



Allamanda News

The Newsletter of the Wellington Garden Club November 2023

Dear Friends,

Fall has been upon us for a couple of months and recently we have had some beautiful weather. Even more beautiful are Florida's fall colors which are quite different from anything you'll experience up North. Overnight the Muhly Grass has covered Wellington in an explosion of "Barbie Pink." Can Florida Snow be far behind?

I wish all of you a wonderful and safe holiday season.

—Carol Ralph, President



Education is key to saving the environment

WGC joins the 2023 International Coastal Clean-up

—Diane Rice

In spite of record breaking heat—like in the 90’s—during the first half of September, the Wellington Garden Club once again participated in the International Coastal Clean-up on Saturday, September 16th at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park. We called ourselves the fabulous four, namely Diane Rice, Linda Messina, Maria Wolfe and Huguette Damas, as we picked up ocean debris under and over the seaweed.

Wellington Garden Club is lucky to have one of its own members, Dale Barnhart, as President of Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful, Inc. For years this group has been responsible for advertising the International Coastal Clean-up as well as soliciting businesses to sponsor it.

Interestingly, the first beach cleanup was held in 1986 when Linda Maraniss moved to Texas from Washington D.C. and was inspired by her colleague, Kathy O’Hara, who was working on a report called *Plastics in the Ocean: More than a Litter Problem*, to be published the following year.

Together they planned and executed the Ocean Conservancy’s first cleanup. This has now expanded into an international effort where more than 6 million volunteers in over 150 countries dedicate one day each year to cleaning and documenting the beach litter as explained at www.nationalltoday.com and www.oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/international.

Our youth partner, St. David’s, in the Pines in Wellington, picked up debris at another location—Hutchinson Island State Park in Hobe Sound, as shown in this photo with Jenifer Elmore on the far left heading the team.

We at the Wellington Garden Club could not be more proud!



Left to right: Diane Rice, Linda Messina, Maria Wolfe and Hugette Damas



Jenifer Elmore, far left, leading the youth team from St. David's in Wellington

A Wildflower Meadow Grows in Wellington's Greenbriar Park—Lisa Ferrano

After receiving a \$3,000 grant from the Florida Wildflower Foundation, Wellington Garden Club and the Village of Wellington began the process of installing a wildflower pollinator meadow. In June of 2023, the site at the Greenbriar Tree Identification Park was cleared of weeds and grass then covered in solarizing clear plastic for three months. In September, we removed the plastic, added sand and tilled the area in preparation for the grasses and wildflowers. Eight Wellington Garden Club members and three Village of Wellington employees spent about four hours planting 500 native plants.



Linda and Leonard DeSanti, Carol Ralph, Ann Finch and Lisa Ferrano



**Tom Romah and Caren Griffin with Mike
from the Village of Wellington**



**Kate Kouba, Leonard de Santi
and Ann Finch with Mike**



500 native plants in 4 hours



Greenbriar Meadow, mulched and ready to grow

9th Annual Tree Planting

—Kathy Siena, Chairman

Wellington Garden Club, in partnership with the Village of Wellington, held its 9th annual tree planting event on Saturday, September 23, 2023. Each year this event is held on National Public Lands Day, which is the fourth Saturday in September, when volunteers from all over the USA plant trees at various public parks and forests.



It was a great event with more than 60-70 volunteers coming out to support our effort to plant more than 600 Florida native slash pine seedlings at the Wellington Environmental Preserve.

We had a beautiful, sunny, and clear day. Volunteers for this family-friendly event included Wellington Garden Club members, local Scouts, Council members, local school students, teachers, along with children and grandchildren.

We want to thank Councilwoman, Tanya Siskind, who offered greetings to the group of volunteers along with Landscape Superintendent, Will Gurney, who explained how to plant the seedlings. We couldn't do the job without the help of the Landscape Division of the Village of Wellington and the crew who provided water, golfcarts and pre-dug holes.

Next year, on Saturday, September 28, 2024, we hope to have an extra special tree planting event to commemorate our 10th annual planting. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan now to come out and volunteer to be one of the great Earth Steward's among all the volunteers.



Community Garden at the Boys and Girls Club of Wellington

*John Siena-Chairman
Kathy Siena-Co-chairman*

Our Club developed and managed the B&G Club Garden for the past seven years. We took an open field to a closed-in raised bed garden with fruit trees, a butterfly garden, benches, drip irrigation system, a shed with tools, and other wonderful things that educated the kids. It is an organic garden and won several awards for our Club.

We had dedicated volunteers who stayed with the project from start to finish—John and Kathy Siena, Lisa Ferrano, Jim Thomson. Others like Sandy Sklar, Kathy Schneider, Tom Roma, Caren Griffin, Petra Russell, Deb Russell, Ann Finch and Maria Wolfe gave many hours of their time to the Community Garden.

I would like to express my gratitude, to WGC for its support and for the opportunity to work with the kids. We will never know what we planted and how it will bloom!

Sadly, we are no longer able to generate the level of commitment needed to operate the garden. However, I understand that another group will be continuing where we left off. This is great news for the kids. We will have new opportunities to fulfill our mission. I am proud of our Club and what we do to serve!



John Siena takes a final bow in the beautiful Community Garden



John teaches one-xson-one



Some of the team volunteers



Petra Russell



Caren, Tom and Kids

*Thank you, Wellington
Garden Club ... from the kids!*



Lisa Ferrano with kids in the garden



Jim Thompson digs in with the kids

Gardeners' Gallery



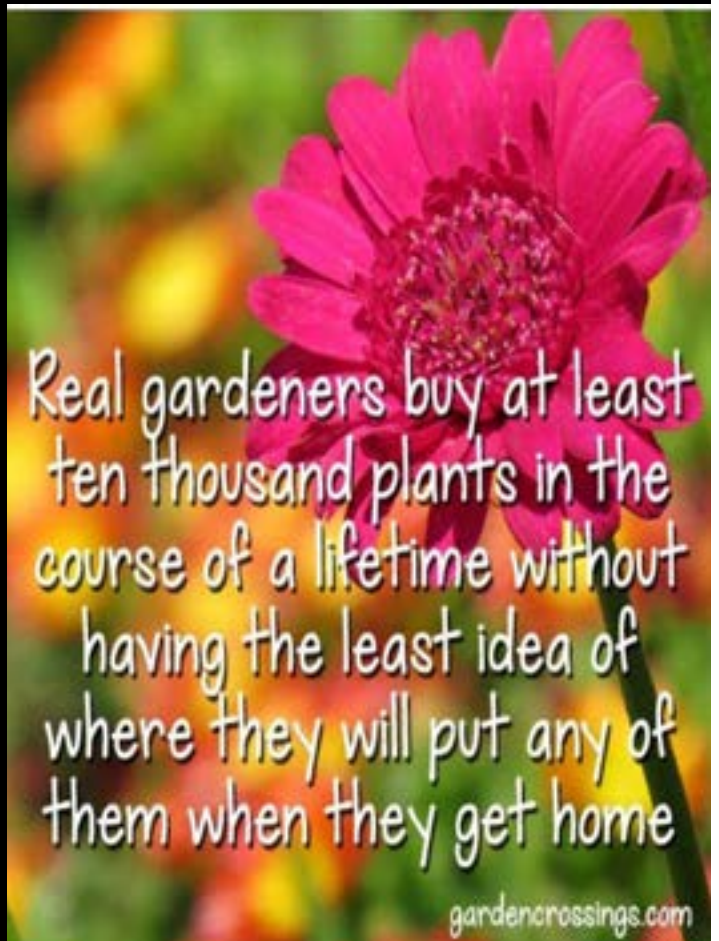
My Night Blooming Cereus...26 blooms in a single night!—Joan Kaplan



Kate Kouba's Ground Cactus is a superstar.



Sobralia Bradeorum aka Edwina. Blooms at sunrise, gone by sunset.



Real gardeners buy at least ten thousand plants in the course of a lifetime without having the least idea of where they will put any of them when they get home

gardencrossings.com

My Gardening Minute

—Anne Hlasnicek



Try a New Variety of Common Shrubs



Thai Boy Ixora and below, a thornless Crown of Thorns



Do you love the color of an Ixora but don't want the size or pruning that loses blooms? Then try the very miniature Ixora (Snow White) for semi shade –or Thai Boy Ixora, which likes semi sun but only grows to two feet in height with unique leaves and flowers.



Vine version of Thryallice

Crown of Thorns is also available in a thornless version, and in handsome dwarf varieties which like sun but will tolerate shade.

Love color and the casual look of Thryallice? Try the vine variety for a lovely flowering column.

Female and Male Begonia Flowers—Katherine Wagner-Reiss

All begonias have separate female and male flowers on the same plant, and you can check this out for yourself. Here are female and male flowers from Begonia Odorata Alba growing at Mounts Botanical Garden. The female flower on the left (with 5 petals) has many feathery yellow pistils awaiting the pollen produced by a male flower on the right (with 4 petals) showing its many orangey anthers.

The second photo shows a few female flowers, each producing seeds in an inferior ovary. You can see the wings on what will become the fruit capsule that will hold the seeds.



Spending time with Mary Barbara Alexander

I did a lot of traveling this past spring and summer. I attended the Tulip Festival at Elm Bank at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. And I visited the Crane Estate in Ipswich, MA to tour its formal gardens by the sea.



I visited the University of Georgia, where the first garden club originated. The Founders Memorial Garden commemorates the 12 founders of the American garden club movement, which was established in Athens, Georgia in 1891, and is dedicated to those who served in the US Armed Forces.



My favorite bright bromeliad in bloom

Here at home, I catered a horse show breakfast, sponsored by my daughter's new college counseling business, Alexander Academic Access. I created this summery arrangement for the table from a grocery store bouquet.



Orchids by the pool—spectacular!

“The summer rain was great for my orchids.” —Adrienne Bendich



Member Profile—Meet Susie Simonson

I moved to Wellington six months ago from New Hope, Pennsylvania. Before that I lived in Portland, Oregon for most of my life. I was a Garden Club of America horticulture judge and had a beautiful two-acre garden that is documented in the Smithsonian garden collection. It's known as High Hatch. In Oregon you can grow almost anything! I had a rock garden, which was my passion, along with a rose garden, a lilac walk, and a huge collection of rhododendron and azaleas.

But that was in the past. Now I am really enjoying the south Florida warm weather and seeing what grows well here. I have a very small space at Wellington Bay, which is just fine with me. I have room to walk my dog and I can see the sunset from my front door!



I can't believe I can grow a hybrid tea rose in south florida!



Spider Lily



My garden visitor



A Florida native



Small container garden



Golden Dewdrop—a new plant for me

Garden Arts & Crafts

—Carol Lazzarino

Create your own Felt Succulent Bowl

Join us for a fun day and learn how to create a beautiful felt succulent bowl. It's easy to make and requires no care. It would make a beautiful addition in your home or a lovely gift for a friend. Supplies are provided, however, please bring a small pair of scissors for cutting out the patterns.

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 9:30 AM
Everglades Room at the Wellington Community Center
\$15.00 Make check payable to Wellington Garden Club
Non-refundable once supplies are purchased.
Class is limited to 12 people.
Sign up and pay at November meeting.



Look what our crafters created on September 18th



Instructors Dee Rolfe and Carol Lazzarino



WE MAY THINK WE ARE
NURTURING OUR GARDEN
BUT OF COURSE, IT'S OUR GARDEN
THAT IS REALLY NURTURING US



Dee Rolfe, Kathy Hood, Caren Griffin, Kate Kouba, Kathy Schneider,
Barbara Zenker, Margaret Tamsberg and Lisa Ferrano

November & December Events

Wellington Garden Club Membership Meetings take place on the first Monday of every month at 9:30 AM at the Wellington Community Center. Coffee service begins at 9:30 AM. The guest presentation begins at 10:15 followed by the business meeting.



November 6th Presentation:
Wild Florida: An Animal Odyssey
Speaker: Kirsten Hines

Florida-based writer, nature photographer and devoted conservationist, Kirsten Hines has skillfully intertwined her passion for nature and history into six captivating books on

Florida. Committed to restoring South Florida's natural areas, she shares her expertise on birds, wildlife, gardening through lectures and workshops.

Around & About

Thursday, November 16th at 10:30 AM
Kit Pannill's Garden
4 South Lake Trail
Palm Beach FL 33480
FREE



Kit Pannill's garden has won the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach's Lesly S. Smith Landscape Award. She is also a five-time winner of the Garden Club of America's top prize for horticulture entries, a winner of The Catherine Beattie Medal and The American Orchid Society honored her by naming a plant after her, Vanda Kit Pannill. Among the beautiful trees and flowers, you will also visit her slat house which is filled with dozens of her prize-winning orchids, begonias, succulents and euphorbias.

Lunch will follow at Al Fresco Restaurant, 2345 South Ocean Boulevard, Palm Beach, FL 33480 At the individual's expense. Located in the Palm Beach Par 3 Golf Course.

CARPOOL MEETING LOCATIONS

Westside: Wellington Community Center Parking Lot (next to pool)
12150 Forest Hill Blvd., Wellington, FL 3341
Eastside: Parking lot behind IHOP, River Bridge Shopping Center,
6708 Forest Hill Blvd., Greenacres, FL 33413



**Don't miss these festive
December Dates**

December 2nd, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM
**WGC Holiday Gift Boutique at
Wellington Community Center**

December 4th Holiday Luncheon—Info to come!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE REGISTER TODAY

Gardening School Course 3

November 16-17

Mounts Botanical Garden

REGISTER ONLINE

Information and forms at:

DistrictX.org/Educational Opportunities/November

**Don't miss your opportunity to learn from
gardening experts and floral designers...**

Register today!

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and District X present
67th Annual Tropical Short Course NCG Tri-Refreshers

Groundbreakers....Then & Now

**Thursday - Friday,
January 25-26, 2024**

**Wellington Community
Center
12150 Forest Hill Blvd
Wellington, Florida 33414**

- Speakers
- Floral Design
- Raffle Prizes

Go to www.DistrictX.org

for more information
and Registration Forms.

Maria Wolfe, Chairman

tcacad_registrar@yahoo.com

561-386-4903



Wellington Garden Club Mall Walkers. Won't you join us?

For years, a group of ladies from the garden club have been walking in the Mall for one hour. The current group is small but dedicated, meeting at the Mall at Wellington Green for exercise and conversation along the way.

We walk on Monday and Thursday mornings from 9-10, before the stores open so there are no crowds. It is especially nice in the warmer months as we can exercise in the air conditioning.

We often meet in the center court to catch up after the walk and relax. If you walk for the whole hour, it is about two miles.

Mary Anne Greely is one of the old timers and still walks both days.

Anyone from the garden club is welcome to join the group. No dues, no pressure.

—Carol Lazzarino



Teresa Cummings, Jan Seagrave, Carol Lazzarino and Marianne Greely

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. Guests are welcome. If you plan to bring a guest, please contact: Alison Albury, Membership Chair: (C) 315-681-8867 or email 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
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Wellington Garden Club Officers

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

Carol Ralph
Petra Russell
Kristi Westrup
Danese Sloan-Kendall
Marianne Forrest
Jan Seagrave
Cynthia Gardner
John Siena
Maria Wolfe