



# Allamanda News

The Newsletter of the Wellington Garden Club December 2020

## Merry Merry...



Dear Members,

This holiday season is unlike any other. Throughout this season, and as we move into a new (and hopefully better) year, I wish you peace, health, and happiness amid all the difficulties we are facing and hope that you can connect with family and friends even if you can't be with them in person.

Cherish the warm memories from holidays past and look to the future when we can all be united again.

Love, Jan

# Happy Holidays!

# *And a Great Time Was Had By All*

## *Jan Seagrave reports...*

Our holiday luncheon took place on Monday, December 7, 2020 at the Wellington National Golf Club. Eleven of us enjoyed the festive gathering. It was wonderful to see everyone in person. We were in the beautiful Wine Room and were safely seated two people to a table. I would like to thank Dee Rolf for providing the table decorations and the beautiful snowman table favors that we were able to take home. I also want to thank Ted and John with WNGC for their generosity in allowing the use of the room.

Thank you to Mary Ann Greeley, Carol Ralph, Danese Sloan-Kendall, Dee Rolfe, Carol Lazzarino, Bobbi Ziegler, Carol Coleman, Kathy Siena and Michael Whitlow for attending and making the

## *From Mary Anne Greeley...*

It has been difficult to isolate indefinitely, so yesterday's luncheon was a real treat! Eleven of us enjoyed a very festive time. Tables for four were set for two, although some folks doubled up. I believe that all of us have been out and about to some degree. Hopefully our immune systems are strengthened because of this and we shall escape the virus. Dee, the snowman favors and centerpieces were adorable. Thanks to one and all who made this event happen.

Here's to 2021!

## *And from Bobbi Ziegler...*

Our Holiday Luncheon was the highlight of my year to date!!! It was so lovely to be with the real humans that I adore. We must do this more often. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

## **Holiday Wishes From Carol Coleman**

**This year is almost over and a New Year brings hope of a vaccine to many across the United States and the rest of the world. We have lost too many lives, but an end is in sight. I wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday season. Here's to a new year with wonderful gardens that will bring joy, color and imagination to all.— Carol Coleman, Director, FFGC District X**



# Heartfelt Thanks From Those We Serve

The Elks Club/Holy Trinity Garden has received a Certificate of Merit from NGC Community Service Project Awards/CS-4 Food Bank Donations. Below are letters of thanks from just a few of the churches who depend on the fresh vegetables this garden produces.

In 2012, the Palm Beach Post published an article about this unique garden. Here are excerpts from the article by Liz Balmaseda.

## *Seeds for the Soul A vegetable Garden for the poor*

... It was a rather neglected patch of land, overgrown with melaleucas and weeds, but in it Tim Hadsell saw great, green possibilities.

... It's a gardener/church collaboration that goes from soil to kitchen to plate, a cycle of life that runs on sun, rain, good intention and calloused hands.

... The church kitchen feeds anywhere from 75 to 250 people—the working poor and homeless—for lunch each day. At night, a rotation of 34 churches, synagogues and community groups prepares meals, serves and cleans up.

... “The people can tell the difference in what they’re eating. There’s a big difference between fresh and canned vegetables. The fresh are far more tasty,” said Donald Smith, Kitchen Chef.

—Liz Balmaseda  
April 12, 2012



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
**UNITED CHURCH**  
OF CHRIST

The garden at the ELKS facility has provided produce to our feeding program at First United Congregational Church of Lake Worth, in 2019 and the beginning of 2020, prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The food donated—lettuce, tomatoes, kale and more—has meant that our poor and homeless folks are getting healthy fresh-picked food as part of their weekly meal that is served each Tuesday. Everyone, from our congregants and volunteers to the people who eat with us, are thankful for the food provided.

Thank you and God Bless.  
Jason Fairbanks, Pastor



St. Patrick's Episcopal Church  
West Palm Beach

Our Thursday night feeding program has received fresh produce from the non-profit Elks Club/Holy Trinity Garden since 2016. We typically feed between 105-200 meals per week for nine months of the year. We receive between 15 and 30 pounds of feed each week from the garden. We are very appreciative of this program.

God Bless,  
Deacon Hurley

Way Cafe, our Tuesday feeding program, received fresh food—lettuce, kale, collards, tomatoes and more—from



the non-profit Elks Club/Holy Trinity Garden in 2019. This locally grown and harvested food gives our homeless, poor and needy senior population healthy produce along with other food provided by our parish. Our clergy and volunteers are thankful for this food!

Faithfully,  
Reverend Corinna Olson, Rector

# *Pitching In...To Make The Kids' Garden Grow*

—John & Kathy Siena, Co-Chairmen

The growing season is well underway and our Community Garden at the Boys and Girls Club is in great shape. The cabbages have started to head, the broccoli is healthy and the tomatoes are chest high. All is well with the plants.

We added a putting and plumbed a sink so the kids can wash the veggies and their hands. We are still following the CDC protocols and believe we are operating safely. Interacting with the kids is not only good for their mental health, but I feel certain it is good for the WGC volunteer team as well.

***The kids are very enthusiastic!  
They love their garden and are  
full of questions.***

It was so much fun to see our team member, Kathy Schneider, working with the kids on preparing NGC Woodsy Owl Posters to be entered into a national competition. She had the kids, with masks on, working outside at tables and chairs set up near the garden. It was a cool, chilly day but the kids did not seem to mind. They loved it. Besides, they learned about Woodsy's important environmental conservation lessons:

***Lend a hand—Care for the Land  
Give a Hoot—Don't Pollute!***

Woodsy is 50 years old, and very wise. Good luck kids! Thank you, Kathy, for taking on this project. She is also working on the poster contest with our new youth garden club, New Horizons Elementary.



John Siena shows club member how to plant seeds



Volunteer, Petra Russell and the girls Harvest Beans



Woodsy Owl Poster Contestants

## **1st Around & About of 2021!**

Wednesday January 6, 2021

We will tour:

- Community Garden at the Boys and Girls Club on Wellington Trace
- Butterfly Garden at the Dog Park on Greenbriar
  - Butterfly Garden at the Wellington Environmental Preserve on Flying Cow Road

Carpool meets: 9:45 AM at Wellington Community Center. Departs at 10:00 AM Sharp

Contact Kathy Siena at [ksiena2000@gmail.com](mailto:ksiena2000@gmail.com) by Saturday 1/2/2021 if you want to carpool Or meet us at the first stop. See you there!

# Helping Out... To Keep The Butterflies Happy

—Kathy Siena, Youth Garden Clubs Chairman



Meeting with PTA Moms at New Horizons Elementary  
December 3, 2020

The teachers, students and officials are excited to get started on a beautiful new butterfly garden at their school. They are even integrating butterflies and butterfly gardens into their curriculum, which will help their *Green School* status. They are seeking advice and guidance from Wellington Garden Club volunteers and this is where our very own Lisa Ferrano has jumped in, happy to help put a design and plan in place.

Despite COVID guidelines still being implemented, schools are slowly getting back to brick-and-mortar classes, especially in the elementary grades. This is good news for our youth garden clubs. Right now, the most active garden I would like to report on is the newly supported one at New Horizons Elementary School. Lisa Ferrano and I met with school personnel and PTA moms, not only on Zoom, but also on campus to look over the potential areas for future gardens.



New Horizons Elementary Future Garden Area

***We plan to start building the new butterfly garden in early 2021.***



Butterfly Garden Clean-up Crew December, 2020

Meanwhile, Girl Scout Troop 22222 has not been able to tend the butterfly garden they manage near the Dog Park on Greenbriar, because some of the moms have gone back to work full-time and they are seeking new leadership.

Lisa Ferrano had the great idea of asking WGC members to pitch in and help the girls as best we can. I am so thankful and happy to report that on a crisp cool morning in early December a group of volunteers came out to help clean up the garden. It is looking cared for and beautiful.

# *District X Unsolicited Landscape Design Awards, 2020 Style*— Stormi Bivin

Every year District X confers four unsolicited awards in the public and private sectors for well-designed and maintained landscapes. This year's winners include a Starbucks in West Palm Beach (Small Business), a Median planting in Sewall's Point (Public Facility), Barcelona Apartments in Jupiter (Private Business), and the James Residence in Lantana (Private Residence).

Since we were all quarantining during early spring, This year's selection process had to be conducted in a different way. Fortunately, eleven submissions from six clubs in the District were submitted. A panel of judges, comprised of NGC Landscape Design Consultants, visited each site.

The outdoor field trips were welcomed by our judges who had been at home for weeks. They followed careful, social distancing procedures and assessed each site on: First Impression, Suitability of Design to Purpose, Functionality, Aesthetic Design Principles, Materials & Structures, Maintenance and Final Impression.

The awards were presented, via ZOOM, at the District X Fall Meeting on October 8, 2020, hosted by The Wellington Garden Club. Again, in a typical year, the awards would have been presented at the District X Luncheon to a member of each garden club having a winning nominee. This year, being anything but typical, the awards were mailed to the representatives of the clubs. Each of the four clubs will present a framed award certificate to their individual winners as shown in the photos below.

*Let's hope we can do this again in 2021 with a bit more "face" time!*



Starbucks Manager, Michael Serra with employees Jessibeth and Eliza celebrate their Landscape award!



## *Florida Arbor Day*

On Friday January 15, 2021, members of the Oleander Garden Club will meet at our special native tree park on Martin Avenue in Greenacres to celebrate Florida Arbor Day. They will dedicate three native trees to deceased club members by installing permanent markers identifying each tree and memorializing the club member being recognized. Wellington Garden Club members participating are Tim and Barbara Hadsell, Janet Stein, Harriet Samuels and Ann Cavaleri. A Proclamation recently created by the District X Plant America Trees Committee is printed on the next page. It promotes our National Garden Club initiative of P.A.T. Each One, Plant One (native)—to aid in global carbon sequestration and beautification.

## Shredding Fundraiser Event

Old documents cluttering your drawers and closets?  
Box'em up and bring'em to the Shredding Fundraiser!

What: On-site document shredding by Total Shredding  
When: Saturday, January 16, 2021 10:00—Noon  
Where: Wellington Community Center  
12150 Forest Hill Blvd.

Donation: \$5 per letter box/container (approx. 15 x 12 x 10)  
\$10 per legal size box (approx. 24 x 15 x 10)

**CASH OR CHECKS ONLY**



# *Plant America with Trees City Proclamation*

*Whereas, the Earth's Biosphere is an interconnected living web of life of which humans are part;*

*Whereas, the Earth's Biosphere is experiencing an increase of global temperatures, unprecedented levels of habitat destruction, loss of biodiversity, extinction of species, and rising of and lengthening of heat waves;*

*Whereas, the Earth, our home, is experiencing increases of extreme weather, glacial retreat, loss of sea ice, and increasing sea levels;*


*Whereas, the Earth's Biosphere is made up of many smaller living webs of life called habitats;*

*Whereas, native trees represent the very foundation of most land-based habitats and represent the very lungs of these habitats, restoring life webs, wildlife, watersheds, and living soil;*

*Whereas, native trees incorporated into the landscape of our yards and communities helps increase the amount of habitat available to our native wildlife displaced by human development and necessary for supporting complex life webs and helps decrease the amount of resources, such as water and chemicals, used in our public lands and in our yards;*

*Whereas, native trees stabilize erosion, improve the soil in a way non-natives do not, improve air quality, reduce ozone, cool cities, decrease pollution, prevent runoff, improve human health and living conditions, conserve water, improve local climates, and produce oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide;*

*Now let it therefore be resolved, \_\_\_\_\_ of the City/Town of \_\_\_\_\_ provides recommendations to local governments, developers and residents regarding landscaping to promote wise restoration and stewardship of local habitats, including the promotion of planting native trees as well as the maintenance of their habitats in urban and suburban settings, dated \_\_\_\_\_.*



# After Thoughts



Bobbi Ziegler's Bestie joins her on the outdoor sofa every evening.



From Karin Teston...Click here and watch this.  
You won't be disappointed <https://youtu.be/LpAKcQuface>



Twig's backyard buddies—Mom, Dad and Juvenile. Did you know young sandhills are called 'colts'?

**Dear Members,**

I am looking for new contributors to the Newsletter. Think about what you have learned through your garden over the years. Who are your influences? What courses you have taken? Which plants would recommend to new South Florida gardeners.?

The deadline for the next issue is February 15th. Send articles as Word documents and photos as JPEGs.

The newsletter is only successful when we have lots of members participating.  
—Tina Richter, Editor

## 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 the next issue: February 15, 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  
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