



LEAF NEWSLETTER

Apollo Beach Garden Club, Inc. 2017

January 2026 - Edition #72

"Just Keep on Planting"



Paula Olesen

President's Message

A very Happy, Healthy New Year to all, especially those I have not seen over the holidays. The Holiday Party in the garden was even more fun than last year, if that is possible. Wonderful food and even better company and socializing. The white elephant gift exchange is always fun and taking another's coveted gift is the most fun!



I want to express the Board's appreciation to Nan Major who has resigned as Club Secretary as she and her husband have sold their home here and are moving to a winter home in Alabama. Nan has been an integral part of our Club and Garden's membership for several years and her warmth, caring and expertise will be sorely missed. Nan, you are wished the very best.

Tracy Osborne has been a Co-Secretary with Nan over the late summer/fall and will now assume the role of Secretary. Welcome to the Board. *Speaking of the Board, we have changed our monthly Board meeting to the 3rd Monday evening at 6 pm at the Recreation Center to accommodate all Board members' schedules. Our meetings are open and may be attended by any member.*

2026 will be a fun and busy time with the Junior Gardener's Academy officially starting January 14th with 10 registered 5 - 8 year olds. We have met all of them, plus several others over the past few months and this will be a 'growing' experience for all of us, but especially for the children. Teresa and I certainly appreciate any member's help who would like to come to the Academy's sessions. Just let one of us know.

Tuesday, January 20th at 6:30 is our first quarterly membership meeting and speaker! Many of you are in the garden volunteering or helping with garden tasks such as planting seeds or 'up-potting' seedlings. So, you know of some of our happenings of the past 4 months, but we will have both that and up-coming plans for the next 4 months!

Alyssa Vinson, Forestry at UF IFAS will speak on the Best Trees for Central Florida's Landscapes. *Most of us heard her speak on growing mushrooms, then she did a workshop in the gardening demonstrating planting mushrooms. Her speaking style and knowledge are outstanding. Don't miss it!!!!*

February 14th is the Spring Plant Sale, mark your calendars, it will be extra special!!!!

Plant Auction & Educational Presentation

Speaker Pamelain Callender of
The Florida Native Plant Society Presents:
"Growing Florida Native Plants in your Landscape"

MARCH 7TH 2026

10AM - 1PM

Apollo Beach Recreation Center
664 Golf and Sea Blvd

CLUBS REQUESTED TO DONATE
A SPECIALTY PLANT FOR THE AUCTION



CONTACT: APOLLO BEACH PRESIDENT
DISTRICT VIII HORTICULTURE CHAIR
PAULA OLESEN
PAHRN2017@GMAIL.COM | 813-512-1389
& TELL HER WHAT YOU ARE DONATING

March 7th the Club is sponsoring an event for the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, District VIII Horticultural Committee's "Plant Auction". Speaker Pamelain Callender of the Florida Native Plant Society presents "Growing Florida's Native Plants in your Landscape" at 10am to this a no fee event in the Community Room at the Recreation Center. The auction, which will follow the speaker, will feature 40-50 specimen plants of all sorts to be auctioned to the highest bidder! Mark your calendar!! This is a fundraiser for the Grant Fund of District VIII which

benefits local Community Gardens (us last year) in need. Visit www.FFGC.org to see the District's Winter Newsletter, other events such as the upcoming Convention April 14-17th in Kissimmee, Fl.

We are entertaining ordering club apparel by member request. For example, I prefer a long-sleeved shirt versus short sleeves. I'd really like a work apron with pockets and our logo and design on it. Ideas are welcome in this planning Stage. Tracy Osborne is leading this project.

So much more I could go on about, but others will give you more to digest and ponder in the Newsletter. Many thanks to Jeanette's Doyle's talents and dedication to producing an interesting Newsletter every month.

May we have an outstanding week, month, year full of experiences that help us learn to be a better person tomorrow than we are today.

Paula
Paula Olesen, President
813 512-1389





Teresa Hall

ABGC Plant Sale & Marketing

Happy New Year Garden Lovers! Please be sure to attend our Quarterly Club meeting on January 20th at 6:30 pm in the activities room. It is important for

all new members to attend this event to meet our board and learn how the business end of our club functions. Even our newest, youngest members under 18 are able to vote on club matters during the first portion of our evening and learn parliamentary procedure. Following our standard club business, Alyssa Vinson from UF/IFAS will be speaking about including trees in your landscape.

We made a lot of progress in the garden last month and our planting parties have been highly successful in creating the vast inventory that we will need in order to reach our income goals for the sales event. It is a joy to see everyone so eager and happy to help create all the new plants for our Spring Plant Sale. It just so happens that our plant sale date also falls on **Valentine's Day** this year, and we are eager to incorporate more love into our world with this sale in a way that generates meaningful impact in our community.

In addition to other new vendors, we are delighted to welcome the **Kid's Entrepreneurs Market** to join in as vendors for our plant sale this year. The Children's Entrepreneur Market is an award-winning non-profit program that teaches young people about the power of entrepreneurship, innovation and leadership through experiential learning. Parents and kids everywhere agree that learning and earning in a competitive environment is a unique and fun experience. Kids rise to the challenge of deciding what to sell, creating a booth, talking to customers, and handling money. The Kid's Market portion offers a wide array of fun and interesting items, all made by

kids. Everything from soaps and chap stick to snacks, jewelry and fascinating 3D printed toys. They are expecting to have between 10 and 30 booths and they are a powerful addition to our vendor offerings. You can learn more about them at <https://kidsmarkets.com>.

Please mark your calendars for key volunteer days the week of the plant sale. **February 7th, 10th, 13th and 14th will be key volunteer days** and we need as many hands-on deck as possible to make this next sale even bigger than the last. As always, members who have volunteered to help with the event will have members only access to pre-shop before the sale. We are now growing the majority of our stock and inventory, rather than accepting plant donations. If you have plants you wish to donate, please contact me at **(813) 310 - 3204** or kcproductions4fl@hotmail.com to coordinate before bringing to the garden. While we appreciate the generous offers, we are not able to accept aloe, agave, pothos, philodendron and other plants in that category as they simply do not sell at our events. We do need banana pups, pineapple, other small fruit trees and pollinator attractors.

The starting of a new year always brings new hope and I am definitely feeling the hope and excitement already this year. With launching the new Junior Gardeners Academy this month and the promise of another record setting Plant Sale next month, the future's so bright we might need to wear shades.

Teresa Hall

Director of Marketing and Events

Urban Agriculture Specialist

Community Garden Specialist

Director of Marketing and Events

Apollo Beach Garden Club

664 Golf and Sea Boulevard

Apollo Beach, Florida

(813) 310 - 3204

ApolloBeachGardenClub.com

Quarterly Membership Meeting

Tuesday Jan 20, 2026 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Park Rec Center Events Room

Alyssa Vinson UF/IFAS



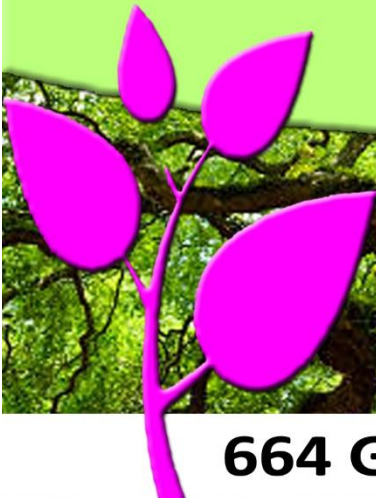
Be sure to attend our first quarterly membership meeting of the New Year. For all new members, this is an important meeting to attend. This is where members can hear from and engage with our governing board. Members vote on all new business and even our youngest of members under 18 years of age are able to vote and learn about how Parliamentary Procedure works.

Following the meeting, our guest speaker is Alyssa Vinson, the Urban Forestry Extension Agent in how to select the best

Hillsborough County. She will speak on trees for Central Florida Landscapes.

Event is free and open to the public.

We welcome you to come garden and learn with us.



664 Golf and Sea Blvd Apollo Beach, FL

Apollo Beach Garden Club & Community Forest Garden



Feb 14

2026

8am -3pm
rain or shine

Spring Plant Sale

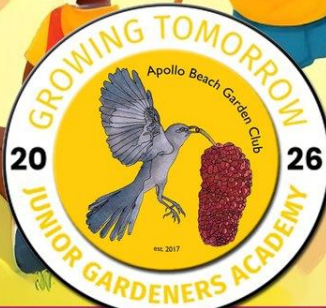
Come get a "Market Garden To-Go" with literally everything you need for a Spring Garden as we feature and celebrate our local youth entrepreneurs and gardeners for Valentine's Day.

Youth entrepreneurs will have booths and products available for sale. The Junior Gardeners Academy will have a booth and a growing garden plot to discuss with visitors.

Line forms early, so bring your wagons, more money than you think you'll need, and help support our new generation of gardeners, farmers and entrepreneurs while you take home an incredible new Garden To-Go.

Vendors Open at 7:30 am
Gates Open Promptly at 8 am

CHILDREN'S 
ENTREPRENEUR
market



(813) 310 - 3204 664 Golf and Sea Blvd Apollo Beach, FL 33572

Tracy Osborn, Secretary



Apollo Beach Community Forest Garden

Raleigh Barnes: Garden Forest Coordinator, Membership & Scholarship Chair

New Vego beds are being installed to replace the first 4 wooden beds under Raleigh's guidance with Jim's and other help.



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)

Club Member's Photo



Bike donated by club & a member to the HC Rec Center's Holiday in the Park children's raffle.

ABGC Holiday Party!!



Josh with first turnip!!



Gardener Diane with huge radish & not so big red pepper

Apollo Beach Garden Club Membership Form



OPTION 1 - ABGC Membership Dues

- Annual Garden Club dues are due in SEPTEMBER at the annual meeting. Dues are not pro-rated if paid mid-season.
- Dues paid in July and August will count for the following term.

Apollo Beach Garden Club Dues: \$30.00 per person. FFGC dues included.

Name: _____

e-mail: _____ Phone number: _____

Address: _____

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

OPTION 2 - ABGC Membership Dues + Raised bed rental

- 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 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.wordpress.com/by-laws/>. The *Raised Bed Lease Agreement* document acts as a binding contract which you will have to sign for on this form when renting a raised bed from the Apollo Beach Garden Club.
- To pay and finalize your lease agreement fill out this form and turn it over to the Community Forest Garden Coordinator, or Membership Committee Chair.

Apollo Beach Garden Club Dues: \$30.00 per person + Yearly Raised Bed Rental: \$50 = \$80.00. FFGC dues included.

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.wordpress.com/by-laws/>. Failure to abide by these rules can result in early termination of your lease.

EDIBLES TO PLANT IN

January



South

Arugula, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches

Aramanth, Calabaza, Celery, Long Squash, Luffah, Mustard, Pineapple, Potatoes, Seminole Pumpkin, Spinach, Sweet Potatoes

Beans (bush, lima, pole), Cantaloupe, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Okra, Onion (bunching), Peas (English, Southern), Radish, Squash, Turnips, Watermelon



Central

Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tomatoes

Celery, Mustard, Pineapple, Potatoes, Spinach

Cantaloupe, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Onion (bunching), Peas (English), Radish, Squash, Turnips, Watermelon

North

Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard

Celery, Mustard, Potatoes, Spinach

Carrots, Onion (bunching), Peas (English), Radish, Turnips



EASY TO TRANSPLANT



TRANSPLANT CAREFULLY



USE SEEDS

For more information, please visit GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu



Trips member can take with members of the Riverview Garden Club.

January 17th 9-5 & 18th 9-4 Crystal River Manatee Festival: \$10 entrance fee.

Jan 23rd Friday - Lunch at Mandolas and visit Teco manatees



Jan. 31st (Saturday) 9-5 Dade City Kumquat Festival. Arts & Crafts, Delicious Food (from our local restaurants, food vendors, and food trucks), Car & Truck Show, Farmer's Market Vendors, Kumquat Kids Corral, Kumquats, Kumquat Pie & Products. Free parking at Ford dealership; Go north on 301, take the bypass around Dade City, Ford on the left. Park in the trolley area. Take the trolley to the festival.

Feb 7th Saturday - Quilt showcase, Dade City Pioneer Museum

Feb 13th Friday - Exotic Plant nursery, lunch at Circles in Apollo Beach

Contact: Fran Grossman

gardenfrangrossman@aol.com

or Marcia Hunter ml.hunter@verizon.net



"If you don't have time to take care of everything, Sir, Mom's vegetable garden would be a good thing to let go."



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



*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.



2025-2026 Elected Board



President: Paula Olesen

Secretary: Tracy Osborn

Treasurer: Kathleen Willis

Community Forest Garden Coordinator: Raleigh Barnes

Director of Marketing & Events: Teresa Hall

Past President: N/A



Committee Chairs

ABGC Leaf Newsletter Editor Chair: Jeanette Doyle

Facebook: Teresa Hall

Membership Chair: Raleigh Barnes

Webmaster: Josh Thomas

Program Chair: _____

Scholarship Chair: Raleigh Barnes



Board meets ***the 3rd Monday evening at 6 pm*** at the Recreation Center

Our meetings are open and may be attended by any member.

Membership Meetings quarterly

All inquiries to be sent to: apollobeachgardenclub@gmail.com

