



Allamanda News

The Newsletter of the Wellington Garden Club September 2024

***Welcome to the 2024-2025
Wellington Garden Club season!***

"This newsletter is your window to our members' summer activities and a preview to our future programs. We have wonderful Around & Abouts and Speakers planned. In addition, we will have a 'Mardi Gras' Trivia Game Night in March, plus our ever popular Sunset Socials. And on October 24th, we will co-host an educational presentation with the Oleander Garden Club of Palm Beach titled, 'Saving Endangered Panthers.' I can't wait to see you at our first member meeting on September 9th, 2024!"



—Carol Ralph, President

*Education is key
to saving the
environment*

WGC Turtle Watch Warriors Return to MacArthur Beach State Park to Witness Loggerhead Nesting on Monday, June 24, 2024

—Diane Rice, Environmental Education Chair

How does a loggerhead turtle who has never seen its mother, know how to procreate and lay her eggs? ***Wonder of all wonders, a loggerhead female can lay about 100-300 eggs in one night!***

According to [wikipedia.org/wiki/loggerhead_sea_turtles](https://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/loggerhead_sea_turtles), approximately 80 days later those eggs hatch and the hatchlings go out to sea. If they survive, they may come back to Palm Beach County's Peanut Island as adolescents to eat that special sea grass that helps them transform into adulthood.

No doubt you get that sense of caring at MacArthur Beach State Park. Here the staff not only count how many and which turtle lays eggs; they also rehabilitate hurt turtles. If they believe the turtle can reasonably survive, they tag them and put them back in the sea.

You get the sense of quietness, the sound of the evening ocean waves as the island bids the turtles to come in and lay their eggs.



Turtle Watch Warriors: Cass Stryker, Twig Morris, Diane Rice, Lydia Guckian, Sera Peat, Linda Mackin, Loly Ward-Zulueta, and Evvy Bartley.

A big thanks goes out to our eight turtle watch warriors who ventured out in the beach wilderness to witness this awesome event of turtle nesting.

We ended our tour with a strawberry and a champagne glass of passion juice, cheerfully declaring that all of us in the Wellington Garden Club are passionate environmental preservationists.

Many thanks to WGC President, Carol Ralph and District X Director, Maria Wolfe, who support the committee chairs who make it their mission to promote environmental learning and growth to our youth.

A Letter From a Happy Camper

—Jan Seagrave, Chair, FFGC Wekiva Youth Camp

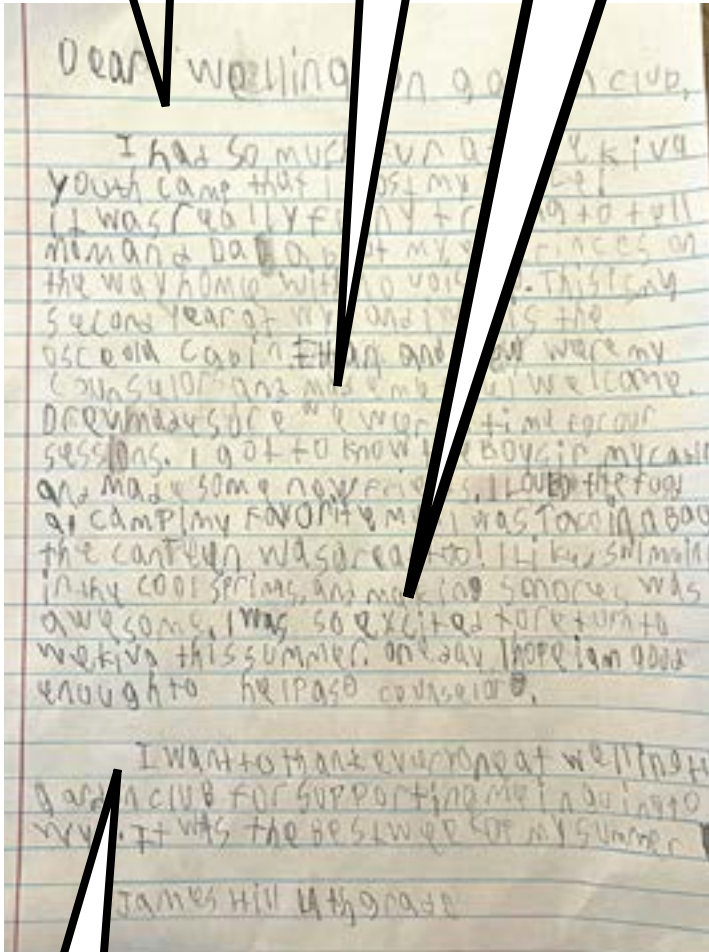
This letter is from James Hill, a Camp Wekiva attendee whom we sponsored. This is his second year and you can hear his enthusiasm in his words. So great to get a letter like this.



I got to know the boys in my cabin and made new friends.

I had so much fun at Wekiva Youth camp that I lost my voice.

I liked swimming in the cool springs and making smores was awesome!



I want to thank everyone at Wellington Garden Club for supporting me in going to WYC. It was the best week of my summer.

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

Wellington Garden Club Celebrates National Garden Week—Twig Morris

From June 2nd through June 8th 2024, WGC celebrated National Garden Week, a project of National Garden Clubs, Inc. We created floral arrangements and distributed them to Wellington's municipal offices.

*“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*



Front: Lana Breslin, Joyce Smith and Carol Coleman.
Back: Margaret Tamsberg, Linda Messina, Bobbi Ziegler, Carol Lazzarino, and Twig Morris.



Maria Wolfe, Michael Napoleone, Carol Ralph and Twig Morris.



Twig, Carol and Maria with Heather Navarro, and other Wellington Community Center staff.

Scout Butterfly Garden Community Service Activity

—Kathy Siena, Chairman, Youth Garden Clubs

Scout Pack 125 and Troop 125 of Wellington came out in full force once again to help beautify our Butterfly Garden in Greenbriar Park near the Wildflower Meadow and Tree Area. With the mulch contribution from the Landscape Division of the Village of Wellington, the scouts and parent volunteers were able to clean up the grossly overgrown butterfly garden. They weeded, raked, planted new natives, and mulched the entire garden. Maintenance should be done every 4 months.

WGC volunteers and their children also came out to help guide and advise the scouts and volunteers in careful weeding and planting, not to harm our beautiful natives. ***Because of the financial support of our WGC members, we were able to purchase and plant the following new native plants: Gold Lantana, Tall Ironweed, Woolly Tea Bush, Coontie, Mubly Grass, Wild Coffee, and Corkystem Passionflower. We were also able to design and create new Plant ID signs and a beautiful “Welcome to Our Butterfly Garden” sign.***

We thank the WGC members, scouts and the parent volunteers for their generous support and hard work to keep the butterfly garden in good order. Be sure to visit the garden, which is open daily, except Thursday, when it is closed.



It's called a Brain Tickler

"I found it in the New York Times."—Amy Schwed

Name a flower starting with each of the letters F, L, O, W, E, R. Multiple answers are possible.

F----- **L**----- **O**----- **W**----- **E**----- **R**-----

Hint: Possible answers: Foxglove, Lily, Orchid, Wisteria, Edelweiss, Rose

Summer on the Patio

My orchids have loved the hot, humid weather this summer. —Adrienne Bendich



Potanara Burana beauty, also has great fragrance.



Vasca Sasicha x (Keeree San x Colestis), has a light floral fragrance



Psychopsis Marisa, quite amazing and a sequential bloomer

My Day Blooming Cereus... from four little cuttings to this—50 buds and blooms all at once!—Joan Kaplan



Mary Kastner's summer pots featured purslane with fancy leaf caladiums and one large planter of Moonlight fancy leaf caladium.



*Stormi Bivin's Lifesaver plant, *Huernia zebrina*.*



And Stormi's Crape Myrtle is really showing off.

Kids Cancer Center meets Kimberly Helms and discovers succulents

On June 24th, 2024, I took part in a special event with **The Kids Cancer Center** in Royal Palm Beach. Each year the center runs a summer camp and every week has a different theme. The program I participated in was a week focused on nature. Linda DeSanti told them about my succulent presentations and classes, and they expressed a desire to have me come in that week.

I gave a short talk on succulents, and then the kids started working on two gardens—one involved painting a terracotta pot to use for their garden and the other garden would go in an apple snail shell.

First the kids painted their pots. While they dried, they glued a small round piece of wood to the bottom of their snail shell, then they made their terracotta succulent gardens, and finally completed their snail gardens.

Everyone enjoyed the experience. Some of the kids told me it was their favorite activity at the camp.

I donated some of my own plants and the art materials for the pots. Altman Plants graciously donated numerous beautiful succulents as well. Altman Plants is the largest succulent producer in the world.

You can find their plants at Home Depot, Lowe's, Walmart, and numerous small garden centers. You'll find their products under the brand names: Smart Planet, Oasis, and Living Treasures.



Minute for Gardening by Anne Hlasniecek



Pentas are favored flowers for Monarchs

At our September 9th club meeting, the Minute for Gardening will feature Dale Barnhart. Celebrating his 50th year in horticulture and president of Keep Palm Beach Beautiful, Dale will share what he has learned after designing and creating 150 butterfly gardens in our area. Working with our schools, he has spread the love of the plants and butterflies that beautify our lives.



Joe Pye Weed, one of Lisa's favorite natives

October's Minute for Gardening will feature Lisa Ferrano, sharing her favorite topic, native plants. Enticed into the subject by the Native Plant Society, Lisa's gardens have now been featured on the Native Plant Garden Tour. Her advice to plant favorites and where to get them will be excellent. That's on October 7th during our Club meeting.



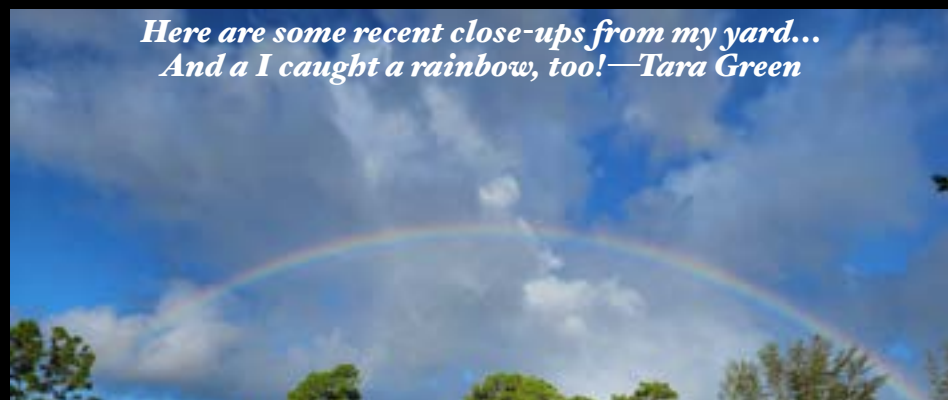
High Tea with WGC

August 18, 2024 Photos by Twig Morris and Carol Lazzarino

Twenty-three Wellington Garden Club members, friends and family enjoyed a lovely high tea in August at Serenity Tea Garden in West Palm Beach.



Up Close in the Garden



*Here are some recent close-ups from my yard...
And a I caught a rainbow, too!—Tara Green*



*When a Peacock Moth visited my back yard,
we got up close & personal.—Kathy Hood*

*I took this photo in Yellowstone
National Park. Near Tower Falls.
That's a Zerene Fritillary, Painted
Lady and a Skipper nectaring on a
thistle.—Janet Jones*

Let's go see a show!

Mark your calendar for these group theatre event dates. Prepare to be amazed by the local talent at The King's Academy's state-of-the-art auditorium, nearby in West Palm Beach. **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).

It's an easy fundraiser and a win/win for everyone involved. There is not a bad seat in the house! So, plan ahead. Order forms with details will be sent throughout the year, well in advance of each show.



Charlie and the Chocolate Factory This Roald Dahl adventure promises to ignite your imagination. Prepare to be whisked away into the whimsical world of Willy Wonka as he unveils the gates to his mysterious factory to young Charlie Bucket and four other lucky golden ticket holders. They partake in a transformative odyssey through Wonka's realm, complete with chocolate waterfalls, mischievous nutty squirrels and Wonka's inquisitive Oompa-Loompas. Advance tickets are already on sale for this Saturday, November 16, 2024 matinee performance at 1:00 PM. Order forms have been emailed.



West Side Story TKA Theatre Company is thrilled to present a timeless tale that captivates audiences with its powerful story and unforgettable music. This modern retelling of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet is set in the vibrant streets of 1950s New York City, where tensions between rival street gangs, the Jets, and the Sharks, provide a backdrop for the poignant love story of Tony and Maria. West Side Story continues to resonate with audiences today, through its dynamic choreography and emotionally charged performances. Saturday, March 8, 2025 matinee performance at 1:00 PM.



THE BEST OF BROADWAY. Back by popular demand is Best of Broadway, where the talented performers of the Smith Family Conservatory of the Arts will grace the stage once again. This spectacular event will showcase the incredible skills and creativity of our students as they bring to life some of the most beloved Broadway performances. To enhance the experience, our symphonic orchestra will provide musical accompaniment. Get ready to be swept off your feet. This year's production will have two acts and an intermission. Saturday, April 5, 2025 matinee performance at 1:00 PM.



Night of Jazz, The annual Night of Jazz concert is an evening that celebrates The Great American Songbook. From beautiful ballads to exciting Latin pieces, there is sure to be something for everyone to enjoy. This concert will feature the very fine musicians of The King's Academy Jazz Ensemble as well as vocalists and amazing guest artists. Friday, April 25, 2025 at 7:00 PM.



Laugh Yoga (& quotes) with Dee Rolfe

The Perfect Tribute

When asked to sing a song at the grave site of a man who had no family, the songwriter drove to the cemetery and stopped when he saw two men standing next to a pile of dirt. He got out his guitar and sang **Amazing Grace**.



When the songwriter finished singing, one man said it was mighty powerful. The other man agreed and said, "I've been installing septic tanks for 40 years and never had anyone sing at an installation."



Young at heart, Old everywhere else.



"The only thing I grow in my garden is tired."



I'm a good egg—just a little cracked.

More Laughs from

Helga Messmer



Carol Lazzarino



September & October 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.

SEPTEMBER

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Presentation: Common Pests & Fungus on Trees and Turfs

Speaker: Mike Sands, Tangled Roots Orchid Nursery

Mike Sands is a certified horticulturalist and Master Naturalist with over two decades of experience in the field. He currently serves as the head horticulturalist and head spray technician for the Village of Wellington. At Tangled Roots Orchid Nursery, Mike specializes in bifoliate Cattleyas, often referred to as the misunderstood Cattleya. The nursery is also known for its innovative 3D printed biodegradable pots and a newly developed fertilizer line. Mike is a past president of the Tropical Orchid Society and has been elected to the board of the local Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association.

September

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

Coastal Cleanup
John D. MacArthur Beach State Park, N. Palm Beach, FL
Saturday, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

SEPTEMBER

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SEPTEMBER

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Around & About—Thursday, 10:30 AM
Gumbo Limbo Nature Center and Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Program Boca Raton. Lunch: Mykonos Grill Restaurant, Boca Raton (at individual's expense.)

SEPTEMBER

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10th Annual Tree Planting
Rotary Peace Park, Wellington
Saturday, 8:30 AM

Let's celebrate Public Lands Day by getting together to plant Florida natives. Bring gloves, a trowel, hat, sunscreen, and water.

OCTOBER

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October is Bring A Friend Month!
Presentation: Bromeliad Propagation

Speaker: Tom Ramiccio, Tom Ramiccio Bromeliads

When Tom Ramiccio ran out of space for bromeliads in his Lake Worth yard, he planted them on trees, creating a vertical garden of the colorful, water-holding "vase" plants. He estimates he has about 7,000 bromeliads in his collection. Tom has more than 40 years of professional marketing and public relations experience. He served three terms as mayor of the City of Lake Worth and was President/CEO of the Greater Lake Worth Chamber of Commerce for 10 years.

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

OCTOBER

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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 return us to a self-sustaining world in harmony with nature. Closed-toed shoes are suggested. Lunch: Nick's 50's Diner, 1900 Okeechobee Blvd, WPB, FL 33409 (at the individual's expense).

Saving Endangered Panthers—

A joint presentation hosted by Wellington Garden Club and Oleander Garden Club of Palm Beach

Wellington Community Center—in the Ballroom, from 2:00–3:30 PM.

OCTOBER

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You're invited to our next
Sunset Social

Friday, October 25th 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.



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 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

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
Visit Districtx.org for more details

*Photos from my summer vacation in July. Niagara Falls, Canada
and canola fields at Prince Edward Island, Canada— Sharon Millette*



I took this photo of a string of polo ponies at our spring tour of equestrian stables. I think the pink from the bougainvillea makes the shot. —Janet Jones.



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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2nd Vice President
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