



Allamanda News

The Newsletter of the Wellington Garden Club September 2023

"I am so happy to welcome you to the 2023-2024 Wellington Garden Club Season!"

This issue is filled with articles and beautiful pictures illustrating your summer projects and adventures. This wonderful photo by Mary Kastner is one of many sent in by our members.

I can't wait to see you all at our first membership meeting on Monday, September 11th, to share with you all the fun opportunities we have in store for the next few months.

Until then, grab a cup of coffee, sit back and Enjoy!

**Carol Ralph,
President**



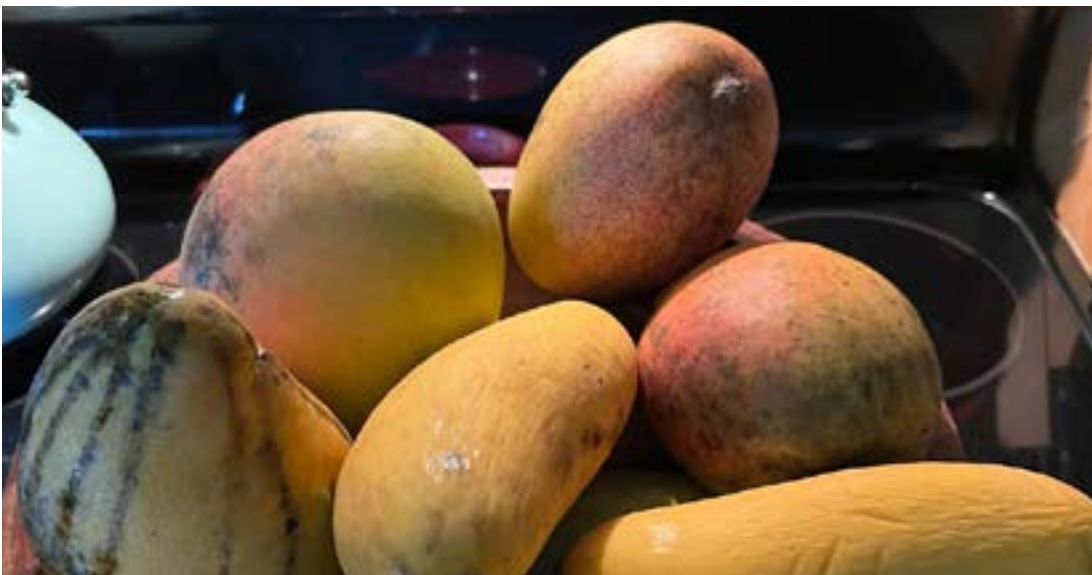
Education is key to saving the environment



Larry welcomed us to his wonderful garden, which includes 40+ varieties of mangoes and much more.



*In June, We Had a Mango Moment...
... in Larry Grosser's Garden Photos by Carol Ralph & Twig Morris*



We enjoyed a gourmet mango tasting and everyone went home with a goodie bag of mangos.

What a great way to start the summer!

In July, We Went to Camp Wekiva...

... Week of July 15, 2023—Maria Wolfe & Carol Ralph



The song says, “I believe the children are our future.” If you agree with that, Camp Wekiva has one of the best programs offered by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs to support our children.

For one week each summer, students from across the state attend an environmentally focused camp located on the grounds of Wekiva State Park, home of Wekiwa Springs.

Each day the campers learn about nature, creating crafts, singing campfire songs and building lifelong friendships. This year WGC members Katherine Wagner-Reiss, Maria Wolfe, and our president, Carol Ralph were volunteers.



Katherine Wagner-Reiss with Octive Healey from the Orlando Garden Club and Helen Purvis, Tallahassee Garden Club



Camp director, Shelby Mander & Support Team



Do you have a grandchild who might be interested in attending next summer? Contact Wekiva Chair, Jan Seagrave, for information.



Environmental Flag



Taking a Lesson in The Nature Hut



Bee-suit-attired Maria Wolfe with Carol Ralph

Summer on the Patio



Maxine Fisher's extraordinary Vanda in bloom.

*"My Rhipsalis is a member of the cactus family. Full sun turns it red. The white dots are berries."
—Joan Kaplan*



"I'm sending a few pix of my potted purslane and lantana.

The caladium were not good this year, so color has been provided by small blooms that are surprisingly heat tolerant."

—Mary Kastner



Anna Mae Cavaleri's native milkweed plants are topping out at 5 ft. tall!



These Coleus volunteered to show off in Stormi Bivin's garden.

Ready to Garden? Gardening School is Now in Session

Gardening School— Course 3, is being offered in West Palm Beach on November 16th and 17th, and will be staffed by seven of the finest experts, just waiting to share their southern know-how with you!

Come join us for two days of instruction in topics covering everything from native plants to elegant container gardening. Also included, a “*Look and Learn*” tour of the Mounts Botanical Garden by Master Gardener Trainer, Emily Marois. Don’t miss this class that all levels of gardeners rate as excellent!

Forms will be available at our September 11th, meeting or register online.

Contact Anne Hlasnicek at: ideasmith@comcast.net
561-793-7290



Paula Crawford wrote the book on container gardening in south Florida. She will be one of the experts at the Garden School Course 3.



Wellington Garden Club Gets Ready for Arbor Day, January 19, 2024

—Katherine Wagner-Reiss, Arbor Day Chair

Following the initiative of FFGC president, Tina Tuttle, each garden club will plant a tree for Florida Arbor Day on January 19, 2024. Carol Ralph and I met with Will Gurney, Superintendent of Landscape for the Village of Wellington, and selected Rotary Peace Park as our site and *Pinus elliotti* (slash pine) as our species.

The slash pine is so-called because its native habitat is the slash—swampy ground overgrown with trees and shrubs. In addition to its beauty, we chose slash pine because it is a native keystone plant in our county: keystone plants do most of the work of supporting caterpillars and pollinators.

Under Will Gurney’s supervision, Rotary Peace Park includes more native species each year, including many native orchid plants. The icing on the cake is that the FFGC was able to have Duke Energy support each club with a \$100.00 grant for the tree and a \$5.00 grant for mulch, so that this project will not be a costly one for our WGC. Please mark your calendars now for January 19.



Memorial Day

May 29th, 2023 Photos by Paige Griffin



**Bonnie Olie,
Fairy God Mother**

I spent the summer up in West Chester, PA with my six year old granddaughter, Maria. She saw a fairy garden at a local garden shop and wanted to build her own. We used all natural materials except for the metal roof. She plays in the fairy garden while her mother works in their veggie garden.

We had so much fun!

Wellington Garden Club Celebrates National Garden Week—*Twig Morris*

On June 4, WGC celebrated National Garden Week, a project of National Garden Clubs, Inc. We created floral arrangements and distributed them to Wellington’s municipal offices, library, fire stations and the Mall at Wellington Green. The club received a proclamation from the Wellington Village Council and Mayor Anne Gerwig declared the week of June 4-10, 2023 as National Garden Week.



Station 25 with Twig Morris



Kathy Siena & Will Gurney



Carol Ralph with Community Center staff



NGW Station 27 with Mary Kastner



Wellington Mall Mkt. Mgr. Rachelle Crain & Twig Morris



WGC Bouquet Makers



MaryKastner at Station 20



Jessica Greenburg, Twig & Caarl at Town Hall



Firefighters at Station 30



Wellington Library Manager, Cat Ng & Donna Baxter

“We are so grateful for the support our Club receives from the Village of Wellington. National Garden Week is a wonderful opportunity for us to demonstrate our appreciation with floral gifts.”
—Carol Ralph

My Gardening Minute

by Anne Hlasnicek



Bulbs for Sunny Summers

We all love to find new ideas for our yards! Discovering Florida weather-friendly plants is a puzzle. **New thought:** consider gardening with bulbs. Not the common Crinum which does grow to awesome size. Instead try some as tiny as **Rain Lilies**. Just 10 inches tall, these sun lovers bloom all summer long, especially after rainy days.



Eucharis Lily (*Eucharis Grandiflora*)



Rain Lily (*Zephyranthes*)

Eucaris Lily is a marvelous shade plant and grows under those big trees. Blossoming at least twice a year with evergreen foliage, it is the perfect break from invasives! Also recommended for dappled shade, try Blood Lily, Oxblood Lily, Clivia and miniature varieties of Agapanthus, such as White Wedding Bouquet.



Blood Lily (*Scadoxus Multiflorus*)



Bush Lily (*Clivia Miniata*)



Agapanthus



Great Ideas!

My great idea was to use a palm as a stake for tomato plants. It worked. My plant produced delicious fruit ...and then an animal enjoyed it too.—Gigi Bard



How to keep strawberries fresh longer—Twig Morris

- In a bowl, combine $\frac{1}{2}$ cup vinegar with $2\frac{1}{2}$ cups water
- Add strawberries and soak for 2 minutes
- Remove strawberries and place on paper towels to dry completely.
- Place strawberries in an open container and refrigerate. The vinegar removes any bacteria or fungus which makes berries spoil faster

Let's go see a show!

The 2023-24 theatre line-up at The King's Academy is a fabulous one and WGC will again be offering group tickets for several of the shows, all Saturday matinee 1:00 pm performances. We can purchase advance group tickets well before tickets go on sale to the public – that means great seats for us! We've been doing this for several years and our members really seem to enjoy these theatre performances.



The season begins with **SINGIN' IN THE RAIN** on September 30th. We sold a record-breaking 63 tickets for this performance - \$315 comes back to WGC as an easy fund raiser! If you purchased tickets, you'll receive them at our September 11th membership meeting.

BIG FISH tells the story of Edward Bloom, a traveling salesman who lives life to its fullest...and then some! Edward's incredible, larger-than-life stories thrill everyone around him—most of all, his devoted wife Sandra. But their son Will, about to have a child of his own, is determined to find the truth behind his father's epic tales. Overflowing with heart and humor, **BIG FISH** is an extraordinary musical that reminds us why we love going to the theatre—for an experience that's richer, funnier, and bigger than life itself. **We will attend Saturday, November 11, 2023.**



The TKA Theatre Company and The King's Academy Symphony Orchestra will join to bring you **THE BEST OF BROADWAY**. This theatrical concert will bring to life some of the best musical numbers that Broadway has ever produced ranging from Vaudeville to modern day musicals. This one-of-a-kind performance will include impressive special effects, grandiose instrumentals, dynamic acting, and impressive vocal performance that you will not want to miss. **We'll be offering tickets for Saturday, February 3, 2024.**



PETER PAN, based on J.M. Barrie's classic tale and featuring an unforgettable score, is one of the most beloved and frequently performed family favorites of all time. This high-flying Tony Award-winning musical has been performed around the world and delighted audiences for 60 years. Featuring the iconic songs, "I'm Flying," "I've Gotta Crow," "I Won't Grow Up" and "Never Neverland," and a rousing book full of magic, warmth, and adventure. **We'll be offering tickets for Saturday, April 13, 2024.**



Great local entertainment (located in West Palm Beach) and an easy fund raiser! As in past years, 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 TKA box office (\$32-\$47).

What a great way to see a wonderful theatre performance and also support your Club – it's a win/win for everyone. Watch your email in-box for future ticket order information, plan ahead and be sure to mark your calendar. Order forms with details will be made available throughout the year, announced well in advance of each show (about three months). Questions...contact Stormi at (561) 352-0129 or sbivin@aol.com. Thank you for your support.



September & October Events

—Brought to you by Kristi Westrup, Caren Griffin and Terrianne Tuskes

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.

SEPTEMBER

11

September Presentation: Discover the Everglades in Our Own Backyard
Speaker: Lauren Butcher, Education Coordinator, Grassy Waters Preserve

Grassy Waters Preserve is a pristine and vital remnant of the greater Everglades ecosystem. Join us to learn more about the history and ecology of this remarkable wetland wilderness and what we can do to conserve, protect and enjoy its waters.

Coastal Cleanup
John D. MacArthur Beach State Park, N. Palm Beach, FL
Saturday, 8:00 - 10:00 AM

SEPTEMBER

16

SEPTEMBER

21

Around & About—Thursday, 10:30 AM
Palm Beach State College
15845 Southern Blvd.
Loxahatchee FL 33470

Tour Guide: Dr. Vetaley Stashenko
Free Carpools leave locations at 10:00 AM
We will enjoy a private tour of the grounds of the Loxahatchee Groves campus featuring plantings of native orchids led by Dr. Stashenko, professor of Microbiology, Anatomy and Physiology. Closed toe walking shoes and long pants are suggested. Lunch will follow at Agliolio, 12793 W. Forest Hill Blvd., Wellington

SEPTEMBER

23

8th Annual Tree Planting at the Wellington Environmental Preserve—Saturday, 8:30 AM

Let's celebrate Public Lands Day by planting more trees at the Preserve. Bring gloves, a trowel, hat, sunscreen, and water.

CARPPOOL MEETING LOCATIONS FOR AROUND & ABOUTS
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

OCTOBER

2

October is Bring A Friend Month!
October Presentation: Permaculture
Speaker: George Soria, Founder and Chairman, South Florida Permaculture Resource Center

George Soria is a healthcare advocate and visionary entrepreneur. The South Florida Permaculture Resource Center is a vital division of the nonprofit, *47 Million Reasons Healthcare Movement, Inc.* Throughout his extensive professional career in healthcare, George has had the firm belief that permaculture holds the key to restoring harmony with nature, establishing a self-sustaining world, and fostering holistic well-being. With a strong emphasis on education, the center addresses all crucial aspects of life, meeting the fundamental needs for a healthier body, mind, and soul.

Around & About —The South Florida Permaculture Resource Center, 10:00 AM
8346 7th PI South, WPB, FL 33411
Free Carpools leave locations at 9:40 AM

OCTOBER

12

Mr. Soria will take us through a five-acre food forest where a natural ecosystem has been created without fertilizers and GMOs. Learn how permaculture can returns us to a self sustaining world in harmony with nature. Closed toed shoes are suggested. Lunch will follow at Bonefish Mac's, 10880 Forest Hill Blvd., Wellington

OCTOBER

3

Adopt-a-Street
Wellington Dog Park
Tuesday, 9:00 AM

You're invited to our next
Sunset Socials

Friday, September 15th from 4-6 PM,
Diane Peaden, 13486 51st Pl. N,
Royal Palm Beach

Friday, October 6th from 4-6 PM,
Kimberly Helms, 9443 Granite Ridge Lane,
West Palm Beach

Bring a bottle of your favorite beverage and an appetizer. Spouses are welcome.

2023-2024 Yearbook—Pick up your copy
at our September 11th meeting

Wellington Garden Club
Wellington, Florida
2023-2024 Yearbook



Member of
National Garden Clubs, Inc.,
Deep South Garden Clubs,
Florida Federation of Garden Clubs,
and District X

2023-2024 Yearbook Contributors—Design: Carol Ralph; Editing and Proof Reading: Stormi Bivin, Twig Morris, Margaret Tamsberg, Carol Ralph
Cover Photos: Petra Russell, Mary Anne Greely, Tara Hunter

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

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
teacad_registrar@yahoo.com
561-386-4903



PapiChulo Restaurant received the Unsolicited Landscape Award in the Small Business category on May 16, 2023
Stormi Bivin, Haley Nochstine, Asst Mgr.; Rosa Villatoro, Chef; and Carol Ralph

Laughing at Life with Helga Mesmer



Gardeners' French Manicure

Dueling Sunsets from Bobbi Ziegler



& Twig Morris



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
Deadline for November Issue: October 10, 2023

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