



Member of The National Garden Clubs, Inc., Deep South Region,
Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.—District VII

WE LOVE OUR MEMBERS!

February 2023

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Gwen Allen

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***SWEETWATER OAKS
GARDEN CLUB
FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING***

Date: Monday, February 13, 2023

**Time: 9:30 A.M. Social
10:00 A.M. Meeting**

**Location: Village On The Green
500 Village Place
Longwood, Florida 32779**

**Program: Topic - "How to Grow More
In A Small Space"
Presenter - William Pitre,
Certified Square Foot
Planning Instructor & Avid
Square Foot Gardener**

Inside this issue:

Calendar	2
President's Message	3
Programs - February	4
Membership	4
Horticulture	5
Youth Gardeners	5
Garden Fair	6
Garden Fair Sponsors	7
Ways & Means - Plant Sale	8
Florida Arbor Day: Trees	9
Misc. Club Information	10
January Meeting Photos	11
January Game Day Photos	12

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 BD - Carolyn Robinson
				Hospice 		
5	6 BOARD MEETING Sweetwater Oaks Community Center 810 Fox Valley Dr. Longwood	7	8	9	10	11 
12 	13 GENERAL MEETING Village on the Green Meeting Room 9:30 AM Social 10:00 AM Meeting	14 <i>Valentine's day</i> ♥♥ Youth Gardeners: Live, Native Reptiles 	15	16 Hospice 	17	18
19 BD - Bernadine Delafield	20 PRESIDENT'S DAY	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				



A Word From Our President

February was the month that Trevor and I used to plan a short get-away from cold temps of the north and head south, often Florida or the Caribbean, in search of sunshine and warm weather. Now years later, we live here all the time! How can we be so fortunate?



Not only do we enjoy beautiful weather in February, but the month has several important days to celebrate--**two president's birthdays and Valentine's Day.** Both Washington and Lincoln left a legacy of outstanding leadership practiced with **honesty and uprightness that we all admire and celebrate.** **Valentine's Day is a yearly reminder that the precious values of love and respect for one another should be shared with those close to us.** It is these expressions that lift the heart and give us the will to go on in a world full of ill-health, misfortune, and many daily challenges. An encouraging word, an apology, a compliment, or even a smile of **understanding can raise our spirits.** **I am thankful that Valentine's Day comes in February just when we need its essence the most.**

Our second fundraiser of this garden year is behind us! Just a few days ago a good group of fun-loving game players gathered to play their games of choice under the pines at Wekiva Youth Camp. Min Schwenderman and Claire Griffis, along with their teams of volunteers, pulled it off with grace and tenacity! We look forward to their report at the February board meeting.

With the Garden Fair just a month away, let us support Margaret Kirkpatrick, our "Fair Chair" in every way we can. It takes the entire club membership to pull off something as big as a garden fair. It is this event that has traditionally been our biggest fundraiser. Reinstating our Garden Fair this year is an attempt to get back to where we were in the past. To do that successfully, everyone is needed. Have you found a place to serve? Save the dates of March 4-5, 2023 for our Garden Fair event.

As your president, I am grateful for each of you and for the capable and enthusiastic leadership we have within Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club to plan and organize our fundraising events. God bless us all as together we forge ahead towards the sweet aura of success.

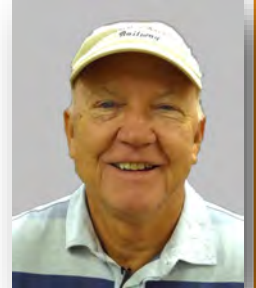


*Bernadine Delafield, President
Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club, Inc.*

PROGRAMS - FEBRUARY 2023



Our speaker for February is William Pitre, Certified Square Foot Planning Training Instructor and avid Square Foot Gardener. He will be showing us how to grow more in a small space.



With prices of vegetables going up, it sounds like a good idea. Don't miss out.

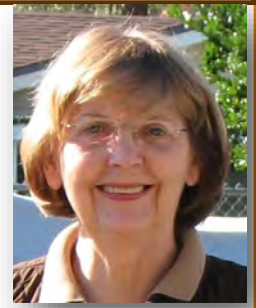


*Arthur Allison
Debbie Allison
1st Vice President - Programs*

MEMBERSHIP



The General Meeting held on January 9, held at Village on the Green was attended by thirty-six members and three guests.



The guests were Kirsten Collins a previous member. Yvonne Winter who plans join us, a guest of several people. Liliana Castillon, a guest of Ann Todd.

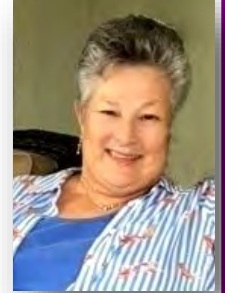
We need your help, when you introduce new members please stay in touch with them after they join. Over the past 2-3 years we have new members join, but do not attend again. **We understand the difficulties during these past years but it's time for people to get together again.** Please volunteer, and make new friends.



*Marjorie Abbas
Diane Hennessey
2nd Vice President - Membership*

HORTICULTURE

We have endured two hits of cold weather so far this winter. I don't think it is done with us yet. Even plants that were covered have damage from the below 30 degrees weather for several days. I have already been out cutting foliage that is dead to the ground. Annuals, gingers, heliconia plants, banana leaves and many others have been cut back. Roses can be pruned back by one third **at this time.** Weeds grow all year round and it's a good time to take the whole plant out before it spreads its seeds. Some are already blooming. It is a good time to start seeds for flowers and veggies indoors. When done with cleanup, mulch will be welcome to finish it off.



If you had "brown patch" and your lawn people treated it, stay off the lawn now and don't water for a couple weeks and turn off your sprinklers as that encourages the brown patch to spread. If it rains, keep your irrigation off. Everything is not growing now and there is more cold on the way. If you take care of your own lawn, now is a good time to put pre-emergent on your lawn to discourage weeds.

Continue to groom houseplants. Enjoy orchids as they are starting to bloom. When blooms are done, cut off the stem and put cinnamon on the cut as it will act as an antiseptic for the plant. This hint was given to me by Charlie Chapman's Orchids. We should see better weather mid-March. Keep on gardening.

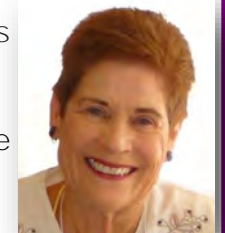


*Louise Gould
Chairperson - Horticulture*

YOUTH GARDENERS

Jim DUBY from Seminole County will bring his Central Florida reptile buddies to a meet and greet at Starchild Academy in February.

The terrariums the 3rd graders put together last month will be entered in the Orange County Fair.



*Ann Todd
Chairperson - Youth Gardeners*



Garden Fair
Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club

Sweetwater Oaks Garden Fair

Saturday, March 4 and Sunday March 5, 2023



WOW! We are a GO for our Garden Fair thanks to all members who have jumped in and helped calling vendors and sponsors. Our Garden Fair is only 1 month away – Saturday, March 4th and Sunday, March 5th, 2023. This is a scary thought with so much to get done by then.

Your Garden Fair committee is working hard to make this year's event a success. It is a huge job and we still need your help to make it successful. You can help in some way from acquiring sponsors and vendors (the backbone of our success), making telephone calls, helping with setup and take down, vendor helpers, and working at the information booth. Or you can help by simply spreading the word about our fair to all your friends and neighbors. You will be hearing more from our committee chairmen and a sign-up sheet will be available at the February general meeting. Please feel free to contact myself or Joyce Anderson, and we will be happy to fill you in on the details in the areas that you might be interested to help.

You can also become "A Friend" and donate toward our scholarship fund, contact Carole Baird, and she will be happy to accept all donations.

Additional information from your committee chairs is included in an attachment to the email distributing this Newsletter.

Happy gardening,

Margaret Kirkpatrick
Chairperson - Garden Fair

GARDEN FAIR SPONSORS

We need your help with Sponsors and Friends for the Garden Fair. This is our largest fundraiser, and the profits go to our scholarship fund. The community loves our Garden Fair. To ensure its success, we all need to put our very best efforts to work!



You have contacts, whether you realize it or not, and some can be found in the **following ideas... insurance agent, dentist, landscaper, pest control company, credit unions, plumber, painters, credit union, and restaurants to name a few.**

Please print a copy of the Sponsor Information sheet attached to the email distributing this newsletter, or call me and I will deliver one to you, and make a connection with your contact. You should point out (1) they will be showing their willingness to be part of this community event, (2) they will be supporting our scholarship fund, explaining the UF extension program for horticultural students and camper assistance for Wekiva State Park camps run by FFGC, and (3) their name will appear as sponsor on our marketing materials.

If your contact does not wish to be a sponsor, please offer them another way they can show their support — become Friend of the Garden Club for only \$100.00. Their donation goes to the scholarship fund too. That form is also attached to this email for you to print out, or again call **me and I'll get some forms to you. This is also the form you will use for your own donation, or use the Sponsor form for a personal sponsorship, and we thank you for any contribution!**

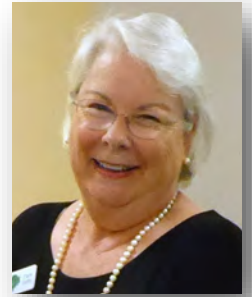
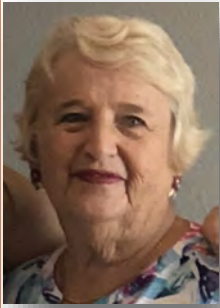
Since we ALL are members of the Sponsor/Friend Team, we are counting on your help to make this year a success by reaching out to your contacts.

Thanks you for your support!



Carole Baird
Garden Fair Sponsor Coordinator

Ways and Means - Spring Plant Sale



Spring Plant Sale
NEW DATE – April 14-15

Brrr! Cold! Is this Florida winter weather? This year it seems to be. The low temps and frosty early mornings have frozen and stunted many of the cuttings and seedlings headed for the plant sale which was previously scheduled for late March. The Spring Plant Sale has been rescheduled to April 14-15 to give more time for starting seeds, pampering frosted plants and establishing new cuttings.

All kinds of plants are welcome at the Plant Sale -- landscape plants, herbs, vegetables, houseplants, flowering plants, trees, and succulents. Our spring shoppers are always looking for flowering plants, many of which start well from seeds. U of FL notes that the typical last frost for Central Florida is February 14*. They suggest some easy-to-grow flowers to start now from seed for transplanting in March are zinnias, torenia, salvia, marigold, gomphrena and sunflowers. Other easy and decorative plants include ornamental peppers, coleus, and flowering basil such as Siam Queen. Mark your calendar for the new Plant Sale date and for seed starting time. Help to boost the blooms!

Spring Plant Sale.
April 14 & 15
At Shirley Hungerford's Home

*<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles>



*Shirley Hungerford, Lynn Griffis, and
Cheryl Nordstedt
Ways & Means Co-Chairs*

FLORIDA ARBOR DAY CELEBRATES TREES



***Celebrate Trees During Florida's Arbor Day**

Larry Williams, UF/IFAS Extension Agent, Okaloosa

Arbor Day was started in Nebraska on April 10, 1872 as a tree-planting day. Now is a good time to plant trees and to recognize the many benefits trees provide to our landscapes and communities.

Each state recognizes Arbor Day based on the best planting time for trees. Florida's Arbor Day is the third Friday in January. National Arbor Day is celebrated the fourth Friday in April. Planting trees now allows young trees to become established before hot spring weather arrives.

Realizing the value or benefits of trees is the first step to keeping trees as part of our landscapes and communities as this development happens.

Trees and wooded areas provide economic, social and environmental benefits. A few of these benefits are mentioned below.

Trees provide economic benefits. In Florida, properly placed trees around buildings can result in forty percent less cooling energy than a treeless site. Shade is only part of the reason this is true. As trees release water through their leaves (called transpiration), air around the plant is cooled as much as nine degrees Fahrenheit. This can **result in money saved on cooling your home during Florida's hot summers. Deciduous trees have a cooling effect** during summer when they are full of leaves but allow the warming effect of the sun to shine through during winter because their leaves are gone.

Studies have shown that homebuyers are willing to pay more for homes with trees. Trees increase appraisal and sale price. This generates higher property and transaction tax revenues. Property taxes provide government with revenue to fund public services.

Trees provide health benefits. Research has shown that a walk-in wooded area can relieve psychological and emotional stress. Medical studies reveal that patients recover faster in facilities surrounded with trees and rooms offering views of wooded areas.

Trees provide environmental benefits. The USDA Forest Service reports that a healthy tree holds about thirteen pounds of carbon annually. This reduces the level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. According to studies by the USDA, wooded areas reduce runoff by five to thirty five percent. This helps reduce flooding, erosion and acts as a filter to improve water quality.

For additional information on trees for North Florida, visit the UF/IFAS Extension website listed below or contact the University of Florida Extension Office or the Florida Division of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Forestry Office in your area. http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIC_Trees

**Footnote: Charlotte White, our district director, forwarded the article above distributed by the University of Florida Extension Office. It is excellent! SWOGC celebrates Arbor Day, so I know this will be of interest to all of us. Let's preserve our environment by protecting our trees.*

*Bernadine Delafield
SWOGC President*



Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 915233

Club Flower—Rose
Club Bird—Cardinal

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Deep South Region

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

District VII

Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole & Sumter Counties

Organized—January 9, 1974

Federated—January 27, 1975

Incorporated—September 14, 1992

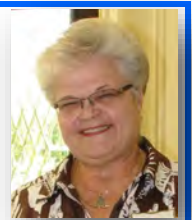
We're on the web!

www.swogc.org



If you know of a member who could use an extra kind thought, please contact me. I would prefer receiving the information by email, but please call me if you don't have email access.

Linda Richcreek



The purpose of Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club is the education of its members and the community in their relationship to horticulture, conservation and environmental needs, as well as the art of floral design.

Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club, Inc. Meeting Schedule

BOARD MEETINGS

First Monday of the Month September-May at 10:00 AM
810 Fox Valley Drive, Longwood, Florida or Zoom

GENERAL MEETINGS

Second Monday of the Month, October 2021-May 2022
9: 30 AM Social, 10:00 AM Meeting
Village on the Green, 500 Village Place, Longwood, off Sabal Palm drive South.
Meeting is in the "Longwood Meeting Room."

HORTICULTURE GROUP MEETINGS

Throughout the Year - See the Calendar of Events for Dates, Times and Location.

YOUTH GARDENERS

Second Tuesday of the Month at 9:00 AM

FLORAL DESIGN

Every Other Thursday at Hospice of the Comforter 12:30-3:00 PM



**Violet is the
February
Flower of
the Month**

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GAY MOMBERGER—MORE ON SHUTTERFLY



JANUARY GAME DAY

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GAY MOMBERGER—MORE ON SHUTTERFLY

