



# LEAF NEWSLETTER

*Apollo Beach Garden Club, Inc. 2017*

September 2025 - Edition #68

*"Just Keep on Planting"*



## **Paula Olesen**

### President's Message

Welcome to September and although still very warm, we are planning for the planting season nearer the end of the month by

starting seeds in the Saturday work time. If not seed starting, then transplanting to larger pots seedlings we are getting ready for the Fall Plant Sale on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendar and time you can give, as its always all hands are needed!!!

Our first of the season membership meeting, our Annual Meeting, is *Tuesday September 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30*. We have By Laws revisions to consider and vote on. They were attached to the August Leaf Newsletter email all current members received. We have some new members and will attach again for them this month. If you have questions send me an email ([apollobeachgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:apollobeachgardenclub@gmail.com)) . ALL memberships renew as of September 1<sup>st</sup>. You must be a paid member to vote at the September meeting. *If you have not yet renewed, complete the membership form and bring correct cash or check to the meeting.*

One of the changes in the By Laws revision is increasing the dues to automatically include the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) annual dues of \$12 per person. Our Club has been a recognized Garden Club with FFGC since 2017 when we were formed by the original Board. Many of us have paid dues to both the ABGC and FFGC yearly. Why? You might ask?

Being a member means I am participating in an organization at both the State and National level. I am dedicated to promoting the love of gardening, floral and landscape design; and civic and environmental responsibility. I am offered educational opportunities in person at quarterly meetings of District VIII, at the annual Convention in April, courses in person or via webinar. The courses in Environmental Conservation, Botany, Horticulture and Floral & Landscape Design led to certification in those areas. We have had speakers from FFGC at our meetings.

Along the way there is networking with of likeminded individuals, sharing of gardening tips and techniques. Much is shared in the quarterly publications from FFGC and the National Garden Club (NGC) which are on line at <http://www.ffgc.org> where you can find all things pertinent to our District VIII, FFGC and a link to our national organization. We have received Grants to start our Club and this last year to help restore your Community Forest Garden after the storms from FFGC and other member clubs.

The last two years we were a part of the Plant Trees on January 6<sup>th</sup>, and the Federation provided the funds for us and other Clubs to purchase Florida native trees the first year. This was a part of beautifying the community. We participate in the conservation of natural resources, promoting sustainability, and protecting the environment for future generations.

Speaking of future generations there is a summer camp for youngsters, and guidance for school programs and ways to get children into the community gardens. Instilling a love of gardening and environmental respect in young people begins early.

We want these resources and benefits to continue to be available through our support. If you did not join the FFGC when you paid your dues this year please reconsider and add the \$12.

Thank you all for what you do to help make this a Club that meets your needs. Is respected by the community and recognized by the State & National Garden organizations.

Best, Paula



### *Teresa Hall*

ABGC Plant Sale & Marketing

August was quite a busy month, with lots of new volunteers becoming new, active members and bed renters. It is exciting to see so many new faces and see the results of their help and volunteering. We started our Planting Parties on Saturdays this month and our fall plant inventory is off to a wonderful start. We already have a selection of peppers, French Sorrel, Italian Parsley, Celery, Tuscan Kale (Dinosaur Kale), Italian Oregano, Sage and Sweet Basil coming along nicely. Plus, way, way more to come.

Paula has volunteered to create the flower and pollinator selection of plants we will have available with a laser focus on native plants that support our Monarchs. One of our new members, Diane, has been bitten by the seed starting bug. It makes me smile to see her so excited about the Broccoli and Cauliflower starts she is working on. She even just invested in some grow lights for her home growing area so she can do more plant starting &



growing. Kathleen is always trying things new, unique and interesting. I just love her sense of adventure to grow things and can't wait to see what she wants to grow for this sale. Lynn has lots of flowers coming up. We started a portion of our tomato seeds on the last Saturday in August and have more to sow the first Saturday of September. We'll save the tomato talk for next month, but I promise we will have a stellar selection and I can't wait to tell you all about them.

This **plant sale** is built around a carefully curated list of our best performing and best researched plant varieties for the fall season that people want and we can beam with pride to sell. We will have unique, rare and new things to try in addition to main garden staples of the best varieties. We will have plants that you simply can't find at big boxes. We started seed planting a bit earlier for this sale so we can bring the plants along to a hardy and robust size that can fetch a higher price and give our gardeners the best chance of success with a more well-established plant perfectly ready to start producing.

Every Saturday from now until **our plant sale**, we will be doing some type of "Planting Party" in addition to our garden chores for our volunteer day. Things will either need to be planted, or potted on and pruned for optimal, robust growth that will WOW our patrons. It is my goal to exceed 3k in revenue from **our plant sale**. We have a shot at it by providing larger plants and a wider selection that can't be found elsewhere. Each and every one of you helping to plant along the way are the reason why we can reach

this goal. And, isn't it oh so much fun to grow together?

August was a bit of a tough month for me while I was healing from a surgery, and I just want to take a moment to thank my loving "garden family" for being there for me. Everyone has been so kind, and helpful, and compassionate, and supportive. People were really there for me, when I needed them to be, without me even asking. I'm not used to this much kindness and sense of family that cares for each other so well. Thank you everyone from the bottom of my heart. Ya'll are the "community" part of a community garden. I am so grateful for you and so grateful to have discovered this garden to become a part of it.

In addition to the regular planting parties, this is our start to our new year with our annual membership meeting this month. If you attend no other meetings all year, THIS is the one to attend. It is my grandest hope that all current and all new members will attend this month's meeting. We have some exciting new changes on the horizon, and we want your input. This is where you get to vote on the things you want to have in "our garden". Please mark your calendars, carve out the time and make it a priority. Afterwards, we will have a very charismatic and captivating speaker, Meryl Stout, from 15th Street Farm in St Petersburg. This will be a fun and exciting meeting to attend and I look forward to seeing you all there.







## Apollo Beach Garden Club, Inc.

### General Membership Meeting Minutes



## Apollo Beach Community Forest Garden

Raleigh Barnes, Coordinator



We had a great day at our first ever open house! We were able to rent some beds and get some new members. I am excited for our fall planting season and it looks to be a great one yet to come. I have attached some pictures of our event. It was a heartfelt one for me and for many others. I have taken on the previous role from Annie Jimenez.

I want to thank Teresa Hall, Paula Olesen, Ev Barnes and Annie Jimenez for helping create the event, set up and break down and for providing the food for our current members and new members alike. Annie gave an amazing tour of the garden.

I hope to see you all at the September meeting and don't forget if you plan on renewing your bed the annual September meeting would be a great time to do so. If you do plan on renewing your bed, please make sure you read the guidelines and are using organic and non-gmo seeds in your beds. You also need to be following OMRI and organic methods when in the garden.

In the garden there are many things fruiting and flowering. We have some bananas, dragon fruit, peanut butter fruit and hopefully some grapes in the fall.





## Review of Raised Bed Lease process

Many approach members during Volunteer Work Days inquiring about the rental of a raised bed. Here is a refresher of the simple 3 step process!

### **Step 1.**

Volunteer at least 10 hours on Tuesday and/or Saturday mornings. This will help us get to know each other and coach you on the basics of how the garden operates, where tools are and how to use them. During this time, you will also learn a bit about the [Lease Agreement](#) which you can download on the website. It is your responsibility to be familiar with its contents before you are assigned a raised bed. \*\*Don't forget to sign-in the White Binder every time you come to volunteer so we can track your hours together.

### **Step 2.**

Once the 10 hours have been completed, you are ready to fill out a [Membership Form](#) which can be downloaded from the website. You will bring this form together with corresponding payment to the following *Membership Meeting* on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm.



### **Step 3.**

At the Membership Meeting, you will be assigned a raised bed after a brief quiz on the Lease Agreement. You are ready to garden away!

*"Every weed you pull might be medicine. Every bug you ear could be a pollinator. Look closer – nature never makes mistakes." (Author unknown)*

Just installed my new gate security system



# EDIBLES TO PLANT IN

# September

North

Central

South

 <p><b>EASY TO TRANSPLANT</b></p> <p>Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Strawberry</p>	<p>Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kale, Lettuce, Peppers, Sugarcane, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches</p>	<p>Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Kale, Lettuce, Peppers, Sugarcane, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches</p>
 <p><b>TRANSPLANT CAREFULLY</b></p> <p>Celery, Mustard, Spinach</p>	<p>Mustard, Pineapple, Spinach</p>	<p>Amaranth, Calabaza, Long Squash, Luffa, Mustard, Papaya, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes</p>
 <p><b>USE SEEDS</b></p> <p>Beans (bush, pole), Carrots, Onions (bulbing, bunching), Radish, Squashes, Turnips</p>	<p>Beans (bush, lima, pole), Carrots, Cucumbers, Onions (bunching), Radish, Squashes, Turnips</p>	<p>Beans (bush, lima, pole), Carrots, Cucumbers, Okra, Onions (bunching), Peas (southern), Squashes, Turnips</p>

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Gardening  
SOLUTIONS

For more information, please visit  
[GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu](http://GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu)



# COMMUNITY SOGARDEN



## MORINGA LUNCH & LEARN - DISCOVER THE MIRACLE TREE!

Grow it · Eat it · Drink it · Use it for skin & hair!

Join us Sept 20th at 12pm to learn all the ways to use  
this miracle plant.



4207 W. Oklahoma Ave., Tampa, FL 33616

# Apollo Beach Garden Club Membership Form



- Annual Garden Club dues are due in SEPTEMBER.
- Community Forest Garden raised bed rentals run from SEPTEMBER or the date of lease start until the following 31st of AUGUST, regardless if they start mid season.
- Leasing a raised garden bed at the Apollo Beach Community Forest Garden is an ad-on to being a member of the Apollo Beach Garden Club. It is required that you join the Apollo Beach Garden Club and pay the dues stated below to opt in to renting a raised garden bed. Before an available raised bed is assigned to you we ask that you donate 10 hours of your time by actively participating at volunteer days (Tuesdays and Saturday mornings from 9am-12:00pm); and are familiar with the *Raised Bed Lease Agreement* posted online at <https://apollobeachgardenclub.com/member-information/>. The *Raised Bed Lease Agreement* document acts as a binding contract which you will have to sign for below when renting a raised bed from the Apollo Beach Garden Club.

Please mark the boxes () with an X where it applies.

**OPTION 1 - ABGC Dues**

Apollo Beach Garden Club Dues:  \$15.00 single,  \$25 couple

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs:  \$12.00 per household (Joining the federation is optional)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ paid on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_, by  CASH or  CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_

Member's signature \_\_\_\_\_

**OPTION 2 - ABGC Dues + Raised bed rental**

Apollo Beach Garden Club Dues:  \$15.00 single,  \$25 couple

Florida Federation of Garden Clubs:  \$12.00 per household (Joining the federation is optional)

Yearly Raised Bed Rental:  \$50

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Leasing raised bed: # \_\_\_\_\_ (to be assigned by ABGC board member)

Membership total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ paid on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_, by  CASH or  CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_

Member's signature \_\_\_\_\_

By signing here you agree to comply with the Rules and Regulations Stated in the Document "Raised Bed Lease Agreement" made available to you online at <https://apollobeachgardenclub.com/member-information/>. Failure to abide by these rules can result in early termination of your lease.

To pay and finalize, fill out this form and bring it to the next Garden Club meeting (3rd Tuesday of the month at the Recreation Center, 664 Golf and Sea Blvd, Apollo Beach, FL 33572), payments will not be accepted outside this time.

## ABGC Calendar of Activities:

- **The High Life: Contemporary Photography and the Birds**: exhibition at Selby Gardens in Sarasota (July 19 - September 14).
- **September 16, membership meeting 6:30p @ Apollo Beach Recreation Park**  
**Speaker: Alyssa Vinson, Hillsborough County Urban Forester "Trees in the Urban Landscape"**
- **Proposed Field Trips with the Riverview Garden Club**

I have asked if some of our interested Club members could join my friends at the Riverview Garden Club (RGV) on their planned field trips. The organizer for their Club is Fran Grossman, I would be your point of contact for registering to attend. Many events are free and when there is a cost Fran usually gets a nice group rate. You can bring as many folks with you as you want. They car pool, & you can join them or drive your own vehicle.  
**(Paula-813 512-1389)**

**Sept: 13<sup>th</sup> 9AM** Dali 360 at the Dali Museum in Downtown St Pete; Sat morning market first, have lunch, then Dali exhibit (fee); meet at Riverview Rec Center, 11020 Park Drive.

**Oct: 25 & 26<sup>th</sup>** Mt Dora Craft fair; Tampa Downs Oktoberfest; Indian Rocks Oktoberfest; Tampa Ghost tour;

**Nov:** Webster flea market

**Nov 8<sup>th</sup> 2025** McIntosh 1890s festival;(free) in Victorian McIntosh at 5835 Avenue G, on Rt 441 between Ocala & Gainesville.

**Dec:** Merry Christmas Market at MOSI;  
**Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>:** Alafia Lighted boat festival (1st Sat in Dec);

**Jan: 2026**

**January 30-Feb 1<sup>st</sup>:** Seminole Indian Indigenous Festival; 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood, Fl;  
**Jan 31<sup>st</sup> , 9-5:** Dade City Kumquat festival;  
**January 18 & 19<sup>th</sup>:** Crystal River manatee festival;

**Feb 28<sup>th</sup>:** Swamp cabbage festival in LaBelle with armadillo races;

**March:** **ABGC Plant Sale;**  
Manatee TECO event;  
Ford/Edison Museum in Ft Myers;

**April:** Sebring soda festival; Sunken Gardens;

**May:** Lakeland Aerospace Museum;

**June:** Tampa History Museum

**The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies." -Gertrude Jekyll**

# Volunteer to help always needed!!

## Garden Visitor Hours -

Open to the Public  
Tuesday and Saturday from 9 to 11  
Garden is closed on Holidays  
To schedule a tour outside regular hours email  
[apollobeachgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:apollobeachgardenclub@gmail.com)



## *Object and Mission of the Apollo Beach Garden Club, Inc.:*

**The Object** of the corporation is to enrich outdoor garden experiences through education programs, public awareness, and oversight of the Apollo Beach Community Forest Garden.

**The Mission** is for residents of Apollo Beach and the South Shore Community to learn about various common edible and Florida-friendly plants; and to also understand the significance of local environmental issues, opportunities and regenerative efforts.

## 2024-2025 Elected Board



**President:** Paula Olesen

**Secretary:** Nan Major

**Treasurer:** Ev Barnes

**Community Forest Garden Coordinator:** Raleigh Barnes

**Director of Committees:** Teresa Hall

**Past President:** N/A



### Committee Chairs

**ABGC Leaf Newsletter Editor Chair:** Jeanette Doyle

**Marketing and Plant Sale Event Chair:** Teresa Hall

**Membership Chair:**

**Webmaster:** Adam El-Ali

**Program Chair:**

**Scholarship Chair:** Raleigh Barnes



*All inquiries to be sent to: [apollobeachgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:apollobeachgardenclub@gmail.com)*

