

# THE BOYNTON BLOOMERS

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

## Members' Garden Tour

The March 22nd General Meeting program will be a tour of three lovely gardens designed by members Linda Schrader, Joan Grace and Mary Scheitler.

## Sip n Stroll

On April 6th, we will visit the gardens throughout Christine Johnson's yard. Come enjoy the natural sanctuary she has created over the years.

## New Member Lunch and Orientation

Lots of information about the club in general and the various committees. April 19 at 12 PM.

## FFGC Convention

The Convention returns to Kissimmee this April 12-14. Registration is due March 26th.

## Earth Day

BBGC participates in various Boynton Beach Earth Day events. Sign up and participate!



## Presidents' Report

*Hello to all Boynton Beach Garden Club members!*

**We are not meeting at High Point for our March General Meeting on 3/22.**

Instead, we are visiting beautiful gardens at the homes of three of our members, Linda Schrader, Joan Grace and Mary Scheitler. The general meeting plus refreshments will be at Mary's home. Please remember to bring a chair. Carpooling is encouraged. A map with directions will be emailed prior to March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Two very important events are scheduled in April. The District X Spring Meeting, April 26<sup>th</sup> at The Little Club, 100 Little Club Road, Gulfstream, FL. The Ocean Ridge GC is hosting this meeting.

If you plan to attend, please sign up or let Lori know. Also, the FFGC Annual Convention will take place at Embassy Suites Orlando – Lake Buena Vista South in Kissimmee, FL on April 12-14, 2022. Four members are registered already. If you plan to attend, please register for the hotel and meeting online ([www.ffgc.org](http://www.ffgc.org)) and let Lori know.  
**(Cont'd next page)**

**Presidents' Message (Cont'd)**

Our only fundraiser for the year, our potluck auction, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, May 3rd, at 12 PM at the Sterling Village clubhouse on North Federal Highway in Boynton Beach. (Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit a FFGC scholarship.) In order to make this event a success, we need the support of EVERY member. Let's come together as a club and ensure that this will happen.

Co-Presidents Toni Cvetko and Lori Wolff

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**SAVE****Things to save:**

1. "Stuff" — Items to be used in raffle baskets or larger gently-used treasures to be auctioned at our May 3rd luncheon/fundraiser.
2. Wine bottle corks— to be donated for the Ocean Conservancy. Bring your corks to general meetings to be donated for this worthy cause.

## 3. Save these dates:

March 22nd	Members' Garden Tour and General Meeting @ 1 PM
April 1st	* Children's Activity Booth, Boynton Beach First Friday @ Centennial Park Amphitheater 5-8 PM
April 6th	* Sip & Stroll @ 4 PM @ Christine Johnson's garden
April 12-14	FFGC Convention
April 19th	New Member Lunch and Orientation @ 12 PM
April 23rd	* Boynton Beach Earth Day celebration, 10 AM - 1 PM, plant & seed giveaway
April 26th	* District X Spring Meeting @ the Little Club, Ocean Ridge
April 27th	General meeting @ 1PM Please note: this is a Wednesday 2022-2023 dues deadline!

\* Please sign up for these events. Your participation is needed!

## **New Date for Luncheon/Auction** **by Toni Cvetko, Fundraising Chairperson**

Save the date, May 3, 2022.

The Fundraising Committee will hold its Luncheon/Auction on Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Set up will be on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, from noon – 5 pm. At that time, we will be setting up the room, putting together raffle baskets, and going through raffle items. If you have baskets, please bring them on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Tuesday is the luncheon/raffle and additional help is required. We will be organizing and arranging from 8:30 until the guests arrive around noon. After the event, there is clean up. We have the hall from 8:30 am - 5 pm.

All members should plan to participate. If you are a snowbird and will not be in FL at this time, you can still save your new or gently used items to donate to the auction or gift baskets. Bring them to the April General meeting (4/27\*) or give them to a member prior to your departure. Other things you can donate that can be included in a basket: assorted teas, coffee, hot chocolate, wine, wine accessories, cookies, chocolates, candy, gardening items (books, gloves, etc.). We also plan to have a jewelry table. If you have any costume jewelry you don't want any more, let's recycle it...maybe someone else will fall in love with it.

There will be a sign-up sheet for subcommittees. More information will be forwarded via email. Any questions, contact me.

\*The April General meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, because the District X Spring Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Sample Theme Basket for Auction by Linda Schrader**





## Community Greening: Helping PBC One Tree at a Time

### Carol Stender

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, members enjoyed a presentation by Mark Cassini and Matt Shipley, Co-Founders of the non-profit Community Greening, whose mission is to increase the tree canopy of Palm Beach County. The City of Boynton Beach, for instance, has tree canopy coverage of only 16%. To put this into perspective, hyper-developed Washington D.C. has a 39% tree canopy! In order to reach the goal of 20% coverage in Boynton, 40,000 trees will need to be planted. Palm Beach County, overall, needs millions of additional trees. Our neighbor, Delray has pledged to plant 2,000 trees a year to reach its goal.

Community Greening works with the Florida Forest Service to inventory the trees in the county and to figure out where additional trees can be added. They also partner with the Alliance for Community Trees, Arbor Day Federation, and the Municipal Forest Institute in order to be most effective and to keep up with best practices. Working hand-in-hand with county cities, volunteers plant trees and then the cities take over maintenance which is financed through each city's tree fund. Last year, Community Greening won a \$100,000 grant from the county to plant more trees.

#### Why Trees?

Aside from the environmental benefits of trees—carbon sequestration, water filtration, and lowering of surface temperatures—shade from the trees lengthens the lifetime of city infrastructure and promotes healthy neighborhoods. Research reveals that having trees in a community actually reduces crime. Statistically, lower income neighborhoods have a much lower tree canopy, so Community Greening tries to focus their efforts on those areas.

Community Greening uses mostly native trees and fruit trees. Natives, such as slash pine, Simpson stopper, live oak, dahoon holly and pigeon plum, demand less water and less care. Fruit trees added to vacant lots help feed neighborhoods with fresh mangoes, guavas, and sour berries. **(cont'd on page 5)**



*Co-Presidents Toni Cvetko and Lori Wolff on either side of February's presenters Matt Shipley (l) and Marc Cassini (r) and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Carol Stender*



### Community Greening (cont'd)

So far, Community Greening has planted 10,000 trees in PBC in five years. Each tree is kept in their data base, which calculates the ecosystem benefits of the additional trees in financial terms to be over \$5 million.

#### How Do They Do It?

Community Greening arranges Tree Giveaways and Planting Parties. Volunteers come together to plant trees in parks, at schools, in urban orchards and residential areas. It's not all hard work though. The fun, social events have DJ's and volunteers get to name their trees! Their work is promoted through newsletters, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

They have developed a Youth Tree Team. The members of the team are taught arbor care and maintenance. These teens, exposed to nature, are paid by Forestry Services to maintain recently planted trees. At present, they are caring for over 1,000 trees each week.

Matt Shipley and Marc Cassini come from very different backgrounds. Matt grew up in Florida; Marc was raised up north and spent years working with the Peace Corps in Africa. Despite those differences, both agree that many opportunities to improve life exist right here in PBC. This dynamic duo has accomplished a great deal with Community Greening and we are certainly grateful for their accomplishments and their presentation.

Visit their website at <https://communitygreening.org> to learn more about their upcoming projects and how to volunteer. All hands are welcome!

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## Bits and Pieces



At February's General Meeting, Nancy Lemcke (r) received the Butterfly Sanctuary Certificate from Carol Stender (l), chair of the committee. Nancy has done a marvelous job of raising butterflies in her HOA community. She is an inspiration!



Keegan Gabriel (l) and Lori Wolff (r) recently visited Mounts Botanical Gardens to view Sean Kenney's Nature Pop!, which uses thousands of Lego bricks to construct colorful animals. The show continues through May 1<sup>st</sup>. See Joan Grace for BBGC free tickets.

## Art in Bloom 2022

### by Toni Cvetko, Chair

Thanks to our creative designers, Art in Bloom had another successful year. The Floral Art Show was held the on March 4 & 5, 2022 at the Schoolhouse Children's Museum in Boynton Beach. Twelve BBGC members served as designers (Carol Stender, Debbie Lytle, Christine Johnson, Kathy Menninger, Wendy Weinberg, Lori Wolff, Linda Schrader, Linder Christianson, Nancy Lemcke, Roberta Corrigan, Bonnie Paton, Chris Murphy), and created 13 exquisite arrangements. Yes, 13. Christine Johnson made two very impressive arrangements because she wanted to test her creative skills. Four of our newest members (Debbie Lytle, Wendy Weinberg, Roberta Corrigan, and Chris Murphy) participated and truly showed off their creative talents.

Ten days before the floral art display, the designers receive artwork created by Poinciana Elementary students, grades K – 5. Their job started by determining what flowers, plant materials or textures to use to interpret the artwork into a floral arrangement/design. No silk or plastic flowers could be used.



*Designer Linda Schrader's Interpretation*

The designers dropped off their "floral works of art" midafternoon on Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> to be judged by three members of the Boynton Beach Art Advisory Council. The judges determined whose masterpieces should receive these three awards: "Best Use of Color", "Best Use of Texture", and "Best Interpretation of the Art." This was an extremely difficult task, since all the arrangements were outstanding and could qualify for any of the awards. After the judging, an "open to the public" reception was held.

Friday evening and all-day Saturday, the visiting public were encouraged to sign in and vote for their favorite floral design, the "People's Choice Award". At the conclusion of the show on Saturday, the people's votes were counted, and the winning design received the "People's Choice Award".

The ribbons awarded by the judges were as follows:

Best Use of Color: Roberta Corrigan

Best Use of Texture: Linda Schrader

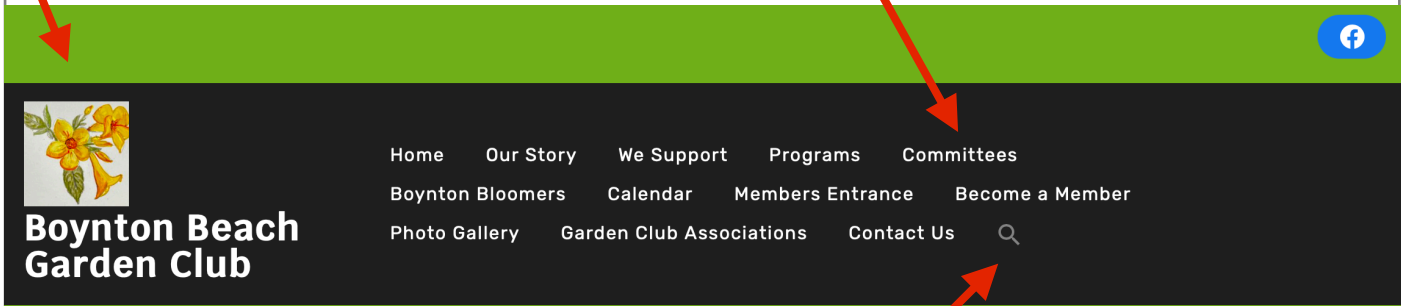
Best Interpretation of the Art:  
Christine Johnson

There were a total of 74 members and visitors who voted for the "People's Choice Award". The proud winner of that award was Roberta Corrigan.

Congratulations to the designers whose arrangements were awarded ribbons. Congratulations to all designers. Your arrangements were outstanding. Ribbon or no ribbon...you were all winners.

## Website Update Bonnie Paton

Our website is ever-evolving! Log on and explore!  
“Committees” now is a menu item on our homepage  
A “Search” button can be found as the last item listed on our homepage header.



Did you know that if you clicked on the Allamanda icon (left-hand corner) at the top of any page you are reading, you will get back to the homepage?  
For pages that are protected, you will need to enter the password, allamanda.  
If you click on the blue Facebook icon in the upper right-hand corner, you will go to our [Facebook page](#). Check it out! **Debbie Lytle** has been added as an administrator to the page. Thank you, Debbie! Lots of good stuff can be found there. Check us out!

## Upcoming Birthdays

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



Jane Gavlick	4/2
Maria D'Aloia	4/7
Toni Cvetko	4/28
Nancy Lemcke	4/29
Cyndy DiVeto	5/8
Mary Hory	5/11
Lynn Lima	5/18
Christine Johnson	5/22



## PENNY PINES

Mary Scheitler, Chair

At our monthly meetings we send around a container asking you to donate any change you might have with you to this wonderful and necessary project. As a reminder and to our new members, here's information on why we participate.

Penny Pines is a National Garden Clubs, Inc. project that is a partnership with the USDA Forest Service to replant forests that have been destroyed by fire or other natural catastrophes. Under a Conservation agreement, the Forest Service does the planting, using donations made by garden clubs (and other organizations) together with Federal funds.

"The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) became involved with the Penny Pines Project in 2017, and actually contributes the most of any state," according to Heather White, the

NGC Chair for Penny Pines. "It is a little confusing because California has to be different and they have pursued their own contract with USDA US Forest service, so I don't get all of their donations. However, some come directly to us from clubs and other organizations like DAR or Women's Clubs in California. As a result, Florida is #1 on the NGC official list!"

"All the donations to Florida are sent to a main address in Tallahassee. The Forest Supervisor for Florida allocates the funds to the Forest where it is most needed. However, a club can specify a forest if they wish and then the funds would go there.



### How do you participate?

Our Garden Club participates by contributing \$68.00 (or multiples of) to Penny Pine. \$68 is the amount needed to order and plant the trees on one acre of forest land.

Like other clubs, we pass a jar with "Penny Pines" written on it at each meeting to collect pennies and loose change (of course, any denomination is accepted). Other clubs hold a special fund-raising event such as a raffle. A \$68 donation may also be made in honor or in memory of ONE individual, organization or theme.

Penny Pines was part of NGC's *Plant America* theme for 2017-19, when we started collecting, and made our first donation in 2018. Last year in April, Boynton Beach GC sent in our check for \$136.00, for a total of \$408.00 collected by the club.

I am so pleased to announce that as of the February meeting we have collected \$195.29. By the May meeting we will have exceeded the \$204.00 that we will send in and have a start for next year's donation. Can you imagine our small club collecting \$612 in five years? Ladies, I can't thank you enough for your generosity in supporting this project.



## Sip n Stroll

The next visit is the garden of BBGC Past-President and Gardening Queen Christine Johnson. Her address is

**3754 Aladdin Avenue  
(off of Lawrence Rd.)  
Boynton Beach**

Christine's entire yard is a gardener's haven, lush with a multitude of Florida plantings: trees, shrubs, vines, ferns, orchids, bromeliads, and flowers in profusion.

Among the lush plantings, you will notice the collection of garden art that Christine has gathered over the years and numerous water features, including a huge tub sometimes full of small fish, sometimes small frogs.

Because of her lush plantings and her constant care, birds, bees, butterflies and assorted critters choose to make her yard their own.

Take a seat and sit quietly. Experience the world come alive with flitting butterflies, tiny bees, and birds searching for food for their nestlings.

Join us on Wednesday evening, April 6 at 4 PM as we gather for a social stroll and exploration of Christine's healthy Florida ecosystem. Bring your favorite beverage, a chair, and a snack, if you wish.

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

## The Joys of Sharing A Short Afternoon Stroll!

**Linda Christianson**

My daughter-in-law Debbie and I gathered with BBGC members and guests at the Hypoluxo Scrub. Most of us ascended the tall Observation Tower, assessing the overall top down view of the preserve.

Debbie and I then went on to read the posted Information Directory and began our stroll on the paved Cotton Weed Trail.

As we slowly passed by some remaining raindrops on branches, we soon arrived at a fork on the path- this surprisingly prompted Debbie to share a brief excerpt recitation of Robert Frost's *The Road Not Taken*:

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;  
Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim

The poetry was a lovely surprise as it slowed us down even more to pause and then to view with binoculars an amazing hawk. We could not photograph it due to distance, but we lingered quite a bit, sharing the view of the hawk and watching it take flight. At first we thought it might be the referenced Coopers Hawk mentioned in the Information Directory, but it turned out to be a Red Shouldered Hawk.

We then came upon some blooming cactus and more BBGC members and guests on the trail who pointed out a blooming Pawpaw tree, host for the Zebra Swallowtail butterfly.

Our afternoon was memorable as a family and as a BBGC member.



*Cactus in Bloom for the March Sip n Stroll*



## Earth Day Preparations



Members (l to r) Nancy Lemcke, Christine Johnson, Ginny Rush, Bonnie Paton and Jodi Fraser pot seedlings to give away on April 23. Christine donated over 100 seedlings.

Each year on April 22, we celebrate Earth Day. The first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970. Two events precipitated its founding. First, the publication of Rachel Carson's ground-breaking bestseller *Silent Spring* in 1962 that pointed out the link between pollution and public health. It raised awareness for the harmful impact pollution has on the environment. Second, in January 1969, a massive oil spill ravaged the ocean and coast off of Santa Barbara, California. Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin spearheaded the founding of Earth Day as an effort to educate and activate the public. The effort caught on and now Earth Day is celebrated around the world. You can read more about [the history of Earth Day](#).

Boynton Beach Garden Club participates in various Earth Day events held around the city. This year, we have three events to prepare for. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, we will man a booth at the city's First Friday event, guiding children as they plant seedlings from 5-8 PM. On April 7<sup>th</sup>, we host a "Let's Talk Gardening" session at the City of Boynton Beach Library as part of their effort to support Earth Day. Finally, on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will man a tent at the city's Earth Day Celebration at Centennial Park. All events need workers from our club, so step up and volunteer to help as we support Earth Day this year. Lots of fun and camaraderie to be sure!



Some lively discussions ensued after packaging seeds to hand out on April 23. L. to r., a friend of Jodi Fraser, Bonnie Paton, Jodi Fraser, Judy Liebert, Lori Wolff, Ginny Rush walking out, Debbie Lytle in foreground, Christine Johnson, Joan Grace, Nancy Lemcke, Toni Cvetko.



## Gene Joyner's Unbelievable Acres Botanical Garden

A big thank you to Mary Scheitler for arranging the club's day trip on March 12 to Gene Joyner's Unbelievable Acres Botanical Garden. If you have never been, the trees and thick foliage growing on his acres are truly incredible. Many trees are State Champions and/or rarely seen, especially in this area. The weather that day was threatening, but the rain held off until we were mostly back home. Some pictures below tell the story best!



Guide Larry Grosser (r) explaining to (l to r) Cyndie Sable, Lori Wolff (both behind tree), Keegan Gabriel, Toni Cvetko, guest Mary Rainey, and Roberta Corrigan.



Roberta Corrigan with treasured flower from one of the exotic trees.



Wish I had more room, but here are most of us enjoying the trip. L. to r., Lori Wolff, Keegan Gabriel, Bonnie Paton, Ginny Rush, Glery Cruz, Toni Cvetko, Mary Hory, Carol Stender, Pat Waldron and Chris Murphy. Note: You can always get a better look by enlarging on your computer!



Mary Hory and Pat Waldron enjoying the talk.



## Butterfly Corner

Carol Stender, Chair of the Butterfly Certification Committee

### Eastern Black Swallowtail

The Eastern Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polygenes*) is a rather large butterfly, measuring 2 ½ to 3 ½ inches. It is commonly found all over the state of Florida, except for the Keys. In fact, this elegant butterfly can be found from Canada to South America, flitting along the many open areas, such as parks, meadows, and pastures—even along roadsides and neighborhood gardens. It prefers tropical and temperate climates. Here in the United States, Eastern Black Swallowtails are more prevalent east of the Rocky Mountains.



Male Eastern Black Swallowtail

The wings of the Eastern Black Swallowtail are black with two bands of yellow spots along the margins of their wings. The hindwing has an orange eyespot with a central black pupil and a single black tail. The tail feature gives the species the name “swallowtail.” The appearance of the female differs from that of the male. First, she is larger than the male. Second, her coloration is less vibrant. She is also black, but with reduced or absent yellow bands and more blue scaling on her hindwing. The abdomen of the adults has longitudinal rows of small yellow spots.

Females lay single eggs on host plants, usually on new foliage, occasionally on flowers. The egg stage lasts 4–9 days, the larval stage 10–30 days, and the pupal stage 18 days. The duration of these stages may vary depending on temperature and the species of the host plant.

Members of the black swallowtail are long lived compared to other butterflies that inhabit temperate zones. Adults are quick and agile when

disturbed. The caterpillar absorbs toxins from host plants, and therefore, tastes poor to bird predators. Additionally, the black swallowtail caterpillar has an orange “forked gland,” called the osmeterium. When in danger, the osmeterium, which looks like a snake’s tongue, releases a foul smell to repel predators.

Host plants include members of the carrot family (Apiaceae), including parsley, dill, and fennel. See Pat Inturissi’s **Culinary Gardener** column in this issue for some great information on dill.

Sources:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papilio\\_polyxenes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papilio_polyxenes)

<https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/wildflowers/butterfly/black-swallowtail-eastern/>



Caterpillar of Eastern Black Swallowtail

## The Culinary Gardener

### DILL

Pat Inturissi

Dill is an annual herb in the celery family, Apiaceae. It is commonly grown in Europe and is used for both its leaves and its seeds. Dill grows a long tap root, so when planting in a container be sure it is not shallower than 12 inches. However, since dill is an annual it doesn't need a whole lot of space to build up a big root system over the years as a perennial would.

Dill is an annual, and is a self-seeding plant with feathery green leaves. It is used most commonly in soups and stews or for pickling. Dill weed is easy to grow and if you plant every few weeks you will have a constant supply.

To create a permanent patch of dill, allow some of the plants to flower and go to seed each year.

Dill attracts beneficial insects such as wasps and other predatory insects to your garden, and is a host plant for the caterpillar of the black swallowtail butterfly.



*Black swallowtail caterpillar*

Plant dill in full sun, and it likes soil that is well drained. Dill loves to be next to cabbage and onions if planting in a garden; they are symbiotic cousins. Take care to plant in a sheltered spot as strong winds can bend and break the delicate stalks

Water the plants freely, ensuring that they don't dry out excessively.



Dill is easy to grow and is only prone to leaf spot and fungal leaf.

Mammoth is a tall variety and is considered one of the best for pickling and other culinary uses, such as in potato salads, cucumber soup, and fish dishes.

Fernleaf is a compact variety that works well for containers and isn't prone to bolting.

As soon as the plant has four to five leaves, you can start harvesting. Harvest older leaves first. Pinch off the leaves or cut them off with scissors

As an added benefit, some say for sweeter breath, chew dill seeds. And, you can chop and freeze dill on wax paper, and once frozen, quickly transfer to plastic pint containers in your freezer. It keeps its color and flavor, and I always have guaranteed "fresh" herbs. Even if it clumps together, you can chop off a piece and quickly thaw to use in soups or breads.

#### Dill in the Kitchen

Many people love to make dill pickles with their fresh dill and I have a recipe for a quick refrigerator dill pickle below. However, my favorite is a soup that I first had at TooJay's restaurant. I've been working on duplicating it and have come up with a recipe that my family loves!



## Cream of Tomato soup with Dill

2 T butter  
1 medium onion, chopped  
1 small carrot, peeled, finely diced  
2 T flour  
1-28 oz can crushed tomatoes  
2 c chicken broth  
1 T tomato paste  
1 T chopped fresh basil ( or 1/2 tsp dried basil)  
2 tsp fresh thyme, chopped ( 1/2 tsp dried thyme)  
1 T fresh dill ( 1/2 tsp dried dill)  
1 bay leaf  
1/2 to 3/4 c half n half or milk  
1 T brown sugar, optional but I think it makes it less acidic  
1 tsp salt, 1/2 tsp black pepper

In soup pot, melt butter and sauté vegetables until tender. Stir in flour and sauté 5 minutes. Stir in tomatoes, paste, broth, brown sugar and any dried herbs if using. Simmer 15 minutes. When cool enough, remove bay leaf, whirl in blender or use blender stick until smooth. Stir in salt and pepper, half n half or milk  
Stir in fresh herbs, if using. I usually add more dill, so season to your taste.

## Quick Refrigerator Dill Pickles

3 pickling cucumbers about 4" in length  
1/4 c thinly sliced onion, Vidalia if possible  
3-5 sprigs dill  
1/2 c each apple cider vinegar and water  
1-1/2 tsp kosher salt  
1/4 tsp granulated sugar  
1/4 tsp whole mustard seeds  
1/4 tsp whole black peppercorns  
Pinch red pepper flakes

Heat vinegar, water, garlic and all spices until boiling. Reduce to low and simmer till salt and sugar is dissolved. Cool to lukewarm.

Meanwhile, slice cucumbers evenly and pack into clean pint jar with onion slices and dill sprigs. Leave a half inch head space at top for brine. Pour brine over all and cap tightly. Refrigerate 24 hours before eating.

These pickles are a bit tart so feel free to use up to 1-1/2 tsp sugar in all. FYI: I use the extra sugar.

## ASK AMI



Welcome to BBGC's interactive gardening advice column, ASK AMI.

### March's Question

My husband's grandfather had a fig tree in his yard in Connecticut. Grandpa Inturissi babied that fig tree, surrounded it with a wooden cage that he built and swaddled it in burlap to keep it safe from the winter snows and frigid temperatures.

I was lucky enough to get a shoot from that tree which I promptly killed. I had it potted and on my west facing front patio. It got partial shade until noonish and then intense sun in the afternoon. Was my winter hardened fig shoot too tender for our Florida climate?

Question..Where to get another fig plant and will it do well in our tropical climate?

Any and all answers welcome! Offer them at the General Meeting on March 22.

**Have a gardening question of your own?**  
Send it to ASK AMI at  
[BBGCaskami@gmail.com](mailto:BBGCaskami@gmail.com)



*Fresh figs right from the tree!*

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## BOOK NOOK

by Carol Stender

While we are on the subject of figs, check out Elif Shafak's latest novel, *The Island of Missing Trees*. It's a multigenerational story on the prolonged conflict between Greek Christians and Turkish Muslims fighting for control of the Isle of Crete. Interestingly, the tale is told by a fig tree! Shafak chose this unusual perspective because

*"I wanted an observer that lives longer than human beings, you know? Trees have this, you know, longevity. They were here before us, and they will most probably be here long after we humans have disappeared - but also to think more closely about issues like, what does it mean to be rooted, uprooted and rerooted?"*

See PBS's Brian Inskeep's [interview](#) with Elif Shafak to learn more about this intriguing read.



## BOYNTON BEACH GARDEN CLUB

is Planning a

Lite Fare Luncheon with an Auction, Baskets and a 50/50

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

at 12:00 Noon

Our Club is extending an invitation to you and your members to join us. We will meet at:

Sterling Village \*  
500 North Federal Highway  
Boynton Beach, Florida

We hope you will be able to attend for what will be a fun afternoon. Luncheon is provided by BBGC members; please be our guest.

Reservations are a must, please call or email:

Kathy Menninger  
at 516-849-3415  
or [kathleenmenninger@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenmenninger@gmail.com)

Please RSVP by April 25, 2022

BBGC is a 501 (c)3 organization. This fundraiser is benefiting FFGC's Scholarship Endowment Fund.

\* Directions: I-95 to Boynton Beach Blvd. and exit east. Drive to Federal Hwy. (the light after crossing the railroad tracks) and turn right (south). Sterling is about 2 blocks down on the left-hand side. We are in the large building straight ahead, slightly to the left. Park only in the yellow marked parking spots. You can enter the clubhouse from both sides.