stalk cuttings, but didn't know what to do with the seedpod.

I patiently waited and watched. It remained unchanged for many weeks, and then one day I noticed it had opened up and many “paper-thin” seeds were present. I collected them, placed them in a sandwich bag with the intention of planting them one day soon.

Planting day arrived and as I was gathering my potting supplies, something told me to go to *YouTube* and search how to propagate plumeria. I had minimal experience with growing plants from seed so this was definitely the way to go. Lo and behold, I learned the seeds first had to be germinated. Who knew?

Once germinated, I planted them up and a few weeks later I had a bunch of viable little seedlings. I did this process with two different varieties (received another seedpod from a friend) and now I have about 75 healthy plants in various stages of growth.

This new gardening project has been fun and rewarding, and if the truth be told, probably would not have happened if I didn't have so much time on my hands.

***I am now a plumeria farmer with 75 healthy plants! If you are interested in giving one of these beauties a new home in your yard, I am happy to share. Just let me know.***





# Continuing Education

## NGC Gardening School

### Monday and Tuesday November 9 -10

If you took the NGC Gardening School Courses 1 and 2 last year, mark your calendar now to attend Course 3 which will be held on at Mounts Botanical Garden Auditorium. Dr. Kimberly Moore, will present Factors that Influence Plant Growth. Other topics include house plant basics, new plant development, choosing the right native trees and shrubs for our area plus outdoor container gardening featuring Pamela Crawford's latest design combos. A docent-led tour of the Mounts Botanical Gardens' newest additions will top off an exciting and fun two days. Seating will follow Covid guidelines for safely distancing and we will offer one of the first "hybrid" courses where some of our instructors will join us in the auditorium using Zoom.

Registration details can be found at [districtx.org/Educational Opportunities](http://districtx.org/Educational%20Opportunities) under November Gardening School Course #3. Course #4 is scheduled for February 22-23, 2021.

**January 21-22 2021**— Tropical Short Course at Mounts Botanical Garden

## District X Update

—Carol Coleman, DXD

What a summer! In addition to installing a generator and putting hurricane windows in my house, I have spent a lot of time on District X duties.

The new District X pins have arrived and the 2021 FFGC Florida Flower Arrangements Calendars from FFGC should arrive soon. I have also received the Opportunity Drawing tickets which I will send to each of the clubs. They are for the 95th Annual Convention Of FFGC, April 12-14, 2021, at the Hilton Oceanfront Resort in Daytona Beach.

The District X Fall Meeting will be October 8th via Zoom. You do not need to be a member of Zoom to be on the call. A registration form will be sent to all of you. We will have some voting on the call which you can answer by poll. Hope to see you soon.

## Virtual Gardening

Carol Lazzarino has been watching virtual gardening clinics all summer from Mounts. **These are free webinars limited to 100 people.** Here is the schedule through September.

**Thursday, September 17, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** Join UF/IFAS Extension faculty virtually to learn how to save money and be healthy in your home. The two-hour webinar will cover pest management for your home, energy efficiency, saving water indoors and preventing mold.  
Link: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/98769277208>

**September 18 at 1:00 p.m.** "Insects and Other Arthropods Found in Florida's Natural Areas." This webinar is the second of the series hosted by Jim Davis, UF/IFAS Extension Multi-County Director Sumter and Hernando Counties. He will cover more insects and other bugs!  
Link: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/92369361489>

**September 22 at 1:00 p.m.** "Bedbugs" Jim Davis and Dr. Faith Oi (Director of Pest Management University and UF Associate Professor) to discuss the history, biology, and control of bedbugs.  
Link: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/99624130447>

**September 25 at 1:00 p.m.** "Nuisance Wildlife" Maxine Hunter, UF/IFAS Extension Marion County, will go over some great tips for preventing unwanted critters in your home or landscape.  
Link: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/92369361489>

**Please log on early.  
Webinars max out at 100 attendees.**

Reminder from the  
Corresponding Secretary

Dear Friends,  
Please report your concerns  
and joys to me so that I can  
recognize them with a note.  
— Kate Kouba  
[ktkouba@yahoo.com](mailto:ktkouba@yahoo.com)



# Summer Fun

This summer my daughter and I visited “Ribbit the Exhibit” at Mounts Botanical Garden. It was a whimsical exhibit and so much fun to see these sculptures in the garden. Here are just a couple of photos. I have several more if you want them. I wish I had thought to invite other WGC members to join us. Hopefully others went on their own to see it before the exhibit closed at the end of July.



I celebrated my 80th birthday in April with my family.  
L-R: Son-in-law Steve Wood, Daughter Chrissy Wood,  
Husband, Kevin and the birthday girl, seated.



*Karen Teston kept us laughing all summer long!*



**Day 4 of quarantine...  
already ate all food for the next 15 days!**



*Don't miss this virtual presentation from Audubon Florida!*



**September 22, at 6:00 p.m.**

Author Doug Tallamy will give a virtual presentation titled "A Guide to Restore the Little Things that Run the World." You will learn why native plants are the key to the future.

**Register in advance under EVENTS on the Audubon Florida Facebook page. You will receive a confirmation with a link from Zoom for the virtual presentation.**



## Wellington Garden Club

Wellington Garden Club is a member of NGC, FFGC, DSR, District X. The club meets on the first Monday of the month at the Wellington Community Center, 12150 Forest Hill Blvd., Wellington, FL in the Lakeview Room on the ground floor. Guests are welcome. If you plan to bring a guest, please contact:

Alison Albury, Membership Chair at (H) 561-372-5952, (C) 315-681-8867 or email [kaalbury@gmail.com](mailto:kaalbury@gmail.com)



1989 South Club Drive  
Wellington, FL 33414

### Alamanda News

The WGC Newsletter is published five times a year. Please send news, photos, tips and articles to the Newsletter Editor: Tina Richter [tinaj.richter@gmail.com](mailto:tinaj.richter@gmail.com).  
Deadline for November Issue: October 12, 2020

### Wellington Garden Club Officers

President  
1st Vice President  
2nd Vice President  
Treasurer  
Assistant Treasurer  
Corresponding Secretary  
Recording Secretary  
Parliamentarian  
Former President ex-officio

Jan Seagrave  
Maria Wolfe  
John Siena  
Danese Sloan-Kendall  
Kathy Hemicz  
Kate Kouba  
Carol Ralph  
Kathy Schneider  
Carol Coleman