THE BOYNTON BLOOMERS

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

Boynton Beach Garden Club is a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. (<u>NGC</u>); Deep South Region (<u>DSR</u>); and Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (<u>FFGC</u>), <u>District X</u>.

General Meeting

December 20. Holiday Celebration. Potluck and Yankee Swap: bring something, get something.

Sip N Stroll

January 4. Join us at High Ridge South Scrub, 7300 High Ridge Road, Boynton Beach for another delightful evening stroll with fellow gardeners.

Workshop

January 10. Make adorable Bumble Bee Flower Pots for your favorite flowering plants. \$

Morikami Trip

January 13. A guided tour of the Japanese Gardens at Morikami in Delray. Lunch at their celebrated Cornell Café. \$



Presidents' Report

Holiday Greetings, Boynton Beach Garden Club members!

When Michelle Maguire, Director of District X, visited us at October's General Meeting, she made a comment that took me by surprise. Michelle was struck by not only how ACTIVE our club is, but also by the educational value and civic mindedness of so many of our activities. What a compliment! If Michelle had been with me over the past few weeks, she would have witnessed us in ACTION and been doubly amazed!

Over the past few weeks, we took poinsettias and donuts to the residents of Rustic Retreat, many of them retired veterans. The group of us chatted with the residents, mostly fellas, and admired the cheerful garden atmosphere of the residence.

Another group of us met up for a delightful day trip to our elegant neighbor Palm Beach. After enjoying a delicious lunch at Pizza Al Fresco, we were charmed by Susan Lerner and her prize achievement, Pan's Garden, a native garden magically tucked

(Cont'd next page)

(President's Report cont'd)

away at the end of an asphalt road and row of concrete storefronts. Two other gardens at the Four Arts completed the day's tour.

Meanwhile, decorations and posters were being prepared for participation in the City of Boynton Beach's Holiday Parade. On Saturday, December 3, all the preparations came together as we met downtown, put the finishing touches on the Jeep, donned our wings and antennae, and danced our way down the few blocks of the parade route to the uplifting beat of the Boynton Beach High School Band! So much FUN, FUN, FUN!

Then we had our Holiday Centerpiece Workshop—Glue Gun Fun! With bags of pine cones and buckets of greens, we each made one centerpiece for the Garden Club Holiday Potluck on December 20, and one to take home.

Last, but certainly not least, was the Sip N Stroll to Green Cay Wetlands. The evening air was delicious. The stroll relaxing. Lots of birds and other fauna and flora to admire, with a stunning sunset sky to top it off.

I, like Michelle, am amazed. Besides all of these "special" events, our four community gardens were maintained and the business of the club addressed. We are such a busy group! Members have the opportunity to choose from a variety of activities. We are stewards of our community, and of our natural environment. We continue to explore a wide variety of the floral arts and the wide variety of our surroundings. We continue to learn about gardening best practices and we continue to learn about our fellow members and to enjoy all they have to offer.

We have another great month ahead! Another Sip N Stroll, another day trip, and another workshop! Keep exploring the many opportunities, encouraging each other, and enjoying the many activities offered by Boynton Beach Garden Club!!



Lining up to march at the Holiday Parade. Holding the banner (I.-r.) Toni Cvetko, Carol Stender, and Jody Fraser.

Program for December 20 General Meeting Potluck Luncheon and Yankee Swap

12:00 PM Start — Note Time Change

Remember to bring: Your gourmet luncheon dish An unwrapped item for the swap.

The Business Meeting will follow the Swap.

REGISTER NOW!

66th Annual Tropical Short Course

Presented by District X

GARDENING FOR LIFE PART II

JANUARY 25-26, 2023

GREENACRES COMMUNITY CENTER GREENACRES, FL 33463

Speakers Floral Design Vendors

GO TO: <u>www.districtx.org</u> for information and registration forms. **CONTACT:** Michelle Maguire, Chairman, <u>mouthmom@yahoo.com</u> 772-485-3279

Day Trip to Palm Beach

by Lori Wolff

On Thursday, December 1st, nine of our members embarked on a carpool trip in glorious weather to Palm Beach for a tour of three beautiful gardens and a lovely lunch. This trip had originally been scheduled for October 13th, but was rescheduled because of "iffy" weather.

Our first stop was for lunch in the serene courtyard at Pizza Al Fresco.

We then took a short walk to Pan's Garden, which is the state's only all-native botanical garden. We were met there by the Director of Horticulture, Susan Lerner. Susan gave our members an impromptu tour of this hidden gem that is tucked into a half-acre corner of land, relating some of Pan's history and stories about the native plants and the birds, butterflies and insects they attract.

Our trip concluded with a leisurely, selfguided stroll through the Sculpture and Botanical Gardens at The Society of The Four Arts.



Toni Cvetko enjoying conversation and lunch at Pizza Al Fresco.



Susan Lerner , Director of Horticulture, sharing some highlights and history about Pan's Garden.

Members

enjoyed this trip and look forward to our visit to the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens on



Caption

Holiday Visit to Rustic Retreat by Evelyn Macaig, Chair and Linda Schrader

Members of the Garden Club gathered at Rustic Retreat on Federal Highway in Boynton Beach at 10 A.M. on Friday, November 25th. This annual morning event is organized and financed with BBGC donations. This year, new tablecloths were purchased and delivered for the nine dining

room tables, just in time for Thanksgiving. Bright red poinsettias were placed on each dining table, which helped the festive air of the room. Residents were delighted with the treat of Dunkin' Donuts with their morning coffee.

Rustic Retreat is a retirement home for approximately 30 adults, some of whom are military veterans and adults with disabilities. The facility itself provides a cozy and friendly environment for its residents and visitors. The feeling you get reminds you of an old Key West Motel, back in time! To be noted is that all the meals for residents are home cooked! And the facility prides itself in being a "Home away from home."

The atmosphere was pleasant and relaxing. Some of the residents were willing to share their life stories with us and proudly let us know which branch of the armed services they served. Isaiah, a spry 97-year-old, demonstrated his sparring ability, which he learned as a teen protecting himself from the school bully!

Club members had a delightful, heartwarming visit. Thank you to the members who attended this event. Hope to see more members the next time we visit on Memorial Day!



Dining Room of Rustic Retreat



Isaiah, 97, had many tales to tell!



Two Navy veterans enjoying donuts.

City of Boynton Beach Holiday Parade

by Carol Stender

What a BLAST! The upbeat tempo of the Boynton Beach High School band in front of us, Toni Cvetko, Jody Fraser and I bopped down Federal Highway, decked out in our bumble bee antennae

and wings and carrying the Boynton Beach Garden Club banner. Behind us danced Chris Murphy and our yellow mascot bumble bee Judi Liebert, while Nancy Lemcke stole the show riding her poinsettia-decorated bike. Then followed our crowning achievement, Bonnie Paton's Jeep, bedecked with a large wreath on the front grill surrounding our club logo and flashing lights. There were piles of flowers, greens and poinsettia bursting from the hatchback, with butterflies floating around. Signs on the side of the Jeep told the crowd to BEE THE SOLUTION! Bonnie drove the car and Christine Johnson kept her company, both of them waving and cheering at the crowd!

And what a joyful crowd! Young families, retirees, friends and couples lined the streets ready to kick off the holidays with a good, oldfashioned parade. Young and old, everyone participated! They cheered and waved as we



Back of Bonnie's Jeep overflowed with holiday decorations.



Bedecked Jeep, ready for the parade.

passed by. They LOVED US! We smiled, cheered, and waved back.The entire event was exhilarating! And just so much FUN!

Our club's participation in the City Parade is another example of EXPLORE, ENCOURAGE, ENJOY! The journey began in May, when the Executive Committee met to set up the schedule for the 2022-2023 season. Because we have participated in other City Events, including Earth Day and First Friday, we received an invitation to be in the Holiday Parade. Christine Johnson encouraged us all, saying that it would be a fun time, not much trouble at all, and good publicity for the club.

Parade cont'd next page

The Boynton Bloomers

Parade cont'd

Bonnie Paton took up the lead. She had a vision for the Garden Club contingent and we all encouraged each other as signs were constructed, large flowers assembled and fixed onto wide ribbons that were attached to the front hood of the Jeep.

The festivities began the morning of the parade. A group of about twelve members and helpers met at Christine Johnson's and put together our dream vehicle, fortified by the yummiest pumpkin muffins ever. We all went home about 11 AM with instructions on where to meet up before the parade.



Holiday Parade participants (I.–r.) Carol Stender, Chris Murphy, Toni Cvetko, Jody Fraser, and Nancy Lemcke. Not shown in photo, but key to our success, are Bonnie Paton, Christine Johnson, Judi Liebert, Roberta Corrigan and Tina Husing.

Photo credits: Tina Husing and Roberta Corrigan

At 1:30 PM, some of us met back at Christine's and followed the decorated car to downtown Boynton. Except for when our 10 foot PVC pipe flew out of the car when we stopped for the light at the intersection of Woolbright and Congress, all went well.

Bonnie's fervent prayers to the Parade Gods were answered and our assigned spot in the parade lineup was toward the front! For us, the time and length of the event was not long. We were full of energy as we marched behind the band and waved to the crowd, however, when I arrived home, I collapsed. Happy, satisfied, but exhausted.

Do we plan to participate next year? ABSOLUTELY! With a new theme and more marchers.

MORIKAMI MUSEUM & JAPANESE GARDENS FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2023



View of one of the bridges at the Morikami Japanese Gardens

We will tour the gardens, then have lunch at the Cornell Café. Following lunch, you are on your own to visit the exhibits and shop.

We will meet in the parking lot of Cracker Barrel's at 9:00 and leave at 9:15 to arrive at 10:00. We will collect your entrance fee in advance and give them one check for all of us. This will save time rather than each paying upon our entrance. We will collect your \$13 at the December meeting. We ALL need to meet outside the entrance at 10:00 to come through together. If you are a member of Morikami, you will have to go through yourself, showing your card.

After the tour, at approximately 11:30, we will meet in the Cornell Café. **There has been a change in plans** – they do not need our lunch orders in advance. You will place your order off the menu when there.

Several members will not be down until after the holidays. If you want to attend, please email me your name, and if you will carpool or not; we will work out getting your \$13. The deadline to sign up is January 9. The sign-up sheet will be available at the December 20th General Meeting.

Mary Scheitler mfs33436@gmail.com

Why We Are Contributing to Penny Pines by Mary Scheitler

The Penny Pines Program was initiated in California in 1941. It started small, under the sponsorship of the San Francisco Sportswomen's Association in 1941. The minimum donation is \$68.00. To date, 61 years later, those pennies have amounted to well over 1 million dollars. Over the years, individuals, community organizations, and groups of all sizes have participated in the Penny Pines Program.

National Garden Clubs and the USDA Forest Service are proud to have formed a partnership sustaining our national and urban forests through this reforestation/forest education program.

Our Garden Club participates in a meaningful and practical conservation project by contributing increments of \$68.00 to a Penny Pines plantation as part of the costs of replanting replacement trees indigenous to a particular damaged area. Whether by fire or by other natural catastrophe, pine trees and other trees are replaced. We may designate a specific state we wish to benefit from this contribution. BBGC requested our donation of \$136 in 2019 go to the Mexico City, FL area to help them replant from the devastation caused by Hurricane Michael. Using a figure of 680 seedlings per acre, groups are asked to donate a minimum of \$68 (for 10 acres) to help reforest devastated and burned-out areas.

Under a conservation agreement, the Forest Service will do the planting, using our donation together with federal funds, and will provide to the plantation the same protection from fires, insects, and disease given other forested areas. The plantations are a part of the regular national forest reforestation program planted on burned-over and brushcovered areas which are potentially productive timberlands. Planting sites are selected by the supervisor of each national forest. These plantations provide soil protection, watershed protection, soil stabilization, future harvestable timber, as well as beauty and shade for recreation.

Because we do not pass the jar around the room, remember where it is located and drop your change into it as you leave. Hopefully, we will be able to send a check in May for \$138, and request replanting in the Fort Myers area because of Hurricane Ian.

November Sip N Stroll

by Carol Stender

On a lovely Florida evening, Garden Club members met at the entrance to Green Cay Wetlands off Hagen Ranch Road for the monthly Sip N Stroll. Green Cay is one of my favorite local spots for a walk. It offers a variety of small ecosystems, including a cypress walk, a few hammocks, an upland area, and, of course, the vast wetlands. Different seasons reveal each area in a different state.

Then there is the wildlife that draws everyone like a magnet. Sometimes a gator to wonder at, an assortment of turtles, and birds, birds, birds. All kinds of water fowl: stealthy herons and egrets, anhinga with their wings outstretched, black cormorants, flocks of white ibis, perhaps a few wood storks, and, if lucky, a roseate spoonbill. Then there are the ducks, the common moorhen, and the colorful purple gallinule making their way through the wetlands searching for bugs, tadpoles, insect larvae, and vegetation. Upon occasion, a hawk can be seen perched on the skeleton of a dead tree, looking for its next meal.

On this occasion, we were lucky enough to spy a gator resting on a bank beneath a tree. We marveled at cyprus knees, and discussed the birds in action, many of them so well camouflaged that, unless one of us luckily spied it, we would have walked right past. A stroll through these native areas teaches us to be patient and attentive.

When we reached the upland area, strangler fig trees devouring palms amazed us, as well as the healthy mistletoe fern growing on a few of the trees. Just the week before, we had learned about the mistletoe fern from Susan Lerner when we visited Pan's Garden! *Cont'd next page.*



Judi Liebert took a photo of our Sip N Stroll group (I.-r.) Carol Stender, Bonnie Paton, Guests Brenda Jones and Linda Anderson, Linda Christianson, and Roberta Corrigan.

The roosting trees were white with birds and, as we made our way to the end of our walk, more and more flocked in to settle down for the night.

To cap the night off, the evening sky granted us a showy farewell with lots of pink-tinted clouds and a full moon peeking through! We all tried to capture the stunning sky with our phones, so ask any of us and you will see another version.

The Green Cay Sip N Stroll was a delight and though our inclination was to linger longer, we knew the gates would be locked after sunset. We all agreed that Green Cay is a special place and worthy of repeated visits.



Sunset at Green Cay

January Sip N Stroll: High Ridge Scrub by Jody Fraser

Please join us January 4th at 4 p.m. for a walk with other members at High Ridge Scrub . This natural area has a .25 mile paved and a 1.5 mile sandy trail through habitat featuring the protected gopher tortoise and a variety of native Florida plants. There are benches along the walk as well as a shade kiosk.

High Ridge Scrub is located at 7300 High Ridge Road, ½ mile south of Hypoluxo Road in Boynton Beach. **Parking is limited so carpooling is recommended**.



Holiday Centerpiece Workshop

by Carol Stender

On December 6, High Point Clubhouse was a busy holiday workshop. Members entered a room set up with bags of pine cones and containers of greens. Everything was ready for our project to construct Holiday Centerpieces for the

December 20th General Meeting.

We each plugged in our glue guns and set to work creating the wreaths. The first one we created was to be ours to take home; then we each made a wreath for the tables at High Point, large enough to frame a poinsettia plant.

Everyone was in high spirits as we carefully and creatively assembled the wreaths. Christine Johnson led us through the craft and showed us the options: larger cones, smaller cones, a few berries, and lots of greens. Some opted to spray the cones gold or silver, while others preferred a snow-covered effect. All turned out well.

The Holiday Workshop was a fun, lively way to socialize and create something nice to take home. Hope you enjoy our creations at the December Meeting. We sure enjoyed making them.



Crafty members display their works in progress. (l. -r.) Linda Christianson, Christine Johnson, Bonnie Paton and Roberta Corrigan with her trusty glue gun.



(l. -r.) Chris Murphy and Keegan Gabriel creating.



HOLIDAY DELIGHT The History of the Christmas Wreath

The history or origin of the wreath began in the 16th century when branches were salvaged from tree trimming and shaping trees. Nothing in the 16th century would be considered as something to "throw away"! At first these branches were merely gathered together at the ends and hung up. Pieces of scrap material, if available, may have been added as decoration.

As time evolved, the branches were formed into a circle. This circle shape was significant in that it would represent something more perfect. The circle or wreath symbolizes eternity as we know it today, a shape that has no end.

The Lutherans in Germany in the 19th century formed wreaths placing a candle in the center for the telling of the nativity story. Four wreaths held candles for each week of Advent. Each candle in a wreath representing *hope, love, joy and peace.*

Evergreens, holly, and laurel are just a few of the many green plants used throughout history in wreaths to represent the Christmas spirit. Today the wreath besides its popular use at Christmas has become a traditional sign of welcome.



Linda Schrader's Wreath

Resource: <u>www.time.com</u>



Florida Holiday Tree by Linda Schrader

No need to go to great expense when decorating for the holidays. Ingenuity, creativity, and some time spent bargain shopping can make you the envy of your neighbors.

Brighten your yard with a few carefully selected purchases from your local Dollar Store.

At left, a front yard tree is in the spirit with a few large red balls found at a bargain price! Add the all-important lighting and the magic is complete.

Poinsettias are Wild, Too by Carol Cloud Bailey

One of my fond memories of college was the summer I spent at Loop's Nurseries and Greenhouses in Jacksonville as an intern. Though the work was hard, not to mention good for me, I learned a great deal about the effort and knowledge that goes into producing gorgeous plants for sale. Before returning to Gainesville for the fall term, the final project at the nursery was taking the cuttings for that year's crop of poinsettias. That hot, sweaty, filthy, and sticky job in August yielded beautiful pots of massive, gorgeous red, white, and pink high-quality poinsettias for the holidays.

Years later, I still love poinsettias. They are versatile, cold-sensitive tropical plants, originally from Mexico, that are beautiful as landscape shrubs and in containers. Poinsettias are the bestselling flowering potted plants in the United States and are grown commercially as a holiday crop in all 50 states. However, I have also come to appreciate the native, more subtle wild poinsettia.

Euphorbia cyathophora, also known as Wild Poinsettia, Painted Spurge, Painted Leaf, or Fire on the Mountain, is native to the eastern and southern US, south to northern South America, and east to the West Indies. It is an annual or perennial, depending on habitat. The leaves are alternate on the stems, variable, and usually somewhat fiddleor lance-shaped, 5 to 6 inches long, bright green, and glossy. The true flowers are the small, yellow cup-shaped structures at the ends of hollow, green stems. Below the tiny flowers are bracts or modified leaves, which turn red, pink, or orangered on a portion of the bract.

Wild poinsettia is classified in the same family as the popular holiday plant Euphorbiaceae. The large (over 7,000 species) family has plants that produce milky sap from cut stems. The milky juice can cause skin irritation in some people and pets through the plant. The traditional holiday poinsettias are not deadly poisonous but can cause some distress if ingested.

Use wild poinsettia as a wildflower in native landscapes, beds, and containers. It is also lovely as a filler plant in more traditional landscapes, growing 24 to 36 inches high and 10 to 18 inches wide. Tolerant of most well-drained soil, this dainty native plant prefers full sun or partially shady conditions. Plant this wildflower by seed which may be challenging to find.

The colorful bracts of wild poinsettia appear late in the summer or early fall and persist into winter and the holiday season. Though the bracts are pretty, their coloring is much more subdued than florist poinsettias.



The lovely, native wildflower, Euphorbia cyathophora or wild poinsettia, has colorful subtle blooms. Though a beautiful addition to gardens, it has escaped cultivation in other parts of the world and is considered invasive in some agricultural production areas. Photo credit: Carol Cloud Bailey

This column and image first appeared in the <u>Treasure Coast Newspapers</u>.



Celebrating 70 years of planting seeds in Boca Raton

Join the Fun 9am-2pm

Garden Tours Free Seeds and Plants (supplies limited) Informational Exhibits Games for Children & Adults Gardening Baskets for Raffles

Our seeds can be Planted in the Ground and the Mind!

4281 NW 3rd Ave., Boca Raton, Florida



Donations Welcome

January 10 Workshop Bee Fingerprint Flower Pot



National Garden Clubs, Inc. Gardening School, Course 2

Monday – Tuesday February 9 & 10, 2023 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Mounts Botanical Garden Auditorium 531 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach 33415 Email <u>carol.stender@gmail.com</u> to register

Youth Garden at Forest Park Elementary School

by Chris Murphy, Youth Garden Chair

Students at Forest Park Elementary School in Boynton Beach look forward to tending their garden each day with their Lead Teacher Barbara Callahan. They are proudly watching their small gardening plot take shape, enjoying the experience of growing pollinator plants and learning along the way.

A small variety of native plants have been purchased and planted, including some tropical salvia and native milkweed, a porterweed, and a coco plum. The garden has been mulched and set off by a little fence. All plants are doing well. A testament to the success of the Youth Garden is the fact that the students have seen a few different species of butterflies on and around the plants. You can just imagine their excitement!

The garden has attracted a great deal of interest at the school. So much so that the students involved have been divided into two groups: an After School Care Group and a Girls Club Group. The groups meet on alternating weeks. Most encouraging is the excellent cooperation from the teachers and leaders who work with these two groups.

I am awaiting a reply on two grant requests so we can expand the garden and include more varieties of native plants.

Contact me at <u>954-295-3270</u> to sign up and help with the Youth Garden. We meet on Thursdays from 2:30-3:30 pm.



Lead Teacher Barbara Callahan helps student water the garden with a hose as other students await their turn.

Butterfly Corner

by Carol Stender

This month's column focuses on one of the best nectar plants for attracting butterflies, the *Lantana involucrata*, more commonly called the Buttonwood Sage or Wild Sage. Although Cyndy DeVito reported on this plant last month for the Horticulture Committee, Susan Lerner, Director of Pan's Garden in Palm Beach, gifted our club with a young Buttonwood Sage specimen for our gardens, so a re-emphasize of the many benefits of this plant seemed in order.

The Buttonwood Sage is long-lived perennial bush which grows to about 4-6 feet here in Palm Beach County. Year round, this evergreen sports clusters of small white flowers with yellow centers. The fragrant blossoms are followed by clusters of small purple fruit which attract birds. It's a real plus for butterfly gardeners because the flowers are a major attractor for all pollinators, including butterflies such as the atala, cassius blue, sulfurs, skippers, and hairstreaks.

Do not confuse this lantana with *Lantana camara*, which is generally available at the big box stores. Florida has five native species of lantana. Of these five species, three are threatened by the nonnative and invasive Lantana camara, although *Lantana involucrata* is not threatened at this time.

Buttonwood Sage likes full sun to part shade, and grows well in dry, sandy, well-drained ridge soils. The leaves are rough downy ovals with serrated

edges. The plant is hurricane wind resistant and has some tolerance to salty wind, but not direct salt spray.

Lantana involucrata is useful as a foundation plant. It can get leggy, but remains dense with periodic pruning. Its native range includes the coastal areas of South Florida, the Bahamas, Caribbean, and Central America.

If you are serious about attracting pollinators and have the space, include a Buttonwood Sage in your garden!

Click the video to watch a quick, interesting You-tube video showing a song bird foraging





Atala butterfly on a flower cluster of the Lantana involucrata. Photo taken at Pan's Garden while on BBGC's latest day trip to Palm Beach. (photo credit C. Stender)

on the purple berries of the Buttonbush (Lantana involucrata).

Resources:

Sedore, David. Wild South Florida: Naturally Wild.

<u>http://www.wildsouthflorida.com/</u> lantanta.involucrata.html#.Y5L3Hi-B10s

Florida Native Plant Society. https://www.fnps.org/plant/lantana-involucrata

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. <u>https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?</u> <u>id_plant=lain2</u>

The Boynton Bloomers



Upcoming Birthdays

Remember our members when their special day comes around.

Lori Wolff	December 21
Linda Christianson	January 8
Marianne Madyda	January 8
Peg Fagan	January 11
Madelyne Lenny	January 21
Karen Bowman	January 30



Welcome Our New Member! Karen Bowman

10994 Robelini Palm Court, Apt A Boynton Beach, FL 33437

> 254-721-0821 mamakk082@gmail.com

> > DOB 01/30

Committees: Butterfly Garden, Community Garden, Memorial Garden

The Boynton Beach Historical Society

The Boynton Beach Historical Society does not meet during December or January. However, looking ahead, they invite BBGC Members to attend their February 2023 program.

The Florida Highwaymen Art Show and Sale

February 4, 2023, 11am-3pm

at the Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center.

125 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach.

Free admission. Free parking.

Send a request to join to <u>BBHSPrograms@gmail.com</u> and we'll send you an invitation. Free and open to the public.