



2011-2015





QUIET GARDEN -
MAY 2011



ANNUAL MEETING



Mandarin Garden Club Business Beautification Award

By Contributing Writer Celia Rehm, Mandarin Garden Club



Celia Rehm, Chris Trad and assistant manager of Trad's Garden Center.

On May 26, the Mandarin Garden Club presented Chris Trad, manager of Trad's Garden Center with the club's annual Business Beautification award. The award was presented to Trad's Garden Center in recognition of their outstanding efforts to educate, enhance and preserve practices that maintain the natural beauty of the Mandarin area.

The business sits on a five acre plot off San Jose Boulevard. The business was purchased in 1971 by Lou and Betty Trad. Lou Trad is still

actively involved with the business as the landscape manager. Samples of his work can be viewed at their San Jose location where curbside landscaping beautifully displays a large variety of plants to passersby.

Both

Lou Trad and his son, Chris Trad, are agriculture school graduates from the University of Florida. Together, they have established a solid legacy of hard work, honesty, exceptional knowledge and commitment to service.

With his educational and family background combined with farming experience acquired in the Ashville, North Carolina along with his familiarity of Northeast Florida, Chris Trad has an impressive mix of well suited qualifications to lead a dedicated permanent staff in

serving the needs of the community. They are well versed in the care of Florida ornamental plants and turf. Trad's Garden Center is one of a very few centers that actually grow many of our own plants specializing in plants that are appropriate to the Jacksonville area.

An educational community program consisting of free weekly seminars has been established in response to the needs of the community.

"Our customers asked the questions and we answered," says Chris Trad. A monthly newsletter is also sent to all customers that subscribe to receive it.

"We are seeing a resurgence in vegetable gardening," continues Chris Trad. Not one to lag behind, the garden center established and now maintains a large display vegetable garden for educational purposes. A community charity also benefits

from the vegetable garden as all produce is donated to the United Community Outreach Ministry (UCOM).

Additionally, a fun "kid's area" has been established with various stations that include worm composting, a chicken coop with chickens that lay eggs (also donated to the UCOM), a vine covered trellised shade area and a root view station where root vegetables are grown.

"We are a community minded business," says Chris Trad. "We are supported by the community and in turn give back to the community."







BUILDING MASTER GARDENER
SHED



Mandarin Garden Club wraps up a successful year



rhonda reese
neighborhood notes

Summing up a year's worth of accomplishments and recognizing outstanding individuals in one hour is a daunting task.

However, the efficient leaders of the Mandarin Garden Club were able to do just that May 26, when the club held its last joint circle meeting before the organization takes a much-needed summer break.

President McGlade Holloway said the club's 65th year was a good one.

"We've provided education on garden and environment topics, held monthly meetings, garden tours, plant swaps and sales, taken field trips, heard speakers, received on-site training and master gardener opportunities and shared crafts and fellowship with our members and the community," Holloway said.

Money made from the popular trash-to-treasure, plant and vendor and \$1 clothing sales exceeded \$12,000 this year. Combine that with \$16,000 earned from renting the clubhouse and sales of the 65th Anniversary Cookbook, and it's easy to see why the club is in a sound financial position.

Funds have been spent on daily club expenses, as well as several community donations. Contributions have been made to the City Rescue Mission, the St. Johns Riverkeeper, Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens, Community Hospice flower arrangements, Meals on Wheels, Mandarin Food Bank, veterans, Caps for Care, Duval 4-H and glasses for the Lions Club.

Continuing its longstanding relationship with the Duval County Extension Office, the club built a shed at the back of its 2892 Loretto Road prop-



Photos provided by Rhonda Reese

Even with the extreme heat, the demonstration garden at the Mandarin Garden Club remains attractive.

erty to house the master gardeners' tools and materials. The master gardeners volunteer to take care of the many demonstration gardens on site.

Because of their contributions to the shed project, John Holloway, David Wilkinson and Kevin Walker received plaques and honorary membership status in the garden club. Some of the other volunteers who helped keep the cost of the Holloway-designed shed to \$2,217 were Barbara and Ron Price, Judy and Scott Till, Mary Forester and David and Susan Westermann.

John Holloway gave each participant photos of the shed project progress. He also captured the four-day accomplishment in a framed photo collage and presented that artwork to the club.

The Dogwood Circle's contribution came in the form of a hand-carved sign to hang above the shed's front door.

The garden club granted Lifetime member status to Judy Winckler, Darlene Gantt and Yvonne Corbett.

"The day I walked through the doors of this place was one of the best things that ever happened to me," a surprised Corbett said.

Mary Howe received the President's Award. A club member since 1977, Howe has served in every board position. She became a lifetime member in 1980, and in 1988, approached the extension office about the possibility of having demonstration gardens at the club.

"Mary did the butterfly garden out back," Holloway said, "and she has used her own funds to do so much. We deeply appreciate Mary."

Trad's Garden and Landscape Center received the club business beautification award. Started by Lou and Betty Trad in 1971, the five-acre center at 8178 San Jose Blvd., is known for its display gardens, kids' stations, seasonal showcases and community involvement.

"Since we are all about community, this means so much to us," Chris Trad said as he accepted the award. "Thank you very much."

The club also installed new officers, consisting of president McGlade Holloway, first vice president Judy Till, second vice



Carol and Kevin Walker (from left), Karen and David Wilkinson, Terry Deville and McGlade and John Holloway were honored for their work on the master gardener shed at the Mandarin Garden Club.



Newly installed officers of the Mandarin Garden Club are (from left) president McGlade Holloway, first vice president Judy Till, second vice president Mary Forester, treasurer Shirley McCall and recording secretary Sharon Wagand.

president Mary Forester, treasurer Shirley McCall and recording secretary Sharon Wagand.

After the business portion, Freddie Olson said the blessing, and members dove into a tasty meal.

Send news and tales from Mandarin, Beauclerc and other areas in the 32223, 32257 and 32258 ZIP codes to Rhonda Reese at (904) 207-3232 or glreese@bellsouth.net. For events, information must be received at least 10 days in advance.

Mandarin plant exchange a whirlwind of fun



rhonda reese

neighborhood notes

It was about as much excitement as one could handle in an hour. That's how some attendees of the Mandarin Garden Club's first-ever plant exchange described the frenzied fun last Saturday.

More than two dozen enthusiastic gardeners gathered at the Loretto Road clubhouse shortly after 9 a.m. to start setting up their goodies and to look over others.

People arrived with bags, boxes and tubs full of plants and garden stuff for the inaugural swapping session. Tess Hart-Rose came with such large plants and a piece of iron garden work that her husband had to assist with his truck and muscle.

Participants were asked to label each plant.

"Some people went to the extra effort of attaching pictures of their donated plants in bloom along with a full description and tips for the plant's care," club member Susan Westermann said.

In addition to plants and iron works, swappers brought gardening books, gardening magazines, yard art and decorative planters to trade.



Provided by Karen Rowe

Selections for The Mandarin Garden Club's plant exchange are put in view prior to the big swapping session Saturday at the Loretto Road clubhouse.

As gardeners looked over the colorful loot, there was curiosity about how the swapping would work. Then Westermann read the ground rules.

"No pushing, shoving or grabbing," Westermann said. "Everyone needs to be on her best gardening behavior. We will be on the honor system. You know how many rounds you can participate in."

Attendees could join as many rounds as the number of items they brought. If they brought two items, they could participate in two swaps. Everyone started at a designated spot to which they would return with their treasures between rounds. When

Westermann rang her tiny bell, an heirloom from her grandmother, the swappers politely stationed themselves in front of coveted items and plucked them off the table. Then they made swift getaways to their safe spots.

Following 10 rounds of swapping, attendees had collected a plethora of perennials, annuals, roses, herbs, trees, vines, seeds and every sort of garden art, tools and supplies.

"We had so many kinds of plants that you don't normally find at the big garden centers," club vice president Mary Forester said. "This was such a fun event."

Once the rounds of mad

dashing ended, swappers enjoyed sweet treats, lemonade, advice and stories from their own gardens.

Westermann said she's already had requests to hold another plant exchange. The club will stage another event, the \$1 clothing sale, on Saturday, Aug. 13, at the 2892 Loretto Road clubhouse.

Mandarin Garden Club Yard of the Month

By Contributing Writer Celia Rehm, Mandarin Garden Club



underneath the massive oaks common to the blissful unspoiled areas of Mandarin.

The canopy of trees seemed to open up to showcase the Dumires' rich grass turf that complements

Ann and Bill Dumire's yard located in the Brady Manor neighborhood has been selected as the Mandarin Garden's Club's Yard of the Month for June. The yard was nominated by a neighbor who is also a member of the Mandarin Garden Club. To reach the Dumire residence, I traveled south on Brady Road from the north end of Mandarin Road enjoying the scenic drive that stretched past Orange Picker Road to eventually reach Brady Manor. I arrived early in the morning to see neighbors walking on leaf covered sidewalks

the well-cultivated floral design that predominantly adds to the beauty of the front yard. Lots and lots of colorful flowering impatiens amidst lots and lots of variegated ivy are part of the curving design that meanders under the shade of a live oak tree that centers the front yard. The same design stretches to the right of the yard with more flowering impatiens and ivy serving as ground cover and beautifully complementing the miniature azaleas and the lush foliage of amaryllis plants. More red and white impatiens adorn the boxwood shrubs and sago palm in the garden bed that surrounds the mailbox under the shade of another oak tree.

Originally from Ohio, the Dumires purchased their current residence in 2008. Both now retired (she, from the telephone company and he, from the steel industry), they moved to Florida in 2007 to be near their only daughter. While Ann Dumire has a degree in horticulture and landscape design from the University of Akron and was activity involved with her own yard in her home state, she states that "she now has to learn all over again".

"We are learning about the soil in Florida, new gardening techniques and the plants that do well in Florida," she explains.

Ann Dumire indicates she

misses the hostas which were plentiful in her yard in Ohio as she loved to propagate them for displays. Although slightly disappointed at her lack of success with the hostas, her efforts were highly rewarded with an abundance of amaryllis that sprouted impressive blooms in May from garden bulbs she brought from Ohio. Because of her love of "blue color plants," she would like to experiment with Russian Sage, she says. Meanwhile, she is already expanding the plum-bago in her backyard which was already existing and intertwining with the shrubbery in the back yard.

Blue Spruce and Norwegian pine were among the 25 pine trees that were part of her residential landscape in Ohio. Their enjoyment of trees is now supplemented by the queen palms, pigmy date palms and fan palms that Bill Dumire planted in their backyard. The palms combine with the dense foliage from the oaks to provide a beautiful tropical like backdrop to their swimming pool.

Other plants started by the Dumires to add to the Florida ambiance include lantana, ginger, native ferns and sweet potato vine which is blending nicely with the green colors of the coleus. A rain barrel system has been installed which is also used to fertilize many of the backyard plants.

With 30 years of gardening experience, the Dumires currently spend approximately eight hours weekly maintaining their yard. While it is busier in the springtime when the new plants are started, the anticipation of seeing the end result is enjoyable.

"We look forward to the finished product," says Ann Dumire.

To make a Mandarin Garden Club Yard of the Month nomination or find out more about membership, email mandarin-gardenclub@comcast.net or call 268-1192.



Crafty Ladies have ambitious goal: how you can help!

By Contributing Writer Yvonne Corbett, Publicity, Mandarin Garden Club



The Crafty Ladies of the Mandarin Garden Club are making loom knitted hats each Thursday at the clubhouse at 2892 Loretto Road in Mandarin. So far a total of 190 hats have been loomed and they are working towards producing 600 hats by December. They plan to donate them to the City Rescue Mission as gifts for their clients.

Anyone interested in donating knitting yarn to this worthy project may drop it off at the clubhouse each Thursday from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., contact Barbara Price at 287-1327 for pickup or bring it to the club's \$1.00 Clothing Sale to be held August 13, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Mandarin Garden Club.



The Bumblebee circle of the Mandarin Garden Club did a fall vegetable planting on October 7 with Master Gardener Joe Frisco. The children age five and up planted broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower. The Bumblebees meet on the first Thursday of each month at the garden club at 6:30 p.m. They have a different program each month and adults must accompany and attend the meeting with child. For more information, please call Pat at 619-1971.

Mandarin Garden Club then and now

THE TIMES-UNION



dorothy fletcher
by the wayside

I was surfing the Internet one day, when I came across a wonderful photograph of women from the late '40s. They were members of a distant Florida garden club, and they were enjoying high tea outdoors.

As palm fronds swayed in the background, these women filled their tea cups and added petits fours to their plates. They stood proudly in Sunday dresses, complete with stings of pearls, hats and white gloves in hand. How could I not be impressed by such devotion to fashion even in the Florida heat?

This photo was a gentle reminder of my mother and her influence. She knew how to dress fashionably. I have photos to prove it, but she also knew how to negotiate the politics of bridge clubs and coffee hours, all while rearing four children and growing a garden fit to be featured in Southern Living magazine.

Many women of her generation became involved in garden clubs along with their church circles and PTA meetings. Being a member of a garden club allowed women an outlet for creativity that they could be carried home and used in their own gardens and yards.

One such garden club still operates today at

FLETCHER continues on Page 2

"The Mandarin Garden Club was a group of 30 or so homemakers who wished to preserve the magnificent oaks and beautify the community of Mandarin. They had to finance themselves with fundraisers like the yearly Fall Festival."

Alice Jones-Stanley, member of the Mandarin Garden Club since 1969

FLETCHER

Continued from Page 1

Loretto Road. The Mandarin Garden Club was founded in the '40s when Mandarin had about 3,000 residents. Even though times have certainly changed, some things have remained constant.

Alice Jones-Stanley, a member of the club since 1969, said it was founded in 1945. Her aunt, Mable Woolfe, had been an early member of the organization.

"The Mandarin Garden Club was a group of 30 or so homemakers who wished to preserve the magnificent oaks and beautify the community of Mandarin," Jones-Stanley said. "They had to finance themselves with fundraisers like the yearly Fall Festival."

Mary Howe, also a Mandarin resident and club member, said it sponsors a Trash-to-Treasures event, plant sales and rents out its hall for nonpolitical and nonreligious receptions.

She said Bert Foshee, a lifetime member and president from 1961-63, was able to get her contractor husband to build the present building for a greatly reduced construction price. In 1987, members burned their clubhouse mortgage.

As I thumbed through some old club documents and scrapbooks, I found a wonderful picture of club members in 1953. These women were in costume for one of their fundraisers, and they were posing on the front steps of the

Athletic Club of Mandarin, their meeting place, along with the Mandarin Community Club, before they had their own building.

These women were to manage booths for the first annual Country Fair and Flower Show. It was held over a two-day period in April 1953. Some of the women in the picture commemorating the event were dressed as pioneer women. Others came as French maids and chefs, and some wore Sunday dresses with bead necklaces and corsages. All seemed to be having a grand time.

A brochure circulated at the event told of farm exhibits and booths of flowers, potted plants, fruits and vegetables. There were also household demonstrations for the proper canning and preserving techniques. The brochure also promised, "Games for the young, the old, the older; SMALL ENTRANCE FEE/ MODERATE PRICED FOOD."

There was even an amateur flower show, "aimed at stimulating interest in better gardening." All flowers had to have been grown in home gardens by the exhibitor.

The brochure also offered a wonderful history of Mandarin. There was mention of the Louis Tiffany stained-glass windows, dedicated to Harriet Beecher Stowe, in the "attractive old Episcopal Church on the St. Johns River." It also mentioned other parts of Mandarin — the "live-wire Community Club, Fire Department,

Blood Bank, Well Baby Clinic, Home Demonstration Class, Library, Garden Club, Mandarin Players and Athletic Club, which owns one of Florida's finest baseball diamonds and supports a winning ball team."

Proceeds from the event were to be used to beautify the community club grounds.

So, when I recently stopped by the present-day Mandarin Garden Club to return old scrapbooks, I was struck by a familiar genteel quality shown by women celebrating their end-of-the-year luncheon.

Of course, these women did not wear their strands of pearls or white gloves, nor were they outside in the heat. Instead, they sat in their cheerful clubhouse in the air-conditioning, and they wore sporty outfits along with happy faces. Seeing them enjoying the moment made me admire all women who have ever worked together to make something of value happen, and it made me think of Mama.

San Jose writer Dorothy Fletcher recently was selected by the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission to receive a 2011 Historic Preservation Award for her book, "Remembering Jacksonville: By the Wayside," and her column, "By the Wayside," which appears monthly in The Mandarin Sun.

The annual ceremony at the Main Library on Laura Street recognized 17 projects and services.

Fletcher's column takes a look at Jacksonville's earlier times, people and places.

Send your recollections to dotief@comcast.net.



Mandarin Garden Club

Members of the Mandarin Garden Club dressed in costume for their first country fair and flower show in 1953.

Mandarin Sun Reporter Sandy Strickland • (904) 350-4444



Mandarin Garden Club

Mandarin Garden Club members met among the trees at Brady Park in 1947. The club was founded in 1945, according to member Alice Jones-Stanley.

Residents have an affinity for lilies

By Contributing Writer Celia Rehm, Mandarin Garden Club



Ginkgo bonsai on pedestal

The Mandarin Garden Club's Yard of the Month for July belongs to Dori and Ronnie Spradlin. Their yard was nominated with a message that read, "You must see the awesome lilies and bonsai in this yard." It was not until two weeks later when the first opportunity came to visit the Spradlins' Dori Spradlin is a real estate broker and Ronnie Spradlin commutes to his employment in Tallahassee. On weekends, Ronnie Spradlin, assisted by his wife devotes much of his time caring for his garden located at the back of their residence in the Coventry subdivision of Mandarin.

In the span of three years, the Spradlins have established garden beds that run the length of the side and back fence enclosure. An inviting beautiful lawn of low growing St. Augustine grass covers the ground around the planting beds, the center swimming pool and the brick pathway that leads through the garden. Landscaping consists of single trunk oleanders shaped like trees, bottle brush, fruitless pear trees, magnolias, palms, junipers, rosemary, sculpted boxwood and lantana. Dominating the landscape is the gardening space dedicated to the hybridized lilies.

What started out as an interest for Ronnie Spradlin

has turned into a full-blown hobby including purpose-driven research related to the hybridization of lilies.

"I wanted to learn, I wanted to grow my own," says Ronnie Spradlin. The backyard reflects impressive dedication and knowledge successfully applied.

As we explored the various species of lilies, Ronnie Spradlin talked about the genetic

makeup of the plants. He led me to a yet un-named bright yellow seedling, the result of an effort to produce a rust resistant lily. Moving on, he proudly held up the "royal rumble," a deep purple double stemmed specimen. He spoke on the process of cross-pollination including the anticipation of the new hybrid, and the excitement of seeing the color of the new lily for the first time. He explained the difference between a "standard" lily and a hybrid lily which is produced when two standard lilies are crossed to produce a new variety. Once produced, the hybrid lily plant can self-propagate by digging and separating the bulbs to grow a second plant of the same hybrid. He also demonstrated the cross pollination of hybrids which grow in clusters on several round mounds of cultivated soil.

"Soil is as important as water to a plant, yet, often it is a neglected thing," says Ronnie Spradlin. Not so, in this back yard! Bags of top soil, mushroom compost, black cow compost, organic fine pine mulch and slow release fertilizer are stored in enclosed areas of the back yard. By preparing his own soil, Ronnie Spradlin ensures the desired balance of nutrients, water retention and the important porous qualities of

were transplanted from the South Carolina mountains where they once grew wild.

Before ending our tour, Spradlin left for a minute to come back with a large ginkgo bonsai indicating the plant also grows wild in the South Carolina mountains. The curved design of the ginkgo bonsai with an exposed horizontal root was fascinating.

"The root structure is important in the awarding of points at a show," he said.

To make a Mandarin Garden Club Yard of the Month nomination or find out more about membership, please email mandaringardencub@comcast.net or call 268-1192.

an old nursery that went out of business. Hardy woody perennials with small leaves are suitable specimen for the practice of



Gold-Villa del sol lily

bonsai along with juniper, pines and other small evergreen trees. Some of the juniper and other evergreen bonsai on display

the composition that goes into the raised garden plots. He spoke on the use of weed barriers to allow plants to grow only on prepared soil.

An opposing feature to the lilies is a juniper with sprawling branches growing horizontally in a garden plot along a hosta plant and boxwood underneath a tall rosemary bush. As I commented on the juniper, we turned to the bonsai displayed on tiered shelving, individual shelves and on tables.

A boxwood bonsai estimated to be 36 years old is prominently displayed on its own corner shelf affixed to the wooden fence at the side entry to the backyard. I later learned the boxwood was acquired from

Mandarin Garden Club's Yard of the Month

By Contributing Writer Celia Rehm, Mandarin Garden Club

The Mandarin Garden Club's selection for the September Yard of the Month is Alice and Terry O'Conner's unique garden inspired by one of the most famous and lovable Disney characters, Mickey Mouse. Like so many others, Alice O'Conner visited Walt Disney World many years ago, loved the enchanting experience and brought a piece of it home.

Captivated with the ingenious imagination and the totality of the master plan behind Disney's world of entertainment, O'Conner began her fabulous collection of memorabilia that has expanded over the years into her home and garden. I was led through a hallway with

white painted walls decorated with red Mickey Mouse memorabilia and through rooms with

Mickey Mouse furnishings illuminated by Mickey Mouse fixtures. Already in a happy state of mind, my mood lightened even more as I was handed a ginger ale in a Mickey Mouse glass and as I noticed the plates in the glass encased cabinets also reflected a Mickey Mouse theme.

Waiting in the backyard was the amazing and joyful main attraction. At the center of the yard



is the 458 square foot Mickey Mouse design, molded with black heavy plastic, its head and shoulders filled with white rock contrasting sharply with the green landscape. Four wooden garden chairs stained in bright red, two with small Mickey Mouse face cutouts, sit atop of the rock shimmering in the sun. Glancing beyond the face, I detected Mickey's turfed ears sculpted from zoysia grass. The O'Connors have found the zoysia grass to be the best choice for the design due to its drought tolerant and pest resistant qualities. It is a fine turf that is trimmed with an old fashioned reel mower to maintain its shape.

The entire backyard is an awesome display of color and contrast. Numerous birds of paradise, sago palms, split leaf philodendron, canna lilies, Norfolk pine, Texas white hibiscus rose and sea grape are planted along the back and sides of the yard in wide beds covered with black mulch. Adjacent to the back of the house is an attractive mixture of black and

green elephant ears, among ferns and tall plantings of Texas white hibiscus rose.

An inside border of tall palms accented by a Queen Emma cranium lily prominently frames the back of the yard joining side borders of colorful red impatiens, asparagus ferns, purple leafed succulent plants, Mexican heather and a variety of other plants. All is enclosed with wooden fencing lined with tall sprinklers designed to shower the garden from above simulating a rain-like pattern.

The backyard is a labor of



love for the O'Connors, who spend four to five hours on the weekends and time in the evenings maintaining the existing landscape and nurturing new plants. Terry O'Conner, who is employed by Haskell Construction, designed and constructed the backyard as a tribute to Mickey, a beloved dog they lost in 2006.

To make a Mandarin Garden Club Yard of the Month nomination or find out more about membership, please email mandaringardenclub@comcast.net or call 268-1192.

Mandarin Garden Club's Yard of the Month Outstanding holiday decorations earn award

By Contributing Writer Celia Rehm, Mandarin Garden Club



Mary and Bill Cutler are the recipients of the Mandarin Garden's Club Yard of the Month for December. Their yard has been delivering yuletide cheer for many years in the Mandarin community with an outstanding holiday presentation that can be seen at 14365 Mandarin Road.

Do not expect to see dancing lights to the tune of music. Instead, the animated fixtures displays you will see displayed were all built by Bill's father and are described as "very traditional."



"My father did this in Tampa," says Bill Cutler.

Now 93 years old, his father presented the first piece to Bill and Mary Cutler over 20 years ago to start a collection that has brought joy to many in Mandarin.

olde Mandarin property into a fantasy land.

Over the years, the word has spread.

"Many people drive by to see the lights," says Bill Cutler. "Some park on the road and come closer to view the displays."

Indeed, in this yard, one can easily envision people strolling through the playful setting, walking past the Christmas trees and snowmen to visit with Santa and his reindeer and with the girl flying a kite, while others might stop by to see the firemen in the fire trucks or the many critters in the yard that include the bear in the honey tree, a frolicking Pepe Le Pew, a Christmas raccoon popping out of a garbage can, a festive mouse peeking out of a hat and a bear spinning his lasso sitting atop a rocking horse.

Not all the displays are make believe, however. Live llamas and miniature horses play a role in the classical nativity scene. The llama and horses are kept on the five and a half acre property year round.

"We let them out at night to feed on the hay that is part of the nativity display for the enjoyment of the people," says Bill Cutler. When asked what

I visited the Cutlers early in November and was met at the driveway by their daughter who walked with me to the front door. Their yard was laden with an assortment of festive displays, some still in boxes. The assortment, accumulated over a long span of years, had been taken out of storage from the barn and from two other storage rooms to repeat the time-honored family tradition of sharing the holiday displays with the community. The yard was being dressed for the upcoming holidays.

Mary Cutler explained they start decorating their lawn two months before the lights are turned on early in December. This year the lights, which are strung 70 feet high on the branches of the lower trees, will be turned on from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. starting December 5. During that time, illumination from thousands of strings of light will transform the park-like

he enjoyed the most, he quickly replied, "The smile on the faces of the kids."

Every year the Cutlers hold an open house during the holiday season for 400 invited guests that include staff and children from the Youth Crisis Center. Inside the Cutlers' home, the invited guests will see five Christmas trees decorated in various themes along with a permanent Dickens' Village that fills an entire room with Department 56 buildings and railway

The Cutlers reside in their home with their adopted 14 year old daughter. They are also parents to three other children and grandparents to five grandchildren ranging in age from three to 18.

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Mandarin Garden Club's Yard of the Month

By Contributing Writer Celia Rehm, Mandarin Garden Club

Congratulations to Mike and Joan Maher, recipients of the Mandarin Garden Club's Yard of the Month award for October. The Maher residence is located on Ransen Road in Mandarin. The nomination for the award came from an astute neighbor who felt the yard was worthy of recognition.

Walk into the Mahers' backyard and you find yourself in a spectacular setting of lush vegetation and colorful plants that seem to sprout naturally in the backyard. Take a tour with Joan Maher and you learn that is not the case. Joan Maher, trained as a Master Gardener in the 1970s in the state of Washington and her husband Mike, have spent the last three and a half years transforming a nondescript back lot into a garden of paradise.

It is gradually coming together, says Joan Maher. "I love the way it has evolved in the last three years."

A tall wooden fence encloses the entire backyard. The grey of the aging fence blends perfectly with the color of the tree trunks of the old oaks, creating a natural background for the red color of the blooming impatiens growing abundantly in the thick landscape. Impatiens grow in quaint birdhouses, some in ordinary hanging baskets, others in spherical hanging baskets and many in pots sitting in the rich brown bark that covers the ground soil. The spherical hanging baskets, explained Maher, are created by wiring two lined wire baskets together.

A self-described bargain hunter, Maher pointed out distinct features and plants that add charm to the deep beds that circle the backyard. Old mirrors painted in yellow serve as fence décor while panels of plastic lattice function as trellises for the climbing vines that camouflage the wooden enclosure. A large metal candleholder and pedestal

birdbaths are used as attractive containers for thriving succulent plants next to blooming ornamental peanut plants that stand out as a groundcover. Posts that once held mailboxes now hold birdhouses, both decorated with mandevilla vines. A cast iron arbor spotted on Craig's List now holds large baskets of ferns. The arbor is decorated with jasmine and impatiens and serves as an entry to dense landscaping of palmettos, azaleas, philodendrons, African iris, spider plants and a mixture of gold mound lantana, petunias, sedum and iris in the center of the yard.

Succulent plants are favorites. Large leaf kalanchoes, aloe vera and many other species thrive in this backyard in beautiful stone pots that line the sides of the swimming pool. A cast iron miniature wheelbarrow serves as a unique container for an attractive display containing a large croton surrounded by plantings of the ice plant, wide leaf kalanchoes, and echeveria.

Inside the covered patio, small succulent plants are planted in shadow box frames to create living wall hangings made of succulents and frames. In a couple of weeks, says Maher, "they will be ready to hang on the walls of the front porch."

The Mahers are retirees, he from the military and civil service and



she from a civil service position. They each spend up to four hours weekly maintaining the yard. Although the Mahers enjoy the annuals which bloom year round under the protection of the tall trees, their love of all plants is evident. Begonias, red impatiens, dianthus, bush daisies, petunias, princess flowers, beach sunflowers, golden dewdrops, yellow coreopsis, Mona Lisa lipstick plants, Mona lavender plants and Mexican petunias thrive in these gardens, adding beautiful splashes of color to the foliage of the liriopie, the ferns, the taller hibiscus, canna lilies, peacock ginger, pinecone ginger and azaleas.

To make a Mandarin Garden Club Yard of the Month nomination or find out more about membership, e-mail mandarin-gardenclub@comcast.net or call 268-1192.



NOV. 2011

Gardeners learn about winter plants



time the weather report predicts cold temperatures.

Mandarin Garden Club membership is open to all gardening enthusiasts from beginners to advanced.

For meeting or membership information, please contact mandaringardenclub@comcast.net or 268-1192.

On January 19 at 10:00 a.m., the public is invited to attend at no charge a fun

The Mandarin Garden Club's Live Oak Circle got their hands dirty at the November 17 meeting. Each member assembled and took home their own beautiful cool season container garden.

Master Gardener Susan Westermann instructed the group on combining cold tolerant flowering annuals and herbs together in one pretty pot. All the plants used can tolerate our Jacksonville winter weather. That means no need to cover or drag the pot inside each



Garden Club sponsors Bonsai workshop

The Dogwood Circle of the Mandarin Garden Club recently hosted Joe Stumph for their program on Bonsai. Bonsai, pronounced "bone sigh," is a Japanese word derived from a Chinese word punsai meaning "shallow pot and tree." Bonsai, literally translated means bon - tray or dish and sai - tree or plant: thus, tree or plant planted in a dish.



Bonsai is both art and horticulture. Historical evidence shows that Bonsai appeared in ancient China 2000 years ago. It appeared in Japan possibly as early as the sixth century. Approximately 1300 AD bonsai appeared in Japanese drawings. In the United States, Bonsai became popular after World War II, when civilians and military stationed in Japan reported seeing beautiful miniature trees.

Bonsai is an art of illusion.

The roots, trunk, branches, foliage and environment all contribute to the composition. The design should be simple to create a tree which may be familiar to us in nature. Many woody trees or shrubs can be utilized in creation of Bonsai. The design utilizes easily recognized components of a tree, such as a tapered trunk, visible surface roots, branches, coverings on trunk and branches - the result is a tree.



CHRISTMAS PARTY - 2011



MASTER GARDENERS CHRISTMAS PARTY AT EXTENSION OFFICE -2011
DECORATIONS BY MARY FORESTER OF MGC + BARBARA ROSE





MARY FORESTER + BARBARA ROSE





Mandarin Garden Club holds \$1 Clothing Sale

By Contributing Writer Yvonne Corbett, Publicity, Mandarin Garden Club

On Saturday, March 3 the Mandarin Garden Club will be holding its semiannual \$1 Clothing Sale from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the clubhouse located at 2892 Loretto Road. A wide variety of clothing, shoes and accessories will be available for women, men and children, with boutique items being priced slightly higher.

The Mandarin Garden Club 65th Anniversary Cookbook, a collection of 500 delectable recipes and cooking hints, will also be available for purchase. These make wonderful gifts for birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and many occasions.

The garden club will be collecting the following items to

support worthy organizations: eyeglasses, sunglasses and cases donated to the Lions Club, cell phones and accessories donated to the Duval County 4-H, and nonperishable unexpired food and toiletry items donated to the Mandarin Food Bank. Donated ink cartridges will be used to purchase Mandarin Garden Club office supplies.

For more information about events at the Mandarin Garden Club, please email mandaringardenclub@comcast.net, call 268-1192 or visit our website at <http://home.comcast.net/~harper113>.

2-2012

The Dogwood Circle of the Mandarin Garden Club will be taking a field trip to Walter Jones Park for bird watching with Carole Adams on Tuesday, March 20. Please bring your own brown bag lunch. For additional information, please call Karen at 292-1546.

Bonsai workshop at Mandarin Garden Club

By Contributing Writer Joseph Stumpf

The North Florida Bonsai Club, along with the Mandarin Garden Club, will be holding a bonsai workshop in February 2012 at the Mandarin Garden Club, located at 2892 Loretto Road. Workshop dates are February 6, February 13 and February 20 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. each evening. This will consist of a total of six hours of instruction in creating and maintaining bonsai trees and "hands-on" work.

The workshop is open to members and non-members alike, including experienced and beginners, young (with a parent) and old. We will be working on Kingsville boxwoods *Buxus microphylla*.

The fee is \$30, which in-

cludes the six hours of instruction, tree, pot, soil, wire and use of tools (no need to buy tools or supplies). Just bring yourself and enjoy the art and horticulture of

bonsai.

Please contact Joseph Stumpf at 309-0887 or Josh Brown at (309) 838-0259 for more information.

David G. Bugher
City Rescue Mission

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

David G. Bugher
Executive Director



Location: 426 South McDuff Avenue
www.crmjax.org

Birding with Dogwood Circle

Amateur ornithologists tour with local expert

By Contributing Writer Tess Hart-Ross, Mandarin Garden Club



Bird watching enthusiasts from the Mandarin area may have heard the rumor of a rare, exotic flock of "birds" seen stopping in their travels at our Walter Jones Park recently. It's true! On Tuesday, March 21, members of the Dogwood Circle of the Mandarin Garden Club, led by the world renowned bird watching aficionado, member and former president of the local Audubon Society, Carole

Adams, spent an enjoyable few hours viewing the local world through binocular lenses.

One does not garden in the Mandarin area without realizing that in addition to our providing beautiful surroundings for ourselves, we're providing perfect feeding and breeding grounds for our feathered residents, both permanent and temporary. Adams shared a field

Bird watchers cont. on pg. 13

and figures about species moving back from their winter in far off countries and species that are just passing through, using our neighborhood as a buffet before moving on. Her dry wit, her entertaining stories of national and international birding adventures and her tales of trials in her

own backyard made for a lively group discussion.

Adams then led the garden club members on a trek through the park armed with binoculars and plenty of sharp eyes. The park offered several sightings of our native birds—those we locals take for granted but thoroughly appreciate when viewed through binoculars as if we were tourists from the cold north. A nesting pair of ospreys took turns sitting on their nest high in a dead cypress tree. A great blue heron kept the group company on a neighboring dock and shopped for a fresh snack simultaneously. The anhingas kept watch on their individual pilings while

plenty of red wing blackbirds, cardinals, wrens, woodpeckers and blue jays went about their business unfazed. Our great St. Johns River made for a handsome backdrop.

Then what better way to top off the tour than a picnic lunch and more bird talk? Comparing backyard experiences, sharing information about what plants attract what birds and adding to our knowledge of all things ornithological finished off a glorious day!

For more information about the Mandarin Garden Club, please email mandaringardenclub@comcast.net or call 292-1546.

67th year begins for Mandarin Garden Club

By Contributing Writer Susan Westermann, Mandarin Garden Club



Life Member Award honorees are recognized for outstanding contributions to the Mandarin Garden Club and the community: Joyce Datz, Live Oak Circle; Barbara Rose, Live Oak Circle; and Betty Harrelson, Cherokee Rose Circle.

Mandarin Garden Club members celebrated the conclusion of their club's 66th year on May 24 with installation of new officers, awards ceremony and delicious potluck luncheon. Inside the Loretto Road clubhouse, the setting was simply aglow with sunflower themed decorations.

Garden Club President McGlade Holloway proudly reported to the membership the list of this past year's club accomplishments. The garden club held a wide variety of meetings including presentations on herbs, roses, vegetable gardening, bonsai, hummingbirds and "eat your yard." Also, demonstrations with various hands-on experiences such as making seasonal containers, decorating for the holidays and making centerpieces were enjoyed by all.

day of each month, tending the beautiful Demonstration Gardens on the club grounds.

President Holloway said, "We close our 66th year which had tears for the illness and loss of some of our wonderful members and joy for those of us who enjoy the beauty of nature, desire to help the community, hope of helping the environ-

ment around us and beauty of friendships formed from common interests."

Mark your calendar for the Mandarin Garden Club's upcoming \$1.00 Clothing Sale, to be held on August 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. as well as the Trash to Treasure Garage Sale on October 6 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Mandarin Garden Club is open to all gardening enthusiasts from beginners to advanced. Meetings are held for adults during the day and evening. There is a Bumblebee group for children. For meeting dates and membership information, please contact mandaringardenclub@comcast.net or 268-1192.



Mandarin Garden Club New Officers 2012-1013: McGlade Holloway, President; Betty Harrelson, First Vice President; Mary Forester, Second Vice President; Shirley McCall, Treasurer; Sharon Wagand and Karen Rowe, Co-Recording Secretaries.

Thanks to the generosity of members and successful fund raising, the Mandarin Garden Club was able to support local charitable organizations including Mandarin Food Bank, Lion's Club, 4-H, Meals on Wheels, Jacksonville Arboretum, The Betty Griffith House Thrift Store and a special Mandarin retirement home. The club's outstanding Crafty Ladies group knitted 750 caps for the City Rescue Mission's winter clients. These same ladies raised funds to provide two days of meals for all at the City Rescue Mission.

Special appreciation was extended to the Duval County Master Gardeners who volunteer on the first and third Wednes-

Mandarin Garden Club Yard of the Month

Garden looks like an inviting resort

By Contributing Writer Susan Westermann, Mandarin Garden Club

Mandarin NewsLine • July 2012

The Mandarin Garden Club is proud to honor Chuck Shoup and Carol Bressler for creating a beautiful yard as inviting as a resort. These homeowners don't feel the need to go away on vacation because their backyard is where they most love to relax. Their backyard is their oasis.

When the house was purchased in 2002 the yard was a blank canvas. With no formal gardening or landscape design training, Shoup and Bressler have transformed their suburban lot into a gardeners' dream. They envision each new garden project, make it happen and then say, "What do we do next?"



The end result is a picturesque landscape with masses of Knockout roses, grand deep blue mop head hydrangeas, hanging baskets overflowing with robust geraniums and an immaculately manicured lawn all surrounding a sparkling swimming pool. Just as beautiful as the abundance of flowering plants are the garden structures that Shoup built himself. Positioned perfectly around the garden are a gazebo, pergola, garden shed, pond with waterfall and outdoor kitchen.

For information about the Mandarin Garden Club, please contact mandaringardenclub@comcast.net.

Mandarin Garden Club starts new club year

By Contributing Writer Susan Westerman, Mandarin Garden Club

Have you always wanted to join a garden club? Now is the perfect time. The Mandarin Garden Club will be starting the new club year throughout September. Meetings will be held during the day and evening for adults. There is also a group for children.

The Loretto Road clubhouse will hold informative and fun

meetings on a wide variety of gardening and nature topics. Also, field trips and demonstrations with hands-on experiences are planned.

All gardening enthusiasts from beginner to expert are welcome! For meeting times and membership information, please contact mandaringardenclub@comcast.net.

Sept 2012

Mandarin garden tours fun and educational

By Contributing Writer Susan Westermann, Mandarin Garden Club



Tropical storms nor blistering heat this summer could stop Mandarin Garden Club members from touring 15 of their members' home gardens. Once a week these intrepid gardeners visited three of their members' beautiful gardens followed by a group meal at some of Mandarin's best lunch spots.

Since the club's monthly gardening instructional meetings were on hiatus for the summer, these gardening enthusiasts

decided to take advantage of the down time and learn from each other's personal gardens. And learn they did! No two gardens were the same. The tour participants were amazed and inspired as they strolled through the beautiful, clever and unique gardens of their club friends.

Ramona McCormack had one of the very popular, pretty and practical solutions to growing sun loving plants in her

Garden tours cont. on pg. 5

Garden tours cont. from pg. 1



shady Mandarin lot. McCormack planted a combination of sun loving plants all together around the lamp post in a small sunny spot in her front yard. At first glance, the beautiful display consisted of antique roses and perennial flowers. Upon closer inspection, McCormack had slyly also tucked in a couple tomato plants and several culinary herbs. That's called smart and sneaky gardening!

Another ingenious idea was discovered in Tess Hart-Ross' amazing garden. To eliminate lawn mowing, but still have an area of lawn, Hart-Ross planted her side yard with dwarf mondo grass. The dark

Garden Club starts up monthly gardening meetings again for adults during the day and evenings and a children's group too. All gardening enthusiasts from beginner to expert are welcome. Please contact mandaringardenclub@comcast.net for meeting dates and times.



green, lush, faux lawn received rave reviews from all as they couldn't quite believe their eyes. Kudos to Barbara Price for organizing this fun and educational multi-week garden tour extravaganza

In September, the Mandarin

Mandarin Garden Club new

1 • October 2012

By Contributing Writer Susan Westermann, Mandarin Garden Club

The community is invited to the Mandarin Garden Club

for a program titled Gardening in Good Health on October 18



Mandarin Garden Club Gardening Tip: Fall, winter and spring are the seasons that lettuce grows in Jacksonville. Now is the time to sprinkle any variety of leaf lettuce seeds in a pot or plot. You will be harvesting tender baby lettuce in just a few weeks. Harvest your lettuce by cutting the leaves an inch above the base. New lettuce leaves will grow back over and over again.

at 10:00 a.m. The guest speaker will be Dr. Steven Nickels, board certified nutritionist and chiropractic physician in Mandarin. All are invited to this informative, fun and free event. No reservation required. The Mandarin Garden Club is located at 2892 Loretto Road. For more information, please contact mandaringardenclub@comcast.net, call 268-1192 or checkout the website <http://home.comcast.net/~harper113>.

Mark your calendar for the garden club's annual Trash to Treas-

ure Sale to be held on Saturday, October 6 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The clubhouse will be filled with household items, electronics, furniture and toys, all donated by club members. Also, back by popular demand the club's third annual Craft Fair on Saturday, November 10 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. If vendors are interested in participating, only outside spaces are still available. Please email the club for details. The deadline for vendor registration is November 7.

The garden club is always supporting our community by collecting the following items which may be brought to the clubhouse for all events: eyeglasses, sunglasses and cases donated to the Lions Club, cell phones and accessories donated to the Duval County 4-H and nonperishable, unexpired food items and toiletries donated to the Mandarin Food Bank. Donated ink cartridges will be used to purchase Mandarin Garden Club office supplies.

Mandarin Garden Club's Yard of the Month

Butterfly garden amazes and entertains

By Contributing Writer Susan Westermann, Mandarin Garden Club

A Julington Creek Road neighborhood is aflutter because of Pam and Paul Moran's butterfly garden. After moving into their home in March, Pam Moran got busy constructing a 10x10 red brick butterfly outline design in their side yard. Moran smartly planted inside the butterfly outline just the right plants that different butterflies love. Like the line from the Kevin Costner baseball movie *Field of Dreams*, "If you build it they will come." So goes it with a butterfly garden. If you plant it, the butterflies will come.

Moran planted milkweed, salvia, coneflower, coreopsis, porterweed and pentas—and boy oh boy, the butterflies have come and have stayed. Moran describes her butterfly habitat as easy to maintain with her very busy schedule because it's not

too big. That is a lesson for all who are planning any kind of new gardening project.

The Morans welcome their neighbors and friends to enjoy watching the many

colorful monarchs, gulf fritillaries, sulphurs, swallowtails and skippers. One gentleman from down the street visits the Morans' yard for inspiration for his painting hobby. The little girl next door proudly reports to the Morans when some of their butterflies visit the little girl in her yard. The Mandarin Garden Club is proud to honor Pam and Paul Moran for creating an absolutely picture perfect butterfly garden. We should all be so lucky to have neighbors like the Morans.

For information or to nominate a neighbor for the Mandarin Garden Club's Yard of the Month, please contact mandaringardenclub@comcast.net or call 268-1192.



Craft Fair coming soon!

By Contributing Writer Susan Westermann, Mandarin Garden Club

The third annual Craft Fair will be held at the Mandarin Garden Club on November 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 2892 Loretto Road. The clubhouse will be completely filled with booth after booth of beautiful and unique crafts. This event has become so popular it has outgrown the building and now includes many beautiful craft booths outside too. Take advantage of this leisurely and fun way to do some of your holiday shopping.

There is something for everyone. An always appreciated and charming gift for all occasions is the 65th anniversary Mandarin

Garden Club Cookbook. These wonderful cookbooks will be available for just \$12 or two for \$20. Remember this and all Mandarin Garden Club events collect eyeglasses for the Lions Club, cell phones for the Duval County 4-H, nonperishable unexpired food items and toiletries for the Mandarin Food Bank and used ink cartridges for the Garden Club.

For information about this event or attending a garden club meeting for adults or children contact mandaringardenclub@comcast.net, call 268-1192 or check the website <http://home.comcast.net/~harper113>.





Holiday season at the Mandarin Garden Club

By Contributing Writer Susan *Mandarin* NewsLine • December 2012

Mandarin Garden Club members are dedicated to gardening, but they are also very dedicated to giving back to the community through a wide variety of volunteer activities all year long.

This holiday season the club's Crafty Ladies group made festive gifts for Meals On Wheels recipients in the Mandarin area. Again this year the Crafty Ladies have been working for months making 500 knitted caps for the City Rescue Mission.

The club members are very proud to report what they have collected at their monthly garden club meetings: 506 pair of eye glasses for the Lions Club, 102 cell phones for the Duval 4-H Club and many car loads of non-perishable food for the Mandarin Food Bank. Also, the unsold items from annual clothing sales and garage sales have been donated to local charitable organization thrift stores and garden club cookbooks have been donated to both Mandarin Libraries and the Julington Creek Library. The Duval County Extension children's nature summer camp is held at the garden club facility each summer, while the club grounds are made available for the Duval County Extension demonstration garden, tended by outstanding Master Gardeners.

This is just a short list of current community involvement. The list is actually very long considering Mandarin Garden Club members have been dedicated to help-

ing our community since 1942. So the next time you drive past that beautiful Mandarin Garden Club sign at 2892 Loretto Road, just think of all the good works that have been in the past and are currently generated from that little clubhouse.

Mark your calendar for January 17 at 10:00 a.m. to attend a meeting titled "A Tour of the Cummer Gardens From Your Chair." All are welcome to attend at 2892 Loretto Road. For additional information, please contact mandaringardenclub@comcast.net, call 268-1192 or check the website <http://home.comcast.net/~harper113>.



Mandarin Garden Club Gardening Tip: Poinsettia plants can be transplanted outside as soon as the danger of frost is past. Plant your poinsettia in an area that receives full sun most of the day. However, keep in mind that around October, when the plant starts bud-setting for next year's beautiful flowers, the plant requires complete darkness during the night. If the nighttime dark period is interrupted with the light from a window, street light or any other light source, flowering will be markedly delayed or the plant may not flower at all. For detailed information about indoor care and growing poinsettias outdoors, please visit solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot_topics/lawn_and_garden/poinsettias.html.



New Year's Resolution: Attend a meeting at the Mandarin Garden Club

By Contributing Writer Susan Westermann, Mandarin Garden Club

The perfect New Year's resolution for gardening enthusiasts is to get involved at the Mandarin Garden Club. From those who want to start learning about gardening for the first time to those who are already expert gardeners, the Mandarin Garden Club is just the place for you. There are three groups that meet during the day, one group that meets in the evening and also a group for kids. The garden club holds meetings on a wide variety of gardening and nature topics, hands-on experiences and field trips. The Crafty Ladies group is busy every week working on fun and rewarding community service projects. There is even a group that meets once a month for some lively domino playing. The Mandarin Garden Club is where outstanding Mandarin residents work

together to continue the club's 67-year-long history. Membership is open to all at the Mandarin Garden Club.

The public is invited to the Mandarin Garden Club's January meeting presented by Jacksonville's Cummer Museum and Gardens. The program is titled "Tour the Cummer Gardens From Your Chair." All are welcome on January 17 beginning at 10:00 a.m. No reservation is required. The Mandarin Garden Club is located at 2892 Loretto Road. For more information, please contact mandaringardenclub@comcast.net, call 268-1192 or check out the website <http://home.comcast.net/~harper113>.

The garden club is always supporting our community by collecting the following items which may be brought to the

clubhouse for all events. eyeglasses, sunglasses and cases donated to the Lions Club, cell phones and accessories donated to the Duval County 4-H and nonperishable, unexpired food items and toiletries donated to the Mandarin Food Bank. Donated ink cartridges will be used to purchase Mandarin Garden Club office supplies.

Mandarin Garden Club Gardening Tip: Cheer up your January garden. Plant a pot of pansies outside. Put your pot of pansies where you can see them every day. They will make you smile. Pansies are long known for being considered a happy plant to brighten up our cool months. Pansies come in every color of the rainbow. Put your pansies in at least six hours of sun a day, water and fertilize. Your pot of pansies will bring you great gardening joy until we can get back to warm weather gardening in the spring. See http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/giam/plants_and_grasses/flowering_plants/pansies.html for detailed information on growing pansies.



Louise Hill memorialized at Mandarin Garden Club

By Susan Westermann, Mandarin Garden Club

March 2013

On an especially beautiful January day the Mandarin Garden Club celebrated and memorialized the life and accomplishments of long time member Louise Hill. Hill's family was in attendance along with many

club members as they dedicated a lovely engraved butterfly garden bench on the club grounds in her memory. This was no somber event and that's just the way Hill would have wanted it. She was known for her fantastic sense of humor. Mary Howe and Alice Stanley shared heartfelt stories of admiration and respect from their decades of friendship and volunteerism with Hill. Their personal stories combined with wonderful stories from Hill's family had the packed clubhouse beaming with smiles and lots of joyful laughter. One of the great stories Hill is most famous for is the fact that she and the late Bess Permenter signed the mortgage for the Mandarin Garden Club's Loretto Road clubhouse, unbeknownst to their husbands. Back then that was something that ladies just did not do.

Hill was a Mandarin Garden Club member for 55 years. Over her years of dedicated service she



The family of Louise Hill: Terry and Rick Hill (daughter-in-law and son), Jan Mills (daughter) and Ronnie Hill (son)

held the office of Garden Club president along with most all other volunteer positions. She was a passionate educator about gardening, flower arranging and nature. She was always leading, teaching, working or doing whatever needed to be done for the success of the club's motto: to study, to conserve, to cultivate and to enjoy nature's bounty. Hill's late husband, Richard Hill, often joked that he should purchase the property next door to the club so he could see his wife because she spent so much time at the

garden club.

On one quiet day at the garden club when no one else was around, the 90-year-old Hill was seen walking arm in arm with her medical helper touring the grounds. Hill and the young lady were obviously from vastly different generations, but they seemed to be sharing interesting conversation as they chatted and strolled through the gardens. When this story was shared with Hill's family at the memorial, at the exact same time they all smiled and nodded their heads saying she was no

doubt taking that opportunity to teach her young companion that day about the beauty of nature. That day may have been Hill's last time at her beloved garden club. Her family said she was proud to the end of the Mandarin Garden Club.

The Mandarin Garden Club annual Plant Sale and Garden Festival will be held on Saturday, April 27 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at 2892 Loretto Road. Admission is free and there is plenty of parking next door at the Masonic Lodge. Inside the clubhouse will be overflowing with a wide selection of reasonably priced plants that grow very well right here in Mandarin. Outside will be the "back by popular demand" vendors selling the most wonderful gardening related items. For additional information, please contact mandaringardenclub@comcast.net or 268-1192.

Gardening update and tips from the Mandarin Garden Club

By Contributing Writer Susan Westerman, Mandarin Garden Club



A small selection of the many colors, shapes and sizes of caladiums.

Mandarin Garden Club gardening tip: Add pizzazz to your shade garden this summer with Caladiums. If your shade loving impatiens petered out on you last year, you are not alone. The impatient problem is called Downy Mildew. Rather than trying to chemically combat the Downy Mildew on the impatiens, try planting show stopping caladiums instead. Caladiums are an economical choice since they usually come back for several years. Buying the bulbs and not the already grown plant saves you lots of money. Caladium bulbs can be purchased in small quantities at our good garden centers in Mandarin or purchased in bulk at the big home and garden stores. See a website like www.caladiumworld.com to educate yourself about the different named caladiums. Save the on-line shipping costs and purchase many of the same caladium varieties right here in Mandarin.

It's time for the most popular event at the Mandarin Gar-

den Club, the annual Plant Sale and Garden Festival, to be held on Saturday, April 27 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the club, located at 2892 Loretto Road. Admission is free and there is plenty of parking next door at the Masonic Lodge.

Inside the clubhouse will be overflowing with a wide selection of reasonably priced plants that grow very well right here in Mandarin. Many of the plants are grown by Mandarin Garden Club members in their own gardens. These plants are affectionately referred to as "pass along" plants because they are so beautiful and do so well that they are passed along from friend to friend and generation to generation. As one example, a member will be contributing English ivy plants that her grandmother ever-so-ladylike smuggled in from England back in 1958.

The wide selection of plants each year is always amazing: butterfly plants, antique roses, herbs, veggies, native plants, perennials, annuals, trees, shrubs, succulents, cacti and that's just on the inside of the building. Outside will be the back-by-popular demand vendors selling the most wonderful gardening related items.

Jacksonville's own herb expert Linda Cunningham will have at her booth all the very best kinds of herbs to grow. Cunningham not only sells the very best herbs, she can teach you anything you want to know about growing and using herbs. Other vendors will be

selling: handmade herbal soap, several different garden art booths, unique recycled denim creations, handmade hypertufa pots, glass totem garden sculptures, remarkable hand carved bird and much more. The 65th anniversary Mandarin Garden Club Cookbook will also be available, two for \$20 or \$12 each.

A wonderful barbeque lunch will be available to purchase, along with delectable homemade sweets made by garden club members. Coffee and water will be available at no charge inside the building. The always knowledgeable and helpful Duval County Master Gardeners will be on hand to help with your gardening questions. Be sure to visit the Mandarin Garden Club booth for membership questions and special events building rental questions. The garden club grounds behind the clubhouse will be open for all to enjoy the butterfly garden, herb garden, perennial garden, veggie garden, bromeliad garden, native plant garden, ornamental grass garden and the children's Bumblebee Club Garden. Sit a spell on one of the many garden benches and enjoy the simple beauty of nature.

For additional information, please contact mandaringardenclub@comcast.net or 268-1192. The annual Mandarin Garden Club Plant Sale and Garden Festival is a charming, small town gathering from a time gone by. Hope to see you there and good gardening to you!

Garden Club update: There is a Circle just for you!

By Contributing Writer Susan Westermann, Mandarin Garden Club

Mandarin NewsLine • May 2013

Look at the wide variety of gardening topics you can learn about in February at the Mandarin Garden Club at 2892 Loretto Road. All are invited to visit circle meetings at no charge. Membership is open to all gardening enthusiasts. For more information, please email mandaringardenclub@comcast.net, call 268-1192 or visit our website <http://home.comcast.net/~harper113>.

Magnolia Circle (adult): Thursday, February 14, 10:00 a.m. Topic: Native Plants for Zone 9. Enjoy an informative and sure to be fun program by Master Gardener Becky Batten. No reservation required.

Dogwood Circle (adult): Tuesday, February 19, 10:00 a.m. Topic: The Shady Side of Green. Learn about shade gardening from one of Mandarin's most outstanding gardeners, Tess Hart-Ross. No reservation required.

Cherokee Rose Circle (adult): Thursday, February 21, 10:00 a.m. Topic: Wildflowers for All Seasons. The guest speaker will be Barbara Jackson, Master Gardener and president of the Jacksonville

Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. No reservation required.

Live Oak Circle (adult): Thursday, February 28, 7:00 p.m. Topic: Eat Your Yard with guest speaker Tim Armstrong. Get inspired about

Mandarin Garden Club Gardening Tip:

Start that garden journal you always wanted or do a better job recording information in the garden journal you already have. There are beautiful garden journals in all book stores or better yet make your own with an inexpensive 3 ring binder. An internet search for "free pre-printed garden journal pages" will bring up a wide selection of professional style garden journal data sheets you can print. There are even garden journal apps for high tech gardeners. The point is keep some sort of garden journal. You will thank yourself later.

cleaver ways to grow your own edibles. No reservation required.

Bumblebee Circle (children five years and up accompanied by an adult): Wednesday, February 6, 4:00 p.m. Topic: Plant spring seeds/flowers/vegetables. Each child should bring their own to plant in the Bumblebee Garden. Reservations are required for visitors for the Bumblebee Circle; please email mandaringardenclub@comcast.net or call 268-1192.

February is a good time to think about your spring gardening plans. Make grand plans or small plans; whatever you do, just make some sort of gardening plans. For inspiration for your gardening plans, talk with fellow gardeners at the Mandarin Garden Club, look at seed catalog websites, gardening magazines and books. Both Mandarin libraries offer a large selection of very good gardening books. To research plants that grow well in Jacksonville visit www.floridayards.org/fyplants.

Like so many today with busy and stressful schedules, you might want to remember

that old acronym J.I.S.S. Keep It Simple Sweetie! If you know you can only care for a couple containers on your patio, then embrace that plan and enjoy your container garden. If you have lots of time and lots of space for big lavish flower beds and a vegetable garden, then make plans for that and have a wonderful time. If you are somewhere in between with a little bit of time and one small garden bed, maybe try a combination planting. Flowers, veggies and herbs can look beautiful growing together in the same bed.

Take a little time now to slow down and think about your spring gardening plans. Before long our weather will be perfect for warm season planting. You don't want to be standing in the garden center with spring fever and no plan! Then before you know it you will get home and there will be a dozen tomato plants, four flats of annuals and two rose bushes in the trunk of your car. You will say to yourself, where in the world am I going to plant all this stuff? Oops, maybe that only happens to me.



The kids' Bumblebee Circle of the Mandarin Garden Club recently held a clean up day at the Billard Commemorative Park. Aided by their parents and Mandarin Community Club board member Wanda Bosworth, work included weeding, planting and mulching the existing butterfly garden. Located at 11642 Brady Road, the Billard Commemorative Park is owned and maintained by the Mandarin Community Club. Photo by Wanda Bosworth, Mandarin Community Club.

Mandarin Garden Club update

By Contributing Writer Susan Westerman, Mandarin Garden Club



Melanie Palmrose's pristine and tranquil Quiet Garden.

This spring the Mandarin Garden Club has been a hub of wonderful gardening activity. The Dogwood Circle traveled to the Regency area to tour Melanie Palmrose's Quiet Garden. Twenty-one ladies enjoyed beautiful plants, trees, flowers, yard art, a keyhole garden for vegetables, a water garden and a lovely peaceful place for meditation. As part of Palmrose's tour of her garden, she asked the visiting garden club ladies to briefly participate in the theme of her "Quiet Garden" with five minutes of therapeutic garden meditation. Well, let's just say that was easier said than done with this chatty group!

On April 27, the garden club's Loretto Road clubhouse and grounds were all a-bustle with many enthusiastic gardeners shopping for great deals at the annual Plant Sale and Garden Festival. Satisfied shoppers pushed wheel barrels full of ev-

ery imaginable kind of plant to their cars.

The most popular section at the plant sale was the area specifically selling butterfly plants. The antique roses and native plants were also in great demand. Since most of the plants were

grown in garden club members' own backyards, there were many outstanding and out-of-the-ordinary plants that members have collected, propagated and swapped over years and years of gardening.

Club member and outstanding gardener Mary Clark had a notebook full of pictures of the plants in full bloom she brought for the sale. When shoppers had questions about the plants that Clark brought, she happily shared her informative pictures and gave shoppers firsthand helpful tips for growing her plants.

Some of the plants offered for sale were grown on the club grounds. When shoppers had questions about those

plants, club members were quick to take shoppers outside into the garden and show them what that plant would look like full grown and give growing tips. The personal gardening customer service given by Clark and other club members is what makes the Garden Club's annual Plant Sale so popular and so very special.

Vendors had irresistible booths set up outside selling goods like herbs, garden art, bonsai trees, handmade herbal soap and a lip smackin' pulled pork lunch. Duval County Master Gardeners were on hand to answer a variety of questions and provide hand-outs to help the home gardener. Mark your calendar for next year's Garden Festival and Plant Sale, April 26, 2014.

For information about the Mandarin Garden Club, please contact mandaringardenclub@comcast.net or 268-1192. Like us on Facebook!



Plant Sale shoppers systematically studying the detailed labels on butterfly plants.

Mandarin Garden Club concludes season

By Contributing Writer Susan Westermann, Mandarin Garden Club

On May 23, Mandarin Garden Club members concluded the club's 67th year with a lovely, emotionally moving meeting and delicious pot-luck luncheon. Attendees were greeted as they walked through the front door of the Loretto Road clubhouse with a breathtaking vision of every table in the banquet hall decorated with lifelike white orchid centerpieces. The orchid themed decorations were made by the garden club's Crafty Ladies Group in memory of club member Darlene Pair, who passed away during this club year. Pair was an avid orchid grower and also a member of the Jacksonville Orchid Society. Pair held leadership roles in both clubs and is remembered by her friends as a wonderful person, elegant lady and dedi-



Darlene Pair's daughter, Michelle Maze, on the garden bench dedicated in memory of her mother.

cated community volunteer. A garden bench was dedicated in Pair's honor with her daughter and family friends in attendance.

This close of the club year meeting is always a time to recognize those who have gone above and beyond to serve the Mandarin Garden Club and our community. This year's meeting was an outstanding example of just that. The Butterfly Garden

Garden Club cont. on page 23

Garden Club cont. from page 1

on the club grounds was officially named The Mary K. Howe Butterfly Garden. Howe has developed the demonstration butterfly garden over the past 25 years. As a Dogwood Circle garden club member and Master Gardener, Howe has and still does toil long and hard in the heat, cold and rain to get her beloved butterfly garden just right. During this same 25 years, Howe has taught butterfly gardening classes to thousands of adults and children all over Jacksonville. Howe was tearfully surprised as this special honor was announced, but you should have seen her reaction just then when her daughter from North Carolina surprisingly entered the building bearing a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Good job, Martha Dysart for coordinating this covert operation so that Howe's husband and all her children were in attendance for her special honor!

The RiverPlace Shopping Center on San Jose Boulevard was honored with the Mandarin Garden Club Community Beautification Award. This award is presented to a local business or organization whose property reflects an effort to maintain natural beauty in Mandarin. So the next time you are at Michael's, Stein Mart, Panera, etc., take a few moments to notice the overflowing, beautifully designed flowerbeds. The flowerbeds are so masterfully designed that butterflies are often seen fluttering from bloom to bloom.

Honorary membership awards were given to Doug Clark and Dave Westermann. This award recognizes non-members for outstanding volunteer service to help the Mandarin Garden Club. Clark and Westermann have volunteered innumerable

hours over many years with repairs, maintenance, garden structure construction or whatever is needed when asked.

Pat Sams of the Dogwood Circle and Kelley Swain, Cherokee Rose Circle and Bumblebee Children's Circle co-leader were awarded the Life Membership honor for Garden Club members' outstanding contributions to the Mandarin Garden Club.

Mary Clark of the Cherokee Rose Circle received the very special President's Award. This honor is given to one member selected by the club president based upon the member's consistently exceptional contributions to the garden club which reflects the member's commitment to the membership as well as the Mandarin community.

The garden club membership voted in the new officers to lead the club's 68th year: Karen Rowe, president; Betty Waldrep, first vice president; Mary Forester, second vice president; Sandy Ingram, recording secretary; and Ann Dumire, treasurer.

Sincere appreciation and admiration was extended to McGlade Holloway as outgoing garden club president. Holloway has served in this leadership role for five years. Holloway's dedicated volunteerism to carry on the 68 years of garden club service and tradition has been an inspiration for all to follow.

Mark your calendar for August 10 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. for the Mandarin Garden Club's \$1 Clothing Sale. This is an outstanding opportunity to purchase beautiful and gently used clothing for women, men and children.

For information about the Mandarin Garden Club, please contact mandaringardenclub@comcast.net or 268-1192.



The Howe family: David from Virginia, Michael from Jacksonville, Mary and Bill, Patricia from North Carolina.

Mandarin Garden Club news

By Contributing Writer Susan Westerman, Mandarin Garden *Mandarin NewsLine* • August 2013

Since the Mandarin Garden Club takes a hiatus from scheduled meetings during the summer, the Live Oak Circle (the circle that has meetings in the evenings) has cleverly found a way to stay in touch and learn from each other's gardens with sort of virtual garden tours. Members have been sharing pictures of their gardening success stories online.

Lisa Dickey shared beautiful pictures of what she describes as her quite small and very shaded backyard. Through the years, Dickey explained that she learned, the expensive way, that she could not grow grass in her yard that is shaded by large trees. Dickey planted miniature mondo grass to replace the sod and it has taken beautifully. The stepping stones in the mondo grass were made with a mold by Dickey.

Gretchen Mitchell shared pictures of her lovely sunny front yard garden. Mitchell describes her garden as a mixture of a lot of plants including pentas, gaura, bulbine, salvias and daylilies. Both of these gardens are striking, one for shade and

one for sun.

Mitchell and Dickey are great examples of the caliber of outstanding hobby gardeners that make up the Mandarin Garden Club. All gardening enthusiasts are always welcome at the garden club. From beginners

to experts, the Mandarin Garden Club is a wonderful place to learn about gardening in our area.

Don't miss the upcoming \$1 Clothing Sale at the Mandarin Garden Club, to be held on Sat-



Idea for shade.

urday, August 10 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the club located at 2892 Loretto Road. There is something for everyone—gently used clothing for women, men and children. You will be amazed at the selection from casual, dressy, formal, business

suits, workout clothing, plus sizes and much more. For more information, please contact mandaringardenclub@comcast.net or 268-1192. Like us on Facebook!



Idea for sun.

Mandarin Garden Club news

September 2013 • Mandarin NewsLine

By Contributing Writer Susan Westermann, Mandarin Ga

September Meetings

Bumblebee Circle (kids five years and up) September 11 at 4:00 p.m. Topic: Design and plant individual garden in the Bumblebee section on the Mandarin Garden Club grounds. Reservations required for first-time attendees and a list of planting supplies to bring. Email info@mandaringardenclub.org or call 268-1192.

Magnolia Circle: September 12 at 10:00 a.m. Topic: Using Color in Your Garden, Flower Beds and Borders with Master Gardener Becky Bathen. No reservation required.

Dogwood Circle: September 17 at 10:00 a.m. Topic: We've Got Talent - Get To Know Each Other. Bring or show off that special thing you do or collect. No reservation required.

Cherokee Rose Circle: September 19 at 10:00 a.m. Topic: The Shady Side of Green. Learn about shade gardening with guest speaker Tess Hart-Ross. No reservation required.

Live Oak Circle: September 26 at 7:00 p.m., Topic: Identifying Pests/Beneficial Nematodes with Jacksonville Landscape Designer Julia from Julia's Digs. No reservation required.

Mark your calendar for the Garden Club's much anticipated Trash to Treasure Sale on October 5 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Mandarin Garden Club's third annual Plant Exchange on July 20 was a great success. Members from all circles participated in 10 rounds of swapping wonderful plants and miscellaneous garden stuff. Also invited were the Mandarin Demonstration Garden Master Gardeners and Jacksonville V.I.G.s (very important gardeners). The V.I.G.s were: Linda O. Cunningham, local herb expert featured on Facebook; Linda Jones, local garden blogger <http://southernruralroute.wordpress.com>; Janese Warner, local expert gardener; and Tatyana Vaynberg, retired from Trad's Garden Center. This event was a fantastic way to get new and interesting plants for free. Garden books, magazines, tools, garden art and ceramic pots were also swapped. Attendees enjoyed refreshments made with ingredients from the garden and recipes to take home. Even better than all the new plants and garden stuff was the great fun all participants had talking about the plants they brought, sharing gardening knowledge and catching up on the latest in everyone's gardens. See more pictures from the event and get recipes that were served at www.mandaringardenclub.org then click Blog and Gallery

A few months ago the Mandarin Garden Club started a Facebook page.

This has turned into a forum for showing off the best of what is currently blooming in Mandarin gardens and timely gardening helpful hints. Learn about what's going on right now in Mandarin gardens on the Mandarin Garden Club's Facebook page.

September is the perfect time to join the Mandarin Garden Club. This month the five different circles are starting up the new club season at the clubhouse at 2892 Loretto Road. All gardening enthusiasts from beginner to expert are welcome. Visitors are welcome to attend meetings to try the club. Annual membership dues are only \$35 individual/\$50 couple/\$5 per child with paid individual adult membership. For women and men who work during the day the Live Oak Circle has meetings in the evenings. Cherokee Rose, Dog-



Mandarin Garden Club seasonal October 2013

By Contributing Writer Susan Westermann



Sondra Resnikoff next to an outstanding example of a Firespike, one of the many hummingbird/butterfly attracting plants in her garden.

Recently Florida Friendly Landscape signs have been pop-

ping up in our community's most beautiful and environmentally friendly yards. Now Sondra Resnikoff's Mandarin garden has been awarded the highly sought after honor too. The Florida Friendly Landscape award is presented by the University of Florida Extension, Florida Yards and Neighborhood Program. This award,

complete with yard sign, goes to individuals who fulfill the following nine requirements. Right Plant, Right Place; Water Efficiently; Fertilize Appropriately; Mulch; Attract Wildlife; Manage Yard Pests Responsibly; Recycle; and Reduce Storm Water Runoff and Protect the Waterfront. If you are interested in applying for the FYN award, please contact the Duval Extension Office at 255-7450 or <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu>. Click on Lawn and Garden then Florida Yards and Neighborhoods.

Resnikoff's Florida Friendly Landscape front entrance is all a-flurry with gobs of Gulf Fritillary butterflies enjoying the passion vine strategically placed to greet visitors. The pristine flowerbeds that flank the house from the street all the way to the back property line are bursting with vibrantly colored perennials and antique roses. Hummingbirds and several different types of butterflies are frequent guests. Since Resnikoff's front yard is very sunny and her backyard has much more shade, the Florida Friendly Landscaping principal of Right Plant, Right Place has proven very important.

Before joining the Mandarin Garden Club some 10 years ago, Resnikoff considered herself a sporadic gardener. That was pre-retirement when she worked full-time as a registered nurse. The Live Oak Circle at the garden club was the perfect fit for her since that group meets in the evenings specifically to accommodate the busy schedules of women and men who work during the day. Resnikoff says she learned so much more about gardening after joining the garden club. She saw other members' gardens and saw other people's interests that sparked her interest.

Being part of the garden club has elevated Resnikoff's desire to work in her garden and try different plants. She learned so much from the wide variety of guest speakers at the monthly garden club meetings. Also, Resnikoff appreciates the advice and guidance she has received from the helpful Master Gardeners who are club members. Many

of the right plants that are in the right places in Resnikoff's garden came from the generous and lively plant swaps each month at the Live Oak Circle meetings. Resnikoff is quick to acknowledge she could not get everything done in her garden without her wonderful gardening helper, Ben.

Congratulations to Sondra Resnikoff for her Florida Friendly Landscape!

Mark your calendar for the October special events at the Mandarin Garden Club, located at 2892 Loretto Road:

October 5, 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Trash To Treasure Garage Sale
October 17, 10:00 a.m. until

12:00 noon. Colors of Fall from Door to the Table. Learn new ideas for the home and kitchen in the spirit of fall. Meeting will be followed by a potluck luncheon.

A few openings are still available for outside vendors for the November 9 Mandarin Garden Club fourth annual Craft Fair. Sorry, all inside spaces have already been reserved. Please contact stampthompson@aol.com or 268-1192 for additional information.

For more information about the Mandarin Garden Club, please see our website at www.mandaringardenclub.org or call 268-1192. Everyone is welcome at the Mandarin Garden Club!

Mandarin Garden Club news

By Contributing Writer Susan Westermann, Mandarin Garden Club



The Mutabilis Antique Rose is nicknamed "The Butterfly Rose" because all the brightly colored blossoms time look like a bunch of multi-colored butterflies perched on the bush.

Sadly, earlier this year the spectacular Mutabilis antique rose at the Mandarin Garden Club passed away. This much-loved plant, which is considered a treasure in a southern garden, was planted on the garden club grounds more years ago than most can remember. Happily, a direct descendant of the late

rose was discovered and has been planted in a place of honor not far from where the original rose lived. One of the features that make this rose so special is that the single petal flowers of Mutabilis open yellow, then change to orange, then pink and finally crimson.

Just by chance, a couple of years ago long-time garden club member Sonia Jacobson took cuttings of the then living and robust Mutabilis rose to see if she could grow baby Mutabilis roses from the mother plant. This is a plant propagation technique Jacobson learned from one of the great guest speakers that had given a presentation at a garden club meeting. Thankfully, Jacobson's Mutabilis rose cuttings rooted and developed into full grown rose bushes. That's how this sad rose story has a very happy gardening ending. To learn this propagation technique go to http://orange.ifas.ufl.edu/mg/mg_compendium/pdf/mg/mg10800.pdf.

Mark your calendar for November's special events:

- Fourth annual Craft Fair at the Mandarin Garden Club, November 9 from 9:00 a.m.



Garden Club members enjoy playing Mexican Train

Mandarin Garden Club

By Contributing Writer Tori Posey

December 2013 • *Mandarin*

Not just gardening goes on at the Mandarin Garden Club! The Mandarin Garden Club offers a variety of activities for members ranging from gardening classes and crafts to Mexican Train. We have a fun group of members who play the very popular domino game Mexican Train once a month at the club. There are 13 rounds of spirited play. Members bring their own

drinks and provide snacks for everyone. There is usually an awesome selection of snacks since some of our ladies love to cook.

The Mandarin Garden Club sends out a big thank you to the community for supporting our 2013 fund raising events: Garden Festival/Plant Sale; \$1.00 Clothing Sales, Trash to Treasure Garage Sale and Craft

Fair. These annual fund raising events enable the garden club to carry on 68 years of service to Mandarin and the greater Jacksonville community.

We are looking forward to seeing you in 2014 at our many informative garden club meetings that are free and open to the public and at our fantastically fun fundraising events. Mark your 2014 calendar for our first meeting of the year, on January 16 at 10:00 a.m. to celebrate Arbor Day. The meeting will be followed by a potluck luncheon.

For those who work during the day you can attend the evening Live Oak Circle meeting on January 23 at 7:00 p.m.

For more information about any of the activities at the Mandarin Garden Club, please visit our website, www.mandaringardenclub.org, call 268-1192 or check us out on Facebook. The Garden Club has five circles: Bumblebees (children), Cherokee Rose, Dogwood, Magnolia and Live Oak (evening).

Mandarin Garden Club news

By Contributing Writer Susan Westermann

January 2014 • *Mandarin NewsLine*

The Mandarin Garden Club will be celebrating Arbor Day on January 16 at 10:00 a.m. at the clubhouse, located at 2892 Loretto Road. The public is invited to learn about caring for and preserving their trees with Gene Bushor of Bushor's Tree Surgeons. Bushor's has been servicing greater Jacksonville's trees for over 50 years and they now have three generations of certified arborists on staff. The meeting will be followed by a potluck luncheon. There is no charge to attend the meeting and no reservation is required.

For those gardening en-

thusiasts who work during the day, you are invited to the Live Oak Circle meeting on Thursday, January 23 at 7:00 p.m. This group is specially designed for those with busy day schedules who still want to be part of the garden club. The Live Oak Circle evening monthly meetings always have an informative guest speaker or activity and the members are fun and love gardening from beginners to experts.

Arbor Day is a celebration of the signing of Arbor Day proclamations. Individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees on Arbor Day. Each state celebrates Arbor Day on different dates. Some are held as early as January in southern states and as late as May in more northern locations. Florida officially celebrates Arbor Day on the third Friday in January. Nationally Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April. Now that explains why the date of Arbor Day is so confusing—because there is not just one official Arbor Day date! A fun Arbor Day fact that all Floridians should know is that the Florida state tree is the sabal palm. For those of us who live in Mandarin, we sort of consider the



The Florida state tree the sabal palm.

Live Oak as our own special official tree. Florida designated the sabal palm as the official state tree in 1953. The sabal palm (also known as cabbage palm, palmetto palm or cabbage palmetto) is the most widely distributed palm tree in Florida. It is cold hardy, grows in almost any soil and has many uses, including food, medicine and landscaping. The sabal palm is also the state tree of South Carolina.

For more information about garden club meetings, membership, special events building rental or anything about the Mandarin Garden Club, please see our website at www.mandaringardenclub.org, e-mail info@mandaringardenclub.org or call 268-1192. Everyone is always welcome at the Mandarin Garden Club!

Master Gardener honored by peers

By Contributing Writer Susan Westermann

• February 2014 • *Mandarin NewsLine*

The Duval County Master Gardeners who tend the Mandarin Demonstration Garden honored their outgoing leader Martha Dysart with flowers, gifts and an impressive certificate of appreciation at their annual January Organizational Meeting. Dysart, a retired chemist, has dedicated the past 13 years to volunteering as the co-leader and leader of the many outstanding Master Gardeners who tend the Mandarin Demonstration Garden located on the grounds of the Mandarin Garden Club at 2892 Loretto Road. The Mandarin Demonstration Garden is a joint venture started in 1988 between the Duval County Extension Service and the Mandarin Garden Club.

All those many years ago current garden club member and Master Gardener Mary Howe suggested to current



Duval County Horticultural Extension Agent Terry DelValle that the garden club grounds be used by the Master Gardeners as a demonstration garden to help teach the community about

gardening. Now, 26 years later, this wonderful demonstration garden has not just survived, but it thrives.

Thanks to the devoted leadership of Master Gardener

Dysart, the many Master Gardener volunteers have expanded and improved the Demonstration Garden, which includes a big butterfly garden, perennial garden, native plant garden, vegetable garden, ginger garden, ornamental grass garden, bromeliad garden, potager kitchen garden and small pocket gardens. Dysart has made it a priority to use the Demonstration Garden not only as a teaching tool for the general public, but also to advance the gardening knowledge of the volunteer Master Gardeners.

With her scientific background from her professional career, Dysart has always made it a point to share with the Master Gardeners every possible horticultural detail of what was growing, or in some cases not growing, in the Demonstration Garden so they could use that information to share with Jacksonville's gardening community. She accomplished this by scouring and studying the demo gardens to produce a detailed newsletter and bloom report that she wrote prior to the first and third Wednesdays each

month when the Master Gardeners volunteer. The newsletter/bloom report proved invaluable for the Master Gardeners to keep up with all the different gardens on the over two-acre property.

The many behind-the-scenes responsibilities Dysart managed on behalf of the Master Gardeners are too vast to list. Needless to say, Dysart fulfilled her many, many Master Gardener leader duties in exemplary form. The Master Gardeners and Jacksonville's gardening community send Martha Dysart a great big gardening thank you for her many years of dedicated volunteer service!

Mandarin Garden Club news

By Contributing Writer Susan Westermann, Mandarin Garden Club

Mandarin Garden Club Gardening Tip. If you can't find time to sit down and enjoy your garden during the day then you can plant a moon garden to enjoy in the evening. A moon garden contains plants that have nighttime visibility like white or light colored flowers and silvery or variegated foliage. Your moon garden can be as simple as a beautifully planted container on your back deck, a small pocket moon garden visible from your favorite sitting spot or your whole yard.

This is the time of year many Mandarin gardening enthusiasts so look forward to. You can get back out in your yard and work towards perfecting your gardening plans. To help you accomplish your gardening hopes and dreams, the following events are coming up at the Mandarin Garden Club, located at 2892 Loretto Road.

Spring Gardening Program, hosted by the Duval County Extension Office at the Mandarin Garden Club, April 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Space is limited so pre-registration is required, call Becky at the Ex-

tension Office at 255-7450 to pre-register. Admission is \$5. Program topics will be: Spring Gardening Tips, Growing in Containers, Herbs for Warm Weather, Using and Preserving Herbs.

Mandarin Garden Club



Silver container moon garden.

annual Gardening Festival and Plant Sale, April 26 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00. Admission is free. Inside the clubhouse will be overflowing with reasonably priced plants that grow well in Mandarin. Outside the clubhouse will be a wide selection

of gardening vendors. The back by popular demand barbeque lunch will be available to purchase along with irresistible homemade sweets made by garden club members. The garden club grounds will be open for all to stroll and enjoy.

The Duval County Extension Office will be holding 4H Summer Camp again this year at the Mandarin Garden Club. It will be June 16 through 19 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and only costs \$60 for ages eight to 10. Enrollment is limited. To sign up, please call Gaye Schmidt at the Extension Office at 255-7450. What's in water? How would you design a habitat? Why do we need trees? What goes on in a beehive? Who cares about worms? For kids who would like to have some fun exploring these questions, sign up for the 4H Summer Camp.

The Mandarin Garden Club is available for wedding receptions, anniversary parties, birthday parties and other special events. Please visit www.mandaringardenclub.org or call 268-1192 for assistance with your party planning.

Mandarin Garden Club news

By Contributing Writer Susan Westermann, Mandarin Garden Club

Mandarin NewsLine • April 2014

You know spring has sprung when it's time for the annual Mandarin Garden Club Garden Festival and Plant Sale. Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 26 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at 2892 Loretto Road. Admission is free and there is plenty of parking next door at the Masonic Lodge. From beginner gardeners to expert gardeners, you don't want to miss this most popular gardening event.

Have you always wanted to start a little butterfly garden or expand your existing butterfly garden? This is the place to purchase reasonably priced butterfly garden plants, see the butterfly garden on the garden club grounds and get easy-to-understand expert butterfly gardening advice.

Have you always wanted to start a charming little antique rose garden in that special sunny spot in your yard or expand your existing rose garden? The easiest to grow antique roses will be available to purchase at a bargain price and garden club ladies will be available to assist you in how to successfully grow antique roses.

Native plants are always a popular addition to any garden. You will be able to purchase some of the easiest to grow natives and see how they grow in the native plant garden in front

of the clubhouse. A wide selection of pass-along plants that all southern gardens should have will be available along with vegetables, herbs, ornamental grasses, shrubs, trees, perennials, annuals, succulents and cacti. Wonderful

garden-related vendors will be available to supply you with garden art, handmade herbal soap, unique recycled denim creations, glass totem garden sculptures, life-like hand carved birds and much more. Jacksonville's own herb expert Linda Cunningham will have at her booth all the very best kinds of herbs to grow. Cunningham not only sells the very best herbs, she can teach you anything you want to know about growing and using herbs. The 65th anniversary Mandarin Garden Club Cookbook will also be available.

A wonderful barbeque lunch will be available to purchase, along with delectable homemade sweets made by garden club members. Coffee and water will be available at no charge



It is easy in Mandarin to attract to your yard the Florida state butterfly, the Zebra Longwing. One of the plants they love is the beautiful, easy to grow, pass along plant the Firebush.

inside the building. The always knowledgeable and helpful Duval County Master Gardeners will be on hand to help with your gardening questions. The Mandarin Garden Club booth will be available for membership questions and special events building rental questions. The garden club grounds behind the clubhouse will be open for all to enjoy the butterfly garden, herb garden, perennial garden, veggie garden, bromeliad garden, native plant garden ornamental grass garden and the children's Bumblebee Circle Garden. Sit a spell on one of the many garden benches and enjoy the flowers and nature.

For additional information, please contact info@mandaringardenclub.org or 268-1192. Good Gardening!

Mandarin Garden Club news

Outdoor relaxation therapy

By Contributing Writer Susan Westermann, Mandarin Garden Club

After the kooky cold winter we had and before our sweltering summer temps arrive, take a little time this month to enjoy our beautiful Mandarin May outdoors. Life can be so hectic and stressful rushing from here to there with family and work responsibilities. Personal and health situations can sometimes get overwhelming. We can all use a little outdoor relaxation therapy. Whatever your circumstances, try to take a couple minutes in the morning or evening to sit outside, be still and be quiet. You will be amazed at the many different glorious birds you will see and hear. Take in the fresh, new green growth on the trees and shrubs. Even watch the clouds float past like we all did when we were kids. Try leaving all your cares behind for just a couple minutes each day and enjoy the outdoors in May in Mandarin,

Florida.

The RiverPlace Shopping Center on San Jose Boulevard has outdone itself this spring with the most breathtakingly beautiful flowerbeds. In 2013 the RiverPlace Shopping Center was honored with the Mandarin Garden Club Beautification Award. This award is presented to a local business or organization whose property reflects an effort to maintain natural beauty in Mandarin. Boy oh boy the RiverPlace Shopping Center is sure proving they were deserving of the Beautification Award last year and they are even better this year! Drive into the parking lot near Michael's, Panera and the other shops. You will be delighted with flowerbeds filled with brightly colored roses, perennials, annuals & evergreens. Thank you, RiverPlace Shopping Center for your beautiful effort to make Mandarin so lovely.

The Mandarin Library on Kori Road is hosting three free gardening classes this month. Please call 262-5201 for registration information.

Saturday, May 3, 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Herb Gardening with Master Gardener Ann Marie Shrader

Saturday, May 17, 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.. Growing a Healthy Lawn with Horticultural Extension Agent Terry DelValle

Saturday, May 31, 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon: Creating a Wind Tolerant Landscape with Urban Forestry Agent, Larry Figart



Wouldn't this be a wonderful spot to relax?



ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 2014





ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 2014



Mandarin Garden Club celebrates 69th year

By Contributing Writer Betty Waldrep

Mandarin NewsLine • September 2014 •

The 69th gardening year for Mandarin Garden Club is about to begin! September is when all the new activities start. After a long, lazy summer and a very successful \$1.00 Clothing Sale, it will be great to gather our members together and start circle meetings and programs again. Our club wishes to thank the community for attending our \$1.00 Clothing Sale on August 8 and 9. The sale was held two days this year and it was a big hit. After the sale, 36 large bags of clothing that didn't sell were contributed to different causes in the Mandarin Community. The next \$1.00 Clothing sale will be held on March 7, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Anyone with an interest in our gardening programs or joining the club are always welcome as a guest at our circle meetings. The three daytime circles begin their meetings at 10:00 a.m. The night circle, Live Oak, meets at 7:00 p.m. The clubhouse address is 2892 Loretto Road. Following are the upcoming guests for each circle:

- September 11, Magnolia Circle: Program, Herbal Skin Care by Becky Bathen, Master Gardener
- September 16, Dogwood Circle: Program, Veggie Gardening by Earl Keller, Master Gardener
- September 17, Junior Gardening begins. They meet at

the club at 4:30 p.m.

- September 18, Cherokee Rose Circle: Program, Cultural Significance of Flowers by Drew Rose Warrenner, Master Gardener
- September 25, Live Oak Circle: Garden Tour of Tess Hart-Ross's Garden (This is the night circle with a 7:00 p.m. start time)

On September 4 from 12:30 p.m. until 2:00 p.m., the Crafty Ladies will kick off their new year with a Dump Salad Luncheon and Charity Auction. The ladies have chosen the Wounded Warrior Project as their charity to support this year. This is a group of ladies who gather every Thursday afternoon at the clubhouse to use their creative abilities to form friendships and make items for the Craft Fair, Meals on Wheels, decorations for our two general meetings and annual meeting and work tirelessly to raise funds for their chosen charity. If you love crafting and want to have fun and form friendships, please join our Crafty Ladies on Thursdays.

Our members always look forward to Game Day. The Game Day Group meets on September 23 from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the clubhouse. They play Mexican Train, have snacks and form lasting friendships. If you love games, you are invited to stop by, watch awhile and join the club if you want to be a part

of this group. They meet every month on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Before we know it, it will be "pumpkin time" and fall will be here. The big Trash to Treasure Sale that the club has every year is scheduled for October 4 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us to find your "treasures!" The clubhouse will be filled with any kind of treasure you can think of.

The Craft Fair at the club is November 8 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. There are still spaces available for vendors outside for \$25. The inside spaces are filled. Please call Marvyn Thompson at 262-0520 or 708-4976 for more information or to reserve your space.

You can go to www.mandaringardenclub.org for information on any of our events or for information on joining the club. Information is also available by calling 268-1192.

We would love to have you join us at Mandarin Garden Club. Happy September and Happy Gardening!



Master gardener Becky Bathen spreads mulch around vegetables, herbs and cut flowers in the Mandarin Garden Club's potager garden. Bathen is one of 15 to 20 master gardeners who volunteer to tend the club's demonstration gardens. Photos by Bob Mack@jacksonville.co

Club a growing showcase for area's master gardeners

Do-it-yourselfers, landscape pros get tips at demo gardens

By Sandy Strickland
sandy.strickland@jacksonville.com

The couple came to get married under the butterfly garden arbor adorned with white coral and passion flower vines.

Becky Bathen was there pulling weeds, her arms and gloved hands stained with soil. The justice of the peace who performed the ceremony asked her to be a witness. The surprised Bathen took off her gloves and signed the marriage certificate. Afterward, the bride, wearing a short white dress, and the groom, wearing khakis, went to McDonald's.

Bathen was happy to do so, though it wasn't among her usual duties as one of 15 to 20 master gardeners who voluntarily tend the demonstration gardens at the Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road. On the first and third Wednesday of each month, they weed flower beds, spread mulch, plant new greenery, trim plants, answer visitors' questions and enjoy themselves as they discuss — what else — gardening.

The gardens are a collaborative effort between the club and the Duval County

Extension Service and the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. It's a relationship they both say is mutually beneficial.

"The reason we developed that relationship is that we had so many master gardeners out there and so many that wanted to do their volunteer service without traveling too far," said Terry Brite DelValle, a horticulture extension agent. "That was convenient for them, and we get to share in the use of their facilities when we need them."

That may be for a summer kids camp or its twice-a-year educational programs. The next is 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14. To register, call the extension service at (904) 255-7450.

Master gardener Mary Howe, a club member since 1977, suggested that the extension office use the 2.5-acre club grounds as a demo garden. The venture, which showcases plants, demonstrates the latest techniques and provides learning opportunities for home gardeners and



Above: Jan Duncan (left) heads for another load of mulch while Mary Howe spreads mulch around a shady sitting area near the butterfly garden.



Left: A gulf fritillary butterfly perches on a red penta in the butterfly garden.

GARDEN continues on 2

GARDEN

Continued from 1

landscape professionals, began in the fall of 1988.

"There's this unique compatibility because we have the same desires and goals to educate and keep our environment the way it's supposed to be," Howe said.

In the front of the clubhouse is a native garden developed in 1992, when Dekle Taylor, a retired Mandarin doctor and master gardener, donated many native plants.

The back area includes perennial, bromeliad, ornamental grass, vegetable, ginger, potager, cutting and children's gardens planted among pine, magnolia and oak trees. Then there's the popular butterfly garden, which Howe developed, with its arbor, brick pavers designed as a butterfly and flower beds with nectar-rich blooms. A statue of Fiacre, the patron saint of gardening, is a welcoming touch.

As the master gardeners worked on a recent Wednesday, monarchs, yellow sulfurs, zebra longwings and gulf fritillaries flitted among the plants.

"You practically have to wave them out of your way," Bathen said in admiration.

There are a few birdbaths and a feeding station scattered around the mulch and pine straw-covered paths for the blue birds, red birds, cardinals, blue jays and humming birds that frequent the gardens. There also are benches and tables to in-

dulge in a picnic lunch or feast on the serenity of the view.

The gardens are open to the public primarily during the week. On weekends, the building and grounds are usually rented for parties and weddings. In 2013, there were 7,000 visitors who signed in at the kiosk and 4,000 through July of this year, said Mary Forester, who coordinates the master garden activities at the Mandarin club with Bathen.

Bathen said she enjoys watching children tour the gardens and see that vegetables don't just come from a store.

The club has about 15 master gardeners, but even members who haven't gone through the training program also work in the gardens. The majority of them live in Mandarin and come from varied backgrounds. There's a former teacher, a veterinarian, a chemist, a nurse practitioner, computer technologist, engineers, a homemaker and retired military, said Bathen, who is a soapmaker, artist and interior designer.

The club was established in 1945 with 30 members and built its current clubhouse in 1967. It now has 184 members in four circles: Cherokee Rose, Dogwood, Live Oak and Magnolia. It also has a children's group called the Junior Gardeners.

"This is like one step from heaven," Bathen said of the gardens. "I wish that more people knew about us."

Sandy Strickland: (904) 359-4128



Photos by Bob.Mack@jacksonville.com

A zebra longwing, the official butterfly of Florida, clings to a flower on a firebush. Monarchs and yellow sulfurs are also plentiful at the club.



Above: Master gardener Mary Howe (from left) dumps a load of mulch with the help of fellow gardeners Jan Duncan and Bernadette Hashtak.

Left: Master gardener Russell Snyder cuts okra in the vegetable garden.



Mandarin Garden Club announces Yard of the Month

Our Contributing Writer Betty Waldrep

August 2014 • *Mandarin NewsLine*



Water garden

Driving down Mandarin Road in the late afternoon, you will come upon a beautiful neighborhood called Mandarin Place. Betty Waldrep, publicity chair and members Marilyn Clark, Diane Frisco and Eileen Hauge were headed to the home of Barbara Poust in this neighborhood to award her the Mandarin Garden Club's Yard of the Month.

As you arrive at the Poust home, you will see the lovely front yard Poust has created. She and her family (she greeted us holding her beautiful grandson) moved to the property 28 years ago. She told me everything was bare when she arrived except what the builder had installed. Having lived in California and Georgia before moving to Jacksonville, she had to figure out North Florida gardening. And believe me she has!

Poust works from home and enjoys her gardens all day long. Her neighbor, Diane Frisco, nominated her for the Yard of the Month and tells me Poust works in her yard every day after work. Poust said she had always enjoyed gardening no matter where she lived. She has created a "little heaven on earth" for her family, friends and neighbors to enjoy.

We started our tour on the left side of her house where she has a beautiful rain chain hanging from a gutter. As we walked around the house, we saw huge snake plants, Birds of Paradise, blue saliva, purple passion vines,

sunflowers, bird houses and feeders, roses and other plants and flowers I forgot to write down. I was so thrilled with what I was seeing! Heavens, as we walked into the backyard, my fascination continued— Poust has created

a beautiful water garden with huge goldfish swimming around. There was an angel fountain pouring water into the water garden. Pots of coleus, caladiums and other plants surround the pond and fountain. It was a very peaceful place to sit and enjoy the quiet and beauty of the summer evening approaching.

When you turn around and look into the backyard, Poust has a huge butterfly garden. She has planted loads of milkweed, lantana, daises, herbs and every kind of plant that attract butterflies. She has installed several lovely butterfly houses. I was just amazed at all of the Monarchs, Gulf Fritillaries, Sulfurs, Swallow Tails and Skippers flying around. It was a beautiful sight in the late afternoon. Her yard has large trees and tall ferns surrounding the trees. The birds were singing and butterflies were flitting around. It was indeed a pretty sight! We continued around the right side of the house where there are large light green caladiums planted and the approaching evening light caught their beauty. Then we proceeded to the front yard and installed the Yard of the Month sign. What a lovely visit we had to her yard and gardens! We all agreed it was worth a trip down Mandarin Road.

To nominate a neighbor's yard for The Mandarin Garden Club's Yard of the Month program, you can contact us at www.mandaringardenclub.org or call 268-1192.



It's official! Yard of the Month!

The Secret Garden delights many visitors

By Contributing Writer Betty Waldrep

September 2014 • Mandarin NewsLine



On the hottest day in July (the whole summer really) Diane Frisco, who is a member of the Mandarin Garden Club, invited friends over for a ribbon cutting ceremony for a Secret Garden she had been creating. The guests arrived in swimming attire because it was hot and they had been told they could go swimming after the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Frisco directed us all to the backyard, to a corner by the lake next to a shed and as

we gathered around, sure enough, there was a yellow ribbon and she was standing there with a big smile on her face and a pair of scissors. All of the ladies stopped talking, Frisco cut the ribbon, stepped inside the garden and told us this story.

She and her husband Joe Frisco, their daughter and granddaughter Rachel went looking for a black lab at a rescue shelter, because they had had three in the past; however, Rachel fell in love with a white American Bull Dog and plans changed. Abby came home with the family that day instead of a black lab. She had been abused and was found roaming the streets so the Friscos had a lot of work to do to gain her trust. Diane Frisco said it took about a year before Abby really started trusting them.

In trying to gain Abby's trust, Frisco talked to Abby all the time and little by little she and the dog began to bond. They have had Abby three years now and Frisco's talking has paid off. Abby is a gentle, quiet dog that loved seeing all of the people who had been invited to her home that day. Since the Friscos are "gardening people," they decided to create a place in their backyard so Diane Frisco could sit with Abby and tell her her secrets. Well, they have done just that and that's how the "Secret Garden" came about.

There is a fence around the garden and a mailbox at the entrance; inside you will see an old fashioned water pump, a table with a tea set and two chairs, the book "The Secret Garden," a water garden in a tub, birdhouses and mirrors. Frisco told us that her friend, Pat Sams, helped her find these

items at yard sales. Her favorite item in the garden is an old chandelier that Sams found at a yard sale. Joe Frisco turned the chandelier into a solar chandelier and it now hangs from a tree in the garden. Diane Frisco is a succulent lover and planted succulents and desert plants in a framed window on the side of the shed. There is a yellow bird cage on the ground with a miniature rose bush growing through it. You will find yellow lilies, gingers, caladiums, rudbeckias and a red drift shrub rose hibiscus growing in the garden. It is a beautiful place for a lovely lady and her dog to enjoy.

After the ribbon cutting and the telling of the story of the Secret Garden, the Friscos entertained their guests on the back porch with margarita popsicles and sangria to cool off. Later, they served pizza, carrot cake and cookies. It was a great day in Mandarin even if it was the hottest day of the year. Later in the afternoon the guests enjoyed swimming, playing Mexican Train, sipping a little more Sangria and visiting.

A Sunday afternoon visit

By Contributing Writer Betty Waldrep, Mandarin Garden Club



Recently, I had a very special Sunday afternoon visit with Sondra Resnikoff. She invited me over to see her beautiful yard and gardens. It was a beautiful sunny Florida day as we walked underneath large trees and Resnikoff told me about each bush, tree, plant and flower. I could tell she was very proud of each one of them. As we walked and talked, it became apparent how much time and love she has put into her yard.

Resnikoff moved to her lovely home off of Loretto Road in February of 1991. She relocated to Jacksonville from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to be closer to her daughter.

"I just kept asking people what worked," she explained, when asked how she learned to garden in Florida.

The front yard has tall trees and a sunny patch which feature beautiful large red Knock Out Roses. By the front door, you will find a large purple Passion Vine and more Knock Out Roses. In the yard, there were also Pink Pet roses, Cape Honeysuckle, Blue Black Salvia, Yellow Passion Vine, Pine Cone Gingers, Philippine violets, Rabbit Foot ferns, shrimp plants which the hummingbirds love, pentas, Walking Iris, hanging baskets, 11 wind chimes, lots of yard art and many, many more plants. Resnikoff's yard has earned the Certified Florida Landscape designation.

On the side of the yard, I

noticed collard greens growing.

I said, "Sondra, do you eat these?"

She gave me a funny look and said, "Yes, that's why some of the leaves are missing." Not only is my friend a great gardener but she has a wicked sense of humor, too.

When she is not gardening, Resnikoff volunteers at River Garden, The Wilson Center at FSCJ as an usher, Theater Jacksonville as an usher, works with the local chapter of AARP, teaches yoga to seniors at the Shepard Center in Orange Park and is on the executive board of Hadassah, a Jewish organization

and serves as chair of cards and certificates. She also attends two line dancing classes every week, takes two yoga classes, a total body conditioning class and a Pilates class.

She does all of her gardening, classes and volunteer work while fighting Leukemia. I asked her if keeping active and busy helped her cope with her illness and she smiled at me and said, "I think so." And off she went to tell me about another flower.

While walking among the beautiful flowers, trees, bushes, hanging baskets, yard art and wind chimes, I once again realized what a special person Sondra Resnikoff is and how lucky I am to have enjoyed a Sunday afternoon visit with her.

Mandarin Garden Club announces fall events

By Contributing Writer Betty Waldrep



Mandarin NewsLine • October 2014

Amblebee Garden
at the rear of the property. The
garden is divided into slices of
color and is to help teach our
younger generation the joy of
gardening. The kids who partici-
pate in this group really enjoy
learning how to grown their
own food, flowers and how to
create a wildlife habitat. If you
have a child or grandchild who
might enjoy junior gardening,
you can get additional infor-
mation by calling 268-1192 or
emailing info@mandaringardenclub.org.

Happy Fall and don't forget
to join us at Mandarin Garden
Club on Loretto Road for all of
our fun events.

The big event at Mandarin Garden Club in the month of October is the Trash to Treasure Sale. The sale is October 4 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Every Fall, the garden club has an enormous garage sale for the community and every year the crowds get larger and larger. One of the treats people look forward to at the sale is a hot cup of free coffee and the baked goods that will be for sale. The "goodies" are made by the wonderful cooks of the garden club. Once you find your treasures and check out, don't forget to pay a visit to the "Garden Cafe" and get your muffin or brownie and a cup of coffee. Then take a stroll outside, find a bench and enjoy the gardens and wildlife while you relish your breakfast or morning snack.

The Master Gardeners, who maintain the club's gardens, will be honored at the general meeting of the club on October 16. There are 15 to 20 Master Gardeners who help keep our gardens so beautiful. The gardens are open to the public and last year there were over 6,000 people who toured the gardens. The meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. and Lisa Rinaman, the St. Johns Riverkeeper, will be the featured speaker. Everyone is invited to attend the meeting and the club will make a donation to the Riverkeeper program.

Another fantastic event in the Fall is the Craft Fair.

stampthompson@aol.com if you are interested in reserving a space. There will be baked goods, barbeque sandwiches, cold drinks, chips for sale and free coffee throughout the day. Some of the vendors will have jewelry, cheese straws, whirly-birds, decorative pavers, holiday ornaments and wreaths, centerpieces, stone pots, potato bags and so many other items.



Several circles have very interesting programs planned for October. The Dogwood Circle will enjoy a field trip to Jim Love's home for a garden tour of his succulents and other plants. Live Oak, the night circle, will present a program on African Violets with Sharon Gartner on October 23. The Food Park Project with Valerie Herrmann will be the program of the Magnolia Circle on October 9. Guests are welcome at any circle meeting. Please check our website at www.mandaringardenclub.org for meeting times.

The Junior Gardening group will meet at 4:30 p.m. on October 15. Children between the ages of five and 17 are encouraged to join. This group main-

Holidays just around corner at Mandarin Garden Club

By Contributing Writer Betty Waldrep

November brings cooler weather and thoughts of turkey, pumpkin pie and the holidays. The ladies at Mandarin Garden Club are already thinking about holiday gifts and good things to eat as they prepare for their annual Craft Sale, which will be held on November 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be vendors inside and outside of the clubhouse. This will be a perfect opportunity to start your holiday shopping since there will be booths with cheese straws, jewelry, quilts, Pampered Chef items, holiday decorations, seasonal wreaths, knitting items, paper crafts, stamping materials, shell crafts and many, many more. There will also be a bake sale, free coffee and a BBQ lunch. Come on by the club and spend the morning shopping, having some coffee and "goodies" from the bake sale, sitting on a bench in the gardens enjoying the cool weather and the beauty of the grounds. It's going to be a festive day at the club. We'll keep an eye out for you!

You can tell the Circles are thinking about the holidays, too. Some of their programs are

geared toward preparing for the upcoming holidays.

Cherokee Rose: November 20, Craft Design Ideas for Holidays by Marie Meltzer

Dogwood: November 18, Food Park Project by Valerie Herrmann

Live Oak: November 20, Herbs for Holidays (Night Circle)

Magnolia: November 13, Holiday Fresh Flower Arranging by Carol Walker

Junior Gardening: November 19 at 4:30 p.m.

You are invited to come as a guest at any of our circle meetings and programs. Please go to our website at www.mandaringardenclub.org for meeting times. There are about 200 men and women who belong to Mandarin Garden Club. If you are looking for a fun group of people to associate with, do a little gardening, and helping our community, then you need to be a member of Mandarin Garden Club.

The club is involved in our community in many ways and we are sure you will find a cause to support. As the holidays approach, we encourage

you to drop off nonperishable food and toiletries to the club to be donated to the Mandarin Food Bank. Cash donations are always appreciated and will be given to the Food Bank. You can help out by bringing your used glasses, sunglasses and cases so they can be donated to the Lions Club. We collect cell phones and donate them to Duval County 4H Club. This year our Crafty Ladies Group are having charity auctions on the first Thursday of every month to raise funds for the Wounded Warrior Project. If you have nearly new items that you would like to get rid of, we would love to have them to use at the charity auctions. Please help us out with all of these worthwhile projects. You can drop off donations at the garden club.

You can find the garden club on Facebook and enjoy gardening tips, gardening pictures and ask gardening questions. The gardening questions will be answered by our Master Gardeners. If you do join us on Facebook, please like us and let us know what you would like to see on Facebook about gardening.

Mandarin women celebrate survivors

By Contributing Writer Sharon Weed

Mandarin NewsLine December 2014



Mandarin Women's Club breast cancer survivors with Jeannie Blaylock.

On Thursday, October 23 at their luncheon held at the Ramada Inn, the Mandarin Women's Club observed Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It was a sea of pink as they honored 16 ladies who are survivors, either of breast cancer or some other kind. Each lady was presented a pink carnation by

program chairman Betty Connor, who organized the event. Honored were Linda Fricke, Dolly Smothers, Ruthye Silver, Linda Sherrod, Eleanor Serich, Irene Schultz, Susan Rezsonya, Laura Pinter, Shirley McCall, Cathy Kirby, Carol Brown, Judy Strassenberg, Fran Walch, Robin Sigal, Betty Connor and Fredi Olson. The club members also collected approximately 85 stuffed teddy bears to add to the FCN "Buddy Bears" project. The bears, with a little encouraging note attached, are given to patients undergoing chemo treatment.

Prior to lunch, Jeannie Blaylock, of First Coast News

51 WFLV/WJXX, spoke about how in 1992 she created "Buddy Check 12," a program to help women overcome breast cancer through early detection. She started doing Buddy Check with her mother in Missouri. Now, the program has grown to reach more than 540,000 local Jacksonville women and 1,000,000 women internationally. The program has saved more than 145 First Coast women from dying from the disease. Television stations in more than 30 other United States cities are imitating Blaylock's "Buddy Check 12" program. She has received many awards including 12 Emmys, two Edward R. Murrow Awards and a Peabody Award in 1994 for her contribution in the creation of Buddy Check 12. She was the first person in Jacksonville to earn a Peabody. Buddy Check(R) is owned, trademarked and copyrighted by Baptist Health in Jacksonville, where it was originally founded.

It was a wonderful day for all who attended the luncheon, decked out in pink! We celebrated with our survivors and admired all the darling bears, big and little, that were donated. If you would like to join the Mandarin Women's Club or just get more information, please call Suelynn at 571-0730 or check our website, mandarinwomensclub.com.

Winter activities abound at Mandarin Garden Club

By Contributing Writer Betty Harrelson
January 2015 • Mandarin NewsLine

The cold weather hasn't slowed the Mandarin Garden Club members down! The members have been busy with all kinds of activities.

The Thursday afternoon Crafty Ladies group had special guests at their meeting recently. The group raised \$2000 to donate to Project Orion of the Wounded Warrior Project. The guests included two former soldiers and their service dogs. Jeannie Blaylock of Channel 12 stopped by to tape the presentation.

She also came with very special news for all of the members. The Florida Gators have a new head coach! She gathered the Florida Fans together for a Gator cheer. Then she had the Seminoles do a cheer. She interviewed Barbara Price, a Gator fan in the Dogwood Circle and McGlade Holloway, who is a Seminole fan and in the Dogwood Circle. It was a really fun day! I suspect the rivalry between the Gators and the Seminoles will continue no matter who the new coach is.

The garden club was a big part of the Winter Celebration at Walter Jones Park on December 6. They were asked to decorate the farmhouse. Pat Sams and Betty Waldrep used fresh greens, paper chains, pine cones, apple and oranges, red ribbon, a bur-lap table runner and baskets to transform the farmhouse into an 1800s home ready for Christmas. The idea was to use items



Betty Harrelson, President of Mandarin Garden Club and McGlade Holloway, Parliamentarian of Mandarin Garden Club, enjoyed the White Christmas Party.

that the family would have had on hand in the 1800s and early 1900s.

December 9 found the garden club decorated as a Winter Wonderland in silver and white for the club's annual Christmas Party. Each circle decorated a small tree in silver and white, which was displayed during the party. The trees were then given to a Meals on Wheels recipient or to a nursing home or hospital.

You are invited to get involved with the Mandarin Garden Club. Please see our website for membership information, www.mandaringardenclub.org. Also you can access our Facebook page on the website. Our building is open for rentals. You can get in touch with our rental agent through the website or call 268-1192. You can also email us at info@mandaringardenclub.org.

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30 Year Award presented to Mary Howe, Master Gardener

By Contributing Writer Betty Waldrep, Mandarin Garden Club



Mary Howe, our onsite demo gardens founder, was presented her 30-year Master

Gardener Service Award at the Master Gardener Organizational meeting held on January 7. Terry Del Valle, Duval County's Extension Agent, presented the clock award at the meeting held at the Mandarin Garden Club with 33 Master Gardeners in attendance.

Howe was a 1985 Master Gardener graduate and continues sharing her leadership, knowledge, inspiration and gardening expertise today with all she encounters. We are privileged and blessed to have a piece of garden heaven at our club thanks to Mary Howe. Hail Mary!

March clothing sale and events at Garden Club

By Contributing Writer Betty Waldrep

Spring is in the air and Mandarin Garden Club is preparing for their \$1 Clothing Sale on Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7. The sale is from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Garden Club will be filled with gently used clothing for men, women and children. Please mark your calendars to stop by the club and browse through the tables of clothes. Spring calls for new outfits! There will be a boutique filled with fine clothing, purses, hats, jewelry, belts and other treasures. Remember all clothing except boutique items are a dollar. All clothing not sold at the sale will be donated to local charities.

There are many great programs planned for the month of March. Guests are always welcome. The Garden Club is located at 2892 Loretto Road. You can contact the club at info@mandaringardenclub.org, by calling 268-1192 or visiting www.mandaringarenclub.org.

Cherokee Rose Circle, March 19. Local soap maker Becky Bathen at 10:00 a.m.

Dogwood Circle, March 17. Hypertufa Pots with Janet Morris at 10:00 a.m.

Live Oak Circle, March 26. Vermiculture with Judy McClemens at 7:00 p.m.

Magnolia Circle, March 12: Visit local artist Grace Linderwirth's Studio, 10:00 a.m.

The garden club's annual plant sale is April 25 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Our members grow plants all year to sell at the sale. Another item of interest to the community is the Duval County Extension Office's Spring Gardening Program on Tuesday, April 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The program will be at the Mandarin Garden Club located at 2892 Loretto Road. Please contact the extension office at 255-7450 for registration, cost and information.

Happy Spring! Let's dig in the dirt!

Mandarin Garden Club announces Clothing Sale

By Contributing Writer Betty Waldrep



A volunteer sorts some of the many treasures available at the upcoming \$1 Clothing Sale!

The first of our twice-annual clothing sale will be March 7 and 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Gently used women's, men's and children's clothing will fill the main room of the garden club and every item is just \$1. There will be a boutique area with party clothes, jewelry, purses, belts and other fine items. These treasures will be available for a little more than a \$1. This sale has become so popular with the community that an extra day was added this year for shopping. So stop by and find some treasures!

Spring is coming and the circles at the garden club have great programs arranged for their members and guests. The meetings are open to the community to learn from our guest speakers. Please come and enjoy a morning or evening with us

and maybe you'll decide to become a garden club member. The circles meet at 10:00 a.m. at the garden club except the Live Oak Circle, which meets at 7:00 p.m.

February 12: Magnolia: Ten easy ways to simplify and improve your landscape with Larry O'Neal, speaker

February 17: Dogwood: Jacksonville Orchid Society with John Van Brocklin, speaker

February 19: Cherokee Rose: Magic of butterflies with Jeanne Hendricks, speaker

February 26: Live Oak: Start organic plants from seeds with Kay Robbins, speaker

For more information about the garden club or one of the sales or programs, please call 268-1192 or visit our website at www.mandaringardenclub.org or visit our Facebook page.

G. Dekle Taylor 1918-2015

3-4-15

Physician, master gardener dies at 96

Curious nature led ear specialist to passion for plants, exploration



G. Dekle Taylor
The Jacksonville native was an adventurer, exploring many Florida creeks.

By Sandy Strickland

sandy.strickland@jacksonville.com

G. Dekle Taylor, a physician who specialized in treating ear problems, had an enthusiasm for adventure that led him to cruise Florida's creeks and rivers, to explore the sky through his telescope and to cultivate the earth to coax native plants from seed.

"His was a life well lived," said his nephew, Chad Taylor of Greenwood.

Dr. Taylor died early Monday at the Mayo Clinic. He was 96.

He was born in Jacksonville in 1918 and earned his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Michigan. In 1949, Dr. Taylor went into practice with his father, Marshall Taylor, for whom a doctors building in the Baptist Health complex is named. Later, he had a solo ear, nose and throat practice and at one point, was a noise consultant to the city's Environmental Protection Board. In the late 1960s, he served as staff president at Duval Medical Center.

"He was just very well liked," said Sam Root, a retired internist and friend since college. "Everybody knew him and respected him, and he was a very good surgeon. He was very easy to get along with and interested in other people's ideas."

In 1983, Dr. Taylor retired and started a second career growing native plants from seeds. He went to Madison, Fla., and studied with one of the pioneers in the native nursery business. Dr. Taylor started Mandarin Native Plants nursery and eventually had more than 3,000 pots.

In a 1989 Times-Union interview, Dr. Taylor said he roamed Apalachicola Bluff near Bristol, and gathered seeds from the wild azalea. It took four years to get them to bloom. He waited two years for the wild olive to sprout.

Dr. Taylor, who became a master gardener, donated many plants to the Mandarin Garden Club, and a native garden named for him was established in front of the clubhouse on Mandarin Road. He retired from that career a decade or so ago and in more recent years lived in Cypress Village.

Plant and wildlife artist C. Ford Riley said Dr. Taylor was like a big brother to him, though he was more than 30 years older. When he lived next door to him in Mandarin, they were always going on adventures together, be it to find seeds or sail along the St. Johns River.

"Dekle was a person that once he got his mind fixed on something, he wanted to read everything about it until he became an authority on it," Riley said.

He loved the water and would talk Riley into sailing with him on his boat called the "Laugh A Lot" and exploring Cunningham or Black Creek. Of course, they never arrived back at the dock on time, Riley said.

Sometimes, he would call him at 2 a.m. or so to come see Venus on his huge Celestron telescope from the end of his dock, knowing that Riley got up that early to work. But he would get frustrated if it was windy or the dock moved, and they couldn't see it. He also had a skiff called the "May Garner."

"He could be a prankster," Riley said. "He loved to question people until he got the answer he was looking for. He was persistent, but he had a kid's side to him. He loved people."

Taylor, who called his uncle his best friend and mentor, recalled that he had a child's curiosity about the natural world and human culture. He traveled the world, but carefully researched what he wanted to see, he said.

"He was always very inquisitive with his piercing questions which he led the conversation with but never answered himself," Taylor said.

In addition to his nephew, Dr. Taylor is survived by a daughter, Judith Brundick, and a son, Jonathan Dekle Taylor, both of Greenwood; two granddaughters and one great-grandson. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Marjorie Smith Taylor, in 1980 and his second wife, Jeanne Sellers Taylor, in 2012. He donated his body to the University of Florida. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Sandy Strickland: (904) 359-4128

MARCH 4-10, 2015

THE FIVE

things you need to know

The Times-Union



Mandarin Garden Club hosts annual CLOTHING SALE

Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road, will host a clothing sale on Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be gently used items for men, women and children. The club has a \$1 clothing sale twice a year (March and August) to benefit the community. For more, visit www.mandaringardenclub.org or call (904) 268-1192.

Mandarin Garden Club update Spring brings new projects and visitors

By Contributing Writer Betty Waldrep



Group of Master Gardeners working in the new Florida Friendly Succulent and Cacti Bed.

The beautiful spring weather has inspired the Master Gardeners at Mandarin Garden Club to work extra days and to take on new projects. If you stop by the club on Wednesdays, you will find lots of happy people pulling weeds, raking, watering, mulching, talking to each other, sitting and sharing lunch at one of the picnic tables, and doing many other gardening chores.

The month of March brought over 1,000 visitors to the club's gardens. Please feel free to visit the gardens and experience the beauty and peace as you walk around or sit on one of the benches and enjoy the wildlife. One of the

Wednesday and lies in the grass and watches over the gardeners and all moving things. Snuggs knows that someone will walk by, pet him and give him a treat. He's a delight to have in the gardens.

A new bed has been added this spring using Florida Friendly practices. It consists of succulents and cacti plants and uses Mother Nature as its watering source. The garden was constructed by several Master Gardeners using donations of large rocks from a local church, scalloped edging from one of the Master Gardeners and plants from the gardeners own gardens. The center succulent pot contains ghost plant, ice plants, *Schwarzkop dyckia* and others. This bed will be covered with sand and small river pebbles.

The perennial garden has a new look. Concrete edging was

club's special visitors is Snuggs, a little gray dog, owned by Brenda Miller, one of the Master Gardeners. He comes every

added to Snuggs the dog. The ginger bed next to the perennial bed is being outlined with old clay pots. The club would welcome clay pot donations. Bring them by on a Wednesday, visit with Snuggs and take a walk in the beautiful gardens. A new bridge is going to be installed in the gardens in April. It will be wide enough for bridal parties to stand on while getting married. This spring has brought a new rose garden to the club. Please stop by soon and stroll through our new areas while enjoying all of the gardens.

For information about the club or for rental information, please call 268-1192. You can also visit our website at www.mandaringardenclub.org or email info@mandaringardenclub.org. The website will link you to our Facebook page.

