

The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of night-blooming昙花 (Epiphyllum phyllanthoides). The flowers are white with numerous stamens and are shown in various stages of bloom. The green, segmented leaves of the plant are visible, providing a natural and textured backdrop for the text.

2024-2025 Yearbook

*The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.*

STUART, FLORIDA

Member of the  
Florida Federation of  
Garden Clubs, Inc.



**2024-2025**

**The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.**

**PO Box 684, Stuart, Florida 34995-0684**


123 Members

Organized in 1936 ~ Federated in 1937 ~ Our Eighty-eighth Year

*Member of:*

National Garden Clubs, Inc. ~ Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. ~ District X

 [www.facebook.com/thegardenclubofstuart](https://www.facebook.com/thegardenclubofstuart)  
[www.gardenclubofstuart.org](http://www.gardenclubofstuart.org)

### *Mission Statement*

The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. is a non-profit organization for the purpose of engaging in activities which are charitable, educational and scientific, and to further the education of members and the public in the fields of gardening, horticulture, floral design, botany, landscape design, conservation of natural resources, civic beautification, public sanitation and nature studies.

### *President's Message*

With thanks to all our members who worked so hard to make it happen, we had a very busy year culminating with a successful Secret Gardens Tour. Once again, it cannot be stressed enough that for our organization to continue to thrive it will require the sustained, collective contributions and participation of the membership.



This coming club year we have plans in place for a new series of interesting and educational programs and activities with most focusing upon preparations for the club's upcoming 2025 Flower Show, "*Red, White & Bloom.*"

As you read though this yearbook it is hoped you will find many opportunities that pique your interest to "Bee Inspired" and join in on the fun!

*Rosita Aristoff*  
President

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- Club Colors – Pink and White
- Club Flower – Periwinkle
- State Flower – Orange Blossom
- State Bird – Mockingbird
- State Butterfly – Zebra Longwing
- State Tree – Sabal Palm
- State Wildflower – Coreopsis
- Martin County Official Tree –  
*Bauhinia x blakeana*



This directory is for the personal use of members and is not to be used for commercial or solicitation purposes.

# 2023-2025 EXECUTIVE BOARD

## ELECTED OFFICERS



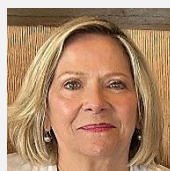
**Rosita Aristoff**  
President



**TBD**  
First Vice President  
(Program Chairman)



**Diana Welch**  
Second Vice President  
(Membership Chairman)



**Marilyn Horan**  
Recording Secretary



**Gail Quinn**  
Corresponding Secretary



**Christia Li Roberts**  
Treasurer



**Kathie Smith**  
Assistant Treasurer



**Tish Gelineau**  
Parliamentarian  
(Appointed Officer)

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Academic Scholarships	<b>Karen Vaina</b>
Annual Spring Luncheon	<b>Debbie Sahlberg</b>
Arbor Day	<b>Charlyn Walker</b>
Blue Star Memorial Marker	<b>Donna Rae Pearlman</b>
Butterfly Garden Certification & Conservation	<b>Leslie Perna</b>
Bylaws	<b>Louisa Schneider</b>
Chaplain	<b>Marty Neal</b>
Cyndy Trossbach Youth Award	<b>Marty Neal</b>
Facebook	<b>Daina Karol</b>
FFGC Awards & Honors	<b>Helen Goller</b>
Flower Show	<b>Nancy Binger</b>
Members at Large	<b>Cynthia Doney</b>
Memory Lane	<b>Rosita Aristoff</b>
National Garden Club Week	<b>Linda Sarubbi</b>
Proofreader	<b>Debbie Cairnes</b>
Publicity	<b>Cynthia Doney</b>
Refreshments (Monthly Meetings)	<b>Nancy Binger</b>
Registration	<b>Yvonne Diasio</b>
S.E.E.K.	<b>TBD</b>
Ways & Means	<b>Pat Dermody</b>
Webmaster	<b>Mary Ann Abegglen</b>
Wekiva Youth Camp	<b>Mary Claire Anderson</b>
Yearbook	<b>Susan Licari</b>

## CIRCLE PRESIDENTS

Allamanda Circle  
**Gail Quinn**

Jacaranda Circle  
**Mary Claire Anderson**

Periwinkle Circle  
**Gail Brady**

Satin Leaf Circle  
**Judith Just**

Tabebuia Circle  
**Ruth Lange**



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

The Executive Board is comprised of active members (Elected Officers, Committee Chairmen and Circle Presidents). One-third is required for a quorum. Note: when more than one member is listed as chairman, only one shall vote. For multiple positions, an individual only counts once for attendance and voting purposes. Executive Board meetings are held at the Children's Services Council meeting room located at 101 SE Central Parkway, scheduled as follows:

**DATES: Oct 7, Nov 4\*, Dec 2, Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 3, Apr 7, May 5**

**\*at the Palm City Civic Organization, 770 SW 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Palm City**

**TIME: 9:30am-12:00pm**

**THE GARDEN CLUB OF STUART, INC.**

*presents*

*“Red, White & Bloom”*

*An NGC*

*Patriotic Standard Flower Show*

**Friday, March 28, 2025 – 1pm-4pm**

**Saturday, March 29, 2025 – 9am-3pm**

at

**INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE**

*We look forward to all members' participation  
in this special event*

**Chairman: Nancy Binger 631-766-0040**

## MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Indian River State College, Chastain Campus  
2400 SE Salerno Road, Stuart FL 34997

October 14, 2024      January 13, 2025

November 18, 2024    February 10, 2025

December 9, 2024     March 10, 2025

April 14, 2025 (annual luncheon & installation of officers)

8:30- 9:30am    Set up  
9:30- 9:50am    Meet and Greet  
9:50-10:00am   Horticulture/Design Moment  
10:00-10:30am   Business Meeting  
10:30-11:00am   Interim Social Break  
11:00-11:45am   Program  
11:45-12:00pm   Raffle

## MONTHLY PROGRAMS

The programs presented relate to one or more of the purposes and mission of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.

### - 2024 Programs -

#### **OCTOBER 14, 2024 – Cultivating Colorful Caladiums!**

**Presenter:** Terri Bates, owner of one of only six remaining Caladium farms in the world, will share her vast knowledge about these vibrant foliage plants, also known as “Angel Wings.” They can be grown indoors or out, in the ground or in containers, and may be used as dramatic accents in long lasting floral arrangements.

#### **NOVEMBER 18, 2024 – Sensational Succulents**

**Presenter:** Kimberly Helms, former Director of Succulents at Mounts Botanical Gardens, will cover the history of succulents; a description of the most popular succulent groups; how various groups use succulents in their culture; and how to propagate them.

#### **DECEMBER 9, 2024 – Festive Holiday Design Ideas**

**Presenters:** NGC Master Judges Susan Hillson and Christine Biscoglio will demonstrate their design talents with us. Together they will create holiday designs suitable for your home (or for gifts) which you can learn how to create yourself, or perhaps purchase at the auction following the presentation.

## – 2025 Programs –

### **JANUARY 13, 2025 – How Orchids are Judged in Flower Shows**

**Presenter:** Judy Bailey, American Orchid Society Senior Judge, will share with us an overview of orchid judging and orchid shows overseen by this centennial organization, and how AOS judging compares and contrasts to the judging protocols in the NGC Handbook for Flower Shows.

### **FEBRUARY 10, 2025 – Fun Floral Designs for Valentine’s Day**

**Presenter:** Stephanie Alessandrini-Giarraffa, Rio Lindo Garden Club member and owner of South 40 Floral and Events in Port St. Lucie, will demonstrate new ways to create Valentine’s Day floral arrangements. We will look at new ideas in style, color, and design. The completed arrangements will be auctioned off for the benefit of the club.

### **MARCH 10, 2025 – Getting Ready for the Flower Show**

**Presenters:** Nancy Binger, Susan Slater and Rosita Aristoff will share insights in preparation for the flower show including the importance of entry card completion; selection, conditioning and grooming of horticulture exhibits; and, in general, what judges look for in horticulture and design.



April 14, 2025

GCS Annual Spring Luncheon  
and  
Installation of Officers

*Most Beautiful Orchid*

11:00am – \$37.00

SANDHILL COVE  
1500 SW Capri Street, Palm City

CONTACT:

Debbie Sahlberg  
772.919.1446

## FIELD TRIP



**FAIRCHILD**  
TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN

### FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN

**Tuesday, February 18, 2025**



Visit a unique 83-acre tropical oasis in Miami. Explore the grounds either by a narrated tram tour with an expert guide or by a self-guided walk along garden paths surrounded by the wonders and beauty of nature with butterflies and birds throughout. You will experience a large variety of tropical plants and their amazing array of sizes, shapes and colors. The many collections and exhibits include native habitats, a butterfly conservatory, the only tropical rainforest in North America. Artwork, including by Dale Chihuly, appears amongst the gardens.

**The cost of \$60, payable in advance** to The Garden Club of Stuart, includes transportation, driver's gratuity, and admission to Fairchild. Lunch options include bringing your own or purchasing a lunch at the Glasshouse Café.

Seating is limited so do not hesitate to sign up for this unforgettable trip! Meet at 7:45am at the north end of Treasure Coast Mall (Macy's parking lot) for boarding our bus. Returning from Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden should have us back at the mall by about 5pm.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Tuesday, January 28, 2025**

**CONTACT: Rosita Aristoff 772-288-7270**





## FIELD TRIP



# Philadelphia Flower Show

### 2025 PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

February 28-March 9, 2025

The 196th Philadelphia Flower Show is scheduled for February 28-March 9, 2025 in downtown Philadelphia. This is the nation's largest and the world's longest-running horticulture event featuring stunning displays by premier floral and landscape designers from around the globe. In addition to acres of garden displays, the Show will host competitions in horticulture and artistic floral arranging, presentations/demonstrations, and vendors. If you would like to attend this event, a small group of members and friends are planning to attend with the following schedule:

**Wed. March 5:** Fly to Philadelphia.

**Thur. March 6:** Spend all day at the Flower Show (10am-8pm).

**Fri. March 7:** Visit historic sites (City Hall, Independence Hall, etc.).

**Sat. March 8:** Fly home to Florida.

#### **Estimated cost per person:**

*Airfare* - approximately \$400 each;

*Lodging* - about \$340 each (assuming 2 people sharing a room for 3 nights);

*Midweek Show Admission* - \$40 each;  
*plus the cost of Uber/taxi and meals.*

If you want to keep your options open about attending, you will need to coordinate with a roommate and make a 3-night Hilton hotel reservation at Aloft Philadelphia Downtown (101 N. Broad Street) for 2 queen beds using their senior discount rate of \$225 per night. Reservations can be cancelled before March 3, 2025 without charge.

Rooms go quickly so please think about it and plan ahead. The Aloft hotel is adjacent to the Convention Center, a Trader Joe's is across the street, and great Philadelphia dining options are just steps away, including the historic Reading Terminal Market.



**CONTACT: Li Roberts 772-528-1088**

## WORKSHOPS



### CREATE YOUR OWN SUCCULENT DISH GARDEN

**Tuesday, December 3, 2024**

**10:00am-11:30am**

**Palm City Civic Center**

**770 SW 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Palm City**

Kimberly Helms, former Director of Succulents at Mounts Botanical Garden, will bring all the materials needed, including the plants. She will then help you create your own “Sensational Succulent” dish garden. Consider making one or two more for holiday gifts at a reduced cost!

**Cost: \$25 for one, \$45 for two, or \$60 for three – max 20 people**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: November 18, 2024**

**CONTACT: Rosita Aristoff 772-288-7270**

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### BUILD YOUR OWN MINIATURE HOLIDAY TREE

**Friday, December 6, 2024 – 9:30am-11:30am**

**La Mariposa Clubhouse**

(located off Martin Downs Boulevard in Palm City,  
just east of the Publix shopping center)

Once again, Rosita Aristoff will guide you while you create your own miniature tree which may be decorated later as you wish. All materials will be provided. Just bring clippers and gloves.



**Cost: \$5 – maximum 14 people**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: November 18, 2024**

**CONTACT: Rosita Aristoff 772-288-7270**

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### REPOTTING ORCHIDS – WHY, WHEN & HOW

**Tuesday, February 4, 2025 – 10:00am-11:30am**

**Palm City Civic Center**

**770 SW 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Palm City**

Wayne Parrish, former President of the Martin County Orchid Society, will demonstrate how to help keep your Phalaenopsis, Dendrobium and Cattleya orchids healthy and happy. Bring your own specimen to repot, if you like, or just follow along.

**Cost: FREE – maximum 18 people**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: January 13, 2025**

**CONTACT: Rosita Aristoff 772-288-7270**

## MONTHLY MEETING HOST ASSIGNMENTS

These assignments include decorating; greeting and directing visitors to tables; assisting with registration as needed; staffing the Ways & Means table including unpacking, sales and repacking; Opportunity Baskets ticket sales; Penny Pines collection and overall cleanup.

### 2024

October 14 – **Periwinkle Circle**  
November 18 – **Allamanda Circle**  
December 9 – **Satin Leaf Circle**

### 2025

January 13 – **Tabebuia Circle**  
February 10 – **Members at Large**  
March 10 – **Jacaranda Circle**

## OPPORTUNITY BASKETS MEMBERS AT LARGE ASSIGNMENTS

At each of our six regular monthly meetings, attendees will have an opportunity to win Opportunity Baskets that in prior years were generously supplied by our Circles, with kind assistance from assigned Members at Large. This year Members at Large will supply Opportunity Baskets each month and are relieved of the obligation to assist with hosting duties at the regular monthly meetings (including set up, Ways & Means, ticket sales, registration, etc.). Those duties will be handled each month by the Circles, with the exception of the February 2025 meeting when the 13 Members at Large with no refreshment obligation (Pauline Becker, Nancy Binger, Hanna Bush, Debbie Cairnes, Bea Cooper, Jackie Davis, Nancy DeJohn, Yvonne Diasio, Cynthia Doney, Pat Doyle, Bobbi England, Eleanor Epler, Brenda Fanger) will assume the hosting responsibility in place of the former Hibiscus Circle.

Members at Large are requested to contact **Cynthia Doney (772-475-4978 or cindydoney@ymail.com)** to arrange drop off of their basket one week prior to the assigned meeting. If your assigned month doesn't work for you, please contact Cyndy to agree upon a month that will work for you. Recalling that members often have a Refreshment Assignment, for your convenience, Members at Large have been assigned the same month as their Refreshment Assignment.

(Refr) below indicates that you also have a Refreshment Obligation for the same meeting (also see page 10).

### **Members at Large monthly Opportunity Baskets and Refreshment Assignments are as follows:**

**OCTOBER 14, 2024:** Cathy Gerzina (Refr), Elaine Graham (Refr), Jo Gressette (Refr), Pauline Becker, Nancy Binger, Hanna Bush, Li Roberts

**NOVEMBER 18, 2024:** Janice Heitz (Refr), Daina Karol (Refr), Rosanne Kramer (Refr), Debbie Cairnes, Bea Cooper, Jackie Davis

**DECEMBER 9, 2024:** Irene Maloy (Refr), Mary Lou Marshall (Refr), Marty Neal (Refr), Nancy DeJohn, Yvonne Diasio, Catherine Larsen (Refr)

**JANUARY 13, 2025:** Donna Rae Pearlman (Refr), Leslie Perna (Refr), Margaret Pisciotta (Refr), Randa Qaisi (Refr), Deborah Reaves (Refr), Eve Roberts (Refr), Judi Rovniak (Refr), Lee Rush (Refr)

**FEBRUARY 10, 2025:** Debbie Sahlberg (Refr), Louisa Schneider (Refr), Kathie Smith (Refr), Priscilla Stuber (Refr), Cindy Doney, Pat Doyle, Bobbi England, Eleanor Eppler

**MARCH 10, 2025:** Charlyn Walker (Refr), Diana Welch (Refr), Joan Wilcox (Refr), Mary Ann Abegglen (Refr), Rosita Aristoff (Refr), Brenda Fanger

## **REFRESHMENT ASSIGNMENTS**

**These responsibilities are assigned alphabetically.** Members not listed below will appear in Refreshment Assignments for the next Club Year (2025-26). The refreshment obligation consists of two platters of table-ready refreshments for one meeting as assigned below, or a \$25 payment to the Refreshment Committee to fulfill your obligation.

**OCTOBER 14, 2024:** Barbara Farley, Jean Fedele, Jeanette Fouse, Betts Freer, Erna Friedel, Jane Friend, Tish Gelineau, Cathy Gerzina, Lynn Gifford, Joan Guiliano, Helen Goller, Elaine Graham, Jo Gressette, Ellen Hamann, Mary Harrell

**NOVEMBER 18, 2024:** Janice Heitz, Martha Hendrickson, Nancy Hess, Rana Holbrook, Alice Hooker, Marilyn Horan, Judi Hubert, Cindy Iandoli, Ingrid Jimrusti, Judith Just, Daina Karol, Diane Kimes, Rosanne Kramer, Lorraine Knapp, Chrys Koumas

**DECEMBER 9, 2024:** Ruth Lange, Catherine Larsen, Loretta Lentini, Mary Lersch, Susan Licari, Alice Lyons, June Mahoney, Irene Malloy, Kathryn Mann, Mary Lou Marshall, Diana Mihaltse, Susan Moore, Kathy Mullen, Ruth Munneke, Marty Neal

**JANUARY 13, 2025:** Mary Neal, Lina Novak, Donna Rae Pearlman, Leslie Perna, Barbara Peyton, Margaret Pisciotta, Randa Qaisi, Gail Quinn, Deborah Reaves, Iris Rhett, Christia Li Roberts, Eve Roberts, Lee Rodman, Judy Rovniak, Lee Rush

**FEBRUARY 10, 2025:** Joanne Ryder, Debbie Sahlberg, Linda Sarubbi, Louisa Schneider, Frances Schoen, Georgeann Sgrosso, Susan Slater, Debra Smith, Kathie Smith, Maria Smundin, Lynne Spillum, Bonnie Stoeppelman, Jan Stoorza, Cathie Stubbs, Priscilla Stuber

**MARCH 10, 2025:** Debra Stutman, Sunny Swearingen, Karen Vaina, Conchita Vallecillo, Charlyn Walker, Lisa Weidenheimer, Diana Welch, Sharon West, Laila White, Joan Wilcox, Mary Ann Abegglen, Mary Claire Anderson, Louise Andrews, Rosita Aristoff, Dorothy Armstrong



# REFRESHMENT INSTRUCTIONS

**Nancy Binger (631.766.0040 or nancy715@aol.com)** is the Refreshment Committee Chairman. An important part of our monthly meetings are refreshments and decorations which are provided by members on a rotating basis. A member from the Refreshment Committee will call or email you and remind you of your obligation and ask how you plan to participate. Your prompt response makes providing refreshments a smooth process. (*Associate and Patron Members are exempt from this obligation.*)

**There are THREE ways you can meet your refreshment obligation:**

## **1 BRING REFRESHMENTS**

Since our meetings are held in the morning, refreshments will be a “mini brunch.” This may include foods such as fruit or cheese trays (*bite size with toothpicks*), bagels (*sliced open and cut in half with spreads or jams*), muffins, donuts, Danish, coffee cake, or breads (*e.g., zucchini, banana, cranberry*).



Plan on bringing enough for **24 SERVINGS**. Two large buffet tables will be set up, so please divide your items between **TWO PLATTERS** (*with your NAME ON THE BOTTOM of each platter*), **COVERED** (*with foil or plastic wrap*), and **LABELED** with a description of your contribution (*e.g., banana bread, blueberry muffins*). Please bring your food **TABLE READY** as we do not have time or space to accommodate food preparation. You will be contacted so we can find out what you will be bringing.

## **2 FIND A SUBSTITUTE OR SWAP**

According to our Standing Rules, it is your responsibility to find a substitute AND let the Refreshment Committee know who will be replacing you. Refer to page 10 to find a member who is assigned a different month during the current season and contact that member to arrange a swap. Also contact **Nancy Binger** with information on your substitute.

## **3 PAY A NOMINAL FEE**

Bringing refreshments to the meeting is preferred over paying a fee. If you are unable to provide refreshments, there is a \$25.00 charge for the Refreshment Committee to purchase your share of the refreshments. **You must send a CHECK for \$25.00 payable to THE GARDEN CLUB OF STUART, INC. to Nancy Binger, PO Box 684, Stuart FL 34995-0684.** *The check MUST ARRIVE before the meeting and you MUST NOTIFY Nancy Binger that you will meet your obligation with a check.*

## PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

**The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. has the following programs and projects that support our Mission Statement. See page 2 for Chairmen of each. Active Members are encouraged to participate in one or more of these activities.**

**ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS:** Four high school seniors will be awarded scholarships (\$2,000 each) for furthering their education in agriculture, landscape architecture, environmental science or a related field. Recipients are announced in spring and invited to the Annual Spring Luncheon so they may elaborate on their career plans.

**ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON:** Annually, the luncheon serves the purpose of celebrating and presenting awards to outstanding members of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., Member of the Year, scholarship recipients, Community Service Award, and other recognition. See page 5 for location, date, time and cost.

**ARBOR DAY:** A tree is planted each year at a park, garden, or other location to celebrate Arbor Day. Members are asked to report all trees planted in public and private areas.

**BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER:** In 2012 The Garden Club of Stuart created a living memorial garden in Stuart's Memorial Park honoring the service of our Armed Forces. A dedication took place for this garden and a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker was placed amidst the plantings. Both the marker and the surrounding plant material are maintained by the club.

**CONSERVATION:** Properly established butterfly gardens receive certification through this committee. Martin County's Wildflower Resolution encourages roadside and neighborhood plantings. This committee assists members and the public with this endeavor. Additionally, this year's budget includes funding for event participation in Earth Day celebrations or another conservation event.

**CYNDY TROSSBACH OUTSTANDING YOUTH AWARD:** \$500 is awarded to a local high school student who has exemplified the goals of the Mission Statement of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. An anonymous committee of three members appointed by the President shall receive nominations in writing by March 1, 2025.

**FACEBOOK:** Notices of upcoming events and reporting on our accomplishments are handled by this committee.

**FFGC AWARDS:** Our Club actively pursues various FFGC state awards for Club projects. The Chairman assists members in applying for awards and receives copies of award applications in order to keep a record of entries.

**FLOWER SHOW:** The Garden Club of Stuart will host its biennial Flower Show March 28-29, 2025. (see page 3)

**HONORS:** The Chairman provides advice for conferring honors such as NGC, FFGC, or Deep South Garden Clubs Life Memberships and FFGC Pillar of Pride, Hall of Fame; or Earth Steward recognition to club members, and in some instances, to non-members.

**MEMORY LANE AT AUDUBON'S POSSUM LONG NATURE CENTER:** Since 1964, The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. has maintained an ongoing project honoring the memory of its members by planting living memorials in the form of trees, shrubs and plant specimens. Memory Lane, permanently situated at 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Hibiscus Avenue in Stuart, is a beautiful public arboretum and butterfly sanctuary. Meandering paths under the shade trees allow visitors to enjoy a variety of native and exotic plants where colorful flowers, lush foliage, birds and butterflies may be seen year-round.

**NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK JUNE 1-7, 2025:** Proclamations of National Garden Week are received from City and County government. This committee is responsible for displaying a community banner for the week and promoting club activities. A floral arrangement is placed in each of Martin County's public libraries.

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION:** An annual event is held to educate new members about Circles, responsibilities, and opportunities in our Club.

**PENNY PINES:** This National Garden Clubs' project collects spare change to reforest national and state forests. For every \$68 collected, one acre of native trees is planted in a Florida national or state forest.

**S.E.E.K.:** Through approval by the Executive Board, two high school students have the opportunity to attend S.E.E.K., a 4-day FFGC summer conference "*Saving the Earth's Environment through Knowledge,*" at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

**TREASURE COAST HOSPICE GARDENS:** Our Club maintains a butterfly garden at Treasure Coast Hospice. This garden brings beauty and peace to families and friends where they can relax and enjoy a variety of native and exotic plants, colorful flowers and lush foliage. Birds and butterflies may be seen there year-round.

**WAYS & MEANS:** A variety of garden items and plants are available at monthly meetings, with proceeds supplementing our operating budget.

**WEBMASTER:** Our Club internet site is [www.gardenclubofstuart.org](http://www.gardenclubofstuart.org) where members and the public can learn more about our activities.

**WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP:** One of the goals of the Mission Statement is to educate. The camp curriculum is based on science, principles of

gardening, history, arts, math, and language skills. FFGC is the only state garden club that sponsors an ACA-accredited environmental summer camp for children through the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. A Leaders in Training (LIT) program promotes leadership for older students.

**YEARBOOK:** The annual yearbook provides information about events and activities; assignments for Monthly Meetings; Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Standing Rules; Financial information; District, State and National contacts; Circle Rosters; and Membership Directory. Members are requested to provide changes, corrections and updated information by June 15th each year.

## **2025-2026 ANNUAL DUES - Due April 1**

<b>Active Member - \$45.00</b>	<b>Patron Member - \$135.00</b>
<b>Associate Member - \$85.00</b>	<b>FFGC Life Member - \$33.00</b>

### ***Make checks payable to:***

The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.

### ***Mail to:***

Treasurer, The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.  
PO Box 684, Stuart FL 34995-0684

### **IMPORTANT NOTES ON DUES**

1. The fiscal year is from May 1 to April 30. Dues are for the current Club year. This means that new members joining during the Club year will pay upon joining for the current year, AND, dues for the next year will be due on April 1 and delinquent after May 1.
2. Dues notices are distributed in March. Unfortunately, if dues are NOT paid by May 1, your listing will not be in the yearbook, you will not receive a yearbook, and you will be suspended from the Club.
3. Members can be reinstated and receive a yearbook by paying the New Member's dues (currently \$70.00). However, as the closing date is May 1, their listing will not be in that yearbook.
4. All resignations should be in writing and addressed to Second Vice President Diana Welch, The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., PO Box 684, Stuart FL 34995-0684.



# AWARDS

## THE GARDEN CLUB OF STUART, INC.

### MEMBER OF THE YEAR

The Member of the Year Award is presented annually to a member, other than an officer, in appreciation for outstanding service during the current Club year. Accomplishments may extend over a number of years but should be prominent in the present award year. Written nominations are due March 1<sup>st</sup>. Prior to 2011, this award was titled "Woman of the Year."

1981 Sally Crabtree	1992 Betty Shepard	2003 Marge Collins	2014 Jill Burton
1982 Marifran Kaster	1993 Louise White	2004 Jean Foley	2015 Sandra Lagana
1983 Helen Leedy	1994 Ruth Campbell	2005 Lauren Palmero	2016 Kathy Chartier
1984 Signe Morris	1995 Betty Cline	2006 Virginia Maloney	2017 Kathie Smith
1985 Anne Lartaud	1996 Mary Lou Holding	2007 Bobbie Spilman	2018 Carol Stone
1986 Mary Ing	1997 Bert Chase	2008 Susan Steen	2019 Donna Berger
1987 Carol Frank Klein	1998 Phyllis Gidley	2009 Louise Andrews	2020 Rosita Aristoff
1988 Eleanor Marshall	1999 Jane Mills	2010 Birgitte Carlsson	2022 Daina Karol
1989 Jeanne Lord	2000 Bea Cooper	2011 Christia Li Roberts	2023 Mary Neal
1990 Paula Neal	2001 Pat Pagano	2012 Erna Friedel	2024 Leslie Perna
1991 Millie Creegan	2002 Grace Palmer	2013 Joanne Gamba	

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Endowed by Mary M. Bickmann, the Community Service Award is given to a woman in Martin County who has provided leadership and service consistent with the aims of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. and National Garden Clubs, Inc. The recipient need not be a member of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. Nominations must be presented in writing to the President during the Club year but not later than the March meeting. The recipient is selected by a committee of the President and two former Presidents and announced at the annual meeting.

1987 Jean Henry	1998 June Henderson	2007 Diane Rexroad	2016 Marty Neal
1988 Nancy Sailer	1999 Esther Fenton & Family	2008 Terri Pinder	2017 Cyndy Trossbach
1989 Eve Conlon		2009 Louise White	2018 Carol Cloud Bailey
1990 Joan Jefferson	2000 Jody Braskamp	2010 Mary Lersch	2019 Barbara Farley
1991 Lovelle Ray	2001 Jeanne Curtiss	2011 Ann McCormick	2020 Louise Andrews
1992 Louise Carnevale	2002 Jane Mills	2012 Joan Graff	2022 Donna Berger
1993 Barbara Hendry	2003 Faith Haarala	2013 Carolyn Bartholomew	2023 Daina Karol
1994 Ella "Mike" Clark	2004 Irene Mortensen		2024 Carly Batts
1996 Elaine Taylor	2005 Maggy Hurchalla	2014 Sarah Heard	
1997 Mary Lou Holding	2006 Susan Smyth	2015 Sandy Decker	

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Given by the officers of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., the Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals who, over many years, have made a significant contribution to our goals and purposes, and continue to show much dedication in their service to our Club.

2013 Sally Crabtree	2015 Joan Carman	2017 Donna Berger	2022 Louise Andrews
2013 Joan Graff	2015 Jeanne-Marie Parkes	2018 Mary Lou Marshall	2023 Debbie Sahlberg and Marty Neal
2013 Jane Mills		2018 Jan Stoorza	
2013 Phyllis Gidley	2015 Carol Breen	2019 Barbara Peyton	2024 Daina Karol
2014 Louise White	2016 Bobbie Spilman	2020 Tancy Rapp	

### CYNDY TROSSBACH OUTSTANDING YOUTH AWARD

The Cyndy Trossbach Outstanding Youth Award is given to a high school student in Martin County who has displayed leadership and initiative in support of the goals and aims of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

2018 Alex Leserra	2019 Faith Cotter	2022 Tiago Barros	2023 Alexander Tedder	2024 Kate Jiggins
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# HONORS

## FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

### HALL OF FAME

This State Award recognizes an individual for contributions of time and/or talents to the Club, community, or to some phase of garden club activity.

1994 Sally Crabtree, GCS	2015 Christia Li Roberts, GCS
2002 Joan Graff, GCS	2016 Jean Foley, GCS
2006 Phyllis Gidley, District X Judges Council	2017 Donna Wigdahl, Satin Leaf Circle
2010 Cyndy Trossbach, Tabebuia Circle	2017 Donna Berger, District X
2011 Jane Mills, GCS	2019 Jennifer Phebus, Hibiscus Circle
2012 Louise White, GCS	2019 Alice Hooker, Satin Leaf Circle
2013 Jan Stoorza, Jacaranda Circle	2022 Lisa Weidenheimer, Jacaranda
2014 Rosita Aristoff, GCS	2023 Ingrid Jimrusti, Tabebuia Circle
2014 Louise Andrews, GCS	

### PILLAR OF PRIDE

This very special honor is given to a member of a garden club who has shown purpose, pride and productivity for progress towards the aims and objectives of FFGC.

2005 Joan Graff, District X	2014 Ingrid Jimrusti, Tabebuia Circle
2010 Donna Berger, GCS	2015 Joanne Gamba, GCS
2010 Phyllis Gidley, GCS	2015 Joan Carman, Tabebuia Circle
2010 Jan Stoorza, Jacaranda Circle	2016 Mary Lersch, Tabebuia Circle
2010 Sally Crabtree, Jacaranda Circle	2016 Louise Andrews, Jacaranda Circle
2011 Bea Cooper, GCS	2017 Sandy Decker, Tabebuia Circle
2011 Lee Zaleiko, Tabebuia Circle	2018 Bente Krarup, Tabebuia Circle
2012 Rosita Aristoff, Tabebuia Circle	2019 Debbie Sahlberg, Hibiscus Circle
2012 Jeanne-Marie Parkes, GCS	2019 Barbara Farley, Allamanda Circle
2012 Christia Li Roberts, GCS	2019 Mary Ann Abegglen, GCS
2013 Jane Mills, Jacaranda Circle	2021 Karen Vaina, Tabebuia Circle
2013 Cyndy Trossbach, GCS	2023 Ann McCormick, Allamanda Circle
2014 Susan Slater, Tabebuia Circle	2024 Marty Neal, GCS

### EARTH STEWARD

This State Award recognizes contributions to the environment and individuals who are "Protectors of our Natural Resources."

2014 Christia Li Roberts, District X	2018 Rosita Aristoff, GCS
2015 Jean Foley, GCS	2019 Mark Perry, GCS
2015 Louise White, GCS	2022 Barbara Farley, Ann McCormick, GCS
2016 Nancy Rapp, GCS	2024 Greg Braun
2017 Maggy Hurchalla, GCS	

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## LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

### FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Louise Andrews 4478	Sandy Decker 4710	Ginny Maloney 3670	Louise White 4077
Rosita Aristoff 4612	Bobbi England 4639	Deborah Reaves 4737	Joan Wilcox 4278
Donna Berger 4168	Jean Foley 4062	Susan Slater 4371	
Karen Bonney 4776	Phyllis Gidley 3250	Bobbie Spilman 4114	
Bea Cooper 3337	Joan Graff 3496	Jan Stoorza 4730	

### NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Rosita Aristoff 10038	Donna Berger 10120	Phyllis Gidley 7360	Christia Li Roberts 9762
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### DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Rosita Aristoff

# MEMBER CREDENTIALS

## **NATIONALLY ACCREDITED FLOWER SHOW JUDGES**

National Garden Clubs, Inc. approves and registers Flower Show Schools for garden club members to become internationally recognized, nationally accredited Flower Show Judges. Schools consist of four multi-day courses with a time limit for completion to be valid. After successful completion of three courses, the designation of Student Judge is conferred. In addition to the fourth course to advance from Student Judge to Accredited Judge, there are requirements that include exhibiting credits, judging participation, schedule writing requirements, and the Final Handbook Exam. Judges then progress to Life Judge, Master Judge and retire as Emeritus Judge.

### ***We are honored to have these Accredited Flower Show Judges as members:***

Accredited Judge: Rosita Aristoff, Nancy Binger  
Accredited Master Judge: Bea Cooper, Jo Gressette, Susan Slater  
Emeritus Master Judge: Joan Graff

## **UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA / IFAS EXTENSION MASTER GARDENERS**

The mission of the Florida Master Gardener Program is *“to train a core of volunteers to assist the county agent in delivering information to residents on how to design, plant and care for their plants and landscapes in a Florida-friendly way”*. To become certified, participants complete a 50+ hour training course and must serve 75 volunteer hours within their first year. Certification is renewed by participating in 10 learning hours and completing 35 volunteer hours each year.

### ***The following members are Martin County Active Master Gardeners:***

Louise Andrews, Karen Bonney, Ruth Anne Decker, Sandy Decker, Yvonne Diasio, Nancy Dillard, Cindy Doney, Bobbi England, Barbara Farley, Janice Heitz, Daina Karol, Diane Kimes, Mary Neal, Donna Rae Pearlman, Bonnie Stoepelman, Lisa Weidenheimer

## **NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB CONSULTANTS**

NGC endorses and approves curricula for three schools: Environmental Studies, Gardening Study and Landscape Design to educate and train members on these specific topics. Upon completion of all modules, members are recognized as a Consultant.

### ***The following members have earned these credentials:***

Environmental Studies: Sandy Decker, Christia Li Roberts, Susan Slater,  
Lisa Weidenheimer, Joan Wilcox  
Gardening Study: Susan Slater  
Landscape Design: Susan Slater

## **UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA / IFAS EXTENSION MASTER NATURALISTS**

The mission of the Florida Master Naturalist Program is *“to promote awareness, understanding and respect of Florida’s natural world among Florida’s citizens and visitors”*. The program consists of three Core Modules (Freshwater Wetlands, Coastal Systems, and Upland Habitats). Each module has 40 contact hours of classroom learning, field trips and practical experience. Upon completion of a module, graduates are registered in that area of expertise. Graduates share their knowledge and foster principles of sustainability, connectivity, and biodiversity.

### ***The following members are recognized as Master Naturalists:***

Donna Rae Pearlman, Christia Li Roberts, Kathie Smith

## FORMER PRESIDENTS

1936-1939	Mrs. Willaford R. Leach*	1981-1983	Mrs. Roy J. Menard*
1939-1941	Mrs. John E. Taylor*	1983-1985	Mrs. Carol Frank Klein*
1941-1942	Mrs. H. H. Hipson*	1985-1987	Mrs. Frederick W. Bickmann, Jr.*
1942-1943	Mrs. Leon E. Ashley*	1987-1989	Mrs. Frank J. Creegan, Jr.*
1943-1948	Mrs. Willaford R. Leach*	1989-1991	Mrs. John Allinson*
1948-1950	Mrs. H. B. Swinglehurst, Jr.*	1991-1993	Mrs. William Barringer*
1950-1952	Mrs. Edwin A. Menninger*	1993-1995	Mrs. Roy Holding*
1952-1954	Mrs. Howard W. Neail*	1995-1997	Ms. June Henderson*
1954-1956	Mrs. Hugh Willoughby*	1997-1999	Mrs. Bea Cooper
1956-1957	Mrs. Richard U. Hupfel*	1999-2001	Mrs. Joan Graff
1957-1959	Mrs. R. Cecil Johns*	2001-2003	Mrs. Virginia Maloney
1959-1961	Mrs. W. C. Armor*	2003-2004	Mrs. Marjory Holland*
1961-1963	Mrs. D. S. Hudson, Sr.*	2004-2005	Mrs. Bobbie Spilman
1963-1965	Mrs. John W. Hussey*	2005-2007	Mrs. Donna Berger
1965-1967	Mrs. W. Arnold Gesner*	2007-2009	Mrs. Joan Wilcox
1967-1968	Mrs. Thomas Thurlow*	2009-2011	Mrs. Cyndy Trossbach*
1968-1970	Mrs. Howard J. Bayley*	2011-2013	Mrs. Louise Andrews
1970-1971	Mrs. John Andrew*	2013-2015	Mrs. Donna Berger
1971-1973	Mrs. William H. Cobb*	2015-2017	Mrs. Bobbi England
1973-1975	Mrs. James A. Saxton*	2017-2019	Mrs. Sandy Decker
1975-1977	Mrs. Edward A. Neail*	2019-2021	Ms. Deborah Reaves
1977-1979	Mrs. Charles E. Bishop*	2021-2023	Mrs. Karen Bonney
1979-1981	Mrs. Alex D. Stahl*		<i>*deceased</i>





## NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

4401 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis MO 63110-3492  
Telephone: 314.776.7574  
Email: [headquarters@gardenclub.org](mailto:headquarters@gardenclub.org)  
Website: [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)  
Quarterly Magazine Online:  
*The National Gardener*



**President: Brenda Moore**  
Oak Hill WV  
Email: [bmoore@gardenclub.org](mailto:bmoore@gardenclub.org)

**2023-2025 THEME: “Go Green – Plant America”**

**NGC CONVENTION**  
**Date and Location TBD**

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## DEEP SOUTH GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

**Director: Debby Cooper**  
204 West Park Avenue  
Greenwood MS 38930  
Telephone: 662.299.8573  
Email: [coopcooper@aol.com](mailto:coopcooper@aol.com)  
Website: [www.deepsouthgardenclubs.com](http://www.deepsouthgardenclubs.com)



**2023-2025 THEME:**  
**“Decorate the Deep South with Floral Accents”**

**DSGC CONVENTION**  
**March 11-13, 2025 – Valdosta, Georgia**

### REPRESENTATIVES / LIAISONS

Designated members serve as representatives or liaisons with like-minded groups. Circles and Members are encouraged to contact these individuals for additional information about these groups.

**Bea Cooper**  
PSL Botanical Gardens

**Tish Gelineau**  
House of Refuge

**Daina Karol**  
Master Gardeners

# FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

1400 South Denning Drive, Winter Park FL 32789-5662

Telephone: 407.647.7016

Email: ffgc@ffgcmail.com

Website: www.ffgc.org

Office Coordinator: Robin Hayes

Quarterly Magazine Online:

*The Florida Gardener*



**President: Tina Tuttle**

6755 Highway 99, Molino FL 32577-4048

Telephone: 850.341.2361 cell

Email: ttuttle1954@gmail.com

**2023-2025 THEME: “Celebrating 100 Years”**

**FFGC 98<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION  
April 7-10, 2025 – Jacksonville, Florida**

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## FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, DISTRICT X, INC.

Website: www.districtx.org

Online Publication: *Blooming Tales*

**Director: Maria Wolfe**

12346 Sawgrass Court, Wellington FL 33414

Telephone: 561.386.4903 cell

Email: tcacad\_registrar@yahoo.com



**2023-2025 THEME:**

**“Celebrating FFGC’s Century of Promoting Plant Diversity  
to Ensure Insect Diversity”**

**DISTRICT X FALL MEETING – October 28, 2024  
Hosted by Rio Lindo Garden Club at Ballantrae  
Port St. Lucie, Florida**

**TROPICAL SHORT COURSE – January 23-24, 2025  
Wellington Community Center  
12150 Forest Hill Boulevard, Wellington, Florida**

**DISTRICT X SPRING MEETING – April 24, 2025  
Hosted by the Garden Club of Fort Pierce  
Fort Pierce, Florida**

# THE GARDEN CLUB OF STUART, INC.

## ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

*(Revised April 5, 1976)*

### ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this Corporation is THE GARDEN CLUB OF STUART, INC., an independent Garden Club in membership with the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

### ARTICLE II – OBJECT

This Corporation shall be a nonprofit association for the purpose of engaging in activities which are charitable, educational and scientific within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. The purpose of the association is to further the education of members and the public in the fields of gardening, horticulture, botany, landscape design, conservation of natural resources, civic beautification, public sanitation and nature studies.

### ARTICLE III

The qualifications of members and the manner of their admission shall be regulated by the rules and regulations of the Bylaws of the Corporation.

### ARTICLE IV

The term of existence of this Corporation shall be perpetual unless dissolved by law.

### ARTICLE V

Names and addresses of 1962 Special Committee on Revisions (on file).

Names and addresses of 1976 Special Committee on Revisions (on file).

### ARTICLE VI

**SECTION 1.** The affairs of the Corporation shall be conducted and administered by its Officers and an Executive Board.

**SECTION 2.** The Officers of the Corporation shall be a President, a First Vice President, a Second Vice President, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, an Assistant Treasurer and such other officers as may be provided from time to time in the Bylaws. Each of such other officers shall be elected at the March meeting in odd-numbered years.

**SECTION 3.** The Executive Board of the Corporation shall consist of the officers, the Chairman of each Standing Committee and such other officers as may be provided from time to time in the Bylaws.

**SECTION 4.** The manner of electing and the powers, duties and terms of office of all officers, and the procedure for filling a vacancy in any office shall be as provided in the Bylaws.

### ARTICLE VII

The Corporation shall hold an annual meeting in the month of April, when feasible.

### ARTICLE VIII

The procedure for amending the Bylaws shall be as provided in the Bylaws.

### ARTICLE IX

These Articles of Incorporation may be amended by resolution of the Executive Board which must then be ratified by a two-thirds vote of qualified members entitled to vote at an Annual Meeting of the Corporation, when a quorum is present or at any special meeting duly called for that purpose.

### ARTICLE X

**SECTION 1.** No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of any member or officer of the Corporation, or any private individual, except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the Corporation affecting one or more of its charitable purposes.

**SECTION 2.** Upon dissolution of the Corporation or the winding up of its affairs, the assets of the Corporation shall be distributed exclusively to charitable, religious, scientific, literary, or educational organizations which would then qualify under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations thereunder, and no member or officer of the Corporation, or any private individual, shall be entitled to share in the distribution of such assets.

**SECTION 3.** No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Corporation shall not participate or intervene in (including the publication or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

# BYLAWS (Revised December 11, 2023)

## ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this corporation shall be The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.

## ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. shall be a nonprofit association for the purpose of engaging in activities which are charitable, educational and scientific. The purpose of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. shall be to further the education of members and the public in the fields of gardening, horticulture, floral design, botany, landscape design, conservation of natural resources, civic beautification, public sanitation and nature studies. The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. shall otherwise conduct its activities in a manner which is consistent with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

## ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

**SECTION 1. Candidates** – A candidate for membership shall be invited to attend no more than two (2) meetings as a guest during the current Club year. After attending one (1) or two (2) meetings, the candidate shall be asked if they would like to join, and to select a class of membership (Active or Patron).

**SECTION 2. Active Membership** - To be eligible for Active membership, one must have an interest in the objectives of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., as stated in the Articles of Incorporation, and must demonstrate a willingness to work on committees, support projects, attend meetings and take an active part in general garden club work, and shall hold voting privileges.

- a. Applications for Active membership shall require a payment of \$70.00, which includes an initiation fee of \$25.00 and annual dues of \$45.00. A check made payable to The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., shall be presented to the Second Vice President along with the application.
- b. Upon receipt of an application for membership, together with initiation fee and current dues, the Second Vice President shall announce the new member to the Executive Board at any meeting of the Board. The Second Vice President shall notify the applicant of his/her acceptance with an invitation to attend meetings and assume responsibilities of membership.
- c. Membership fees paid in March for any class of membership shall constitute paid dues for the following Club year.

**SECTION 3.** Additional classes of membership shall include three (3) classes: Associate, Patron, and Honorary.

- a. **Associate Membership** - Associate members shall have a continued interest in the objectives of the Club, shall support Club projects, shall be exempt from committee responsibilities, and shall not hold voting privileges or the right to hold office. Associate members would hold the same Associate status in any Circle to which they previously belonged. To be eligible for Associate membership, one must have been an Active, contributing member of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. for at least five (5) years. Requests for Associate Membership shall be sent to the Second Vice President and may be granted by vote of the Executive Board. No more than ten percent (10%) of the total membership may become Associate members. (Dues for an Associate member, as shown below, are \$85.00 per Club year.)
- b. **Patron Membership** - Patron members shall have an interest in the objectives of the Club, shall support Club projects, shall be exempt from committee responsibilities, shall not hold voting privileges or the right to hold office. Patron members are not eligible for Circle membership. Applications for Patron membership shall be sent to the Second Vice President and may be granted by a vote of the Executive Board. No more than ten percent (10%) of the total membership may become Patron members. (Dues for a Patron member, as shown below, are \$135.00 per Club year.)
- c. **Honorary Membership** - The Executive Board may confer Honorary membership upon any member who has made an outstanding effort to promote the purposes of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. Honorary members have the privilege of electing the extent of their participation, however, they shall not hold voting privileges or the right to hold office. (Honorary members are exempt from the payment of dues.)

**SECTION 4. Transfer Membership** - A member in good standing in any Federated club of the National Garden Clubs, Inc., upon presentation of a letter of transfer from his/her club, may become a member of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. upon payment of appropriate dues for Active or Patron membership. Such transfer members would be required to maintain membership for five (5) years before attaining eligibility to request Associate membership.

**SECTION 5. Resignation** - A member who resigns while in good standing may, at a later date, return to the Club with Executive Board approval and payment of current dues for appropriate class of membership.

## **ARTICLE IV – DUES**

**SECTION 1.** The fiscal year shall be from May 1 through April 30 of the following year.

**SECTION 2.** The annual dues for an Active member shall be \$45.00.

**SECTION 3.** The annual dues for an Associate member shall be \$85.00.

**SECTION 4.** The annual dues for a Patron member shall be \$135.00.

**SECTION 5.** Honorary members shall be exempt from payment of dues.

**SECTION 6.** Dues shall be payable on April 1 of the current year and delinquent after May 1. Members whose dues are unpaid by May 1 shall be suspended from the Club and forfeit membership listing in, and receipt of, a yearbook. To be reinstated as a member in good standing, current New Member's dues must be paid in full.

## **ARTICLE V – OFFICERS**

**SECTION 1.** The Officers of the Corporation of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. shall be the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer, all of whom must be Active members of the Club.

**SECTION 2.** These officers shall hold office for a two (2) year term, or until their successors are elected. No officer shall be eligible for re-election to the same office with the exception of the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

**SECTION 3.** To be eligible for the office of President, the candidate shall have served a minimum of two (2) years on the Executive Board.

**SECTION 4.** All officers, except the Treasurer, shall begin their terms of office at the close of the Annual Meeting at which they are installed. The terms of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall begin at the close of the fiscal year of the Club immediately following the election.

**SECTION 5.** If a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the First Vice President will assume that position. There would then be a General Election for the position of First Vice President. In the event a presiding Vice President is elected to the office of First Vice President, or a Vice President position becomes vacant, a General Election would be held to fill the vacant Vice President office.

**SECTION 6.** The President, with the approval of the Executive Board, may fill any vacancy in the elective office of the Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer for the unexpired term.

**SECTION 7.** In January of the odd year, the First Vice President becomes the President-Elect.

## **ARTICLE VI – DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

**SECTION 1.** The **President** shall:

- a. preside at all meetings of the Club and of the Executive Board;
- b. appoint the Chairmen of Standing and Special Committees, with the exception of the Program Chairman (First Vice President) and Membership Chairman (Second Vice President);
- c. be a member ex-officio of all committees except the Nominating and Auditing Committees;
- d. fill vacancies of officers, other than First and Second Vice Presidents, who must be elected, for the unexpired term, with Executive Board approval;
- e. give an oral report to the membership at the Annual Meeting in April;
- f. represent the Club at District and State Federation meetings;
- g. appoint a Parliamentarian who shall see that all meetings are conducted according to ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER NEWLY REVISED;
- h. appoint in the month of January of the election year, two (2) Active members from the Executive Board to serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Nominating Committee;
- i. appoint in the month of March two (2) Active members of the Executive Board to audit the books of the Treasurer during the month of May; and
- j. with approval of the Executive Board, countersign with Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer all lawful checks and investments of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.

**SECTION 2.** The **Vice Presidents**, in order of their rank, or a member of the Advisory Council, shall perform all duties of the President in the absence of the President.

**SECTION 3.** The **First Vice President** shall:

- a. be Chairman of the Program Committee and shall complete the following selections for the upcoming year prior to publication of the annual yearbook:
  1. Monthly meeting programs;
  2. Workshops;
  3. Classes; and
  4. Trips.
- b. become President-Elect in January of the odd year.

**SECTION 4.** The **Second Vice President** shall be Chairman of the Membership Committee and shall:

- a. receive and review applications for memberships;
- b. introduce new members to the Club;
- c. keep membership roster and files current, including responsibilities fulfilled;
- d. provide accurate membership lists for inclusion in yearbook;
- e. order new and replacement name badges;
- f. receive and record written resignations; and
- g. order and install a memorial plaque honoring each deceased current member of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. (to include Honorary Members) to a larger plaque at Memory Lane at Audubon's Possum Long Nature Center.

**SECTION 5.** The **Recording Secretary** shall:

- a. record attendance at each Executive Board meeting and confirm to the President the presence or absence of a quorum;
- b. record the proceedings/minutes of all meetings;
- c. be custodian of all official records of the Club; and
- d. have a copy of the Club's Bylaws and Standing Rules at every meeting.

**SECTION 6.** The **Corresponding Secretary** shall:

- a. conduct such correspondence as requested by the President or the Executive Board;
- b. send electronic notices for special meetings and events;
- c. compile and duplicate any meeting information or reports necessary;
- d. acknowledge written resignations in writing; and
- e. maintain records of all Awards received. (An Awards Log detailing the name, date and origin of the Award and scrapbook containing the Awards.)

**SECTION 7.** The **Treasurer** shall:

- a. receive all monies of the Club;
- b. mail notices and collect annual dues, and coordinate accurate membership lists for inclusion in the yearbook;
- c. be responsible for preparation of an annual budget;
- d. disburse only funds approved in the budget or approved by the Executive Board, with the President as co-signer of all checks;
- e. keep itemized accounts of all receipts and disbursements;
- f. make a financial report at each meeting;
- g. keep a record of all State Life Members;
- h. pay State Federation dues for each member and submit names of those eligible to receive THE FLORIDA GARDENER;
- i. pay District dues;
- j. ensure The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. checkbooks remain with one of the corporation signators when the Treasurer expects to be out of town; and
- k. transfer to his/her successor, within six (6) weeks from the close of the fiscal year, all Club monies, vouchers, record books, and Club papers in his/her possession.

**SECTION 8.** The **Assistant Treasurer** shall assume the duties and authority of the Treasurer in the absence of the Treasurer and perform such other duties as assigned by the President and the Treasurer.

## **ARTICLE VII – NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**SECTION 1.** Election of Officers shall be held every two (2) years.

**SECTION 2.** The Nominating Committee shall be named in the month of January of the election year. Two (2) Active members shall be appointed from the Executive Board by the President, one to serve as Chairman, one to serve as Vice Chairman, and three (3) Active members shall be elected from the general membership.

**SECTION 3.** The Nominating Committee shall report at the March meeting. The Committee shall present one (1) Active member candidate for each of the offices.

**SECTION 4.** Election of Officers shall follow the report of the Nominating Committee. When there are no nominations from the floor, the election shall be by voice vote; otherwise it shall be by ballot. A majority vote shall elect. The installation of Officers shall be at the close of the Annual Meeting in April.

## **ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS**

**SECTION 1.** The Club year shall be from May 1 through April 30.

**SECTION 2.** General meetings shall be held monthly, on the second Monday, unless otherwise ordered by the Executive Board, except during the months of May to September inclusive. Special general meetings may be held at the call of the President and shall be called upon the request of one third (1/3) of the current Active Membership.



**SECTION 3.** One-third (1/3) of the current Active membership, including three (3) officers, shall constitute a quorum at a regular meeting.

**SECTION 4.** The Annual Meeting of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. for the purpose of presenting the President's annual report, and the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting, shall be held in April of each year, when feasible, the date and place to be determined by the Executive Board.

**SECTION 5.** The installation of officers shall be held at the Annual Meeting in the odd-numbered years.

### **ARTICLE IX – EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**SECTION 1.** The Executive Board of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. shall consist of the elected Officers of the Corporation, appointed Officers, Chairmen of Standing Committees, Chairmen of Special Committees, and Presidents of Circles – all of whom must be Active members.

**SECTION 2.** Executive Board meetings shall be held monthly, prior to general meetings. Special meetings may be held at the call of the President.

**SECTION 3.** One-third (1/3) of the members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum at a board meeting.

**SECTION 4.** The Board shall be empowered to transact any and all business of the Club.

**SECTION 5.** The Board shall promote programs, workshops, study groups, projects and cooperative programs with other organizations having similar goals, which shall be based upon the purposes of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. and the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

**SECTION 6.** The Board shall ratify the report of the auditors at the meeting of the Board following the close of the fiscal year.

**SECTION 7.** Each Officer, Chairman, and Circle President shall submit a written annual report to the President at the March meeting of the Executive Board.

**SECTION 8.** Each retiring Officer and Chairman shall turn over to his/her successor, or the President, such books and records as belong to his/her office as soon as possible upon expiration of his/her term.

**SECTION 9.** The Board shall approve all officers appointed by the President to fill an unexpired term if a vacancy occurs.

**SECTION 10.** The Board shall approve the acceptance of a Circle into the Club.

**SECTION 11.** The Board shall approve donations to projects and programs with goals related to the purposes of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.

### **ARTICLE X – STANDING COMMITTEES**

**SECTION 1. PROGRAM** - shall consist of the First Vice President as Chairman and Active members appointed by the President. The committee shall develop the year's programs and workshops. These shall be approved by the President prior to publication of the annual yearbook.

**SECTION 2. REGISTRATION** - At general meetings the committee chairman aided by two (2) Active members shall:

- a. confirm to the President the presence or absence of a quorum;
- b. provide to the Second Vice President the membership attendance record; and
- c. provide to the Second Vice President a record of prospective members and their dates of attendance.

**SECTION 3. FINANCE** - shall consist of the Treasurer as Chairman and two (2) Active members appointed in January of each year by the President. The committee shall draw up the annual Operating Fund budget for the next year and present it to the Executive Board in February for approval.

**SECTION 4. CIVIC IMPROVEMENT** - shall consist of an Active member Chairman and five (5) Active members appointed in March of each year by the President. The Treasurer shall be a member ex-officio of this committee. The committee shall prepare a budget for the period May 1 to April 30 and present it to the Executive Board in May for approval. Civic and beautification projects and their anticipated cost shall be approved by the Executive Board.

**SECTION 5. SPECIAL PROJECTS** - shall consist of the Active member Event Chairman (e.g. Flower Show or Garden Tour), appointed by the President, and no fewer than five (5) Active members. The President shall approve the proposed event. A budget for the event shall be approved by the Executive Board.

**SECTION 6.** There shall be other standing committees, with duties prescribed by the Executive Board, which conform insofar as possible to the corresponding National Garden Clubs, Inc. and Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. committees.

### **ARTICLE XI – CIRCLES**

**SECTION 1.** Circles are units within The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.

**SECTION 2.** The purpose of Circles is to offer opportunities to members for additional study in the many phases of garden club work.

**SECTION 3.** Each Circle shall be composed of not less than ten (10) nor more than thirty-five (35) Active or Associate members of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.

**SECTION 4.** A Circle is a unit which bases its monthly programs upon purposes of the Club and gears the programs to meet the needs of Circle members. Circles should submit plans for projects of a civic nature to the Executive Board for approval. Membership in a Circle is by invitation.

**SECTION 5.** When ten (10) Active or Associate members wish to form a Circle, the Second Vice President shall provide guidance in the development of the organizational plans and purposes.

**SECTION 6.** In the event a Circle does not have a Circle member able to represent the interests of the Circle at meetings of District X or the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., it shall be permissible for an Active member in good standing of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. to serve as a Delegate or Alternate with the approval of the President of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. and the Circle President.

**SECTION 7.** The Executive Board shall approve the acceptance of the new Circle into the Club.

**SECTION 8.** Action to Dissolve a Circle:

- a. may be taken after an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Circle membership, and written notice to the Executive Board governing The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. at least one month prior to action;
- b. within 30 days of written notice to the Executive Board of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., at the discretion of the Circle, the assets of the Circle shall be distributed exclusively to charitable, religious, scientific, literary or educational organizations which would then qualify under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) in the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations thereunder. Under no circumstances are the funds belonging to a Circle to be distributed among its members. After the 30-day period, any assets remaining shall be distributed at the discretion of the Executive Board of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.

### **ARTICLE XII – ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**SECTION 1.** All Former Presidents of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. shall be members of the Advisory Council.

**SECTION 2.** In the event an elected officer is unable to fulfill his/her duties at a meeting, a member of the Advisory Council may fulfill those duties, with the approval of the President.

### **ARTICLE XIII – NO PERSONAL LIABILITY**

The Officers, Board, and any other agents of the Club shall not be personally liable for any debt, liability or obligation of the Club. All persons, corporations, or other entities extending credit to, contracting with, or having any claim against the Club, may look only to the funds and property of the Club for the payment of any such contract or claim, or for the payment of any debt, damages, judgment or decree, or of any money that may otherwise become due or payable to them from the Club.

### **ARTICLE XIV – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER NEWLY REVISED shall govern the proceedings of this Club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

### **ARTICLE XV – AMENDMENTS**

The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Active members present and voting at any regular meeting, provided notice of such proposed amendment has been given at the previous regular meeting. The proposed amendment shall have been previously passed by the Executive Board.

## **STANDING RULES *(Revised February 5, 2024)***

The Bylaws of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. govern the structure and operation of the Club. They are inflexible and can be changed only by vote of the membership. The Standing Rules amplify the Bylaws, clarifying procedures and practices followed in carrying out Club activities. They are flexible and can be changed by vote of the Executive Board.

Each administration must abide by the Bylaws and Standing Rules as they stand. Personal decisions made without consideration of them are out of order.

The Bylaws and Standing Rules shall be reviewed by the committee on an ongoing basis and revised as necessary. Amendments shall be made if needed between these periodic reviews.

### **DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

New officers should become thoroughly familiar with the Bylaws, especially Article V, and with the Standing Rules and published Guidelines.

The President shall have flexibility in the number of Chairmen appointed. He/she shall appoint Active members to serve on Special Committees when necessary to carry out the administrative theme. Generally, a Chairman shall not serve more than two years.

The President shall make a conscious effort to rotate Chairmen so that more members have an opportunity to become involved and to serve on the Executive Board.

The outgoing President shall plan a transitional workshop to be held soon after the April Annual Luncheon Meeting and attended by outgoing and incoming Executive Boards. All files shall be turned over to the new Executive Board and plans of work and procedures shall be discussed. The Parliamentarian shall review the Bylaws, Standing Rules, and parliamentary procedure.

When a President completes his/her term, he/she shall pass on the President's pin to his/her successor when he/she is installed. The outgoing President shall be presented with a Past President's pin and an FFGC Life Membership or a suitable NGC or FFGC honor recognition award.

After serving one year, the President and First Vice President shall be eligible for expense reimbursement for two consecutive State Conventions each. In the event that either are unable to attend, the President may appoint a substitute from the Executive Board as a delegate to represent the Club. The designated attendees shall each be reimbursed by the Club for the full two-Day Convention Plan (which includes the registration fee and specified meals). The designated attendees may each receive additional reimbursement for related expenses of one half of the remaining amount in the Operating Budget for the Convention.

The Club shall cover the expense of registration and luncheon for the current President and First Vice President to attend the Fall and Spring District Meetings. In the event that the President and/or First Vice President are unable to attend, the President may appoint substitutes as delegates to represent the Club/Circle. Substitutes may be other officers, Executive Board members, or Active members.

A report of said conventions and conferences shall be presented by an attending officer to the Executive Board.

In the case of the simultaneous unavailability of two of the authorized signators for lawful checks and investments of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., the First Vice President may become the required second countersignatory.

The Treasurer will ensure The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. checkbooks remain with one of the corporation's signators when he/she expects to be out of town.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

When Chairmen of Standing Committees are appointed to serve on the Board, they assume the obligation to attend all Executive Board meetings except when illness or travel prevent attendance. Special Committee Chairmen are obligated to attend Executive Board meetings pertaining to their projects and their presence or absence shall not affect the quorum.

When a Chairman is unable to attend an Executive Board meeting, said Chairman shall inform the President of the intended absence, and send his/her report to the Recording Secretary.

When a Chairman is absent from three consecutive meetings, a resignation is advised.

The Minutes of the monthly Executive Board meetings and the Treasurer's Report shall be forwarded to Board members by email for review and correction in advance of the next meeting, eliminating the need to read the Minutes and Treasurer's Report aloud at the meeting itself. Only additions and/or corrections will be requested.

The President of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. shall be permitted to conduct business of an URGENT nature by electronic device. The action to be approved will be in the form of a motion and will be sent to each member of the Executive Board by electronic device. (Those who are entitled to be present, but not vote shall be copied on the message.) Confirmation of receipt shall be requested. An explanation of why the matter cannot wait for the next Board meeting must accompany the motion, and the period of time allowed for voting. Debate and comment, either positive or negative, may be made by the voting member and should be sent to all members of the Executive Board (Reply All). Return votes on the motion will be made to the Recording Secretary within the stated time period. A majority vote of the entire Executive Board shall adopt a motion. A motion will be considered adopted whenever a majority vote of the entire Executive Board has been reached, even if it is before the end of the specified time period. The Board will be notified of the results. All forms of electronic devices are allowed.

## **FINANCES**

### ***Operating Fund***

Budget items to be paid from the Operating Fund shall include:

1. Rent of facilities and ancillary costs for general meetings
2. State and District dues
3. Yearbook and its first class mailing
4. Website, Newsletter, stationery, and postage
5. Officer and committee expenses
6. President's stipend for incidental expenses, regulated by the current Operating Fund Budget
7. Convention and conference expenses
8. Member of the Year Award and other Club awards approved by the Executive Board
9. Other items approved in the Operating Fund budget

The Operating Fund may receive up to ten percent (10%) of proceeds raised by special events.

Proceeds from monthly Ways & Means Table will be dispensed to the Operating Fund.

Program expenses shall be regulated by the current operating Fund Budget.

Workshops, Classes and Trips shall operate with an approved balanced budget prepared by the appropriate Chairman. If a Club member conducts a Workshop, Class or Trip, that member may receive compensation in accordance with the approved budget.

The Civic Improvement Fund may receive additional funds from the Operating Fund when approved by the Executive Board.

### ***Civic Improvement Fund***

Budget items to be paid from monies raised by events open to the public. The Operating Fund may receive up to ten percent (10%) of proceeds raised by special events for projects not listed below:

1. Beautification projects
2. Civic improvement projects or contributions to them
3. Arbor Day
4. Student camperships, scholarships and awards
5. Projects of District X, FFGC, Deep South Region and NGC
6. Membership dues or contributions to other societies and agencies with similar goals and purposes
7. Memorial plaque updating
8. Other items approved in the Civic Improvement budget

A statement regarding specific expenditure of funds raised for civic improvement and beautification projects should be sent to contributing organizations and, through the press, to the general public.

Any proposed unbudgeted expenditure from either the Operating Fund or the Civic Improvement Fund over \$50.00 must have Executive Board approval.

There shall be no refund on a ticket purchase for a Garden Club event.

Garden Club funds shall not be given to any organization which does not have goals and objectives comparable to the Club's. Payment of dues to other organizations should be reviewed yearly by the Executive Board.

In lieu of a bond, the Officers, Board Members and other agents of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. shall not be personally liable for any debt, liability, or obligation of the Club.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Active membership in The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. carries with it responsibilities and obligations regarding participation in its various activities: general meetings, committee work, special projects, hospitality, leadership roles, etc. In addition to paying Annual Dues, all Active members have three responsibilities each year:

1. **Refreshment duties, if assigned.** An alphabetical rotation determines which Active members have refreshment duties each year.
2. **Ways & Means duties during one monthly general meeting each year as assigned.** Each Circle is assigned one monthly general meeting each year. Members at Large are assigned each year in the Yearbook to a Circle to facilitate their participation in their Ways & Means duties. (These Members at Large shall hold no Circle benefits or obligations. The assignment is merely to coordinate participation. However, this assignment in no way precludes their joining that Circle or any other in the future.)

3. **Special Project Participation.** In the event project duties are assigned to Circles, Members at Large shall affiliate with the Circle assignment designated in the Ways & Means duties. (These Members at Large shall hold no Circle benefits or obligations. The assignment is merely to coordinate participation. However, this assignment in no way precludes their joining that Circle or any other in the future.)

All correspondence pertaining to The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. shall be sent to the Corporation address: P.O. Box 684, Stuart FL 34995-0684. Personal addresses should not be used for Corporation business such as trips, workshops, classes, refreshments, new membership applications or treasury transactions.

Prospective members, who are interested in being associated with the Club but are unable to fulfill these annual duties, are encouraged to become Patron Members.

Members who have been Active for at least five (5) years and wish to continue to support the Club but who no longer can attend meetings because of employment, illness, etc., shall be encouraged to become Associate Members.

Members shall be encouraged to attend State Conventions and District Conferences in order to broaden individual participation and Club representation.

Members who join during a current year shall be invited to a social gathering for the purpose of learning about the Club and its circles, getting acquainted with the Executive Board and each other.

Refreshments are an important part of the monthly general meetings. The Active membership roster shall be utilized alphabetically to determine which members shall have refreshment duties for the upcoming year. The Active members with refreshment duties for the year will then be divided into groups to serve as monthly committees. The monthly committee shall work under the guidance of the Refreshments Chairman, appointed by the President. If a member cannot serve during his/her assigned month, each member is responsible for finding his/her own substitute or paying a fee, and must call the Refreshments Chairman, advising of their substitute or making arrangements to pay the fee. Each Refreshments Committee shall:

1. purchase and plate refreshments for members who have chosen to pay a fee to fulfill their refreshment responsibility;
2. set up a tea table; include a natural arrangement done by a Club member; and
3. prepare and serve refreshments.

The yearbook may be mailed or hand delivered to all members (Active, Patron, Associate and Honorary). Members shall notify the Yearbook Chairman and Second Vice President at the time the annual dues are paid if the mailing address for the yearbook is different from the Florida address being printed in the yearbook, or if the member wants the yearbook held for pick-up at a general monthly meeting.

Names of members who hold State and National Life Memberships shall be reported by the Life Membership Committee to the Second Vice President for inclusion in yearbook listing and membership records.

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability (including HIV, AIDS, or Sickle Cell Trait), pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information which are classes protected by State and/or Federal law (collectively "protected classes") in its programs and activities.

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

The purpose of this Conflict of Interest Policy of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. is to help avoid the appearance or actuality of private benefit to individuals within the corporation who are in a position of substantial authority.

1. **Definition of Conflicts of Interest.** A conflict of interest arises when a Member of the Executive Board ("Member") is in the position of voting for a transaction that the Member or any family member of the Member has a financial interest in the conflict of interest transaction.
2. **Individuals Covered.** All Members are covered by this policy. The Executive Board consists of elected Officers, appointed Officers, Chairmen of Standing Committees, Chairmen of Special Committees and Presidents of the Circles.

3. **Duty to Disclose Conflicts of Interest.** A Member will disclose in writing to the President, First Vice President and Treasurer of the corporation any actual or possible conflict of interest that may arise at any time.
4. **Procedures for Existence of Conflicts of Interest.** Interests disclosed to the President, First Vice President and Treasurer of the corporation will be reviewed and a determination made whether to (a) take no action; (b) assure full disclosure to the Executive Board; (c) ask the Member to recuse oneself from participation in related discussions and deliberations of the Executive Board; or (d) ask the Member to resign from the position in the corporation or, if the Member refuses to resign, become subject to possible removal.
5. **Affirmation of the Policy.** Annually, all Members will sign a Certificate stating that the Member has received a copy of the Conflict of Interest Policy of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., has read the policy, understands the policy and has agreed to comply with the policy.

### **CIRCLES**

Circles and their activities are secondary to the activities of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. Active or Associate members are eligible for Circle membership. Circles may also confer Honorary membership of their own. The members shall support and take an active part in the Club meetings and projects.

Circles shall not be relied upon or given preference to the exclusion of those members who belong only to The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.

Circle Presidents shall present a Circle report at Executive Board meetings. If unable to attend, a representative shall be sent to present a report and keep the Circle informed of Executive Board action. Written copies of Circle reports shall be submitted to the Executive Board's Recording Secretary.

Circle Presidents and Program Chairman (First Vice President of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc.) shall attend a joint meeting in early spring to discuss the purpose of Circles and Circle programs.

Circle Presidents shall annually submit three (3) copies of their Circle yearbook to the First Vice President of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. Circle Presidents shall annually submit three (3) copies of their current Circle bylaws to the President of the Club. If these bylaws are included in the yearbook, that is an adequate submission.

Circle programs shall be related to the goals of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. and stress active participation of the Circle members in a study-workshop type of meeting.

Circle meetings shall be conducted according to parliamentary procedure.

Circles shall include assigned Members at Large in working on Ways & Means and other meeting responsibilities. (These Members at Large hold no Circle benefits or obligation. Their assignment is merely to improve this annual working responsibility and relationship. However, this assignment in no way precludes their joining that Circle or any other in the future.)

### **THE GARDEN CLUB OF STUART, INC. AWARDS**

These award statements shall appear in the yearbook, along with a list of recipients.

The President and/or the Executive Board shall have the option of honoring members for outstanding service to the Club (with FFGC Hall of Fame, Pillar of Pride or Earth Steward awards) when it is deemed appropriate.

#### ***Distinguished Service Award***

Given by the officers of the Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., the Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals who, over many years, have made a significant contribution to our goals and purposes and continue to show much dedication in their service to our club.

#### ***Member of the Year Award***

The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. Member of the Year Award is presented annually to a member, other than an officer of the Corporation (President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer) in appreciation for outstanding service during the current Club year. Officers of the Corporation do not include Circle Officers. Presentation is made at the Annual Luncheon Meeting.



Accomplishments may extend over a number of years but should be prominent in the present award year. Written nominations indicating qualifications must be presented to the President by the first of March. Three anonymous judges, appointed by the President, make the choice based not on the number of nominations, but on the qualifications of the nominee.

### ***Community Service Award***

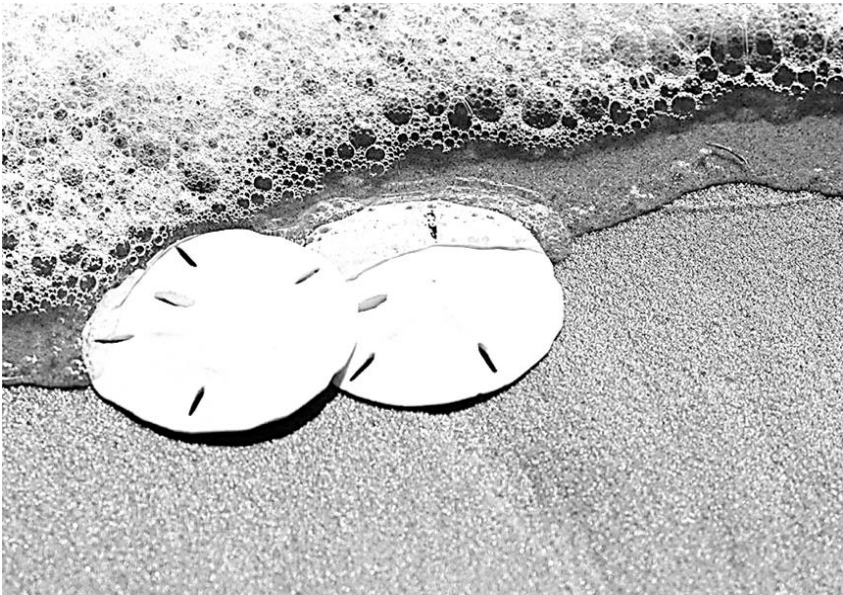
Endowed by Mary M. Bickmann, The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. Community Service Award is given annually to an individual in Martin County who has provided leadership and service consistent with the aims of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., and National Garden Clubs, Inc. The recipient need not be a member of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. Nominations must be presented in writing to the President during the club year but not later than the March meeting. Selection of the recipient is made by a committee of the President and two former Presidents based not on the number of nominations, but on the qualifications of the nominee. The award is announced at the Annual Luncheon Meeting.

### ***Cyndy Trossbach Outstanding Youth Award***

The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. Cyndy Trossbach Outstanding Youth Award is given annually to a high school student in Martin County who has displayed leadership and initiative in support of the goals and aims of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc., Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., and National Garden Clubs, Inc. as defined by their Mission and Vision statements. Nominations indicating the qualifications must be presented in writing to the President by the first of March during the Club year. Three anonymous judges, appointed by the President, make the choice based not on the number of nominations, but on the qualifications of the nominee. The award is announced at the Annual Luncheon Meeting.

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## **CLUB CIRCLES**



Circles are approved units within The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. Each Circle has monthly programs based on the purposes of the Club which are designed to meet the needs of the Circle Members. Circle membership is limited in size and openings are not always available.

### ALLAMANDA CIRCLE – Meets 1st Thursday

**President:** Gail Quinn                      **Secretary:** Barbara Peyton  
**Vice President:** Barbara Farley            **Treasurer:** Beth Barone

Ruth Anne Decker, Nancy Dillard, Tish Gelineau, Ellen Hamann, Judi Hubert, Ruth Munneke, Lynne Spillum, Sunny Swearingen, Conchita Vallecillo

### JACARANDA CIRCLE – Meets 3rd Thursday

**President:** Mary Claire Anderson            **Secretary:** Debra Stutman  
**Vice President:** Iris Rhett                      **Treasurer:** Pat Dermody

Louise Andrews, Dorothy Armstrong, Jean Bulick, Jane Friend, Rana Holbrook, Kathy Mullen, Joanne Ryder, Fran Schoen, Jan Stoorza, Lisa Weidenheimer

### PERIWINKLE CIRCLE – Meets 3rd Thursday

**President:** Gail Brady                              **Secretary:** Jean Fedele  
**Vice President:** Jill Burton                      **Treasurer:** Edna Bartlett

Fran Bondy, Josephine Donegan, Dolores Eaton, Jeanette Fouse, Betts Freer, Erna Friedel, Lynn Gifford, Mary Kelly, Lorraine Knapp, Loretta Lentini, June Mahoney, Susan Moore, Maria Smundin, Cathie Stubbs, Laila White

### SATIN LEAF CIRCLE – Meets 1st Wednesday

**President:** Judith Just                              **Secretary:** Charlene Cook  
**Vice President:** Alice Lyons                      **Treasurer:** Susan Licari

Donna Baker, Karen Bonney, Marge Brutvan, Mary Jane DuCoin, Joan Giuliano, Nancy Hess, Alice Hooker, Marilyn Horan, Cindy Iandoli, Diane Kimes, Mary Neal, Lina Novak, Lee Rodman, Georgeann Sgrosso, Bonnie Stoeppelman

### TABEBUIA CIRCLE – Meets 3rd Thursday

**President:** Ruth Lange                              **Secretary:** Mary Lersch  
**Vice President:** Helen Goller                      **Treasurer:** Kathryn Mann

Donna Berger, Sandy Decker, Mary Harrell, Martha Hendrickson, Ingrid Jimrusti, Chris Koumas, Diana Mihaltse, Linda Sarubbi, Susan Slater, Debra Smith, Karen Vaina, Sharon West

## MEMBERS AT LARGE

### Cynthia Doney, Chairman

Members at Large who are interested in joining a Circle should contact the Circle president and indicate interest. Any Member of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. wishing to be included in a Circle, and finding difficulty in locating an available opening, is encouraged to contact The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. Second Vice President (Membership Chairman) for assistance.

Mary Ann Abegglen, Rosita Aristoff, Pauline Becker, Nancy Binger, Hanna Bush, Debbie Cairnes, Bea Cooper, Jackie Davis, Nancy DeJohn, Yvonne Diasio, Cynthia Doney, Pat Doyle, Bobbi England, Eleanor Epler, Brenda Fanger, Cathy Gerzina, Elaine Graham, Jo Gressette, Janice Heitz, Daina Karol, Rosanne Kramer, Catherine Larsen, Irene Maloy, Mary Lou Marshall, Marty Neal, Donna Rae Pearlman, Leslie Perna, Margaret Pisciotta, Randa Qaisi, Deborah Reaves, Christia Li Roberts, Eve Roberts, Judy Rovniak, Lee Rush, Debbie Sahlberg, Louisa Schneider, Anne Scott, Kathie Smith, Priscilla Stuber, Charlyn Walker, Diana Welch, Joan Wilcox

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## LONG-STANDING MEMBERS

**Over 25% of our current Active membership have been members of The Garden Club of Stuart, Inc. for 15 years or more. A special thank you to these members for their many years of participation.**

### Membership over 25 years

1987 - Jackie Davis	1995 - Christia Li Roberts
1989 - Joan Wilcox	1997 - Bea Cooper
1991 - Margaret Ann Brutvan	

### Membership from 15 to 25 years

2000 - Donna Berger	2005 - Marty Neal
2001 - Erna Friedel	2005 - Priscilla Stuber
2001 - Elaine Graham	2006 - Patricia Dermody
2001 - Jan Stoorza	2006 - Barbara Farley
2002 - Ingrid Jimrusti	2007 - Kathryn Mann
2003 - Rosita Aristoff	2007 - Mary Lou Marshall
2004 - Mary Lersch	2008 - Ruth Anne Decker
2004 - Irene Maloy	2008 - Lee Rush
2005 - Louise Andrews	2008 - Susan Slater
2005 - Jill Burton	2008 - Debra Stutman
2005 - Eleanor Epler	2009 - Sandy Decker
2005 - Mary Harrell	2009 - Donna Rae Pearlman

# Calendar of Events

2024

- September 30 District X "Meeting of the Minds" 10:30am  
Robert Morgade Library  
Stuart, Florida
- October 7 Executive Board Meeting
- October 14 Membership Meeting
- October 28 District X Fall Meeting:  
Port St. Lucie, Florida
- November 4 Executive Board Meeting
- November 18 Membership Meeting
- December 2 Executive Board Meeting
- December 3 Workshop – Succulent Dish Garden
- December 6 Workshop – Miniature Holiday Tree
- December 9 Membership Meeting
- 

2025

- January 6 Executive Board Meeting
- January 6-11 FFGC Board of Directors Meeting
- January 13 Membership Meeting
- January 17 Arbor Day
- January 23-24 Tropical Short Course: Wellington, Florida
- February 3 Executive Board Meeting
- February 4 Workshop – Repotting Orchids
- February 10 Membership Meeting
- February 18 Field Trip – Fairchild Tropical Garden
- March 3 Executive Board Meeting
- March 5-8 Field Trip – Philadelphia Flower Show
- March 10 Membership Meeting
- March 11-13 Deep South Garden Clubs Convention:  
Valdosta, Georgia
- March 28-29 Garden Club of Stuart Flower Show:  
"Red, White & Bloom"
- April 1 Annual Dues are due
- April 7 Executive Board Meeting
- April 7-10 FFGC Annual Convention:  
Jacksonville, Florida
- April 14 GCS Annual Spring Luncheon:  
Sandhill Cove, Palm City
- April 23 GCS Executive Boards  
Transitional Meeting
- April 24 District X Spring Meeting:  
Fort Pierce, Florida
- May 5 Executive Board Meeting
- May (TBD) NGC Convention: TBD