



Spring is in the air



Art & Foliage Festival



April 26 & 27, 2025



Supplement to The Apopka Chief, April 25, 2025

Dear friends and visitors,

Welcome to the 63rd annual Apopka Art & Foliage Festival. The festival is sponsored by the GFWC Apopka Woman’s Club in partnership with the City of Apopka. Our thanks to Mayor Bryan Nelson and the dedicated city workers who help us bring this festival to you. Thanks to all our sponsors and The Apopka Chief newspaper.

Let’s take a stroll through the park together: After parking in Edwards Field, the foliage area is calling. On display is everything from roses to our “spotlight” plant, Ananas Sugar Loaf pineapple, which is edible.

After you purchase all your plants, the plant sitter booth will “baby sit” them for a small fee so you can continue your adventure. We also have knowledgeable “plant doctors” who can answer your questions about problems you may have in your yard or garden. This leads us to the conservation area, where you can become familiar with native birds, animals, the ecosystem and more. There will also be 200 bald cypress trees given away starting Saturday morning on a first come first served basis. As always, only one per person. Bordering conservation is school art where local students display their creative talents. Some of their work will really “WOW” you.

Also, on this side of the park we will have a face painter and the “hamster wheel” where kids can create their own snow cones by running in the hamster wheel.

Now we walk through the creative craft displays of everything from pottery, jewelry, leather, wood work, books, soaps, and much more. Next, is fine art and fine handcrafts. Amazing pieces from fine artists that will be sure to catch your eye. At the back of the park is concession row where you will have a choice of many different foods and drinks. Picnic tables and tents are available for you to relax, or in the middle of the park is the gazebo with entertainment all day. Chairs and bleachers are under the large trees so you can rest and be entertained by local artists and area schools.

The Kids Zone is sponsored by Home Depot. There will be a craft for the kids to put together and take home. The Apopka police and fire departments will also be on hand with police vehicles and fire trucks for the kids to explore.

As you can see, it will be a fun-filled day at the Apopka Art & Foliage Festival. All proceeds from the festival will go back to the community in the form of scholarships to local high school seniors, area nonprofits, local sports teams as well as the city fire, police and recreation departments.

My deepest gratitude to the members of the Apopka Woman’s Club who work year-round to bring this festival to fruition. If you have any questions or concerns, look for the “green shirt ladies” to help you. We will be out and about everywhere.

Thank you for joining us to make this year’s festival a success.

Joann Castillo
Chairman

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Dear Friends and Visitors,

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy was sworn into office, Alan Shepherd became the first American in space, and Roger Maris hit 61 home runs to set Major League Baseball’s all-time record. It’s also the year the Apopka Art and Foliage Festival took place for the first time.

Much has happened in our world since this storied festival first took flight, but it has remained a welcome constant in our community. This would not be possible without the dedication of the Apopka Woman’s Club, which works so hard to put on this outstanding event every year. The Apopka Chief extends its congratulations and gratitude to these women for their labor of love.

Kit Land Nelson was a community activist who was heavily involved in the Apopka Woman’s Club’s sponsorship of this event, so it is fitting that it takes place at the festival park named in her honor.

We thank the staff members of the city of Apopka’s Parks and Recreation Department for their work to maintain the park, along with the first responders who will work the event. A festival such as this would not be possible without the many responsibilities carried out by our police and fire departments.

As The Apopka Chief enters a new era under new ownership, we are pleased to continue the tradition of publishing this special section to celebrate the 63rd annual Apopka Art & Foliage Festival. We thank all the sponsors who made it possible and the Apopka Woman’s Club for the content its members contributed.

We look forward to another superb event that will showcase the very best of Apopka.

Sincerely,
J.C. Derrick
Publisher, The Apopka Chief

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We are delighted that you are here

Once again, the Apopka Art & Foliage Festival takes over the last weekend of April in downtown Apopka.

Now in its 63rd year, the festival continues to grow in quantity and quality each and every year. From humble school-art show beginnings to today's show which features high-quality artists and crafters to world-class foliage, you get an event that draws thousands from not only Apopka, but also Central Florida and beyond to Kit Land Nelson Park.

The festival will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 27, at Kit Land Nelson Park at 35 S. Park Ave., along Park Avenue between First Street and Orange Street.

The GFWC Apopka Woman's Club and the city of Apopka sponsor the festival. Thanks to the special ladies of the GFWC Apopka Woman's Club. It's amazing what can happen when this group collaborates and combines the members' many talents into a one-of-a-kind event.

The festival of sights, sounds, smells and sensational foliage is expected to attract thousands of people each day.

The many artists and crafters will be displaying

their work, vying for ribbons and thousands of dollars in prizes.

Additionally, Apopka's world-famous, top-quality foliage will be for sale at reasonable prices. For the convenience of those buying plants, a plant sitter service is available for a small fee.

When walking through the park, taking in all that is to be offered, one might just become a tad weary even though the mind remains enticed.

That is when the many food vendors meet such need for food and beverages. Numerous food concessions will be available with tasty fare for all palates.

Entertainment is a local effort. Musical groups from churches, schools and other organizations will keep you toe tapping or dancing!

The Apopka Art & Foliage Festival has been entertaining and informing people for more than six full decades.

It is a tradition that we in Apopka are proud of, so relax and enjoy a truly pleasurable weekend experience at the 63rd annual Apopka Art & Foliage Festival.

Admission is free to this community event, although there is a \$5 parking fee that goes to the local Boy Scouts who are parking the cars.



Photo by Forest and Kim Starr

The Art & Foliage Festival's spotlight plant this year is the *Ananas comosus*, a pineapple variety known as Sugarloaf. Part of the family of Bromeliaceae, pineapples are tropical plants native to South America. The fruit was first introduced in Europe in the 1600s and has been produced in multiple tropical plantations and in greenhouses for commercial use since the early 19th century. Compared to other pineapple varieties, the sugarloaf has a white flesh that is less fibrous and acidic and has higher sugar content. The sugarloaf can weigh on average 5 to 6 pounds.

Thank you to The Apopka Woman's Club for their hard work hosting this year's Annual Apopka Art and Foliage Festival.

Explore APOPKA



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This year's festival committee, comprised of Apopka Woman's Club members, is (front row, l to r) Marilyn Boyer, Sharon Fisher, Joann Castillo (chair), Valerie Duffek, Janice Daffeldecker and Bobbie Daugherty; (middle row, l to r) Pam Groseclose, Katie Jarrett and Lorena Potter; (back row, l to r) Judy Coleman, Dena Morrow, Betty Ashton, Jenny Iafate, Diane Harrison and Christy Faircloth.

The Apopka Art & Foliage Festival has a rich history

In 1961, under the leadership of then-President Kit Land Nelson, the Apopka Woman's Club hosted its first art show at Apopka Memorial High School. The tradition continued, and the show became an annual event.

In 1965, the Apopka Jaycees hosted the first Apopka Foliage Festival at the corner of Forest Avenue and Fourth Street. The festival soon gained widespread attention throughout Central Florida. The two events combined in 1976 to become the Apopka Art and Foliage Festival.

Over the decades, the Apopka Art and Foliage Festival has blossomed into one of the most respected and well-attended festivals in Central Florida, showcasing fine arts and distinctive high-quality foliage. Held annually at Kit Land Nelson Park, the festival helped to bring recognition to the unique cultural aspects of the city of

Apopka and its significant contribution to the national indoor foliage industry.

Governors and other dignitaries have attended the festival, and the event has received many accolades. Among them are:

- *Being central to the city's Centennial Celebration in 1982.

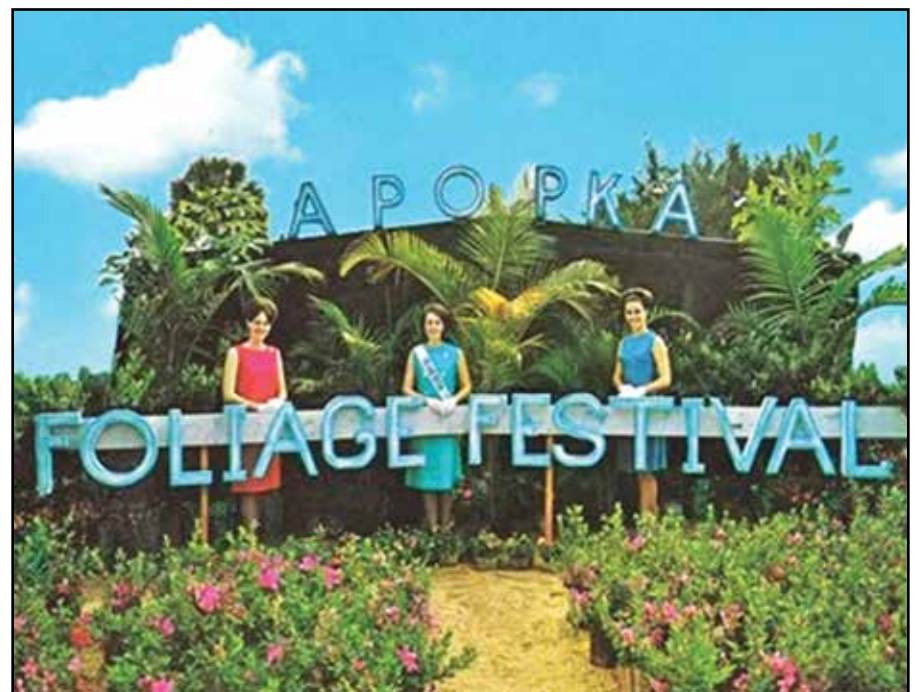
- *Being showcased in Southern Living Magazine in 1984.

- *The Library of Congress designating the festival as National Local Legacy in 2000.

- *Celebrating Apopka's 120th anniversary as a city in 2002.

- *Florida Living magazine recognizing the event as in "The Apopka Spirit" in 2003.

Visit the festival and see for yourself the vast cultural heritage the show and the city of Apopka has to offer as "the Indoor Foliage Capital of the World".



Apopka Foliage Festival - 1965

AAFF CREATIVE CRAFTS

NAME	BUSINESS
Bishop, Errol & Dianna	Hey MonCaribbean Cooking Magic LLC
Boddie, Sonya	Chocolit's Designs (yarn art)
Cease, Heather	Heather Kay Candles
Cheslow, Debbie	D'Angie's
Cialkowski, Kathy	All Natural Dips
Donoughe, Joe	Be the Hamster
Duchesneau, Tim	Tim's Wine Bottle Wind Chimes & Copper Jewelry
Erskine, Dan	Everette Erskine
Etkins, Davely	Bubble
Griggs, Jessica	Beach Buckeye Design
Grimes, Sharon	Body Art Fusion Face Painting
Hill, Nancy	Xevaduds Furbaby Fashions
	Gnomeland Securitee
Iglesias, Percy Roger	Ear Fashion By Roger
Langelier, Kristen	My Urban Poncho
Larson, Eric	Winter Park Soap Company
Latchkov, Evgueni	Florida Fine Crafts LLC
Legzdina, Sanita	Sanisilver
Levine, Tom	Defiant Worm Books
Marulanda, Beth	Pottery by Beth
Morehouse, Fotini	Fuse Glass by Tina
Muschett, Evette	RUBee Creations
Richardson, Kennedy	Wishing Well Creations & Dyes
Riess, George "Andy"	Bare Bottom Boyz
Roth, Tennille	Cerebral Artz
Stankiewicz, Arielle	Owls of Athena
Steinbuchel, Ellen	Sparkles
Storey, Andrew	Artisan 3d Labs
Vandenvoom, Craig	Belts and Leathergoods
Weeks, Linda	Pink Pineapple Jewelry

FINE ARTISTS AND FINE HANDCRAFTERS

NAME	BUSINESS
Brosious, Charlie & Maria	American Andes Gifts
Busquets, Nadine	Miraquelindo
Combee, Linda	Creations by LC
Fraser, Lucy	Castle Green Art Glass Studio
George, Clyde	The Ring Weaver
Goldsmith, Day M	Saw Palmetto Arts LLC
Grannis, Jennifer	Whimsy by the Sea
Green, Christinia	Abundant Provisions
Harding, Carolyn	Carolyn Harding Art
Heaton, Cissy	CRH Artworks
Hudson, Madylan	Glass Paradise Studio
Jackson, Clifford	Cliff Jackson
Jones, Greg	Greg Jones
Kosarin, Mark	Moments in Times Photography LLC
Marshall, Rick & Vivian	Honeysuckle Gems & Jewelry LLC
Nelson, Jeffrey	Hudson River Inlay
Noriega, Frank	WireWorks Creations Inc.
Rathburn, Brittany	B Rathburn Studios
Sutphin, Dee	Dee Did It Glass
Tamvakis, Miya	Simply Vintage by Miya
Wehman, Samm Epstein	Sam Wehman Art
Wells, Barbara	B F Wells Jewelry Design
Wentzel, Mary	World of Wentzel
Weron, Elzbieta	E W Art Photography

Foliage Sertoma Club *Service To Mankind*



*Warmest congratulations to
GFWC Apopka Woman's Club on the
63rd Art & Foliage Festival*

You've done it again! Your talents, skills,
strength and other attributes have paid off.

*Sertoma exists for the high and noble purpose of
SERVICE TO MANKIND by communication of
thoughts, ideas and concepts to accelerate human
progress in health, education, freedom and democracy.*

We invite you to have lunch with us
on the first and third Tuesday of each month.
Email: Info@FoliageSertoma.org

**For more information or to donate please visit
our website at www.foliagesertoma.org**

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Along Concession Row find a variety of Food and Drinks

While strolling through our floral displays and stunning artist displays, take a leisurely break and purchase delicious foods and beverages.

Our returning vendors are:

- **Outback Snack Shack** - various drinks, gourmet pretzels, deep fried Oreos, and more
- **King's Nuts and Tea** - gourmet nuts, variety of teas, coffee, hot chocolate
- **King's Cup and Cone** - delicious Dole whip, spectacular soft serve
- **Bear Bottom Boys** - kettle korn
- **Grillmasters** - BBQ ribs, chicken, pork, baked beans, collard greens, mac-n-cheese and more

- **Linda's Hot Dogs & More** - plump hot dogs, fries, chicken tenders
- **Fresh Seafood, Chicken, Pork Chop** - variety platters, fried oyster, conch fritters, gator basket, whiting, and more
- **Potzees Italian** - sausages, cheese sticks, salad, coffee
- **Pipos Latin** food - Tequenos and Venezuelan empanadas and we are adding new vendors:
- **Asian Kitchen** - Boba, Bao & Pan Asian Bento
- **Friends Products** - middle eastern treats, hummus, vegan spreads, yogurt, baba ghanoush, and more



Photo by Teresa Sargeant

A variety of plants populate Kit Land Nelson Park at last year's Art & Foliage Festival.



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The Plant Doctors can improve your foliage's health

The 63rd Apopka Art & Foliage Festival is delighted to welcome our Plant Specialists (aka Plant Doctors) once again. “The Plant Doctors” are experts in their fields, willing and ready to advise you on how to improve the health of your foliage, how to keep those brand-new plants looking vibrant, what to do about those pesky insects bugging your plants or even questions about tree health. Take a look at our website (apopkaartandfoliagefestival.org) for days and times and specialties of each Plant Doctor. Please feel free to bring pictures or a small sample of your plant problem to help the doctors with their diagnoses.

**On Saturday, April 26, look for
9am-11am Tom MacCubbin
Specialty, Horticulture Extraordinaire**

Tom is the author of six books about Florida gardening and landscaping. He has been honored by the Florida Nurseryman and Growers Association as the Best Horticultural Writer. He has hosted the “Better Lawns and Gardens” radio show for over 18 years, and The American Horticulture Society recognized Tom as the National Teacher of the Year. In March of 2007, Tom was promoted to the distinguished position of Extension Agent Emeritus with the University of Florida upon his retirement after 36 years of service. As always, it is truly an honor to have Tom kick off our Plant Doctor lineup.

**11 am-1pm Teresa Watkins
Specialty-Horticultural and Landscape Design**

Teresa is a landscape designer, horticulturist, garden author, and consultant. She designed the landscape for the first certified ‘green home’ in Florida in 2001. Watkins co-hosts the weekly syndicated Better Lawns and Gardens with Tom MacCubbin on 24 Florida radio stations. iHeart, iTunes, and Amazon. Teresa’s first gardening book series, A Gardener’s Compendium: Gardening in a Twitter World in 140 Characters or More has three published volumes. Come say hello to Teresa as she offers her expertise once again particularly in the horticultural and landscape design areas.

**1 pm-3pm Moh Leng Kok-Yokomi
Specialty-Ornamental and Vegetable Pests**
Moh, a PhD in Agriculture En-



Commissioner Alexander Smith and visitor AAFF 2024

PLANT DOCTORS	
Saturday April 26	
9 am-11 am	Tom MacCubbin
11 am-1 pm	Teresa Watkins
1 pm-3 pm	Moh Leng Kok-Yokomi
3 pm-5 pm	Deborah Green
Sunday April 27	
10 am-12 pm	Jennifer Hitchcock
12 pm-2 pm	Dena Wild
2 pm-4pm	Commissioner Alexander Smith

tomology from the University of California, Davis, has researched and taught classes in the entomology field. She retired from the University of Florida, Mid-Florida Research and Education Center in Apopka, where she conducted research on agricultural pest problems in ornamental and vegetable crops. Moh has given our festival her expertise for several years and we welcome her back. Let Moh give insight to making your garden its best.

**3pm-5pm Deborah Green
Specialty-Native Plants**

Deborah, a native Floridian, is a Native Plant Expert. She earned her Ph.D. in the field of entomology from the University of California, Berkeley. She worked in Puerto Rico for three years and then returned to Gainesville, her home town, before settling in central Florida. She taught biology and environmental sciences at sever-



Jennifer Hitchcock, Dena Wild and Deborah Green AAFF 2024



Tom MacCubbin & Mayor Bryan Nelson AAFF 2024

**On Sunday, April 27, come see
10am-12pm Jennifer Hitchcock
Specialty-Aboriculture (trees and horticulture)**

Please stop by and welcome Jennifer to the Apopka Art & Foliage Festival and especially to the Plant Doctor tent. She is a third generation Floridian, a tree doctor and a world traveler. She is a certified ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) Arborist and horticulture consultant in the Orlando area. Jenn is a University of Florida graduate with a B.S. and M.S. in Environmental Horticulture. She is bringing her 20-plus years of experience in the horticultural and arboricultural industry to the Apopka Art & Foliage Festival.

**12pm-2pm Dena Wild
Specialty-Urban Horticulture**

We are excited to welcome Dena to our Plant Doctor line-up for her third year. Dena holds a master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Oregon. Her urban horticultural education includes “hands-in-the-dirt” experience, post-graduate studies in landscape architecture at the University of Colorado, the Boulder and Orange County Master Gardener programs, and the University of Florida’s Best Management Practices for the Green Industry. Dena’s free time is spent in her (lawn-free) yard, traveling and reading.

**2pm-4pm Apopka City
Commissioner Alexander Smith
Specialty-Agriscience (Agriculture and Horticulture)**

Apopka City Commissioner Smith will once again round out the Plant Doctors in his dapper and knowledgeable manner. He graduated from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) with a degree in Agricultural Education with a minor in Horticultural Science. He is one of the founding board members and past President of AIA (Apopka Improvement Association) and one of the founding board members of the Billie Dean Community Garden as well as Past President of the Florida Association of Agricultural Educators; Past President of the Florida FFA (Future Farmers of America) Board of Directors; Past President of the Orange County Agriculture Teachers Association; served on the Orange County Board of County Commissioner Agricultural Advisory Board as well as on the Advisory Board for the Orange County Agricultural Extension Service. He is a member of the first Agriscience Leadership Team for the State of Florida and of the Orange County Farm Bureau.



The Apopka Woman's Club received a proclamation recognizing the ladies and the 63rd annual Apopka Art & Foliage Festival at the April 2 City Council meeting at Apopka City Hall.

Plant vendors and local farms

PAISLEY PLANTS

Wanda Andro
45745 Illinois Road
Altoona, 32702
paisleyplants.net
1st year in the festival

New to the festival this year, Paisley Plants is bringing indoor house plants such as maranta, calathea, philodendron and outdoor flowering perennials.

ECOPONDS OF FRUITS OF FLORIDA

Troy Valentine
352-989-7955
2nd year in the festival

A list of some of the items I will be bringing to the foliage festival include but are not limited to: mangos, avocados, Barbados cherries, Soursop, Jaboticaba, lemons, limes, oranges, finger limes and other types of citrus trees. Also, figs, blackberries, Surinam cherries, persimmon, guava, lychee, longan and many other types of tropical fruit trees.

A&J FOLIAGE

Lynn Doerr and Michael Doerr
407-913-0130
2nd year in the festival

A family-owned greenhouse here in Apopka at 2120 Rogers Road. We grow succulents, lifesaver cactus Edith Colea, Gigantica, plus several other types of succulents. We also grow spider plants in baskets as well as several other plants in baskets and on trellises. We are open to the public by appointment only. We are very excited to return for our second year, please come by and pay us a visit at the festival.

LINER PATCH and DEB'S GARDEN SHOP

Rick Dunn and Justin Dunn
4420 Plymouth-Sorrento Road
Apopka, 32712
407-493-8867

12th year in the festival
Liner Patch was founded in 1999 by native Apopkan Rick Dunn and his late wife, Deborah. Together, they spent much of their teenage and adult lives working within the local nursery business. This experience allowed them to cultivate their knowledge and love of plants with the dream of one day operating their own business. Liner Patch is still very much a family-owned and operated business. They continue to pride themselves on bringing you the very best of woody ornamentals, succulents, cactus, and flowering plants such as Hibiscus, Ixora and Mandevilla.

On November 29, 2019, Liner Patch fulfilled another of Deborah's dreams with the grand opening of Deb's Garden Shop. With the charm of a quaint country store, Deb's welcomes you in for an assortment of gardening supplies, organic fertilizer, soil, Mexican pottery, Corinthian bells, unique garden furniture, antique signs and so much more.

Deb's Garden Shop is open on Mondays from 7:30 a. m. to 4 p. m., Tuesdays through Fridays from 7:30 a. m. to 5 p. m., and on Saturdays from 7:30 a. m. to 2 p. m.

Liner Patch is open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a. m. to 4 p. m. and on Fridays from 7:30 a. m. to noon. Saturdays are by appointment only.

JIM'S BONSAI

Jim Staples, owner-grower
9243 South East 108 Place
Bellevue, 34420
352-812-4837
23rd year in the festival
Have you ever heard of a "Tree in

a Pot?" Well, if you have heard of a Bon Sai, you have heard of a "Tree in a Pot" for that is the meaning of Bon Sai. Bon means tray or pot in Japanese. Sai means plant or tree.

Jim has been in the business of training and selling bonsai for many years. He has a wide variety of trees from "Ficus Too Little" to Chinese Elm and many more. His trees range in age from 2 years to 40 years. These trees are easy to care for, give unconditional pleasure to their owners and add aesthetic beauty to their surroundings.

GREEN'S NURSERY

Ray Green, owner-grower
5844 Round Lake Road
P.O. Box 486
Zellwood, 32798
407-889-3611
38th year in the festival

Green's Nursery is the number one distributor for the encore azalea. These azaleas bloom three to four times a year — spring, summer, and fall, and can be planted in full sun. There are 23 varieties of these azaleas and some of these will be at the festival.

Ray purchased 10 acres of land north of Zellwood while serving 20 years in the U. S. Marines. He settled on the land in January 1978 and started by trucking for one of the local nurseries. Wanting to make use of his land, he began by growing azaleas and developing his own nursery stock. Green currently maintains approximately 15 acres with a variety of trees, shrubs, tropicals, and fruit and nut trees, along with bedding plants and indoor foliage.

Ray started participating in the Apopka Woman's Club Apopka Art and Foliage Festival in 1985. He enjoys finding and having items that are not common. He strives to carry a large va-

riety of plants to meet the needs of landscapers, retail stores and general customers. If you need something and can't find what you want, Green's got it or he can find it for you.

Ray will have his large amount of various great plants and will be bringing back the popular Yesterday Today Tomorrow plant again this year. He will also have all sizes of bamboo this year.

JUST PLUMERIAS

Scott and Jeanette Burford,
owners-growers
160 South Phelps Ave.
Winter Park, 32789
407-756-2628
17th year in the festival

Just Plumerias specializes in growing the plumeria. The plumeria is the plant that produces the flowers that make the leis in Hawaii. We have been growing the plumeria for 16 years and have been a participant with Disney by exhibiting at the Epcot Flower and Garden Festival for almost a decade. We are also a vendor at the Winter Park Farmers Market.

We think the plumeria is one of the most beautiful flowers in the world. We consider the plumeria one of the most perfect plants in the world because of the following characteristics. The plumeria looks fantastic and it blooms from April through November. The flower does not last that long, but the bloom pod continuously keeps blooming for most of the year. The plumeria smells like no other plant in the world, and each color has its own unique fragrance. Some plumerias smell sweet, while another color can smell like jasmine, peaches or citrus.

The plumeria can be grown anywhere in the world since it can either be

Plants

Continued from page 9

a 20-foot tree if you live in the warmer climates, or it makes a fantastic potted plant for your patio deck, screen pool, balcony or driveway. The plumeria only grows to the size of the pot. In climates where it freezes, you can either bring the plumeria inside to keep it growing in the winter, or you can put it in the closet or basement and it will go into a dormant state. Bring the plumeria out when it warms up next spring, and it blooms bigger than the year before. The plumeria is one of the most no-maintenance plants in the world. It is drought tolerant and can be grown in full sun or partial sun.

LONG & SCOTT FARMS

26216 County Road 448A Mt.
Dora, 32757
352-383-6900
16th year in the festival

Long & Scott Farms is a fourth-generation family farm just west of Zellwood. In 1963, Frank D. Scott Jr. left his Virginia family farm with his

wife, Becky, and three small children to start his own farm. He was encouraged by Billy Long, a successful muck farmer in Zellwood, who was also his childhood friend and neighbor from the eastern shore of Virginia. Frank began by clearing 100 acres of sand land to grow vegetables and expanded to 1,200 acres over the years.

Long & Scott is now run by Frank's son Hank (Frank III) with his son Sonny (Frank IV) who handles all the land prep prior to planting. Hank's daughter Haley Scott operates the Farmers Market and Café, and sister Rebecca Scott Tyndall manages the corn maze and agri-tainment on the farm. Frank's other son Mark Scott and his wife Mary own and operate Plowboys Horticulture, a wholesale foliage nursery also in Zellwood, growing indoor plants.

Pickle (Kirby) cucumbers are our main crop at the farm. Each year, we harvest 1,200 acres of cucumbers between the spring and fall seasons, along with 90 acres of the world-famous

Scott's Zellwood Sweet Corn. In the cooler winter season, 450 acres of red, green, and savoy cabbage are produced, along with strawberries, collards, kale and Florida sweet onions.

Long & Scott is celebrating 60-plus years of quality vegetable production, and we are proud of our history and the many employees, vendors, customers and ag groups that have supported us over the years. We are very blessed and thankful for the resources of land and water, and we are good stewards of our land and water, protecting them for the next generation.

H&A FARMS

8151 Jones Ave
Mt. Dora, 32757
352-729-9210

At H&A Farms and companies, we pride ourselves on being passionate about bringing produce to the consumer. We do this in more ways than one through our packing/managing business and agritourism. We now pack for

growers we work with all over the world with the same vision: to bring maximum value to the fruit and the farmer. Our agritourism business, Amber Brooke Farms, was founded on the idea of providing fresh, high-quality, locally grown produce to our neighbors and creating a warm, inviting and safe place for our guests to enjoy the beauty of the farm with loved ones and friends. Whether it is through growing fresh berries, packing them, or hosting U-Picks, educating the consumer and serving our industry is our number one priority.

SEMINOLE SPRINGS ANTIQUE ROSE AND HERB FARM

Keith and Traci Anderson,
owners-growers
34935 West Huff Road
Eustis, 32736
352-357-2643
30th year in the festival
Seminole Springs Herb Farm in

See PLANTS Page 15



Glenn Joiner & Son
Family Owned & Operated Since 1937

**Import • Domestic • Tractor • Marine
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63rd Apopka Art & Foliage Festival entertainment lineup

*Ralo Flores is the DJ for both days.

Saturday, April 26

11 a.m. Lakeville Elementary School

Noon Victory Martial Arts

1 p.m. Kidzdance

2 p.m. Christian Learning Academy

3 p.m. Apopka Elementary/Performing Arts

Sunday, April 27

10 a.m. Zumba

11:30 a.m. Wolf Lake Middle School

Noon Awards Ceremony at the Gazebo

1 p.m. Pink Diamondettes Dance Academy

2 p.m. Apopka Dance Center



Lakeville Elementary School is known as the Engineers due to having its own Railroad Museum in its school. The principal is Charles Jackson. Carl Maxwell, who has 30 years of teaching experience, will lead the performers known as the Lakeville Singing Engineers in a live performance at the festival.



The Apopka Dance Center is committed to fostering the artistry and technical prowess of every dancer within a warm and family-friendly environment. The mission is to cultivate highly skilled dancers through precision and expertise, while placing paramount importance on the mental well-being of everyone. The center strives to create a supportive community where passion meets precision, allowing the dancers to flourish not only in their craft but also in their overall health and happiness. Welcome to a dance studio that values excellence, embraces family, and prioritizes the holistic growth of every performer. Call or text 407-974-085 or email hello@apopkadance.com. Visit the dance center at ApopkaDance.com.



Under the direction of coach Mercedez Wood, who is dedicated to providing a supportive environment where dancers thrive through high-quality instruction and personal growth, the Pink Diamondettes are trained in several kinds of dance. Our vision is to inspire and uplift young girls through the transformative power of dance, fostering a community where they can express themselves, build confidence, and realize their full potential. pinkdiamondettes@gmail.com.



One of the live performances at this year's festival will be a demonstration by the Zumba team, Rosemary and Mary, who offer Zumba Gold and Basic classes at the Fran Carlton Center in downtown Apopka.



Victory Martial Arts

Watch a fantastic demonstration of Martial Arts presented by our own local Victory Martial Arts members.



Wolf Lake Middle School Chorus is made up of 234 students from grades 6-8. The top ensembles, Singers and Mixed Ensemble, participate in Music Performance Assessment, consistently earning "Superior" scores. The other ensembles feature a Beginning All-Girls Treble Choir and a Beginning All-Boys 6th grade choir. They are directed by Halle Hoskins, (BME, Florida State University, 2017). Come see their Spring Concert: "ICONIC" on May 5 at the Apopka Amphitheatre with songs by Michael Jackson, Bruno Mars, Alicia Keys, and more.



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***The Apopka Area Chamber of
Commerce congratulates the
Apopka Woman's Club on the 63rd
anniversary of the Art & Foliage
Festival. We thank them for their
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the Apopka community!***

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State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL

Meet the art judges

Katherine Mathisen, Fine Art judge

Katherine Mathisen is a fine art judge at this year's festival. She has exhibited and taught ceramics for more than 30 years, working with many masters in contemporary sculpture. Mathisen has also had the honor of judging many fine art festivals in Florida including those in Mount Dora, Maitland, Osceola and Celebration. Currently, Mathisen exhibits her award-winning ceramic sculpture in galleries and art shows throughout the U.S. Her work can be found in both public and private collections in the U.S., South America, Europe and Australia. She continues to learn and create ceramic sculpture as well as other media. Jewelry, painting and drawing are other areas of art that she



studies. She believes that learning is a lifelong endeavor that enriches our lives. She enjoys teaching clay workshops and classes to children and adults. Mathisen obtained her bachelor's degree from the University of Central Florida, specializing in art, biological studies and business.

Diane Moore, Creative Craft judge

Diane Moore, this year's creative craft judge, is a long-time educator and pine needle basket artist living in Lake Helen, Fla. She is a self-taught basket maker who is passionate about making Florida history come alive through her pine needle creations.

Throughout the past 22 years, she has participated in many fine arts and fine crafts festivals in Florida and has won numerous awards. She has also been a craft judge at several festivals in Florida.

She describes her work as traditional with a contemporary flare.

She teaches pine needle basket classes at her studio in Lake Helen, FL for beginning, intermediate and advanced basket



makers.

Contact Moore via her website for more information about classes and visiting her studio: SouthernPineStudio.com.

Richard Colvin, Fine Art judge

Richard Colvin is a fine art judge at the 63rd annual Apopka Art and Foliage Festival. He is an artist, art teacher, museum professional, and musician. Born in Olathe, Kansas, in 1957, Colvin's family relocated to Florida in the mid-1960s. Colvin received an art education courtesy of a succession of mentors: Barbara Bassett at the Art Workshop in Winter Park, Thomas F. Peterson at Rollins College, and through observing Central Florida's legendary painter/printmakers, including Maury Hurt, Bill Orr, Jerry Raidiger, and many others. In craftsmanship and spirit, Colvin's greatest mentor is his father, Ronald P. Colvin.



Patricia Karnes, Fine Art and Fine Craft judge

Patricia Karnes has always been creating objects of fine art and fine craft. She completed her B.F.A. at the University of Michigan, majoring in painting and also obtaining a teaching certificate.

But metals and metalsmithing were what compelled her most. She began creating and exhibiting jewelry, enhancing the skills she already had by taking advanced study at the renowned Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina, the Arrowmont School of Crafts in Tennessee, and at workshops taught by such masters as Heikki Seppa, Cynthia Eid, John Satterfield, Susan Elizabeth Woods, John Cogswell, and Jean Stark. She has also taken her turn at teaching at Valencia College in Orlando.

Karnes has shown her work at local and national juried art festivals, and has been a consistent top award winner. Her work has been included in exhibitions at what is now the Museum of Art — DeLand, The Terrace Gallery in the Orlando City Hall, and The Armory Art Cen-



ter in West Palm Beach, as well as galleries in Florida, Illinois, and Michigan. She was the recipient of an Individual Artist Recognition Award from the Orlando Art Services Council and three Honorable Mentions from the Florida Individual Artist Fellowship Program.

After 50 years of creating and displaying her work, Karnes has retired from art festivals. She and her husband reside in Winter Park.

Plants

Continued from page 10

Eustis is the joint endeavor of Traci and Keith Anderson along with their two sons, Kyle and Logan. Traci took over the growing of herbs from a previous nursery, and the couple relocated the farm to its present location in Eustis in 1994. Their nursery has supplied numerous nurseries, garden centers and grocery stores with potted herb plants for some 20 years now.

In 2004, they expanded the nursery from its original size to more than 20,000 square feet of covered greenhouse devoted totally to a wide variety of herbs from around the world. The new millennium embraced the addition of antique or old garden roses that complement the herbs. As the predecessor of the modern rose, antique roses are typically defined by those roses that have been in production prior to 1869. Of course, having survived and being shared for so long one can easily deduce that they are easy to grow. The famed fortuniana rootstock that plays such an important part in rose production today is in fact an old garden rose.

Traci, a native Floridian from Sanford, is well-versed in the specifics of growing plants in Florida's unique subtropical climate. Her knowledge stems from hands-on experience, having grown herbs commercially for more than 20 years in the state. A regular speaker for garden clubs, churches, schools and the University of Florida, Traci's program "Introduction to Herbs" covers the ins and outs of growing herbs in our area. Traci introduces attendees to a wide assortment of culinary, medicinal and aromatic herbs and discusses their culture, history and uses. Her program includes planting, seasonal herbs, pests, diseases, remedies, recipes

and how to maintain them organically.

In October 2012, Traci accepted a position with the city of Tavares as its landscape specialist. She still oversees the general practices of the Herb Farm. However, Kyle, the eldest of two sons, has taken over the tasks in growing and maintaining the farm along with a small staff. Kyle has grown up with the farm as a huge part of his daily life, and the Andersons are proud to see him as the ambassador for the Herb Farm at present.

The farm now offers many herbal products such as dried herbs, teas, essential oils, and books in addition to the live plants.

Seminole Springs Herb Farm has been participating in the Apopka Art and Foliage Festival consistently for almost 30 years. The Anderson family specialists will be happy to assist you with advice and suggestions for your herb or rose garden.

The farm is open to the public throughout the year Thursday through Saturday from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. The farm is located a short drive from Apopka in Eustis or available online at rosesandherbs.com. Stop by their booth and let them turn you on to some unusual herbs or fragrant old garden roses this festival.

She will be bringing her multiple supply of herbs and the Vicks plant that was so popular last year plus two types of spinach plants, Okinawa and Moroccan, that are known to help your cholesterol.

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David and Joan Trevino, owners-growers

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10th year in the festival

T&T Botanicals, LLC is a wholesale nursery grower in Apopka. Owners David and Joan Trevino are lifelong residents of Apopka and have been growing Tillandsia (air plants) and bromeliads for more than 25 years.

We specialize in air plants and blooming bromeliads. Our unique products range from tiny nursery-grown air plants to large potted blooming bromeliads, driftwood arrangements, novelty ceramics and terrariums. Air plants have achieved a tremendous popularity over the past few years due to their hardy nature, curious shapes, colorful blooms and their ability to grow and reproduce without soil.

T&T Botanicals takes great pride in their quality and personalized customer service to their customers across the U.S. and Canada.

JOHN PLANK GREENHOUSES

John Plank owner-grower

25120 S.R. 44A

Eustis, 32736

352-357-0222

John@plankgreenhouses.com

7th year in the festival

Starting fresh off generations-run family farm in western Pennsylvania, John graduated from Penn State University with a bachelor of science degree in horticulture and quickly put his skills and passion to work for Engelmann's (now Costa) and the cities of Altamonte Springs and Orlando before starting his first greenhouse operation off Rock Springs Road.

He is now in rural Lake County and

he's added tropical edibles like papaya, figs and pineapples as well as coffee, tea and vanilla to an assortment of tropical ferns.

John also produces a variety of carnivorous plants, so he brings the different and unusual to his buyers.

ORCHID NANNY

Priscilla Debler, owner-grower

Apopka

Text: 407-920-7209

Facebook/Instagram:

@OrchidNanny

For the orchid novice or the avid orchid collector who wants to expand their inventory, Orchid Nanny is a retail nursery that grows and sells a variety of orchids suitable for the beginner as well as many unusual and hard-to-find ones for the seasoned grower.

I, Priscilla, was bitten with the orchid bug many years ago. The nursery was established in 2005. We sell at various plant and garden events, arts and crafts fairs, orchid shows, and hold speaking engagements where we also sell.

Hybrids, mericlones, species, hanging, bare-root, mounted or in pots, full-grown orchids and seedlings, vandas, bulbophyllums, cattleyas, dendrobiums, bamboo orchids, jewel orchids, oncidiums, epidendrums, encyclias ... these are some of the types that are in our nursery. We try to make sure there is something for everyone.

...

Along with all of this, the Apopka Woman's Club will be selling amaryllis, bonsai, plumerias, orchids, botanicals, herbs, assortment of tropical edibles, assorted varieties of landscaping plants, ferns, tropical fruit trees and bushes, and vegetable garden plants.

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2025 Apopka Art and Foliage Festival



Learn more about nature, enjoy it with conservationists

The Conservation Area is located next to the School Art tents on First Street. Stop by and visit the many displays.

City of Apopka Environmental Department — The City of Apopka's Environmental Department will have educational material on water conservation, residential grease management and stormwater.

University of Florida Institute of Food and Agriculture (IFAS) Extension — Plant Clinic Master

Gardeners will be available to answer questions in IFAS' Mobile Plant Clinic.

Orange Audubon Society — Orange Audubon, a local chapter of National Audubon, has as its mission connecting people with nature. Come by and ask about Orange Audubon's exciting project with the city of Apopka to develop the Apopka Birding Park near the entrance to the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Con-

servation Commission (FWC) — FWC's booth will share everything you could ever want to know about bears and other local wildlife.

Everglades Schools — Zellwood Elementary and Rock Springs Elementary will share information about their activities as Everglades Schools.

The Nature Conservancy — The Nature Conservancy's Sustainable Cities program will be present sharing information on its programs

and the City Nature Challenge.

Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System — Hear about the Wekiva River and its status as one of only two federally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers in Florida. Find out how you can volunteer. Saturday only.

Bike Walk Central Florida — Visit to hear information on new bike trails and future plans as well as bicycle safety. Helmets will be distributed if possible. Sunday only.

Looking around the Apopka Art & Foliage Festival

In addition to the many art and craft exhibits and food vendors, check these other items out as you walk around the festival.

Directly behind the gazebo you will find a wealth of information at the Information Table. Grab a copy of the festival special edition in the

Apopka Chief that includes a map of the site. You will also find information about the location of the arts and crafters tents, the concession area, and buy a bottle of water.

A few steps from the Foliage area you will find Plant Sitters. After you have bought plants and flowers in the

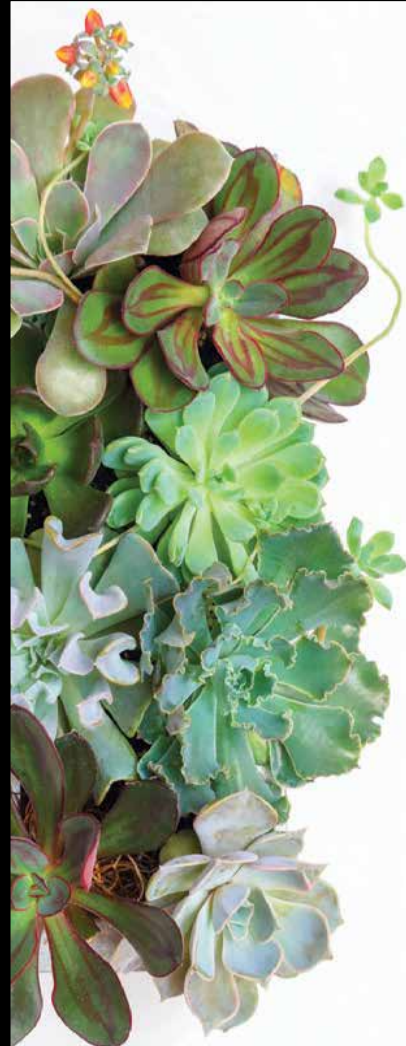
Foliage area, for a small fee, you can leave them at Plant Sitters so you can then check out the arts and crafts area, listen to entertainment at the gazebo, and grab a bite to eat along Concession Way.

For our craft and art vendors, if you need a short break, get in touch

with Booth Sitters and a 'lady in green' will happily stay in your booth while you are away.

If you have any questions, ask 'a lady in a festival green shirt.'

Enjoy the 63rd Art & Foliage!! Help is on hand for getting around the festival.



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Kids Zone

We haven't forgotten the kids at the 63rd Annual Apopka Art and Foliage Festival. The Kids Zone is located on Orange Ave near the playground.

Home Depot is once again sponsoring our free craft project. There will be a variety of kits available for children to put together with a little help. When completed, the children will decorate their project and take it home.

The Apopka Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association (CPA) will be do-

ing children's fingerprinting in the Kids Zone. Stop by to have your child fingerprinted. You will take the fingerprint kit home with you to store in a safe place. Hopefully, you'll never have to use it. The CPA will also have brochures and information on bike safety, drug safety and many other items. Stop by and say hi!

Rounding out the Kids Zone will be police cars, fire trucks and other public safety vehicles for you to explore.



Meet the art judges

Help is on hand for getting around the festival

Laurie Jordan is school art judge for the 63rd Art and Foliage Festival.

She has been a judge for different art contests including the Orlando Holiday Art contest for children. She finds great joy in watching former students excel in the

art field and beyond.

A retired art teacher in the Central Florida area, Jordan started her vocation in the Orange County schools teaching elementary grades. Later, she launched business, Countryside Art, instructing grades K-12 and

adults in Central Florida.

Jordan graduated from Florida State University in Tallahassee with a degree in art, art history and art education in grades K-12.


She is the mother of three and grandmother of four. Her grandchild-

dren love to visit her home and discover paints, paper, markers and more to create masterpieces.

She resides in Apopka with her husband, Zack, and their two dogs, Dolly and Casper.



Laurie Jordan - judge for SCHOOL ART 63rd Apopka Art & Foliage Festival



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Congratulates the GFWC Apopka Woman's Club on their 63rd Art & Foliage Festival

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Craft spotlight artist: Davely Etkins

Soaps

"I've spent the last 15 years in Apopka, watching it grow and change, just as I have. As a wife, mother, and full-time nurse, caring for others has always been at the heart of everything I do. My passion for creating something people will love led me to artisan soap making—a craft that blends creativity, nature, and self-care. Each bar I make is a reflection of my dedication to quality and the joy of sharing something special with my community."

— Davely Etkins



Spotlight artist: Mary Wentzel

Painter

Mary Wentzel is a watercolor and ink painter whose work features bold colors and rhythmic detail. The vibrant flora and fauna of the state of Florida is a favorite theme in her work. Wentzel uses watercolor techniques with ink and acrylic ink to create her intricate pieces. She finishes off each piece with a custom painted upcycled frame.



Wentzel is a graduate of Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia and has enjoyed a long successful career as a museum curator and educator at some of our area's best art, science and history museums. She has held curator positions at the Museum of Arts and Sciences and the Ormond Memorial Art Museum.

Her paintings have been exhibited around the state and have won many awards. Wentzel published

her second children's book, "Crazy's A to Z for Kids" in 2021. She recently finished illustrating a series of environmental books for children, by author, Robert Andrew Provan and published by Archway publishing company. Her illustrations have been published in books and magazines throughout the country and her work is included in private collections around the world.

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