



# Allamanda News

The Newsletter of the Wellington Garden Club November 2024

*What makes you  
feel thankful?*

*I love Halloween decorations, the cooler fall weather, and I had great fun helping to plan the interesting events we have ahead in November. Even better is being able to enjoy them with all of my WGC friends.*

*Whether you are celebrating Thanksgiving at home or travelling, please be safe and enjoy your holidays with your families and friends.*

*I look forward to seeing you at our Holiday Luncheon on December 2, 2024.*

*—Carol Ralph*



# WGC joins the 2024 International Coastal Clean-up

—Diane Rice, WGC Environmental Chair

Many thanks go out to WGC fabulous four, who participated in the world reknown International Coastal Cleanup held on September 14, 2024, at John MacArthur State Beach Park.

It was organized by Ocean Conservancy and is the largest volunteer event on the planet according to the California Coastal Commission. This is a global effort to clean beaches, raise awareness about pollution and drive policy change for a cleaner environment.

*Every microplastic, twine rope and styrofoam bit picked up saves sea creature lives and shows that we, as humans, care to make the land and sea a better place to live.*



Tony and Hugette Damas, Linda Messina and Diane Rice

## Around & About to Gumbo Limbo

September 19, 2024 Photos by Danese Sloan-Kendall



# *Saving Endangered Florida Panthers*

*October 24, 2024 — Report by Twig Morris*



**PhD, Florida Panther Management Program  
Coordinator, Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission**

Carol Rizkalla gave a wonderful presentation with power point slides. She covered the loss of habitat and other factors that have caused the Florida Panther population to plummet. She also discussed the importance of conservation and the efforts underway that are crucial to insure its survival and how we can help. The program was informative and enjoyable with many questions put forth by the attendees.



***Wellington Garden Club and  
Oleander Garden Club each  
earned a net profit of \$574  
after a donation of \$150 to the  
Florida Panther Fund. A very  
successful and educational  
fundraiser***



**Carol Ralph with Carol Rizkalla and  
Kitty Drew, President, Oleander Garden Club**



*10th Annual Tree Planting  
at Rotary Peace Park*  
—Kathy Siena, Chairman

Wellington Garden Club held its 10th Annual Tree Planting event at Rotary Peace Park on Saturday morning, September 28, 2024. A proclamation from the Village Council, signed by Mayor Napoleone and read by Councilwoman Tanya Sikind, recognized the event.

In partnership with the Village of Wellington, Will Gurney of the Landscape Department, selected about 500 Florida native plants to be placed in pre-dug holes at the Park. Plants included Saw Palmetto, Firebush, Calusa, Butterfly Milkweed, Leavenworth's Tickseed, Frogfruit and others.



Approximately 145 volunteers, including Garden Club members, Council members, former Mayor Anne Gerwig, and of course our Garden Club President, Carol Ralph, came out to enjoy the sunny morning on National Public Lands Day, the last Saturday of September. This special day was established in 1994, to inspire environmental stewardship and connect communities by planting trees and plants.



*The Garden Club and the Village of Wellington look forward to the next annual tree planting on Saturday, September 27, 2025.*



Photo Courtesy of NASA

## I Love This Earth of Mine As I Pray to the Lord

by Diane Rice

I Love this Earth of Mine ...  
 As I Pray to the Lord,  
 I love listening to the birds as  
 They sing so heavenly divine ,  
 I love listening to the frogs as  
 They croak and claim  
 Their mate as mine,  
 And I love watching the squirrels....  
 As the female teases the male  
 As he sets out to dine..

3.

I Love the Earth of Mine ....  
 As I Pray to the Lord,  
 And ask him what will it take  
 To right our wrongs  
 And admit to the greenhouse gases  
 That we make,  
 What will it take ?  
 For others to see that life on Earth  
 Is at a pivotal stake,  
 Now that Greenland is thawing and  
 Sea Level Rising is no longer a fake.

I Love This Earth of Mine ...  
 As I Pray to the Lord,  
 Who now whispers in my ear that  
 I have to be that Messenger today,  
 I have to learn to work with others  
 In some Grassroots sort of way,  
 And Demand that our carbon emissions  
 Go down with each and every passing day,  
 Or this Earth as we know it ....  
 Will not be here to stay.

2.

I Love this Earth of Mine ....  
 As I Pray to the Lord,  
 But now I am asking for forgiveness...  
 For all the waste that we have stored .  
 Asking forgiveness for the  
 Heat index going up,  
 And those ice glaciers falling ...  
 While the world keeps on stalling.

I Love This Earth of Mine ...  
 As I Pray to the Lord,  
 Hoping he will forgive me when a  
 Hurricane comes thru,  
 Hoping he will not wonder long --  
 Why the sea got so hot,  
 As we did nothing at all to stop --  
 This sad Earthly lot.

I Love This Earth of Mine ...  
 As I Pray to the Lord,  
 But now I am wondering ----  
 How will we ever get out of  
 This carbon emission mess,  
 How long will it take  
 For each one of us to confess  
 That we are part of the problem  
 When we do not do more with less.

## *Remembering Cynthia Gardener*

*A tireless advocate  
 for Wellington's Equestrian Preserve.*

*Rest in peace, Cynthia...  
 You will be missed.*

# Member Profile—Meet Carol Krenkel

—Tina Richter and Maria Wolfe

Earlier this year, Maria Wolfe and I visited Carol Krenkel in her beautiful home. It was like spending an afternoon in an art gallery as Carol, a retired public school teacher, is an artist in her own right and an avid collector who has traveled the world.

Her walls are filled with paintings, and collections of everything from pottery to vintage children's books. The highlight? A vibrantly colored chandelier by famed artist, Dale Chihuly whose work can be seen at the Norton Museum.

*What a treat!*



Welcome to my home and studio



The world through Carol's artistic eye



Vintage children's book collection



Paintings line the walls of Carol's light-filled living room



Chandelier by American Glass Artist, Dale Chihuly

# Laugh Yoga (& quotes) with Dee Rolfe



*Aging is when you're a plum and end up a prune.*

*You really know you're getting old when you bend over to tie your shoes and wonder what you can do while you're down there.*

## ...And More Laughs from Carol Lazzarino, Helga Messmer and Tina Richter



**DESPITE THE  
HIGH COST  
OF LIVING  
IT  
REMAINS POPULAR**

# November & December Events

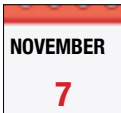
Wellington Garden Club Membership Meetings take place on the first Monday of every month at the Wellington Community Center. Coffee service begins at 9:30 AM. The guest presentation begins at 10:15 followed by the business meeting.



**Speaker: Dr. Paul Gray, Science Coordinator, Audubon Florida**  
**Topic: History of Human Relationships with the Waterfowl Group**

Dr. Paul Gray is a Science Coordinator for Audubon Florida's Everglades Restoration Program. Paul is based out of Highlands County, near the Kissimmee River, and has been working in Florida for 36 years, with the last 29 at Audubon. Paul provides technical support to the Audubon policy teams on water, land, and bird management issues primarily related to Lake Okeechobee, but state-wide issues as needed. This work entails representing Audubon in public and private meetings, and helping develop Audubon oral

and written comments on various policy and technical issues. He is a charter member of the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow Working Group and former co-chair of the Snail Kite Coordinating Committee. He is also known for giving engaging talks and waterfowl is one of his favorite topics.



## November Around & About Doubleheader

**Thursday, November 7th at 9:30 AM**  
**Cluett Memorial Garden**  
**The Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea**  
**141 S. County Rd., Palm Beach, FL**

Originally conceived as "the Spanish Memorial Church" to commemorate Ponce de Leon's Landing in Florida in 1513, the Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea, a Spanish Gothic structure, was built in 1925. In 1931, Nellie Cluett, whose parents were founding members of the church, decided to have a garden designed in their memory. The small garden, only 1/3 acre, reflects an Italian influence, with water features, parterres, and tropical plants orchestrated on two highly-detailed tiers.



**November 7th at 10:30 AM**  
**Kit Pannill's Garden**  
**4 South Lake Trail**  
**Palm Beach FL 33480**

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.

**Both Events are FREE**

Lunch will follow at Al Fresco Restaurant, 2345 South Ocean Boulevard, Palm Beach, FL 33480. At the individual's expense.

### CARPPOOL MEETING LOCATIONS

**Westside: Wellington Community Center Parking Lot,  
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 our Annual  
Holiday Luncheon**

**December 2nd,  
11:00 AM-3:00 PM**

**Wellington National  
Golf Club  
400 Binks Forest Dr.**





January 23-24, 2025  
 The 68th Annual Tropical Short Course. The Theme for this dynamic 2-day event is "Off The Grid – Creative Solutions for the Garden, the Environment, & Floral Design."

Speakers scheduled are:

- Tina Tuttle – President FFGC
- Teresa Watkins – Radio and TV Gardener
- Gil Martin Daigneau – Rancher, Farmer, Environmentalist
- Dr. Steve Davis – Everglades Foundation
- Tex Norwood – Owner, Florida Colors Nursery
- Stephanie Dunn – Landscape Designer

Each day caps off with Floral Design experts who will dazzle you with their creativity and eye popping displays. You will not want to miss how they showcase "Off The Grid" designs. This year's designers are:

- Christine Biscoglio – Master Flower Show Judge and Instructor
- Gina Jogan – Master Flower Show Judge and Instructor

This year's Tropical Short Course will be held at the Wellington Community Center. The cost is \$80.00 for both days or \$55.00 for a one day registration. To register, visit [www.DistrictX.org](http://www.DistrictX.org) and click on Upcoming Events. Scroll down to January and you will find the "interactive" registration form. Any questions, contact Maria Wolfe, TSC Chair at [tcacad\\_registrar@yahoo.com](mailto:tcacad_registrar@yahoo.com)

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and District X Present

**68th Annual Tropical Short Course**  
**January 23–24, 2025**

**OFF THE GRID**

**Creative Approaches to the Garden, the Environment & Floral Design**

Wellington Community Center 12150 Forest Hill Boulevard  
 Wellington, FL 33414  
 Maria Wolfe, Chairperson, [tcacad\\_registrar@yahoo.com](mailto:tcacad_registrar@yahoo.com)  
 Visit [Districtx.org](http://Districtx.org) for more details

# 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 January Issue: December 18, 2024

## Wellington Garden Club Officers

- |                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| President                     | Carol Ralph          |
| 1st Vice Presidents           | Annette Lubsen       |
|                               | Susie Stevenson      |
| 2nd Vice President            | Kristi Westrup       |
| Treasurer                     | Danese Sloan-Kendall |
| Assistant Treasurer           | Marianne Forrest     |
| Corresponding Secretary       | Jan Seagrave         |
| Recording Secretary           | Mimi Borowy          |
| Assistant Recording Secretary | Carol Dima           |
| Parliamentarian               | John Siena           |
| Former President ex-officio   | Maria Wolfe          |