
Mandarin Garden Club Newsletters

Mandarin Garden Club

6-2019

Newsletter June 2019

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June 2019



*To Study,
To Conserve, To Cultivate,
And To Enjoy Nature's Bounty.*

Natives In the Garden:

The 25th Anniversary of the Dekle Taylor Native Plant Garden at MGC

May 4th was a bright, very hot, sunny day from sunrise, and nothing changed about that as the day went on. Our members were on site early (6 AM) to be ready for the program. The community support groups arrived and setup their canopies. Mason Meadow was turned into a well-organized parking lot. Plants were put out for sale. Donna Crosby displayed her gorgeous wreaths and planters to entice chance-takers. Our MGC and Master Gardener tables were readied and a lunching canopy was put in place. Our Meeting Hall was ready with tables, chairs, and presenter materials. It was 9 AM. Would they come?

YES, THEY DID!



About 100 visitors took tours, attended workshops, visited our community partners, and just plain enjoyed our gardens, talking with and learning from both Master Gardeners and Garden Club Members. Our Mason neighbors sold their delicious BBQ, Mr. Snowball cooled off many, Plein Aire artists painted in the shady Bromeliad garden, and the Photography Club captured wonderful photos. The Fire Department

arrived and enjoyed our day while providing a presence of safety for our visitors. The Bonsai Club, Herb Society, Native Plant Society, Florida Friendly Yards, and Orchid Society supported us with their presence. Our Gardens never looked better, in spite of the heat...AND people bought plants!



We wilted, but our gardens held steady for us!



Virtually everyone attended a workshop, most more than one. Our Master Gardener presenters (Candace Barone & George DeMarino on Monarch Milkweed Initiative, Martha Dysart on Native Plants, and Vic Groner on Nuisance Wildlife in Your Garden) were well-received and provided fascinating and important information for gardeners.

This was a great success for Mandarin Garden Club in our mission to cultivate the knowledge of gardening and horticulture.

Thank you to all who participated and made this happen.



Mandarin Garden Club Annual Meeting

by Betty Waldrep

Amid a tropical theme of paper pineapples, plants, and green and yellow decorations, welcoming the Summer break of the club, the Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, May 23, 2019.

A short business meeting was first on the agenda followed by awards for the year and the election of officers. Laura Miller from Dogwood will lead the club as President for 2019-2020. Sandra Varner, Magnolia Circle, will serve as First Vice President with Mary Forester, Live Oak Circle, as Second Vice President. Karen Rowe from Dogwood Circle was elected as Recording Secretary. Marian Swain, Cherokee Rose, will serve as Treasurer.

Life Member awards were presented. Cherokee Rose presented awards to Diana Openbrier and Lisa Fisher. Magnolia Circle honored Mary Kay Weiss, Debra Crammond, and Cynthia Thomas. Candace Barone from Live Oak was honored. The Executive Committee awarded Life Memberships to Ann Dumire and Janet Leech.

Residential Garden Awards were presented by Wanda Bosworth. River Garden Senior Residence and Care was chosen for the Non-Residential Beautification Award.

Mary Forester, Second Vice President, presented a \$500 scholarship to Sarah Swain, daughter of Kelley Swain, Programs, and granddaughter of Marian Swain, Treasurer. Sarah was honored for her work with the club since she was in Bumblebees (our children's group which no longer meets.) Sarah graduates from high school this year and is off to college.

Mary Forester also had the privilege of presenting awards to Martha Dysart from Live Oak and to Dave Robinson from Thompson Ace Hardware. The Master Garden Shed has been named after Martha for her part in the planning and construction of the shed. Dave is the guy from Ace who brings our supplies, does repairs for the club, and helps us figure out how to handle maintenance and property issues. He was given an Honorary Member Award.

Sandie Ingram, President for 2018-2019, gave the President's Award to Deb Campbell. Deb is in Live Oak and is our Building and Property Coordinator. Deb has served as Treasure of the club, worked as the rental rep as a volunteer, and is a back up to our present rental rep. She is very active in our gardens, as a member of the club. She serves on the CPAC Committee representing the garden club. These are only a few of the things Deb does for the club.

The meeting ended with a potluck luncheon, basket drawings, food bank drawing, and door prizes. A big thank you is in order to Crafty Ladies for the beautiful decorations and to Cherokee Rose for Set Up. Pat Sams and Gail Cook oversaw the Basket Drawing for Dogwood. Magnolia Circle and Live Oak were responsible for cleanup. Thanks to everyone who helped with the Annual Meeting.



Deb Campbell installs Laura Miller, Sandra Varner, Mary Forester, Karen Rowe, Marian Swain



Master Gardener Liaison Mary Forester presents a planter to out-going President Sandie Ingram.

Mandarin Garden Club Annual Report May 23, 2019

Presented by Sandie Ingram
President Mandarin Garden Club 2018-2019

As I began preparing this report, I was WOWed by how our Board Officers, Board Member Chairs, Circle Leaders, and Member Volunteers have brought about the Club's activities and accomplishments this year to fulfill our Club Mission! Next, it brought home to me that our Non-profit Status with the State and Federal Governments has also been confirmed through these same activities and our role in the Community.

Let me explain a bit: We are a 501 (C) 4 nonprofit organization. Our Status as given by IRS Code is a Social Welfare Organization...perhaps a different definition than you have come to think for these words: Social Welfare. It means an organization that promotes the well-being (Welfare) of people (Society) in specific ways. Ours (paraphrasing our Club Mission and Motto) are, specifically, education, preservation, cultivation, conservation, appreciation, awareness, involvement, enjoyment, and promotion of gardening, horticulture, and the Natural Beauty of the Mandarin Community... "and our Country"... to our members and community. That's a BIG ORDER...but...

Here is how we have fulfilled our mandate this year:

Monthly programs were presented by Circles that were open not only to all Club members, but were advertised to the community that involved our Mission in the areas of:

Education, Conservation, Appreciation, Awareness (Maybe FEAR)...

Bees & Honey

SNAKES!

Worms, Worms, & more Worms!

Sea Turtles

Education, Horticulture, Gardening

African Violets 101

Invasive Plants & Plants that Reproduce Prolifically

Growing Herbs Indoors and Herbal Medicines

Raising Citrus for Homeowners

Native Plant Gardening

Education, Horticulture, Involvement, Preservation, Conservation, Awareness, Enjoyment

Wreath Craft & Wreath Arrangement (including dumpster diving techniques for acquisition of materials)

Hurricane Preparedness & Cutting-Edge Garden Tools & Supplies

Recycle, Reuse & Reinvent Items for Spring Gardens

History of Botanical Names

Trending Plants

Berry Good Farms: Organic Gardening at North FL School of Special Education



Our two General Meetings provided us with Speakers from the Riverkeeper on the health of the St Johns and its impact on flooding during Hurricane Irma, and by Naturopathic Cancer Consultant, Todd Robinson, ND on our own health and Botanical Medicine.

Our Community & Education Chairs hosted groups from the Community with tours of the gardens provided by our Master Gardener Liaison, Mary Forester, and either related activities or Q & A sessions. They reached out to the Community providing appropriate décor for the Jones House at the Historical Society Grounds for the Winter Celebration and a presence at the Mandarin Community Club's Tree Give-Away with a booth to support their endeavor. Three Yard of the Month Awards were given to community homeowners who exemplify our mission in their gardens. As well, recognition is being given to a business who has endeavored to beautify their property with plants. These leaders were instrumental in developing the Garden Liaison program (Garden Party) with their work to enroll members. Through this effort our entrance has been enhanced with planters that will be maintained by the Grounds Chair Committee in the future. Wreaths and chair planters were created and offered for raffle to benefit the Grounds and Public Garden Days efforts resulting in funds for special projects for the grounds and publicity for the Public Garden Days. All of these efforts supported our Mission to promote awareness and involvement in the preservation of Nature's Beauty in Mandarin Community, and appreciation for and knowledge of gardening & horticulture.



The Crafty Ladies have outdone themselves this year with their donation of \$3600 to the Club from the Craft Fair and Charity Auctions. In addition to other activities, they provided monthly Meals On Wheels projects & treats, and knitted hats, baby blankets and stuffed animals for Mandarin Food Bank and Duval and St. Johns County Departments of Children & families. As always we owe our beautiful décor today to this busy and talented group.

Our Grounds Maintenance Chairs along with their Circle Liaisons and Garden Party Volunteers brought about cultivation of the area immediately surrounding the Clubhouse which has been planted, for the most part with donations from Candace Barone, and has greatly enhanced the beauty of the Club grounds. Two dangerously rotted trees were removed and a large area at the back of the property was cleared and for plantings. AND despite the delays caused by Mother Nature which flooded our property from May through September, security lighting at the back of the property and power into the Master Gardener Shed was installed which will preserve our property and plants from harm.



Through our partnership with Duval County Extension we have hosted and helped maintain the Mandarin Demonstration Garden for 30 years. Master Gardeners train in our gardens and then come back to maintain their certification. This partnership benefits us in maintaining our property, but also benefits the



Community in having gardens open for them to visit, that demonstrate good practices, plants successfully grown in this area, and programs presented by Master Gardeners for our members as well as the Public. On top of that, this year a nationwide program was brought to be placed on our property by Master Gardeners Candace Barone and George DeMarino...the Monarch Milkweed Initiative. We are honored to have this conservation program on our site.

Our relationship with other horticultural organizations has expanded this year. The Northeast Florida Bonsai Club and the Jacksonville Herb Society meet monthly at the Club. Their presence has brought us members. The Men's Garden Club of Jacksonville has expanded its Aloe Vera project to have plants stored and displayed on our property.

Our new program, Public Garden Days, has brought much attention to our gardens and has directly served our Mission Statement in every way! The October 2018 Event, "Thirty Years of Blooms," celebrating our 30 years of being a Demonstration Garden, brought approximately 250 people to our site. The May 2019 Event celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Native Gardens brought about 100 to workshops developed and led by Master Gardeners endorsed by Duval County Extension. Plans for a fall event are on the books. We have received significant public recognition from Mayor Lenny Curry, City Council Members, and the community at large for our community involvement events.



Horticultural information has been inserted into every aspect of our Club from short announcements to longer articles provided in the newsletter and on our Website, and our Facebook page has carried news of our Events and gardens.

This year we have attended to our own well-being: the Treasurer has moved us to Fund-Based Accrual Accounting to keep with Best Practices for Nonprofit Organizations; circles moved their funds to the MGC Treasury to comply with Nonprofit Laws; and we have begun collecting sales & use tax from our renters as mandated by the State of Florida. In preserving our building and property we have been able to maintain a place for us to gather and to give to the community of our goals. Our building has been pressure washed; our floor has been patched; we have acquired rolling carts for the kitchen, which have come in handy for many other things; and our new chair racks donated by Crafty Ladies and Cherokee Rose are much welcome improvements.

Rentals have kept our financial income at a high, as well have our fundraisers, both bringing in the needed funds to provide for our programs and gardens. Our increase in rental fees has been met with no problem from those who desire to rent our venue, nor has the collection of Sales & Use Tax seemed to deter renters from our site.

I am pleased to say, through the work and dedication of our members, our Mandarin Garden Club has accomplished our Mission this year! Thank you to each and every one of you!



President-Elect Announces 2019-2020 Mandarin Garden Club Board Members

President - Laura Miller

First Vice President - Sandra Varner

Second Vice President - Mary Forester

Recording Secretary - Karen Rowe

Treasurer - Marian Swain

Chaplain - Fredi Olson

Corresponding Secretary - Judy Strassenberg

Parliamentarian - McGlade Holloway

Cherokee Rose Circle Leader - Joyce Buscaglia

Dogwood Circle Leaders - Laura Miller & Judy Till

Live Oak Circle Leaders - Deb Campbell &

Martha Dysart

Magnolia Circle Leaders- Sandra Varner &

Stacia Snuggs

Crafty Ladies - Joyce Datz, Annette Studebaker,
Clara McGehee

Education & Community- Regina Allen,

Karen Bridgham, Wanda Bosworth

Grounds Maintenance - Barbara Flynn

History & Awards - Fredi Olson

Horticulture -Joy Breitung

Membership - Mary Kay Weis

Newsletter-Betty Waldrep

Programs -Kelley Swain

Publicity -Betty Waldrep

Rental -Karen Rowe & Mary Kay Weis

Website/Social Media -Karen Rowe

Yearbook - Mary Forester



Scholarship Grant Awarded

At the May 23rd Annual Meeting Sarah Swain, daughter of member Kelley Swain and granddaughter of Treasurer Marian Swain, was presented a scholarship grant on behalf of the Club by Mary Forester, 2nd Vice President.

The last time this award was presented was in May 2010 to one of our Bumblebee members – Mattie LeDew. Funny I just saw her here a few weeks ago visiting our gardens. This year we have another Bumblebee member who started out in that circle in 2010 at around age 9 and is now a senior heading to UCF in the fall. Sarah has grown up in the garden club.

When she was a member of the Bumblebee circle, she participated and assisted with the other children when her mom was the leader of this group for two years. Kelley would bring Sarah to our events over the years between school and other school activity commitments.

She helped out at all of our sales from the beginning and recently shared her leadership skills with her brother Ethan delivering water to our volunteers at the October 13 and May 4 public garden days.

This young lady has completed her academics with honors, participated in the band and was the drum major the Mandarin High School band for her senior year. While in high school she has participated in a dual enrollment to complete a year of college. She is graduating 12th in her class.

Everyone who has engaged with this young lady knows her kindness and helpfulness. Barely standing above the table tops when she started with our garden club, she is now is heading off to college to standing tall and ready to face the world.

Sarah, the garden club wishes you much success and we proudly award you a \$500.00 scholarship student award from the Mandarin Garden Club.



Life Membership Awards

Life Members are honored for outstanding contributions to the Garden Club. The following members were selected to receive this award at the May Annual Meeting.

Candace Barone

You don't see this lady around much as she has a part time position but she is one of our garden angels. In 2016 she came to our club as a recent graduate of the Master Gardener program.

For a period of time she served as our rental agent at the club 2016 and during her tenure with that position she saw the potential of our gardens as she worked with our clients for their events.

In 2017 she got thru her first year as a master gardener where you have to give back 75 hours of volunteer hours and came back in 2018 and has been able to implement her garden design visions.

In February and April 2018, she redesigned the west and east garden area of the building. If you have not noticed these improvements, you need to take the time to see the beauty of her work.

Through her current part time position she has been the one delivering the annual plantings you have seen in the gardens this spring.

After a master gardener trip to St. Mark's in the panhandle of Florida, in August last year, she began a Monarch Milkweed Initiative and again using her talents and skills to plan, install and maintain this project that now exist in our gardens here on our property.

As a master gardener, she is a voice of our Mandarin Demo Gardens at the extension office. She is a contributor to the Roots to Shoots publication for the master gardeners and is part of the Florida Yards and Neighbor team.

Thank you, Candace, for your continued support and I am honored to bestow a Lifetime Award to this hard working and gracious person.

— Mary Forester



Debra Crammond

Debra has been a Magnolia since 2013...she love the Garden Club so much that even though she lives in Ponte Vedra Beach...she attends our meetings...she has been and is

willing to be a speaker for different circles...she always rents a booth for the Mandarin Garden Club Craft Fair ...Debra can make something out of anything...from an owl out of a broken shovel to aprons from a pair of jeans or a man's dress shirt...Debra is also a real asset to Magnolia and Mandarin Garden Club and always willing to lend a cheerful helping hand.

—Sandra Varner

Ann Dumire

If you have missed knowing this fun-loving lady, you have not been around here much! She joined the Club in 2012 and served as Club Treasurer the next year, 2013-14. She is a member of Dogwood Circle, Crafty Ladies, and this year served on the Board as Chair of the Rental Committee. She has been my partner in running the Boutique at Clothing Sales and Trash to Treasure for the past few years. Ann Dumire is forever making quips, spiking punch, and upping the price at Crafty Lady auctions. She is away on a family emergency trip today, and I miss her smiling face. She epitomizes what a garden club member should be and I am honored to present this life member award to her.

— Sandie Ingram

Janet Leech

This lady joined the Club in 2008 and has been a member of both Cherokee Rose and Dogwood Circles. She is active in Crafty Ladies, involved in all Sales, served on the Planning Committee for Public Garden Days and has sold plants at all events this year. As well she is one of the Garden Party volunteers and is on the grounds working almost every Wednesday. She has even volunteered her husband and son to stand in the heat in the parking lot twice this year! In addition, Janet has served on the Board as Community & Education Chair in 2014-2015, and Parliamentarian for the past two years. She chaired the Nominating Committee in 2017-18, and the Bylaws Committee this year. This dependable and cheerful lady is always giving of her time and talent to this Club and we are honored to present a life member award to her...Janet Leech.

— Sandie Ingram

Lisa Fisher

Lisa Fisher is one of those members that always goes the extra mile and exceeds all expectations. What a fantastic mind and a love for this club.

Just to name the things that come to my mind in the time that I have been part of this club:

- ◆ Discovery of MGC not in compliance and assisted in getting the club in compliance. Spent many hours on gathering facts and documentation to help assist in righting the wrong and at a major cost saving to the club. Her knowledge and understanding of the law and the taxes for an organization that is a 501(c) 4, was a value that should not go unrecognized. Without this discovery, this club could have been dissolved, for back taxes.
- ◆ Newsletter that was sent out monthly and News Blast, that were sent out as needed. Lisa's flair for creative and imaginative gathering of information and spreading the word with good humor, style and word smith, made all the members abreast of what was going on in the MGC.
- ◆ Time spent as a Board Member
- ◆ Grounds Liaison for CR
- ◆ Regular Wednesday Weeder

My strong opinion, that her discovery and saving the MGC, separates this member from all members. She was met with very strong opposition from some of the board, but hung in there to help support the club, with no personal gain other than her love for the MGC. —Joyce Buscaglia



Diana Openbrier not only has completed the above but has exceeded all expectations. Just to name the things that come to my mind in the time that I have been part of this club:

Circle leader for Cherokee Rose for 2 years

Board member for 18 months

Gingerbread House Extravaganza two consecutive years and MGC received blue ribbons both times.

Total commitment to assist in all projects just to list a few: New members tea purchased and stores tea sets for this event and 2018 MGC Christmas Party, provides the home for club projects; General Meeting making of baskets and supplies for CR drawing, Gingerbread House, supplies and provided food for all workers that showed up in her home to conduct the finished projects mentioned above. Food and Beverages for the workers on Wednesday Weeding Day.

Diana does not just open her home but her heart and her medical expertise to any member with medical issues. Diana either is a support or active part in members wellness or family member.

For the Life Membership Award this recipient not only qualifies but exceeds the MGC requirements. I believe that Diana is the most selfless, loving, giving member and does this not for the reward or recognition, but this is who she is in every fiber of her being.

— Joyce Buscaglia

Cynthia Thomas -

Cynthia has been a Magnolia since 2012...she is always cheerful and willing to help whenever needed...she showed her creativity and ability to make interesting baskets with great appeal for our raffles when she joined...so much so she's been in charge of Magnolia's raffles for the past 6 years...she also helps out at sales even though she is a full time realtor...Cynthia is a real asset to Magnolia and Mandarin Garden Club.

— Stacia Snuggs

Mary Kay Weis

Mary Kay is a relatively new member of Mandarin Garden Club joining in 2017...but...she jumped in with both feet...from working in the garden on garden days to being not only the membership chair for Magnolia...she is also the membership chair for Mandarin Garden Club...she also did an excellent job as chairwoman of the Nominating Committee...which can be challenging...she is always willing to put forth a suggestion and follow through...Mary Kay is also a real asset now and looking to the future for Magnolia and Mandarin Garden Club.



Honorary Member Dave Robinson



The Honorary Award is presented in recognition for outstanding service in promoting the purpose of the organization. I have the honor to present an honorary award this year to a person who has shared his skills, talents and patience with our garden club for us to promote the purpose of our organization.

Many of you have not had the honor of meeting this gentleman, however you can rest assured he has been taking care of all of us since 2017. For the past two years, Dave has been our Thompson ACE Hardware contact making sure our maintenance and supplies needs have been met. Deb has been his point of contact and his calmness in times of need was reassuring to Deb.

When dealing with 90-degree turns in our underground drain system, Dave stated, "90-degree turns are never good in plumbing." When our kitchen pass thru door cables broke, contractors said they were not familiar with this old technology, but Dave said, "No problem, did them all the time in the Navy."

He is a person of integrity who has been reserved in many situations responding to Deb Campbell and I when we have an idea of what we are thinking about which he may agree or disagree with, but he takes the time to respond to us weighing the pros and cons before speaking. His promptness and attention to details are superb. He has a monthly list of tasks to complete, and the first time I saw him shaking the fire extinguishers to be sure they are ready in case of emergency, he took the time to explain the reasoning. Currently he is securing our old chair racks by welding the handles so they can be reused for storage in our shed.

The Garden Club is and has been blessed to have the Thompson ACE Hardware Store to share this fine person with us and we know we are good hands. Not only does he make sure all is well, he has provided a wealth of knowledge from his vast experience from his service to our country in the Navy and from his tenure from Christ Church.

When he is not working, he loves to fish and tend his garden. He checks out Earl's vegetable garden and we have shared our harvest with him.

Dave is always a gentleman and we are honored to have him as an honorary member of this club for his integrity to share his belief to assure our club can continue for the generations to come.

Thank you, Dave.

— Presented by Mary Forester May 23, 2019

DEB CAMPBELL RECEIVES PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The President's Award is given to a member who consistently has made exceptional contributions to the Garden Club which reflect the member's commitment to the membership as well as the Mandarin community.

If ever a person exemplified that criteria, this lady does. Beginning when Deb Campbell joined the Club 14 years ago, 2005, Deb has served this club actively, most years while working full time. In 2005 she served on the Board as Clubhouse & Supplies Chair. Then, for several years she served as Clubhouse Special Use Chair, what we call Rental Rep today. At that time it was an unpaid volunteer Board position. After that for many years, and up until today, she has volunteered as a back-up for that position: taking it on at times, training others for the position, and even this year filling in for Suzanne for 2 months. In 2016 she took on the job of Club Treasurer which she handled until last June. Beginning in 2017-18 assumed the Building & Property Coordinator's duties and continued this year as a Contractor in that position. She is a member of Live Oak Circle and is their treasurer. She has served as an ex officio member of the Rental Committee this year, also. Those are just her formal contributions to the club.



Over the past few years she has kept her eye on the property next door. You know which property I'm referring to. It wasn't her job. It is her caring of the Mandarin Community that kept her putting in tickets with the city to get them to do something about the tragedy that occurred there. She's still after them to take care of it and has made progress there.

You see Deb here at the Clubhouse and on the grounds almost every day. Some of that time she is doing her work as the Building & Property Coordinator, but much of the time she is here as a member volunteer doing things like weeding and planting in the gardens with the Garden Ninja Team, taking care of the Ginger Bed, moving lava rock, taking on the parking lot for the Public Garden Day, serving on the planning committee for Public Garden Days, working at the Clothing, Trash to Treasure, Plants sales and Craft Fair, and generally being the kind generous tiny bowling ball of energy we all treasure.

She has been of more help to me than you can begin to imagine. Thank you Deb.

SALUTE:

To Sandie Ingram for her leadership to create the Public Garden Days for the Mandarin Garden Club. This initiative has created a team of garden club members who have brought the gardens to a new level. With pride this program has paved way to accomplish our garden club mission: To cultivate the Mandarin Garden Club members' appreciation for and knowledge of gardening and horticulture. To promote an awareness of and involvement in the preservation of the natural beauty of the Mandarin community and our country. Thank you, Sandie, for your determination and vision to accomplish these events and you are to be proud of this accomplishment. Our community is appreciative and for those who have been involved in this accomplishment, we are thankful.

KUDOS:

To the Public Garden Days committee worker bees. They dug in the dirt, shared their ideas and designs, mulched the day away, mapped out gardens, created a lovely garden club atmosphere and supported the three public garden days held this past year. Without this committee's dedication and hard work, it could not have happened. One factor that seemed to be missing in each of these events was the support of our membership. This is your garden club and hope would be as a member you joined the garden club to be part of what takes place and share as well as honor your fellow garden club members in their time and effort.

Master Gardener Shed Dedicated to Martha Dysart

In April 2011 the Master Gardener Shed was built from a donation of funds raised by the Crafty Ladies from the 2010 Craft Fair. The front shed had been shared by the Master Gardeners and the Club for storage of donations for the annual Trash to Treasure Sale for years, but as room was needed for the increased donations it was time to find a new space.

The joke between Martha and Mary Forester was Mary kicked the Master Gardeners out and Mary was a Master Gardener herself.! Also, it did not hurt to mention to a few club members about our need, and a fundraiser was conducted for the purpose.

The placement, amount of space needed and above ground to avoid flooding, was put in place by Martha Dysart with the funds from the Crafty Ladies. A team of planners, workers, and helpers to build it was formed and a place for our Master Gardener team to store their needed work equipment was built.

Martha has been a member of the garden club since 1997, Master Gardener since 1999 and held the positions of Grounds Maintenance as well as the Master Gardener Liaison of the Mandarin Demo Gardens from 2003 -2013 .



Thursday, May 23rd, we are dedicating the MG Shed to honor Martha Dysart for her dedication and insight in providing a space that the Master Gardeners could call their own. With this plaque which will be placed at the top of the MG Shed door, we show our thankfulness for Martha Dysart's service to the Master Gardeners and to the Mandarin Garden Club. Thank you, Martha.



Beautification Award

Presented by Wanda Bosworth

River Garden Senior Residence & Care

Annual Non-Residential Beatification Award

River Garden is a nursing and care community in Jacksonville which focuses on providing the best support and senior living solutions to its residents and their loved ones. The gardens and grounds of both the facility and resident patio apartments adds to the beauty of the facility. Residents enjoy a lush 40-acre campus in the heart of Mandarin located at 295 and Old St. Augustine Road. Many types of outdoor activities provide residents with the opportunity to enjoy nature which promotes their well-being while receiving therapy. A tandem bicycle affords exercise in the outdoors, Earth Day was celebrated in August 2018 with children and residents creating "trees" by outlining their hands and pasting colored hearts as leaves. Residents, Staff, children and guests continued the activity by providing shovels to each child for assistance in planting trees. Rabbi Matuson gave a beautiful explanation regarding the importance of Earth Day, trees and the environment. The grounds have been enhanced with the planting of a limequat tree whose special fruit will become a part of food preparation. Mandarin Garden Club is proud to honor River Garden for not only their beautiful gardens, but the use of them for the betterment of Mandarin Community.

The Garden Muse

Information and thoughts from our MGC Gardeners.













To Both New and Old Members – Attention !!!

Are you new to the Garden Club? Are you an old garden club friend, but looking for some way of making new friends? We welcome and enjoy your company just as you are, but we are always interested in learning more about each member, their interests and their talents. This is a club which values participation and can always benefit by new ideas and differing ways of doing things.



A Week in the Life

These seven bouquets had the same humble beginnings: On Day 1, their stems were cut, and they were immediately placed in identical vases. The vases all contained 36 ounces of fresh, room-temperature water; all but one also had an additive that was supposed to boost longevity. As the week progressed, the water level was kept constant. Here's how they fared.

THE FIX	DAY 4	DAY 7	THE VERDICT
 <p>ASPIRIN IN THEORY: Increases the acidity of the water, helping it move up the stem. DAY 1: One 325-milligram Bayer coated tablet is dropped into the water.</p>	 <p>Drooping and sad, these tulips don't look as if they'll last much longer. Another tablet goes in the water.</p>	 <p>Yikes! More than half the petals have fallen off.</p>	<p>Painful. An aspirin a day may keep the doctor away, but not the florist.</p>
 <p>LISTERINE ANTISEPTIC IN THEORY: Kills bacteria the way it kills plaque and halitosis. DAY 1: A capful of mouthwash is poured into the water.</p>	 <p>The stems are mostly upright and the tulips are beginning to open.</p>	 <p>This wild bunch seems to be heading in every possible direction.</p>	<p>Not much to smile about.</p>
 <p>A PENNY IN THEORY: The copper can act as a natural antibacterial agent. DAY 1: A penny is added to the water.</p>	 <p>The flowers open and look a little droopy, but the dark tangerine color is still strong.</p>	 <p>The stems are heading in every possible direction, but the blooms have opened up in a fairly regular pattern.</p>	<p>The flowers were slow to bloom, bloomed beautifully, then withered quickly.</p>
 <p>BLEACH IN THEORY: Prevents mold, which can kill flowers. DAY 1: A capful of bleach is added to the water.</p>	 <p>The stems are almost completely white. But the vibrant tangerine tulips are still erect.</p>	 <p>Still no mold, but the stems are now entirely white, and—like a white T-shirt that has soaked in bleach too long—the petals are yellowing.</p>	<p>It's a wash. The flowers stand tall, but their color doesn't.</p>



MASTER GARDENER LIAISON

The Mandarin Demo Garden Master Gardeners worked in February, March and April each Wednesday to make sure all spring gardening chores were completed in time for the May 4th public garden day event for the club. With pride I am grateful for the efforts of our Master Gardener volunteers as well as our club gardener team and hope each of you take the time to acknowledge their accomplishments. The team will be working the 1st and 3rd Wednesday for the next 5 months and you are welcome to join us on any workday.

Mary Forester, Master Gardener Liaison

GARDEN RELATED EVENTS AROUND TOWN IN THE COMING MONTHS

- 10/12-13/19 Kanapaha Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale/Orchid Show-
Gainesville 9a-5p - Free admission
- 11/8-9/19 African Violet Show & Sale at Lexington Hotel 1515 Prudential
Drive – visit DAVS.org for info
- Fall Clay County Master Gardener Plant Sale – Free admission
- Fall Jacksonville Agricultural Fair – Admission Fee

FORESTER WEEDING THOUGHTS

The public garden days have brought out the community as well as some former members. I spoke with several former members during each of these events and they were amazed at what the garden club has become. They are very complimentary and those notices are to the thanks to those who gave of themselves to make sure the garden club is the pride of Mandarin.

MAY GARDEN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 5/1 Clubhouse east building side white podium donated by
Wanda Bosworth was install by Mary Forester
- 5/1&8 Clubhouse east building side azaleas pruned by Mary
Forester and Mary Clark
- 5/8 Poinsettias bed established on east driveway exit by Joyce
Buscalgia/Glenda Moore/Deb Campbell/Mary Forester
- 5/8 Center tree birdcage installed by Mary Forester
- 5/8 Clubhouse east building iron tables found, donated and
installed by Joyce Buscalgia
- 5/15 MG Shed lava rock on both sides of ramp by Deb Campbell,
Sandie Ingram and Mary Forester
- 5/15 Irrigation system checked by Mary Clark, Sandie Ingram
and Mary Forester
- 5/22 Recap of all signs, plaques and benches in the gardens
recorded by Mary Forester
- 5/22 Moss removed from camellias, crepe and center trees by
Mary Forester
- 5/23 MG Shed dedicated to Martha Dysart at Annual Meeting



****Special Event****

**BSF Visiting Artist
Jennifer Price**

When: June 20th from 7pm-
10pm

Where: Mandarin Garden
Club 2892 Loretto Road
Jacksonville, FL 32223

All Mandarin Garden Club
members are invited to join

Jennifer will be assisting
North Florida Bonsai club
members with training and
styling advice with their
trees.

Workshop participant seats
are \$30 and are limited to 10
for this event due to time
constraints

MASTER GARDENER CLASSES

For those interested in becoming a Duval County Master Gardener, classes will be taking place beginning in August.

If interested, please call the Duval County Extension Office to find out information at 255-7450.



Another year begins

on June 1st for the Mandarin Garden Club. Our next sale will be the Clothing Sale to be held Friday, August 2 from 9a-2p and Saturday August 3 from 9a-12 noon. Several had inquired why we closed down at noon on Saturday, and we have found from 12 noon until 2pm there were not customers, and we have noticed we have more shoppers on Friday than Saturday.

Hopefully you will continue to support YOUR garden club in volunteering with all our events. Without your participation and involvement, the club cannot exist. The sale events keep the doors to your garden club open by covering the operating cost of the club and its property, please evaluate what you can do to support, not only in donations, but helping hands.

Mary Forester, 2VP

Cherokee Rose Chat



This month was our last meeting until we pick up again in September. Diana Openbrier helped us out in filling in as our speaker. She

gave an amazing talk on First Aid in the

Gardens. Diana came equipped with adult and infant Annie's if anyone wanted to update their CPR training.



Special Thank you to my circle for the Hibiscus Plant and my Fairy Chair that is at my front door. These gifts were above and beyond my expectations. My members of CR never do anything halfway, so they also add a gift card. Love you one and all. You all are so very different from each other, but your love for each other is universal.

Joyce Buscaglia,

Cherokee Rose Circle Leader



Dogwood Doings

By Judy Till, Dogwood Circle CoLeader

Bon Voyage

Some Dogwood members will be sailing away to fun on the St. Johns river. We are boarding Diana Openbrier's sail boat on Memorial Day to worlds unknown. Well, at this time anyway. The weather and water conditions will determine our final destination. Wish us well on this perilous journey. We will share our experiences in the next newsletter.



As our Dogwood circle concludes the 2018 – 2019 year, we sadly reflect on the members that are no longer with us.

Jean Jervey

Francis Barrett

Tiffany (Suzanne Harper's daughter)

Scott (Laura Miller's stepson)

Elly Willis

We will miss them and cherish our memories.

Live Oak Landmarks

*Mary Forester
Live Oak Circle Leader*



Live Oak's June circle meeting will be Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 7:00pm with George DeMarino presenting a program on Sea Turtles and their relationship with plant life. All are welcome to attend.



Magnolia Moments

By Sandra Varner, Magnolia Circle Leader

Magnolia Circle went on a Field Trip, May 09, 2019 to Berry Good Farms & North Florida School of Special Education....We had a wonderful group of 25 ladies who attended and enjoyed an introductory talk from the

director, Jenn, explaining why and how the Berry Farm came to be and the benefits of the teaching there and integrating education and growing food to teach skills that can enhance their lives to children, who have development challenges. A culinary school & also a Dog Barkery is run by Berry Good Farms and helps teach skills and involvement with food & Food Trucks, thereby equipping those students for a future as a Chef. Many have already graduated and are now employed as Chefs in the community.



We were given a tour of the farm and greenhouse. Most impressive were the lovely gardens and plants growing, and as we walked through we were given several opportunities to "taste" plants as they were identified. Following our tour we were provided a wonderful lunch underneath beautiful tents with tables set in bright, lovely colors for Spring, tall blue bottles of cold sparkling water, and freshly brewed tea from herbs.

students at the ladies bought a herbs and succu- 4 others bought a (radishes, lettuce, carrots, dill, and other herbs)...so delectable and hand picked for us by some of the students who wanted their picture taken with us and our produce.



After lunch, we were invited to 'shop' in the gift area containing jellies, herbs, seasonings and paintings. All items in the gift shop were created by school and the money earned will go back into school funds. One of our beautiful birdhouse painted with



lents planted in the top. I, among "Garden Bag" of fresh vegetables I heard so many ladies remark that this was "The Best Field Trip Ever!" We enjoyed meeting some of the students and totally enjoyed our trip through the gardens.

GARDENING RELATED GROUPS

Please check website to confirm meetings if interested in attending

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 st Monday | Men's Garden Club at Jacksonville Garden Club monthly, 7:00p |
| 1 st Tuesday | Jacksonville Rose Society at Jacksonville Garden Club monthly, 7:00p |
| 2 nd Monday | North Florida Bonsai Club at Mandarin Garden Club monthly, 7:00p |
| 2 nd Tuesday | Jacksonville Orchid Society at Jacksonville Garden Club monthly, 7:00p |
| 3 rd Tuesday | Jacksonville Herb Society Club at Mandarin Garden Club monthly, 7:00p |
| 3 rd Sunday | Heart of Jacksonville African Violet Society at Jacksonville Garden Club monthly, 2:00p |

**If you aware of any of the actual dates of the above items or know of any others, please advise .*

**JUNE
BIRTHDAYS**



George DeMarino
for the donation of a

jazzy new canopy for the
Club's outdoor use. You
continue to be a cherished
friend to MGC.



THANK YOU

CARES & CONCERNS

Laura Miller

Renee Ware

Mary Anne Williams

SYMPATHY

Laura Miller



WISHES

Garden Party Workday Wish List

Building beds weeding and maintenance
Center tree caregiving
Cleaning concrete tables, arbors, edging
Front sign weeding maintenance
Front street sign bulkhead plantings
Evergreen/tree donations, purchases, plantings
Lend a helping hand to ongoing projects for the workdays
Nursery plant cleanup, labeling and maintenance
Nursery plants from plant purged plants from gardens or donations kept up to date to be sold at all events
Picnic tables cleaned on a regular basis
Pine cone pickup
Potager/vegetable wall purchased, stained and installed
Pressure wash -pathways, edging, walkways, front canopy area
Seasonal planting on property
Sitting areas created for gardening visiting
Watering of non-irrigated areas each Wednesday
Weeding anywhere and everywhere. If you see a weed you are welcome to remove.
Weekly Wednesday workdays for club gardeners
West property line work and planting

Garden Item Wish List

Helping hands to showcase the Mandarin Garden Club
Caladium bulbs for next Spring

Club Office Supplies Wish List

Many of these items are at your home and a good place to start. Each of these donations helps the garden club and you in freeing up space at home.

Writing pens
Reams of copy paper
Memo note pads that come in the mail
Envelopes

Community & Education Food Bank Wish List

Brown paper bags
Egg cartons
Female products
Laundry soap
Non-perishable food items
Plastic grocery bags
Sample toiletry items - lotion, shampoo, soap
Sample toothpaste/toothbrushes/dental floss/mouthwash
Toilet paper

Above are some items they use at the food bank that you may not be aware of that you have at home and may put in the trash or are taking up space. In sharing with the food bank, it is a good way to purge items you have at home already. Take a look to see if you have unexpired items on your kitchen, pantry or bath shelves you will not use. Buy one get one free is another great way to share.

Donations can be brought to any circle meetings, general meetings, game days and craft days. Don't forget to put your name on a ticket and put it in the flowered food bank bin. There is a drawing that takes place at each October, January and May general membership meetings for your donations. Thank you one and all for support of your fellow community neighbors.