

BOYNTON BEACH GARDEN CLUB

YOU HEARD IT THROUGH

THE GRAPEVINE

MARCH 2026



Hats Off to BBGC's "Hats and High Fashion" Event!

Now in its fourth year, this important fundraiser for our club officially has earned the title of "Event". It is so much more than a luncheon and fashion show!



This year, our guests were greeted with piano music in the foyer, where they could shop to their hearts content among our diverse group of vendors and have a beverage if they so desired. Our club fronted our own plant shop that featured beautifully potted plants for gifts or to simply enjoy in your own home. Based on preliminary numbers, it was a hit! A few vendors from the past returned, for example, Trish's Shabby Chic, and there were newcomers as well, such as Shells by Ele, featuring beautiful shadow boxes with artwork created from our own area beaches.

All in all, we provided a wonderful shopping experience for our guests.



That was all before the luncheon and fashion show! The ballroom, table settings and centerpieces were very much on theme as you can see in the photos. For the first time a runway was utilized and that was a big hit. Our fashion show announcer, Rose Meyerowich, outdid herself by providing a variety of fashions from area boutiques.

We can't forget our beautiful raffle baskets full of donated products, as well as the silent auction items. Large totals were recorded! And, we cannot forget to mention the 50/50 drawing, which netted \$600 for the lucky ticket holder and \$600 for the club!

ALL of our members contributed to the success of this event, under the direction of Charlotte DeLeu and Christy Hintz, co-chairs. Thank you to all who attended and contributed to putting the "fun" into fundraiser and raised "funds" while doing so!





ROOT FOR THE CAUSE PLANT SALE SUCCESS

Our inaugural plant sale at the **"Fashion Show"** on Thursday, March 12th, 2026, was a resounding success. We extend our sincere gratitude to all who generously donated their time, plants, exquisite ceramic pots and tea cups. The event generated substantial revenue, exceeding \$400.00.



WALK & TALK



BBGC VISITED GALAXY SAND PINE SCRUB RESERVE. Incidentally, it was a beautiful day (low humidity, sunshine and a breeze) to hike through this primitive natural area, that is not currently available to the public. This Scrub was developed by the city in partnership with the Sierra Club, Loxahatchee Group, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. The Galaxy School uses the Scrub for experiential learning opportunities. Workdays occur regularly for volunteers to remove invasive species, such as snake plant from the scrub. Chris Lockhart, plant ecologist, from Habitat Specialists was our very informative tour guide

**Join us for our next Tour of Galaxy Preserve and Clean up on Friday, April 24, 2026.
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

REMINDER

APRIL 1, 2026

DUES DEADLINE FOR 2026-2027

CHECK, CASH OR CREDIT CARD

\$45.00

PAYABLE AT BOYNTONBEACHGARDENCLUBS.ORG

OR CALL OR TEXT PAT INTURRISI FOR FURTHER
INSTRUCTIONS



Happenings at the Gardens

A bit about atala butterflies. These beautiful insects almost completely vanished from South Florida. They depend on coontie plants for survival. This is the **ONLY** plant the caterpillars feed on. Coontie plants were decimated during the development of South Florida. By 1950, the butterflies disappeared from the area. As the "Landscaping with Florida Natives" movement took off, coonties were replanted and the atala population increased. They are still considered rare with limited distribution. Learn more about atala butterflies [here](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/IN326): <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/IN326>.

**Join us at the
Butterfly Garden
129 E Ocean Ave.
First & Third Fridays**



**Join us at the Community Garden
NW 6th Ave and Seacrest Blvd
First & Third Mondays**



FEBRUARY WAS ALL ABOUT POLLINATORS!

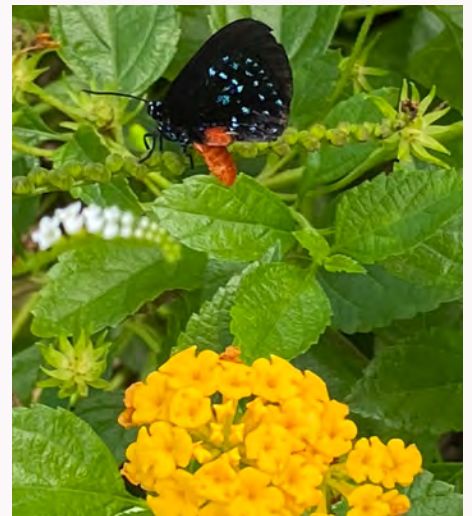
February was all about Butterfly Gardening! We conducted and participated in many activities focused upon one of the most important things we can do for the environment, saving pollinators.

First, on February 9, BBGC presented a program about Butterfly Gardening at the popular Boynton Beach City Library's Brown Bag lecture series. Maria Freed, created an informative PowerPoint on Butterfly Gardening and was supported by our great hands-on gardening teams, who were there with samples of hosts and nectar plants and to answer questions. Best of all, attendees were invited to stroll our beautiful butterfly garden at the Schoolhouse Children's Museum with us there to answer questions. A key takeaway from the program was that it isn't all about the beauty. Butterflies and bees support one-third of the food we eat, so plant with a purpose and view your garden as part of a neighborhood corridor for pollinators.

Our next excursion into the world of pollinator gardens, was a visit to a North American Butterfly Association (NABA) - certified garden at the newest garden club in the area, Elison Independent Living in Lake Worth. This new club established a butterfly garden in containers. Since so many of us have space restrictions, we were anxious to see how it was done. Around a dozen of us were also treated to a presentation about courtship and nesting habits of a few bird species found at Grassy Waters Preserve. We wandered the gravel paths of the garden and noted the many species they had represented. (Please see Pat Inturrisi's article.)

Lastly, now that we all are raising butterflies, our General Meeting focused upon conducting a Butterfly Count. Michael Lorne, an avid gardener, conservationist and North American Butterfly Association member, regaled our members with his fun and instructive program on our pretty pollinators and how to go about participating in organized butterfly counts. He had prizes, too!

Throughout the month, lots of information was provided on what is needed to certify a pollinator garden, where and how to get plants and more! Hopefully, many of us are inspired to establish our own pollinator gardens and have them certified. The club hopes to follow up on this important conservation topic in the coming year.



BBGC Butterfly Garden Plant List



Atala Butterfly



Host plants for caterpillars

Bahama senna/cassia

Citrus

Coontie

Lavender

Milkweeds

Parsley, fennel, dill

Partridge pea

Passionvine

Pipevine Privet

Senna

Red bay

Twinflower

Violets, wild, native

Water hyssop

White twinevine

Wild lime

Wild plumbago

Nectar plants for adult butterflies

Ageratum

Angelonia

Black-eyed Susan

Blue mistflower

Butterfly bush

Butterfly sage

Coreopsis

Fiddlewood

Firebush

Firespike

Golden dewdrop

Jatropha

Lantana, wild sage

Pagoda plant

Pentas (ruby red & hot pink)

Porterweeds

Salvia

Spanish needles

Sweet almond

Tropical sage

Verbena

White crownbeard

White coffee



Zebra Longwing State Butterfly...

ELISON INDEPENDENT LIVING CONTAINER BUTTERFLY GARDEN

By Pat Inturrisi

On February 19th, our Garden Club was afforded a visit to District X's newest Garden Club at the Ellison Independent Center. The gardeners there have made the most of their limited space by creating a container butterfly garden. According to Barbara Hadsell, the idea for this innovative garden took root (pun intended) a few years ago when she noticed an area in her community that had become a dumping ground for construction material's and many plants discarded by snowbirds when they wended their way to their northern homes. With the help of several residents, the area was cleared, and plants were nurtured to make the area a little haven where residents sit on the numerous benches surrounding the garden and enjoy the blooms and the butterflies they attract. It is an interesting concept for those of us with limited space and proves we can still attract pollinators and butterflies using small plantings.

Before we toured the container garden, we were treated to a presentation of ROMANCE ON THE WING; BIRDS OF GRASSY WATERS PRESERVE, presented by Lauren Butcher, Environmental Coordinator for Grassy Waters Preserve. We learned about their love lives {it was a G rated presentation!} and how their courtship and nesting strategies fit into the ecology of our area. We also learned what we could do to help them thrive.

We also learned about Grassy Waters Preserve located on the westernmost part of the city of West Palm Beach. This preserve, which serves to provide drinking water for West Palm Beach as well as Palm Beach and South Palm Beach is the size of Manhattan NYC, and is home to a variety of native wildlife. This would be another spot in our area of beautiful parks and preserves to explore.



Last Summer in Maine

By Jane Doyle

I'm a winter member of the Boynton Beach Garden Club and also the president of the Cape Elizabeth Garden Club in Maine. I wanted to share a project our northern club worked on late spring, summer and early fall of 2025, refurbishing the garden surrounding the Joan Benoit statue at our public library. Joan Benoit is a world class marathon runner who grew up running the streets there. She won the first time women were allowed to run a marathon at the LA Olympics in 1980.

The existing shrubs were so overgrown that many club members including myself were not aware that there was a statue of Joan Benoit at the library. We pulled out old and overgrown lilacs and forsythia and removed Rosa Rugosa that is considered "aggressive" in Maine. We were fortunate to have the help of two males members who used a winch to pull the plants out easily. The next step was to remove the old mulch/dirt accumulation that was spilling over onto a brick patio surrounding the statue. Some of it was relocated to a garden that needed fill and some went to the compost section at the land fill. Approximately three small truckloads were removed!

In the refurbished space we planted hydrangeas and clethra but left space to add azalea this coming spring when better stock will be available. None of these plantings will grow more than a few feet tall and will compliment rather than over shadow the statue. In the early fall club members divided and donated hostas and installed approximately one hundred bulbs including tulips, daffodils, and crocus. Whenever we work at the garden we enjoy hearing comments and fielding questions about the plants and the statue. Although both the NGC and the Maine Federation of Garden Clubs are encouraging planting natives, we feel strongly that a statue should have a more formal feel and that was easier to achieve by adding non native cultivars.

Our biggest challenge was watering the new plants. Our library doesn't have a sprinkler system and the outside faucets have to be unlocked from the inside of the building, therefore, the watering had to take place during opening hours. In the early stages we made a watering schedule and brought water in jugs from home. As the amount of new plants grew we took turns volunteering to water in pairs dragging a heavy hose or made multiple trips with a water bucket. One thing we will purchase in the spring is new soft hoses to leave at the library.



Discovering Okechee Nature Center



Before retiring, I day-dreamed about days like this.

Enjoying a sunny day, exploring nature with like minded friends, with no place to rush off to. Today, walking under the pine flat woods, basking in the cool breezes, taking in the smells, hearing the woodpeckers, meeting wildlife, cost us \$5.00 each.

Truth be told, you cannot buy joy like this.

Thank you Shelly Johnston, Fieldtrip Chair, for another outstanding garden club fieldtrip



Constitutional Park & Arboretum



Nine acres of land in Deerfield Beach contain over 200 exotic trees from five continents around the world. These trees are displayed along a half-mile walking path, fully accessible by wheelchair. The types of trees included in the tree zoo are Flowering Tropical Fruit, Exotics, Palms, Wetlands, Bamboo, Natives, and the Butterfly Garden. The tropical rain forest houses two misting waterfalls. Our next Walk and Talk is on April 1, Wakodahatchee Wetlands

International Clean Up Day, Sept. 20th, 2025

Volunteers met in Delray Beach at the Sandoway Discovery Center and were given their tools to start picking up beach debris. The event, sponsored by The Ocean Conservancy the largest world organization focusing exclusively on the health of our marine environment, was a big success. 600+ lbs of debris was collected thanks to many community volunteers. Representing the BBGC were Toni Cvetko, Maria Freed, Pia Thompson. Our Club was awarded a certificate of appreciation and \$25 scholarship by District X for these efforts.



Boynton Beach Garden Club Holiday Party, Dec. 16th, 2025.



Tina Chuay's 100th birthday



It is not often you get to celebrate a members 100th birthday, play plant bingo, learn about seasonal plants and award 3 holiday costume contest winners, But we did. Hoping everyone had a Happy Holiday!

Best Holiday Costume



Christmas Cactus Care

Provide bright, indirect light, water thoroughly when the topsoil is dry (every 1-3 weeks), use a well-draining mix, and maintain moderate temperatures (65-75°F) with cooler nights (45-55°F) in fall to encourage blooming, and fertilize during active growth but stop in fall. These rainforest epiphytes need more consistent moisture than desert cacti but hate soggy roots, so good drainage is crucial.

Boynton Beach's 54th Annual Holiday Parade

By Bonnie Paton

On December 6th, it was the perfect weather to stroll down Federal Highway at 4 p.m. to celebrate Boynton Beach's 54th Annual Holiday Parade. Between the Boynton Beach Tigers High School Band and our Garden Club was the Boynton Aerospace Science Academy who entertained us with their flying drone. A thank you goes out to our tremendous decorators: Toni Cvetko, Judi Liebert, Glery Cruz, Jody Fraser, Ingrid Moore, Patricia Humphrey, Debra Nastasi; and our hostess, Christine Johnson. We had guests stop by Roberta Corrigan and Debra Millspaugh who enjoyed the camaraderie. A huge thank you to our parade participants: Toni Cvetko, Joyce Erato (who sprinkled the crowd with magic water bringing smiles to all), Judi Liebert, Jody Fraser, and Linda Anderson. We received lots of applause especially with the appearance of a special guest who rode with Patricia Humphrey and Ingrid Moore.





Three Cheers for the Red, White and Blue!

By Linda Anderson

The Boynton Beach Garden Club applied for and received a National Garden Club grant through a “Plant America” project, to adorn our Blue Star Memorial Marker, located at 1523 North Federal Highway, Boynton Beach. This is a nationwide program to decorate Blue Star Markers along the thousands of miles of the national highway system in red, white and blue, in celebration of our country’s 250th birthday.

Christine Johnson, created the landscape plan and Linda Anderson wrote and submitted the grant. Now we need your help at a planting party, scheduled for 9 a.m., Tuesday, April 7. We will be preparing the bed and planting firecracker plants, vinca and blue daze, and finishing up with mulching. The area isn’t large, but we need your help in fulfilling the requirements of the grant, one of which is club members’ participation.

The Blue Star Memorial Markers were placed along highways to honor service men and women. A Blue Star Marker was placed in Boynton Beach by our garden club in 1968. The marker itself was refurbished as recently as 2018. We work with the city to maintain it and hold a ceremony there every Veteran’s Day.

There is a more extensive history of the Blue Star Memorial Marker program on our website, boyntonbeachgardenclubs.org under the “Civic Projects” tab.



BLUE STAR MARKER

On Veteran's Day, November 11, 2025, we had a good turnout of members and guests when we met at the Blue Star Marker to remember and thank the veterans of our country.

Club member Michelle Hendricks, a Veteran, led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, Jane Gavlick read a short story about the Blue Star Marker history and then read a prayer about honoring our Veterans.

Stan Gavlick, a Korean War Veteran, shared a little information about the symbol of red poppies that represent the blood of veterans who died in all wars and conflicts, and about the blue poppies that represent the Korean Veterans who fought under the United Nations flag.



BINGO

The Boynton Beach Garden club has held several Bingo activities for Rustic Retreat.

There is always a good turnout of residents, and we have had good support from the membership helping with this activity. The management of the facility supplies the prizes for the winners. Everybody has been having a wonderful time.

BBGC will be coordinating Bingo for residents at 1 p.m., on the second Tuesdays of the month, excluding November, December and May when we already have programs scheduled. Please contact Harriet Samuels at (561-715-0950) or hiswpbwh@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer.

Rustic Retreat is located at 1120 N Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach. Besides playing bingo, our members provide donuts, magazines, clothing, books, and plants. These visits are beneficial for the residents and so rewarding for our volunteers.

RUSTIC RETREAT NEWS

VISITS

Keeping with tradition, poinsettias were purchased and delivered to the residents of Rustic Retreat the day after Thanksgiving. Last year, we decided to move our "donut visit" from the day after Thanksgiving to the first Friday in December. Bright and early on December 5, Christine Johnson and Bonnie Paton delivered a bird bath and plants, and Evelyn Macaig and Linda Schrader delivered the much-desired donuts and holiday cheer.

The residents look forward to our visits. Our next "donut visit" is on Memorial Day, May 25, when our members will also bring magazines, books, clothing and plants.

Book Review - Maria Freed

Never Put a Cactus in the Bathroom by Emily Hinsdale is a fun tutorial book, with beautiful illustrations by Loni Harris. It takes you from room to room with recommendations for the best interior plants, keeping in mind light scenario, water requirements, dusting and your very own expectations. My favorite chapter is "Office" with precocious suggestions for Entry Level Position (lucky bamboo), Middle Management (ZZ plant), Executive Floor (coin tree), and for the Corner Office (nerve plant). She urges the reader to take these recommendations as guidelines, not rules. Have fun with your plants, give them a name, experiment, because all plants are unique. "A green thumb isn't just something you are born with- it's a skill set you can nurture and grow over time". Grand advise for newbies and all plant parents.

Simon & Shuster, 208 pages, 2022. Hardcover \$16.00.
Available at Palm Beach County Library.



THE GRAPEVINE

Debra Nastasi, Editor
Linda Anderson, Co-Editor

Contributors

Bonnie Paton

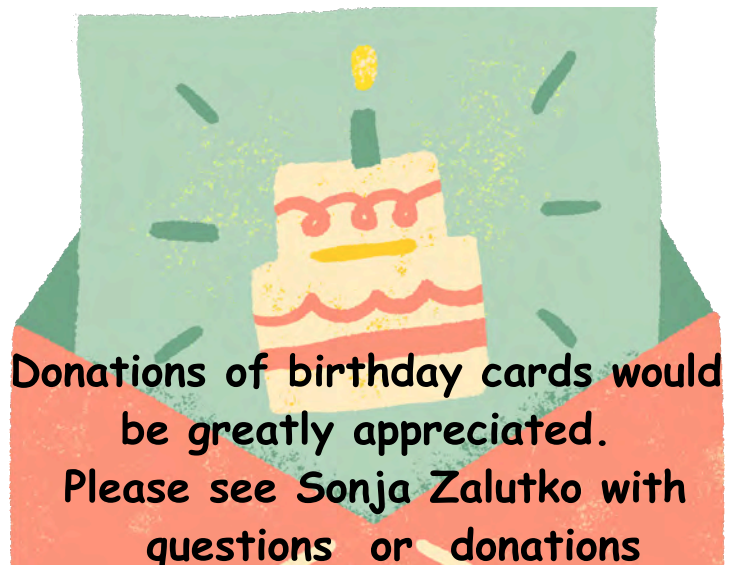
Pat Inturrisi

Maria Freed

Linda Schrader

Carol Cloud Bailey

Toni Cvetko



Donations of birthday cards would be greatly appreciated.
Please see Sonja Zalutko with questions or donations

Click on link below for full listing of upcoming events & credit card payments!
Boyntonbeachgardenclubs.org

Cooking with Herbs By Pat Inturrisi

COMPANY CHICKEN

4 boneless skinless chicken breast halves
1/2 cup sour cream
1 tbl lemon juice
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp pepper
1/2 tsp paprika
1/4 tsp garlic powder
1/2 tsp fresh thyme, chopped or 1/4 tsp dried
1/2 tsp fresh rosemary chopped or 1/4 tsp dried
1 -1/4 cup ritz or butter-flavored crackers, crushed
2 tbl olive oil
1/4 cup butter, melted



Place chicken in large bowl or Ziploc bag. In a separate bowl, mix sour cream, lemon juice and Worcestershire sauce together. Pour over chicken and refrigerate for four hours or overnight Drain chicken and discard the marinade. Drdge chicken in cracker crumbs that have been mix mixed with the remaining spices, herbs, and salt and pepper Preheat oven to 350°. Place chicken in greased baking pan. Combine olive oil and melted butter. Drizzle over chicken. Bake 30 to 35 minutes until crumbs are golden and chicken is done.

I think this Chicken dish is perfect for company during the holiday season. It has the smells of Christmas with fragrant thyme and rosemary permeating your kitchen as it bakes!



Kiwifruit "Who Knew"

Susan Mahr, University of Wisconsin – Madison

Kiwifruit, originally from China, was renamed from the "Chinese Gooseberry" by New Zealanders. They are highly nutritious, boasting more vitamin C than oranges, and contain high amounts of fiber, vitamin K, and potassium. Kiwis are grown on vines, have a slightly acidic taste, and can be used as a natural meat tenderizer.

The kiwifruit is an important commercial crop in New Zealand, the United States, Italy, Japan, France, Greece, Spain, Australia, and Chile, with the more than a million tons of fruit per year distributed worldwide.

In the 1980's, a new commercial yellow-fleshed variety was created in New Zealand by crossing the conventiona *A. deliciosa* with *A. chinensis*, which comes from warmer parts of China. This smooth-skinned ZESPRI™ GOLD™ cultivar with a sweeter, more tropical taste and higher vitamin C content than the common 'Hayward' variety was released in 2000. This variety was upgraded with improved disease resistance as ZESPRI™ SUNGOLD™. *A. arguta* has been introduced commercially in New Zealand and other cultivars may be developed.



All kiwifruit plants require support from a wall, fence, substantial trellis, or other permanent place to grow upon (even in trees) since the long-lived plants climb by twining. The vines do best in a sunny location with well-drained, somewhat acid (pH 5 - 6.5) soil. Vines grow and produce best in areas sheltered from constant or gusty winds. Winds of only 10 to 15 miles per hour or can break developing shoots and reduce vine growth and production. Tall hedges are used in New Zealand kiwifruit orchards to help reduce wind damage. The plants need constant moisture.