



# Allamanda News

The Newsletter of the Wellington Garden Club March 2025



## *It is Spring again !*

*We are having perfect weather and I am enjoying it thoroughly. I can work in my garden pulling weeds, then sit on a bench and soak in the fruits of my labor indefinitely. Isn't that what gardening is all about? And then the phone buzzes. Oh well!*



Photo by Adrienne Bendich

*Our January Around & About was all about...Bamboo!*  
*Tropical Bamboo Nursery Garden January 16, 2025—Photos by Susie Stevenson*



*Talk about Tall!!*



*Annette and Kimberly at the Entry.*



*The Whole Group at Tropical Bamboo Nursery and Garden.*

# *Florida Arbor Day*

*WGC members planted a native red-berry stopper tree in the Wildflower Meadow in Greenbriar Park on Florida Arbor Day, January 17, 2025.*



**L to R: Sandy Sklar, Twig Morris, Lisa Ferrano, John Siena, Kathy Siena, Katherine Wagner-Reiss, Annette Lubsen and Maria Wolfe.**



**L to R: Lisa Ferrano, Designer of the Wildflower Meadow at Greenbriar Park; Maria Wolfe, FFGC District X Director; Annette Lubsen, WGC Co- First Vice President; Justin Ramich, Troop 125 Boy Scout who designed four benches for the Wildflower Meadow as part of his Eagle Scout project; Will Gurney, Wellington Superintendent of Landscape.**

## FFGC Corner

Wellington Garden Club members enjoyed cruising with the FFGC Board on the Royal Caribbean Voyager of the Seas, January 6-11, 2025.



Beach Day at Coco Cay in the Bahamas  
Maria Wolfe, Twig Morris, Susan Hillson



Twig Morris and Barbara May



El Castillo, Mayan ruin



Susan Hillson, Twig Morris at Chichen Itza in Mexico, one of the 7 new wonders of the world.

## Upcoming Events

On Thursday, March 20, 2025, the District X FFSJ (Flower Show Judges) have invited an award-winning Floral Designer and the 3rd VP of FFGC, Leticia Gunn to dazzle us with three floral designs. See info. on this page.

The Spring District X meeting will take place on Thursday, April 24, 2025, hosted by the Garden Club of Fort Pierce. You need to be registered to attend. Each club is asked to bring a floral design that represents a country of the world. These designs will not be "judged"; however, the attendees will be voting on them.

**Convention**—April 8-10, 2025 in Jacksonville. This educational and fun event will feature the installation of three District X members: Our new District Director, Mary Ann Cody, FFGC Recording Secretary, Blanca Longo Rancourt, and FFGC 3rd VP, Maria Wolfe. For information, go to <http://www.FFGC.org>



**Leticia Gunn**  
"Winning Ways  
and Fabulous Fails"

Join us as FFGC  
3rd Vice President, Accredited  
Flower Show Judge  
and top award  
winning Floral Designer  
Leticia Gunn,  
demonstrates her journey  
creating award winning  
floral designs.

Thursday, March 20, 2025  
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Gardens Presbyterian Church  
4677 Hood Road, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33418

Tickets: \$30.00 pp  
Open to all Garden Club Members and guests  
Registrar: Susan Hillson

To reserve your seat, email: [susanhillson@gmail.com](mailto:susanhillson@gmail.com). Make check payable to: District X FFSJC  
Mail by March 3rd, 2025 to: Susan Hillson, 8959 Via Prestigio West, Wellington, FL 33411  
Reservations received after March 3rd, 2025 will be \$35.00



*Annette Lubsen started this cutting from Diane Peadon's garden.*



*A cutting of Monstera albo was gifted to Lori Custer.*

## *Gardeners' Gallery Winter Edition*



*Adrienne Bendich's knock-out orchids & a pint-size orchid on Bobbi Ziegler's patio.*

# *Ferns are FUN!*

OK, so let me begin by saying I am no expert on ferns....I am not a master gardener like so many of our members; but I love gardening and learning new things about plants and how to propagate them. So I humbly come to you in this article to tell you about my adventure with ferns.

When we lived in Nassau, Peter and I had a lovely little house with a stone-floored patio. At some point we decided to build in some wood rafters across the area to provide a bit of shade and also make the patio more aesthetically pleasing.

We began to hang plants in baskets from the rafters, noting that the sun would provide some 'filtered' light that created shadows as the sun moved across the sky; it was a little too much light. So we added some light shade-cloth (similar to the nursery cloth used in their enclosures) to give us the type of sunlight that would be perfect for several of our ferns. Yes, perfect.

Ferns need moderate humidity and moist warm temperatures, The soil should be kept moist but the container must drain well. I do not know how soils are graded here in Florida, but we used a mix of garden soil (#6) with equal parts of potting soil (#4). Mix #6 contained 45-55% planting mix, plus composted tree bark and Canadian Sphagnum. Mix #4 contained 40-48% Canadian Sphagnum, pine bark compost, horticultural grade Perlite and coir (the pith found between the fibers of coconut.)

Avoid fertilizing with manure, compost or peat. An occasional fertilizer, such as Osmocote, fish oil or any low-burn fertilizer (i.e. low in salts) or Miracle-Gro once a month are all good boosters.

We had huge ferns called "Macho" ferns, (Nephrolepis biserrata) to the tiny fragile ferns such as the "Walking Maidenhair" (Adiantum caudatum). There were Stag horns, Silver Hare's Foot, Fluffy Ruffles, Blue Star and of course the Boston Ferns.

*Give your ferns fresh air,  
some sun and water, and watch 'em grow!*



**Birds Nest (curly leaf) Asplenium nidus**



**Lacy Fern Microlepia strigosa**



**Fancy Frill Fern Nephrolepis falcata**



**Blue Star Fern Polypodium aureum**



**Fish Tail Fern  
Microsorum punctatum**



**Birdsnest (Celery fern)  
Asplenium nidus**



**East India Holly Fern  
Arachniodes simplicior**



**Dwarf Holly Fern  
Cyrtomium falcatum**

## *Total Profit, Total Fun!*

*We made \$1,039  
at our Shredding Event  
on January 25, 2025.  
After the fee to Total  
Shredding, we netted  
**\$889!**  
Not bad for three hours  
of "work" by our tireless  
volunteers on a beautiful  
Saturday morning.  
**\$\$\$\$\$***



## *Thank you for the Wekiva Experience!*

*Delia, Elliott, Johanna and Madsen Hartley thank  
Wellington Garden Club members for supporting their  
special experiences at Wekiva Youth Camp.*



*Maria Wolfe and  
Katherine Wagner-Reiss at  
Wekiva Volunteer Training  
Weekend & Youth Camp  
Open House,  
February 7-9, 2025*

# Hats off to Caroline Kessman & WGC

At the January meeting I accepted, on behalf of the Wellington Garden Club, a National Garden Club award for the April, 2023 "Earth Day...Every Day" Horticultural Specialty Flower Show.

Our club chaired 15 Committees, dozens of members entered specimens and Botanical Art projects, making this a Mega Event, no small task! Club members, friends, spouses and Village staff were all responsible for the overwhelming success of this event.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have volunteered with so many dedicated and talented people.

*This Flower Show Achievement Award is a Wellington Garden Club Achievement Award! Congratulations!*  
—Caroline M. Kessman



## "We got the memo!"

Kathy Schneider & Twig Morris  
at the February Meeting.



Many people like my breakfast frittata casserole so I am sharing the recipe.  
—Mary Barbara Alexander



### BREAKFAST FRITTATA

From the Kitchen of: The Northbridge Inn, Concord, MA

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Category: Casserole

Servings: 8 - 10

#### Ingredients:

- 1 pkg. bulk sausage (12 - 16 oz.)
- 1 medium purple onion
- 1 medium green pepper
- 1 medium red pepper
- 2 - 3 cups frozen hash brown potatoes (thawed)
- 1 1/2 - 2 cups shredded cheddar
- 3 tbsp. flour
- 12 eggs
- 1 1/3 cups ranch salad dressing
- 1/2 cup milk
- Dash hot sauce to taste

#### Instructions:

Brown sausage. Saute coarsely chopped peppers and onion. Cool. Add cheese, hash browns and flour. Beat eggs, milk and ranch dressing. Mix all ingredients and pour into a greased large glass casserole.

Bake for about 45 minutes at 325-350 degrees until eggs are set and knife inserted into center comes out clean.

Cut into squares and serve with fresh salsa.



# Membership Meetings



**Monday, March 3, 2025**  
**9:30 AM**  
**Speaker: Dr. Steve Davis,**  
**Chief Science Officer,**  
**The Everglades Foundation**

**Topic: Everglades Restoration Builds Resilience for South Florida**

Dr. Davis is an aquatic ecologist with 30 years of research in the coastal Everglades. He draws upon his past professional experience, including 10 years as professor of wetland ecology at Texas A&M University, to lead The Everglades Foundation's Science Department and science communication efforts focused on advancing Everglades restoration, tracking ecosystem health, and understanding the impacts of sea-level rise. Davis has authored or co-authored more than 70 peer-reviewed science publications and holds a Courtesy Associate Professor appointment in Florida International University's College of Arts, Sciences, and Education.

**Monday, April 7, 2025**  
**9:30 AM**  
**Speaker: Charmaine Peters,**  
**Farm Director, Arden Farm**

**Topic: Smarty Plants—**  
**Safe Solutions for Disease**  
**in Your Garden**



Charmaine Peters is currently the Farm Director at Arden, an award-winning Agrihood in Loxahatchee, FL. Arden Farm serves as a community resource for food education and home-grown fruits and vegetables. Previously, she spent 16 years managing a 60-acre family farm in Pennsylvania. She has been quoted as a farm and garden expert in several national publications, including *US News and World Report* and *Martha Stewart Living*. She also writes monthly articles for *AroundWellington.com*

## Around &ABOUTS

**Thursday, March 13, 2025 10:00 AM**  
**The Arboretum at Constitution Park**  
**2841 W. Hillsboro Blvd., Deerfield Beach, FL 33442**  
**Cost: \$5.00 per person**



The Arboretum at Constitution Park has over 200 exotic trees spread out over nine acres. For ease of viewing select specimens

of these beautiful trees, there is a half-mile walking path, which is wheelchair friendly. You will be treated to flowering tropical fruit trees, palms, wetland trees, bamboo, a tropical rain forest with two misting waterfalls, and a butterfly garden filled with native plants and trees. There is also a nursery which sells various plants and trees including some of the ones found throughout the arboretum. Lunch: Whale's Rib Raw Bar, 2031 NE 2nd Street, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442 (at individual's expense).

### 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**

**Wednesday, April 16, 2025 10:00 AM**  
**Vizcaya Museum & Gardens**  
**3251 S. Miami Ave., Miami FL 33129**  
**Cost: \$25/per person, Limited to 32 passengers**

Vizcaya has been a witness to numerous significant occurrences in the history of Miami over the last century. Initially built in 1916 as the vacation home of the affluent businessman James Deering, it has since evolved into a revered public art museum. Throughout its existence, Vizcaya has actively engaged with the community and played a pivotal role in shaping several important moments in Miami's history.



Lunch at the Cafe at Vizcaya (at the individual's expense).

Wellington Garden Club  
Presents



An NGC Small Standard Flower Show

Wellington National Golf Club  
400 Binks Forest Drive  
Wellington, FL 33414  
561-386-4903

Monday, May 5, 2025

2 PM to 5 PM

Open and free to the public



It's time to renew your WGC  
membership for the 2025-2026  
program year (Sept.—May)

Annual Dues: Single Member: \$45  
Couples: \$65

Due Date: April 1, 2025

**SOME GIRLS ARE  
JUST BORN WITH**



**PLANTS IN THEIR SOULS**

# 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](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 May Issue:  
April 30, 2025

## Wellington Garden Club Officers

President  
1st Vice Presidents

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

Carol Ralph  
Annette Lubsen  
Susie Stevenson  
Kristi Westrup  
Danese Sloan-Kendall  
Marianne Forrest  
Jan Seagrave  
Mimi Borowoy  
Carol Dima  
John Siena  
Maria Wolfe