

# MANDARIN GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To All Members:

The Mandarin Garden Club is closed as follows for the immediate future:

Circle Meetings-You will receive notices from your Circle Leaders as to the status of your meetings.

Crafty Ladies & Game Day-not meeting until further notice

Open Garden Day & Rose Society Show (April 4) postponed to TBA

Duval County Extension Program at Clubhouse-April 7<sup>th</sup> cancelled

Master Gardener Speakers for Circle Programs-cancelled until later date

Plant Sale-Will be postponed until later time

Our rentals are on as scheduled so be sure not to access the club grounds Friday-Monday.

The Extension Office has pulled their Master Gardeners for the time being-so, any Mandarin Garden Club Members who are able to help in the gardens are encouraged to do so as the gardens will still need tending to. Our Grounds Manager, Joyce Buscaglia, will be in the gardens Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursdays and she will give you guidelines as needed.

Board Meeting-April 2 – delayed until further notice

We have gotten a note in response to a question I posed to our Dist. Councilman, Michael Boylan and I am sharing it with everyone.

Stay well and we will keep in touch. Be sure to check your email a little more often than usual for all notices-we can pray for each other and our country.

Laura Miller

President/MGC

**Response by Councilman Michael Boylan regarding Rentals:**

Laura-I do not have any information that calls for requiring groups to cancel private events regardless where they are held. I would strongly recommend that the club postpone any of its events that is open to the public to assure the number of attendees can be known in advance. Best I can do-Michael

**PLANT SALE**

The Annual Plant Sale scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> has been postponed until a later time. Please continue to grow your plants for the sale for when the Plant Sale is rescheduled.

**MASTER GARDENER LIAISON**

Per an email from the extension office on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. the Duval County Extension Office has cancelled all activities involving the MGVs (Master Gardener Volunteers) thru April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This step is for the safety and protection for the volunteers, as well as, the individuals they would be in contact with in their service. This step includes our workdays at the Mandarin Demo Gardens and the April 4, 2020 Spring Extension Program at MGC. If matters change, I will advise.

However, during the two workdays in March, a lot of activity has taken place in the gardens. Cutbacks and pruning have begun, the demo beds signage wooden stakes have been replaced with metal stakes, a new Nature Wildlife Bed has been installed, the expansion of our irrigation system has been in the process, and Larry Figart, Duval County Urban Forestry Agent, completed an onsite session regarding our grounds trees along with some helpful pruning.

Once services resume for the MGVs, we welcome any garden club members to come out and lend some helping hands to complete our garden needs. Bring your gloves and hats to join in the fun as **all are welcome**.

Mary Forester, Master Gardener Liaison

**MEMBERSHIP FORMS**

It is time to collect dues and membership forms for 2020-2021. Since we are not having circle meetings right now, this will have to be done by each Circle Leader. The dues are \$35 .00, same previous years. A new membership form was emailed to every member who has email. Your Circle Leader will let you

know how she wants to collect the checks and forms. Please watch your email for further instructions.

## **GROUNDS REPORT**

I want to thank all the Master Gardeners and members that continue to come out on Weeding Wednesdays. The Crew is small, but we have still accomplished to keep our grounds looking the very best they can under the circumstances.

### **PROGRESS REPORT:**

- At this time, we have begun to power wash most of the pavers and the concrete that is in the Demo Gardens.
- Due to the lack of manpower, we will put mulching on hold. At this time, I can't say if this will happen this year. Our gardens will suffer. No mulch, more weeds, and more watering.
- The Irrigation project without the add on should be completed by the time you receive this newsletter. I have added a few more items that will help with watering and easier to maintain sprinkler heads.
- Native Bed wildflower seeds have been planted and need to be watered due to heat.
- The Nursery has been rearranged so a piece of equipment could have access for irrigation system.
- The Plant Sale will be put on hold due to recommendations over the Coronavirus and crowd control.
- Fertilizing of the flowers have begun.
- Baby Lubbers have shown up in the Native Bed, Trad's, Perennial Bed, and the Butterfly Bed. Corrective action is to catch them while they are young. Two death methods are being used: catch them and put them in soapy water or spray with Flying Bug Spray. Both actions have been effective. Once again, I am thankful, we have gardeners on location to see the problem, and to help put corrective measures in place.
- Thank you to all who have dropped off pots in the Nursery.  
We are still in need of more containers.

Members if you are getting bored of looking at your four walls and thinking of ways to change them, feel free to come to the gardens. Thursday, 3/19/2020, we had two men come and eat lunch in our gardens. The Luck of the Irish Day Tuesday, 3/17/2020, a photographer was on location. I am sure more people come when I'm not at the club.

Joyce Buscaglia, Grounds Manager



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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



## CARES AND CONCERNS

Barbara Flynn

Ann Dumire

Betsy McGoogan

Chris Waterson

Margaret Pelton



## CIRCLE MEETINGS

**CHEROKEE ROSE**-No meeting this month due to the Coronavirus. Cherokee Rose members elected to work in the gardens on our scheduled meeting day. Thank you to all who came. The number was small, but we got things accomplished. Mary Kay's grandson, Elliot was our special guest. What a wonderful job he did and always a pleasure to have as a helper.

Next month, our meeting will be up in the air. Planning with unknowns makes it very hard to come up with solutions. In the meantime, stay safe and we will look forward to seeing our friends again soon.

**DOGWOOD**-Dogwood will not be having Circle Meetings until the go-ahead from our local government's request that groups not be seated closer than 6 - 10 feet apart. In the meantime our members have been requested to advise one of our Circle Leaders (Laura Miller - [REDACTED]) of their intent regarding re-joining our Circle for the 2020-2021 year which can be done by E-mail. The completed apps with the due's payment will be collected at a later date. Please take note of the requests for Emergency Contact - we will have a database for the entire membership available at the Clubhouse in the event any contact is needed. During this difficult time, we will be looking at possible programs for the coming year and would like to all members to send along their ideas for such programs. In the meantime, we will stay in contact and pray for each one to stay healthy and try to maintain your sanity while being on lock-down.

**LIVE OAK**-It is time to collect Live Oak membership dues for 2020-2021 year. Please use the membership form you received via email. Be sure to make your check payable to Mandarin Garden Club for \$35. Due to the current situation, mail check and form to the Live Oak Treasurer: Mary Forester, [REDACTED]

If conditions improve, our April program will be on Planting Spring Vegetables.

**MAGNOLIA**-Has no report. The circle leaders will be in touch with the members about turning in membership forms and checks for 2020-2021.

## **KITCHEN COUNTER-TOPS INSTALLED**

Thank you to Crafty Ladies for making this happen.

The installation went very well, and after dis-connecting the plumbing, removing old counter-tops, installing new counter-tops and reinstalling the plumbing the job was done in a little over 6 hours!



Mandarin Garden Club Newsletter  
Betty Waldrep, Editor

April 2020 Edition