



Grants And Scholarships from Betsy Lieberman

The Grants and Scholarship Committee visited six of the Eaton Grant recipients and presented each with their Eaton markers. The report of the Myakka Elementary School visit will be in our next newsletter; all others are described below.

The UF/IFAS Extension rose garden is beautiful. The fragrance of the roses was amazing! If you want to have a rose garden or need help with the one you have, plan a visit.



The Manatee County Agricultural Museum Sensory garden is thoughtfully planned and lovely. The area will be marked with sensory signs (they are patiently waiting for them), and the plants are growing well - some rough, some fragrant, some soft etc. The group toured the Agriculture Museum, which is very interesting and shows a great history of Manatee County's agricultural industry.



The growth and blooms in the Manatee Square Community Gardens were quite impressive. Baby veggies and all sizes of red tomatoes were everywhere. Several "gardeners" were working and thanked us for the grant help with the new beds and planting supplies.



Visiting the butterfly garden at the Florida Maritime Museum was delightful. It borders the beautiful mosaic "water flow" on the north side of the building (a must see). The tour of the schoolhouse that houses the museum and the history of the fishing industry were fascinating.



Butterfly attendance at the Palma Sola Botanical Park was A-plus! From butterfly stepping stones, a lattice butterfly trellis and the many blooming plants, we sat and enjoyed the view on the new benches. Also placed in the garden is a brick engraved Thank You to MRGC, donated by one of their volunteers. MRGC member Julie McClure, we found out, was very helpful with setting up the garden! (Thanks, Julie!)



The north (back) entrance-way of the Manatee River Garden Club is re-invented. The space is so much more usable with the new sod, tree trimming, improved walkway, and the extended paver walkway, which now connects from the back door to the kitchen sidewalk. Stop by and check it out.



Cathy Willard and Betsy Lieberman placing Eaton Fund marker



Cathy Willard, Betsy Lieberman, Jane Ellis, Olivia Cox, Paula Wolfe & Rita

All of our recipients did wonderful and economical improvements to their areas. Please go by and visit all. Reservations are required at this time due to "social distancing" but easily made by calling each facility. The Committee members were delighted to view these treasures of Manatee County.

If you have any project questions, contact Betsy Lieberman, 941-713-4367.



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The last visit of the 2020-2021 Elizabeth M Eaton Grant winners was to Myakka City Elementary School garden club in late April. Bev Chapin and I saw the many tower gardens, planted beds, and butterfly garden. The gardeners were growing an assortment of vegetables for their eating and flowers to encourage pollinators. The garden area is in the school's courtyard so containers line the walkways. We met with the gardeners, and it was announced that the school will be the first elementary school in the state to have an Ag program for the current school year (2021-2022). We presented each student with a growing gift of starter cups, sunflower and veggie seeds with paper and pen to track progress over the summer. They were genuinely excited to show off their "work" and meet with us.



Elizabeth M Eaton Grants for the current year (2021-2022) were awarded in June. The committee will be checking in on each to see their progress in the next several months.

The Peaceful Path at 12705 State Road 64 East is a beautiful walking and meditative area by the Presbyterian Church. It is open to all and used by many from Hospice. It is a low area, so the current rain is making visiting difficult, but when you are out on a sunny day, stop by. Their funds are being used to enhance signage, plant purchases and plant identification.



The Manatee Square Community Garden has put in more elevated gardens, and all are being readied for fall planting. With the funds received, soil, compost, dolomite, and straw were purchased. They will have all "gardens" utilized and growing for their individual gardeners.

Manatee River Garden Club received a small grant to complete grounds work in flower beds for weed control and moisture retention.