

Allamanda News

The Newsletter of the Wellington Garden Club May 2021



Gardening Makes a World of Difference

Making Wellington beautiful for 40 years

Since our founding in 1981, our members have held fund-raisers, arranged flowers, traveled to conventions and worked together to support organizations as varied as Habitat for Humanity to the Boys and Girls Club of Wellington and Scout troops.

Let's share our passion for the land and native plants with the next generation of gardeners. we'll teach our kids, hone our skills and best of all, we're going to have fun.

Here's to our next 40 years!

It was a year like no other

It has been my pleasure to serve as your President for the last two years. Although this was not the year I had envisioned, we were able to keep moving forward. We continued our meetings via Zoom and it was a pleasure to see your smiling faces on the screen.

We are now back to meeting in person and I couldn't be happier about being able to get back to our regular activities.



We are about to embark on a two-year adventure together that will include learning opportunities, a chance to serve our communities and gatherings to meet and make new friends. Our focus this year will be on increasing native plants in our public and private gardens. By accomplishing this, we can guarantee an increase in butterflies, birds, and insects (the healthy kind).

As this chapter closes for me, a new one opens for our new President, Maria Wolfe. I will continue on the Board, volunteering where needed. Please remember to plant a loving thought in all you do.

***Best regards,
Jan Seagrave***

I thank Jan Seagrave for the work she has done as president of our club and I am excited to step into her shoes. Please plan to join me on this journey of discovery together.

***Have a great summer!
Maria Wolfe***

Looking ahead ... Meet our new Executive Officers

The projects planned for WGC during the next two years—beach clean ups, community and school gardens and garden tours—will give all of us an opportunity to work together while meeting new friends and enhancing our relationships. I see many opportunities ahead, such as afternoon ***Sip 'n Strolls***, planned so that we can enjoy adult beverages, appetizers, gardens and each other!



Left to right: Jan Seagrave, Carol Coleman, Maria Wolfe, President; Carol Ralph, 1st VP; Evvy Bartley, Asst. Treasurer; Kathy Hood, Parliamentarian; Amy Schwed, Recording Secretary; Danese Sloan-Kendall, Treasurer; Mary Barbara Alexander, 2nd VP. Missing: Joan Kaplan, Corresponding Secretary

Let's celebrate a job well done Awards & Recognition—Twig Morris

The FFGC awards were announced at the Convention on April 11-13 in Daytona, Florida.
Our club received several awards.

Our WGC newsletter, *Allamanda News*, edited by **Tina Richter**, won the **Newsletter Award** for our District. Thank you, Tina, for keeping us so well informed and entertained.



Our club won the **Madira Bickel Award for Civic Achievement** for the community-wide planting of native shrubs and trees in the Environmental Preserve in Wellington. This project was also selected as the winner among all the Deep South Unified Project submissions for Youth Participation in the annual tree planting at Wellington's Environmental Preserve. **The Deep South Unified Project** was a two-year project open to garden clubs in the six states of the Deep South Region: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee. Congratulations to **Kathy Siena** for organizing this successful community-wide event in partnership with the Village of Wellington. This prestigious prize came with **a monetary award of \$200!**

The Petite Standard Flower Show, **It's a Small World**, held at the Wellington Green Mall, won the **Flower Show Achievement Award**. The club was lucky that their show was held in February 2020, just before COVID hit. Congratulations and many thanks to all who worked so hard to make this show a success.

WGC also won the **Flower Show Staging Award** for **It's a Small World**. It truly was spectacular. Kudos to **Christine Biscoglio** and to the staging team for all their hard work



Linda DeSanti won the **Designer's Choice Award** for the 10-inch tall petite exhibition table she created for **It's a Small World**. Congratulations, Linda, for your beautiful petite design.



The FFGC awards also came with monetary awards of \$25 or \$50 each for a total of \$350 received by our club and some of these projects are also eligible for consideration in various award categories of National Garden Clubs awards. Winners will be announced at the NGC convention at the end of May.

Kudos, Wellington Garden Club!

Scholarship Winners 2021-2022

— John Siena and Maria Wolfe

Another year passed and it has been a difficult and controversial time for our children and educators. There were a lot of changes/retirements with the educators we worked with in the past, but there are some very promising new educators with whom we are busy opening lines of communication. Still, we had an exceptional group of candidates this year and awarded three scholarships to **Georgia Brooks, Denise Price, and Jerome Small**. They are a diverse group, with diverse courses of study, but with the common thread of earth stewardship. Awards were made at our May 3rd meeting and subsequently celebrated at a luncheon.



John Siena, Jan Seagrave, Jerome Small, Georgia Brooks and Maria Wolfe
Missing: Denise Brooks

Wellington Garden Club has awarded **over \$35,000 in scholarships** since its inception 40 years ago. We may never know how many of the students we helped have been, or will be, exceptional leaders in horticulture and environmental circles, but we can feel confident knowing that we are a part of the communal effort to produce such leaders.

“I am proud to be a member of a Garden Club that recognizes and responds to the need to develop our youth.”—John Siena



Stormi Bivin, Jim Barnes, Bruce Wagner and Will Gurney,

Unsolicited Landscape Award

Every year District X confers four unsolicited awards to the public and private sectors for well-designed and maintained landscapes. This year The Village of Wellington won the **Public Facility Award** for the landscape design at **Wellington Veterans Memorial**. Accepting the award at our membership meeting on May 3rd were Jim Barnes, Bruce Wagner and Will Gurney, .





“Come join me in the garden!”—Kate Kouba

The Marjorie Stoneman Preserve off of Flying Cow Road is truly a beautiful experience. The Wellington Garden Club along with the city of Wellington, maintains a native butterfly garden. Come and walk or bike along the paths. Or join our happy group of regular volunteers. **Contact Kate Kouba at ktkouba@yahoo.com**



A first-timer's visit to the FFGC Convention—Maria Wolfe

What is the Florida Federation of Garden Club convention and why attend? That was my question and the opportunity to attend in 2020 was preempted by the pandemic, so I was determined to attend the April 11-13 Convention in Daytona Beach, Florida. Jan Seagave and I drove up together. Having the time to share and talk was fun.

I attended educational sessions on Floral Design, Bylaws, Membership Attraction and Retention and Parliamentary Procedure. And of course, I went shopping! There were vendors of every kind—plants, crafts, clothing, jewelry—you name it.

But for me, the convention highlight was the presentation of the District X awards. In a room filled with 135 people, it was thrilling to see the Wellington Garden Club name repeatedly on the screens recognizing the hard work our members have put in during 2020-2021.



Maria, Jan and Twig

Well Done, WGC!

WGC Members together at the FFGC Convention



Barbara May



Michelle Maguire District X Director, with Maria Wolfe



Bobbi Ziegler and Kathy Siena

Youth Garden Clubs

—Kathy Siena, Chairman

Youth Garden Clubs are wrapping up an amazing school year despite COVID guidelines and restrictions. Here is the latest update on some of the garden clubs.

Pine Jog Elementary School never fails to produce great gardens. Because of many restrictions with the teachers, parents, and students, they were not able to grow the large hydroponic gardens they usually create. However, **science teacher Lori Vanis** did a wonderful job showing the younger kindergarten children how to grow a small, raised bed vegetable garden. They used financial support from WGC to purchase a garden shed and wheelbarrow. Our liaison, Twig Morris, will no longer be able to work with Pine Jog. **Thank you, Twig, for your many years working with the school.**

While we were sorry to hear that the Girl Scouts could no longer manage the butterfly garden near the dog park, we are happy to share with you the new partnership with **Boy Scout Pack 125**. They have already been out to the Butterfly garden to learn how to take care of a garden with native plants which sometimes may look like weeds. The scout parents are very enthusiastic with this new partnership and will be a good help to the community. With our financial support, the Scouts purchased several garden tools, gloves and supplies to get started. **Thank you, co-liaison, Lisa Ferrano and Scout leader Tonya**, for your assistance.

We were happy to have an on-campus visit with **Wellington High School** Principals and teachers to discuss the possibility of starting up some new gardens on the campus. We also talked to them about our college scholarship opportunities and SEEK scholarships. Taking advantage of these opportunities will occur in the next school year. **Thank you, Bobbi Ziegler for volunteering to be our new school liaison.**

Finally, a new partnership that started last winter is **New Horizons Elementary School**. The Principals, teachers, staff, and PTA parents, especially, **Krista Basore**, are keen to take our guidance with developing butterfly gardens on their campus. WGC purchased eight new white raised beds which have already been installed and the students are working on various plantings. **Thank you, new liaison, Kathy Schneider and Lisa Ferrano** for their butterfly expertise.



Scout Pack mom teaching scouts about FI native plants.jpg



Scout Pack 125 at Butterfly Garden.jpg



Pine Jog Ele Teacher & Twig Morris-Liaison.jpg



New Horizons Ele Raised Beds.jpg



Community Garden at the Boys & Girls Club of Wellington

—John and Kathy Siena, Co-Chairmen

We are at the end of our growing season and the Community Garden is getting ready to “go to sleep” for the summer. **The WGC team** is a fantastic, dedicated, and an altogether wonderful group of people who not only love vegetable gardening, but love teaching children the rigors and joys of “farming”. The kids were taught in classroom and hands on during the year, and they loved it!



There still are a few things in our beds that can tolerate the Florida summer heat (the volunteers are not that heat tolerant), but even those veggies will be gone in a few weeks—it is part of the farming cycle in south Florida. We now have a wonderful **red banana plant** that is bearing fruit and will ripen in a few weeks. Bananas love water and heat which we have abundantly in Florida summers!

We will be **solarizing the beds** soon so nematodes, weeds, and other pests will be diminished for the next growing season...BUT, we will be maintaining our butterfly garden throughout the summer. Can't let all of that hard work get out of control!

Signing off till next fall. Happy gardening!

Cooking Zucchini Flowers with Chef John

I've loved Italian cooking ever since I was tall enough for my nose to reach the kitchen table to watch my great aunt Assunta work her magic with classic Amalfi cucinando.

One of my favorite treats is zucchini flowers! There are so many things you can do with them. You can cut them into rounds, sauté with shallots in olive oil, using a hint of garlic, fresh basil, and pasta...and do not waste the pasta water!

Here's a simple, delicious way to prepare the flowers

Dust them in sifted, herbed flour,
Drag through an egg wash,
Fry in olive oil until golden brown,

Note: I put a little butter into the olive oil for additional richness

Serve as an hors d'oeuvre with
a nice primitivo wine.



*“If you are a gardener,
you should be a cook too.
If you are a cook, you should
be a gardener too.”*

—John Siena

Buon appetito!

WGC Secret Garden Tour Spring 2021

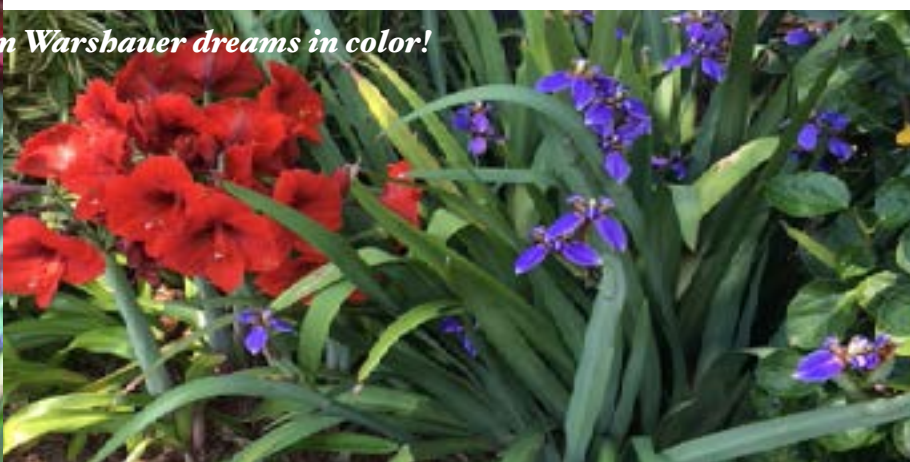
*featuring the blooms of Maxine Fisher,
Jan Warshauer and Linda DeSanti.
Monet would have been inspired.*



*Maxine Fisher's
orchid show*



Jan Warshauer dreams in color!





*Linda DeSanti
has a ginormous
staghorn fern...*



*... & a Monet-like
water garden.*



*Mary Barbara Alexander's
petite bouquet*



*Linda & Stormi's
excellent yard sale...*



Early birds walked away with some beauties!

Our Plant Sale & Shredding Fundraisers were big successes!

We are pleased to report that this year's **Plant Sale** was a successful event. Although we feel attendance was down this year due to "the COVID factor", our sale proceeds provided **a healthy profit of just over \$1800**. How nice it was to see so many garden club friends together again. Thanks to all those who volunteered on the day of the sale and for all the member-grown plants donated—a very impressive variety and display! **Remember.....Gardening Makes A World of Difference!**

WGC held its annual **document shredding event** on Saturday, January 16th at the Wellington Municipal Complex with support from **Total Shredding**. Thanks to everyone who came out in support of this fundraiser. **We raised \$320!**

WGC at Earth Day 2021

On Saturday, April 17, WGC members participated in the Earth Day/Arbor Day event held at the Wellington Community Center Promenade. A special surprise was when member **Uma Bhatti received the F.L.O.W.E.R Award** from the Wellington Tree Board. Thanks to **Larry Grosser** for Chairing this event and to all the members who assisted and visited the club's booth.



Of course we planted a tree!



Carol Ralph and Stormi Bivin, 2021 Plant Sale Co-Chairs



Shredding volunteers: Joyce Smith, Alison Albury, Jan Seagrave, Maria Wolfe, Bobbi Ziegler, Barbara Zenker and Danese Sloan Kendall



Uma Bhatti won the prestigious F.L.O.W.E.R. Award



Larry Grosser going incognito



Carol Ralph, Jan Seagrave, Caroline Kessman, Maria Wolfe



Habitat for Humanity®
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Thank you for supporting a fundraising team or joining one or more of the events of Women Build week! Of course, we were disappointed not to be working together at the (almost) home of the Bridges Family. Next year in a pink hard hat! Peer-to-peer fundraising was a success with almost \$7,500 raised by 9 teams and 67 donors.



Virtual DIY Night with Wellington Board & Brush

We had a small but mighty group of painters participate in our **virtual DIY night with Wellington Board & Brush**. Thank you to Tiffany David from Mayor James' office who shared some WPB initiatives with us all.

Our ReStock the ReStore event was a great team building day for staff—we hadn't been all together for a year! There was a significant uptick in donations to the store by people who had learned about the event from friends, on social media, and from our radio PSAs. Store traffic and revenue also increased. Chick-fil-A was there with a limited menu trailer and we will receive a contribution from them representing 12% of the days' proceeds.

Happy Hour with the Homeowners was a great success. Three women generously shared their personal success stories and their appreciation of HFHPBC. We learned about Teawanna Teal's engagement in her neighborhood association, Dawn Turner's home improvement projects, and Destiny's ability to continue virtual school in her very own bedroom with her puppy Heaven, of course.

Thank you all for your ongoing commitment to and support of HFHPBC.



Ava & Cameron donated the bikes they outgrew to the ReStore

Get Your WGC Shirts Now!

Send a check for \$20 made out to
Wellington Garden Club
to Kathy Schneider
776 The 12th Fairway
Wellingtonm FL 33414

The sooner you get your order in
the sooner you willl get your shirt!



Pink Women's
S M XXL

Navy Blue Men's
S L XL XXXL

Our lesson in Ikebana

Kathy Jones, an expert in the Japanese art of Ikebana, was the speaker at our April 2021 meeting. Kathy studied Ikebana in Kyoto, Japan. Since 1990, she has served as an officer in various capacities for the Ikenobo/Ikebana chapter of South Florida. She achieved Special Teacher Membership status and currently teaches Ikebana at the Morikami Museum.



Ikebana, Japanese flower arrangement, is deeply embedded in Japanese culture and dates to the seventh century.

Save these dates!

**May 31, 2021—Memorial Day Ceremony
and Gold Star Memorial Dedication—8:30 AM Veterans Memorial**

June 6-12—National Garden Week—We are planning floral arrangements for local municipal offices, a tree planting and more. Volunteers are welcome. Please email twig_morris@hotmail.com.

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: (H) 561-372-5952, (C) 315-681-8867 or email kaalbury@gmail.com



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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 Deadline for September Issue: August 15, 2021

Wellington Garden Club Officers

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

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