



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 liriopse, 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.)