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Notes from the Trail

The Bartram Garden Club, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 9 | May 1, 2020

On the Trail We Blaze

Grow + Show + Serve + Conserve

We Proceeded On... A Message from the President

Dear Members,

Welcome to the month of May--before COVID-19 we had looked forward to many festivals and celebrations that were planned for our beautiful Bartram Garden. We miss being with friends and you are all and finding fun ways to make the most of our time at home--and in our gardens. It is heartening to probably squeeze clean and there are no weeds popping up anywhere.

Although we have had to endure adjusting to these life-changing times, I appreciate some nature benefits as I look forward to "Keep calm and carry on." The little wren Mommy and Daddy are still busy visiting their nest in my bromeliad--but now they are taking care of their babies! A nest in a bromeliad! I never would have thought of that! Nature continues to surprise and amaze us and remain in touch with those close to us.

Take advantage of the timely information in this month's newsletter --especially enjoy reading about our **featured members** in the Member Spotlight section.

Remember to renew your membership by sending in your dues payment or renewing online. Our organization can only continue on the FYGC roster. Keep in mind that our Vice President Sue Lord will be preparing programs for the upcoming meeting year which begins in September. Email your suggestions to Suelord@aol.com Whether a native lecturer or a newcomer, there is always something we want to learn.

Please continue to follow the guidelines to stay safe and healthy--and remain in touch with fellow club members with a note, an email or phone call. How wonderful to have these social methods to "visit" friends and family!

May there be brighter days ahead as we anticipate kicking off our 85th anniversary in September with our President's Welcoming Tea and Bearsie Celebration. Looking forward to the time when we will enjoy each other's smiling faces again!

Blessings to you all,
Kathleen

Membership Dues Deadline

Many thanks to those who submitted dues by mail! Only a few renewals are outstanding, despite our inability to meet in person.

As a reminder, a portion of your club dues also allows you membership in the Federation of Garden Clubs (FGC). **Kindly send dues by May 15th to the address below** to your name may remain in the FFGC roster.
Thanks for your continued participation as a member of our garden club!

$35.00 Individual Membership
$50.00 Spousal Membership

1. Payable to Bartram Garden Club
2. Address:
   Beverly Williams
   8617F Shelter Island Drive
   Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

Mother Nature Survives COVID-19 Pandemic!

For millions of years planet Earth has adjusted to normal periods of extreme change. This pandemic is no exception. Mother Nature's bounty has not been canceled, as evidenced in the examples below. Members have shared photos of their gardens, flowers, and other nature sightings. Let's share photos about them. Also pictured is a stately elk hybridized, Mary Williams' Glorious Lily in also showing off. Please visit our Facebook page to view other photos members have shared. You will experience renewed hope and inspiration from these gifts of nature.

Gardening By The Month – May

What to Plant
Annuals/Bedding Plants: Plants that can take summer heat include salvia, angelonia, wax begonias, and ornamental pepper. **See Annuals**: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_annual_landscape_plants
Bulbs: Planting early...mid...and late-blooming varieties of daylily ensures months of color from these low-maintenance perennials. **See Cannas and Daylilies**: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_cannas and **Bulbs for Florida**: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_bulbous_flowers
Herbs: Herbs for Florida include basil, rosemary, growing back, oregano, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. **See Herbs**: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_herbs
Vegetables: Swiss chard will take the heat as well as okra, southern pea, and sweet potato. **See Vegetable Gardening in Florida**: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening

What to Do
Lawns: Fertilize more active in warm weather. Watch for thrips, scales, and mites on ornamental plants. **See Landscape Pest Management**: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests
Gardenias: Yellowing of older leaves is usually normal; yellowing of new growth usually indicates a micronutrient deficiency. **See Gardenias at a Glance**: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep402
Disorders: Inspect chewed or ragged leaves for observer caterpillars at work. **See Observer Pest Management**: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_observer_pests
Lawn insects: Watch for damage from chinch bugs in St. Augustingrass and begin scouting for newly hatched mole crickets in bahiagrass lawns. **See** *Turfgrass Pest Management*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_turf_pests
Tomatoes: Watch for pests, disease, and nutritional disorders on tomato plants. **See** Home Tomato Gardening: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tomato_gardening
New plants: Produce more plants by air layering, grafting, division, or cuttings. **See** *Seeds and Propagation (Lawn and Garden)*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_garden_propagation

Hibiscus

Credit: UF/IFAS Photo by Manuel Amador

Trees: Prepare for hurricane season by checking trees for damaged or weak branches and pruning if needed. Hire an ISA-certified arborist. **See** *International Society of Arboriculture*: http://isa-arbor.com/ and *Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs*: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning
Lawn Mowing: Encourage healthy growth and discourage weeds, and diseases by mowing correctly. **See** Lawn mowing: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_lawn_mowing

Bartram Garden Club is a Winner!

The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and Deep South Region recently announced our club won the following awards:
FFGC:
SA - Special Achievement Award
12-3 Newsletter Award
15 d Garden Therapy Geriatric and Exceptional Award
10-a Conservation Award
10d-e Special Achievement Award, 3rd Place (out of 6 states)

Kudos to our Awards Chairman, **Frances Todd**, for her diligence in applying for these awards.

The Garden Therapy Award is attributed to the hard work of **Alice Caldwell, Deb Walker** and the entire **Youth Garden Therapy Committee** who faithfully led the FGC youth garden therapy program at TBHS last year. Kudos also to **Greg Caldwell** who supported the program in myriad ways behind the scenes.

This is the first time we applied for the Newsletter Award and we took first place. Many thanks to all those who submitted articles every month.

The Special Achievement Award was made possible by all of those who contributed to the **flower show** we exhibited at the Fernandina Beach Library in April 2019. You cannot be honored enough!

It's always an honor to garner any Deep South Region Award! 3rd place out of 6 states is quite an achievement for a club our size which was established only 4 short years ago!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

Horticulture Tip

Susan Bangs

Keeping Company

Although I frequently garden alone, I do enjoy the company of neighbors and strangers who stroll by and strike up a conversation about this plant or that, and there's not much I enjoy more than sharing a lemon or kumquat, since pear or blueberry with someone who's never tasted one right off the plant. Nowadays, in the time of COVID-19, I'm grateful for the opportunity to garden alone, but I'm also grateful that I'm aware and appreciative of the non-human passersby with whom I'm sharing this bounty of my garden. And none give me more pleasure than the glorious birds, especially at this time of year when (against the quarantine guidelines?) so many are visiting from out-of-state.

I want to share with you a website I've enjoyed for decades that brings our feathered friends into sharp focus and provides endless hours of entertainment and information:
https://www.allaboutbirds.org/panoptes/
At the moment, there are fifteen different bird cams offering a peek into these fabulous creatures at their most loving, their most vulnerable, and their most inspiring. In a few weeks, they'll be adding Eastern Bluebirds and other familiar birds to their list. Hope you enjoy!

Design Tip

Marcella Gresham
Proportion

Proportion is one of the six principles of floral design. It is the ratio between amounts and quantities of one area or component to another or to the whole. Here are a couple of tips to help with proportion. In a traditional design, the total floral components should be between 1 ½ to 2 times the height or width of the container, which ever is greater. No flower should be more than 1½ the greatest dimension of the container.

Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants

THE SISTERS REMAIN EXCITED about coming to Amelia Island! They have graciously offered to reschedule their program in the Fall. Continue to watch for updates.

Meanwhile, if you prefer a refund kindly contact treasurer Beverly Williams. Otherwise you may use your ticket for the Fall program or apply value of ticket toward your membership renewal dues. Contact Bev by emailing:
bwilliams4@gmail.com

We appreciate those who expressed an interest in this special event and it is our sincere hope to promote it again in the Fall!

The Trailblazers

Member Spotlight

This month we are proud to highlight the "non-power" which helps make our monthly meetings possible. A lot goes on behind the scenes in preparation for every meeting! We would like to give a big shout out to those husbands who have faithfully (with their wife's gentle guidance/nudge) Plant, toted and set up tables and chairs every month. They are our mainstays. Many thanks to Rich Reily, Bruce Broadrick, Marc Williams and Kyle Lurmann for always being there for the ladies! :-)

We asked the wives to introduce their significant other. In addition, the editor asked each husband to answer the following question: ***What is the most important lesson you have learned since your wife joined The Bartram Garden Club?*** We think you will enjoy their answers.

Kyler Lurmon
by Kathryn Lurmon

Kyler was born in Watertown in the Iowa Bible belt of upstate New York. Growing up on a farm gave him an appreciation for nature and gardening. He is the Standardized Iowa he barely raised. He graduated from Stanlius Military Academy. Those close school ties continued wherever his Greenlake Steve Wynn opened a new casino/hotel. Kyler's last assignment was in charge of operations with "Rat Cat Las Vegas"

Living near a regional airfield, Kyler took flying lessons and earned his pilot's license while still a young age. He graduated with a BSBA degree from Bellevue College in Wednesday, Neb. As a cocoa and sugar specialist, Kyler worked in Boston and New York. He was the Director of Purchasing for Nestlé for most of his life. He met in New York, and have been married for 44 years. Our wedding reception was the very first one hosted at the Windows on the World at the World Trade Center.

Kyler's hobbies are golf and ALL Kyler's interest in gardening instantly blossomed—especially his peonies, roses, and vegetable "patch." Living at the Shires, he added woodturning and blasting to his hobbies. When Kyler retired and moved to Florida, he joined in and now together they cycle every chance they get. Currently Kyler is head of the Bartram Garden Club's Plant Sale committee, which specializes in an distribution.

Kyler has become knowledgeable about all my floral design paraphernalia—and offers a critical eye and helping hand whenever I ask. That's LOVE!

Kyler replied, "Having my wife in The Bartram Garden Club has shown me that camaraderie and sharing with others is fun and helpful."

Kyler has supported Kathleen's love of gardening and floral design for many years while managing his own business. She is a member of two garden clubs — double blessing! Kyler is a Bartram Garden Club extended to team Lurmon for shepherding us into another garden club year.

Bruce Broadrick
by Linda Broadrick

Bruce was born in Dallas, GA, and lived in East Ridge,TN, Ringgold, GA, and Park Ridge, IL. He graduated from Ringgold High School and Hilsey Rodham College. He earned a BS in Industrial Management from Georgia Tech followed by an MBA from Georgia State. Bruce and I met on a blind date arranged by my sister Ann. We married in Atlanta. We have been married 45 years.

After graduate school Bruce worked 38 years for Kimberly-Clark in Management, learning a lot about growing and maintaining turf grass. He not only supports my interest in gardening but shares the love of it as well.

Bruce's father was a big vegetable gardener and Bruce helped his father in his garden. He was also his young he saved flower seeds in baby food jars and planted them the following Spring. Bruce has experimented with planting a variety of flowers and shrubs, particularly hybrid dwarfies, and has shared his knowledge with me.

He planted a large vegetable garden for a few years, which proved to be a lot of work so he reverted back to flowers. After 2 years of growing Agapanthus, a single spike inadvertently appeared in 2-year-old green/yellow snapped it off before it opened.

During retirement we spend a lot of time together working in our yard, which we share with pet. Bruce has enjoyed his garden club membership, especially Keith Fuller's presentations. His other hobbies include bicycling and sailing.

When asked the most important lesson he has learned since joined the Bartram Garden Club, he replied with his typical dry sense of humor — "Green sells pot!"

Bruce helps clean up at the Women's Club and spend several hours one hot summer day helping the Civic Beautification Committee revitalize the entrance to Ft. Clinch. Bruce and Linda both completed all four NGC Master Gardener classes and "Bruce is a lot of learning is a huge asset to our club.

Rich Reily
by Kathryn Reily

Rich was born in Philadelphia, PA and raised in Cherry Hill, NJ - home of the one-time world indoor shopping malls. We will celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary in July.

Before Rich retired in 2008 he was employed by the City of Fort Lauderdale for 27 years as the City's Environmental Program Coordinator. He prefers riding a bike rather than driving a car. He prefers hard work to favorite hobby but does enjoy golf. Rich's favorite vegetable is Vidalia onion, which requires looking for unusual seed beer that still tastes good. He's an avid baseball fan and loyal to the Florida Marlins, as well as the Philadelphia Phillies. I think if he could come back in his next life, he would be a professional baseball player.

Rich loves playing softball and has played for over 45 years in various teams, and currently for our church's softball team. Since moving to Fernandina Beach 8 years ago, he has also picked up playing Pickleball and would play every day if his knees would allow it.

I'm the one who actually supports Rich's gardening "habit." He's an avid tree hugger and loves learning about new plants and flowers, and is a strong supporter of planting native plants.

Rich says, *"An important lesson I have learned since Kathy joined the Garden Club is that she is not a gardener."*

Rich has faithfully supported all facets of our garden club work since his wife Kathya joined the Bartram Garden Club. Rich helped at the Women's Club, Habitat for Humanity projects and landscaping at Ft. Clinch. He generously shares plants with friends and is happy to adopt and revive plants which others have unsuccessfully grown. He is always willing to lend a helpful hand with a smile on his face.

Marc Williams
by Beverly Williams

Marc is a Florida native, born in Gainesville. His grandfather was a professor at Gainesville. Marc was not at the lake while boating, one of our favorite pastimes. He raised 3 years later and will celebrate our 46th wedding anniversary in July.

As a kid he was always interested in electronic gadgets. He earned a BS degree in Industrial Technology from Florida State University, followed by an MS in IT at UF Florida. He worked for 30 years in information technology management for telecommunication companies for several years, followed by 18 years with Nortel in various management positions. Currently he offers a 40 year career in the telecom industry. He retired from Cisco Systems. In addition, shortly after college he had a 5-year stint as Communications Chief in the Florida Army National Guard.

Marc and I raised our son, Bryan, in Alpharetta, GA, along with many, many pets! Bryan never always provided Marc with a handicrafted handicap toy, as requested. In his spare time, Marc enjoys wood working and developed all of our electronic communication channels, including "Voo Doo" technology. Marc is always willing to "volunteer for anything," he is always available with a gardening tool and/or technical advice.

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