

Floral City Garden Club
1994-1998 Scrap Book



Floral Garden Club Picnic
May 1984, Floral City Park



Gardening made simple

uesday, November 13, 1990, Lake Life, Page 3A

with a table top garden

Mrs. Edward (Dorothy) Clark, our former Floral Garden Club president, wrote the following:

Would you like to have a beautiful vegetable garden without stooping, bending, hoeing or crawling around on your hands and knees? If your back cries out when you do the above, but you still would like to "grow your own," here's the answer. It's the "no stoop, Lazy man's (or woman's) table-top garden. It's a 16 ft. long x 4 ft. wide, 8" deep, 3 ft. high table-top garden.

The foundation consists of 10 4 x 4's approximately 3 feet tall. Between each leg is two 2 x 4's (one on each side of legs) is used for support of 2 x 4 stringers. 1" x 4" x 17 foot boards are placed diagonally as braces on both sides. Five 2 x 4 x 16 ft. stringers are now nailed on top of the 2 x 4 foot cross members.

On these stringers was built a bottom of "hardware cloth which was then framed with 2" x 8's. Then a piece of nursery cloth 4 ft. x 16 ft. was put down the center to divide the bed into two sections, 2 feet on each side. A 4 foot 2 x 4 is



Mona Belle Turpin

FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

nailed vertically at each end in the center to which a 16 foot 2 x 4 is nailed between and hog wire was nailed to make a fence for snow peas or pole beans to climb. All lumber used should be pressure-treated to prevent rotting.

The planting medium consists of one-third part of each of the following: organic peat, compost or good top-soil, and perlite. May substitute cheaper builders' sand for perlite.)

Cultivation is simple. The only tools needed are a trowel, hand cultivator or a fork.

It's easy to keep the garden weeded as everything is planted solid instead of in rows. Tabletop gardening has more advantages than just "no-stoop/no bend." Less water is used; a few minutes with the hose is sufficient.

The idea came from an arti-

cle in the Charleston (N.C.) newspaper about four years ago. This is the fourth year of our using this way of gardening. It cost about \$100.00, but we sold our roto-tiller for the same amount.

Each "crop" is separated with string. In between plantings, kitchen peelings are buried in the soil. They decompose in several weeks enriching the soil. As soon as one crop is finished another is planted.

The fall's garden is up and blossoming - three tomato plants (in cages), two plantings of carrots, turnip greens, multiplying onions, green onion sets, kale, bibb lettuce, four cucumber vines (growing up a tomato cage) and runner beans and snow peas climbing up the "fence" in the center. No space is wasted!



Mrs. Dorothy Clark knows how to have a garden that needs very little work and doesn't require constant bending. This table top garden costs about \$100 to construct.



Garden club installs officers

The Floral Garden Club recently installed its officers at the Central Motel in Inverness. The officers will serve for a term of two years. Seated at left, Clarice Jordan, installing officer; Marie Jones, standing in for Mary Pritchard who is not pictured; June Schmidt, new treasurer; standing from left, Barbara Littlefield, 1st vice president; Dorothy Colatusso, 2nd vice president; Kathleen Mueller, recording secretary, Carolyne Gazzano, corresponding secretary. (Chronicle staff photo)



Pictures of F.C.G.C. booth at 1993 Heritage Days. Crafts made from natural dried materials.





Garden Club makes Floral City beautiful

The Floral City Garden Club meets every month, but its efforts and talents are seen daily in many different capacities.

The Club has 13 committees. Chairwomen for the 1994-1995 season are **Helen Bateman** and **Bonnie Allen**, Adopt a Highway program; **Juanita Cole**, chaplain; **Marcia Beasley** and **Marie Jones**, civic beauty; **Leona Diederick**, correspondence; **Leona Diederick**, historian; **Helen Lockrow**, horticulture; **Terri Beck**, flower show; **Mary Pritchard** and **Barbara Littlefield Jr.**, gardeners; **Dorothy Clark**, membership and welcome committee; **Ruth Kenny** and **Peggy Weyl**, programs; **Marcia Beasley**, publicity; **Carolyn Gazzano** and **Dorothy Clark**, telephone; **Virginia Ankrom** and **Dorothy Colarusso**, ways and means; and **Bonnie Allen** and **Tamiko Figley**.

Thanks to the guidance of these ladies and members's efforts, Floral City is a prettier place to live, work and play. Members of the club include **Bonnie Allen**, **Virginia**

FLORAL CITY

Mary Zaccardi

Ankrom, Helen Bateman, Marcia Beasley, Terri Beck, Dorothy Clark, Dorothy Colarusso, Juanita Cole, Phyllis Colpitts, Margo Crockett, Marie Dees, Leona Diederick, Mary Dietz, Tamiko Figley, Ruth Fowler, Carolyn Gazzano, Archer Gibbons Jr., Evelyn Hallowell, Edna Hemmingway, Marie Jones, Ruth Kenny, Janis Lehowicz, Barbara Littlefield, Helen Lockrow, Barbara Luciano, Toni Meyer, Minnie Minnis, Juanita Newby, Mary Pritchard, Teresa Rydzewski, Dorothy Sherman, Frances Simpson, Mildred Stanger, Lydia Steeves, Elizabeth Summer, Peggy Weyl and Alice Reed.

Program helps members

to identify plants and trees

By Dorothy Clark

The Floral City Garden Club met Nov. 11 at the Floral City Community Building with President Mary Pritchard, presiding. Ways and Means Co-chairman Bonnie Allen reported that the Florida Garden Club calendars are in. We only ordered 25 this year, so those that want them, please get them at the next meeting.

Marie Jones, co-chairman of Civic Beautification, reported that quite a lot of work has been done recently in the Memorial Garden. It needed a lot of weeding and edging after the long, hot summer. A yard man was hired to help with the heavier chores.

Marcia Beasley told of the work done to the paving in front of the library. More is currently being done now in front of the Masonic Lodge. This paving problem has needed attention for many years.

The program was plant identification. Those who brought specimens found out what they have. I found that the sturdy plant with the yellow flowers that came up in a flower bed is a wildflower named a primrose willow.

Horticulture chairman Evelyn

Hallowell and Terri Beck passed around 35 leaf specimens for the members to try to identify. Marcia Beasley was the winner of the prize for identifying 26. Members drew the names of two plants and two trees which they are to research and report on at the next meeting. We are all going to learn more about our flowers and trees.

Julie Rouse, vice president of Floral City School PTA, stopped by to ask members to save their UPC labels from all General Foods cereals. General Foods is paying 25 cents to the school for every UPC. She also told about the Market Day Program in progress for the rest of the year. Money from these two fund-raisers will be used for field trips for which there is no money allocated in the school budget.

Lucky winners of the plant raffle were: Peggy Wehl, Betty Sumner, Virginia Ankrom, Juanita Cole and Terri Beck.

The next meeting will be the annual Christmas Party at the Singing Forest recreation building at noon Dec. 9. Members are to bring a covered dish, their own table service, and a plant for the plant exchange. Chairman is Caroline Gazzano, with Phyllis Col-

pitts, Toni Myers, Edna Hemingway, Helen Lockrow and Dorothy Collaruso assisting.

The program will be "Granny

Litter-not and the Bag Ladies," by Norma Redmond of the Crystal River Women's Club.

There will be a short business

meeting at which the roll-call answer will be "The oldest re-used item I'm using to decorate for the holidays."

FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

Christmas potluck dinner was a fun day

By Dorothy Clark

Floral City Garden Club members enjoyed a delicious Christmas potluck luncheon at the Singing Forest recreation building in Floral City Friday, Dec. 9.

Caroline Gazzano and her assistants, Toni Meyer, Helen Lockrow, Phyllis Colpitts and Dorothy Colarusso, did a great job hostessing the party. Guests introduced were Florence Figley, Vera Barber, Lou Anna Perry, Merrell Edwards, Mrs. Archer, and Betty Collier.

Special guests were "Granny Litter-not and her bag ladies," who later sang and danced for us while telling us ways not to litter. Their performance was enjoyed by all. "Granny" is Norma Redmond from Crystal River Women's Club.

There was only a short business meeting as this was a "fun day," President Mary Pritchard said. As members answered the roll call, they told of the oldest item that they are using to decorate this year.

Marcia Beasley, Floral City Heritage Council Chairman, reported on the recent Floral City Heritage Days celebration, saying that 3,000 people had attended this year; 365 took the homes tour. She thanked the 18 Garden Club members who participated.

Toni Meyer was congratulated on the 65th wedding anniversary that she and her husband, John, celebrated last month. Toni said that they had decided long ago that it was better to "fight than switch," as the old commercial went. The meeting ended with a gift plant exchange. There were many nice plants — some unusual — brought in.

The next meeting will be at 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13 at the Floral City community building. This is the meeting that we celebrate everyone's birthday. members put a penny in the pot for every birthday that they have had. Floral

City's own "Cracker Barrel Band" will be there to play for us. Marcia Beasley will present "Avenue of the Oaks," an Arbor Day and historic preservation program.

Leona Diederick will be hostess chairman, with Juanita Cole, Barbara Luciano and Theresa Rydzewski assisting. Roll call answer will be "the number of trees and kind that I planted since last January." Plants of the month will be brought by Alice Reed and Dorothy Sherman. This month, community education at the library will be an Arbor Day bulletin board by Marcia Beasley.

As always, Evelyn Hallowell and Terri Beck, horticulture chairman, will be there with cuttings, plants and seeds to share. Guests are always welcome.

FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

February kicks off spring gardening

By Dorothy Clark

Our plants look sad right now. At least, mine do. It took just one night to make a lot of plants look dead. But February is beginning and it won't be long before the wild plum is in bloom all over town, followed by the red-buds and dogwoods and then the colorful azaleas.

February is the month to begin spring gardening. All danger of frost should be over soon. I usually start setting out tomato plants and planting beans around Feb. 15 (sometimes before). February is the month that Amaryllis start to grow, so fertilize them every 10 days to two weeks with liquid fertilizer until color starts in the bud. After they bloom, remove stalks and resume fertilizing. They would benefit from a little bone meal each month, too.

For healthy geraniums, add one tablespoon Epsom salts, one tablespoon baking soda and two ounces of ammonia to a gallon of water. Feed this every three weeks. After Christmas poinsettias fade and danger of frost is over, they should be pruned back sharply and then fertilized. Cut-

Floral City Garden

Club is having a plant

sale from 8 a.m. to 1

p.m. on March 4.

tings can be easily started from these prunings.

Floral City Garden Club is having a plant sale at the community building from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 4.

The next meeting will be at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, at the Floral City Community Building. Andrea Fuller from the Inverness Garden Club will do a floral design demonstration. Visitors are welcome. Plants of the month will be brought by Terri Beck and Bonnie Allen. Last month's plants were a New Guinea impatiens won by Phyllis Colpitts, and a peace lily won by Jaunita Cole.

Community education at the library this month will be a floral design by Mary Pritchard. Feb. 25 will be Adopt-a-Highway roadside pickup day.

Sept. 1995

FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

Garden club will start season Sept. 8

By Dorothy Clark

It's that time again for clubs to start meeting for the new season. Floral City Garden Club will start the new season on Friday, Sept. 8 with a covered-dish luncheon meeting at the home of Bonnie Allen. Members are to meet at the community building to car pool to Bonnie's home.

We're to bring a covered dish, our own table service and a folding chair, if we have one. Bonnie says to come dressed comfortably and with old shoes because she's going to show us all around their farm. They raise goats too, she says. The roll call answer this month will be "the way that I care for my plants when I go on vacation."

The new president, Marcia Beasley, will preside with her new officers for the next two years: First Vice President Leona Diederick, Second Vice President Peggy Weyl, Treasurer Dorothy Colorusso, and Secretary Caroline Gazzano. They have some interesting meetings planned, like next month, a visit to the Homosassa Wildlife Park with Marian Knudsen giving us a tour. Afterwards, we will go to K.C. Crump's for lunch.

The club sent two girls to Wekiwa Youth Camp this summer. They had a wonderful week. We will have a report from them at

the November meeting. They are Jaime Warner and Renae Roger.

It's time to start planting our fall gardens. It's not too soon to get carrot seeds in the ground. They need to be kept moist for several weeks to germinate. The summer rain showers will probably still be with us until then. Also, it's time to set out some tomato plants and get beans in so they'll mature before frost.

Some of the summer flowers, like zinnias and cosmos, have reseeded themselves and are blooming again. It's still a little too hot for winter annuals.

Recycling hint of the month: Instead of throwing away those stubs of pencils, push them down into the soil of your house plants. They're said to discourage insect pests.

We will miss one of our longtime members, Ruth Kenny, who passed away up north this summer. Marge Barnes, who also died this past week, was a former member. She had not been able to participate for several years because of ill health.

Any nonmembers reading this who would like to come to the September meeting, are welcome and may call 344-2339 or just come to the Floral City Community Building at 11:30 a.m. Sept. 8. Come learn and grow and share with us.

Historic trees in need of a trim

By JEFFREY BRAINARD
Times Staff Writer

FLORAL CITY — The stately trees on the famed Avenue of the Oaks, recently added to the National Register of Historic Places, need help.

Some are dying and several need pruning, according to a report by county forester Wilbur Priest. All require better maintenance to ensure their long-term survival, his report said.

Help is on the way, however: County officials are starting a project Friday to trim and prune the trees with the help of Florida Power Corp.

The good news is that "with proper care and maintenance it can remain a beautiful, healthy canopy road for many years to come," Priest wrote.

The canopy of branches and moss

over Orange Avenue is Floral City's trademark and "a valuable asset to Citrus County," Priest said. "It is a beautiful living testimony to the people who had the foresight to plant these trees."

Priest inspected a total of 98 mature trees along the one-mile stretch between U.S. 41 and Bushnell Road. Of them, 86 are large, old live oaks.

"These trees appear to be in generally good health, but they have suffered because of abuse and neglect," he said.

The remaining 12 trees are younger: six laurel oaks, two southern magnolias, two eastern redbuds, one red maple and one chinaberry.

Of the 98 trees, six are nearly dead and should be removed, Priest said. Fourteen have advanced decay and dead branches, but are not in immediate

danger of dying. They need pruning.

Another 65 need moderate to light pruning. Priest rated only 13 as almost perfectly healthy.

Without pruning, dead tree branches could fall on people or property, he noted. But Florida Power has offered to donate personnel and equipment for the work, the county said Monday. The pruning also prevents decay from spreading through the tree, Priest said.

He recommended regular fertilizing of the trees. That also would benefit younger trees planted more recently along the road, including 14 live oaks and 83 dogwoods.

"Now that Floral City has been designated a historical district, it is imperative that these trees receive the greatest care possible," Priest wrote.

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Times files

This canopy of trees, called the Avenue of the Oaks, lines Orange Avenue and has become Floral City's trademark.

Field trip to Homosassa Wildlife Park planned Friday

By Dorothy Clark

Make Friday the 13th your lucky day! It's Floral City Garden Club's fun day field trip to Homosassa Wildlife State Park. We'll be meeting at the Community Building in Floral City at 8 a.m. to car-pool to Homosassa Springs so we can get the 9 a.m. boat ride to the springs. At 9:30 a.m. Marion Knudsen will give a program on native plants. The park is giving us a special group rate entrance fee. There will be a business meeting on site after which we will proceed to K.C. Crumps on the Homosassa River for lunch. I'm looking forward to it.

The youth chairman is making plans to organize a junior gardeners group for fourth-grader boys and girls at Floral City Elementary School starting this month. We feel that this is a good age to pass on our experience with gardening. We hope to instill in them a

love of growing plants that will stay with them the rest of their life. I started growing coleus and geraniums from the cuttings that neighbors gave me when I was 7 years old.

Floral City Elementary School will again be having "Market Day." Market Day is a program that allows you to purchase restaurant-quality food items each month with 10 percent going directly to the school for funding

field trips for the children. We are asking our members also to save box tops from all General Mills cereals and labels from Campbell's soups. Please bring them to the meetings.

Although it still feels like summer, it's time to plant our fall gardens. Some annuals that will give you color are allysum, phlox, dianthus, calendulas, petunias, snapdragons and pansies. For vegetable gardens, it's time to

plant carrots, turnips, cauliflower, broccoli, beets, cabbage, radishes and peas (both English and snow) and onions (both sets or seeds), Bibb, romaine and head lettuce grow easily from seed. Vegetables straight from the garden are so good and good for you.

Our sandy soil needs enriching before planting, with compost, leaves, manure, kitchen refuse, and even grass clippings help. I collect kitchen refuse (tea leaves

and coffee grounds, too) in the waxed paper inserts that cereal comes in. They don't leak. That is the recycling hint of the month. If you don't have a compost pile, it can be buried directly in the garden. Proper preparation of the soil is the difference between success and failure.

Hope to see all of you on Friday the 13th. Any prospective members interested can call 726-6139 or 344-2339 for reservations.

Fourteen members go to wildlife park

By Dorothy Clark

Fourteen Floral City Garden Club members had an enjoyable day at the Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park on Oct. 13.

Sorry that more of you were not able to join us. It was a cloudy morning with a soft breeze blowing as the boat slowly took us down the quiet and peaceful river.

Marion Knudsen was a delightful tour guide around the garden. She stresses no fuss, no muss gardening using lots of mulch-like pine straw, small size bark, cypress shreds (instead of chips) or oak leaves. She says "Simple is cheap, simple is low maintenance and simple lends itself to planting with native species."

Some examples are coral honeysuckle and trumpet vine, which the hummingbirds love. She doesn't recommend yellow or Carolina jessamine as it gets out of hand too readily. Some native trees are bald cypress, pond cypress, dogwood, red-bud, sweetgum, slash pine and long-leaf sand pine, magnolia, sweet-bay, dahoon and Palatka holly, red maple and oaks.

Native shrubs are beauty-berry, buttonbush, sparkleberry, wax myrtle, yaupon holly, Walter viburnum, golden dew-drop, oak-leaf hydrangea, Simpson stopper and lantana.

Native flowers recommended are spider-wort, coreopsis (state wildflower), Salvia and Gaillardia. Non-native flowers that are easy to grow are pentas (the red ones the butterflies go ga-ga over), bush daisies and day-lilies.

Marion Knudsen was a delightful tour guide.

Last month I wrote about the caterpillars that get on the Cascias in September and recommended Sevin. Since there were only a few, I just dispensed with them with my snips-all. Marion Knudsen said that if you want butterflies in your garden, don't kill the caterpillars.

After watching the manatees get fed and a short business meeting, we proceeded to K.C. Crump's for lunch on the deck overlooking the Hall's River, with the birds eagerly waiting for a few crumbs to be left for them.

Nineteen fourth-graders signed up the first day to be Junior Gardeners. The first meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 24, in the cafeteria right after school. Four more sent in their permission slips the second day. They will be put on a waiting list.

For those of you who missed "Anne and Nan's" column in the Sunday's Homefront section about Epsom salt, it bears repeating:

"Epsom salt is nothing more than magnesium sulfate. Magnesium aids in the plant's absorp-

tion of phosphorus, which contributes to the growth, flowering and disease resistance. For both flowering and vegetable plants, add two tablespoons of Epsom salt per gallon of water. May be given at every watering. For tomatoes, sprinkle a tablespoon around the base of each plant once a month to prevent blossom rot. For roses, sprinkle one teaspoon per foot of plant for better blooms and deeper greening. It's also good for bell peppers. Peppers love phosphorus."

FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

Next club meeting slated for Nov. 10

By Dorothy Clark

The next meeting of the Floral City Garden Club will be at the Floral City Community Building at 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 10. Instead of the scheduled program on birds, the two girls whom the club sent to Wekiva Youth Camp for a week this summer, Renae Rogers and Jaime Warner, will be our guests and recount their experiences at the camp. Our club sends two boys or girls to the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs-sponsored camp each summer.

The roll-call this month will be "The birds that I see in my back yard." The plants of the month will be brought in by Mary Dietz and Minnie Minnis. They will tell about them and then they will be raffled off. Evelyn Hallowell will bring the design arrangement of the month. Chairman of refreshments will be Bonnie Allen with Juanita Cole and Ann Webb assisting.

This year, we will only have a "Grow and Share" table at four meetings, with two different chairmen each time. This month is the first with Archer Gibbons and Dorothy Clark taking care of it. Prospective members are invited to join us and may take home cuttings, plants, seeds or bulbs

too. It is still not too late to divide day-lilies, if any members have them too crowded and want to share them.

"The Adopt the Highway" day is set for Saturday, Nov. 16, meeting at the Community Building at 9 a.m. This is to clean up before Heritage Days. If you can help, call Bonnie Allen at 860-0699.

Since this month is dedicated to birds, the following might be interesting: The birds nibbling in your back yard aren't just eating worms. They like to eat bugs and seeds too. Birds will also eat bread crumbs, popcorn and other things when people provide them. Birds are helpful to people and plants because they eat insects such as mosquitoes and gnats that we consider pests. Birds also eat the seeds of many weed plants before they spread and they often eat insects that can be harmful to plants.

Birds are attracted to areas of leaves and cover so they can hide their nests. They also like to build their nests near water, even if it is only a bath in your yard. Plenty of nearby food is important when the birds look for a place to nest.

If you want to attract birds, plant one or more of these: pyra-

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cantha, wild plum, holly, flowering dogwood, nandina, sunflower, autumn olive, silverthorn or viburnum.

The new Junior Gardeners group at Floral City Elementary School got off to a good start recently with all 19 members attending. They carried home seeds and cuttings to try their luck with. Hopefully, they'll get enough pentas rooted to plant in the front bed at their school. Our club is grateful to Bayberry Farms nursery for their donation of two children's garden books, three starter kits and many packets of seeds.

To reduce the number of blisters you get from working all day with a rake, hoe or shovel, simply

slip some inexpensive pipe insulation over the tool handle. Insulation is available at most hardware stores. Adding insulation is less costly than purchasing tools with built-in cushioned handles.

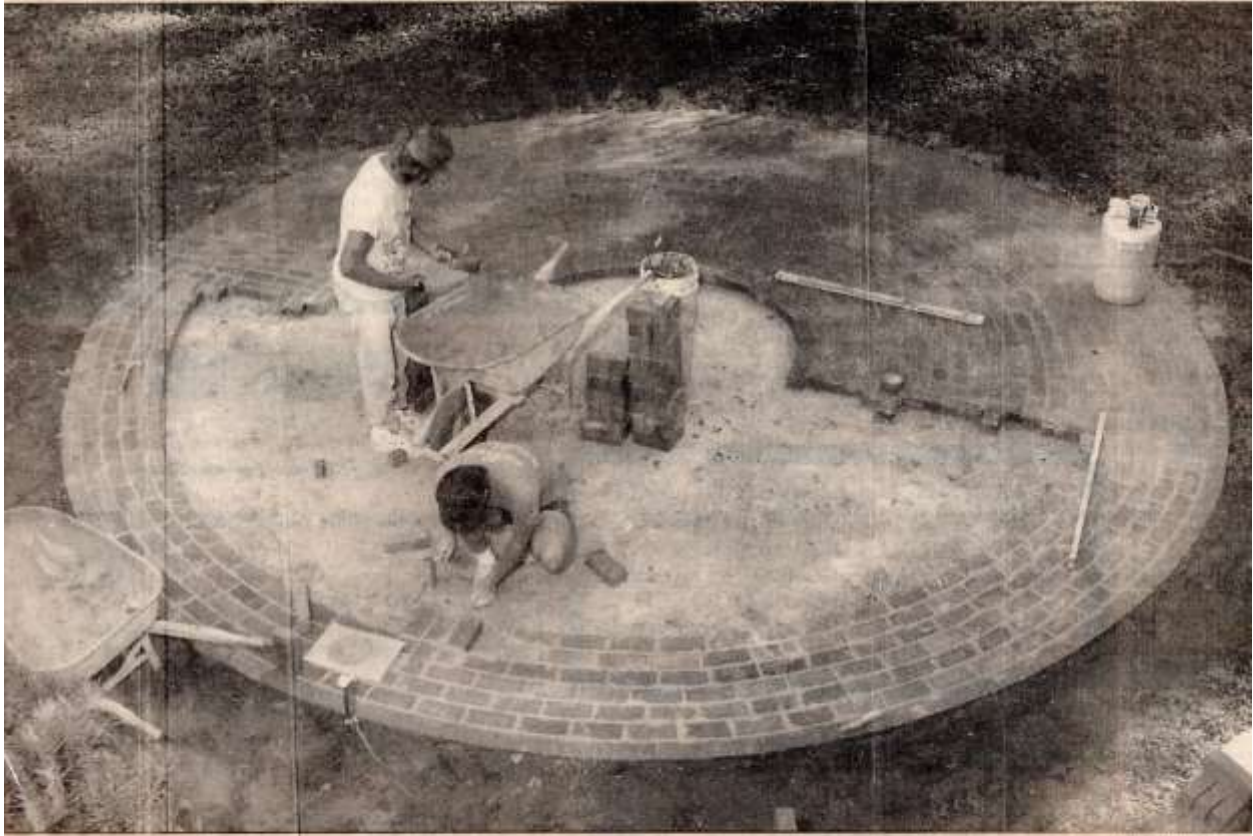
Those gorgeous yellow bushes starting to bloom all over town, are cassia bi-capsularis. I'm going to get a second one for our front yard.

A friend wants me to pass on this recipe for feeding plants. She heard it on public TV and has been using it since last spring with good luck even on new cuttings. Mix 1 cup ammonia, 1 cup of dish detergent and 1 can of cola. She uses 1/4 cup to a 2-gallon sprinkling can. Use on ground around the plants, not on the leaves. Balance may be stored. It may also be used with one of those hose attachments.



December 1995
Heritage Days
Betty Sumner
Dorothy Colarusso
Alice Reed

Garden labyrinth



Matthew Bush/The Chronicle
The Floral City Garden Club is adding a labyrinth to its community garden. The garden was created by the club in 1993 and lies between the library and Masonic Lodge, off County Road 48 in Floral City. Workers from Stuart's Custom Masonry are creating the labyrinth in the center of the garden. Owner Stephen Stuart and David Laal work on the spiritual walking path design that is constructed of two-tone brick. A dedication ceremony for the labyrinth will be in the spring. The garden is open to the public free of charge. The Floral City Garden Club accepts donations for future additions and upkeep of the garden. For more information call 726-7740.

FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

Labyrinth is finally finished at garden

By Dorothy Clark

At the last meeting, members reported seeing many different varieties of birds in the back yards, from the common ones to hawks, sand cranes and wild turkeys.

Our longtime member, Caroline Gazzano, attended her last meeting before leaving for the east coast of Florida to be near family. Caroline has been our secretary for about the last eight years. Club President Marcia Beasley commended her for her faithfulness and presented her with a gift from the club. We will all miss her.

The long-awaited Labyrinth at the Memorial Garden is finally a reality. It has been three years in the process. The intricate design is like those seen in European churches. There is only one other in the United States; it's in California. This is something unique for Citrus County and Floral City. There will be a dedication ceremony in the spring.

Nursery-men are loaded with trays of ready-to-bloom annuals for the winter garden. New residents will have to adjust to our growing season in Floral City. The flowers you raised in the north in the summer add color and beauty to our gardens throughout the winter and spring months.

There are many varieties to choose from, but the most popular annual in our winter gardens is the petunia. Plant it, pinch it when its blossoms fade, feed it with a water-soluble plant food about every other week, and it will keep you loaded with blossoms for months. The color of this popular plant ranges from white to deep purple. Space plants 12 inches to 14 inches apart for once

they get going they really go.

Pyracantha (or Firethorn) is that sprawling shrub with thorny branches that's putting out a bunch of bright orange berries these days. You can use pyracantha as a free-standing specimen plant, or a single plant can be trained as an espalier against a masonry wall. Plant in full sun for best fruiting. It is tolerant of many types of soil but needs topsoil and peat added to its planting site for best results. Water faithfully and fertilize twice a year. The time to prune this plant is in the spring, after it has finished blooming.

Things to do in December:

- Fertilize vegetables as needed to maintain vigorous growth.
- Water and mow lawns but DO NOT fertilize.
- Spray apples, peaches, pears, camellias and gardenias with a dormant oil spray.

Members are asked to bring any small flat arrangement containers that they have no use for to the December meeting. The Junior Gardeners need 19 of them to make Christmas centerpieces at their December meeting.

The next meeting will be our annual Christmas luncheon at the Singing Forest Recreation Hall at noon Friday, Dec. 8. Spouses and guests are invited. Bring your own table service, a dish to share and a plant to exchange. The roll-call answer will be "My favorite homemade Christmas ornament." Floral City's own "Cracker-barrel Band" will be on hand to entertain.

Hostesses are Toni Meyer, chairman, with Mary Pritchard, Phyllis Colpitts and Mary Dietz assisting.

Planning pays off



Photo by MICHAEL WETZ

About 45 members and friends of the Floral City Garden Club join hands Sunday during the invocation at their brick labyrinth, recently completed after four years of planning. The labyrinth, located between the Floral City Library and the Masonic lodge, was built entirely through fund-raisers and donations to the garden club, said Marcia Beasley, its president.





Work in progress - Memorial Garden.



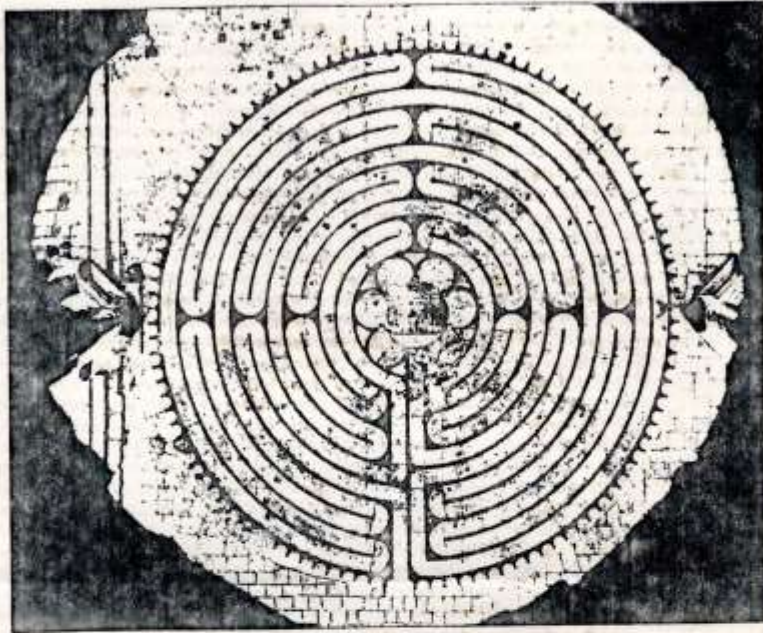


Finished! ^{Oct 27th}
Dedication- ~~Spring~~ 1998



A Maze in Grace (Cathedral)

BY LAUREN ARTRESS



*A San Francisco pastor reports
on her experiences with an esoteric tool
of medieval Christianity.*

IT WAS AT JEAN HOUSTON'S MYSTERY SCHOOL A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO that I first encountered the labyrinth. In presenting this little-known medieval curiosity, Jean described a powerful spiritual tool whose path would lead one to one's own center. Thus my interest was piqued as I and some 100 other participants lined up to walk the 40-foot wide circular pattern taped to the floor of the New York conference center. I was hardly prepared for the forcefulness of my own reaction, however. No sooner had I set foot into the labyrinth than I was overcome with almost violent anxiety! Even then, some part of me knew that in this ancient and mysterious archetype, I was encountering something that would change the course of my life.

That evening, I was drawn back to walk the labyrinth three more times. Walking, running, moving through its winding pathways as my instincts dictated, I felt joyous one minute, burdened the next. As my feet became surer of their way, my mind began to quiet down. Soon, it was as if chronological time had ceased to exist and each moment stood triumphant in its own right.

Returning up the snowy hill to my cabin that night, I wondered what response the encounter with the labyrinth would elicit from my unconscious. I got my answer the next morning when I awoke distressed from a dream of having had a heart attack. Was it a warning, I wondered? Why this particular dream so close on the heels of my labyrinth walk? I pondered the dream for several days. Finally, I recalled a book my father had received from a friend after his own illness, called *Thank God for My Heart Attack*. The book talked about the challenge posed by such a life-threatening event: to redesign your life so that it fits you instead of you trying to fit it. Though I did not know it at the time, that is the effect the labyrinth would have on me—it

would help me to bring more of myself to my work and to exercise my heart muscle as never before.

The labyrinth is a sacred design, a divine imprint, birthed through the human psyche about 4,000 years ago. Labyrinths are a type of mandala, found in sacred traditions across the world. In Greek mythology, Theseus found the man-eating minotaur at the center of the Cretan maze, traces of which can still be found at Knossos. The Hopi Medicine Wheel—which one walks, pausing to honor the four directions—is just one of many Native American forms. In the Cabala, the Tree of Life is a sacred form whose 13 branches signify the different qualities needed for spiritual survival on this earthly plane.

The labyrinth that captured my imagination was the one inlaid in the paving stones in the floor of Chartres Cathedral sometime around 1194. The 40-foot round Chartres labyrinth contains 11 paths that coil one around the other into the center. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth does not contain false turns or dead ends. Historians believe that the labyrinths in medieval churches throughout France and Italy were designed by a single person, whom they dubbed "Scarlet." A mysterious design is woven into each authentic labyrinth: an invisible 13-pointed star that determines the placement of the center petals and the paths.

Most of the information on the labyrinth has been lost over time, though I have been able to glean the following from tidbits salvaged by art historians: For centuries, Chartres Cathedral was in the care of Benedictine monks, who walked the labyrinth as part of their training in the mystical Three-Fold Path originally articulated by St. Augustine. To enter the labyrinth (the stage of Purgation), they walked on their knees while reading aloud penitential psalms etched into the stones. The second stage (Illumination) involved meditation in the center of the labyrinth. One entered into the third stage (Union) while walking out of the labyrinth. In modern terms, these stages would represent the shedding of daily concerns and attachments, clear-seeing from the spiritual center, and the bringing of energy out of that spiritual core and back out into the world.

Ordinary men and women also walked the labyrinth. Christians of the Middle Ages made only one binding commitment in their lives: to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. During the Crusades, however, when the journey across Europe became too dangerous, the Church amended its tradition to allow pilgrims to travel instead to one of seven European pilgrimage cathedrals. Chartres was one of those sacred sites. Its famous relic, the veil Mary supposedly wore while giving birth to Jesus, attracted thousands of pilgrims every year. Walking the labyrinth was the ritual end of their long travels; in reaching the center, or "the New Jerusalem," they symbolically fulfilled their duty as Christians.

Today, we have lost touch with such tools, tools that once formed the heart of Christian spiritual practice. This loss cor-

can feel terribly disoriented, as on the spiritual path we sometimes have to lose our way in order to find it. Despite feelings of being trapped, lost or bored, we must keep on going until the end. The labyrinth mirrors relationship themes as well. One moment you may be walking alongside someone else and then, in a flash, their path will turn and they will disappear from view. The metaphors are endless, and every venture into the labyrinth harvests a different experience.

Frequently, people will enter the labyrinth burdened by some question or problem only to find a clue or a direction that they had not been aware of previously. The walk can stir the imagination to produce images that are signposts for the journey. As with the turning of a kaleidoscope, the pieces fall out of place and a new, unexpected pattern emerges.

Had I needed confirmation of the labyrinth's power, I got it at Grace Cathedral this past New Year's. Over a 24-hour period, close to 3,000 people gathered at the cathedral to sing and pray for renewal—both for themselves and for their city, faced as it is with the accumulating

crises of AIDS, unemployment, recession, the devastation of the Oakland fire, and more. Near the entrance of the cathedral, under the magnificent rose window, we had placed our 35-foot replica of the labyrinth and invited participants to walk it. About 1,000 people walked the coiling paths to the center solemnly, joyfully, or in deep meditation. "Holy" and "profound" were some of the words participants used to describe the event afterwards—testaments to the labyrinth's power to feed the soul.

Carl Jung compared ancient archetypes to "riverbeds which dry up when the water deserts them," but which can be filled again at any time. "The longer [water] has flowed in this channel, the more likely it is that sooner or later the water will return to its own bed." The paths of the labyrinth are like those ancient riverbeds. Deprived so long of human attention, they are filling up again with the water of life, glistening with energy and calling us to come drink.

The Reverend Dr. Lauren Artress is canon pastor of Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, and director of Quest, the cathedral's Center For Spiritual Wholeness.



Those who have walked the labyrinth, like these participants at a workshop in Grace Cathedral, speak of an experience that is mysterious and profound.

responds to a loss of what Jacob Needleman calls the "intermediate way," the "how-to" function. Christianity teaches that we should love our enemies, but fails to outline the steps required to evolve that capacity; it forgets that loving our enemies is the end point, not the beginning point, of spiritual practice. The church has taught us *what* to believe, but not *how* to believe—how to connect our faith with our daily lives.

Many of us have sought this "how-to" function in psychotherapy, only to be disappointed when it speaks to our limited selves, not to our spirits. Now we are searching for some model to integrate psyche and spirit. We sense that metaphor and symbol hold the key, and are rediscovering the ancient archetypes that map out the way.

Since I discovered the labyrinth, I have been constantly amazed at its power to work as a symbol for my own journey and the journeys of others. As with life, the labyrinth's ways are complex and winding, requiring one to abandon all expectation of linear progress. Often one

Photo by Billie LeChewo/San Francisco Chronicle

Floral City Garden Club to meet Jan. 13

Floral City Garden Club will meet at the Floral City Community Building at 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13, for its regular monthly meeting. This will be the Annual Birthday Party celebrating everyone's birthday.

The "Cracker Barrel" band will be unable to play as previously announced but Marcia Beasley will present "Avenue of the Oaks," an Arbor Day and Historic Preservation Program. Ms. Beasley is chairman of the Floral City Heritage Council.

The roll call answer this month will be "The number of trees and kind that I have planted since last January." Alice Reed and Dorothy Sherman will bring the plants of the month with discussion on how to care for them.

Leona Diederick will be refreshment chairman with Juanita Cole, Teresa Rydzewski, Alice Reed, Elizabeth Sumner and Janis Lehowicz assisting.

Friday, Jan. 20 will be a work day at the Post Office community garden.

Plans are being made for a plant sale at the Community Building on Saturday, Feb. 4 and Saturday, March 4.

FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

March, '95

Learning all about vermiculture

At the march meeting, we learned what vermiculture is. One of our members told us all about worms and demonstrated how to make a worm bed in a cooler using shredded newspaper, oak leaves and kitchen refuse (vegetable peelings, coffee grounds, tea leaves, eggshells, etc.) that otherwise would be put in the garbage disposal.

Everyone enjoyed her demonstration and her running patter that was quite amusing. I was so impressed myself that I made one for the Junior Gardeners at their March meeting. In three months, I should be able to harvest some rich, crumbly potting soil.

Mary Pritchard and Ann Webb have volunteered to join with Marie Jones and Dorothy Sherman to re-evaluate the plantings at the Community Building and the

Memorial Garden.

At the roll call, Archer Gibbons guessed nearest to the amount of segments in a worm. It's hard to believe, but it is 95. Archer won two cartons of red wigglers for his close guess.

Plants of the month were brought in by Alice Reed and Toni Meyer. Archer Gibbons also won the hibiscus. Hibiscus like a slight acid soil and at least four hours of sun. Alkaline soil might cause yellowing of the leaves. They benefit by a monthly feeding program. Although they freeze, they come up from the ground again in the

spring. They are prolific bloomers all the rest of the year.

An ixora was won by Jeanne Henson. They are not cold-hardy either, but again is in constant bloom the rest of the year. Dorothy Colorusso won the bromiliad. They can be grown in a pot or grown outdoors in partial shade.

Plans are being made for a plant, arts and craft and arrangement sale on the day before Mother's Day. This will be at the Community Building.

Please see FCGC, Page 5

FCGC

continued from Page 4

Jeanne Henson, last month's recipient, chose Marie Jones to receive the "blooming-do-gooder" award for the month. Marie is a longtime member who is always working quietly behind the scenes.

Marcia Beasley made the design of the month. It was a triangular arrangement of all dried materials and very lovely.

Trisha Adair and Vicki Oehm are the two Junior Gardeners chosen to attend Wekiva Youth Camp this July for a week. Floral City Garden Club sponsors two Junior Gardeners each year to attend the camp located near Apopka. Camp Wekiva is sponsored by the Florida Federation of Garden

Clubs from all over the state.

This is the time now that the azaleas are finished blooming, to do any light pruning and fertilize them with an acid fertilizer. They should be fertilized three or four times from now 'til the end of July. After that, it will make them drop their buds.

The tomato plant that we nursed through four freezes has finished. The total count was 40 tomatoes for a total of 16 1/2 pounds.

The next meeting will be Friday, April 12 at the Community Building in Floral City beginning with a workshop at 10 a.m. Marie Jones will demonstrate how to make design containers from recycled materials, also bathroom and kitchen accessories. Marie will have all the materials. Just come and bring a bag lunch. Visitors are welcome. The regular meeting will begin at 1 p.m.

FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

Members hear about gowing herbs

By Dorothy Clark

At the April meeting, members heard Steve Davis from Tommy Todd Nursery in Crystal River tell about herb gardening. He also said that their nursery will soon have display gardens, one of which will be a "butterfly garden."

Civic Beautification chairman, Marcia Beasley, reported that there has been extensive replanting of shrubs at the post office and at the Memorial Garden and also at the west side of the Community Building.

The garden club wishes to acknowledge the beautiful planting of pink petunias that our "friend of the garden club," Merrell Edwards planted and has been maintaining at the corner of 41 and 48. That has been a difficult spot to improve heretofore.

This year, the Yard of the Year Award has been given to Jack and Lola Gerdes at 5195 S. Bridget Point in Castle Lake Park.

Friday, May 12, will be the last

*Friday, May 12, will be
the last meeting of this
season.*

meeting of this season. It will be at Hilton Hall at the Methodist Church in Floral City at noon. There will be a luncheon at which the officers for the next two years will be installed by Gloria Horning of Homosassa. The new officers will be President Marcia Beasley, First Vice President Leona Diederick, Second Vice President Peggy Wehl, Treasurer Dorothy Colarusso, and Recreation Secretary Caroline Gazzano.

The following is a poem written by our member, Evelyn Hallowell:
Ode to the @#%&*\$\$!! Caterpillars

April comes. Spring flowers bloom.
The busy bees are hummin'.
But there's this other thing afoot:
there's caterpillars comin'!
The trees leaf out in green array.

Their springtime act is groovin'.
But short-lived is their bright debut:
there's caterpillars movin'!
Don't walk about, beneath the trees,
or else you'll soon be hoppin',
tryin' to brush gross crawlers off:
there's caterpillars droppin'!
Up the buildings, up the fence,
you daren't be a-sleepin'
'cause you might put your hand
right where
a caterpillar's creepin'!
So gross they are, and *everywhere*,
this warning I'm repeatin'.
If you'll just stop and listen, you'll
hear caterpillars eatin'!
There's naught to do. Their numbers are
so large, this creepy villain
cannot be stopped. No method works,
at caterpillar killin'.
So stay inside, and don't peek out.
Don't go outdoors to play.
Play cards, shoot pool, or read a book,
and go back out in May!



Jeanne Henning for The Clar
The Junior Gardeners have been busy these days at Floral City Elementary School. From left is Heather Beasley, Kim Waller, April Stokes and Shantal Robbins.



Junior Garden Club Activities - 1995
Dorothy Clark - Chairman









Yard of year award
1995
Chairmen - Mary Dietz
Winners - Lolat + Jack Gerdes













Florida Federation of Garden Clubs



Anne Smith For the Chronicle

The fall meeting of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, District 5, was hosted by the Beverly Hills Garden Club Oct. 17 at Andre's of Citrus Hills. Representatives of 18 clubs were present. The district officers pictured from front left are: Joan Pryor, Gloria Blake and Carolyn Schaag. Pictured standing from left are: Jo Williams, president of FFGC; Hildegard Palys, president of the Beverly Hills Garden Club; Dottie Bishop, district director and Aurora Zito, chairwoman for the event. The theme of the event was Nature's Miracle.

FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

Many attend garden dedication

By Dorothy Clark

Floral City Garden Club is one of the oldest in the county. It was founded in 1956 and joined the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs in 1958.

On Sunday afternoon, Oct. 27, a four-year project of the Floral City Garden Club reached completion. The Memorial Garden was dedicated with many members and friends in attendance.

This Memorial Garden is a place where there are no names, only memories. A place where one may go to enjoy nature. Benches allow a resting spot to read, meditate or visit with a friend. A ground-level labyrinth provides a meditation opportunity for those who walk the circular path. In addition to the cedar benches and brick labyrinth, an entrance arbor and conservascape plantings are features of the garden.

Memorial donations and special gifts to develop and maintain the garden are recorded in calligraphy in a special book which is displayed in a wooden and glass case within the Floral City Library.

The Floral City Garden Club developed this Memorial Garden over a 4-year period for the Floral City community. Our outlay of funds have exceeded \$3,600 in addition to the many donated items like the espalier, fountain, stepping stones, mulch and plants.

Many hands and backs worked to bring us to this point of dedication and we thank every single person who assisted, including the Board of County Commissioners, the library, and the Floral City Masonic Lodge 133 for the grounds on which the majority of the garden is located. We also thank the garden clubbers and their spouses.

We asked five brick masons

over three years, before one sat down with us to discuss and accomplish the plan for the labyrinth. We have **Stephen Stuart** of Stuart Masonry to thank for the brick work, and **Tod Allen** to thank for the center design work.

A musical prelude preceded the program which started at 3 p.m. President **Marcia Beasley** welcomed guests and introduced County Commissioner **Jim Fowler** and FFGC District V Director **Doris McPherson**.

The invocation was given by the **Rev. Greg Art**, pastor of the Floral City Baptist Church. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by **Vivian Higginbotham**, a Floral City native and representative of the American Legion Association.

President **Marcia Beasley** gave a background of the garden and the labyrinth. She also read letters of congratulations from County Administrator **Anthony Shoemaker**, **Heidi Denis**, director of Citrus County Library System, and from **Madalyne Lawton**, FFGC chairman of Memorial Gardens, who said that this is the only Memorial Garden that she knows of in the state.

Larry Godsford, mason in charge of the Floral City Lodge 133, spoke about how the Garden Club had improved the general area. He said it was such a pleasure to walk through the garden and that he especially enjoyed the labyrinth.

Everyone adjourned around the labyrinth and joined hands while the **Rev. Delbert King**, pastor of the Floral City United Methodist Church, gave the benediction.

We thank the "Friends of the Library" for the refreshments that they served after the ceremony. Special thanks to Floral City Librarian **Phillis Mengler** for her cake with the labyrinth design.

Anyone wishing to make a memorial donation may call **Dorothy Colarusso** at 726-6139.

Marie Jones is in charge of the Stepping Stone Fund Raiser for the garden. You may call her at 344-0860 or see her at the garden during Heritage Day, Dec. 7, where she will be displaying them and taking orders.

Everyone is invited to come visit the Memorial Garden and go in the library and view the special book of memorials.

FLORAL CITY

Dorothy Clark reports on the dedication of the Memorial Garden, a 4-year project for the garden club. **Page 3**

A future in the shade

TIMES ■ THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1996



Times photo — RON THOMPSON

Under the watchful eyes of the Floral City Garden Club, Tom Ritchie plants an oak tree along Orange Avenue in Floral City on Wednesday. The club and the Heritage Council planted 35 trees in holes dug by county workers to observe Arbor Day, which was

last Friday. The sponsors hope the trees eventually will canopy the street. Club members, from left, are Minnie Minnis, Betty Sumner, Alice Reed, Mary Pritchard (kneeling), Juanita Cole, Janis Lehowicz and Marcia Beasley.

A new generation of oaks

Citrus County (FL) Chronicle Friday, January 26, 1996



Jana Thompson/The Chronicle

Tom Richie of the Floral City Heritage Council participated in the Floral City Garden Club Arbor Day Project involving the planting of 36 live oak trees along picturesque Orange Avenue. The project is expected to eventually fill in the gaps left by trees that have died and been removed over the years.

March 8th & 9th Floral City Strawberry Festival

Some Historical Festival Facts

The first Floral City Strawberry Festival was held in March of 1988, and was born out of much love for Floral City and Citrus County. The festival was started by Ferris Groves in an effort to revitalize their little town, when they realized that Floral City needed something to be proud of again, as it once had at the turn of the century when Floral City boasted a population of 10,000 (twice the size of Miami).

Ferris Groves, the largest grower of citrus in the county, started growing strawberries after their main citrus crop was destroyed in the harsh freezes of 1983 and 1985. They decided to replant some citrus, and other market crops as well, including strawberries. The strawberries took off like wildfire, and this year Ferris Groves planted 55 acres of them. That is over 1,000,000 strawberry plants and 600,000 strawberry pies.

The first Strawberry Festival was received with the same enthusiasm as the first strawberry crop, and with the help of nearly everyone that was approached, the original reason for having the festival was on its way to being accomplished. People were flocking to Floral City to enjoy all of the fun.

For Ferris Groves to present this type of a gift to Floral City was fitting, considering in 1961, "Doc" Ferris, founder of the Ferris Wheel, had given the town its first fire truck. The Ferris family settled in Floral City in 1927, and was one of the first growers to settle

in the area. It was L.G. Ferris, the grandson of "Doc's" brother, who made Ferris Groves well known.

The festival was such a success that a problem soon arose. The first year Ferris Groves thought the festival might be a success, they ran out of room. The north end of the cemetery that was used for parking was being sold as lots, and the old railroad track to east of the Ferris Groves packing House was being turned into a park area by the State for "Rails to Trails."

Ferris Groves turned to the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce, someone that loves the county and the area as much as they do. The Floral City Strawberry Festival has since been hosted by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce.

Floral City History

In 1883 Floral City was established as a community. Only two years later, in 1885, this community grew to a population of 300, which was twice the size as Miami at the time. It was the largest community in what is now called Citrus County. Land was sold at that time for an unbelievable \$10 to \$50 an acre.

One of the landmarks in Floral City is the handsome oak trees, which form a tunnel over the town's main street. They were planted in 1884 by Hugh Boyland, who is also credited with giving the village its name, due to the many wild flowers growing in the area.

All dressed up



There were dogs of all breeds every where at the first Dog-A-Thon Saturday along the Rails to Trails in Inverness. Meg the dalmatian, owned by Evelyn Hallowell, sported a fancy hat and sweater.

Dave Siger/The Chronicle

Birthday party planned Jan. 12

By Dorothy Clark

Seven spouses of members and guests were welcomed at the Christmas luncheon and meeting at the Singing Forest Recreational Building. The potluck luncheon was delicious and the Cracker Barrel band outdid themselves. They seemed to enjoy themselves as much as we enjoyed listening to them and tapping our feet.

At their December meeting, the Junior Gardeners learned how to make a Christmas floral arrangement. They were all pleased with their efforts.

From my garden scrapbook — Things to do in January:

- Fertilize camellias lightly with a mixed fertilizer to promote strong, vigorous growth in the

spring. Grayish leaves indicate spider-mite damage. Citrus trees are also subject to spider mites. Yellowing along the midrib of leaf indicates mite damage. Use a systemic like Ortheneor Cygon or just soap spray for control. Keep trees well watered during the dry spells to prevent leaf drop.

- Prune grapes, peach, apple, pear, persimmon, plums and crape-myrtle. Bare-root fruit and shade trees may be planted now through March. January is the prime time for digging and moving small trees and shrubs. In fact, the only time to move oak trees successfully.

It's about mid-season for winter annuals. Now is a good time to apply a soluble fertilizer. Keep all old flowers picked off to promote new blossoms.

Tuesday, January 9, 1996, Lake Life, Page 3

Cl. ... will be at 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12 at the community building. This is our annual "Birthday Party." Members put a penny in the pot for each year of their life.

The program will be a Florida Federation Garden Club butterfly slide program presented by member **Archer Gibbons Jr.** **Alice Reed** is chairman with **Janis Lehowicz** and **Elizabeth Sumner** assisting. The roll-call answer this month is "Plants I have that attract butterflies." Plants of the month will be brought by **Marie Jones** and **Jeanne Henson.** **Frances Simpson** will bring a floral design and explain how she did it.

There will be a grow and share table at this meeting. **Terri Beck** and **Evelyn Hallowell** are the chairmen.

Feb. 1996

Members hear about butterflies

By Dorothy Clark

"Take a butterfly to lunch" was the suggestion from the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs slide program by planting flowers that they like in your yard. The slides on butterflies was the program at the January meeting. Our thanks to member **Frances Simpson's** husband, **Olan**, for showing the slides in the absence of **Archer Gibbons Jr.**

Members answered the roll-call with the plants they grow in their yards that attract butterflies like lantana, pentas, shrimp plant, cosmos, butterfly bush, tacoma, coreopsis, plumbago, milkweeds, tibouchina, pansies and impatiens.

The January meeting was also the Silver Tea with the birthday cake made by the "three sisters," **Alice Reed,** **Janis Lehowicz** and **Elizabeth Sumner.** **Leona Diederick** and **Dorothy Colorusso** assisted with other refreshments. Twenty-three members were in attendance and President **Marcia Beasley** introduced her guest, **Juanita Shipp.**

Plant of the month was a calathea brought in by **Marie Jones** and won by **Jeanne Henson.** The "Blooming do-gooder" award was

presented to yours truly for this column and work with the Jr. Gardeners. **Frances Simpson** made the design of the month. The Garden Club was busy this month, planting 36 live-oak trees on Orange Avenue commemorating Arbor Day. Our thanks to all who worked, especially to **Terri Beck,** who spent many hours both finding the trees and then planting them and then going around in her truck carrying water to them and also the next day. The Jr. Gardeners planted a golden-rain tree in the Floral City School yard. Members were reminded of the

Butterfly Symposium from 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Feb. 7 at the Citrus County Auditorium. It's free, but it's necessary to call 726-2141 for reservations. Speakers will be **Dr. Howard Weems** and his wife, **Camilla,** world-recognized butterfly authorities and **Tim Johnston,** horticulturist. The program is cosponsored by the Citrus County Master Gardeners, Extension Service and the Parks and Recreation. **Camilla Weems** is a past District V director of the Florida Federation of Garden

Lake Life, Tuesday, February 6, 1996, Page 5

GARDEN

continued from Page 2

Clubs.

Our annual plant sale will take place from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Floral City Community Building. There will be many varieties including ferns, bromeliads and day-lilies.

The next meeting will be at the Floral City Community Building at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9. The program will be "Let's Grow

Camillias" by **Evelyn Hallowell.** The roll-call answer has been changed to "How many birdhouses and bird feeders I've set out this year."

Plants of the month will be brought in by **Peggy Weyl** and **Bonnie Allen.** The floral design will be brought in by **Jeanne Henson.** Refreshment chairman will be **Leona Diederick** with **Archer Gibbons Jr.** and **Dorothy Sherman** assisting.

At the close of the meeting, there will be a walking tour of **Bill Weber's** yard and camillias on Orange Avenue.

Camellias were the subject of February's meeting

By Dorothy Clark

Camellias were the subject of the February meeting. Our own member, **Evelyn Hallowell**, who has quite a large planting of them, gave us information about them. There are six different flower types: peony, anemone, rose-form double, formal double, semi-double and single.

Camellias like acid soil with organic amendments, filtered shade, air movement between the branches and mulching. They do not like wet feet or to be planted too deep. They can be propagated with seed or by cuttings of half-hardened spring growth, grafting or air-layering.

Camellias are prone to tea scale. Cygon, a systemic, is recommended. Evelyn says she paints a 3-inch strip of cygon on the trunk up a few inches from the ground, with good results. She says the

weather this year has not been good for camellias. They should preferably only be pruned in the spring, after finishing blooming.

It's best to plant them so that they are established before the hot weather comes. New or young plants should be fertilized four times a year before Oct. 15 with an azalea-camellia fertilizer for quick growth. After they are well established, they do not need fertilizer as often.

Welcome to new members **Irene Hadfield, Eileen Camp, Jeanette Coleman, Marlene Casselberry Sutton** and **Antoinette Cizmadia**. We're happy that you have joined us and hope that you will enjoy our meetings.

Plants of the month were a tuberous begonia, brought in by **Peggy Weyl** and won by **Leona Diederick**, a gerbera daisy also brought in by **Peggy Weyl** and won by **Millie Evans**

and a dwarf variegated schefflera won by **Dorothy Clark**.

Jeanne Henson made the floral design of the month. Members applauded her for her very first effort. The "Blooming do-gooder" award was presented this month to **Terri Beck** for the work that she did planting the oak trees on Orange Avenue last month. Each month, the recipient selects the member to be honored the next month.

Every year, the club designates a "Yard of the Year" and puts a sign to that effect in their yard. This year, the judges, **Dorothy Colorusso, Jeanne Henson, Terri Beck** and **Dorothy Clark** chose the yard of **Bill and Janet Weber** at 8560 E. Orange Ave.

It just so happened that we were scheduled to make a walking tour of their yard after the meeting this month, so President **Marcia Beasley** made presentation of the certifi-

cate and the sign at that time. Runner-up certificate went to **Millie Evans**, one of our members, who also has a lovely yard.

Bill Weber is the gardener in the family. He showed us his camellia beds with some beautiful blooms on some and then walked us around the yard where only the red-buds were starting to bloom. The dogwoods and azaleas won't be far behind. His hobby is making cuttings from the 100-year-old camellia in the yard (he had hundreds of them in pots) and then grafting a scion of a hybrid on to it.

We were then taken out to the back yard, where a huge camphor tree has been growing for 300 to 400 years. It was hit heavily by a freeze a few years back but has sent out new growth since then. This tree is registered with the state and is inspected by them periodically.

FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

I'm itching to plant for a spring harvest

By Dorothy Clark

It looks like spring might really be coming at last. It makes me want to get out and plant some beans and cukes and tomatoes — maybe even some yellow summer squash.

In the next week or two, it should be all right to prune the freeze-damaged shrubs. Some that look completely dead may still come back from below the ground, so don't pull them up yet.

Our yard looks pretty sad. We did manage to save one prized tomato plant loaded with fruit (a "Better Boy") by covering it every freeze with a heavy blanket with a goose-neck lamp under it. I've been keeping track of the tomatoes picked. So far, have picked 27 tomatoes of varying sizes for a total of 12-1/4 pounds. One weighed 1 pound and another 15 ounces. There are still many tomatoes ripening. This is the plant that "took off" after a tablespoon of Epsom salt.

Do you throw your eggshells away? Some people crush them up and place them in the saucer under their African violets. Others report that green peppers that eggshells were dressed with did much better than those that were not. **Jerry Baker**, master gardener on public TV, suggests baking them in a slow oven along with banana skins, then crushing them up and side-dressing house plants.

The Plant and Art and Craft Sale on Saturday, Feb. 24, was a great success. Our appreciation to the 18 members and four spouses who worked to make it so. The plant chairman, who does not wish to be recognized, did a won-

derful job.

Marie Jones and **Dorothy Sherman** outdid themselves with their unique craft articles made from natural materials. **Janis Lehowicz** was food chairman assisted by her sisters, **Alice Reed** and **Elizabeth Sumner**. **Barbara Littlefield** had her lovely watercolors on display and for sale.

The next meeting will be Friday, March 8, at 1 p.m. at the community building in Floral City. The program will be "Conservation — Caring for Creation." Refreshments will be served by **Elaine Reynolds**, **Jeanne Henson** and **Peggy Weyl**.

The roll-call answer will be "Plants that I grow indoors." Plants of the month will be brought by **Alice Reed** and **Toni Meyer**. The floral design will be brought in by **Marcia Beasley**.

There will be a "Grow and Share" table at this meeting with bulbs, plants and cuttings for all to share. Visitors are welcome to come and share also. Co-chairman this month will be **Minnie Minnis** and **Millie Evans**.

The Bonsai workshop that was scheduled for 10 a.m. before the meeting is canceled.

Annual plant sale was a huge success

By Dorothy Clark

Floral City Garden Club's annual plant sale on Feb. 22 was a tremendous success. They had many different varieties of camellias and bromeliads besides an assortment of other plants. The colorful bromeliads were especially popular and went fast.

The advent of warmer weather has greened up the lawns and started the shrubs hit by the cold weather to send out their green shoots. Now we can cut the dead canes back to the new growth and fertilize. It's time to plant spring vegetable and flower gardens too.

Have you ever seen hollyhocks growing here in Citrus County? I never have. Being a Florida native, I've always admired them in the north when visiting there in the summer and had tried to grow them to no avail. Last summer, a friend had some blooming in St. Pete and gave me some of

his seeds which I planted in the fall. They did not freeze as expected and are now about 3 feet tall with buds ready to open in a couple of weeks.

Our club is hosting the Spring District V meeting on May 2 at Hilton Hall at the Floral City United Methodist Church. There will be a workshop at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 18, in Hilton Hall. Members are asked to come and help if they can.

Adopt-A-Highway helpers may choose the day most convenient for them on March 20, 21 or 22.

The next meeting will be a garden luncheon at the home of **Carol Hart** in Oak Forest. Members are to meet at the Community Building in Floral City and leave for Carol's house at 11 a.m. Friday, March 14. Please bring a covered dish to share, your own table service and a chair. Call 344-2339 for information.

Pictures of
March, 1996 Plant Sale

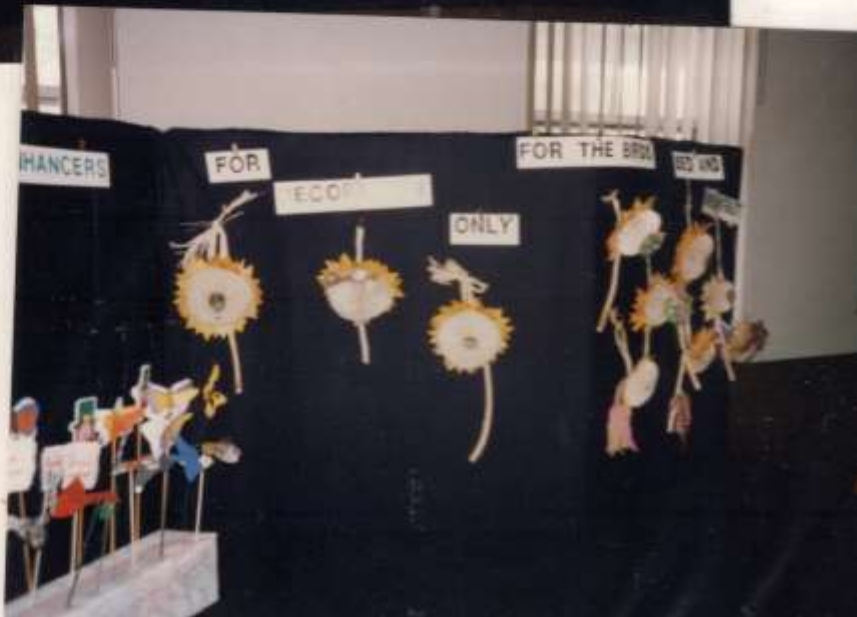














April, 1996 Workshop
Plant Containers
Marie Jones





Plant Containers
(cont.)

Restoration of the trail



Dave Sager/The Chronicle

Leona Diederick, Minnie Minnis and Barb Koelling, along with other Floral City Garden Club members, plant some native trees at the "Emma Love Jenrette Memorial Site" on the Withlacooche Trail. The trees and some of the fence were the final touches on the site that includes an old-fashioned gazebo, 1800's period style lighting and a shiny new drinking fountain.

Yard of the Year



Dave English/The Chronicle

The Floral City Garden Club recently awarded Bill and Janet Weber of 8560 E. Orange Ave. "Yard of the Year". From left are: Dorothy Clark, publicity officer for the Floral City Garden Club; Bill and Janet Weber, and Jeanne Henson, judging committee, for the Floral City Garden Club.

FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB Sept 1996

It's fall gardening time again

By Dorothy Clark

Here it is — September. Time to think of getting back to planning and planting our fall garden after a long, hot summer. That also means getting back to garden club meetings.

Floral City Garden Club's first meeting will be at 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 13, at the Community Building in Floral City.

Peggy Weyl has many interesting meetings planned for the year from the Wekiva girls in September through installation of new officers in May. There will be potluck luncheon meetings at two members' homes, a bird video, bonsai, **Tim Johnston**, birthday tea, visit by District V director, and a field trip to a native-plant nursery through the year.

The two girls that we sent to

Wekiva Youth Camp this summer, **Vicki Oehm** and **Heather Beasley**, will be at this month's meeting to "show and tell" all about their week at camp. They had a wonderful time and hope to go back next year.

Peggy Weyl and **Jeanne Henson** will bring the plants of the month. **Marie Jones** will display and describe her floral design of the month. Refreshments will be served by **Frances Simpson**, **Juanita Cole** and **Dorothy Clark**.

There will also be a "Grow and Share" table with **Dorothy Sherman** and **Minnie Minnis** attending. Members, please look

over your yards and see if you have any plants that need dividing and bring them to the meeting.

Anyone interested in gardening, or newcomers to the area wanting to learn how to garden in Florida, are invited to come and learn and grow and share with us.

Vegetable gardeners: Now is the time to set out a few tomato plants and get those carrot and bean seeds in the ground. Young children love to go out to the garden and pull themselves a fresh carrot. All last fall, every time my 5-year-old grandson came over, he would ask, "Grandma, are the carrots ready yet?"



October Meeting
1996







Peggy Weyl,
Leona Diederick



Nita Cole,
Mary Pritchard,
Toni Meirs & guests



Peggy Pattillo,
Peggy Weyl



FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

Luncheon meeting was well attended

By Dorothy Clark

The Floral City Garden Club Christmas luncheon and meeting at Singing Forest in December was well attended. We were all happy to see so many spouses there. Two of them, **Harry Bateman** and **Bob Rydzewski**, provided a great musical program with Harry playing the dulcimer and Bob the accordion. The covered-dish luncheon was delicious and the plants in the gift exchange were beautiful.

We were sorry to hear that our good "Friend of the Garden Club" **Frank Edwards** was gravely ill. He died a few days later. Frank will be sorely missed. He and his wife, **Merrel**, worked many days, for years on highway pickup and maintained the flower bed at the corner of U.S. 41 and State Road 44.

The next meeting of the club will be our annual Birthday Tea on Friday, Jan. 10 at 1 p.m. at the Floral City Community Building. **Dorothy Colarusso** will be chairman with **Janis Lehowicz**, **Alice Reed** and **Elizabeth Summers** assisting.

Plants of the month will be

brought in by **Juanita Cole** and **Leona Diederich**. **Jeanne Henson** will show and tell us about her floral design of the month.

There will be a "Grow and share" table at this meeting with **Toni Meyer** and **Irene Hatfield** attending it. There will be cuttings, seeds and bulbs for others to share.

Club activities for January include the planting of a tree at the Trail in memory of **Jerry Clark**, who did much for the beautification of the highways and started the Adopt-A-Highway program in the county.

Tip of the Month: I haven't tried this yet but I just read this in the Yankee Ingenuity magazine: "Aphids hate tomato juice. To get rid of them, grind 8 lg tomato leaves in a blender with 2 cups of water and strain the mixture. Combine 3 tablespoons of this with 2 cups of water in a sprayer. Apply twice a day until bugs are gone."

As always, anyone interested in gardening is invited to come to the meeting. The program will be a Bonsai demonstration by **Darwin Mounsey** of the Buttonwood Bonsai Club.

There's no rush to remove these trees

As a member of the Florida

Federation of Garden Clubs, with a membership in excess of 21,000, one of our goals in the last two years has been to promote the planting of trees. It is our hope to help protect the environment for future generations.

I was shocked to find, in my own backyard, 38 trees marked to be destroyed along a road that is less than 3 miles long. Most of them are cedar

which are native to our state. According to their size, they appear to be ageless.

The posted speed limit is 30 mph, so it behooves me to believe there is eminent danger of a serious accident if caution is not observed when driving.

I now pose the question ... Why is the removal of so many trees on Mason Creek Road necessary? Granted there are several dangerously close to the road which need taking down but hardly the amount that have been marked for destruction.

If the citizens of Citrus County allow this rape of Mother Nature to occur, then heaven forbid what our surroundings will look like in the future. Can't you do something to prohibit this travesty?

Doris McPherson
District Director
Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

Pruning is only beneficial if it is done the proper way

AP Special Features

Shrubs that flower in spring will bloom better and look nicer if pruned at the right time and in the right way.

For most, that means pruning after blossoms have wilted, with special attention devoted to removing errant and old branches.

Forsythia, quince and most other spring bloomers set next year's flower buds on young stems rather than old wood. This has two implications if lots of flowers are desired.

One implication is that new growth should be encouraged; the more new growth, the more flowers. The other is that no pruning should occur until after spring flowers have come and gone and before leaves develop so much that it's hard to see what's new and what's old.

Late winter is an excellent time for pruning most plants, but with spring flowering shrubs, it is often hard to distinguish new from older wood. So there is a good chance that new wood, with flower buds not yet plump and

obvious, are mistakenly removed.

Other types of woody shrubs are at their best when new wood is encouraged. Red-twig and yellow-twig dogwood, for example, are prized for their bark color. The red variety has cardinal-red coloration throughout the year, while the yellow type has a green-yellow coloration.

Both offer a bright spot of color in the landscape in the winter, especially against a backdrop of snow. But it is new and young wood that is most colorful, not stems that are more than four years old.

Here are basic pruning tips that are especially valid for flowering shrubs:

— Prune in a way that follows the natural shape of the shrub. Forsythia, for example, has a spreading vase-like shape that is spectacular when the stems are lined with bright yellow flowers in the spring. While forsythia can be forced to grow in other shapes, doing so is more work because it goes against the natural tendency of the plant.

— When branches criss-cross or rub against each other, remove

the weaker of the two.

— Thin out old branches. Left alone, they'll grow on and contribute little to the shrub's flower power.

— Prune annually, taking out no more than 10 to 15 percent of the overall branch structure.

— Overgrown shrubs often can be revitalized by more extensive pruning — but no more than 25 percent in any one year.

— Use very sharp and clean pruning shears. The more expensive anvil type yield a sharper, cleaner cut than the bypass type, which can crush more than cut branches, especially as the blade dulls.

Disease such as blight and canker can be spread if contaminated pruning shears are used. Popular shrubs susceptible to these diseases include pyracantha and cotoneaster, and among flowering trees, some varieties of crabapple. Disinfect shears periodically while pruning by wiping the blades with household bleach.

— Chlorine does a world of good by killing the disease organisms that could otherwise be spread from plant to plant.

— Horticulturalists flip-flop on the need for painting the wound left behind. Current thinking is that wounds bigger than the diameter of a thumb are best protected with tree paint; those smaller, leave uncovered.

New growth is the sign of a robust shrub. Encourage growth by feeding the plant — even an established one — once a year. Do this by sprinkling granular fertilizer at the drip line of the shrub, not up close to the center. The drip line is the point at which the outermost branches touch the ground. Work the fertilizer a few inches into the soil.

Generally a cupful of general-purpose fertilizer is about right for a shrub 4 feet tall. The fertilizer label will provide more specific instructions. Other methods

include injecting fertilizer spikes that are pounded into the ground. Best time to feed is early spring or late fall.

What does it mean if a flowering shrub doesn't flower?

It could be that not enough new wood is being generated. It also could be the shrub isn't getting enough sunlight. Most flowering shrubs are at their best when planted in full sun.

Severe cold late in spring also can kill flower buds that were otherwise all set to burst open. Snow that buries the lower branches of flowering shrubs like forsythia actually protects the buds; this explains why forsythia blooms are often seen on lower branches and not those up high and more exposed to the chill of late freezes.

You can recycle almost anything

By Dorothy Clark

At the April meeting, we had the pleasure of two great programs in one day. At the 10 a.m. workshop, our member, **Marie Jones**, demonstrated the many ways she recycles what many of us throw away into clever articles for her home or to give as gifts. Especially interesting was the sprinkling can vase she made from sticks from her yard.

At the regular meeting, **Sara Bowman** from the Azalea Garden Club in Bushnell showed how she made four award-winning Blue Ribbon creative arrangements at the State Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Convention last year. She also showed two blue ribbon miniatures.

Sara Bowman is a life judge and has been a flower show judge for more than 20 years. She is a winter resident of Bushnell. She is also a member of the

Waterville Garden Club, and the Belfast Garden Club in Maine. Mrs. Bowman is also on the Judge's Council of District VII and on the Judge's Council of the Maine Federation of Garden Clubs.

Dorothy Sherman showed the memorial stand that will be put in the Floral City Library in the near future. It will have a book enclosed in glass in memory of our deceased members. The

memorial is being donated by Dorothy Sherman and Marie Jones.

Our president, **Marcia Beasley**, was pleased to announce that we've received nine new members into the club this year. She presented a plant to the two new members present, **Carol Hart**, and her daughter, **Kathy Foley**. We're

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GARDEN

continued from Page 10

sorry the others were not able to come because of illness.

Last month's recipient of the "Do-Gooder's" award, Marie Jones, selected **Dorothy Colorusso** to receive it this month. Dorothy has been our faithful treasurer for many years.

Plants of the month were a red star cactus brought in by **Phyllis Colpitts**. She said that it likes a warm south sunny window and to be watered from the bottom. Dorothy Colorusso was the lucky winner.

Leona Diederick brought in the hanging basket with an ever-blooming begonia. She said that it needs light sun. It was won by **Janis Lehowicz**. Leona also brought in a gold-flame spirea. She said it has a yellow bloom and grows to about three feet. The spirea is cold-hardy and should be pruned when it finishes blooming in the spring. It was won by our guest, Sara Bowman.

The floral design of the month was made by Marie Jones. She made a simple Japanese design depicting Heaven, Earth and Man using Sansevieria and a contrived magnolia made from dried sea-grape leaves.

Forgot to mention last time that at the February plant sale, **A. Zackary** was the winner of the shell wreath, and **Ann Luatto** won the live arrangement. The proceeds derived from this sale went in the Civic Improvement Fund.

The next meeting and the last of the season, will be Thursday, May 9, instead of the regular meeting

date of May 10. Sounds like a fun day. It will begin with a business meeting at 8:30 at the Floral City Community Building. At 9:30 we will car-pool to the Center Hill Nursery on State Road 43 and 469 where we will tour the day-lilies with owner **Paul Shaw**. Afterwards, we will lunch at Howie-in-the-Hills' Mission Inn. Hope a good many of the members will be able to attend. Visitors are also welcome. Call 344-2339.

Mr. Shaw has been contacted, and has assured us that he should have many varieties blooming at that time.

FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

Members close season with visit to a nursery

By Dorothy Clark

Floral City Garden Club closed the season with an enjoyable outing to the Centerhill day-lily nursery on County Roads 48 and 469. At the nursery, owner **Paul Shaw** told us about day-lilies before taking us on a tour of the garden.

He said that there are nine different varieties that do well in Florida: orange delight, Stella De Ore, Williams yellow, Mellow Moon, Aztec Gold, Little Lavender Wart, lemon yellow, Ming Toy and Rosie Meyer.

He spoke highly of the Stella De Ore, which he said blooms almost constantly all spring and summer. It is a dwarf variety. Day-lilies do better planted in full sun for more bloom. In partial shade, they will get more vegetation. A low-maintenance perennial, they only need to be fertilized twice a year — between September and November and again in the spring between February and April.

The buds and flowers are both edible. The buds have a hickory flavor when cut up in salads. They may be crunchy and taste a little like asparagus or green beans. The blooms may be breaded and fried or steamed.

Day-lilies may be propagated four ways:

1. From seed — but you won't get a true plant of the original.

2. Division — when clumps become too thick, dig up the whole clump and shake off all the dirt. Then carefully separate the little bibs. (They are not a bulb plant.) Cut off roots to match any amount of tops cut off. The roots have little storage capsules. These are not bibs or bulbs and won't grow if planted separately.

3. Proliferation — some varieties grow little bibs on the spent flower stem, which can be cut off and planted and will grow roots.

4. Tissue culture — ground up leaves to which the right chemicals have been added and plant. This will get 30/30 plants of the original plants.

When planting day-lilies, space them 18 inches apart as it doesn't take too many years to multiply. They like a loamy, organic soil, but they are not fussy. They will grow in normal Florida soil fine. It helps to add some peat, mulch and cow manure.

Water day-lilies during the blooming period. Other times, don't worry. Once a week or even every other week is sufficient. Day-lilies will not cross. When you see a different color in your garden, it is from seed dropping and coming up. They will not be true.

We enjoyed a very informative talk and the tour. Most of us took home a few new varieties for our garden. The visit to the beautiful Mission Inn at Howey-in-the-Hills was a first-time experience for

most of us, where we and our guests enjoyed a delicious lunch. The Jr. Gardeners will have their last meeting Tuesday, May 28. Eight girls and boys never missed a meeting since the beginning last October. They are: **Spencer Hren, Travis Barfield, Vicki Oehm, Kimberly Waller, April Stokes, Laura Lee Ritchie, Heather Beasley and Joey Sutphin.** We hope that we have planted a seed of interest that will grow into a lifelong hobby of gardening.

Our meetings are discontinued for the summer, but the work of the Garden Club goes on throughout the summer, maintaining the plantings at the post office, community building corner of U.S. 41 and C.R. 48 and the Trail.

Trees were main focus of the last meeting

By Opal Noone

The *Cassia Bicapularis* in the photo has been blooming in my back yard now for almost two months.

It's only 2 1/2 years old but is now about 8 feet tall and 8 feet wide with a gorgeous mass of yellow blooms.

It was pruned back to the 4-foot fence in the spring.

Even though it gets green worms right before blooming, it still is worth planting, in my opinion.

At the November meeting, **Tim Johnston** was unable to come, but Master Gardeners **Chet Olshewski** and **Bill Olsen** put on an interesting slide program on trees and horticulture.

They don't recommend fertilizing trees in deep holes as the fertilizer goes down below the roots and puts too much in one spot. Trees get enough when the lawn is fertilized.

The slides showed how trees show root injury when concrete is put too near them.

The root system extends far beyond the drip line of a tree.

Within a few years, a tree will show injury first at its top and then will slowly die.

They said if you have azaleas planted near the house that look

poorly, it's probably from the alkaline from the concrete pieces left from building.

They suggest applying one gallon of water with two teaspoons vinegar or wettable sulfur powder added.

Azaleas should really be planted four feet from the center of the plant to the foundation of the house.

Chet and Bill do not recommend adding "good stuff" to the planting hole of trees as then the roots will not reach out beyond the rich stuff.

"Root-trimming" is advantageous about three months before moving a tree so that they send out feeder roots.

Most trees like to be moved in December or January but palms should only be moved between March 1 through July 1.

Carol Hart and **Kathy Foley** showed their joint effort of an unusual dried arrangement.

It was made completely of dried weeds they found while walking in the woods nearby.

They even found two dead butterflies to add to it.

Plants of the month: The vining variegated philodendron brought in by **Irene Hatfield** was won by **Janis Lehowicz**.

The Ball cactus brought in by



Mary Pritchard was won by **Jeanne Henson**.

The Petal Power Award was given to **Toni Meyer** this month.

The next meeting will be our Holiday Luncheon with spouses and invited guests on Friday, Dec. 13.

It will be at the Singing Forest Recreation Building at noon. Bring a dish to share, your own table service and a potted plant

for the gift exchange.

The hostesses will be **Mary Pritchard, Toni Meyer, Eileen Kamp, Phyllis Colpitts** and **Elaine Reynolds**.

The program will be **Harry Bateman** playing the Dulcimer.

It has been brought to my atten-

tion that I neglected in my last column to say where the Memorial Garden is located.

It is between the Floral City Library and the Masonic Lodge on Orange Avenue (State Road 46). It is in the second block left of the light.

Sooty mold paints

crape myrtle leaves black

Question: What causes the leaves of my crape myrtle to turn black? The leaves turned black last year, too, but it grew and bloomed fine this year. I'd like to know the reason they look so bad. Do I water too much?
— **JoAnn Clark, Brooksville**

Answer: Sooty mold, as it is called, is a byproduct of certain insects — in this case, the crape myrtle aphid. This aphid feeds only on crape myrtles and does no harm to the plant. However, as it feeds, it secretes a sugary substance called honey dew, in which the sooty mold grows.

The mold is harmless, too; you'll notice that when you wipe it off, the leaf tissue underneath is perfectly healthy. As you noted, the blackened leaves will be

dropped this winter and new, unaffected leaves will be produced next spring.

The good news is that the crape myrtle aphid is a great food source for ladybugs and many other good bugs. For this reason, the crape myrtle is often suggested as a magnet plant to attract beneficial insects to the landscape.

By the way, crape myrtle trees are very drought tolerant and need very little water to remain healthy.

In need of shade tree

Question: I recently got rid of a huge Brazilian pepper tree that gave my house a lot of shade on the south side of my home. I would like to replace the tree with one that will provide good shade fair-

ly rapidly. Also, one that doesn't need pampering, since I'm a senior citizen. Any suggestions? — **L.A. Del Signore, St. Petersburg**

Answer: One of my favorite trees is the Chinese elm. It has a beautiful weeping habit, grows fast and is very hardy to drought, cold and pests. It grows broader than tall and provides wonderful shade for a one-story home. Although it is deciduous, the leaves drop off very late in the winter and re-leaf very early in the spring, so it is bare only a very short time. The leaves are quite small and do not produce a lot of debris. A first cousin of the Chinese elm is the winged elm, a Florida native that has many of the same desirable characteristics.

Outstanding Sustained
Landscaping Award-1997



Bunk and Minnie Minnis
9231 E. Kenosha Court













Yard of the Year-1997
Nancy Snyder











Lot 28
Blue Jay Lane Floral City



FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

Rain storm doesn't dampen spirits

By Dorothy Clark

Much-needed rain on Friday, March 14, canceled the meeting outdoors at Carol Hart's. It didn't dampen the spirits of members, though.

The covered-dish luncheon and meeting was enjoyed in the meeting room of the Floral City Methodist Church. We appreciate their generosity.

Four new members were introduced: Lorraine McManon, Patty Barber, Dorothy Davis Brown and Al Ruta.

Judges of the Yard of the Year, Patty Patillo, Dorothy Sherman and Mary Pritchard, announced that Nancy Snider of Singing Forest received the award of the year. A special "Sustained landscaping award" will be presented to Minnie Minnis.

The Nominating Committee presented their slate of new officers, which were all elected unanimously. They are: President Peggy Patillo, First Vice President Carol Hart, Second Vice President Jeanne Henson, Secretary Frances Simpson, and Treasurer Dorothy Colarusso. They will be installed at the May meeting.

This month, Leona Diederich, winner of the Petal Power Award last month, chose Glenys Phillips as the recipient this month. Glenys, a new member of less than a year, has devoted much time to our various club projects and faithfully watering our Arbor Day tree planted on the trail for 30 days.

Floral City Garden Club will host the Spring District V meeting on Friday, May 2 at Floral City Methodist Church's Hilton Hall. There will be a workshop on

Monday, April 14 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Jeanne Henson.

Mary Pritchard, Junior Gardener chairman, announced that plans are being made to send a boy and a girl to Camp Wekiva this summer. Their last meeting of the year will take place at the Floral City Memorial Garden where the Junior Gardeners will tour the garden.

The next Garden Club meeting

will be a field trip to Hickory Hill Nursery in Brooksville. We will receive information on native plants and a tour of the nursery. It will be on Friday, April 11. Business meeting will begin at 8:30 and at 9:30 a.m. we will carpool to the nursery.

Afterwards, we will lunch at the Blueberry Patch Restaurant in Brooksville. Call 344-2339 if interested.

Yard of the year



Arne Smith/The Chronicle

The Floral City Garden recently presented the "The Yard of the Year Award" to Nancy Snyder, a resident of Singing Forest, Lot 2B on Blue Jay Lane in Floral City. Awards of honorable mention went to Elmer and Rose Gleason at 8411 Daniels Road, and Herb Warner at 8325 S. Lake Consuela Drive. An Outstanding Sustained Landscaping Award was presented to Bunk and Minnie Minnis at 9231 E. Kenosha Court. Pictured standing from left, Toni Meyer, Dorothy Sherman, chairperson of the award committee; Nancy Snyder, winner and Betty Colle. Glenn Richards a 97-year-old neighbor is seated.

13-year-old's expertise in plants isn't child's play



CINDY TUNSTALL/for the Tribune
John Andrew Korycki is 13, but certified as a master gardener. "I liked to find out where the food I was eating came from."

SUMMARY: A youth with a green thumb sets his sights on an agricultural career while he helps others grow better plants and vegetables.

By **JIM TUNSTALL**
of The Tampa Tribune

FLORAL CITY — John Andrew Korycki is a master gardener.

On the surface, that's no big deal. There easily are thousands in Florida.

But this one is 13 and has held the title since he was 11.

That's the unusual part.

He's the youngest in Florida.

Which sometimes causes a wrinkle.

Master gardeners show and tell folks how to grow better fruits, plants and vegetables. Frequently, that means answering questions over the telephone, or at clinics or in homes. Sometimes those doing the asking are surprised by his young face or voice.

"We actually had some people complain — they asked, 'How come you've got a kid answering the phone?'" says Klaus Geyer, Hernan-

See **GARDENER**, Page 3 ►

The Tampa Tribune, Friday, January 31, 1997

GARDENER / 13-year-old qualified as an expert

◀ From Page 1

do County's horticultural extension agent and the man who guided John Andrew through the master gardener program. "So we had his mother answer the phone, but he did the research."

Adds Tim Johnston, the agent in Citrus County, where John Andrew now parks his degree:

"He's unique because of his age. But he knows what he's talking about."

Even some of his peers, often retirees, are surprised at his age, but John Andrew says the worst he has to go through is a little good-natured kidding.

The young man with the green thumb has two advantages over many others his age. First, he has a keen interest in agriculture. Second, he's home schooled, so he was able to take the classes when most of them are offered — weekdays.

But he couldn't drive to them. So his mother took classes with him, and then his father did. Now, all three are certified by the program, offered under the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

He learned about turf grass, trees, flowers and grafting — in all, 64 hours of textbook and hands-on

work, then a three-hour test.

"I got the highest grade," he says, a little shy. "Mom was second."

In order to keep it, he has to complete eight hours of continuing training and 50 hours of community service a year, including things such as mowing the right of way along highways, planting flower gardens at schools and answering questions at booths set up at shopping centers.

Joan Bradshaw, interim director of the program, says it allows full-time, state-paid extension agents to have more time for other projects. Since the program started in 1991, volunteers have donated more than 700,000 hours and saved \$4.5 million in tax dollars. It's available in 48 counties, including Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco and Polk.

In his two years, what's the toughest question John Andrew has faced?

He grins at the memory. "It came from a lady who wanted to know what was causing the leaves to fall from her tree. But she didn't know what kind of a tree it was, the color of the leaves, when they began falling, or whether it was just now or had been going on for a while."

Usually, though, he has the answer. The few times he is stumped he takes a name and telephone num-



CINDY TUNSTALL/for the Tribune

ber, goes home to do his homework, and calls back with the answer.

How does someone so young steer himself toward agriculture?

"I got interested when I was 8," John Andrew says. "I used to garden with mom. I liked to find out where the food I was eating came from."

He has been a subscriber to "Progressive Farmer" for six years. His idea of an outing is a cattle-

men's seminar or the Southeast Agricultural Expo held in Moultrie, Ga.

"They have 1,200 exhibits on 600 acres," he says, eyes lighting up like another teen's might at the prospect of a trip to a compact disc store.

He has been in 4-H five years and has talked as long about having a career in agriculture, says his father, John Michael.

He asked his grandmother for a

“ We don't worry about buying Nintendos. We have to worry about buying him pruners and tractors. ”

Marlene Korycki

John Andrew's mother

"I got interested when I was 8," John Andrew Korycki says. Now he is the state's youngest master gardener, in a program offered through the University of Florida.

Rototiller on his 11th birthday and got it. At Christmas his family does not have to worry about fighting crowds in Toys R Us. His mother, Marlene, says:

"We don't worry about buying Nintendos. We have to worry about buying him pruners and tractors."

The future?

"I want to be a farmer or a rancher," the master declares.

"I want to raise cattle, maybe a couple hundred head, and grow crops like hay, cotton and peanuts."

He says he wants an Amish-style farm. "Except for the horses. I don't want to plow 200 acres by hand."

FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

Twenty-four members enjoy outing to nursery

By Dorothy Clark

The April meeting was well attended in spite of the early time of the day. Four new members were introduced: **Barbara Koelling, Lloyd and Catherine White and Peggy Brennan**, bringing the total for the year to 12 new members.

The field trip afterwards to Hickory Hill Nursery in Brooksville was interesting. The nursery had many varieties of native shrubs and trees. The day ended at the Blueberry Patch Restaurant in Brooksville for lunch. It was a most enjoyable day for 24 members.

The "Petal Power" award this month was presented to **Mary Pritchard** in recognition of her work this year with the Jr. Gardeners program, by **Glenys Phillips**, last month's recipient.

The Jr. Gardeners had their last meeting of the season on April 15. Under the watchful eyes of their leader, **Mary Pritchard**, and her five helpers for the day, they walked over to the Memorial Garden. Arriving back to the school cafeteria, they learned how to make a topiary tree.

Jr. Gardeners **Karen Crowder**

and **Michael Fuller** will be sponsored by the Floral City Garden Club to attend Wekiva Nature Camp this summer.

The last highway pick-up for the season was April 24-26. Many thanks to the members and "friends" who do this faithfully.

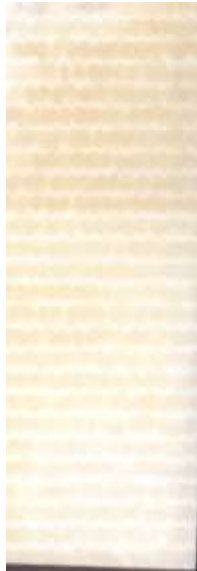
In May, gardens always seem to be at their prettiest. After all the April showers we have had this year, they should all be lush and beautiful this year. I'm pleased with my hollyhocks. They have been blooming red and pink for many weeks now. I will save the seeds and bring them to the meeting in September.

The last meeting of the season will be the Installation Luncheon on Friday, May 9 at noon at the Main Exchange in downtown Inverness. Officers to be installed will be: President **Patty Patillo**, First Vice President **Carol Hart**, Second Vice President **Jeanne Henson**, Secretary **Frances Simpson** and Treasurer **Dorothy Colarusso**.

Out-going officers **Marcia Beasley, Leona Diederick, Peggy Weyl, Janis Lehowicz** and **Dorothy Colarusso** are to be commended for all their time and effort these past two years.

District V Garden Meeting Hosted by Floral City Garden Club - May 1997





District meets in Floral City



The Floral City Garden Club recently hosted the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs District V meeting at the Floral City United Methodist Church's Hilton Hall. Pictured, from left, are: Jo Ann Murphy, treasurer; Andrea Fuller, assistant director; Mary Staab, recording secretary; Dottie Bishop, director; Janice Hannel, parliamentarian; Marcia Beasley, retiring from the club and Jeanne Hens meeting chairman. *Special to the Chronicle*

Citrus County (FL) Chronicle - Saturday, May 24, 1997

Life membership



Special to the Chronicle

Receiving a Life Membership pin in the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs is Floral City Garden Club member Marie Jones left. The honor was recently bestowed on her by retiring club president Marcia Beasley right. The Floral City Garden Club sponsored the life membership for Jones in recognition of her twenty years of dedicated and enthusiastic garden club work.

The Lord is my shepherd:

I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the
paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:
Thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life: and I
will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM

IN MEMORY

VIRGINIA LEE ANKROM

BORN

MARCH 3, 1920

DIED

SEPTEMBER 23, 1997

SERVICES

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1997
3:00 P.M.**

CHAS. E. DAVIS FUNERAL HOME

OFFICIANT

**REV. VICTORIA GUTHRIE, PASTOR
FLORAL CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

CREMATION ARRANGEMENTS



Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home, Inc.

With Crematory

3075 South Florida Ave. • Inverness, Florida 32650

Funeral Service -
Virginia Lee Ankrom
September 28, 1997

Floral City residents weigh options of proposed U.S. 41 widening

By Earle Kimel
Staff writer

Medians, big and small, dominated the public input at Thursday night's public hearing on the widening of a 6.3 mile stretch of U.S. 41 between Orange Avenue and State Road 44.

Many Floral City residents — favoring a proposal from the Floral City Heritage Council — asked the state to split U.S. 41 into two separate one-way streets to preserve five 100-year-old oak trees and four historic buildings.

About 250 people attended the hearing on the road widening, which is not in the state Department of Transportation District 7 five-year work program, meaning that no money is yet budgeted for the project.

Business owners along the road in Inverness asked that a raised median be removed there, because it will interfere with traffic flow.

Joe Brannen, vice chairman of the Bank of Inverness, said the proposed medians in front of both the Inverness and Floral City branches of the bank would impact his customers.

People driving north on U.S. 41 couldn't turn into the Inverness bank, Brannen said. And, he added, trucks would have trouble turning into Cox Lumber across



Jana Pittson/The Chronicle

Jack Canterbury, division manager for Sumter Electric Cooperative, right, and Ben Brickhouse, also of SECO, look over maps outlining the widening of U.S. 41 from Inverness to Floral City and how it will affect the turning lane to access the drive-through for Sumter Electric. This was during a public hearing by the Department of Transportation at the Citrus County Auditorium in Inverness Thursday night.

Please see **ROAD**, Page 2A

the street, "thereby congesting traffic in front of the bank."

He had similar complaints about the median in front of the Floral City bank.

Charles Davis, owner of the Chas. E. Davis funeral home, said if a median went in, then funeral processions heading to the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell — sometimes up to 100 cars in length — would have to exit onto U.S. 41 north then make a U-turn to head south.

No one spoke in favor of a raised median through Inverness.

Jack White, owner of Smoak and White Building Contractors, and Gene Collins, who owns an antique shop on the southeast corner of County Road 48 and U.S. 41, didn't want the road split through Floral City either.

"The DOT has a good plan," said Collins, who showed pictures of 28 oak trees he said would be destroyed if the Heritage Council's plan is adopted.

White represents the Smoak and Bellot families and said the building the families own that can be moved will be moved. But the Trading Post and the Lighthouse Pub, which the family doesn't own, aren't worth saving, he said.

"They've seen their value, it's over with," White said.

"We feel it's to our best interest and to the residents and businesses of the little downtown of Floral City that the route be followed as it is," he added.

Threatened trees get symbol of support



Leona Diederick, left, and Marcia Beasley tie a yellow ribbon around a century-old live oak tree along U.S. 41 in Floral City on Wednesday as Dorothy Colarusso looks on. The trees are threatened by the proposed widening of U.S. 41. The issue is on the agenda tonight at a Department of Transportation public hearing from 4:30 to 7:30 at the Citrus County Auditorium in Inverness. Several protesters are expected to voice opposition to the plan.

THURSDAY ■ APRIL 10, 1997

May, 1997

GREETINGS FROM YOUR NEW PRESIDENT

If anyone had told me a year ago that I would be the 1997 Floral City Garden Club President, I would have said, "I don't think so..." But - here I am and thanks so much to all of you for your support.

Your Executive Board has been working all summer to come up with good programs and additional fund raising projects for the coming year. Jeanne Henson has outdone herself with unique trips and terrific speakers. We look forward to telling you about all of it in September.

Floral City is that wonderful small town we all think about and yearn for. It's a lot busier here than I ever dreamed, however and there's lots more coming!

We all want to do our part in this exciting renaissance and lets have fun doing it.!

I look forward to seeing you all in September at the Community Center and in the words of the immortal Ralph Kramden, "Away We Go!"

Peggy Pattillo
President, Floral City Garden Club



Flowery ceremony

Special to the Chronicle
New officers for the Floral City Garden Club were installed recently by Inverness Mayor Joyce Rogers, left. Officers for the 1997-99 administration period are, from left: Peggy Pattillo, president; Carol Hart, first vice president; Joanne Henson, second vice president; Frances Simpson, recording secretary and Dorothy Colarusso, treasurer. Club meetings will resume the first Friday in September at 1 p.m. at the Floral City Community Building.



Marcia Beasley
hands over gavel to
Peggy Pattillo

First club meeting of the

season is scheduled Sept. 12

By Dorothy Clark

Floral City Garden Club will open the season with their first meeting on Friday, Sept. 12. The new group of officers installed at the May meeting are: **Peggy Pattillo**, president; **Carol Hart**, first vice president; **Jeanne Henson**, second vice president; **Frances Simpson**, secretary; and **Dorothy Colarusso**, treasurer. The meeting will be at the Floral City Community Building at 1 p.m.

We are pleased to announce that we will have state **Rep. Nancy Argenziano** as our guest speaker. She will tell us about SWFMD's "Save Our Waterworks" program. We hope that everyone will be able to attend this meeting.

Immediate Past President **Marcia Beasley** will tell us about the Florida Scenic Highway.

Floral City Garden Club has as its objective the personal enjoyment and cultural advancement in

floral arrangement, home gardening and protection and conservation of natural resources.

Meetings take place the second Friday of each month except June, July and August. All regular meetings are at the Community Building in Floral City unless otherwise stated in the program.

Several times during the year, we usually go on a field trip or visit a member's garden for a potluck lun-

cheon meeting. Guests interested in gardening are always welcome to attend a meeting.

At four meetings a year, we have a "Grow and Share" table, where members bring cuttings, plants, bulbs and seeds to share with others. Quite a few of the shrubs in my yard were started from cuttings that I got at Garden Club meetings.

There will be no "Grow and Share" table at this meeting but

there will be lots of hollyhock seeds to give out. The hollyhocks that I planted last fall (from deep pink to white) grew 5-6 feet tall, were beautiful for most of spring and summer. Now there are lots and lots of seeds to share with everyone.

Plants of the month will be brought by **Jeanne Henson** and **Peggy Weyl**. Refreshments will be served by **Glenys Phillips** and **Leona Diederick**.

Second Annual

Save
Our
Waters
Week

September 20-27, 1997



***"Water
is one of
our greatest assets,
and we want to do
something before it
becomes one of
our greatest
tragedies."***

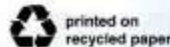
Berrisford Walker,
Citrus County Resident

Southwest Florida
Water Management
District



Protecting *Your*
Water Resources

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions including one's access to, participation, employment, or treatment in its programs or activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodations as provided for in the Americans With Disabilities Act, should contact the Public Communications Department at (352) 796-7211, extension 4757; TDD only 1-800-291-6100 (FL); fax (352) 754-6885; Suncoast 663-6862 or view our web site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.dwp.state.fl.us/swfwmd>



Second



September

What is Save Our Waters Week?

Save Our Waters Week was established in Citrus County, in September, 1996, by Citrus 20/20 in partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Southwest Florida Water Management District and Citrus County Government. The Week's activities are planned and coordinated by an Ad Hoc Coordinating Committee opened to any interested person or organization.

Save Our Waters Week is held annually in September from the third Saturday through the fourth Saturday.

Save Our Waters Week Activities

September 20-27, 1997

Adopt-A-Shore Kick-off
Saturday, Sept. 20, County-wide

Blue Bird Springs Restoration Cookout
Sunday, Sept. 21, 1-4 p.m.,
Homosassa

Water Resources Forum
Monday, Sept. 22, 4-6 p.m.,
Builders Association, Hwy. 491, Lecanto

**Ecosystem Management
In-Progress-Review**
Tuesday, Sept. 23, 4-6 p.m.,
Citrus County Auditorium.

**Educational Tour of Citrus County
Partnership Water Facilities**
Wednesday, Sept. 24, 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.,
Lecanto Government Center

St. Martin's Marsh Preserve Eco-Walk
Thursday, Sept. 25, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. (un-
guided walk), 9-11 a.m. (guided walk),
Crystal River

Water Resources Fair
Friday, Sept. 26, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.,
Crystal River Mall

**Nature Coast Marine & Environmental
Science Center Open House**
Saturday, Sept. 27, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.,
Ft. Island Gulf Trail

For more information call (352) 637-1360

Why Save Our Waters Week?

Save Our Waters is a direct product of Citrus 20/20 and action planning conducted in 1995 by volunteers representing a cross-section of Citrus County residents. The Vision Statement set the goal that "By the year 2020, Citrus County will have a place where nature and man live in harmony." The action plan's Focus Groups unanimously recognized that protecting our valued treasure of fresh water is key to ensuring our natural heritage remains a cornerstone of our quality of life. This recognition was affirmed during Citrus County's *March to the Mall*, in 1996, when hundreds of Citrus County residents voted to protect our waters as the number one challenge for Citrus County. Thus, **Save Our Waters Week** strives to focus public attention on efforts to save our aquifers, springs, rivers, and coastal estuaries.

Floral City Garden Club meets Oct. 10

Floral City Garden Club will meet at the Floral City Community Building at 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10. There will be a "grow and share table" at this meeting. All men and ladies interested in learning more about gardening in Florida are welcome to attend.





Oct. 10, 1997 - Grow and
Share - Minnie Minnis



October is busy gardening time

Page 6, Lake Life, Tuesday, October 14, 1997

by Dorothy Clark

Six new members were introduced at the September meeting by our new president, **Peggy Pattillo**. They are **Pamela Bellman, Audra White, Barbara Monahan, Dora Mitchell**, and **John and Marlene Korycki**.

John and his young son, **Gene**, have been hired to take care of the Memorial Garden and the Community Building Garden, weeding, mowing and mulching as needed.

The ladies of the club used to do this but it got to be too much for them.

We had the pleasure of meeting and hearing our newly elected **State Rep. Nancy Argenziano** tell us about the "Save Our Waters" Week.

She told about the many outings and forums that took place all week from Sept. 20-27. She certainly came across as an asset to our state government. She stressed keeping our waters local.

Marcia Beasley, legislative chairman, told of the plans for highway beautification that come under the 10 programs that comprise the ICED Tea money fund.

Here it is, October. According to Horticulture Chairman **Dottie Sherman**, it's time to set out fall

Those that will do well during the winter are petunias, pansies, snapdragons and nasturtiums. The latter will germinate better if they are soaked beforehand. Caladiums may be dug now and stored in peat moss or left in the ground.

Poinsettias should have already been pruned for the last time so that they will bloom for Christmas. They should not be planted where a light hits them at night as they need 14 hours of darkness to bloom.

October is also the time to over-plant your lawn with rye grass seed - if that is what you want to do - to keep your lawn green all winter.

This month is also a good time to divide day lilies and other lilies. If you have more than you need, bring some to share with your fellow gardeners. If larger shrubs are not doing well where they are, this is a good time to move them.

Dottie suggests a teaspoon of ammonia to a quart of water to perk up your geraniums.

Marie Jones used pine-cone ginger as her focal point in her floral design of sanisviera and cedar. **Marcia Beasley** presented the Petal Power Award for the month

to **Jeanne Henson**. This was in recognition of her wonderful work of putting out the yearbook this summer.

There were two plants of the month: a cracker-rose won by **Jeanne Henson**, and a white duranta won by **Elaine Reynolds**.

The next meeting will be at the community Building at 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10.

Plants of the month will be brought in by **Juanita Cole** and **Denise Gustavson**. Floral design will be by **Marcia Beasley**. **Terry Newberry** will be refreshment chairman with **Marlene Willard** and **Lorraine McManon** assisting. There will again this month be a "Grow and share" table with **Minnie Minnis** in charge.

For those interested, there will be a workshop starting at 10 a.m. learning to make either a wreath or a door swag. You will need to bring your own materials and wire cutters and scissors. To make a 12-inch eucalyptus wreath, you will need two packages of eucalyptus, one package of dried flowers, ribbon, and a spool of 22-gauge wire. You can find these at Wal-Mart.

Bring your glue gun if you have one. Also, bring a bag lunch. Hope to see you all there with a guest.

FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

Club to participate in city's celebration

Tuesday, October 21, 1997

By Dorothy Clark

President **Peggy Pattillo** dedicated the October meeting in memory of longtime member **Virginia Ankrom**, who died recently. Virginia was always a willing helper in all Garden Club projects, whether it was plant sales, picking up the highway or planting young dogwood trees on Orange Avenue on a 30-degree winter morning. We will miss her.

Floral City Garden Club will again be participating in the Floral City Heritage Days celebration on Dec. 5 and 6. Plans are not completed yet.

The Nov. 14 meeting will be a bus trip to Cypress Gardens to view their fall mum display. Members, please call **Dorothy Colarusso** and make your reservations. Bring your Garden Club membership card and a photo I.D. for a 50 percent reduction on the entrance fee. Cost with discount will be between \$23 and \$28. This includes entrance fee and bus fare. Amount will depend on how many go. After members have signed up, guests may be invited until the bus is full. There will be a short business meeting at 9 a.m.

before leaving at 10 a.m.

Minnie Minnis, horticultural co-chairman, says it's time now to plant Easter lily, day-lily and amaryllis bulbs and to fertilize citrus and fall annuals. She also offered the tip that if you put a coffee filter in the bottom of a pot when planting cuttings, it will allow the water to drain out but not take the soil with it.

During the horticulture discussion that followed, several members offered their recipes for homemade non-poisonous sprays. One for an all-around spray was for 1 cup of vegetable oil and 1 tablespoon dish soap liquid. Use 1 or 2 teaspoons of this to a cup of water. Another was for a fungicide made with 3 to 4 teaspoons of baking soda and 3 teaspoons of oil to one gallon of water. Fungicidal soap, she said, may be added.

The Petal Power award this month was presented to **Terry Newberry**. Terry is a relatively new member, but she has been doing a great deal of work with Civic and Community Development projects of which

Please see FCGC, Page 4

FCGC

continued from Page 3

she is the new chairman.

Guest **Gayle Stevenson** was the winner of the mystery plant of the month. No one knew whether it was a castor-bean or a coffee bean plant. She also got first choice of

the cuttings, bulbs and seeds on the Grow and Share table.

Delicious sandwiches, cake, cookies and coffee were served by **Leona Diederick, Terry Newberry** and **Patti Barber**.

The workshop that was scheduled for 10 a.m. preceding the meeting had to be canceled because of the illness of **Marie Jones**. It will be rescheduled at a later date.

Floral City's Heritage

Days adds attraction

"School Days" is a new addition to the Annual Heritage Days event held the first Saturday of December and the preceding Friday night in historic Floral City. Rod and Doris Miner will set up their early settler's cow camp and other SWEAT (Society for Workers in Early Arts and Trades) will be on hand to demonstrate and provide folk music.

"School Days" will be held in the early afternoon on Friday, Dec. 5, for the three classes of fourth grade students at Floral City Elementary School. It will be followed that evening at 6 by the Lions Club fish fry and by the closing of Orange Avenue (C.R. 48) and the lighting of the thousand luminarias. Caroling, visiting and strolling the Avenue will occur until 8 p.m. when the Avenue will be open for a drive

through of the luminarias until 9 p.m.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6, the town will showcase early Florida folk life. Stores in the downtown section will be open; several are new businesses, relocated or newly painted and "spruced up." Rails to Trails of the Withlacoochee will be sponsoring a Bike Ride from Inverness to Floral City for the day and the Jenrette Site at Orange Avenue will be dedicated at 11 a.m. Refreshments will be served on the Trail by the Floral City Woman's Club to celebrate their 75th Anniversary. Emma Love Jenrette was a Womens Club member and the great-granddaughter of John Paul Formy-Duval, early Floral City landowner.

At the Community Building, the Floral City Lions will be continuing the

fish fry. Antique automobiles from the Citrus Model "A" Club and Fudge N' Fiction sponsored by the Friends of the Floral City Library will be arranged in the parking lot. A variety of folk dancers will perform in front of the building throughout the day.

Down the Avenue and under the oaks, antique dealers will display their wares as the Floral City Postmaster stamps letters with the special Heritage Days cancellation stamp. Numerous other organizations will have items of interest to include a game of Croquet.

More than 20 SWEAT members have signed up to demonstrate the arts and trades of the 1800s. Arrangements for outstanding storytellers are being made and FOFF (Friends of Florida Folk) and other acoustic musicians are

planning to perform. And then there are the many folk foods offered for the day and the old fashioned sing at the restored 1884 United Methodist Church at which everyone is invited to join.

Down on Aroostook Way, the street will be closed for the day as the 4th Annual Soap Box Derby is held. This event gets larger each year as the requirements continue in line with sanctioned events.

Final arrangements are being made for the Annual Historic Home Tour. This \$5 donation event is always popular with visitors.

Remember, there is no entry fee or parking fee for Heritage Days and weather permitting, visitors will have a great day, and that is a promise! Call 726-7740 for additional information.

Garden club will be offering plants

Floral City Garden Club will be participating in the Heritage Days celebration on Saturday, Dec. 6, with "Plants from Grandma's Garden."

It will be located in the Memorial Garden which is between the Floral City Library and the Masonic Lodge.

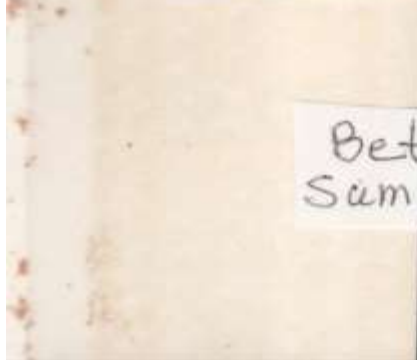
In "Grandma's Garden," there will be many varieties of seasonal plants including poinsettias, "cracker" (antique) roses, and many other types of plants for sale. They will "baby-sit" your plant for

you while you enjoy the rest of the festival activities, if you like.

There will also be small bags of homemade cookies, Avenue of the Oaks note paper, and numerous other gift items for sale.



Minnie Minnis



Betty
Sumner



Carol Hart,
Terry Newberry



Dorothy Clark
& guest



Patty Barber
Terry Newberry
Frances Simpson





You are cordially invited to attend
the dedication of the
Emma Love Jenrette Memorial Site
Withlacoochee State Trail
At Orange Avenue, Floral City, Florida
11:00 a.m., Saturday, December 6, 1997
during the
Floral City Heritage Days

RSVP - acceptance only
726-7740

FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

Club will participate in festival

by Dorothy Clark

The rescheduled wreath workshop took place Nov. 7. Those who attended were pleased with their handiwork. Those who made the wreaths are asked to bring them to the December meeting.

The Garden Club will participate in the Heritage Days Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 6 with "Grandma's Garden." It will be located in the Memorial Garden, which is between the Floral City Library and the Masonic Lodge.

In "Grandma's Garden," there will be many varieties of seasonal plants, including poinsettias and "Cracker" (antique) roses. There will also be homemade cookies, Avenue of the Oaks note paper and many other gift items for sale. We will "baby-sit" your plant while you enjoy the rest of the celebration.

The planned trip to Cypress Gardens for the November meeting had to be canceled because of inclement weather. The December meeting will be a

Holiday Luncheon at the Singing Forest Recreation Building on Friday, Dec. 12, at noon. Spouses and other guests are invited. Members, please bring a dish to share and a plant to exchange and your own table service. New members this year will be recognized with a gift at this meeting. **Bob Figley** will entertain us with his guitar and a sing-along. Hostesses will be **Mary Pritchard, Toni Meyer, Phyllis Colpitts and Irene Hatfield.**

FCGC

Club to celebrate birthday

By Dorothy Clark

The Christmas luncheon meeting at the Singing Forest Recreation Building on Dec. 12 was enjoyed by members and guests alike. Quite a lot of spouses were welcomed. **Bob Figley** of Floral City entertained us with his singing and guitar for the sing-along.

The next meeting will be at the Floral City Community Building on Jan. 9 at 1 p.m. This will be our Annual Birthday Tea. Everyone puts a penny in the pot for each birthday they have had. We will have a special guest speaker, **Dottie Bishop**, our District V director, at this meeting. **Alice Reed, Janis Lehowicz and Elizabeth Summers** will be the hostesses.

Plants of the month will be brought by **Mary Pritchard** and **Elaine Reynolds**. The floral design will be brought in by **Leona Diederich**. There will be a Grow and Share Table at this meeting. Members and guests are invited to take samples of the cuttings, seeds, bulbs and plants. **Marie Jones** and **Marlene Willard** will be in attendance.

There's not too much to do in the garden in January — mostly watch the weather reports and cover plants when a freeze is due. Many plants that are too large to cover may freeze to the ground, like hibiscus and tibouchina, but come back in the spring as beautiful as ever.

Some annuals that are most cold-tolerant are pansies, petunias, snapdragons and calendulas. It's not too late to plant them. Fertilize them regularly and keep the dead flowers picked off for continued blooms. This is the last month to plant winter vegetables like carrots, onions, cabbage, lettuce and turnips. They all are very cold-hardy.



Civic pride flows in Floral City

Citizens pitch
in to bolster
vitality of town

April 14, 1997 Citrus County (FL) Chronicle



Dave Sigler/The Chronicle

Floral City residents Bill Shipp, Allen "Ossie" Beasley and Ron Barber work on installing a French drain on the newly positioned drinking fountain along the Withalacoochee Trail and Orange Avenue.

THE PEOPLE OF Floral City don't have a civic association and the community is not incorporated so there isn't a town government to help pull them together.

But what they do have is good old-fashioned civic spirit.

You can see it in the way much of the town has risen in protest over the state Department of Transportation's plans to widen U.S. 41 and, in so doing, take out a number of stately old trees which lend the historic old town so much of its southern charm.

You can see it in the garden and the intricate brick labyrinth that was installed through the auspices of the Floral City Garden Club. That tranquil sanctuary is located in a quiet corner between the Masonic Lodge and the town library.

Civic pride and spirit are evident too in the number of historic homes which are being refurbished around town, and in the 100 percent volunteer fire department which stands ready to protect homeowners and businesses alike.

Floral City was the place in Citrus County where those who participated in the Florida Humanities Council "Florida Gathering" wanted to return for another visit.

And now, just a few paces north of where the Withlacoochee State Trail crosses County Road 43, where the old railroad depot station once stood, there has arisen over the past several months a beautiful wooden gazebo.

Around that lovely structure are antique reproductions of lamp posts, hitching posts for horses, a mail box for distributing self-guided tour booklets of Floral City, and just a few days ago, a handsome drinking fountain appeared.

To come will be rail fencing and plantings planned out by Robert Dudley, are plant man for the state Division of Plant

Industry. Although a great number of city residents and Withlacoochee State Trail enthusiasts worked on these projects,



Steve Arthur

muscle into these improvements.

Ossie and his activist wife Marcia, who is leading the charge against the highway plan to cut down those old trees and pave over where they once stood, met me at the gazebo and filled me in on how the gazebo et al. came into being.

The story begins with some family history.

An early Floral City settler, John Paul Forny-Duval, married, and had children and so forth until his great-granddaughter, little Emma Love, was born in 1893. Emma's sister was Flossie Love Basset, a charter member of the Citrus County Historical Society.

Emma Love Jenrette had two sons who grew to be successful professionals.

Joseph became a physician and lives in Charleston, S.C. The other son, Richard, is the retired CEO of a big insurance company and a man with a great appreciation for historical restoration.

"He has restored or lived in eight restored homes, and was recently presented with a national award from the National Trust for Historical Preservation," Marcia said.

Joseph and Richard Jenrette

have established a memorial fund which they sent to the Citrus County Historical Society, specifying that the money was to be spent in Floral City as a tribute to their mother.

When something like that happens to a town with so much civic spirit, watch out.

Floral City Heritage Council members put their heads together and came up with a plan to enhance the town, and the Withlacoochee State Trail, with what you can see today.

The 15-foot gazebo, which came as a kit, is of finely crafted rich warm southern red cedar, it has a shake shingle roof that came in eight sections. At its apex is a carved acorn.



Dave Siger/The Chronicle

The replica water fountain is polished to a gleaming finish and adorns the gazebo along with turn-of-the-century-style lighting and a hitching post for the horse riders who use the trail.





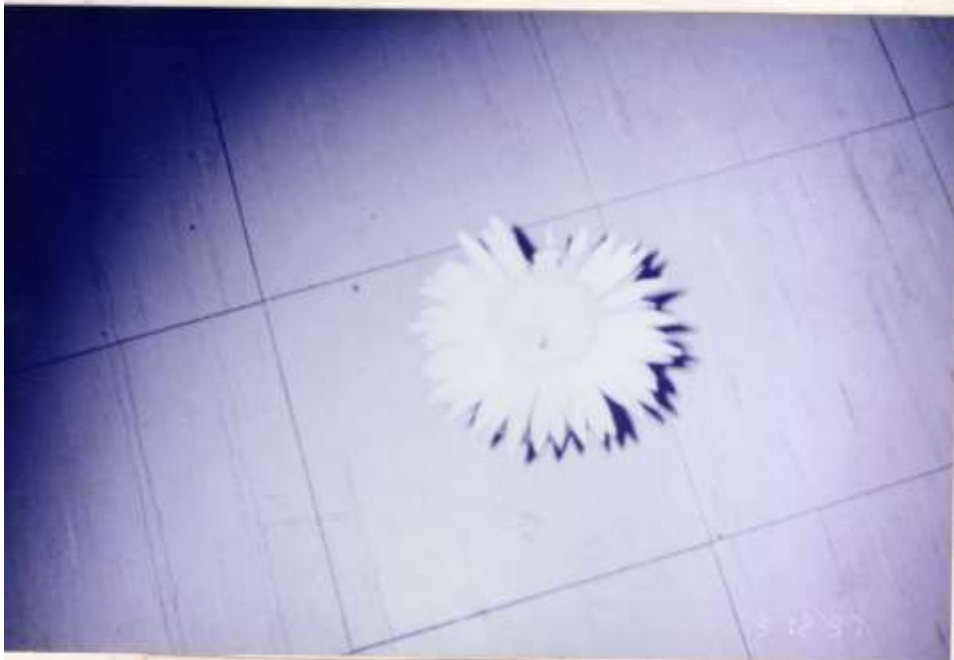
Arrangements and
specimens brought
to meetings



1997 September
Meeting Arrangement
by Marie Jones



1997 - Wreath
by Jeanne Henson



1997 - Night-blooming
Cactus - Dorothy Sherman





Epcot - Disney
World

Christmas Party
1997



Peggy Pattillo, Marie Jones



Marcia Beasley + husband
+ Cathi Auer's



Carol Hart, Cathy
Foley + friend.



Peggy Pattillo,
Elaine Reynolds



Elaine Reynolds
Minnie Minnis



Pam Bellman



Emmett +
Elaine Reynolds
Dorothy Colarusso



Elizabeth Summer
+
Alice Reed



Terry Newberry



Glennis Phillips +
husband



Dorice Phillips + Toni Myer



Bob Figley
and
Dorice Wallace



Entertainers
at
Christmas Party 1997

FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

Club plans to open fall season

By Dorothy Clark

It's that time of year again for clubs to open their fall season.

Program chairman **Jeanne Henson** and her committee have been busy planning interesting programs for us. Since the members in the past have always enjoyed visiting other members' gardens, there will be four meetings at homes this year. Among other things, a field trip to Kanapaha Botanical Gardens in Gainesville is planned for later in the season.

Floral City Garden Club will have

its first meeting on Friday, Sept. 11 at 1 p.m. at the Floral City Community Building. **Dr. Howard Weems Jr.** and his wife **Camilla** from the Gainesville Garden Club will present a program on "Butterfiles and their Habitats."

Marcia Beasley will be doing the floral design. Plants of the month will be brought by **Jeanne Henson** and **Dotie Sherman**. There will be a Grow and Share table this month with **Pam Bellman** and **Marlene Willard** in attendance. Members and guests alike are always pleased to

take home cuttings and plants that they don't have in their gardens. I, myself, have many plants growing in my yard that I got from garden club meetings. Hostesses will be Carol Hart and Doreen Noon.

Now is the time to prepare fall gardens. It's not too early to plant carrot seeds while we still are having the summer rains. They germinate better if kept moist. I plant some every month or so 'til January. Carrots are so easy to grow and taste

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FLORAL

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so much better than store bought. It's also time to set out tomato plants and plant seeds of beans and cukes. This year, I put down plastic on my little vegetable plot to kill the nematodes and weed seeds. The plastic should be kept on for 4-6 weeks.

From the Florida Gardener: "Your plants will double in size and beauty with this once a month treatment: To 1 gal. tepid water, add 1 teas. baking powder, 1 teas. Epsom salts, 1 teas. of saltpeter (at drug-store) and 12 teas. of ammonia."

Here's another: Adding about 2 ounces of Listerine mouthwash per gallon of vase water will extend the life of cut roses (and presumably other kinds of flowers also). Listerine contains sucrose and a bactericide and its acidity promotes uptake of water through the stem. Guests are always welcome at the meetings.

CORRECTIONS: Last month's recipe to double plants in size should have read 1/2 teas. (teaspoons) of ammonia, not 12 teas. Also: The plant treatment recipe in the Sept. 1 Floral City Garden Club column should have included a half tsp. of ammonia. Another amount was given.

By Dorothy Clark

At our September meeting, we were honored to have **Dr. Howard Weems** of Gainesville and his wife, **Camilla**, as our guest speakers.

Dr. Weems spent his career as a biological scientist with the Division of Plant Industry with the Florida Department of Agriculture. He has degrees from Emory, University of Florida, and Ohio State.

His fieldwork took him all over the United States and to many foreign countries. His wife, Camilla, who accompanied him on many of these trips, is quite accomplished herself. Besides being our past District V director, she is a Master flower show judge and is involved with many projects of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.

Dr. Weems spoke about butterflies and their habitats. They brought many different kinds of beautiful butterflies from all over the world in glass cases for all to see. He said that most butterflies live only 2-3 weeks but the Monarchs live for months. It is amazing how they travel North, feed on milkweed and lay their eggs on their host plant.

Then the progeny travel south in the winter, even over water, to only a certain place in Mexico, where they have never been before.

FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

Lake Life, Tuesday, October 6, 1998, Page 3

We will not have a plant booth at the Strawberry Festival this year. We will have a plant sale at the Heritage Day Festival on Saturday, Dec. 5 in "Granny's Garden." More on this later.

Peggy Pattillo won the Silver Braeken fern that **Dottie Sherman** brought ... with instructions that it needs to grow in the shade. **Leona Diederick** won the penta that **Joanne Henson** brought. That was very apropos as pentas are just what butterflies like best. **Marcia Beasley** explained her vertical floral design of yellow glads, papyrus stems and variegated ginger leaves. It was simple yet it was elegant. It was won by **Denise Gustafson**.

The Petal Power Award was presented by **Terri Newberry** to our two "Friends of the Garden

Club," **Merrel Edwards** and **Marty Fish**, for their faithful and ongoing help in keeping Floral City beautiful. Hostesses for the day were **Carol Hart** and **Doreen Noon**.

The next meeting will be at 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9 at **Sylvia Zellner's** on Trail's End Road. Sylvia was the Yard of the Year winner. She will be giving us a tour of the yard; after which refreshments will be served by **Frances Simpson**, **Barbara Monahan** and **Terri Newberry**. Plants of the month will be brought by **Barbara Milliken** and **Mildred Lyons**.

Lake Life, Tuesday, November 3, 1998, Page 9

FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

By Dorothy Clark

It was a pleasantly cool day on Oct. 9 when 18 members and two guests met at **Sylvia** and **Phil Zellner's** beautifully well-groomed yard bordering the Orange Canal. Their yard was picked by the awards committee recently as the Yard of the Year. Everyone enjoyed walking around with **Sylvia** and seeing their plants and her lovely rose bed with such healthy and beautiful roses. The bank of azaleas bordering the canal will be beautiful in the early spring.

Halloween-decorated refreshments were then served by hostesses for the day **Frances Simpson** and **Terri Newberry**.

President **Peggy Pattillo** was pleased to announce that at the recent District meeting, our garden club was commended for having the most new members for the year. New members last month were **Jo Ann Quackenbush**, **Suzanne Hennessey** and **Nancy Sorenson**. This month, we are pleased to welcome **Lois Skipper** and **Amanda Mullin**. We hope you all will enjoy learning, growing and

sharing with us.

Cathi Ayers said that the next "Adopt-the-Highway" pick-up will be Saturday, Nov. 7. She said that she needs four or five more volunteers. Anyone that can come, please call her at 341-6546. Workers are to meet her at the Floral City Community Building at 8 a.m.

Frances Simpson, our new bird chairman, gave us an informative talk on bluebirds. She said that they have been frequent visitors to her yard for years. She said that bluebirds are a little larger than sparrows, have large eyes, bright blue wings with a rusty-red breast. They are most beneficial to us as they eat grasshoppers, snails, centipedes, millipedes, Katy-dids, crickets, beetles and spiders. They also like to eat the fruit of the blackberry and seeds of Virginia creeper, honeysuckle, pokeberry and sumac.

Civic Development Chairman **Marie Jones** says that we will be planting the corner by the convenience store on Orange Avenue on Wednesday, Oct. 28. She also asked members not to prune

their greenery yet as we will need a lot of greenery to make garlands at the Nov. 30 workshop which will take place at the Church of Christ pavilion.

Plant of the month, brought by **Barbara Milliken**, was a Mexican Petunia (dwarf). It was won by **Frances Simpson**.

The next meeting will be at the Floral City Community Building at 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13. For those interested in learning basic floral design, there will be a workshop beginning at 10 a.m. **Andrea Fuller**, from Inverness Garden Club, will be doing a Christmas floral design from 10 to 10:30. **Mary Pritchard** and **Joanne Henson** will be conducting the workshop. Members coming to the workshop, please bring a bag lunch. Workshop results will be on display at the meeting.

Hostesses for the day will be **Dora Mitchell** and **Lois Bennett**. Plants of the month will be brought by **Dorothy Colarusso** and **Leona Diederick**. There will be a "Grow and Share" table at this meeting. There will be plants, cuttings, bulbs and seeds for members and guests to share.

Floral City gardeners get together Jan. 9

Floral City Garden Club will have District V Director, Mrs. Dottie Bishop, as guest speaker at their Jan. 9 meeting at the Floral City Community Building at 1 p.m. This is also the club's annual Birthday Tea, celebrating all the members' birthdays.

Anyone interested in gardening is invited to attend and partake of the plants, cuttings, seeds and bulbs on the "Grow and Share" table.



Pictures of garden
in January, 1998 and
poinsettias planted.





Memorial Garden
January 1998

Garden is a living memorial

By Cheri Harris
Chronicle writer

There is a garden in Floral City. In this garden, there are flowers, benches, plants, trees and a picnic table. It also contains a red brick labyrinth (a tool for meditation that originated in medieval times).

GARDENING

The Floral City Garden Club developed the garden as a memorial where there are no names, only memories. It is maintained by memorial donations or special gifts and the efforts of garden club members. Donor names and the names they are memorializing are recorded in the

Please see **GARDEN**, Page 6C

GARDEN

continued from Page 1A

Memorial Book. This book, in a lovely wooden case with a glass cover, is on permanent display in the Floral City Library.

According to the chair of the memorial garden committee, Dorothy Sherman, "anyone can come" to enjoy the garden. She said it was designed to be "a place to rest, read or meditate."

Sherman explained that the garden began in 1992 as a way to memorialize club members who passed away. When the county agreed to let them use the land

between the Floral City Library and the Floral City Masonic Lodge, the Floral City Garden Club opened the garden to the community. The Floral City Community Memorial Garden was dedicated in 1996. Now, anyone can make a memorial donation. Anyone can enjoy the garden.

"Some people actually thought it was a private area," Sherman explained. The Floral City Garden Club welcomes the community to use the garden, have picnics on the table, walk the circular path of the labyrinth, and stop to smell the roses.

"Our whole main purpose of the garden club is to keep the 'floral' in Floral City. We try to keep flowers blooming year-round,"

Sherman said. Garden club members are continuously planting perennial flowers around the labyrinth to keep color there.

All the plants in the memorial garden are native Florida plants. Sherman said the club is planning to include a holly tree in the garden. Recently, red poinsettias were planted behind the library near the picnic table.

The president of the Floral City Garden Club, Peggy Patillo, said that Dorothy Sherman developed the idea for a memorial garden as a club project. "I hope people will get the idea to be a part of it," Patillo added.

"It's my pet project," Sherman said.

Lake Life, Tuesday, March 3, 1998, Page 5

FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

Members hear about aquatic plants

By Dorothy Clark

At the Feb. 13 meeting, Terry Sullivan from the DEP showed a video on aquatic plants. He said that most plants in our lakes and rivers are good plants. They feed and provide nurseries for the young fish. The hyacinths that were brought here from Argentina have no natural predators. That is why they have taken over our waterways. The only thing that the DEP can do is keep them under maintenance control. He said that there is a new herbicide that kills obnoxious weeds. There are also biological controls like a small weevil that is being introduced.

Hydrilla has become most prevalent. It was brought here from Southeast Asia for home aquariums. It is the fastest-growing weed, growing as much as 2 inches in one day. Its natural enemy is the Chinese Grass Carp. The only

drawback is that when they finish the hydrilla, they eat the good weeds.

Horticulture chairman Minnie Minnis says that February is said to be the alarm clock of the year. It may have to be reset this year. Do not fertilize yet. She suggests that we add to our azalea collection at this time while they are in bloom so that we can see what they look like. She also said that poinsettias may be pruned back now to 14 inches from the ground. Carolina Jessamine is the vine now in bloom with the small yellow flowers. It will root from cuttings.

The white azalea brought by Peggy Patillo was won by Dorothy Colarusso. The rubber plant brought by Terri Newberry was won by Doreen Noone.

The floral design made by Kathy Foley was a "Tussy Mussy." It was a dainty little Victorian cone filled with sweetheart rosebuds, pineap-

ple sage, mint, wild salvia, fern and heart ivy.

Marcia Beasley reported that there is a communication tower proposed for Floral City on the lot north of the cemetery. Bell South and AT&T are asking for an exception to place it within a 500-foot radius of a historic site, i.e., the cemetery and Ferris Groves office building. Therefore, public comment is required.

The next meeting will be Friday, March 13. Members will meet at the Floral City Community Building at 10 a.m. to carpool to the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs headquarters in Winter Park. After a tour of the facilities, gift shop and gardens, the monthly meeting will take place in their meeting room. There will be a break for lunch at the East Indian Market Restaurant. Before returning home, we will tour the Leu Gardens in Winter Park. It should be a fun day.



Terry Newberry



Landscaping done at community building by Floral City Garden Club.

Jennie & Craig Henson,



Harry Newberry



Dotty Shermer
Terry Newberry



Marie Jones



Marie Jones,
Harry Newberry



Peg Pattillo
Pam Bellman
Terry Newberry



Gene & Craig
Henson
Pam Bellman Terry N.



Dick Sherman
Larry Newberry





Finished Product!





Peggy Wehl, Peggy Pattiello,
Maxie Jones, Elaine
Reynolds, Dorothy
Clark, Terry Newberry,
Minnie Minnis, Dorothy
Sherman.



Arbor Day
January 1998
Planting of cedar
along trail.

Special cedar



Matthew Beck/Chronicle photo

The Floral City Garden Club planted a cedar tree recently in honor of Arbor Day. The tree was planted at the Withlacoochee Rails to Trails trail head near another tree that was planted last year. Above from left, John Andrew, Florida's youngest certified Master Gardener and a volunteer with the club; Jeanne Wenson, second vice president; Peggy Weyl, club member; Peggy Pattillo, club president; Marie Jones, life member; Elaine Reynolds, club historian; Dorothy Clark, publicity chairwoman; Terri Newberry, community development; Minnie Minnis, horticulture chairman; Dorothy Sherman, memorial garden chairperson.



Dorothy Sherman
Marie Jones



John Andrew Korychi
+ Dad planting tree

Garden club hosts plant sale

March 18, 1988

Plants of all shapes, colors and sizes will be for sale at the Annual Floral City Garden Club Plant Sale.

This event will be held at 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 21, at the Floral City Community Building on Orange Avenue (County Road 48) within the first block of the traffic light.

Old roses, hanging baskets, potted houseplants, a variety of bromeliads and ferns, pentas, coleus, Indian hawthorn, spirea, liri-ope, rosemary, century plant and the list goes on and on of plants for sale.

Samples of bulbs, rain lily seeds and Boston fern will be given away.

While browsing for plants, go into the Community Building for the free presentation to be given that is a "must hear" for those new to the area or those redoing their landscapes.

"Petals of Florida Landscaping" with

slide show will be presented at 9 and 11 a.m. and at noon and 1:30 p.m. by Citrus County Horticulturist Tim Johnston of the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service.

A light lunch will be offered by the garden club during the hours of the sale for the convenience of those attending this annual event.

The Floral City Garden Club will be joined for the day by their "Friends of the Garden Club."

This group will offer a "Not-so-new-but-good-to-use-sale" to continue their work in obtaining donations for the purchase of benches in Floral City and furthering the beautification of the downtown area of Floral City.

For further information about the annual plant sale, please call 726-7740.

Peggy Pattillo



Dorothy Colarasso
Keeping an
eye on the money!



Bank Minnis
+ friend
packaging up the
sodas

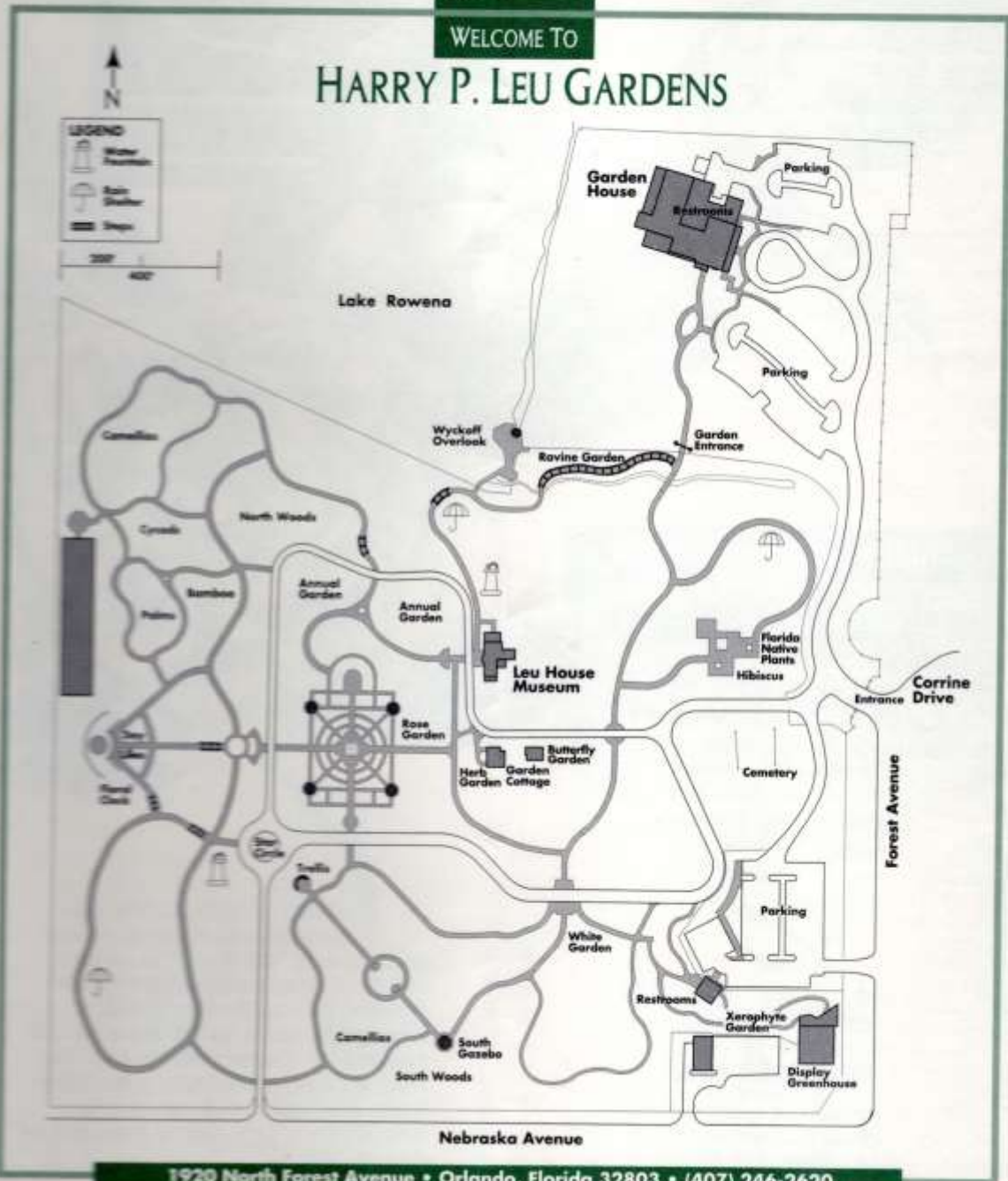


Minnie Minnis-
making a sak



WELCOME TO

HARRY P. LEU GARDENS



1920 North Forest Avenue • Orlando, Florida 32803 • (407) 246-2620

FLORAL CLOCK

Donated by the Kiwanis Club of Orlando, the clock was installed in 1975. This feature was inspired by the famous floral clock of Edinburgh, Scotland.

PALMS, CYCADS, & BAMBOOS

Palms, cycads and various bamboo cultivars are displayed in this garden. Over 250 types of palms are part of an ongoing evaluation to determine cold-hardiness in Central Florida.

ANNUAL GARDEN

Year round displays of flowering annuals provide vivid color complementing the surrounding areas of the gardens. Planted as evaluative trial gardens, these beds are full of new varieties and design ideas for the home landscape.

HERB & BUTTERFLY GARDENS

The herb garden contains a seasonally changing display of herbs for culinary, medicinal, fragrance and other uses. Follow the brick path to the butterfly garden which contains a variety of colorful flowers and plants designed to attract many different butterflies.

WYCKOFF OVERLOOK

The boardwalk and gazebo on Lake Rowena are named for John Wyckoff, one of the Garden's original Board Members. The lakeshore was planted with ornamental and native wetland plants. Watch for birds and wildlife – but do not feed the alligators!

CEMETERY

The Mizell Cemetery contains 36 marked and unmarked graves of family members including David and Angeline Mizell, the original owners of the land that is now Harry P. Leu Gardens.

GUIDED GARDEN TOURS

For groups of 10 or more are provided by volunteer garden guides. Requests must be booked two weeks in advance by calling (407)246-3669.

ACCESSIBILITY

Wheelchairs are available free of charge for visitor use and can be checked out from the Garden House.

COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY OR FILMING

Requires prior approval by Leu Gardens. A "Policies and Fees" schedule is available at the Garden House.

How Our Garden Grows...

As you walk throughout the Gardens, you will find that selected plants have informative labels on metal plates. Please take note that the scientific name most accurately identifying the plant can be found on each plant label.

RAVINE GARDEN

This garden creates the look and feel of the tropics. Listen for the gurgling natural spring and look for plantings with a tropical character such as Bird-of-Paradise, banana, ginger, tree ferns, palms and flowering vines.

XEROPHYTE GARDEN

The overall appearance of this garden is a sunny, dry, rocky desert landscape. Large boulders form drifts through the collections, defining views and serving as a backdrop to many unusual plant forms.

DISPLAY GREENHOUSE

Ferns, bromeliads, orchids and other cold sensitive tropical plants can be viewed in this controlled environment.

WHITE GARDEN

This garden is made up of shade loving plants, including those with white blooms or green and white variegated foliage. This garden is a popular site for small weddings.

CAMELIAS

Leu Gardens is home to the largest documented camellia collection in Eastern North America. Nestled under the towering oak trees of the North and South Woods, Mr. Leu's famous collection consists of over 2,000 specimens of camellias that bloom from October through March.

MARY JANE'S ROSE GARDEN

This is one of the most popular areas in the garden and is often used by the community for special events and weddings. This formal garden displays over 1,000 roses in traditional European style and is the largest formal rose garden in Florida. The space is bright and open and features a central fountain surrounded by four gazebos on the corners.





FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

Trek to headquarters is fun in sun

By Dorothy Clark

On March 13, 18 members and one guest made the trip to Winter Park to visit the Florida Federation of Garden Club's Headquarters. It was quite a bit different from the last time that we visited there. One special addition is the large room that can be used for meetings and rented out for banquets, wedding receptions, etc. That day it was all set up for a wedding the next day. En route there, we had stopped for a lunch at the Indian River Market Restaurant. We all enjoyed a lunch a little different from usual. It was such a nice, sunny day that we sat at picnic tables out in the garden.

After a tour of headquarters and a short business meeting, we headed for Lev Gardens where

we visited the gift shop, gardens and concluded the day with a tour of the old Homestead.

At the meeting, **Marcia Beasley** thanked **Minnie Minni**, especially and all those who worked at our garden booth at the Strawberry Festival. It was an outstanding success.

On Sat. March 21, we had another plant sale at the Community Building from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. It, too, was well received. More than half of the plants were sold by 10 a.m. We had many plants of different varieties. **Minnie Minnis** again co-ordinated this sale. **Tim Johnston** from the extension office presented slides and information at 9:30 and 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

We have had a strange winter with a late spring, so we are late getting in our spring flowers and vegetables. We gardeners are

thankful though, that we did not have a freeze. That is very unusual. There is a lot to do now out in the yard, like fertilizing, pruning, weeding and then MULCHING. I favor oak leaves as they disintegrate and improve the soil, but others like cypress mulch (shredded) and pine needles (for azaleas) are good, too. This is the time to trim azaleas a little, if needed, and also to fertilize with an acid fertilizer when they have finished blooming. They can be fertilized several more times before July.

The next meeting will be Friday, April 10. Members are asked to bring a chair and meet at the Community Building at 1 p.m. to carpool to **Cathy Foley's** home. She and her mother, **Carol Hart**, will present the program on "Bats and bat houses."



Peggy Pattillo heads meeting at state headquarters.





Peggy Pattillo
Marcia Beasley

April 10, 1998
Co-hosted by
Carol Hart +
Cathy Foley



Peggy Pattillo
Carol Hart





Peggy Pattiello
Admiring Artwork
in Cathy Foley's Home

Nominations-



Ed + Alice Anderson
Oak Forest, Floral City



Ron + Carlotta Yancey
Orange Ave
Old Community Hotel



Yard of
the year
award



Amanda Mullen
Orange Ave.
Floral City



Ed + Phyllis Strickland
6644 S. Duval Island Dr.
Floral City





Ralph + Dorothy Haynes
7588 S. Crescent Loop
Floral City







Yard of the
Year-1998

Sylvia + Phil Zellner
Trails End Road
Floral City





Chairman -
Pam Bellman



As historian, 1997-98, the first year a scrapbook has been kept. I've made an attempt to collect materials as far back as possible. I hope this gives some idea of the scope covered by the Floral City Garden Club. Sincerely, Elaine Reynolds

INVERNESS GARDEN CLUB

Membership hears all about growing herbs

By Opal Noone

Visitors **Irene Halinski**, **Virginia Lucier** and **Martha Rao** met with Inverness Garden Club to hear herb gardeners **Denise Meridan** and **Marian Harding** describe the growth habits and tips for using a variety of herbs starting with basil and going through the alphabet to rosemary and tarragon.

Ms. Meridan and **Ms. Harding** are herb gardeners in Homosassa where they raise and sell herbs from their place of business there. Such herbs as Echinacea and St. John's Wort are hot properties which they have difficulty keeping in stock because of heavy public demand.

Most herbs grow best in pots filled with top soil, a bit of perlite and mulch, although oregano and rosemary adapt to growth in ground shaded by trees. However, oregano tends to spread and may invade places where it is not welcome. Samples were passed around and examined at close range and were available for purchase at the end of this enjoyable and informative program.

At the light luncheon before the meeting, **Andrea Fuller**, **Madeline Lund**, **Retta Weatherhead** and **Peg Wheeler** demonstrated how herbs flavor finger-food sandwiches, deviled eggs and other tasty luncheon foods and beverages.

Andrea Fuller shared her recipe for rosemary tea (purported to be a cure for headaches), which involves pouring boiling water over stripped-off clean rosemary leaves, steeped for 40 minutes, strained and put in a gallon jug of water and two stems of clean rosemary and chilled in the refrigerator overnight. This and other herbal teas, sweetened and unsweetened, concocted by others in this group delivered an elegant supplement for the healthful and savory luncheon taste treat.

For those of us interested in growing wild flowers, **Evelyn Hallowell** remarked that if weeds do not thrive

in the place where the flowers are to be planted, the wild flower will not grow either. They do need at least eight hours of direct sunlight, a reasonable amount of watering and well-drained soil. Evelyn's striking floral design featuring dark painted venetian blind slats bent to sharp angles and offset with day lilies in a dark-colored vase, stimulated a discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of using day lilies in such designs since they do not need to be placed in water, being in blossom for one day only. A number of day lily blossoms brought in at the suggestion of **Clarice Jordan** demonstrated the colors and shapes assumed by this versatile flower.

As the chair for the flower show (with the theme "Thanks for the Memory"), **Madeline Lund** announced that the summer workshops consist of a June 4 session devoted to creating novelties from pine cones; a July 9 group crafting stationery decorated with pressed leaves and flowers; and an August 13 meeting devoted to trimming giftboxes and other items with dried flowers and plant material.

The summer's floral design course organized by **Andrea Fuller** will begin June 2, through all the Tuesdays in June and ending on July 7. Cost of all the sessions is \$50 and for three sessions, it is \$30. Anyone wishing to share the excitement and joy of learning the basics of floral design to grace home decor or provide entries for a flower show, can call Andrea, 637-5200.

To assist the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs in refurbishing their headquarters in Winter Park, the club agreed to fund the purchase of an 8-inch by 8-inch tile. The November plant sale, chaired by **Barbara Petersen**, will be the opportunity for our members to display for sale the exotic as well as ordinary plants that happen to be our personal specialty.

HOLIDAY TREATS FOR THE BIRDS

LuAnn Craighton of Callaway Gardens passes along the recipes that keep her birds happy.

BASIC MIRACLE MEAL

2 cups smooth or chunky peanut butter
2 cups shortening
2 cups flour

6 to 8 cups cornmeal

Melt peanut butter and shortening in a large saucepan over medium heat; stir in dry ingredients. Turn dough out into a wax paper-lined 13- x 9-inch pan. Let stand until cool enough to stiffen. Cut into rectangles that fit standard suet feeders. Store extras in the refrigerator.

Miracle Meal Cookies: Make a batch of Basic Miracle Meal. While mixture is still warm, flatten it by hand to 1/2 inch thickness. Cut into shapes, and allow to cool. The scraps can be kneaded and reflatened while still warm.

Popcorn Strings: String unsalted popcorn onto strong thread using a short needle.

Garlands: Thread plain toasted oat O-shaped cereal onto inexpensive, stiff ribbon.

Goodie Baskets: Oven-dry tangerine rind

halves until stiff. Punch three evenly spaced holes near the cut edge of rinds. Attach 8-inch-long narrow satin ribbons as hangers. Fill with raisins and sunflower seeds.

Sticks and Cones: Hot-glue pinecones onto 18-inch-long dowels. Use a pastry bag to pipe warm Basic Miracle Meal between the "petals" of the cones. Add extra melted shortening if meal is too stiff to pipe.

Sunflower Wreaths: Work from the back of a dried sunflower seed-head; cut a small circle from the center of head. Pass a 24-inch ribbon through the hole, and tie it at the top in a bow with generous streamers.



hundreds of people to backyard bird attracting. A real veteran of observing birds, LuAnn suggests placing your holiday treats outside convenient windows so you can start your winter mornings with coffee and the first avian antics of the day.

Chickadees and titmice are curious and nimble; they'll hang upside down to check out new things. And they'll take a seed, fly away to eat it, and come back for more. Cardinals, purple finches, and house finches will gobble until they've had their fill. Evening grosbeaks are the biggest feasters of all. It takes a disturbance to chase them off, which is just what happens when a raucous blue jay blows in. Juncos tend to dine in groups. If you see one junco, keep looking; there are more nearby.

Some birds, such as doves, are very nervous. It's easier to watch them from behind window blinds or sheer curtains. No high-tech equipment is needed to enjoy the spectacle, but it is nice to have a pair of binoculars and a good field guide to identify an unusual visitor that flutters in.

Who benefits more from setting out a buffet for the birds—the watcher or the watched? Certainly, birds gain from extra food supplies in late winter and early spring. And our days are enhanced by the sprightly activity in our frosty gardens. That's worth a spoonful of peanut butter and some seeds.



ABOVE: Gifts for bird lovers include feeders of all sorts, the classic Peterson's field guide, a birdwatcher's journal to log in each new bird, and a pair of binoculars.

TOP: Miracle Meal Cookies (see recipe at left) and scattered raisins attract birds that might not usually visit feeders.

(For sources turn to page 189.)