



SEEDS FOR THOUGHT - February 2026

Thank you again to all the volunteers who made the January Jamboree a success again this year! I believe all remaining merchandise has been sold, and Jackie Sparber will deliver the remaining books to Key West.

Next up is the House and Garden Tour on Saturday March 7th. Please clear your calendars as Laurie and Kristen reach out for volunteers to welcome guests to the tour's beautiful homes and gardens, sell tour tickets at the club and at each home, monitor sales of art and merchandise (stay tuned for more details!)

I strongly encourage each member to follow Tropical 12 FFGC District XII on Facebook. There are inspirational posts plus educational, workshop, and fun opportunities from other clubs in our district. And the biggest benefit to you is there wouldn't be so many emails with links to open from me!

We still have the Tour this year, but I want you to look forward to next year. I want you to put yourself in the role of finding volunteers for our three main events. I urge you to put next season's event dates on your calendars now. Use that information in planning get-aways or hosting visitors when possible and plausible. Saying yes to volunteering is what keeps us going (and don't forget the plant nursery could use more helping hands every Thursday!).

Thanks to all for all you do!

Vicki

To plant a garden isto believe in tomorrow~ ~Audrey Hepburn

2026 House & Garden Tour



Two Estates and Gardens on Duck Key and Two in Marathon

Tour the Club's Gardens and Orchid Wall

\$40 Per Person



Purchase Tickets

Prior to the Tour

Marathon Garden Club
Mon.-Fri. 10-2

DK Beach Boutique, KCB

Eventbrite Online
eventbrite.com



Day of Tour at all venues

Saturday, March 7TH • 10 AM - 4 PM

Join us at the Marathon Garden Club, Day of Tour:

purchase tickets • view our gardens

sign up for silent auction for the donated local artwork on display

MORE INFO: call the Garden Club at 305-743-4971 or visit www.marathongardenclub.org

5270 Overseas Highway • Marathon, FL (MM50, across from Publix Plaza) • www.marathongardenclub.org

VOLUNTEER SIGNUP SHEETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING!

HELP LAURIE AND KRISTEN MAKE THIS A VERY SUCCESSFUL EVENT!

THANK YOU

Speaker Series Info



February 20th 2026: For orchid and conservation enthusiasts alike, Emily Jefferson, graduate student at Florida International University, will be sharing her research and work on Orchid Island, Taiwan. Her research is focused on endangered orchids in Taiwan, and necessary conservation efforts. You will enjoy seeing the beautiful images of Taiwanese orchids and learning about the similarities of the orchids that we care for in the Florida Keys, to the orchids that Emily is working hard to save.

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Gift Shop News

Hello from the gift shop crew . We had a good day at the jamboree and are looking into February and on to the house tour March 7th. We have a variety of lovely gifts in the shop. Feel free to stop in and shop for yourselves or for others. We have your favorite gardening items on hand. Also come see the nice array of beautiful hand made items from our talented club members. Handmade cards, decorated journals, stained glass and hand made jewelry with semiprecious stones besides other bits and bobs!

Thanks to Carol Geick for making the calamondin jam again this year. If you live locally and have the empty jam jars you can always return them to the club and we will get them to Carol!

Again we are open 10-2 Monday- Friday and anticipate being busy as we lead up to the house tour with ticket sales for the tour, art raffle and answering the phone calls related to them both. We are so happy to be the ambassadors for the club. Hoping to see you all very soon!



A Message from Carl Miller, Assistant Treasurer:

The Garden Club gratefully acknowledges and expresses its sincere thanks to the H. D. Perry Family Foundation for its generous donation of \$2,000. The donation was designated \$1,000 for the Club's operations and \$1,000 to our Scholarship Fund "In memory of Nancy Miller". Thank you so much. Donations to help support our operations and educational activities from Club members and friends are always welcome at P. O. Box 500826, Marathon, FL 33050.

Scholarship News

The Scholarship committee is excited to begin work on the 2026 Nancy Miller Marathon Garden Club Scholarship for a graduating senior. Our application has been updated for 2026 and college bound students have until April 10, 2026 to submit their application. The scholarship will be promoted at the school and through the Marathon Weekly. One student with excellent grades and test scores, leadership, and financial need will be selected. The student must be planning to major in a STEM area (science, tech, engineering, math). Our scholarship is renewable each year of undergraduate school, if the student meets the requirements set.

Gail Schindler has joined the scholarship committee along with Arlene Keeney, Toni Appell, and Barb Wright.

From the Garden

The garden team, as always, are busy as bees. Please join them every Thursday morning to help keep our gardens beautiful.



A Gift for the Garden

When Margaret and Steve Baumann of Key Colony Beach upgraded their outdoor space, they saved two dozen round and four large rectangular concrete steppingstones from the landfill. Instead, they made a generous donation to the Marathon Garden Club!

Judy Shaw, Carl Miller, and Stan Martinkosky knew just where to repurpose these gifts. The steppingstones fit perfectly in the labyrinth created within the club's cedar plank orchid wall. Having a level, solid surface makes it easier to enjoy all the specimens tucked in under trees in the court yard near the butterfly garden.

To enjoy the plants and new steppingstones, the club's plant nursery is open every Thursday, and garden groomers are busy maintaining the grounds. Stop by and enjoy our gardens, visit our plant nursery, and visit with our experts about your gardening questions or concerns.



Club Calendar

General membership meeting 02/20

House Tour 03/07/26

*****Important Information*****

Membership dues are due for the 2026 year.

If you pay directly by Joint it you have already received a reminder. If you pay by check or cash you can pay at our meetings or by mail .

The single membership fee is \$50.00. Family membership is \$75.00.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Debbie Maggio (membership chair).

Still Looking for a Few Good Women and Men

Many thanks to those who stepped up to support our club by serving on the board of directors. We still have several vacant positions. Year round residency is not necessary. Zoom is always available for our snowbirds. Please let our amazing new president Vicki Stead or any of our board members know if you can spare a few hours a month, to support the club.

DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Officers

Vicki Stead; President
Rhonda Cooper- 1st V-President
TBD- 2nd V-President
Stan Martinkosky- 3rd V-President
TBD-Treasurer
Carl Miller- Assistant Treasurer
Kristen Brenner-Recording Secretary
Susan Williamson- Corresponding Secretary

Directors

Margie Casey- Voting member
Debra Wonderlin- Director *term ends 6/26
Gail Schindler-- Director
Patti Molnar- Director
Rosemary Thomas- Director
Carol Price-Ass't Librarian
