



Allamanda News

The Newsletter of the Wellington Garden Club November 2021

Dear friends,

Although, I cannot walk outside and pick up colorful fall leaves to decorate, I find that I am able to use pumpkins, dried flowers, greenery and candles to bring a sense of autumn into my home. The absence of cool weather does not stop me from celebrating the fall season.

Autumn also means the return of many of our Wellington Garden Club members from their northern abodes. I welcome you all as we prepare for our Holiday Luncheon, Garden Tour on April 2, 2022 and Camp Wekiva.

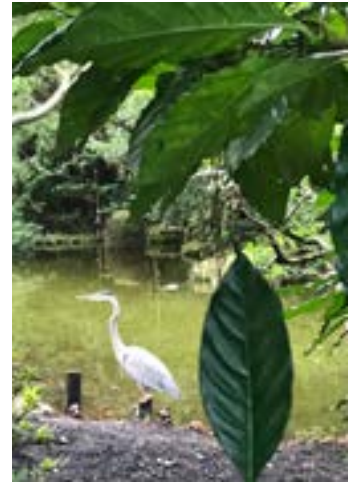
However you decorate this fall, enjoy the season that brings us the warmth of the sun and just a bit cooler air.

—Maria Wolfe

A special day at the Morakami Garden

The members of Wellington Garden Club who attended the *Around & About* on Thursday, September 16th were amazed at the contemplative nature of the gardens. As a visitor, I was surprised to discover a century-old connection between Japan and South Florida. In 1904, Jo Sakai, a recent graduate of New York University, returned to his homeland of Miyazu, Japan, to organize a group of pioneering farmers and lead them to what is now northern Boca Raton. With the help of the Model Land Company, a subsidiary of Henry Flagler's East Coast Railroad, they formed a farming colony they named Yamato, an ancient name for Japan.

We discovered native trees, such as seagrape and firebush, shaped into stunning bonsai specimens. The walking trails were easy to navigate and we saw herons, turtles and fish as well non-native lizards.—Maria Wolfe



Stormi Bivin & Mary Barbara Alexander



Hugette Damas



Admiring the bonsai



Godzilla the Iguana



Petra Russell with bonsai



Twig Morris at waterfall



The weather was with us, the gardens were beautiful... It was a good day.—Carol Ralph

Our group at Morakami Museum and Garden on September 16, 2021

Sippin' & Strollin'

In my installation address in May, I introduced a new event to the Wellington Garden Club. An opportunity for us to gather and admire one another's gardens while enjoying appetizers and an adult beverage that I named the *Sip 'n' Stroll*. Mary Barbara Alexander graciously offered her equestrian property for our first gathering. Members and their spouses enjoyed her property, pool, paddocks and gardens while socializing....a first in a long while.



Maria Wolfe with Mary Barbara Alexander

On Friday, October 8th, Petra Russell opened her beautiful home to us for the second *Sip n' Stroll*.



Petra strolling with guests through her garden



Carol Lazzarino



Paige Griffin & Leonard DeSanti



L-R: Ken Correra, Leonard DeSanti, Bernice Correra & grandchild



Guests at Petra Russell's Sip n' Stroll



We strolled out to our cars at sunset

Cleaning up the beach

On Saturday, September 18, 2021, Wellington Garden Club participated in the International Coastal Cleanup. Eight members participated and gathered a total of over **12 pounds of trash** from the beaches at Macarthur Beach State Park. That's a lot of trash considering the small pieces of plastic, styrofoam, and debris collected. The great news is that it will not be entering our oceans.



Arrival



Armed and ready for action



We gathered 12 pounds of trash

Joining us for the cleanup was Park Ranger, Ruth Rhodes, a scholarship recipient from WGC in 2015-2016 Garden Club year. So wonderful to see our scholarship recipients fulfilling their dreams.

Thank you to Sandy and Fred Sklar, Twig Morris, Linda DeSanti, Lisa Ferrano, Ann Finch, Diane Rice and Maria Wolfe for ridding our coastal environment of trash.



Ranger Ruth Rhodes, Diane, Ann and Maria

The 7th Annual tree Planting at the Wellington Preserve —Kathy Siena, Event Chairman

After postponing the tree planting because of COVID restrictions, Wellington Garden Club, in partnership with the Village of Wellington, held its community-wide 7th Annual Tree Planting event on September 25, 2021, at the Wellington Environmental Preserve.

This event took place on National Public Lands Day which encourages volunteers throughout the USA to plant trees. We also support National Garden Clubs initiative, *Plant America—Plant Trees*. Be sure to check out the article on our tree planting to be included in the FFGC *Florida Gardener* Winter Issue. And mark your calendars now for next year's 8th Annual Tree Planting on Saturday, September 24, 2022.

We planted one thousand south Florida native slash pine seedlings (*Pinus elliotti* "Densa") in less than two hours. The Village of Wellington Landscape Department provided the large seedlings, pre-dug holes, water, golf carts and more. We couldn't do this event without them. We even received great media coverage in the Village News and in the Town Crier Newsletter.



Scout volunteers



Florida Slash Pine *Pinus elliotti* "Densa"



Just a few of our 100+ volunteers hard at work

I am happy to say we had more than one hundred volunteers throughout the community—WGC volunteers, Village Manager and Council Members, scouts, local high school students, church groups, and many more.



WGC-VOW 7th Annual Tree Planting.

Thank you for coming and supporting our goal to be great Earth stewards and to further beautify our Village of Wellington.

We're taking care of business

Community Garden at the Boys and Girls Club of Wellington—John and Kathy Siena, Co-Chairmen

The Community Garden has opened again after our sweltering summer. A lot of prep work must be done to get the six large vegetable and herb beds ready for planting. The Village of Wellington staff helped us get up and running by cutting down the worst of the weeds in all the beds. They plan to put down the mulch as well. Our team is very appreciative of the work done by the Village employees.

Our volunteer crew then got to work. They pressure cleaned the pavers around the beds that have turned black over the years. Finally they weeded, tilled, and spread chicken poo to organically fertilize the beds.

The butterfly garden will require weeding and trimming to get it back in shape. Our butterfly garden keeper, Lisa, plans to put the kids to work in there.

We are now ready for the the Boys and Girls club to return to the garden. We hope to have indoor class activities as well, especially during the colder months (hah-lol). They love coming and wish it would be more often than once a week.

We desperately need WGC volunteers to come out and help us teach our kids how to take care of these gardens and show them where the food they eat comes from. We can't do the job for such a large garden without more help.

If you are interested in helping grow both kids and plants, please contact John Siena 561.797.8818



This is just the beginning



Peak moment in the vegetable garden



Our butterfly garden at sunset

Something to think about from Helga Mesmer:

**Many people think
the grass is greener
somewhere else...
but the grass is greener
when you water it.**

Gardening 911 —



Help!

Joan Kaplan asks, “How do I repot, separate or trim this dendrobium orchid gone wild. I’ve lost control!”

Stormi Bivin answers: “I suspect your orchid is very root-bound so you may have to break the pot to free it. But wait until it has finished blooming. Once out of the pot, you’ll need a tree pruning saw (or other saw) to cut through the roots and to divide into several plants. Of course, there will be some collateral damage, but that’s unavoidable. Last step: repot into new smaller pots and share them with friends as garden gifts, plant raffle table offerings, etc. Hope that helps.”

—Stormi

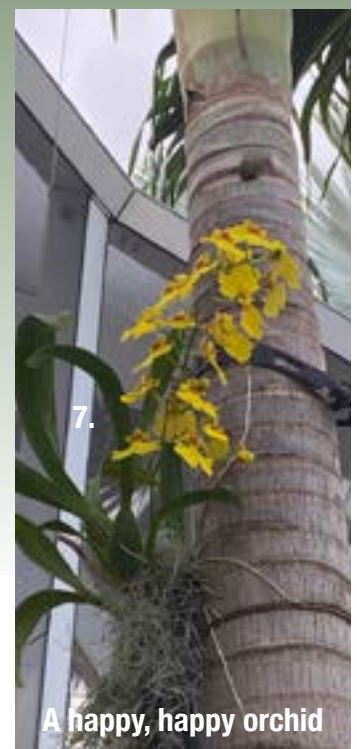
How to attach an orchid to a tree — Gigi Bard

I have been collecting and caring for orchids for many years now. I learned to attach them to trees so they’re in their own permanent spot, allowing me space for new varieties. What fun!—Gigi



Follow these simple steps:

1. Remove orchid from its pot, exposing and freeing the roots.
2. Place orchid on a piece of burlap. I get mine at Joanne’s
3. Add orchid mix that you have soaked in water.
4. Start wrapping.
5. Using bio-degradable string (not wire), cut a length long enough to wrap around the burlap-covered root ball several times.
6. Tie securely with 2 or 3 knots and cut loose ends of the string. The base will look like this when finished.
7. Using another length of string, tie the wrapped orchid to your tree or branch securely. Then wait to enjoy the blooms



Tips:

- Never fertilize orchids when they are bone dry. Water one day, fertilize the next.
- Best local resource: Uncle Bim’s Garden Center at 926 Belvedere Rd.
- Best overview: Orchids for Dummies by the National Gardening Assn. It’s great!



Youth Gardens—Kathy Siena

Youth Garden Club activities are getting into action. Our WGC volunteer liaisons this year are Lisa Ferrano, Kathy Schneider and our newest volunteer, Bobbi Ziegler. I am thankful for these great ladies giving of their time and talent to educate our teachers and young students on growing gardens.

We are pleased to introduce our new Jr. Garden Club at Polo Park Middle School under the guidance of WGC liaison, Kathy. Their garden has enormous potential. Unfortunately, because of COVID restrictions at the school, it was sorely neglected last year. School leader, Chelsea and twenty-three students were enthusiastic to get back into the garden and restore it to its original beauty.

They filled four industrial-sized garbage cans with weeds and then planted a native wildflower garden. Lisa, our WGC member, volunteer and native plant expert, helped the kids and leaders to identify the good from the bad. Bobbi has agreed to help the team at Polo Park as well.

Meanwhile, the scouts and their leaders are working hard to get the butterfly garden at the Dog Park back in shape after a long, scorching summer of overgrowth. Learning about native plants takes a lot of effort and Lisa is an excellent teacher. We are thankful for our Youth Gardens volunteers. We can always use more help, especially master gardeners who are familiar with butterfly gardens and south Florida native plants. **Contact Kathy Siena at: ksiena2000@gmail.com**



Polo Park MS Teacher & Liaisons, October 2021



Polo Park MS students in their new butterfly garden



Cub Scout Mom and Scouts, Summer 2021



Cub Scout Pack 125 at Butterfly Garden



Laughter is the best medicine. —Bobbi Ziegler

Save these Dates!

NOVEMBER

1

WGC Cub Meeting— 9:30 AM
Wellington Community Center
 Coffee service, begins at 9:30 AM.
 guest presentation at 10:15 sharp,
 business meeting to follow.

Masks are required

November Presentation:

Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee
 National Wildlife Refuge—
 Keystone of the Everglades
 by Steve Henry, Deputy Project
 Leader, Arthur R. Marshall
 Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge



The Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in Boynton Beach is a 145,188-acre refuge protecting some of the finest wildlife habitat in the northern Everglades. Steve's presentation will focus on the history, ecology, management and recreational opportunities of the refuge that welcomes over 1,000,000 visitors each year from around the world.

Sip n' Stroll—Friday from 4:00–6:00 PM

NOVEMBER

5

Please plan to join us on Friday, November 5th at the home and garden of **Anne Hlasnicek**. Her garden is the perfect place to wander while meeting friends and sipping on your favorite vintage. Bring an appetizer to share plus the adult beverage of your choice and join us. The last two events were fantastic!

NOVEMBER

18

Around & About—Private rose garden tour of **Kathy & Bob Rose's Gardens**
 12810 Cocoa Pine Drive,
 Boynton Beach, FL 33436

Carpool: 9:15 AM or meet at 10 AM at the Garden.
The tour is FREE. Optional Lunch will be at The Clubhouse at Palm, Beach Polo. 11630 Polo Club Rd., Wellington, FL 33414 at 12:30 PM.



Prepare to be wowed. Kathy and Bob Rose moved to Boynton Beach in 1997. As their name indicates, roses were always a family favorite. The Rose's garden boasts 65-70 rose

bushes that will amaze and delight. Also found on their property are natives such as Jamaica Caper and Cocoplum hedges. For fruit tree fans, we will see guava, mango, lychee and avocado trees. A rain barrel garden along with herbs, butterfly plants, Russian salvia, Angelonia's, canna lilies and Dusty Miller are interspersed between the rose bushes. **Sign up at the November club meeting or contact Carol Lazzarino clazzar586@aol.com. Please advise if attending tour and lunch or tour only.**

Around & About—
Florida Sugar Cane Tour

This fabulous day trip is open to a maximum of 24 guests
 Lunch buffet and Clewiston Country Club

Leave 7:45 AM
Return 4:00 PM

More info at November Club meeting

DECEMBER

16

DECEMBER

6

*Reserve your seat now
 & help us celebrate 40 years!*



**Wellington Garden Club
 Holiday Luncheon
 Monday December 6th 2021
 11:00 AM – 2:30 PM
 The Wanderers' Club
 1900 Aero Club Drive
 Wellington
 \$36.00 pp**

**Live auction of awesome orchids,
 select plants and other items**

**Back by popular demand—
 fairy hair by Kristen,
 The Glittering Gypsy Fairy
 It takes just 10 minutes so
 sign up as soon as you arrive**

**Bring an unwrapped gift for
 TOYS FOR TOTS
 and be entered into a prize drawing**

**Reserve your seat at the November Club
 meeting or contact Linda DeSanti
 561-758-7415 or gdesanti@bellsouth.net**

Deadline to sign up & pay: November 24

Let's see a show —Stormi Bivin

WGC members once again have the opportunity to attend The King's Academy nationally acclaimed Theatre Company productions. It's great entertainment and an easy fund raiser! If we purchase 25 or more tickets, WGC derives \$5.00 from each ticket sold, so invite your family and friends. Ticket prices through WGC are the same as from the box office (\$32-\$47). Order forms with details will be sent throughout the year, well in advance of each show.

Amélie, The Musical Saturday March 26, 2022 matinee performance at 1:00 PM.

Amélie is an extraordinary young woman who lives quietly in the world but loudly in her mind. She covertly improvises small but surprising acts of kindness that bring joy and mayhem. But when a chance at love comes her way, Amélie realizes she has to risk everything and say what's in her heart.



Roald Dahl's Matilda, The Musical Saturday May 7, 2022 matinee performance at 1:00 PM



This captivating masterpiece from the Royal Shakespeare Company Matilda is a joyous girl power romp. Children and adults alike will be thrilled and delighted by the story of the special little girl with an extraordinary imagination.

This musical will come to life in full spectacle with incredible special effects, powerful singing and inspiring story-telling.



Yellow Allamanda *Allamanda cathartica* Florida native and official flower of WGC

Alter "natives"

Plant this not that
—Lisa Ferrano

Why plant Florida native plants? They require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides. Natives support healthy ecosystems, attract beneficial insects, their deep roots filter pollutants from storm runoff and natives support wildlife because the plants and animals have evolved together, they need each other.

The following are suggestions for including Florida native plants into your landscape by replacing common exotics with natives. All the plants listed support butterflies, either larval food or nectar. Incorporating natives into your landscape is good for the environment, they support wildlife and there are many to choose from so plant some natives.

Did you know? More than 60 native orchid species are listed as threatened or endangered)

Plant This	Not That
Large Trees	Large trees
Wild Tamarind	Royal Poinciana
Paradise Tree	Schefflera/Queensland Umbrella*
Small Trees	Small Trees
Bahama Strong Bark	Carrotwood*
Orange Geiger	Yellow Tabebuia
Satin Leaf or Lignum Vitae	Japanese Fern
Simpson Stopper	Cattley Guava*
Walters Viburnum	Brazilian Pepper*
Shrubs	Shrubs
Firebush	Ixora
Wild Coffee	Chinese Privet*
Jamaica Caper	Surinam Cherry
Dwarf Yaupon Holly	Dwarf Schefflera
Bay Cedar	Podocarpus
Marlberry	Clusia
Bahama Cassia	Thryallis
Vines	Vines
Coral Honeysuckle	Cape or Japanese Honeysuckle*
Wild Allamanda	Yellow Allamanda
Blue Jacquemontia	Skyvine
Pineland Snowberry	Confederate Jasmine
Groundcover	Groundcover
Coontie	Cardboard Palm*
Quailberry	Arborvitae
Blue-eyed Grass	Oyster Plant*
Spiderwort	Purple Queen*
Cinamon or Royal Fern	Asian Sword Fern*
Pine Pink	Spathoglottis
Frogfruit, Sunshine Mimosa	Lawn Grass
Lyreleaf Sage or Violets	

* Category 1 Invasive Plant

Helga Mesmer sent this lovely thought to inspire us every day and Danese Sloan-Kendall gave us the beautiful photo.

*Flowers feed our soul
in a different way. They
remind us of a God who
creates beautiful things
and takes notice of
the tiniest detail.*



Remembering Ellen Rawlings



“Our dear friend, Ellen, loved all things WEST! She made everyone better for just being around her. Always enthusiastic, generous and caring.”

“She was a great bargain shopper and revelled in her knack for spotting one of a kind items.”

“Ellen always had a secret recipe or short cut to accomplish something—like polishing silver in baking soda and water with aluminum foil.”

“Ellen’s flower garden was colorful and filled with beautiful flowering begonias.”

“She was a mother, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt, friend and gardener.”

“Ellen embraced life with gusto. She had the gift of hospitality and always ready to share her time talent and treasure with everyone. Her family was her life.”

She loved well and was well loved.



Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center—Carol Ralph



The weather was with us.
We had a beautiful day!



24 WGC members plus a few spouses attended our
Around & About on October 14, 2021.



Carol with our guide
Zack Jud, PhD and Maria

Our guide, Zack Jud, Ph.D., gave an informative educational presentation. Many members said they will return with their grandchildren. After the tour, most of us lunched at the New England Fish Market and enjoyed the camaraderie of the day.

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



1989 South Club Drive
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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
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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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Carol Ralph
Mary Barbara Alexander
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Evy Bartley
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Jan Seagrave