

THE BOYNTON BLOOMERS

Boynton Beach Garden Club | May 2023 | C. Stender, Editor

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

General Meeting

May 23– Cold Dish Potluck Lunch and Members Only Flower Show at our new venue, Leisureville #3 Clubhouse.

Memorial Day

May 29– Visit with Veterans at Rustic Retreat. 10 AM

Executive Committee Meeting

May 30— Planning for 2023-2024

**ENJOY YOUR
SUMMER!**

**WATCH FOR
SUMMER
LUNCHEON
UPDATES**



Presidents' Report

And so we come to May. Spring is now upon us. The trees are greener and filling out, the bushes are pushing out new growth, and the flowers are busily attracting bees and butterflies — and me!

The changing of the seasons might not be as dramatically evident here in Florida as it is in the northern states, but after living here a while, one becomes acquainted with the subtle shift. And then the rains come and no one can deny the drama in that!

May, also, marks the end of the Garden Club season. I'm finding the impending transition a bit melancholic. We started the year with the theme of EXPLORE, ENCOURAGE, and ENJOY!. Looking back, members of the club fulfilled that mantra wholeheartedly.

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(President's Report Cont'd)

We have expanded the range and depth of our Garden Club activity on multiple fronts. This season has been a whirlwind of projects for club members. Besides our monthly meetings, which reliably feature interesting presentations, our Gardening Committees have been creatively refreshing and redesigning their spaces, and our Sip N Strolls have continued to offer unique opportunities for relaxing, socializing, and enjoying nature.

This year we initiated large, complicated projects, including a Plant Sale, a Fashion Show, and an updating of our bylaws. We continued our annual Art in Bloom and a variety of Make It and Take It Workshops. Many of us had a fun time representing BBGC in events offered by the City of Boynton Beach, including the Holiday Parade, when crowds along the street cheered us on and the rhythm of the Boynton Beach High School band kept us on a lively pace, and the Earth Day Celebration, when we were able to interact with the community including children and their parents. Another positive interaction with the community takes place each time we present at the City Library's Brown Bag Lunch and Lecture Series. Throughout the year, individual club members EXPLORED these various opportunities and brought them to the attention of the club. Once presented, other members ENCOURAGED participation, supplying ideas and support. Thus, our club members ENJOY a wide variety of activities and have a good time together.

The culmination of the year, however, was when we hosted the District X Spring Meeting on April 27. The success of the occasion was due to the

considerable skills and generous contributions of our members. Every member of the club shared in the formidable effort and at least a third of our members exceeded expectations. I want to especially acknowledge the efforts of Chair Lori Wolff for her organizational skills, Cyndie Sable for her design talent, Christine Johnson for her skill with the raffle baskets, and Bonnie Paton for her dedication to the complicated task of Registrar, coordinating key information for thirteen Garden Clubs and District officials. Lori's committee worked together, ENCOURAGED each other, and provided an excellent venue and a seamless experience for the 2023 District X meeting, which absolutely everyone ENJOYED. Thank you, ladies!

The year is winding down. The month of May was already a much quieter month as much of our work for this extraordinary past season is just about complete. The season's final meeting on May 23 at the Leisureville #3 Clubhouse, located at 2000 SW 13th Ave, offers another first for BBGC: a Flower Show. This will be a low key, minimally structured show—an opportunity to show off whatever plants members have had success with in their gardens or their patios this year. Categories even include photography and creative efforts involving flora. The Flower Show is yet another example of an idea this Garden Club season that was EXPLORED by a few members who suggested it, then EMBRACED by others who ENCOURAGED it. Come to the meeting early with your plant and your cold dish for the potluck so we can set up and ENJOY a final opportunity to celebrate our club and its year of success!

May General Meeting

To all fellow members and gardeners of the Boynton Beach Garden Club:

This is your last chance to showcase the year in horticulture, design and Florida Fashionista. It is time for a fun and very casual presentation of your Flora to non-judgmental friends.

Join the fun and don't forget... a cold luncheon dish to share. *Note—if you have not turned in the survey, please bring it with you, also!

WHEN: May 23, try to come early with your plants and cold dish for the potluck

WHERE: Leisureville Clubhouse #3
2000 SW 13th Ave, BB 33426

CONTACT: Nancy Lemcke [978-853-7705](tel:978-853-7705) or nancke15@gmail.com



April General Meeting

African Violets and So Much More

Photos by Tina Husing

Joe Sammons, President of the African Violet and Gesneriad Society, spoke on his love of violets. Violets can come in all shades from white to purple, all shades of the rainbow. The violet flower can be single, bi-color or tricolor. They can also be of the trailing or spreading varieties. What makes them popular is that they are small pretty plants, for the most part they remain small, and they make wonderful long-lasting houseplants.

Light: Violets need about 12 hours of light but not direct sunlight. **Soil:** The soil is best if a mix of peat-based with perlite. **Fertilizer:** Fertilizer is needed for violets to bloom. A

violet fertilizer or fertilizer with a higher middle number is best. **Watering:** Do not water leaves or allow them to stand in water. Water every 7 to 10 days and let dry out.

Mr. Sammons brought a nice selection to sell after his presentation.

After Mr. Sammons' presentation, we rolled out the cake and ice cream to celebrate Nancy Lemcke's 90th birthday! What a pleasure to sing to Nancy and honor her many active years! In her 9th decade, she is still out weeding the Community and Butterfly Gardens and participating in club events, including riding her bicycle in the Boynton Beach Holiday Parade, producing milkweed seed packets annually for Earth Day, growing plants for Plant Sales and putting together raffle baskets for fundraising events. We are glad to have had the opportunity to celebrate Nancy's birthday with her.

During the Business Meeting, Toni Cvetko presented awards to two members who participated in Art in



Joe Sammons holding the potting mixture he prefers for his African Violets.

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April General Meeting Cont'd

Bloom this season. Kathy Menninger received her Certificate of Participation and Lynn Lima received her ribbon for the People's Choice Award. Kathy and Lynn were not at last month's meeting, which is why they received their awards in April. Art in Bloom is a fun event where members interpret student artwork through flowers. Can't wait until next season's show.



Nancy Lemcke's Birthday Cake



Lynn Lima shows off her People's Choice Ribbon



Kathy Menninger's Certificate from Art in Bloom 2023

District X Spring Meeting

Photos by Tina Husing

April 27, 2023 was a huge day for Boynton Beach Garden Club. It was the day that we had the opportunity to demonstrate just how capable and creative our Gardening Club is.

After months of planning, preparing and organizing, BBGC proudly hosted the District X Spring Meeting with competency and panache. For those of you who participated in the preparations, a big thank you. For those of you who attended the meeting, wasn't it lovely? And for those of you who were unable to assist this year, there will always be another opportunity. Below are a few photos taken at the event.



District X officers front row (l. — r.) Li Roberts, Treasurer; Maria Wolfe, District Director; Mary Ann Cody, Assistant Director.

Back row (l. — r.) Daphna Goldberg, Corresponding Secretary ; Julie Young, Parliamentarian; Lori Wolff, Chaplain; Blanca Rancourt, Recording Secretary.

Photos from the District X Spring Meeting



The long table full of spectacular raffle baskets donated by our imaginative members.



Linda Schrader with the display of Pollinator Rocks that she helped members create to sell.



Carmella Coppola introduces one of the speakers, Jam Henandal, a Delray beekeeper.

Saving Forests \$68 At A Time

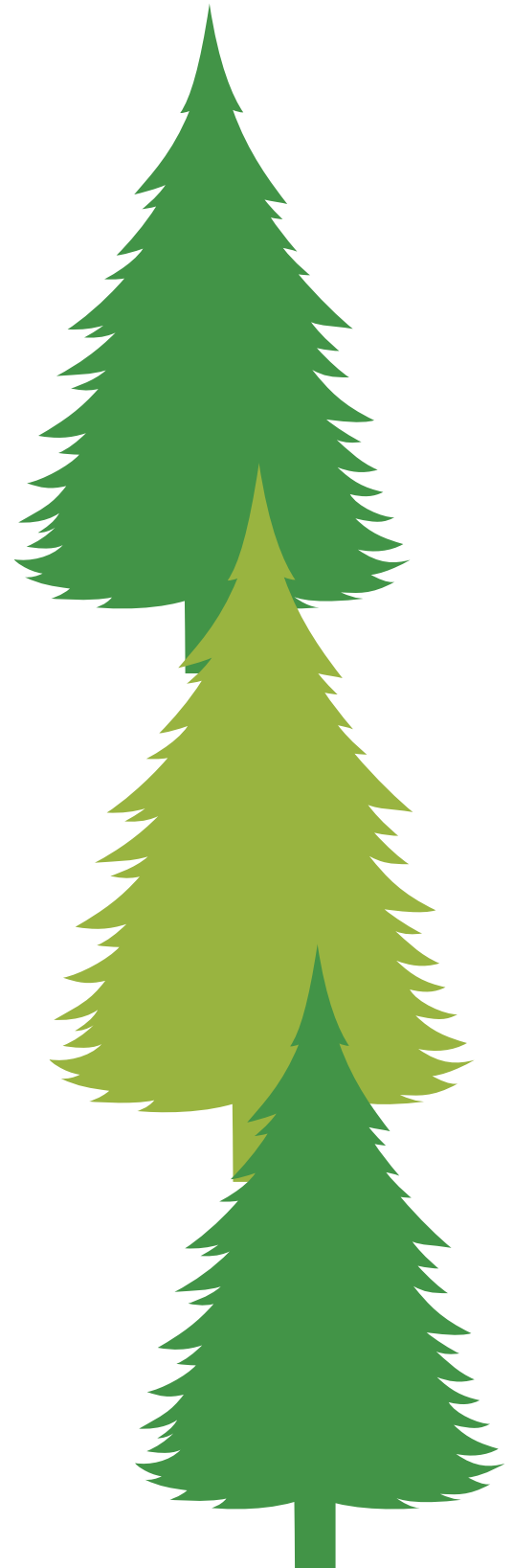
by Mary Scheitler

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

Boynton Beach Garden Club participates in this meaningful and practical conservation project by contributing \$68.00 to Penny Pines 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. \$68.00 will replant one acre, and I'm proud to say we have collected \$204 this year - enough to replant three acres.

WHY DO WE NEED FORESTS? 1. Forests provide a vacationland for our enjoyment; they keep the mountain and countryside beautiful 2. Wild animals, birds, and fish depend upon the forests and streams for food and shelter. 3. Forests help us to have a reliable supply of usable water; they help prevent floods and water shortages. 4. Grasses and shrubs in the forest furnish feed for wildlife and domestic animals 5. Forests hold the fertile topsoil in place, keeping it from washing into streams and reservoirs. 6. Forests provide timber for lumber, plywood, boxes, poles, furniture, paper, and thousands of other products. They provide a livelihood for many of our people.

This is my last year chairing Penny Pines and I would like to thank all the members for participating by contributing your change at each meeting. I will be mailing in our form and check, requesting the money be used in Florida. We will have the jar available at the May meeting and the money will be the start of saving another \$68 or more toward next year, then passed on to those who have signed up for this committee.



Rustic Retreat on Memorial Day

by Evelyn Macaig



Members of the Boynton Beach Garden Club are scheduled to meet at the Rustic Retreat Retirement Home on Monday, May 29th, at 10 A.M. We will be bringing doughnuts, magazines, books and puzzles to share with the residents.

WHEN: Monday, May 29 at 10 AM

WHERE: Rustic Retreat Retirement Home for Veterans
1120 N. Federal Highway
Boynton Beach 33435

WHAT: Sharing with Veterans
If you have any magazines, puzzles, etc. to donate, bring them along.

The Veterans always welcome us and enjoy our company and conversations.

See you there. . . .

May Sip N Stroll

by Jodi Fraser

Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

Wednesday, May 3, was the final Sip N Stroll for the 2022-2023 Garden Club season and we saved one of our favorites for last. The Cypress Walk at Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge is an ecological treasure. Although once common in Florida, Cypress Swamps have become rare in this area. As we strolled through this year, we documented a few of the plants that can be seen from the boardwalk. Enjoy our photos.

Note: Do NOT buy cypress mulch as the cypress that are left in the southern states are being clear cut and ground up for mulch.



Adorable Skyflower (Duranta erecta)



May Strollers (l. — r.) Linda Anderson, her friend Peg, Carol Cloud Bailey, and Tina Husing.

At right, one of the many large bromeliads growing on the cypress trees. This one is *Tillandsia fasciculata*. Having a Professional Botanist along during our Sip N Strolls is a real treat. Thank you, Carol Cloud Bailey!



The stunning flower of the Jamaican Caper (Capparis cynophallophora). This bush can be grown in your yard.

Butterfly Corner: Bring Butterflies to Your Garden by Carol Stender

It's been a while since I've written for this column, but my heart has not strayed from my quest to fill my yard with butterflies.

I am happy to report that for the last month or so, every time I look out the window, butterflies are flying here, there, and everywhere. Zebras, monarchs, sulphurs, and gulf fritillaries. Their dancing flights through the trees, bushes and flowers never cease to amaze and delight me.

You must recall that I live in an HOA community. For many years, I noted that there were NO mosquitoes, bees, moths or butterflies anywhere. That didn't bother me until I noted the absence of songbirds. I just figured that was normal for Florida .

My education began when I was given the Chair of the Butterfly Certification Committee. Boy, did I have a LOT TO LEARN ! I am not turning back.



A firebush that I planted in my side yard last spring. I planted a passion vine with it. The vine is host to zebras and gulf fritillaries. The larvae eat the vine leaves until there are only stems, but the bush hides the devastation, which will not last long, and also serves as a favorite nectar plant for many pollinators.



My Butterfly Garden

**The Sun is rising in the East
The Birds are up and ready to feast**

**The Sky above is clear and blue
There will be no rain it's true**

**The Milkweed is in full bloom
For the Monarch that is a big boon**

**The Zebra Longwing is all a flutter
The Passion vine is better than any other**

**The Sulphur butterfly is bright and yellow
A sight to see for any fellow**

**The little Atala is a real cutie
As his larva feeds on the coontie**

**I love the plants in my garden
I enjoy working the soil they grow in**

**The Garden is my Heaven on earth
Each day brings a new Birth.**

Christine Johnson



As you get ready to enjoy the summer months, here are some ways to create a comfortable, sustainable outdoor space you can appreciate all season long.



Use organic mulch to reduce weeds and promote healthy soil. It may also save 25%-50% in water usage.¹



Depending on the amount of rain that falls where you live, you may save up to 1,300 gallons of water by using a rain barrel during the peak summer months.²



Replace grass with artificial turf, stones, crushed gravel, ornamental grasses or perennial groundcovers.



Select pollinator-friendly plants and bushes to attract butterflies and bees. Use organic weed prevention methods when possible.



Install a "smart" irrigation system and check parts often. A broken water head could lose up to 25,000 gallons of water in six months.³



Trees offer shade, reduce stormwater runoff and serve as a natural habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Decor Ideas

- 1 Hang small plants onto an old shutter or pallet and lean it against your house or deck.
- 2 Display plants on the steps of an old ladder.
- 3 Install a shelf onto a wall or windowsill to serve as a makeshift bar.
- 4 Consider terra-cotta pots and outdoor floor tiles. The fired clay material is budget-friendly and highly durable.

SOURCES:
 1. espoma.com/landscaping/apply-mulch-now-for-benefits-all-season
 2. epa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/what-is-rainbarrel.pdf
 3. epa.gov/watersense/watersense-current-summer-2020

Propagate your Plants, but Skip Rooting in Water

by Carol Cloud Bailey

The days are getting longer, and the temperatures are rising. Many plants in the landscape and house plants are growing fast. Once plants are growing well, it is a good time to propagate a few to increase your beds and to have a few plants ready to gift for birthdays, hostess gifts, and the upcoming holidays.

Many landscape and house plants can be propagated and grown from cuttings, seeds, layers, and root suckers. This article will focus on cuttings. Here is a fabulous

in-depth plant propagation resource for gardeners from NC State Extension, Chapter 13 from The North Carolina Extension Gardener Handbook <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook/13-propagation>

Cuttings are a prevalent method of propagation. There are several types of cuttings, including softwood – cuttings are taken from this year's growth – good for crotons, semi-hardwood cuttings, which are taken after new growth has matured but before the stem turns woody – good



*Pothos has been and still is a staple of the foliage industry in Florida. It is grown in pots, hanging baskets, and on totem poles. Devil's Ivy, Marble Queen, or Pothos, as it has been known by gardeners and house plant enthusiasts, has also been known by several scientific names, including *Epipremnum aureum* and *Pothos aureus*. It is easy to propagate in either soil or water. Grow it as a house plant ONLY in subtropical and tropical locations; it is a prolific invasive plant in many warm places. Photo by PxHere (<https://pxhere.com/>)*

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Propagate Your Plants Cont'd

for firebush; hardwood from mature wood – suitable for many shrubs, and leaf bud cuttings that include the leaf itself, the petiole or leaf stem, and a 1/2 to 1-inch portion of the stem – good for pothos and African violets.

The key to successful plant propagation is the environment where the cuttings are placed. The best conditions have close to 100 percent humidity, moderate light levels, mild but warm temperatures, and pest-free medium or soil.

A note here about propagating in water. Sticking a cutting in a glass of water and leaving it on the window sill has been a gardener's method for eons. It sometimes works, but have you ever visited a commercial nursery and found hundreds of cuttings stuck in containers of water? I haven't. Cuttings and roots need oxygen and aerated water, such as used in hydroponic production. Still water is quickly depleted of oxygen. Water propagation can increase the chance of root rots, and some plants will not grow roots in water. There is evidence that roots grown in water differ from those grown in soil.

If you propagate in water, keep it clean, change it often, and watch the cuttings closely. The cuttings in water should be moved to soil quickly once root growth begins. The signs cuttings are ready for transplant are small, white roots and/or swelling root nodes at the base of the stem.

Forgo the water and stick cuttings in a propagation chamber. One of the simplest propagation units to build is constructed from a 2-liter soda bottle. Cut the bottle so 3 to 4 inches are left on the bottom for soil. Punch a few holes to allow

drainage and fill the bottom portion with clean builder's sand or sterile potting soil with perlite added to help drainage. These types of rooting media are usually pest free and promote healthy roots.

Take 4 to 6-inch-long cuttings with a sharp knife or pruning shears. Remove the leaves from the bottom inch or two of the stems and place the cutting in the already moist rooting medium. Firm the soil around the cutting and water again. Rooting hormone does increase the rooting of some cuttings. Refer to the hormone label for usage guidelines. Dip the stems in hormone before putting them in the soil. Place the top of the soda bottle on top and remove the bottle top. Place the propagation unit in the shade, keep an eye on the soil, and add water if needed. Firebush should produce roots in 1 to 2 months.

This informative article from the venerable Missouri Botanical Garden has clear graphics about propagation and the kinds of cuttings to take for specific plants - <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/help-for-the-home-gardener/advice-tips-resources/visual-guides/propagating-plants-by-cuttings>. Also, check out Propagating Foliage & Flowering Plants from Texas A & M Extension - <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamental/a-reference-guide-to-plant-care-handling-and-merchandising/propagating-foilage-flowering-plants/> and from Purdue University, New Plants from Cuttings - <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yandgarden/extpub/new-plants-from-cuttings-text-only/>.



The Culinary Gardener

How to Grow Lemon Trees from Seeds

by Pat Inturrisi

Since we're blessed with almost constant Summer here in Florida, it's always a great time to enjoy the refreshing citrus flavor of lemons. Fortunately, lemon trees are among the easiest citrus fruits to grow in your yard. And they will make a great house plant as the lemon leaves have a beautiful scent.

To grow a lemon plant from seeds, you should start with seeds from an organic lemon because non-organic lemons generally have non-germinating seeds. Choose plump seeds as the tiny ones also will never sprout. Plant 5-10 at a time in case some don't sprout.

The pot you select should be about four inches wide and about six inches deep. This size pot can be used for growing one lemon plant.

First fill a large pot with soil and mix water into it until it's damp.

Then add that soil to your planting pot up to about an inch from the rim. Create a 1/2-inch deep hole with your finger or a pencil, and drop the lemon seeds into the hole and cover with soil. Make sure that the pointy tip of the seeds are planted down, and the rounded part is pointing in your direction. The roots will grow out of that pointy tip.

Cover the pot with Saran Wrap so as to trap moisture and warmth. Place the plastic wrap above the pot then wrap with a rubber band to secure the cover. Poke some holes in the plastic wrap using a toothpick or a fork. These holes will allow for the plant to breathe air.

Place in a spot with indirect light. You will see a sprout emerge after about a week or two.

The plastic wrap will trap the moisture in the pot to allow condensation which will rain down into the soil, and make it damp. You will need to water the plant regularly, so when you notice that the soil starts to dry, take off the plastic wrap and water the plant. Re-cover the pot with the plastic after watering.



Pat's beautiful, fragrant Lemon Tree

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(Culinary Gardener Cont'd)

You can remove the plastic when the sprout starts to appear, and then transfer the pot to a warm and sunny location. Make sure to keep the soil damp at all times. However, do not allow it to get soggy. Lemon plants don't like wet feet!!

Transplant the seedlings once the sprouts are about 3-3 1/2 inches.

Remember that your seedling will soon outgrow its pot. Once it reaches about a year old, transfer it into a pot that is about

6 inches wide. Eventually, you may have to move the pot to something wider, about 8 inches wide and 16 inches deep. You can also choose to transplant the seedlings directly into the soil.

A good rule of thumb when it comes to transplanting from seed is to check the bottom of the pot. If you see roots at the drainage holes, then take that as a sign that the plant will now need a much bigger pot. In a year or so you will be picking your own lemons for the recipe below.

Lemon Cheesecake Crumb Bars

Crumb Crust and Topping

2-1/3 c flour
 2-1/3 c oats
 1 c brown sugar
 1 c granulated sugar
 2 tsp baking powder
 1 tsp salt
 1 c cold butter, cut in cubes

Cheesecake Filling

8 oz cream cheese, room temperature
 3 egg yolks
 1 tsp lemon zest
 1 c lemon juice (5-1/2 lemons)
 1 tsp vanilla
 2 (14 Oz) cans sweetened condensed milk

Directions:

Preheat oven 350

Grease 9x13 pan

- In bowl, mix together the dry ingredients for crust. Cut in butter to make coarse crumbs.
- Pat half of mixture into pan to make crust. Set aside remaining crumb mixture.
- In mixer bowl beat cream cheese until light and fluffy.
- Add egg yolks one at a time beating well after each addition.
- Drizzle in condensed milk on medium speed and beat for 3 minutes.
- Mix in vanilla, lemon juice and zest.
- Pour over crust and top with remaining crumbs.
- Bake 30 minutes.
- Cool then refrigerate until cold.
- Cut in bars.



Upcoming Birthdays

Remember our members when their special day comes around.

Christine Johnson	May 22
Mary Jo Wasierski	May 23
Ingrid Moore	May 31
Mary Scheitler	June 3
Cindy DuBose	June 10
Ilia Lindsay	June 10
Jeanne Bilbo	June 22

Welcome Our New Members

Barbara Campbell

10259 Green Trail Dr, North
 Boynton Beach, FL 33436
 845-430-1061
 bcdeerpath@aol.com
 DOB 11/30

Seasonal Address (May 1-Dec 28)
 14 Deerpath Dr
 New Paltz, NY 12561

Committees:

Art in Bloom, Bylaws,
 Horticulture, Blue Star,
 Butterfly Garden



Carol Leonard

120 SW 9th St.
 Boynton Beach, FL 33426
 847-420-5644
 gcleonard120@gmail.com
 DOB 05/09

Seasonal Address
 2846 N. Greenwood
 Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Committees:

Sunshine,
 Blue Star Marker