

Floral City Garden Club

2003-2005 Scrap Book

FREEDOM TREES DEDICATION

**In Celebration of Arbor Day  
&  
A Memorial Tribute to 9/11**

(In recognition of National Garden Club's Freedom Tree Program)

Sponsored by  
Floral City Garden Club

Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*)

Assisted by  
Floral City Heritage Council



## FREEDOM TREES DEDICATION

ON  
 FLORIDA'S ARBOR DAY  
 A  
 MEMORIAL TO THE EVENT OF  
 9/11/00  
 A  
 TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO DEDICATE  
 THEIR LIFE FOR OUR SAFETY

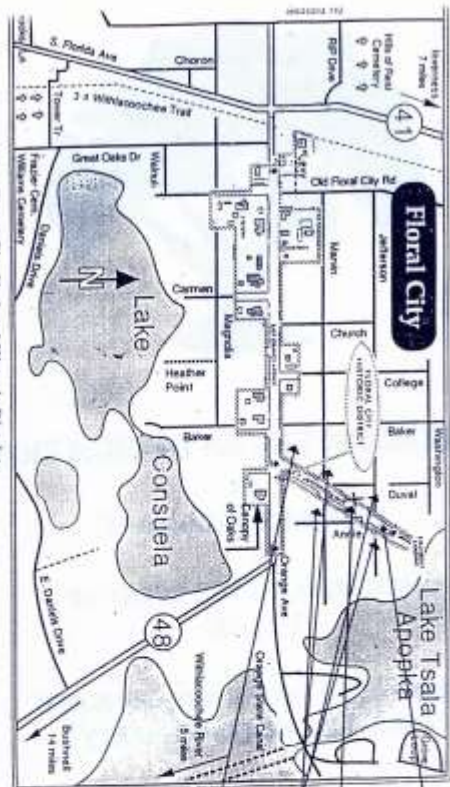


11 a.m.

A COMMUNITY-WIDE EVENT  
 ON  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2003**  
 AT  
 LOCATION:  
**AROOSTOOK WAY**  
 IN  
 FLORAL CITY'S OLD,  
 ORIGINAL PART OF TOWN

SPONSOR: FLORAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

### MAP FOR THE FREEDOM TREES DEDICATION



gp = Buildings on the National Historic Register

**AROOSTOOK WAY**  
 will be closed to traffic  
 from 10:30 to 12:00 noon

**LOCATION OF THE DEDICATION**

**PARKING**  
 Enter parking areas from either  
 Annie Terrace or Baker Streets

**STAGING FOR PROCESSION**  
 Participants only park here:  
 Behind 8805 E. Orange Ave.  
 Park perpendicular to fence  
 and to wended area, leaving  
 center to stage procession



# Garden club to honor 9/11 victims with parade

MARCIA BEASLEY  
Special to the Chronicle

Shocking events in our lives cause us to remember where we were and what we were doing when the event occurred. Such is the case with Sept. 11, 2001. This event has given us the strong desire to find a way to honor the victims and survivors of this tragedy of 9/11.

The Floral City Garden Club's Tree Committee has chosen to become a part of the Freedom Trees program established by the National Council of State Garden Clubs Inc. to honor the victims and survivors of that event.

Two 15-foot live oak trees were planted Wednesday by the Floral City Garden Club with assistance by its Junior Gardeners and the Floral City Team Green 4-H Club. One tree is spon-

sored by the garden club and the other by a couple in the community who wish to remain anonymous.

A communitywide dedication ceremony will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the site of the planting on Aroostook Way, midway between Marvin and Jefferson Streets in the old part of Floral City. Aroostook Way will be closed to traffic from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Parking will be on the side streets of Marvin and Jefferson and may be entered via Baker Street or Annie Terrace.

A procession or mini-parade will initiate the dedication ceremony.

The Honor Guard of the Joe Nic Barco VFW Post 7122, will lead the procession, followed by bagpipes played by Thomas Heron, commander of the Marine Corps League of Florida. The Grand Marshal will be Vivian (Puckett)

Higgenbotham. Also appearing will be the Floral City Fire & Rescue, Citrus County Fire District V and its Auxiliary, Floral City Elementary School Safety Patrol, Herbert Surber American Legion Post 225, sheriff's office Community Patrol Unit 5, sheriff's office Explorers, sheriff's office FOCUS automobile and sheriff's office motorcycle and bicycle units.

The Colors will be presented by the Joe Nic Barco VFW Post 7122, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by James Kahoe, commander of the Herbert Surber American Legion Post 225. The Rev. Leroy Bellamy, pastor of the Grace Temple Church of the Living God, will provide the invocation followed by "America the Beautiful" sung by the residents of Camp E-Nini-Hassee.

Speaker will be H. D. Bassett, who brings a unique perspective with his years of experience as a commercial airline pilot. He is also a member of the Floral City Heritage Council, a life member of the Citrus County Historical Society, Inc. and a descendant of early Floral City landowner, John Paul Formy-Durval.

Laura Lee Ritchie, Citrus High School Junior and native of Floral City, will read "Trees" by Joyce Kilmer, followed by the Floral City Team Green 4-H leading the audience in singing "God Bless America." The benediction will be presented by the Minister of Youth and Music of the First Baptist Church of Floral City, Phil Horne III, retired, United States Air Force.

Call Floral City Garden Club President Cathi Ayers at 637-6345.

Freedom Tree Dedication & Parade







JANUARY 19, 2003

# Floral City loves a parade



GEORGE HUTCHENS/Chronicle

Members of VFW Post 7122 march down Aroostook Way in Floral City Saturday.

## Community honors 9/11

GEORGE HUTCHENS  
ghutchens@  
chronicleonline.com  
*Chronicle*

A crisp, clear day in Floral City Saturday made for perfect small-town parade conditions.

The day made the Floral City Garden Club's Tree Committee — and a number of civic groups and clubs — event even better.

Marcia Beasley, a Floral City community leader, said Saturday's parade was the first of its kind in the storied town's history.

The event paid homage to honor the victims and survivors of 9/11 with the planting of two 15-foot live oak trees on Aroostook Way.

More than 100 residents turned out in jackets on Saturday, and many remarked that they wished the town had more parades.

“I haven't ever seen anything like it.”

Leroy Bellamy  
pastor, Grace Temple Church  
of the Living God.

“I've been here for 90 years, and I haven't ever seen anything like it,” said Rev. Leroy Bellamy, of the Grace Temple Church of the Living God, during his convocation.

The Eckerd's Youth Alternative Camp E-Nini-Hassee, led by Ann Ruth McGreggory, the music director, sang a lovely rendition of “America the Beautiful.”

The parade included a block-long procession of honor guards of the town's Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion Post, Floral City Fire and Rescue, Floral City Elementary Safety Patrol, and Citrus County Sheriff's Office Patrol clubs.





Hostesses February 2003 Meeting



Dottie Sherman, Marie Jones, Mary Fess

Program 1



Laura Hennings: Paint Rub

Program 2



Bety Eicher: Dried Plant Material

Petal Power Award



Presented by Bette Ayers to Gloria Uhl

Roadside Clean Up is scheduled at various times of the year



Debbie Barney, H.D. Bassett, Shirley McAllen



Christine Harnden



MARCH 12, 2003

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

# Club to share gardening

## *Special to the Chronicle*

Floral City Garden Club members and visitors will meet at 12:30 p.m. Friday, at the home of members Frank and Phyllis Peters, 9041 E. Bella Vista Court, Duval Island, Floral City.

A business meeting will be held at 1 p.m. prior to the program on Vegetable Gardening by member Gloria Uhl. During the meeting, plans for the Annual Plant Sale on April 5 will be dis-

cussed, and Mr. Peters and Mr. Rondo will present the concept plans for the Floral City "Town Center" to include the new parking lot. A tour of the Peters' landscape and vegetable garden will follow.

Uhl is a Master Gardener and a recognized columnist. On this occasion, she will provide helpful hints from her past successes on the when and how to plant and care for vegetable gardens in Citrus County. Those who have adopted

Citrus County as home from a northern state have soon learned that a new set of guidelines are needed in order to reap a harvest here.

Being native Floridians, Frank and Phyllis Peters know these secrets to gardening in Florida. They moved to Citrus County about two years ago. They selected a beautiful home on a peninsula which extends into the Floral City Pool of Lake Tsala Apopka. It is historically known as the Johnson

Island homestead. Although the old farmhouse for the citrus grove was removed years ago, some pecan trees grafted onto local hickory trees from that period remain.

The Peters have turned this point of land into a delightful escape; a place to sit and watch the sun go down, alligators and great blue herons competing for the local fish and boaters cruising by.

They have also added a gazebo in which to watch these

## secrets

activities, a grid pattern of grass and paving squares in a courtyard and a winter vegetable garden within a fenced area. Fruit and ornamental trees dot the landscape.

In order to locate the Peters' residence follow Orange Avenue/C.R. 48 east to the end of the historic oak tree canopy, on the curve turn onto the road to the left which is Orange Avenue continued, go over the Duval Island Bridge and follow Duval Island Road for two

miles to the private gated area, go through the gate to the very end property where a member will assist with parking.

For further information about the Club or a scholarship application call President Cathi Ayers at 637-6345.

For information about programs, call Second Vice President Sheila O'Dell at 344-3379, and for membership inquiries, call First Vice President Jo Ann Quackenbush at 344-4447.

March, 2003 Regular Meeting held at the beautiful home of Frank and Phyllis Peters  
A beautiful setting on Duval Island



Kathy Hoffman & Cathi Ayers Set-up for the meeting

Hostess Barbara Milliken



Serves up the goodies

Hostess Phyllis Peters



Brings more goodies





Quite a Crowd

Frank Peters



Presenting a drawing of proposed improvements to community complex

Pete Rondot



Presenting plan for new parking lot

Gloria Uhl



Presenting program On growing veggies

Getting ready for the April plant sale by having a Vine Planting Party at Lynn Bassett's home





# The Gallop Press

Friday, April 4, 2003

## Garden Club's annual plant sale set for April 5

Clean out your pick up trucks, your trailers and the trunks of your automobiles to make room to carry away treasures from the Floral City Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale.

The event will take place



Saturday, April 5, beginning at 8 a.m. in front of the old fire station on Orange Avenue.

Restrooms will be available inside the Floral City Community Building.

There will be expanded parking in front of the

Community Building.

Included in this year's sale will be homegrown plants, native plants, prime rated nursery plants and environmentally sensitive plants.

For more information call President Cathi Ayers at 637-6345 or Plant Sale Chairman Lynn Bassett at 341-0064.

**Floral City Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale held April 5, 2003, at the old fire station on Orange Avenue**



**Chairman Lynn Bassett making sure the plants are “just right” for the sale**



**Inside - plant sale**





**Plant Sale Chairman, Lynn Bassett giving instructions**



Cashiers get ready



Cashiers get set to go and last minute instructions are given

FCGC Plant Sale



Before the crowd "attacked"

**Ways and Means**  
With lottery prize plant in left background



**Refreshments for sale**



**New member, Lynda Fenton and Gardening Angel™ Barry**





**Outside information booths**



## Master Gardener's Information Booth



Outside the fire station



Are we tired???





# Gallop Press

Friday, April 11, 2003

## Floral City Garden Club sends 'thank you' note to community for support

Dear Editor: Another successful annual plant sale by the Floral City Garden Club came to a close last week with only a few plants left unsold.

The club attributes much of that success to the strong support shown by your newspaper in printing our announcements and we are sincere in our thanks to you for helping make the public aware of our sale.

We are grateful to the

Citrus County Board of County Commissioners who approved our use of the Old Fire Station to set up the Plant Sale the day before the sale and to hold the sale there the following day.

Members of the community were unexpectedly generous with their contributions in the form of donated plants and we wish to acknowledge and thank them: Clint, owner of J.W.

Trees, provided dozens of native trees and some African Iris for sale; Jim Oackerman brought two huge bags of mondo grass for the club to give away with purchases and Richard Fenton, owner of Jessamine Foliage in Dade City, donated Anthuriums and Nuns' Orchids.

We would like to express a special note of gratitude to Floral City business owners Wolfgang and Britta Schwickerath of the Shamrock Inn, who donated coffee and Danish for the event.

As a public service, the club sponsored an Environmental Fair in conjunction with the Plant

Sale this year and we are grateful to those who gave up a Saturday morning to participate: Barbara and Rivard Reding with County Extension Service's Yards and Neighborhood Program; Fred Clark and Carol Lee Wallis with Keep Citrus County Beautiful; Paul Sullivan, Dawn Waltonbaugh and Bud Parish with Citrus County Master Gardeners; Barbara Hyatt with TOOFAR; Nancy Gange and Steve Walkins with Citrus County Mosquito Control and Susie Brunswick with Recycling, Citrus County Solid Waste Management.

As president I wish to also express appreciation to the

many club members who grew plants and contributed them for the sale and to all the members who worked before, during and after the sale.

A special thank you is expressed to Plant Sale Chairwoman Lynn Bassett, who with her husband, H. D. Bassett, worked tirelessly to present this outstanding community event.

Finally, we would be remiss not to thank all the people who came out that day to make plant purchases. We hope to see you all again next year!

With sincere appreciation  
**Cathi Ayers, President**  
Floral City Garden Club

The Gallop Press, Friday, April 11, 2003

## Garden Club offers \$500 scholarship

The April 15 deadline to submit an application for a Scholarship from the Floral City Garden Club is fast approaching.

Student who meet the following qualifications are urged to apply:

Applicants must be registered in an accredited university or college with a major in horticulture, agriculture, environmental sciences, botany, forestry or a related field.

Applicants must be a university or college sopho-

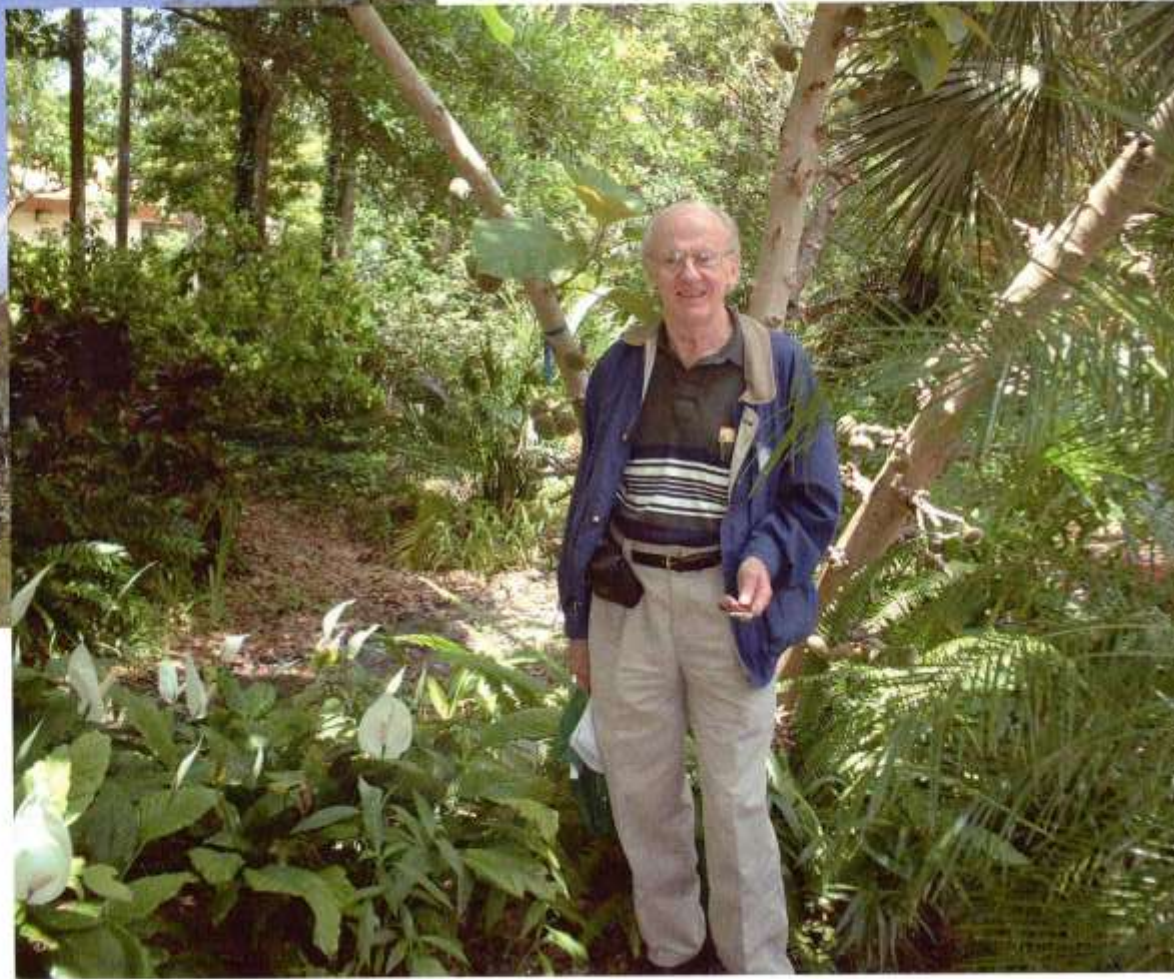
more, junior, senior or graduate student.

Freshmen will be considered if they have declared a major in one of the above fields of study.

Applications must be received by April 15. The scholarship will be awarded by May 30.

Applications for the \$500 scholarship may be requested by email at [cabp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cabp@tampabay.rr.com) or by calling the Floral City Garden Club President Cathi Ayers at 637-6345.

**Field trip to Florida Botanical Gardens – Largo, Fl 4/11/2003**



**Bud Parish, late member of Floral City Garden Club  
At Botanical Gardens**













# The Gallop Press

May 9, 2003



Using a butterfly theme, officers for the 2003-05 administration of the Floral City Garden Club were installed recently by Life Member Marcia Beasley at a luncheon held in the Inverness Golf and Country Club. The new officers are, from left, Treasurer Kathy Hofmann, Recording Secretary Betty Ayers, 2nd Vice President Debby Barney, 1st Vice President Phyllis Peters and President Jo Ann Quackenbush.

The club will resume meetings on the second Friday of September in the Floral City Community Building.



The **Floral City Garden Club** held its installation lunch on May 2 at the Inverness Country Club.

Installing officer **Marcia Beasley** wrote the installation ceremony in a manner that each of the elected individuals represented a common **Florida Butterfly**: The monarch butterfly with its distinct flight pattern has been selected for **president Jo Ann Quackenbush**; the dainty sulphur butterfly, a common resident of Citrus County, for first vice president, membership and hospitality chairwoman **Phyllis Peters**; the eastern black swallowtail, among the largest and most beautiful, for second vice president and program chairman **Debbie Barney**; the zebra longwing, the official state butterfly, for recording secretary **Betty Ayers**; and the great purple hairstreak, known for its metallic colors, represents treasurer **Kathy Hofmann**.

This was the last meeting of the club year and the

last meeting for outgoing president **Cathi Ayers**. Under Ayers' leadership, the club has grown to 84 members. She and her officers **Quackenbush**, **Shelia O'Dell**, **Mary Lu Sloop** and **Hofmann** have presented outstanding monthly programs, field trips and club projects which have retained the interest of long time members and attracted the attention of new members.

A hardy "thank you" was extended to all these officers and to all the committee chairmen.



Photo courtesy of Marcia Beasley

**GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS:** Using a butterfly theme, officers for the 2003 to 2005 administration of the Floral City Garden Club were installed recently by life member **Marcia Beasley**, far right, at a luncheon at Inverness Golf and Country Club. The new officers, from left, are treasurer **Kathy Hofmann**; recording secretary **Betty Ayers**; second vice president **Debbie Barney**; first vice president **Phyllis Peters**; and president **Jo Ann Quackenbush**. The club will resume meetings the second Friday of September in the Floral City Community Building.

## New officers



Special to the Chronicle

Using a butterfly theme, officers for the 2003 to 2005 administration of the Floral City Garden Club were installed recently by Life Member Marcia Beasley at a luncheon held in the Inverness Golf & Country Club. The new officers are from left: Kathy Hofmann, treasurer; Betty Ayers, recording secretary; Debby Barney, second vice president; Phyllis Peters, first vice president and Jo Ann Quackenbush, president. The club will resume meetings the second Friday of September in the Floral City Community Building.

### Installation Luncheon held at Inverness Golf and County Club 5/2/2003

Installation Luncheon







Beautiful table arrangements were made by Bette Ayers, Patsy Neel & Lynn Bassett -- 1





Marcia Beasley, Installation Officer, presented each board member with a butterfly whose life best describes the position she will hold for the coming 2 years



Cathi receives the Past Presidents Pin



Passing the gavel from Cathi to Jo



A special bouquet was delivered to Jo from her husband Don



**District V Spring Meeting hosted by Crystal River Garden Club  
At St. Anne's Episcopal Church – 5/6/2003**

FFGC District V



Spring Meeting/Fiesta of Flowers

FFGC District V



# Three equip needy kids for school



A cashier rings up a bottle of glue as Sloop loads more items on the conveyor belt for checkout at the Inverness Wal-Mart. Sloop and others from St. Margaret's Episcopal Church spent \$237.01 buying school supplies and shoes for needy children.

■ St. Margaret's members go on a shopping spree that puts the heart before the cart.

By COLLEEN JENKINS  
Times Staff Writer

INVERNESS — Their turn at back-to-school shopping for their children came and went decades ago. They haven't the slightest clue if Shaquille O'Neal high-tops or Mary-Kate and Ashley sneakers are cool, or why many elementary school supply lists now require plastic baggies.

But Bonnie Kuntz, Mary Lu Sloop

and Claire Vine know there are families in Citrus County that will struggle to equip their school-age kids with the laundry list of supplies needed in just a few weeks, and they want to do a little something to relieve this burden.

Which explains why the three women spent nearly two hours Tuesday afternoon winding their way through Wal-Mart in search of shoes, socks, book bags and school supplies, mostly for adolescents and teens they've never met.

Their new initiative, named First Step because it's just the first of many community outreach efforts they hope to do for children, will provide at least 35 needy

kids with a selection of school items from those now spilling off local retail shelves. It's an idea they fashioned only last month after hearing a speech at their church about the plight of the county's homeless children.

"There are a number of homeless children in this area," Kuntz said. "The Lord put it on my heart to do something about it."

She rounded up two fellow St. Margaret's Episcopal Church of Inverness members, and a team project was born. They've been gathering names of kids and teenagers, some from the church roster and others from the Path and

CASA shelters.

The church's outreach program donated \$525 to the cause, and other parishioners have extended generous hands as well. The recipients of the school supplies will be invited to pick up their packages from the church Tuesday, a week before school begins.

But first, shopping. Armed with several school supply lists — each list for each grade in each school is different — and a new bank account checkbook, the three women arrived at Wal-Mart. They planned to start small, picking up shoes

Please see **SUPPLIES** Page 4



## Supplies from Page 1

and supplies for the first 10 names they've received.

Martha Hirth, a cheerful store employee, took on the role of personal shopper. Leading them to the clearance racks, she pulled out multiple shoeboxes for their viewing. The decisions began.

Kuntz examined a pair of running shoes, size 11½, for a young man in his early teens.

"That is a big shoe," Hirth said.

"This is a big kid," Kuntz replied.

A navy canvas shoe, a women's size 6, seemed appropriate for a school girl until the women saw it had an open back. Citrus County public schools require closed back heels, so the shoes were swapped for a white canvas pair.

The style, Kuntz said, was less important than the fact the shoes are new.

"This will help them feel like they can compete," she said. "That's what new shoes do. We could find old shoes, but that doesn't impart self-importance."

As they squeezed their way through a maze of aisles, Sloop and Vine piled more into the shopping cart. The mountain of goods

grew, and Kuntz worried they would run short on money. Her shopping pals believed otherwise.

"I think we're spending a whole lot of money," she said.

"Well, that's what it's for," Sloop answered. "God does provide."

Two overflowing carts later, the women had 10 pairs of shoes, 10 packs of socks, 10 book bags in lime green, burnt orange, royal blue, cherry red and gray for the older students, and enough school supplies to fill boxes for all 35 kids.

"We're contributing to some poor child's back problem," Sloop worried, noting she didn't bring all this stuff to school as a child.

They got their best news at the cash register. Wal-Mart gave them significant discounts on many items, and after several feet of register tape, their grand total was \$237.01.

"That is so cool!" Vine exclaimed, throwing her hands up in the air.

Hirth got a hug in the parking lot after unloading the carts into Kuntz's trunk. She also got a promise — the women would be back. They've got dozens more shoes to buy.

— Colleen Jenkins can be reached at 860-7303 or [cjenkins@sptimes.com](mailto:cjenkins@sptimes.com).



Mary Lu Sloop counts spiral notebooks on the floor in an aisle of the Inverness Wal-Mart on Tuesday. Sloop and two other women were buying shoes, socks, book bags and other school supplies for needy children as part of the First Steps program at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church. Times photos — RON THOMPSON



# Club to unveil secret gardens

## Event offers art, lunch and music

*Special to the Chronicle*

The Floral City Garden Club met recently to develop plans for its "Secret Gardens Tour with Art, Lunch and Music" Oct. 11.

Seven gardens in and around Floral

City have been selected for the fall tour.

One decision members meeting made was to place one or more artists at each garden on the tour rather than all artists at one garden.

Sculpture, blown glass, pottery, stained glass and oil and acrylic paint-

ings are samples of the art media that will be exhibited and offered for sale that day.

Another decision made was to extend the touring hours to allow more time to view the seven gardens and the works of the dozen artists and to eat lunch and listen to the music. Gardens will be open at 8 a.m. and will close at 4 p.m. The cost is yet to be determined.

Programs disclosing the garden sites,

which are kept secret until Saturday, Oct. 11, will be distributed with a map to the gardens and artists, plus a description of each property to be viewed.

Tickets will available well in advance at locations throughout the county for the convenience of those desiring to attend this first-time event.

For information, call committee chairman Carol Hart at 344-4775 or ticket chairman Cathi Ayers at 637-6345.

Another Floral City Garden Club

"Special" member

TIMES ■ MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2003

### Who's news



Phyllis Peters has been named by Hospice of Citrus County as

director of

Comfort Home

Care Services.

She joined the

nonprofit, com-

munity-sup-

ported organi-

zation in 2001

as a registered

nurse. As the

on-call night

nurse, she was

responsible for providing care and

instructions for all Hospice pa-

tients in the county. Her new posi-

tion includes managing the ser-

vices of the home care division and

working closely with the nursing

staff to provide the best possible

nursing care for patients who are

in the last phases of incurable dis-

eases so the patients may live as

fully and comfortably as possible.

■ ■ ■

**FLORAL CITY  
GARDEN CLUB**

**GARDEN TOUR AT  
BETTY EICHER'S HOME**

**AUGUST 1, 2003**





**MEMBERS OF THE GARDEN CLUB ENJOYING BETTY'S GARDEN WITH BLUEBERRIES AND STRAWFLOWERS**







**PINK AND WHITE STRAWFLOWERS GROWING IN THE GARDEN AND DRYING IN THE SHED**







**GOURDS GROWING IN BETTY'S GARDEN**  
**BETTY'S CREATIONS**



**STRAWFLOWERS FOR SALE**  
**THIS IS HOW BETTY PRESSES THE FLOWERS**







ENJOYING



REFRESHMENTS



AT BETTY'S



# The Gallop Press

The Gallop Press, Friday, Aug. 15, 2003

## 'Secret Gardens' tour, lunch planned for Saturday, Oct. 11

Little decisions that make a big difference were made recently when members of the Floral City Garden Club met to develop plans for the Oct. 11 "Secret Gardens Tour with Art, Lunch and Music."

Seven gardens in and around Floral City have been selected for the fall tour.

During the meeting a decision was made to locate one or more artists at each of the residences to be toured rather than to have everyone gathered at one location.

Sculpture, blown

glass, pottery, stained glass, oil and acrylic paintings are a sampling of the art medium that will be viewed and offered for sale that day.

Another decision made was to extend the touring hours to allow more time to view the seven gardens, to meet the dozen artists, to eat lunch and to listen to the music.

The gardens will open at 8 a.m. and will close at 4 p.m.

Programs disclosing the location of each garden (which is kept

secret until Saturday, Oct. 11), will be distributed with a map to the gardens and artists. The programs will also include a description of each property to be viewed.

Tickets will be available well in advance at locations throughout the county for the convenience of those desiring to attend this first-time event for Citrus County.

For more information call Committee Chairwoman Carol Hart at 344-4775 or Ticket Chairwoman Cathi Ayers at 637-6345.



*The Floral City Garden Club proudly presents*

*the Second Annual*  
**SECRET GARDENS & ART TOUR**

*Come to beautiful Floral City  
to tour a variety of residential  
gardens, each creatively developed  
to enhance the natural setting.  
Artwork of local area artists  
will be on display and  
available for purchase.*

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2**  
**10 A.M. - 4 P.M.**

**TICKETS: \$15**

*Advance tickets RECOMMENDED. Available from  
Citrus County Chambers of Commerce or by calling  
Cathi Ayers: 637-6345 or Dave or Thelma Noble: 726-2431.*

Tour maps will be available at the Floral City Community Bldg. 2 blocks east of the light at  
US 41 & CR 48/Orange Ave beginning at 9:30 a.m. day of the tour



**2004 CONVENTION**  
**FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC**

April 26, 2004

Cathi Ayers, Chairman  
Door Prizes Committee  
6540 S. Duval Island Road  
Floral City, FL 34463

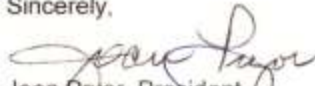
Dear Cathi:

The Convention Committee and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you so very much for all that you did to make the 2004 FFGC Convention, **READY -SET-GROW!!** in Gainesville last week such a success.

The job of **Door Prizes Chairman** is a vast undertaking, and you did a fantastic job in organizing and overseeing all aspects of the Door Prizes wrapping and distribution. It was a large job with writing each club and circle and making arrangements to collect and sift through all that was turned in. You and the ladies from **Floral City Garden Club** did a great job of wrapping and bagging all of them, in just one day - and we appreciate your organizational skills in getting it all handled. This lifted a great burden from the Convention Committee's shoulders. Please extend our appreciation to all those who helped you and us ensure everyone's enjoyment at the Convention.

Again, we thank you for a great job!

Sincerely,

  
Joan Pryor, President

  
Claudia Bates, Convention Chairman,  
For the Committee



*Donna Malloy*  
8201 NW 120<sup>th</sup> Street  
Reddick, FL 32686-4514

April 28, 2004

Mrs. Jo Ann Quackenbush  
Floral City Garden Club  
11404 E. Loon Court  
Floral City, FL 34436

Dear Jo Ann:

On behalf of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, I want to thank the Floral City Garden Club for their generous donation of the pitcher and bowl for the Yard Sale. Your donation went a long way towards making this sale the success it was.

Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

*Donna Malloy*

Donna Malloy  
Chairwoman



Dear Jo,

5/25/04

Many thanks to you and all the members of the Floral City Garden Club for hosting the District V Spring Meeting.

Everyone who attended had a great time. Joan Pryor said: "It was a great meeting." She had a good time and enjoyed attending. I, too, had a wonderful time, and thank you for a delightful day! I will treasure the album of photos.

You are so talented, generous, well-organized, kind people. Thank you for all you do.

Reva





Hello Floral City Garden Club!

How fabulous it was for me to have you choose me for your scholarship! I am deeply indebted to you and will make you proud in the future! Thank you again ever so much!

✿

Jane,

Jana Lu Pitche



Dearest Miss Cathi and  
Floral City Garden Club!

I am extremely honored  
to be the recipient of  
your 2004 scholarship!  
I am certainly proud  
to be a floraleitian and  
have been happy to  
contribute in all of  
the activities the  
Garden Club has brought  
to our little town!  
I promise to make you  
Proud!

Sincerely,  
Laura Lee Ritchie





*Floral City Garden Club*  
*proudly presents*

A SECRET GARDENS TOUR  
WITH ART, LUNCH AND MUSIC

*October 11, 2003*  
*10 a.m. - 4 p.m.*

*"Treasures of the Garden should be shared"*

## *Welcome to this special fundraiser event!*

All profits will be used to support the Floral City Garden Club's community projects which include maintaining established Memorial, Butterfly and Floral City Elementary Gardens, sending children to Camp Wekiva, a \$500 scholarship to a college student, and working with the FC Heritage Council to maintain and replace, as needed, our magnificent live oak trees.

Our grateful appreciation to the homeowners, the artists and the musicians who have donated their time and hard work to make this event a success.

### *The homeowners*

Dave and Pam Bellman  
Gene Coats and Cathy Foley  
Tom and Carol Dyer  
Frank and Laurie Kanka  
Gene and Amanda Mullen  
Lloyd and Sheila O'Dell  
Frank and Phyllis Peters

At the Community Building

### *The artists*

Carol Varn  
Mark Edwards  
Anita Roy  
Amanda Mullen  
Jack Lester  
Tina Bristol Estes  
Mary Nigel  
Diane Dowthitt  
Jo Ann Quackenbush

### *The musicians*

Pete Hennings  
Pete Price

### *Garden Tour Committee:*

Chairman: Carol Hart  
Homeowners' Coordinator: Cathy Foley  
Artists: Thelma Noble  
Programs: Cathi Ayers, Marcia Beasley  
Publicity: Marcia Beasley  
Signage: Cathy Foley  
Hostesses: Debbie Barney  
Lunch: Bette Ayers, Carol Delisle, Candy Drake, Marie Jones, Maureen Thieryung



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. YOUR TICKET IS REQUIRED FOR YOU TO ENTER EACH GARDEN AND TO RECEIVE YOUR LUNCH.
2. LUNCH will be served at the Community Building from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please limit your time at a table to 30 minutes to allow time for others to be seated.
3. You may visit gardens in any order.
4. RESTROOMS are available in the Community Building and at Floral Park, which you will pass as you head south on US 41 to the O'Dell's property. Please do not ask homeowners.

*Thank You for Coming!*

*We Hope You Enjoy Your Tour  
As Much As We Have Enjoyed  
Planning It*

## THE ARTISTS

Diane Dowthitt: Acrylic Painter As a young adult at University Hospital in St Louis, Diane took her first art class, discovering she had a natural drawing skill. She went on to study art in California, Australia, and Giverny, France. Her work has changed scope over the years from Expressionistic to Modern Impressionist. Her current attention however has been drawn to the raw natural landscapes, waterways and wildlife so abundant in Citrus County. When not engaged in her part time work as nurse at Citrus Memorial Hospital, and as Web-master for the Floral City Garden Club, she does collage and relief work as well as her acrylic painting. (FC Community Bldg)

Mark Edwards – Metal Sculpture: Taught by his well-known artist father, Ken Edwards, Mark has gone on to earn many awards for his own nature-inspired metal sculptures of water birds, animals, Banyan and bamboo trees. He spends most of his time creating but is also a decorator for restaurants and homes. Accompanying Mark will be Marilyn Vallancourt who has been working in silver and gold sculptured jewelry for 20 years. (Coats & Foley gardens)

Tina Bristol Estes – Wind-chimes: With a Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts, Tina has done sculpting, ceramics, drawing, painting and recently settled into putting her creative eye toward production of gorgeous windchimes. Utilizing ordinary items along with heirloom jewelry, crystals and fragments of stained glass, each chime has it's own look, sound, personality and spirit. (Peters gardens)

Jack Lester – Hand Thrown Stoneware in the Fine Crafts Tradition  
2520 S. Bolton Ave, Homosassa 34448  
Email: vdub1973@yahoo.com  
Phone: 628-1343 Bio not available at time of printing  
(O'Dell gardens)

Amanda Mullen – Gourd Artist A few years ago Amanda returned to her Floral City roots, taking up residence in her childhood home, where she carries on the role of gardener started by her grandmother. Along with her love of plants she brought her artistic flair of creativity to her love of gourds. She first became enraptured with gourds when as a child she drank water from a neighbors hand pump using a pitcher gourd. She began growing



gourds on a whim while living in Alabama, so it was a natural next step for her to advance to carving and painting them as an avenue to allow each gourd to speak forth its unique purpose or assume its own character. Her Halloween and Santa gourds are favorites. (Mullen gardens)

Mary L. Nigels – Glass bead and Silversmith: Mary creates her own glass beads making them into unique designs in beaded lamp-work and jewelry. An avid collector of vintage beads and jewelry for years, and enamored by shiny baubles, creating glass beads became a natural choice for a creative outlet. Her latest designs lean toward florals and botanicals. (Peters gardens)

JoAnn Quackenbush - Decorative Painter JoAnn is a transplanted Floridian from New Jersey, moving here at the age of 2 with her mother shortly after her father was killed in World War II. She fell in love with the native wildlife found here and paints scenes of it using acrylics on rustic driftwood, dock planks, cypress and slabs of slate as her canvas. You can also find her handiwork on sinks, tubs, walls, doors and windows in several area homes, a church, at the Sandy Bottom Bayou shop in downtown Inverness, and on some of the large Christmas greeting cards shown in Floral City during the Holiday Season. Her work will soon be appearing on the new Floral City Gateway sign and a wall at the Floral City Elementary School. She is the current President of The Floral City Garden Club. (FC Community Club)

Anita Roy – Oil Painting: At 85, Anita is a well known, long-time Floral City artist. She is known for her BIG bold oil paintings. She is an award-winning artist, active in the Citrus County Art League and shows at their annual Arts show. She is a previous owner of the "Shadowbright" property and did the pen and ink drawings for the publication of the booklet, "Shadowbright: Poems and Prose," available through the Citrus County Historical Society. (Kanka gardens)

Carol Varn – Gourd Artist Carol is a native Floridian who loves working with gourds. She cuts her gourds into bowls and vases, and decorates them with paints, dyes, clays and other natural substances allowing each gourd to dictate whether it becomes a cat, cute chicken or a woven dream catcher. She has led workshops on gourd craft for the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and is a member and treasurer of the Florida Gourd Society and American Gourd Society. (Bellman gardens)

## *THE GARDENS*

**PARK PLACE** – 8615 E. Derby Oaks Dr

Owners: Sheila and Lloyd O'Dell

Featured Artist: Jack Lester

Floral City is known for its Live Oaks but travel just south of the historic village and find oaks of a different kind on the sand hills of Derby Oaks. Turkey oaks and Blackjack oaks dot this 10 acre park-like property with its house and walkways evoking an oriental feeling. ~ Partially hidden among the numerous edged gardens are ceramic angels, frogs, rabbits, turtles, mushrooms, birdbaths, plaques and reflection balls. Local lime rock becomes the foundation for many of these individual gardens. Mosses and lichen have been allowed to grow on stones interspersed with native fern whose spores have blown in on the wind. No native plant is allowed to be plucked from its growing place, and each appears to have been carefully selected and planted there by the owner. ~ The tree-banked driveway leads to a tear-drop shaped entry garden whose angel greets visitors on sight. It is filled with day lilies, hydrangeas, yucca, jasmine, wild plum and mimosa. ~ A wooden bench with side table provides a spot to enjoy the weeping yaupon holly, lantana and azaleas in another garden. Further along is another bed of day lilies but these are accompanied by coral holly, spiderwort, hibiscus, durantas and laurel oaks. The container garden offers a spot for ever-changing seasonal plants. ~ Running the length of the garage and one side of the house is a walk-way reminiscent of the orient. Rounded river rock outlined by one by two timbers surround 24 inch concrete squares. Between this walkway and the house, black lava rock has been selected for mulch around the low shilling holly bushes. To the outside of the walkway, confederate jasmine is being trained to grow horizontally on a low fence. ~ Large pots of durantas are welcoming at the gray lattice entrance, and the walkway between the house and garage repeats the river rock and concrete squares. This leads to another garden featuring tea olives, gardenias, camellias, vertical climbing jasmine, cultivated lantana, lorepetalum and heather. A sundial and birdbath are added accents here. ~ The grounds abound with Turkey oaks which have the familiar leaf shape of northern oaks. The oaks surround the large outbuilding which houses the "non-gardening" surprise of these owners' home: five restored classic automobiles on display!



## MORNING GLORY COUNTRY CHALET

11296 Turner Ave.

Owners: Gene Coats and Cathy Foley

Featured Artist: Mark Edwards

Wild vines and whimsical cottage gardens await you at Morning Glory Country Chalet. Five acres of dogwoods, oaks and majestic pines create a park-like setting. From the gated entry, hand-painted signs welcome visitors down the narrow drive. Many different vines grow carelessly along the fence. They include passion, morning glory, honeysuckle and black-eyed Susan. Soon one comes upon a charming garden shed, many antique tools and an authentic "John Deere" mower surrounded by an array of colorful flowers. As the Chalet is approached, an arbor appears featuring Clematis, morning glory and mandevilla vines. A climbing rose, Joseph's Coat, trails other roses with its late blooms. ~ A cottage garden at the front of the Chalet showcases perennials such as obedient plants, Mexican petunias, narrow-leaf sunflowers, blue and red porter weed, salvias, mums, four o'clocks, golden dew-drop, butterfly flower and butterfly bush. To provide continual bloom in this garden, annuals are also planted. To protect the birds and butterflies, only natural solutions are used. The garden is free of commercial pesticides. ~ One acre of the property is laid out in charming theme gardens with clever names such as the "Tea Cup Garden," "Mimi's Secret Garden," "Butterfly Garden." The "Moonlight Fairy Garden" includes a goldfish pond complete with rippling stone waterfall and dotted with colorful flowers peeking out among the rocks. This garden forms a backdrop for the intimate weddings often held in the gazebo in front of the romantic falls. ~ Stone walkways, twig trellis, and rustic arbors created by the owners from the abundant natural materials on the property, give the gardens at Morning Glory Country Chalet a fairy tale charm. It's no wonder this Bed and Breakfast is a popular retreat. ~ For the visitor who appreciates farm animals, saying 'hello' to "Miss Good Cow," the family pet, is a must. She loves to give big kisses!

**RECLAIMED AND REFLECTIVE** – 8219 E. Orange Ave.

Owners: Dave and Pam Bellman

Featured Artist: Carol Varn

In the very heart of old Floral City, under a giant mulberry tree, sits one of the areas most recently restored historic homes. When the property was rescued in 1997, the Bellmans immediately began to develop their landscaping plan utilizing the many treasures salvaged from renovation work on homes and buildings in Central Florida. ~ Decorative ironwork placed between wooden posts fronts the property and west side. Recovered old brick is used to tie together the many walkways and flower beds. Recycled windows are used to construct the productive green house. ~ Circling the wrap-around porch is a variety of plantings, some new, some nearly as old as the house itself. ~ At the back of the garage is a lattice potting alcove and a large pokeweed plant, used by Native Americans for dye. Beyond the alcove is an almost-hidden seating area surrounded by hibiscus, firecracker and pineapple plants. In front of the potting alcove, thryallis and a large morning glory bush anchor each end of a seat carved into a fallen tree trunk. ~ The yard is dotted with small gardens featuring various plants: mimosa encircled by bromeliads and lantana; a fig tree planted beneath with coleus and beauty bush; a bushy cassia planted with lirioppe, lantana and old roses below. ~ Behind the green house and bordered by a knee-high, wide-board fence can be found a sky-reaching tithonia, narrow-leaf sunflowers, cranberry hibiscus, glorybower, jatropha and assorted herbs. ~ East of the greenhouse is the focal point of the yard, the double pond with raised, wooden deck. At pond's edge can be found old roses, cat's whiskers, coleus, dwarf Mexican petunia, lantana, mums, firecracker plants and varieties of groundcover. ~ The east side of the house is framed by plumbago and a mandevilla covered arbor leads into the courtyard where a pomegranate tree grows. ~ This old home, with its owners dedicated to rescuing, reusing and recycling, serves them and our community well.



**THE ENCHANTED GARDEN** – 8481 E. Orange Ave.

Owners: Gene and Amanda Mullen

Featured Artist: Amanda Mullen

Perfected with individual vignettes at every turn, "The Enchanted Garden" best describes this Secret Garden. ~ Entering at the driveway, stately sago palms lift their fronds in welcome on the right and a wayside seating area, lush with purple potato vine, begonias, asters, sage, impatiens, black-eyed Susan vine and tithonia offers a spot to rest. ~ To the left of the driveway, a lime rock terrace features alyssum, begonias, coleus, blue salvia and more. Venturing up the driveway there lies a fairyland world. ~ Before entering the large wooden gates which open to many garden rooms, stroll through the old Camellia garden. Though not in bloom at this time of year, imagine the beauty of these bushes planted many years ago by Amanda's grandmother. ~ Entering the wooden gates one finds stone-painted paths connecting the individualized areas. Ancient brick encircles a half submersed swimming pool; an aged picnic table dabbled with shades of purple paint sits near-by, and off to one side is another seating area, secluded by a mature fringe tree full with seed pods. A short tunnel of vines ends at a hidden painted door to yet another garden path. ~ Turn another direction and encounter Cherokee Roses climbing a lattice arbor. Here painted lavender roses bloom on the pavers and on an inviting bench. ~ Near the house is a large out-door area covered entirely with passion vine, bougainvillea and flamevine. This "room" at once elicits an exclamation of awe; no wonder the owners were married here! An inviting table and chairs are placed in one corner while at the side, steps lead to the two levels of wooden deck which form the entrance to this c.1903 historic house. Throughout the "garden rooms" are numerous unusual birdhouses, butterfly houses, and bird cages. An array of "found" objects grace the fences and buildings, some with words to share: "May all your weeds be wildflowers" or "Faith is the bird that feels the light when the dawn is dark." Tagore

**BEHIND THE PICKET FENCE** – 8532 E. Orange Ave.

Owners: Tom and Carol Dyer

A crisp white picket fence and serpentine flower beds define the front property line of this c. 1908 historic home. Leading from the lime-rock lined driveway to the porch and around the side of the house is a carefully laid grey faux brick path edged in red brick. This path leads to a small stone pond with a waterfall where white chairs conveniently invite one to rest beside the pond. The stroll to the pond passes azaleas, ivy ground cover, a variety of ferns, a bottlebrush tree and a redbud tree. Bits of decorative iron work, a long narrow glass-paned door and metal gate frame the east side of the property. ~ A large shaded back yard invites a gathering of guests while on the periphery are small seating areas, an adirondack chair here, a bench there. Garden angels, bird houses and plaques, all painted by the resident artist, hang from the trees and fences. The owner exhibits her art at shows throughout the state and is at such a show on this day. ~ Alongside the original free-standing garage is a walkway leading to an unusual gable-shaped arbor covered with climbing roses. Beyond the arbor and behind the garage is a seating area with an Australian Tree Fern rarely found in this area. Here one may discover the full talent of the artist as the entire rear of the garage is painted in a pastel garden scene. ~ At the front of the garage, a giant live oak shelters a quarter-of-a-century old staghorn fern and an array of shade plants at its base. Another quiet seating area is located at the side of the garage where one might sit and watch the seasonal changes of birds that come to the feeders. Again plaques with garden motifs and decorative metal fencing are featured accents.



## **TERRACED TO A TEE** – 9097 E. Bella Vista

Owners: Frank and Laurie Kanka

Featured Artist: Anita Roy

Concealed behind a row of male holly trees and crepe myrtle, and beyond the traditional front landscaping of this home, is a well-orchestrated example of how to landscape when building codes require a house lot to be raised above the flood plain. ~ From the front, landscaped gardens meander to either side. A large coontie palm marks the beginning of one garden where a 60 year old hanging hoyo plant can be seen. Twenty-five year old Ti plants brought from Hawaii also reside in this front garden. ~ Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow plants grace the entrance to the front door while giant liriopes outline a bed to the left. A bedding of Bird-of-Paradise and yucca is framed by the housefront. ~ Stepping through the garden to the left and proceeding to the back of the house, holly, magnolias and crepe myrtles grow on a hill-side covered with day lilies. Along the house, King's mantle dwell along with a well-proportioned redbud tree. Near the corner of the terrace is a mushroom-shaped Cassia. ~ Entering the screened lanai, the owners have created a lovely protected garden area which features hibiscus, azaleas, amaryllis, dianthus and more accented by a fountain. Also in the lanai is a collection of orchids. ~ From the lanai, a stroll down the faux tree trunk stepping stones, brings to view the bank of Asiatic jasmine, which, the owner reports, was all started from two small plants. ~ Below this bank the garden presents viewers with aspidistra, butterfly ginger, dwarf Cavendish banana, impatiens, holly fern and more. ~ Climb the steps at the northeast end of the terrace to complete the tour around the house. ~ Passing a large mimosa and a group of scented dogwood, all begun from seedlings, the propagation area comes into view. The owners place starting pots in the ground, covered with mulch, for an attractive and organized appearance, which also assists in moisture retention, reducing watering requirements. ~ As the path returns visitors to the front, sculptured planting beds border the drive with evergreen shrubbery and accent plants, which includes Bolivian Sunset Gloxinia groundcover, a favorite of hummingbirds.

**POINT OF PEACE** – 9041 Bella Vista Dr

Owners: Frank and Phyllis Peters

Featured Artists: Tina Bristol Estes – Wind-chimes

Mary Nigel – Glass beads & Silversmith

Enter the picket-outlined gateway to arrive at this three acre haven which elicits a special sense of tranquility. ~ With so much shoreline the owners, who are committed to protecting the environment, have cleverly and creatively applied conservation techniques so that one is unaware that the foundation of the tranquility may, just possibly, come from the sincere respect shown to nature. Because the shoreline receives significant wake from boat traffic, considerable thought has gone into landscaping for shoreline erosion control, and with its high visibility this may offer an example to other shoreline owners. Plants used for this purpose include gingers, banana, iris and pagoda. ~ A short way inside the entry and off the mulched driveway is the vegetable garden where the winter garden has recently been planted. ~ Over seventy trees have been planted in the two and a half years the Peters have lived here including three different oak varieties, Redbud, Dogwood, Fringe Tree, Bradford pear, two maple varieties, and Silver Bell, to name a few. It's believed that the ancient pecans, planted when the property was homesteaded in 1912, were grafted onto pig-nut hickory trees. ~ A focal point in the broad sweeping lawn is the white classic-design gazebo. Here the gardens reflect the artistry of the owners as they have applied a variety of colors, textures and shapes among the lime stones covered in artillery fern, lichen and resurrection fern. The result is a gracefully sophisticated centerpiece in the landscape. ~ ~ An area with seating and swing for the grandchildren features a new camellia bed and pagoda plants, which attract hummingbirds. ~ Along the property line near the entry, Chicasaw plum, hog plum and Walters viburnum, all natives, have been planted to lend privacy when the neighboring land is developed. ~ Sweet viburnum and pittosporum hug the low stucco wall of the patio on two sides of the house. One side of the garage cradles an old-fashioned rose garden under the stairs leading to the sundeck.. ~ Between the garage and house, is the courtyard where Confederate jasmine climbs along the wall and across the metal railing of the deck, and an herb garden grows outside the door, convenient to the kitchen. ~ The contemplation and deliberation put into planning this home's landscape has created an environment which invites visitors to sojourn there in serenity.



## DRIVING DIRECTIONS

**East Gardens** (Peters and Kanka): From the Community Building (CB), head east on Orange Ave/CR48 one mile to the first left after exiting the oak canopy – Orange Avenue To Duval Island Drive. After crossing the bridge at the boat ramp, continue on Duval Island Drive for two miles. Duval Island Drive becomes Bella Vista as it enters a gated community. The Peters home, 9041 Bella Vista, is directly ahead at the end of the road. The Kanka home, 9097 Bella Vista, is the last house on the right of this same street as you face the Peters' home.

**Central Gardens** (Dyer, Mullen): From the CB, head east on Orange Ave/CR 48 one block to a vacant lot where the FC Baptist Church sign is. Park here for both gardens. The Mullen home, 8481 E. Orange Ave., is on the north side of Orange Avenue. The Dyer home, 8532 E. Orange Ave., is adjacent to the vacant lot.

(Bellman) From the CB, head **west** on Orange Ave/ CR48. Continue straight through the traffic light intersection. The Bellman home, 8219 Orange Ave, is the second house on the right.

**South Gardens** (Foley): From the CB, head west to the traffic light and then south on US 41 for 2 miles to Stagecoach/ CR486. Bear right onto Stagecoach and go 3 miles to Turner Avenue. Left on Turner Avenue for .5 mile to the Coats/Foley home - 12296 Turner Ave. Please park on the roadside. A golfcart will shuttle visitors from the road or you may walk down the drive.

(O'Dell) From the CB, head west to the traffic light and then south on US 41 for 3 miles to Derby Oaks (at the top of the hill after passing Floral Park on the left). Left on Derby Oaks Drive. This road (Derby Oaks Drive) will make a 90 degree turn to the left and again to the right. Be careful not to go straight after the first 90 degree turn. If you do you will be on Apaloosa, not Derby Oaks. Continue .6 mile to O' Dell home - 8615 Derby Oaks Dr.)

### Central and East Gardens



Community Bldg

### South Gardens



Community Bldg



# Garden club blooming with activities

## Meetings are the second Friday monthly

Special to the Chronicle

"Garden As You Go" is the theme this year for the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, so Floral City Garden Club President, Jo Ann Quackenbush, has chosen "Garden As You Grow" as her theme for the next two years.

This theme is evident in the programs planned for the coming year: "Birds and Butterflies," "Integrated Pest Management," "Stop, Don't Throw That Away," "Native Coontie,"

"Proper Pruning," "Flower Arranging" and "Camp Wekiva." Field trips include a Riverboat Tour of the Homosassa River and Jane Weber's Nature Trail Walk.

Special events planned for the year involve the Oct. 11 "Secret Gardens Tour with Art, Lunch and Music" in Floral City, the Dec. 12 annual Christmas luncheon and on April 30, the hosting of the District V Garden Clubs' biannual meeting.

In between the programs, field

trips and special events, members will be active in initiating their new projects of landscaping the Floral City Gateway Sign at the east end of Orange Avenue; the Floral City Elementary School grounds beautification project, which contains flower beds, a large mural and developing a seating area with a stepping stone path, trees and shrubs; and installing initial plantings called for in the new "Town Center" plan.

All of these goals and activities will be presented at the first meeting of the season. The Floral City Garden

Club meets on the second Friday monthly from September through May. This meeting will be at 12:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12, in the historic lime rock Floral City Community Building on Orange Avenue.

Members and visitors will be greeted by Christine Harnden and Pam Bellman and then offered refreshments, which will be provided by Shirley Granneman, Bette Ayers and Sheila Odell. The business meeting will be called to order at 1, and at 2, the group will be treated to a program about "Birds and Butterflies" by Jim Bierly of the Citrus County

TIMES ■ WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2003

■ ■ ■  
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Quackenbush has plans for a busy year for the club and the public. Her theme is evident in the planned programs: Birds and Butterflies; Integrated Pest Management; Stop, Don't Throw That Away; Native Coontie; Proper Pruning; Flower Arranging and Camp Wekiva.

Field Trips include a riverboat tour of the Homosassa River and Jane Weber's Nature Trail Walk.

Special events planned for the year involve "Secret Gardens Tour with Art, Lunch and Music" in Floral City on Oct. 11, the annual Christmas luncheon on Dec. 12 and hosting the District V Garden Clubs' biannual meeting on April 30.

In between the programs, field trips and special events, members will initiate their new projects of landscaping the Floral City Gateway Sign at the east end of Orange Avenue; the Floral City Elementary School grounds beautification Project, which contains

flower beds, a large mural and developing a seating area with a stepping stone path, trees and shrubs and installing initial plantings called for in the new "Town Center" plan.

All of these goals and activities will be presented at the first meeting of the season, 12:30 p.m. Friday in the Floral City Community Building on Orange Avenue (County Road 48). Members and visitors will be greeted by **Christine Harnden and Pam Bellman**. Refreshments will be provided by **Shirley Granneman, Bette Ayers and Sheila Odell**. At 2 p.m., **Jim Bierly** of the Citrus County Audubon Society will present a program on "Birds and Butterflies."

Open to the public. For information on the group, the program or direction, call 344-4447.

Audubon Society. Bierly is an active leader in the Native Plant Society of Citrus County and keeps our club members posted on items of interest concerning native plants and their habitat.

Following the program, members and guests are welcome to select items from the "Grow and Share Table." These items have been furnished by members who bring cuttings, small plants, bulbs and seeds to share with others. Many a club member's garden has been enriched by this method of sharing bounty with others.

Debbie



Enjoying a pre-meeting snack

Jo & Debbie lead



Pledge of Allegiance

Marcia announces



Floral City Sign Dedication on 10/18 10AM

Bobbie reports



Plight of the gopher turtles

Norm reads



letter to County Commissioners RE: gophers

**President Jo Quackenbush's first  
Floral City Garden Club meeting of the year**



Carol reports



Secret Garden Tour on 10/11 ... workers needed

Jo presents



Petal Power Award to Dawn [for Pam]

Jo presents



President's Award to Mary Lu for organizing and coordinating Summer Garden Tour to Betty Eicher's

Jim Bierly, CCFNPS President



introduces program on birds & butterflies

guests



Al & Joan Lippman & Mrs. Bierly Joan was program commentator

# Garden club to meet

## Public is invited

### Special to the Chronicle

The Floral City Garden Club will meet at 12:30 p.m. Friday in the Floral City Community Building. The public is invited.

Terry Newberry and Dorothy Clark will greet members and visitors, while Linda Fenton, Faith Coleman and Alice Reed serve refreshments.

The business meeting will be called to order at 1 by Jo Ann Quackenbush, president, followed by the program on "Integrated Pest Management" by Dawn Waltonbaugh, a club member and a Master Gardener. The "Ways 'n Means" table will be set up by Bobbie Thompson Schoss, chairman, and at the end of the

program, members and visitors may help themselves to cuttings, bulbs, seeds and etc. on the "Grow and Share" table.

A final review, "Secret Gardens Tour with Art, Lunch and Music," will be the following day. During the luncheon, tickets will be offered on a drawing for a wildflower throw from Lady Bird Johnson's Wildflower Research Center in Texas.

Tickets for the tour are available for \$15 inclusive and may be picked up at all three offices of the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce, the *Chronicle* Office at Meadowcrest, Shear Delight on State Road 44 near the County Road 486 intersection and at Floral City Antiques on U.S. 41 north of the traffic light. They may also be obtained by calling Cathi at 860-6345 or Carol at 344-4775.

Petal Power Award



Presented to Bobby for her work in saving the gopher turtles, by Dawn

President's Award



Presented to the Secret Gardens Tour work crew: seated Dawn, Debbie, middle row Cathi, Pam, Candy, Carol, Shirley, Thelma, Maureen, back row Marcia & Carol by Jo

Program



Integrated Pest Management presented by Dawn



## Heritage Week



WALTER CAR

The Citrus County Board of County Commissioners presented a proclamation recently to the Citrus County Heritage Week to be coordinated by the Citrus County Historical Society, Inc. The event is held annually during the third week of October in Citrus County. Members of the Citrus County Historical Society, Inc. who presented the proclamation from left, are: JoAnn Quackenbush; Beverly Drinkhouse; Marcia Beasley; Jim Fowler, Board of Commissioners chairman; Lucy Wines; and Frank Peters.



Times photo — MARY ANN KOSLASKY

**HERITAGE WEEK:** On Sept. 23, the Board of County Commissioners issued a proclamation setting the third week of October as Citrus County Heritage Week. On hand to accept the proclamation from Commissioner Jim Fowler, center, were members of the Citrus County Historical Society. Shown from left are JoAnn Quackenbush, Beverly Drinkhouse, Marcia Beasley, Fowler, Lucy Ann Wines, John Wines and Frank Peters.



At pool's edge grow old roses, cat's whiskers, coleus, dwarf Mexican petunia, lantana, mums, firecracker plants and varieties of Jew.

### PARK PLACE AND BEAUTY WALK

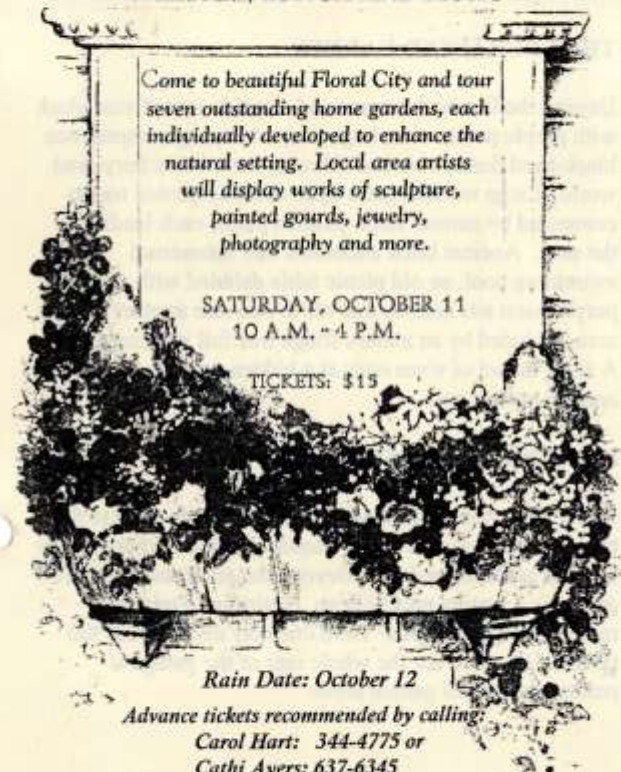
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### WILD AND WHIMISCAL

One acre of the property is laid-out in charming theme gardens with names such as the "Tea Cup Garden", "Mimi's Secret Garden" and "Butterfly Garden." There is, also, the "Moonlight Fairy Garden" which presents a goldfish pond complete with rippling, stone waterfall and dotted with colorful flowers peeking out from among the rocks surrounding the pool. This garden forms a backdrop for the intimate weddings often held at the Gazebo in front of this romantic waterfall.

*The Floral City Garden Club proudly presents*

## A SECRET GARDENS TOUR WITH ART, LUNCH AND MUSIC



Come to beautiful Floral City and tour seven outstanding home gardens, each individually developed to enhance the natural setting. Local area artists will display works of sculpture, painted gourds, jewelry, photography and more.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11  
10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

TICKETS: \$15

*Rain Date: October 12*

*Advance tickets recommended by calling:  
Carol Hart: 344-4775 or  
Cathi Ayers: 637-6345*

Tour maps will be available at the Floral City Community Bldg. 2 blocks east of the light at US41 & CR48/Orange Ave beginning at 9:30 a.m. day of the tour

## A SECRET GARDENS TOUR WITH ART, LUNCH AND MUSIC

Below is just a hint of what one can expect in each Secret Garden

### THE ENCHANTED GARDEN

Beyond the limerock terrace and wayside seated area plush with purple potato vine, begonias, asters, sage, impatiens black-eyed Susan vine and tithonia, there lies a fairy-land world. Large wooden gates open to many garden rooms connected by narrow stone-painted paths, each leading to the next. Ancient brick encircle a half submersed swimming pool; an old picnic table dabbled with shades of purple paint sits near-by and off to one side another seating area, secluded by an mature fringe tree full with seed pods. A short tunnel of vines ends at a hidden painted door to yet another garden path.

### BEHIND THE PICKET FENCE

Along the original free-standing garage and leading to the rear is a walkway and arbor. Roses climb the arbor with its unusual gable-shaped top. Beyond the arbor and behind the garage is a seating area with an Australian Tree Fern, rarely found in this area. Here one may discover the full talent of the artist for the whole rear of the garage is painted in a pastel garden scene.

### TERRACED TO A TEE

Climb the steps at the south end of the terrace to complete the tour around the house. A very large and tall mimosa tree was grown from a cutting and the dog wood, unusual because of it is fragrant, was grown from a seedling. These trees lead to the propagation nursery which must be pointed out since it does not have the usual disorganized look of common propagation areas. Here the owners place there starting pots in the ground and cover them with mulch. This not only looks attractive but assists in the retention of moisture, reducing the amount of watering.

### A POINT OF PEACE

A focal point in the broad sweeping lawn surrounding the two-story house is the white classic design gazebo. Here the gardens reflect the artistry of the owners as they have applied a variety of colors, textures and shapes among the limestones covered in artillery ferns, lickers and resurrection ferns. The result is a gracefully sophisticated center piece in the landscape.

### RECLAIMED AND REFLECTIVE

Out the back gate of the garden, the view shifts to a background of tall oaks with occasional areas for seating. A turn to the right leads to the focal point of the yard. The double pond with raised, wooden deck, inviting a sit. One can watch the lake-brim break the water's surface for food with such force that they are fondly referred to as parannas.





Amanda Mullen always has something interesting working in her hidden backyard paradise. The faux painting on the submerged swimming pool make it look like a huge, sunken water tank.



Several cats inhabit Mullen's back yard. Water bowls and resting places fill the garden area.

# Hidden Pleasures

*Gardener does what comes naturally*

**BROOKE NEWMAN**  
For the Chronicle

From time to time, we remind ourselves that we must stop and smell the roses — to take a break from our exhausting routine and relax — but rarely do we refer to the literal meaning of the old saying.

However, Saturday, the Floral City Garden Club is presenting the opportunity to spend a day doing just that. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., ticketholders will be able to go on a "Secret Gardens Tour" of seven home gardens in the area.

The event is sponsored by the Floral City Garden Club and *Citrus County Chronicle*.

Of the seven homes, one belongs to Amanda Mullen, whose green thumb brought magic to the "Enchanted Garden" along the tour's route. Although Mullen is a certified Master Gardener, her artistic talents, creative thinking and love for horticulture sprang from the seeds of family genetics.



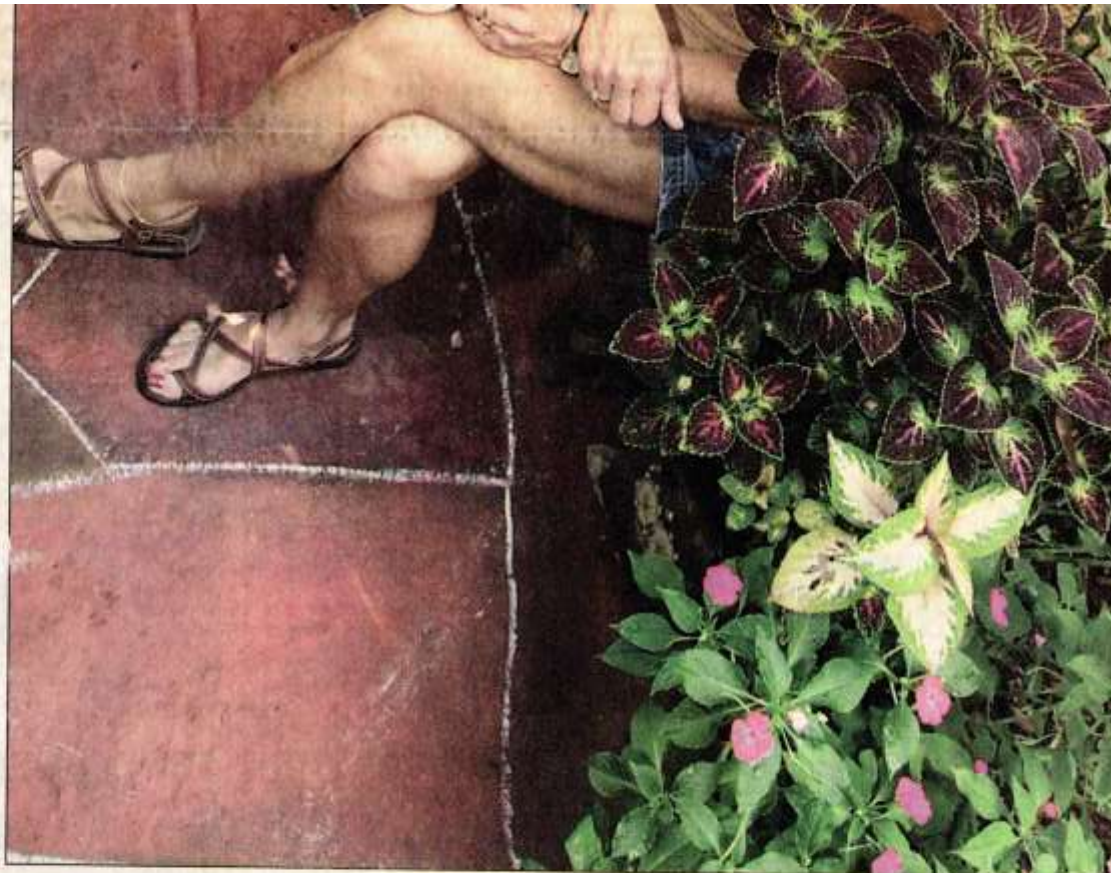


moved into the turn-of-the-century Floral City home, and was the original force behind this amazing landscape. The telltale sign of her presence is evident among the blossoming trees in the garden, which are 25 to 60 years old.

Mullen's influence in gardening is not only apparent in the flourishing environment, but also in her self-described "packrat" tendencies.

"I'm a packrat; I love junk — anybody's junk," explained Mullen. But the works of art she's able to create with other people's junk are a marvel in themselves. For instance, as one navigates through her garden pathways, there is a

Please see **HIDDEN/Page 8D**



Elephant ears make a nice floating platform for colorful flowers. A delicate fern creates a floating feeling.

Floral City resident Amanda Mullen enjoys her morning coffee in her backyard garden seat. Mullen grew up on Orange Avenue home, and has crafted a garden full of antiques and artifacts from her life to make her garden look interesting and unusual. Mullen and other Floral City residents will open up their gardens to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday during the Secret Garden Tour, sponsored by the Floral City Garden Club and the *County Chronicle*.

DAVE SIGLER

### SECRET GARDENS TOURS

A Secret Gardens Tour, with Art Lunch and Music, will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$15. Call Carol Hart at 344-4775 or Cathi Ayers at 637-6345.

The seven gardens include:

- The Enchanted Garden, with purple potato vine, begonias, asters, sage in a fairy-land world.
- Behind the Picket Fence, featuring a pastel garden scene on the rear of the garage.
- Terraced to A Tee, where a tall mimosa tree

was grown from a cutting and a dogwood grown from a seedling.

- A Point of Peace, with a white classic desk gazebo and artillery ferns, lichen and reflection ferns.

(See more garden tours, Page 8D)



# HIDDEN

Continued from Page 1D

large wooden gate with a beautiful painting across the boards, which leads into yet another gorgeous area.

This particular gate came together in piecemeal fashion, she explained.

"The boards are made of Pecky Cypress that used to be a fence around the yard. Momma saved everything, too, and my husband took the boards, built the gate and I painted it," she said.

This seems to be the running theme throughout the garden. One will find stepping stones, which Mullen salvaged and turned into hand-painted works of art, gourds that have been painted in various ways, wind chimes made of metal from couches and the like.

Although Mullen loves her garden, and loves for people to come see it, she's not quite sure why people find it so fascinating. "There's no rhyme or reason to my garden — it's not the



A short tunnel of vines ends at a hidden passage way to another garden space. The door is made of old fence boards Amanda Mullen painted with foliage, and a white heron wading in a pond.

way it was planned," she said. Describing her method of gardening as somewhat haphazard, she said, "I'll get a cut-

## MORE SECRET GARDENS TOURS

- Reclaimed and Reflective, featuring old roses, cat's whiskers, coleus and other flowers and plants surrounding a dou-

ble pond.

- Park Place and Beauty Walk, where turkey and Blackjack oaks dot the 10-acre parklike property, evoking an Oriental feeling.

- Wild and Whimsical, with a garden Cup," "Mimi's S," "Moonlight Fairy

ting and poke it here, and then I'll put some over there and see where it does the best — that's how it's gotten so thick, because it's all taken."

Even though the garden is incredibly lush and colorful, it's not overwhelming to the senses.

One can't help but want to sit and relax on one of the quaint benches or chairs strewn throughout the picturesque surroundings.

Mullen isn't quite sure why she designed places for people to sit and rest. "Nobody in the world has time to sit," she said.

Perhaps she hopes for a time in which people will be able to stop and smell the roses, to

take time in their day to appreciate the beauty that is still part of the world that surrounds us.

Antique beds, lawn furniture and old mailboxes act as hard sculpture for the foliage. The layout of the garden seems to beckon beholders to sit for awhile and enjoy the view of the lush surroundings. And although Amanda Mullen's garden is lush and colorful, it doesn't seem to overwhelm the senses. Also seen in her backyard garden are the influences of her mother, who moved into the home when she was 18 years old.

DAVE SIGLER/Chronicle



# Activities span county celebrating its heritage

Planned events even include a re-enactment of the 1891 stealing of the county seat from near Lecanto to Inverness.

By JONAS SANCHEZ

Times Staff Writer

INVERNESS — Even if you are a newcomer to Citrus, you will feel like an old-timer after attending the events of Citrus County Heritage Week, which starts Friday.

Activities are planned from Crystal River to Floral City and include a re-enactment of the stealing of the county seat, when the courthouse records were surreptitiously moved in 1891 from a community near Lecanto to Inverness.

Other events include walking tours, a Cat

fish Festival on the Courthouse Square and a 1920s-themed Heritage Ball.

Here are the highlights of Heritage Week.

### Friday

Historic plaque dedication at 9 a.m. at the Dangler Building, the present site of Town and Country Furniture, 197 Courthouse Square, Inverness.

Entries from the third annual silk floral design contest will be on display from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the rooms of the Old Courthouse

Heritage Museum, 1 Courthouse Square, Inverness. Visitors can vote for their favorite arrangements and also bid to purchase them.

Friends of the Library book sale at the Citrus County Fairgrounds Auditorium, U.S. 41 S., Inverness. Book sale officially begins at 5 p.m., but a preview begins at 3 p.m., with a \$5 admission.

### Oct. 11

Heritage 5K run begins in downtown Inverness at 8 a.m.

Proclamation and dedication of Heritage Week at 10 a.m. at the Historic Courthouse.

The Floral City Garden Club will present a "Secret Gardens Tour with Art, Lunch and Music." Seven gardens have been selected. Artists will be at each of the residences on the tour displaying and selling sculptures, glassware, pottery and paintings.

Programs with the location of each garden will be distributed beginning at 9 a.m. at the Floral City Community Center on Orange Avenue.

Please see HERITAGE Page 8



nue. Gardens will be open until 4 p.m. Tickets are \$15, available at the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce, the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum in Inverness and Floral City Antiques. Tickets include the tour, a lunch and live music at the Community Center. Lunch served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call committee chairwoman Carol Hart at 344-4775 or ticket chairman Cathi Ayers at 637-6345.

■ A re-enactment of the stealing of the county seat begins at 10:30 a.m. Tom Ritchie will be the narrator, portraying 1891 county Commissioner John T. Landrum. The Citrus Cattleman's Association will drive a wagon train along N Apopka Avenue, with Clerk of the Circuit Court Betty Strifler and her desk being carried on a horse-drawn wagon.

■ Stumpknocker's Restaurant on Courthouse Square will present the annual Catfish Festival from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Festival includes catfish meals, entertainment and contests.

■ The Inverness parks and recreation office will host a free street dance from 6 to 10 p.m. on Courthouse Square featuring the band Side Kick. Free admission.

## Oct. 12

A walking tour of historic downtown will be from 2 to 3 p.m. and is being organized by the Inverness parks and recreation department.

The walking tour will start at the county parking lot at N Apopka Avenue and Main Street and visit 10 historic homes and buildings. Many of the stops are marked with a bronze plaque.

The walk should take about an hour. Event is free, but donations will be accepted for the Citrus County Historical Society. Tour guides will be Patricia Smith, parks and recreation director, and former Inverness City Clerk Marilyn Jordan. Call 726-3913.

## Oct. 13

■ Native American, Florida Cracker and pioneer displays at the Citrus County Fairgrounds, U.S. 41 S, Inverness, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

■ Guided walking tours of historic Floral City at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tour guides will be Marcia Beasley and Tom Ritchie. Admission is \$10, which includes a copy of Ritchie's book *The History of Floral City*, and a map of 45 historic structures. Limit is 12 people per tour and reservations are a must. Call Beasley at 726-7740.

pus, presented by Gary Ellis of Gulf Archaeological Institute.

## Oct. 15

■ Guided walking tour of Historic Floral City at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tour guides will be Marcia Beasley and Tom Ritchie. Admission is \$10, which includes a copy of Ritchie's book *The History of Floral City*, and a map of 45 historic structures. Limit is 12 people per tour and reservations are a must. Call Beasley at 726-7740.

■ Dr. Sandra Noble will present a Meso-America lecture at 7 p.m. at the CFCC Lecanto Multi-Purpose Room.

## Oct. 16

■ The Beverly Hills Civic Association will display early photos of the community from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the association headquarters on Civic Circle. Native American environmental lecturer Frank Silverhawk will sign photos.

■ Hernando Heritage Council will have craft makers and food from the past at 7 p.m. at the CFCC Lecanto Multi-Purpose Room.

## Oct. 17

■ Red Hat Society members will dress in "Great Gatsby" costumes and parade around the Historic Courthouse at 9:30 a.m. If enough Red Hatters are interested, they might play croquet on the lawn of the courthouse.

■ Model A Car Club will drive around the Courthouse Square and exhibit their cars from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ The Homosassa Civic Club hosts the fourth annual Harvest Festival with the Family Drum from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

■ A tour and a fish fry will begin at 6 p.m. at the Crystal River State Archaeological Site, 3400 N Museum Point. Call 795-3817.

■ The Third Annual Old Courthouse Heritage Ball will begin at 6 p.m. at the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum on Courthouse Square in Inverness. The theme for this year's ball will be "The Great Gatsby," and dress is formal. Activities include a silent auction in the rotunda followed by a dinner catered by Romano's Fine Dining of Crystal River. During the dinner, a live auction will be held followed by music from Eddie Shanon and Company. Tickets are \$100. Call 341-6427.

■ A new exhibit, *A Long Way Home*, opens at 6 p.m. at the Mary MacRae Gallery at the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum.

## Oct. 18

The Citrus Cattleman's Association will drive a wagon train along N Apopka Avenue, with Clerk of the Circuit Court Betty Strifler and her desk being carried on a horse-drawn wagon.

■ Stumpknocker's Restaurant on Courthouse Square will present the annual Catfish Festival from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Festival includes catfish meals, entertainment and contests.

■ The Inverness parks and recreation office will host a free street dance from 6 to 10 p.m. on Courthouse Square featuring the band Side Kick. Free admission.

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The walk should take about an hour. Event is free, but donations will be accepted for the Citrus County Historical Society. Tour guides will be Patricia Smith, parks and recreation director, and former Inverness City Clerk Marilyn Jordan. Call 726-3913.

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■ Native American lecture at 7 p.m. in the courtroom on the second floor at the Historic Courthouse in Inverness. Speaker will be Arturo Vargas, who will talk about Mayan Indians.

## Oct. 14

■ Tour and tea from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Coastal Heritage Museum, 532 N Citrus Ave., Crystal River.

■ Native American lectures at 7 p.m. at the Lecanto Multi-Purpose Room at the Central Florida Community College Lecanto cam-

■ The Beverly Hills Civic Association will display early photos of the community from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the association headquarters on Civic Circle. Native American environmental lecturer Frank Silverhawk will sign photos.

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■ A new exhibit, *A Long Way Home*, opens at 6 p.m. at the Mary MacRae Gallery at the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum.

## Oct. 18

■ The Floral City Heritage Council will unveil and dedicate a welcome sign, called a gateway sign, at 10 a.m. on Orange Avenue near the Duval Island intersection. Parking available at the Duval Island boat ramp.

■ The Fourth Annual Native American Harvest Festival takes place from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Old Homosassa along Cherokee Way. The festival continues Oct. 19.

— Jorge Sanchez covers Citrus County arts and entertainment and can be reached at 860-7313. Send e-mail to [sanchez@sptimes.com](mailto:sanchez@sptimes.com).



### Floral City Garden Club to offer gardens tour

FLORAL CITY — The Floral City Garden Club will present a "Secret Gardens Tour with Art, Lunch and Music" on Oct. 11. Seven gardens have been selected. Artists will be at each of the residences on the tour displaying and selling sculpture, glassworks, pottery and paintings. Gardens will be open from until 4 p.m. Programs disclosing the location of each garden will be distributed beginning at 9 a.m. Oct. 11 at the Floral City Community Center on Orange Avenue. Tickets are \$15, available at Citrus County Chamber of Commerce, the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum in Inverness and Floral City Antiques. Tickets include the tour, a lunch and live music at the Community Center. Lunch served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call committee chairwoman Carol Hart at 344-4775 or ticket chairman, Cathi Ayers at 637-6345.

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E-m



# The Gallop Press

## Floral City Community Calendar

*Editor's note: All Floral City churches, clubs, youth groups and organizations are encouraged to send information about upcoming events to The Gallop Press for free publicity. Please see the Reader's Service Box on page 2 for information about deadlines and addresses. (E-mail submissions are preferred.) Photos (especially those taken with a digital camera and submitted through e-mail) are welcomed.*

### Sign-up now for guided walking tour to be held during Heritage Week

Guided Walking Tours will be offered by the Floral City Heritage Council of Historic Floral City during Citrus County Heritage Week.

Tours are scheduled for Monday, Oct. 13, and Wednesday, Oct. 15, and will be given at 9 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. The \$10 ticket includes copies of a guide to Floral City's architecture and a newly

released history of Floral City.

Call 726-7740 to make reservation arrangements.

### 'Secret Gardens Tour,' lunch set for Oct. 11

During Citrus County Heritage Week, the Floral City Garden Club will be offering a "Secret Gardens Tour with Art, Lunch and Music."

Seven gardens, 10 artists, a special lunch with music by Pete Hennings and Pete Price will be presented

on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for an all inclusive price of \$15.

Tickets may be purchased at all three Citrus County Chamber of Commerce offices; the Citrus County Chronicle office in Meadowcrest; the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum; Floral City Antiques (north of the light on Hwy. 41) and from any member.

For more information call ticket chairwoman Cathi at 536-6345.



# Art, food and heritage buffs can have their fill

■ Outdoor diversions this weekend include an art show, a gardens tour, a catfish festival and a replay of some local history.

By JORGE SANCHEZ  
Times Staff Writer

The entire county bustles with things to do this weekend.

There is an outdoors art festival in Homosassa Springs today and Sunday, while Courthouse Square in Inverness hosts the Catfish Festival and street dance and Floral City's most meticulously trimmed gardens are on display today.

■ The Nature Coast Invitational Fine Art and True Craft Show will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. today and Sunday on the grounds of the Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park Visitors Center on U.S. 19. Exhibitors were chosen for this show, which excludes hobby crafts, by a screening committee of other artists.

Visitors should expect to find some high-quality artwork in paint, sculpture, photography and jewelry. Exhibitors will be selling both original works and prints. Admission and parking are free.

■ People who love both art and nature also can attend the Floral City Garden Club's "Secret Gardens Tour

Please see **WEEKEND** Page 8

## Weekend

from Page 1

with Art, Lunch and Music" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today. Seven gardens have been selected, and to enhance the tour, artists will be at each of the residences displaying and selling sculpture, glassworks, pottery and paintings.

The gardens range from 5- and 10-acre plots with brick walkways, ponds and waterfalls to smaller tracts filled with colorful flower beds lining the quaint white picket fence of a historic home. Programs with the location of each garden will be distributed beginning at 9 a.m. at the Floral City Community Building, 8370 Orange Ave., next to the library.

Tickets are \$15 and include a lunch served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the community building, along with live folk music.

■ The Courthouse Square in Inverness will host a daylong series of activities including Heritage Week events, the Catfish Festival

and a street dance today on Courthouse Square.

The Heritage Week events include a re-enactment of the transfer of the county seat from Mannville, a former community near Lecanto, to its current locale in Inverness. The event begins at 10:30 a.m. along N Apopka Avenue.

The renovated Courthouse Square will be the scene for the annual Catfish Festival from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring your appetite for the catfish eating contest at 2 p.m. in front of Stumpknocker's On the Square restaurant. Participants will have 10 minutes to eat 3 pounds of fingerling catfish. There is no charge to enter the contest.

Other activities include the Little Miss Catfish and Little Miss Minnow contests, which start at 12:30 p.m. Entertainment includes a children's train, a dunking booth and a rock climbing wall. To enter the apple pie contest, bring the home-baked pie to Stumpknocker's by noon.

Admission is free, and plenty of free parking is available at the vari-

ous downtown lots that ring Courthouse Square. For information, call Stumpknocker's at 726-2212.

As the sun sets on the Catfish Festival, the Inverness Parks and Recreation division will host a free street dance from 6 to 10 p.m. on Courthouse Square, featuring the band Side Kick. Admission is free.

The streets will be closed on the Courthouse Square early Saturday morning.

A walking tour of historic downtown from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday is being organized by Inverness Parks and Recreation. The tour starts at the parking lot at N Apopka Avenue and Main Street, and takes in 10 historic homes and buildings, many of which are marked with a bronze plaque. The walk should take about an hour. The event is free, but donations will be accepted for the Citrus County Historical Society. Call 726-3913.

— Jorge Sanchez covers Citrus County arts and entertainment and can be reached at 860-7313. Send e-mail to [sanchez@sptimes.com](mailto:sanchez@sptimes.com).



# Tour to reveal city's 'Secret Gardens'

■ The Floral City Garden Club offers its tour of seven gardens as part of Heritage Week.

By JORGE SANCHEZ  
Times Staff Writer

The "Secret Gardens" of Floral City will be exposed to the public Saturday, along with art exhibits and a homemade lunch.

The Floral City Garden Club presents a "Secret Gardens Tour with Art, Lunch and Music" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Seven gardens have been selected, and to enhance the tour, artists will be at each of the residences displaying and selling sculpture, glassworks, pottery and paintings.

Programs with the location of each garden will be distributed beginning at 9 a.m. at the Floral City Community Building, 8370 Orange Ave., next to the library.

Without revealing the specific locations, these are the the highlights of the Secret

## Garden Tour:

■ **Park Place:** spread over 10 acres, the property has a park-like atmosphere, dotted with Turkey and Blackjack oaks. The house and walkways evoke an oriental feeling, according to the tour program. Numerous garden ceramic figures adorn the landscape. Local lime rock is the foundation for many of the individual gardens. The exhibiting artist here will be Jack Lester, who makes hand-thrown stoneware.

■ **Morning Glory Country Chalet:** Wild vines accent this whimsical cottage garden of 5 acres, according to the guide. Dogwood, oak and majestic pines create a park-like setting. Floral displays include Morning Glory, Honey-suckle and Black-Eyed Susan. A charming garden shed houses an antique tool collection, and an antique John Deere mower is surrounded by an array of colorful flowers. The garden also has a pond and waterfall. The exhibiting artist is Mark Edwards, who sculpts with brass and copper.

■ **Behind the Picket Fence:** Serpentine flower beds behind a white picket fence define the front property line of a 1908 historic home. There is a red brick path leading to small stone pond with a waterfall. Stroll past beds of azalea, ivy, ferns, bottlebrush and redbud trees. Decorations include bits of decorative ironwork and a metal gate. Exhibiting artist is Carol Dyer, a sign painter and folk artist.

Tickets are \$15, available at Citrus County Chamber of Commerce, the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum in Inverness and Floral City Antiques.

The tour also includes a lunch of turkey salad, potato salad, corn bread and homemade cookies and live music. All the food was made by members of the Floral City Garden Club. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Floral City Community Building. Call committee chairwoman Carol Hart at 344-4775 or ticket chairman, Cathi Ayers at 637-6345.

As part of Heritage Week, Oct. 11 to 18, two other events will take place in Floral City.

**FLORAL CITY WALK:** Guided walking tours

of historic Floral City will be at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday and Wednesday. Tour guides will be Marcia Beasley and Tom Ritchie. Admission is \$10, which includes a copy of Ritchie's book *Floral City: The story of a small town in Citrus County and its place in the history of Florida*, and a map of 45 historic structures. Limit is 12 people per tour and reservations are a must. The tour will include the 1884 United Methodist Church, fully restored to its original look with rare amethyst-colored glass windows. Other sights will be homes with cisterns to collect rainwater and one of the county's oldest homes, dating back to 1860. Call Beasley at 726-7740.

**GATEWAY SIGN:** The Floral City Heritage Council will unveil and dedicate a welcome sign, called a gateway sign at 10 a.m. Oct. 18 on Orange Avenue near the Duval Island intersection. Parking available at the Duval Island boat ramp.

— Jorge Sanchez covers Citrus County arts and entertainment and can be reached at 860-7313. Send e-mail to [sanchez@sptimes.com](mailto:sanchez@sptimes.com).

Table Arrangements



Gloria & Patsy



Making Table Arrangements

Artwork



by Diane Dowthitt

Artwork



by Jo Ann Quackenbush

Thelma, Candy, Carol & Cathi



Prepare the food



Bobbie



Sets up the Ways & Means Tables

Music



Kathy & Carol

by Pete Hennings & Pete Price



Selling tickets to the gathering crowds

Jo & Helpers from Camp E-Nini-Hassee



Jo explains what the Garden Club does

## Guests



Enjoy music during lunch

TIMES ■ WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2003

The Gallop Press, Friday, Nov. 7, 2003

### NOTES OF THANKS

Editor:

On behalf of the Floral City Garden Club, I'd like to express appreciation for the outstanding and generous support we received from the *Times* in the feature articles publicizing the Secret Gardens Tour held on Oct. 11.

The tour was a wonderful success with more than 220 people visiting the seven private gardens open for the day. Our grateful appreciation to the following homeowners who were so gracious to participate in this event: **Dave and Pam Bellman, Gene Coats and Cathy Foley, Tom and Carol Dyer, Frank and Laurie Kanka, Gene and Amanda Mullen, Lloyd and Sheila O'Dell and Frank and Phyllis Peters.**

Thanks also to **Camp E-Nini-Hassee** for allowing three of their campers, along with **Chief Lynn**, to assist in serving lunch at the Community Building; the artists who displayed their work in the gardens and the community building; the musicians; and the family members and friends of club members who volunteered to be greeters and assist with parking at the gardens.

Proceeds from this event will support the Floral City Garden Club's scholarships, community gardens and educational programs.

Cathi Ayers,  
FC Garden Club secretary

### FC Garden Club's Secret Gardens Tour a success

On behalf of the Floral City Garden Club, I'd like to express appreciation for the generous support we received from *The Gallop Press* in the form of both display ads and articles publicizing the Secret Gardens Tour held Oct. 11.

The tour was a wonderful success with well over 200 people visiting the seven private gardens open for the day. Our grateful appreciation to the following homeowners who were so gracious to participate in this event: **Dave and Pam Bellman, Gene Coats and Cathy Foley, Tom and Carol Dyer, Frank and Laurie Kanka, Gene and Amanda Mullen, Lloyd and Sheila O'Dell, and Frank and Phyllis Peters.**

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Proceeds from this event will support the Floral City Garden Club's scholarships, community gardens and educational programs.

Cathi Ayers  
Floral City



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2003

# Floral City to unveil sign

## Fixture is part of preservation effort

**KRISTA ZILIZI**  
kzilizi@chronicleonline.com  
*Chronicle*

A new gateway sign to be unveiled in historic Floral City this weekend is more important than it may sound.

In many ways the new fixture — which welcomes visitors to the unincorporated community on County Road 48 — is a sign of the times.

The sign, which announces Floral City's 120 years of existence, is the outcome of a comprehensive action plan the Floral City Heritage Council has created to guide the growth of the city while preserving its historical charm, said Marcia Beasley, chairwoman of the Floral City Heritage Council.

Developed in 1999 by a community group known as

UTOPIA — Under the Oaks ... People In Action — the gateway sign is one approach under the plan to preserve the city's small-town heritage.

It's one of many alternatives the group is using to ease traffic and prevent the Department of Transportation from widening U.S. 41.

Last year, the Heritage Council was at the forefront of a petition to persuade DOT not to build a four-lane highway through the community's historic district, Beasley said. Council members believe a four-lane highway would destroy historic trees and buildings and the quality of life for its residents. The state has put construction plans on hold indefinitely.

"A gateway sign is one of the techniques used in traffic-calm-

ing," Beasley said. "It denotes something special is ahead as you enter into this area. We hope when we get the design work done on U.S. 41, our gateway signs can be put up north and south of Floral City."

But the action plan calls for more than signs.

Part of maintaining the small-town heritage involves creating a town center where residents will want to gather, Beasley said.

With that in mind, the Floral City Heritage Council has convinced the county commission to purchase a 1½-acre parcel of land that sits behind the Floral City Library, the Masonic Lodge and the Floral City Community Building to be used as a parking lot. The area in front of the buildings, that currently serves as a parking lot, will be restored to a park-like area once the newly purchased land is transformed into a parking lot, Beasley said.

"It's the only historic part of the county that's on the historic register; we feel it's important to maintain it," she said.

- **WHAT:** Floral City sign dedication.
- **WHEN:** 10 a.m. Saturday.
- **WHERE:** The end of Orange Avenue (County Road 48), near the Duval Island Boat Ramp.

### Sign of thanks

On behalf of the Floral City Heritage Council of the Citrus County Historical Society Inc., I would like to express appreciation for the construction and dedication of the new Floral City Gateway Sign.

We thank the the press for their coverage and the Board of County Commissioners.

We also thank council member Frank Peters and for the contribution from Frank and Phyllis Peters, and H.D. and Lynn Bassett; Larry Liverman, owner of Son Routing Systems Inc.; Clark Construction Inc.; and Jo Ann Quackenbush, Floral City Garden Club president.

We are grateful to Ken Saunders,

county staff; assistant administrator, Ken Frink, director of public works; Gary Maidhof, director of community development; Walt Eastmond, engineer; and Dan Tvenstrup, construction coordinator.

Appreciation also to members of the Floral City Garden Club: Jo Ann Quackenbush, Thelma Noble, Cathi Ayers, Debbie Barney, Debra Owens, Allen Beasley, and Frank and Phyllis; to Michael Harnden, certified arborist. We also thank Allen Beasley, Ossie A. Beasley and Jason Poirier and, also, Tom Ritchie.

A special thanks to the new property owners adjacent to the sign, Charles and Jodi Garnett, their son Trent and her father, Jack Hawkins, who donated the use of water for the landscaping and electricity as needed.

We extend our appreciation to all who attended the dedication event and to the following who participated in the ceremony: Josh Wooten, commissioner, who is founder of Keep Citrus County Beautiful; Mary Craven, director of county tourism; the honor guard and their Cmdr. Joe Hughes of Joe Nic Barco VFW Post 7122; the members and Cmdr. Fred Daniels of Herbert Surber American Legion Post 225; the Rev. Michael Thompson of the First Baptist Church of Floral City; the Rev. Greg Wood of the Floral City United Methodist Church; residents and counselors of Camp E-Nimi-Hassee an Eckerd's Youth Alternatives; and Team Green 4-H of Floral City with their leader Patricia Uzar.

This Floral City Vision 20/20 Action project was a community-county government partnership with the Floral City Heritage Council, who sponsored the Stewardship Agreement.

**Marcia L. Beasley**  
chairwoman Floral City Heritage Council



## NOTES OF THANKS

Editor:

On behalf of the Floral City Heritage Council of the Citrus County Historical Society, I would like to express appreciation for the construction and dedication of the new Floral City Gateway Sign at the east end of Orange Avenue, also known as County Road 48.

We thank the **Board of County Commissioners** for the limerock structure to hold the sign and the press for their coverage and photos of the project and the dedication event.

We appreciate the outstanding coordination and direction provided by council member **Frank Peters** and for the generous monetary contribution from **Frank and Phyllis Peters**, and **H.D. and Lynn Bassett**; for the professional in-kind services donated by **Larry Liverman**, owner of **Son Routing Systems Inc.**, **Clark Construction Inc.** and **Jo Ann Quackenbush**, president of the Floral City Garden Club.

We are grateful for the cooperation and assistance of county staff: Assistant Administrator **Ken Saunders**; director of Public Works **Ken Frink**; director of Community Development **Gary Maidhof**; engineer **Walt Eastmond**; and construction coordinator **Dan Tvenstrup**.

Appreciation is extended to the following members of the Floral City Garden Club for the landscaping: **Jo Ann Quackenbush**, **Thelma Noble**, **Cathi Ayers**, **Debbie Barney**, **Debra Owens**, **Allen Beasley**, **Frank and Phyllis Peters** and certified arborist **Michael Harnden**.

For the wood background for lettering and artwork, we thank **Allen Beasley**, **Ossie A. Beasley** and **Jason Poirier**. Also, to **Tom Ritchie** for his valuable assistance.

A special "thank you" goes to the



Special to the Times

The Floral City Heritage Council of the Citrus County Historical Society unveiled a Gateway Sign at Orange Avenue and Duval Island in Floral City on Oct. 18. Pictured, from left, are the Rev. Gregory Wood, Josh Wooten, Ozzie Beasley, Marcia Beasley, Michael Harnden, Frank Peters, Larry Liverman, JoAnn Quackenbush, Thelma Noble, Fred Daniels, the Rev. Michael Thompson and Joel Hughes.

new property owners adjacent to the sign, **Charles and Jodi Garnett**, their son, **Trent**, and **Jodi's father, Jack Hawkins**, who have generously donated water for landscaping and electricity.

We extend our appreciation to all who attended the dedication and to the following who participated in the ceremony: Commissioner **Josh Wooten**, who is the founder of Keep Citrus County Beautiful; director of County Tourism, **Mary Craven**; the Honor Guard and their Commander, **Joe Hughes** of **Joe Nic Barco VFW Post No. 7122**; the members and Cmdr. **Fred Daniels** of **Herbert**

**Surber American Legion Post No. 225**; the Rev. **Michael Thompson** of First Baptist Church of Floral City; the Rev. **Greg Wood** of Floral City United Methodist Church; residents and counselors of **Camp E-Nini-Hassee** and **Eckerd's Youth Alternatives**; and **Team Green 4-H** of Floral City and their leader, **Patricia Uzar**.

This Floral City Vision 20/20 Action project was a community-county government partnership with the Floral City Heritage Council, who sponsored the Stewardship Agreement.

Marcia L. Beasley, chair  
Floral City Heritage Council



SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 19, 2003

# Sign of dedication



BRIAN LaPETER/Chronicle

The new Floral City gateway sign on County Road 48 was unveiled Saturday during a ceremony at the site near the Duval Island boat ramp.

## *Residents of Floral City celebrate first gateway sign*

KRISTA ZILIZI  
kzilizi@chronicleonline.com  
*Chronicle*

Floral City residents gathered Saturday morning eager to get the first glimpse of a new gateway sign that will welcome visitors into the town's historical district.

The sign, constructed of limestone rock, wooden planks and a tin roof, sits in front of a backdrop of massive oak trees that line most of the town's historic district.

"We didn't want something that was ultra-modern or flashy," said Frank

“ We didn't  
want something that  
was ultra-modern  
or flashy. ”

Frank Peters  
chairman of UTOPIA

Peters, chairman of the committee that is responsible for installing the town's first gateway sign. "We wanted

this to have a rather rustic appearance to go along with some of the old architecture in the city."

The two most defining features of the sign are the lettering that tells visitors the city was established in 1883, and a painting of a blue heron that was created by local artist JoAnn Qakenbush.

The sign is another completed action of a community group known as UTOPIA — Under the Oaks ... People In Action. In 1999, the group created an action plan to guide the growth and future of Floral City.

# FC 'gateway' sign unveiled

About 100 residents gathered Saturday morning, Oct. 18, to witness the unveiling and dedication of Floral City's "gateway" sign on E. Orange Avenue.

Located where CR 48 makes a wide bend to the left to head due west into town, the "gateway" sign ushers drivers into the southeast part of the county through Floral City's famous canopy of oak trees.

Floral City Heritage Council member Frank Peters opened the ceremony at 10 a.m., followed by the presentation of the colors by the Floral City VFW Honor Guard and the Pledge of Allegiance.



Photo by Connie Lloyd/Special to The Gallop Press: Residents, volunteers and county officials were on hand Oct. 18 to dedicate Floral City's new welcome sign.



Mary Zavotsky  
Floral City Today

Peters, who co-chaired the sign project with H.D. Basset, lauded volunteers from the Heritage Council for initiating the project and other civic groups and individuals who worked to make it happen.

Describing the structure itself, Peters said the limestone is

the same as what was used on the Community Building and the wood came from old dock boards. "Our town is laid back," he said. "We didn't want anything flashy, so we went with old Florida architecture and the tin roof."

JoAnn Quackenbush, a local artist and president of

Please see WELCOME, page 17

## WELCOME, from page 11

the Floral City Garden Club, did the artwork. Son Rooter Systems, Inc., of Floral City did the lettering. Clark Construction worked with rock mason Larry Swain to erect the structure. Lynn and H.D. Basset donated the funds for the lettering.

The Floral City Garden Club members donated countless hours and hard work to create the flowerbeds. The owners of the adjoining property and Charles and Jody Garnett are donating the water needed to nourish the garden.

Michael Harnden, a

certified arborist, obtained the topsoil needed and donated his time to supervise the planting of the native Flat Bush Plum

Ozzie Beasley donated time, expertise and equipment to ready the site. Frank Peters and his wife Phyllis, donated the plants which are all native to the area.

Peters praised county personnel for putting the project on their agenda and seeing it through. He called the county government "a good partner." Residents of Floral City took on the details and gardens and will now shoulder the responsibility

of maintenance.

JoAnn Quackenbush and Ozzie Beasley cut the ribbons to unveil the sign.

County Commissioner Josh Wooten called the site "the most beautiful gateway into our county."

"The whole county will benefit from this," he said.

Wooten then expanded on the theme of a partnership between government and residents. He said Floral City was different from other communities that have asked for and gotten signs for their towns in that Floral City residents did not go to county commissioners asking for a handout.

"They asked for just a little bit of funding, and said they would do the rest," Wooten said.

Floral City Heritage Council Chairwoman Marcia Beasley spoke of the support from the Citrus County Historical Society and then introduced the girls from the E-Nini-Hassee Wilderness Camp, who sang "America the Beautiful."



It's beginning to take shape



Behind the Scenes of the Gateway Gardens



Thelma is spreading the mulch assisted by Frank & Jo [other Floral City Garden Club Members who worked but are not pictured include: Phyllis Peters, Cathi Ayers, Debbie Owens & Jo Quackenbush]

Boulders are placed



Work Crew



Ossie Beasley, Tom Ritchie, Frank & Phyllis Peters, Jo, Michael Hamdon & Nick Dowell

Floral City Gateway Sign

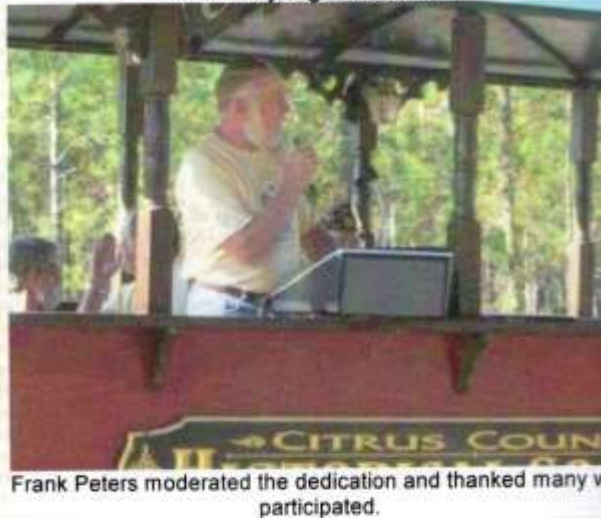


Dedication Ceremony: October 18, 2003

And the crowd gathers



Gateway Sign Dedication



Frank Peters moderated the dedication and thanked many who participated.

Dignitaries are Seated



Joe Nic Barco V.F.W. Post #7122 Honor Guard





The Unveiling



Ossie Beasley & Jo Quackenbush cutting the ribbon

Commissioner Josh Wooten



commended the residents of Floral City for their enthusiasm and support.

Marcia Beasley



Thanked everyone for who worked so hard and participated in making this a reality

the Floral City Team Green 4-H Club



sings "God Bless America"

Girls from Camp E-Nini-Hassee



singing "America The Beautiful"

## Floral City woman in coma following bike accident

By Mary Zavotsky  
Special to *The Gallop Press*

Floral City resident Carol Dyer was severely injured Oct. 14 while she and her husband were riding their bikes on the Withlacoochee State Trail.

The accident happened in Citrus Springs when a fast moving truck slammed into her at a road crossing.

Carol was airlifted to Tampa General Hospital, where she underwent surgery this week.

As of press time Thursday, she was reportedly in stable condition, but has not regained consciousness.

Carol and her husband, Thomas, own one of the homes in Floral City's national historic district. For the past three years the couple has participated in the Tour of Historic Homes during the December Heritage Days. Carol is also a member of the Floral City Garden Club.

Floral City residents have held prayers meeting



**Carol Dyer**

*(Photo courtesy Floral City Garden Club archives)*

and continue to pray for her recovery.



### Hoedown on 'tap'

Floral City Elementary PTA and the *Chronicle* are sponsoring a Hoedown and Craft Festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8, at Floral City Elementary School. There will be a barbecue, a petting zoo, games, hayrides, clowns and critters from Homosassa Springs Wildlife Outreach.

The school is on the corner of Old Floral City Road and Marvin Street in downtown Floral City (off County Road 48). Call Kathy Thrumston at 341-2569.

### Hoedown, craft show set Saturday

Floral City Elementary PTA and the *Chronicle* are sponsoring a Hoedown and Craft Festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Floral City Elementary School. Features will include a barbecue, a petting zoo, games, hayrides, clowns and critters from Homosassa Springs Wildlife Outreach.

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Floral City Elementary PTA invites you to...



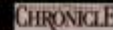
### Hoedown/Craft Show

*Proceeds go towards classroom support*

Saturday, November 8, 2003  
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

- Hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks
- Lots of craft vendors
- Homosassa Wildlife Outreach animal display
- Hayrides/Pony rides
- Games
- Petting zoo
- Clowns/Face painting
- Music
- Playstation 2 ticket drawing

For information call 341-2569 or 341-0842



Floral City Elementary PTA invites you to...



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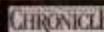
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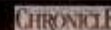
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CHRONICLE



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- Playstation 2 ticket drawing
- Moonwalk

For information call  
341-2569 or 341-0842

CHRONICLE



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341-2569 or 341-0842

CHRONICLE

Floral City Elementary PTA  
invites you to... 11/7



### Hoedown/Craft Show

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- Petting zoo
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- Moonwalk

For information call  
341-2569 or 341-0842

CHRONICLE

CITRUS COUNTY (FL) CHRONICLE

### Hoedown, craft show set for Saturday

Floral City Elementary PTA and the *Chronicle* are sponsoring a Hoedown and Craft Festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Floral City Elementary School. Features will include a barbecue, a petting zoo, games, hayrides, clowns and critters from Homosassa Springs Wildlife Outreach.

The school is on the corner of Old Floral City Road and Marvin Street in downtown Floral City (off of County Road 48). Call Kathy Thrumston at 341-2569.

### St. Petersburg Times

**FLORAL CITY FESTIVAL: A Hoedown and Craft Festival will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Floral City Elementary, including a barbecue, games, petting zoo, hayrides, animal displays and clowns. The school is on Old Floral City Road and Marvin Street. Call Kathy Thrumston at 341-2569.** 11-7-03

Floral City Elementary PTA  
invites you to... 11-8-03



### Hoedown/Craft Show

*Proceeds go towards classroom support*  
**Saturday, November 8, 2003**  
**11 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

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For information call  
341-2569 or 341-0842

CHRONICLE



# Educational hoedown

CITRUS COUNTY (FL) CHRONICLE  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2003







WALTER CARLSON/For the Chronicle

Members of the Floral City Parent Teacher Association prepare for the hoedown and craft fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Floral City Elementary School. There will be food, crafts, animal displays, hay rides, games, a petting zoo and music. Shown making preparations are, from left: Kathy Thrumston, PTA president; Tyler Thrumston and Barbara Davis, PTA treasurer.

## Floral City's old-fashioned hoedown, craft show Saturday helps out city's school

**NANCY KENNEDY**  
nkennedy@chronicleonline.com  
*Chronicle*

It's time to put your hoes down, gather up the kids and head to Floral City this Saturday for an old-fashioned country hoedown and craft show at Floral City Elementary School.

From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the school parking lot will be transformed into a farmyard fun zone, with hayrides, a petting zoo, horse rides, animals from the Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park, food, games, face-painting, music and craft vendors.

The event, sponsored by the *Chronicle* and hosted by the Floral City Elementary PTA, is to raise money for classroom support.

"Teachers spend a lot of their own money out of their pocket to provide things they need for their class," said Kathy Thrumston, president of the FCE PTA and vice president of Citrus County Council of PTA/PTSA. "They always need something — projects they want to do with their class, material they need that they can't get at the school. Sometimes just basic supplies

### IF YOU GO

■ Floral City Elementary PTA and the *Chronicle* are sponsoring a hoedown and craft festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Floral City Elementary School. There will be a barbecue, a petting zoo, games, hayrides, clowns and critters from Homosassa Springs Wildlife Outreach.

■ The school is on the corner of Old Floral City Road and Marvin Street in downtown Floral City (off County Road 48). Call Kathy Thrumston at 341-2569.

for students who don't have them."

Thrumston said they generally budget about \$50 per teacher for classroom support, and fund-raisers such as the hoedown help greatly.

Also this year, the PTA is providing the services needed for a yearbook. "We're taking care of all the details, getting the whole thing organized, getting the advertisers," she said. "The parents do pay a nominal fee, but it's only about what it costs us."

Thrumston said the PTA is actively working toward family involvement, offering monthly "Parent Night" programs, which are also kid-friendly. "We do these programs in conjunction with Title 1, which is a special reading program through the school system," she said. "We tend not to have programs with speakers, but to have things that are more interactive and are family-involved, such as a craft night where kids do crafts with their parents."

"That's what it's all about — teachers, parents, kids and their school combining and interacting and getting that community spirit."

Popular past PTA-sponsored events have included community expos, with representatives of various community agencies, groups and organizations, such as the library, parks and recreation and 4-H, come to explain their services and programs. Thrumston said they plan to have another expo closer to the summer to exhibit summer programs. "Often parents don't know what's going on until it's too late," she said.

**HOEDOWN** and emerge including a hel

## HOEDOWN

Continued from Page 1D

Another popular event is "Safety Night," with police, fire

and emergency vehicles, including a helicopter.

The hoedown, however, is just for fun, and will feature the sale of chances to win a PlayStation 2. Tickets are \$3 each or 3 for \$5.

The winner will be announced at the silent auction dinner Dec. 11. Second place is a giant stuffed Clydesdale horse, which Thrumston said all the little girls have fallen in love with.

Also Saturday, cloggers will dance from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. and there will be a booth where kids can buy inexpensive holiday gifts for parents — and have them wrapped, too.

Call 341-2569 or 341-0842.



# 'Tree doc' watches over Floral City's stately historic oaks

Anyone who has driven under the canopy of oaks on E. Orange Avenue will forever associate Floral City with trees.

The historic oaks that have made that roadway one of the most photographed in the state did not get there by chance. Surveyor W. H. Havron deliberately planted the trees along the avenue (part of C.R.48) when he helped lay out the town in 1883.

It was then up to the residents of Floral City to care for the trees and replace individual oaks when they were lost to disease or storms.

In the spring of 2002, Floral City's Heritage Council and Garden Club joined forces to have all the trees along E. Orange Avenue and Aroostook Way evaluated for health and structural soundness. Certified arborist Michael Harnden took on the

daunting task.

During his examination, Harnden tagged each historic tree with a small numbered brass plaque, in effect naming each tree.

Now when discussing one of the oaks, residents can specify the tree by "name"

(number), making the relationship between human and tree very personal.

When the county recently ordered that two trees near the library be cut down, residents were relieved to know that Harnden, serving as the representative for the Heritage Council, was consulted first and that his decision could be trusted.

Harnden has earned that trust through decades of experience. At an age when most boys stop climbing trees, Michael Harnden was just

getting started.

What began at age 15 as a part-time job with his neighbor's tree service in the Sweetwater area of Miami has turned into a lifelong calling.

"He (the neighbor) got me started in how to climb," Harnden said.

He's been climbing trees ever since, adding to his knowledge with formal education and years of practice.

Now 45, the boy who once thought of trees as something to climb is now a man dedicated to preserving them.

Born in Massachusetts to an old family with historic roots in the American Revolution, Harnden nevertheless considers Florida home. He grew up and went all through school in Miami.

As a teen, he volunteered for the Job Corps, majoring in horticulture and graduating with high honors in 1978.



Photo by Mary Zavotsky/Special to The Gallop Press.

Certified arborist Michael Harnden, known as the "tree doc," and his wife, Christine, are dedicated to preserving the community's famous historic oaks. In addition to their tree service business, the couple are involved with the Floral City Heritage Council and the Floral City Garden Club.

He then attended Essex Agricultural Technical Institute in Danvers, Mass., and worked at various tree service companies before returning to Florida in 1990.

Working with Westenberger Tree Service Harnden was involved in a major (and televised) project of transplanting an enormous live oak in downtown Clearwater.

In 1994, after years of intense training in subjects such as tree biology, diagnosis of tree diseases, hazard tree evaluation and tree preservation (just to

name a few), Harnden passed his exam for certified arborist through the International Society of Arboriculture.

To maintain accreditation, certified arborists must take 30 units of continuing education every three



Mary Zavotsky  
Floral City Today

Each week *Floral City Today* focuses on a different person, business, place or event. The articles are designed to paint a picture of our community as it is now, before we "progress" any further.

## TREE DOC, from page 11

years. Harnden, who has taken 60 units in just the past two years, shyly admits to over educating himself.

There is only one thing the arborist said he loves as much as trees and learning about trees and that is sharing his knowledge with others.

"When I do estimates I make sure I schedule enough time to spend with the homeowner to answer every question," he said. "I do a lot of work for free, educating the public one-on-one."

Harnden said he recently had the opportunity to work with a tree service in Ocala educating the company owner and crew on various issues including safety and pruning.

He said he looks forward to working with other groups and is available for programs and speaking engagements.

Harnden's wife, Christine, is just as involved in the "green" industry as he is.

Her business sense, acquired from years of

owning and managing a bar, is now applied to the business of preserving trees.

Originally from Toronto, Christine, 48, said she enjoys working with the Heritage Council and Garden Club and being a part of the Floral City community.

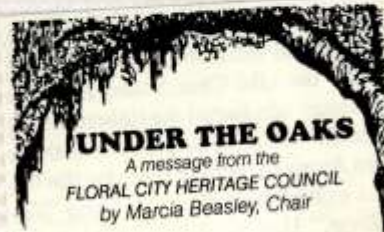
When the couple married in 1996 and combined their grown families (three adult children and one grandbaby), they said they doubted life could get any better --- then they found Floral City with all its trees.

At the recent unveiling of the town's 'gateway' sign, Harnden was introduced as "Floral City's own certified arborist."

Just as the name Floral City brings to mind trees, the trees bring to mind this highly qualified and deeply committed "tree doc" --- words borrowed from the windshield of his brown pickup truck.

Michael and Christine welcome questions about trees and are easily reached at (352) 341-3247 and treedoc@netsignia.net.

November / December 2003



Historic Floral City received many visitors during the week. The Secret Gardens Tour brought 234 visitors, the four guided walking tours were filled or nearly filled at each scheduled time and the dedication of the new limerock Gateway "Historic Floral City" sign at the east end of the historic canopy of oaks brought out a good size crowd. The Council made a historic preservation donation of \$140.00 to the Floral City United Methodist Church for the continued maintenance of the restored 1884 Church which is used frequently for reenactments and tours by the Council. This donation was generated from the Heritage Week Tours.

Sincere appreciation is expressed to the following members: Frank Peters, Chairman of the Gateway Sign project, to he and his wife, Phyllis, for the donation of native trees and plants

## The Society Page

News and Events of The Citrus County Historical Society

for the landscaping, to H.D. and Lynn Bassett for donating the routing of the lettering, to Jo Ann Quackenbush for painting and donating the art work and to members of the Floral City Garden Club for planting the trees and plants at the sign and for continuing to water them until they are established.



# Jont T. Knight's spirit lives on in restored historic home

Pam and Dave Bellman recall having one of those "what were we thinking" moments when they discussed selling their historic Floral City home located at 8219 E. Orange Ave.

Shortly after voicing the idea of moving out of the residence known as the Jont T. Knight House, strange things started happening.

"I would hear someone walking up to the front door at two o'clock in the morning, but when I'd look no one was there," Pam said.

The Bellmans do not think they became the caretakers of this bighearted home by chance. Pam said she was

not surprised to see that Mr. Knight's tombstone shows the date of his death as Oct. 10 -- which is her birthday.

Legend has it that Jont T.

Knight died in 1935 on the front porch swing of this magnificent Victorian home and was buried a block away in the Hills of Rest Cemetery.

Pam believes his spirit is still living in the house he erected in 1905.



Mary Zavotsky  
Floral City Today

Noting that the hooks that held that swing remained in place for nearly six decades after Mr. Knight's death, Dave put a swing back up.

Now when it moves, the Bellmans like to think that Mr. Knight is happy with what they are doing.

History buffs and lovers of old homes who want to get a close-up view of the Jont T. Knight House will have an opportunity

this weekend as it is part of the Tour of Historic Homes held during Heritage Days.

According to local accounts, the original



By Mary Zavotsky/Special to The Gallop Press

Pam and Dave Bellman say the restoration of the century-old Jont T. Knight home has been a "labor of love." The Bellmans will open their home to visitors on Saturday, Dec. 6, as part of Heritage Days' Tour of Historic Homes.

structure was the southern section. Two wooden buildings, bought by Knight from the turpentine stills in Brooksville, were added on later.

Dave, however, has a

different view of the house's evolution. "When I was crawling around under the house one day I fell into a hole," he said. "It was an old burn pit, and logic dictates it would have been located on

*Each week Floral City Today focuses on a different person, business, place or event. The articles are designed to paint a picture of our community as it is now, before we "progress" any further.*



the outside of the original structure. So the center had to have been the original structure."

The house itself discloses

more of its history to its new guardians with each project undertaken.

For example, Pam said that an old nail found in the wall helped them date segments of the dwelling.

The house remained in the Knight family until 1984. After enduring 13 years of vacancy, the house was rescued from loneliness and further decay by the Bellmans in 1997.

Dave considers the work he and Pam have done to the home as a labor of love.

"I want to leave a piece of me behind," he said. "It is more than just restoration. We are actually finishing up the plans that Mr. Knight had started and didn't get to."

Dave and Pam, both born in Michigan, met in Port Richey in 1984, after they each had relocated to Florida. Pam was a manager for Tupperware Home Parties and Dave was painting houses.

The couple, who married

#### **HISTORIC**, from page 11

in 1989, bought a cabin in Floral City to use as a weekend getaway.

They soon found the weekends turning into three days and then four days.

Enchanted with the area, Dave bid on the contract for restoring the Old Courthouse in Inverness (1994-2000). The work included stripping off all the paint and starting over.

"I would have done that job for free," Dave said. "It was fun."

The couple, ready for a permanent move to Floral City, looked at the Jont T. Knight home for more than a year before taking the plunge and buying it.

While they wanted an older home to dote on, they didn't want one in need of major repairs. Dave said they bought the historic home anyway because "it wouldn't let us go."

"We had sold our house in Port Richey and had to move in, ready or not," Pam said.

The new owners quickly realized how much work the house needed. There was no heat, no air conditioning and no ceiling fans. Each room had only one light --- a bulb hanging from a wire. "When the water company turned on the service, there were leaks everywhere," Pam said.

Dave, who works all over Florida as a painting contractor, spends every spare moment fixing up the old house.

Pam laughed when she said she doesn't have a job. "That doesn't mean I don't work," she said.

In addition to keeping the books for the painting business and creating the turn of the century atmosphere that fascinates every visitor, Pam toils alongside Dave, making beautiful outdoor gardens, walkways, arbors and a pond.

She is a central part of Floral City's Garden Club and Heritage Council, chairing the committee that places the giant Christmas cards along E. Orange Avenue during the holidays.

She and Dave also work on roadside beautification projects, ensuring that both their celebrated home and the rest of Floral City are seen in the best light.

Visitors on Saturday may get to see some restoration work in progress. A local artist is painting an oval carpet onto the dining room floor.

The couple said that "when you work on an old house, you have good days and bad days," but they have dropped all discussion of ever selling.

"Our five-year plan consists of working on that house," Pam said.



# A century of birthdays, Christmases in 'paradise'

Floral City's elegant centenarian, Ms. Flossie Bassett, will enjoy her 100th Christmas this year in the hometown she has always referred to as her "beautiful paradise."

Born Dec. 1, 1903, to Junior Octavious Love (from Tennessee) and his wife, Daisy Dundeena Hampton

(granddaughter of early pioneer J.P. Ermy-Duval), Ms. Flossie is a vital part of Floral City's history.



Mary Zavotsky  
Floral City Today

She became Flossie Zellner in 1920 when she married into another of Floral City's pioneer families.

Her husband, Thomas Zellner, died in a local fire when their son, Earl, was just a baby.

In 1935, she married H.D. Bassett Jr., whose family was also among the area's early settlers.

Their son, H. Bassett, has been an integral part of our community all his life.

In celebration of her lifelong dedication to her family and community, 75 well-wishers traveled to Floral City from

*Each week Floral City Today focuses on a different person, business, place or event. The articles are designed to paint a picture of our community as it is now, before we "progress" any further.*

around the country for Ms. Flossie's 100th birthday party, held Nov. 30.

Flossie Leona Love Zellner Bassett proudly walked up the front steps of Floral City's Community Building with her two sons at her side, to enjoy the special afternoon in the company of people she has loved her entire lifetime.

Local activist Larry Hartman read "Our Home Town, Floral City," a poem he wrote in 1993.

Hartman said the reading was "in honor of Ms. Flossie, who has been so responsible for making Floral City what it is."

Hartman and his wife live in the house that once belonged to Flossie's sister. He said they still enjoy the flowers the sisters planted in the yard. Then he presented Ms. Flossie with a bouquet of flowers from those very same plants.

Earl Zellner, now 72 and living in Arizona, told of his mother's adventures as the first female Realtor in the county.

In the 1940s, when the area was still untamed, alligators and wild boar populated the properties she intrepidly showed to clients, he said.



Flossie Leona Love Zellner Bassett was surrounded by family and friends during her 100th-birthday celebration held Nov. 30. Joining in the fun was son H. Bassett and his wife, Lynn, and their two daughters, Valerie, left, and Elizabeth.

H. Bassett, 68, included all of the guests when speaking to his mother, recalling the many names she has been known by over her lifetime.

While most people in town

Ms. Flossie, at home her grandchildren know her as "Granny B."

Two of these grandchildren (daughters of H. and his wife, Lynn) were present for the morn-



FLORAL CITY, from page 11

tous weekend celebration.

Dr. Elizabeth Bassett, 33, a pediatrician in Oakland Children's Hospital flew in from California. Valerie Bassett, 36, came from Massachusetts, where she is senior policy writer for the Boston Public Health Commission.

Valerie spoke of her grandmother's independence and thanked her for showing all of us how "to live with joy and contentment."

Valerie read a poem she wrote for the occasion, entitled "Shangri-La." With words, she painted a mental picture of the island getaway she enjoyed at her grandmother's side as a child. Listeners could envision the young Ms. Flossie launching her speedboat off the coast of Homosassa and watering the gardenias in her yard.

H. Bassett said that although his mother's island is now on state land, it still bears the name she gave it.

Ms. Flossie was an

energetic force, and the community reaped the benefits of this activity.

In 1949 she was the first woman called to jury duty.

In 1958, she was the first female on the county's School Board.

In 1963, she helped found the Citrus County Historical Society. (She is the only surviving original member of that group.)

She was a charter member of the Floral City Woman's Club, a member of the Floral City Garden Club and one of the founders of the Citrus County Art League.

In commemoration of her many achievements, during the town's Heritage Days in 1998, the Board of County Commissioners declared Dec. 1 "Flossie Bassett Day in Floral City."

While she loves her hometown, Ms. Flossie was also a world traveler.

Her son, H., and his wife recalled her visits to them when they worked abroad.

"She came to see us in Japan and she visited us in Hong Kong," her daughter-in-law said.

Her family said Ms. Flossie especially loved Hawaii (hence the lei around her neck at her party) and went there often. She enjoyed visiting busy places, such as Mexico City, but also took pleasure in staying home to hunt and fish in restful Floral City.

A champion bridge player, she played until she was 90 years old.

More about this fascinating woman's life and times will become available when H. completes his work on the family's genealogy and historic roots.

Meanwhile, Ms. Flossie is still the heartbeat of the holiday season in Floral City.

"One of the things she likes to do now is ride around and look at Christmas lights in her beautiful paradise," H. said.

WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER 10, 2003  
[www.chronicleonline.com](http://www.chronicleonline.com)

# Giving growing gifts

## Gardeners to swap plants at party

Special to the Chronicle

Christmas carols will fill the Singing Forest Recreation Center as the Floral City Garden Club gathers for its annual Christmas Luncheon and plant exchange at noon Friday.

Betty Summer and Marcia Beasley will greet members and guests and accept the plants and garden-related items for the gift exchange as the hostesses for the luncheon. Janis Lehowicz, Alice Reed and Millie Lyons, arrange the food items brought by each member to share. Members will bring their own plate and tableware; beverages will be furnished by the hostesses.

According to tradition, members may bring a plant or garden-related gift (not to exceed a \$10 value), if they desire to par-

ticipate in the gift exchange. Many beautiful plants and interesting items arrive for this portion of the program.

When all have been satisfied from the bountiful food table, the caroling will begin. It is suggested that one bring the *Chronicle's* Christmas song book so that everyone can take part in the sing-along.

A brief report about the Christmas decorating of Floral City, Heritage Days and the Floral City Holiday Boat Parade will be given.

Call Jo Ann Quackenbush at 344-4447.



# 80 and still growing strong

## Chet Olshewsky honored by state

GLORIA UHL  
Special to the Chronicle

Citrus County Master Gardener Chet Olshewsky recently was awarded Master Gardener of the Year in the State of Florida.

At the 23rd Annual Florida Master Gardener Training Conference in Gainesville, Olshewsky was honored with the title of Master Gardener of the Year by Tom Wichman, Florida Master Gardener Coordinator.

This is no mean feat, as all Master Gardeners in the State of Florida competed for this award.

At a meeting Oct. 16 with fellow Master Gardeners, Bruce Ide, Courtesy Extension Agent and Master Gardener Coordinator of the UF/IFAS Citrus County Cooperative Extension Office, presented Olshewsky with a plaque in

recognition of his achievements.

Olshewsky has recorded 1,926 volunteer hours, has made more than 200 house calls, given talks to many county garden clubs and has served as adviser to several area businesses.

He has logged 9,657 miles driving throughout the county to teach, mentor and share his knowledge and experience.

Olshewsky believes that service is the rent we pay for living, and he lives his life that way.

During his 16 years as a Master Gardener in Florida, he has contributed to the beautification of many sites, including churches, schools, memorial gardens, libraries, individual homes and community developments. He gives plant clinics at libraries to help homeowners resolve landscaping, maintenance, plant disease and insect problems.

In March, in recognition of his outstanding and invaluable service to the community, Olshewsky received a Certificate of Special Congressional



Special to the Chronicle

Chet Olshewsky accepts the plaque naming him Master Gardener of the Year in the State of Florida.

Recognition from Congresswoman Ginny Brown-Waite.

In the past year, Olshewsky has been involved in such projects as: landscaping at Hernando Elementary School, beautification of the Citrus County Landfill, plant clinics at libraries, Citrus Memorial Hospital and Sugarmill Woods Homeowners Association, landscaping and design maintenance, the Citrus County Master Gardener Program, First Lutheran Church Memorial Garden and more than 200 house calls throughout the county.

Olshewsky gives a lot of credit to his two "angels," Lois Wagner and Linda Vasquez, both of whom accompany him and assist his efforts in the community with enthusiasm.

As he approaches his 81st birthday, Olshewsky shares his father's advice: "Chet, you've acquired a good deal of knowledge. All of that will be lost unless you share it with others."

Sharing with others is what Olshewsky does best and we are all proud of his achievement as the State of Florida's Master Gardener of the Year.

**Christmas 2002**  
**"Singing Forest"**





**Christmas 2003  
"Singing Forest"**

Around the table from left to right



Diane Freund, Thelma Noble, Cathi Ayers, Carol DeLisle, Mary Ann Jaksina, Bette Welte



Janis Lehowicz, Alice Reed, Millie Lyons, Mr. & Lois Bennett, Betty Sumner



Ron Barber turned around



Barbara Milliken, Nancy Mirgon, Dody ?/guest, Peggy Pattillo, Carol Hart, Cathy Foley



Ron Barber, Ossie Beasley, Bobbie & Norm Schoss, Marcia Beasley, Patti Barber



Elmer Rabideaux, Mary Lu Sloop, Laura Hennings, Bee Rabideaux, Lynn & H.D. Bassett



Diane Dowthitt, Kathy Hofmann, Bette Ayers, Norma Ditmars,  
Dorothy Clark, Shirley McAllen



Table Arrangements made by Bette Ayers, Carol Hart, Bobbie  
Schoss, Kathy Hofmann & me [jq]

### Floral City Garden Club's "New" Christmas Card





JANUARY 9, 2004  
www.chronicleonline.com

# Gardeners gear up for year

## Floral City Garden Club gets busy

MARCIA BEASLEY  
Special to the Chronicle

Having decorated the town for Floral City Heritage Days and furnished hostesses for the Tour of Historic Homes, the Floral City Garden Club is ready to settle into the work of the club for the new year.

Plans will be laid out at the meeting today, which begins with a social period from 12:30 to 1 p.m.

Lynn Bassett and Kathy Hoffman will greet members and visitors, while Gloria Uhl, Diane Dowthitt and Mary Lu Sloop will offer refreshments.

President Jo Ann Quackenbush will call the meeting to order at 1. Committee chairmen will give reports about the scholarship fund, Arbor Day plantings, the School Beautification Project, hosting District V Meeting, the annual plant sale, support of a World Gardening Project, and initiation of a newsletter.

Dave Noble, chairman of civic beautification, will report about new and ongoing downtown projects.

The committee appointed to plan for new holiday town decorations will report. Committee members include Cathy Foley, Carol Hart, Laura Hennings, Shirley McAllen, Barbara Milliken, Bobbie Schoss and Mary Lu Sloop.

The "Petal Power" Award will be passed on to a worthy recipient by last month's honoree, Shirley McAllen. A

member will be selected and honored for the President's Award. December honorees included all the members and spouses who participated in the school beautification project, decorated the town for the holidays and to those who participated in the roadside cleanup and/or setup and decorated for the Christmas luncheon. Therefore, many members received the President's Award for December.

After a break, the program, free of charge to the public, will be presented by Janet Weber, grower, gardener, garden designer and environmentalist. Weber's Dunnellon nursery has native, xeric and garden plants. She is one of a few people licensed to grow from seed and sell coontie and has them in all stages in her nursery. Nature trails on her property allow the visitor to observe how her part of Citrus County

has looked for many years. There are different species of oaks, pines and native plants that she has protected, and is helping to perpetuate them in her own and others' gardens. Xeriscaping is at work in her yard, and she is well qualified to help us learn how we can better care for the earth by using Xeric Environscaping.

At the conclusion of the meeting, members may select samples from the Grow And Share Table.

Members are encouraged to provide written instructions for the planting and care with each of the seed, bulbs, cuttings or starts of plants that they bring to share.

The club meets the second Friday of the month from September through May. Visitors are welcome. Programs are offered free-of-charge to the public.

Call Jo Ann Quackenbush at 344-447.

## Garden Club plans to discuss crape myrtles

FLORAL CITY — The Floral City Garden Club will meet at 1 p.m. Feb. 13 in the Floral City Community Building on Orange Avenue, next to the library.

A program at 2 p.m. will give instructions on how to prune crape myrtles. Certified arborist Michael Harnden and master gardener Gloria Uhl will present the program. Free admission.

FEBRUARY 6, 2004

## Big thanks to all

As presenters of the successful Floral City Heritage Days 2003, the Floral City Heritage Council thanks the *Chronicle* for their extensive coverage and generous sponsorship of the event and we extend our gratitude to our other sponsors: the Floral City Lions Foundation Inc., TOOFAR, Capital City Bank, Progress Energy, Camp E-Nini-Hassee, Brighthouse, Nature Coast Visitor's Guide and contributors: Bank of Inverness.

Special thanks to the Heritage Day 2003 committee chairmen and to the seven historic home owners and to the 50 volunteer hosts for the Blue Banner Tour of Historic Homes.

To the businesses, organizations and individuals who put up giant Christmas cards and to the property owners who allowed us to schedule a card for display along Orange Avenue, we express our appreciation.

Also, appreciation is extended to: Those who prepared the village for this special event with Christmas decorations and grounds preparation; to organizations who prepared the mouth-watering foods; those who demonstrated early-Florida folklife daily living skills; the many musicians and entertainers on Friday night and Saturday; the folk dancers; the Citrus Model "A" Club; and all the other exhibitors and activity participants, we express our sincere gratitude for your participation.

We are grateful to those who provided special assistance for this event. Camp E-Nini-Hassee,

Shamrock Inn, Herbert Surber American Legion Post 225, Tom Ellis and Pete Hennings, Floral City Volunteer Fire Department, Sheriff Dept. Community Patrol Unit 5, Nature Coast EMS at Floral City, Citrus County Historical Society, Inc. Board and members, Old Courthouse Heritage Museum Docents, Floral City Garden Club, Coastal Heritage Museum and council members, F.D.S. Disposal Inc., Floral City Girl Scouts Troop 335, Floral City Team Green 4-H and Cecil Crews.

To all the visitors who attended Floral City Heritage Days 2003, thank you for attending. See you next year under the oaks.

**Marcia L. Beasley**  
Council & Event Chairman

# Gardeners to arrange flowers

## Guest to conduct meeting workshop

*Special to the Chronicle*

The Floral City Garden Club will meet at 12:30 p.m. Friday.

Bring a sharp knife and pruning sheers for a flower-arranging program. Barbara Ramsey, owner of Flowers by Barbara, will lead club members in a workshop of flower arranging. Flowers will be furnished by the club to all who volunteered at the February meeting to participate in this workshop. Others desiring to participate must call Debbie at 341-1366 by Wednesday.

Club members are reminded of the following:

■ Dues may be paid between now and May.

■ The club will have a sales/membership table Saturday, March 20, in front of the Floral City Community Building during the Friends of the Library's Annual Book Sale.

■ Sign up now for April's Tour to the Angel Gardens in Gainesville and nominations are being accepted for Landscape Design and Yard of the Year awards.

Nominations for the 2004-05 Floral City Yard of the Year Awards are not restricted to Floral City Garden Club members; anyone may nominate a yard within the Floral City zip code. Call Carol at 344-4775 with your nomination in one or more of the following categories: Best (overall) Yard of the Year, Best Creative Yard of the Year, Best Sustained Yard of the Year, Best Conservation Yard of the Year and Best Landscaping at a Business.

Call Jo Ann at 344-4447 or Debbie at 341-1366.

## Floral City Garden Club has busy schedule ahead

FLORAL CITY — The Floral City Garden Club will meet at 1 p.m. today for a flower arranging program. Barbara Ramsey of Flowers by Barbara will lead the workshop. Flowers will be furnished by the club to all who signed up for the workshop in February. Club members are reminded that dues may be paid between now and May. On March 20 the club will have a sales and membership table in front of the Floral City Community Building during the Friends of the Library's annual book sale.

Registration is open for April's tour to the Angel Gardens in Gainesville, and nominations are being accepted for landscape design and yard of the year awards.

Nominations for the 2004 Floral City yard of the year awards are not restricted to Floral City Garden Club members. Anyone may nominate a yard in the Floral City ZIP code. Call Carol at 344-4775 with a nomination in one or more of the following categories: best (overall) yard of the year, best creative yard of the year, best sustained yard of the year, best conservation landscape yard of the year and best landscaping at a business.

Decisions will be announced at the May meeting. For information about the club or programs, call Jo Ann at 344-4447 or Debbie at 341-1366.





Photo courtesy of Marcia Bessie

**TREE MEMORIAL:** Recently the Floral City Heritage Council planted a southern red cedar tree on the Withlacoochee Trail in downtown Floral City in memory of Jim McCann, a past trail ranger, co-founder of the Withlacoochee Trail and FCHC member. Pictured half out of sight on the left is Janice McCann. In full view are members Joyce Valentino, Allen "Ossie" Beasley, Bunk Minnis, Frank Peters (in hat), Barry Hendry and, with shovel holding the tree, certified arborist Michael Harnden. Present for the planting and dedication were 45 members of the council, Rails-To-Trails of the Withlacoochee and a Hospice Bereavement Group.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2004

### Garden club to offer scholarship in May

The Floral City Garden Club will award a \$500 scholarship to a graduating high school senior or a currently enrolled college student in May of this year. The recipient must be planning to major in one of the following areas of study: environmental sciences, horticulture, botany, forestry, conservation or an allied subject. Applicants must have a "B" or better average. Students whose permanent address is in Citrus County will be given priority. For information or to request an application, contact Cathi Ayers at 637-6345 or at [cabp6540@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cabp6540@tampabay.rr.com).

**GARDEN CLUB SCHOLARSHIP:** The Floral City Garden Club will award a \$500 scholarship to a graduating high school senior or a currently enrolled college student in May. The recipient must be planning to major in one of the following areas of study: environmental sciences, horticulture, botany, forestry, conservation or a related subject. Applicants must have a B or higher grade point average. Citrus County residents will be given priority. For information or to request an application, call Cathi Ayers at 637-6345 or e-mail [cabp6540@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cabp6540@tampabay.rr.com).

*Helma*

GOING FOR THE  
GOLD



AWARD WINNERS

78<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL STATE  
CONVENTION  
FLORIDA FEDERATION  
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GARDEN CLUBS, INC

*Hilton University of Florida  
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April 20, 2004*



**FLORIDA FEDERATION OF  
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AWARD WINNERS FOR 2004**

<b><u>ADULT AWARDS</u></b>	<b><u>DISTRICT</u></b>
2 <b>OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD</b> Donor: Ribault Garden Club Winner: Nancy Savage, Davis Islands Garden Club	VIII
3 <b>LEADERSHIP AWARD</b> Donor: Jo Williams, Hollywood Winner : Jo Compton, Cocoa Rockledge Garden Club	VI
5 A <b>SPECIAL ACHEIVEMENT</b> Donor: Canny O'Donnell, Jr., Pensacola Winner: Four Seasons Garden Club, Gainesville	V
6 <b>MEDAL FOR INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT IN HORTICULTURE</b> Donor: FFGC Winner: Dr. Jeff Norcini, University of Florida	
11 <b>YEARBOOK</b> Donor: Family of Ella Wood in memory Winner: A Ixora Garden Club, Eustis Winner: B Lady Lake Garden Club, Lady Lake Winner: C Green Thumb Garden Club, Santa Rosa Bch Winner: D Coral Gables Garden Club, Coral Gables	VII VII I XII
12 <b>PUBLICATION</b> Donor: Sarasota Garden Club Winner: Boca Raton Garden Club, Boca Raton	X
13 <b>NEWSLETTER</b> Donor: B Camellia Garden Club of Winter Haven Donor: D Mrs. John W. Ethridge Winner: B Temple Terrace Garden Club Winner: D Lauderdale Garden Club, Ft. Lauderdale	VIII XI
14 <b>FLORIDA FLOWER ARRANGEMENT CALENDAR SILVER TROPHY</b> Donor: Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Winner: Dorothy Langford	VII

14A	<b>FLORIDA FLOWER ARRANGEMENT CALENDAR EDITOR'S AWARD</b> Donor: Inez Brooker, Gainesville Winner: Andrea Finn	VI	37	<b>SCHOOL GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION</b> Donor: Mrs. Charles Schmidt, Winter Haven Winner: Honeysuckle Garden Club, Molino	I
15	<b>DEPALMA/SILLIK WEB SITE AWARD</b> Donors: M.E. DePalma and Jan Silik in honor of Jo Williams Winner: Davis Islands Garden Club	VIII	40	<b>ARLINGTON DOLLY MORRIS AWARD</b> Donor: Arlington Garden Club of Ormond-Daytona Bch Winner: Barbara Peck, Riverhaven GC, Homosassa	V
18	<b>HISTORIC PRESERVATION</b> Donor: Beverly Ray, Fort Myers Winner: Driftwood Circle of Sarasota Garden Club	VIII	41	<b>SENATOR DIRKSEN MARIGOLD AWARD</b> Donor: Garden Club of Deland Winner: Lady Lake Garden Club, Lady Lake	VI
25	<b>LEONA VENETTOZZI COLLECTION'S AWARD</b> Donors: Gina Jogan & Tina Tuttle Winner: Louise M. White Garden Club of Stuart	X	42	<b>LANDSCAPING A BALCONY AWARD</b> Donor: Joan Pryor, Dade City Garden Club Winner: Susan Arlund, West Palm Beach	X
29	<b>SUNSHINE AWARD</b> A. Donor: Joyce Droege, Clermont B. Donor: Lorraine Gabler, Eustis A. Winner: Lady Lake Garden Club, Fruitland Park B. Winner: Riverhaven Garden Club, Homosassa	VII V	56	<b>BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION AWARD</b> A Donor: Rita Hilton, Bartow B Donor: Claudia Bates, Gainesville A Winner: Deidra L McGraw, Bartow Garden Club B Winner: Winter Park Garden Club, Winter Park	IX VII
32	<b>PARK PLANTING</b> Donor: Pensacola Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Winner: Garden Club of the Lakes, Keystone Heights	IV	57A	<b>BUTTERFLY SANCTUARY ON SCHOOL GROUNDS</b> A Donor: Lois Weber, Palm Harbor A Winner: Gulf Beach Garden Club, Panama City Beach	II
33	<b>THE CLYDE D. WARE AWARD FOR CIVIC DEVELOPMENT</b> Donors: Dade County Council of Club Presidents, Ribault Garden Club Panama City Garden Club Cocoa Rockledge Garden Club Winner: DeFuniak Springs Garden Club, DeFuniak	I	62	<b>MARY S. COMPTON AWARDS FOR PUBLICITY</b> B Donor: Ellen Noll, Winter Haven C Donor: Michele Myers, Palm Beach D Donor: Shirley Haverfield, Miami B Winner: Lady Lake Garden Club, Lady lake C Winner: Boca Raton Garden Club, Boca Raton D Winner: Winter Park Garden Club, Winter Park	VII X VII
36	<b>COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD</b> Donor: A Orlando Garden Club Donor: B Pat Carver, Dade City Donor: C Marion Hilliard, Orange Park Winner A: Driftwood Circle, Sarasota Winner B: Homosassa River Garden Club, Homosassa Winner C: Plant City Garden Club, Plant City	VIII V VIII	63	<b>GARDEN CENTER</b> Donor: Mrs. J R. Tucker, Winter Haven Winner: Coral Gables Garden Club, Inc.	XII
			64B	<b>LIBRARY</b> B Donor: Garden Club of St. Petersburg B Winner: Sea Oats Garden Club, Carrabelle	III
			65	<b>CONVENTION DELEGATE</b> Donor: Jayne Hemstreet, Tampa Winner: Laura Ennis, Cocoa-Rockledge GC, Rockledge	VI



- 66 **NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK AWARD**  
Donor: Joan Garrison, Davis Islands Garden Club, Tampa  
Winner: Garden Club of the Lakes, Keystone Heights IV
- 67A **PRESSED WILDFLOWER COLLECTION**  
Donor: Winni Ekman, Tampa  
Winner: Deborah Whalen, Dunedin Garden Club VIII
- 68 **CELEBRATE COREOPSIS AWARD**  
Donor: Elizabeth Pate, Atlantic Beach  
Winner: DeFuniak Springs Garden Club, DeFuniak I
- 69 **PHOTOGRAPHIC SLIDE AWARD**
- A. INDIVIDUAL BLOSSOM, SPIKE OR SPRAY GROWN IN FLORIDA**  
Donor: C. Norma LaForge, Winter Park  
Winner: Jane Huckins, GC of Ft. Lauderdale XI
- B. SLIDE OF LANDSCAPED FLORIDA GARDEN**  
Donor: Garden Club of St. Augustine  
Winner: Darcy Stottlemeyer, Plant City Garden Club VIII
- C. SLIDE OF A FLORIDA WILDFLOWER, PREFERABLY PHOTOGRAPHED IN NATURAL HABITAT**  
Donor: Mary Kay Kokenge, Miami  
Winner: Evelyn Somerville, Boca Raton Garden Club X
- D. SLIDE OF FLOWERING TREE IN BLOOM GROWING IN FLORIDA; CLOSE-UP OF BLOSSOM & ENTIRE TREE IN BLOOM**  
Donor: Elise Haymans, Punta Gorda  
Winner: Jean Skoien, Davis Islands Garden Club VIII
- 70 **RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPING AWARD**  
Donor: Florida Landscape Consultants' Council  
Winner: Plant City Garden Club, Plant City VIII
- 71 **THE ELLA JOYCE BOALS PROGRAM**  
Donor: Virginia P. Redmond, Seminole  
Winner: Davis Islands Garden Club, Tampa VIII

- 72 **HORTICULTURE PROGRAM**  
Donor: Town & Country Garden Club, Lake Worth  
In memory of Clara Weaver  
Winner: Dirt Daubers Circle, Cocoa-Rockledge GC VI
- 73 **PUBLIC PROGRAM**  
Donor: Louise Bennett, Titusville  
Winner: Bonnie Wagner, Temple Terrace VIII
- 101A **COUNCIL STANDARD FLOWER SHOW**  
Donor: Pat Grulke, Fort Myers  
Winner: Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council IX
- 102A **HOLIDAY STANDARD FLOWER SHOW**  
Donor: Orlando Garden Club  
Winner: Plant City Garden Club VIII
- 104 **NEAR CLUB STANDARD FLOWER SHOW**  
Donor: Gloria Blake, Cocoa  
Winner: Winter Park Garden Club  
Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club  
Winter Park, Florida VII
- 106A **STANDARD FLOWER SHOW STAGED IN A PUBLIC BUILDING**  
Donor: District VII Judges Council  
Winner: The Garden Club of Stuart X
- 106B **STANDARD FLOWER SHOW STAGED IN A PUBLIC BUILDING**  
Donor: Helen Kuhn, Eustis  
Winner: Federated Garden Circles of Ft. Lauderdale XI
- 107-2 **STANDARD FLOWER SHOW**  
Donor: Tampa Federation of Garden Circles  
Winner: Four Seasons Garden Club, Gainesville V
- 107-4 **STANDARD FLOWER SHOW**  
Donor: Tampa Federation of Garden Circles  
Winner: Vero Beach Garden Club X
- 110 **SMALL STANDARD FLOWER SHOW**  
Donor: Marian Sandalas, Homosassa  
Winner: Homosassa River Garden Club V

120	<b>FLOWER SHOW FOCAL AREA</b> Donor: Floralia VI, District VIII A Winner: Four Seasons Garden Club, Gainesville V B Winner: Key West Garden Club, Key West XII
122	<b>STANDARD FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE</b> Donor: FFSJ A Winner: Four Seasons Garden Club, Gainesville V B Winner: Homosassa River Garden Club, Homosassa V C Winner: Pioneer Garden Club, Ocala V D Winner: Tallahassee Garden Club, Tallahassee III
123	<b>FFSJ AWARD</b> Donor: FFSJ Winner: Joan Graff, Palm City X
124	<b>FLORALIA II DESIGNER'S CHOICE AWARD</b> Donor: Floralia II, Tampa Winner: Marilyn Shaw, Ft Lauderdale XI
125	<b>FLORALIA VI AWARD OF DISTINCTION</b> Donor: Floralia VI, Tampa Winner: Marilynn Blaisdell, Ft. Lauderdale XI
126	<b>ESTHER BROSCHÉ EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT AWARD</b> Donor: Mike Brosche in memory of Esther Brosche Winner: Nancy Muldoon, Venice VIII
127	<b>TABLE ARTISTRY AWARD</b> Donor: Joyce Droege Winner: Darcy Stottlemeyer, Plant City VIII

**YOUTH AWARDS**

**INTERMEDIATE**

I-8	<b>WILDFLOWER FOLDER</b> Donor: Betty Moss, Miami Winner: Lady Bugs, Cocoa-Rockledge GC VI
I-10	<b>MARY NEWSOM AWARD FOR STATE PARKS</b> Donor: Miami Beach Garden Club Winner: Robert A Compton, Cocoa-Rockledge GC VI

I-18	<b>BUTTERFLY CLASSIFICATION FOLDER</b> Donor: Addie Lou Harris Winner: Shelby Rustin, Chipley Garden Club II
I-23	<b>WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP</b> Donor: Becky Hassebrock, Sopchoppy Winner: Sergio Pantoja, Ft. Lauderdale GC XI
I-26	<b>TREE AWARD</b> Donor: Garden Club of Tarpon Springs Winner: Rebekah A. Compton

**JUNIORS**

J-1A	<b>MARGARET Y. PACE BIRDS SEEN IN FLORIDA</b> Donor: District I Winner: Jaclyn Weber, Tarpon Springs Garden Club VIII
J-1B	<b>MARGARET Y. PACE BIRDS SEEN IN FLORIDA</b> Donor: District I Winner: Young Discoverers, Ribault Garden Club IV
J-6A	<b>JUNIOR HORTICULTURE</b> Donor: Florida Gardening Consultants Council Winner: Mrs. Law's Fruit & Vegetable Club, Tallahassee III
J-7	<b>JUNIOR GARDEN THERAPY</b> Donor: Mrs. Frank Hewlett, Miami Winner: Caroline Brevard Elementary, Tallahassee III
J-9B	<b>SCHOOL GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION</b> Donor: Garden Club of St. Petersburg Winner: McMullen Booth Earthsavers Club VIII
J-10A	<b>BIRDS IN FLORIDA</b> Donor: Orlando Garden Club Winner: "The Sprouts," Ribault Garden Club IV
J-11	<b>JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT</b> Donor: Manatee/River Garden Club Winner: Garden Angels West, Boca Raton Garden Club X



J-12C	<b>LITTER CONTROL POSTER</b> Donor: Kathy Echevarria, Tampa Winner: Hannah J. Compton, Cocoa Rockledge GC	VI
J-13	<b>INDIVIDUAL WILDFLOWER FOLDER</b> Donor: Arlene Hanks, Clermont Winner: A.J. James, Early Bloomers Cocoa Rockledge	VI
J-15A	<b>WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP</b> Donor: Becky Hassebrock, Sopchoppy Winner: Sarah E. Compton, Cocoa Rockledge GC	VI
J-18A	<b>BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION FOLDER</b> Donor: Lois Weber, Tarpon Springs Winner: Jaclyn Weber, Tarpon Springs Garden Club	VIII
J-18B	<b>BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION FOLDER</b> Donor: Lois Weber, Tarpon Springs Winner: Young Discoverers, Rebault Garden Club	IV
J-20B	<b>CONSERVATION PROJECT</b> Donor: Melba Campbell, Vero Beach Winner: Micanopy Friendship 4H Jr. Gardeners	V
J-24A	<b>GARDEN INSECTS FOUND IN FLORIDA</b> Donor: Peggy Nuse, Ormond Beach Winner: The Sprouts, Rebault Garden Club	IV
J-24B	<b>GARDEN INSECTS FOUND IN FLORIDA</b> Donor: Gladys Howard, Fruitland Park Winner: Young Discoverers Ribault Garden Club	IV
J-26A	<b>BUTTERFLY AWARD</b> Donor: Karen Hall, Deland Winner: Jaclyn Weber, Palm Harbor Garden Club	VIII
J-26B	<b>Butterfly Award</b> Donor: Elaine Waidelich, DeLand Winner: Sarah Youssef, Palm Harbor Garden Club	VIII
J-26C	<b>BUTTERFLY AWARD</b> Donor: Titusville Garden Club Winner: Carlin Harapira, Ribault Garden Club	IV

J-26E	<b>BUTTERFLY AWARD</b> Donor: Karen Hall, Deland Winner: Rachel Franzek, GC of St Petersburg	VIII
J-32B	<b>CLASSROOM PROJECT</b> Donor: Barbara Jones, Reddington Beach Winner: Mrs. Sperlocks' 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade, Palm Harbor GC	VIII
J-32C	<b>CLASSROOM PROJECT</b> Donor: Barbara Jones, Reddington Beach Winner: "Addison Mizner's 4 <sup>th</sup> Graders, Boca Raton GC	X
J-34B	<b>TREE AWARD</b> Donor: Garden Club of Tarpon Springs Winner: Jaclyn Weber, Tarpon Springs Garden Club	VIII
J-34C	<b>TREE AWARD</b> Donor: Garden Club of Tarpon Springs Winner: Logan Weber, Tarpon Springs Garden Club	VIII

#### ECOTOTS

E-1	<b>ECOTOT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD</b> Donor: Jane Mills, Jensen Beach Winner: Tarpon Springs Gardening Grands	VIII
E-2	<b>NATURE POSTERS AWARD</b> Donor: Barbara Jones Winner: Tarpon Springs Gardening Grands	VIII

#### POETRY CONTEST - "SEEDLING"

Kindergarten	Lauren Baillie - Garden Club of St. Petersburg	VIII
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Hunter Hyland - Garden Club of St. Petersburg	VIII
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Rachel Franzek - Garden Club of St. Petersburg	VIII
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Sara Conner - Pensacola Federation of Garden Clubs	I
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Karen Conner - Pensacola Federation of Garden Clubs	I

#### POSTER CONTEST

Kindergarten	Lauren Baillie - Garden Club of St. Petersburg	VIII
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Benjamin Whitelaw - Palm Harbor Garden Club	VIII
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Hunter Hyland - Garden Club of St. Petersburg	VIII
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Matthew Weber - Tarpon Springs Garden Club	VIII
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Lydia Franzek - Palm Harbor Garden Club	VIII

**2004 DEEP SOUTH REGION AWARD WINNERS**

Awards announced at Deep South Convention  
New Orleans, LA, March 2-6, 2004

<u>AWARD</u>	<u>DISTRICT</u>
1-B SCHOOL GROUND IMPROVEMENT Winner: Palm Harbor Garden Club	VIII
3 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND/OR RESTORATION Winner: Driftwood Circle, Sarasota Garden Club	VIII
6 MEMBERSHIP AWARD Winner: Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.	
16 BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION AWARD Winner: Bouquet Garden Club, Winter Haven	IX
18A ADOPT-A-PARK Winner: Pine Castle Garden Club, Orlando	VII
19 COMMUNITY ACTION AWARD Winner: Plant City Garden Club	VIII
22A INTERMEDIATE GARDENERS AWARD Winner: Boca Raton Garden Club, Boca Raton	X
DEEP SOUTH REGION MEMBER AWARD OF HONOR Winner: Mr. Eugene J. Spargos, Lakeland	IX

**YOUTH DIVISION**

**YOUTH POSTER CONTEST: "Plant a Garden for the Future"**

First Place: (5 <sup>TH</sup> Grade) Matthew Weber Garden Club of Tarpon Springs	VIII
2 <sup>ND</sup> Place: (1 <sup>ST</sup> Grade) Benjamine Whitelaw Sutherland Elementary School	VIII
3 <sup>RD</sup> Place: (Kindergarten) Lauren Baillie Garden Club of St. Petersburg	VIII
2 <sup>ND</sup> Place: Lydia Franzek Garden Club of St. Petersburg	VIII

**YOUTH AWARDS**

**YOUTH POETRY: "Plant A Seed-Leave A Legacy"**

Kindergarten: (1 <sup>ST</sup> Place) Lauren Baillie, St. Petersburg	VIII
4 <sup>TH</sup> Grade: (2 <sup>ND</sup> Place) Rachel Franzek, St. Petersburg	VIII
5 <sup>TH</sup> Grade: (2 <sup>ND</sup> Place) Karen Conner, Pensacola	I
6 <sup>TH</sup> Grade: (Honorable Mention) Sara Conner, Pensacola	I

**YOUTH POSTER: "Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest"**

3 <sup>RD</sup> Grade - (2 <sup>ND</sup> Place) Janice Gallarday, Ft. Lauderdale	XI
5 <sup>TH</sup> Grade - (3 <sup>RD</sup> Place) Danielle Smith, Ft. Lauderdale	XI

**AWARD NUMBERS NOT LISTED DID NOT HAVE FFGC WINNERS**

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO TOOK THE TIME AND MADE THE EFFORT TO ENTER A BOOK OF EVIDENCE FOR NGC, INC., DEEP SOUTH AND FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS AWARDS. EACH WAS CERTAINLY A WINNER AND DEMONSTRATED THE MANY OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR MEMBERS.

**NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.  
FLOWER SHOW ROSETTES**

5D Purple Rosette - STANDARD FLOWER SHOW Garden Club of Indian River County, Vero Beach	X
18A Rose Rosette - COUNCIL STANDARD FLOWER SHOW Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council, Cape Coral	IX
22A-ii Red & Green Rosette - HOLIDAY STANDARD FLOWER SHOW Plant City Garden Club, Plant City	VIII
30B Green Rosette - DISTRICT STANDARD FLOWER SHOW District VII	VII
35 Blue & White Rosette - NEAR CLUB STANDARD FLOWER SHOW Winter Park Garden Club & Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club, Winter Park	VII



47B	Red Rosette – YOUTH STANDARD FLOWER SHOW Fort Lauderdale Garden Club	XI
57A	Burgundy & Pink Rosette – STANDARD FLOWER SHOW STAGED IN A PUBLIC BUILDING – Garden Club of Stuart, Stuart	X
57B	Burgundy & Pink Rosette – STANDARD FLOWER SHOW STAGED IN A PUBLIC BUILDING Federated Garden Circles of Ft. Lauderdale	XI

**FFGC AWARD DONORS WITHOUT ENTRIES FOR THE 2004  
CONVENTION**

DONORS LISTED IN AWARDS SECTION NOT LISTED AGAIN

Beth Wilson, Marion Hilliard, Joan Pryor, Lillian McNanus, Pat Clarke, Rose Schmidt, Rose Vickers, JoAnn Guise, Sarasota Garden Club, Florida Landscape Design Council, Arlene Hanks, Barbara Willey, Ann Schandelmayer, Janice Hamlin, Addie Lou Harris, Marcy DiMare, Driftwood Circle-Sarasota Garden Club, Area Beautification Council of Pinellas County, Eugenia Tucker, District X, District III, Jane Mills, Bobbie Jones, Palm Harbor Garden Club, FFSJ, Garden Club of Jacksonville, Council of Garden Club Presidents of Dade County, Tampa Garden Club, Mrs. John Montgomery and Osie Rodriguez.

April Meeting @ Angel Gardens 2004



The restaurant and gardens



Graced by a beautiful India Hawthorne ... we had lunch on the porch.



Pam, Tour Guide and Hostess took us through the gardens.



The garden was graced with small statuary



and filled with old fashioned roses just coming into bloom





Micky Rosser, Camp Wekiva Volunteer & Reva Pachefsky, District Director Gave the Program and showed a video on Camp Wekiva



An oak tree on the grounds is in the National Registry



This says it all! There was only one water garden still working ... in sad decline, but it did have some nice yellow flag and Louisiana iris in

School Beautification Project May 2004



Phase II -- The Wall Helpers: Patsy Neel, Bobbie Schoss, Marcia Beasley, & Me. Not pictured Jeanne Henson, Bette Ayers & Cathi Ayers



Is this where you want me to put it?



Trace this? I just want to paint flowers.



Hard at work adding the details



The tree is growing



Homossassa Riverboat Tour



Homossassa Riverboat Tour



May Awards Banquet



Certificates of Appreciation were given to all who worked to make this year happen.

May Awards Banquet



Petal Power Award was presented to Bobbie Schoss & Diane Dowthitt for their outstanding work on the District V Spring Meeting

May Awards Banquet



Life Membership is presented to Dorothy Clark



& she is pinned for life!!!

# Service rewarded

*Special to the Chronicle*

Twenty-four years of active service to the Floral City Garden Club was recognized at the Awards Banquet in May when Dorothy Clark was presented with a Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Life Membership pin.

The Life Membership award had been presented to her at the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) District V spring meeting hosted by the Floral City Garden Club in April. Clark has served as club president for two, two-year terms; she has been actively involved in the club's Junior Gardener Program since its inception 13 years ago, and served as chairwoman of that committee until recently. For



*Special to the Chronicle*

**Dorothy Clark, left, receives a Life Membership award from JoAnn Quackenbush, president of the Floral City Garden Club.**

many years, she served as the club horticulture chairwoman, and for two years she also served FFGC as horticulture chairwoman.

Past meetings and workshops have been at her home when she lived in Floral City on the Withlacoochee River

and at her present home in Inverness.

Clark has always provided a wide variety of home-grown plants for the club's annual plant sale, and the club could always count on her to bring

Please see **SERVICE**/Page 8D



# SERVICE

Continued from Page 1D

cuttings, seeds and bulbs for the "Grow and Share" table offered to members and visitors at monthly club meetings. She was often first to sign up to exhibit in the design and horticulture classes for the standard flower shows given in the past by the club.

She is an ideal example of what garden club members aspire to be. The Floral City Garden Club admires and respects this valued member.

This award presentation was only one of numerous awards given by JoAnn Quackenbush, president, at the club's last meeting.

Cathi Ayers, past president, was recognized with the purchase of a brick, inscribed with her name, which was placed in the "Path of Sunshine" at FFGC headquarters in Winter Park in honor of her numerous accomplishments and ongoing projects, including the Freedom Tree dedication and

Floral City's first-ever parade to commemorate 9/11 victims and their families, the school beautification projects (gardens and educational mural) and the club's first "Secret Garden" tour.

Scholarship Chairman Cathi Ayers reported that a \$1,000 scholarship from the club had been presented to Laura Lee Ritchie at the Citrus High School awards evening May 17.

Laura Lee Ritchie is a resident of Floral City, and when she was in fourth-grade, she was the first student the club sent to FFGC Camp Wekiva. She is a 2004 graduate of CHS who attended the county marine science and ecology academy; she is now enrolled in an environmental ecology program at the University of Florida.

Quackenbush gave a large, circular key chain with the club floral logo to each member in attendance and special certificates of appreciation were presented to each officer, to committee chairman and to other members who had contributed to the work of the club

during the past year.

The monthly "Petal Power" award was presented to both Bobbie Schoss and Diane Dowthitt for their outstanding work in planning and directing the luncheon at the District V meeting.

Unknown to the president, the awards were not over—the membership turned the tables on her. Officers had written a

poem and each took a turn in reciting a portion of it. Then they presented her with a certificate to treat herself to a day at Serenity Spa, with instructions to take a well-deserved

rest over the summer from the club activities.

The Floral City Garden Club will resume meetings the second Friday monthly beginning again in September.

Meetings are at the Floral City Community Building, unless otherwise announced, and membership is open to any resident of or visitor to Citrus County. Call 344-4447.

*A*  
*May Day*  
*Celebration*



District V Spring Meeting

April 30, 2004



## Floral City Garden Club

President & Chairman: Jo Ann Quackenbush

Chairman of the Day: Dorothy Clark

Registrars: Kathy Hofmann, Sheila O'Dell, Carol Hart &

Peggy Pattillo

Hostesses: Bobbie Schoss, Diane Dowthitt, Dawn Waltonbaugh

& the girls from Camp E-Nini-Hassee

Greeters: Patti Barber & Lynda Fenton

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs  
District V Spring Meeting

April 30, 2004

Held at

First Presbyterian Church of Inverness

806 Washington Ave.,

Inverness, Florida

*"A May Day Celebration"*

*& Tour of Historic Floral City*



Hosted by:

Floral City Garden Club

Floral City, Florida



~ PROGRAM ~

9-10 AM Registration & Hospitality

Please turn in any announcements to the Assistant Director in writing

10:00 AM Call to Order

Invocation: Rev. Harvey Dunn, Floral City native  
& historic home owner

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

Marcia Beasley, Floral City Garden Club,

Retired Lt. Col. US Army

Greetings: Josh Wooten, Chairman, Board of

Citrus County Commissioners

Welcome: Jo Ann Quackenbush, President,

Floral City Garden Club

Response: Judy Miller Greenberg, Assistant Director,  
District V

Appointments: Reva Pachefsky, Director, District V

Introductions: Reva Pachefsky, Director, District V

Financial Report: Nina B. Ring, Treasurer, District V

Registration & Credentials Report:

Kathy Hofmann, Registrar, Floral City GC

Elections: Nominating Committee

## Club Introductions:

Belleview Garden Club	Gainesville Garden Club
Beverly Hills Garden Club	High Springs Garden Club
Brick City Garden Club	Homosassa River Garden Club
Cedar Key Garden Club	Inverness Garden Club
Citrus Garden Club	Lake City Garden Club
Garden Club of Crystal River	Newberry Garden Club
Dunnellon Garden Club	Pioneer Garden Club
Four Seasons Garden Club	Riverhaven Garden Club
Floral City Garden Club	Seedlings Garden Club

## Club Reports:

District Chairmen Reports: 2004 Convention & Awards

~ BREAK ~

*Please take a few minutes to shop at the Ways & Means tables ... there are some really wonderful and creative items for sale at a BARGAIN !!!*

Blessing: Mary Lu Sloop, Chaplain

Floral City Garden Club

Recess for Lunch

Recognition of Host Club

Announcements

Door Prizes & 50/50 Drawing

Adjournment & Program



Program: Floral City Historic District Tour [see map inside back cover]. The tour will cover 5 blocks & take approximately one hour ... you won't want to miss it. .

Directions: Go South on Washington Av {becomes Old Floral City Rd} approx 5.5 miles, turn left on E. Marvin St. at the Floral City Elementary School, Church & parking are on the right.

*Not going on the tour? W&M and Plant Sales will remain open for awhile so stop by and browse around before you leave. Thanks for coming ~ Have a safe trip home, and a happy, restful Summer! We'll see you on October 11, 2004 for the Fall District V Meeting hosted by the Seedlings Garden Club, McIntosh, Fl.*

The Director & District Host Committee wish to thank the following for their most generous contributions and help:

Hall: Claude Wilson, Fellowship Hall Coordinator, First Presbyterian Church

Gifts Bag Donations: Brannen Bank; Ron's Flooring; Trikes by Tony; Eckerd Drugs,

Woodshed Pub; Mike Smallridge Century 21; Chuck Everidge, State Farm Insurance;

Bank of America; Citrus County Solid Waste Management; & Michael Hamden, Tree Doc

Plants for Sale: Color Country Nursery, Lynn Bassett, Dawn Waltonbaugh & Debbie Barney

Art Donations: Laura Hennings, Diane Dowthitt & Jo Ann Quackenbush

FFGC W&M: Citrus Garden Club ~ Joanne Boone, President, & Jeanine Davis

Publicity & Historic Tour: Marcia Beasley, Floral City Garden Club

Table Favors: Marie Jones & Nancy Mignon

Floral Arrangements: Lynn Bassett, Patsy Neal & Bette Ayers

Committee to Approve Minutes: Cathi Ayers, Thelma Noble & Kathy Hofmann

Tellers: Cathi Ayers, Thelma Noble & Kathy Hofmann

Timer: Cathi Ayers

All Floral City Garden Club Helpers, Bakers & Plant Donors

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE IN FLORAL CITY



**Floral City United Methodist Church**  
8480 E. Marvin Street

**United Methodist Church**

1884/85

This splendid Gothic vernacular wood-frame church is considered the focal point of the Floral City Historic District. Fully restored in 1992 and has been in continual use since 1885

FLORAL CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT - National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)



**Cracker Style**

1895-1920



**Frame/Masonry**

1900-1940



**Folk Victorian**

1880



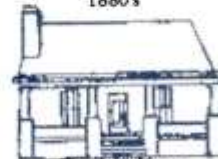
**American Foursquare**

1900-1930



**Classic Revival**

1880's



**Bungalow**

1910-1940





Floral City Garden Club  
Floral City, Florida

District 5 Spring Meeting



Plant Sale



Registration

Invocation: Rev. Harvey Dunn



Greeting: Josh Wooten, County Commissioner







The luncheon Hostesses: Bobbie Schoss, Diane Dowthitt  
Dorothy Clark working in background

The Food



Servers from Camp E Nini Hassee



Dawn Waltonbaugh's Mouse Creation on top of cheesecake



District 5 Spring Meeting



Kathy Hofmann, reading Registration Report



Nina Ring, Treasurer of District 5  
reading Financial Report



President Jo Quackenbush Welcoming Guests



District 5 Spring Meeting



FFGC President Joan Pryor



Getting the Room Ready



Shirley McAllen & Patti Barber



Thelma Noble, Bette Ayers,  
Cathi Ayers

## Letters to the EDITOR

a greater miracle take place than for us to look through each other's eyes for an instant."

Edgar Williams  
Crystal River

### Garden club thanks

Members of the Floral City Garden Club wish to thank the businesses, organizations and individuals who assisted the club in hosting Joan Pryor, president, Florida Federation of Garden Club, and the District V Spring Meeting of the federation.

We are grateful to the First Presbyterian Church of Inverness which allowed us to use its beautiful fellowship hall and kitchen and specifically to Claude Wilson, coordinator, who set up the dining room, guided us through the event, and was "Mr. Congeniality" himself.

We are grateful for the well-spoken

presentations during the opening ceremony by community leaders: Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners Josh Wooten and the Rev. Harvey Dunn, assistant pastor of the Church of God.

A colorful and tasty luncheon was prepared by our club members who had Cock-A-Doodles Cafe in Inverness make the excellent chicken salad. The club appreciates the generosity and advice of Art and Linda Green, owners of the cafe.

Although more than two dozen members assisted with the event that day, the luncheon could not have been served as well, without the willing help from Camp E-Nini-Hassee in Floral City. Thank you.

Our gratitude is expressed to the businesses who furnished items used in attendee's favor-bags: Bank of Inverness/Brannen Banks of Florida; Ron's Flooring, Floral City; Trikes by

Tony, Floral City; Eckerd Drugs, Inverness; Bank of America, Inverness; Woodshed Pub, Floral City; Mike Smallridge, Century 21; Chuck Everidge, State Farm Insurance; Citrus County Solid Waste Management; and Michael Harnden, member and certified arborist, Floral City.

We thank Color Country Nursery, Lecanto, for the delivery and set-up of plants, plus a donation from the plant sale, and to Connie's Garden Center, Floral City, for plant display stands. We appreciate our members who donated art and items for door prizes: Diane Dowthitt, Laura Hennings and Terry Newberry, and we are grateful to the Floral City Heritage Council for providing a guided walking tour of historic Floral City following the meeting.

Thanks to all who attended and to all who assisted.

Jo Ann Quackenbush  
president  
Floral City Garden Club

### NOTES OF THANKS

Editor:

Members of the Floral City Garden Club wish to thank the many businesses, organizations and individuals who assisted the Floral City Garden Club in hosting Joan Pryor, president, Florida Federation of Garden Club, and the District V Spring Meeting of the Federation.

We are indeed grateful to the First Presbyterian Church of Inverness who allowed us to use their beautiful fellowship hall and kitchen and specifically to Claude Wilson, coordinator, who set up the dining room, guided us through the event and was "Mr. Congeniality" himself. He certainly made all the difficult tasks easy and the impossible ones simple.

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Thanks to all who attended and to all who assisted.

JoAnn Quackenbush,  
President,  
Floral City Garden Club



Floral City Garden CLUB

# Yards get awards for being the best manicured of all

MARCIA BEASLEY  
Special to the Chronicle

In 1986, the Floral City Garden Club initiated a "Yard of the Year" Awards Program. That Yard Awards Program, with a hiatus and some modifications, is still an integral part of the club's Community Beautification Program.

Each spring, members and citizens are encouraged to nominate residents and businesses for the effectiveness of the planning and work they have put into the grounds on their property.

The club has established seven award categories. Each award has its own attractive yard sign, which is presented to the top recipient in each category for a one-year period.

Member Carol Hart has chaired the 2004 Yard of the Year Committee. She was assisted in evaluating the properties and presenting the awards by her committee: Betty Ayers, Shirley McAllen and Cathy Foley.

### The winners

Committee members placed the rotating Yard of the Year Award signs at the homes and business of this year's winners:

- Best Yard of the Year: Joe and Debbie Barney.

- Yard of the Year Award for Creative Design: Wilbur and Grace Thrush.

- Yard of the Year for Landscape Design: Frank and Laurie Kanka.

- Yard of the Year Award for Conservascape: Mary Neron.

- Yard of the Year Award for Design: Betty Ayers.

- Yard of the Year for Gardening by Propagation: Buthyal and Minnie Minnis.

- Yard of the Year Award for Business Landscape: Capital City Bank.

Honorable Mention Awards were made in the following categories to residents of the area. They include:

- Unique Specialty Garden Award to Barry Pendry and Cathi Ayers.

- Flower Gardens and Creativity Award to Greg and Lisa Lively.

- Conservascape Award to Joan Knippen.

- Rock Garden Award to H. D. and Lynn Bassett.

- Water Garden Award to Dave and Pamela Bellman.

- New Landscape Design Award to Jim and Lynda Fenton.

- Butterfly Garden Award to Joe and Jackie Ross.

- Best Manicured Lawn Award to Lloyd and Shelia O'Dell.

- Best Sustained Landscape Award to Frank and Phyllis Peters.

Many of these award properties will be available for viewing in the fall, when the Floral City Garden club again presents a Tour of Floral City Gardens. Look for coming announcements in the local press.

### Nominations for 2005

During March and April 2005, the club will be accepting nominations for 2005 Yard of the Year Awards. The public is



Special to the Chronicle

Floral City Garden Club's Yard of the Year Award Committee Members: from left to right: Carol Hart, Bette Ayers, Shirley McAllen and Cathy Foley.



Grace and Wilbur Thrush of Floral City are shown with their sign for Yard of the Year Award for Creative Design.



Bette Ayers of Floral City smiles as she stands with her award for Yard of the Year Award for Front Yard Design.

invited to participate by calling Carol at 344-4775 for details.

Floral City Garden Club meets the second Friday

monthly from September through May in the Floral City Community Building, unless otherwise announced.





**Best (overall) Yard of the Year Award: Joe and Debbie Barney of Duval Island, Floral City.**



**Mary Neron of Floral City is pictured with her Yard of the Year Award Conservascape.**



**Laurie and Frank Kanka of Floral City are in their terraced yard with their Yard of the Year Award for Landscape Design.**



**Minnie and Bunk Minnis of Floral City won Yard of the Year Award for Gardening by Propagation.**

For information, call Jo Ann Quackenbush, president, at 344-4447, or visit the club's Web site at [www.nccentral.com/fcgc](http://www.nccentral.com/fcgc).

*Marcia Beasley writes about news of interest of the Floral City Garden Club.*



2004

Yard of the Year Committee



Carol Hart, Bette Ayers, Shirley McAllen

Best Front Yard



Bette Ayers

Best Landscaped



Laurie & Frank Kanka

Most Creative



Grace & Wilbur Thrush

Best Propagated Garden



Minnie & Bunk Minnis

Best Conservascape



Mary Neron

Clubs

# Floral City Garden Club planning secret garden tour

## Secret Gardens selected for tour

*Special to the Chronicle*

Only the names and locations are withheld to protect the secrecy of the Second Floral City Secret Gardens Tour, sponsored by the Floral City Garden Club.

At a recent committee meeting, Dave Noble and Frank Peters, co-chairmen of the Selection Committee, revealed these names and locations to other committee members.

They have also determined the location and number of directional signs required to accurately and swiftly direct tour participants to the locations of the Secret Gardens.

Nine gardens will be on the tour ticket when the garden gates are opened from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2.

- **WHAT:** Second Floral City Secret Gardens Tour, sponsored by the Floral City Garden Club.
- **WHEN:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2.
- **COST:** \$15 per person to tour nine gardens.
- **INFORMATION:** Call Dave and Thelma Noble, 726-2431.

Building on last year's success, tour tickets will soon be available to the public for \$15, and following last year's plan, programs and maps will be picked up the day of the event at the Floral City Community Building.

Bobbie Schoss, artists chairman, is

8-17-04  
beginning to contact artists who wish to display their art for sale during the tour. She said she is looking for individuals who have made works of art or fine artistic crafts especially related to gardens and nature.

Artists are encouraged to call her at 341-3128. One or more artists will be at each Secret Garden during the tour hours.

Cathi Ayers, program and ticket chairwoman, will coordinate visits by her committee to each garden, so a description can be written for the program booklet. The program cover and flyer design has been selected, and flyers and tickets will be available soon.

For more information, call Dave and Thelma Noble, Floral City Secret Gardens Tour co-chairs, at 726-2431.

To answer the frequently asked question, "Is the Floral City Garden Club going to have another Secret Garden Tour?" the response is an emphatic "yes."

Recently, Dave and Thelma Noble, the Floral City Secret Gardens Tour co-chairmen, called the first planning meeting to meet at their historic home on Orange Avenue. Subcommittees were established, chairmen were established, and a date set.

The Second Floral City Secret Gardens Tour will be on Saturday, Oct. 2, in and around the Floral City area. As in the past, gardens to be toured will be revealed only on the day of the event when each ticket holder receives their program and map at the Floral City Community Building.

Tickets for \$15 each will go on sale in August, and may be ordered through the mail via the club's postal box number.

Frank Peters and Dave Noble will form the committee to select the gardens to be toured, and coordinate support for the property owners. Sheila O'Dell will chair the Host/Hostesses Committee; Cathi Ayers and Marcia Beasley will prepare the tickets and programs and Bobbie Schoss will select the artists who will be at the various Gardens. Sponsors' chairman is yet to be named; publicity chairman will be Marcia Beasley and Diane Dowdahl, and will assist with the Web site. Dave Noble will help with signage and Carol Hart will be the Wey's 'N' Means chairman.

Look for coming articles providing guidance on how to obtain a Tour Ticket. For more information about the tour, call chairmen Dave or Thelma at 726-2431.

lots of fun & worry planning and some other ideas hurricanes had other ideas



# 'Front Porch Party' celebrates Floral City's easy life-style

As far as Thelma and Dave Noble are concerned, a front row seat at the movies is nothing compared to sitting on a front porch in Floral City – especially when that front porch is attached to an historic home.

The couple, owners of the Huff House on E Orange Avenue, are so enamored of the art of people-watching that they invite friends and

neighbors to enjoy the view with them from the wonderful wicker furniture and obligatory porch swing in front of their home.

"Since we bought the house in summer, we have a party every summer to celebrate," Thelma said. "This year, the reconstruction of the front porch turned the celebration into a Front Porch Party."

As Dave explained, there was no front porch on the house for the last 40 years. "And there were no

pictures anywhere of how it had looked with a front porch," he said.

But that didn't stop the couple from dreaming of putting one back on. The only clue they had about the original porch was that the facade of the house still showed traces of where the porch roof had once been attached.

Architectural fortune smiled on the Nobles when Dave found a book on cracker architecture at the Floral City

Library and in it there was a photo of a house that was the exact replica of the Noble's home.

The house had a front porch he could copy.

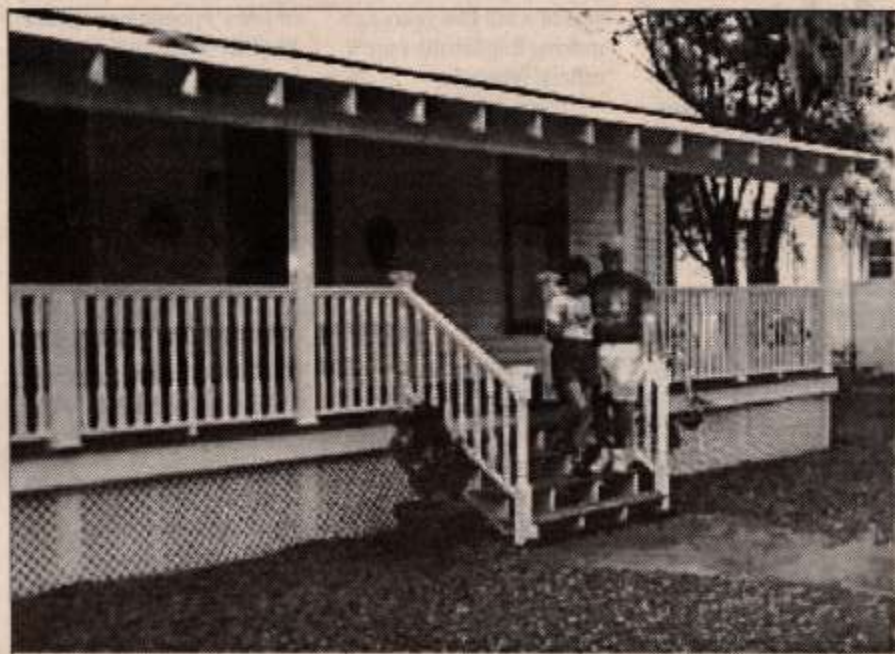
Dave did all the design work himself, and the couple's friends, Frank Peters and Nick Buono, helped build it.

"As soon as the front porch got done, you could feel the energy change in this house," Thelma said.

For decades the charming wood-frame folk cottage



Mary Zavotsky  
Floral City Today



*Noble family photo/ Special to the Gallop Press*

Floral City residents Dave and Thelma Noble show off the front porch they reconstructed on their historic home, commonly known as the Huff House, on E. Orange Avenue. The couple invites friends and neighbors to join them in sitting on the porch to people-watch.

at 8511 E. Orange Ave. had a slight air of mystery about it. In *A History of Floral City (1986)*, editor Marie Morris wrote that the home was "...built early as indicated by the brick chimney, but the builder and early occupants are unknown except for the Huffs, who live there now."

Records show that Frank Morris and his wife, Cora, built the home in 1911. Morris, a crane operator in the phosphate mines west of town, was also Citrus County's sheriff for eight years.

Morris is buried in Floral City's Hills of Rest next to Cora. (Local

folklore has it that his second wife is buried on his other side.)

Thirteen different families owned the home between the time Morris sold it in 1918 and the Huffs bought it in the 1960s. One of those owners was Helen Brigham, a well-known member of the Floral City Women's Club. Other residents included the "Walker girls," as they were known. (The photos found in the mantelpiece were theirs.)

So in reality, there is no mystery surrounding the home. It merely sat in quiet, albeit neglected, dignity for years, just waiting for

someone to care enough to uncover its secrets.

Thelma and Dave Noble have done just that, literally digging through documents on file in the county courthouse and the Historical Society Museum.

Dave keeps a detailed journal of every thing they have done to the house since they bought it in June 2001. The journal sits on the table by his favorite chair in the restored living room where it is handy for him to make daily entries.

Thelma keeps copies of documents she has researched and adds them to the box of photos she found hidden under the wooden mantle of the fireplace in what was once the dining room.

As Thelma and Dave unfold pieces of the past, the personality of the home has begun to blossom.

The interior walls of the two-bedroom, one-bath cottage are all tongue-and-grooved beadboard. The two chimneys that feed the living and dining room



# into Old Flora

## FLORAL CITY, from page 8

fireplaces have been rehabilitated for use. The one that gave life to the old kitchen stove is now closed off, but still shelters the chimney swifts who fly in every evening just as their ancestors have done for almost a century.

Thelma and Dave, who enjoy sharing details about their home with the public, will open the Huff House during the Floral City Heritage Days in December.

More than work on the old house keeps the Nobles busy. Thelma's job of 27 years with the post office led her to become the president of Local Postal

Workers Union in NE Illinois. Dave's 30-year career, also with the post office, led him to be one of the officers of the local. "That's how we got together," Thelma said.

Dave is from the Chicago area and Thelma is originally from New Port Richey. Looking for a warmer climate, Dave applied to the USPS in Citrus County. Floral City's own postmaster, Bill Ashton, who supervised the Lecanto post office at that time, hired him.

Dave, who works in the maintenance department caring for the grounds, spends all day planting, trimming and designing landscaping – and then

does the same when he gets home.

"We spent the first two months after we bought the house just doing yard work," Dave recalled. "The stink weed and Virginia creepers had taken over and had invaded even the attic."

Thelma now works part time at the West Coast Eye Institute in Lecanto. She said the change gives her plenty of time to work in her garden.

Gardening is in the couple's blood. This year the Nobles are the co-chairmen for the Second Annual Floral City Secret Gardens Tour, which will take place Oct. 2. (Call 726-2431 for reservations.)

# Club to unveil secret gardens

## Tour and bromeliads topic of meeting

Special to the Chronicle

Tickets and directional signs are being printed, garden maps and descriptive programs are being designed and written. Hosts and hostesses have been assigned, as the Floral City Garden Club prepares for its Second Annual Secret Gardens Tour.

This one-day event will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2.

Starting from the Community Building in downtown Floral City, ticket holders will learn the location of each of the nine gardens.

Visitors are encouraged to bring a bag lunch and select an inviting spot at one of the gardens for their lunch.

Tickets, for a charge of \$15, will be available Friday, Sept. 10, at the first club meeting of the year. Doors will be open and refreshments available at 12:30 p.m. in the Floral City Community Building. The business meeting will begin at 1 p.m., followed by the program at 2 p.m.

Local homeowners have found that many bromeliad varieties are easy to grow and often add color and texture to the landscape.

A program, "Everything you need to know to start growing bromeliads," will be presented by bromeliad specialists, George and Irene Aldrich of Ocala, where they own the "Plants and Things by George" business.

With the Tampa Bromeliad Show coming up soon, this is a timely topic. The public is invited to join the club at all educational programs.

By this first meeting day, tickets for the Secret Garden Tour will be available for purchase through any of the three Citrus County Chamber of Commerce locations: Homosassa, Crystal River or Inverness. Joining the Floral City Garden Club as a sponsor, the *Citrus County Chronicle*, also, will have tickets available at its Meadowcrest office.

Like Floral City property owners will open their yards for viewing to all ticket holders.

The landscaping will be diverse. There are examples of suburban landscaping, historic home landscaping and country conservation.

There are small lots, medium-size lots and large-acreage properties. Full sun, shade, partial shade and understory plantings will be seen.

What to do by the water's edge, how to prevent hillside run-off and where to establish habitats for wildlife. All these questions can be answered by viewing the gardens chosen this year.

Send Tour Ticket requests with \$15 check payable to: Floral City Garden Club and mail by Sept. 20 to Floral City Garden Club, P.O. Box 833, Floral City, FL 34436.

For more information, call J.A. Quackenbush, president, at 344-4447.

For tour information, call D. or T. Noble, tour co-chairmen, at 726-2431.

For ticket information, call C. Ayers, ticket chairman, at 637-6345.

### Tickets on sale for Oct. 2

#### 'Secret Gardens' tour

Tickets and directional signs are being printed.

Garden maps and descriptive programs are being designed and written and hosts have been assigned, as the Floral City Garden Club prepares for its 2nd Annual Secret Gardens Tour.

This popular one-day event will be held Saturday, Oct. 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visitors are encouraged to bring their own bag lunches and select an inviting spot at one of the gardens to enjoy their meal.

Tickets, which cost \$15, may be purchased by mail. Send check payable to the Floral City Garden Club to P.O. Box 833, Floral City, FL 34436.

For more club or program information, call

President J.A. Quackenbush at 344-4447 or tour co-chairmen D. Noble or T. Noble at 726-2431. For ticket information call ticket chairwoman C. Ayers at 637-6345.



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This popular one-day event will be held Saturday, Oct. 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m..

Starting from the Community Building in downtown Floral City, ticket holders will learn the location of each of the nine secret gardens.

Visitors are encouraged to bring their own bag lunches and select an inviting spot at one of the gardens to enjoy their meal.

Tickets, which cost \$15, may be purchased by mail. Send check payable to the Floral City Garden Club to P.O. Box 833, Floral City, FL 34436.

Tickets will also be available Friday, Sept. 10, at the first Garden Club meeting of the year. Doors will open and refreshments

will be available at 12:30 p.m. in the Floral City Community Building. The business meeting will begin at 1 p.m. followed by the program at 2 p.m. The public is invited to join the club at all educational programs.

For more club or program information, call President J.A. Quackenbush at 344-4447 or tour co-chairmen D. Noble or T. Noble at 726-2431. For ticket information call ticket chairwoman C. Ayers at 637-6345.

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# Nine secret gardens selected for tour

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At a recent committee meeting, Dave Noble and Frank Peters, co-chairmen of the Selection Committee, revealed these names and locations to other committee members. They have also determined the location and number of directional signs required to accurately and swiftly direct tour participants to the locations of the Secret Gardens.

Nine Gardens will be on the tour ticket when the Garden

Gates are opened from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2. Building on last year's success, tour tickets will soon be available to the public for \$15, and following last year's plan, programs and maps will be picked up the day of the event at the Floral City Community Building.

Bobbie Schoss, artists chairman, is beginning to contact artists who wish to display their art for sale during the tour.

She said she is looking for individuals who have made works of art or fine artistic crafts especially related to gardens and nature. Artists are encouraged to call her at 341-3128. One or more artists will be at each

Secret Garden during the tour hours.

Cathi Ayers, program and ticket chairwoman, will coordinate visits by her committee to each garden, so a description can be written for the program booklet.

For more information, call Dave and Thelma Noble, Floral City Secret Gardens Tour co-

chair

## Nine Secret Gardens are selected for tour

Only the names and locations are withheld to protect the secrecy of the Second Floral City Secret Gardens Tour, sponsored by the Floral City Garden Club.

At a recent committee meeting, Dave Noble and Frank Peters, co-chairmen of the Selection Committee, revealed

these names and locations to other committee members. They have also determined the location and number of directional signs required to accurately and swiftly direct Tour participants to the locations of the Secret Gardens.

Nine Gardens will be on the Tour Ticket when the Garden Gates are opened from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2. Building on last year's success, tour tickets will soon be available to the public for \$15, and following last year's plan, programs and maps will be picked up the day of the event at the Floral City Community Building.

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For more information, call Dave and Thelma Noble, Floral City Secret Gardens Tour co-

341-3128



## Garden Club's 'Secret Gardens Tour' cancelled

Three "uninvited visitors" to Citrus County in the past weeks brought with them wind and rain, causing damage and leaving much clutter in the properties scheduled to be opened for the Floral City Garden Club's annual Secret Gardens Tour.

As a result, the club announced last week with great regret that the tour, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 2, has been canceled for this season.

While most of the gardens suffered only downed limbs and debris, one property, with an innovative and beautifully landscaped hillside that was constructed to avoid the washing from normal rainfall, discovered that even the preventive erosion design could not withstand the kind of downpours caused by hurricanes.

Members of the Floral City Garden Club are grateful to the property

owners who were willing to open their gardens for the tour and the club expresses sympathy for the loss and damage to plants and trees. Please look for notices in the spring that the Floral City Garden Club has been able, with the willing and generous participation of property owners, to re-plan the popular Floral City Secret Garden Tour. For more information contact Dave and Thelma Noble at 726-2431.

### BRIEFLY

#### Garden club reschedules tour amid storm damage

FLORAL CITY — The effects of recent bad weather have forced the Floral City Garden Club to cancel its Secret Garden Tour scheduled for Oct. 2.

Most of the gardens suffered only downed limbs and debris. But one property, with an innovative and beautifully landscaped hillside constructed to avoid washing from normal rainfall, could not withstand the downpours the county experienced from recent storms.

Members of the Floral City Garden Club are grateful to the property owners who were willing to open their gardens for the tour, and the club expresses sympathy for the loss and damage to plants and trees.

Look for notices in the spring for the rescheduling of the popular Floral City Secret Garden Tour.

For information, call Garden Tour co-chairs Dave and Thelma Noble at 726-2431.

# GOLD CERTIFICATE



presented to  
**Floral City Garden Club**

for 40 years of outstanding service  
Federated 1958

**Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**

*Jean A. Payer*      *Oct. 11, 2004*



### It's time for the Hoedown and Craft Festival 10/7/04

FLORAL CITY — The second annual Hoedown and Craft Festival is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Floral City Elementary School, Marvin Street at Old Floral City Road. The event will include a barbecue, music, carnival rides, games, dunk tank, horse rides, hay rides, clowns, face painting and critters from the Homosassa Springs Wildlife Outreach. There will be craft vendors, so you can stock up for the holidays. Proceeds go toward the classroom book program. Call Barbara Davis, 341-0842 or Kathy Thrumston, 341-2569.



### Hoedown/Craft Show

*Proceeds go towards school book program*

**Saturday, October 9, 2004**

**10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

*At Floral City Elementary off Hwy 48  
in Floral City*

- Hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks
- Rides
- Games
- Dunk Tank
- Clowns
- Face painting
- Hayrides
- Homosassa Wildlife Outreach  
Animal Display
- Horse rides
- Lots of Craft vendors
- Live music

For information call  
341-2569 or 341-0842

**CHRONICLE**

### Fund Raisers

# Hoedown is coming to Floral City Elementary

Floral City Elementary PTA and the *Chronicle* are sponsoring the second annual Hoedown and Craft Festival from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9.

The event will be at Floral City Elementary on the corner of Marvin Street and Old Floral City Road in Floral City (off of County Road 48).

Everyone is invited for a good ol' country time complete with a barbecue, live foot stompin' music, rides, games, dunk tank, horse rides, hayrides, clowns, face painting and critters from the Homosassa Springs Wildlife Outreach.

There will be lots of craft vendors so you can stock up for the holidays.

Proceeds will go toward our classroom book program. For

more information, call Barbara Davis at 341-0842 or Kathy Thrumston at 341-2569.

# History comes to life

12/21/04

*Floral City Heritage  
Days to be celebrated  
this weekend*

**By Stephanie Belden**  
Pioneer Editor

Take a step back into the late 1800s and early 1900s with the Floral City Heritage Days this weekend.

The 13th Annual Candles 'n Carols and Lion's Old Fashion Fish Fry event will be on Friday, Dec. 3, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. The event will take place on Orange Avenue in Floral City.

Guests are invited to take a walk under the oak trees lighted by Christmas lights and luminaries, as they are serenaded by

see **Heritage** Page 4

## Heritage

continued from Page 1

carolers. Local businesses, individuals and organizations have also placed giant Christmas cards along the avenue. The Floral City Lions Foundation, Inc. will hold an old fashioned all-you-can-eat fish fry at the Community Building for \$7.

The 13th Annual Blue Banner Tour of Historic Homes will take place on Saturday, Dec 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The tour will include portions of 12 historic buildings and homes. Visitors can walk through the eight historic and

private homes for a \$10 ticket. Or for a \$5 ticket, visitors may choose two historic homes to tour. There will be costumed hosts and hostesses will point out some of the history in each of the houses.

Tickets will be available at any of the tour homes with a blue banner or at the information tent.

There will be many demonstrators showing daily living in Florida during this time period. Some of the demonstrations include wooden toy making, wool spinning, flint napping, and basket weaving.

Parking for Floral City Heritage Days is limited to the side streets, the community

parking lot and United Methodist Church. The church is located on Main Street, one block north of

Orange Avenue (48) will be closed during the event and rerouted north to Marvin Street. Floral City Road

The avenue will be closed at the close of the day. The use of the road is strongly recommended from the parking lot.

For more information on Floral City Heritage Days, please call 726-7740.



# HERITAGE

Continued from Page 1A

for two years.

Council chairwoman Marcia Beasley said there would be space for photos, antiques, maps and other historical artifacts. A general store, post office replica and youth activities room would also be added. Although those will be in place for this weekend, it's on a temporary basis.

Beasley said the main goal is preserving the past.

"To keep it alive so the young people would be familiar with the heritage of the area, the traditions, the history," she said.

The council is proposing the fire station be incorporated into a "town center" with other landmarks, including a community center that sits next door, the library and the Masons building.

The facades of each building would replicate the gray lime-

stone that was used in construction in town near the turn of the 20th century.

Peters said the county gave the council land behind the fire station, but the council is waiting for word as to whether it can get the building. He said plans have been put on hold because of the Election Day losses of Commissioners Josh Wooten and Roger Batchelor.

Though the council's not sure what that means for the project's future, work continues to make this weekend's Heritage Days a success. More than 75 volunteers were working Wednesday to make sure everything was just right when the weekend arrives and people started gathering.

Beasley said Floral City is the only town in the county that is on a national register of historic places. Peters said that makes it even more of a special place.

"I call it the 'quiet corner of Citrus County,'" he said. "It's a small part left of what this county used to be like."

12  
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12-08-04



STEPHANIE BELDEN/Pioneer

Thema Smith sits in a rocking chair in her daughter Thema Noble's house during the Floral City Heritage Day last weekend. Smith was visiting Noble from New Port Richey. The Nobles live in the Historic Morris House. Story and more photos on Page 5.



# City rebuilding bygones



DAVE SIGLER/Chronicle

H.D. Bassett, Marcia Beasley and John Zellner talk about Floral City history while checking out the "old timers" area that is a part of the Heritage Hall Museum in the old Floral City Fire Station. The fire station is the temporary home of the museum. Historical Society members are hoping the county will remodel the building as a permanent museum. The fire station is not a historic building, but it sits in the middle of the National Historic District. The museum is a new addition to Heritage Days activities that run from Friday through Sunday.



Lynn Bassett and Frank Peters fact check captions explaining the maps in the Florida Map Gallery portion of the Heritage Hall Museum. The gallery has federal survey maps from the 1800s on display.

## Floral City heritage group plans for historic

**DAVE PIEKLIK**  
[dpieklik@chronicleonline.com](mailto:dpieklik@chronicleonline.com)  
*Chronicle*

**H**istory is permanent, and some folks in Floral City are looking for a permanent place to put their town's heritage on display.

The Floral City Heritage Council is preparing for its 14th annual Heritage Days festival this weekend. Activities include an historic-home tour, hog roast, re-enactments and music.

The council hopes the event serves as a showcase for its

effort to transform the town's old fire station into a permanent exhibit.

"A wonderful venue where the community will come for info, and get in touch with the heritage and pride we have in this community," council volunteer Frank Peters said.

Peters and the other council members have actively been pushing for the county to allow them to purchase the building and turn it into a museum. Plans call for a complete restoration of the facility, which has sat vacant

Please see **HERITAGE/Page 5A**

- **WHAT:** 14th City Heritage
- **WHEN:** 6 to 10 to 4 p.m. Sunday.
- **WHERE:** Old Floral City.
- **FEATURES:** Historic homes; exhibits, hog
- **INFORMATION:** 726-7740.



# A trip into the past

## Heritage Days provide historical holiday fun

CHERI HARRIS  
charris@chronicleonline.com  
Chronicle

Like a Christmas stocking stuffed with treats, Floral City will be packed with delights during the 13th annual Floral City Heritage Days today and Saturday.

The Floral City Heritage Council hosts the event.

The fun begins with Candles 'N Carols from 6 to 9 p.m. today featuring a fish fry hosted by the Floral City Lions Foundation.

Orange Avenue (County Road 48) will be closed to vehicle traffic at 5:30 p.m. Visitors can stroll the tree-lined street, savoring the soft glow of 1,000 luminaries lining the sidewalks and Christmas lights adorning some of the homes.

Orange Avenue has also been decked out with some giant Christmas cards with lights. They will be lit every evening this month.

Marcia Beasley, who is chairing the event, said many groups have been invited to sing carols throughout the evening.

"We just asked everybody to come out, find a spot and sing," she said.

All-you-can-eat fried fish dinners, \$7 each, will be for sale at the Floral City Community Building.

Parking for the event is available off the pavement on side streets, at the community parking lot and the Floral City United Methodist Church lots, one block north on Marvin Street.

Those attending the event are

Marvin Street. Those attending the event are urged to bring flashlights for use walking from the parking areas to Orange Avenue.

On Saturday, visitors can explore the town's past during Florida Folklife Day. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Blue Banner Home Tour of historic buildings includes eight private homes. Tickets are \$10 and are on sale at each of the homes with a blue banner or at the infor-



Hosts and hostesses garbed in 19th-century chic will greet visitors touring historic homes during Floral City Heritage Days on Saturday. Cost to visit historic buildings on the Blue Banner Home Tour is \$10 per person.

mation tent.

On the self-guided tour, visitors can ramble through the buildings, spinning imaginary histories for them, or read the more factual narratives provided with the tour.

Hosts and hostesses dressed in period 1800s costumes will greet

visitors in period 1800s costumes will greet guests at each home.

Demonstrators will set up at the Church of Christ lot to show off their old-fashioned skills, such as flat-knapping, soap making and weaving.

Beasley said one exhibitor will bring a display of antique sewing machines. Rod and Doris Miner will set up a Florida cow camp featuring Florida farm and homestead tools.

**WHAT:** Floral City Heritage Days.

**WHEN:** Candles 'n Carols: 6 to 9 p.m. today, Florida Folklife Day: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

**WHERE:** Orange Avenue

**WHERE:** Orange Avenue (County Road 48), Floral City.

**COST:** Free.

**INFORMATION:** 726-7740.

Live music will go on all day on two stages on the grounds of the Church of Christ and at the Floral City Community Center.

Bookworms and chocolate lovers can satisfy their cravings at the

Fudge, Facts and Fiction sale at the Floral City Library.

Down-home foods for sale will include roast pork dinners, hoppin' johns on rice, cornbread, barbecue ribs and chicken, sweet potato pie, kettle corn and funnel cakes.

Bicycle enthusiasts are invited

to meet at 9 a.m. at the Inverness trailhead of the Withlacoochee State Trail for a 7-mile ride to Floral City, where they will be greeted by a display of Model As, and a 1919 player piano and other displays.

The new Heritage Hall Museum in the old fire station will be open during the event today, Saturday and Sunday.

The museum includes a collec-

tion of historic maps, photos and other exhibits about County history.

Parking for the Folklife at the Floral City United Methodist Church on Marvin Street, the First Baptist Church of Floral City and the corner of East Magnolia Street and Marvin Street and on side streets as long as vehicles are off the pavement along the right-of-way.

Orange Avenue will be closed to through traffic during the event.

Beasley said she expects a good turnout because she has received many phone calls about the evening.

"It's really, really rewarding to hear everybody wants to come," she said.

DAVE SIGG





STEPHANIE BELDEN/Pioneer

Janet Weber gives a tour of her home during the Blue Banner Home Tour. Weber and her husband live in the Historic D.A. Tooke House. Weber shows pictures of her family's heritage during the tour.



STEPHANIE BELDEN/Pioneer

Carlotta Yancey rings up a customer at her antique shop. Her shop is located at the old Historic Commercial Hotel. The home was also part of the Blue Banner Tour.



# FLORAL CITY HERITAGE DAYS

12/09/04

By **Stephanie Belden**  
Pioneer Editor

**R**ain and cold weather didn't stop visitors from going to Floral City. The Floral City Heritage Council put on the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Floral City Heritage Days on Friday, Dec. 3, and Saturday, Dec. 4.

People walked down Orange Avenue listening to live music, eating food, and watching demonstrations such as basket weaving, thread spinning, and flint knapping.

The event was created to promote history and heritage of the Floral City area.

The highlight of the event was touring historical homes during the Blue Banner Home Tour. Visitors that attend the tour learned about the historical and architectural history that goes with each home.

Many of the homes have been restored over the years and visitors have watched the progress during each event. "People that come every year watch us go from project to project. They like seeing how we are restoring our home," stated Sandy Cross.

Cross and her husband, Greg have been restoring their house, the historic J.T. Love House, over the past 20 years. The couple has been showing their home since the start of the event 13 years ago.

"The best part getting ready for the event is that I have all of my spring cleaning and Christmas decorating done early."



STEPHANIE BELDEN/Pioneer

Chelsea Dierickx performs at the Community Center Stage during the Saturday event. Dierickx traveled from Coral Springs to sing. She performed country songs during the cold afternoon show.



STEPHANIE BELDEN/Pioneer

A replica of the Old Post Office was recreated in the Heritage Hall Museum during the event. The Old Fire Station was returned into a museum and country store. The Old Post Office offered Floral City Heritage Days cancellation stamps to all mail posted on Saturday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.



STEPHANIE

Greg and Sandy Cross talk about how they finished their kitchen last year. The Cross family lives in the Love House. The couple set up a computer in their kitchen that visitors could look at pictures that they took during their vacation.



## Garden club meetings resume

The Floral City Garden Club will proceed with the regularly scheduled monthly meeting for Friday, Oct. 8 at the Floral City Lions Foundation Community Building.

Alice Sawyer will greet members and visitors at 12:30 p.m. and Bette Ayers, Dorothy Clark and Carol DeLisle will serve refreshments

The business meeting will be called to order at 1 p.m. with two by-law changes to be addressed by the membership along with other matters related to starting a new year.

For information about the Floral City Garden Club please call President Jo Ann Quackenbush at 344-4447.

### BRIEFLY

#### Floral City Garden Club to meet

FLORAL CITY — The Floral City Garden Club will meet at 1 p.m. Friday at the Floral City Lions Foundation Community Building. Two bylaw changes will be addressed by the membership, along with other matters related to starting a new year. Yearbooks will be distributed to members in attendance, and if members have seeds, cuttings, bulbs or tubers to share, they may be brought to the Grow 'n' Share table.

Many members are still dealing with cleanup after the hurricanes, so after the meeting, hugs and experiences can be shared. If members are in need of help to get life back to normal, there will be an opportunity to assist.

For information, call president Jo Ann Quackenbush at 344-4447.

#### 1-15-05 Heritage Days thanks

I would like to offer a special thank you to those who worked so hard to make the Heritage Hall & Museum a reality for the 2004 Heritage Days in Floral City. This was an inaugural effort, and without their help and dedication, we would not have realized the tremendous success we did.

Thanks to:

Wayne Dean, historical society volunteer, for providing all the wonderful copies of the historic photos displayed in the museum.

Cathy Thompson, director of The Old Courthouse Museum, and Laurie Dietzler, educational coordinator, for their guidance and patience in helping to research and develop the exhibits.

Mary Craven, Citrus County tourism development manager, whose professional advice and expertise was invaluable, and who helped install exhibits.

Dave Bellman, of Bellman Painting Contractors, who donated materials and time to paint the interior of the museum and make it shine.

Earl Towery, U.S. Army soldier re-enactor, and Steve Creamer, Seminole Indian warrior re-enactor, who enlivened our Second Seminole War exhibit.

Dave Noble, who provided equipment, materials and his time to clean the floors of the museum to eliminate grease and dirt as safety hazards.

Christine Hardon, for her expertise in arranging and decorating the "Country Store" section.

Michael Harndon, certified aborist, for his generous donation of the banner over the entrance to the hall.

John Zellner, for being an "Old Timer" to answer questions and tell stories about Floral City's past.

Hooper Funeral Home, for the loan of chairs for our video viewing room, where videos of Citrus County's past

were shown.

Keith Barco, for providing the hay bales that added such an atmosphere and aroma to the museum.

H.D. Bassett, Tom Ritchie and Ossie Beasley for helping to set up and dismantle the exhibits.

Marcia Beasley, chairwoman of Floral City Heritage Days, for coordinating the operation of the "Country Store" and bringing the Heritage Hall and Museum alive.

The Floral City Lions Club, for its loan of tables used for the display of exhibits and artifacts.

And to all the volunteers in the hall and museum during the three days the exhibits were open, thank you.

**Frank Peters**  
Event chairman



## Floral City gardeners sponsor program

Florida is known as the land of year round flowers and color. Therefore, it is only appropriate that in the village that, also, was named for its colorful flowers, a program be presented, with the public invited, which addresses the subject of year round flowering color.

At 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 14, the Floral City Garden Club will sponsor a program in the Floral City Community Building. Nature by Design owner Barbara McCormack of Crystal River will present the topic: "Landscape Design for Year Round Color Using Native Plants." The public is invited this informative program.

Club members Carol DeLisle and Jean Henson will greet members and visitors when the doors for the monthly meeting open at 12:30 p.m. while hostesses Lynn Bassett, Marie Jones and Dottie Sherman serve refreshments. President, Jo Ann Quackenbush, will call the business meeting to order at 1 p.m.

Committee Chairmen will reflect on the accomplishments of the past year and relay the plans for the coming year. The major point of business will be the election of officers for the 2005-2007 administrative period. This new election date has been set in order for the officers-elect to have an opportunity to

obtain adequate orientation to their new positions.

An additional point of business will be the discussion of preparations for the popular Annual Spring Plant Sale scheduled set for in town on Saturday, April 9.

The Floral City Garden Club, a member of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, meets the second Friday of September through May in the Floral City Community Building and welcomes interested residents of the county to become members. For information, Jo Ann, president at 344-4447, or for program information call Debbie at 341-1366.

### Floral City Garden Club

## Visit to garden set for Feb. 11

Once upon a time there was a farmer who loved plants of all kinds and wanted to share this love and nurturing with his little granddaughter.

He showed her how to make many plants from a few plants, and before long, there were row after row of plants in pots. So instead of opening a lemonade stand to make a little spending money, Catey and her grand father, Farmer Foley, decided to open a nursery, sell these potted plants and share their knowledge with those who came to see their rows of plants. They called their nursery Catey's Garden.

What began many years ago is still thriving, and Friday, Feb. 11, the Floral City Garden Club will traveling over Stage Coach Road and down Old Jones Road to visit this nursery established by a farmer and his granddaughter in Floral City. This field trip will immediately follow the monthly meeting of the club.

At 12:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11, members and visitors will be greeted by Diane Freund and Nancy Mirgon while hostesses Pam Bellman, Norma Ditmars and Mary Lu Sloop serve

refreshments. Jo Ann Quackenbush, president, will call the business meeting to order promptly at 1. During the course of business, members will vote on the slate of officers presented at the January meeting, discuss further the merits of being affiliated with the state and national organizations and learn about plans for the April 9 annual plant sale.

Newly elected officers will be installed during a luncheon at the Inverness Golf & Country Club on Feb. 25. Officers-elect will not take office until after the May meeting, and will then serve for a two years. This early installation will provide officers-elect an opportunity to learn the duties of the office before they actually take office.

Immediately following the business meeting, members and visitors may carpool to Catey's Garden, where azaleas will be featured by Farmer Foley in a program. Members and visitors may purchase from the colorful array of more than 2,000 plants.

Visitors are always welcome to the club programs. For information, call Jo Ann at 344-4447.

February 3, 2005



Inverness Pioneer, Thursday, March 10, 2005



Special to the Pioneer

Officers for the 2005-2007 administration period of the Floral City Garden Club were installed Feb. 28 during a luncheon at the Inverness Country Club. President-elect Jo Ann Quackenbush was installed by member Shirley McAllen. Other officers installed (not shown) were First Vice President Peggy Pattillo; Second Vice President Carol Dellisle; Recording Secretary Diane Dowthitt; Corresponding Secretary Sheila O'Dell and Treasurer Kathy Hofmann. Officers will assume duties on June 1.

## Gardeners will present 'Show and Tell'

Floral City Garden Club members will show off their favorite plant and present the merits of the plant to one another and to visitors at the monthly meeting of the club, on Friday, March 11, in the Floral City Community Building, 8370 E. Orange Avenue (County Road 48) in downtown Floral City.

Maybe it is a plant just purchased or maybe one which is five or more years old. Maybe it is very rare and difficult to grow or maybe it is quite common and very easy to grow. It makes no difference; it is "Show and Tell" Time for Floral City gardeners.

If a member has a prolific plant that they just love, want to tell about and want to share, they may bring a clippings, seeds or bulbs for members. This March program is almost a guarantee that members and visitors will learn about favorite plants that grow well in this area of Florida.

If a member prefers, he or she may bring a plant that they really do not like. In this case, members may not want to share the plant with other members, because chances are others will not like it either! However, if it is a noxious or invasive plant, by all means, dig it all up and after telling the members about its invasive nature; destroy it.

Members have one other option for their "Show and Tell" plant. That is to select a plant with which one has a "love-hate" relationship. For example, there are a few invasive plants that are quite charming if maintained in a confined space and not allowed to wander. Therefore, that plant might be the member's choice to show and tell about.

The doors of the Community Building will

open at 12:30 p.m. when Diane Dowthitt and Eunice Duma greet visitors. Refreshments, during this time, will be served by Pattie Barber, Laurie Kanka and Thelma Noble. At 1 p.m., President Jo Ann Quackenbush will call the meeting to order.

During the meeting, members will learn about the delayed Arbor Day planting of the two large live oak trees to be donated to the county and planted as replacement trees for lost historic oaks in the National Register Historic District along Orange Avenue in Floral City. The scheduled day of planting for all to gather is Saturday, March 19.

Another main topic of discussion will be the on going plans for the annual plant sale which will be held on Saturday, April 9, at the Old Fire Station next to the Community Building. Chairman Lynn Bassett and her large committee have been meeting and making plans for the past months.

The club extends an invitation to all residents who appreciate a litter-free roadside to join them for the March Adopt-A-Highway roadside clean up on Wednesday, March 23. Meet at the Community Building at 8:30 a.m. to get assignments, trash backs, safety jackets, gloves and pick-sticks. The club is in its 16th year of cleaning up the roadside of Orange Avenue. Members have learned that pulling a trash can on wheels simplifies the job. Usually assigned areas can be cleaned up in 30 to 45 minutes and it is such good exercise!

The Floral City Garden Club welcomes visitors and new memberships. Call president, Jo Ann Quackenbush for more information at 344-4447.

**CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

The Floral City Garden Club installed new officers for the 2006-2007 administration period on Feb. 28 during a luncheon at the Inverness Golf and Country Club.

FCGC member Shirley McAllen installed president-elect Jo Ann Quackenbush. Other installed officers are first vice president Peggy Pattillo; second vice president Carol Delisle; recording secretary Diane Dowthitt; corresponding secretary, Sheila O'Dell; and treasurer Kathy

Hofmann. Officers will assume duties on June 1.

Making the table arrangements:







1st Vice President



President



Installation of Officers:



08/20/2005 5:42 PM

2nd Vice President



Recording Secretary



Corresponding Secretary





Treasurer



Chaplain



Treasurer



Chaplain





The Banquet:







March 2005 Meeting  
**SHOW & TELL**

Cathi Ayers



Dorothy Clark



Shirley McAllen



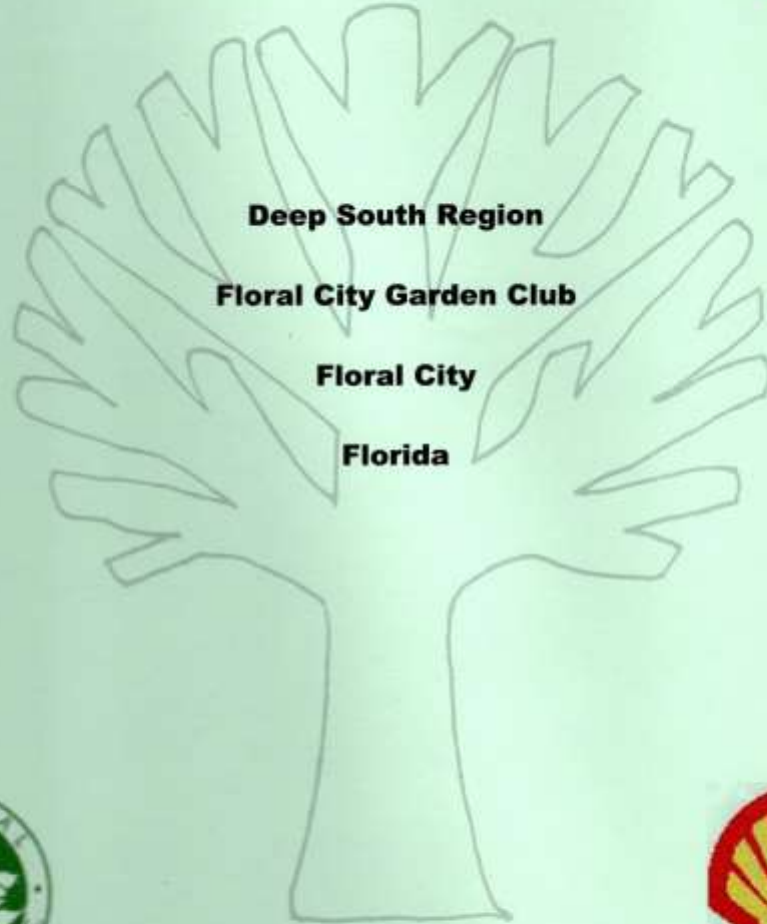
Pam Bellman



Our President - Jo Quackenbush



# FREEDOM TREES



**Deep South Region**

**Floral City Garden Club**

**Floral City**

**Florida**



*Lois Dupre Shuster*

**Lois Dupre' Shuster  
2001-2003  
National Garden Club President**



*Joan Craig*

**Joan Craig  
2001-2003  
Shell Chairman**



### Arbor Day's Beginnings

The idea for Arbor Day originally came from Nebraska ... it was a treeless plain when J. Sterling Morton moved into the Nebraska Territory in 1854 from Detroit. He and his wife loved nature and planted many trees, shrubs and flowers around their home. Morton was editor of *Nebraska City News* and spread agricultural information and his enthusiasm for trees to an audience of pioneers who missed the trees from their home towns. Trees are not only beautiful but also provide windbreaks, soil erosion control, fuel, building material, fruit and nuts for people and wildlife not to mention cool, relaxing, shade from the hot sun. And, Florida evergreen trees also provide frost protection in winter.

April 10, 1872 was the date set for the first Arbor Day. Prizes were offered, everyone joined in and it was later estimated that more than a million trees were planted on that day. In 1885, Arbor Day was named a legal holiday in Nebraska to be observed on April 22, Morton's birthday and in 1970 President Nixon proclaimed the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in April as National Arbor Day.

Floral City was established in 1883 ... and who knows, perhaps the settlers of our town planted these Live Oak trees along Orange Avenue to celebrate Arbor Day. Today we enjoy the fruit of their labor and continue that tradition by planting 2 more Live Oak trees ... one donated by the Floral City Garden Club and the other by our own members, Certified Arborist, Michael Harnden and his wife Christine.

Floral City Garden Club &  
Michael Harnden Certified Arborist, Inc.  
Arbor Day, 2005





Arbor Day Planting 10A Sat 3/19







# Floral City Garden Club sets sale for April 12

## Special to the Chronicle

Trailers full of plants, tables full of plants and racks full of hanging plants will all be available for purchase at the Floral City Garden Club Annual Spring Plant Sale. This well-stocked plant sale will be opened to the public at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 12, in the Old Fire Station on the corner of Orange Avenue/County Road 48 and Old Floral City Road in downtown Floral City.

A wide selection of potted plants are purchased from wholesale nurseries throughout central Florida. Native plants will be prominent, and home-grown plants have been potted by members for the sale.

Various kinds of gingers, including *Zingiber officianalis* (the edible one) and *turneric-acurcuma* are among the many nursery plants. Hanging baskets including, but not limited to, pelargoniums, Florida fuchsias, thryallis and some angel wing begonias, interesting succulents, geraniums and ivy geraniums and double-flowered purslane. Other potted plant varieties too numerous to list are offered for sale.

The native plants include coontie and Walters viburnum

and a number of other plants, depending on availability at the native nurseries where the plants will be purchased the week of the sale.

Some of the home-grown plants include: assorted ferns; amaryllis bulbs; crotons; confederate roses; blue iris, walking iris, and African iris; kalancho, cannas, large bird of paradise plants; purple queen jew; sweet potato vines and passion vines; aloe; jasmines; loquats; bromeliads; fanjaangi; sago palms, goldfish plants; pine cone gingers; gardenias,

crinum, yesterday/today/tomorrow plants and many others. Florida maple trees and different varieties of oaks will be available.

The club will offer a number of garden-related items in their County Store to include: decorative tin wear, flower pot skirts, handpainted floral and wildlife earrings and pins, protective arm-gauntlets, tee shirts, "Avenue of Oaks" note paper, Citrus Mist in orange and grapefruit, pruning shears, garden gloves, garden aprons

and various other items.

Several organizations and agencies have been invited to join the plant sale with items for sale and with information for the public. These include: TOOFAR, Florida Yards and Neighborhoods, Citrus County Land Fill Division, Citrus Audubon Society and Central

Florida Native Plant Society.

As a natural fertilizer for plants, the club is offering "Rabbit Berries." This manure product is packaged in three-foot-tall bags weighing approximately 25 to 30 pounds and are offered for \$6.50 per bag.

"Rabbit Berries" will not "burn" plants like some manures do. It is wonderful for roses or any other blooming plant.

Club members who have used "Rabbit Berries" claim it has doubled or tripled the blooms on their plants, and it can be sprinkled directly on the plant without the need to dig it into the soil or fear of burning the plant. The bags will have some straw and odor that may last for a couple of days *alms*. It is placed under mulch which is recommended. Plant cuttings may be started directly in the "Rabbit Berries" without fear of burning the plants.

To assist each shopper, club members will be available to

write up each order, expediting checkout. Holding areas for the shopper will be marked for temporary storage of plants during the shopper's selection process. Wagons, carts and trailers will be on hand to assist transporting plants at the sales site. Also, to facilitate purchasing, there will be a drive-up, pick-up area designated in front of the building. Parking for shoppers will be in

lot and on the side streets.

For more information about the plant sale, call L. Bassett, chairman, at 341-0064.

# Floral City Garden Club to offer plants for sale

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A wide selection of potted plants are purchased from wholesale nurseries throughout central Florida. Native plants will be prominent, and home-grown plants have been potted by members for the sale.

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Florida fuchsias, thryallis and some angel wing begonias, interesting succulents, geraniums and ivy geraniums and double-flowered purslane.

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goldfish plants; pine cone gingers; gardenias, crinum lilies, yesterday/today/tomorrow plants and many others. Florida maple trees and different varieties of oaks will be available.

The club will offer a number of garden related items in their County Store to include: decorative tin wear, flower pot skirts, handpainted floral and wildlife earrings and pins, protective arm-gauntlets, tee shirts, "Avenue of Oaks" note paper, Citrus Mist in orange and grapefruit, pruning shears, garden gloves, garden aprons and various other items.

Several organizations and agencies have been invited to join the plant sale with items for sale and with information for the public. These include: TOO FAR, Florida Yards and Neighborhoods, Citrus County

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Several organizations and agencies have been invited to join the plant sale with items for sale and with information for the public.

St Pete Times 4/7/05

### Floral City Garden Club wants to dress up your greenery

FLORAL CITY — The Floral City Garden Club will host its annual plant sale at 8 a.m. Saturday

at the old fire station, Orange Avenue at Old Floral City Road. The sale offers potted plants, decorative tin, flower pot skirts, hand-painted floral and wildlife earrings and pins and more. Service organizations will provide information to the public. Call 341-0064.

Chronicle 4/6/05

These include: TOO FAR, Florida Yards and Neighborhoods, Citrus County Land Fill Division, Citrus Audubon Society and Central Florida Native Plant Society. For more information about the plant sale call L. Bassett, chairman, at 341-0064.



THE WAYS & MEANS SHOP







Ready for sale

*The Pioneer 4-14-05*



STEPHANIE BELDEN/Pioneer

Lynn Bassett, Chairwoman of the Floral City Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale, inspects a table of plants in preparation for the public's arrival. The sale netted the garden club nearly \$2,400.





PLANT SALE DAY  
THE WORKERS ... MOST OF 'EM ... A HARDY CREW



RECEIVING INSTRUCTIONS



THE CROWDS CAME EARLY AS USUAL



THE "SO CALLED EXPERTS" [HEHEHEHE] ... BRIAN PASBY [NOT PICTURED] HELPED AT THIS TABLE WITH PHYLLIS MOST OF THE TIME WHILE I WAS DELIVERING PLANTS!!!



BUYERS GOT LESSONS ON PLANTS FROM SALES CLERKS TOO MOST PLANTS WERE GONE BY 9:30 OR 10:00 AM





THE HOLDING ROOM FILLED UP QUICKLY



OTHER ORGANIZATIONS LENT THEIR SUPPORT TOO





THE PAY STATIONS



Plant sale success

*Chawiche 4-10-05*



Special to the Chronicle

Lynn Bassett, chairwoman of the Floral City Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale, inspects a table of plants in preparation for the sale. Bassett's skillful organization and direction netted the Garden Club nearly \$2,400 at the spring sale.

WORKER'S FEAST [BEFORE IT WAS ATTACKED]



**Robert DePratter**  
*Beverly Hills*

### **Plant sale thanks**

Numerous people and businesses contributed mightily to the Floral City Garden Club's 10th annual Plant Sale.

The county commissioners allowed us to use the building.

Herb Kessler and many members brought in card and folding tables. Many nurseries helped us with our bought plants: Color Country, Jane's Garden, Connie Jones, Scherer's, Fuller's, Birds and Blooms, and All the Pretty Trees.

Our members had particularly green thumbs this year and provided Joan Knippen, Home Grown chair, with a marvelous variety of healthy plants.

Cathi Ayers, Education chair, coordinated the presence of representatives from Citrus County Mosquito Control, Citrus County Native Plant Society, Keep Citrus County Beautiful, Florida Yards and Neighborhoods,

and TOO FAR Inc. *5/05*

Our clerks worked hard to ensure that orders weren't confused. Our consultants helped when questions were raised about growing conditions or appropriateness for certain landscapes.

Marcia Beasley did our publicity and was a greeter and troubleshooter at the sale. Kathy Hofmann, our treasurer, and her cashiers worked for many hours and were cheerful.

The Ways and Means "General Store" was an attractive addition and Bobbie Schoss and Debbie Barney did a great job. Another great addition was Pam Bellman's work selling rabbit droppings for fertilizer.

Without the strength and energy of H.D. Bassett, Frank Peters, Ossie Beasley, Dave Noble and Norm Schoss, there might not have even been a plant sale. The heavy clearing of the parking lot, cleaning of the building, moving the tables and plants, and ensuring good traffic flow for loading/unloading were areas where they contributed significantly.

Patti Barber and Faith Coleman provided outstanding snacks to keep up the energy of all the garden club workers.

Naturally, several people did more than just the jobs mentioned and some club members who aren't specifically named worked hard for the sale. You are thanked and appreciated very much.

We'll be having the sale in April 2006 and look forward to seeing you there.

**Lynn Bassett**  
*plant sale chair*  
*Floral City Garden Club*



Pics of District V Spring Meeting  
Thomasassa, FL May 05







May 13, 2005 Meeting





"Thank yous"  
from President  
Jo

For ALL our  
Hand work!











---

This just in ... the winners of the Yard of the Year have been chosen:

Pam and Dave Bellman won Yard of the Year.  
Landscape Design goes to Maureen Thieryung,  
Best Variety Garden, Cathi Ayers,  
Best Creative Garden, Cathy Foley,  
Gardening by Propagation, Peggy Pattillo,  
Best Floral Display, Chuck & Jody Cradelbaugh, and  
Best Community Garden, goes to Ferris circle instead of a  
Business  
this year.

Judges this year were as follows: Carole Baker, Carol Hart, Shirley MacAllen, Betty Ayers, Ann Propp, and Kathy Davis.

Faith Coleman won a certificate for Best Vegetable Garden.

Chronicle 7/11/21/05

# Garden club awards local scholarships



The Floral City Garden Club's annual \$500 scholarships were awarded to Autumn Siegel, (left) a Lecanto High graduate planning to major in environmental law at Florida Atlantic University Honors College and to Laura Lee Ritchie (right), a CFCC student majoring in the biological sciences. Both students have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, as well as community service, and demonstrate interest and commitment in local, state and national Garden Club goals for protection and conservation of our environment.

Special to the Chronicle



Taken in Bellman's garden



Pam & Dave Bellman "Yard of the Year!"



Pam  
Bellman

Best Landscape Design



MAUREEN  
Thienyoung



Cathi  
Ayers  
Best  
~~variety~~  
creative  
garden

Best Creative Garden - Kathy Foley







Jeggy  
Pa Hillo  
Best  
Gardening  
by  
Propagation

Fernis Circle



Best Community Garden

Chuck Chudelbaugh

Best  
Floral  
Display





# TOP OF THE CLASS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2005 ■ THE TIMES ■ NEWS FROM YOUR SCHOOLS



Times photos — PAULETTE LASH RITCHIE

Sheila O'Dell, left, and Jo Ann Quackenbush, on ladder, help paint the mural at Floral City Elementary School. Both are Floral City Garden Club members.

# Natural way to learn

Through gardening and a mural, students get an education about the world around them.

By PAULETTE LASH RITCHIE  
Times Correspondent

FLORAL CITY — Where there was once a great expanse of sun-baked, glaring white wall there is now a panorama of cool Florida swamp, full of feathered, scaled and green-leafed life. Near one end of the transformed wall is a rectangular garden, bright and colorful.

For Floral City Elementary School students and staff, the walk out to the playground and pavilion is just, well, prettier. And they have the Floral City Garden Club to thank.

In existence since 1956, the Garden Club has been enhancing Floral City's public areas with color and greenery. More recently the club turned its efforts to the local school.

Club members also wanted to share their skills. Thus the Junior Garden Club was established in 1988.

The youth group meets with garden club members once a month to learn horticulture, floral design and care of the environment and wildlife. The children listen to speakers and have learned about composting, growing plants from seeds and cuttings, and caring for them as they grow. They receive plant cuttings or rootings to take home.

Among the lessons the children have learned was one pointed out by fifth-grader Alex Mundreanu, 10. She said she was told, "When we're lost to follow the bees, not the birds, 'cause bees follow nonpoisonous plants."

Good advice if they should get hungry.

In 2002, garden club representatives met to discuss a school beautification project. In 2003, members Frank and Phyllis Peters, Michael Harnden, Dave and Thelma Noble, Gloria and Fred Uhl, and Cathi Ayers expanded a small garden that had been established earlier by the Junior Garden Club, Ayers said.

The Peterses donated and installed a sprinkler system and Camp E-Nini-Hassee residents helped with the planting.

The Floral City Garden Club maintains the garden with assistance from the junior gardeners during the school year. In a recent project, the children made colorful stakes to decorate the garden.

The mural was created a little later. Painting began in 2004 with paint and supplies donated by Dave Bellman of Bellman Painting. Local artist and Floral City Garden Club president Jo Ann Quackenbush created the composite, directed the project and did most of the painting, Ayers said.

But Quackenbush insisted that other garden club members add their two cents so Ayers, her mother Bette Ayers, Marcia Beasley, Jeanne Henson, Patsy Neel, Sheila O'Dell and Bobbie Schoss contributed to the calming scene. Floral City guidance counselor Louise Stewart added to it as well.

The children seem to like the colorful additions to their school. As the painting of the mural progressed, more and more Florida natives were added, an alligator, an eagle, a turtle, a duck, blue iris,



Cathi Ayers, left, and Jo Ann Quackenbush stand near the mural at Floral City Elementary. Quackenbush is president of the Floral City Garden Club; Ayers is a garden club member and the school's speech therapist.

an aninga, an owl.

"They get very excited when a new critter shows up," Quackenbush said.

Fifth-grader Jasper Farr, 10, said his favorite animal on the wall is the great blue heron. He is a member of the Junior Garden Club and really likes the mural.

"I think it's very beautiful, 'cause it's in its natural environment and light," he said. The Garden Club was offered to fourth grade last year, when he was a member. "We learned a lot during gardening club and someday they hope they'll have it for every grade," he said.

Dylan Kinard, 6, is a first-grader who likes the alligator. He said he spots it every day when he goes by. And, interestingly, he said he likes the long beaks on some of the birds. They remind him of anteaters.

Cayla Corley, 10, is a fifth-grader who said she was 5 when she planted her first plant. She said her third- and fourth-grade teacher, Daryle Nichols, helped with the wall. Cayla particularly likes the recently added owl. "I could hardly see the owl with its big yellow eyes," she said, "and I like owls a whole lot."

Kelci Parker, 10, likes the sand hill cranes on the wall and Colette McDonald, 10, has enjoyed watching as things were added. She appreciates that it is no longer just a plain white wall.

Bailey DeMilt, also 10, likes the lake. "It brings joyness to me," she said.





Cathy Foley won Best Creative Garden Award for her seven "Theme Gardens" on one acre of freed land

Special to the Pioneer

# The best and brightest

*The Floral City Garden Club has handed out awards this year for some beautiful and unique gardens that brighten the community.*





Special to the Pioneer

Pam and Dave Bellman have worked hard to achieve the Best Yard of the Year Award. Brick pathways lead the way to lush gardens that make this yard extra special.



Special to the

Maureen Thieryung won the Best Landscape Design Award for her lovely serene that is dotted with impatiens and other flowers.



Special to the Pioneer

Chuck and Jody Cradilbaugh won the Best Floral Display Award for their beautiful colorful flower gardens.



Special to the

Cathi and Barry Pendry won Best Variety Garden Award for their lovely herb, cut and memory gardens.



Special to the Pioneer

Peggy and Dave Patillo won Best Gardening By Propagation Award for their tropical "jungle-like" backyard.



Special to the

Best Community Garden Award went to Ferris Ct. Circle for a nice display of br Faith and Barry Coleman won Honorable Mention for their great vegetable garden (pictured)



Chronicle Ads 9-16-05-9-23-05

The Floral City Garden Club Proudly presents the Bi-Annual  
**Secret Gardens & Art Tour**

Come to beautiful Floral City and tour six outstanding home gardens.

**Saturday, Sept. 24**  
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets \$15  
 Advanced tickets available from Citrus County Chambers of Commerce and the Old Courthouse Museum or by calling Cash Ayers at 637-6345 or Dove and Thelma Noble at 726-2431. Tickets and tour maps available at the Floral City Community Building beginning 9:30 a.m. the day of the tour.



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CHRONICLE

Even on the Corner of the "Viewfinder" 9-18-23-05

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CHRONICLE

State  
Times  
9-19-05

# A whiff of 'secret' gardens

■ The Floral City Garden Club hands out maps to ticket buyers on Saturday that reveal the sites on a tour. Here's a preview of some of the gardens.

By JORGE SANCHEZ  
Times Staff Writer

Floral City will live up to its name Saturday as some of its lushest and best-maintained gardens open during the Secret Gardens Tour.

The locations of the gardens are secret. Ticket buyers will get a map after they buy the tickets, and they can depart on a self-guided tour at their own pace.

Organized by the Floral City Garden Club, the Secret Gardens Tour presents many types of landscapes. The city has lakefront, woods and downtown gardens, each offering a different take on gardening.

With most gardens, it's the whimsy and imagination of the gardener, in combination with the plants and nature, that form the whole.

Because the tour sites are secret, this reporter was given a behind-the-scenes tour of some of the half-dozen gardens, with the provision that the locations would not be revealed.

## Gardens from Page 1

planting beds outlined by paving bricks, a brick pathway and a large pond. The garden frames a beautifully restored Old Florida cottage-style home.

Several of the gardens are on Duval Island, east of the downtown. The island is kept warm by the lake, allowing gardeners a chance to duck some of the plant-killing frosts.

While some of the gardens here are grand, others are next to modest ranch homes, such as one where a gardener and her husband have been planting and pruning over five years. The house has a lakefront view, which not only provides a layer of warmth during the winter, but gives the gardener a beautiful backdrop. This garden has lots of beautiful flowering plants, a water pond and a bench near the lakeshore. The garden path runs near a swimming pool and large rosemary shrubs, which give a delicious whiff of the herb when brushed against.

Along Duval Drive, one of the largest homes on the island has a stunning lakefront view. This garden is large, but with an emphasis on low maintenance, because the owners travel frequently.

This garden also contains one of the largest groupings of nun's orchids most people will ever see. Although the orchids are not flowering, their large green foliage is impressive. Driftwood taken from the lake has been used for accent pieces.

There are a few Florida-friendly gardens, which feature native plants, low-maintenance landscaping



Times photo — RON THOMPSON

Bromeliads fill a cul-de-sac in Floral City that is on the tour route. To heighten the experience, local artists will be creating works at the gardens.

One of the largest gardens is very near the downtown area, just a block from the traffic light on U.S. 41. This well-maintained garden has numerous

## AT A GLANCE

A half-dozen gardens will be part of the Secret Gardens Tour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, starting from the Floral City Community Building on Orange Avenue one block east of U.S. 41. The Floral City Garden Club is selling tickets for \$15 at the Community Building, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Maps to the garden will also be provided at the Community Building. For information, contact Cathi Ayres at 637-6345 or [cabp6540@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cabp6540@tampabay.rr.com).

and drip irrigation.

This is the second garden tour organized by the Floral City Garden Club. Last year's tour was canceled because of the hurricanes, but the tour before that drew about 350 people.

Although not officially on the secret gardens tour, a must-see on Duval Island is the bromeliad garden planted and maintained by the residents of Garden Circle.

To heighten the experience, several well-known Citrus County artists will be creating works at the gardens.

The artists are Sharon Aldrich, stained glass; Tina Bristol Estes, wind chimes; Laura Sloop Hennings, the Oriental style of fish-rubbing prints known as Gyotaku; Ryan Jenkins, copper sculpture; Alicia Lowe, stoneware pottery; Denise Lowe, decorative clay; and Mary L. Nigels, glass bead and silversmith.

Jorge Sanchez covers arts and entertainment in Citrus County. Call 860-7313 or e-mail [sanchez@sptimes.com](mailto:sanchez@sptimes.com).



St Pete Times 8-10-05

### Floral City club lines up peek into Secret Gardens

FLORAL CITY — More than a half-dozen gardens will be part of the Secret Gardens Tour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 24, starting from the Floral City Community Building on Orange Avenue one block east of U.S. 41. The Floral City Garden Club is selling tickets for \$15 in advance by mail. Make checks payable to the Floral City Garden Club and send them to P.O. Box 833, Floral City, FL 34436 before Sept. 12. For tickets, contact Cathi Aynes at 637-6345 or cebp6540@tampabay.rr.com.



STEPHANIE BELDEN

Laura Sloop Hennings and Mary Lu Sloop stand next to Hennings' "Gyotaku" paintings. Gyotaku is a fish stone rubbing technique that has been used in Japan and China and now is a decorative art form.



STEPHANIE BELDEN/Pioneer

Dorothy Clark and Marcia Beasley stay cool inside the Floral City Community Center. The ladies were selling floral items at the center as part of the Floral City Garden Club's Secret Garden Tour.



### Secret Garden artist

Artist Tina Estes displays some of her garden wind chimes which will be offered for sale in one of the Floral City Secret Gardens during the Garden & Art Tour offered Saturday, Sept. 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. by the Floral City Garden Club. Tickets are at all three Citrus County Chamber of Commerce offices, Chronicle office and Old 1912 Courthouse or Call Cathi at 637-6345 or Dave at 726-2431.

Special to the Pioneer

### Garden tour



Special to the Chronicle

Artist Tina Estes displays some of her garden wind chimes that will be for sale in one of the Floral City Secret Gardens during the Floral City Garden Club's Garden & Art Tour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24. Tickets are available at all three Chamber of Commerce offices, Chronicle offices and the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum, or call Cathi at 637-6345 or Dave at 726-2431.

*Secret Garden Tour*



brought to you by the  
**Floral City Garden Club**





*Floral City Garden Club  
proudly presents*

A SECRET GARDENS  
AND  
ART TOUR

*September 24, 2005  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.*

*"Treasures of the Garden should be shared"*

*Welcome to this special  
fundraiser event!*

All profits will be used to support the Floral City Garden Club's community projects which include maintaining established Memorial, Butterfly and Floral City Elementary Gardens, sending children to Camp Wekiva, a \$500 scholarship to a college student, and working with the FC Heritage Council to maintain and replace, as needed, our magnificent live oak trees.

Our most grateful appreciation goes out to the homeowners and artists who have donated their time and hard work to make this event a success.

**The homeowners**

Cathi Ayers and Barry Pendry  
Debbie and Joe Barney  
Pam and Dave Bellman  
Lynda and Jim Fenton  
Cathy Foley and Gene Coats  
Joan Knippen  
Residents of Ferris Court

**The artists**

Mary Nigels  
Ryan Jenkins  
Tina Estes  
Sharon Aldrich  
Alicia & Denise Lowe  
Laura Sloop Hennings

**Garden Tour Committee:**

Chairmen:	Dave and Thelma Noble, Frank Peters
Artists:	Thelma Noble
Hostesses:	Sheila O'Dell
Programs:	Cathi Ayers, Marcia Beasley
Publicity:	Marcia Beasley, Cathi Ayers
Signage & Maps:	Dave Noble, Frank Peters
Ticket Sales:	Kathy Hoffman
Webmaster:	Diane Dowthitt



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. Your PROGRAM is required for you to enter each garden.
2. RESTROOMS are available in the Community Building
3. Bottled water is available ~~at each garden.~~

*Thank You for Coming!*

*We Hope You Enjoy Your Tour  
As Much As We Have Enjoyed  
Planning It*

## The Artists

### Sharon Aldrich - Stained Glass:

After earning a PhD in art and working as a professor at Tennessee State University, Sharon has now settled in Homosassa where she works from her "Earth-Star Designs" Gallery. She uses traditional lead foil, attaining a substantial look and grace not possible with today's commonly used copper foil. Sharon is known for her large fountains, dramatic mermaid designs and three-dimensional, kiln-work floral pieces. Designs she believes to be most meaningful to herself and others come to her in dreams.

### Tina Bristol Estes - Wind-chimes:

With a Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts, Tina has done sculpting, ceramics, drawing, and painting. Living in Brooksville, Tina has recently settled into putting her creative eye toward production of gorgeous windchimes. Utilizing ordinary items along with heirloom jewelry, crystals and fragments of stained glass, each chime has its own look, sound, personality and spirit, making it an individual expression in any garden.

### Laura Sloop Hennings - Fish Prints:

Laura is a nationally known *Gyotaku* artist. Gyo means "fish" and taku means "stone rubbing." The technique has been used in Japan and China for centuries to make permanent records of the appearance of various species of fish. It is now considered as a decorative, interpretive art form which shows expressions of composition, form, texture, color and use of materials. After spending several years on the art circuit, Laura has now limited her attendance to the Coconut Grove Art Festival in Miami, the Ann Arbor, MI and the Florida Folk Festivals in White Springs and Homosassa. Her work can be seen adorning walls of well-known restaurants, offices and homes around the country. She has recently expanded her medium to include clothing and jewelry, creating one-of-a-kind wearable art.



## The Artists continued

### Ryan Jenkins- Copper Sculpture:

Growing up in a family of artists, it was only natural that Ryan would also develop and express himself through creative art. Working primarily in copper and brass he uses his experiences with the ocean, gulf and rivers as inspiration for his work. Riverworks Studio in Old Homosassa is home to Ryan's work where twisting, bending, cutting and shaping copper yields one of a kind works of intriguing sculpture suitable for any Florida garden.

### Alicia Lowe - Stoneware pottery:

Alicia's passion is making pieces of functional pottery that people will use with friends and family in their homes. She is always looking for new ideas, designs and colors for the clay to keep her work interesting and challenging. With 28 years of experience, Alicia continues to be intrigued by the fact that every time the kiln is opened, there's always a surprise.

### Denise Lowe - Decorative clay:

Denise's gift of whimsy and spontaneity with clay is expressed through her creation of one-of-a-kind busts, "hurricane houses" and unique decorative pieces. Subtle design and details in her work are striking. The hurricane houses with the appearance of being on the water's edge remind viewers of Florida's natural heritage. Each house has a back door and ledge to hold a candle.

### Mary L. Nigels - Glass bead and Silversmith:

Mary creates her own glass beads making them into unique designs in beaded lamp-work and jewelry. An avid collector of vintage beads and jewelry for years, and enamored by shiny baubles, creating glass beads became a natural choice for a creative outlet. Her latest designs lean toward florals and botanicals.

**RECLAIMED AND REFLECTIVE – 8219 E. Orange Ave.**

Owners: Dave and Pam Bellman

Featured Artist: Tina Estes - Wind Chimes

In the very heart of old Floral City, under a giant mulberry tree, sits one of the areas most recently restored historic homes. When the property was rescued in 1997, the Bellmans immediately began to develop their landscaping plan utilizing the many treasures salvaged from renovation work on homes and buildings in Central Florida. ~ Decorative ironwork placed between wooden posts fronts the property and west side. Recovered old brick is used to tie together the many walkways and flower beds. Recycled windows are used to construct the productive green house. ~ Circling the wrap-around porch are a variety of plantings, some new, some nearly as old as the house itself. ~ At the back of the garage is a lattice potting alcove and a large pokeweed plant, used by Native Americans for dye. Beyond the alcove is an almost-hidden seating area surrounded by hibiscus, firecracker and pineapple plants. ~ The yard is dotted with small gardens featuring various plants: mimosa encircled by bromeliads and lantana; a fig tree planted beneath with coleus and beauty bush; a bushy cassia planted with lirioppe, lantana and old roses below. ~ Behind the green house and bordered by a knee-high, wide-board fence can be found a sky-reaching tithonia, narrow-leaf sunflowers, cranberry hibiscus, glorybower, jatropha and assorted herbs. ~ East of the greenhouse is the focal point of the yard, the double pond with raised, wooden deck. At ponds' edge can be found old roses, cat's whiskers, coleus, dwarf Mexican petunia, lantana, mums, firecracker plants and varieties of jew groundcover. ~ The east side of the house is framed by plumbago leading into the courtyard where a pomegranate tree grows. ~ This old home, whose owners are dedicated to rescuing, reusing and recycling, serves them and our community well.



MORNING GLORY CHALET – 11296 Turner Ave.

Owners: Gene Coats and Cathy Foley

Featured Artists: Alicia and Denise Lowe - Pottery

Wild vines and whimsical cottage gardens await you at Morning Glory Country Chalet. Five acres of dogwoods, oaks and majestic pines create a park-like setting. From the gated entry, hand-painted signs welcome visitors down the narrow drive which leads past a charming garden shed, many antique tools and an authentic "John Deere" mower surrounded by an array of colorful flowers. ~ A cottage garden at the front of the Chalet showcases perennials such as obedient plants, Mexican petunias, narrow-leaf sunflowers, blue and red porter weed, salvias, mums, four o'clocks, golden dew-drop, butterfly flower and butterfly bush. ~ One acre of the property is laid out in charming theme gardens with names such as the "Tea Cup Garden," "Mimi's Secret Garden," "Memory Garden" and "Butterfly Garden." The "Moonlight Fairy Garden" includes a pond complete with rippling stone waterfall, dotted with colorful flowers peeking out among the rocks. This garden forms a backdrop for the intimate weddings often held in the gazebo in front of the romantic falls. ~ Stone walkways and rustic arbors created by the owners from the abundant natural materials on the property, are covered with honeysuckle, morning glory and cypress vines which add to the fairy tale charm of these. ~ Last but not least, be sure to say 'hello' to "Miss Good Cow," the family pet. She loves to give big kisses!

**DELIGHTFULLY DECKED OUT - 7080 S. Duval Island Drive**  
Owners: Joe and Debbie Barney  
Featured Artist: Ryan Jenkins - Copper Sculpture

A cassia tree surrounded by pentas and white vinca (periwinkle) greets visitors at the driveway entrance. It's hard to believe that the large garden at the front of the house is less than a year old. Anchored by a small magnolia tree in front and two weeping bottlebrush behind a length of round rail fencing, the bed is planted with impatiens, bush daises, portulaca, blue daze, buttercup daisy and fire cracker plants. A bird bath, garden cart and stair-stepped log border further accent the area. ~ To the left of the front door, tall red pentas attract butterflies. A walk through the carport opens to a bed of aspidistra the full length of the narrow side yard leading to the pool deck area. Allamanda shrub, caladiums, variegated hibiscus and peacock ginger are some of the plants seen along the edge of the walkway, while the pool is screened by Carolina jasmine and coral honeysuckle for privacy. ~ Facing the lake, at the left is a stone circled bed featuring a cluster of mature yucca plant along with texas and red sage, scaevola, buddleia, jatropha and cannas. ~ The right edge of the lakefront offers a wooden walkway to the spacious deck where a boat awaits a day on the lake. On the bank above, a huge chinaberry tree is surrounded by pentas, blue daze, dwarf Mexican petunia. Along the property border is the potting shed and another patio with umbrella table and benches banked by a bed of ground cover mexican petunia, plumbago, impatiens, pentas and a huge golden dew drop shrub in the background.~ Here is also seen a flagstone-lined pond accented by a fountain, wooden bridge and a not-so-live, great blue heron. To the right is a circular stone wall sustaining the slope of the yard. It repeats the circular plantings of caladiums and bromeliads under a laurel oak tree. Following along the left fence, pagoda plants, African iris, rose of Sharon are some of the plants that lead to the gate, while plumbago, lorepetalum, pentas, cannas, narrow-leaf sunflower, and four o'clocks form a wide bed at the back of the house.



## FERRIS COURT

The Round-about at the end of Ferris Court is planted with a variety of bromeliads and is maintained by the residents of the court.

Enroute to admiring this small community garden, tour visitors will pass two Floral City Garden Club award winning gardens which can be admired from the road. These gardens are not designated Secret Gardens, so please enjoy them from your car.

On the northside of the street is a beautifully landscaped home with a bountiful border garden as well as a classic rose garden near the front door.

At the southwest property of the court, the property owners have enhanced their beautiful waterfront property with numerous beds, foundation and container plants.

Garden Collage - 6540 S. Duval Island Drive  
Owners: Barry Pendry and Cathi Ayers  
Artist: Mary Nigels - Lampwork beads & silver jewelry

Picket fence corners and a low hedge of *lorepetalum* create a streetside border for this property. To the left of the driveway, the lawn is broken up by several beds. Foundation plants include crepe myrtle, Rose of Sharon, and bottlebrush. Perennials near the house are *tibouchina*, *thryalis*, and pentas. In the free-form bed are several varieties of sage, fountain grass, coleus and other perennials. Focal point of the smaller center bed is a standardized *pittosporum* bordered with oyster plant. To the right of the driveway a wooden swing offers peaceful respite under a live oak in a natural area, free of lawn. Plantings include bromeliads, philodendron, beauty berry, ferns, gingers and a Chinese fan palm. Following the walkway to the right of the house, pass the arbor with young bleeding heart plants to enter the back yard with its welcoming lake view. Confederate jasmine covers the privacy screen erected along the sidewalk. The backyard features numerous garden areas which include a "mostly herbs" garden, butterfly garden, deep shade garden and fence-lines banked with coral honeysuckle, wild honeysuckle, morning glory, rancoon creeper, star jasmine, gingers, and cannas. Banana plants mixed with cannas and gingers near the back corner create a tropical view over the lakefront.



GARDEN POINTE- 6400 S. Duval Island Drive  
Owners: Jim and Lynda Fenton  
Featured Artist: Sharon Aldrich - Stained Glass, Glass  
Fountains, Garden Art

Enter the gate just past an elevated oak tree skirted by cascading plumbago and park off the limerock lane before the second gate. Pass through the gate to where lorepetalum, crepe myrtle and cultivated yellow lantana are encircled by the wide driveway. Two antique-looking lamp posts, flanked by young firecracker plants announce the entryway to the new Florida "cracker-style" two-story house. There, vinca (~~periwinkle~~), lorepetalum and mona lavender grow between plumbago and the golden dew drop (Durantas) plants that anchor each corner of the house. ~ Walking toward the boat dock you will pass by a garden of red Florida "Knock-out" roses which reside with plumbago and many varieties of day lilies. Past the dock and along the waterfront are continuous beds of crepe myrtles, cannas, hibiscus, heliconia choconiana (false bird of paradise) and gingers. In the midst of the beds a cast iron wheel or lock key of a drag line is partially embedded and adapted to hold an iron kettle for seasonal plantings. Continuing along the waterfront are plantings of Amazon lilies, Rhapsis palm (lady palm), African iris and more cannas and gingers. At this point, the impact of the home's placement can be appreciated with the open lake in full view beyond the broad expanse of lush lawn under the ancient oaks circled with azaleas. On this property was the location of "Doc" L.C. Ferris' vegetable garden and old well. "Doc," whose great uncle invented the Ferris Wheel, owned this land as well as the vast citrus groves on the island from the early 1930s until the 1980s. As the far side of the house is approached, a hand carved sign hanging between twocypress trees can be seen. It reads: "Garden Pointe" the name "Doc" Ferris chose for this point of land.

NATURE RETREAT - 7764 S. Four Oaks Drive

Owner: Joan Knippen

Artist: Laura Sloop Hennings - Nature Rubbings

All requirements are present for the official designations bestowed on this property! A walk through the grounds will reveal why this is both a "Back Yard Wildlife Habitat" registered with the National Wildlife Federation and a "Certified Florida Yard" registered with the University of Florida. ~ Follow the wooden walkway around the left side of the house past a shade garden of ferns, caladiums and peace lilies to the back deck with its "cathedral" greenhouse complete with crystal chandelier! ~ Step down into the "Bird Diner" where, in addition to several feeders, a fountain has been created featuring a mosaic watering can. Stepping stone squares lead past a small pond surrounded by pentas, impatiens, coleus and cats'whiskers. A turn to the left where the path approaches the potting shed and where window boxes are planted with lantana and ivy, leads towards the canal. The careful observer discovers a simple arch leading into a "Secret Garden" with its small table set for afternoon tea. Foundation and potted plants in this area include fern, ginger and impatiens. Returning to the shed, vegetable and herb gardens may be viewed behind the picket fence. ~ Following the path along the left rear side of the house and behind shrubs of azalea is a view of a large, inviting gazebo with seating around a free-standing fireplace. Further on, another small pond of lime rock and a wooden and lattice privacy fence provide a back drop for Shasta daisies, begonia and caladiums. ~ Going through the fence's gateway to return to the front yard, discloses seating for a meditation area under an old southern red cedar tree. In the center of the front yard stands an obelisk-shaped trellis covered in passion vine. Near the courtyard, a colorful cassia tree stands guard at the entryway to the home and a picket fence displays certification that this is a wildlife friendly area. ~ Having walked this property, visitors can attest to the fact that this property provides a well-tended sanctuary with abundant food and water for the wildlife of this area.

124 391 217



## DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Watch for Garden Tour direction signs posted at the turns on the way to each home as well as Secret Garden signs posted in front of each home on the tour.

Directions to all gardens begin at the Community Building

- 2 1. Bellman Garden - Go West on Orange Avenue. Cross US41 at the light. Second house on the right.
- 1 2. Foley Garden - Go West on Orange Avenue. Turn left at the light at US41. Proceed south to CR480/Stagecoach Trail. Turn onto 480. Go west about 3.5 miles to Turner Avenue. Left on Turner for about 2 miles to Foley property on the right (home is not visible from the road). 12296 Turner
3. 4. and 5, <sup>2</sup>Barney (7080), <sup>4</sup>Pendry-Ayers (6540), <sup>5</sup>Ferris Court and <sup>6</sup>Fentor Gardens (6400) - Go East on Orange Avenue to ORANGE AVENUE to DUVAL ISLAND DRIVE sign. Bear left. Proceed over the bridge at the boat ramp onto Duval Island Drive. All three homes as well as Ferris Court are on the left (west) side of the street.
- 7 8. Knippen Garden - Go east on Orange Avenue then CR 48 towards Bushnell approximately 2 miles to Trails End Road. Turn left and follow Trails End another 2 miles to the stop sign. Turn right at the stop sign and follow Trails End approximately 1.5 miles to Four Oaks Drive. Right onto Four Oaks to 7764.

~~TIN TIN TIN~~







Joan Knippen stands in her secret garden that was part of the Floral City Garden Club's Secret Garden tour. Knippen's garden was underwater last this time due to the storms.





Ryan Jenkins displayed some of his copper sculptures at the home of Dave and Pam Beliman. Jenkins's works include ocean, gulf and river scenes.

# Gardens tell all

By Stephanie Belden  
Pioneer Editor

The secret was let out this past Saturday in Floral City.

The Floral City Garden Club held its second biannual Secret Garden Tour last Saturday. There were seven homes on this year's tour.

Visitors received the names and locations of the gardens when they picked up the programs at the Floral City Community Center. They then followed maps to each of the seven homes on the tour.

Along with the selected gardens, visitors were also able to view and purchase garden related work from different artists. Among the works were stained glass, wind chimes, pottery, copper sculptures and lamp-work beads.



This stained glass fountain sits on the patio of Jim and Lynda Fenton. Their property was the location of "Doc" L.C. Ferris' vegetable garden.



This garden is part of Joe and Debbie Barney's back yard. The area holds a fountain.



This stained glass table was on display at the home of Jim and Lynda Fenton. Artist



Chronicle 9-4-05

## MEET THE PEOPLE

*Editor's note: This is an occasional series highlighting people in your neighborhood.*

Tarzan had his vines. **Michael Harnden** has his ropes. The blue rope anchors him to the tree. The yellow ropes loop around the limbs that will soon be on the ground.

A certified arborist, Harnden scampers about the tree branches with the nimbleness of a monkey — minus the prehensile tail.

It was in Massachusetts that Harnden, 47, "became more experienced in tree climbing" while working for a tree service company.

"I realized I was a natural monkey," said the Floral City resident and owner of Michael Harnden Certified Arborist Inc.

Born in Salem, Mass., Harnden was raised in the Miami area. He grew up in Sweetwater and attended Coral Park Senior High. When he was 15, he began working with a neighbor doing palm tree removal. It was a foreshadowing of things to come.

While working in Pinellas County, Harnden was involved in a world record transplant of a tree at the Church of Scientology.

The giant oak weighed 412 tons with diameter of 45 1/2 inches at breast height and a canopy 45 feet across.

"It took seven months, from start to finish," Harnden recalled. "We moved it 120 feet."

Root pruning was done in three stages, one third pruned each time, irrigated and a month's wait between stages. An irrigation system was installed in the canopy.

"Plants transpire from under their leaves," Harnden explained. "We installed a misting system in the canopy to keep the leaves damp and reduce transpiration."

The transplant took, and eventually Harnden moved to Citrus County, where he chose to specialize in tree preservation, particularly in new developments. Clear cutting by builders is a travesty to him.

"I should be the first one on site to identify and evaluate plants worthy of preservation," said Harnden, who has been in "the green industry" more than 26 years.

"I think if we keep up the way we're going (in Citrus County)," Harnden said, "we're going to wind up looking like Pinellas County."

Harnden enjoys his work and is proud of his accomplishments, espe-



Times photo — MARY ANN KOSLASKY

**SAVING TREES:** Certified arborist Michael Harnden maneuvers through the tree tops with the agility of a monkey, but without the use of a prehensile tail. His skills allow for the preservation of trees that might otherwise fall to a developer's saw or a misguided homeowner's whims.

cially taking third place in "branch walking" during a Tree Climbing Jamboree held during a conference of the International Society of Arboriculture. The ISA is the organization that confirmed Harnden as a certified arborist.

Requirements for that designation include working three years in the industry, taking an exam of about 3 hours and 200 questions and maintaining 30 continuing education units every three years.

Harnden has two full- and two part-time employees. But, "I don't like people to say they work for me. They work with me. We're a team."

Harnden belongs to several professional groups, including the local Chamber of Commerce, the ISA and the Florida Yards and Gardens program run through the Extension Service.

"I enjoy the career I chose very much," said Harnden. So much so that he is considering the next level: certification as a Board Certified Master Arborist.

"I truly enjoy it when I have a satisfied customer," said Harnden.

But his real joy comes "when I'm saving a tree from disease or a developer."



# Park visit planned

Special to the Chronicle

A change of pace will be offered at the Friday meeting of the Floral City Garden Club. Members, guests and visitors will visit Fort Cooper Park at noon. It is suggested that those attending from the Floral City area, south of the state park, meet in the Duval Island parking lot and carpool to the park, where there will be a \$2 charge per vehicle.

Attendees at the October meeting will be greeted by Terry Newberry, Mary Ann Jaksina and Sheila O'Dell, and the meeting will be hosted by Anne Propp, Kathy Davis and Dottie Sherman. It is suggested each attendee bring a sack lunch. Drinks will be provided.

During the business meeting, members will receive a report from the Secret Gardens and Art Tour Committee on the successful bi-annual event held Sept. 24 in Floral City.

The program will include a tour of the state park, and the monthly Petal Power Award will be presented by Cathi Ayers, recipient of the September award.

Following the meeting and program, those in attendance are welcome to visit member Cathy Foley's landscaped yard and gardens.

Those attending September's program enjoyed a colorful slide presentation by Richard Coffman about the growing of orchids. Members carpooled to the homes of Kathy Davis and Dorothy Clark to view their landscaped yards and gardens. Members met Thursday before the Gardens Tour to pick up trash along Orange Avenue County Road 48, and Friday to weed and trim the Community Memorial Garden.

The Floral City Garden Club meets at noon the second Friday monthly from September through May in the Floral City community building, unless otherwise announced. Visit [www.floralcitygardenclub.com](http://www.floralcitygardenclub.com) or call Jo Ann Quackenbush at 344-4447.

# Garden club will take field trip

A change of pace will be offered at the Friday, Oct. 14, meeting of the Floral City Garden Club.

Members, guests and visitors will be visiting Fort Cooper Park at noon. It is suggested that those attending from the Floral City area south of the Park, meet in the Duval Island parking lot and car-pool to the park where there will be a \$2 charge per vehicle.

Attendees at the October meeting will be greeted by Terry Newberry, Mary Ann Jaksina and Sheila O'Dell and the meeting will be hosted Anne Propp, Kathy Davis and Dottie Sherman.

It is suggested that each attendee bring a sack lunch. Drinks will be provided. During the business meeting members will receive a report from the Secret Gardens and Art Tour Committee on the successful bi-annual event held Sept. 24 in Floral City.

The program will include a tour of the park and the monthly Petal Power Award will be pre-

**The Floral City Garden Club meets monthly from September through May on the second Friday of the month.**

sented by Cathi Ayers recipient of the September award.

Following the meeting and program, those in attendance are welcome to visit member Cathy Foley's landscaped yard and gardens.

Those attending September's program enjoyed a colorful slide presentation on the growing of orchids by Richard Coffman. Following the meeting and program, members car-pooled to the homes of Kathy Davis and Dorothy Clark to view their landscaped yards and gardens. Later in the month, members met on Thursday before the gardens tour to pick up trash along Orange Avenue and on Friday to weed and trim the Community Memorial Garden in preparation for the tour. The Floral City Garden Club meets monthly from September through May on the second Friday of the month at noon in the Floral City lime rock community building unless other announced.

Membership in the Floral City Garden Club is open to all who appreciate gardening, protecting the environment and working with junior gardeners to pass on an appreciation for nature. Visit the club's web site at [www.floralcitygardenclub.com](http://www.floralcitygardenclub.com) or call President Jo Ann Quackenbush at 344-4447 for more information.

Chronicle  
10/10/05

Pioneer  
10-6-05



October Meeting  
At Ft. Cooper Park



## FORT COOPER TRAIL

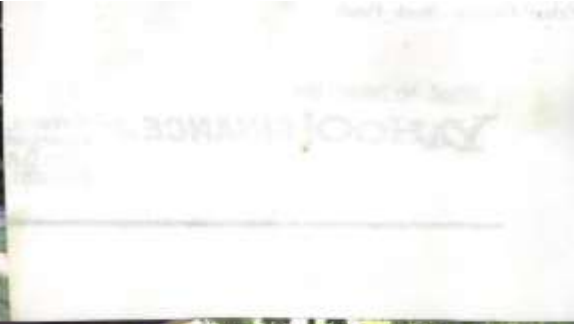
A LEISURELY 20 MINUTE WALK TO THE SITE OF FORT COOPER. ALTHOUGH THIS WOODEN SECOND SEMINOLE WAR FORT IS NO LONGER PRESENT, YOU CAN LOOK OUT OVER THE LAKE FROM THE FORT'S DEFENSIVE POSITION.

A PORTION OF THE TRAIL FOLLOWS THE MILITARY ROAD USED BY SOLDIERS TO TRAVEL BETWEEN OCALA AND TAMPA.

THERE ARE BENCHES ALONG THE TRAIL AND AT THE FORT SITE.











# November gathering features plants on the move

"Container Gardening" is the title of the Floral City Garden Club's November program to be held on Nov. 11, at 2 p.m. in the Floral City Community Building. Experienced gardener, National Council Flower Show Judge and past District V Garden Club Director Andrea Fuller will share with members and visitors her experiences in this efficient and effective method of growing plants. Whether they are flowers, foliage, vegetables or fruits, all grow well in containers that can

be moved about for an effective display on the patio or in the landscape.

The November gathering will all begin at 12:30 p.m. when members and visitors are greeted by Terry Newberry, Faith Coleman and Shirley Davis.

President Jo Ann Quackenbush will call the business meeting to order at 1 p.m. Members are encouraged to start plants now for the April Annual Plant Sale; to participate in the Roadside Clean-up scheduled

## Floral City Garden

for Nov. 30; and "decorating the town" scheduled for Nov. 28 in preparation for Floral City Heritage Days.

The Petal Power Award will be presented by the October recipient, Ann Proff. This award is

presented monthly to a member who has demonstrated an outstanding service to the club or community during the preceding month. The award itself is a framed lady in full gown, all made of plant material and was composed by member Marie Jones. Following the business

meeting, Club members who desire may tour the private gardens of members Joan Knippen, Jean Tripp, Mary Aguis and Deb Owens. The Floral City Garden Club welcomes those interested in the gardening and related subjects to join them. Call 344-4447 for more information.

*Speaker Andrea Fuller*





Thomson  
11-6-05

# Gardeners can contain it

## Floral City group to talk plants at Friday gathering

Special to the Chronicle

"Container Gardening" is the title of the Floral City Garden Club's November program scheduled for 2 p.m. Friday in the Floral City Community Building. Experienced gardener, National Council Flower Show judge and past District V Garden Club director Andrea Fuller will share with members and visitors her experiences in this efficient and effective method of growing plants. Whether they be flowers, foliage, vegetables or fruits, all grow well in containers that can be moved about for an effective display on the patio or in the landscape. The November gathering will begin

**CONTAINER GARDENING PROGRAM**

- **WHAT:** Floral City Garden Club's November "Container Gardening" program to include presentation by Andrea Fuller.
- **WHEN:** 2 p.m. Friday.
- **WHERE:** Floral City Community Building.
- **INFORMATION:** For additional information about the meeting or the club, visit the Web site: [www.floralcitygardenclub.com](http://www.floralcitygardenclub.com) or call 344-4447.

at 12:30 p.m. when members and visitors are greeted by Terry Newberry, Faith Coleman and Shirley Davis. As refreshments, furnished by Nancy Mirgon, Jackie Ross and Carol Hart, are enjoyed, questions on horticulture will be answered and those who have brought horticulture cuttings, starts bulbs and seeds will offer to share them with those present at the Grow & Share Table.

President Jo Ann Quackenbush will call the business meeting to order at 1

p.m. The unfinished business of selecting field trips for the year will be discussed, members will be encouraged to start plants now for the April Annual Plant Sale, and to participate in the Roadside Clean-up scheduled for Nov. 30, and "decorating the town" scheduled for Nov. 28 in preparation for Floral City Heritage Days and the holidays.

The Petal Power Award will be presented by the October recipient, Ann Proff.

This award is presented monthly to a member who has demonstrated an outstanding service to the club or community during the preceding month. The award itself is a framed lady in full gown, all made of plant material, and was composed by member Marie Jones. One club member has the privilege of displaying this piece of art in her/his home for the month.

Following the business meeting, Club members who desire may tour the private gardens of members Joan Knippen, Jean Tripp, Mary Aguis and Deb Owens. All of these ladies live in the Trails End Road area near the Withlacoochee River, and a variety of landscapes and gardens may be viewed.

The Floral City Garden Club welcomes visitors and invites those interested in the gardening and related subjects to join them. For additional information about the meeting or the club, visit the Web site: [www.floralcitygardenclub.com](http://www.floralcitygardenclub.com) or call 344-4447.

Pictures of the November Meeting

2005



Lynn Bassett  
"Horticultural  
Expert"

Hostesses  
Carol Ann  
+  
Nancy Mirjan



Cathi Ayers

Betty Ayers







Kattel

Big Winnetup  
New member on July



Judy Lane

Petal Power (from Ann Popp  
to Nancy Minton)



Members







### In Memory of Juanita Cole

I am pleased to represent the Floral City Garden Club this evening as we gather to celebrate the life of one of our brightest flowers, Nita Cole.

I have to say, I'm more than a little humbled by this. I have just recently been appointed Chaplain. A position she held for eight years.

I remember Nita very well. A little bundle of energy ... Impeccably dressed and always smiling ... A gracious lady, a true southern belle in every sense of the word.

My best memories of Nita were in connection with the Floral City Heritage Days. The Garden Club used to have a plant sale and often Nita and I would work together as cashiers.

We never knew what the weather would be. Sometimes we froze, sometimes we got soaked by rain, but she never complained. It was as if she enjoyed all of it.

One of her self-appointed duties was to get a bucket and mop and wash all the street signs before the heritage day celebrations each year. Yes, she was quite a lady!

I can't think of her without smiling. Her daughter-in-law, Marcia and I were sharing some memories the other day and she told me about the time the two of them were sitting at a table full of caladium bulbs under a big bright umbrella in front of the community building. I wasn't there but I can sure see it.

When I was putting together this little talk, I tried to choose a flower ... a simile for Nita. I thought of a Rose. She surely had the elegance. Then I thought she was more like a bright daisy, then a pansy because to me, pansies are always smiling. Then there's the delicateness of baby's breath. No one flower would do. Nita was a whole bouquet ... a delightful little nosegay.

She truly helped put the "floral" in Floral City and she will be remembered and missed.

Terry Newberry, Chaplain

**Sylvester Braaten, 90 Beverly Hills**

Sylvester Braaten, 90, of Beverly Hills, died Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2005, at his home.

He was born March 22, 1915, in a log cabin in northern Minnesota, the son of Melvin and Clara Braaten. He spent his early years in Fergus Falls, Minn.

Mr. Braaten served in the U.S. Army for four years during World War II. After the war he moved to Sidney, Mont., where he managed the Yellow Stone Mercantile. He was elected the mayor of Sidney before retiring.

"Sly" always had a great interest in music. He directed a church choir, sang in a male quartet and in a special show choir that was sought after for entertaining around the state.

In his younger years he loved to play golf, and in his later years became interested in bridge. His mind was active until the day he died.

He was a wonderful husband and father.

Survivors include his wife, Louise Braaten of Beverly Hills; sons, John Braaten of Crystal River and Thomas Braaten of Billings, Mont.; daughter, Kathryn Bresemann of Sanford; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Heinz Funeral Home & Cremation, Inverness.

**Marian Cole, 91 Floral City**

Marian Juanita Cole, 91, of Floral City, died Thursday, Nov. 10, 2005, in Citrus Health & Rehabilitation Center of Inverness.

A native of Bamberg, S.C., she was born Dec. 2, 1913, to the late Fulton Marion and Corrie Elvira Blume and moved to Floral City 24 years ago from Columbus, Ga.

Mrs. Cole was a retired cosmetologist and buyer for Leggett's Department Store of Charlottesville, Va.

She was a 22-year member of the Floral City Garden Club, serving as chaplain for eight years and a member of the Floral City Heritage Council.

She was Baptist and active for many years in the Belmont Baptist Church of Charlottesville and Main Street Baptist Church of Inverness, where she was a choir member and recorder.

She was preceded in death by three husbands, Harry M. Beasley, Paul M. Flagg and Tim Cole; and by one grandson, Linnie Beasley.

Survivors include two sons, Harry Lynwood Beasley and wife, Barbara, of Charlottesville, Va., and Allen "Ossie" Beasley and wife, Marcia, of Floral City; two daughters, Claudelle Parr of Montezuma, Ga., and Paulette Spangler and husband, Don, of Floral City; brother, Floyd Gray of Charlottesville, Va.; sister, Lillian Love Easton of Charlottesville, Va.; 15 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; 24 great-great-grandchildren; two aunts, Fairy Bell Morris of Tillman, S.C., and Avis Blume of Aiken, S.C.; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home with Crematory, Inverness.



# Down home heritage



WALTER CARLSON/Chronicle

To celebrate the 13th year of the Blue Banner Tour of Historic Homes and Folk Life/Living History event Saturday, Marcia Beasley, chairwoman of the Floral City Heritage Days 2005, cooks up some of her own family recipes. Above, she serves her favorite spoon bread recipe from her mother's 1942 cookbook, along with seasoned kale and sliced tomatoes and displays her grandmother's 1893 hand-written cookbook. Beasley is also the author of "The Christmas Dinner Companion" available at the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum store.

## Former Hoosier believes country food is country food whether North or S

**JULIANNE MUNN**  
bonnyblu@earthlink.net  
*Chronicle*

It might be a Citrus County Southern-style event, but it's a native Hoosier who infuses the annual Floral City Heritage Days with its down-home heart and soul.

Marcia Beasley, a true Renaissance woman and a Floridian by choice, has made the annual attraction her signature project.

And not the least of the festivities is reflected in Beasley's own background in rural Indiana.

"The foods offered for Floral City Heritage Days always remind me of my own roots firmly planted in the country foods of Indiana," she said. "I have often told people who ask if I was raised in the South, that if you were raised in the

### FLORAL CITY HERITAGE DAYS

- The two-day event starts Friday.
- Floral City is seven miles south of Inverness on U.S. 41.

country, whether it be North or South, you enjoy many of the same foods and cooking techniques.

"Pork and chicken, potatoes, corn, greens and other fresh vegetables, biscuits and, of course, the gravy, made up the staples of our diets. They were the items that we could grow on our land in the North and when we came South we just added the okra and eggplant. I have raised and grown them all. As a 4-H'er for 10 years, I raised pigs and chickens and always had garden vegetables, fresh or canned, in the county fair."

I first began cooking and baking when Mother needed help to get dinner guests. She handed me a card that said 'Make this.' Later in my life, she laughed when telling me that after she had said to her it was the first time she had baked a cake."

In 1992, Beasley established the Floral City Heritage Council as a historic preservation group under the umbrella of the Citrus County Historical Society Inc., and succeeded in getting the group through the necessary active application and obtain listing of the Floral City Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places.

When the downtown merchants

Please see HER



Chronicle 12/05

### Floral City thanks

As presenters of Floral City Heritage Days 2005, the members of Floral City Heritage Council, wish to extend our appreciation to the many individuals, organizations, churches and businesses that made a success of this historical educational event Dec. 2 and 3.

We thank the press, radio stations and WYKE TV for promotion of the event and we are most grateful to our Heritage Day 2005 Sponsors: "Shining Star" Sponsor: Citrus County Chronicle "Platinum" Sponsor: the Floral City Lions Foundation Inc., Nature Coast Visitor's Guide, Progress Energy, to our "Gold" Sponsors: Capital City Bank, John D. Gelin M.D., The Hagar Group, Moonrise Resort, TOOFAR, and Mount Carmel Methodist Church; and to our "Silver Sponsors": Bank of Inverness, and F.D.S. Disposal Inc.

Special "thank yous" go to all committee chairmen of the event, to the seven historic home owners and five other historic property owners for the Blue Banner Tour of Historic Homes, to the 93 volunteers and to the businesses, organizations and individuals who put up Giant Christmas Cards, assisted us in other ways, to the property owners throughout the village who allowed us to schedule this event on their property or in adjacent areas and to the BOCC and the Roadside Maintenance Division who permitted and assisted this event.

Also, appreciation is extended to all those who prepared the village with Christmas decorations and grounds preparation. To all those organizations who prepared the mouth-watering foods, to those who demonstrated early Florida Folklife daily living skills, to the many musicians on Saturday and carolers and musicians on Friday night, to the Citrus Model "A" Club and to all the other organizations, exhibitors and activity participants, we express our sincere gratitude for your participation. You make the event.

We are grateful to those who provided "special assistance" for this event: Camp E-Nini-Hassee, Shamrock Inn, Floral City Volunteer Fire Department, Sheriff's Office Community Patrol Unit 5, Nature Coast EMS at Floral City, Citrus County Historical Society Inc. treasurer, Old Courthouse Heritage Museum docents, Coastal Heritage Museum docents and council members, and Floral City Garden Club.

For those individuals in the community in addition to Council members who loaned items to make the event happen: Cecil Crews, Keith Barco, Bill Bishop and Robert Metz, we are thankful for your assistance.

Again, on behalf of the Floral City Heritage Council, we

say a sincere "thank you" to all our sponsors, to providers of special assistance, to property owners, to all who volunteered to prepare for and present this event, to all food, music, exhibit and activity participants and a personal note of gratitude is extended to our 2005 committee chairmen and members.

A big "thank you" goes out to all the many visitors who attended Floral City Heritage Days 2005.

See you next year ... Under The Oaks!!

**Marcia L. Beasley**  
council & event chairwoman

Christmas Party 2005  
Kathi & Bette Myers



Bette

Kathi



Anne  
Propp

Carol  
Seleski



Attendees at Christmas  
Party "Pat Leek" 12/05



More attendees at Xmas party 12/05



Entertained by Little Family



2005



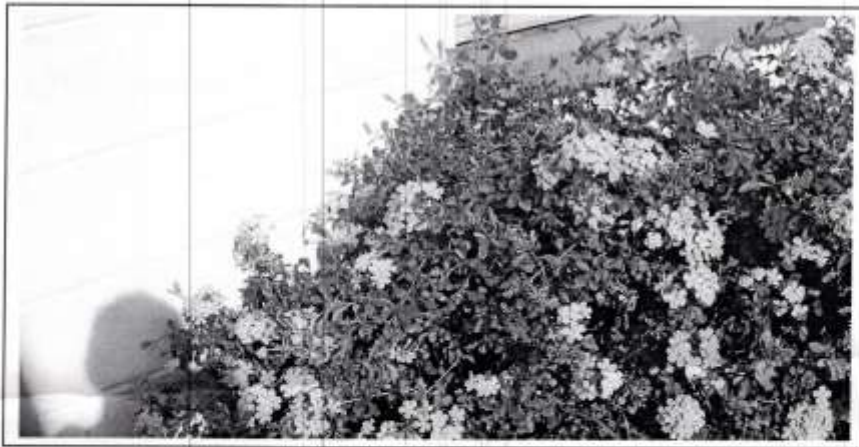
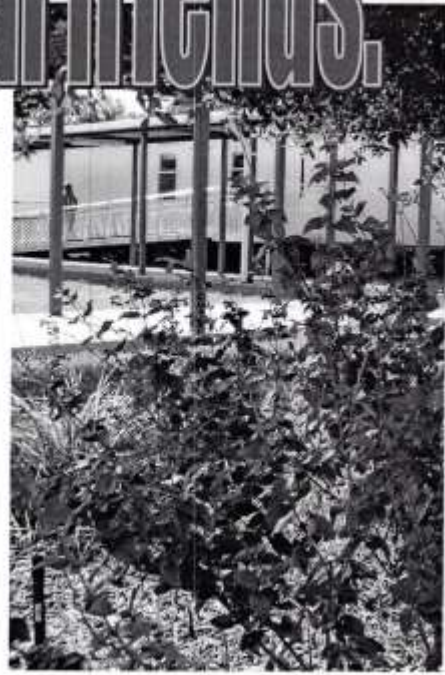
Thanks garden club

for making a good one!

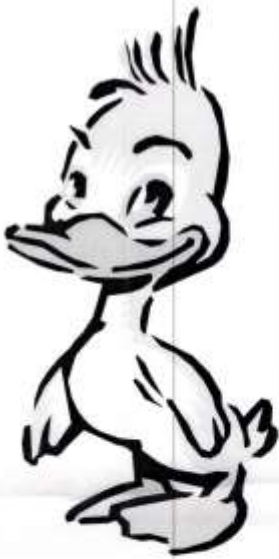
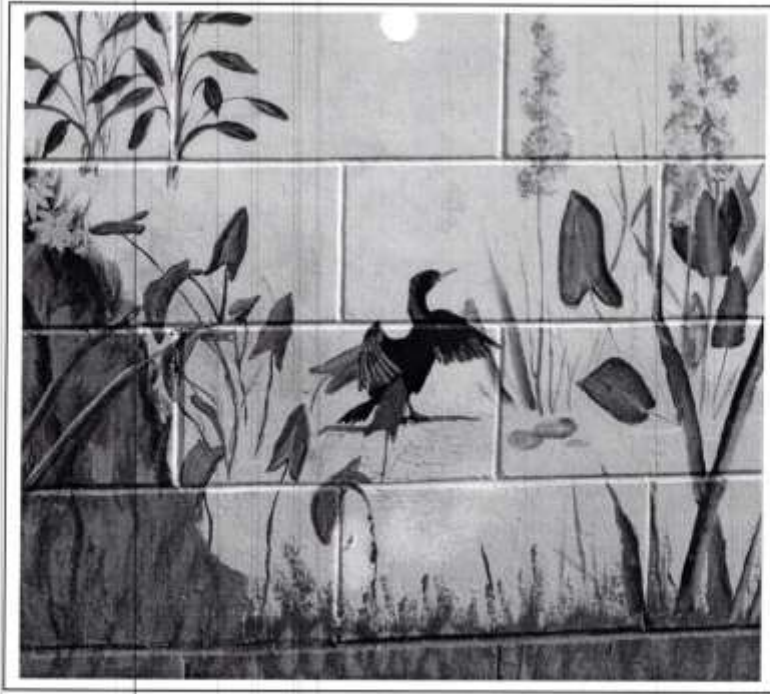
From: Corbin



# Thank you garden friends.



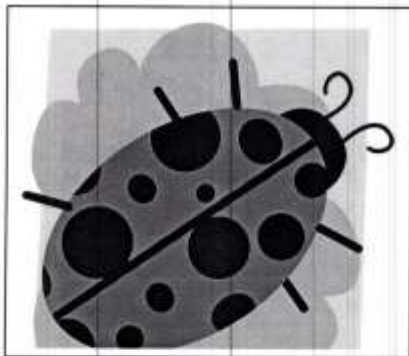
from Mitchell Foster



**This is a  
duck  
pitcher.**

***THE GARDEN RICHER***





Thank you for are

beautiful garden. Also we  
love you for the work you  
put in for school.

**B**  
**r**  
**o**  
**o**  
**k**  
**e**  
  
**H**  
**o**  
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**s**



Thank you

Thank you for the  
garden. The ~~luck~~  
helps.

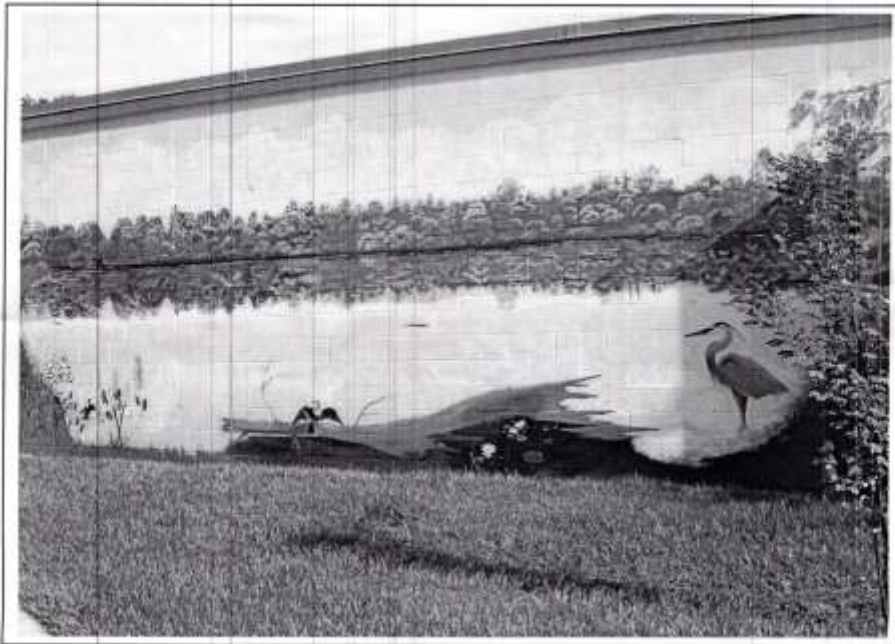
GOV OWNERS



**casey jones**  
*casey jones*



Thank you for the garden. Butterflies, lizards Flowers.



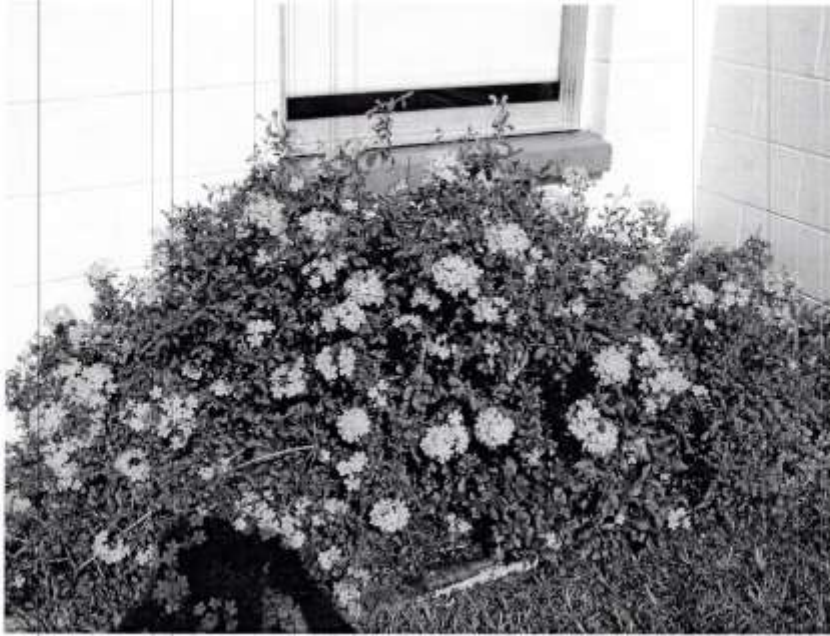


From: Adam

Thank you help make  
this school look good.

**Thank you**





Thank you garden friends for your help in the garden.

**By megan**



THANK'S GARDEN CLUB FOR  
THE



GARDEN!!!!!!!!!!

A rectangular box containing text and an illustration of a revolver. The text is arranged in three lines: "THANK'S GARDEN CLUB FOR" on the first line, "THE" on the second line, and "GARDEN!!!!!!!!!!" on the third line. The revolver is positioned diagonally between the second and third lines of text.





**Thank you garden freinds**

From carver

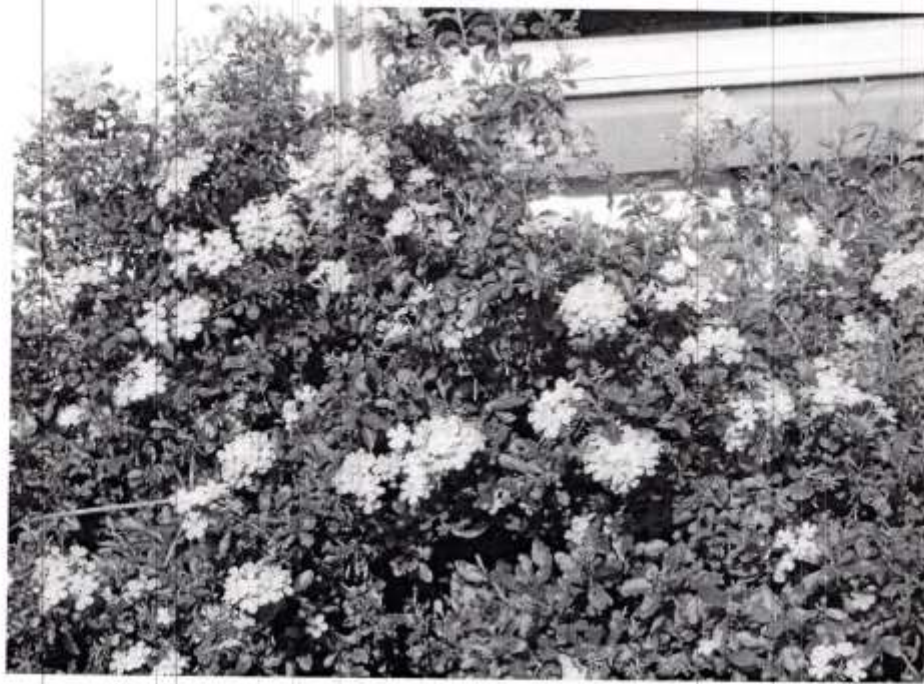
# THANK YOU



From Joseph

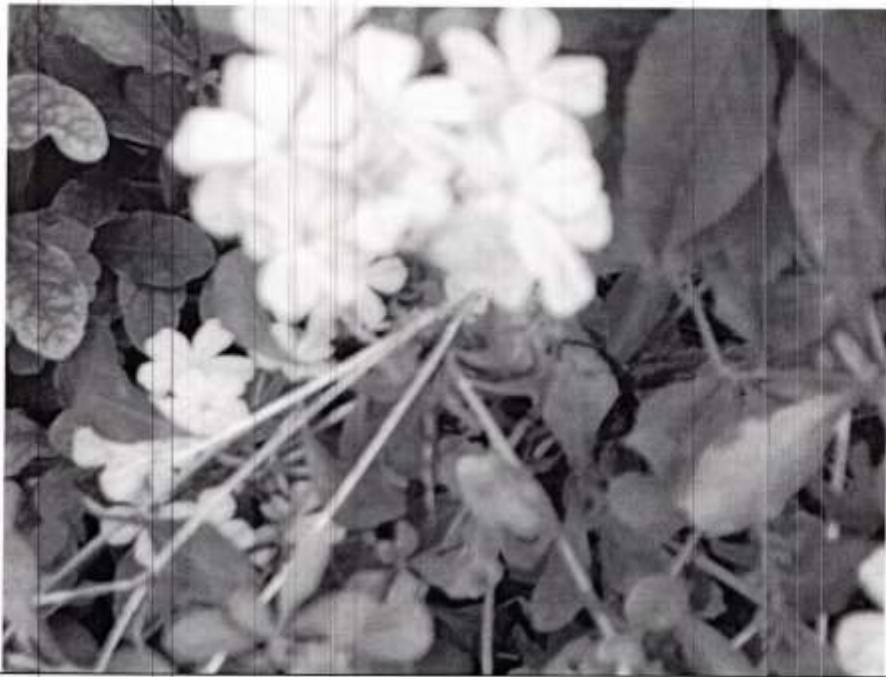






**Thank you for all the wonder,  
all the wonder fall flowers  
Garden club.**

**By Zane Beckner.**



**Thank You for Our garden**

**Thank you, for our  
amazing garden,  
garden club. Also the  
great nature.**