

MANDARIN GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another week of "stay at home" and it appears this type of week will be around for a few more weeks to come. It will be wonderful to have Crafty Ladies meet and work on their good deeds. The laughter coming from the Game Day Gang is sorely missed, too. Fortunately, many of our loyal gardeners are coming out to help in the gardens. There can never be too many, and I encourage all to pitch in. As we have said in the past, there is always something to fit just about everyone's ability to help in the gardens. We have no idea, at this time, as to when the Club will be back up and running ~~when~~ full time. From all reports the distancing restrictions in place currently are still in place, and we are all wise to act accordingly. We are trying to have a quickie Board Meeting sometime in May, as there are a couple of items to be addressed. We feel we can do a set up (sticking to the rules-not having food brought in). If any of you have something you would like the Board to discuss, please send me a note before May 12th. Our Annual Meeting, in all probability, will not take place on the scheduled date. You will receive notices from time to time of any changes so please be sure to check your E-mail often.

Our rentals are still being postponed (most with a re-set date) but we do have one coming up May 7th for a memorial service. Other than the afternoon before the 7th and the morning right after the grounds, may be worked on. If any other situations spring up, everyone will be notified so as not to interfere with a possible renter.

During this time food banks all around the country are struggling to keep up with feeding those who are in need. Even though we are not having meetings at this time, you can take donations to the Mandarin Food Bank.

It is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings (9 AM to 11:30 AM). It is located at 11730 Old St. Augustine Road (behind the old St. Joseph's Church).

One final note – our Yearbook is being prepared for publication at this time, and this means that all membership renewals need to be in the hands of your Circle Leaders for submission to our Treasurer as soon as possible. Each Circle is responsible for collecting its' members' dues and the deadline should still be looked at as June 1st. These should be submitted to the Treasurer as they come in so that our books can be balanced and current at the end of our fiscal year. If there are any questions in this regard, please feel free to drop me a note.

We need to keep in touch with each other and give encouragement where needed as our lives have drastically changed and we can only pray for an early return to our routines.

Be Well, Laura Miller

OFFICERS 2020-2021

President-Laura Miller

First VP-McGlade Holloway

Second VP-Linda Carvalho

Recording Secretary-Sue Stringer

Treasurer-Jeanne Hendricks

Bookkeeper-Jim McGoogan



STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2020-2021

Chaplain-Fredi Olson

Corresponding Secretary-Judy Strassenberg

Crafty Ladies-Joyce Datz, Annette Studebaker

Education and Community-Karen Bridgham, Regina Allen,
Wanda Bosworth

Ground Maintenance-Joyce Buscaglia

History and Awards-Fredi Olson

Horticulture-Joy Breitung

Membership-Mary Kay Weis

Newsletter-Betty Waldrep

Publicity-Diana Openbrier

Rental Committee-Judy Zamborski

Website/Social Media-Karen Rowe

Yearbook-Mary Kay Weis

NATIONAL GARDENING DAY CONTEST

Mandarin Garden Club (MGC) Celebrated National Gardening Day April 14. This holiday is meant to encourage gardeners of all kinds to kick off spring with a day of gardening. While many of our activities have been curtailed in a major way with the Covid-19 pandemic, and we are required to stay home, we can still garden in our own yard. It is fun, energizing, connects us with nature, connects us to friends, and provides a bounty of beauty for our mind and attitude as well as food for our body.

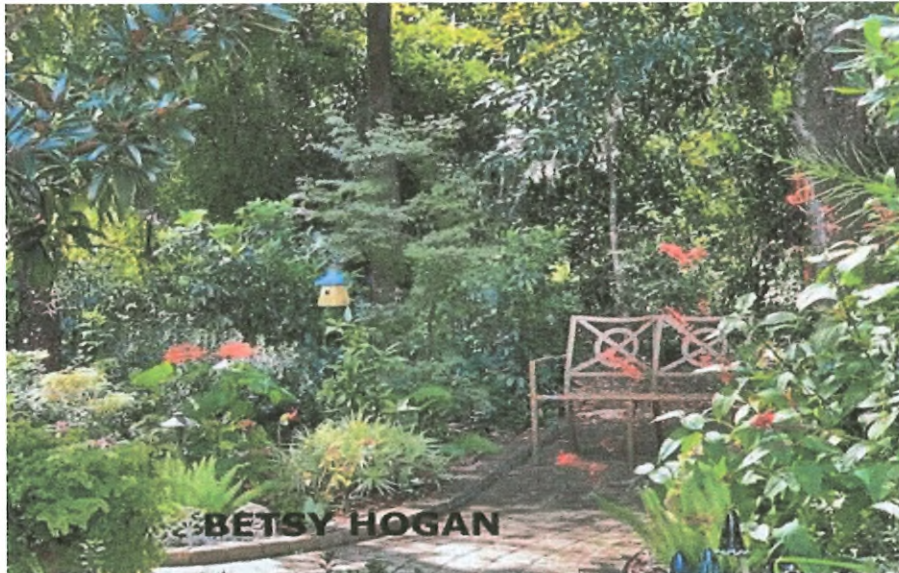
As MGC getting together to share gardening information is not an option for now, the group decided to share our gardens online. To add to the fun, plants started for the plant sale (cancelled) were used as prizes for the best yard's presentation. Many pictures of gardens were emailed in and a winner and 4 runners-up were chosen for recognition. Winners and runners up will get plants to add to their home gardens. They chose plants from online pictures without any face to face contact (the plants were placed curbside for pick up). We can drive by members' homes to enjoy the beauty of the yards.

Picking a winner was a hard task. There were many shots to review. The winner and 4 for honorable mentions were chosen. We have some incredibly talented gardeners and they do an amazing job. Ideas learned at educational programs at the club have been integrated into their gardens at home. It is Spring and colorful flowers are blooming. The foliage is returning. Members are clearing weeds, pruning their plants, and bringing their lovely gardens back to life.

The winner of the 2020 MGC National Gardening Award is Betsy Hogan, Live Oak Circle, who has created a lovely and colorful respite area that would be calming and pleasant for everyone. The curved path invites us to a restful, peaceful seating area surrounded by colorful flowers and lush greenery. This calming, cool, vision of relaxation draws us up the path to a lovely bench where we can watch the birds, dream our problems away, and focus on the beauty of nature. The four honorable mentions are Linda Carvalho, Dogwood Circle, for her many colorful flowers throughout her yard. The colors are so bright they draw your attention and lift your spirits; Peggy Curry Martineau, Dogwood Circle, nicely trimmed her yard and flowers are blooming. She has also created a "Mother of Mary Garden" that warms the spirit and brightens the day. Karen Stanley, Cherokee Rose Circle, has created an amazing and inviting entrance to her home. The greenery is bright and nicely trimmed. Her flowers are showing bright this Spring. And for special mention for what is "old is now new", Laurie McDonagh, Cherokee Rose Circle, a "Victory Garden" in a sunny part of her yard with a promise of fresh veggies soon. This contest was a fun way to show off our work in the garden to our friends. This Spring it is time for us all to get out and start gardening. Till, plant, mulch, trim,

clip, put dirt in a pot and plant a seed and spend time in nature. It brings beauty to your home, calm to the mind, and a feeling of accomplishment with every spout. It's time to garden! It's Spring.

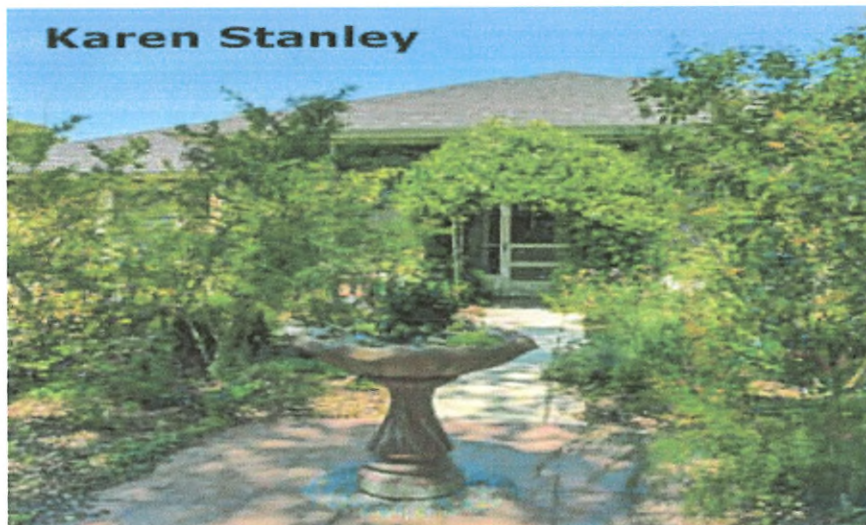
Diana Openbrier, Cherokee Rose Circle



Winner – Betsy Hogan



Peggy Curry



Karen Stanley

BIRTHDAYS

Lisa Cronin-May 4th

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



GET WELL

Nancy Crowley-Surgery

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please print your membership form from www.mandaringardenclub.org, complete it, and mail your check for \$35 and your form to your circle leader as soon as possible. All dues must be paid by June 1st for members to be listed in the yearbook. If you cannot print the form from the website, contact your circle leader for a form. In order to make it easier on our Treasurer we ask that you turn in all memberships as you get them in order to save last minute work while getting our books in order before the end of the year.

PAST PRESIDENT

It is with a heavy heart that we tell you that Betty Harrelson, Past President, has passed away. Betty served as President in 2014-2015. Once the club is reopened, a memorial will be placed on the grounds honoring Betty. We extend our sympathy to Betty's family.



NON-RESIDENTIAL BEAUTIFICATION AWARD

Mandarin Garden Club has selected two proprietries to receive their Annual Non-Residential Beautification Award for 2020. This award is given to a local business or organization whose property reflects an effort to maintain the natural beauty of Mandarin.

The two organizations selected this year are Walter Jones Park and Mandarin Museum, and Mandarin Community Club. Both organizations certainly meet the requirements of making efforts to maintain the natural beauty of our area.

The historical park is full of beautiful oaks, native plants, seasonal beds, a kitchen vegetable garden, orange trees, an orchid tree, and many other blooming plants through the seasons. The beautifully maintained museum, and five other historical structures make the park a wonderful place for walks through the trails, walking the walkway along the St. Johns River, picnics, photography, family gatherings, and other social events.

Mandarin Community Club is located further down Mandarin Road from Walter Jones Park, and is an historical building and property that has huge Oak trees that are hundreds of years old at the entrance to the club and back of the post office. The quaint club house and historical post office located on the property are decorated with seasonal pots of blooms throughout the year. There is a botanical butterfly garden located by the

beautiful white Gazebo. The property has many native plants. And the white picket fence adds to the beauty of the property.

Congratulations to these two organizations for their beautiful property and maintaining the natural beauty of Mandarin. The garden club is incredibly happy to share in the beauty and history of Mandarin with these two organizations.

Education and Community Committee



2019 – 2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

June –

All contracts updated & renewed
Banking change over – done
New Hot Water heater installed – also piping
Lots of paperwork to get done

July & August – traveled a little & took it easy

September

Signed on Florida Native Plant Society's annual state meeting
July Plant Sale – another success story
Clothing Sale – good – lost 2 signs to the City

October

Hired Marsha Kral – CPA
Welcomed Rose Society to hold their Board Mtgs here – planned for first time having their Annual Rose Show here –
Two extra trash bins for overflow from fundraising sales
Bought & installed QuickBooks for accounting

November

Passed our fire inspection
Told to wear PJs for Christmas party
Our gardens received designation of Certified Wildlife Refuge from National Wildlife Federation
Second VP resigned

December

Work day in the building – some very good workers
Locks on kitchen cabinets
Mary Kay took over Yearbook publication
Linda Carvalho took on Fundraising

January

Suzanne finally got opportunity to retire
Karen Stanley is now in the hot seat
Moved all kitchen/bathroom related items into cabinets
Got Board approval to proceed w/501c3

February

Native Plant Society had statewide meeting as planned earlier
Hosted a Town Hall meeting – 150 +/- attended – Mike Boylan conducted
Gutters cleared of leaf/twig build-up