



GAME DAY – NOT JUST PLAYING AROUND

Another very successful Game Day has come and gone. Game Day isn't just about getting together with friends, playing games, winning raffles, and taking home crazy bargains from the Silent Auction. For our club, it's also about making money. By just about any financial standard out there, this is a very effective fund raiser.

Total Game Day receipts were \$2,689! If you were a numbers person (and I am), you'd want to know what makes up that amount.

43% - Tickets – Please keep selling tickets to your friends and neighbors. This was the source of the majority of receipts.

40% - Silent Auction – You may not want it anymore, but somebody else obviously does. Even though we didn't sell all our silent auction items, we sold a lot and made a lot! Keep cleaning out your cupboards and sending those items to the silent auction.

Special thanks to Marjorie Abbass for the condo raffle item. The bidding became heated – and our club benefited. The condo accounted for 45% of silent auction receipts and 18% of total Game Day receipts!

18% - Raffles and 50/50 – these were especially successful because Carole Baird won the money tree and kindly donated it back to the club. Thank you!

The next piece of the puzzle is **“what did it cost to generate those receipts?”** In terms of cash going out of our club's coffers, not much. What our club spent on food, prizes (door prize, table plants, and money tree), and location rental was only **14%** of our receipts - \$365. If we were a business, that would be incredible. It means that **for every dollar our club spent, we earned \$7.37.** These days, who wouldn't love an investment with that kind of return?

But that's **not the whole story.** What makes Game Day so successful for our club doesn't appear in our financial statements. There are people who do so much work behind the scenes, club members who donate food for the delicious meals we serve, and club members who donate those beautiful raffle baskets. All this is at no cost to the club. We estimated the club would have to spend about \$500 to buy the food and raffle items that were not reimbursed. If we had to purchase these contributed items, our all-in costs would be about 30% of total receipts. Again – if we were a business, a net profit of 70% would be phenomenal. **Because of our members' dedication, hard work, and generous contributions toward expenses, we actually netted 86% - \$2,324!**

By Pat Neff

February 2024

Editor

Gay Momberger
gdmomberger@gmail.com

Executive Board

President

Lynn Griffis
griffislynn@yahoo.com

First Vice President/Programs

Pam Frisbey
Pfrisbey@aol.com

2nd Vice President/Membership

Marjorie Abbass
marjorieabbas628@gmail.com

Jacque Body
delsolbmw2@gmail.com

3rd Vice President/Hospitality

Nancy Kelly
Nancykelly4211@gmail.com

Laurie Kennedy
pkennedy1@cfl.rr.com

Janet McIntyre
jpax2313@gmail.com

Recording Secretary

Cheryl Nordstedt
Cnordstedt45@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary

Linda Richcreek
LinRob1574@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Pat Neff
prneff06@verizon.net




Parliamentarian

Joyce Anderson
joyceanderson1404@gmail.com

Inside this issue:

Calendar	2
President's Message	3
Membership	3
Programs	4
Youth Gardeners & Hospitality	5
Ways & Means	6
Garden Fair	7
Horticulture	8
Photos	10

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Groundhog Day 	3
4	5 Board Meeting	6	7	8	9	10
11 Wekiva Youth Camp Open House 	12 General Meeting Wear your GC polo	13 Junior Gardeners 	14 Happy Valentine's Day 	15	16	17
18	19 	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		



February 1 Karen Fichthorn
 February 2 Carolyn Robinson
 February 19 Bernadine Delafield



A Word From Our President

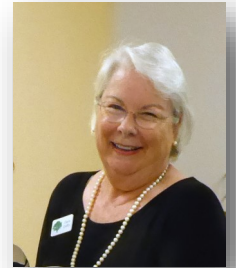
Dear Garden Club ladies and gentlemen,

Vince Lombardi said "Individual commitment to a group effort, gentlemen, that's what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work", and I will add, makes a club successful.

SWOGC has our Garden Fair coming up very soon, and I ask you all to make a commitment to make this project a big success. Be part of this project; yes it's work, but it is also fun. You learn wonderful gardening tips from our speakers, find unusual plants from vendors and enjoy working with friends and making new friends.

See you at the February 12th general meeting, and remember to wear your club shirt or a turquoise colored shirt for our club photo!

Love from the garden and me,

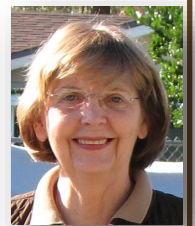


Claire Griffis

MEMBERSHIP



We welcomed 45 members to our general meeting at VOTG on January 8th. Membership at that time was 61 members. Linda Campbell a new member attended for the first time. Two prospective members Jim and Sylvia Ballerstein guests of Pat Neff attended the Game Day event and joined the club. We now have a total of 63 members.



Please add the following to your year book:



Jim & Sylvia Ballerstein, 106 Eastern Fork, Longwood Fl. 32750.
Email address jwb2@cornell.edu. Phone 315-719-7820



Linda Campbell, 114 Beaufort Drive, Longwood, Fl.32779.
email address campbell.linda140@gmail.com Phone 813-494-6044



Connie S. Wang, 533 Via Del Oro, Altamonte Springs, Fl 32714.
email Connieswang@icloud.com. Phone 617-459-0128

Thank you,

Membership Chairs
Marjorie Abbas
Jacque Body

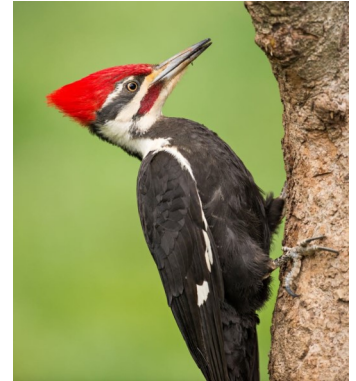
FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Monday, February 12, 2024

9:30 Social

10:00 Program

Village on the Green



THE WILD WORLD OF WOODPECKERS

Speaker: Jason Peliwo, Co-owner of Wild Birds Unltd

SMILE

It's that time again

PICTURE DAY

February 12 at our General Meeting

Wear your Garden Club polo and neutral-color pants

PROGRAMS

March 11

ORCHIDS

Speaker: Teri Scott, Member of Central Florida Orchid Society



April 8

INSPECTS AND CONTROL

Speaker: Kaydie McCormick
Residential Horticulture Agent & Master Gardener
Coordinator for UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County

May 13

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS & SPRING LUNCHEON

Programs Chair
Pam Frisbey

YOUTH GARDENERS



Seminole County Land Management will bring Frank the Box Turtle and his slithery friends to meet our 5th grade class and kindergartners in February. The Terrariums that were put together in December will be entered for judging at the Orange County Fair.

The next class will be held the Tuesday after the General Meeting.



Ann Todd
Chairman, Youth Gardeners

HOSPITALITY

February is the month of love, and I love gardening. And I think most of you do too; that's why we are in the club!! So please come and support the group at the meeting on February 12th. PLEASE WEAR YOUR CLUB SHIRT AS WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A CLUB PHOTO TAKEN THAT DAY.

Greeters: Patty Scott and Judy Shaw (need to be there at 9:20)

Bring dessert: Patty Scott, Judy Shaw, Min Schwenderman, Laurie Kennedy

Raffle plant/flowers: Irene Horner, Margaret Kirkpatrick, Nancy Kelly

See you all there.



3rd Vice President, Hospitality

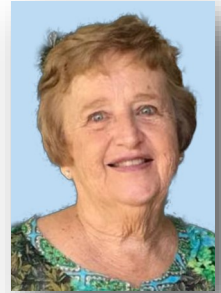
- Nancy Kelly
- Laurie Kennedy
- Janet McIntyre



"A beautiful plant is like having a friend around the house."

Beth Ditto.

WAYS AND MEANS



Mark your calendar now for **Spring Plant Sale – March 22-23**

Set Up: Thursday morning March 21
210 Lonesome Pine Dr.
Longwood, FL 32779

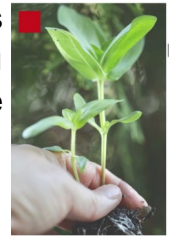
It's time to think about the 2024 Spring Plant Sale. Sure it was frigid this morning, but hang tight, 4 days from now it will be a sunny and hot 85°. Somewhere in these next few weeks you'll just feel it.....time to start cuttings and plant seeds -- even if you have to protect them for a few days in the first couple of weeks.

Typical garden flowers, like marigolds and zinnias, need 40 to 45 days from planting to flower formation. Get your seeds in little pots or garden forms soon, and you'll have lots of vigorous seedlings to tempt our customers. (U of FL notes that the typical last frost for Central Florida is February 14*).

Spring is the best time for free plants. While cleaning out your beds, pot the seedlings that have sprung up under your surviving plants and shrubs. Here, for example, you will see Coleus, Bloodleaf, and Pentas – all survivor plants that will be beautiful by the time of the Plant Sale.

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

200
develop their first set of true leaves. They also are beginning to establish their root systems at this time.



zinnia seedlings



Ways & Means Committee Co Chairmen
Lynn Griffis
Shirley Hungerford
Cheryl Nordstedt

GARDEN FAIR



SATURDAY MARCH 2 – SUNDAY MARCH 3, 2024

THE COUNTDOWN HAS STARTED...3..2..1 in just a few weeks it will be time for our annual Garden Fair. Your Garden Fair Committee is hard at work to make our fair successful. You are the key to spreading the word about the fair with your friends and neighbors. There is a flyer attached that you may print and take with you when visiting your favorite place of business. Help us promote our fair so it will continue to grow and become "the place to be on the first weekend in March yearly".

Our Garden Fair Chairmen are finalizing their plans, and Joyce Anderson will be reaching out to you, our members, to help in various areas. Joyce will be passing around a sign-up sheet at the February Meeting with different areas where we need help an example... we need help in making our visitors feel welcome at the Welcome Table (that is an easy and fun job). Carefully read Joyce's list; I know you will find just the spot you where you can help.

MOST IMPORTANTLY we need you, our members, to help in getting sponsors and Vendors! Sponsors and vendors are critical to the success of our fair Please talk to business owners and potential vendors you visit; and tell them about our fabulous fair. You do not have to be a salesperson to ask, **just a customer**. **It never hurts to try and all they can say is NO and that is ok; you made the effort, and we thank you for doing this.**

You can be a "Friends Sponsor" and donate to the Garden Fair effort to raise money for our club Scholarships. Please send your donations to Carole Baird. You can pay with a credit card on our website, <http://www.swogc.org/donors> to find the form and to use PayPal. Your donation is tax deductible. SWOGC is a 501 (3)(c) organization.

We can be very proud of how far we have grown since a tiny seed was planted for the first Garden Fair in 2005. As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary, as a member of the Florida Federation of Gardens Clubs, Inc., let's all do our part in helping make this year's fair the best ever!

Margaret Kirkpatrick
Garden Fair Chairman

mmaui@cfl.rr.com

407 399 8230

HORTICULTURE

The P's and Qs of plant fertilizer

The concentration of the three major nutrients in a fertilizer will be the three numbers you see somewhere on the container. For example, 20-10-15 means that there is 20% nitrogen, 10% phosphorus and 15 % potassium. Plants need a total of 14 other different elements for optimal growth but many of those are needed in very low amounts. I will save that for a future article.



Nitrogen is what makes plants grow tall and green. A plant that has more N may be taller or bigger but without a root system to accommodate that plant biomass; you will have an unhealthy plant. Nitrogen is soluble in water and will rapidly go below the root layer so it is best not to apply too much N, both because the plant will not be able to utilize it and the pollution aspects. This is a good one to 'spoon feed' a bit at a time of a lower analysis for best plant growth. Leaves that are yellow are usually a symptom of lack of N.

Phosphorus is needed for stem and root growth. Our soils in Florida have all the P that is usually needed unless if you are planting in a raised bed or in a pot where you have filled it with a potting mix. Many potting mixes have plenty of fertilizer added for initial growth. Phosphorus is a major pollution factor and should only be used when necessary. Sometimes leaves will be a purplish when deficient in P.

Potassium is also needed for stem and root growth. Here in Florida, the analysis should be at least the same as the N or more.

I won't go into detail the regulations for adding fertilizer to your turf or general landscape other than follow your area's restrictions.

In summary, look for a fertilizer that has the minor nutrients added in. Many palms are deficient in Boron and a small amount in a full fertilizer will solve the problem. There are two methods to apply your fertilizer. As a dry fertilizer that you will spread or add to your pots or as a soluble fertilizer that you will add to water. Both have advantages. Long release is a wonderful method to feed your plants. It is usually in small pellet form that you can add to your pots. Organic fertilizers are usually lower analysis (1-1-1) but can be used continuously. Compost tea is an example of this. Ph can also affect how plants take up different nutrients, but if your soil is between 6 and 7.2, you should be ok. I will conclude that you can do everything perfect and unless you are watering sufficiently, it will all be in vain. Water is your most necessary item here on our sandy soils. Increase your organic matter, and this will not only aid in holding water but also have a minor amount of fertilizer. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. Jwb2@cornell.edu

farmer Jim

Jim Ballerstein

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 915233

Longwood, Florida 32791

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

708-207-8941

LinRob1574@yahoo.com

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
September 2023-May 2024, 9:30 AM Social, 10:00 AM Meeting
Village on the Green, 500 Village Place, Longwood
Off Sabal Palm Drive South in the "Longwood Meeting Room"

HORTICULTURE GROUP MEETINGS

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

JUNIOR GARDENERS

Second Tuesday of the Month at 9:00 AM

FLORAL DESIGN

Every Other Thursday at Hospice of the Comforter 1:30-3:00 PM



JANUARY MEETING PHOTOS

*Photos courtesy of Gay Momberger
More on Shutterfly*



*Photos courtesy of Gay Momberger
More on Shutterfly*

**ARBOR DAY
January 19, 2024**