



# Allamanda News

The Newsletter of the Wellington Garden Club May 2025

*Up, up and away!*

*Dear Friends,  
It has been my pleasure to serve  
as your President for the last two  
years. During my tenure we have enjoyed  
wonderful speakers, great Around & Abouts  
successful fund raisers and much, much more.*

*This is the result of YOU, our dedicated  
club members, working together to make  
this happen. Thank you for that.*

*As this chapter closes for me,  
a new one opens for our new  
Co-Presidents, Susie Stevenson  
and Annette Lubsen. I will  
continue on the Board, volunteering  
where needed.*

*Please remember to plant a loving  
thought in all you do.*

*Have a great summer,  
Carol Ralph*



## *Double Your Fun With Our New Co-Presidents*



***Remember the jingle for Wrigley's DOUBLEMINT Gum?  
"Double your pleasure, Double your fun!"***

As your new Co-Presidents we will work to bring both ***pleasure and fun*** to Wellington Garden Club for the next two years. It won't be difficult because we have such a talented and versatile membership to lean on! Committees are in place to educate and entertain us all.

One of our goals, is that each of you finds your individual "niche" to contribute and participate along with us. We appreciate your confidence in choosing us as your First Co-Presidents.

We look forward to an exciting future together!

***Annette Lubsen & Susie Stevenson***

***—To educate and foster a love of gardening***

## *Meet Our New Executive Officers*



Left to right: Annette Lubsen and Susie Stevenson, Co-Presidents, Robin Hummel-Johnson, 2nd VP; Danese Sloan-Kendall, Asst. Treasurer; Marianne Forrest, Treasurer; Bobbi Ziegler, Corresponding Secretary; Mimi Borowy and Carol Dima, Recording Secretaries; John Siena, Parliamentarian



Carol pinning Co-Presidents, Annette and Susie



John with a few of his Scholars



Twig, Danese & Carol



# *Celebrating Academic Excellence and Dedication*

## *The Scholarship Awardees, 2025*

***“We are thrilled to announce the recipients of this year’s Scholarship Awards. These exceptional individuals have demonstrated outstanding academic achievements, leadership qualities and a commitment to community service. Their hard work, dedication and pursuit of excellence have earned them our recognition.”***

***—John Siena, Scholarship Committee Chairman, April 2025***



**Getachew Kefelegn Amare**

Getachew is a PhD candidate at UF. His research projects include fertilizer optimization and drone-based remote sensing to understand crop nutrient requirements. He comes recommended by the Everglades Research and Education Center of UF.



**Marco Cassio**

Marco is studying environmental science at PBSC Palm Beach Gardens. He is working his way through college and is striving for a career in the USA Department of Interior where he believes he can make a positive impact.



**Samantha Morin**

Samantha is a distinguished student at PBCHS. She not only exhibits academic excellence, but is a musician, and has leadership roles in her class. Samantha will be studying mechanical and environmental engineering at Princeton.



**Delia Hartley**

Delia is a past recipient of a WGC scholarship and continues to be an excellent student...Dean’s List at UF. She maintains her focus on sustainability studies and plans to be an environmental attorney.



**Keian Finlay**

Keian is an honor student at PBCHS, a member of many honor society and clubs, exhibits leadership in both school and civic activities. He plans to continue his studies in environmental science at UCF.



**Qiuvia Qiu**

Qiuvia is a standout scholar at PBCHS, consistently excelling in her studies and has a passion for environmental science. She will be attending FSU or UCF this fall studying aquatic fauna.

***Your scholarship committee is immensely proud of our awardees and their accomplishments. They represent the future leaders and changemakers who will drive progress and innovation in global conservation. We congratulate them on their well-deserved recognition and look forward to witnessing their continued success.***

# Wellington Garden Club FFGC Award Winners 2025



**Award 11: Yearbook, Carol Ralph, Chairman**

**Award 12: Newsletter, Tina Richter, Chairman**

**Award 25: Garden Therapy Geriatric & Exceptional,  
Linda Messina & Kimberly Helms, Chairs**

**Award 44: National Garden Week, Twig Morris, Chairman**

**Award 42: Tree Planting Achievement, Kathy Siena, Chairman**

**Award 47: Eloise Sniffen Conservation Award,  
Lisa Ferrano, Chairman**

**Award 48: Butterfly Conservation, Barbara Hadsell, Chairman**

**Award 58: "Fun With Flowers" Series, Susan Hillson,  
Linda DeSanti, Twig Morris, Chairs**

**Award 128: Petite Design in a Standard Flower Show  
Twig Morris**

**Youth Poetry: Adaira Langley – Wellington High School,  
Carol Ralph, Chairman**

## TREE PLANTING CERTIFICATES

**7th Place in Florida—327 Trees Planted, Kathy Siena, Chairman**

## DEEP SOUTH AWARDS

**Award 7: Tree Planting, 2nd Place, Large Club,  
Kathy Siena, Chairman**

**Award 18: Wildflower Award, 3rd Pl., Large Club,  
Lisa Ferrano, Chairman**

**Award 31-A: Yearbook Award, 3rd Pl., Large Club,  
Carol Ralph, Chairman**

## NELL COE AWARD—100 Ways to Celebrate 100 Years

**Award 51: Large Club – 100-150 members**

**Completed 70 of 100 Ways**

## *WGC Displays Fire & Ice at District X Spring Meeting*

*As part of this year's featured design presentation at the District X Spring meeting on April 24th in Ft. Pierce, clubs were asked to create a design representing a country. Susie Stevenson and Twig Morris created this design representing Iceland, which is known as the Land of Fire and Ice.*

*"The fire is represented by the orange acrylic ribbon and Pincushion Protea (Leucospermum cordifolium), the ice is represented by the white Mitsumata branches (Edgeworthia chrysantha), the painted foliage and the painted, dried 'Chico Choke' (Manikara zapota). We used a container that reminded us of a mountain in Iceland with a glaze resembling the Northern Lights."*

*—Twig Morris & Susie Stevenson*





# *WGC Submits Three WINNING Entries for the Unsolicited Landscape Design Award*

10 nominations were submitted by various garden clubs in District X for this year's annual ULDA (Unsolicited Landscape Design Award). This District competition is called "unsolicited" because the property owners have no idea they are being nominated. Nominations were received in three divisions this year: Small Business, Private Residence and Private Facility.

This year two private residences in Wellington tied with perfect scores, 100%! Wellington GC's winning entries were: Rau Residence, 10694 Pasa Fino Drive, Wellington. Judges say: *"Choice of plant material and selection perfectly envisioned by this home gardener."* Perez Residence, 12645 Timber Pine Trail, Wellington. Judges say: *"Graceful flow with pops of color in surprising places."*

The winner for a Private Facility: Jupiter Country Club, Jupiter. Judges say: *"Lush and varied plantings with pockets of colorful impatiens enhancing the rhythm and contrast."*

West Palm Beach GC won for: Small Business: Dunkin Donuts in WPB. Judges say: *"Suitable plant material for this small business located on a major highway. Overall appearance clean and welcoming."*

These ULDA certificates were recently presented at the 2025 Spring District X meeting held on April 24 th in Ft. Pierce. The nominating Club received the award certificates at the meeting and will present the owners with their framed certificate and share the exciting news.

This is a wonderful program—let's keep it going. Many thanks for your continued support of this program.

***Take a ride to see the two  
Wellington homes that had  
perfect scores. See what  
our judges saw.  
—Stormi Bivin***



L to R: Susie Stevenson, Annette Lubsen, Lynn Jones, New District X Director, Mary Ann Cody and Stormi Bivin



***Congratulations  
to all our 2025 ULDA winners!***





## *Small Standard Flower Show May 5, 2025*

—Maria Wolfe, Flower Show Chairman

Wellington Garden Club members should be so proud of the NGC Small Standard Flower Show that took place on Monday, May 5, 2025. Our President, Carol Ralph, ended her term on a high note with this beautiful Flower Show in conjunction with the Installation Luncheon and Scholarship Presentation. It was a great day filled with so many achievements. The Flower Show is a gift to our community and could not have been held without the support of each one of you. As the

Show Chairman, I want to thank all of you for entering your Floral Designs and your Horticulture.

We are a dynamic club filled with talented members. The Chairman and ALL who served in organizing the Flower Show deserve a huge amount of my thanks for arriving early and successfully setting up the show. As you browse these photos, may they remind you of the joy, connection, and special moments we shared at this wonderful event.



**Design Division: Best in Show**  
Sera Peat



**Horticultural Division: Section A**  
Sandra Sklar, Begonia "Etna"



**Stormi's Blue Ribbon Coleus**



**Grower's Choice Section B:**  
Margaret Tamsberg, Coconut Orchid



**Joyce Smith**



**Maria Wolfe**



**Grower's Choice**  
**Section C & Award**  
**of Horticulture**  
**Excellence**  
**Lisa Ferrano**  
**Tillandsia fasciculata**



## *The Enchanted Garden of Kevin Fritz*

On Friday April 11, 2025, the last Sunset Social of the year took place on at the home of Kevin Fritz in VillageWalk of Wellington. Over 50 garden club members toured the beautiful gardens he and his partner, Diego, designed and created.

Kevin served refreshments and beverages and provided a harpist for beautiful background music. Though their property is small, they have managed to include numerous plant specimens, two fountains and many orchids high in their trees.

***What a wonderful way to end our season.***  
—Carolee Samuels



Kevin, Diego & Kevin's Mom



Enter the Garden Here



Mary Anne Greely Decorating the Pool



Bobbi Ziegler Next to Water Feature



# *Gardeners' Gallery Springs Ahead*



*Just one frond from Dendrobium Discolor x Gouldii HR 23690.  
There are 7 spikes and about 70+ flowers.  
The whole huge plant grows on a cabbage palm trunk.  
—Adrienne Bendich*



*My African violet garden.  
—Annette Lubsen*



*John and Margaret Tamsberg's Desert Rose  
was stunning this year.  
And the Daylilies delight every day.*



*The seeds on my neighbor's  
mahogany tree this spring.  
—Katherine Wagner-Reiss*



*Mary Kastner has a mountain  
of Pygmy bromeliads on her  
Robelenii palm.*





**Equestrian Trails El Gardens 2025**



**Equestrian Trails Garden  
Kids, Teachers & WGC Volunteers**



**PBCHS Students in the Gardens**



**PBCHS Teaching Lesson in Garden**



**Scout Butterfly Garden**

## *Youth Garden Clubs—Kathy Siena, Chairman*

Youth garden clubs are ending the school year with a bang. We loved the excitement and involvement of teachers and students at Palm Beach Central High School. PBCHS has become a hive of activity this year in both ecological and horticultural domains. We have three teachers, one in environmental, a second in horticultural, and a third with gardening for culinary purposes, who have championed the endeavor.

WGC has actively assisted in these with a special focus on a vegetable garden behind the school. We have provided advice based on our south Florida experience and funded equipment for soil tilling and irrigation.

We were able to make presentations for our scholastic and SEEK scholarships to the environmental honors club and made a classroom presentation on cultivars and other horticultural contributions the Mayans, Aztecs, and Incas gave to the world. John Siena has been lead for WGC on this and he is in awe of the level of interest from the faculty and students at PBCHS.

Equestrian Trails Elementary School also came on board this year and asked for help and advice building and growing both vegetable and fruit gardens as well as butterfly gardens. The school leaders and parent volunteers stepped up and built some beautiful gardens under the guidance of our WGC youth garden club volunteers.

Last, but certainly not least, are the ever faithful and hardworking local scouts who gathered several parent leaders and scouts to clean up the butterfly garden at Greenbriar Dog Park. They weeded, raked, planted new native plants, and spread mulch donated by the Village of Wellington.

We look forward to a new year with these schools as well as Pine Jog Elementary, Elbridge Gale Elementary, and we may see Wellington High School working with us again as in previous years.

***Thank you to Wellington Garden Club members  
for supporting our Youth Garden Clubs and  
thank you to the youth garden committee members.***



**Scouts at Work in Butterfly Garden**



**Teacher Helps Students Grow Veggies at PBCHS**





## *Mardi Gras Trivia—Stormi Bivin*

A fun and challenging game of trivia was held on Mardi Gras, March 4th at the Mall at Wellington Green. 25 of us gathered at “The District” room for a game of general knowledge trivia (produced by Stormi Bivin and Carol Ralph). Our afternoon together continued with a delightful lunch at California Pizza Kitchen, also located at the mall. WGC partnered with CPK to participate in their “Pizza With A Purpose” fund raising opportunity. This wound up being a fun and profitable afternoon for the club and raised slightly just under \$100.



## *Around & About March 13th*



left to right: Carol Ralph, Margaret Tamsberg, Laura Johnson, Danese Sloan-Kendall, Cynthia Craig, Irma Philmus, Evvy Bartley, Sandy Plummer, Diane Peaden, Sandra Clarke, Yoly Ward-Zulueta.



*It was a beautiful trip, perfect weather and great company.*



# Minute for Gardening

Propagation & Care of Cordylines/Ti Plants— Stormi Bivin

This is a "Minute For Gardening" presentation I gave at the February 3rd WGC membership meeting. Thought it might be good support info.

## PROPAGATION

- Cut 1-1/2" logs from stem (cane) with pruners
- Fill pot with soil about 3/4 full & lay logs horizontally in pot on top of soil
- Press into soil so still visible (about 1/2 way), cover loosely with a bit of soil
- Water and place in bright or filtered light (not full sun). Roots should develop in 2 to 4 weeks, new vertical shoots should appear in 1 to 2 months.

## OR

Cut a several inch long stem with leaves still at top, dip cut end in rooting hormone and plant in a pot of soil or directly in the ground, being sure to press soil firmly around stem so plant does not wobble.

Ti plants can get "leggy" (tall canes with leaves at the top only). You may cut unattractive lanky stalks as low as 6 inches from the top of the soil. New leaves will start to grow at that cut, but it does take a while. Be patient and you will be rewarded!

## CARE

- Can be grown as a house plant or landscape plant in tropical climates.
- Size: 2-10' tall, 3-4 ft. wide (depending on variety)
- Likes filtered sun, or morning full sun, not direct afternoon full sun (provide bright indirect light when grown indoors)
- Avoid prolonged exposure to temperatures below 50 degrees F
- Water 2X week when rain is insufficient during the growing season, 1X every 2 weeks in winter
- Likes a humid environment
- Toxic to humans & pets



## Laugh Yoga (& quotes) with Dee Rolfe

Sometimes I wake up grouchy.  
Sometimes I let him sleep.

Other people my age  
sure are old!

Never believe in never!





## Poetry Corner

On Tuesday, April 22, Kathy Siena and Carol Ralph presented certificates to Adaira Langley for her poem, *Waste No More My Excess*. She is a 9th Grader from Wellington High School and received awards from FFGC, 1st Place from Deep South Garden Clubs, and her poem has gone on to NGC from whom we have not yet heard.

### *Waste No More My Excess*

*I grow in size, with crops vast and fair,  
Yet my excess lies wasted, bare.*

*Flies gorge the rest, scraps in the dirt,  
Unattended and discarded, I deem hurt.*

*Even in neglect, I find ways to grow,  
Yet, my hope is dim, passion slow.*

*When despair had darkened every scene,  
A savior came and wiped me clean.*

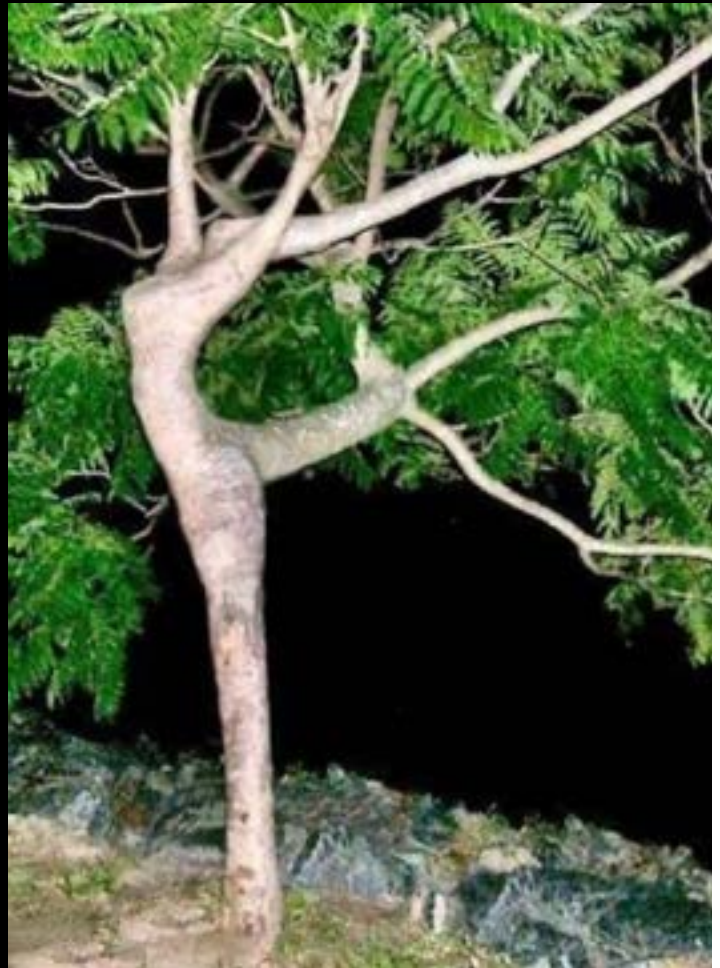
*Fulfilled I am, abundant and strong,  
My bearing valuable, I belong.*

*With compassion shared, burdens eased,  
Hearts altered, my soul relieved.*

*Kindness spreads like wildfire,  
Each person find a caring desire.*

*With a new purpose, I now proclaim,  
Waste no more—let love stake its claim!*

*—Adaira Langley*



*Poetry in Motion*  
*Submitted by Stormi Bivin*

### A Zip Ode to Wellington from Caroline Kessman

Each year O, Miami sponsors a poetry festival called Zip Odes—simple five line odes praising your Zip Code Area. Each number represents a word in each of the five lines with zero allowing for any number of words.

Here is mine—33414

**Wellington Garden Club  
Not just flowers!**

**Friends, Education, Community, Inspiration  
Florida!**

**No Snow Winter, Hooray!**



# WGC Annual Plant Sale

April 26, 2025



Our Group of Fabulous Volunteers



Big Success with the Kids...Planting Seeds.



## Summer Project:

How to clean terra cotta pots—Maria Wolfe

- Clean large residue (dirt, debris, white salt, fungus) off of your pots with a toothbrush or stiff brush.
- Fill a bucket with 4 cups water.
- Add 1 cup white vinegar. Stir. (Ratio is 1 part vinegar to 4 parts water. You can use straight vinegar.)
- Add terra cotta pot. You may hear fizzing when you drop pot in mixture. Soak for 15-30 minutes, remove pot.
- Using the same toothbrush or stiff brush clean off any residue loosened by the soak. Make sure you clean the inside and out. If not all of the salts are coming off, soak again.
- Rinse the pot thoroughly.
- Very important: allow pot to dry thoroughly for 48 hours before you stack or use.





# Thinking Ahead



## Plan Now to Become an Adopt-A-Street Volunteer

Wellington Garden Club has a history of environmental activism. Participation in beach clean ups, speakers to increase our education, and participation in town halls to save fragile preserves from turning into housing developments. But one additional way that Wellington Garden Club helps our local community is by participating in **Adopt-A-Street**. Once a quarter members of WGC are encouraged to pick up trash along a 1-mile stretch of Greenbriar Boulevard near the Wildflower Meadow and Dog Park. Using grabber sticks and gloves faithful members of WGC fill garbage bags with trash picked up along that stretch. It only takes 1 hour and the result is self-satisfaction in beautifying Wellington.

*Won't you consider devoting an hour of your month to helping this worthwhile endeavor?*



Plan now for the fall season at The Kings Academy. Mark your calendar for these group theater 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.





*Let your imagination take flight. 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](mailto:kaalbury@gmail.com)



### Wellington Garden Club Officers

#### Co-Presidents

Annette Lubsen

Susie Stevenson

#### 2nd Vice President

Robin Hummel-Johnson

#### Treasurer

Marianne Forrest

#### Assistant Treasurer

Danese Sloan-Kendall

#### Corresponding Secretary

Bobbi Ziegler

#### Recording Secretaries

Mimi Borowy

#### Parliamentarian

Carol Dima

#### Former President ex-officio

John Siena

Carol Ralph