



# Clermont Garden Club Newsletter

December 2020

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## General Meeting – December 16



### Program: Zoom Christmas Program

Program will begin at 10 am

**The luncheon has been cancelled due to concerns of Covid-19**

Join us via Zoom for presentations by **Julie Milburn and Chickie Broman.**

Julie will prepare a small live tabletop arrangement with boxwood and flowers for ornaments. Julie has made some wonderful flower arrangements for our Fun with Flowers events.

Chickie plans to spend time exploring ideas such as leaf manipulation both in fresh and dried materials that all members might find in their own flower beds or back yard.

Please wear your Christmas attire and plan to tell us briefly (1 minute or less) what your favorite dessert is when you have a “normal” Christmas.

RSVP by December 11 to Marilyn Paone at [m.paone@icloud.com](mailto:m.paone@icloud.com) if you plan to attend.

Zoom information and instructions will be provided closer to the program date.

## Next Meeting – January 21

### Program: Field Trip to Leu Gardens

We will have a 1 hour guided tour of the Gardens. A tour of the Leu House Museum is included.

All walkways are paved. Wheel chairs available on first come, first served basis at check in. Masks required on tour and inside.

Reservations are required to Sandi Eckstein by January 8, 2021.

Cost is \$12 per person, payable to Sandi Eckstein, as she will pay with her credit card for the reserved group. Sandi Eckstein: (352) 394-4109 or email [gtes@aol.com](mailto:gtes@aol.com)

Carpooling from the Clubhouse!  
10:30 am arrival time.

Harry P. Leu Gardens  
1920 N. Forest Ave  
Orlando, FL 32803  
(Handicap accessible)

**Stay Tuned for any updates!**





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## Miss Clara Won the Downtown Clermont Scarecrow Contest!

This was the first time the Downtown Partnership sponsored a Scarecrow decorating contest, so we thought, "what the heck, sounds like fun, let's enter!" And what do you know – we won first place!



Accepting the award were Tina Worrell and Gwen Carter.

Helping to create Clara were members Jane Caruso, Anne Ellis, Cindy Simon, Leslie Temmen and Diane Wilson.

Clara was on display outside Hanks Electric until the day after Thanksgiving.





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We normally collect donations for ECHO from our CGC members at our annual Christmas luncheon. This year on December 16 we will not be having our normal luncheon due to the COVID pandemic.

We would appreciate it if this year you would send your donations directly to ECHO and include information with the donation to show that you are a member of the Clermont Garden Club. The club likes to maintain a record of the total of how much was sent by our members so please also let our charities chairman, Debra Smidt, know the amount. Only the total donated will be shared with other CGC members - not the individual amounts.

ECHO is a global Christian organization that equips people with agricultural resources and skills to reduce hunger and improve the lives of the poor. They are in Ft. Myers and help people around the world. For example, in Mali they provided training on the production of Moringa which will increase their crop yield and improve their livelihoods. Also, Agri Corps volunteers who trained for a week at ECHO Florida have served various villages in Ghana teaching agriculture and applied science while mentoring 4-H clubs, gardening, and supporting other community projects.

Contact information is:

ECHO - 17391 Durrance Road, North Fort Myers, FL 33917

CGC Chairman - Debra Smidt, [debrajsmidt@gmail.com](mailto:debrajsmidt@gmail.com)

Thank you for your support of ECHO and don't forget to notify Debra of the amount donated.



## Plant to City Hall Loaned by Pam Molesky



Pam brought a poinsettia with miniature white flowers in a Santa Claus bowl to share with City Hall.

The three Santa Clauses are from the Biltmore Estate.

**December Library Plant  
was loaned by Helen Ribbe**

No picture was available  
In time for the newsletter delivery

**December Yard of the Month**

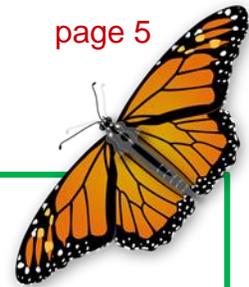
Yard of the Month will return in  
January



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## Butterfly Certification Received!

By Pat Richardson

Ah, butterflies! Almost everyone I know loves butterflies---those beautiful creatures dancing in the air as they flit from flower to flower, piquing interest and inspiring awe.

We are all aware of the plight of the monarchs with the loss of habitat and food source for them. We understand the importance of providing the necessary resources (host plants, nectar plants) to increase the numbers of all butterflies in our area.

I applied for certification of our grounds as a recognition that Clermont Garden Club is doing exactly that, providing resources through our plantings. The certification is with the North American Butterfly Association. We have received a certificate and outdoor sign which will be displayed at the garden club.

On a different note about butterflies, NABA states that Florida is (was) home to 178 different species of native butterflies with many of them imperiled and some already gone. To that issue, NABA has established a Florida Butterfly Movement to acquire, restore and manage land specifically for butterflies and the habitats upon which they depend.

The efforts of the movement currently are focused on saving 3 southern Florida butterflies (Batram's Scrub Hairstreak, Florida Leafwing, Florida Duskywing) that depend on globally endangered pine rockland habitat, almost all of which has been destroyed. However, a parcel of land containing pine rockland is available for sale near Navy Wells, and NABA has created a go-fund-me page to raise money for this project. <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/florida-butterfly-movement/nabutterflyassociation>

I am sure any amount would be appreciated. Thanks for all you do to protect the delicate creatures of our environment!





## Deck the Halls!

'Twas a chilly morning November 30, just after that rainy cold front moved through, when several member elves gathered to deck the outside of the club with holiday cheer.

The roofline has been strung with icicle lights, the front entrance has garland and bows and wreaths, Oh My! Twinkle lights glitter from the bromeliads in front, and large colored lights will guide you around the south side of the club. A family of reindeer have arrived and are nibbling on clover in the front of the building.

Further out towards the street, the lamp post has been draped with two wreaths to greet guests whether they are coming or going. Our sign has been draped with greenery to delight those driving by.

Many thanks to our elves for donating and assisting Helen Ribbe, Denise Palermo, Tina Worrell, Barb Williams, Carol Walker, Annette Tillet, Linda Lauletta, Anne Ellis, Cindy Simon Margaret Piper, Julie Milburn and Marilyn Paone. I apologize if I missed anyone.





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## Deck the Halls at the Club...continued





## Member Holiday Pictures Requested

Remember how much fun it was to receive an email over the summer and see a picture of a plant or garden from a member? Well, Tina Worrell is at it again!

Tina will be posting pictures of members' December holiday settings, plants, flowers, weeds, Charlie Brown tree etc.

### Here are the rules:

Picture must have somewhere in it a live plant, flower, bush etc.

Only send one picture at a time. It does not matter how many e-mails you send in a day but only one picture on each e-mail. (More than one picture on an email messes with Tina's mind!)

Do not text picture.

We would love to see you, your grands or your pets in the picture.

Ask a friend or neighbor to take a picture.

So, flood Tina's e-mails with lots of pictures. Get creative.

Your dog with a flower in her hair! Your Christmas tree (artificial) with a living flower tucked inside. A picture of your hand holding a flower.

Together we will get through this!

[grammytina9@gmail.com](mailto:grammytina9@gmail.com)

From Linda Lauletta,

Here is my 6 inch potted poinsettia from last Christmas growing and loving being planted outside. A pink zinnia is sharing the sunshine with the poinsettia.





## Garden Club Participates in Clermont's Enchanted Holiday Forest

Many members have expressed interest in participating more in the community and getting involved in events sponsored by the city. Well, we hit the jackpot this Fall! Not only did we join the first annual scarecrow contest – and WIN IT – we decided to decorate a tree for the first Enchanted Holiday Forest. The Enchanted Forest is located on the Clermont waterfront at Victory Pointe where forty trees were erected for local businesses and organizations to decorate. Our theme is one of a whimsical woodland with birdhouses, small animals, butterflies and Spanish moss as tinsel are combined with wonderfully shaped ornaments.

Several members dropped off ornaments and supplies for a team to explore and decide on the theme and plan the decorations. On Saturday, December 5, members met at Victory Pointe to decorate the tree and enjoy a beautiful Fall day. Members included Co-chairs Tina Worrell and Gwen Carter, Jane Caruso, Diane Wilson, Barbara Williams, Annette Tillet, Anne Ellis and Linda Lauletta.





## This Just In – We Won “Most Themed Tree” Award in Clermont’s Enchanted Holiday Forest Contest!

We were notified that our club won the “Most Themed Tree” award in the Enchanted Holiday Forest Contest. Our entries in the community sponsored events are certainly making a name for our club!

Pictured below are Gwen Carter, Tina Worrell, and Marilyn Paone, who went downtown to accept our trophy. The trophy is also pictured.

Great job!





## Horticulture Report for December

By Tina Worrell

Why do my buds fall off my Christmas cactus?

Some of the reasons to consider include:

The light that the plant receives: This is a plant that will grow well in direct sunlight during the spring and the summer, but when it becomes fall, it will do best in indirect light. Starting in the fall, the plant will need 12 hours of darkness to bloom, so it is not getting the darkness that it needs, the blooms could drop. If the plant is near a door or a window where it gets light during these times, even light from a passing car's headlights, it can disturb the darkness and cause the buds to drop.



The temperature of the plant: This is a plant that likes cooler temperatures, so place it in a room where the temperature is around 70 degrees in the day and between 55 and 65 degrees at night. When the temperature rises above 90 degrees and the buds have formed, they are likely to drop because of it. Also, make sure that the plant is positioned in a location that is not going to get a draft. Things like air vents, blowing heaters, and drafty doors can provide an extreme temperature differential, which will also cause the buds on the plant to drop.

The water that you give to the plant: Too much water can cause the leaves of this plant to wilt, but too little water can also hinder the blooming process by causing the buds to drop. The soil should be moist and well-drained, but before it is watered again, make sure that the soil is dry to the touch. When you do give the plant some water, make sure that it is room temperature so that it does not shock the plant and cause the buds to drop or not form at all. Also, make sure to water the plant at the base of the soil so that the leaves and the buds do not get wet in the process.

The fertilizer that plant receives: Fertilizer is another thing that can cause the buds to drop on a Christmas cactus, especially if it is being fed during its dormant time of year. The plant can be fed during the growing season, but not use food during the fall and winter, which is the blooming season. Never fertilize this plant when the buds are on the plant because if the salt from the fertilizer gets in the buds, they will drop.



## Member Recognition Details

The details behind the selections of the members for Outstanding Member, Most Active Member and Special Recognition as an Honorary Member were not available at the time the November newsletter went to press. Therefore, I wanted to share what each member did to be recognized and awarded.

Gwen Carter Outstanding Member



Gwen has served as the Chair for Wekiva and SEEK. She has served as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Awards Chair for the CGC Flower Shows. Gwen works with the East Ridge High School agriculture students on various projects and has helped them become an FFGC High Scholl Garden Club. Gwen arrange for our club to participate in Impact Day with Lucky's Market when the club won a percentage of the day's income. She is a member of the committee that represents CGC at Clermont's Downtown Partnership meetings. She is the club's Social Media Chair and the CGC Awards Chair. We were thrilled

To win FFGC, Deep South and National Awards in 2019. Gwen is the 2019-2021 District VII Director. We appreciate all you do and are happy to award you the honor of Outstanding Member.

Julie Milburn Outstanding Member

Julie has served as Recording Secretary and Librarian for our club. She currently serves as Yard of the Month Chair. She has actively participated in the CGC Flower Shows with both designs and horticulture. Julie has taught the Fun with Flowers classes which were enjoyed by all who attended. She delighted those who took part in making fairy gardens and terrariums at the Make and Take booth at the Spring Garden Festival. She has grown many, many plants for the CGC Plant Sales over the years and has served as Cashier. She also helps to label and identify plants for our sales and flower shows. Julie has created and donated floral designs the Holiday Tea and Spring Garden Festival Raffle. She serves as Hostess for many of the CG General Meetings. Thank you, Julie. We sincerely appreciate all you do for CGC.





## Member Recognition - continued

**Tina Worrell**

**Outstanding Member**



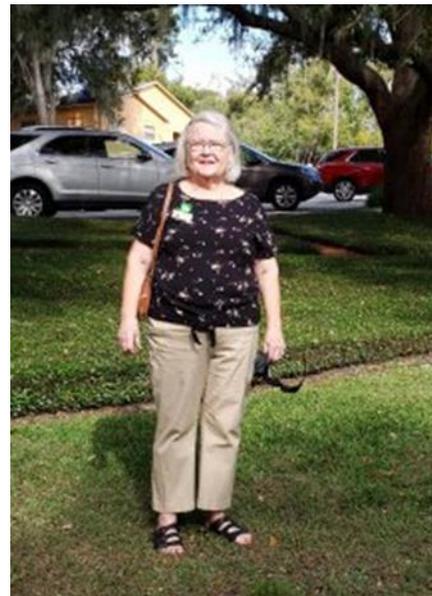
Tina is a longtime active member of the Clermont Garden Club. She currently serves as the Corresponding Secretary, and Chair for the Plant at the Library and Plant at City Hall monthly. Tina always has great ideas. Last December was the club's first "Holiday Tea". She did a wonderful job coordinating it along with Leslie Temmens, her Co-chair. The event earned \$1000 for the club and had over 55 attendees. Tina has served as co-chair for 2 Antique Appraisal Events which earned \$700 total; she has also been part of the committee to decorate the Christmas Tree at City Hall,

served as Hostess Chairman, helped with selecting items for New Member Gifts, served as Horticulture Chairman. This summer while all were "staying safe at home" Tina suggested each member send photos to share of their plants and gardens. Each day we had this wonderful member garden or plant to look forward to. Thank you, Tina, you are certainly an.....Outstanding Member of CGC.

**Linda Lauletta**

**Most Active New Member**

Since joining, Linda has been an active participant in club activities, and she does so most enthusiastically. She has added much to all events by her friendliness and ability to work with everyone. Linda has been to most club functions since joining and can always be found at the clubhouse joining in on work days. She pitches in with projects whenever and wherever needed. Linda also volunteered for the 2019 Holiday Tea and was a tremendous help checking in the many horticulture entries of the 2020 Mardi Gras Flower Show. Thank you, Linda, for all that you do!





## Member Recognition – continued

**Ruth Webb**

**Special Recognition, Honorary Member**

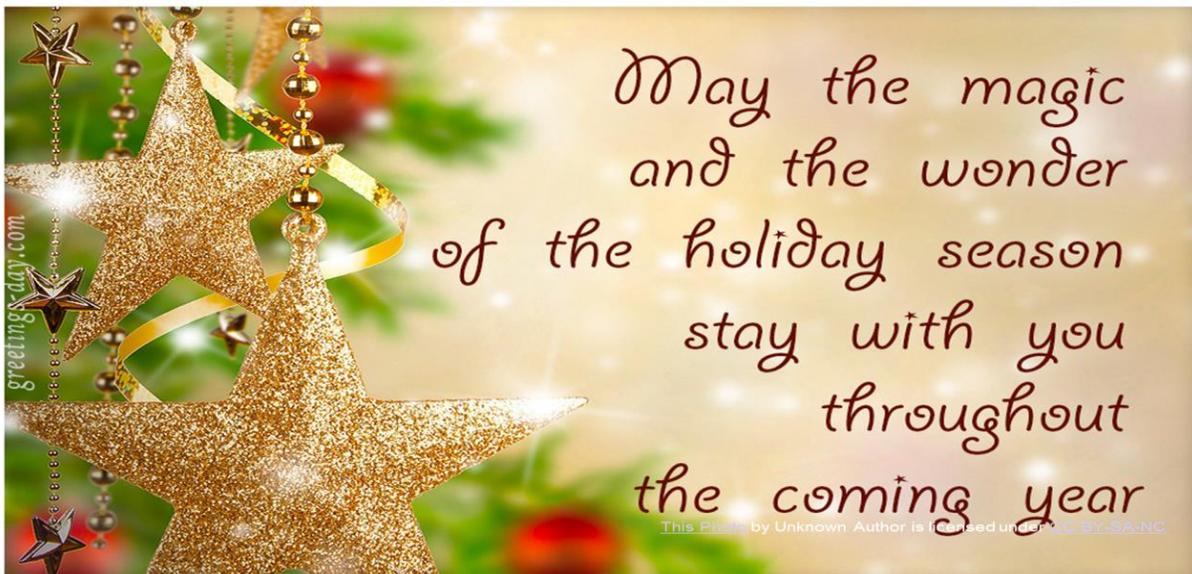


Ruth has always been a very active member of our Clermont Garden Club. She has served as our President twice. In addition to performing all that is associated with the duties of that Office, Ruth spent many hours working with the City of Clermont to resolve the parking issue of CGC and the purchase of the property our Clubhouse sits on.

Ruth has served as Rental Chairman and personally oversaw the repainting of the interior of our clubhouse. She is never hesitant to provide assistance to the club whether it is doing a demonstration of floral design at our Holiday Tea, helping with the flower show or Garden Walk, decorating the Christmas tree at City Hall or providing plants for new member

packages.

She currently serves as the CGC Parliamentarian and is on the committee to update our Bylaws. Ruth represents all that is good about CGC. She shares her knowledge, is hard working, friendly, selfless with her time. She is a member to be admired and emulated.





## **East Ridge High School Agriculture Students Harvest Cucumbers**

We are proud to share that the East Ridge High School Agriculture students have successfully brought in their first harvest for the year – cucumbers!

The students donated their harvest to the school's culinary department to make **PICKLES!**





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## Welcome New Members!

We are thrilled to welcome two new members to our club.

**Kathy Tozzi**

**Donna Repich**



## **Holiday Amaryllis Festival**

**A Free Community Event at  
Historic Nehrling Gardens**

[www.NehrlingGardens.org](http://www.NehrlingGardens.org)

**Saturday, December 12th 9am - 3pm**

**2267 Hempel Avenue, Gotha**

**Amaryllis flowers and bulbs**

**Nature themed vendors**

**Eco-Activities for kids**

**Food, live music**



**Nehrling  
Gardens**

Historic Florida Gardens, LLC



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## December Babies!

Leslie Temmen 12/3  
Marilyn Paone 12/6  
Patricia McNabb 12/9  
Gayle Wussick 12/10  
Loretta Brown-Burtt 12/14  
Jane Caruso 12/16  
Denise Palermo 12/16



## Garden Workdays at the Clubhouse

We start @ 8 am and go until @ noon

ALL are welcome and NEEDED!  
Bring your gloves, bug spray, clippers, etc.  
And don't forget your WATER!

## Garden Workdays

*Monday, Dec 14*

*Monday, Dec 28*

*Monday, Jan 11*

*Monday, Jan 25*

*Monday, Feb 8*

*Monday, Feb 22*

*Monday, March 8*

*Monday, March 22*

