

# THE BOYNTON BLOOMERS

Boynton Beach Garden Club | April 2022 | C. Stender, Editor

## Annual Dues

April 27<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for members to pay their \$35 Annual Dues. You may pay at the upcoming General Meeting.

## District X Meeting

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, Ocean Ridge Garden Club host the meeting held in Gulfstream, FL.

## BBGC April General Meeting

The program for the April 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting (note the date change) is a presentation by Master Gardener, C. J. McCartney: Creating Wildlife Habitats.

## Sip n Stroll

On May 4<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM, we visit the lushly landscaped residence of Lora and Jim McCoy in Delray.

## First Friday

Come help with the Children's Activity. Event held at City Hall from 5-8 PM, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Giftng Workshop

May 10, 10 AM at High Point Clubhouse. Help prepare garden gifts.



## President's Report

*Hello to all Boynton Beach Garden Club members!*

Our club members have been super busy lately and we are lovin' it. So happy to be "normal" again!

Everyone who attended the April 6<sup>th</sup> Sip & Stroll at Christine Johnson's home was delighted by her magical garden. Another great chance to socialize with our fellow members and to learn about plants and flowers.

Four members attended the FFGC Convention in Kissimmee this year and found that it was fun and informative. A great way to meet garden club members from all over the state, to share ideas and compare notes.

We held our first New Member Orientation on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, at the High Point clubhouse. Twenty-seven members attended, enjoyed a pizza lunch, and listened to committee chairpersons explain the goals and

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**Presidents' Message Cont'd.**

duties of each committee. This was an opportunity to get to know each other and to learn more about the club and its history.

At our next general meeting, you will be asked to sign up for which committees you would like to join for the upcoming year. Please remember that every member is required to choose at least one committee and to participate in the club's projects. In order to have a successful year on every level, we need everyone's cooperation!

On the evening of April 19th, Toni Cvetko, Joan Grace, and Lori Wolff accepted an Arbor Day proclamation from the city of Boynton Beach on behalf of our club.

We joined Boynton Beach Earth Day celebration at Centennial Park, on Saturday, April 23rd. Our members gave out seed packets and over one hundred plants to those who attended the festivities. We also donated a basket of garden-related items for their raffle.

Ten members are planning to attend the District X Spring Meeting and Judges Council Flower Show hosted by the Ocean Ridge Garden Club on Tuesday, April 26th. Our co-president Toni Cvetko will present a report of our past year's club activities and accomplishments. FYI— The Boynton Beach Garden Club will be hostessing next year's District X Spring Meeting. This will require every members participation for sure!



*Co-President Lori Wolff helps one of MANY Boynton Beach Earth Day Celebration attendees choose a free plant. We gave out over 100 plants!*

Because of the district meeting falling on our normal fourth Tuesday, Our General Meeting will be held on WEDNESDAY, April 27th, at 1 PM, at the High Point clubhouse. The restrictions have been lifted, and parking is once again permitted in front of the clubhouse and along the hedges as before.

This meeting will be very busy and very important, so please plan on attending in person. (There will be no Zoom). In addition to a wonderful program, "Creating Wildlife Habitats", presented by C J McCartney, and a Horticulture Committee presentation "Plants with Gams" given by Keegan Gabriel, we will have our election of officers for the coming year, and sign up for 2022-23 committees. This meeting is the deadline for next year's dues.

So—-Be there or be square!

Toni Cvetko

Lori Wolff

## Schoolhouse Museum Bash

by Nancy Lemcke



*(l.–r.) Joan Grace, Toni Cvetko, Christine Johnson, and Nancy Lemcke accept the Ignite Award from the Schoolhouse Children’s Museum*

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, the Boynton Beach Garden Club was honored by the Schoolhouse Children’s Museum with the Ignite Award. The award recognizes BBGC for “all that the Club does for the . . . Museum and the City of Boynton Beach. Since 2015, [our] dedication to the creation and maintenance of the Butterfly Garden at the Museum, the garden at Poinciana Elementary School and the Community Garden in the Heart of Boynton has enable thousands of people to enjoy the gardens each year. Four members attended the aptly named “Bash”: Toni Cvetko, Joan Grace, Christine Johnson, and Nancy Lemcke.

The “Schoolhouse Bash—Too Cool for School” event honors select individuals, businesses and/or Civic Organizations which have positively impacted area children and the Schoolhouse Children’s Museum. The function took place in the new Cultural Arts Center which was set up with games that enticed the inner child of all who attended and reflected what the children have available to play with when they visit the museum. Bingo was played for lunch boxes that contained items ranging from sandwich certificates to 7 day all-expenses-paid vacations at distant exotic locations. Another game was shooting a ball into a glass using only craft sticks and rubber bands, etc.

There was live music and a catered dinner was served in three “stations”: a meat/turkey station, a pasta station, and a stir-fry station (if you could wait in the line). Drinks and delicious hors-d'oeuvres completed the menu.

It was definitely an “over-the-top” night.

## Arbor Day Proclamation



*( l. to r. ) Co-Presidents Toni Cvetko and Lori Wolff with City of Boynton Beach Mayor Penserga, Joan Grace, and Rebecca Harvey, Boynton Beach Sustainability Coordinator*

On the evening of April 19, Co-Presidents Toni Cvetko and Lori Wolff and Community Garden Chair Joan Grace attended the City Commissioners Meeting at Boynton Beach City Hall to accept Mayor Penserga's Arbor Day Proclamation. Rebecca Harvey, the city's Sustainability Coordinator, was instrumental in setting up this very public opportunity. The following is the acceptance speech Toni gave at the meeting.

*Good evening Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioners,*

*Boynton Beach Garden Club's history began in 1938. The goal was to encourage home and civic beautification.*

*One major project was planting trees to enhance the appearance of the town.*

*Our Club has been represented at many Boynton Beach Arbor Day celebrations when trees are planted in the community at various locations. At this event we purchase a tree and donate it to the city of Boynton Beach.*

*We have updated our goals to expand the knowledge of gardening, cultivate an appreciation of floral arts, and realize beautification efforts in our community that impacts our state and nation. We study, support and practice wise conservation measures, fight against pollution and help protect our sensitive ecology in south Florida.*

*Thank you for Proclaiming Arbor Day (4/29/22) and inviting our Club to accept the proclamation.*

Our club proudly offers our time and talents to the beautification and sustainability of the City of Boynton Beach. Thank you, Toni, Lori, and Joan for representing the club at the City Commissioners' Meeting.

## City of Boynton Beach Library Presentation by Carol Stender

On Thursday, April 7, myself and Nancy Lemcke presented a gardening program to a roomful of gardeners seeking answers, as many were new to Florida's sandy soil and the intense sun of Zone 10A.

Our club was given the opportunity to present as part of the city library's line up of Earth Month events. Our event was held in the Community Room on the first floor of City Hall. A room some of you might remember as where BBGC members met for a number of months as the nation began to rebound from COVID quarantines.

With boxes full of potted plants, books, handouts, and cuttings of Star of India, Coral Plant, etc., taken from Christine Johnson's yard, Nancy and I set up our Powerpoint. Toni Cvetko arrived early and pitched right in. Other BBGC members arrived also, many fresh from their weekly game of mahjong.

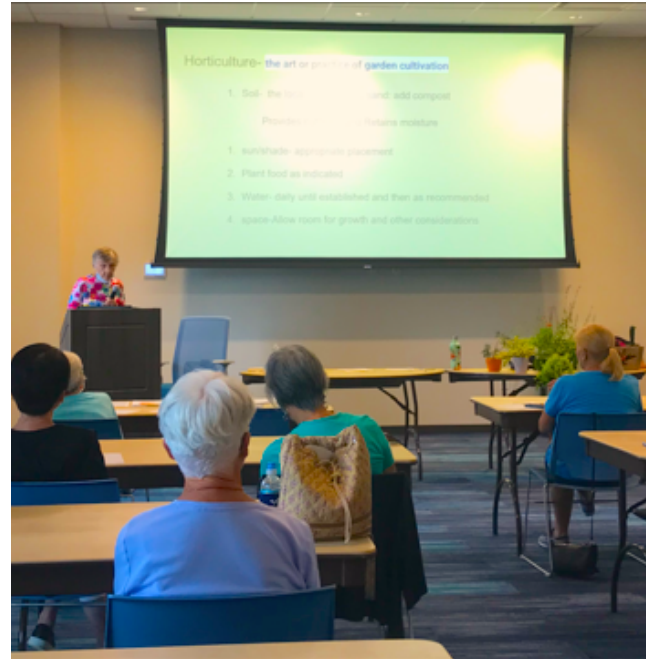
Attendees from the community arrived despite the inherent difficulty of finding the room, which must be accessed via its own separate entrance, not through City Hall proper. In fact, each attendee had to be escorted to the room by a uniformed security guard due to the difficulty of finding it! Nevertheless, we had a nice crowd, and bolstered by our club members seated in the back, Nancy and I gave our, hopefully, informative and interesting presentation "Let's Talk About Gardening".

This was a terrific experience: the commitment, the preparation, the collaboration, presentation, and the resultant good will it produced. I am certainly no expert, but together, Nancy and I put together some introductory information that was truly valuable for our audience. They were thankful for the presentation and shared their curiosity and enthusiasm.

At the end of the prepared presentation, Nancy and I left time for questions. Each attendee had her own concerns and lively discussion was had. If we didn't have a particular answer, our fellow club members were reliable resources. Every question was satisfied. Then, as an added bonus, each attendee received a potted red salvia as a takeaway.

Was this a nerve wracking experience? Of course. It was for me, and I'm sure Nancy would say the same. Was it a rewarding experience? Absolutely! Would we do it again? You bet. And each time it will be better.

By the end of the presentation, four attendees expressed interest in our club and, luckily, Toni had her wits about her and signed them up for a visit. Through our presentation, Nancy and I were able to promote gardening and our gardening club. It was a win-win experience all around and one of the biggest wins was the wonderful experience of having the support of our fellow BBGC members throughout the event. Thank you, ladies!



Nancy Lemcke presents "All About Gardening"

## New Member Orientation by Linda Christianson, Membership Chair



*Horticulture Committee welcomed new members with potted succulents*

The first New Member Orientation of Boynton Beach Garden Club was very well attended and received as an informal luncheon at the High Point Clubhouse. The event took place following the regular monthly board meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Tablecloths were brought out and each table was completed with cheerful centerpieces of sunny yellow and orange flowered potted plants designed and donated by Christine Johnson. Each new member took home a centerpiece.

The Horticulture Committee Chair, Cyndy Diveto, placed a small succulent plant at the entrance for each new member. A special mention should go to new member Debbie Lytle, who graciously filled in for Cyndy's report. Also, another new member Judi Liebert took charge of greeting all attendees with signing in and getting acquainted too. New member(s) Debbie on the Horticulture Committee and Judi partnering on Membership are great examples of how fully engaged all members are in the numerous garden club activities. The Co-Presidents Toni Cvetko and Lori Wolff made sure all members were able to enjoy a lite lunch at mixed tables of new and current members for building friendships.

Of twelve new members, eleven were able to attend and hear presentations of the club's eleven Standing Committees and the six Special Committees. Committee chairs presented brief introductions of their respective committees and projects' status.

We look forward to all feedback on this event and to offering New Member Orientation as the Boynton Beach Garden Club continues to grow.

### New Members 2021-2022

Jean Birdsall	Maria D'Aloia	Debbie Lytle
Judith Brunner	Peg Fagan	Christian (Chris) Murphy
Mary Ellen Concitis	Jody Fraser	Mary Jo Wasierski
Roberta Corrigan	Judi Liebert	Wendy Weinberg

## The Horticulture Committee Welcomes New Members!

by Cyndy DiVeto, Horticulture Chair

There are many reasons why people join our garden club!

1. They want to help beautify their community.
2. They want to meet new people with similar interests.
3. Their friends have joined.
4. They love nature and want to protect the environment.
5. They are tired of spending money and having their plants die.
6. They moved to a condo and miss their gardens.
7. They read about us in the news.
8. They want to learn about plants!

What about  
YOU ?

The Horticulture Committee was established when members were surveyed about what they want from membership. The most common answer was that they WANT TO LEARN ABOUT PLANTS!

The Bylaws in our yearbook describe the committee as follows:

BYLAWS: "The Horticulture Committee shall introduce at the club's general meeting a study of a plant, etc., and garden tips. The committee will also organize and conduct plant exchanges and plant sales."

Our job is to help educate our members about plants. Horticulture Committee members teach members about plants. Committee members may make individual presentations that they care about or participate in group activities. Individual presentations in the recent past have included plumeria (frangipani), *Dracaena reflexa* (Song of India), Corky stem passionflower, bromeliads, and butterfly plants. In group presentations we have played educational games and organized plant sales, swaps, and sharing. In the process we ourselves learn, have fun, and are greatly appreciated.

Our current committee members are Cyndy DiVeto, Jane Gavlick, Keegan Gabriel, Lynn Lima, and Debbie Lytle. At the April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting Keegan will present "Plants with Gams".



*Keegan Gabriel (above) will present at April 27 meeting.*

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## Replacing Ugly, Dying Ficus

by Marianne Madyda and Carol Stender

For years, the Ficus whitefly has spread throughout the county. According to a Sun-Sentinel article back in 2009 entitled *Get Over the Hedge*, "though the insect is not necessarily deadly to ficus hedges, they can cause extensive leaf drop resulting in bare, ugly branches. It's time to rethink the idea of hedges."

A best practice is to avoid planting hedges that are all of one kind of plant, a monoculture. That makes it more vulnerable to harmful infestation. Hedges comprised of more than one species is less likely to be wiped out by insects. Get creative and interplant different species, perhaps even different colors, that you can layer and overlap.

A recent article in the Palm Beach Daily News can help you figure out what kind of plants will work best for you as you design a new healthy and attractive, interesting hedge.

[Click here to read the article](#)

# Sip N Stroll

## McCoy Home 4 NW 16<sup>th</sup> St, Delray

Sip n Stroll next visits the gardens of Lora and Jim McCoy. The lovely foliage we will enjoy as we stroll the paths began when they took out the lawn and replaced it with tropical trees, plants and mulch. Most of the plants and trees are native to South Florida and most are labelled.

Lora and Jim were aided in their efforts to create a natural refuge for birds and pollinators by the work of Native Landscape Designers Clint Oster of Boca Raton and Carl Terwilliger of Lake Worth.

In addition to the healthy, abundant plantings, you will enjoy the large koi pond, a number of kinetic sculptures, and two huge Staghorn ferns.

Come see and enjoy this well-planned wildlife haven—that requires no watering, mowing, dangerous sprays, fertilizers, or noisy weed whackers and blowers.

Join us on Wednesday evening, May 2 at 4 PM for a social stroll and exploration of this unique Florida yard.

Bring your favorite beverage and a snack, if you wish.

**RSVP to Lori Wolff  
(561-779-8777)**

## At Christine Johnson's Home

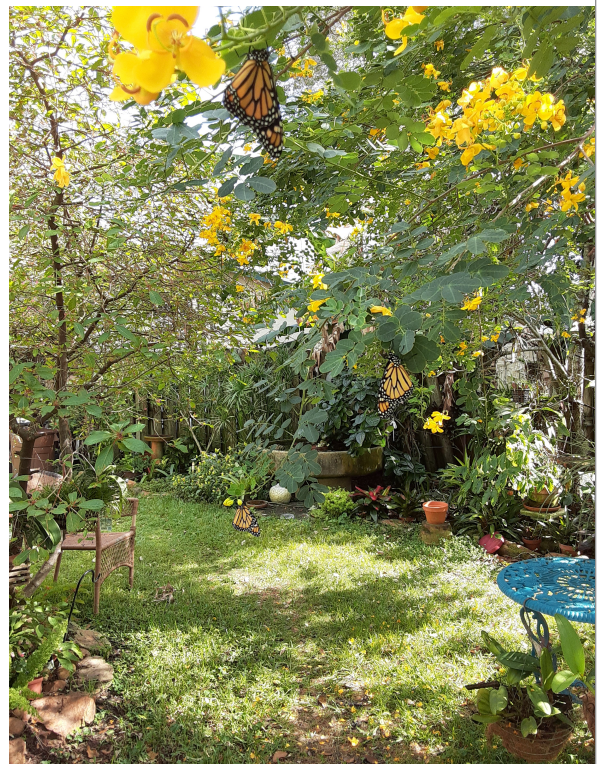
On April 6, members gathered at Christine Johnson's home for the monthly Sip N Stroll. When you turn down Aladdin Road, you can tell which yard is hers by the large live oak which shades the street and her front yard. Around the base of the tree is a colorful garden full of begonias, impatiens, and other colorful flowering plants.

But live oak is not the only tree shading Christine's yard. A stroll around the house reveals a large tree-like Coral Plant in bloom, a Simpson Stopper, Sweet Almond, Thryallis, and a Grey Leaf full of buzzing bees, among others. Then there are the numerous bushes filling in the lower canopy, such as Beauty Berry, firebush, and Chapman's Senna. The bottom layer of her yard's canvas is resplendent with the colors of her wide variety of flowering plants. Salvia, impatiens, lantana, zinnia and blanket flower are just a few. Add into the mix an impressive assortment of bromeliads, cacti, orchids, and ferns, and you begin to understand how amazing her yard always is!

But on April 6, the group had a few special treats. One was Christine's amaryllis collection. Dozens are planted in groupings at various locations around her yard. That evening, they were all in bloom. Each group a different color. But the showstoppers were the tall white amaryllis with huge double blooms gracing her front garden. What a treat to behold!

Then, to top the evening off, Christine brought out a delicious cake she had baked for all to enjoy.

We set up our chairs, treated ourselves to cake, relaxed, sipped, and chatted. Delightful.



*One view of Christine's magical yard*



## Butterfly Corner

Carol Stender, Chair of the Butterfly Certification Committee

The Butterfly Certification Committee is pleased to announce the official Butterfly Sanctuary Certification of another member's lovely garden. Linda Schrader has designed a jewel of a garden in her backyard, right outside her lanai, where she can enjoy the colorful array of foliage, flowers and flitting butterflies.

Linda's Butterfly Sanctuary showcases close to twenty different varieties of host and nectar plants, all healthy and obviously well-tended.

Host plants in Linda's Butterfly Sanctuary Garden include plants from five different botanical families. *Angelica* (*Angelica atropurpurea*) is in the *Apiaceae* (carrot family), along with dill and fennel (see last month's article) and is host for the Short-tailed swallowtail (*Papilio brevicauda*). *Angelica* is drought tolerant and can grow from 6 to 12 feet tall. It sports white firework flowers on top of long stems. Then there is the native ground cover Twinflower, a low maintenance plant that attracts bees and butterflies which is the host plant for the Common Buckeye (*Junonia coenia*). Another host for the Common Buckeye in Linda's garden is the Carolina wild petunia (*Ruellia caroliniensis*), an early spring bloomer and perennial wildflower with blue or violet flowers that doubles as a host for the White Peacock (*Anartia jatrophae*). One also finds coontie (*Zamia integrifolia*), host for the Atala butterfly and the topic of an earlier Butterfly Corner column. Of course, Linda has also included plenty of milkweeds (*Asclepias*) for the Monarchs and her garden has been certified by the North American Butterfly Association as a Certified Monarch Garden for her efforts to help nurture this endangered specie.

Nectar plants include bushes—Sweet Almond and Buddleia- and plenty of flowering plants: Blue Salvia, coreopsis, lantana, lavender, giant blue porter

weed, pentas, pineapple thistle, and wild sage lantana.

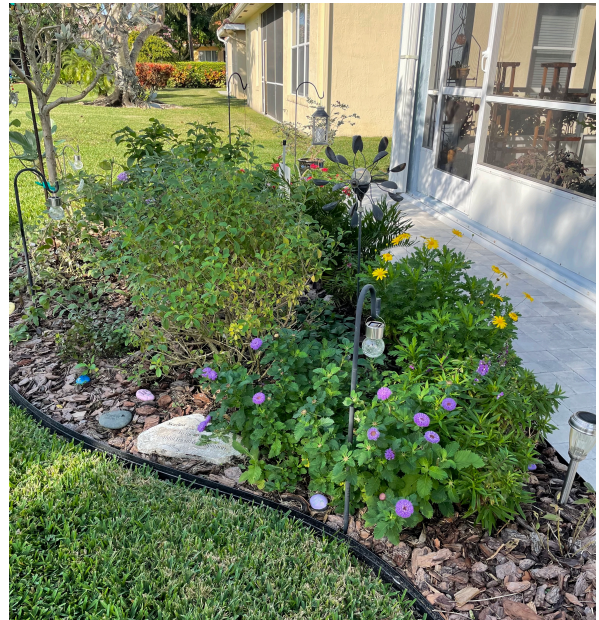
Each of the plants in Linda's garden is labeled with its own precious rock marker. Linda paints rocks (about 5 inches in size) red, purple, blue, white, or yellow and then, using black paint, she writes the name of the flower and generally also includes a miniature painted version of the flower. The painted rocks resist fading and the effect is most precious.

Many of us enjoyed a tour of Linda's gardens this past month during the Member Garden Tour. We were all enchanted.

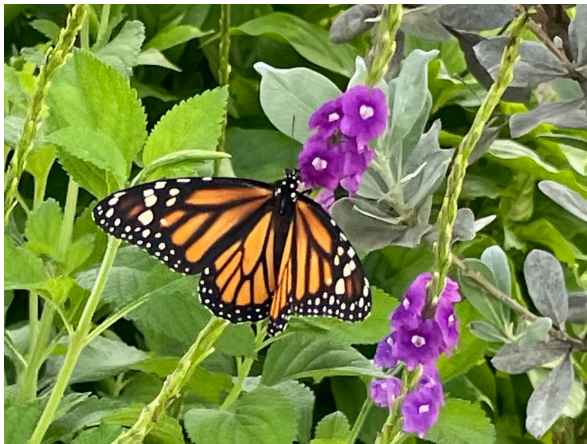
Linda's garden is another success story!

Remember, each one of us makes a difference!

Interested in having your garden certified as a Butterfly Sanctuary? Go to <https://boyntonbeachgardenclub.org/bsc/> for an application.



*Linda's garden is a half-circle about 18 feet long and 9 feet across at its widest,*



Monarch on Blue Porterweed

## Planting Milkweed for Monarchs and for Us

by Linda Christianson

At our General Meeting tour of Indian Trails Native Nursery, we were fortunate to see a variety of butterflies. Many of us came home with starter plants for our gardens.

One plant made available after our visit was the Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias Incarnata*). In addition to acquiring a few to plant at my home, I gifted a couple to my daughter-in-law Debbie for her butterfly garden. Her plants are still being transitioned.

When Debbie shares her cocoon stories in anticipation of the metamorphosis to butterflies, it is clearly a sustaining joy that transforms her like the butterfly drawn to the species *Asclepias Incarnata*.



*Monarch butterfly on Swamp Milkweed*

### Save Your Corks!!

Toni Cvetko

At convention we learned that FFGC is not participating in “saving the corks” anymore because Corks, Inc. doesn’t pay for shipping anymore. For every cork they give one cent to Forestry and one cent to ocean conservation.

Thanks to everyone who saved corks and to the local restaurants who helped out, we have around 1,000 corks. I don’t need anymore, so please stop saving them for me.

### Upcoming Birthdays

Don’t forget to help these lovely ladies celebrate their special day!!

Toni Cvetko	4/28
Nancy Lemcke	4/29
Cyndy DiVeto	5/8
Mary Hory	5/11
Lynn Lima	5/18
Christine Johnson	5/22
Mary Jo Wasierski	5/23
Wendy Weinberg	5/31



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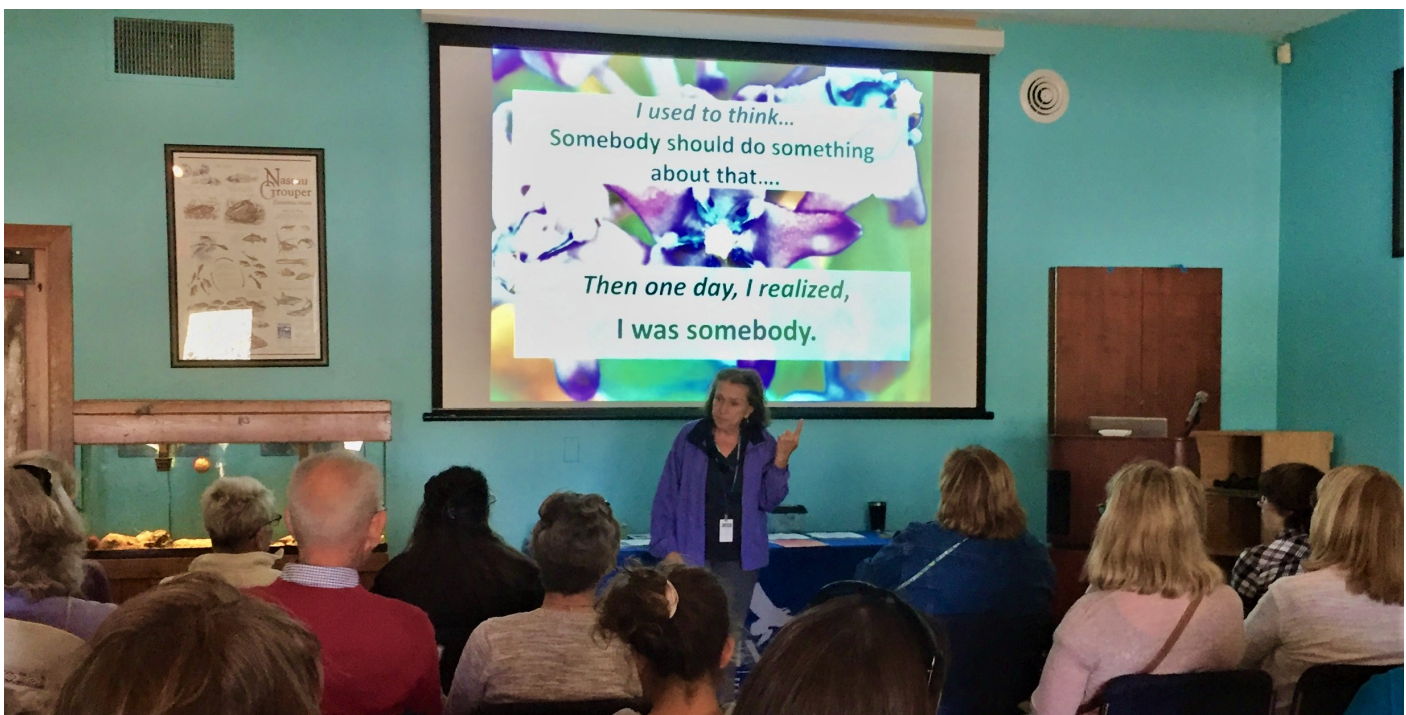
## From a Patch to a Plot Creating Wildlife Habitats

Butterflies, Birds and Pollinators Thrive in Native Gardens

**CJ McCartney** firmly believes that—*together*—we can mitigate the loss of natural habitats by creating a path or a plot of wildlife friendly yards to offer our homeless wildlife and our native plants a safe and welcoming haven.

In her role as a *Steward of the Natural World* and UF Master Gardener, CJ has been busy botanizing, birding, photographing nature, and speaking to community groups, as well as designing wildlife and native plant gardens. Her role as an outdoor feature writer for a daily newspaper, gave her access to some of the brightest and most knowledgeable people in the country and she learned about what people are doing, researching, and thinking about how to restore and to create new natural habitats.

Join us and be inspired by our talented speaker, CJ McCartney.



C J McCartney Presenting to a Community Group

Part of BBGC's 2021-2022 Program Series:  
**GO WILD, GO NATIVE**