

MANDARIN GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here we are only four months into our new year, and it seems like years. So many horrible things going on in our beautiful world making so many problems for everyone and every living thing on earth. Even though we are working hard to keep up our courage and energy in these stressful times, our members seem to be taking most of it in stride. As we have been saying – we are gardeners and thus have faith in tomorrow. We are blessed after all; we live in America.

By the time you are reading this month's Newsletter we should be enjoying our new roof! It has taken a little while, but we believe we have done the right thing by biting the bullet and going forward. Many of our members have stepped in to help with the financing and more donations are coming almost daily. You are all to be commended on your willingness to help in this area. We ran out of thank you notes and had to order a new supply!

With all the recent rains, our gardens have been watered with enough water to last all year – too bad nature just doesn't spread it all out throughout the year – but nature just doesn't work that way! The rains bring out the ants so when you are in and about the gardens be aware of the mounds and if you see them please report them to our Grounds Manager, Joyce Buscaglia, and she will make sure the problem is taken care of. I understand those horrible grasshoppers are also still hanging around – not as many but one is more than enough. Also, one and all are invited to help in the gardens. Wednesday Weeding Days are still the preferred days, but Monday thru Thursday are also good days to help.

The Club has entered a usage contract with the Jacksonville Watercolor Society. They will be using our club on the 4th Tuesday of the month, exclusive of December and June at 6- 9 PM. They will be paying \$150.00 per meeting and making a one-time damage deposit which will be held until the contract period ends or is renewed. They have also locked in a date in October of 2021 for their annual, juried show. We have several watercolor artists among us who may find this group very inviting! We will also be the venue for the Orchid Society Show in March as well as the Rose Society show in April. The Rose Society show will be in conjunction with our Open Garden Day when we try once again to have events for children which has been requested by several of our regular visitors to our gardens.

Our Circles have begun regular meetings adhering to all CDC regulations and have been quite successful. Our October General Meeting is set to go forward under the same circumstances as we think we can accommodate 50 members comfortably. There will only be drinks available. Members may bring a snack if they wish. Dogwood Circle will have its basket drawings as well. We will have what we hope is a quick business meeting since we have a special speaker – the Frog Man!

Laura Miller, President

CIRCLE NEWS

CHEROKEE ROSE- will not be having a circle meeting in October. The General Meeting always is around the same time so we will have our next meeting in November.

Eunice Priester from CR was awarded yard of the month by her Ramsgate neighbors.

DOGWOOD-Our first Circle meeting in what seems like ages, even though not huge for a Dogwood meeting, had nearly 30 members present, and it was great to be back with our "family" again. We also welcomed a new member, Andrea Trzcinski, bringing our membership to 54. Master Gardener (CR member) Marlys Golatz, brought to us a beautiful and informative program regarding our un-sung and incredibly special Native Garden. Due to the October General Meeting, Dogwood's next meeting will be November 17th when we will once again try to celebrate our 60th Birthday!

LIVE OAK-Will meet on October 22 at 7pm. Program will be announced by circle leader.

MAGNOLIA-Magnolia's September 10th meeting walked us through the history of Mandarin Garden Club and Magnolia Circle. The speakers were Fredi Olson and Karen Wilkinson...both past presidents...Fredi told us about the MGC's origins...leaving the federation...all the fund raisers to benefit the community...did you know the oak trees planted on Mandarin Rd were planted by MGC...in 1951 the circle you joined was determined by where you lived...Karen told us more specifics on Magnolia Circle...which by the way was also started in 1951...a big thanks to these ladies for a remarkably interesting meeting which gave us a great historical perspective of our club and circle.

Our October 8th program had to be changed due to COVID-19...our speaker is Jeanne Hendricks and we will be making Kokedama String Balls...a Japanese DIY Hanging Garden.

GENERAL MEETING

General meeting of all circles is scheduled on October 15th at 10:00 am. The program will be presented "Don the Frog Man" on Mystery, Landscape, Art, and Community. Most of us have a frog or turtle that Don created, or we have seen his creations around Mandarin. Maybe you have even gone to a painting class at Mandarin Museum that Don holds. Either way this will be an exciting program for the garden club.

Please remember to make your reservation with Mary Kay Weis of Cherokee Rose Circle. Only 50 people can attend this year.

Cherokee Rose and Live Oak Circles will set up on Wednesday, October 14th at 10:00 am. No food will be served. Dogwood will be responsible for drinks (tea, coffee, water, lemonade.) Magnolia members will clean up after the meeting. Dogwood Circle will have baskets for drawings. All CDC Guidelines will be followed. Please remember to wear a mask and practice social distancing.



TRASH TO TREASURE SALE

The Trash to Treasure Sale on October 2nd & 3rd is close at hand. This event will include inside and outside activities. The clubhouse will be filled with merchandise of all kinds for shoppers to buy. Limited entry inside the building will be necessary to allow for social distancing. We will have our café as usual, so it is time to start baking.

Outside, the Masons' will be cooking up their famous BBQ sandwiches. For plant lovers, there will be a "pop up" tent sale with plants and herbs donated by garden members. So, you see, there really is something for everyone at this event. CDC guidelines will be followed throughout, so do not forget your facemask.

I want to echo my thanks to all of you for your support of the past Clothing Sale Fundraiser. Your generous donation of time, clothing, and money was remarkable. Our profit of over \$1,800 is something everyone should be proud of.

Linda Carvalho, Fundraiser Chair



CRAFT FAIR

Make plans to attend the Mandarin Garden Club Craft Fair which will be on November 7th from 9am-4pm. We will have outdoor booths with lots of great craft items. There will be a drawing and there will be the BBQ lunch for sale provided by the Masons. If you are a crafter and would like to participate, please E-mail to Joyce Datz at [REDACTED] to get an application. Booth rental is \$30.00. Social distancing will be in effect. We want to make sure everyone stays safe.

ROOF

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have a new roof on the clubhouse! About time, right? The roof has a pitch on it and hopefully we will not have any more roofing issues from "ponding water." We owe our Roofing Committee (Betty Waldrep, Chair, Karen Rowe, Stacia Snuggs, Wanda Bosworth, and Diana Openbrier) a lot of appreciation for their time and work in finding the right company. Our President, Laura Miller and the Executive Committee are due a big "thank you" for their guidance and leadership with this project. Thank you so much to Crafty Ladies and other members who have made donations to the Roof Fund. We are especially thankful for our beautiful building and grounds for us to enjoy for many years to come.

INFORMATION

Game Day will not meet again till 2021.

Board meeting October 6, 10 am, Cherokee Rose Set Up.

Crafty Ladies Thursdays 12:30-2:30

Weeding Wednesdays 8 am-noon.

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING (OCTOBER 6, 2020)

UPDATE (BEAUTIFICATION PRESENTATIONS): The Mandarin Community Club was presented the 2019-2020 Beautification Award at its Board Meeting September 14 which some members were present, and some were viewing the meeting by zoom.

They were very appreciative and touched by the honor. Photos were taken in front of Harriet Beecher Stowe Portrait and the award was shared with its members in there September Newsletter.



No Date set for the Mandarin Museum Historic Society presentation. They requested to hold off for they are still meeting by zoom and have not rescheduled the Miss Aggie or any other events.

YARD OF THE MONTH Thank You: At the Trash Treasure Sale, Linda & Laura gave me 5 frames for my yard of the month for last year. I am hoping to also get a few more for this year Yard of the Months which number has not yet been determined. These will serve as a special thank you with photo.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Please contact Special Collections
Department, Thomas G. Carpenter
Library regarding the information
on the redacted page

CARES/CONCERNS

Nancy Crowley-Thinking of You

Ginny Anthony-Hospital

Patty Riley-Virus

Joyce Buscaglia-Thinking of You

75TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

The garden club is turning Seventy-Five years old in November. A celebration of this milestone will be held on Sunday, November 8th from 2 to 4 at the clubhouse. "Through the Decades" will be the program (1945-2020) with the club decorated in gold and Fall colors with vintage pictures and posters. A slide show of past and present gardens will be presented. There will be live music and period clothing will be modeled by members. Past and present Presidents and members who have been members over twenty years will be honored. Please make your plans to attend this special event. Additional information will be sent out as it gets closer to time for the celebration.

MASTER GARDENERS

The Mandarin Demo Garden Master Gardener team are normally invited to the October General Meeting where the garden club honors them and provides lunch for their year's work in the Mandarin Demo Gardens.

However due to limitations, restrictions, and no luncheon at this year's October General Meeting, their attendance will be rescheduled to the January 21, 2021 General Meeting. This decision was in the best interest of our demo garden team.

In the Times Union on September 12, 2020 an article about community lost beloved gardeners by Candance Barone, Master Gardener, two of these individuals she honored are a part of our garden club grounds. One was Cherokee Rose club member, Renee Ware, who through donations by her family and friends, our grounds received an expansion of our on-site irrigation system for our gardens. Another one honored was Russ Snyder who is responsible for establishing our bromeliad bed at our on-site demo gardens. All honored in the article had shared their green thumbs with the Duval County community.

2020 has been quite a year in many aspects even in gardening. Fall is when our gardens are in their peak performance from all the year's work. The rains have been a blessing in some ways for all the beautiful growth and in another aspect has caused a weeding, ant, and flooding challenges. Recently saw a saying that "weeding is a gardener's meditation" so, a whole lot of meditation is taking place each week. All are welcome to join us any workday.

Mary Forester, Master Gardener Liaison

GROUNDS REPORT

Grounds-For the month of September we will be trying to reduce the size of our Nursery by selling plants during the Trash to Treasure Sale that will take place on the first weekend in October. Big Thank You to Diana Openbrier for taking the lead on this project.

In addition, our neighbors have completed their fence along the Southwest of the MGC property line. This was delayed for one month due to heavy rains.

The relocated Nursery is now undergoing a makeover. This will be a joint creation and will have a Planting Station, Master Gardeners Nursery and MGC Nursery. Many hands are putting their creative juices together on this joint venture. This project has started many sparks of inspiration. Once completed it will be another attraction to the MGC.

The Aloe area has also been removed from the Southwest area. The Men's Garden Club took most of the Aloes they wanted and left the rest for the MGC discretion. At this time, we will be eliminating all Aloes, and hope to sell them all soon.

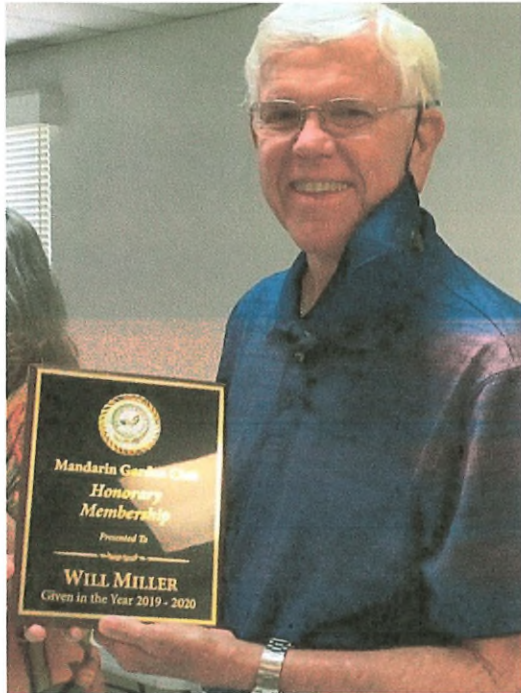
One of the MWI areas is also undergoing construction and will only be in one location. The MWI that backs up to the Potager will become the South Potager once plants are removed under the guidance of Candance Barone and George DeMarino.

Lora Lewis is extremely excited about the additional location and is still in the planning stages of the expansion.

A plaque has been purchased and received in honor of Renee Ware and other anonymous donations, that were received for our Southern Irrigation System add on.

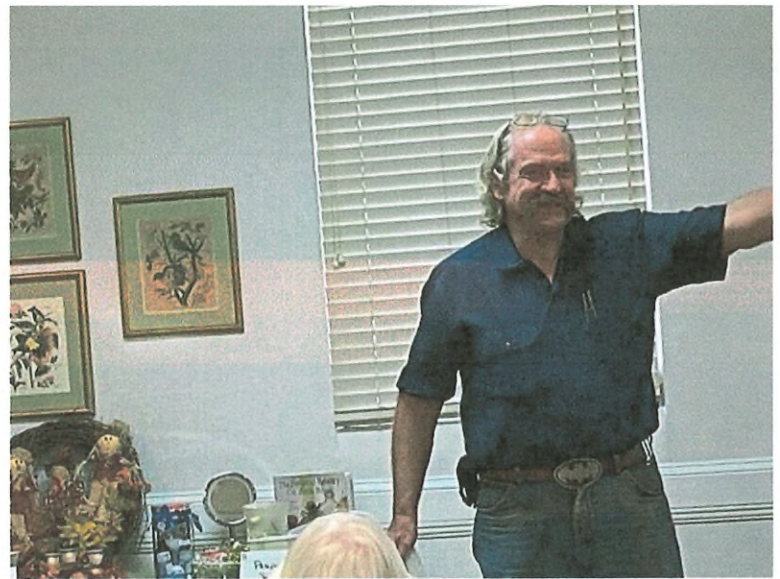
The Ware Family has been contacted and there will be a celebration once there has been a lift of the restrictions from the COVID-19 outbreak. The plaque will be placed over the shed door closest to the MGC clubhouse, since the controls to the irrigation system are inside that shed.

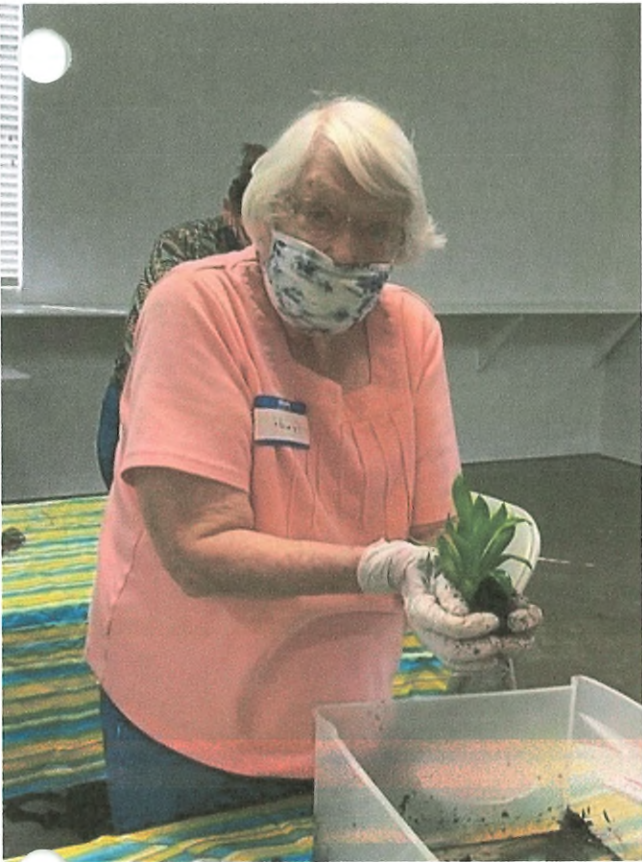
Joyce Buscaglia, Grounds



**OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING
WILL MILLER
HONORARY MEMBER
AWARD**

**PROGRAM PRESENTER
DON THE FROGMAN
OCTOBER GENERAL
MEETING**





**MAKING KOKEDEAMAS, JAPANESE STRING ART GARDEN
OCTOBER MAGNOLIA MEETING**

