



Sweetwater Oaks
Garden Club

GARDEN FAIR MARCH 4-5, 2023



***SWEETWATER OAKS
GARDEN CLUB
MARCH GENERAL MEETING***

DATE: Monday, March 13, 2023

TIME: 9:30 A.M. Social
10:00 A.M. Meeting

LOCATION: Village On The Green
500 Village Place
Longwood, Florida 32779

SPEAKER: Robert Schumann
UF Master Gardener

PROGRAM: How our Gardens Can Make
a Difference in the Climate
and a Greenhouse Made Out
of Recycled Plastic Bottles

March 2023

Editor
Gwen Allen

Executive Board

President

Bernadine Delafield

First Vice President/Programs

Arthur Allison

Debbie Allison

2nd Vice President/Membership

Marjorie Abbas

Diane Hennessy

3rd Vice President/Hospitality

Nancy Kelly

Laurie Kennedy

Janet McIntyre

Recording Secretary

Pam Frisbey

Corresponding Secretary

Linda Richcreek

Treasurer

Pat Neff

Parliamentarian

Joyce Anderson

Inside this issue:

Calendar	2
President's Message	3
Programs - March	4
Membership	4
Horticulture	5
Butterfly Garden	5
Garden Fair	6
Garden Fair Sponsors	7
Ways & Means - Plant Sale	8
Save Your Wine corks	9
Need Pots for Plant Sale?	9
FFGC Convention Info	10
Misc. Club Information	11
February Meeting Photos	12

MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Hospice 	3	4 
5 	6  BOARD MEETING Sweetwater Oaks Community Center 810 Fox Valley Dr. Longwood	7	8	9 BD - Barbara Hunt	10	11
12 	13 - BD - Marjorie Abbas  GENERAL MEETING Village on the Green Meeting Room 9:30 AM Social 10:00 AM Meeting	14 Youth Gardeners: Bees & Pollinator Plants 	15	16 Hospice 	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day 	18
19	20 - BD - Peter Schwenderman  FIRST DAY OF Spring MARCH 20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Hospice 	31	



A Word From Our President

Ready? Set? Go! Sounds like appropriate marching orders as we approach March 4-5. The Sweetwater Oaks Garden Fair will open to the public and every able member will be there to welcome and assist our guests. We anticipate that Protegrity Plaza will be buzzing with gardeners and our neighbors who will be looking to replace lost plants from winter frost. This event will be an opportunity to let our neighbors know that COVID did not destroy our philanthropic mission nor did it force our club to close. We march on strong and purposeful.



The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs is holding its annual convention in April (see separate ad in this newsletter). I want to encourage you to attend this lovely event. Every year a few members do go and if you ask them, they will likely tell you that it was a fun day. The Federation officers plan a beautiful experience for us with seminars, flower show, programs and special meals of fellowship to get acquainted with other club members of the federation. Some of you have already purchased raffle tickets but more can be had at the convention. We usually plan to go the second day of the event when they announce award winners. We meet and sit together at a table for lunch. Carpooling is usually available. Embassy Suites Kissimmee is not far from us, about a 45-60 minute drive. Plan to **join us for "ladies day out"... and gentlemen, of course!**

A nominating committee was voted upon at the February general meeting. The committee members elected are Debbie Allison, Pam Frisbey and Jacque Body with Irene Horner as an alternate.

The work of the nominating committee is to fill the club officer positions of president, first, second and third vice presidents for programming, membership and hospitality, treasurer, recording secretary and corresponding secretary.

If you are invited to serve in one of these positions, please consider joining those who have answered the call of leadership. If you have a suggestion that would be helpful to the committee or would like to volunteer your services, you may contact a committee member. Officers will be elected at the April general meeting.

Enjoy your lawns and gardens this month as grass is greening and every living thing is waking up for Spring!

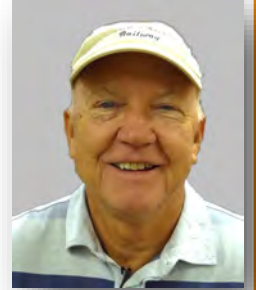


*Bernadine Delafield, President
Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club, Inc.*

PROGRAMS - MARCH 2023



Richard Schumann will be our March meeting speaker. With a degree in Geological Engineering and work experience with Meteorology, he was aware of climate change but did not pay it much due until an ad on Facebook caught his eye. It was for the Climate Reality Project, a non-profit. After being accepted to participate in the Project, his dedication began.



Rick's advocacy is inspired by a simple concept: "Everyday people can be part of the solution." As a volunteer with the Master Gardener program at UF, Rick has been a witness to the difference ordinary people can make. Last winter, the founder of Seeds of Inclusion approached Rick with a challenge: build a greenhouse out of recycled plastic bottles. After many hours toiled with love and effort, Seeds of **Inclusion, with help from UF's Extension Master Gardeners, gifted a local summer camp for adults with severe learning disabilities, the working greenhouse in June.**

This should be an amazing presentation. How our gardens can make a difference in the climate and a greenhouse made out of recycled plastic bottles, I want to hear that. We are looking forward to our next Club meeting. Don't miss out!



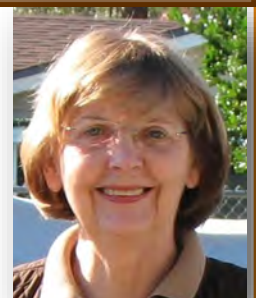
*Arthur Allison
Debbie Allison
1st Vice President - Programs*

MEMBERSHIP



The General Meeting on February 13th welcomed thirty-four members and one guest. Audrey Karwandy, a previous member, was a guest of Margaret Kirkpatrick.

No new members have registered at this time.

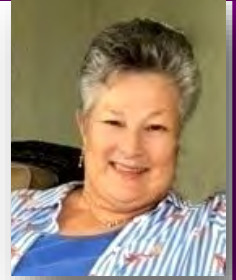


*Marjorie Abbas
Diane Hennessey
2nd Vice President - Membership*

HORTICULTURE

Crazy temps – wow! I am not ready to put the houseplants outside yet, but I do have a few cactus plants out there.

Now is a good time to check houseplants for mealybugs and scale as I found a few on my houseplants. I use alcohol and Q-tips or cotton balls to rid the plants of the bugs and scale, depending on how many there are. Also, Neem Oil is good to use for the bug infestations. Look over your plants and decide if you want to donate any of them to our plant sale. Sometimes the plant has grown too big for the space it is in or you need to divide the plants because you have too many. The dollars go to help aid kids go to camp and provide scholarships to University of Florida students.



When plants start to be active, it's time to fertilize them. I use Osmocote as I sprinkle the pearls and it lasts three months. Write the date on your calendar so you know when to do it again. If you have citrus, some of the branches may be out of bounds. Now is the time to trim them. **I don't let citrus get bigger than myself** so I give them a haircut this time of year, especially those branches sticking out the sides. Do not mulch anywhere near the trunks as insects would be attracted to the trunk. Leave one foot on all side of citrus trunks. For bare spots I bought annual seeds at the dollar store.

Plants are going to be 3 times as much this year and seeds will work fine for me. Cold crops are almost done. I have a few plants of lettuce left, but they are starting to flower and that means they are done for this year. I have a few peppers and cherry tomatoes that are producing, but they are tired and telling me its time to put new plants in the pot. I garden on my deck in pots, and buy already started plants.



I'm still trimming around the house and my flowering bushes that were hit by killing frost need a haircut. What is blooming? Bougainvillea, roses, coreopsis, kalanchoe and matchstick bromeliads. The oak tree has pushed off its old leaves and that new spring green is emerging. There is yellow pollen on the porch and spring is here early.

Happy gardening, I love it out there.

Louise Gould
Chairperson - Horticulture

BUTTERFLY GARDEN PROJECT AT VILLAGE ON THE GREEN



This project came into being in 2020 when Min Schwenderman was president of the Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club. During the time, when we were isolated due to Covid 19, some members of the Garden Club found joy in raising Monarch butterflies and releasing them. The plight of the monarchs was being very much publicized at that time.



In keeping with the mission statements of NGC, FFGC, and SWOGC, the club is attempting to provide a haven for the Monarch and other butterflies as well as providing an area in this continued care community of Village on the Green, where residents can enjoy the colorful garden and more butterflies around the area.

Planting is expected to begin in March 2023. A sign up sheet for those SWOGC members interested in participating has been circulated. Updates will be forthcoming. Funding is being provided by Lifespace Communities and SWOGC with additional help by Seminole Master Gardeners and Lukas Nursery. Anyone willing to help or have questions please contact: Marjorie Abbas.

Marjorie Abbas
Chairperson - Butterfly Garden Project at Village On The Green



Garden Fair
Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club

Sweetwater Oaks Garden Fair
Saturday, March 4 and Sunday March 5, 2023



WOW! We are a GO for our Garden Fair thanks to all members who have jumped in and helped calling vendors and sponsors. Our Garden Fair is only a few days away – Saturday, March 4th and Sunday, March 5th, 2023. This is a scary thought with so much to get done by then.

Your Garden Fair committee is working hard to make this year's event a success. It is a huge job and we still need your help to make it successful. You can help in some way from acquiring sponsors and vendors (the backbone of our success), to making telephone calls, helping with setup and take down, vendor helpers, and working at the information booth. Or you can help by simply spreading the word about our fair to all your friends and neighbors. Please feel free to contact myself 407-399-8230, mmaui@cfl.rr.com or Joyce Anderson, 407-257-9104 jande82211@aol.com if you can help in any way. We will be happy to find a spot where you can help that you might be interested in.

You can also become "A Friend" and donate toward our scholarship fund. Contact Carole Baird, cmbairdgardenfair@gmail.com and she will be happy to accept all donations.

We look forward to seeing you at our Sweetwater Oaks Garden Fair!

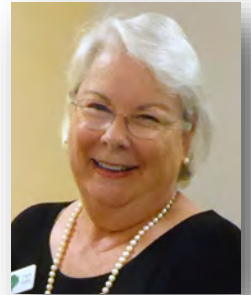
Happy gardening,

Margaret Kirkpatrick
Chairperson - Garden Fair

WAYS AND MEANS - SPRING PLANT SALE



Spring Plant Sale -- Coming Soon! April 14 & 15



The Spring and Fall Plant Sales are among our highest grossing fundraising events in support of scholarships. Through these events we help to support horticulture students at the University of Florida and young people at Camp Wekiwa where they learn about nature, conservation and the protection of our environment. Are you ready to help this first sale of the year be a big success? Our students are counting on us!

There is still time to get cuttings from your favorite plants rooted in soil, and seeds will be up and growing if you get them started -- now. Our spring buyers are always eager for color and flowering plants, like zinnias, sunflowers, blanket flowers, black eyed Susan, marigolds, and more. Don't forget your begonias and coleus both of which provide early spring color. Look for volunteers among your garden plants and pop them into pots instead of dumping them into the compost pile. Herbs and veggie plants are frequently requested by spring shoppers also.

We'll see you at set-up time on Thursday, April 13 when you deliver your plants to the Plant Sale site at... 210 Lonesome Pine Drive, Longwood, FL 32779.



*Shirley Hungerford, Lynn Griffis, and
Cheryl Nordstedt
Ways & Means Co-Chairs*

SAVE YOUR WINE CORKS



I am once again reaching out to you to remember to bring in your wine corks to be recycled. We all want to be good stewards for our planet and one simple way is to recycle where we can.



I have used corks for craft projects over the years, and that was fun, but now I have a surplus that can be repurposed. They can be used as wall art, trivets, sound proofing, and even flooring.

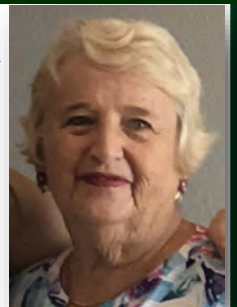
So please join the folks that save their corks, even if you have only 2 or 3, and throw them in our bucket at our club meetings. Every little bit helps!



Nancy Kelly

NEED POTS FOR THE PLANT SALE?

I have numerous extra pots for starts and larger containers for your plants. Please give me a call and stop in to pickup what you need. Looking forward to a huge selections of plants for our Spring Plant Sale in April.



Shirley Hungerford
Plant Sale Co-Chair

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

96th Annual Convention

April 18—20, 2023

Embassy Suites by Hilton, Lake Buena Vista South

Kissimmee, Florida

Worlds of Wonder



Register online at: <https://bit.ly/3wxWLGd>

Book your Hotel at BOOKING Website: <https://book.passkey.com/e/50329407> Group Code: FGC

More information available at <https://ffgc.org/Convention-2023>



Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 915233

Club Flower—Rose
Club Bird—Cardinal

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Deep South Region

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

District VII

Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole & Sumter Counties

Organized—January 9, 1974

Federated—January 27, 1975

Incorporated—September 14, 1992

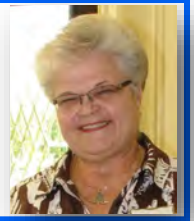
We're on the web!

www.swogc.org



If you know of a member who could use an extra kind thought, please contact me. I would prefer receiving the information by email, but please call me if you don't have email access.

Linda Richcreek



The purpose of Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club is the education of its members and the community in their relationship to horticulture, conservation and environmental needs, as well as the art of floral design.

Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club, Inc. Meeting Schedule

BOARD MEETINGS

First Monday of the Month September-May at 10:00 AM
810 Fox Valley Drive, Longwood, Florida or Zoom

GENERAL MEETINGS

Second Monday of the Month, September 2022-May 2023
9: 30 AM Social, 10: 00 AM Meeting
Village on the Green, 500 Village Place, Longwood, off Sabal Palm Drive South.
Meeting is in the "Longwood Meeting Room."

HORTICULTURE GROUP MEETINGS

Throughout the Year - See the Calendar of Events for Dates, Times and Location.

YOUTH GARDENERS

Second Tuesday of the Month at 9:00 AM

FLORAL DESIGN

Every Other Thursday at Hospice of the Comforter 12:30-3:00 PM



**Daffodil is the
March
Flower of
the Month**

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GAY MOMBERGER—MORE ON SHUTTERFLY

