

# THE BOYNTON BLOOMERS

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

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

## General Meeting

November 16. Important meeting to finalize plans for upcoming holiday events. Program on unusual garden treasures.

## Rustic Retreat

November 25. Take gifts to retired veterans.

## Palm Beach Trip

December 1. Day trip to walk through three lovely, but each different, gardens. Lunch on the island.

## Holiday Parade

December 3. A fun early evening event walking in the City of Boynton Beach Holiday Parade and showing off Florida gardening.

## Holiday Centerpieces

December 6. Workshop to assemble cheerful centerpieces for your (and our) holiday table.

## Sip N Stroll

December 7. Join us at Green Cay for a delightful stroll. Lots to see!.

## Presidents' Report

*Greetings, Boynton Beach Garden Club members!*

What an absolutely FABULOUS club we have!! I am so proud of all our accomplishments these past few weeks! We surely are a club that strives to fulfill its mission to “promote the love of gardening ... and civic responsibility by providing education, resources and networking opportunities ...”

CJ McCarthy helped expand our understanding of the local ecosystem and Florida natives at the October 25 General Meeting, we explored the local native environment at the Rosemary Scrub on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, we held a community Plant Sale that offered hundreds of plants raised by our members on November 4<sup>th</sup>, we hosted a PHENOMENAL luncheon/fashion show to raise funds for youth scholarships, and we organized a



*Tina Husing's Raffle Basket for Fall into Fashion*

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### ***President's Message Cont'd***

service to honor our veterans at the Blue Star Marker, which BBGC donated to the community in 1968. Through our good works and service, we are growing friendships and good will.

Earlier this month, stressed from packing to leave Virginia, I stole a few moments for myself. I put on a warm jacket, zipped it up to cover my neck, grabbed a big paper Trader Joe's bag, and ventured into the yard to collect pine cones for Garden Club holiday projects.

As I carefully walked along, looking for the best pine cones, I felt my mood lighten and cares melt away. My patch of green space became a tonic for my soul. I checked through the area like some kind of wildlife explorer. A Richard Attenborough of the suburban front yard! I found an amazing reddish mushroom and wondered if I could eat it. A little further on, a fallen leaf caught my eye because it was so similar to the mushroom. Was the mushroom designed to look like a leaf? The magic of nature never ceases to amaze. After forty minutes or so, I took my bag of goodies, ready for a car trip south, into the house. That little foray into my yard was the most uplifting thing I'd done in many a day.

As we prepare for the holidays, let us not forget the simple, earthy things that make up life. For that is what we are made of. The earth nurtures us; we must nurture the earth.

As the Boynton Beach Garden Club prepares for the holidays, we have included plenty of opportunities to nurture ourselves and our community by exploring our natural world, caring for our gardens, and encouraging others to *Bee the Solution*.

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, we translate our respect and honor for our country's military veterans by visiting a few of them at the Rustic Retreat Retirement Home on Federal Highway and taking them a few holiday treats. Please join us at this small, but noteworthy annual event.

Members will enjoy themselves on December 1 with a visit to Palm Beach Island to explore three distinctive, renowned gardens.

Then we have the PARADE! BBGC members will walk the City of Boynton Beach Holiday Parade route wearing our club aprons and bee antennae. Our theme is Bee the Solution (sound familiar?). Our jeep will be filled with native plants and signs proclaiming the importance of pollinators and gardening with natives.

December 6<sup>th</sup>, we have a workshop planned to make Holiday Centerpieces for your home and for our Holiday Potluck!

Finally, we really get down into the native plants and wild life when we visit for our monthly Sip N Stroll on December 7.

We have a great month ahead! Keep exploring your surroundings, encouraging one another, and enjoying the many activities offered by Boynton Beach Garden Club!!



*At October's meeting, I donned some antenna and wings to promote our Bee the Solution theme for the Boynton Beach Holiday Parade on December 3 and the District X Spring Meeting on April 27.*

**REMINDER**  
**NOVEMBER'S GENERAL MEETING**  
**HAS BEEN MOVED TO**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16**  
**SAME TIME, SAME PLACE**  
**DIFFERENT DAY!!**

**President's Award of Appreciation**



At the October 25 General Meeting, Mary Scheitler received the President's Award of Appreciation from Carol Stender for her invaluable service to the club. Mary is the Editor of the Yearbook, as well as the Chair for Trips and Summer Luncheons, and Chair of Penny Pines. A long time member of the club, Mary is a font of club information and can be relied upon to support club programs and events. Thank you, Mary.

**TREES**



FFGC keeps track of the trees planted by its members here in Florida. Last year, the 12 districts of FFGC planted 497,000 trees. We are trying to hit over 500,000 this year!

Carmella Coppola ([carmellacoppolla610@gmail.com](mailto:carmellacoppolla610@gmail.com)) is the BBGC Tree Chair. Please let her know of any planned tree plantings. The count started in March 2022, so let her know of trees planted since then.

## Fall into Fashion

by Carol Stender

Photos by Tina Husing

On Wednesday, November 9, BBGC hosted our first major fundraising event in many years. And what a success that event was!!

After months of preparation, researching venues and vendors, promoting the event to family and friends, checking lists of chores, debating with committee members, and ensuring all the details were attended to, the day of the event arrived, only to be accompanied by a most unwelcome guest, Hurricane Nicole! Luckily, Nicole decided Vero would be more favorable for her landing, granting us the opportunity to forge ahead. Like true Floridians, we donned our much-neglected finery and ventured out between the rain bands for the short drive to Westchester Country Club.

Luckily, the rain was not much of an issue and we arrived dry and with hair still presentable. Linda Christianson warmly greeted us at the door. Feeling cheered and full of expectations, we next were welcomed by Kathy Menninger and Mary Ellen Concitis who helped us with our table assignments. As we proceeded to the banquet room, we were offered a delightfully cordial mimosa which made the arrival bright and cheerful.

The banquet room itself was bright and cheerful, welcoming us in. The round tables were elegantly appointed with linens and centerpieces of orchids in tall water-filled cylinders.

One side of the room was dominated by a long rectangular table teeming with beautiful baskets that had been assembled with care by our remarkably talented members!

On the other side of the room, four vendors enticed us all with their wares: a large selection of jewelry, cleverly crafted purses, exceptional handmade greeting cards, and finally, a delicious looking assortment of baked goods and chocolates.



*Guest model Susan from "Sleeves to Go" shows off a few of her fabulous pieces.*

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### ***Fall into Fashion Cont'd***

The room filled with 122 chatting guests. Toni Cvetko welcomed all and the luncheon began. Surrounded by an elegant atmosphere and friendly conversation, everyone settled into a tasty salad of our choice. The staff was most attentive and accommodating, keeping everyone supplied with ice tea, coffee and water.

Before the dessert was served, Mary Ellen Concitis, Jody Fraser, Kathy Menninger, Chris Murphy, and I slipped out of the room to don the clothes we were to model for the fashion show part of the afternoon.

How much fun that was! Rushing in, everyone taking off and putting on clothes from various area boutiques, admiring each others' outfits, peeking through the doorway waiting for our turn, and then walking through the hall showing off the fine clothes. We were each eagerly greeted with warm smiles and gracious comments.

After the fashion show, Toni called out the winning numbers for the 50/50 and the raffle for the twenty baskets. Though only a fraction of us were lucky enough to win one of those prizes, the Fall into Fashion Show made us all feel like winners. The bands of rain were continuing outside, but inside the banquet hall was pleasant and good cheer reigned.

The rewards of this event were beyond our dreams! Thank you, Toni Cvetko and your Fundraising Committee!!

## **Congratulations, Boynton Beach Garden Club** by Toni Cvetko

Our club held an extremely successful Luncheon Fashion Show on November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Westchester Country Club. Who would have thought we would have sold seats for 157 guests?

Thanks to all our members for telling their friends, relatives, neighbors, and strangers about the Fashion Show. Because of you, we had so many guests. Thanks to the members who created 20-plus beautiful raffle baskets, and those who made monetary contributions or donated items to add the finishing touches to some baskets.

But, most of all, thanks to the Fundraising Committee for all the time, effort, ideas, suggestions, and love they put into making this a fun, fabulous and successful event. Thank you Cyndie Sable, my indispensable Co-Chair, Kathy Menninger, Linda Schrader, Glery Cruz, Bonnie Paton, Linda Christianson, Lori Wolff, and Judi Liebert. You are the best! and through your efforts, we were extremely fortunate to have a very nice profit of well over \$3000. What a great team effort!



*Jody Fraser models a casual outfit  
from Wildberries*



*At the podium (l. to r.) Toni Cvetko and  
Toby, fashion show emcee.*

## ***Fall into Fashion Continued***



*Vendors goodies on display*



*Mary Ellen Concitis poses with clothing from "Morgan Blaine" boutique.*



*Kathy Menninger modeling selections from "Morgan Blaine" boutique.*

# Plant Sale

by Carol Stender with photos by Tina Husing

On November 4, BBGC held its first plant sale in recent memory. The sale was the brainchild of Christine Johnson, Chair of the Butterfly Garden Committee. Christine looked at the large lawn area near the Butterfly Garden at the Schoolhouse Children’s Museum and figured it would be a good spot to gather some plants to sell to the community.

After getting the okay from Suzanne Ross, Director at the Children’s Museum, a decision was made to hold the sale concurrently with the city’s First Friday event. This would ensure substantial foot traffic at a normally sleepy location. Then Christine called on Jane Gavlick, Chair of the Horticulture Committee, to help her lead the sale. Club members were encouraged to raise plants to contribute to the sale.

When I heard that the sale was a “go”, I quickly went outside, trimmed my basil and stuck the trimmings in a glass of water. Soon I had stems with lots of healthy roots, ready for planting. I tried the same thing with a few colorful house plants, and when it was time to travel to Boynton, I had a dozen healthy plants to contribute.

Obviously, most of us had a grand time raising plants for the sale because Christine ended up with over 400 plants! She was overwhelmed by the success of this project.

Those members who worked the Plant Sale had lots of fun, meeting people headed to First Friday and selling the plants that we all had so lovingly nurtured.

The Friday night sale was a huge success! But due to the diligence of our members, Christine had many plants left over. She re-opened shop the next morning and sold more!

Thanks to all our efforts, the Boynton Beach Garden Club Plant Sale netted over \$500, money targeted to help fund youth projects and scholarships.



Christine Johnson (l) and Chris Murphy



Bonnie Paton hangs the club banner.



Lori Wolff and Nancy Lemcke selling plants

## Youth Garden by Chris Murphy

On Thursday, November 3rd, Debbie Lytle and I went to Forest Park Elementary School and worked with the after school Youth Program to establish a butterfly/hummingbird garden. As one can see from the photos, the students enjoyed their experience and learned about the native pollinator plants that would attract various butterflies to their garden.

We are also working with the Girl's Club at the school along with the help of three teachers. I brought recyclable pots for the students, potting soil and wildflower seeds so they could participate in the process of growing their own plants at home. The girls enjoyed planting seeds in their own flower pots and are eager to watch a seedling grow!

Last week, Christine Johnson donated spider plants for the students. Each plant had an orange spider attached for a Halloween decoration. The gifts of the spider plants put huge smiles on the students' faces. This week, each child assured me that his/her plant was growing nicely.

The Youth Gardening Program is growing in numbers and interest. We need more participation from BBGC to make the program successful for the students. We meet Thursday afternoons from 2:30-3:30 PM. This is a commitment with HUGE rewards! We are helping to mold a new generation of gardeners.

Our hopes are high. We have applied for an NGC grant to purchase additional supplies.

Members interested in helping with this worthy and rewarding cause, please contact me, Chris Murphy, at [m17813@yahoo.com](mailto:m17813@yahoo.com) or 954-295-3270.



*Christine Johnson, right, donates plants to the Youth Program. Chris Murphy is at left.*



*Students delighted with their new plants. Nancy Lemcke is at the head of the table.*



## November Sip N Stroll

by Jodi Fraser



### *Green Cay Nature Center & Wetlands*

Our next Sip n Stroll will take place at Green Cay Nature Center and Wetlands on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm. This beautiful nature center is Palm Beach's newest and features 1.5 miles of elevated boardwalk with interpretive signs describing Wildlife, Deep Zones, Emergent Marshes, Cypress Swamp, Hammock Islands and Seminole Chickee Hut. There are a few shade structures with benches along the walk. This area is teeming with birds and wildlife.

Green Cay is a popular Sip N Stroll destination. It features modern facilities and the choice of two boardwalks, one shorter and one longer. Alligators and all manner of nesting birds can be seen from the safety of the boardwalk. This is a popular destination for wildlife photographers from all over the world because the area is so rich in native and migrating wildlife.

Green Cay is located at 12800 Hagan Ranch Rd, approximately 3 miles south of Boynton Beach Boulevard and 2 miles north of Atlantic Avenue on the east side of the road. There is ample parking. Bring your favorite beverage and a snack, if you wish. We hope you'll join us!

For Carpooling and Additional Information

Call Jody Fraser at [231-675-4422](tel:231-675-4422) or [jodylouise53@gmail.com](mailto:jodylouise53@gmail.com)

## Blue Star Marker Service

On Veteran's Day, November 11, Garden Club members took time out to honor military veterans of the United States Armed Forces for their service to our country.

Jane Gavlick and her husband, a Korean War Veteran, organize this service for us each year

Pictured to the left, and honoring veterans this year were (l.to r.) Bonnie Paton, Christine Johnson, Toni Cvetko, and Jane Gavlick



## Annual Rustic Retreat Visit

Evelyn Macaig, Chair

It has been a tradition of the Boynton Beach Garden Club to purchase poinsettia plants and doughnuts for the residents of Rustic Retreat Retirement Home, and visit them the day after Thanksgiving. This year, we will meet at the Home on Friday, November 25th at 10 A.M.

Please bring any books, magazines and puzzles that you would like to donate and enjoy a chat with the residents. They appreciate our visit and our gifts.

**November 25, 10 AM**  
**1120 N Federal Highway**

**Contact:**  
**Evelyn Macaig 561-732-3582**  
 or  
**[evemac4828@gmail.com](mailto:evemac4828@gmail.com)**

**BRING YOUR SMILE!!**



*A photo from last year's visit shows (l. to r.) a resident, Roberta Corrigan, Bonnie Paton, Linda Schrader, a resident, Jean Birdsall, a resident, Evelyn Macaig, another resident.*

## Butterfly Corner

by Carol Stender

Named for their pattern of oranges, yellows, and browns, the Painted Lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*) is commonly found year round, throughout Florida. This species is commonly spotted in yards and parks, and there's a good chance you've seen quite a few of them in your gardens.

Painted ladies are members of the brush-foot family (Nymphalinae) of butterflies, just like monarchs and queens. The cobweb pattern and large blue eyespots on the undersides of their wings are unique identifiers. The wingspan of adults ranges from 1.75 to 2".

Their preferred host plants are members of the cudweed, or everlasting species. Thistles and mallows are, also, home to their caterpillars, and adult butterflies continue to be drawn to cudweeds and thistles, as well as milkweeds, button-bush, and ironweed.

Pale yellowish-green eggs are laid individually on the upper side of the leaves of host plants. Larvae (caterpillars) make nests at the tops of host plants by silking together leaves and chaff at the tips of the flower stalks where they hide during the daytime and come out at night and on overcast days to feed. These nests are, of course, not attractive for us to look at, but be assured, that the butterflies that result from the neat, fluffy nests are well worth it.



*Painted Lady (Vanessa virginiensis)*



*Caterpillar of the Painted Lady*

The caterpillar is black with bands of yellow and black lines. In between the bands are orange or red spots at the base of black branching spines.

The chrysalis is brown with gold spots. The chrysalis is generally formed in the silk nest.

Adults prefer floral nectar, especially of thistles, milkweed, buttonbush and ironweed. but they also feed on sap, fermenting fruit, and mud. Frequently, they can be found basking on the ground.

Although everything I've read says that the Painted Lady is quite common here in Florida, I can't say that I'm familiar with it. Perhaps I need to find some cudweed for my garden. I will let you know if I have any success.

### Resources:

Ask ifas. <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/IN823>. U of FL. 8/19/2021.

*Editor's Note: Generally, readers can find the Culinary Gardener article here. Due to the passing of her husband, Pat's column is not appearing. The following article is submitted by one of our newest members, Carol Cloud Bailey. Carol is a professional Landscape Counselor and Horticulturist. When she heard Nancy Lemcke's request for members to bring their plant problems to November's meeting for a Plant Doctor session, Carol felt that we might all profit from the suggestions made in the article below, which was first published in the Treasure Coast Newspapers. Reading this article will help us bring good questions to the Plant Doctor on November 16.*

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*What is this plant is more easily answered when plenty of information is provided. The lovely specimen pictured was in a road median in South Florida. The speeding truck past gives a size reference; there are images of leaves and a trunk. The answer is *Clusia rosea*, AKA Autograph Tree, Balsam Apple, or Pitch Apple. It is the same plant that is often planted as a hedge.*

## **What is....?**

**by Carol Cloud Bailey**

Many of us who work to help others with the green things and spaces around us often dread the email, text, or call that starts with "What is..." add your own end to the question. Usually, the query is about plant ID, critter found in the yard, or the death or decline of a plant. Most of us really do want to help, but often information from the questioner is lacking for us to provide a reasonably accurate answer.

So, in my own interest and the myriad of nurserymen and women, landscape professionals, teachers, Master Gardeners, and Extension Agents, here is a bit of advice on sending questions about plants and plant problems.

Remember when the teacher in the classroom gave us all the basics of investigating or researching a question or problem? Yes, it's the tried and true list of things to answer, who, what, when, where, and why. When sending a question or picture, provide the answers to as many of these as possible.

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**What is ...? Cont'd**

- WHO refers to the name of the plant, if this is not known, provide a description, tree, shrub, groundcover, or flower. Include size and narrative.
- WHAT refers to the issues. Is identification needed? Is there a problem? Be specific, is the plant dead or showing symptoms of some type of disorder. Again, describe any issues thoroughly. Is there a pattern? How many plants are involved? Also, describe any changes in the care or surrounding area. Condition changes such as drought, fertilizer or other care product applications, or construction nearby are just a few possibilities to consider.
- WHEN and WHERE are complex parameters to define. If plant ID is the question, the age of the plant or lawn is sometimes helpful. Be sure to include the location of the plant or issue in question; South Florida or Texas? Conditions count, too; is it dry or wet, sunny or in the shade? WHEN is very important if the question involves decline, disorder, or disease. WHEN did the symptoms first appear? WHERE on the plant? HOW LONG has the problem existed?

The cliché is true; a picture is worth all the words used to describe it. However, pictures must tell the story. Take a picture of the overall plant or area. Take a close-up of the leaves and issue, be sure to include front and back or top and bottom. Take images of the trunk or stems, particularly at ground level. For the ID question, images of flowers, fruit, stems, leaves, and overall are best. Be aware of the lighting; from behind, illuminating the subject is an excellent place to start.

Just like going to the doctor, the more information accurately provided to the green professional, the better the chance of a correct ID or diagnosis of the problem. Tell the truth, if weed & feed was applied to the roots of Granny's favorite flowering tree, say so. Only then can a possible solution, the why and/or what, be provided.

Photo(s) Credit: Carol Cloud Bailey  
This column first appeared in the [Treasure Coast Newspapers](#)



*Take a close-up of the leaves*



*Take images of the trunk or stems*

## Upcoming Birthdays

Remember our members when their special day comes around.

Michelle Hendricks	November 19
Judy Brunner	November 24
Jean Birdsall	November 30
Mary Ellen Concitis	December 8
Lori Wolff	December 21



## Welcome to Our New Members!

Tina Husing  
 12375 S. Military Trail, #68  
 Boynton Beach, FL 33436  
 561-729-7969  
[tinahusing@gmail.com](mailto:tinahusing@gmail.com)

Committees:  
 Publicity  
 Website

Birthdate: 8/25  
 Mentor: Bonnie Paton



Ingrid Moore  
 4560 Catamaran Circle  
 Boynton Beach, FL 33426  
 419-706-8154  
[collins4255@gmail.com](mailto:collins4255@gmail.com)

Committees:  
 Penny Pines

Birthdate: 5/31  
 Mentor: Linda Schrader

## The Boynton Beach Historical Society

The Boynton Beach Historical Society invites you to attend our November 28, 2022 @7-8pm EST program via Zoom. "The Sound of the Sea: Seashells and the Fate of the Oceans" presented by Cynthia Barnett. This Florida Talks program is a partnership between Florida Humanities and the Historical Society.

Funding for this program was provided by Florida Humanities and sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Send a request to join to [BBHSPrograms@gmail.com](mailto:BBHSPrograms@gmail.com) and we'll send you an invitation. Free and open to the public.