

# LAKE PLACID GARDEN CLUB

## NEWS YOU CAN USE



VOLUME 4

Sept., 2025

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## Executive Board

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### Parliamentarian

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## "Garden Shenanigans & Dirt-y Little Secrets"

Somewhere between the compost pile and the carrot patch, the garden has been up to its usual tricks. Peppers are holding a color contest, the basil is flaunting its fragrance, and the cucumbers... well, they've been multiplying faster than we can say "pickle jar."

This month, we'll swap tall tales from the tomato trellis, share tips for keeping those cheeky weeds in line, and celebrate the small victories—like finally remembering where we planted the radishes.

So pull up a garden stool and join the fun—after all, the best harvest is laughter shared among friends.



*"You know you're in the garden club when your friends show off vacation photos, and you zoom in... to admire the landscaping."*

Every seed you plant is a promise of growth and transformation.

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**Together Everyone Achieves More**





## Executive Board of Directors 2025-2026



Doris Rohner  
President



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Primary 1<sup>st</sup>  
Vice President



Monica Griffith  
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Robin Shear  
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Karen Denning  
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Shannon Johnson  
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Primary Corresponding  
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Donna Ferchen



Sherill Trevino  
co-Treasurer



Sandra Rosch  
co-Treasurer



Sally Kinsey  
Parliamentarian



Lady Giggiebug  
Director of Tiny  
Adventures

**Members:** The LPGC website is now active at [www.lakeplacidgardenclub.org](http://www.lakeplacidgardenclub.org). You will need a passcode to enter the Member Portal. The Portal may contain sensitive material. Do not give access to the Portal to non-members. You should only need to add the PW the first time you enter the portal. Your PW is: LPGC@2025.



Every seed you plant is a promise of growth and transformation. Embrace the dirt beneath your nails and the joy of nurturing life. With each garden you cultivate, you not only create beauty but also foster resilience, patience, and hope. Keep growing—your efforts today will blossom into a brighter tomorrow!"

# MEMBERSHIP MEETING SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

## IT'S TIME FOR OUR FIRST MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE NEW FISCAL YEAR.

Location: American Legion, Post 25, Lake Placid, FL

Time: 11:30 am

Price: \$12 per person

Menu: Ham & turkey subs, chicken salad, cole slaw, potato salad, dessert, tea and water.

Program: Cycads

Presenter: Chip Jones, Jones Landscape Nursery, Moore Haven, FL

Horticulture: Stephanie Moreo

Dessert: Provided by Donna Ferchen and Cecelia Chuplis

Hostesses: Maryel Clare, Patricia Chong-Yen, Jennifer Marsh, Deborah Pollard, Mary Greeley, Pat Reiser, Cecelia Chuplis

### MEETING NOTES :

- Members are requested to register online at [CLICK HERE](#) no later than **September 3**. You may need to type the passcode to enter. LPGC@2025.
- The lunch fee is \$12 plus a small online processing fee.
- Registration may be made by contacting Fran Bomberger a minimum of one week in advance of the meeting. Please adhere to the strict cut off date of **September 3**. Our head count must be turned in to ensure the correct amount of food is prepared. Contact Fran at 717 615 3057 or [fbomberg@aol.com](mailto:fbomberg@aol.com)
- Members choosing to brown bag their lunch may do so.
- Members scheduled as hostesses may not be needed. You will be contacted by our lunch chair Mary Greeley if your services are needed.
- Meeting agendas will be posted on the club website approximately one week in advance. Go to [www.lakeplacidgardenclub.org](http://www.lakeplacidgardenclub.org) and enter the member portal at LPGC@2025. You can scroll down to find the meeting link or type meetings in the search bar.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

#### CELEBRATING IN SEPTEMBER

Carol Coyle, (1<sup>st</sup>)  
Jeannie Dietl (2<sup>nd</sup>)  
Janet Earnshaw, (11<sup>th</sup>)  
Sandy Spice, (12<sup>th</sup>)  
Alice Stahr, (15<sup>th</sup>)  
Lisa Hartman, (17<sup>th</sup>)  
Stephanie Moreo, (19<sup>th</sup>)  
Babara Dagostino, (22<sup>nd</sup>)  
Pam Rosenbeg, (29<sup>th</sup>)



### Why do September Gardeners make good friends?

*Because they always turn-up when you need them?*

### Why was the gardener's compost pile so happy in September?

*Because it finally found its inner peas.*



## Reflecting on the Past

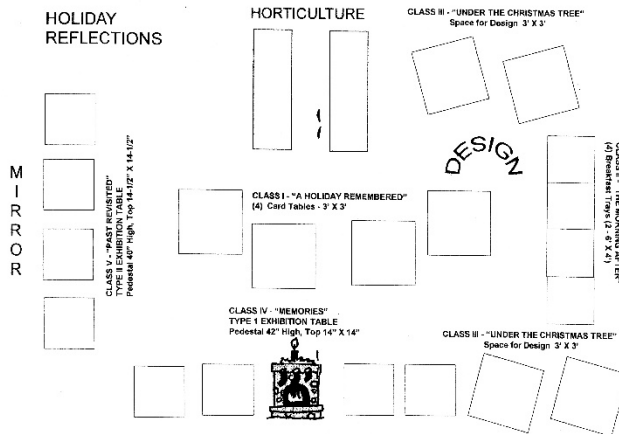
December 1-2, 2001, the Lake Placid Garden Club hosted a Small Standard Flower Show at the Lake Placid Conference Center. The **Holiday Reflections** schedule included 5 Classes of Floral Design and 3 sections of Horticulture. The club won a blue ribbon for the show and a russet-colored ribbon for the schedule. Luise Andrea, Shirley Puzey and Ann Gurman did the official ribbon cutting at the start of the show.



**HOLIDAY REFLECTIONS**  
SNITCELEF YADILOH



A Small Standard Flower Show



LAKE PLACID GARDEN CLUB

December 1 & 2, 2001

Lake Placid, Florida



# The four-legged gardener

With natural pruning skills and a thorough love of dirt, Ricky offers enthusiastic, if unskilled, assistance.

Not long ago, my friend Charlotte adopted Ricky, a half-grown golden retriever. Like any adolescent, he is growing fast and has lots of restless energy, as well as a tendency to damage things without meaning to.

Charlotte is a true dog lover, but sometimes she looks at him and sighs. I suggested she channel Ricky's energies into gardening.

Gardeners live by the words "Dig a \$10 hole for a \$5 plant." Ricky has done that instinctively from the first time he enlarged a small chipmunk hole into a crater roomy enough for a young hydrangea. Talent like that doesn't come along every day. When you combine it with physical fitness, a complete lack of concern about getting dirty or wet, and a take-charge attitude, you have the makings of an excellent gardener.

Charlotte agrees that all Ricky needs now is proper training.

With a little positive reinforcement from the right person, I am sure Ricky could learn that holes are best made in established garden beds. Once he gets that message, Charlotte can even loan him out to friends who want to install new landscaping.

Despite a lack of opposable thumbs, Ricky already prunes shrubs and small trees with great enthusiasm and thoroughness. Grasping woody trunks in his teeth, he either bites them off or, if they are especially resistant, yanks them out by the roots. I often have similar impulses.

A skillful garden coach/dog whisperer could teach Ricky to prune more carefully, biting off overgrown branches, wrenching out root suckers and reshaping bulky shrubs. He may never refine his technique enough to prune formal hedges or create topiary, but that is fine. Every dog knows that you have to leave some tasks to humans, or they will get bored and cause trouble.

Ricky is also very effective at creating situations that are inherently stressful to plants. I think he would excel at evaluating new varieties. In his own backyard he has already pruned a rosebush, a maple sapling, and several young rhododendrons back to the ground. All have grown back from their roots – a clear indication of exceptional toughness and resilience. Last year he flattened a large number of mature perennials.

Now Charlotte rests secure in the knowledge that her plant choices are hardy enough to rebound and rebloom. Her husband, who has been a bit slow to appreciate Ricky's unique skills, even suggested that she capitalize on his accomplishments by launching a trademarked line of Ricky-tested and approved plants.

With all of his horticultural skills, Ricky clearly has a great future in beds and borders. There is only one danger – overexposure. One of Charlotte's neighbors has threatened to make a video of Ricky pruning a shrub and upload it to YouTube. Charlotte fears it will go viral, and suddenly people from everywhere will want to hire Ricky to deal with their own landscaping challenges.

There is only one Ricky. If the cat gets out of the bag, there may not be enough dog to go around.

By Elisabeth Ginsburg







## Starfish Flower Cactus: Tips For Growing Starfish Flowers Indoors

Starfish cacti (*Stapelia grandiflora*) are also more morbidly called the carrion flower. These stinky, but spectacular, plants share similar traits to those from the [carnivorous family](#) in that they possess insect attracting flora (but are not carnivorous), which range in size from a couple of inches (5 cm.) high to plants that bear 12-inch (30 cm.) wide flowers. This plant species is native to South Africa, so growing starfish flowers usually requires warm, humid temperatures or a specialized greenhouse environment.



*Donna Ferchen's Stink Plant, June 2025*

### Starfish Flower Cactus.

These plants aren't exactly cactus but are members of the succulent group of plants. They are soft stemmed plants without spines spreading out from a central point. They are thickly skinned and resemble carrion flesh. Starfish flower cactus may produce amazing five-petaled flowers that exude a rather unpleasant odor. The scent attracts flies and other insects, which pollinate the blooms. Flowers are red to brown and may be mottled with a couple of colors. *Stapelia* is the family name of the starfish flower cactus. The “*gigantea*” is the most commonly collected, as a showy specimen with foot wide flowers.

### Uses of Starfish Cactus

The flowers ripen to a rather horrifying odor after a couple of days. This reek is attractive to insects that seek out dead organic material. If you have a fruit fly infestation or other pest, try moving your stinky plant darling into the area. The insects are drawn to the carrion stench and sit mesmerized on the flower unable to move. More common uses of starfish cactus are as an ornamental specimen that is quite a conversation piece. The wide succulent branches have little ornamental use themselves, but once the flowers arrive in summer, the plant has a high wow factor. Of course, this is when you must cope with the smell, but you can move it outside if the odor is too offensive. Just remember to bring it back inside if you live in any zone outside of [USDA plant hardiness zone](#) 9 to 11.

### Starfish Flower Plant Care

Growing starfish flowers as houseplants is ideal in most zones of the United States. You can move them outside in the heat of summer or grow them in a greenhouse. These starfish flowers are easy to care for and thrive in a variety of light conditions. They will perform well in full to partial sun.

Morning light is the best with some protection from harsh midday rays. The name starfish flower cactus is misleading. The plant does need consistent moisture unlike its true cacti cousins. Starfish flowers also like to have crowded roots, so keep them in a 4- to 6-inch (10 to 15 cm.) pot with well-drained soil. Fertilize with a half dilution of indoor plant food in early spring.

### Growing Starfish Flowers from Cuttings

If you can handle the smell, you can let the flowers die back and allow seeds to form. Collect the seeds and start them in a warm area to propagate more of these interesting plants. Much easier still is propagation by cuttings. Remove a 3- to 4-inch (7.5 to 10 cm.) section of stem and let the cut end callus. Put the cut end into [peat](#) which has been lightly moistened. Place the potted cutting in low light and keep the soil just damp, but not too moist or it will rot. In time the cutting will become a plant. Repot the baby plant in regular soil and continue with recommended starfish flower plant care. This is a less smelly method of growing starfish flowers and allows you to share this entrancing plant with friends and family.

## Beneficial Insects: Lacewings

"Carcasses of past victims and other pieces of organic debris make the perfect disguise for this hunter of aphids."

Both green and brown lacewings occur in Florida, and the pretty lacy-looking adults are quite recognizable. Like lady beetles, lacewings are often found associated with aphid colonies. However, unlike lady beetles, the adults sometimes do not feed on insects, with the larva being the beneficial stage. The large sickle-shaped mouthparts apparent in the larval stage are very effective for clamping onto prey and draining their body contents. The eggs of lacewings are placed on long thin stalks, and placed in clusters. Lacewings feed on insect eggs, scales, mealybugs, and mites as well as aphids.

<https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/florida-friendly/beneficial-insects/>



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### EVENT COVERAGE (before it happened)

Across town, the annual "Gardener's Fashion Show" was set to begin. The theme this year was "Rustic Elegance" but based on the preparations, it might be renamed "Flannel and Overalls Couture." Mildred had spent the last few hours hot-gluing fake daisies to her sun hat, while Tom was trying to figure out how to incorporate his prized rose bush into his outfit without looking too "prickly." No one expected much in terms of runway choreography, but the drama was definitely going to unfold when Gertrude—who had been known to wear velvet gardening gloves—decided to strut out in a gown made entirely of moss. Spoiler alert: It didn't breathe well.

Event: Planting Kindness, Harvesting Success

*A social event to support children participating in our club program, "Youth Gardening" & their classroom teacher.*

Date: August 20, 2025

Pictures: See the website AFTER August 20

[www.lakeplacidgardenclub.org](http://www.lakeplacidgardenclub.org)

Member portal: [LPGC@2025](mailto:LPGC@2025)



Want to join the fun at  
Tropical Winery? Let us  
know at [HERE](#)

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**DISTRICT IX PRESIDENTS MEETING** – August 21, 2025 – Bartow • See the website post event

## SAVE THE DATE

- September 3      **Board Meeting**, Masonic Lodge  
9:30 am  
Agendas are posted on the website approximately one week in advance. Please print and bring to the meeting.
- September 9      **Garden Therapy**, Lake Placid Health & Rehabilitation Center  
Contact Marian Chambers to confirm your attendance. 863-699-2979  
mariannke38@gmail.com
- September 10      **Membership Meeting**, American Legion, Post 25  
11:30 am  
Register at [HERE](#)  
Agendas will be posted approximately one week in advance. You may choose to print and bring to the meeting. One copy will be on each table.
- September 13      Master Gardeners Basic Orchid Care 10 am-12 pm  
Agricultural Center Call 863 402 6540 ext. 0 Cost \$15
- September 17      **Youth Gardening**, Lake Placid E-Learning Center  
1:30 pm  
Contact Carol Lambert to confirm your attendance. 717-917-8782,  
abcdlambert7@gmail.com
- September 18      **Acorn Project**, Royce Ranch  
8:30 – 10:00 am  
10:00 – 11:30 am  
Contact Karen Denning to confirm your attendance. 317-395-4912,  
folzden@gmail.com
- September 24      Plant Study- Arrangements from your Garden  
Masonic Lodge  
10:00 am  
Register [HERE](#)
- October 1      **Board Meeting**, Masonic Lodge  
9:30 am
- October 8      **Membership Meeting**, American Legion, Post 25:  
11:30 am  
Register [HERE](#)
- October 14      **Garden Therapy**, Lake Placid Health & Rehabilitation Center  
Contact Marian Chambers to confirm your attendance. 863-699-2979  
mariannke38@gmail.com
- October 15      **Youth Gardening**, Lake Placid E-Learning Center  
1:30 pm  
Contact Carol Lambert to confirm your attendance. 717-917-8782,  
abcdlambert7@gmail.com
- October 21      **District IX Fall Meeting**, Winter Haven, Details coming soon.  
Contact: TBA
- October 29      **Plant Study** “The Allure of Carnivorous Plants  
6:00 pm  
At Doris Rohner’s home. For more information and to register click on this link. [HERE](#)





## **Garden Curiosities & Conversation Starters**

Whether you're a master gardener or just learning the difference between a weed and a wildflower, these questions are sure to get you thinking, smiling—or digging!

Because the plants demanded it in writing — they said *verbal instructions just leaf too much room for confusion*. Be prepared. Bring your story answers in writing. You might be called on to answer at the September 10 membership meeting. It's all in fun.

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1. **If plants could talk, which one in your garden would be the sassiest?**  
(*And what would it say about your watering schedule?*)
2. **Have you ever planted something and completely forgotten what it was—only to be surprised months later? What grew?**
3. **What's your “garden guilty pleasure”?**  
(Planting way too many dahlias? Keeping a secret stash of gnomes?)
4. **If your garden had a soundtrack, what songs would be on the playlist?**
5. **Would you rather: have weeds that scream when you pull them—or a compost pile that hums lullabies?**
6. **What's one plant you *refuse* to grow again and why?**  
(*Be honest—was it you, or the plant?*)
7. **If you could invite any historical figure to tour your garden, who would it be—and what would you show them first?**
8. **What's the weirdest thing you've ever used as a planter?**  
(Boots, bathtubs, teapots—oh my!)
9. **If garden pests had their own Olympic games, which bug would win gold for “most annoying”?**
10. **What's the best (or worst) advice you've ever received about gardening?**
11. **What flower or vegetable most matches your personality—and why?**
12. **What's the most dramatic plant in your garden?**  
(You know, the one that wilts the moment you look away.)
13. **Have you ever given a plant a name? What was it—and did it live up to it?**
14. **What would you grow if you had unlimited space and zero deer or rabbits?**
15. **If your garden could win an award, what category would it be in?**  
(*Most Confused Sunflowers? Most Determined Mint?*)



# LAKE PLACID<sup>®</sup> GARDEN CLUB

LAKE PLACID, FLORIDA

[lakeplacidgardenclub.org](http://lakeplacidgardenclub.org)

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