



Allamanda News

The Newsletter of Wellington Garden Club May 2024



What a wonderful year it has been!

This year has flown by, and we have had such fun. It has been a good year, full of wonderful speakers and great Around &ABOUTs. Our fundraisers have been quite successful, including the Stable/Garden Tour netting WGC just under \$17,000! This is the result of YOU, our dedicated club members, working together to make this happen. Thank you for that.

Our 2nd Vice President and Around &ABOUT Chairs are already working on the speakers and outings for next year. It's going to be another great one for Wellington Garden Club! I'm so looking forward to sharing all of that with you in September.

I wish you all a wonderful summer. Be safe!

**Carol Ralph
President**



Spring Luncheon, 2024

—Photos by Paige Griffin May 6, 2024



WGC proudly awards scholarships to five students



On May 6th, 2024, the Wellington Garden Club awarded \$1,000 scholarships to five students, majoring in fields related to horticulture, botany and environmental studies. The winners were selected on both their academic proficiency and need. The Scholarship Committee is proud to present \$1,000 awards to

Michelle Redfern - Palm Beach State College, Palm Beach Gardens

Lisbet Roa - Palm Beach State College, Belle Glade

Delia Hartley - University of Florida, Gainesville

LeMarria Battle - University of Florida, Gainesville

Cory Evans - Palm Beach State College, Lake Worth

Since the inception of scholarship awards, WGC has awarded close to \$50,000, most of which was given in the last 8 or 9 years



“The Scholarship Awards are the single most important civic contribution Wellington Garden Club makes to the community.”

—John Siena, Chairman

Unsolicited Landscape Design Award

WGC Submits Two WINNING Entries!

—Stormi Bivin, District X ULDA Chair

12 nominations were submitted by various garden clubs in District X for this year's annual ULDA (Unsolicited Landscape Design Award). This is a fun District competition because the property owners have no idea they are under consideration! Four divisions are judged: Small Business, Public Facility, Private Residence, and Private Facility with one winner for each division. WGC's winning entries were: Big & Small Dog Ranch Rescue and Palm Beach County Constitutional Tax Collector's Office, both in Loxahatchee.

Small Business—Big & Small Dog Ranch Rescue in Loxahatchee. Judges say, "Surprised how large and well-maintained the facility is. Unusual, diverse plant material arranged in harmonious order."



Public Facility—Palm Beach County Constitutional Tax Collector's Office in Loxahatchee. Judges say, "Aesthetically beautiful! Hardscape and landscape harmoniously arranged. Interesting, diverse plant material." Who says the DMV can't be beautiful?



Private Facility—Piper's Landing Yacht & Country Club in Palm City. Judges say: "Very colorful and eye catching. Wonderful array of various plants adding to the aesthetic beauty. Overall, a wonderful landscape project."



Private Residence—The Carnevale Residence in West Palm Beach. Judges say: "Cute, well-maintained small property."



Many thanks to our teams of NGC Landscape Design Consultant judges who visited all the nominated properties and scored them according to NGC standards.

Carol Ralph and Maria Wolfe received the award certificates at the 2024 Spring District X meeting on April 18th in Palm City. They will inform the property owners of this accolade and present them with their framed certificates.

*This is a wonderful program. Let's keep it going.
Congratulations to this year's winners!*

2024 Village of Wellington F.L.O.W.E.R. Award—*Maria Wolfe*

On Saturday, April 20, 2024, the Village of Wellington celebrated Earth Day. One of the exciting moments is when the Tree Board presents its Fabulous Landscapes of Wellington Earning Recognition (F.L.O.W.E.R.) Award. This award recognizes and shows appreciation for outstanding landscape designs and maintenance. The Wellington Garden Club was thrilled that our member, Lisa Ferrano, was this year's recipient. Her landscape is filled with native trees and plants that encourage pollinators and wildlife. Lisa has contributed so much to WGC with her knowledge and especially the creation of the new Wildflower meadow at the Dog Park on Greenbrier.

*Congratulations,
Lisa.*



Around & Abouters take the Lily Cruise—Caren Griffin

Here are some pix from the River Lily Cruise we enjoyed on April 25th. The weather was perfect! We learned about the history of the north fork of the St. Lucie River Aquatic Preserve and saw the many plants and wildlife that live there including several American alligators, turtles and birds. After the cruise we enjoyed a delicious lunch at the New England Fish Market and Restaurant in Jensen Beach.



Gardeners' Gallery

The month of January, even though it was cold, resulted in several fragrant orchids blooming in my garden. —Adrienne Bendich



The first orchid, a cross of more than two genera, *Rhyncho laeliocattleya* (Rlc.) Hawaiian Agenda 'Florida winter' has 10 huge blooms (each 6 in wide and 8 in long) and has a light, floral fragrance.



The second is also a mix of genera: *Rhynchostylis gigantic red* has 2 spikes and more than 50 blooms and has a spicy fragrance.



The third orchid is Den. Hawaii stripes. This is the first time it has bloomed since we bought it in 2019 as a small plant.

It was worth the wait.



The fourth orchid is a cross that has not been given its own name yet. It is *Epicattleya Dark fire* x *Pseudoepidendrum*.

Each flower feels like plastic and can last for months.

Take a seat in Annette Lubsen's garden



Scout Pack and Troop 125 tour new Wildflower Meadow and Clean up Butterfly Garden

—Kathy Siena, Chairman,
Youth Garden Clubs

Scout Pack 125 and Troop 125 of Wellington spent the morning visiting the newly established Wildflower Meadow made possible through a grant given by the Florida Wildflower Foundation. It is in Greenbriar Park and is a partnership with Wellington Garden Club and the Village of Wellington. The scouts, parents and leaders were led on a private tour of the meadow by WGC Wildflower Meadow chairman, Lisa Ferrano.



Scouts touring the Meadow.

Some of the native plants the scouts learned about were black-eyed Susan, wild petunia, dune sunflower, coontie and more. These grasses and wildflowers provide habitat for insects, birds, and small mammals.

After the tour of the Wildflower Meadow, the energetic, young scouts, along with their parents and leaders also spent the beautiful, spring Good Friday morning weeding, tidying up and spreading fresh new mulch at the adjacent native plant/butterfly garden.

The garden was first established by Wellington Garden Club in 2010 in partnership with the Village of Wellington. It has grown and flourished to be a beautiful native plant garden and host to different South Florida butterflies such as the Monarch and Atala.

The community is welcome to visit both the wildflower meadow and butterfly garden to learn more about the beauty of nature in our Village.



Scouts, leaders and parents mulching and weeding.



Wildflower Meadow Chairman Lisa Ferrano and scouts tour the meadow.



WGC Youth Garden Club Chairman Kathy Siena & Scout Pack & Troop 125.

***Wellington Garden Club
thanks our local scouts and
the Village of Wellington
for their support.***

Gardeners' Gallery—Wowsa!



Tabebuia chrysotricha is messy but beautiful!—Danese Sloan Kendall



*Joan Kaplan's Day Blooming Cereus on April 4th
plus her Night Blooming Cereus*



*Alison Albury says, "I know nothing about
Bogonias, but I have a bed of beauties.
They must love the lack of care!"*

Let's go to *FERIA de las FLORES*

July 26–August 5, 2024
Medellin, Columbia, S.A.
—Ann Hlasnicek

In a city that has regenerated itself from drugs to blooms, Medellin is now known as ***the town that grows all of the flowers.*** There are orchid farms to visit plus a 1,000 acre botanical garden!

The photos here are of the silleteros or desfile de silleteros, a procession of large lightweight fan-like frames decorated in flowers. My husband and I plan to attend this wonderful event this summer.

I invite you to consider adding it to your calendar, too.

Wherever you travel or stay this summer, enjoy the gardens and come back to club next year with new sights to share! Happy safe and green trails.—Anne



“Fun With Flowers” Graduates take a Bow with Their Creations



Gardners Gallery—Amaryllis Edition

The Amaryllis, with its striking, trumpet-shaped flowers and tall, sturdy stems, is a symbol of strength, determination, and radiant beauty. Its name is derived from the Greek word 'Amarullis,' which translates to 'sparkling' or 'to sparkle.' The Amaryllis originates from South Africa's Western Cape region and was brought to Europe by the Swedish botanist, Carl Linnaeus in the 18th Century.



Pretty in Pink - 'Belinda's Dream' Rose and Amaryllis from the garden of Mary Anne Greely



Kathy Schneider couldn't fit her entire plant in one photo!



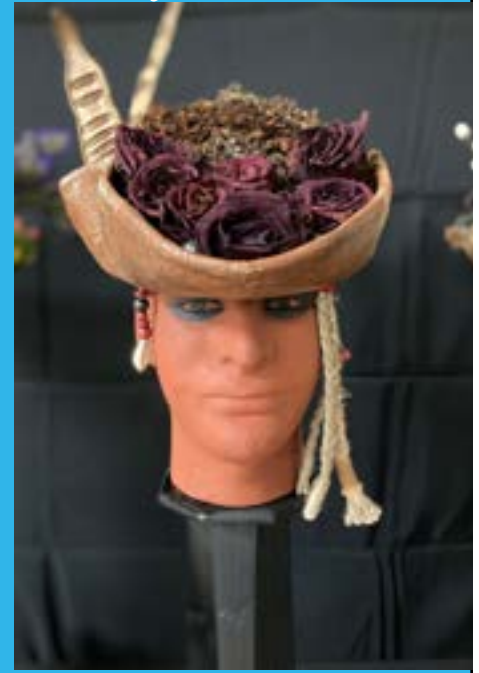
Two beauties from Margaret Tamsberg

Discover Paradise...The Florida Keys

WGC members win big at the NGC Standard Flower Show presented by the Boca Raton Garden Club April 20-21, 2024



Christine Biscoglio



Caroline Kessman



Susan Hillson



Dee Rolfe



Twig Morris

We had a good time and easy pickings for our street cleanup on Greenbrier Street between Arrow Club Drive and Wellington Trace. Hope to see you next year.
—Jim thompson



WGC Hosts a Beautiful Tour of Private Equestrian Stables and Gardens in Wellington

Note: Our Equestrian Garden Tour was super successful, bringing in almost \$17,000. I thought you would like to read this fabulous article submitted by two of the visitors. Enjoy!

—Story by Krista Martinelli
Photos by Monica Kallas

If you've been "around Wellington" for a while, you know that the winter months are also the equestrian months. You have easy access to all the great equestrian events including polo, dressage and the Winter Equestrian Festival (hunter/jumper competitions). But when do you ever get a window into the real world of those who live the equestrian lifestyle? Fortunately, the Wellington Garden Club presented a private tour of five of the loveliest equestrian farms on Saturday, April 6th.



The full day tour began at 10am at Village Hall in Wellington, where we were greeted by friendly members of the Wellington Garden Club, handing out pink wristbands and tour booklets so visitors could enjoy the five equestrian farms in any order they wished.

Santa Rita Polo Farm

So, we (my photographer Monica and I) began with the Santa Rita Polo Farm, owned by Melissa Ganzi, a polo player herself. We were given access to a golf cart to explore the property on our own.



The beautiful, modern looking barns were covered in bright pink and purple Bougainvillea. We enjoyed walking through the barns, seeing the many polo ponies and seeing some of them during their tail braiding session. We also strolled by the bright pink sign "Polo is beautiful" amidst the stables.



Eagle Tree Farm

The next stop was Eagle Tree Farm, which included a large, covered arena for practicing dressage and a beautiful barn, owned by Lourdes Fernandez Miranda. The arena includes a mirrored wall, so the rider and horse can see



themselves as they practice their "dance" routines. We had the luck of watching someone practice during our visit. United States Dressage Olympian, Robert

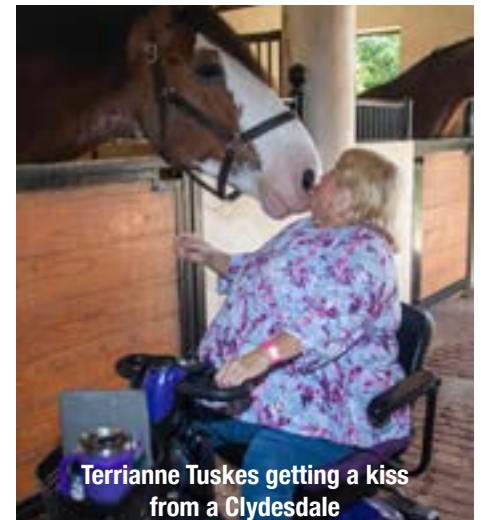
Dover is the trainer here and the barn space is rented out to many dressage riders.

Mida Farms

Our second stop was nearby at Mida Farms, home of 17 champion Clydesdales, other horses, sheep and donkeys, all owned by Victoria McCullough.



The entrance of the property leads to a gorgeous stone mansion, covered in ivy, and includes a grand prix field. We were in luck—Victoria was on hand to answer questions and even to open up refreshments for all of her visitors. Victoria was happy to answer questions and guide us to the "cookies," so that we could give her Clydesdales a snack. Beautiful, gentle horses with unending appetites. And chandeliers hang from the stable ceilings. A wonderful experience.



Terriane Tuskes getting a kiss from a Clydesdale

Continued on next page



100 Years!
Congratulations

to all the members
of the Florida Federation of
Garden Clubs, Inc.

Through conservation,
beautification, education and
advocacy for sustainable
environmental practices you
have made a difference in our
communities and the
State of Florida.

Thank you to

Tina Tuttle, President

Maria Wolfe

District X Director

Carol Ralph, President

Wellington Garden Club

for generously giving
your time, and wealth of
knowledge for the benefit of
others. Your leadership is
an inspiration to all.



Helgstrand Farm

Next up on our tour was Helgstrand Dressage USA, covering more than 45 acres of beautiful fields and gardens. The property includes a large, covered arena, a grand prix grass field and an all-weather ring. Managed by Olympic Dressage champion Lars Peterson, the farm includes dressage horses as well as show jumpers.



River Run Farm

Our last, but not least stop was River Run Farm, owned by Phoebe Wesley, who was on hand to give group tours. Phoebe has won many championships, including amateur hunters and hunter derbies. Phoebe showed us how the stables were wider and more comfortable for the horses because they were built in the 80's when wider stables was the norm.



She also stopped by a groomer, who was giving an acupuncture-type treatment to one of the horses. She explained that her horses are given many treatments

like this, including showing us a machine that the horses stand on and receive vibrations from the ground up. Phoebe also explained that they intentionally built several areas within the farm with different kinds of surfaces for the horses to walk on, and that the variety is good for them. These are some of the best hunters in Florida, and she spares no expense in caring for them. Meanwhile, the beautiful farm includes many native plants and a small koi pond.



Our tour concluded right around 4pm, as planned. Monica and I realized we were both exhausted—in a good way—from the great day, including the walking around and the bright sun. I also really enjoyed the in-between moments, when we saw the many other equestrian farms, in between our official stops. As the winter equestrian capital in the world, Wellington is rich in equestrian culture.

This beautiful tour, presented by the Wellington Garden Club, is really the best way to get an inside peak into that world.

Planting Your Garden

***Plant three rows of peas
Peace of Mind
Peace of Heart
Peace of Soul***

***Plant four rows of Squash
Squash Gossip
Squash Indifference
Squash Grumbling
Squash Selfishness***

***Plant four rows of Lettuce
Lettuce be Faithful
Lettuce be Kind
Lettuce be Patient***

***Lettuce Love One Another
No garden is complete without
Turnips...***

***Turnip for Meetings
Turnip for Service
Turnip to help one another***

***To conclude, we must have
Thyme...***

***Thyme for Each Other
Fhyme for Family
Thyme for Friends***

***Water freely with patience and
cultivate with love. There is much
fruit in your garden because you
reap what you sow.***

Have a great summer!

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



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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